

Disaster Coverage: How Media Report on Disasters

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Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction
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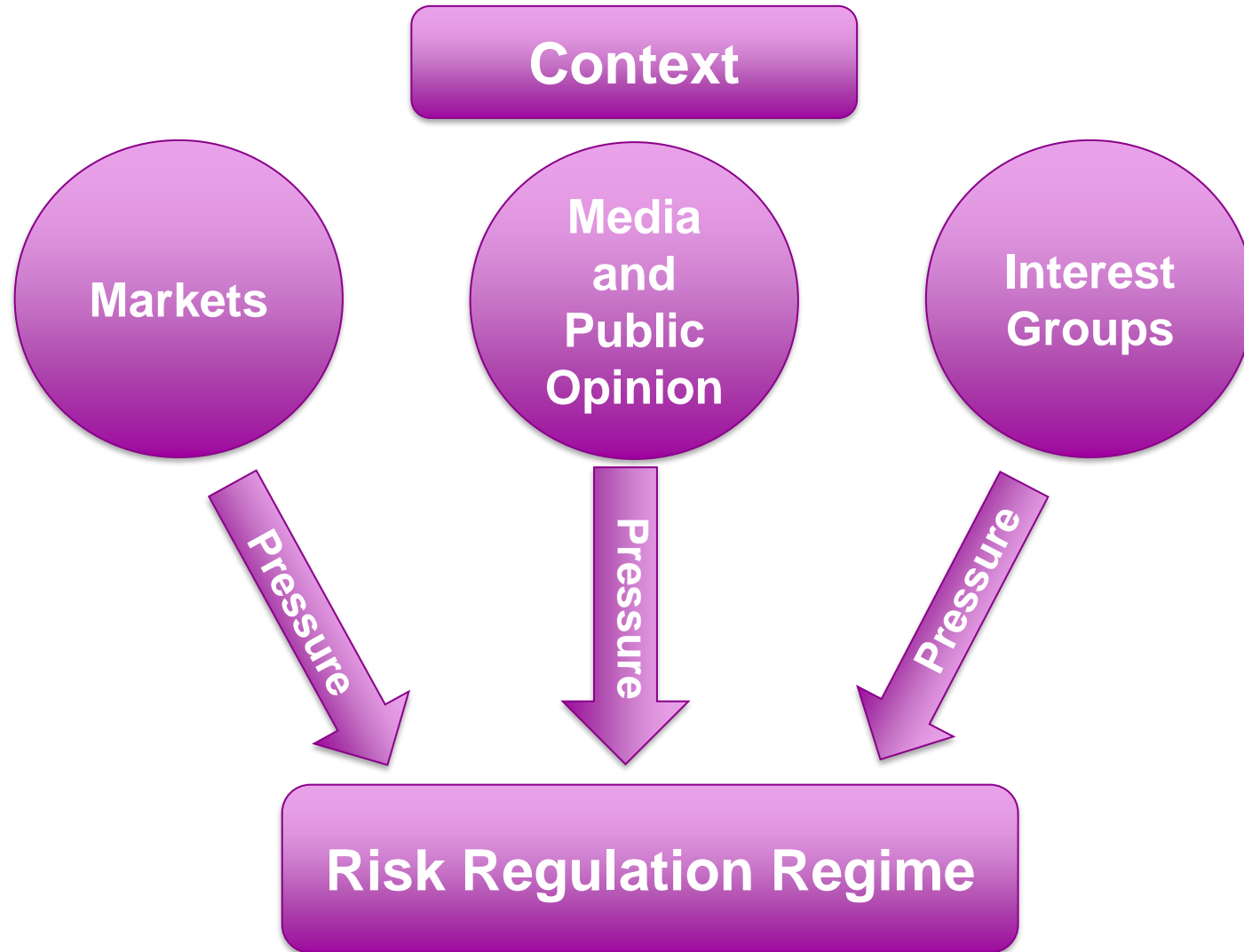
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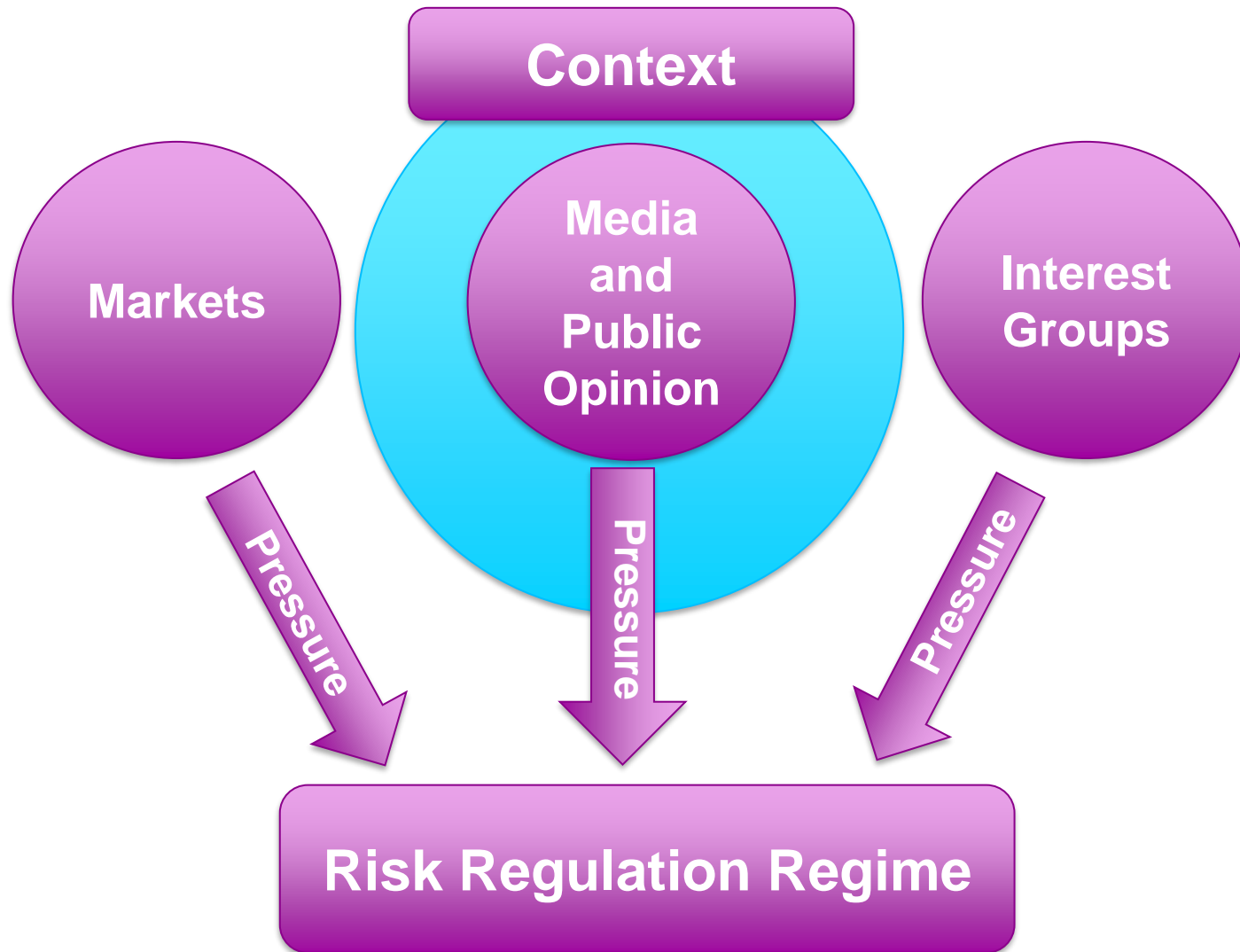


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Hood, Rothstein and Baldwin: Risk Regulation Regimes





Natural Disasters

- Canberra bushfires (2003)
- Hurricane Juan (2003)
- California wildfires (2007)
- United Kingdom floods (2007)
- Eyjafjallajökull eruptions (2010)
- Toronto floods (2013)
- Alberta floods (2013)

Industrial Failures

- Potters Bar train wreck (2002)
- Waterfall train accident (2003)
- Melbourne chemical spill (2005)
- Texas City Refinery explosion (2005)
- Buncefield explosions (2005)
- De la Concord overpass collapse (2006)
- I-35W bridge collapse (2007)
- Sunrise Propane explosion (2008)
- Elliot Lake mall collapse (2012)
- West, Texas fertilizer plant explosion (2013)
- Lac-Mégantic explosion (2013)

Terrorist Attacks

- Royal Artillery Barracks attack (2013)
- Moncton shootings (2014)
- Parliament Hill shootings (2014)
- Sydney hostage crisis (2014)

Terrorist Plots

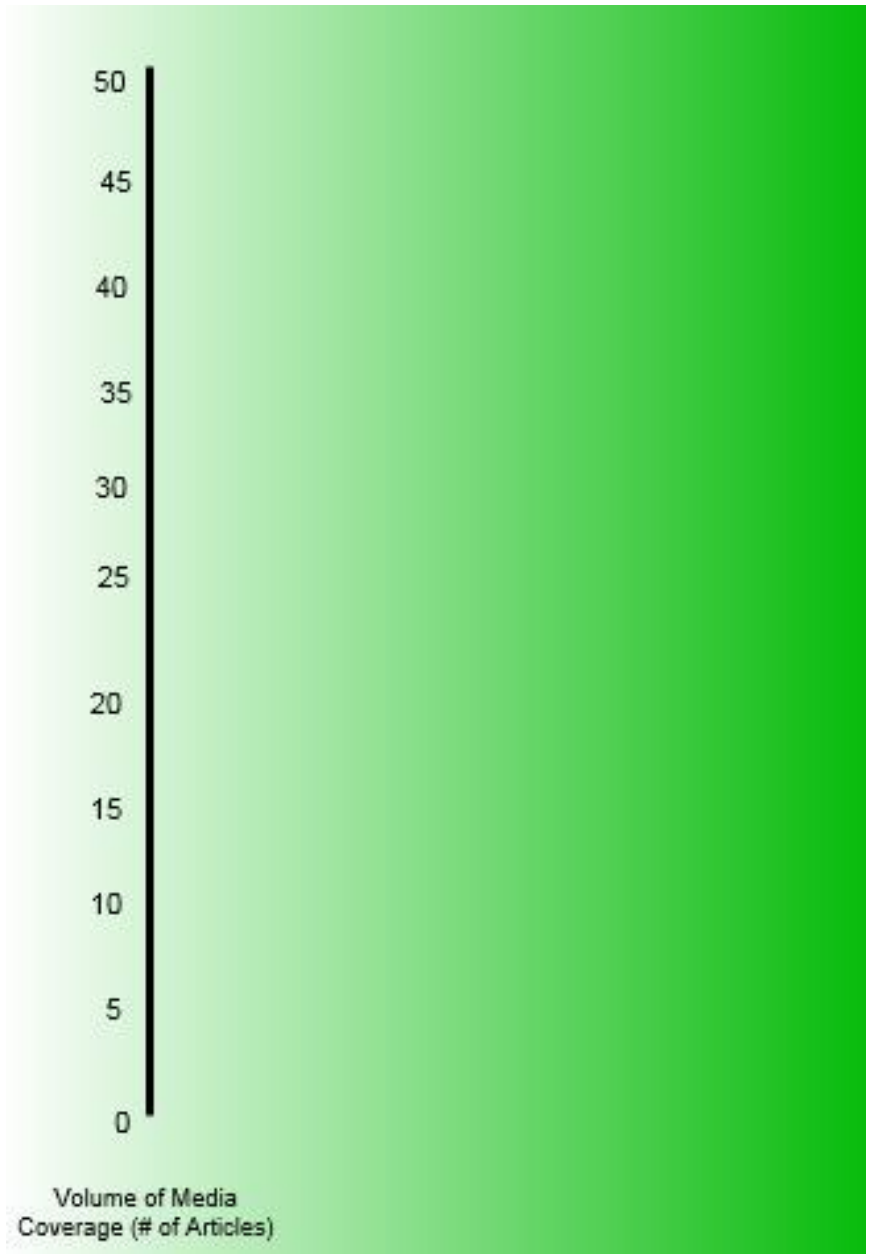
- Sydney Five terrorism plot (2005)
- Sears Tower plot (2006)
- Toronto 18 plot (2006)
- Transatlantic flights lot (2006)
- VIA Rail terrorism plot (2013)

Cyber Events

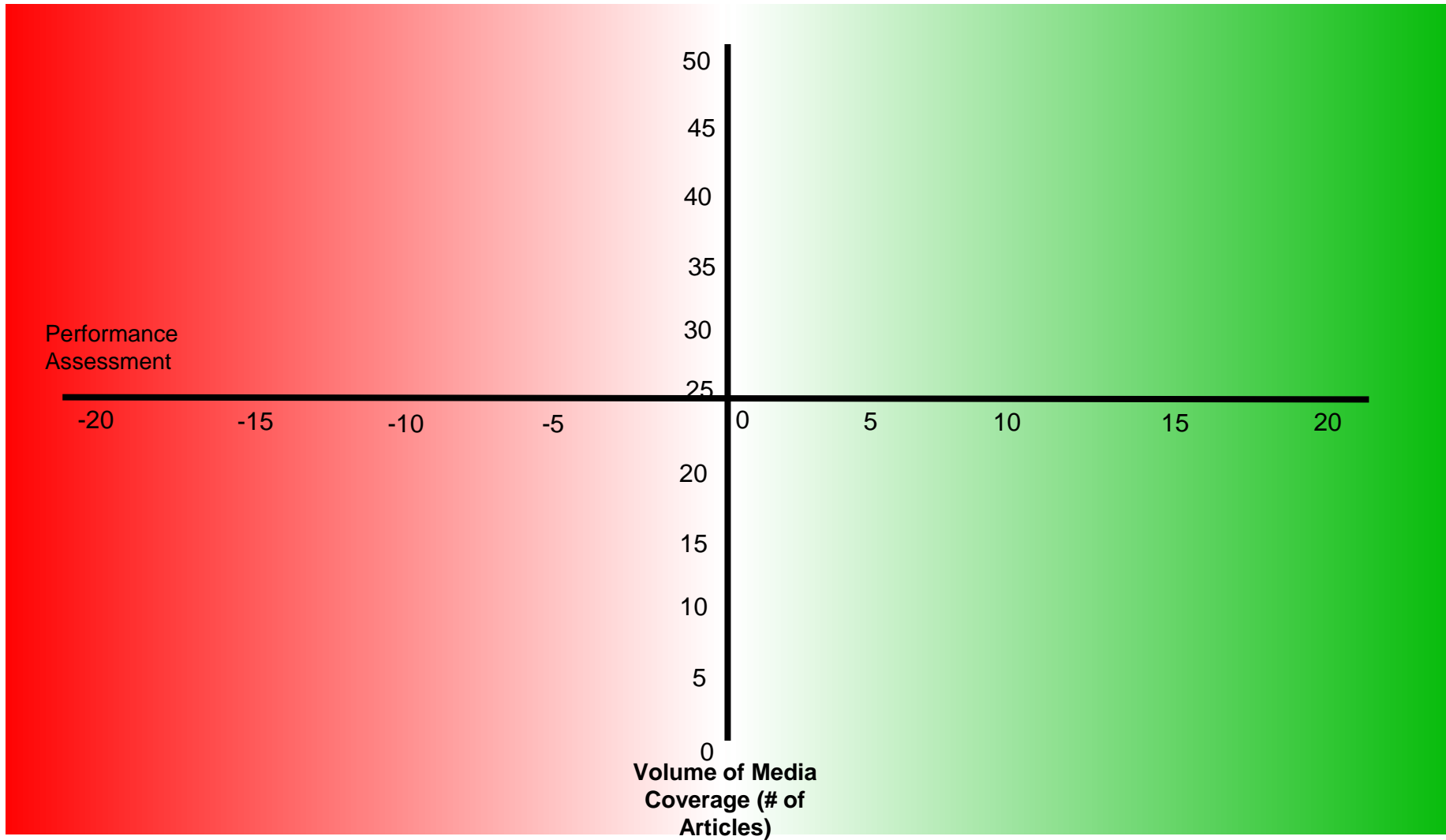
- SQL Slammer worm (2003)
- Albert Gonzalez data thefts (2005)
- Estonia cyber warfare (2007)
- Canada Revenue Agency software defect (2007)
- Conficker computer worm (2008)
- GhostNet (2009)
- Sony Pictures hack (2014)

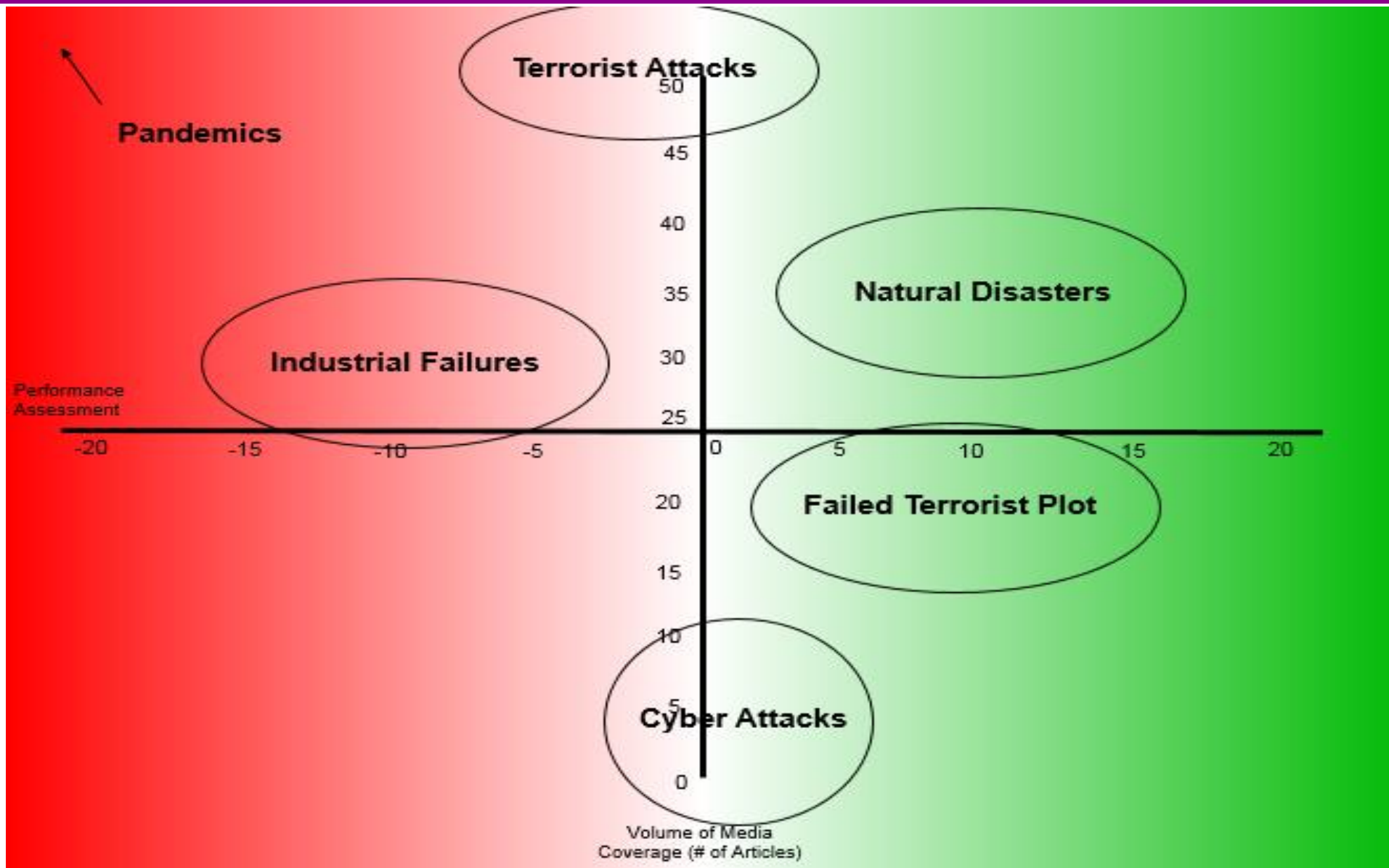
Pandemics

- H1N1 in the U.S. (March 2009-August 2010)
- H1N1 in Canada (April 2009-August 2010)
- H1N1 in the U.K. (April 2009-August 2010)
- H1N1 in Australia (May 2009-August 2010)



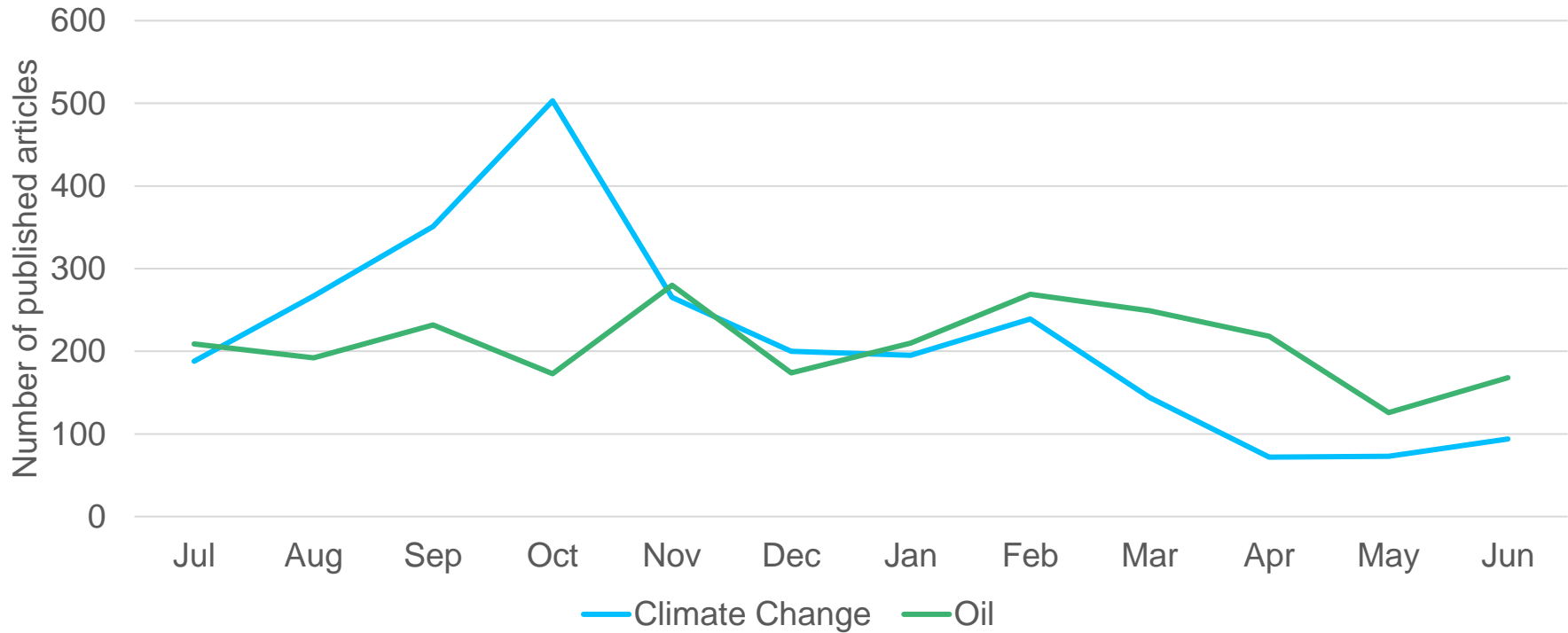
Media Coverage During Disasters / Crises





“Climate change” and “Oil” in Media (2019-2020)

Key Terms	2019 mentions	2020 mentions	Total	% Change
Climate change	1774	817	2591	-54
Oil	1260	1240	2500	-1.6

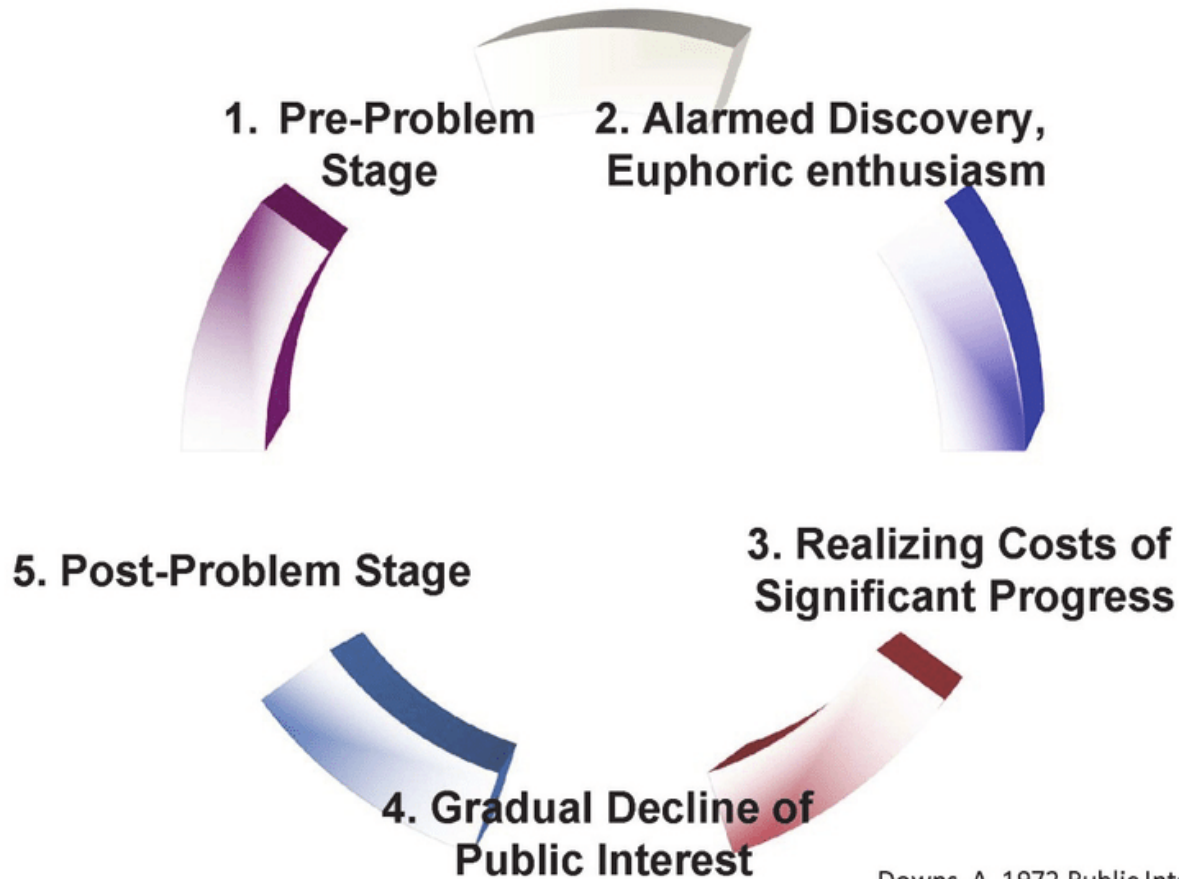


Poll of Canadians' Priorities: 2021 Federal Election

1. Cost of living
2. Increased health-care funding
3. Post pandemic economic recovery
4. Managing the pandemic
5. The level of taxes Canadians pay
6. Housing affordability
7. Climate change
8. Reducing poverty

Source: National Post (2021).

Downs Issue Attention Cycle



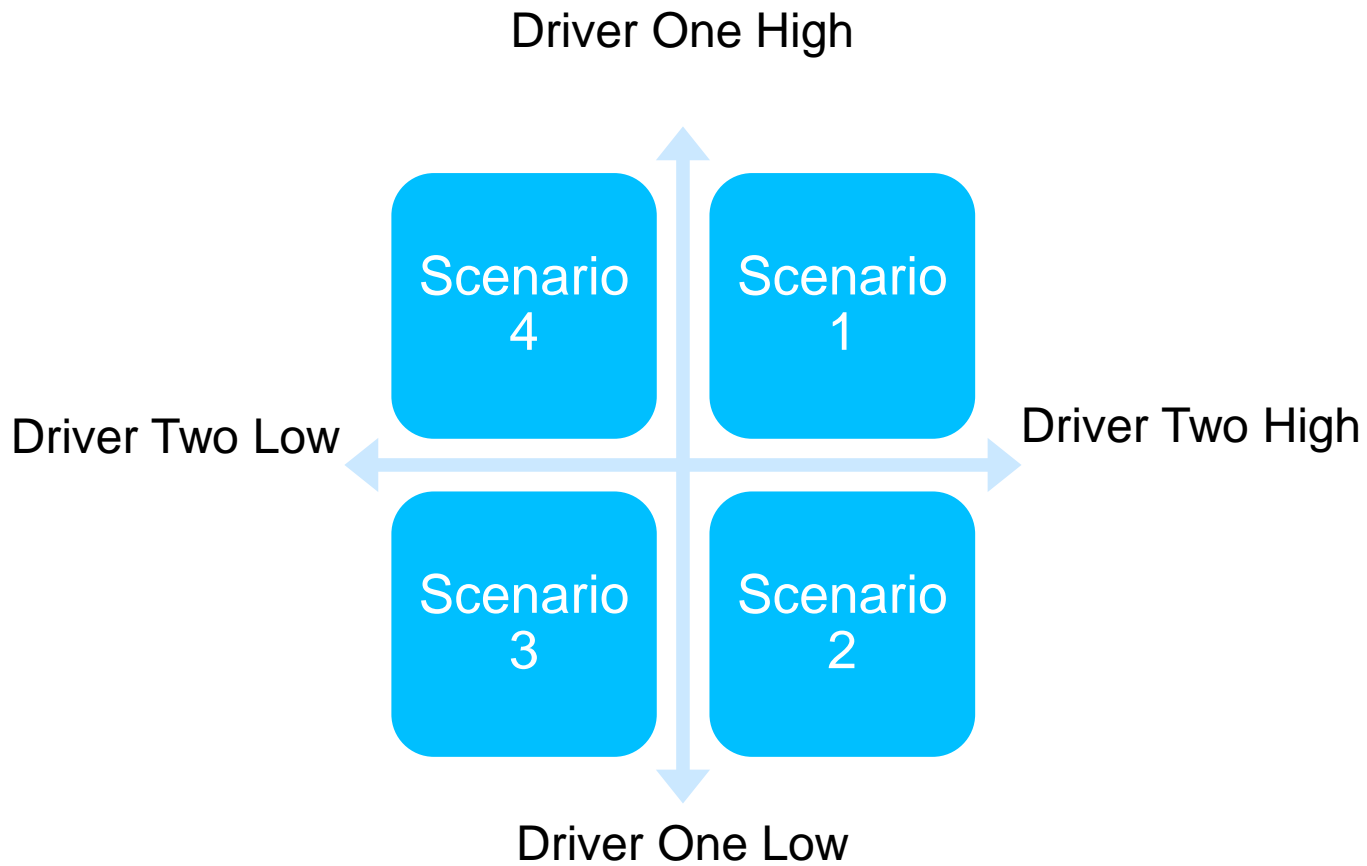
Downs, A. 1972 Public Interest. 28:38-50.

Scenario Planning: Intuitive Logics

- There are many scenario planning methods. We will refer to the intuitive logics method, and draw on the Dutch School, with reference to Van der Heijden, Van Asselt and others.
- The method is process- and discussion-oriented.
- This method helps organizations identify factors that drive their sector, describe plausible futures to which they must react, and define policies they can develop in response to these futures.
- The conventional structure of an intuitive logics scenario planning exercise includes a 2 x 2 matrix that consists of four boxes used to plot scenarios and two axes that represent drivers.

Drivers

- Environmental factors that influence or shape the success of the sector
- Often outside of your control
- They can be social, health, economic, technological and / or regulatory factors



Develop the Scenarios

WHAT DOES THIS SCENARIO
LOOK LIKE?

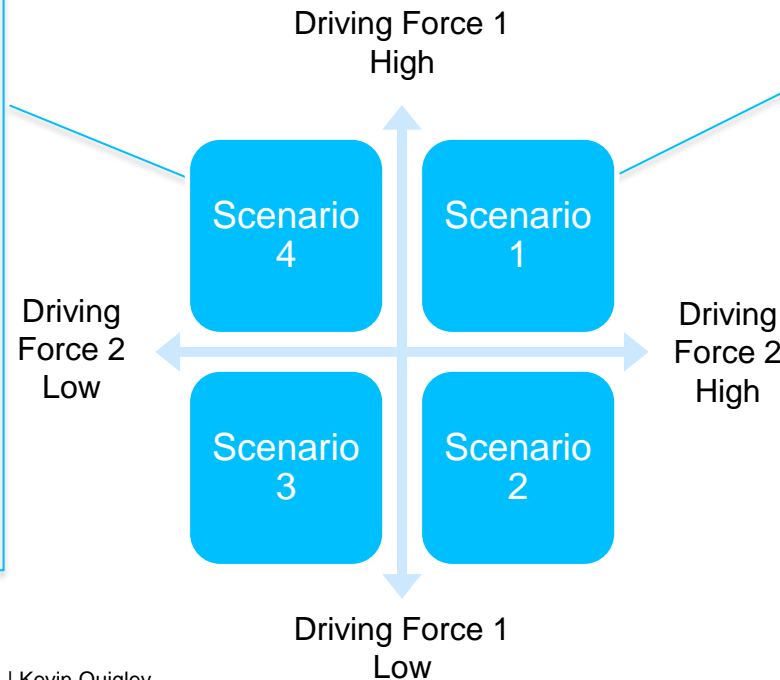
HOW DID YOU GET TO THIS
SCENARIO?

WHAT ARE THE UNDERLYING
CAUSES THAT LED TO THIS?

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL
CRITICAL FAILURES?

WHAT ARE THE
OPPORTUNITIES?

NAME THE SCENARIO



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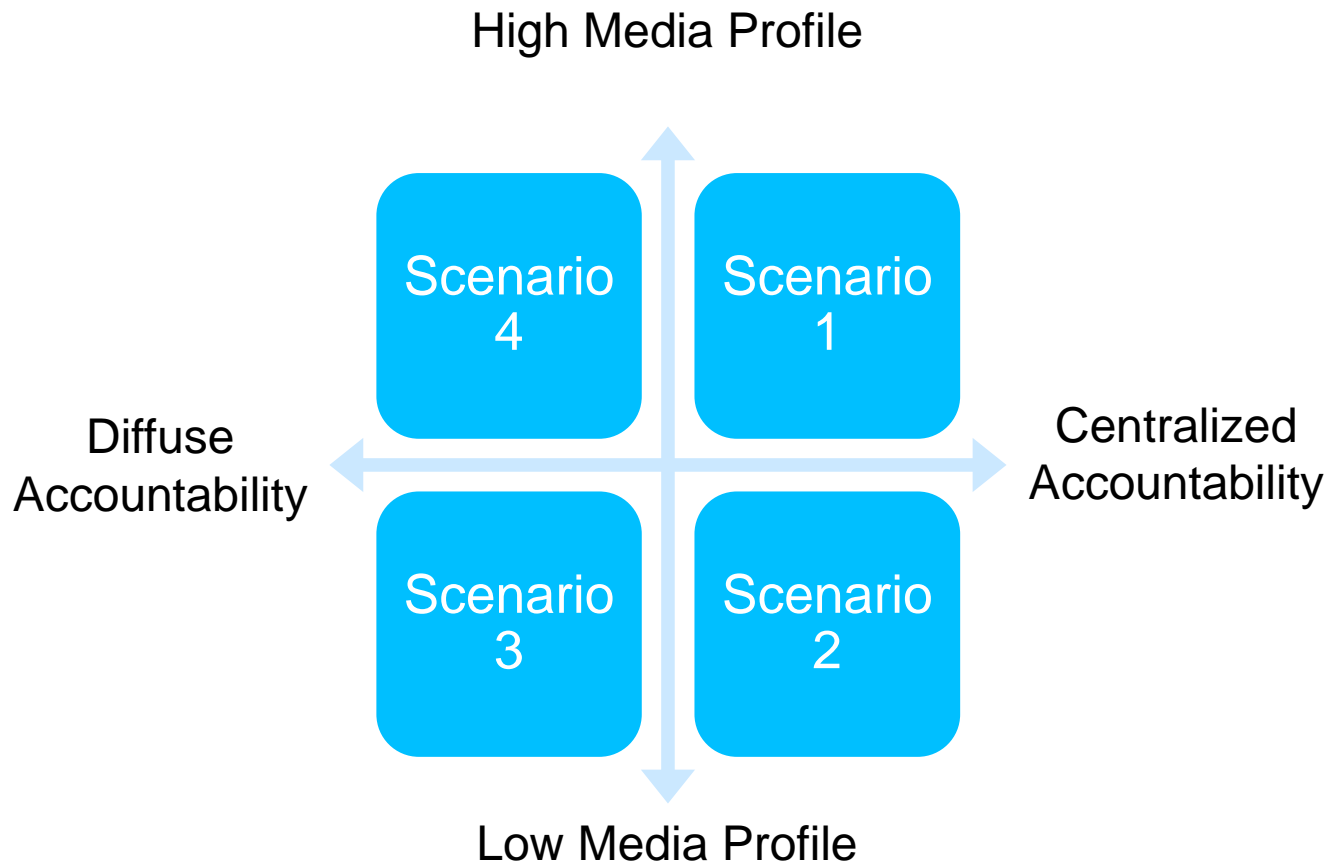
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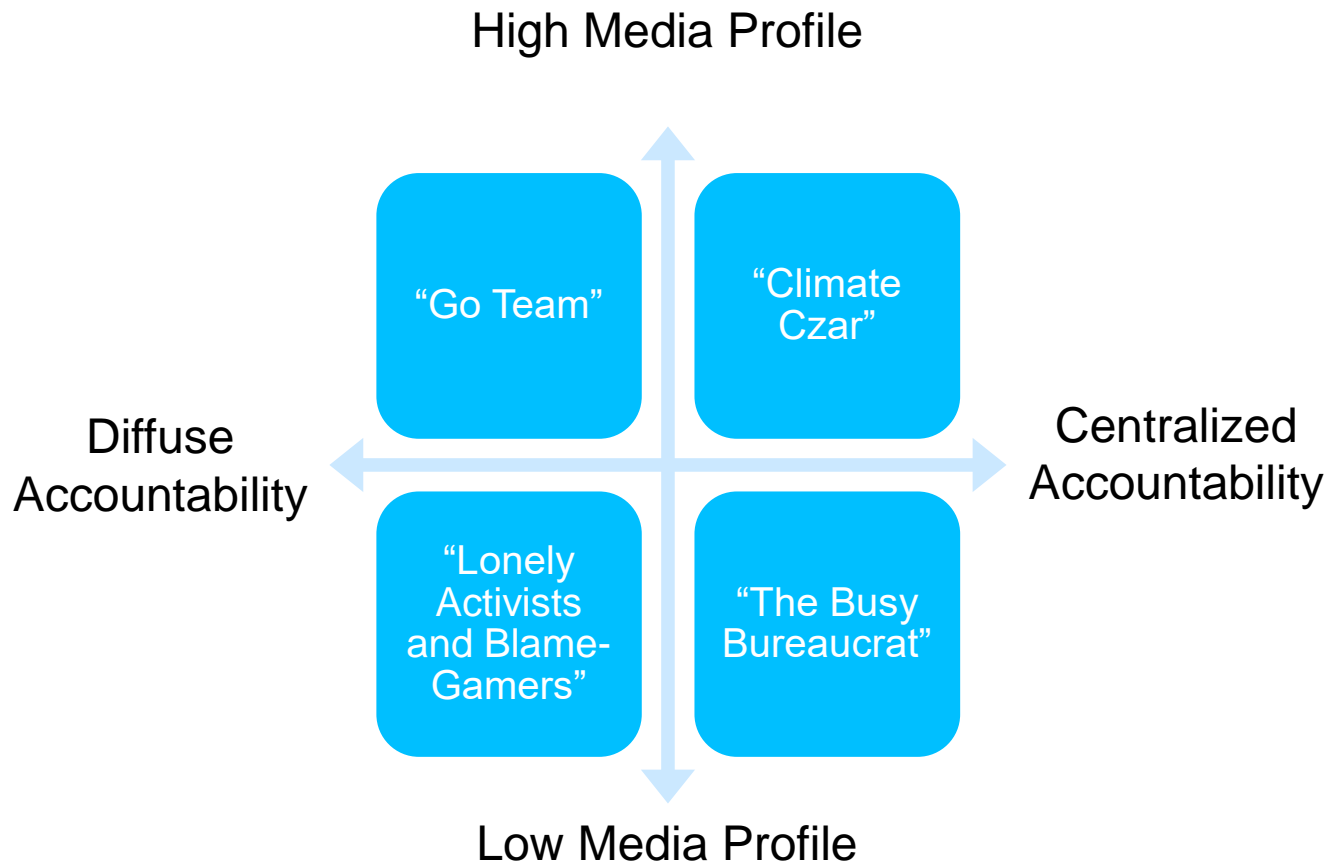
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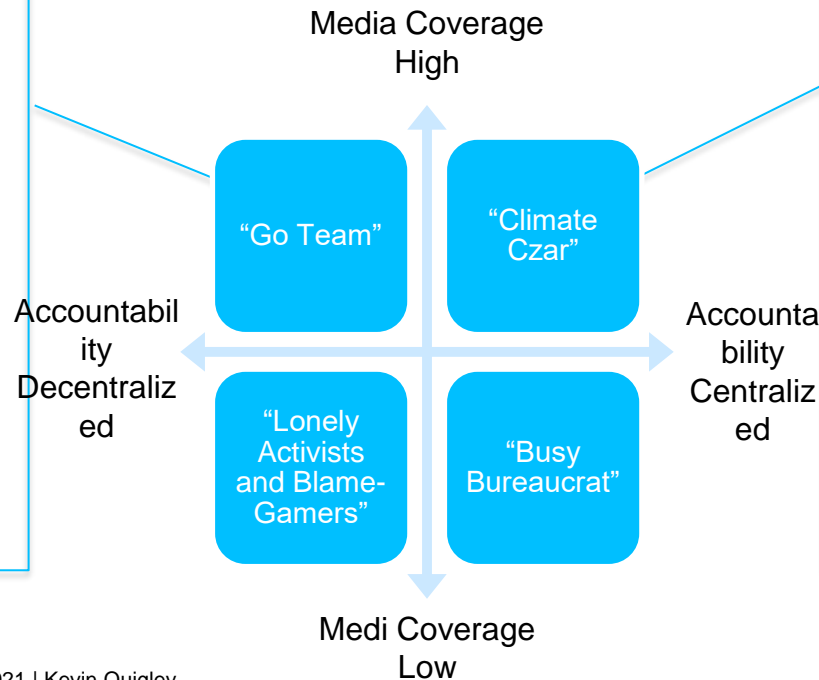
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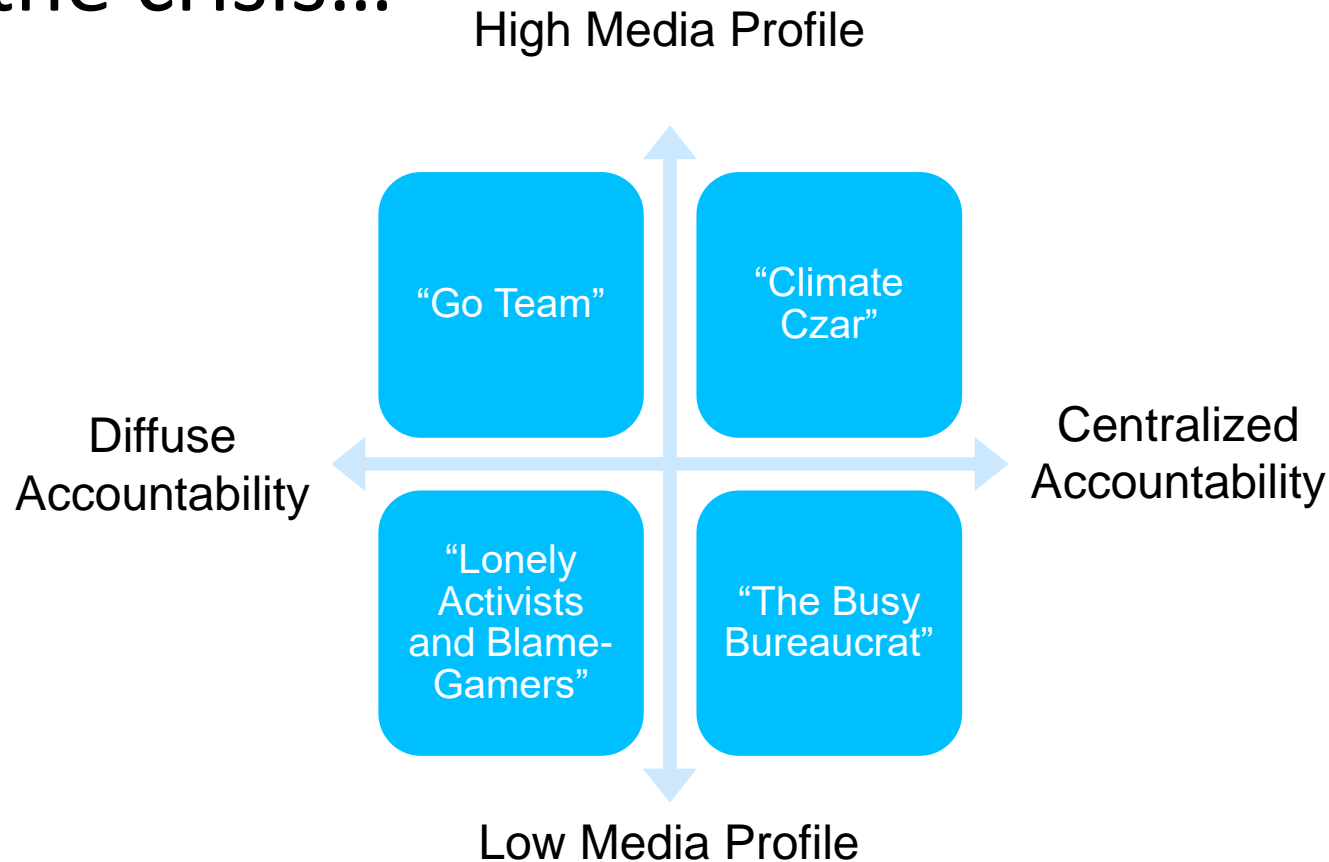
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Second way: multiple boxes, depending on the crisis...



Concluding Observations

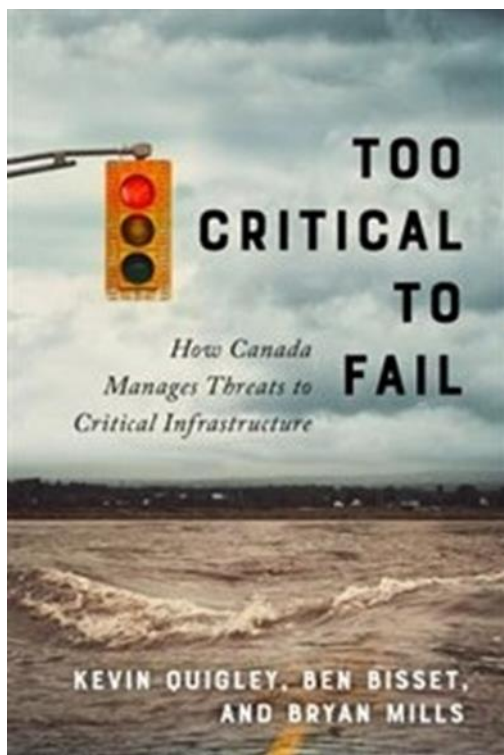
Media coverage of disasters reveals patterns

Increased attention to climate disasters seems inevitable but . . .

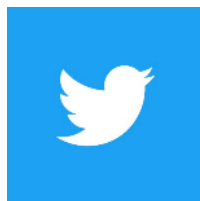
Historical trends raise questions; scenario planning can help us think through different plausible futures

Don't let a crisis go to waste: the work-at-home policy

For More Information



Too Critical To Fail
*How Canada Manages
Threats to Critical
Infrastructure*



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Dal.ca/MIPP

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Introduction to scenario planning, videos and materials
online at dal.ca/mipp