

POST WORKSHOP SYNTHESIS AND IDEAS:

SINGLE-CAUSE CRISES (CLASSIFIED INTO “NATURAL” DISASTERS, WARS/BELLIGERENCES OR SOCIO-POLITICAL MELTDOWNS)

**Vulnerability/vulnerabilities:** perceived or real weak, endemic background condition(s), situated in social systems [such as politics, the market, law, bureaucracy [including health, education, infrastructure, police, etc]. We can further define “weakness” if necessary.

Temporally, this is the ex-ante stage, where preparedness and mitigation (including adaptation and transformation) take place, to mitigate vulnerabilities and prepare resources to respond.

**Events:** generate stress on vulnerabilities. We usually refer to such stress as **crisis**. Different types of events generate different degrees of stress. An event may generate stress that amounts to an **emergency** if three conditions are met: likelihood of significant harm, uncertainty, and immediacy. More specifically, the stress will probably result in significant harm if unaddressed (i.e., risk), but we don’t know exactly how or when the harm will happen (uncertainty 1), and/or we don’t know whether the system will be able to contain the stress (uncertainty 2), given its shortage of resources or ability to harness additional resources in the relevant timeframe. [NOTE: there could be cases we know for sure that harm will happen and the state will not be able to fully address it, but it may still be able to mitigate, to a degree].

Temporally, this is the response stage

If the emergency was not contained and significant harm occurred, we are facing a **Disaster**.

Some disasters are so grave that they threaten the state capacity itself. This is an **Extreme Condition, or a Complex disaster**. The rule of law itself may be evaporating (institutions may be unable or unwilling to operate and norms & procedures may be abandoned etc).

Temporally, this is the recovery (short term) and rehabilitation (long term). Vulnerabilities may persist, allowing for **cyclical (recurring, repeating) crises, emergencies or disasters**.

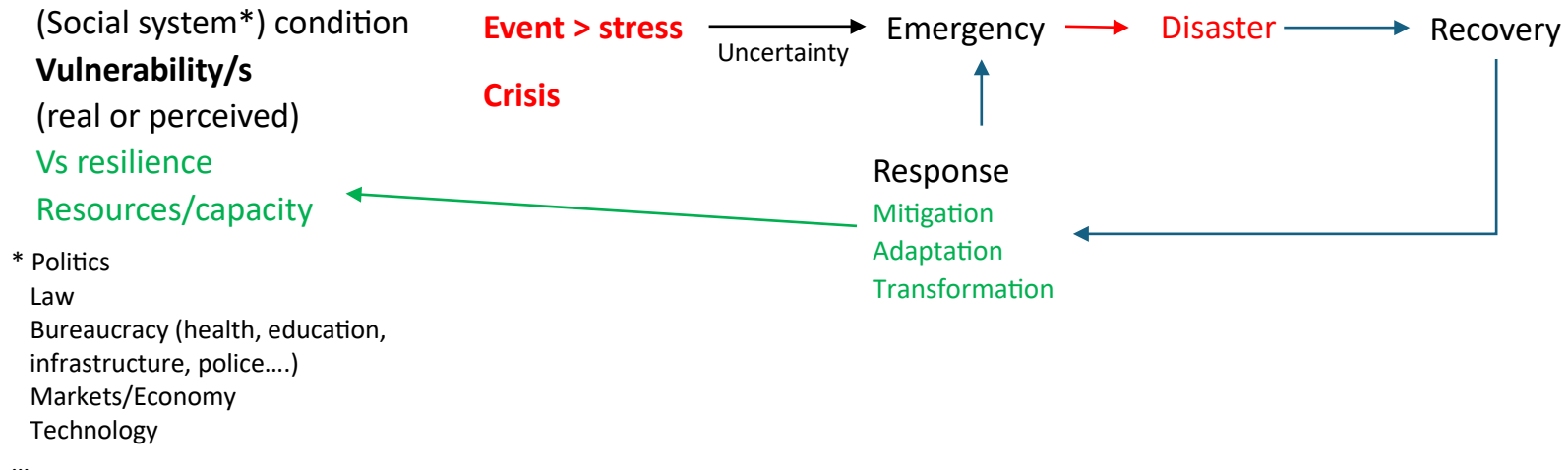
Classic rule of law questions address the change in separation of powers during an emergency (consolidation of powers in the executive, consolidation in central government), the shift from evidence-based measures to best-available guess, the relaxation of checks on state power (deferential judicial review), the expansion of what may count as proportional infringement of rights. We would expect to find legal resources addressing the law of preparedness/mitigation, the laws of emergency (response) including constitutional laws, and the laws of recovery.

MULTIPLE CRISES/EMERGENCIES (AGAIN, CLASSIFIED TO “NATURA DISASTERS” WARS/BELLIGERENCES AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC MELTDOWNS

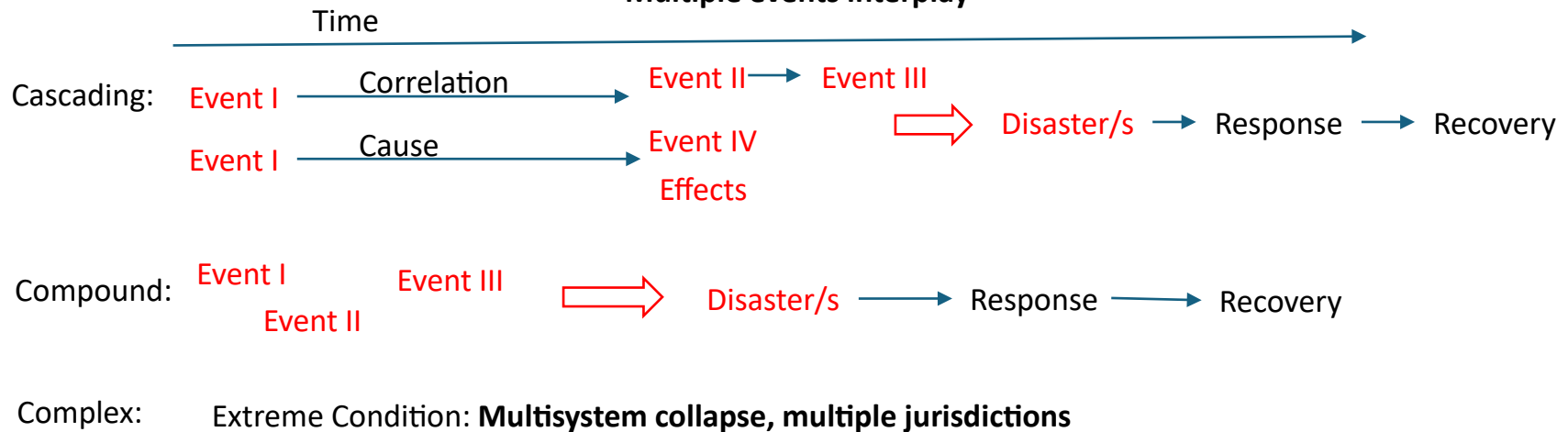
| Type Of Emergency/Disaster                                | Characteristics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | What do we do with it? The literature suggests an added layer of complexity, but does not focus on law: the initial legal design, the legal theory underlying emergencies, the role and capacity of legal institutions, and the impact on law, the rule of law, and democracy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Cascading Crises/ Emergencies/Disasters</b>            | One crisis follows another either as a matter of cause and effect or correlations:<br><i>Distinguish between cascading impacts/effects (an event generates several chains of crises) and cascading emergencies/disasters (an event generating an emergency/ disaster which then generates an “independent” emergency/disaster of a different kind</i> | <b>Focus on relationships between vulnerabilities and events?</b> Focus on social structures? Societal fault lines? Relevant to the relationship with technology): Focus on networks and interconnections between vulnerabilities<br><b>What are the implications to the rule of law/democratic backsliding?</b><br><b>Is the law part of the background? A vulnerability? It the law/rule of law impacted (and if so how)? And vice-versa: the quality of the rule of law effecting the cascade</b> |
| <b>Compound/Simultaneous crises/emergencies/disasters</b> | Unrelated crises happen at the same time or closely enough in time to generate additional stress.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Focus on the impact of the emergencies/disasters on each other and on triggering further vulnerabilities.<br><i>Again: what does it tell us about the relationship between emergencies and the rule of law?</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Complex</b>                                            | Societal breakdown (multisystem collapse); Complex in the sense of multiple production chains (Network of Networks) <b>and multiple jurisdictions</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                 | A case of Extreme Condition: <i>what is unique, if at all, about complex extreme conditions vs single silo?</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

### Single “silo” – one disaster / cause

Including: re-accruing; Ongoing



### Multiple events interplay



### Some Additional Reflections on the Case Studies

The case studies presented during the workshop were both rich and engaging—as was the entire event. Many focused on **single-silo emergencies** that generated **cascading impacts**. These examples are valuable, especially when they help elucidate the networks or sequences through which disasters unfold. However, it is important to identify what makes each case distinct—beyond illustrating a chain of effects—and to consider whether it can be **reframed as a multi-disaster or compound event**.

Indeed, the core focus of our research group is precisely on situations where **two or more distinct emergencies or extreme conditions intersect**—whether simultaneously or sequentially. These compound or complex events place particular stress on political systems, markets, bureaucracies, and legal frameworks, raising difficult questions about the resilience of governance systems and the integrity of the rule of law. Interconnected vulnerabilities—especially those embedded in legal or institutional design—are central to this inquiry and deserve focused attention.

We encourage you to think about whether your cases could be reframed to bring out the intersections between different types of emergencies or extreme situations. And if not, maybe consider working with a case that's a closer fit with the group's core focus. We especially hope that one or more of you will take on the challenge of presenting the Israeli case—it feels particularly timely and highly relevant to everything we've been discussing. In light of the framework developed so far, we may be important to complement (or, where appropriate, replace) single-silo examples with cases that more explicitly feature compound, cascading, and complex emergencies. This shift could support deeper theoretical development, a more robust comparative framework, and a shared conceptual language across the group.

The following table offers some possibilities. It includes several of the cases already discussed and proposes additional examples that help flesh out the distinctions explored during the workshop. The cases are grouped into three categories—**cascading, compound/simultaneous, and complex/extreme conditions**—each highlighting different patterns of vulnerability, institutional response, and the stress placed on governance systems and the rule of law.

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| Type of Emergency/Disaster     | Case Study                                | Key Characteristics                                                                                    | Relevance to Taxonomy Concepts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cascading Crises / Disasters   | Fukushima (2011)                          | Earthquake → Tsunami → Nuclear Meltdown.                                                               | Illustrates a linear cascade across natural and technological systems; highlights systemic interdependence and regulatory blind spots. <i>Are there interesting rule-of-law / democracy angles? Japan has a unique legal design governing emergency. Does it shed an interesting light on this case?</i>                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                                | COVID-19 → Economic Crisis → Civil Unrest | A global public health emergency triggering economic collapse and waves of political and social unrest | Demonstrates how an initiating event activates stress across multiple systems, highlighting the relationship between health (as governed by bureaucracy) and the market) and the trans-jurisdictional dimension; enables comparative global analysis on the interplay between law (including legal institutions) and managing risk and uncertainty) <i>and most importantly on the role the rule-of-law played and the impact on the rule of law (and commitment to democratic principles).</i> |
|                                | Lebanon (2019–2021)                       | Port explosion + financial collapse + political deadlock                                               | A localized disaster revealed systemic vulnerabilities and triggered wider institutional breakdown. <i>What can we say about the rule of law and the role of courts, or other democratic institutions and processes? What does it teach us about cascading/compound crises or emergencies?</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Compound / Simultaneous Crises | Turkey (2023)                             | Earthquake amid political unrest and refugee pressures                                                 | Unrelated crises amplified each other's effects, overburdening state capacity and undermining public trust. <i>Was the law a site of vulnerability? A site of rehabilitation? What does it tell us about legalizing emergencies (before, during, after?) Impact of the disaster on democratic backsliding/increasing authoritarianism</i>                                                                                                                                                       |

| Type of Emergency/Disaster   | Case Study               | Key Characteristics                                                                                                                        | Relevance to Taxonomy Concepts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Complex / Extreme Conditions | Israel (2023–2024)       | COVID + Judicial reform + Domestic protest + Hamas attack + War in Gaza + Northern warfront + West Bank + Return of judicial reform crisis | A series of distinct crises occurred in close succession and overlapped, straining institutions and polarizing society; risks of compound fatigue (or maybe extended resilience?) and prolonged legitimacy crisis. <a href="#">This case raises interesting question regarding the relationship between compound/cascading chains, and between these and the rule of law and democratic theory.</a> |
|                              | Sahel Region (Ongoing)   | Climate-related droughts + armed insurgencies + weak governance                                                                            | Exemplifies how simultaneous environmental and security threats deepen vulnerabilities and overwhelm fragmented state structures. <a href="#">What does it teach us about the rule of law (or the lack thereof) under persisting emergencies, perhaps in terms of obstacles facing transitional democracies?</a>                                                                                    |
|                              | Venezuela (2015–present) | Economic freefall + collapse of healthcare + authoritarian entrenchment                                                                    | Prolonged, multisystem collapse eroding state legitimacy and rule of law; extreme institutional fragility. <a href="#">Is this an interesting case for democratic backsliding?</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                              | Ukraine (2022–)          | Full-scale invasion + displacement + emergency governance                                                                                  | A multidimensional (but single originating silo) disaster threatening territorial sovereignty and legal continuity; showcases emergency constitutionalism and international legal dynamics.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                              | Syria (2011–present)     | Armed conflict + displacement + collapse of governance                                                                                     | A paradigmatic extreme condition involving prolonged war, fragmentation of authority, and humanitarian catastrophe.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                              |                          |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

| Type of<br>Emergency/Disaster | Case Study             | Key Characteristics                                                                    | Relevance to Taxonomy Concepts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                               | Germany<br>(1918–1945) | Postwar economic crisis +<br>political fragmentation +<br>democratic backsliding + war | Illustrates a gradual but compounding erosion of legal norms<br>and democratic institutions under multidimensional stress,<br>leading to systemic collapse. <a href="#">The classic case about multiple<br/>vulnerabilities, some hidden, being triggered, where the law<br/>(and the constitutional design) played in important role and<br/>was drastically impacted.</a> |

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Let us know what you think - any of you who would like to further explore or take on any of the additional case studies listed above, let us know! Regardless of the specific empirical focus, we hope that applying the shared terminology and conceptual structure developed in the workshop will foster coherence across our diverse contributions.

**All feedback—conceptual, empirical, or structural—is very welcome!**