

# HS 312 – Introduction to Science and Technology Studies

Lecture 9

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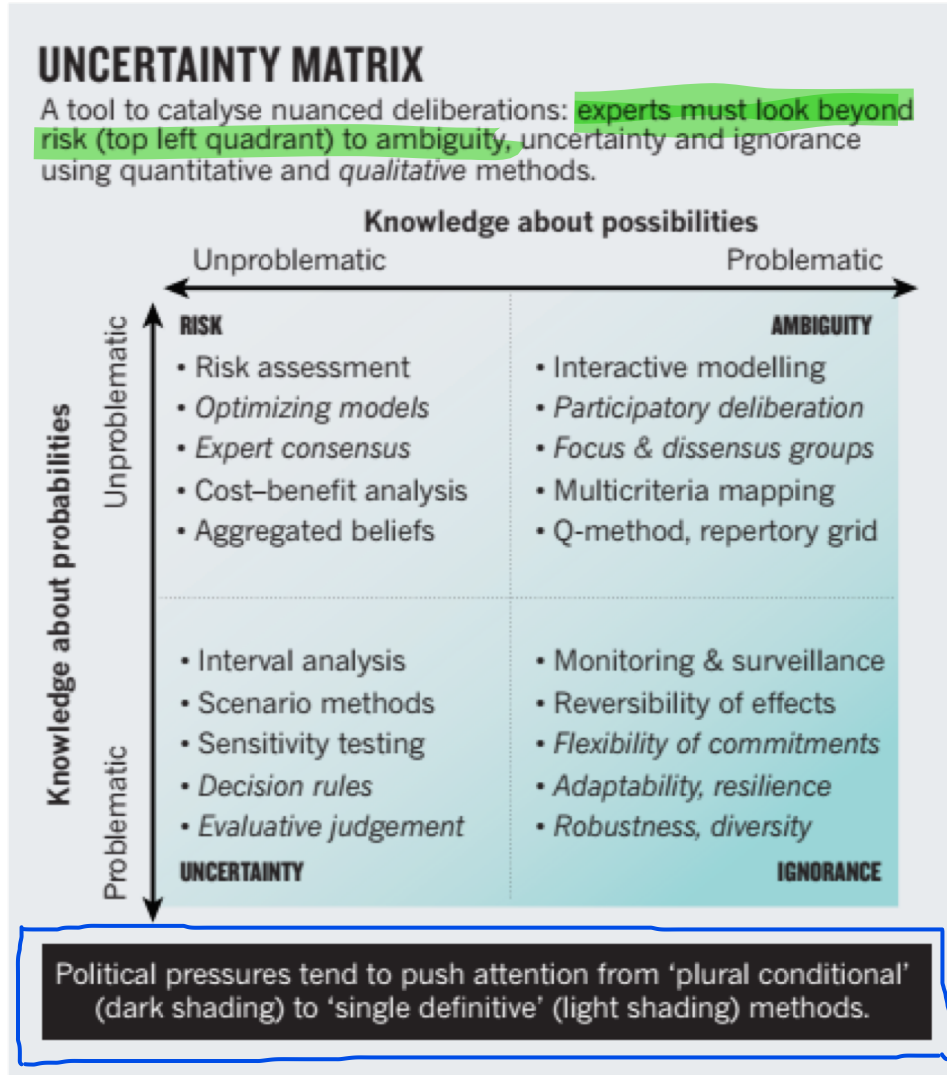
# Risk as an Umbrella Term

Causally means in a way that relates to cause and effect, where one event directly influences another.

| Hazard        | Possibility that something (e.g. technology) causes undesirable effects  |
|---------------|--|
| Risk          | Specification of a hazard, usually in terms of probabilities and consequences                                      |
| Uncertainty   | Situation in which hazards are known but cannot be expressed as risks due to a lack of knowledge                   |
| Ignorance     | Situation in which hazards are unknown   |
| Indeterminacy | Consequences (hazards) are causally open, for example because they depend on user or operator behaviour            |
| Ambiguity     | Situation in which there are different disagreeing perspectives on the nature and the (un)desirability of a hazard |

# Uncertainty Matrix

- Andy Sterling (2010)



# Sources

- Sismondo Sergio (2010). Questioning Functionalism in the Sociology of Science. Chapter 3, in *An Introduction to Science and Technology Studies*; second edition: Blackwell Publishing, Oxford UK.
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- R.K. Sony, Daniel Münster & Siddhartha Krishnan (2023). *What counts as evidence? Examining the controversy over pesticide exposure and etiology in an environmental justice movement in Kerala, India*, Environmental Sociology, 9:2, 148-164.

Thank you