

# Non-Governmental Organizations and Tomorrow's Nanotechnology



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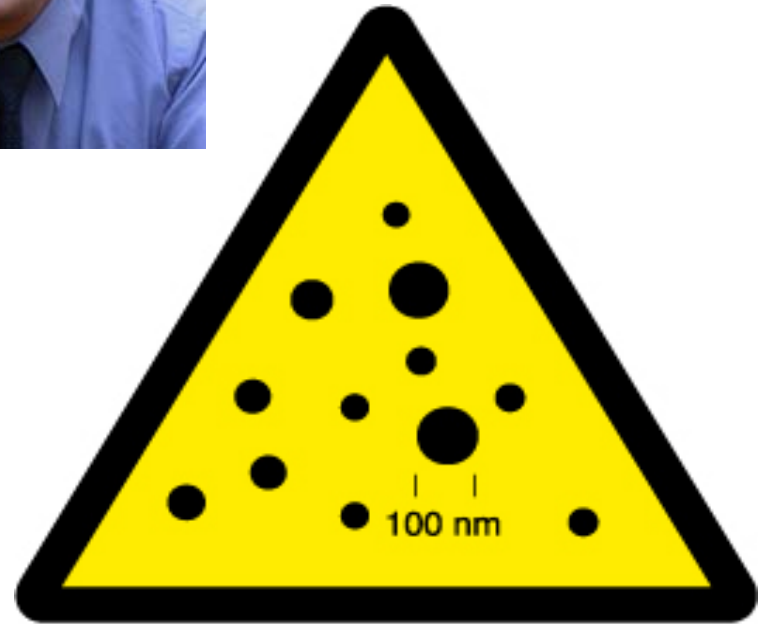
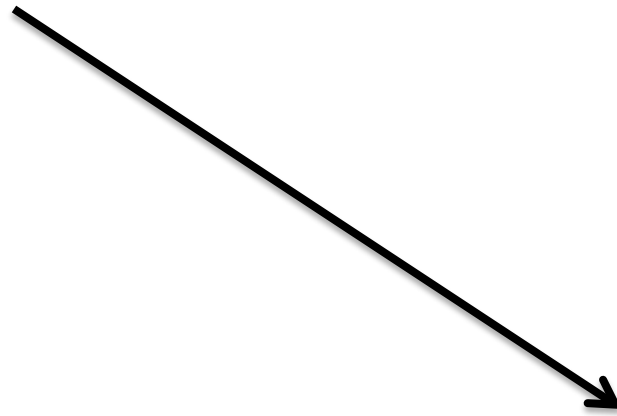
# What are Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) ?



1. [www.etcgroup.org](http://www.etcgroup.org); 2. [www.edf.org](http://www.edf.org); 3. [www.nanotechproject.org](http://www.nanotechproject.org) 4. [www.foe.org](http://www.foe.org); 5. [www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org)



# What is the Big Picture?



**NANO HAZARD**

**NGO's?**

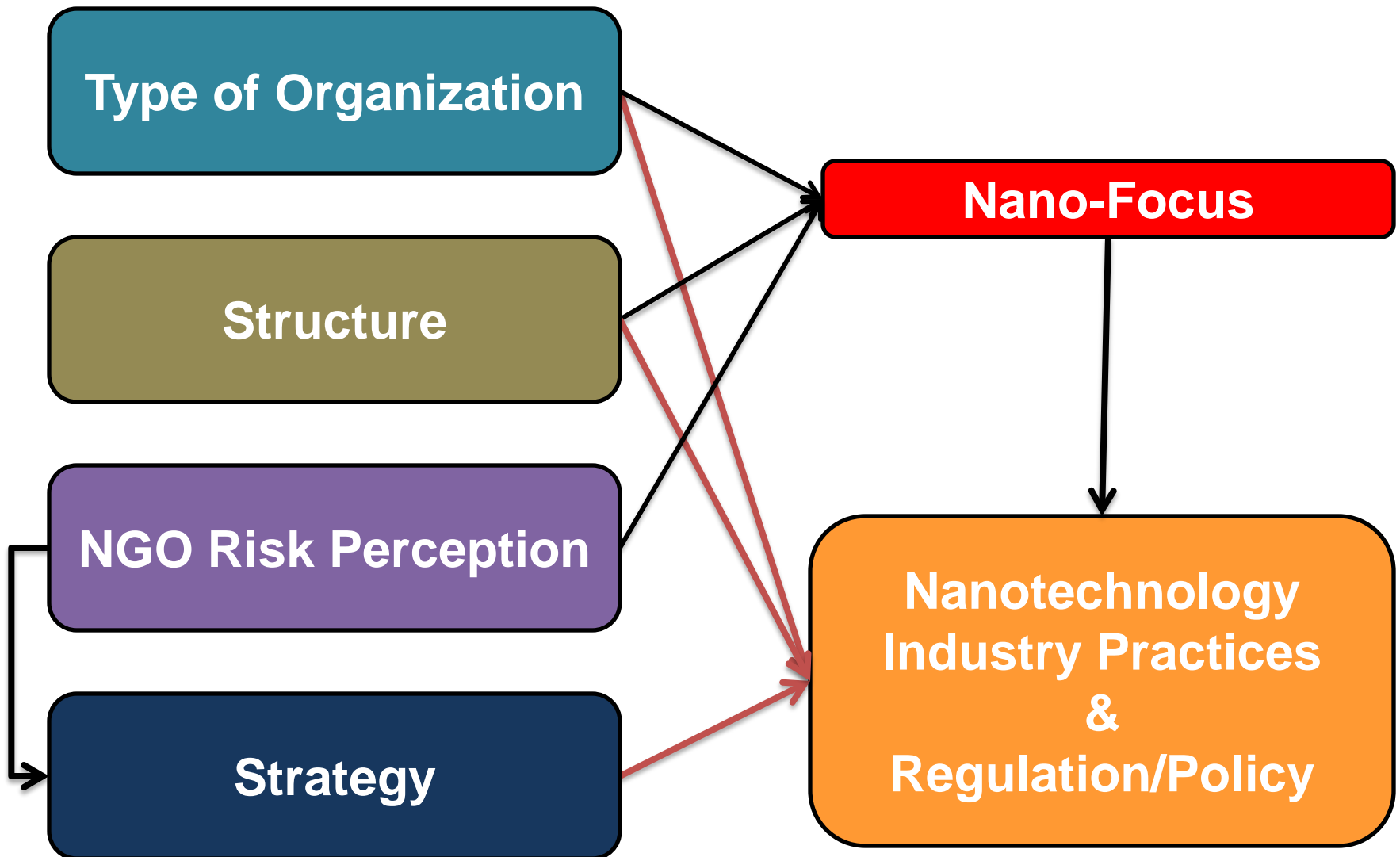
# Understand...

- **Issues**
- **Actions**
- **Impacts**
- **Concern**

...of NGO's on nanotechnology.



# Hypothesized Relationships



# Memo

## Organization: Greenpeace, UK

Greenpeace is an international action group that is independent in its claimed mission is protect the health and safety of the global environment. The organization proclaims that they exist to be the “voice”<sup>1</sup> for the Earth. The organization began back in 1971 in an effort to “bear-witness”<sup>2</sup> to a US nuclear detonation on a little island off the coast Alaska, with the success of bringing public awareness and outcry over the event. The organization claims to represent earth and the environment, as well as many of the life forms that naturally inhabit the environment. The organization has a presence in over forty countries world wide and its main headquarters is located in Amsterdam, Netherlands. In general, the organization works towards their goal of a “green and peaceful world - an earth that is ecologically healthy and able to nurture life in all its diversity.”<sup>3</sup> by doing research, advocacy and promoting peaceful/non-violent action against governments and corporations that abuse the environment. They also work towards an open forum to drive healthy debate and possibly work out viable solutions as well. The organization main interests and concerns are focused on climate change, oil drilling, deforestation, whaling and massive fishing, nuclear power and weapons, and pollution.

Nanotechnology, though is one of their concerns, is not high on the list of interests Greenpeace works toward. Overall Greenpeace is solely concerned about the environmental health and safety issues surrounding nanotechnology. The organization is concerned with the research and developmental stage in the nanotech life-cycle, and more importantly how the industry prioritizes the environment when developing these technologies. In the long run Greenpeace is more looking at the product end-of-life of the cycle and how nanoparticles will affect the environment. The target of these endeavors is the nanotech industry in general, as they hope to create a moratorium on the industry until viable data can be shown that nanotechnology has no significant impact on the environment or its inhabitants.

Greenpeace claims to have a member base of up to 2.9 million members worldwide. Each office around the world selects a board to run the local office and potential issues. The board then selects one its members to be on the board of trustees for the entire organization. The trustees meet once a year to construct a budget, fix structural issues and converse on which issues have priority. Green peace is a non-profit organization (non-profit 501(c) 3) so their funding comes from charitable donations of their members. They do not allow donations from governments, corporations or political parties.

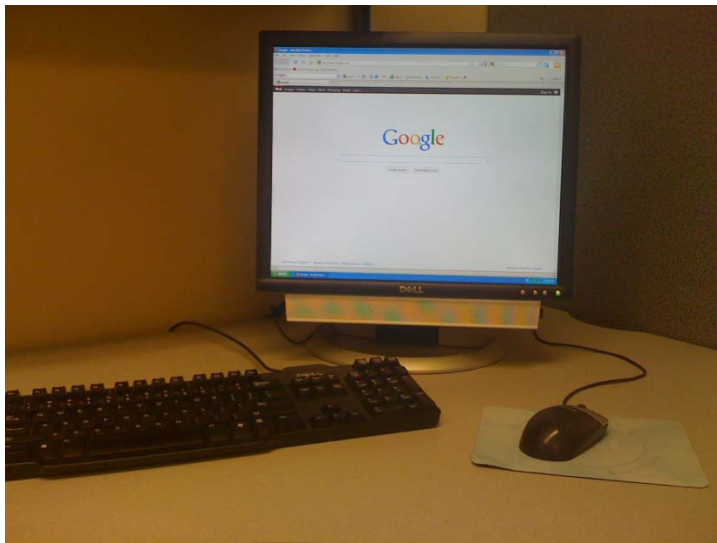
Activities: (Name, Date – Description)

- **Report: Future Technologies, Today's Choices** – July 2003 – Discusses the technical side of nanotechnology, its possible benefits in to diverse areas, the reality [in Greenpeace's point of view] and hype around the technology and possible concerns that stem from the development of the technology.
- **Action: Nano Jury** – May 2005 – Greenpeace puts together a citizen's jury to look at how the public believes nanotechnology should be developed.

<sup>1</sup> "Questions." *Greenpeace UK*. Greenpeace. Web. 24 June 2011. <<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/about/faq>>.

<sup>2</sup> "Questions." *Greenpeace UK*. Greenpeace. Web. 24 June 2011. <<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/about/faq>>.

<sup>3</sup> "Questions." *Greenpeace UK*. Greenpeace. Web. 24 June 2011. <<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/about/faq>>.



## Internet



## Snowball Sampling

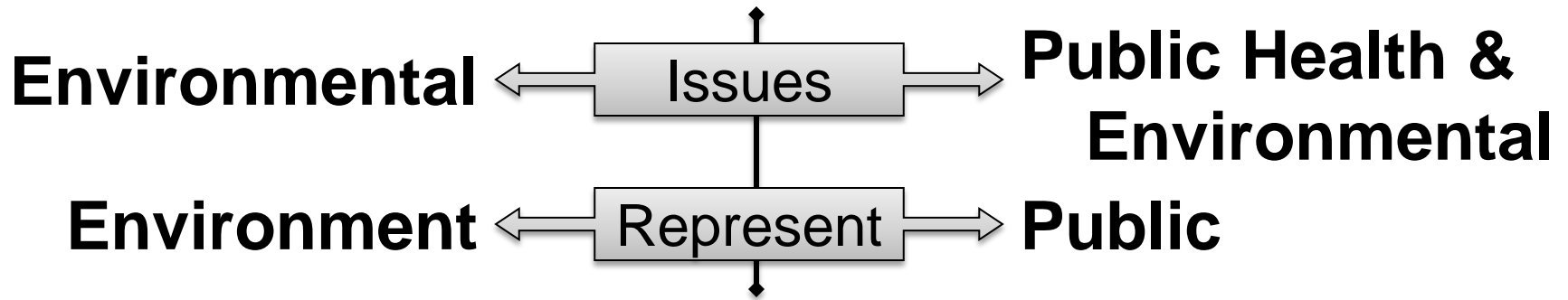


# Spectrum of NGO's

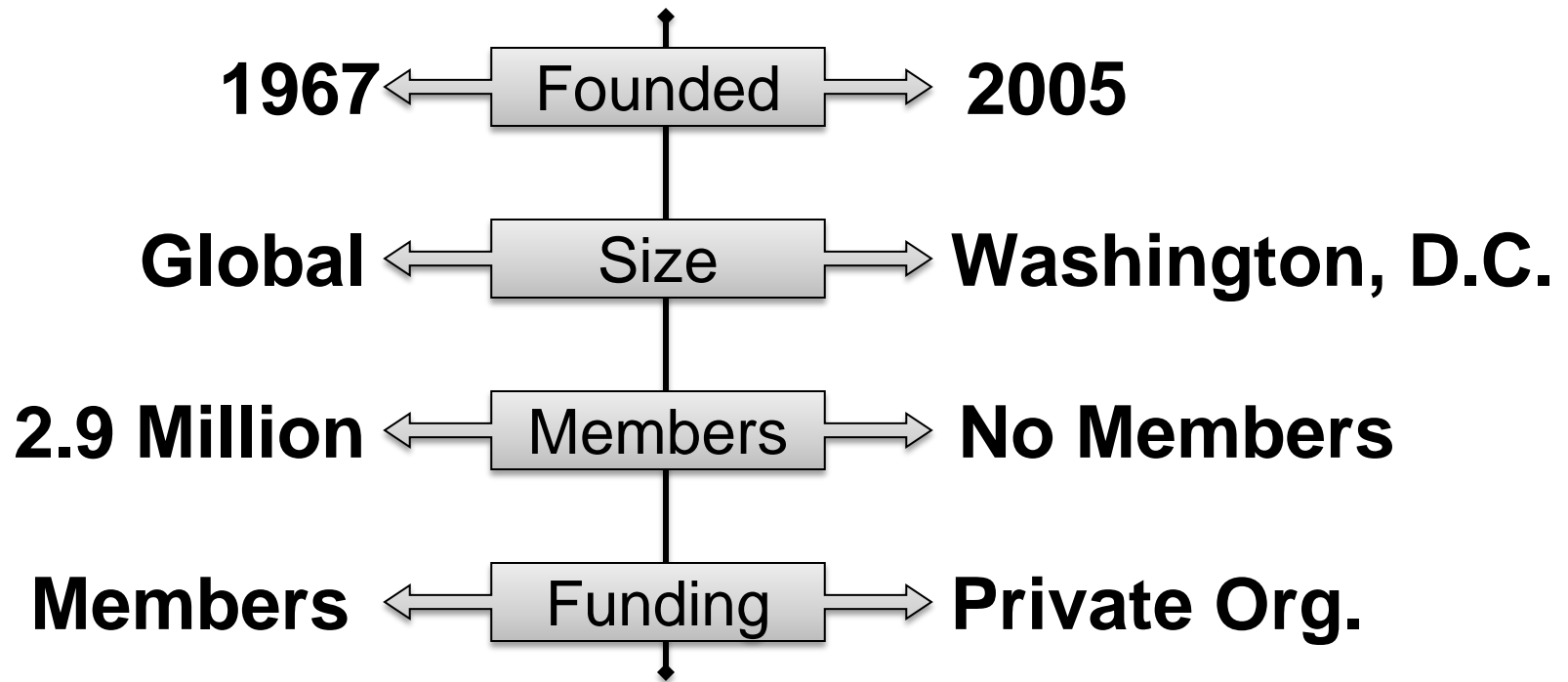




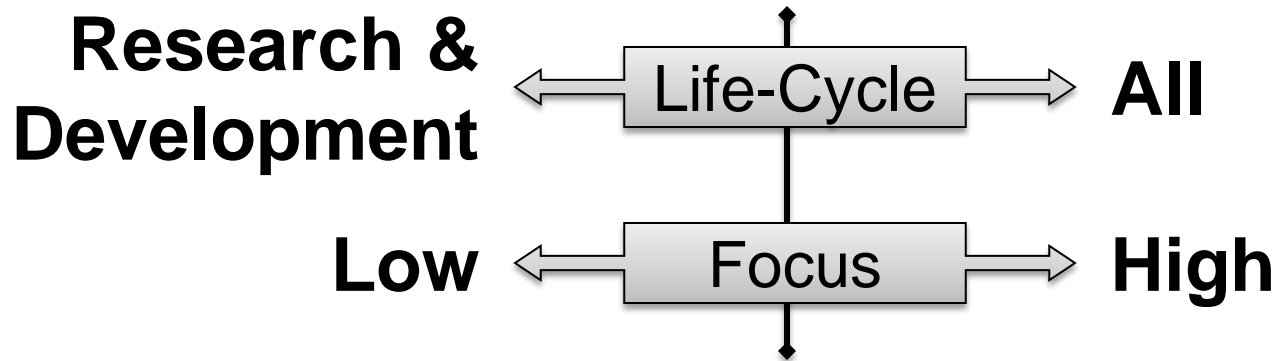
# Type of Organization



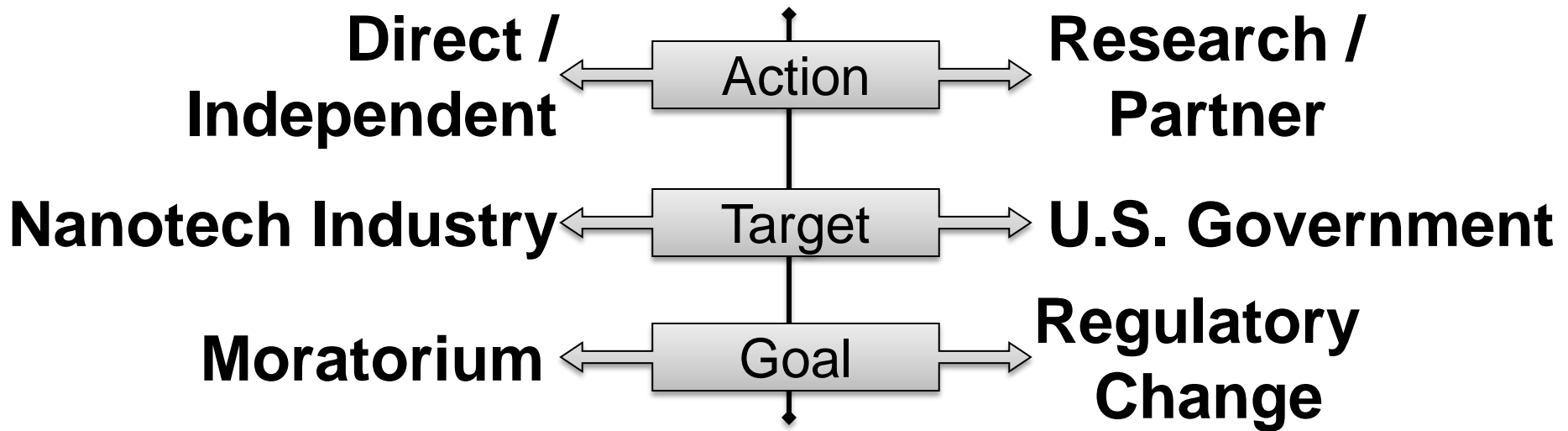
# Structure



# NGO Risk Perception



# Strategy



# Preliminary Findings

- 80 Organizations Found
  - 30 Committing Resources
  - 50 Allies
- Environment & Public Issues
- Regulatory Change
  - Moratorium
  - Safer Industry Practices
  - Funding for EHS Research
- Publications



# Potential Impacts

- Increased Funding for EHS Research
- Retail and Manufacturing Practices
- EPA Regulation over Nanosilver products

Hess, David J. (2010) 'Environmental Reform Organizations and Undone Science in the United States: Exploring the Environmental, Health and Safety Implications of Nanotechnology', *Science as Culture*, 19: 2, 181 - 214



# Future Research

- What impact has NGO's had on regulatory policy and industry practices?
- Why do NGO's care about nanotech?



# Thank You!

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