

Perception of radiological risk mental models

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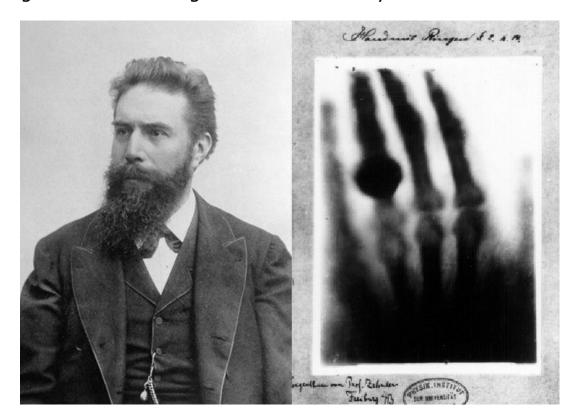








Fig. 1 Wilhelm Röntgen discovered X-rays in 1895





Henri Becquerel, Marie Curie and Pierre Curie discover radioactivity in 1898

Fig. 2. Marie Curie (ca. 1920)



Fig. 3. Pierre Curie (1923)





From 1898 to 1950s mental model





Fig. 4. Pedoscope, England 1930-1955 Fig. 5. Advertisement for the pedoscope (ca. 1951)



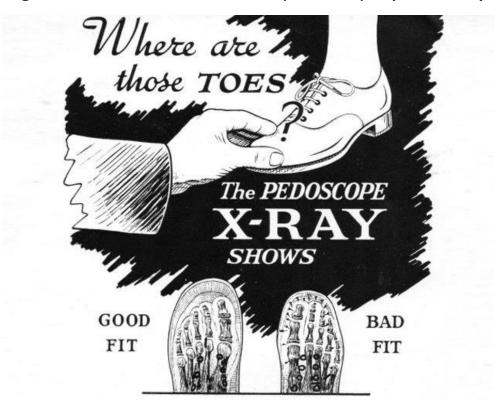




Fig. 6. Tho-Radia cream and powder poster (ca. 1933)

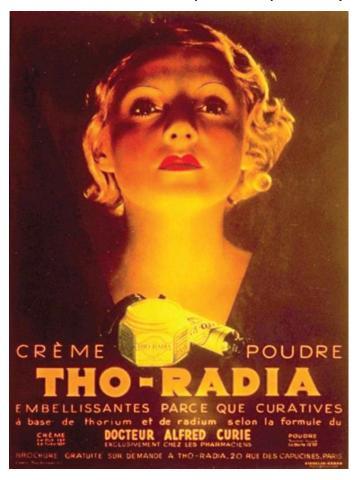




Fig. 7. "Água Radium – the most radioactive water in Portugal" (ca. 1933)





Experts interviewed

Mário Reis (Radiological Protection and Security Group, Técnico Lisboa) – environment radioactivity

Isabel Paiva (Radiological Protection and Security Group, Técnico Lisboa) –radioactive waste and sealed sources management



Octávia Gil (Radiological Protection and Security Group, Técnico Lisboa) – biological effects of ionizing radiation

Armin Ansari (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA) - radiological assessment





Elisabete Freitas (Laboratory of Instrumentation and Experimental Particle Physics - LIP, University of Coimbra, Portugal) – instrumentation for X ray detection



Vitaly Chepel (LIP, University of Coimbra, Portugal; graduated in Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Russia) - technologies in radiation detection

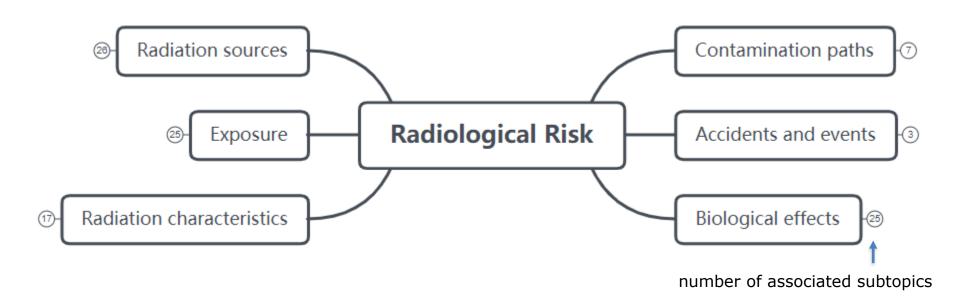


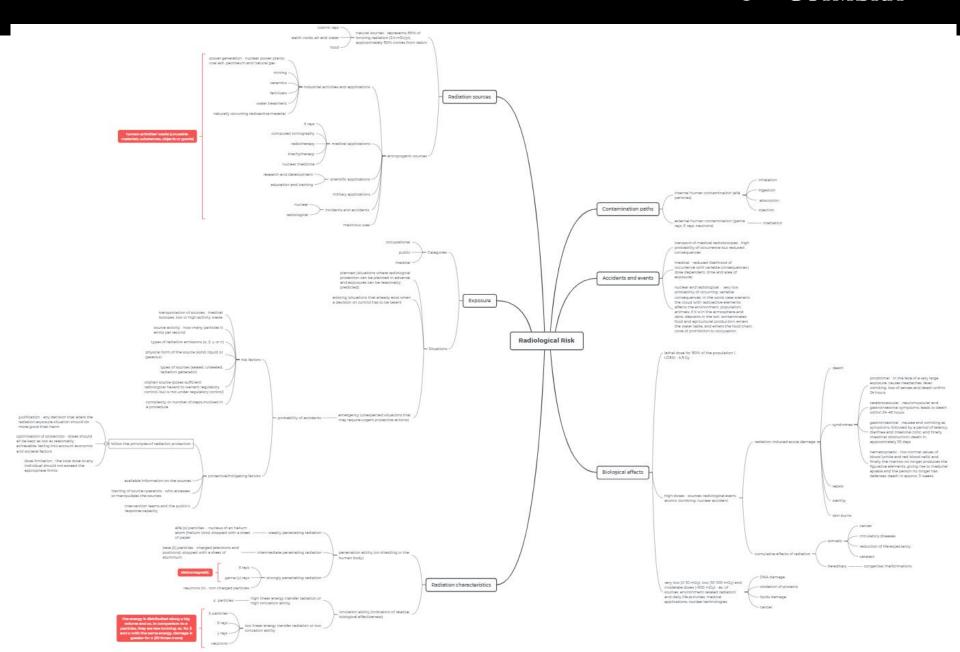
Luís Prudêncio (Santa Maria University Hospital, Portugal) - health physics



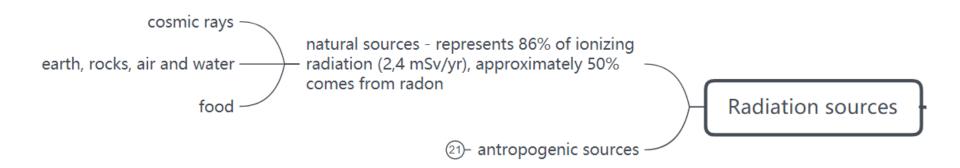


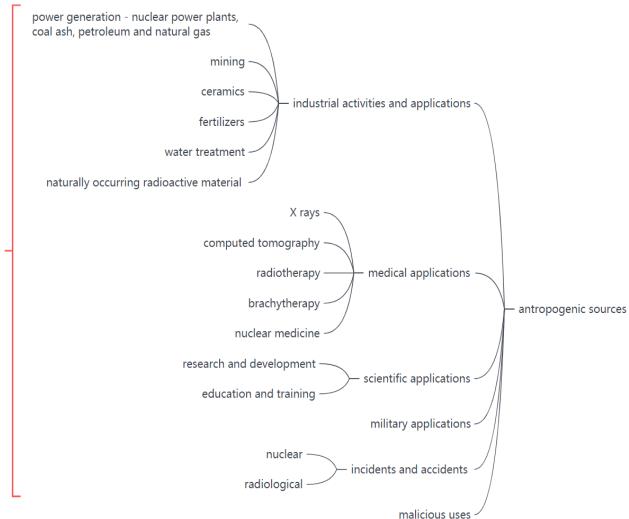
Present day experts mental model







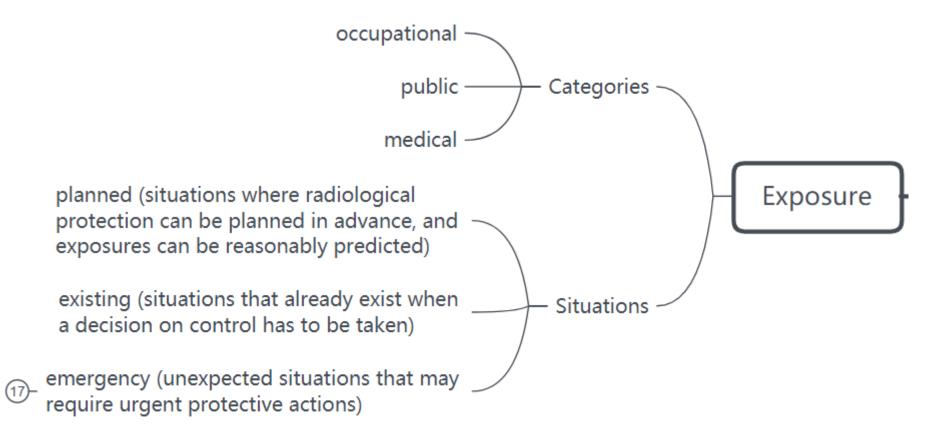




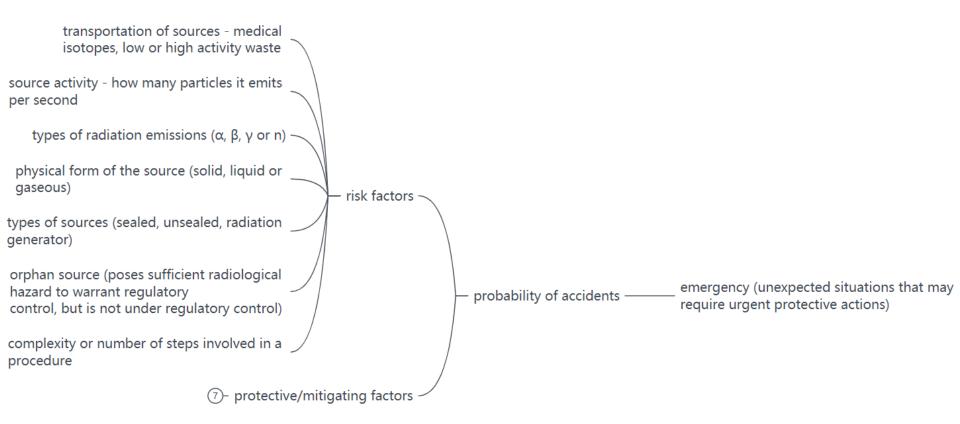
human activities' waste (unusable materials, substances, objects or goods)

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justification - any decision that alters the radiation exposure situation should do more good than harm

optimisation of protection - doses should all be kept as low as reasonably achievable, taking into account economic and societal factors

dose limitation - the total dose to any individual should not exceed the appropriate limits

follow the principles of radiation protection

available information on the sources

training of source operators - who accesses or manipulates the sources

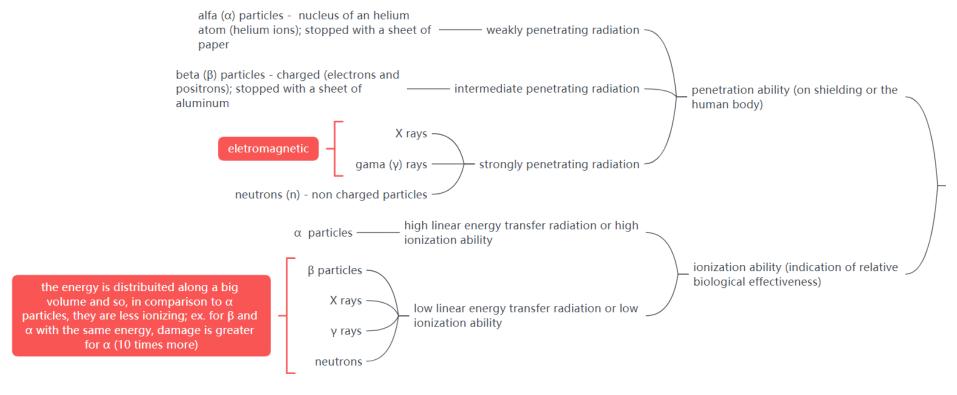
intervention teams and the public's response capacity

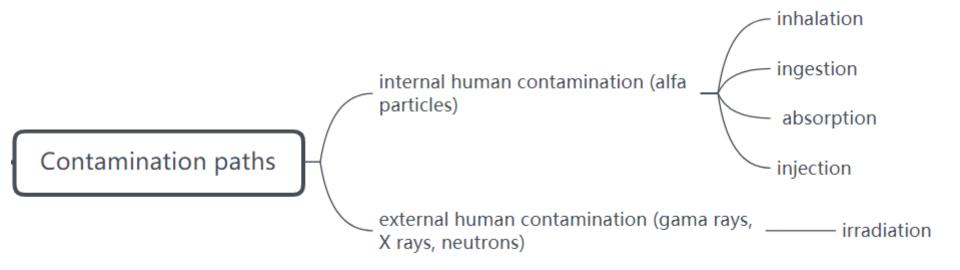
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Radiation characteristics







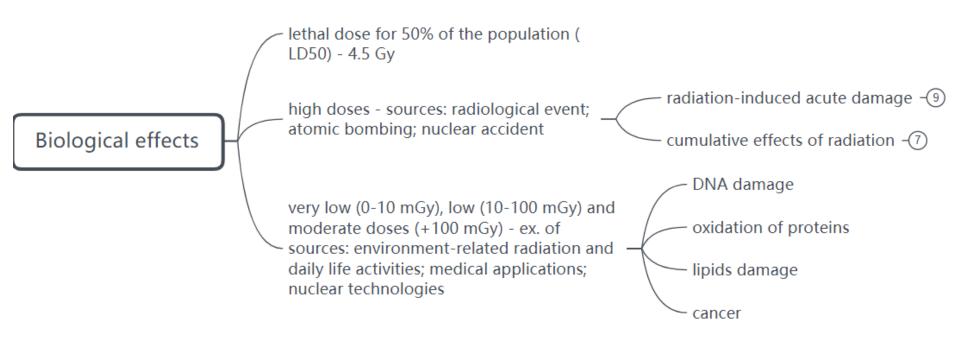
Accidents and events

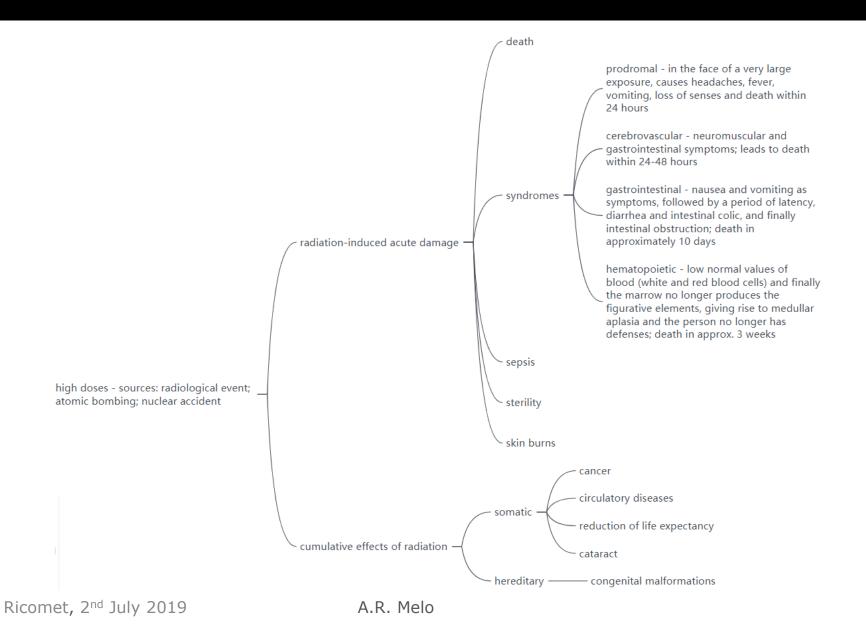
transport of medical radioisotopes - high probability of occurrence but reduced consequences

medical - reduced likelihood of occurrence with variable consequences (dose dependent, time and area of exposure)

nuclear and radiological - very low probability of occurring; variable consequences; in the worst case scenario, the cloud with radioactive elements affects the environment, population, animals; if it is in the atmosphere and rains, deposits in the soil, contaminates food and agricultural production, enters the water table, and enters the food chain; zone of prohibition to occupation









Public perception about ionizing radiation

Past Present Future









Figures credits

- 1. Röntgen and his X Ray https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X-ray
- 2. Marie Curie https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marie Curie#/media/Ficheiro:Marie Curie c1920.png
- 3. Pierre Curie https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/9f/Curie-pierre.jpg
- 4. Pedoscope http://broughttolife.sciencemuseum.org.uk/broughttolife/objects/display?id=92774
- 5. Pedoscope's advertisement- http://shoegazing.se/english/2018/09/18/history-x-ray-shoe-fitting-machine/
- 6. Codman's publication https://archive.org/stream/philadelphiamedi09philuoft#page/438/mode/2up
- 7. Edison and his assistant in the press https://newspaperarchive.com/new-york-world-aug-03-1903-p-1/
- 8. Tho-Radia Cream card http://www.larevuedupraticien.fr/histoire-de-la-medecine/le-mystere-tho-radia