



What Is a Global Polycrisis?

And how is it different from a systemic risk?

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We define a **global polycrisis** as any combination of three or more interacting systemic risks with the potential to cause a cascading, runaway failure of Earth's natural and social systems that irreversibly and catastrophically degrades humanity's prospects.

A **systemic risk** is a threat emerging within one natural, technological, or social system with impacts extending beyond that system to endanger the functionality of one or more other systems.

A global polycrisis, should it occur, will inherit the four core properties of systemic risks—extreme complexity, high nonlinearity, transboundary causality, and deep uncertainty—while also exhibiting causal synchronization among risks.