Expert Elicitation 2024: Averting UK food system crises - what are we missing?

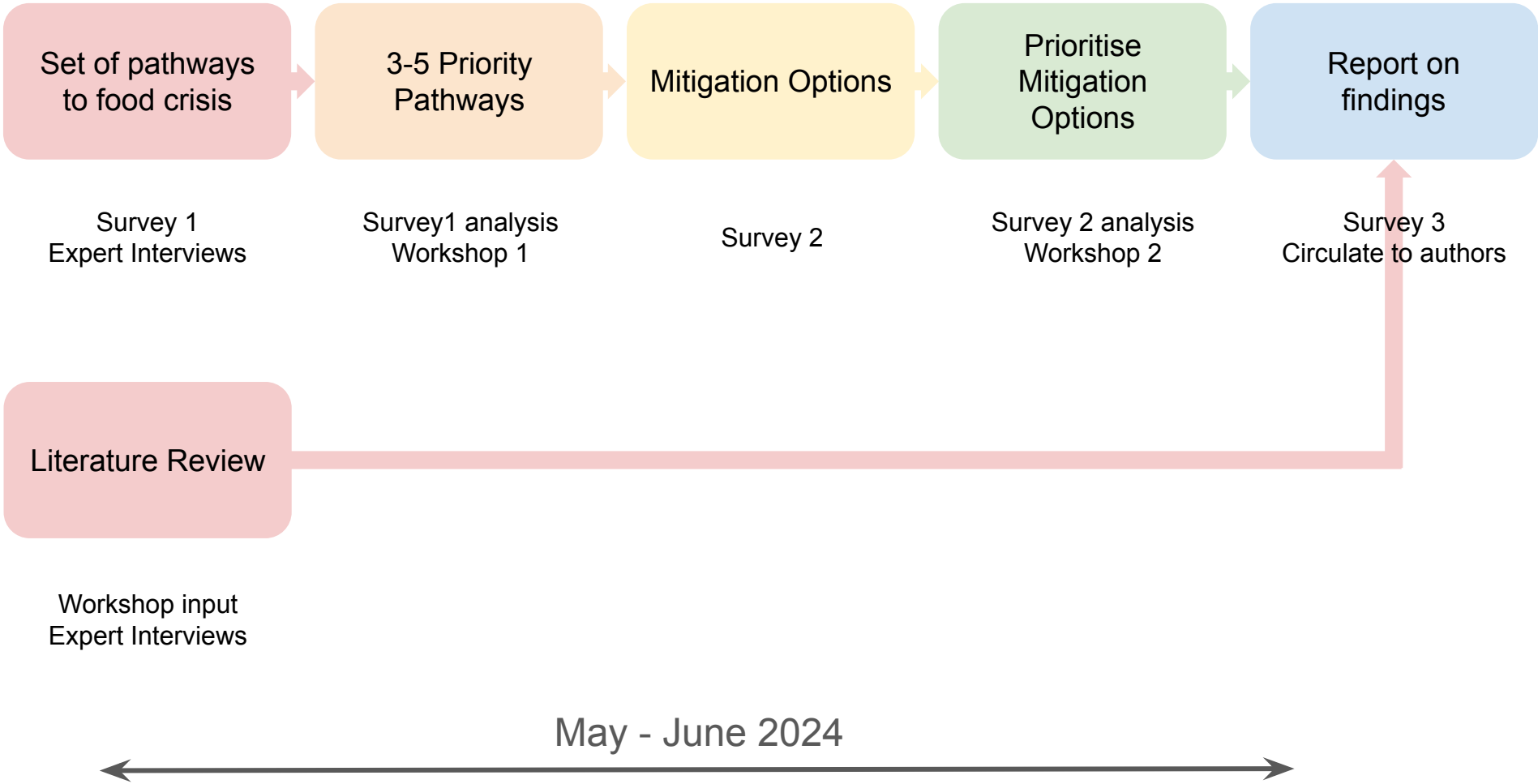
May - June 2024

Purpose of the study, funder, timeline

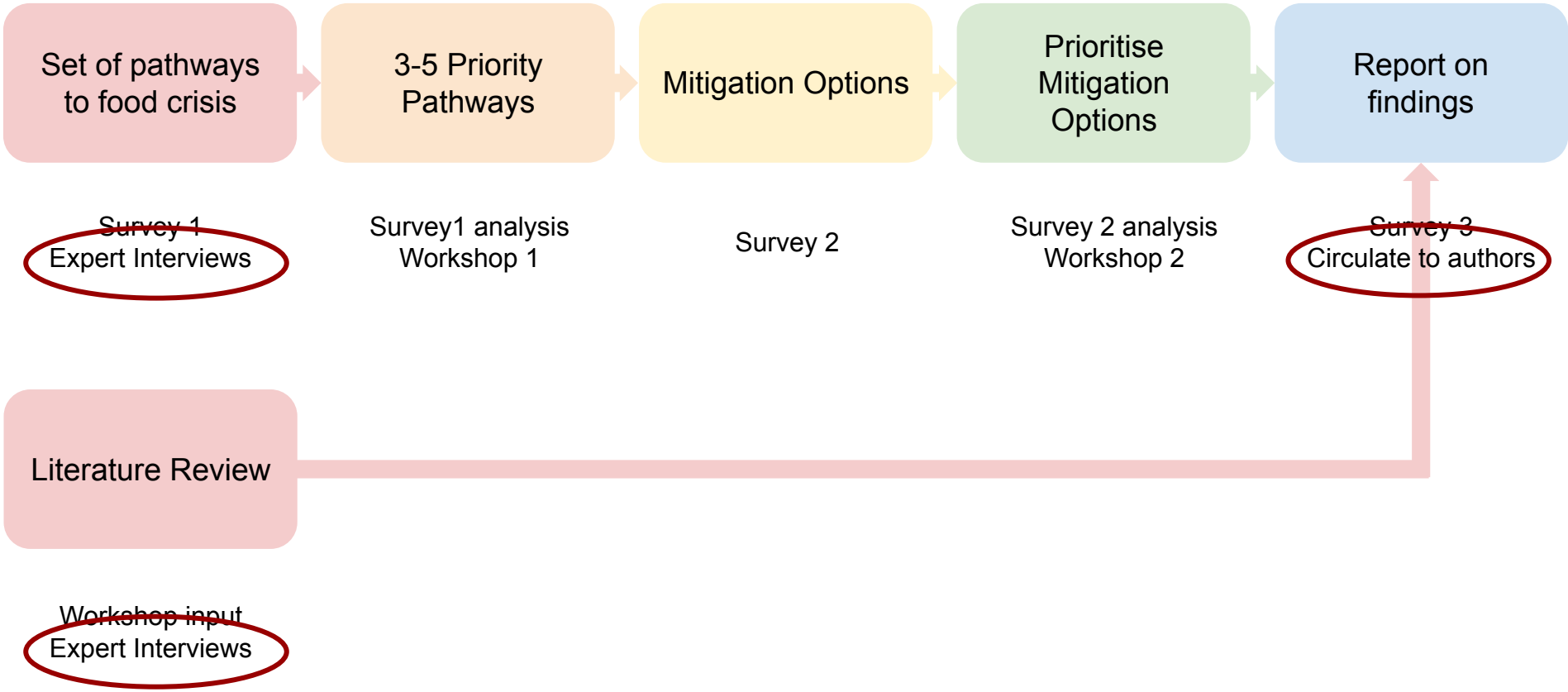
Information from the email you already got:

- A study Co-led by Sarah Bridle, Elta Smith, Aled Jones to help identify underestimated and overlooked pathways to potential UK food system crises e.g. causing civil unrest, and assess whether there is enough happening to avert them
- Part of a project co-led by Sarah Bridle, Aled Jones funded by an APEX Award from the British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society, running from October 2022 - September 2024.
- Builds on our expert elicitation published last year https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/15/20/14783

Process for this study



Process for this study: Expert Interviews



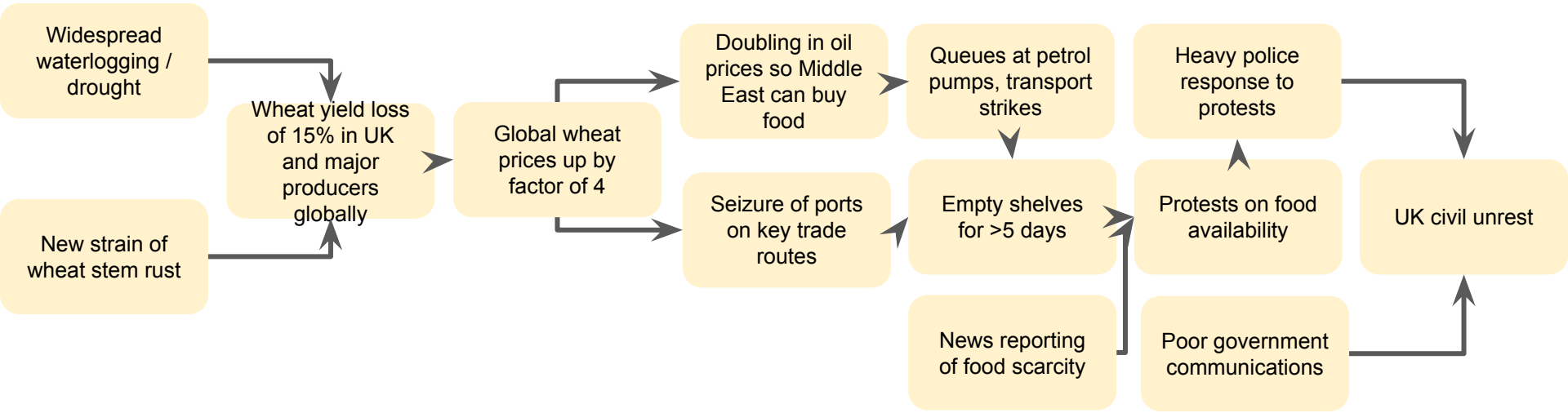
Purpose of Expert Interviews

Information from the email you already got:

- We would like to carry out a semi-structured interview with you, in your capacity as an expert in potential risks to the food system.
- We would ask you to help us develop candidate underestimated and overlooked pathways as input to a series of surveys and workshops we are carrying out in June.
- The interview will take no longer than 45 minutes.

We will collate the anonymised outputs of the interviews into a pre-read for Workshop 1 and for the Supplementary Data of the final report.

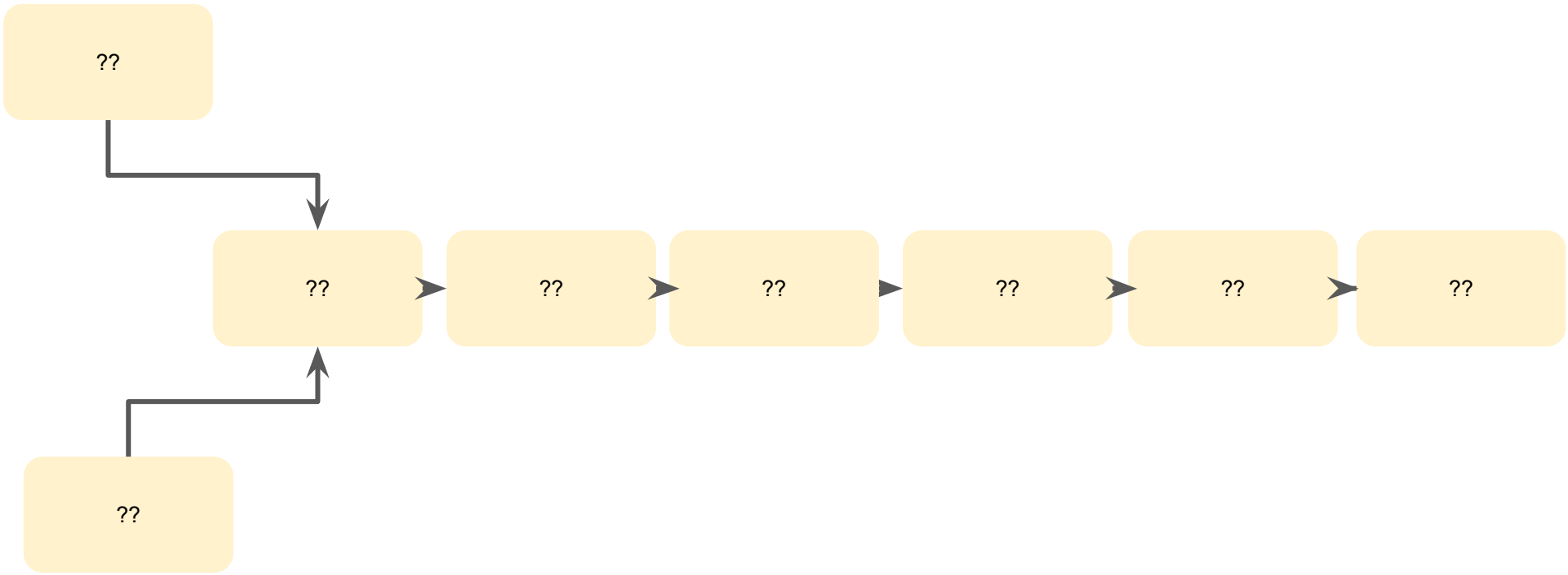
Example Pathway



NB. This is based on a study done by lots of people in 2016 - we're not expecting anything this detailed from you.

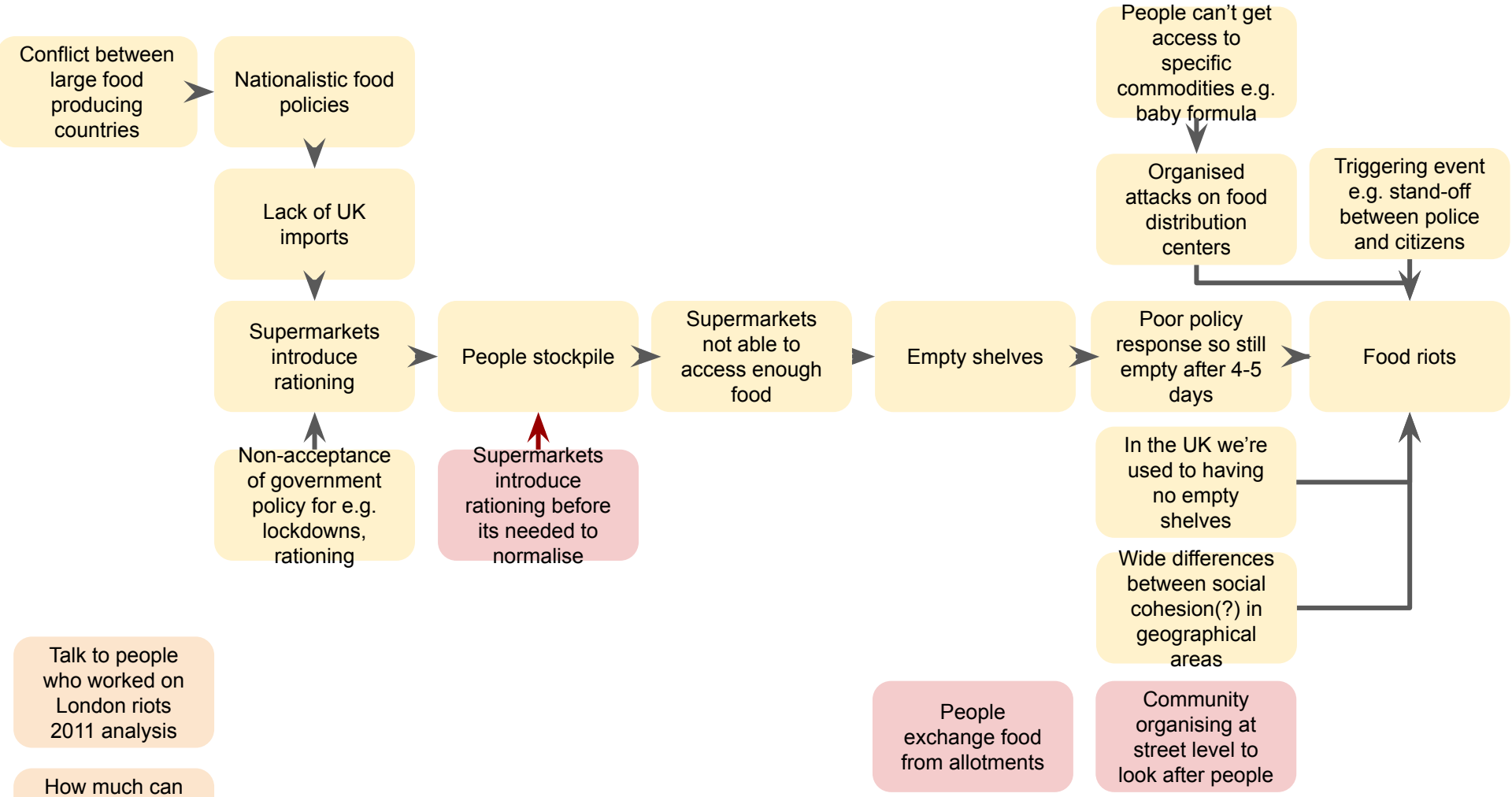
Inspired by Jones, Jahn et al https://assets.lloyds.com/media/02e5fd60-4cda-452d-8b09-01d507f582a8/pdf-food-system-shock-june-2015.pdf which is connected to Lunt, Jones, Mulhern, Lezaks, Jahn https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crm.2016.05.001

Pathway template - developed in 14 Expert Interviews

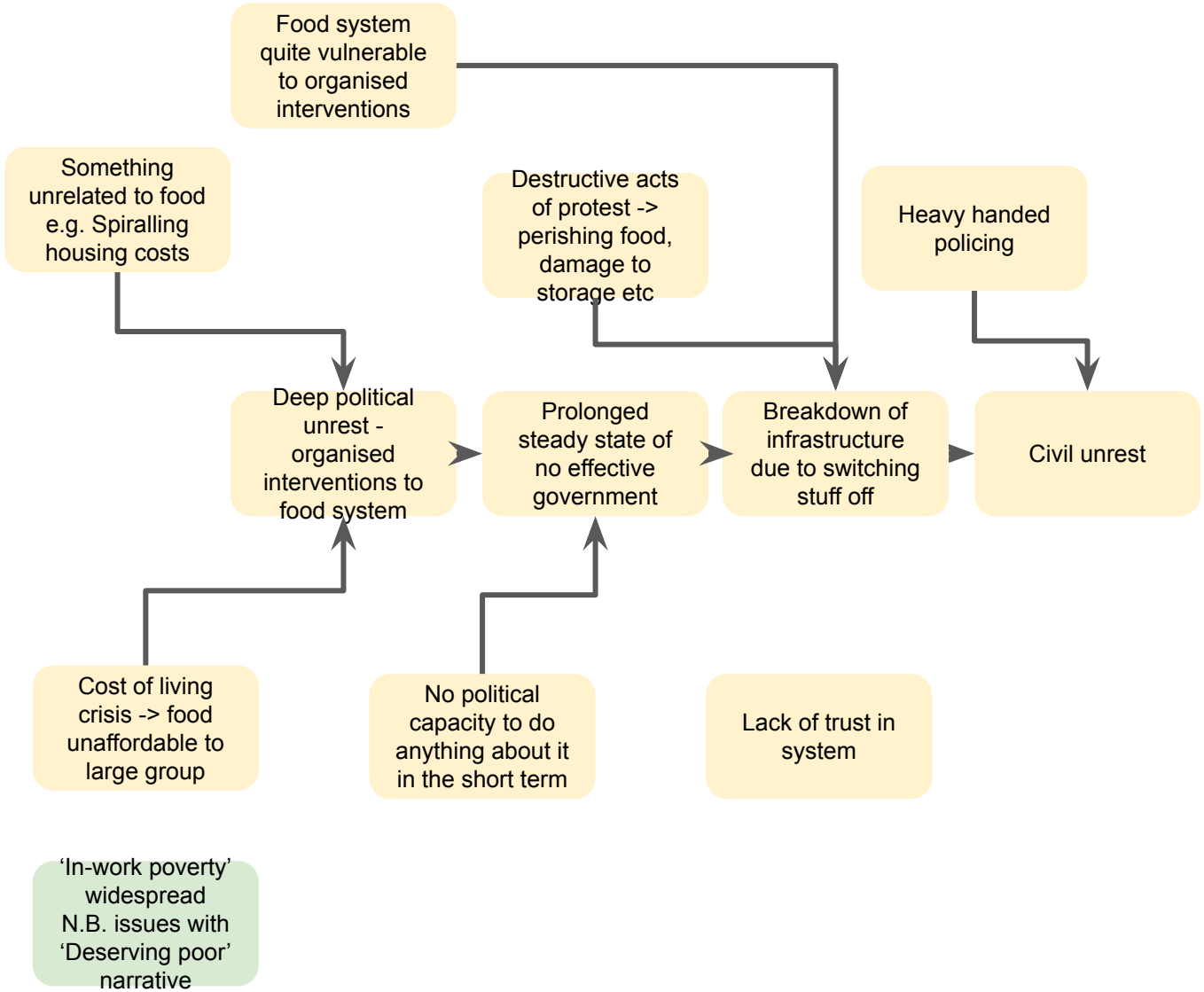


Raw pathways direct from interviews 1-14 follow

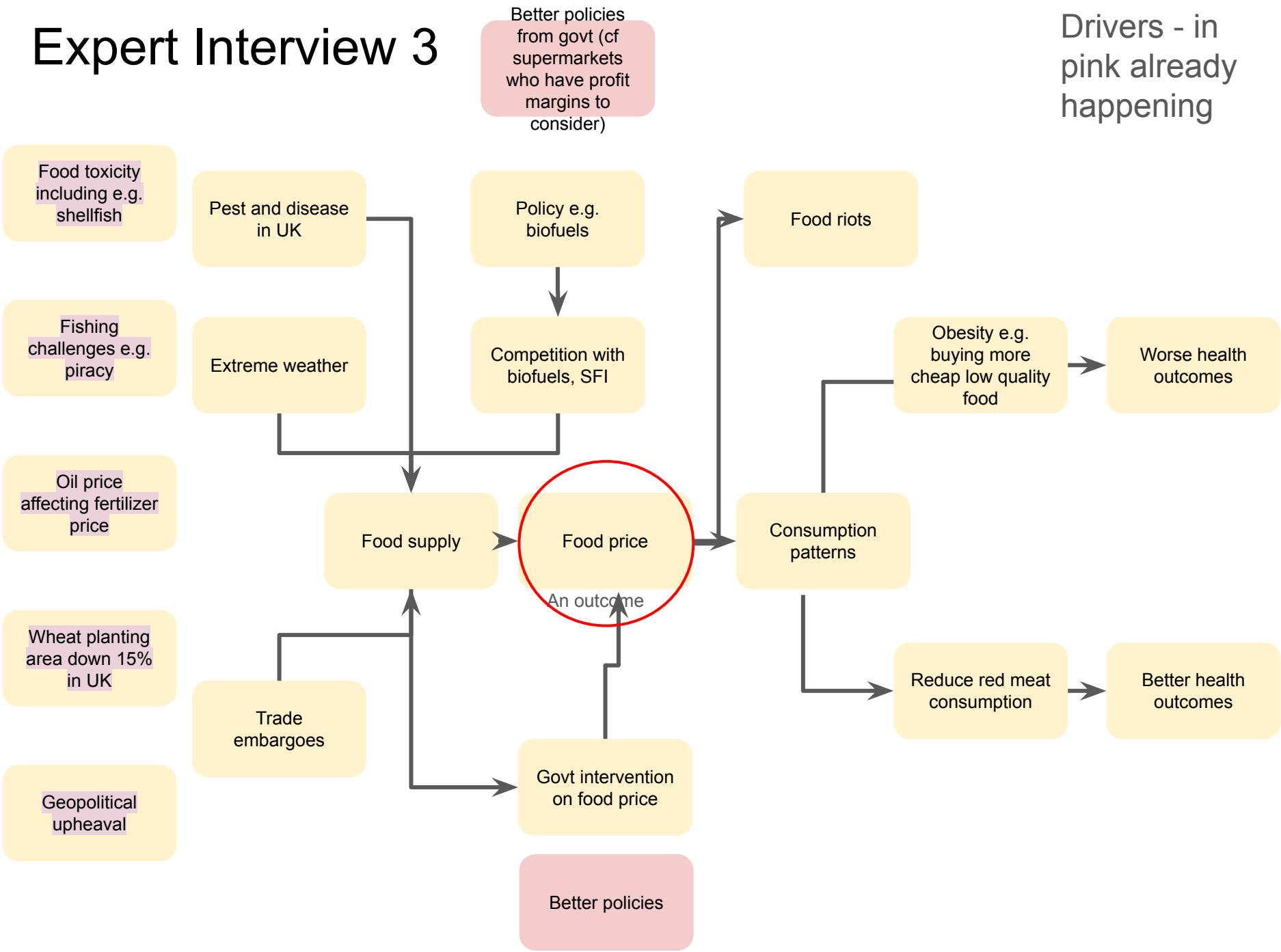
Expert Interview 1



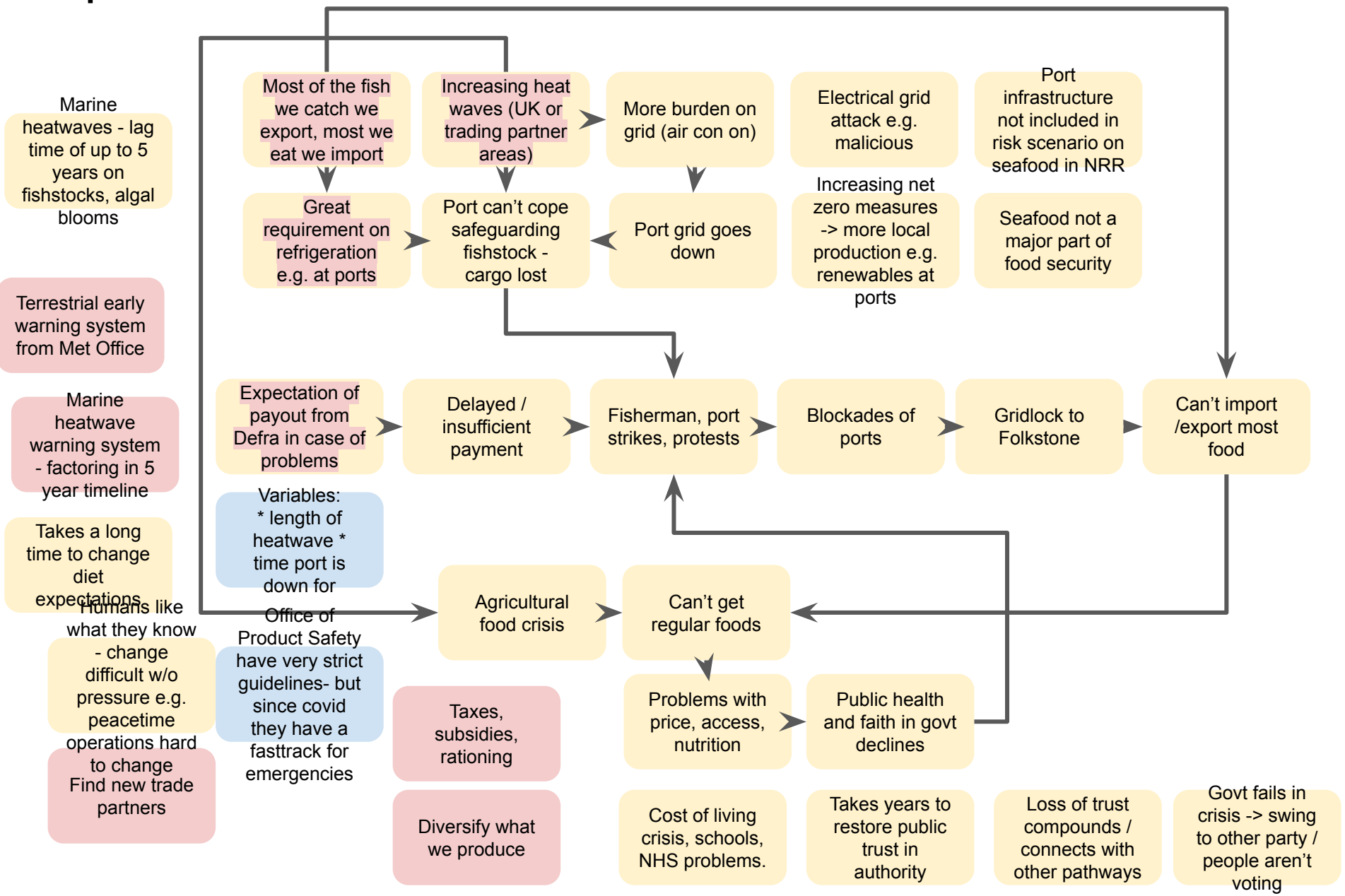
Expert Interview 2



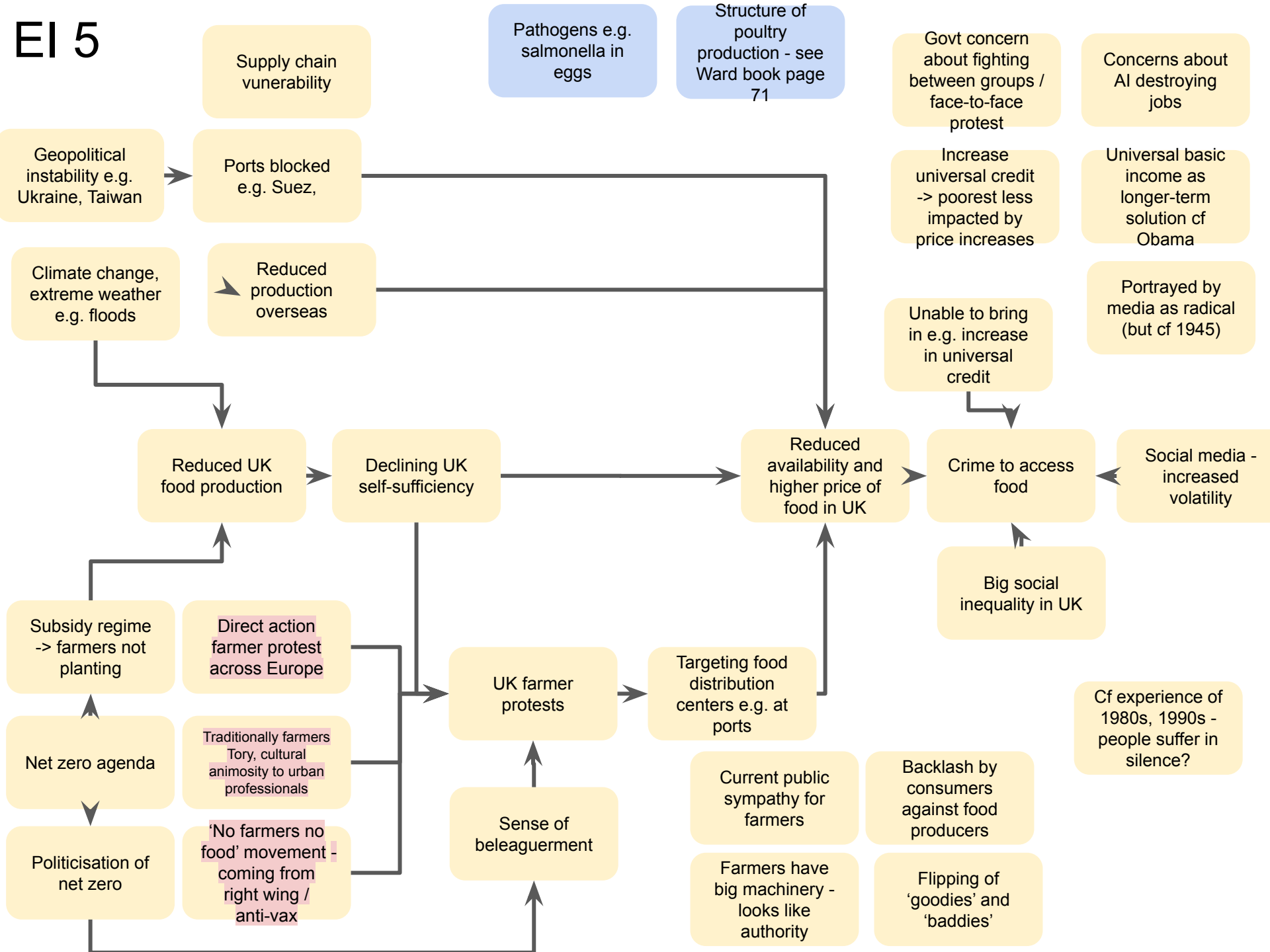
Expert Interview 3



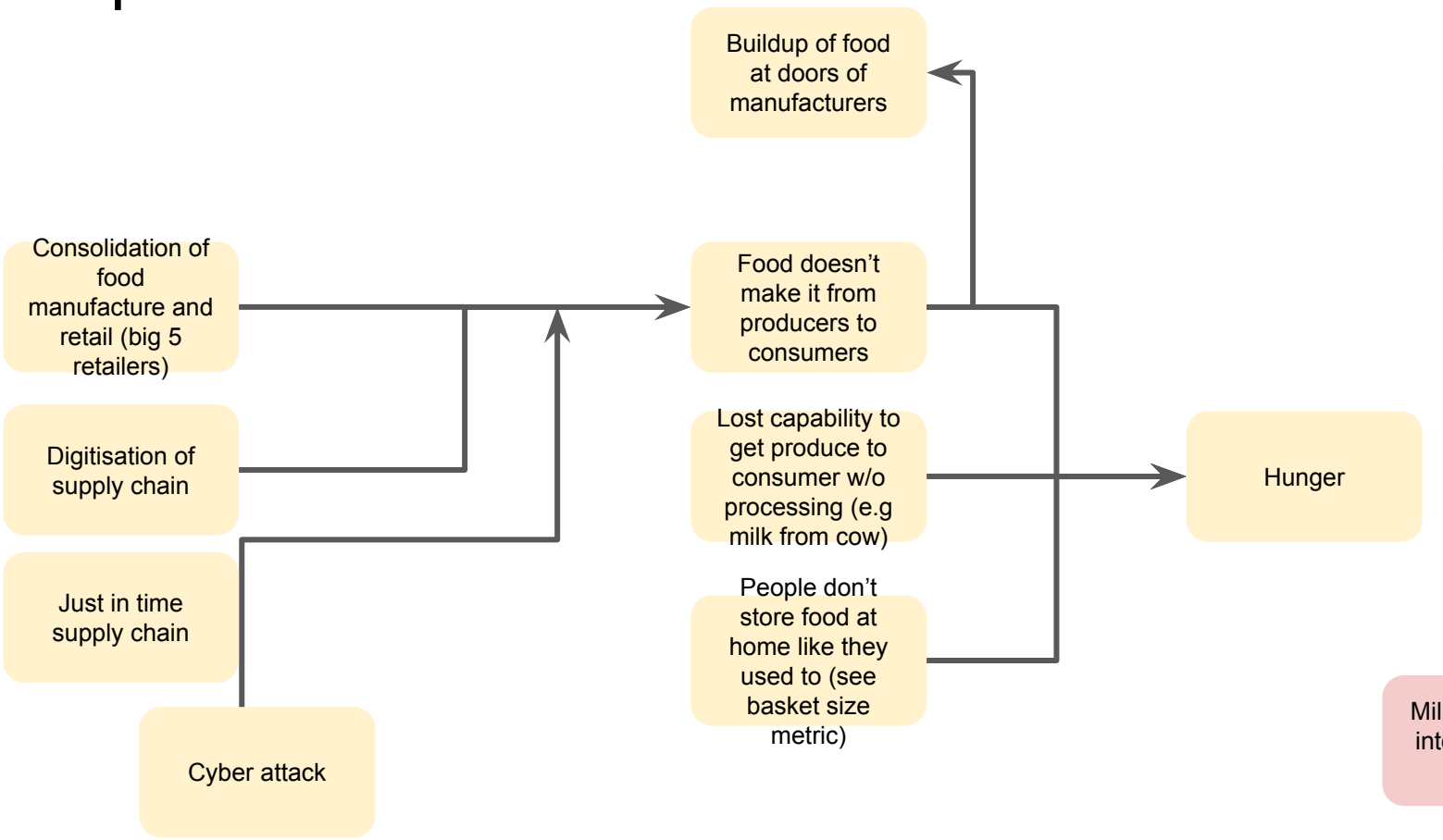
Expert Interview 4



EI 5


Supply chain vunerability
Pathogens e.g. salmonella in eggs
Structure of poultry production - see Ward book page 71
Govt concern about fighting between groups / face-to-face protest
Concerns about AI destroying jobs
Geopolitical instability e.g. Ukraine, Taiwan
Ports blocked e.g. Suez,
Increase universal credit -> poorest less impacted by price increases
Universal basic income as longer-term solution cf Obama
Climate change, extreme weather e.g. floods
Reduced production overseas
Portrayed by media as radical (but cf 1945)
Unable to bring in e.g. increase in universal credit
Reduced UK food production
Declining UK self-sufficiency
Reduced availability and higher price of food in UK
Crime to access food
Social media - increased volatility
Big social inequality in UK
Subsidy regime -> farmers not planting
Direct action farmer protest across Europe
UK farmer protests
Targeting food distribution centers e.g. at ports
Net zero agenda
Traditionally farmers Tory, cultural animosity to urban professionals
Cf experience of 1980s, 1990s - people suffer in silence?
Current public sympathy for farmers
Backlash by consumers against food producers
Politicisation of net zero
'No farmers no food' movement - coming from right wing / anti-vax
Sense of beleaguerment
Farmers have big machinery - looks like authority
Flipping of 'goodies' and 'baddies'

Expert Interview 6

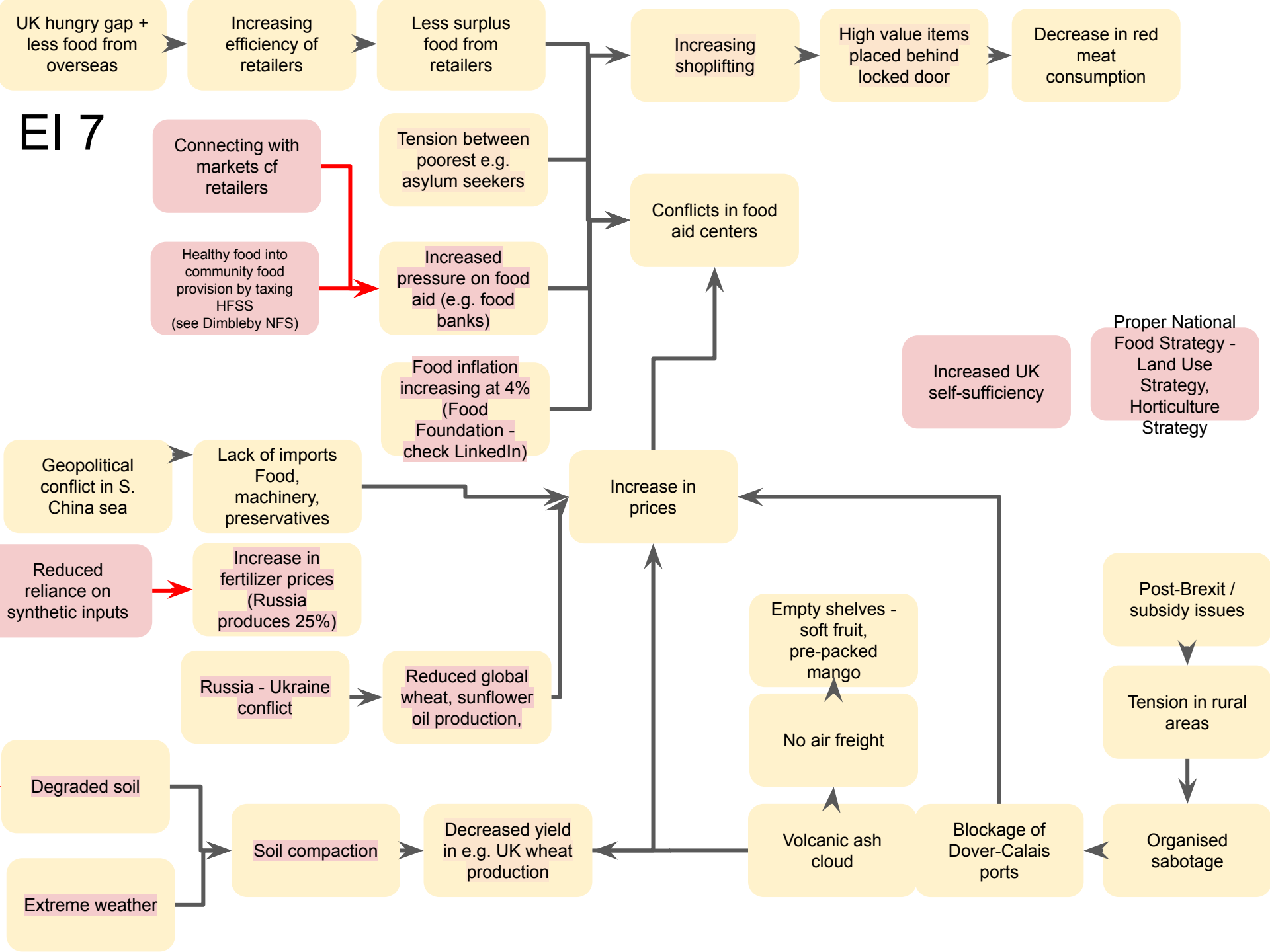


Learn from war-torn countries

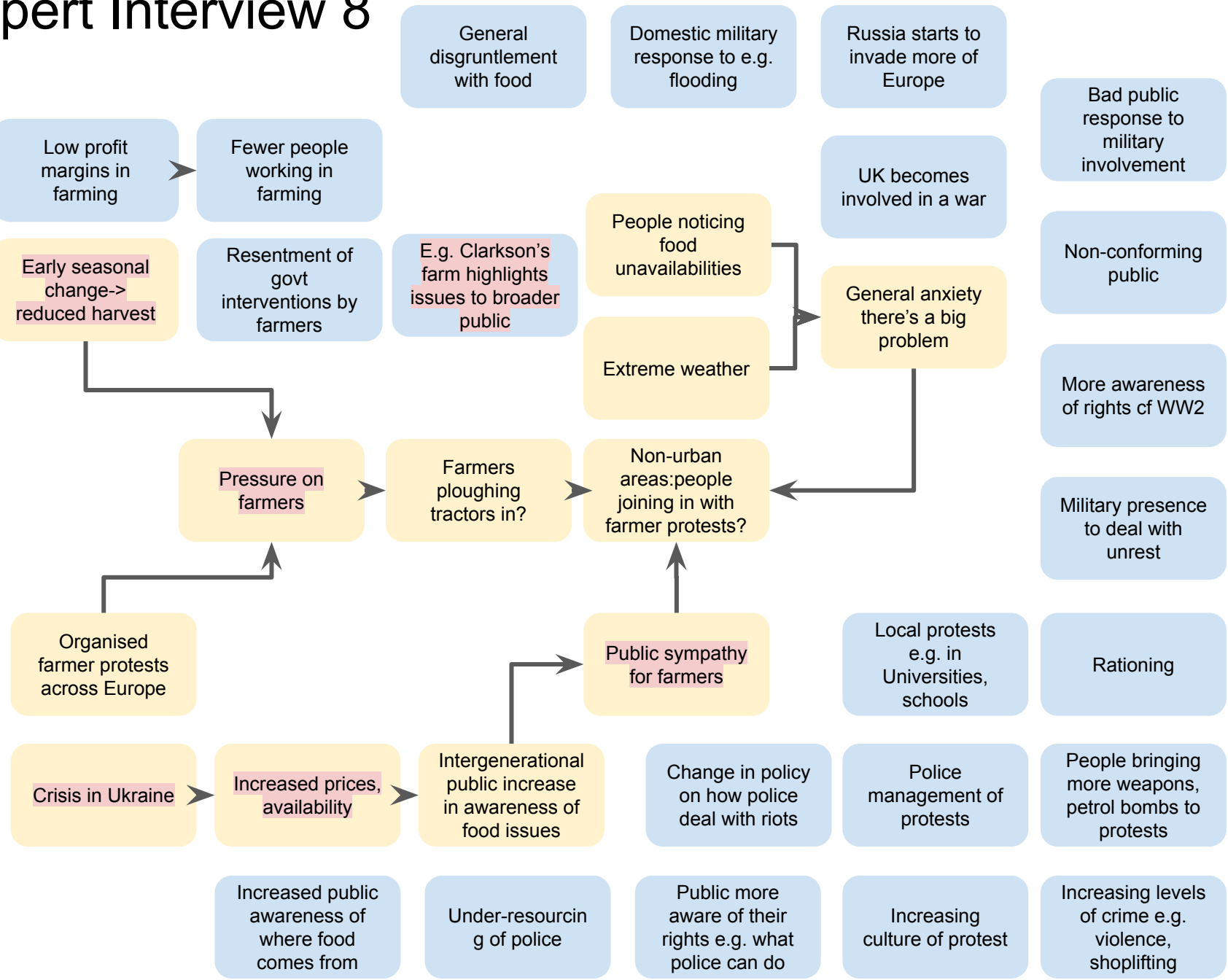
Learn from countries with hyper-inflation - t learn about impact f increased food prices

Milk tanker goes into town with a tap on it?

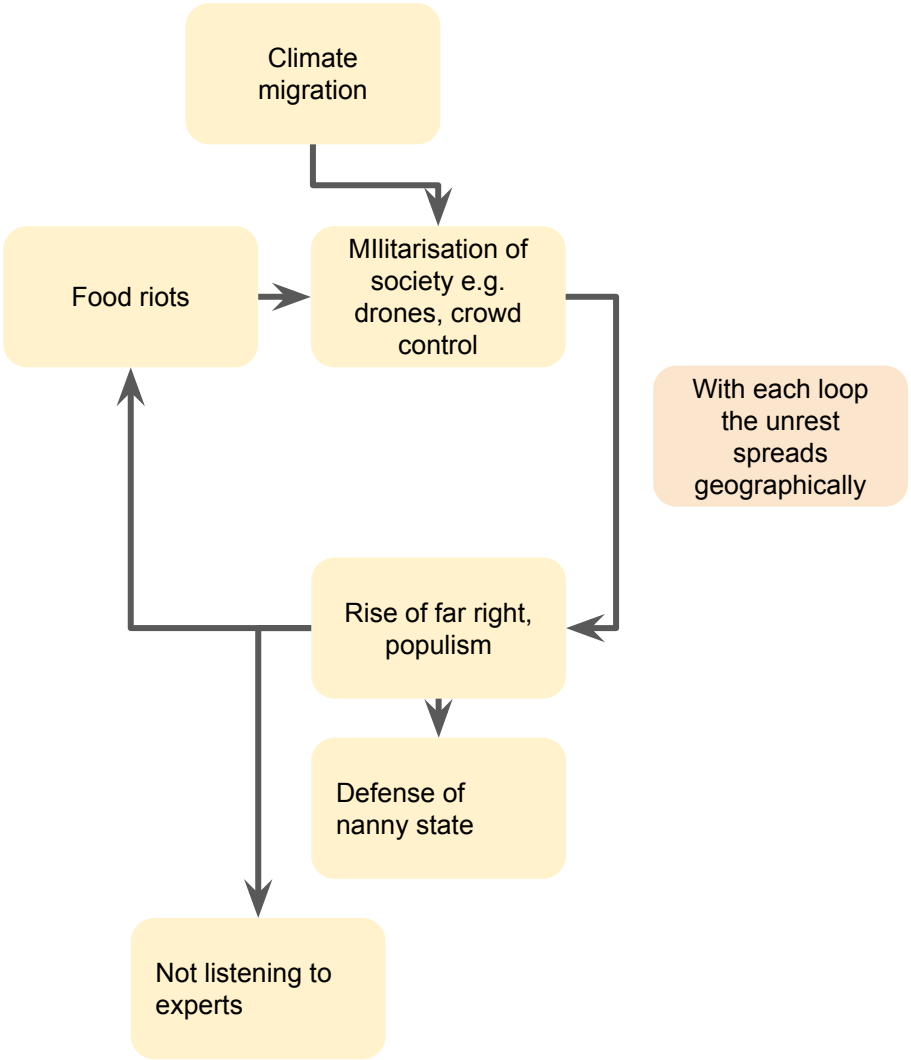
Govt sets up free food distribution bank?


EI 7
UK hungry gap + less food from overseas
Increasing efficiency of retailers
Less surplus food from retailers
Increasing shoplifting
High value items placed behind locked door
Decrease in red meat consumption
Connecting with markets cf retailers
Tension between poorest e.g. asylum seekers
Conflicts in food aid centers
Healthy food into community food provision by taxing HFSS (see Dimbleby NFS)
Increased pressure on food aid (e.g. food banks)
Food inflation increasing at 4% (Food Foundation - check LinkedIn)
Increased UK self-sufficiency
Proper National Food Strategy - Land Use Strategy, Horticulture Strategy
Geopolitical conflict in S. China sea
Lack of imports Food, machinery, preservatives
Increase in prices
Reduced reliance on synthetic inputs
Increase in fertilizer prices (Russia produces 25%)
Empty shelves - soft fruit, pre-packed mango
Post-Brexit / subsidy issues
Russia - Ukraine conflict
Reduced global wheat, sunflower oil production,
No air freight
Tension in rural areas
Degraded soil
Soil compaction
Decreased yield in e.g. UK wheat production
Volcanic ash cloud
Blockage of Dover-Calais ports
Organised sabotage
Extreme weather

Expert Interview 8



Expert Interview 9



Military already working on flooding

Media strategy - can come from academia

Learn from how Germany /Austria changed Mozart -> Nazis

Government communication strategy for crises

How the other half dies

Stockpiling (issue with social inequalities!)

Authoritarian regimes e.g. Russia, Middle East

Learn from other countries e.g. US, China

Scale of social inequalities

Public engagement on civil food resilience

Fear of talking about crises to public and in professional settings

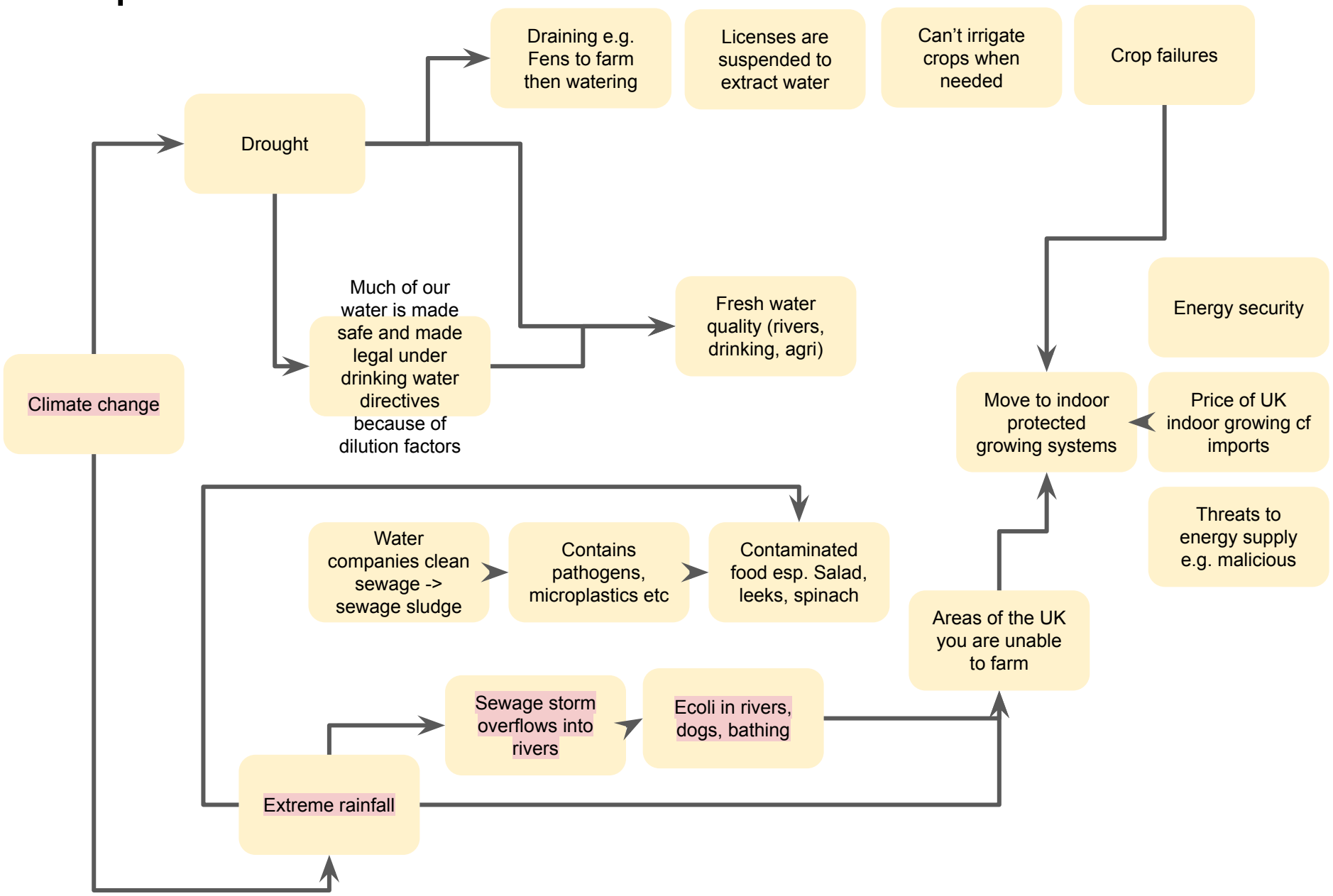
FSA to produce crisis rations

Learn from discourse on climate change - it does happen

Community emergency plans

Discussion with the public about food crises

Expert Interview 10



EI 11

Breakdown in cooperation

CASCADEs

Kelly parsons report - discontinuity

Ukraine - oil supply switched

Breadbasket countries in war

Local resilience hubs

African countries relying on Israeli tech

Skill and labour crisis

Reduction in 3rd spaces (non-work, home + free)

Online spaces, but lack of spontaneity

War (non nuclear)

Argentine soy supply / other

Trade restrictions

Extreme weather in uk and import countries

Lack of workers including cold chain

Social and economic safety nets compromised (people don't know their neighbors, have community hubs)

Online organising

Divesting from warring countries

Some countries unable to import wheat rice

Food prices go up

Patchy food security

Nothing left to lose

Unrest

Clear enemy? Food system diffuse

Cost of living crisis

How it is being policed?

Financial crimes e.g. speculation on crops

Clubcard data leaked

Food system heavily reliant on infrastructure

Roads, railways

Communication cables (electricity, telecoms)

Increase in net zero measures -> more electrification

Malicious interference to food safety, ports

Ransomware on retailers, processors

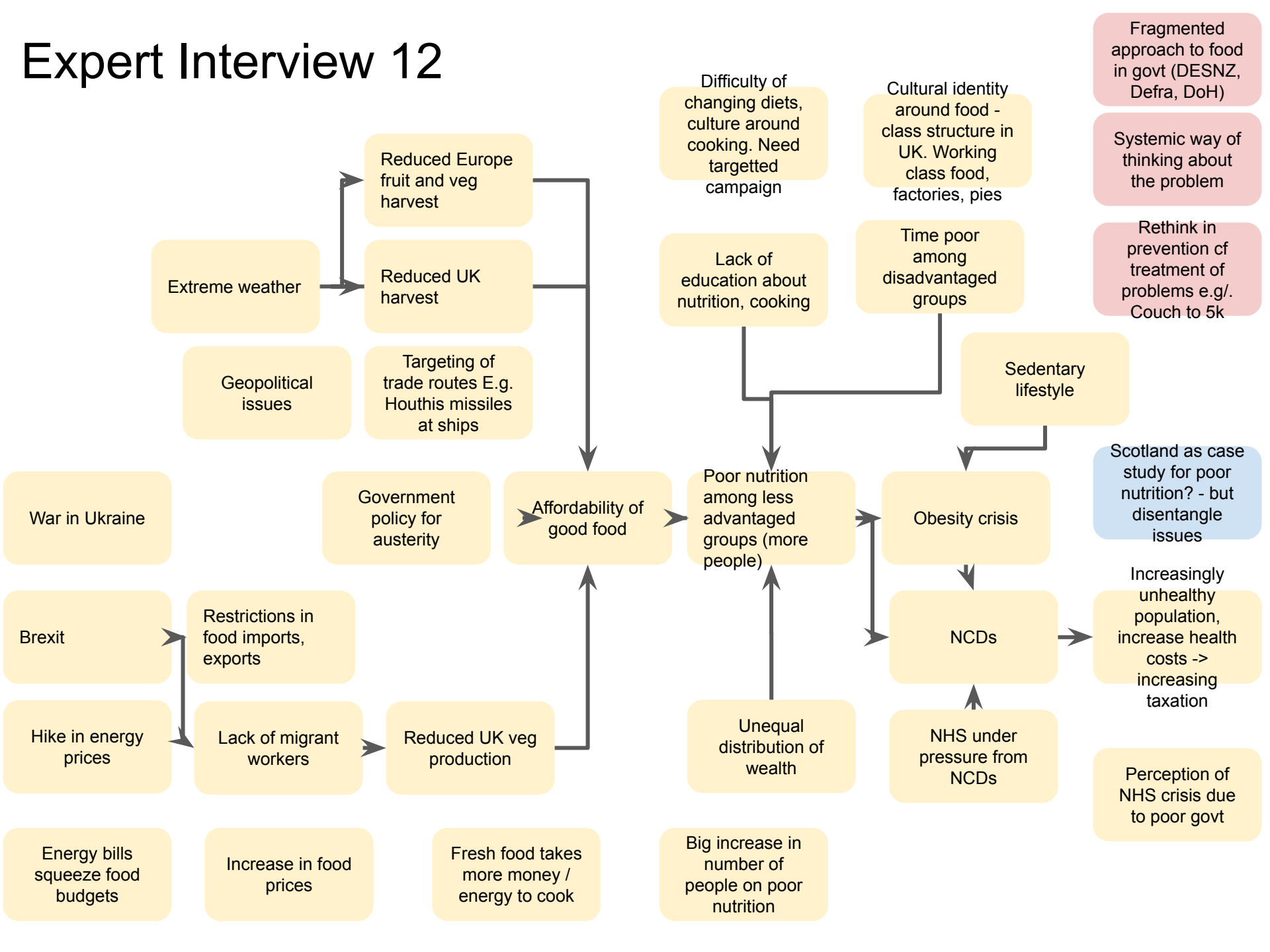
Which groups would riot in UK?

Food crisis definition - fear, anxiety?

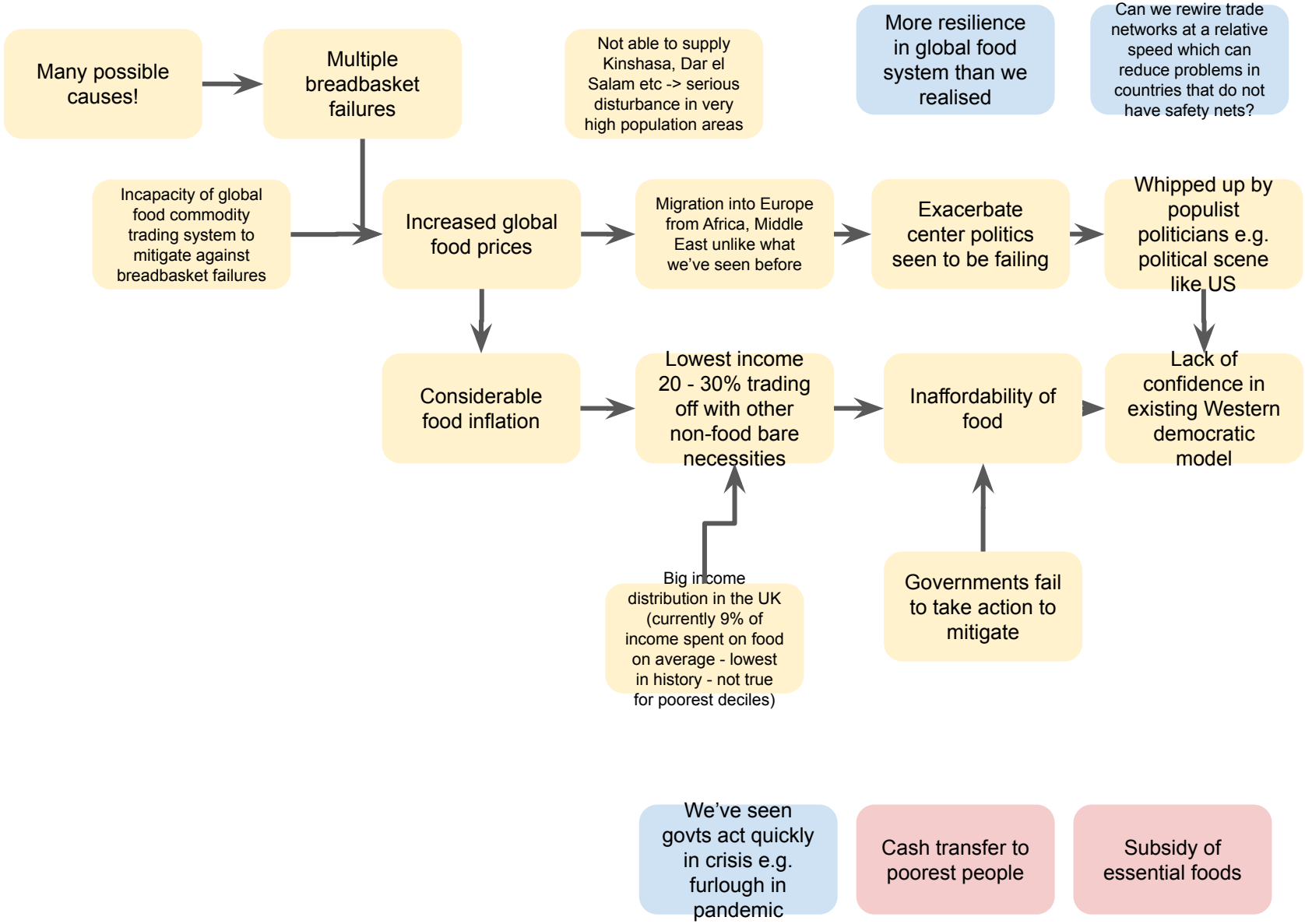
Rogue computing

Reducing investment in infrastructure

Expert Interview 12



Expert Interview 13



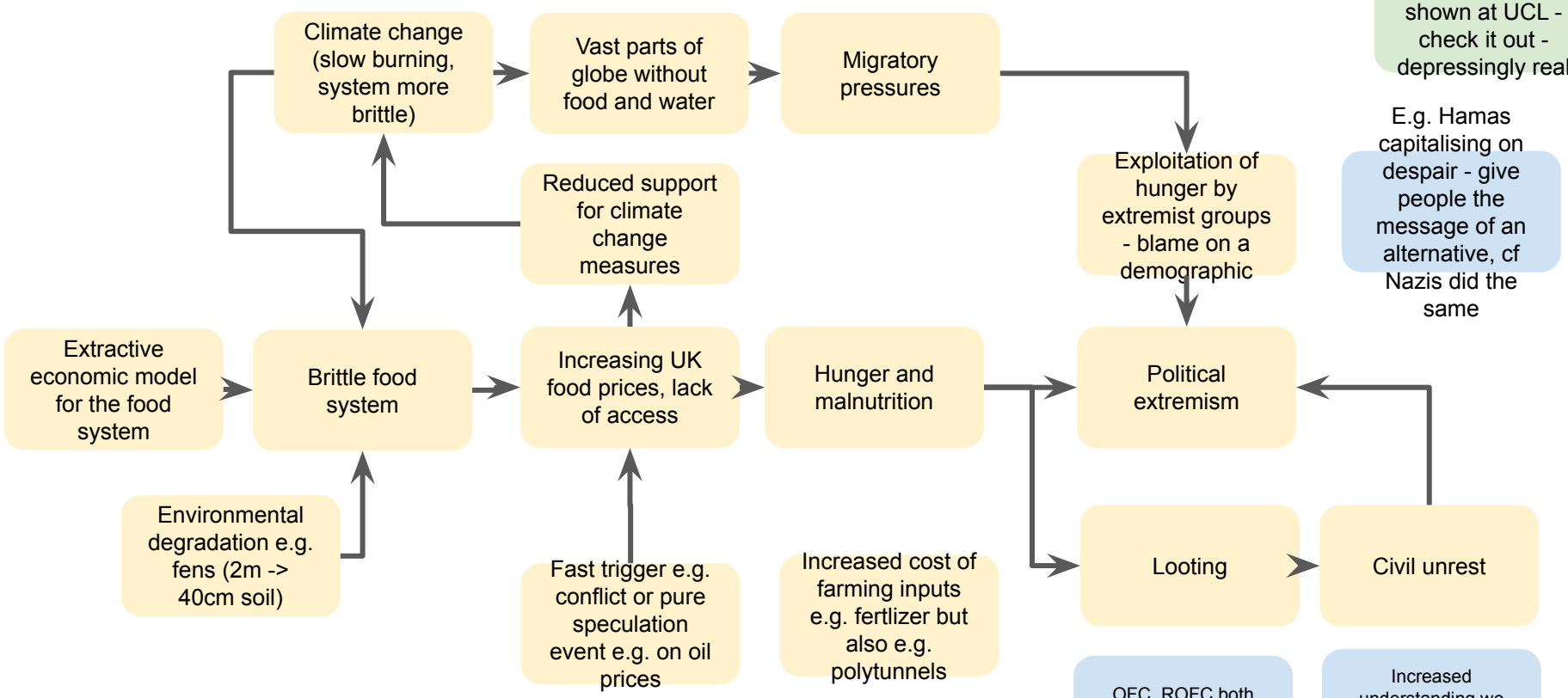
EI 14

Energy prices went down, food prices still high, supermarket profits up

Energy prices went down, food didn't - gatekeepers of food system can keep prices high

Israel-Gaza conflict about access to water, food

French revolution - not enough bread. Arab spring - not enough bread



The age of stupid - movie shown at UCL - check it out - depressingly real

E.g. Hamas capitalising on despair - give people the message of an alternative, cf Nazis did the same

OFC, ROFC both talking about regen ag now!

Increased understanding we need to work together

Extreme hot days e.g. 50 degrees = drought, hunger

Eike's graph of oil prices cf food prices in Arab spring - they matched

Distribution of potash around globe - half is in Canada, half in Belarus/Russia

How to build consensus around environment? E.g. stop eating meat or else.

Conversation starting to happen e.g. engineers looking at indigenous watering techniques - how to learn from past agri techniques - indigenous

Big lie; technology is going to fix everything w/o having to change things. Big lie: human and nature are separate. Big lie: humans in different groups.