

Climate change, crime and security

A map of issues

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- We face an uncertain future with **global warming**
- But reports of the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** make almost **no mention of crime or domestic security**
- **‘Climate justice’** and **‘human security’** have other meanings:

Justice

Justice is concerned with ensuring that people get what is due to them, setting out the moral or legal principles of fairness and equity in the way people are treated, often based on the ethics and values of society.



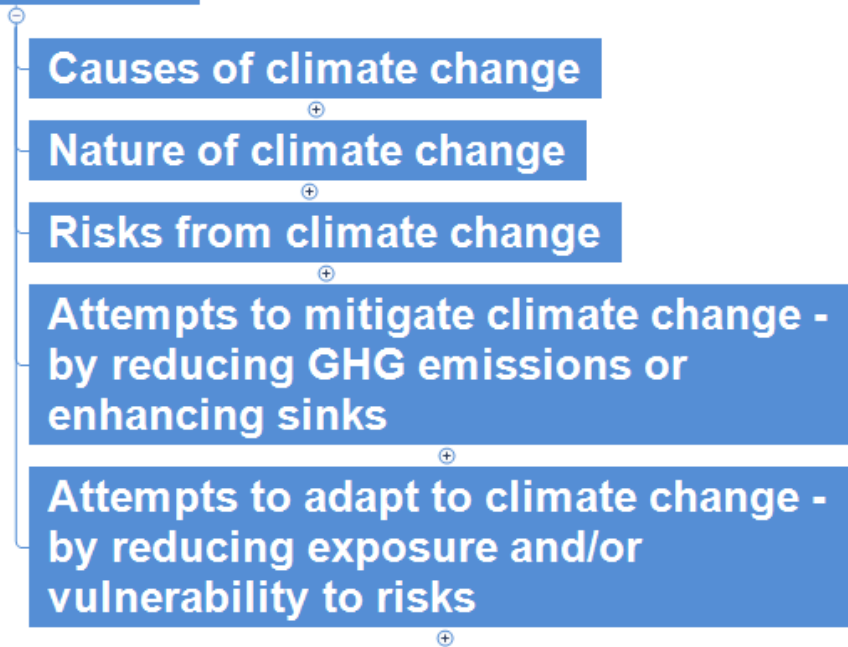
Human security

A condition that is met when the vital core of human lives is protected, and when people have the freedom and capacity to live with dignity. In the context of climate change, the vital core of human lives includes the universal and culturally specific, material and non-material elements necessary for people to act on behalf of their interests and to live with dignity.

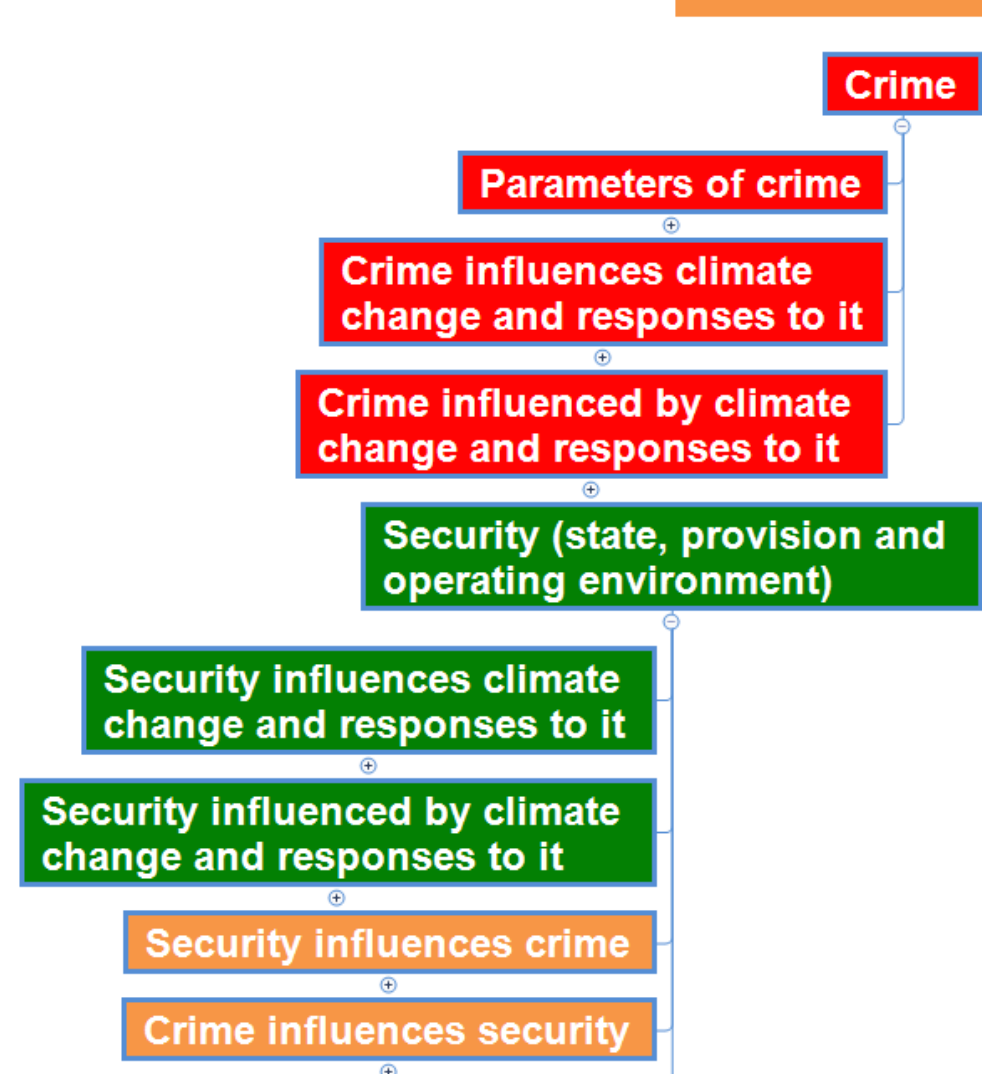
- One thing we can be sure of in future, is that **criminals and terrorists will significantly exploit disruptions and exacerbate problems associated with Climate Change**
- **Criminologists and crime scientists** have begun to take an interest
 - 2022 seminar series by **KTH Stockholm and Northumbria University**
 - Work on **carbon footprint of crime & security** initiated by **Pease** and taken forward by **Skudder, Shoemith** and others
 - Study of interaction of **security & sustainability** in UK building codes by **Armitage & Monchuk**
- Yet since some pioneering work by **Robert Agnew** over a decade ago, we are **lacking a systematic approach to join up crime, security & climate change**
- **For gaps, need maps** - presentation will attempt to remedy this
- My thinking developed in a working group on climate change run by the **European Forum on Urban Security**

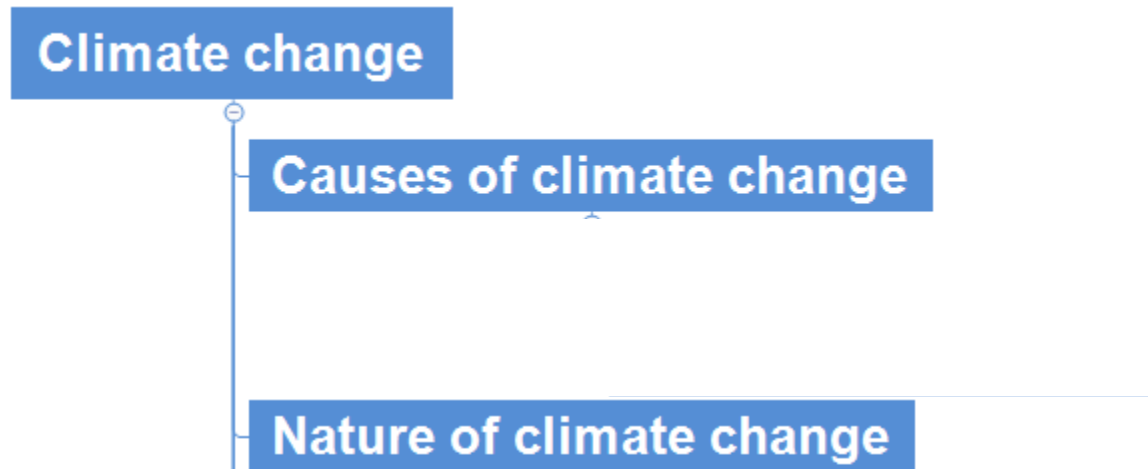
- Aim is to **encourage and assist researchers to systematically fill in the many unknowns**, by a disciplined application of evidence (where it exists), tested theory & horizon-scanning
- Main effort so far has been to plough through **IPCC reports** that emerged in 2022-3, to map out the key parameters of **climate change** and see how these relate to **crime and security**
- I will cover:
 - Key aspects of **climate change**
 - The **types and causes of crime** which need to be mapped against these aspects
 - How **crime might be influenced** by climate change itself, and society's responses to it
 - How **crime itself influences** climate change, mitigation and adaptation efforts
 - How **security** in its turn may be **influenced by, and influence**, climate change
- The presentation
 - Built around a visual map, which can zoom out or into detail

Climate change



Issues for crime and security





| = expansion from
previous slide

Causes of climate change

Nature of climate change

Direct changes

Temperature - atmospheric and oceanic

Sea level - coastal erosion and flooding

Ocean currents/circulation

Weather

Heatwaves

Drought

Wildfire

Windstorms

Heavy precipitation - rain, snow, ice

Flood - runoff, thaw, river, coastal

Longer-term climate

Temperature - overall hotter (colder)

Persistent drought

Ocean acidification and deoxygenation

Parameters of change

Timescale - sudden v slow

Permanent v reversible

Local v regional, global

Engendering feedbacks

Interactions and linkages with:

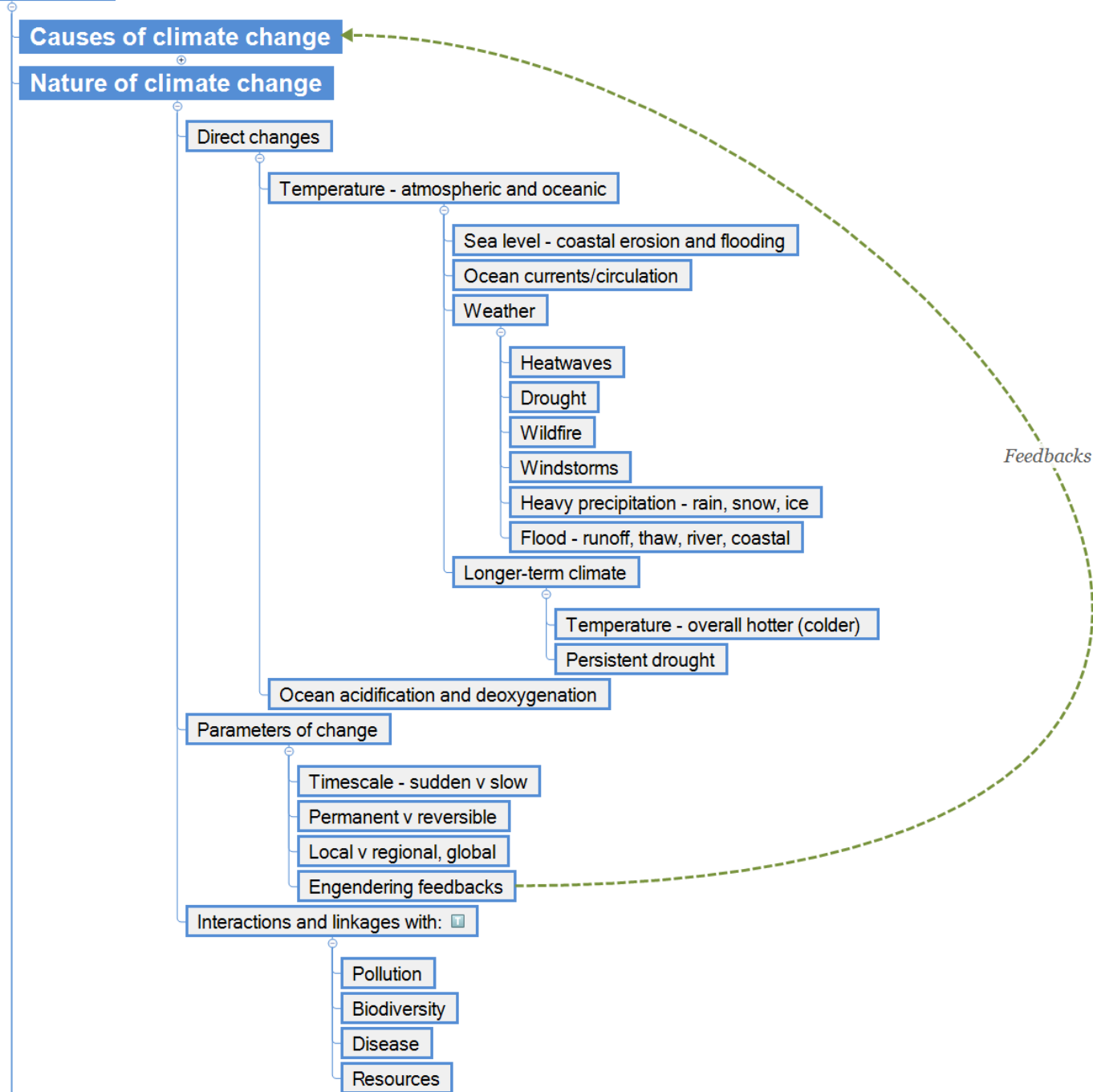
Pollution

Biodiversity

Disease

Resources

Feedbacks



Causes of climate change

Nature of climate change

Risks from climate change

Kinds of risks

Events

Crises

Disasters

New status quo

Trends

Disruption per se [?]

Risk acts through

Exposure to risks

Vulnerability to risks

Climate-related representative key risks (RKR).

Distribution of adverse effects

People

Poor

V old

V young

Female

Minorities

Places

Global

Local

Concepts & definitions - from IPCC Glossary

Climate change

Causes of climate change

+

Nature of climate change

+

Risks from climate change

+

Attempts to mitigate climate change -
by reducing GHG emissions or
enhancing sinks

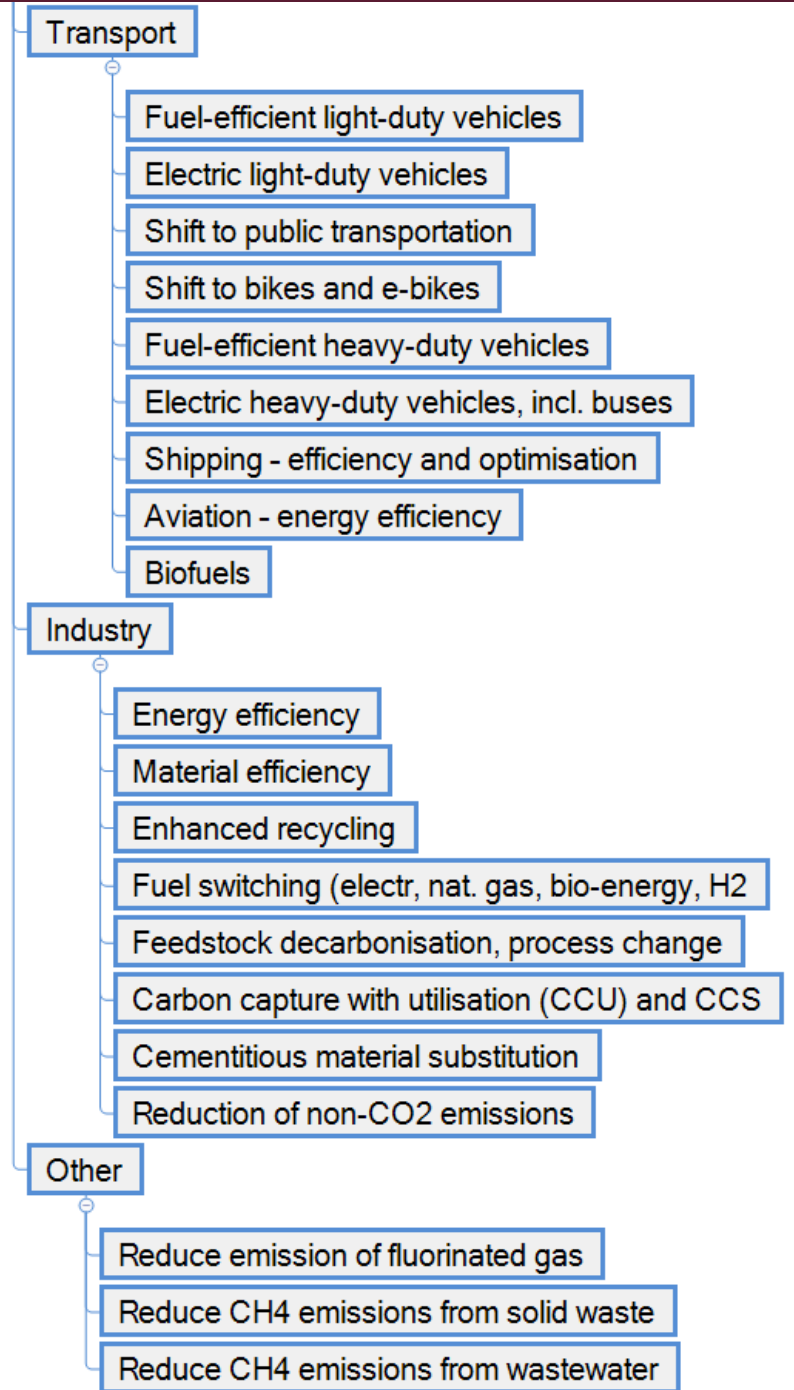
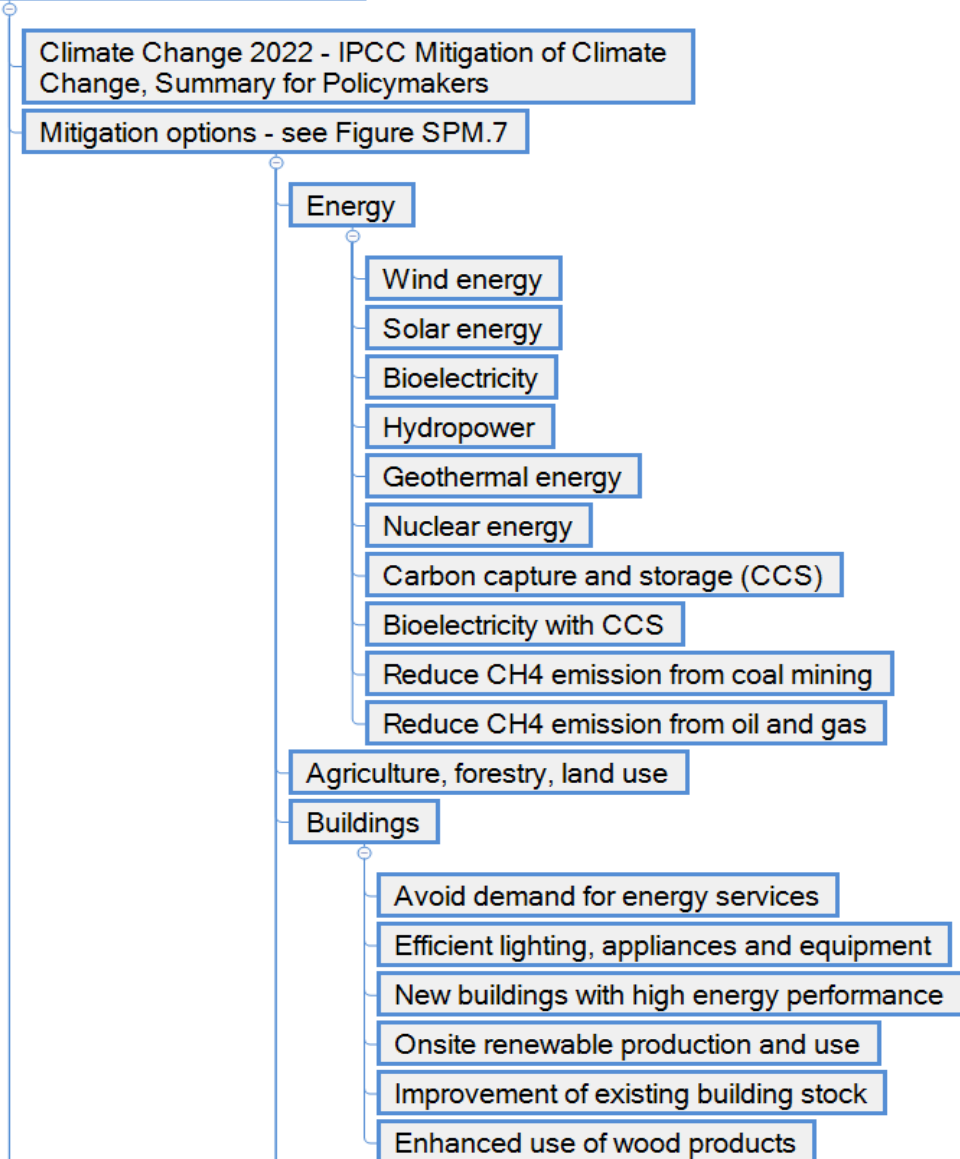
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Attempts to adapt to climate change -
by reducing exposure and/or
vulnerability to risks

-

Mitigation of CC – domains of action

Attempts to mitigate climate change - by reducing GHG emissions or enhancing sinks



Climate change

Causes of climate change

Nature of climate change

Risks from climate change

Attempts to mitigate climate change -
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Attempts to adapt to climate change -
by reducing exposure and/or
vulnerability to risks

Adaptation options - Figure 13.36

Social

Informational

Educational

Behavioural

Structural

Engineered & built environment

Ecosystem-based

Technological

Services

Institutional

Government policies & programmes

Laws & regulations

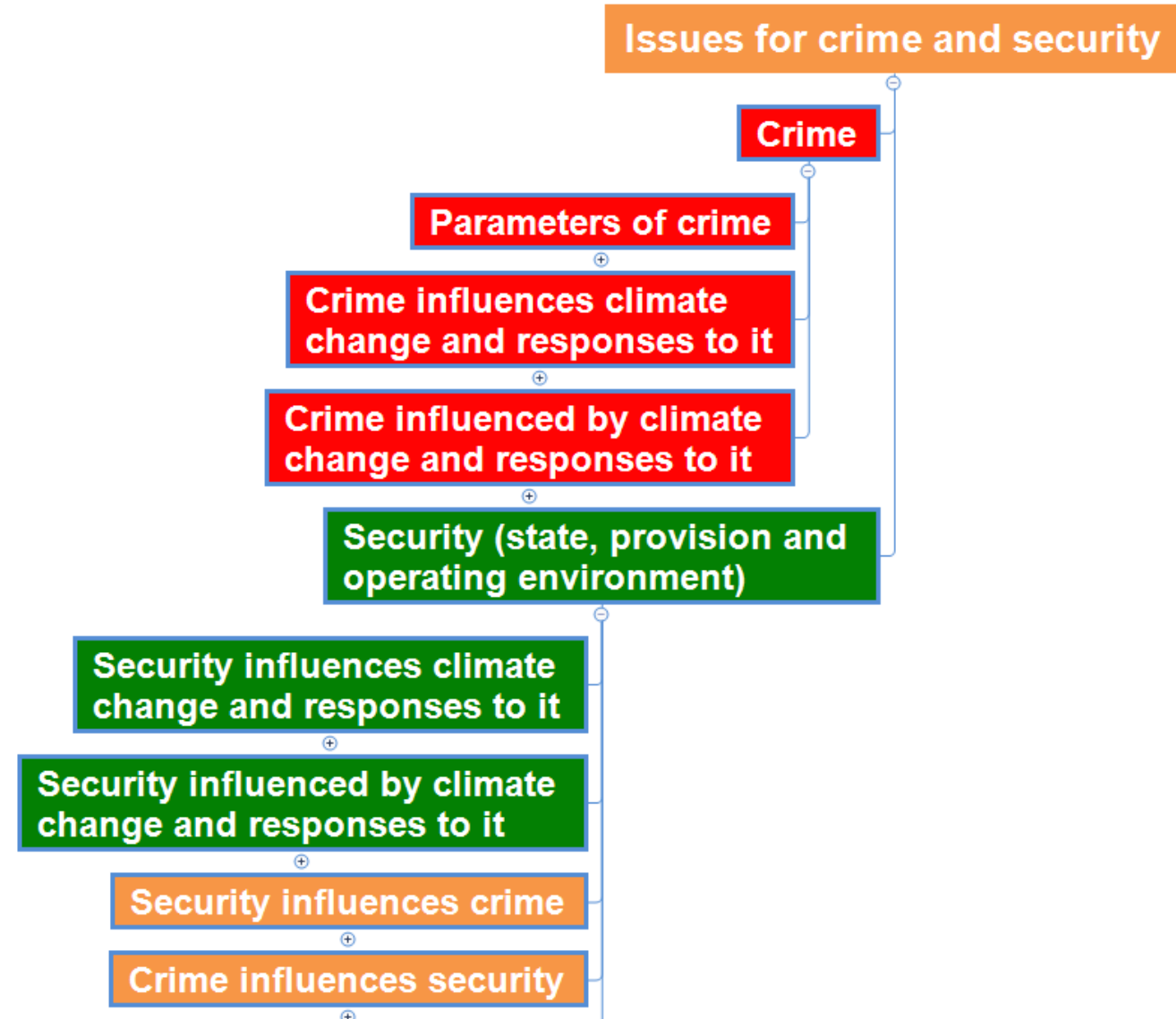
Economic

Other

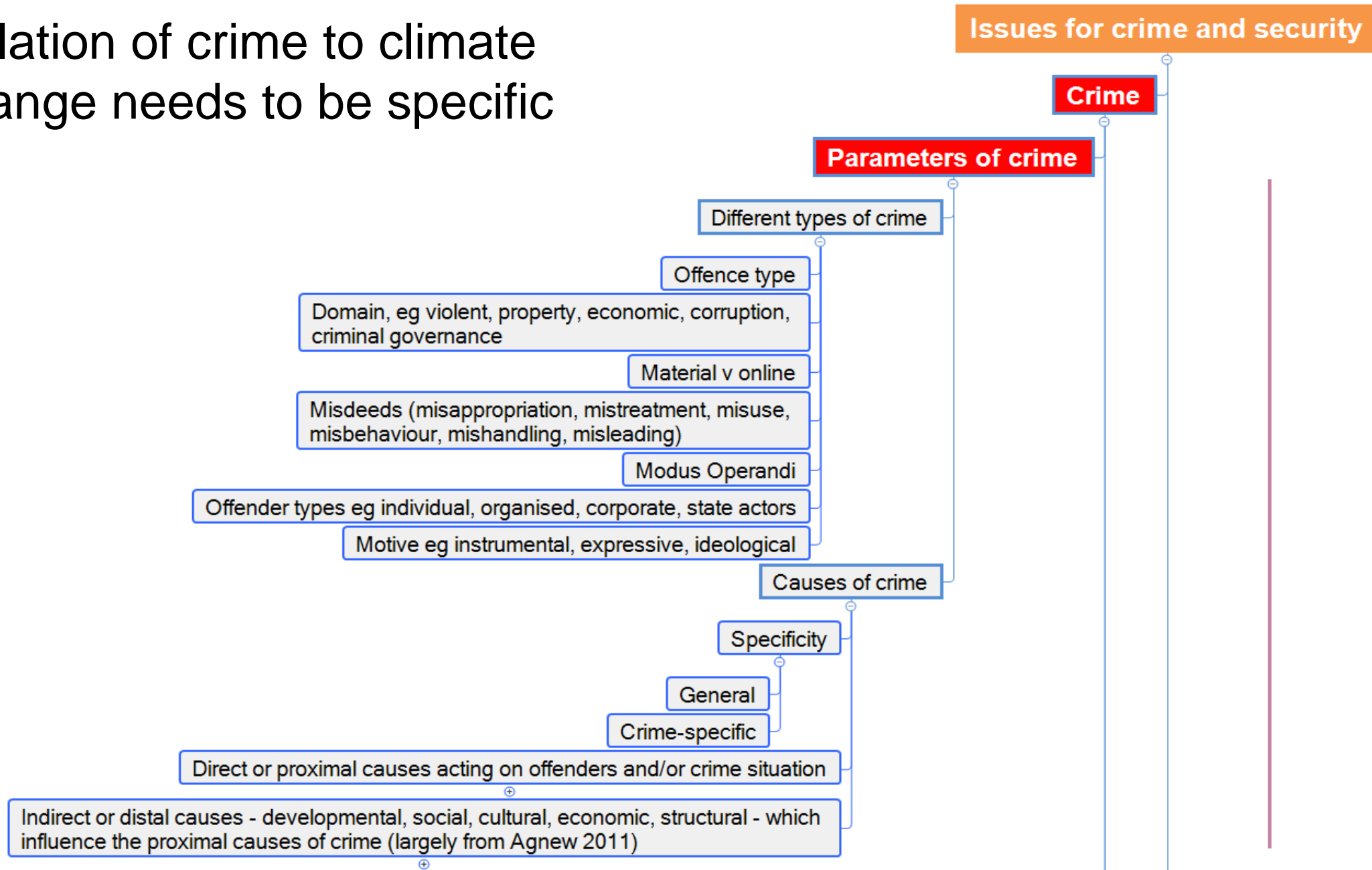
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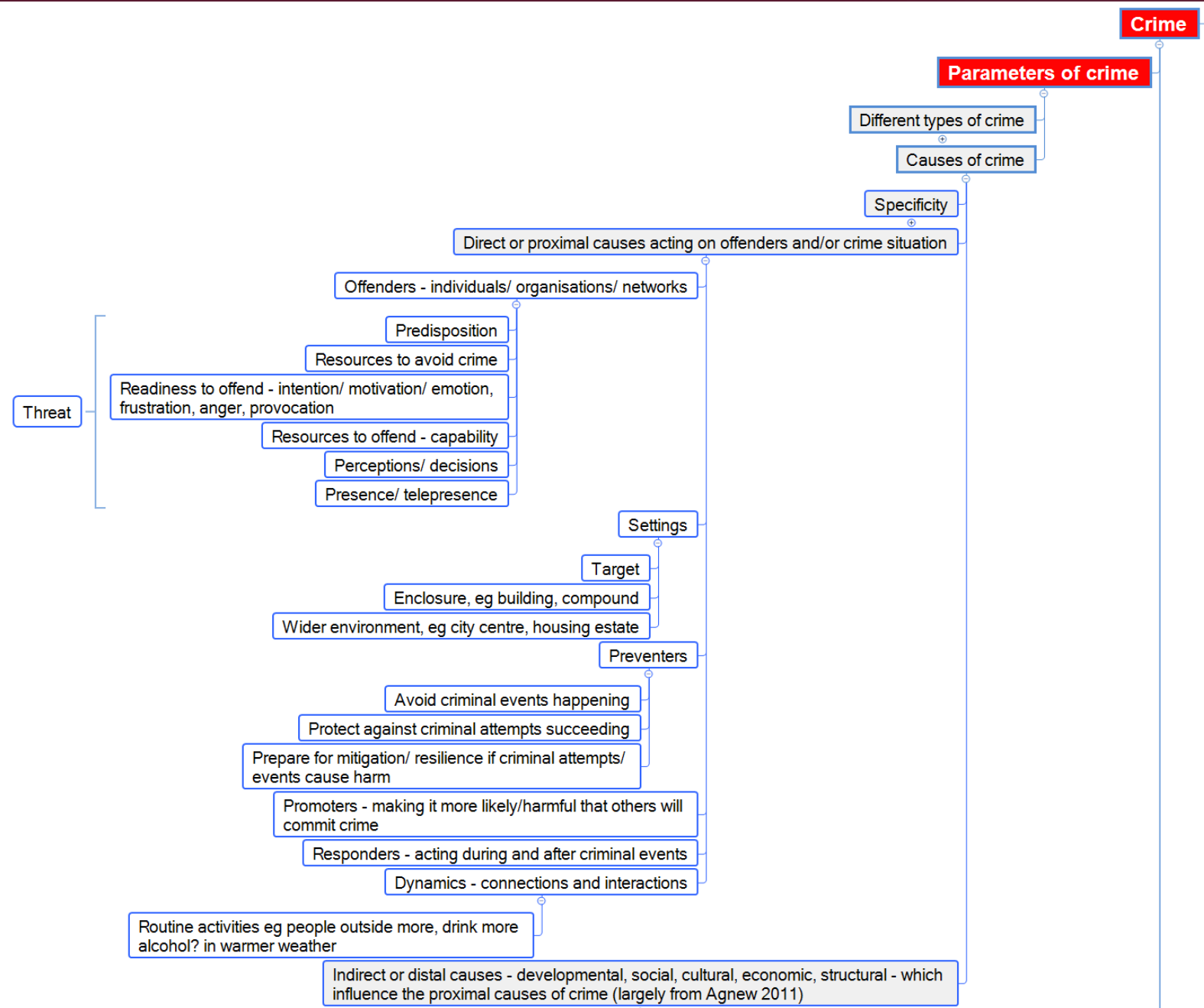
Background info

- Now time to switch perspective
- All the **effects of climate change**, and responses to it in terms of both **mitigation** and **adaptation**, can influence **crime & security** in diverse ways, and be influenced by them

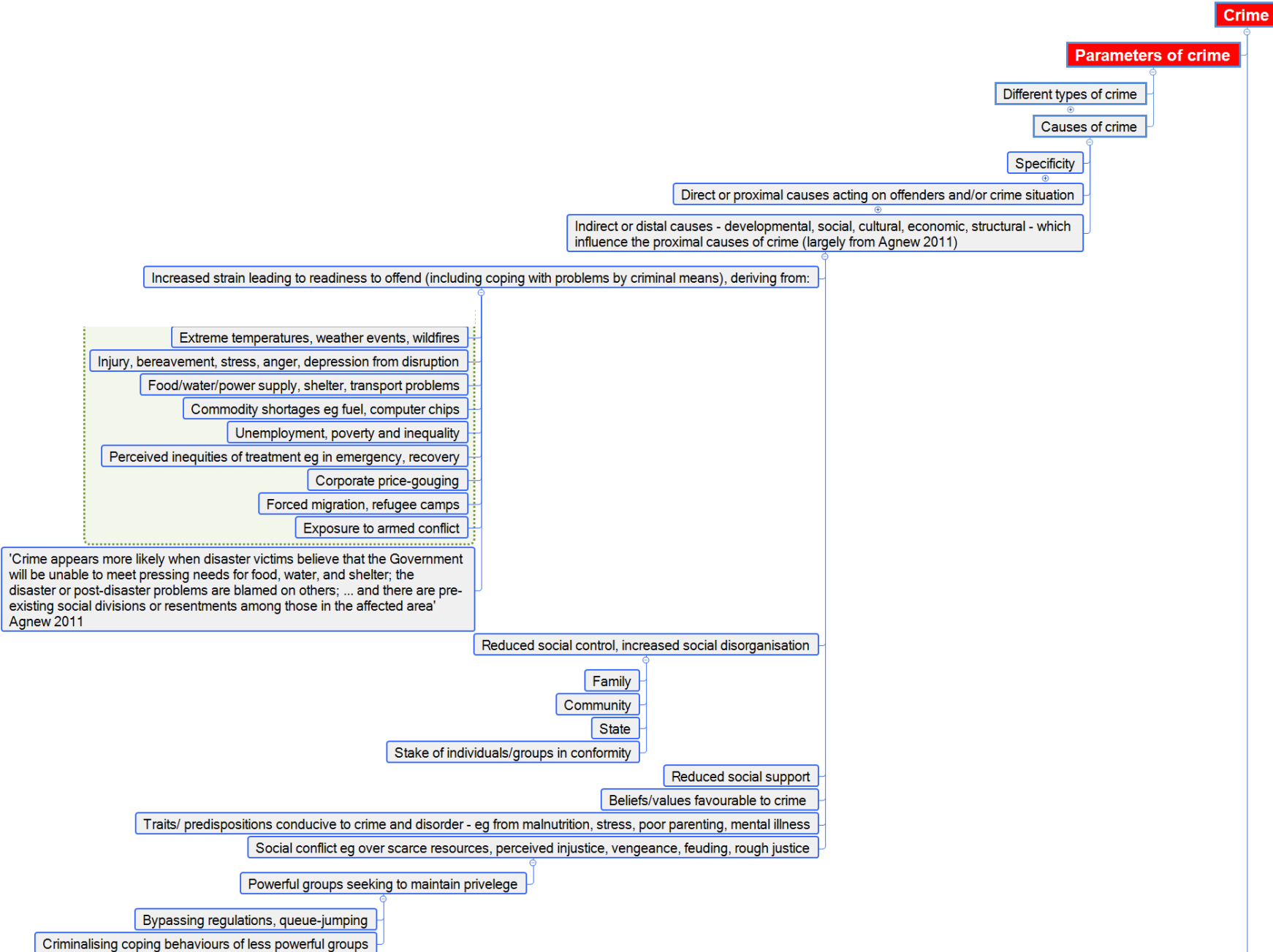


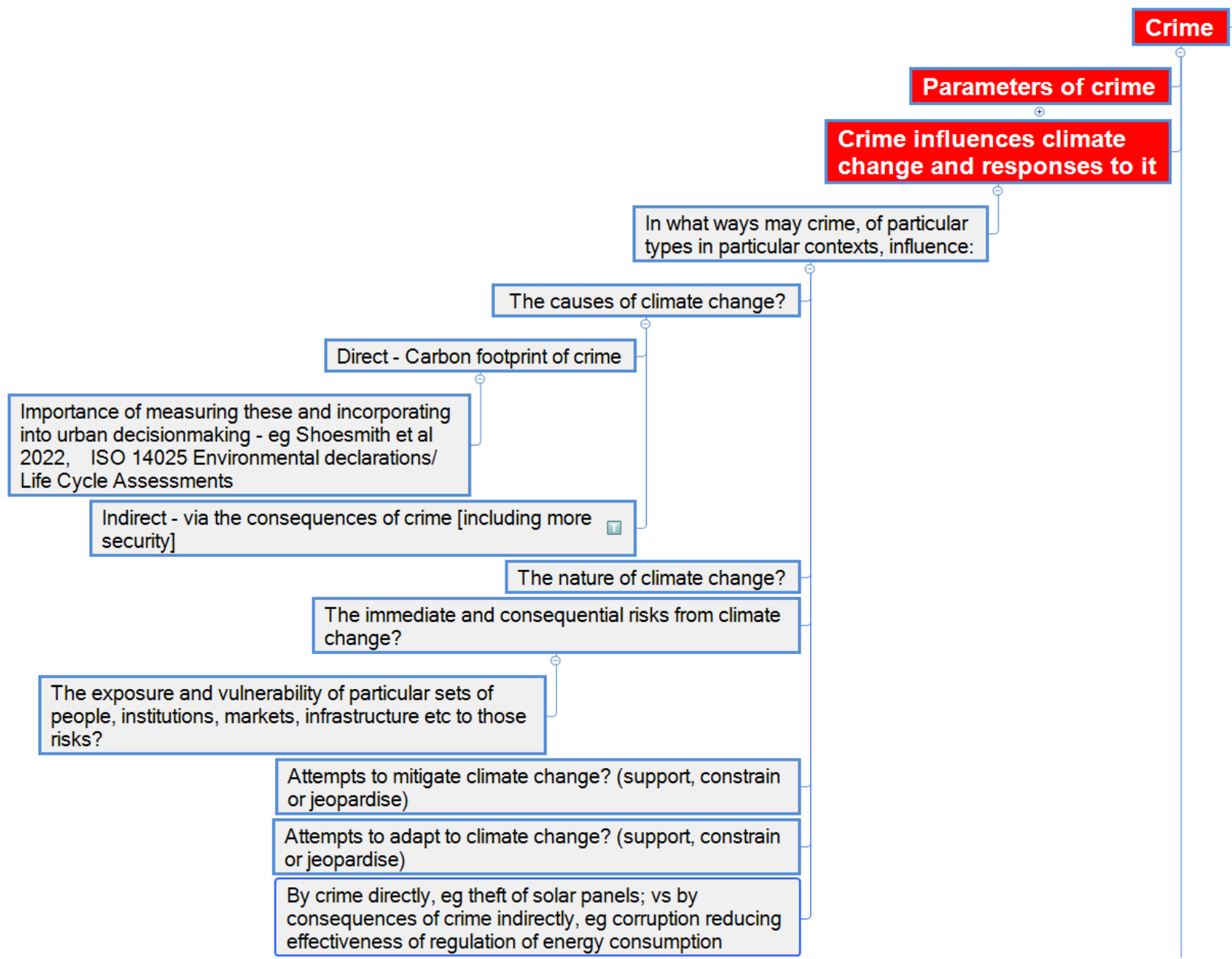
- Relation of crime to climate change needs to be specific

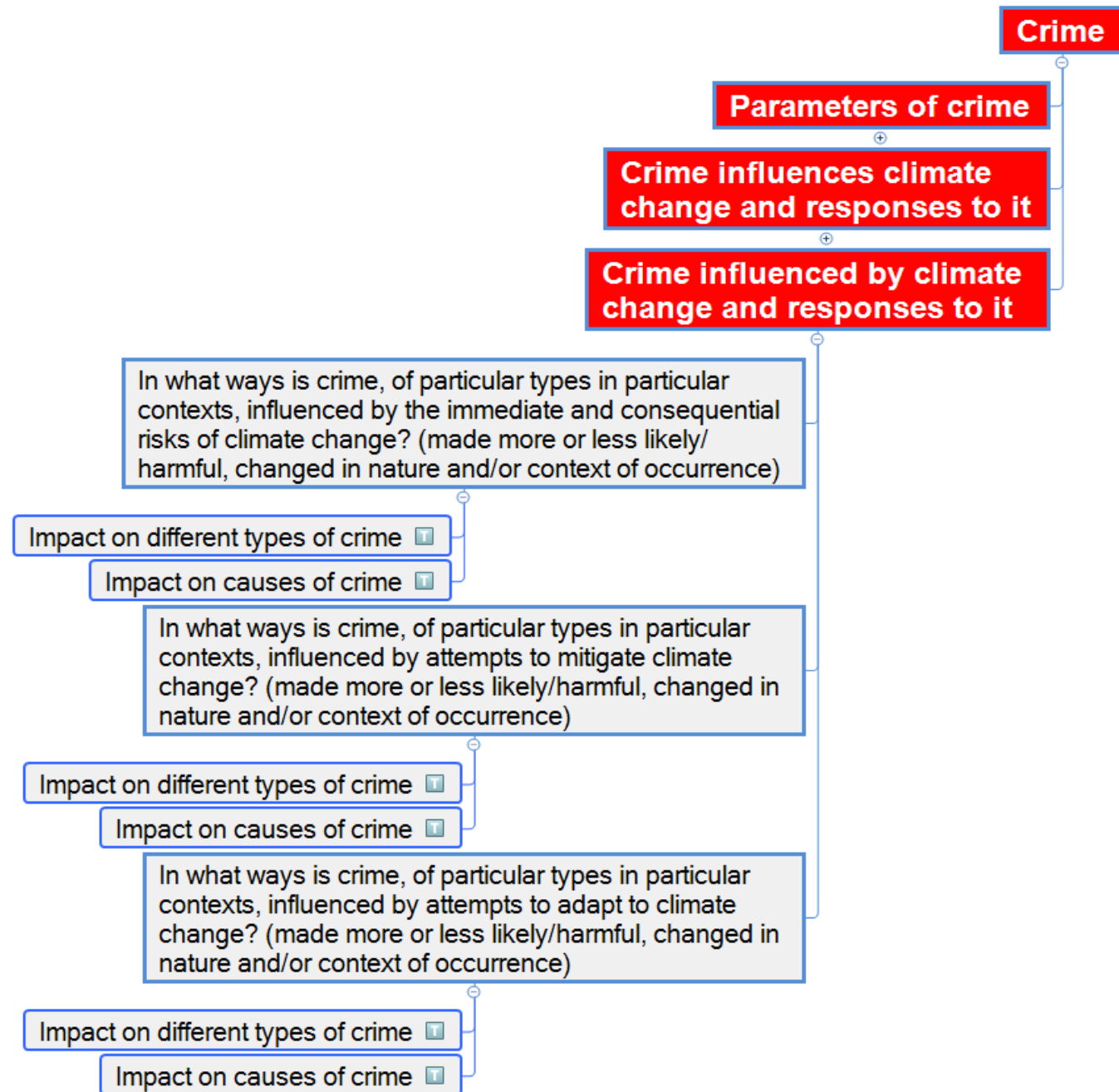




Causes of crime – 2) indirect or distal causes – mainly from Agnew







Security (state, provision and operating environment)

Security influences climate change and responses to it

In what ways may security, of particular types in particular contexts, influence:

The causes of climate change?

The nature of climate change?

The immediate and consequential risks from climate change? Nature/likelihood/harm or benefit

Attempts to mitigate climate change? (support, constrain or jeopardise)

Attempts to adapt to climate change? (support, constrain or jeopardise)



Security (state, provision and operating environment)

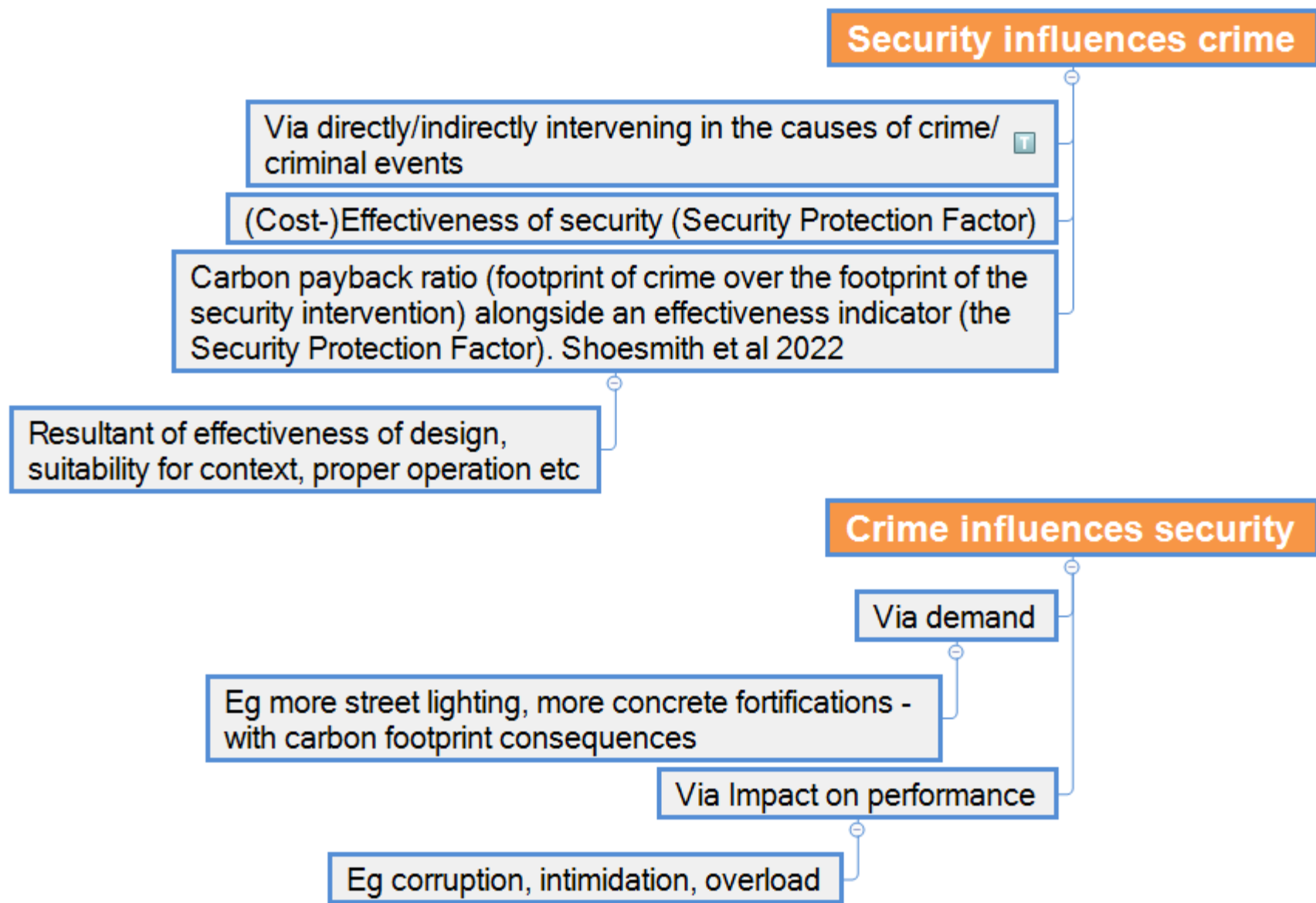
Security influences climate change and responses to it

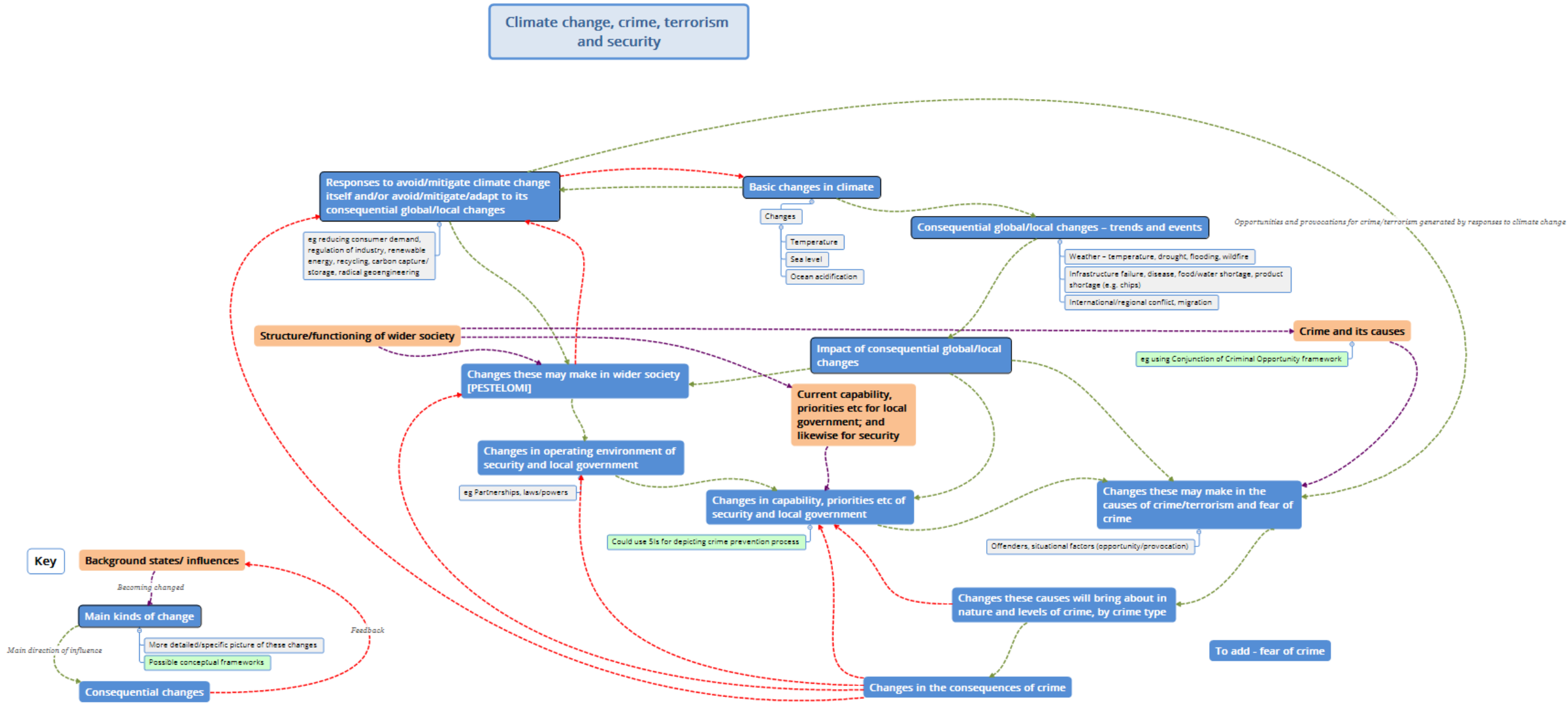
Security influenced by climate change and responses to it

In what ways is security, of particular types in particular contexts, influenced by the immediate and consequential risks of climate change? (made more or less likely/ implementable/effective/harmful, changed in nature, immediate context and wider operating environment)

In what ways is security, of particular types in particular contexts, influenced by attempts to mitigate climate change? (made more or less likely/implementable/effective/harmful, changed in nature, immediate context and wider operating environment)

In what ways is security, of particular types in particular contexts, influenced by attempts to adapt to climate change? (made more or less likely/implementable/effective/harmful, changed in nature, immediate context and wider operating environment)





Comments and suggestions please!

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Fuller version cross-referencing to IPCC reports:

<https://crimeframeworks.com/climate-change-crime-security/>

See all my materials at <https://crimeframeworks.com>