

# Virus Hotspot

## Background:

EcoHealth loved making hotspot maps of where they thought a zoonotic virus spillover would occur. The one place that doesn't appear on any of these maps is: Wuhan.

It should have been, though - with the darkest most foreboding red shading at the location of Wuhan Institute of Virology. Severe storm warning.

From 2004-2019, EcoHealth-CSIRO-UC Davis-WIV were collecting bat viruses from around the world like they were going out of style.

Many were shipped back to WIV.

Daszak's grandiose plan was to:

*catalogue the majority of coronaviruses throughout the world - for - one or two billion dollars.*

Why?

Daszak: *(T)o find out which of the viruses in the wild even possibly could infect people so we know where they are and we can stop them from emerging.*

How about you leave well alone? Before the Anthrax biodefense funding explosion - i don't remember being terrorized by the common cold virus

*It's a little bit like if you **listen to phone calls** from Afghanistan.*

Oh, really?

*To **find the terrorists**, you have to listen to **all** the phone calls. Only when you've heard the phone call do you then go in and find out who these people are and **disrupt** those networks.*

It's hard to know if your talking about the common cold or conspiracy theorists.

Even Andersen thought the idea was preposterous. He/Holmes/Rambaut had a 2018 paper in Nature, arguing, convincingly, that it was a silly waste of time and money. (Their alternative - *real-time surveillance of human populations* - is equally problematic due to ethical/privacy-rights concerns.)

Funny then that they would come to be bound together so tightly on the natural-origin offensive a year later.

Dazza's *phone call listening* operations took place mainly in SE Asia (incl. Yunnan, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia). Samples were shipped to WIV - amongst other places - UC Davis? - The Pasteur Institute, Cambodia. (PREDICT report - huge PDF file)

Daszak: *I visited the labs (in Wuhan) frequently ... over 15 years. ..(paraphrased by NPR) The team and its collaborators at WIV have collected about **15,000 samples from bats** (and) .. **identified ...about 50** (that) fall into a category that caused COVID-19 (including) some that ..are capable of infecting a human cell in a petri dish. (Especially when GoFed-up.)*

So: a bunch of glorified bug-hunters scouring the world on the public dime to gather up all the world's bat viruses and store them at WIV.

Where their building blocks can be reassembled through GoF/serial passaging to create a super-bug - in order to:

*develop therapeutics for future control of emerging SARS-like infections*

...to keep us safe.

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