

ISODARCO 61
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Andalo



A personal journey through the nuclear disarmament ecosystem

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Objectives today

- Me and disarmament
- The Disarmament-Deterrence Polarity
- Stepping Stones Approach to Nuclear Disarmament Diplomacy
- Global Catastrophic Risk as a lens
- The importance of cooperation and global governance

A personal
journey with
theories of
change

- Protest and direct action
- Electoral politics
- Think-tank / advocacy world
(challenge through research and debate)
- TV and media
- Dialogue and Track 2 negotiations
- Systems training officials
- Trident Commission

Managing Polarities

NUCLEAR DETERRENCE	NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT
<p>Positives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Containing worst excesses of aggression● Strategic stability and avoiding major conflict	<p>Positives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Mitigating/escaping the risks from and costs of nuclear deterrence● Building trust & international institutions
<p>Negatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Driving arms racing● Diverting scarce resources● Existential risk● Significant question over effectiveness of severe punishment	<p>Negatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Difficult to achieve 'safely'● Containing own capabilities to prevail● Could unbalance strategic relations with disastrous effect

Strategic Deterrence elements

- **Capability** to punish or deny
- **Credibility** of intent (willingness)
- Effective **Communication**
- Unintended **Consequences** (externalities)
- **Complexity** and **unCertainty**
- Resilience

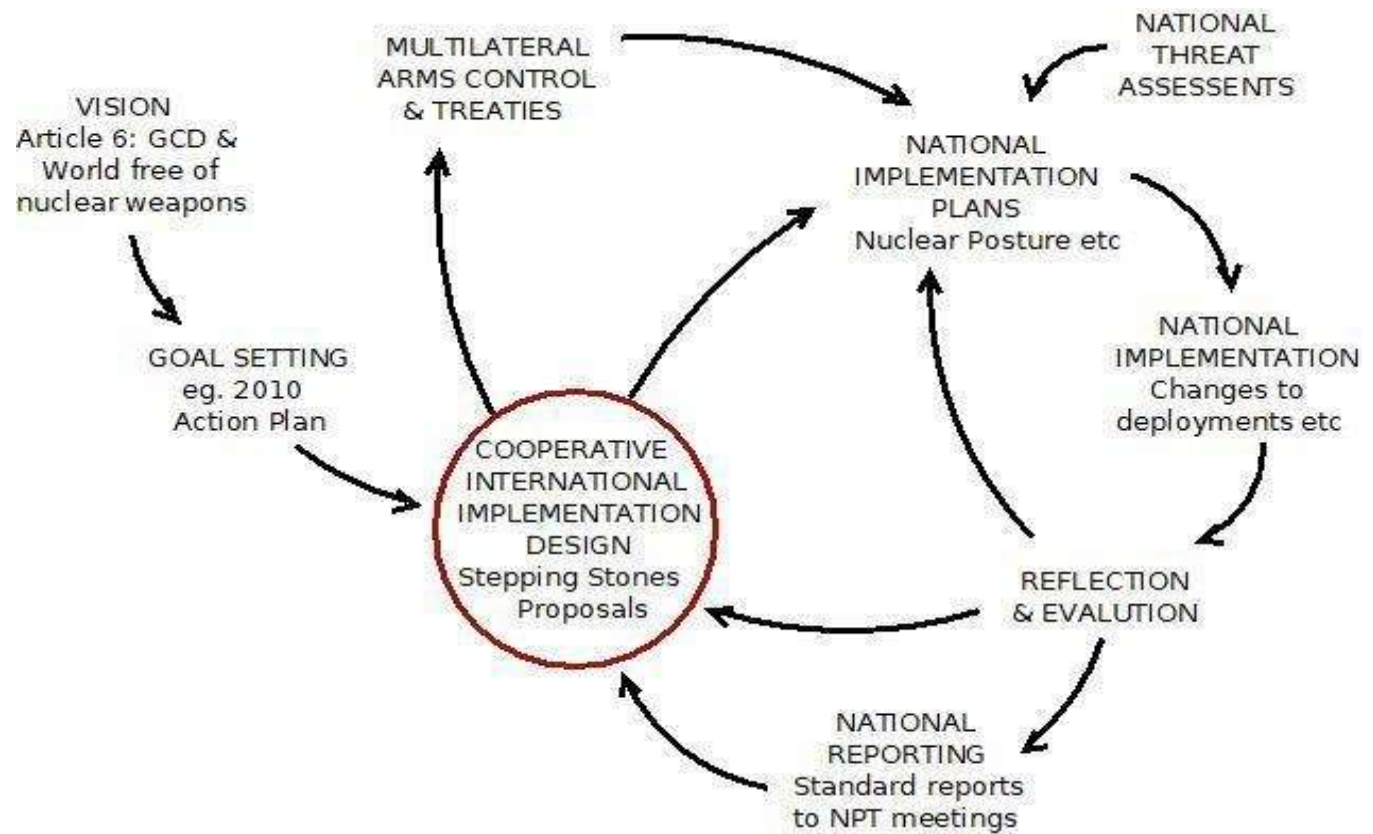
Are nuclear weapons really that good at delivering strategic deterrence?

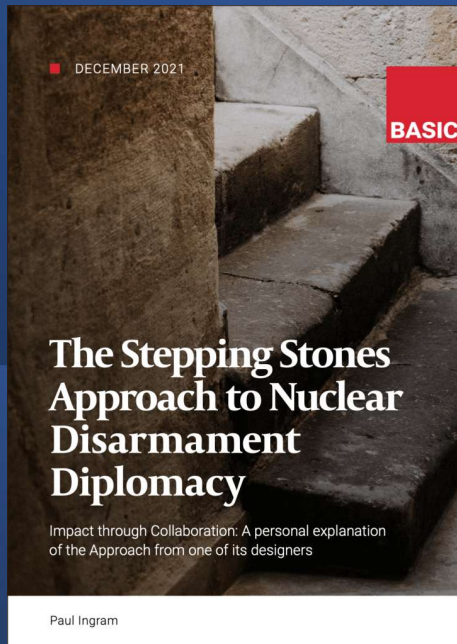
Nuclear weapons



SSA: Context

Disarmament Diplomacy





The Stepping Stones Approach

Disarmament Diplomacy in 2018 Emergence of the Approach & Stockholm Initiative

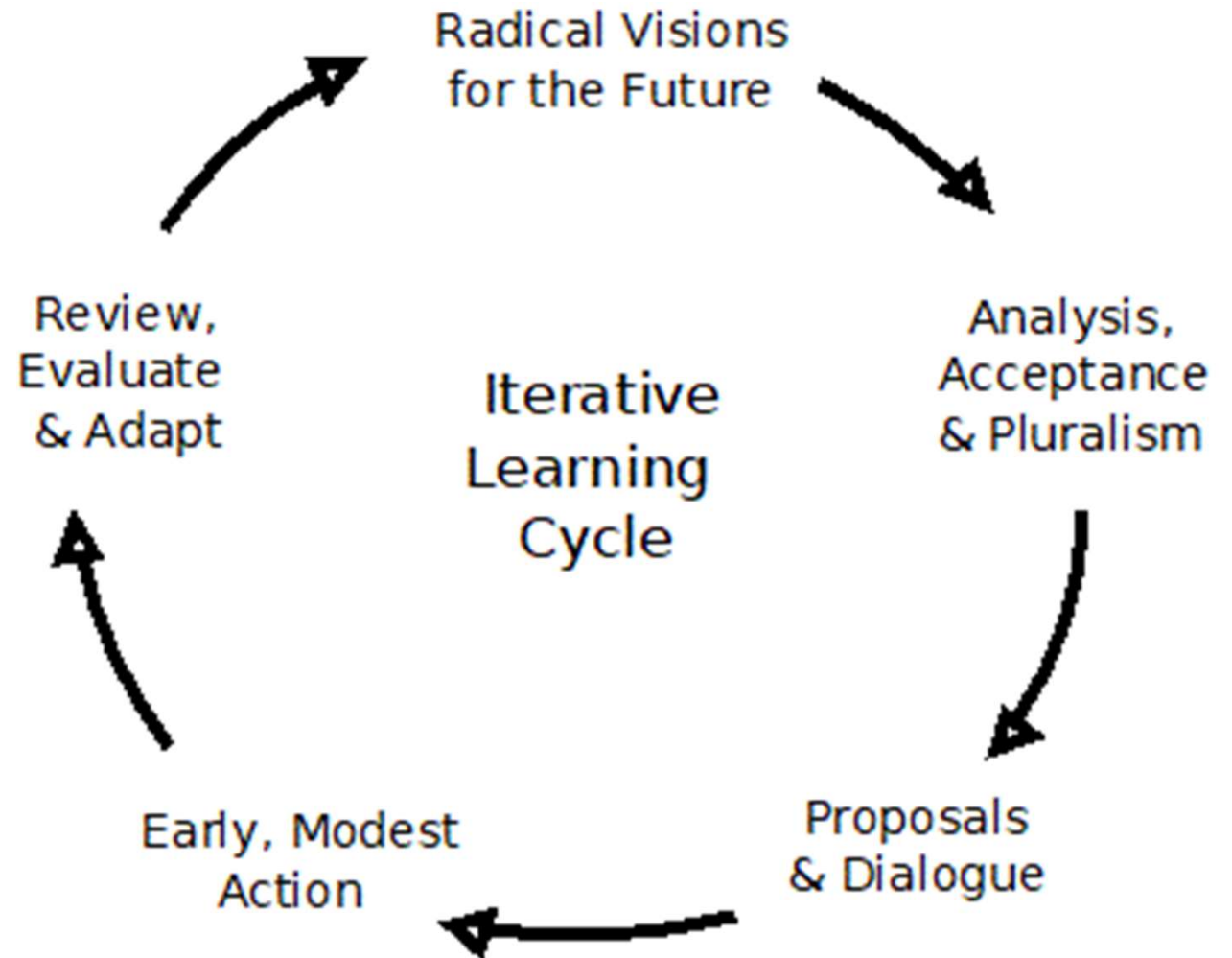
Objectives

- Rebuilding cohesion within disarmament diplomacy
- Achieving progress implementing disarmament
- Peacebuilding longer term

Three key core beliefs

1. We live in an interdependent international community
2. SSA is about synthesising incrementalism and radicalism, using a principle of consent
3. Its dynamics involve complexity, uncertainty & tensions
 - control is limited, we need humility
 - we can seek improvements (not solutions)
 - we sit in a sea of polarities

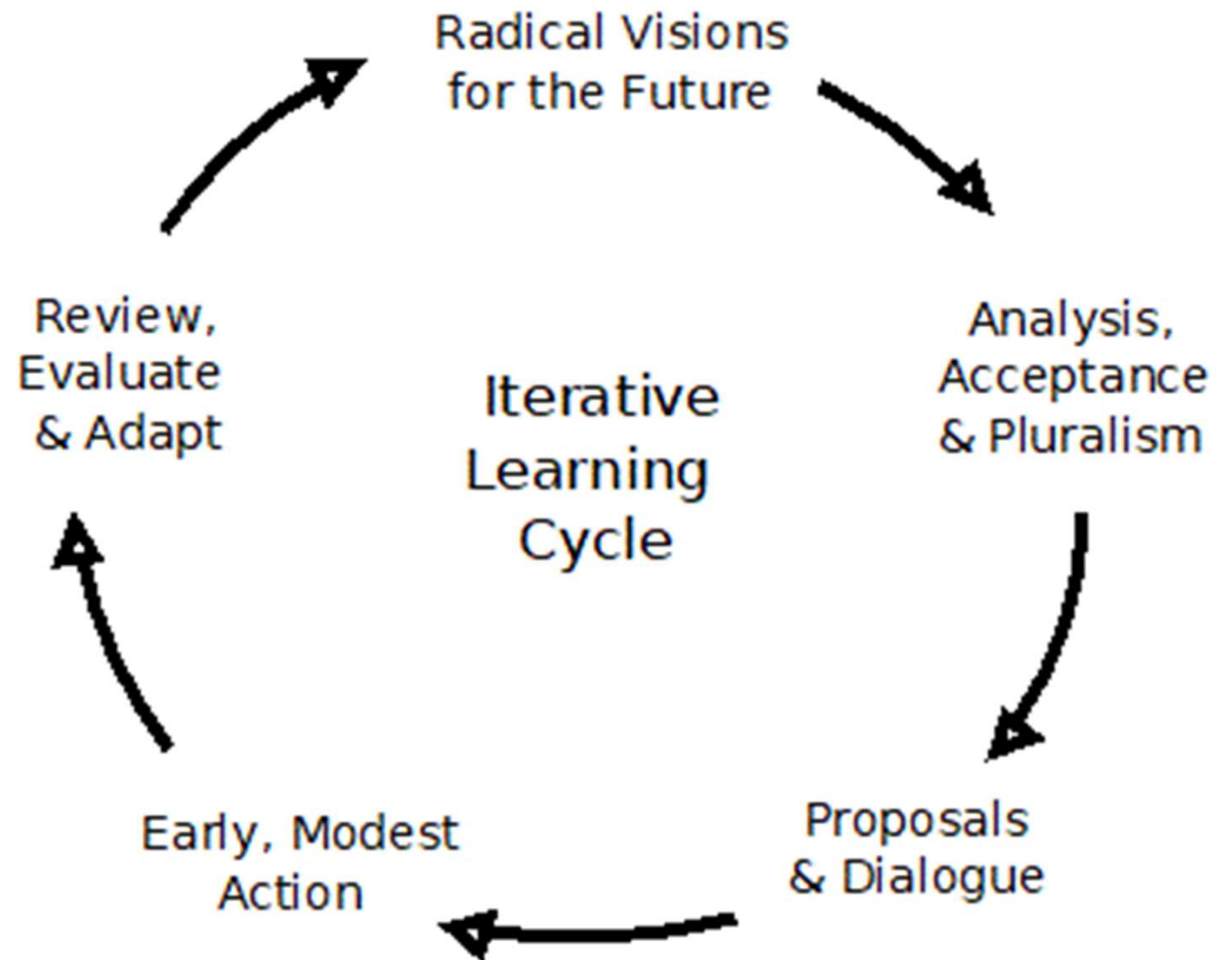
Incremental Process



Radical visions

- A world free of nuclear weapons?
- World governed by cooperation and strategic compassion?
- More stable strategic deterrence?

Stepping Stones Approach



Negative Security Assurances

1. NWFZ protocols – but with exceptions
2. Political statements – declaratory policy

Exceptions

- a. in alliance
- b. CBW, or weapons with strategic effect
- c. not in compliance with NPT

Key features of SSA

1. Inclusive & respectful dialogue
2. Unpredictable – non-attachment
3. Protagonists more likely to engage if their concerns are accounted for
4. Valuing plurality whilst maintaining our own perspective
5. Acknowledge immunity to change – positions of dynamic & stable equilibria

Linkages
and
cascades



Emergence of the Anthropocene

Humans destroy ecosystems and reduce biodiversity

Global
Catastrophic
Risk
as a lens



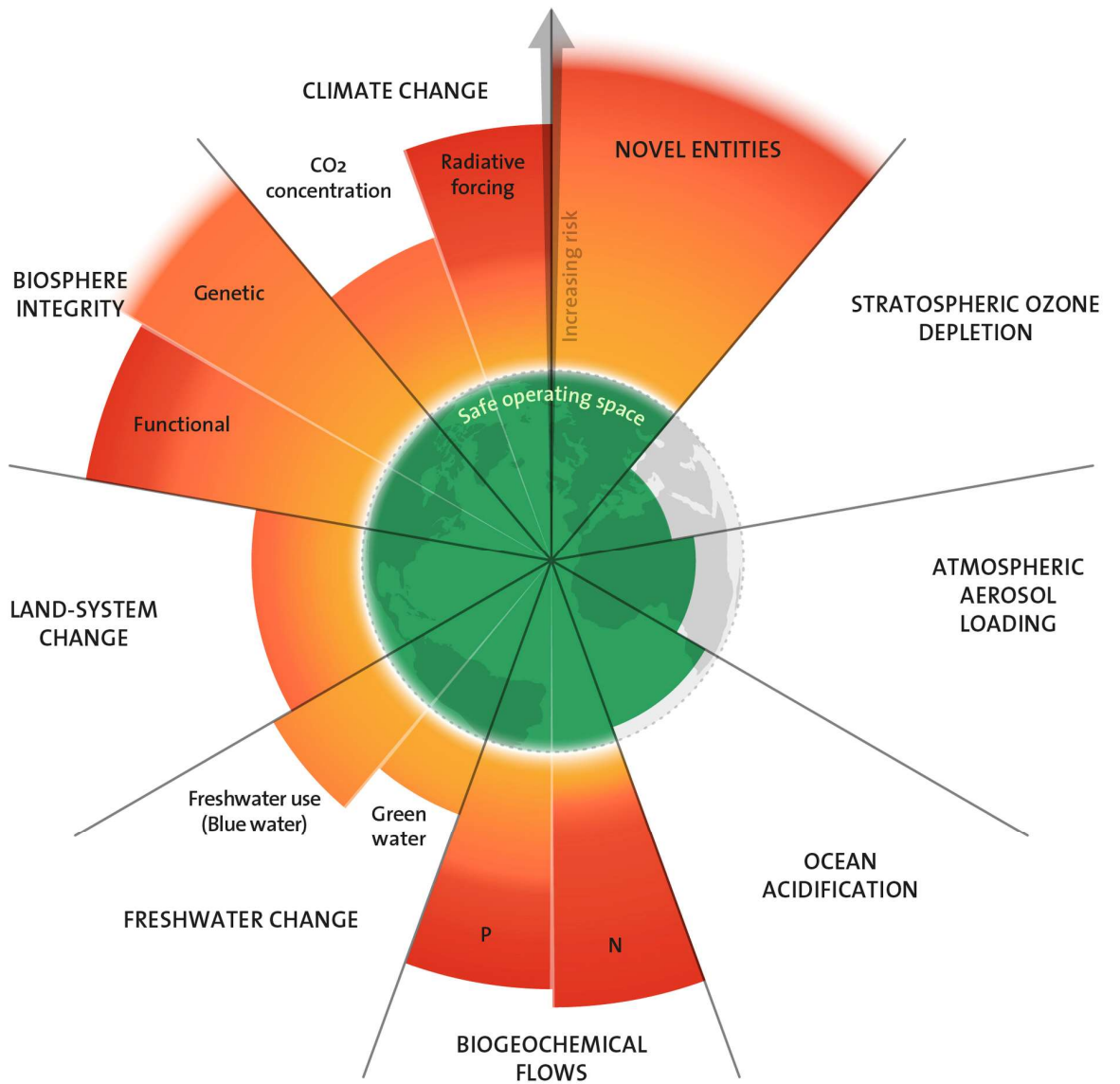
Polycrisis

$$R = f(H, V, E)$$

Risk Hazard
 Vulnerability
 Exposure

- Multiple hazards
- Linkages, cascades

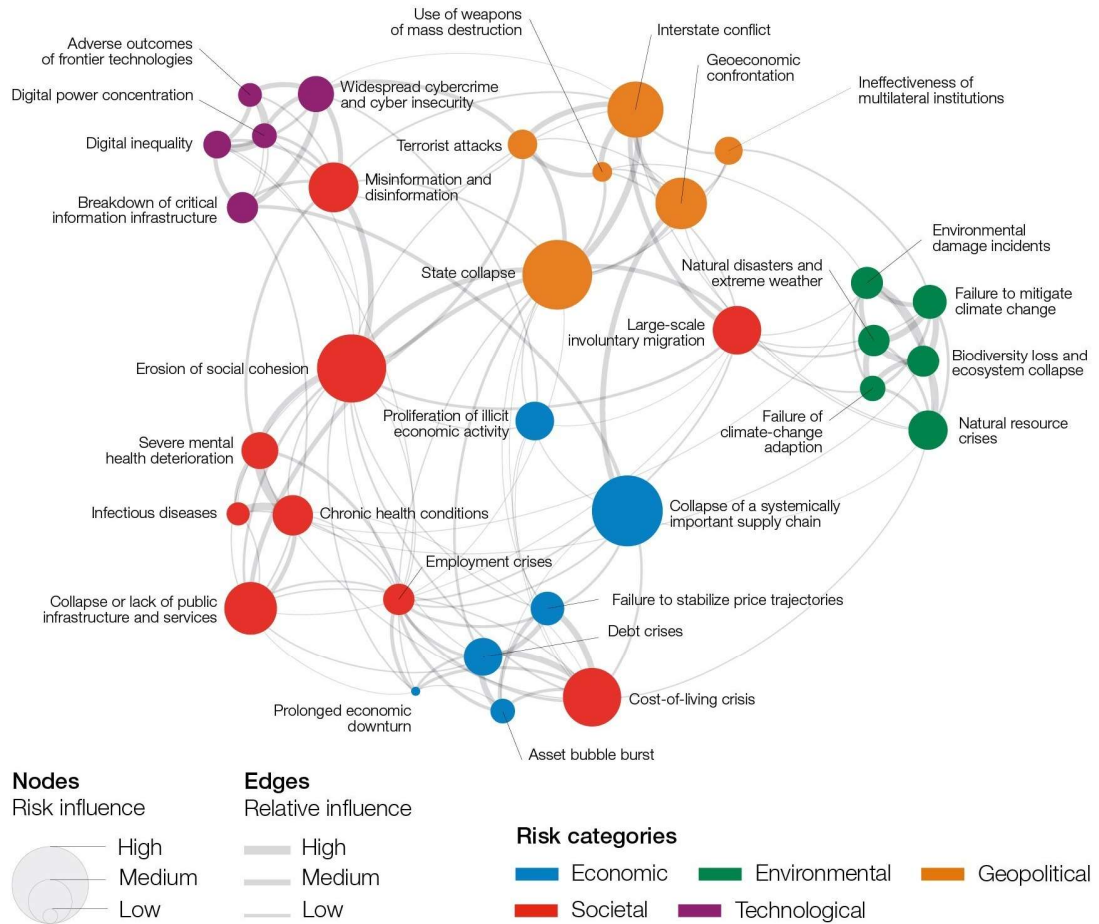
Planetary boundaries



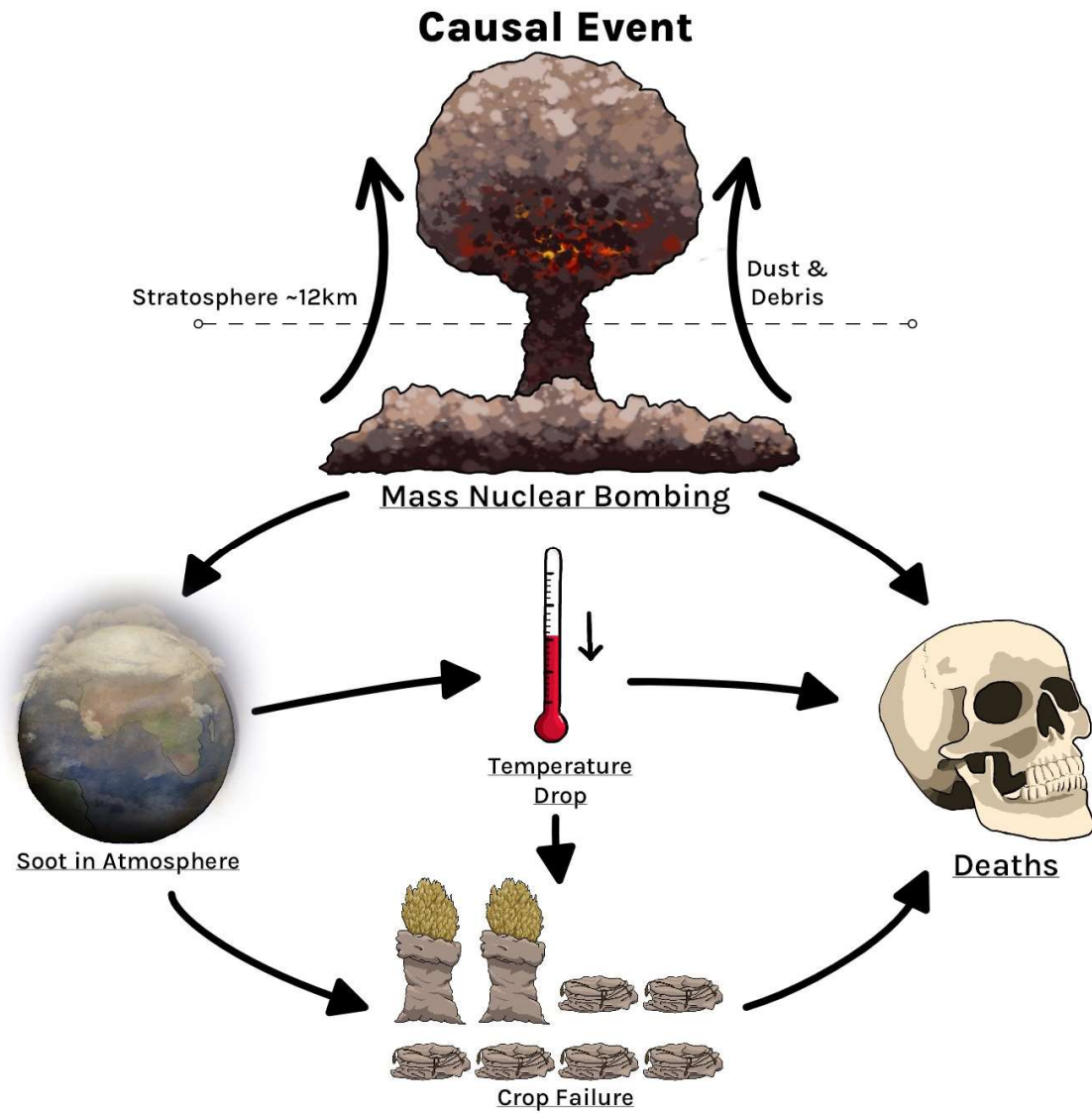
Poly/meta crisis





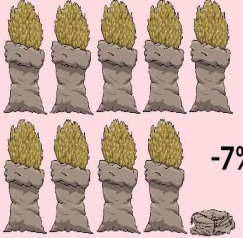


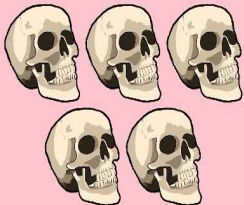


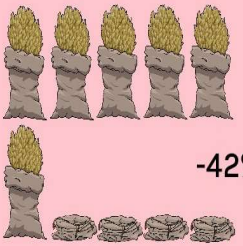
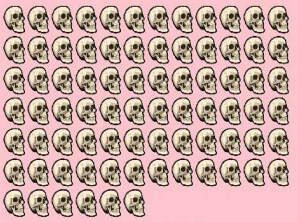




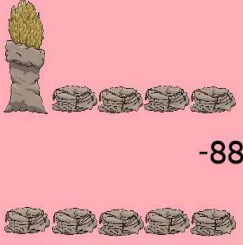

Global Risks Report 2023

Global risks landscape: an interconnections map



Linkages and cascades



Size of Nuclear War	Direct Fatalities	Ash & Soot in Atmosphere	Falling global Temperatures	Global Crop Failure	Additional Deaths from starvation
Limited war involving 100 smaller (15kT) nukes 	 27 Million	5 MT 	 ↓ -1.3°C	 -7%	 225 Million
Limited war involving 250 larger (100kT) nukes 	 127 Million	37 MT 	 ↓ -5.5°C	 -42%	 2,240 Million
Total nuclear war 	 400 Million	150 MT 	 ↓ -12°C	 -88%	 over 5,000 Million

*These figures are based upon a peer-reviewed academic paper in Nature published in August 2022 using climate models. They are controversial, and require more research to increase confidence, but should be treated as indicative of the scale of impact from a nuclear war.

Xia, L., Robock, A., Scherrer, K. et al. Global food insecurity and famine from reduced crop, marine fishery and livestock production due to climate disruption from nuclear war soot injection. Nat Food 3, 586-596 (2022).
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-022-00573-0>

Metacrisis

- Common underlying drivers
- dominant narratives

Questioning the narratives

Not about confrontation... more:

- identifying assumptions
- opening minds
- developing alternatives
- being courageous