

# Overview of doctoral theses on Atomic Layer Deposition collected in the Virtual Project on the History of ALD

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## Intro: Virtual Project on the History of ALD

The Virtual Project on the History of ALD (VPHA) is a worldwide collaborative Open Science initiative started in summer 2013, set up to clarify the early days of Atomic Layer Deposition (ALD), especially related to its two independent discoveries. In this VPHA, early ALD publications are overviewed up to 1986 in an atmosphere of Openness, Respect and Trust. Also, four scientific journal articles have resulted [1-4]. The VPHA is still open for more volunteers; for the invitation to participate, please see the supplementary information in Ref. 3, or browse through the VPHA website [5].

## ALD thesis list

In the VPHA, we are compiling a worldwide list of doctoral theses (and "professor's theses") and analyse trends in it. Anyone is allowed to browse the list and propose entries to it; please find links via the VPHA website [5]. At the time of creating this poster, VPHA's thesis collection contains 534 entries. The PhD-equivalent theses in the collection, up to year 2018, are listed in Table 1. The number of PhD-equivalent theses per country is shown in Figure 1, and a map of theses per city in Figure 2.

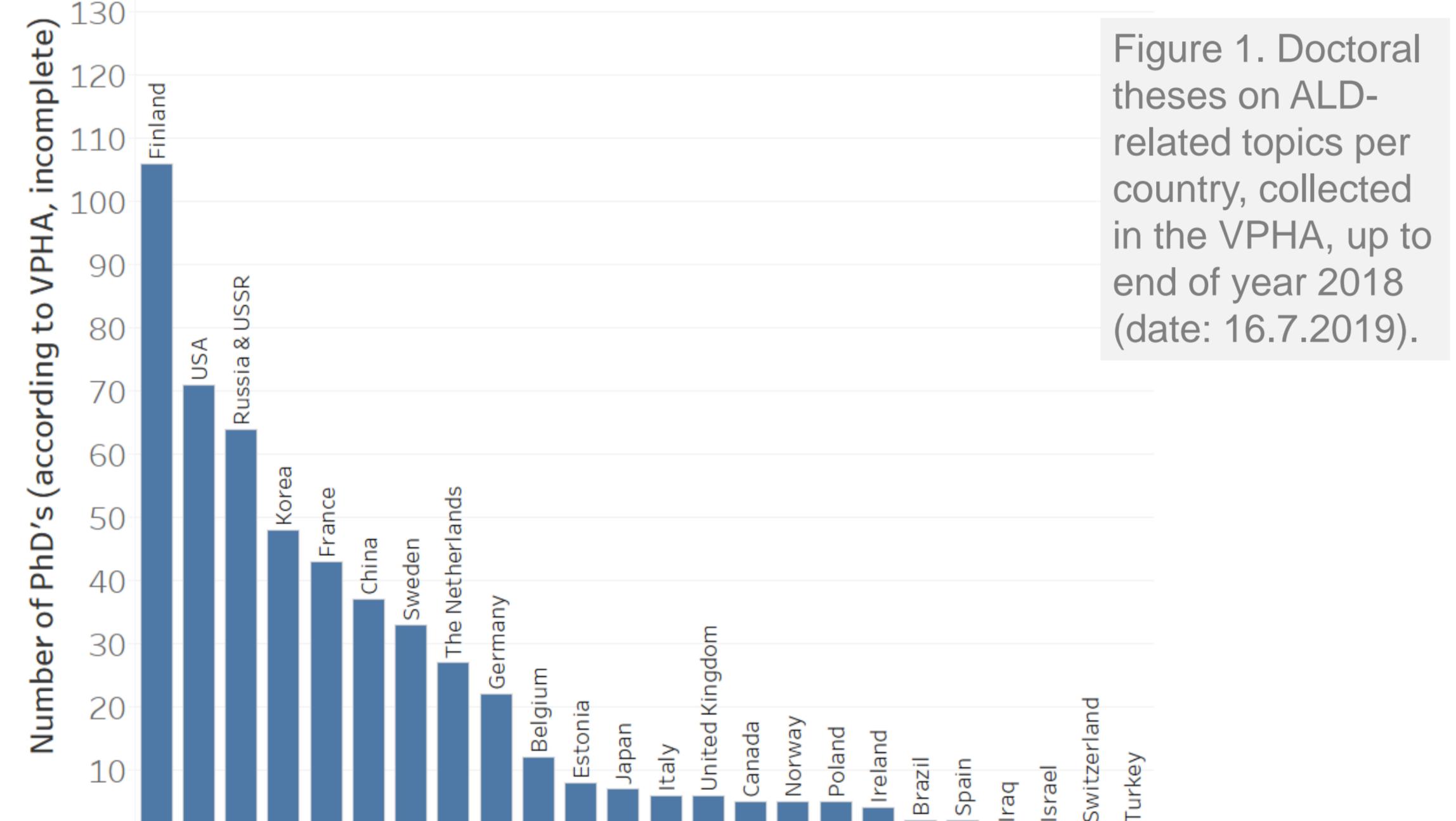


Figure 1. Doctoral theses on ALD-related topics per country, collected in the VPHA, up to end of year 2018 (date: 16.7.2019).

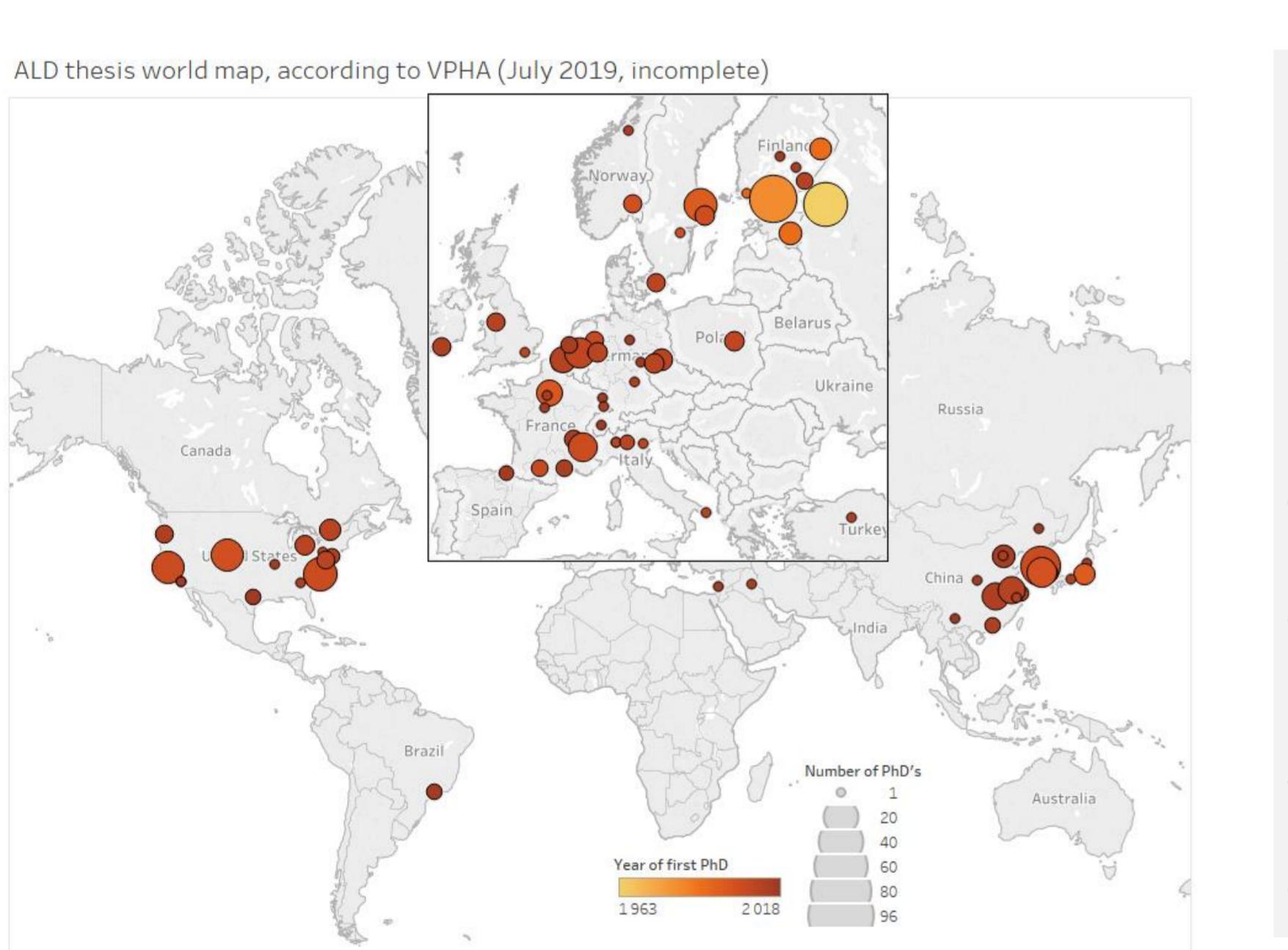


Figure 2. A world distribution plot of doctoral theses on ALD-related topics collected in the VPHA, up to end of year 2018 (date: 16.7.2019). The size of the circles represents the number of records, while the colour represents the first thesis originating from that location.

## Conclusion

One way to overview the worldwide development of ALD throughout the decades is to analyse the list of ALD theses worldwide, presented in this work. Currently, the ALD thesis list collected in the VPHA contains over 500 entries from 28 countries. The list is likely to be incomplete; we expect that theses are missing at least from Japan, Switzerland and Australia. While building a 100% complete worldwide thesis list is probably impossible, we try to approach that situation; to perfect the list, we ask the readers to send us information of missing theses (email preferred: [info@vph-ald.com](mailto:info@vph-ald.com)). The aim is to publish the thesis list later as part of a joint scientific journal article.

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**Disclaimer:** The comments expressed herein are done so as private individuals. Any opinions are the person's own and do not represent the views of the companies/institutes the individual is employed by/affiliated with.

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