Public policy in our world

ACTA

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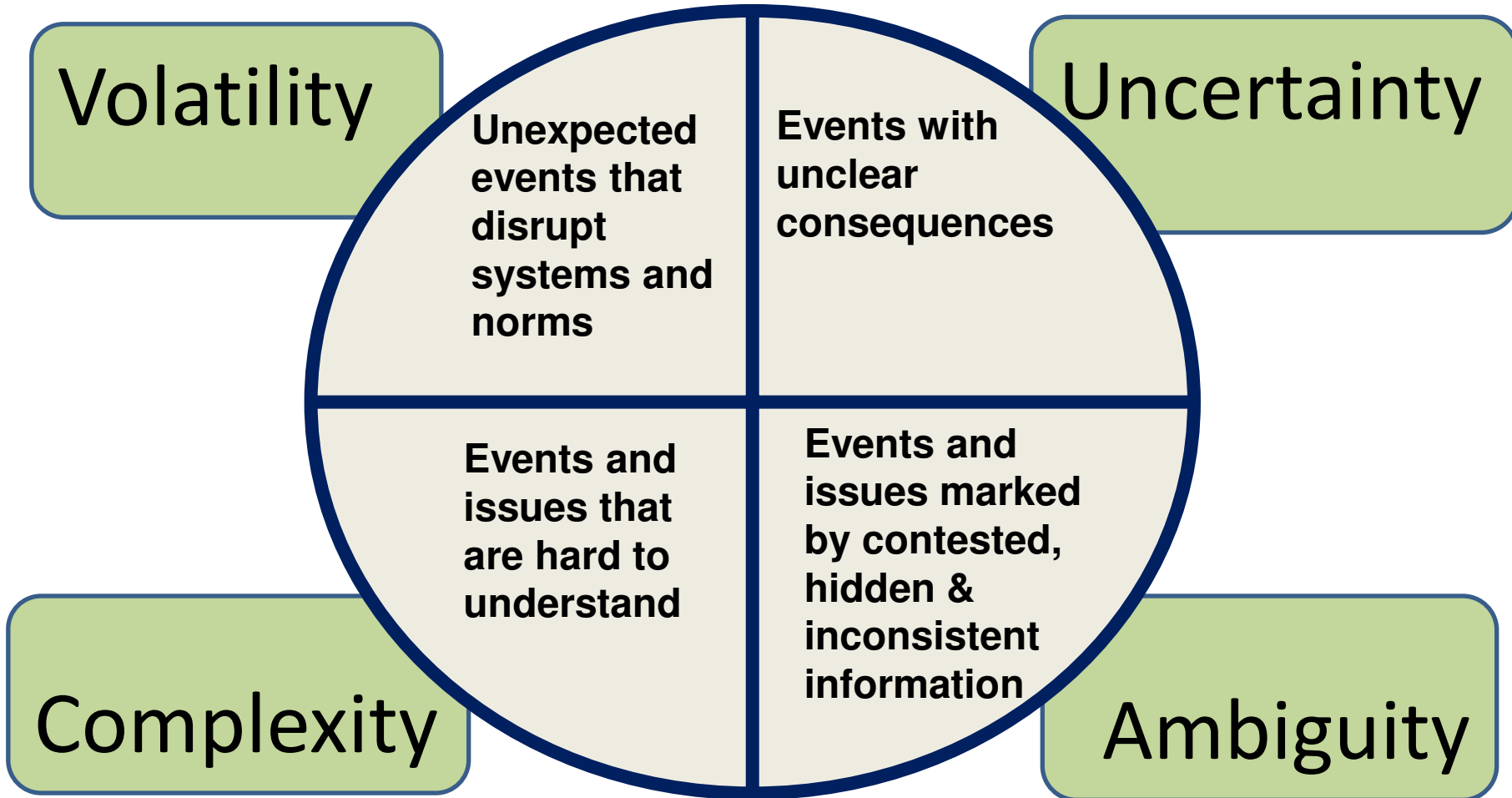
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a VUCA world

Volatility — Unexpected events that disrupt systems and norms

Uncertainty — Events with unclear consequences

Complexity — Events and issues that are hard to understand

Ambiguity — Events and issues marked by contested, hidden & inconsistent information

Policy is what government choose to do or not do

- Philosophy

- Product

- Process

- Framework for action

Complex

Constrained

Contested

Government

- Sets and implements policies (initiates and responds)

- Manages competing interests

- Manages risk and uncertainty

- Seeks to create public value

Policy combines government

- Vision

- Actions

- Outcomes

policy workers understand

- Boundaries

- Complexity

- Accountability

- Where are we now and where are we going?

- Where do we want to get to?

- How do we get there?

In order to get there:

- Vision and values

- Evidence and analysis

- Understanding of stakeholders

- Delivery capabilities

Barak Obama on his health reform

"We spent all our time trying to get the policy right,

We should have spent more time trying to get the politics right"

Problems we know the answer to

Problems we don't know the answer to

When does a private problem become a public problem?

- Agreement on a problem

- Prospect for a solution

- How important, how urgent

- Initiating/ responding?

Opportunity/ old sore

- What are the drivers of your program?

- What legislation is relevant?

- Think ahead on where the problem might lead - current and future impacts

- Think ahead

- Think again

- Think across

- Foresight
  - Beyond present circumstances

- Hindsight
  - Beyond past legacies

- Insight
  - Beyond existing boundaries

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For whom is it a problem?

- For program clients (or potential clients)?

- For other program stakeholders?

- For taxpayers?

- For the public more generally?

- For those fundamentally opposed to the endorsed policy?

- Where is 'the public interest'?

Problems and service systems do not match

Mismatch of problems and opportunity for solutions

Policy Instruments

- Advocacy

- Networking

- Money

- Government action

- Law

Althaus, Bridgman, Davis

- Information

- Regulate/mandate

- Subsidise

- Purchase

- Provide   World Bank

Any questions?

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