What are issues?

Issue Types and Positions

Types of Issues

- Last week:
  - Issues can differ in how easy they are activated by actors
  - salience is an issue characteristic
- Today: What kinds of issues are there?
  - How do they differ?
  - How are they combined into positions?
  - How can they be structured

Valence Issues and Positional Issues

- Positional Issues (Downs 1953)
  - Issues where different actors develop different positions on
  - Differences in goals
    - Redistribution
    - Freedom-Security
    - Develop “Sub Issues” -> Positions
- Valence Issues (Stokes 1963)
  - Issues everybody agrees on
  - Differ in whether or not they are salient, not in position
  - Parties compete who is better to achieve/defeat it
    - Economic Growth
    - Corona Virus

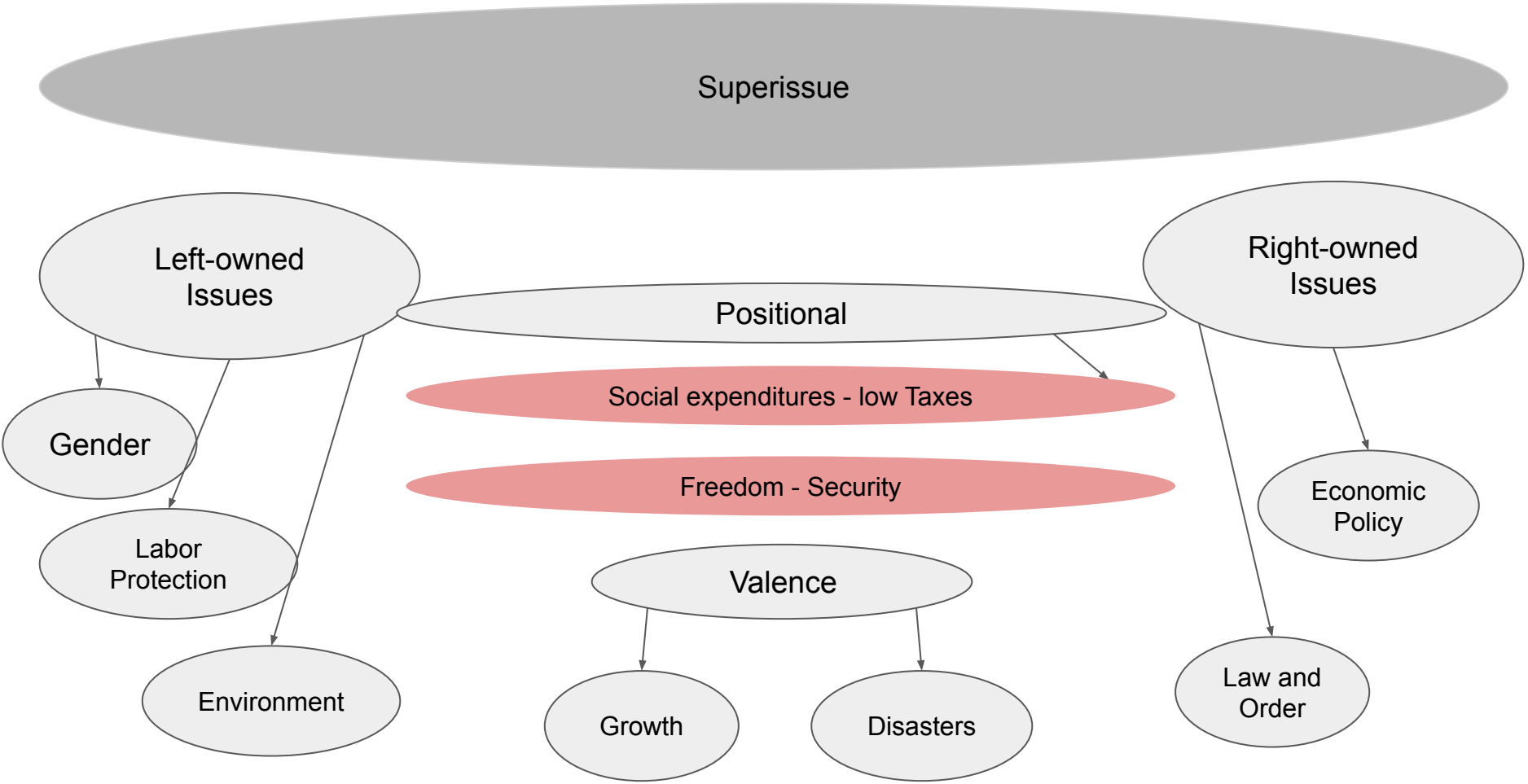
Valence Issues and Owned Issues

- Valence Issues (Stokes 1963)
  - Important to the electorate
  - “Ownership” unclear
  - No inference about positions

- Saliency/Niche Issues (Budge 1996)
  - “Can” be important but don’t have to
  - Ownership clear
  - Allows inference about positions

Issues and Super Issues

- Issues have varying salience
- But positions are often correlated
  - When Anti-abortion -> anti gay marriage etc.
  - Anti coal -> anti nuclear
- Issues share salience among the same individuals
  - Pensions / Crime
  - Social Support / Civil rights

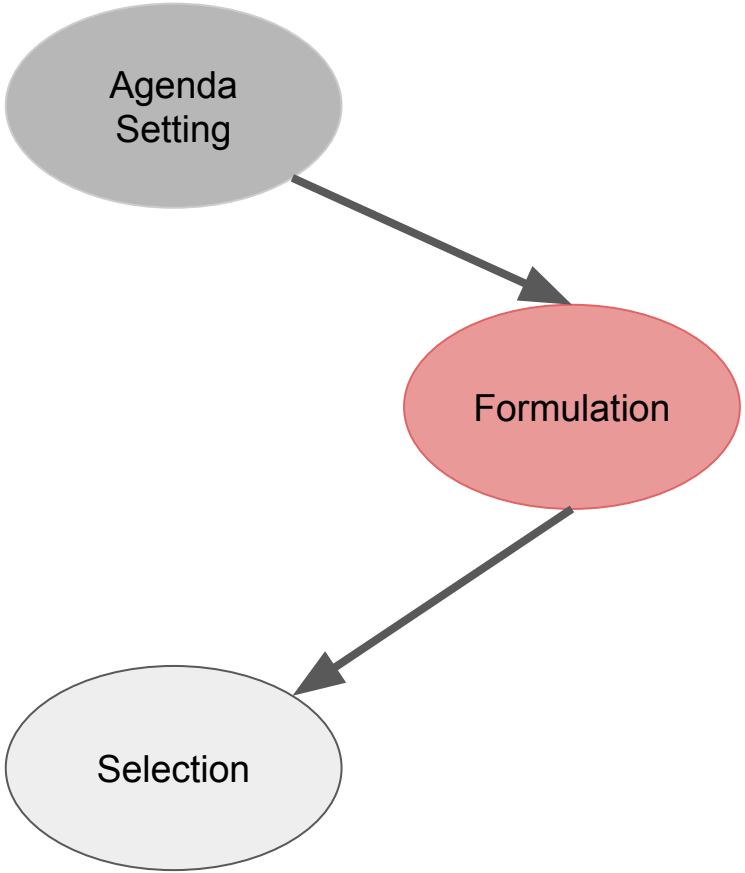

Superissue
Left-owned Issues
Right-owned Issues
Positional
Social expenditures - low Taxes
Freedom - Security
Gender
Labor Protection
Environment
Valence
Growth
Disasters
Economic Policy
Law and Order

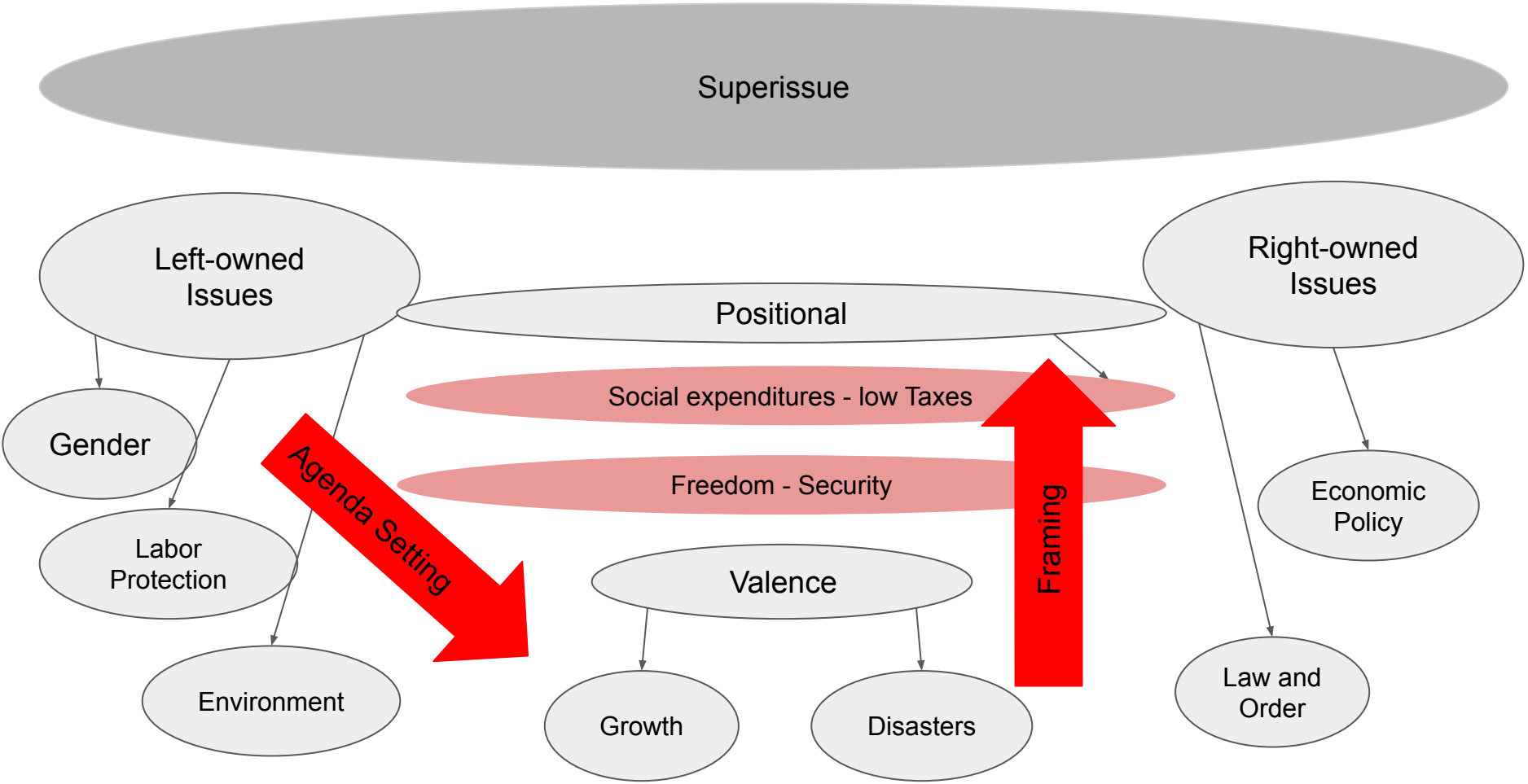
How can we solve the problem?

Discuss:

What is a political position?

How would political positioning take place on Corona?




Superissue
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Social expenditures - low Taxes
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Gender
Labor Protection
Environment
Agenda Setting
Framing
Valence
Growth
Disasters
Economic Policy
Law and Order

Discuss in Groups

How would you deal with a valence issue being salient?

Develop a Corona strategies for

CDU

SPD

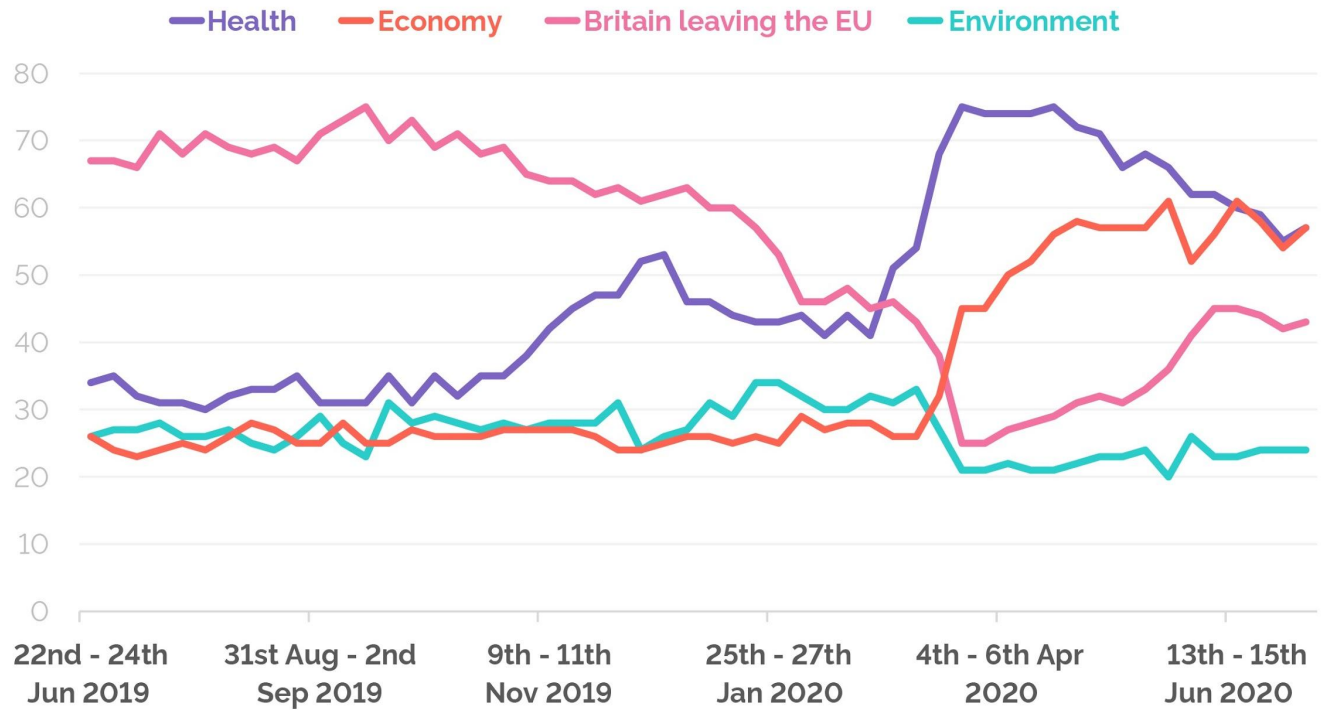
AfD

FDP

Taxonomies

What is the most important issue facing the country?

Which of the following do you think are the most important issues facing the country at this time? Please tick up to three. (% answers for "health" "the environment" "the economy" and "Britain leaving the EU" shown)



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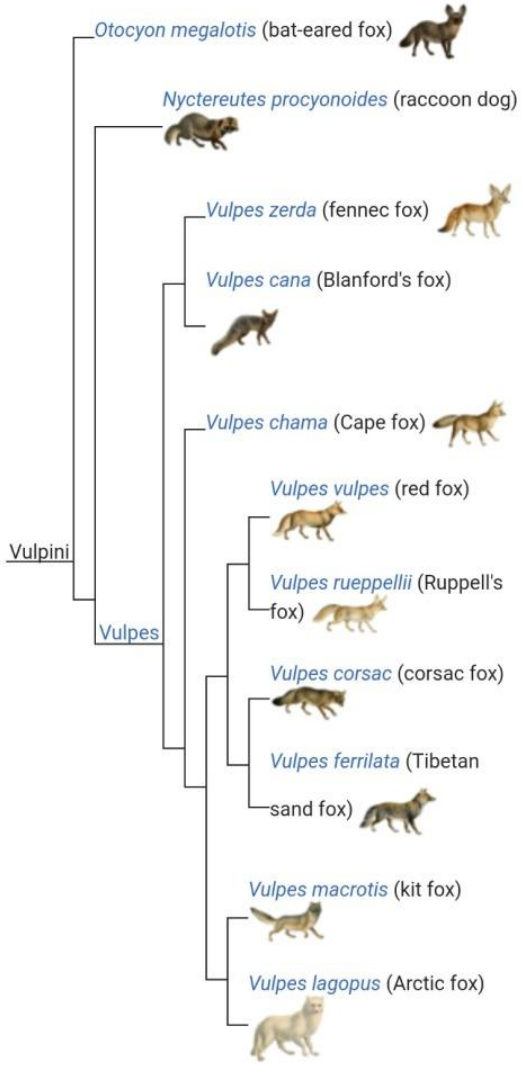
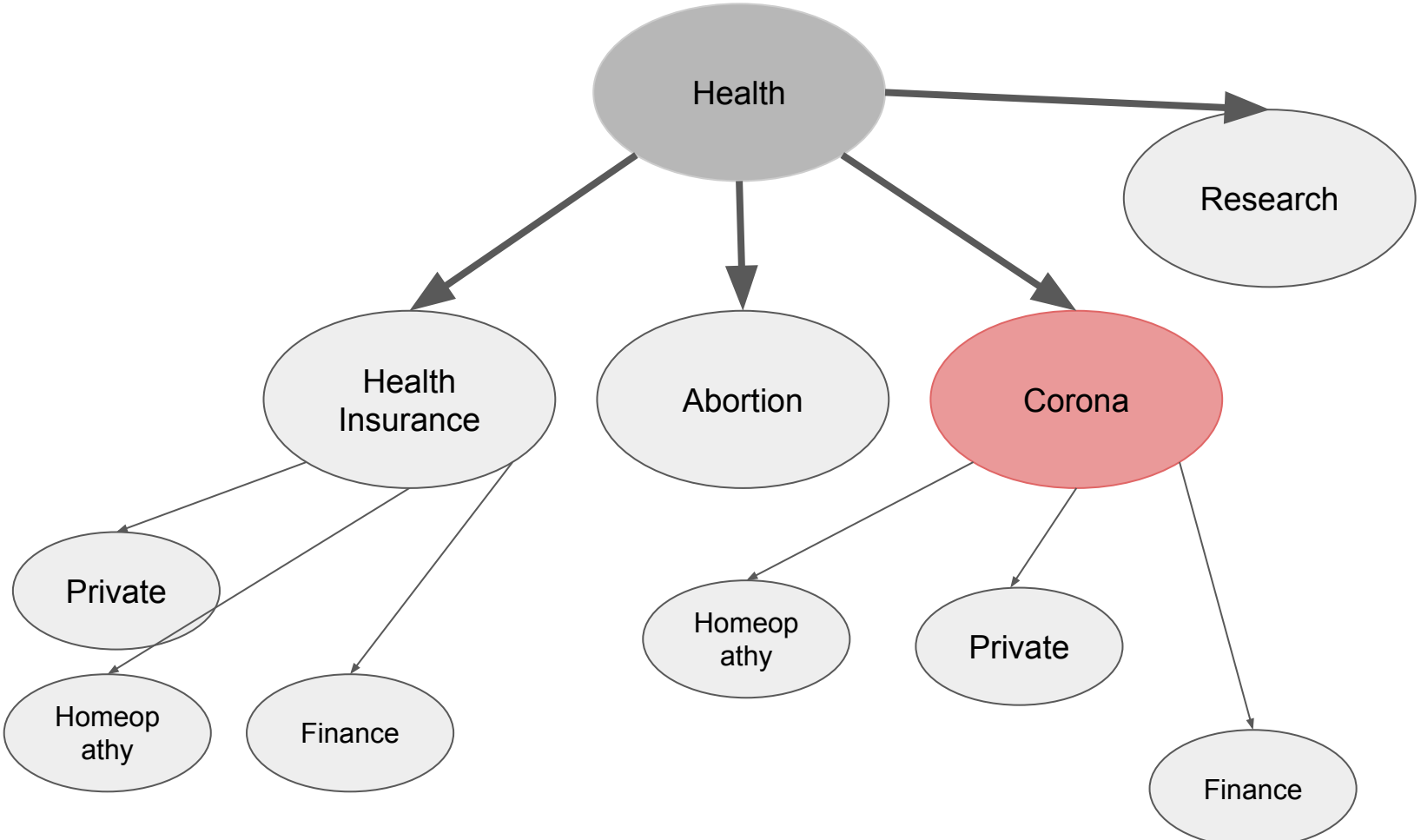
Latest update 4 - 6 July 2020

Taxonomies

- Fit the question
- exclusivity
- completeness

- Structure into categories
- exclusivity - horizontal
- multilevel




Health
Research
Health Insurance
Abortion
Corona
Private
Homeop athy
Finance
Homeop athy
Private
Finance

- 300: General

  Description: Includes issues related generally to health care, including appropriations for general health care government agencies
- 301: Health Care Reform

  Description: Includes issues related to broad, comprehensive changes in the health care system
- 302: Insurance

  Description: Includes issues related to health insurance reform, regulation, availability, and cost
- 321: Drug Industry

  Description: Includes issues related to the regulation and promotion of pharaceuticals, medical devices, and clinical labs
- 322: Medical Facilities

  Description: Issues related to facilities construction, regulaton and payments, including waitlists and ambulance services
- 323: Insurance Providers

  Description: Includes issues related to provider and insurer payments and regulation, including other types of benefits or multple benefits
- 324: Medical Liability

  Description: Includes issues related to medical liability, malpractice issues, medical fraud and abuse, and unfair practices
- 325: Manpower

  Description: Issues related to the supply and quantity of labor in the health care industry, training and licensing
- 331: Disease Prevention

  Description: Issues related to disease prevention, treatment, and health promotion, including specific diseases not covered in other subtopics
- 398: R&D

  Description: Includes issues related to health care research and development
- 399: Other

  Description: Includes issues related to other health care topics

Discuss:

Look at the comparative manifesto codebook

https://manifesto-project.wzb.eu/coding_schemes/mp_v5

Are there any references to health?

How would you code the debate on Corona, if it was in a manifesto?

Discuss: What kind of issue is this?

605 Law and Order - comprised of:

605.1 Law and Order General: Positive	Favourable mentions of strict law enforcement, and tougher actions against domestic crime. Only refers to the enforcement of the status quo of the manifesto country's law code. May include: • Increasing support and resources for the police; • Tougher attitudes in courts; • Importance of internal security.
605.2 Law and Order General: Negative	Favourable mentions of less law enforcement or rejection of plans for stronger law enforcement. Only refers to the enforcement of the status quo of the manifesto country's law code. May include: • Less resources for police; • Reducing penalties; • Calls for abolishing the death penalty; • Decriminalisation of drugs, prostitution etc.