

# Punctuated Equilibrium Theory

- Based on policy monopolies:
  - Policy monopolies are groups that dominate the policy process
  - they form a subsystem
  - they are able to control the policy agenda with a relatively few number of policy actors
  - this leads to policy stability but
  - an inability to respond to external events

# Punctuated Equilibrium Theory

- How do policy monopolies break down?
  - Media attention to an issue
  - A change in the balance of power between groups
  - A change in the policy image caused by policy-oriented learning
  - A change in the policy venue
- When a policy monopoly breaks down, policy change occurs in a burst!