

# The “global” in the social sciences and humanities

# What does “global” mean?

- The planet earth is a single unit or space
- Global issues transcend humanity and human society
- Human activity is having global effects: global issues are affecting human activity

# Where does “global” come from?

- What is the history of the “global”?
- How did the “global” happen?

# The History of the “Global”

- Migration of Homo Sapiens 50,000 years ago: proto-globalization
- Spread of the world religions
- Spread of trade

# The History of the “Global”

- Migration of Homo Sapiens 50,000 years ago: proto-globalization
- Spread of the world religions
- Spread of trade
- **1492** German geographer Martin Behaim builds the first globe.
- **1522** first circumnavigation of the earth
- **1851** first world's fair
- **1865** creation of first global regulatory agency (International Telegraph Union)
- **1866** first permanent transoceanic telegraph cable
- **1884** first global co-ordination of clocks (GMT)
- **1930** first global radio broadcast (King George V opens the London Naval Conference)

# The History of the “Global”

- **1940** first MacDonalds restaurant
- **1944** The word “globalize” appears in Mirriam Webster Dictionary
- **1957** first intercontinental ballistic missiles
- **1962** launch of first communications satellite
- **1963** first direct dialing of transborder telephone calls
- **1968** “Earthrise” photograph (Apollo 8 in moon orbit)

# The History of the “Global”

- **1971** first electronic stock exchange opens (US NASDAQ)
- **1972** first global ecological conference (UN Conference on the Human Environment)
- **1976** launch of first direct broadcast satellite
- **1977** first commercial use of fiber optic cables
- **1987** appearance of Antarctica ozone layer hole
- **1991** introduction of world wide web
- **2000** the world possessed 850 million telephone connection points, 1.1 billion television receivers, 60,000 transborder corporations, 16,500 transborder citizens organizations

# Where does “global” come from?

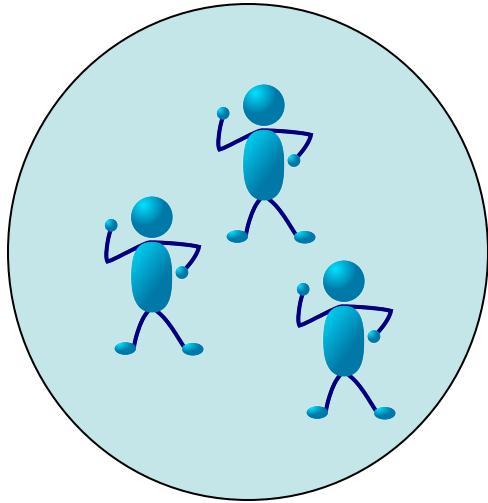
- What is the history of the “global”?
- How did the “global” happen?



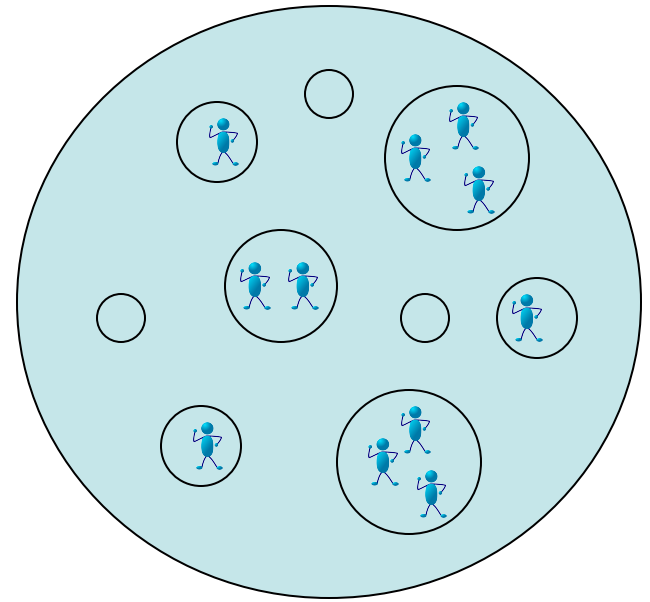
# The levels of analysis: explaining agency in human affairs



1. Individual



2. State or Group



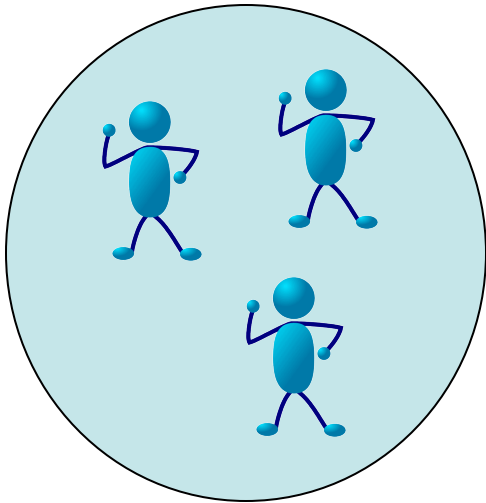
3. International System

# 1. The individual level of analysis



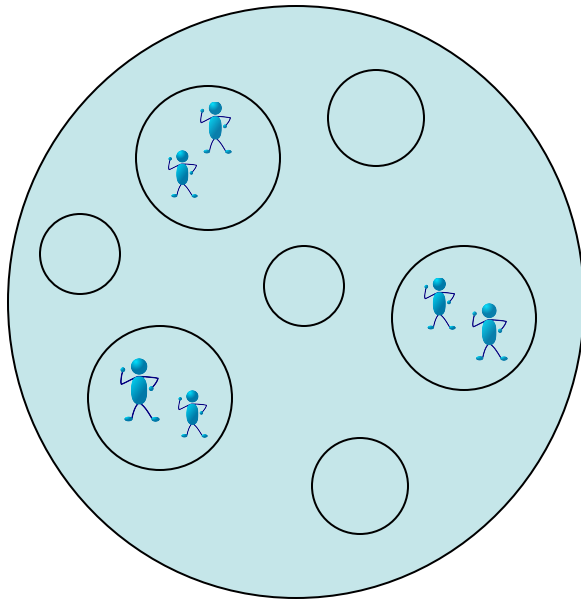
- Decision Making
- Motives
- Perception
- Cognition
- Learning
- Personality
- Ethics
- Lived Experience

## 2. The state/group level of analysis



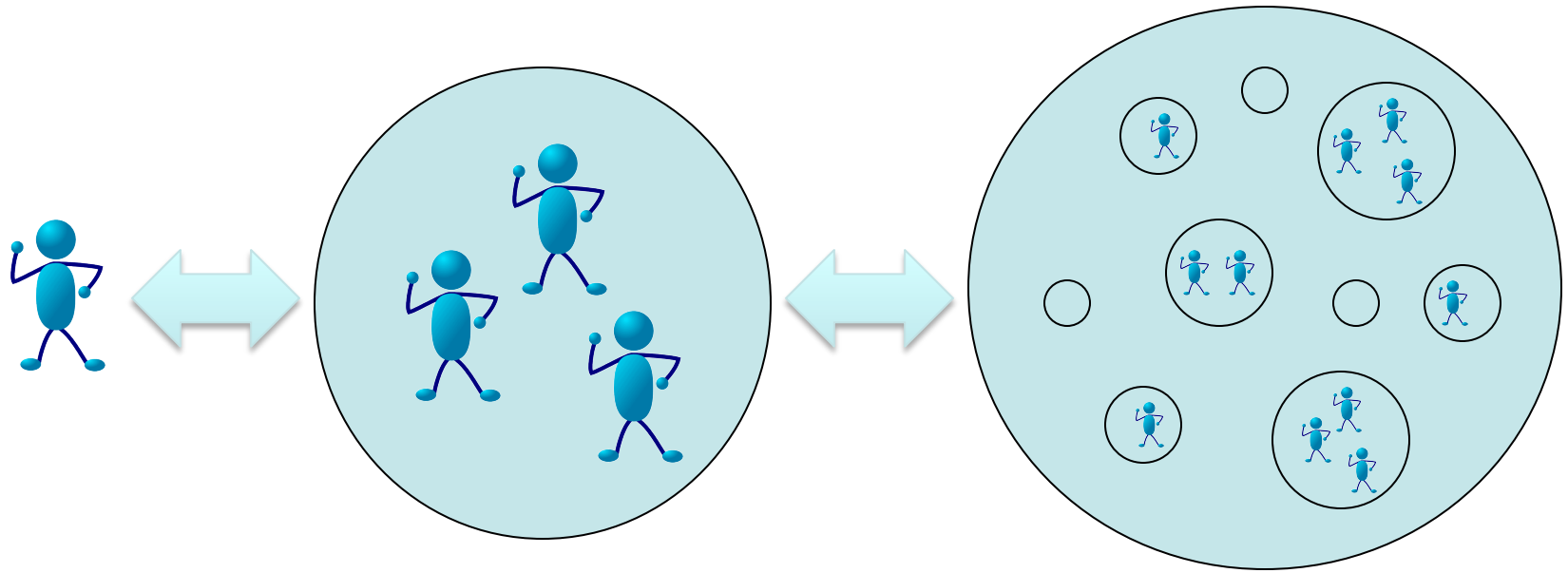
- Conflict
- Cohesion
- Governance
- Culture
- Belief systems
- Rules
- Identity
- Leadership

### 3. The system level of analysis



- Actors (states, etc.)
- Power Distribution
- Conflict
- Cooperation
- Order/Governance

# The levels of analysis: explaining agency in human affairs

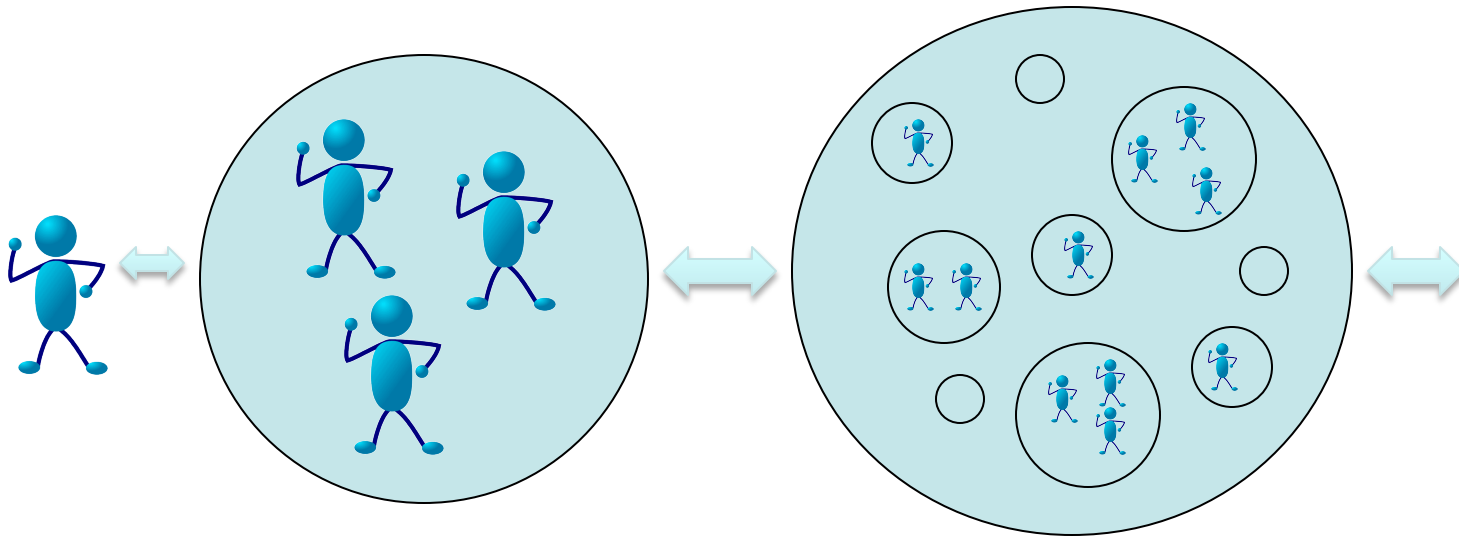


1. Individual

2. State or Group

3. International System

# Adding a global level of analysis?



## 4. A global level of analysis

- Human Society
- Non Human Life
- Eco/Bio sphere
- Genes
- Physical World
- Solar System

# And so...

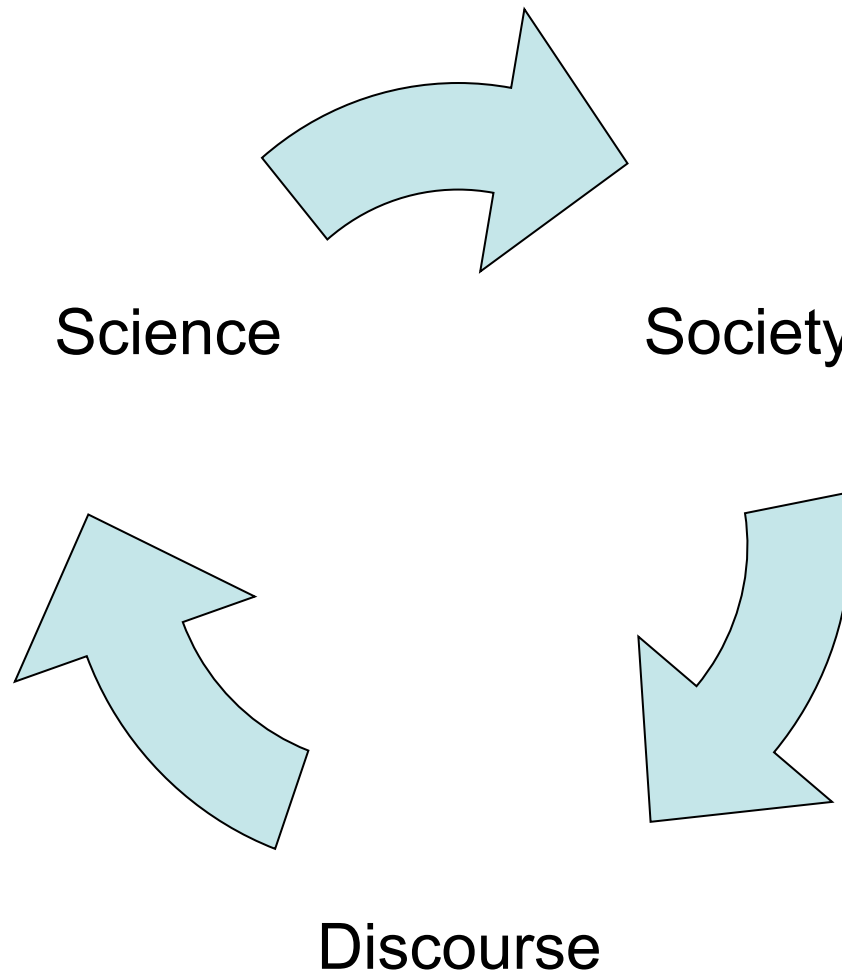
- Global phenomena can be explained in different ways
- Global events will have an impact in different ways
- Actions or events at one level will have an impact on other levels



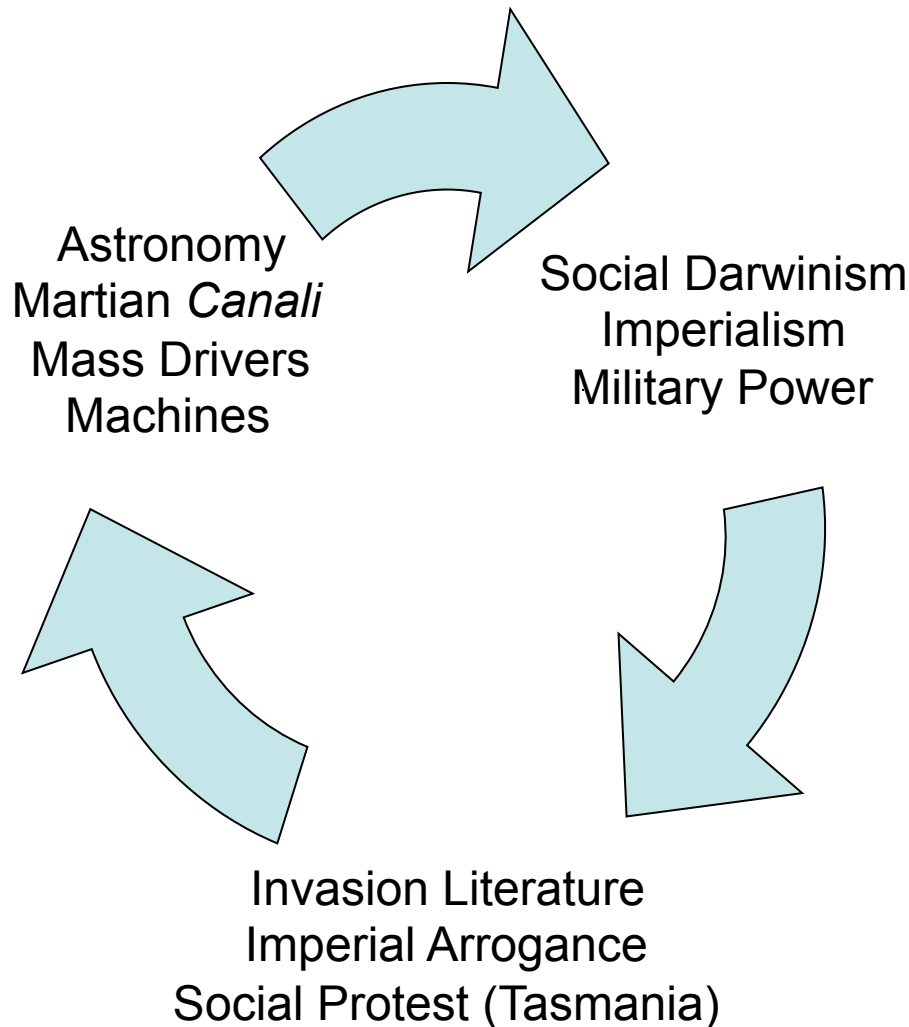
# Doomsday Zeitgeist

(or The End of the World as We Know It)

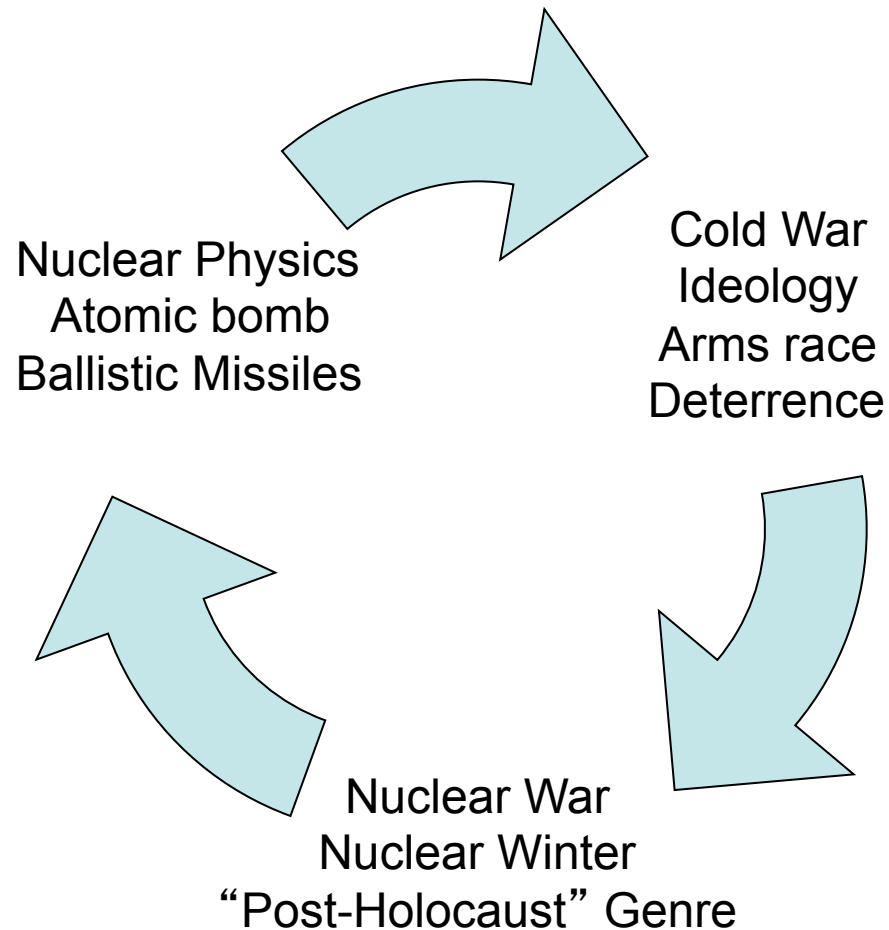
# Society and Prediction: *Zeitgeist*



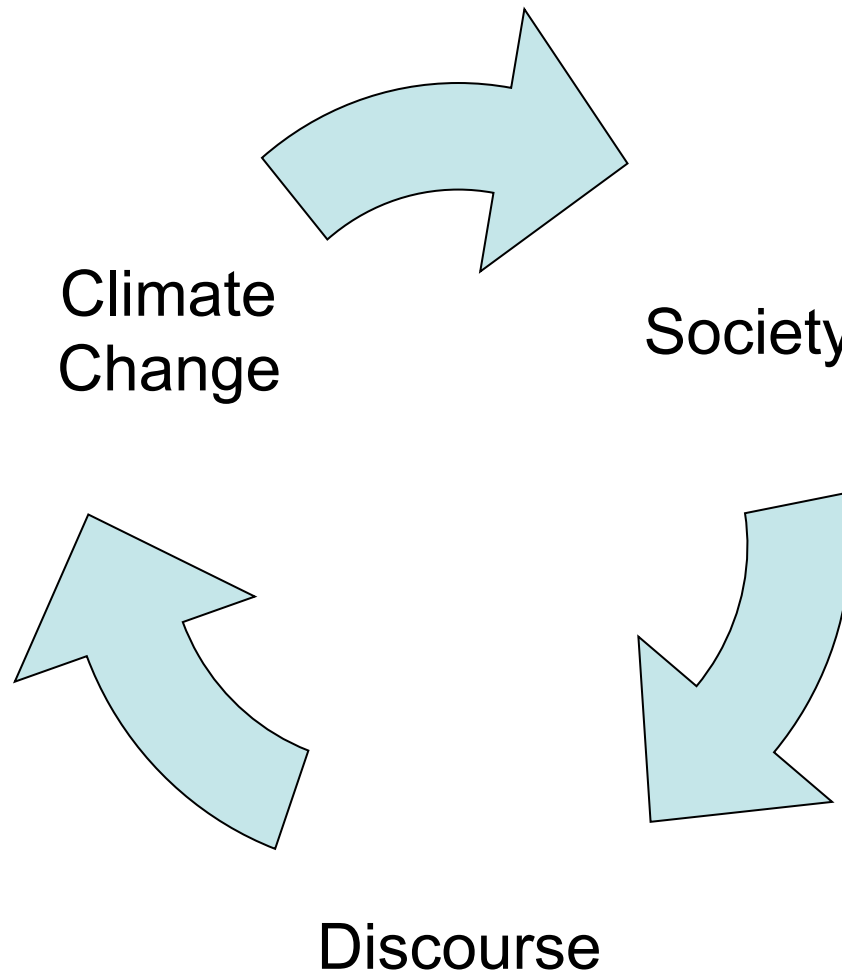
# Society and Prediction: *Zeitgeist* and H.G. Well's *War of the Worlds* (1898)



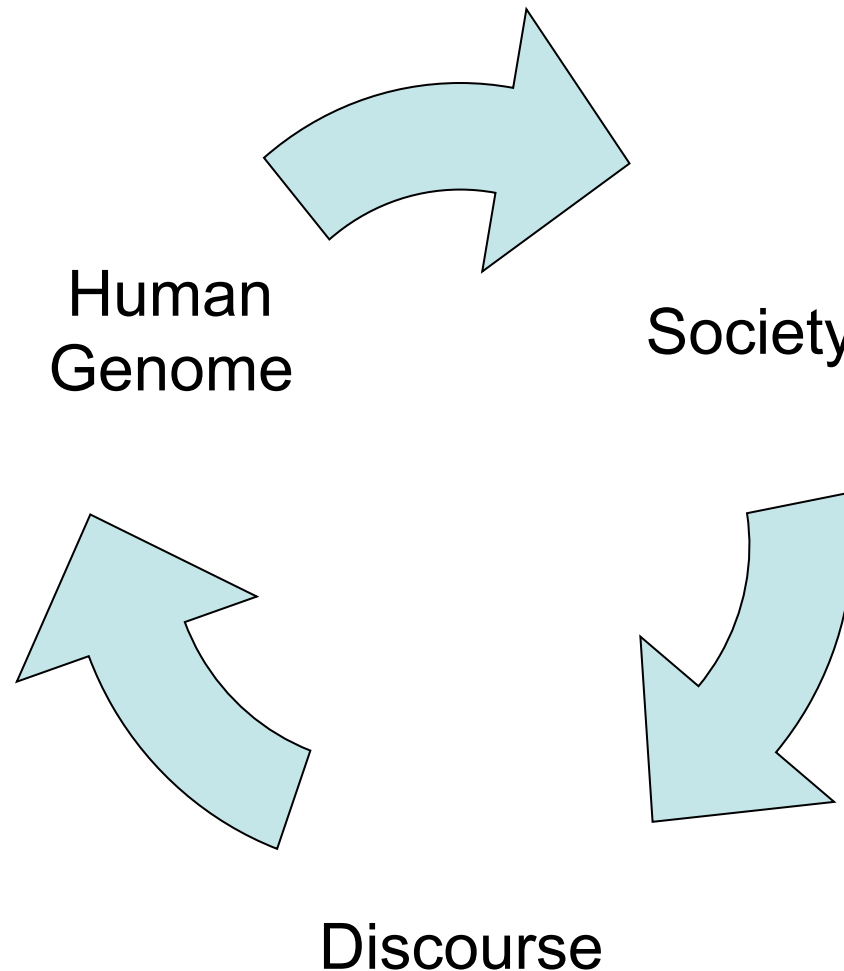
# Society and Prediction: *Zeitgeist* and Nuclear War during the Cold War



# Society and Prediction: *Zeitgeist*



# Society and Prediction: *Zeitgeist*



# Top Five Doomsday Scenarios of Our Time according to ASIC 200 (2013-2014)

Out of water

Epidemic/disease

Atomic warfare

Natural disaster/climate related

Religious conflict

Nuclear disaster (Fukushima)

Inequality

Meteor

Biological warfare

Exhaust resources

# Society and Prediction: *Zeitgeist* and Doomsday Today

- Social collapse due to unsustainable practices and failure to adapt to environmental pressures (*Collapse* by Jared Diamond)
- Infectious Disease (movies like *Outbreak*)
- Sub-atomic particle experiment Chain Reaction (particle accelerators create unnatural particles that would collapse matter, or create black holes (*Our Final Hour* by Martin Rees)
- Nano-robots (Michael Crichton thriller *Prey*)
- Rogue planets (“Planet X” or “Nibiru”) or black holes
- Shifting magnetic poles (The movie *The Core*)
- Super volcanoes: huge long term volcanic eruptions that coincide with large extinctions (*Volcano*)
- Climate Change (the movie *The Day After Tomorrow*)
- Climate Flip: sudden, rapid change (a flip every two millennia)
- Killer Asteroids (*Deep Impact and Armageddon*)
- Mayan Doomsday calendar
- Galactic Alignment



# Society and Prediction: *Zeitgeist* and Doomsday Today

- “I do not think the human race will survive the next thousand years”

Stephen Hawking