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# Measuring the Economic Impact of Disease Outbreaks

> I hope that my use of the GIDEON database will alert researchers to this incredible source of information.
>
> **Prof. Rodolphe Desbordes**
> Economics Professor, SKEMA Business School

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the management of all types of diseases to the forefront of risks individuals, organizations, and governments look to control. The impact on physical and mental health has been immediately identifiable, but perhaps less apparent is the economic impact diseases can have.

Some of the financial influence will have been commonly felt in most developed countries, with trade routes breaking down or staff being unable to travel, but the impact on governments and societies, particularly in the developing world, has been less reported on. Closing this gap, Professor of Economics Rodolphe Desbordes, from SKEMA School, has authored a paper "Spatial dynamics of major infectious diseases outbreaks: A global empirical assessment" to help understand the economic effects of disease outbreaks.

## THE CHALLENGE

"Infectious diseases have now become a hot topic in Economics," said Prof. Desbordes. "As an applied macroeconomist, I'm interested in very global issues and wanted to carefully model the spatial diffusion of infectious diseases in a globalized world. For various reasons, including data availability, the effects of many diseases were neglected, so I needed databases with long (time) and wide (spatial) coverage to run estimations."

## THE GIDEON SOLUTION

Search for quality data led to Prof. Desbordes' discovery of GIDEON – "I was really surprised not to find this information easily available, but I noticed the use of GIDEON in a few other papers. I found GIDEON was the perfect database for the epidemiological project I had in mind."

The quality of the data Prof. Desbordes found made it possible to really push his concept to all corners of the globe. "I value excellent data on a novel and interesting issue more than anything else, and GIDEON provided that. Data are essential to guide domestic and international policymaking."

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**GIDEON's high-quality data fuels research in previously underexplored areas**

## GIDEON Advantages

### Data going back to 1348 AD

GIDEON is the most comprehensive database of historical and current infectious disease outbreaks, encompassing **240+ countries and territories.**

### In-depth analysis of global disease spread

GIDEON's database contains 120,000+ prevalence and seroprevalence surveys, 26,000 country-specific notes and provides information on over **30,000 historical outbreaks and cross-border events.**

### Dedicated data visualization toolkit

**Make a point in seconds.** Use 58,000+ epidemiological graphs to create bespoke charts that tell a story or configure time-specific outbreak maps. Enhance publications, presentations, or engage classroom with effortless visualizations, exported at a click of a button.

### REST API with R wrapper for streamlined data modeling

GIDEON API is designed to help researchers retrieve data programmatically, especially useful when working with data modeling. Epidemiologists can easily query the database **using a familiar R environment.**

### Interactive maps

Explore hundreds of interactive maps of disease distribution and outbreaks: **there is one for every disease.** GIDEON also provides vaccine coverage maps.



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