

**Day 6: MEDIA COVERAGE OF SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK**

**I. Media Influence on Politics**

In general, how do journalists decide what stories to cover and how to cover them?

How do editors influence journalists' choice of stories?

How do the media influence public views on issues?

How do the media influence policymakers?

How, even more generally, do the media shape the political context and hence political action?

*Note that there are feedbacks between the media and public officials and between the media and advocates; this is not just a one-way street.*

**II. Media Coverage of Science and Environmental Risks**

What generalizations can we make about the way the media covers science and environmental risks?

--What sources do journalists typically rely on?

--How do journalists treat environmental issues in their reporting?

How does media coverage influence public perceptions of science and environmental risk?

How might media coverage of environmental risks affect politics and policy?

--For example, what sorts of things have prompted media coverage of global environmental issues (like climate change or biodiversity loss)?

--What has been the nature of the coverage of global environmental issues?

--What do you think has been the impact of media coverage of these issues, and why?