# Twitter Thread by Vinay Prasad MD MPH

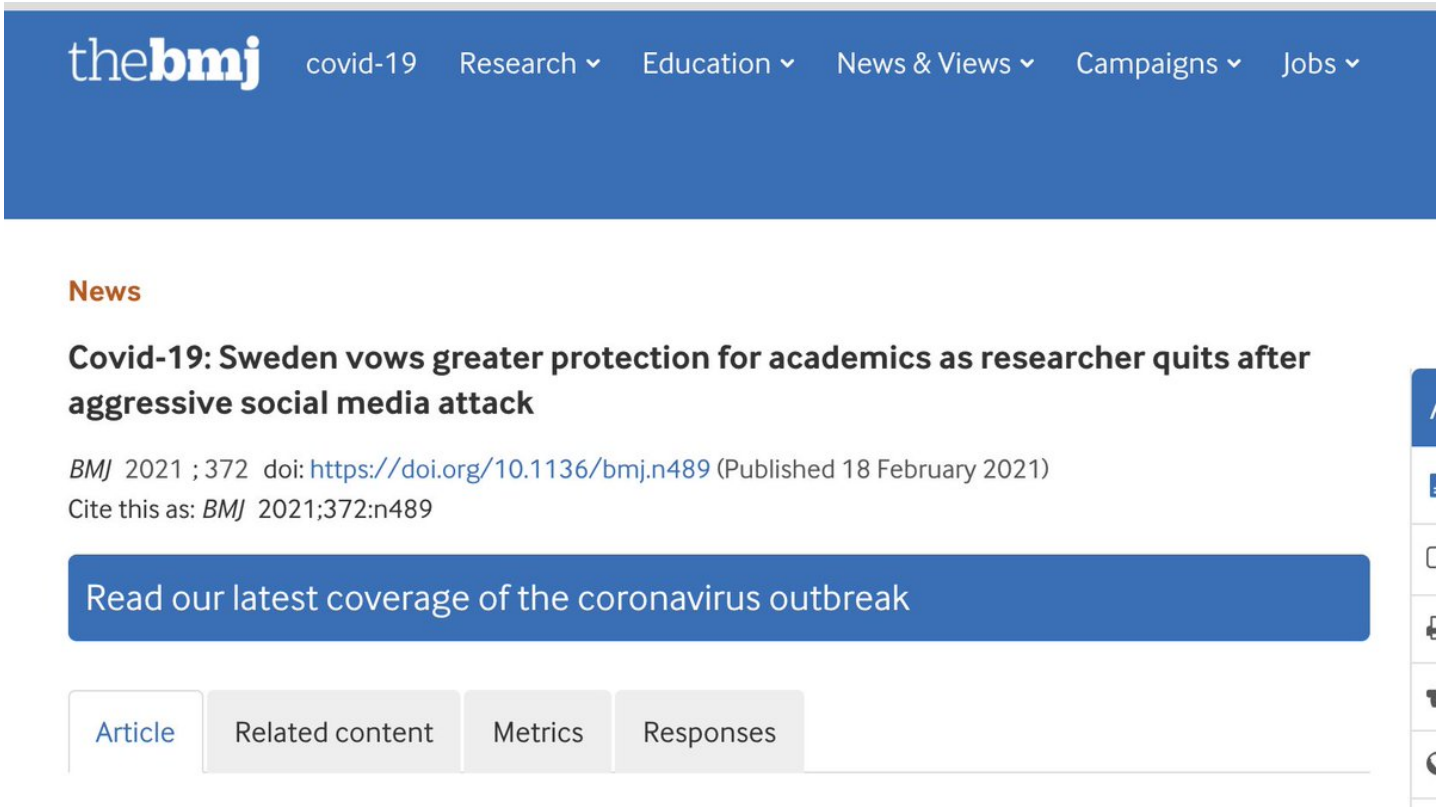
**Vinay Prasad MD MPH**
@VPrasadMDMPH

**A few thoughts on this sad development ■■**

**20 academics criticizing an paper is fine; good science, really**

**10000+ hate mail for studying schools in Sweden is insane**

**Anonymous docs/ prof (hiding in faceless accts) on twitter smearing researchers is insane**
**[thread] https://t.co/QYldLD3WO0**




Together with @ernkrans, I am interviewed in @bmj_latest: "We need to ensure that our researchers understand the concept and value of academic freedom and the responsibility that comes with it"https://t.co/AFjtbSfgjr

— Ole Petter Ottersen (@ottersenolep) February 18, 2021

In April 2020, @jflier and I saw this coming

We saw increasingly heated and personal attacks against scientists merely for having a range of views on COVID19 (PS there is no playbook/ right ans)

Tying science to naked politics was also bad idea, we felt

https://t.co/NFB5z8naJn

Yet, repeatedly that is what happened. Twitter 'experts' displayed an absolute intolerance to other views

Folks who disagreed weren't just wrong, they were malicious actors spreading "disinformation"

Really? Someone worked for 25 years as faculty to suddenly spread lies?

Disinformation has been so misused that it has lost meaning.

I recently saw an ID doc & lab researcher in the UK be accused of spreading "disinformation"

hahah, get outta here, you are trying to say "i disagree" but your keyboard is broken

Personal attacks have become so bad that I have seen a lab researcher accuse a doctor of wanting to engage in inappropriate relationships with patients due to diverging views on vaccine messaging

Seriously? It was a low point even for twitter

I got my share of personal attacks for my view that after vaccination you can relax restrictions, which by the way, becomes more mainstream each week!

Here is my story
https://t.co/VLFJ1FSqtr

> I'm back on vaccines:
> Tribalism
> Virtue signalling
> Screenshotting
> Tweeting my employer
> What docs say vs. what docs do
> Bone marrow transplant service
> Residents banned from lunch
> Some vaccinated people WILL get covid
> A Zero risk life?
> A Return to normal \U0001f447\U0001f447https://t.co/pfS8xsQxah
>
> — Vinay Prasad MD MPH (@VPrasadMDMPH) January 28, 2021

I have had actually professors engage a troll-account, run by an east coast academic physician, that took my photo and mocks me

But the strangest part is that they simultaneously claim that online harassment is a problem; go figure

I have witnessed academics so angry that they insult me for even talking to John Ioannidis, one of the worlds most cited researchers

They criticize my interview AND refuse to listen to it

haha, that's the spirit!

If you don't listen, it must be bad
https://t.co/2sMljrdOfA

> Sunday SPECIAL EPISODE of @Plenary_Session
> A 2 hour interview with John Ioannidis
>
> I ask him about the years 2000-2010, the 2010 move to Stanford and, of course, COVID19
>
> School closure? Lockdowns? Santa Clara? How does he view things today?https://t.co/z9qnHGjYqT pic.twitter.com/WjVT77dc9c
>
> — Vinay Prasad MD MPH (@VPrasadMDMPH) February 7, 2021

The Swedish NEJM study was good; very good

And has helped change bad ideas about risk

The author deserves praise; It is a matter of fact, descriptive study, nothing more

> Jonas F Ludvigsson, a paediatrician at Örebro University Hospital and professor of clinical epidemiology at the Karolinska Institute, published a research letter online in the *New England Journal of Medicine* on 6 January presenting data which showed that relatively few children in Sweden became ill from covid-19 during the first wave of the pandemic.[1] Sweden was one of the few countries to keep schools and preschools open during spring 2020, so the data were among the first collected on the risks to children.
>
> The study found that, from 1 March to 30 June 2020, 15 children aged 1-16 in Sweden were treated in an intensive care unit for covid-19 or for multi-inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C), which has been linked to covid-19.

Don't get me started on Great Barrington Declaration

The absolute low point in name-calling was the treatment of the authors

Ok, i get it, you disagree. Me too ■■

But if you think the authors or signatories are pro-death, then you are out of line

https://t.co/9KKW8P10zp

PS John Snow memo has the exact same limitations

GBD - how will you shield the vulnerable from virus?
JSM - what's your plan to shield the vulnerable from the harms of restrictions?

Both were lacking, and yet one side was brutalized

COVID19 has revealed that the academy failed to provide a place for discourse about trade-offs

I wrote about it here:
https://t.co/lOP6MCnTnm

I discussed with issue with many people on my pod. One discussion worth your time was Jacob Russell

https://t.co/4mV63wALii

This was a total disaster■■■

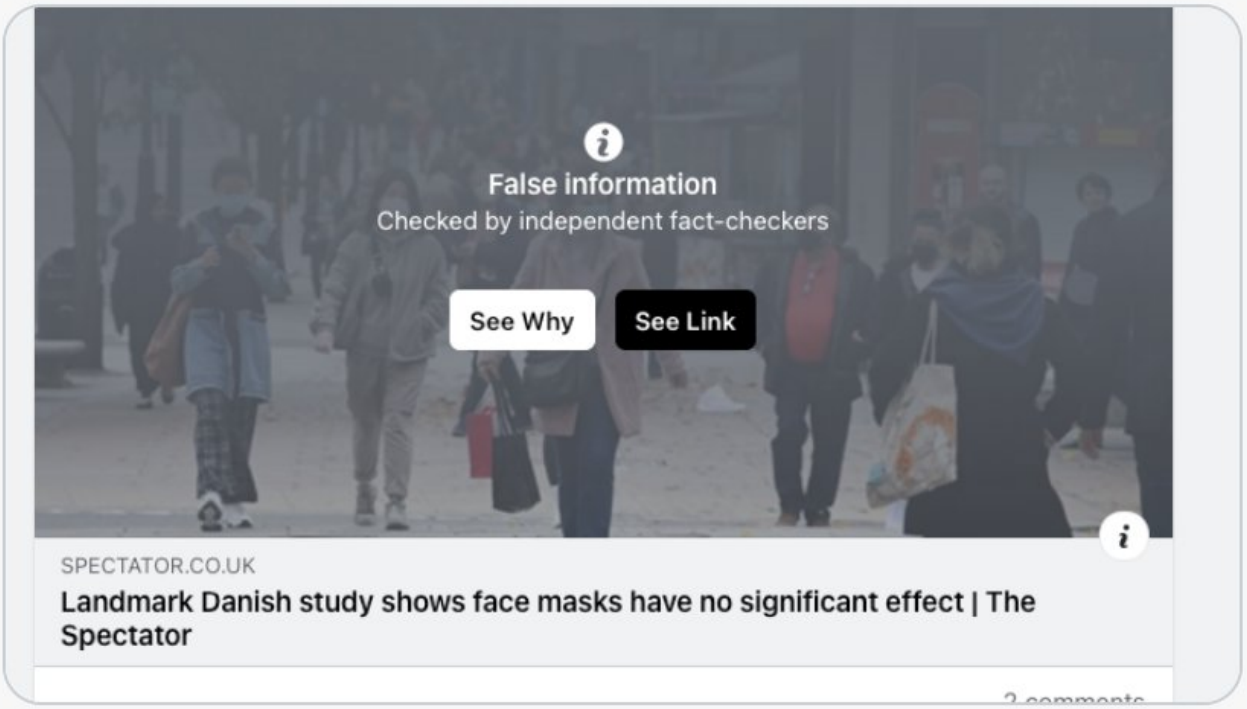
I don't have the same take as Carl. My interpretation of Danish mask is in my column: https://t.co/q7F61AtUcT

But letting FB employees decide Carl H, Oxford Prof's view is false is insane
https://t.co/0UKqzPa5md




**Carl Heneghan** @carlheneghan · Nov 20, 2020

Here's what happened when I posted our latest @spectator article to Facebook - I'm aware this is happening to others - what has happened to academic freedom and freedom of speech? There is nothing in this article that is 'false'




1.6K 6.1K 11.4K