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Vulnerable groups and trauma

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press

VULNERABLE GROUPS AND TRAUMA

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Aim and objectives

- To describe the role of media in transmitting trauma from the individual to the collective level.
- ✓ To analyze how trauma is presented in mass media.
- ✓ To gain an understanding of the effect of media representations on the ways persons and groups become aware of traumatic events.

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Definition of trauma

- ★ Trauma theory since early 90's.
- ★ Its object is to address the representation of human suffering and 'wounding', both literal and metaphorical, both personal and communal (Eaglestone, 2014).
- ★ A trauma is an experience that disorganizes, disrupts permanently or temporarily, the life of an individual or a group (Brothers, 2008).
- ★ The concept is used to cover and analyze responses to extreme events across space and time and to guide their treatment (Craps, 2014).

The cultural dimension of trauma

- ☞ A modernity stuff.
- ☞ It prospers due to the age of extremes (Hobsbawm, 1994).
- ☞ However, millions of people may have suffered from trauma throughout history (Pinchevski, 2015).
- ☞ It shapes contemporary power relations.
- ☞ Traumatic experiences shape culture, which is reproduced through representations of trauma.

Trauma mediatization: A wish & a curse

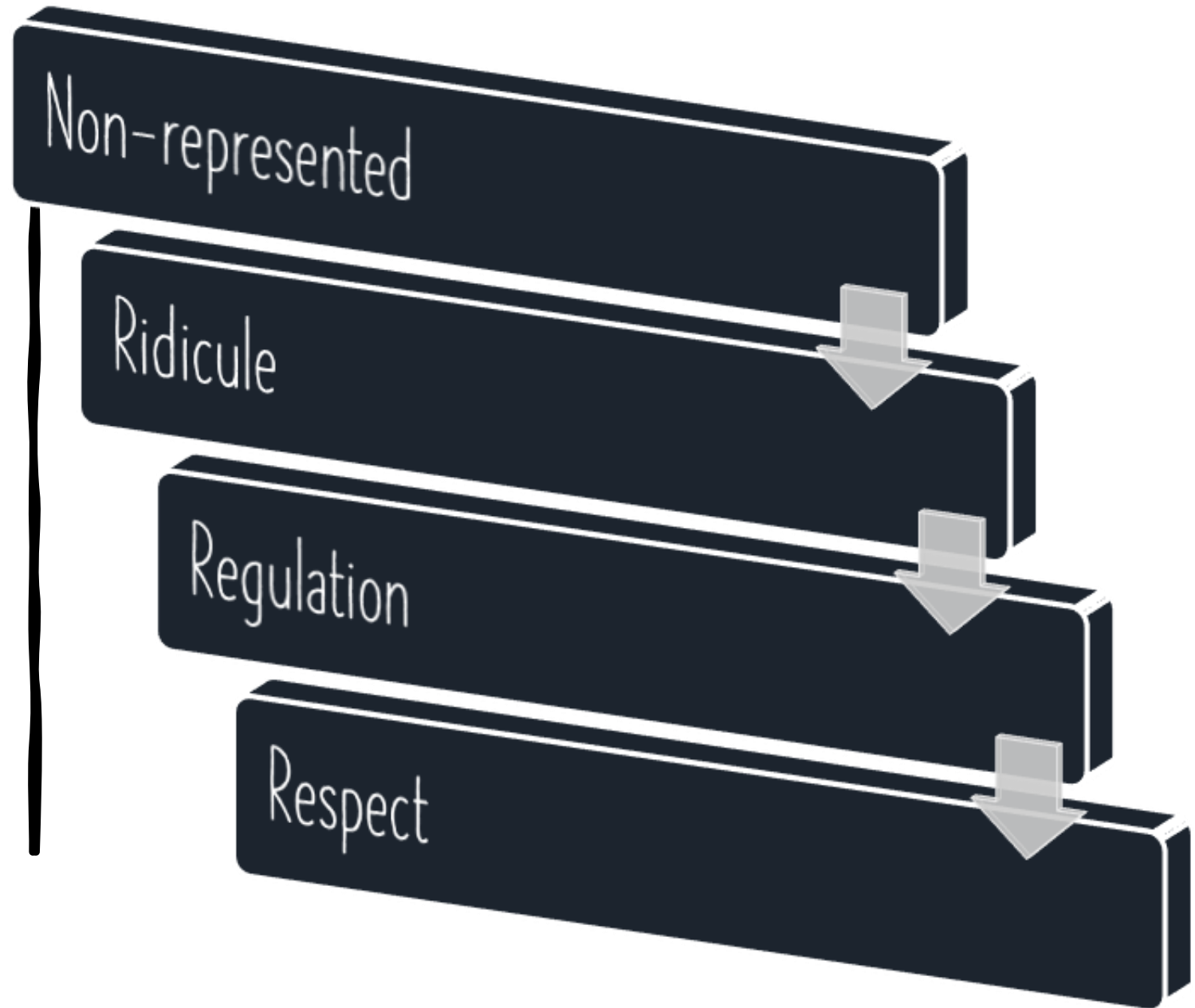
- ➔ Media bridge the gap between individual and political life (Papathanassopoulos, Karadimitriou & Giannouli, 2014).
- ➔ Mediatization refers to several mediated interactions in which media logic shapes public perception of politics, culture etc. (Hjarvard, 2008).
- ➔ Exposure to media content after a disaster may drive the survivors to relive a traumatic experience, hindering thusly the healing process.
- ➔ However, a positive effect of media use cannot be a priori excluded (Minotakis & Tastsoglou, 2023).

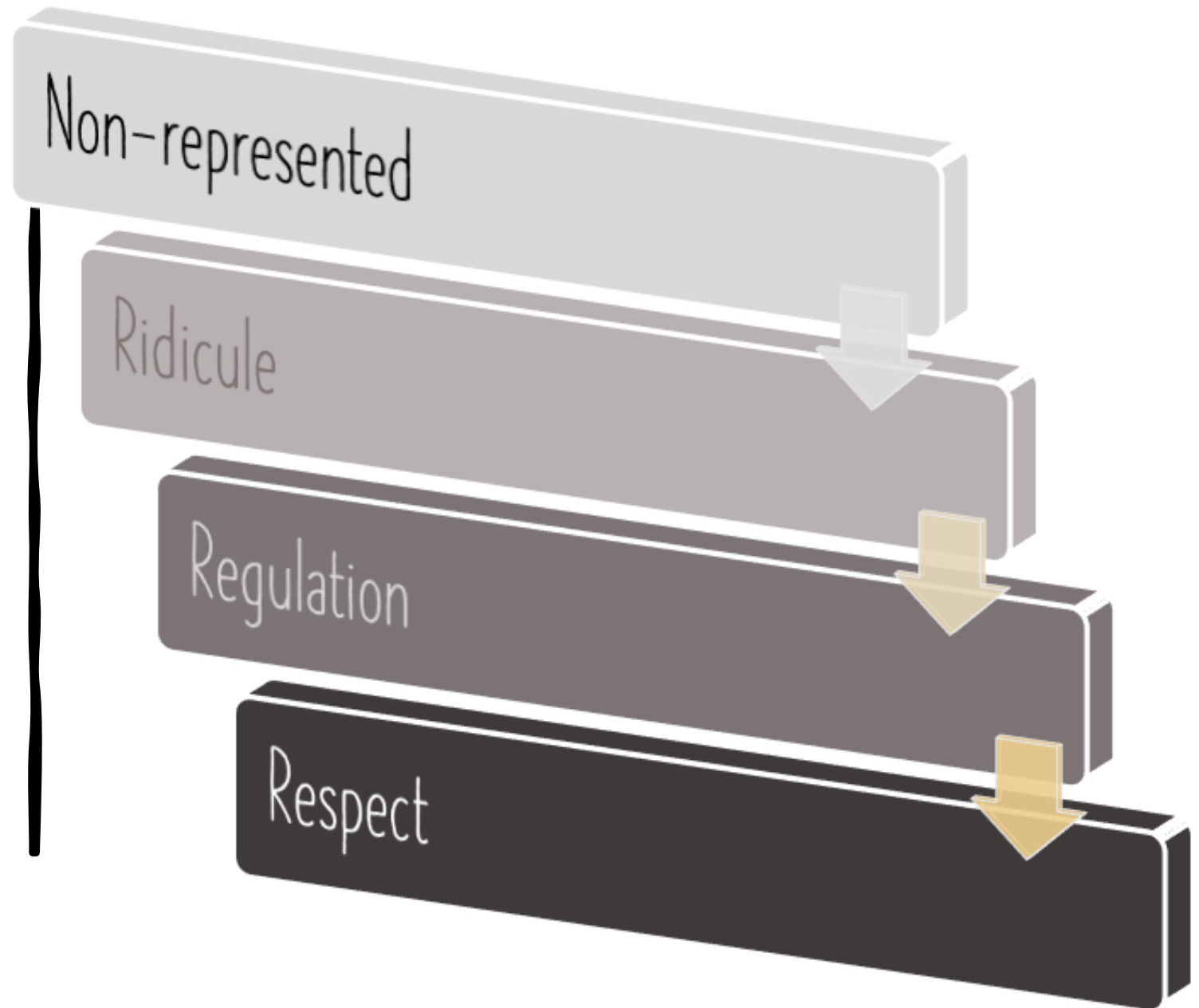
Vulnerable groups and media depictions of trauma

- The way the media represents a traumatic event may affect the wellbeing of traumatized persons and social groups.
- Traumatic events may be depicted in a way that highlights aspects that draw the attention of the audience.
- Human suffering, in any form, is useful in the effort to attract more clicks or boost the ratings of the news
- However, media coverage is still valuable.
- Social groups' daily problems or traumatic experiences must lay at the epicenter of the media agenda-setting.
- Crucial in developing collective as well as institutional strategies of coping with traumatic events.

Media representations of vulnerable groups

This schema (Clark, 1969) does not apply to all groups. Nevertheless, it offers an historical perspective and a framework for the development of the media representation of vulnerable groups.





- ✓ Trauma is a matter of modernity.
- Media mediate between traumatic experiences and audiences.
- Trauma shapes identities.
- Vulnerable groups are more exposed to traumas.

Conclusions

"Nunca más"



Thank you very much!

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