

Cambridge Centre for Risk Studies – New York Risk Briefing  
April 30, 2015

# Financial Risk Scenarios

## Could Your Portfolio Hold Up?

Centre for  
**Risk Studies**





# Financial Risk Scenarios: Could Your Portfolio Hold Up?

Cambridge Centre for Risk Studies - New York Risk Briefing - April 30, 2015

## Welcome

Centre for  
**Risk Studies**



UNIVERSITY OF  
**CAMBRIDGE**  
Judge Business School

**Dr Michelle Tuveson**

Executive Director  
Centre for Risk Studies



# Agenda

Welcome

*Dr Michelle Tuveson*

Financial Stress Testing

*Dr Andrew Coburn*

Global Property Crash:  
Narrative and Impacts

*Mr Simon Ruffle*

Global Property Crash:  
Financial Market and Portfolio Impacts

*Dr Eugene Neduv*

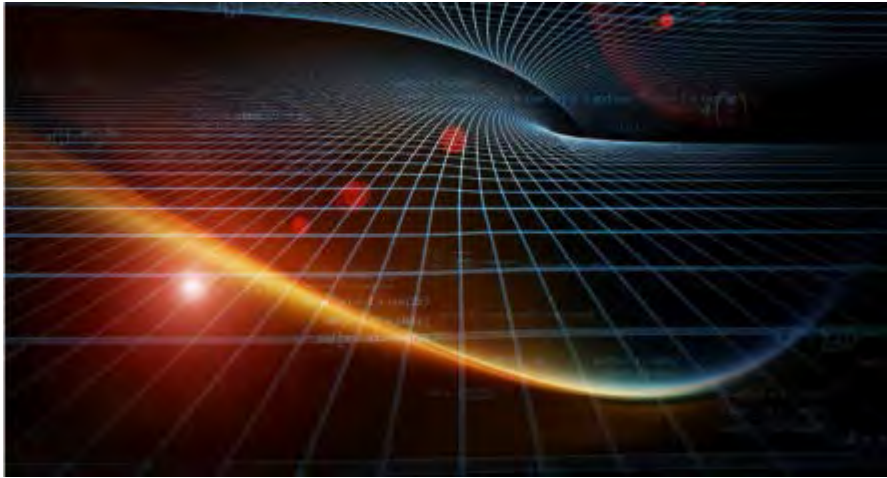
Managing a Multiplicity of Financial  
Market Catastrophes

*Prof Danny Ralph*

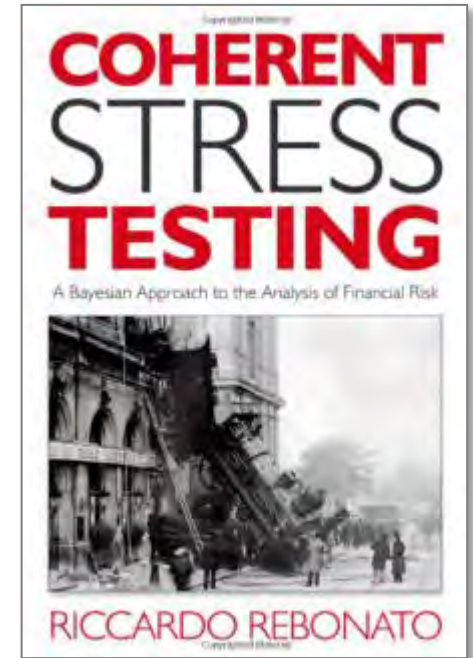
Audience Q/A



# Stress Testing Focus for Our Annual Conference

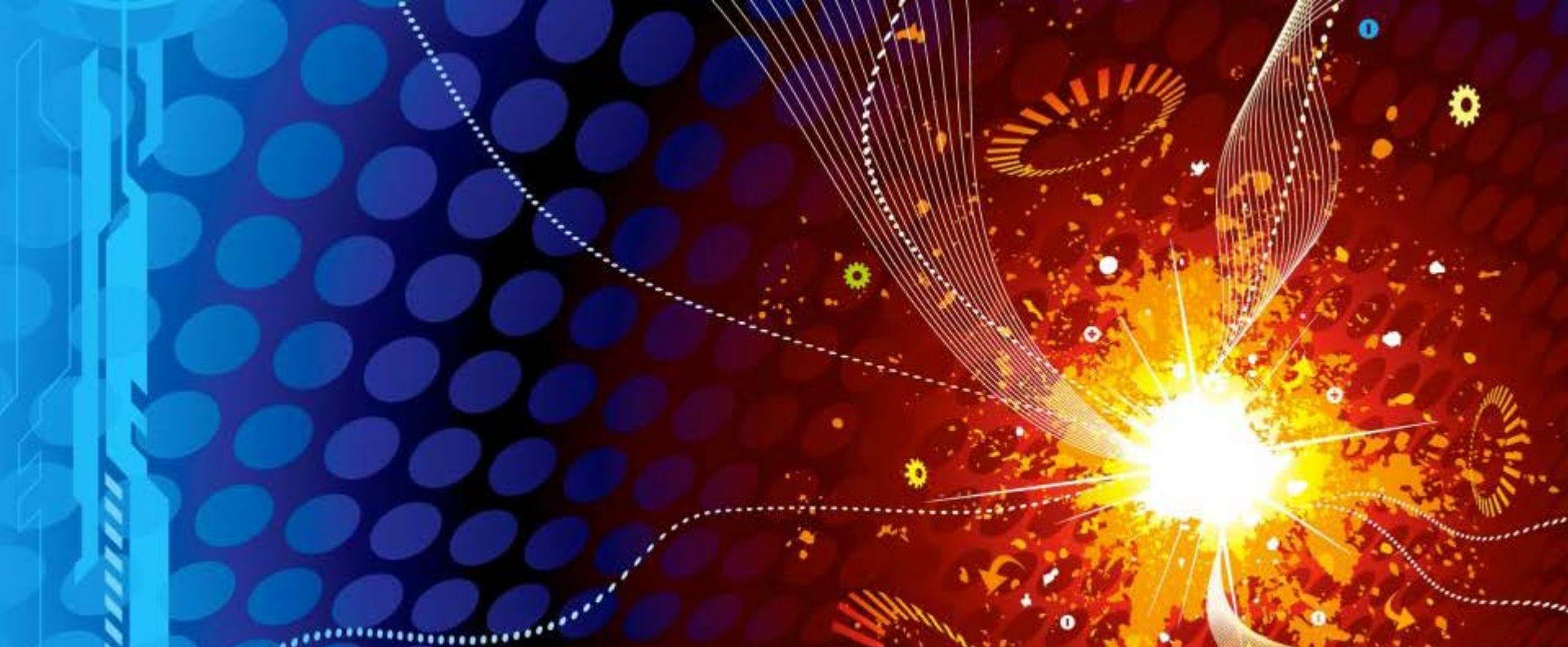


- Cambridge Centre for Risk Studies 2015 Risk Summit
- June 22 & 23, 2015
- Cambridge, United Kingdom
- **'Risk Testing: Stressing the boundaries'**
- Venue for discussions about new approaches to stress testing



Guest speakers include  
Riccardo Rebonato  
author of  
***Coherent Stress Testing***





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# Financial Stress Testing

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**Dr Andrew Coburn**

Director of Advisory Board  
Centre for Risk Studies



# Stress Testing: Recent Controversy

## The New York Times

### *U.S. Banks Pass Stress Tests, Some With an Asterisk*

By PETER FAVIS MARCH 11 2015

All the large United States banks passed an annual regulatory test that aims to assess whether they can make it through a financial and economic calamity, the [Federal Reserve](#) said on Wednesday.

revelations about Europe's biggest banks. But some wondered whether the relatively sanguine results meant that the health exam was **not tough enough**, despite the central bank's promises that the assessments would be rigorous.

In Britain, the major banks all passed the stress test comfortably.

stress tests, widely criticized as too easy

"The banks have been working hard to pass the stress tests just like any other examination," said Bert Ely, an independent banking analyst. "That is one of the criticisms of the tests — that **they've become too predictable.**"

## The New York Times

INVESTMENT BANKING | LEGAL/REGULATORY NYT NOW

### Just 13 Banks Fail E.C.B. Stress Test, in Possible Economic Turning Point

By JACK EWING October 26, 2014 7:00 am

28 COMMENTS

## FINANCIAL TIMES

November 3, 2014 10:59 pm

### Stress test assumptions were not particularly stressful

## The New York Times

### European Bank Stress Tests Worked: Sort Of

By MARK EWING  
Updated: Oct. 26, 2014



# Stress Testing Issues

- Stress tests are criticized for being
  - Not tough enough
    - Just a marketing exercise to increase public confidence in banks
  - Unrealistic
    - One-dimensional
    - Not 'coherent'
    - Poor assumptions
  - Extremely time consuming and resource intensive to perform
  - Too predictable
  - Out of date by the time they are done



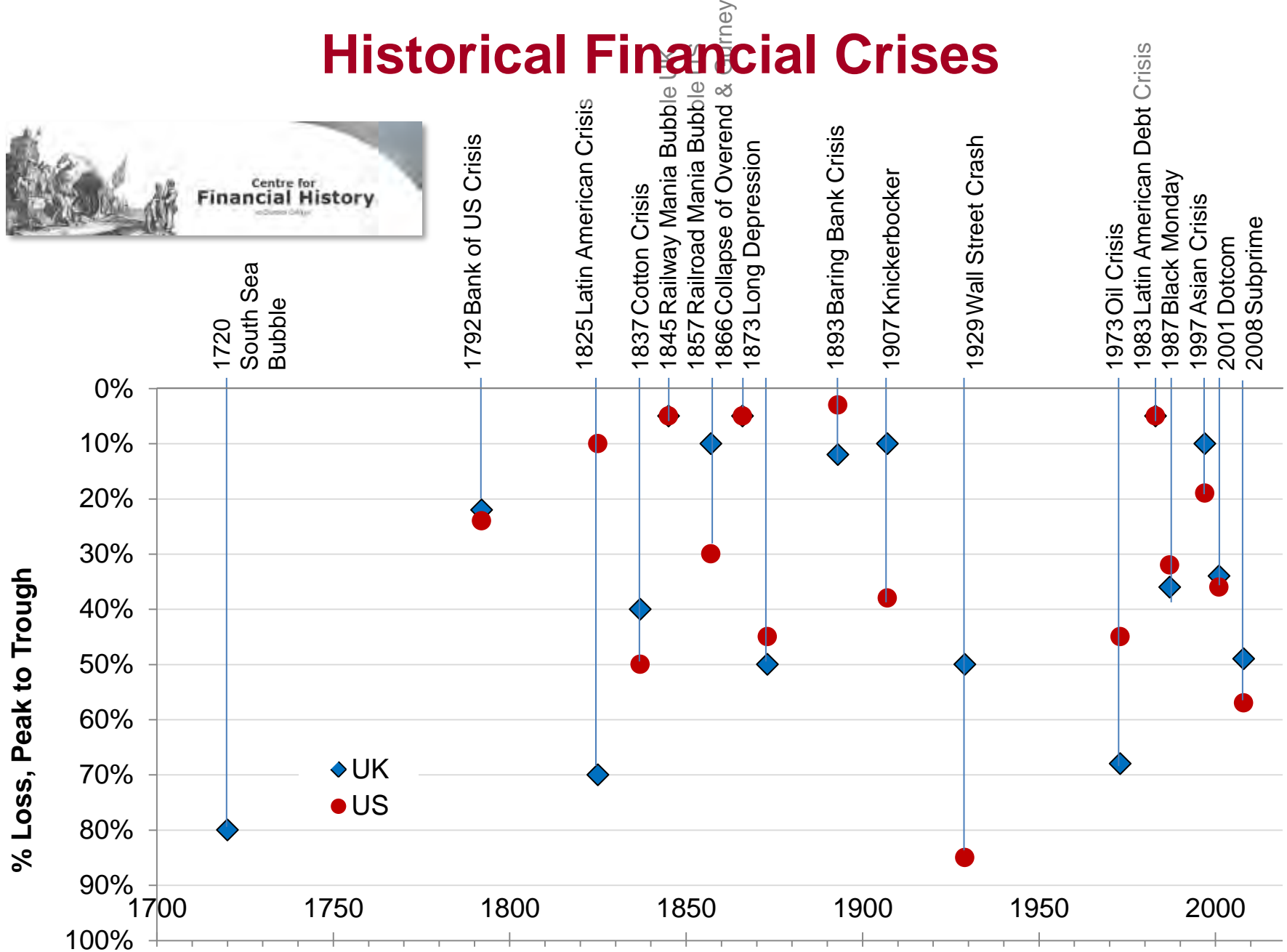
# Stress Testing Issues

The current debate includes

- How severe should stress tests be?
- What levels of severity reassure the market?
- What levels of security do we want our financial institutions to represent?
  - We have explicit standards of failure tolerance in many other aspects of society's critical infrastructure
  - What should our 'failure tolerance' standard be for banks?
- Can stress tests tell us about lower returns that result from lower risk?
- What can financial institutions learn from other disciplines about their use of stress testing?



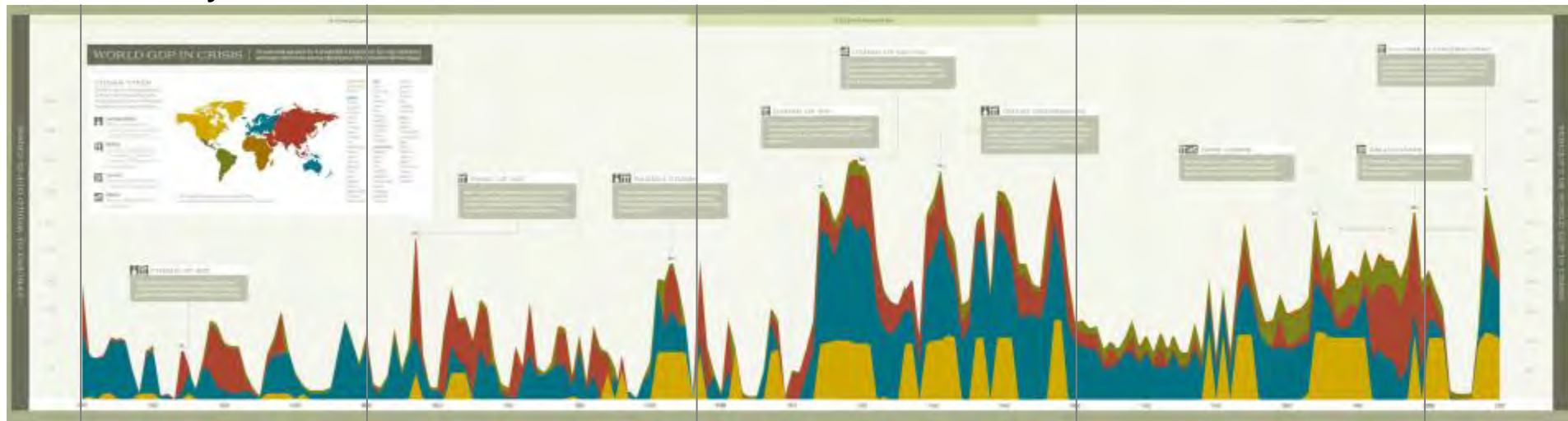
# Historical Financial Crises





# Some Crises are More Common than Others

## History of General Financial Crises



## History of Sovereign Defaults



- 182 Sovereign defaults since 1810 (one every 1.2 yrs)
- Usually come in cascading waves of defaults



# Financial Crises Have Become More Common

	Start Date	End Date	No. Events	Duration	Average Interval
All catalog	1720	1792	17	288	<b>16.9</b>
17C-late 20C	1720	1973	12	253	<b>21.1</b>
Post 1970s	1973	2014	5	41	<b>8.2</b>

- Globalization is making crashes more systemic
  - National markets have always had their own crises periodically
  - Globalization has tended to mitigate localized crises – fewer small local crises
  - But bigger local crises now infect more markets, drawing on capital from many other markets
- Interconnectedness is increasing correlation and the potential for global crashes

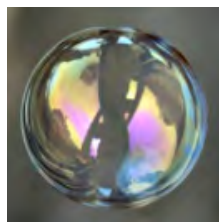


# What Causes Financial Crises?

- Qualitatively different causes of **endogenous** financial shocks



Financial Shock



Asset  
Bubble



Sovereign  
Default



Bank  
Run



Market  
Crash



Financial  
Irregularity



Flash  
Crash

Based on Allen & Gale 2009,  
**Understanding Financial Crises**



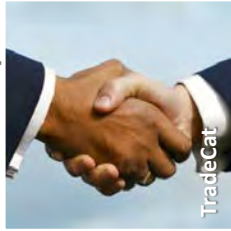
# Plus 'Exogenous' Causes of Financial Crises

## Endogenous

### Financial Shock



### Trade Dispute



### Geopolitical Conflict



### Political Violence



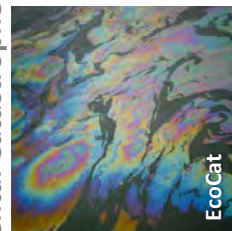
### Natural Catastrophe



### Climatic Catastrophe



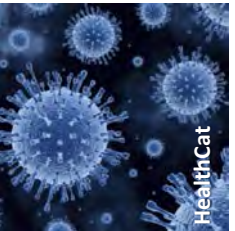
### Environmental Catastrophe



### Technological Catastrophe



### Disease Outbreak



### Humanitarian Crisis



### Externality



### Other





# Cambridge Stress Test Scenarios for Portfolios

## Exogenous



Geopolitical Conflict  
**China-Japan  
War**



Pandemic  
**Sao Paolo  
Virus**



Cyber Catastrophe  
**Sybil  
Logic Bomb**



Social Unrest  
**Millennial  
Uprising**

## Endogenous



Asset Bubble  
**Global Property  
Crash**



Sovereign Default  
**Eurozone  
Meltdown**



High-Inflation  
**Food and Energy  
Price Spiral**



De-Americanization  
**Dollar  
Deposed**

## Historical



1929 Crash  
**Wall Street  
Crash**



1907 Bankers Panic  
**Knickerbocker  
Crisis**



1980s Debt Crisis  
**Latin American  
Debt Crisis**



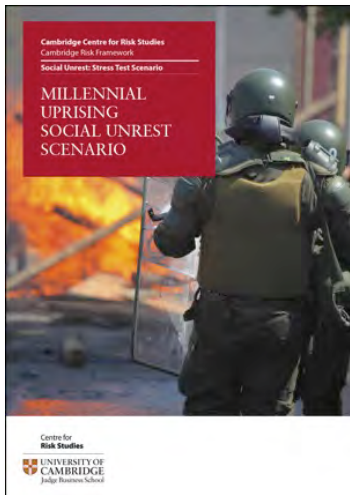
Panic of 1893  
**Baring Bank  
Crisis**



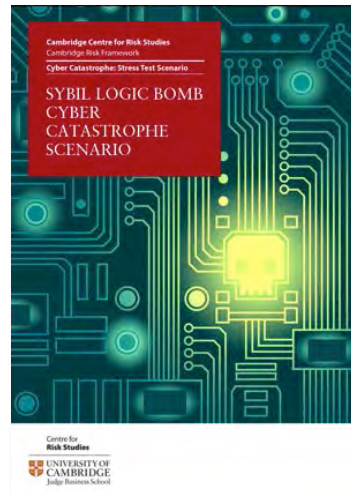
# Published Reports on Stress Test Scenarios



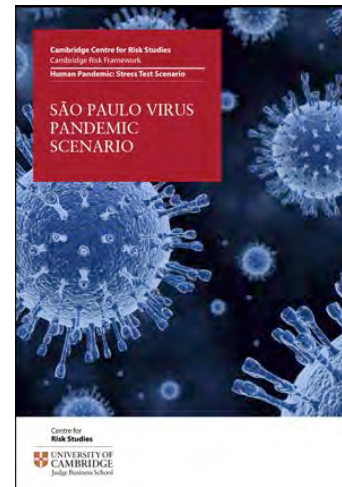
## Taxonomy of Threats



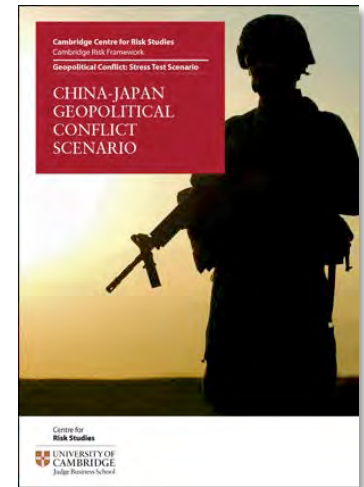
## Social Unrest Stress Test Scenario



## Cyber Catastrophe Stress Test Scenario



## Pandemic Stress Test Scenario



## Geopolitical Conflict Stress Test Scenario

Available for Download from Website:  
[CambridgeRiskFramework.com](https://CambridgeRiskFramework.com)



# The 2015 Financial Risk and Network Seminar



- **Wednesday September 9, 2015**
- Venue: University of Cambridge, UK
- In collaboration with **Journal of Network Theory in Finance**
- Many papers from key players in the field presenting cutting-edge research
- Attendees include
  - Regulators
  - Financial practitioners
  - Academics
- Keynotes include central banks presenting their techniques for assessing systemic risk and capital requirements in their market





# Financial Stress Test Scenarios



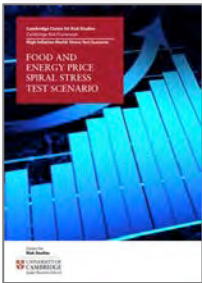
## Global Property Crash

Sudden collapse of property prices in China followed by many other emerging and developed markets triggers a cascading crisis throughout the global financial system



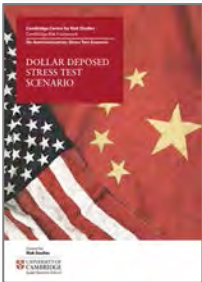
## Eurozone Meltdown

Unexpected default of Italy is followed by a number of other European countries, leading to multiple cession from the Union and causing an extensive financial crisis for investors



## High-Inflation World

A series of world events puts pressure on energy prices and food prices in a price increasing spiral, which becomes structural and takes many years to unwind



## Dollar Deposed

US dollar loses its dominance as the default trading currency as it becomes supplanted by the Chinese Renminbi, with rapid unwinding of US Treasury positions and economic chaos





## **Disclaimer: Extreme events “Just Plausible and Highly Unlikely”**

- Scenarios are not predictions
- Scenarios are stress tests for risk management purposes
  - These are not forecasts of what is likely to happen
  - These are hypothetical: Illustrate an extreme but plausible event in a particular threat class
  - Used for ‘what-if’ studies
  - Intended to improve business resilience to shocks



# Comparing Cambridge Scenarios with US Stress Tests

		Stock Market Drop	House Price Crash	Unemployment Rate	Markets Worst Impacted
<b>Dodd Frank Stress Test 2015</b>		<b>60%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>10%</b>	US
<b>Eurozone Meltdown</b>	S1	55%	10%	9%	Germany/UK/Euro
	S2	80%	15%	10%	
	X1	95%	20%	12%	
<b>Global Property Crash</b>	S1	70%	30%	8%	China/Emerging Markets
	S2	85%	40%	9%	
	X1	90%	60%	10%	
<b>High Inflation World</b>	S1	24%	30%	7%	China/Japan
	S2	30%	40%	8%	
	X1	40%	55%	9%	
<b>Dollar Deposed</b>	S1	30%	15%	8%	US
	S2	45%	18%	9%	
	X1	60%	30%	10%	



# Financial Catastrophe Scenario Reports



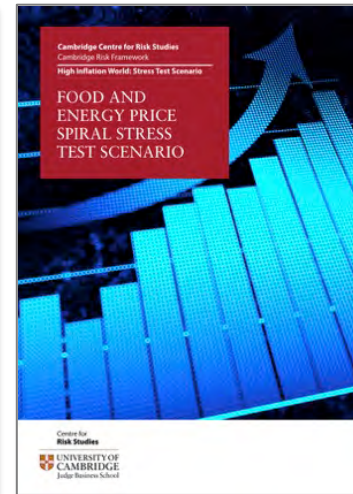
**Overview**



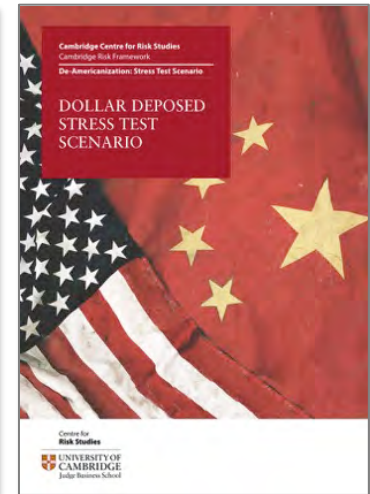
**Global  
Property  
Crash**



**Eurozone  
Meltdown**



**High  
Inflation  
World**

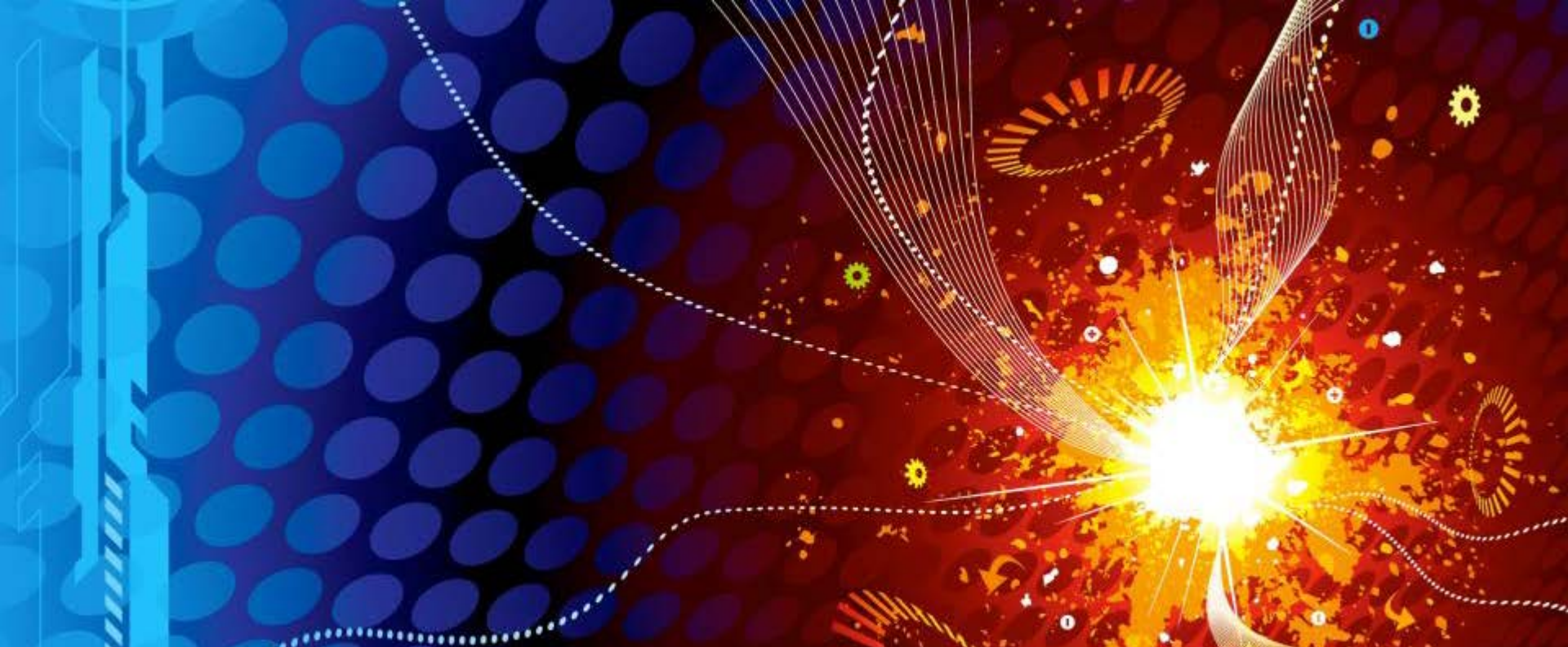


**Dollar  
Deposed**

Available from  
Cambridge Centre for Risk Studies

Target Publication Date June 2015





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## Global Property Crash: Narrative and Impacts

Centre for  
**Risk Studies**



**Mr Simon Ruffle**

Director of Technology Research and Innovation  
Centre for Risk Studies



# Bubble Babble



**the guardian**

Bank of England governor warns of a bubble as UK house prices rise 10.5%

Mark Carney told MPs that high levels of mortgage debt can lead to overstretching owners cutting back on other purchases

Hilary Osborne and Angela Monaghan  
The Guardian Tuesday 15 July 2014 17:42 BST  
Jump to comments (244)

**25 CNBC**

HOME U.S. NEWS MARKETS INVESTING TECH SMALL BIZ VIDEO SHOWS PR

Australia central bank warns about housing prices

CNBC.com staff  
13 Hours Ago

FINANCIAL TIMES

Last updated: August 26, 2014 11:58 am

Property bubble is 'major risk to China'

By Jamil Anderlini in Beijing

**FINANCIAL POST**

TRENDING Apple | The Horizon | 7P 500 | TSX 64 | FATCA | Energy | BlackBerry | Housing

Canada in 'significant' housing bubble

JONATHAN BLATNER | August 7, 2014 @ 3:0 PM ET  
More from Jonathan Blatner | @JonathanBlatner

**GLOBAL INDOONESIAN VOICES**

Housing Bubble Forming in Indonesia, Here are the Signs

Posted On 02 Apr 2014 By: Global Indonesian Voices

**Bloomberg** News Quick Markets Personal Finance Tech U.S. Politics Sustainable

Shiller Warns of Housing Bubble After 225% Surge: Brazil Credit

By Blake Schmitt and Maria Castellani | Sep 5, 2013 7:41 PM GMT+0100 | 15 Comments | Email | Print

using Robert Shiller, who predicted the collapse of the U.S. housing market, is warning that a bubble is emerging in Brazil at a time when a sluggish economy and persistent inflation are eroding investor



**Europe**

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July 7, 2014 12:20 pm

Ireland house prices raise fears of a new bubble

By Vincent Boland in Dublin Author alerts

**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

Tue, Sep 16, 2014 | Updated 09:06PM IST

**THE ECONOMIC TIMES**

Increase in real estate prices give rise to property bubble

Tag: stocks | secondary market | real estate | prospects | deflation | Gold | economy | affordable housing

By: Senthosh Kumar, CEO - Operations, JLL India

Hyman Minsky, the noted American economist, linked an economy's life cycle with speculative investment bubbles, which are endogenous to it. He stated that during prosperous times when the economy booms, corporate cash flows rise higher than corporate debts, and this leads to speculative euphoria.

**World Economy**

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October 9, 2014 9:59 pm

Fears of housing crash in China raise global alarm

By Emily Cadman Author alerts

Fears of a housing market crash are weighing on forecasts for global growth. But this time it is China, not the US, which is causing concern in a sign of the shift under way





# China Property Bubble

- China housing prices have sustained an average annual growth rate of 17% for past decade
- In same period, average growth of real GDP has been 10%
- Great housing boom has generated a large number of empty ('ghost') apartments across major cities in China
- In 2013 the national urban housing vacancy rate in China reached 22.4%





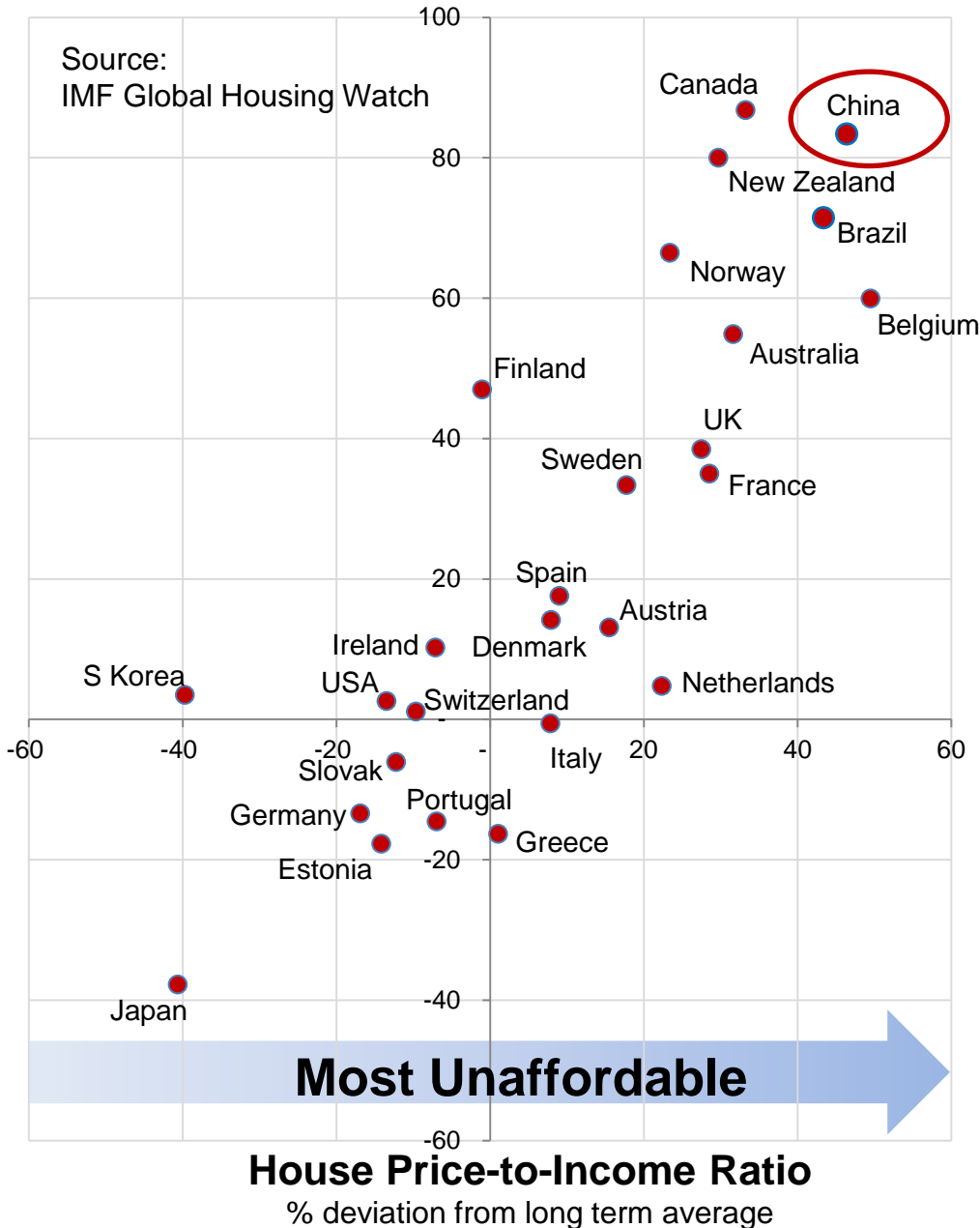


# Inflated Housing Markets

Value Most Misaligned with Rental

House Price to Rental Ratio

% deviation from long term average



Property Market Bubble Risk

## Tier 1: China & Emerging Markets

China, Hong Kong, India, Brazil, Philippines, Indonesia, Turkey

## Tier 2: Commonwealth

Canada, Australia, New Zealand

## Tier 3: Nordics

Norway, Finland, Sweden

## Tier 4: UK

United Kingdom

## Tier 5: Europeans

France, Belgium, Netherlands

## Tier 6: Other Europe

Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Ireland, Austria, Denmark

## Tier 7: US

United States

## Tier 8: Prudent Europe

Germany, Switzerland

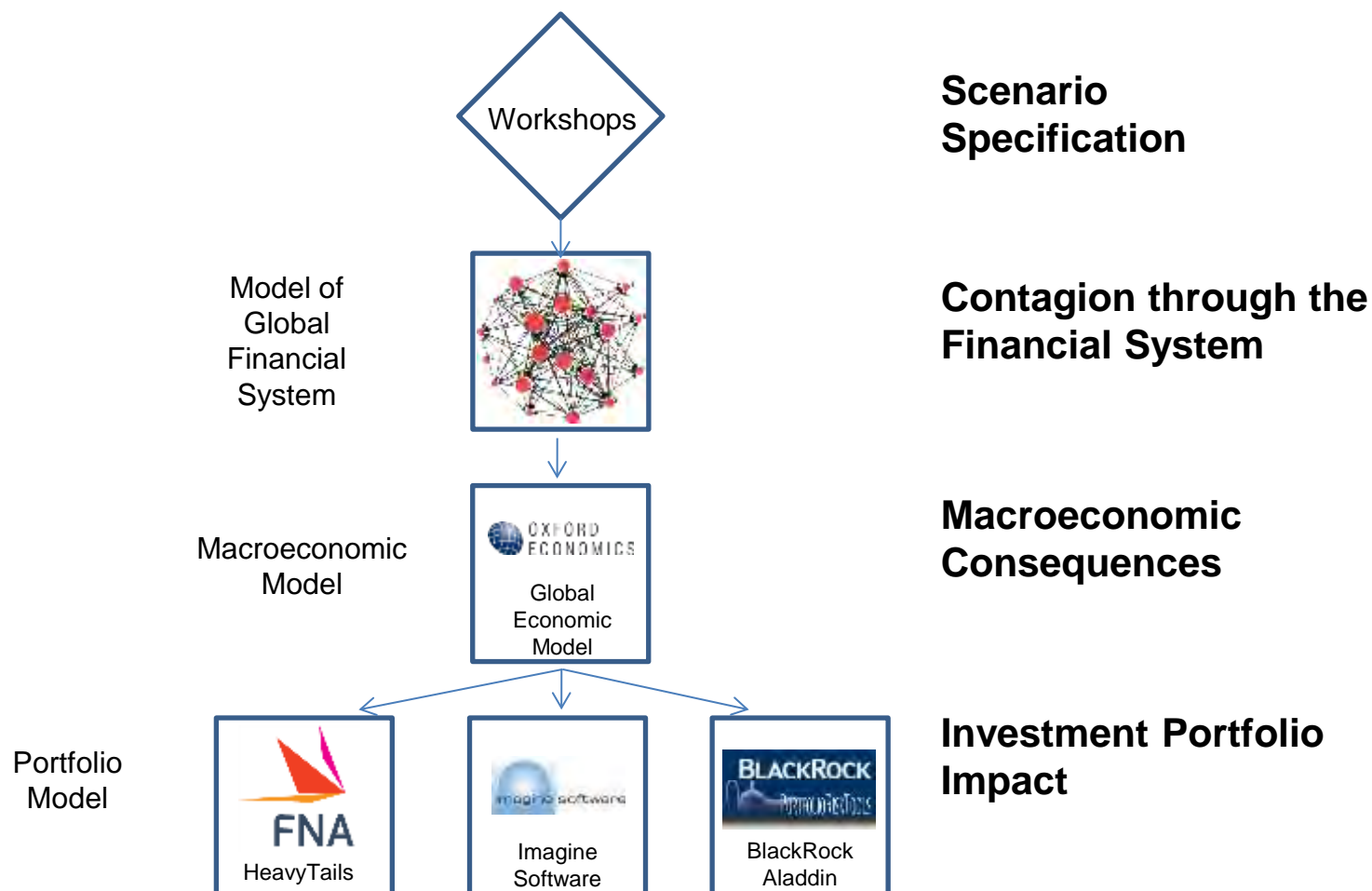
## Tier 9 Industrial Asia

Japan and South Korea





# Research Process







# Housing Price Index Shocks

	S1		S2		X1	
	Mortgage Shock	Non-Mrtg	Mrtg Shock	Non-Mrtg Shock	Mrtg Shock	Non-Mrtg Shock
<b>Tier 1: China &amp; Emerging Markets</b> CN, HK, IN, BR, PH, ID, TR	<b>30%</b>	6%	<b>40%</b>	8%	<b>60%</b>	10%
<b>Tier 2: Commonwealth</b> CA, AU, NZ	<b>30%</b>	6%	<b>40%</b>	8%	<b>60%</b>	10%
<b>Tier 3: Nordics</b> NO, FI, SE	<b>30%</b>	6%	<b>40%</b>	8%	<b>60%</b>	10%
<b>Tier 4: UK</b> UK	<b>25%</b>	5%	<b>35%</b>	7.5%	<b>50%</b>	8%
<b>Tier 5: Europeans</b> FR, BE, NL	<b>25%</b>	5%	<b>35%</b>	7.5%	<b>50%</b>	8%
<b>Tier 6: Other Europe</b> ES, PT, IT, GR, IR, AT, DK	<b>20%</b>	4%	<b>30%</b>	7%	<b>40%</b>	7%
<b>Tier 7: US</b> US			<b>10%</b>	1%	<b>15%</b>	2%
<b>Tier 8: Prudent Europe</b> DE, CH			<b>10%</b>	1%	<b>15%</b>	2%
<b>Tier 9: Industrial Asia</b> JP, KR			<b>10%</b>	1%	<b>15%</b>	2%

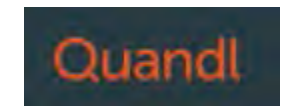




# Cambridge Model of Global Financial System

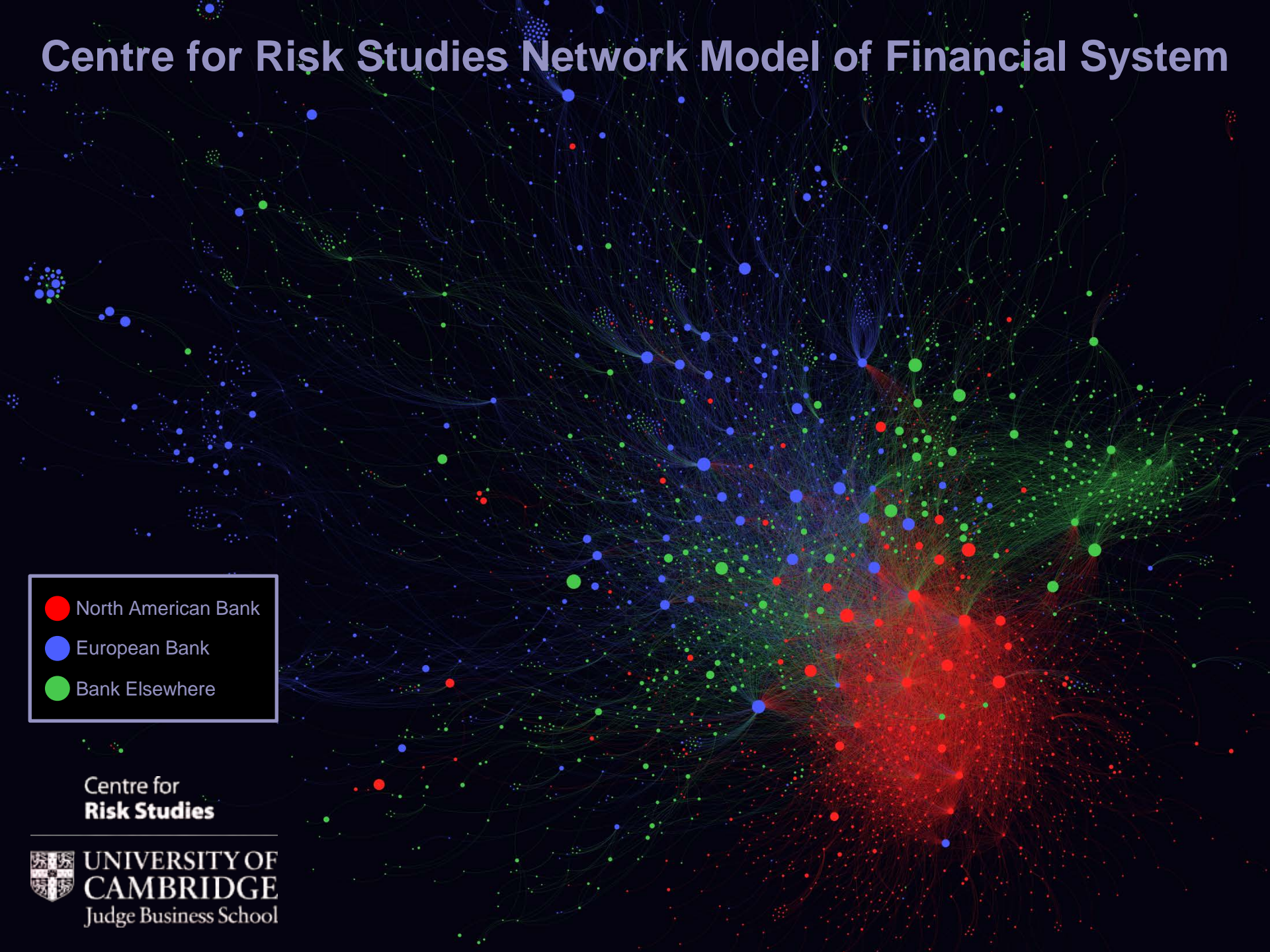
Data Sources include:

- Integrated multiple sources of data on banks, lending patterns, cross-holdings, and assets
- First practitioner model of global financial system
- Currently includes 18,516 banks
  - Important to include all jurisdictions and markets as one global financial system
- Incorporates several mechanisms of financial contagion:
  - Interbank lending (**Counterparty Failure Risk**)
  - Commonly-held asset devaluation (**Fire-Sales**)
  - Ownership equity devaluation (**Cross-Holding**)
  - Repo borrowing calls (**Rollover Risk**)
- Combination of contagion mechanisms is important





# Centre for Risk Studies Network Model of Financial System

- 
- North American Bank
  - European Bank
  - Bank Elsewhere

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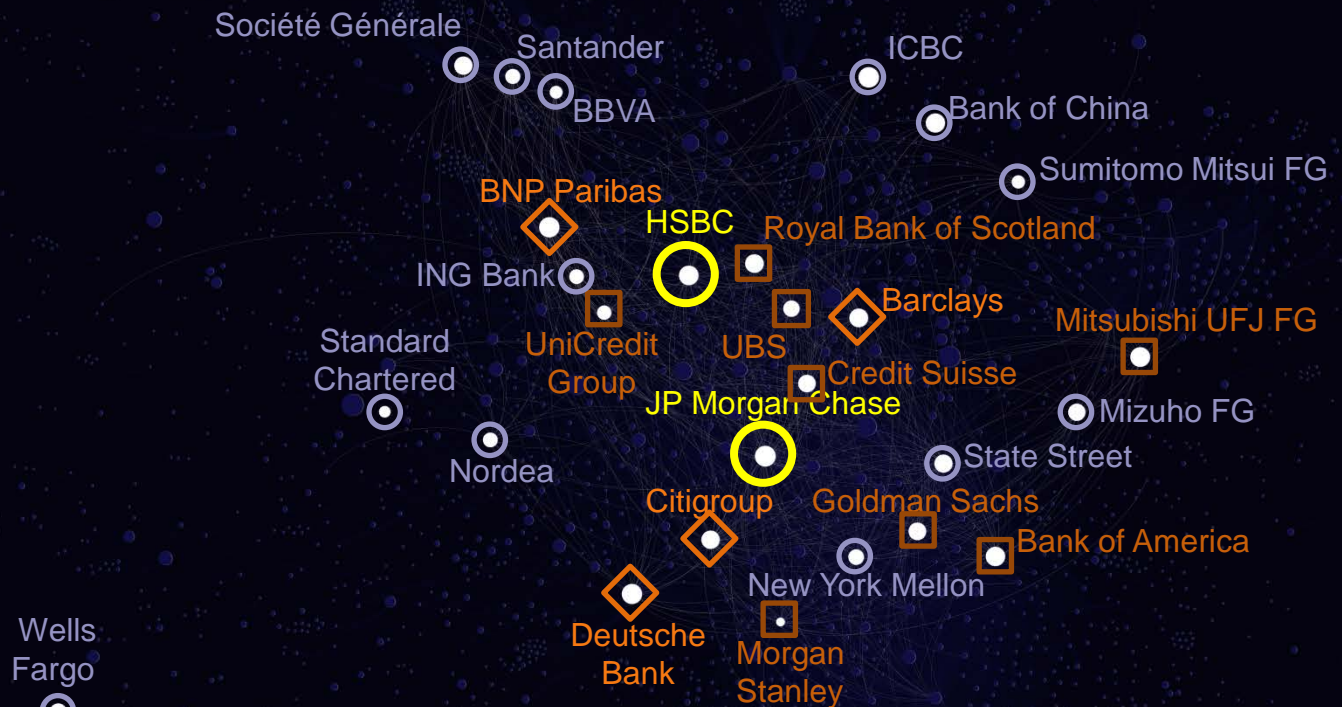


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# Global Systemically Important Banks (GSIBS)

## Star-finder guide



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# Summary of Financial System Statistics

## ■ 18,516 banks

- Total market value of **\$214 Trillion**
- Total equity value of **\$17.4 Trillion**

## ■ Mortgage assets total **\$18.1 Trillion**

- Mortgage lending exceeds the equity value of banks



# Global Property Bubble Stress Test Scenario



- China suffers a property crash
- 40% devaluation of prices in 6 months
- China banks write-off their mortgage assets
- Other property-related investment assets devalue



# Chinese Banks Sell Off Assets

- Banks' balance sheets have reduced assets against their liabilities
- To fund their liabilities, they sell off some investment assets
- This 'fire sale' devalues the assets of these investment classes
- Other banks who own the same assets suddenly find their assets are devalued
- These banks' balance sheets also take a hit



# European Banks Start to Struggle

- European banks are infected by asset sales from Chinese banks
- Many suffer distressed balance sheets
- They reduce their lending to other banks
- Money flows start to dry up





# European Banks Infect the United States

- All major international banks now suffer
- When a bank reduces its lending, counterpart banks reduce their lending to others
- The contagion causes a liquidity crisis
- The crisis in China has caused a global financial catastrophe



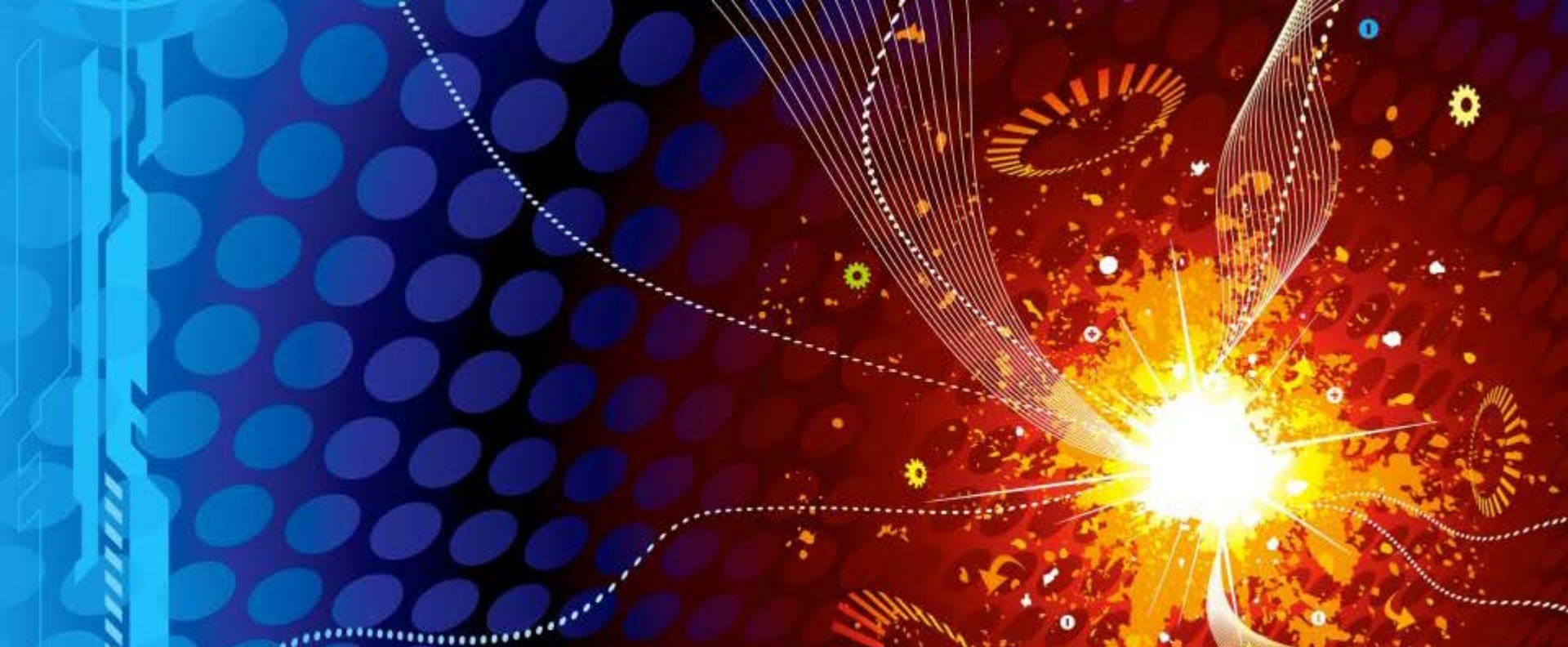
# A Global Impact from a Financial Shock

Scenario wipes out 15% of the value of the global financial system

Causes a **\$32 Trillion value loss**

Four G-SIBs and over 2000 financial institutions fail





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# Global Property Crash: Financial Market and Portfolio Impacts

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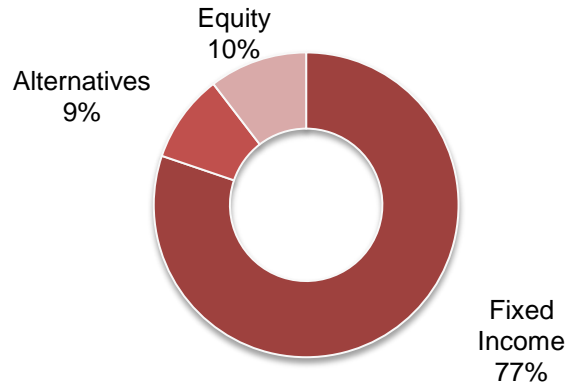


**Dr Eugene Neduv**  
Risk Researcher  
Centre for Risk Studies

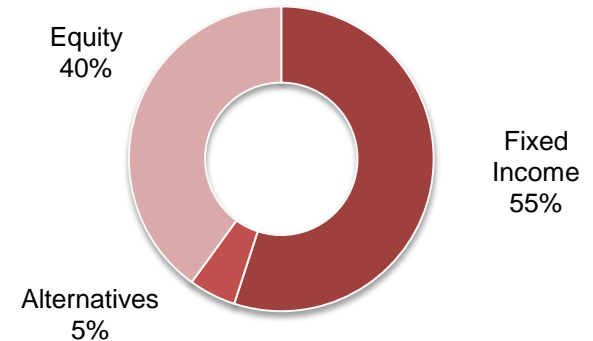


# 4 Representative Investment Portfolios

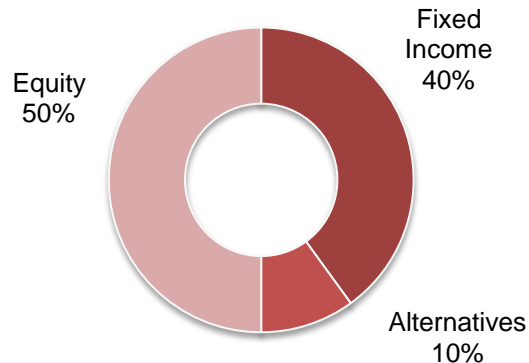
## High Fixed Income



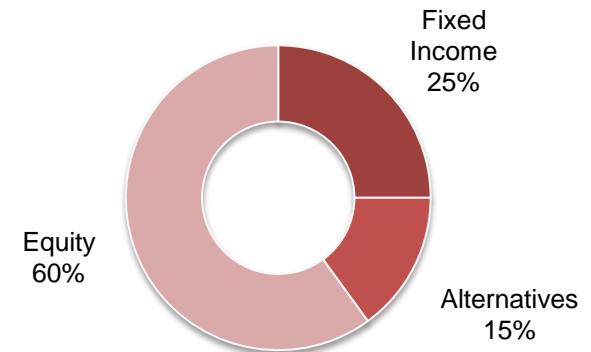
## Conservative



## Balanced



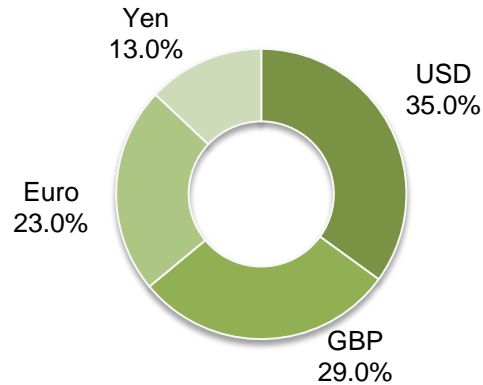
## Aggressive



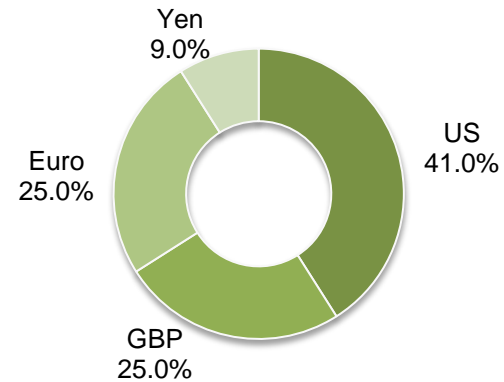


# Investment Portfolios by Geography Split

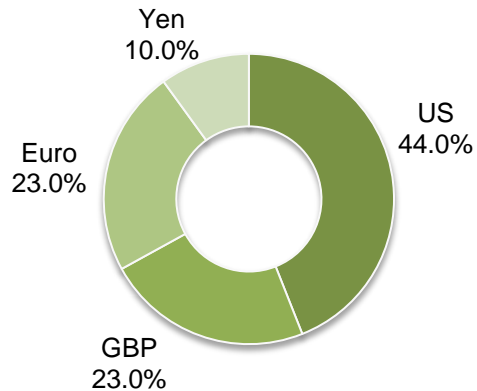
## High Fixed Income



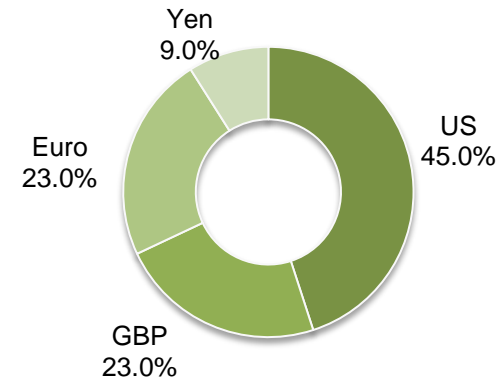
## Conservative



## Balanced



## Aggressive

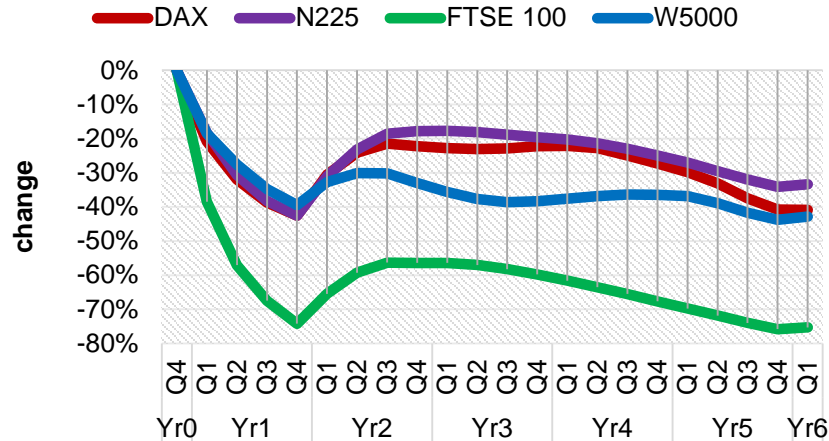




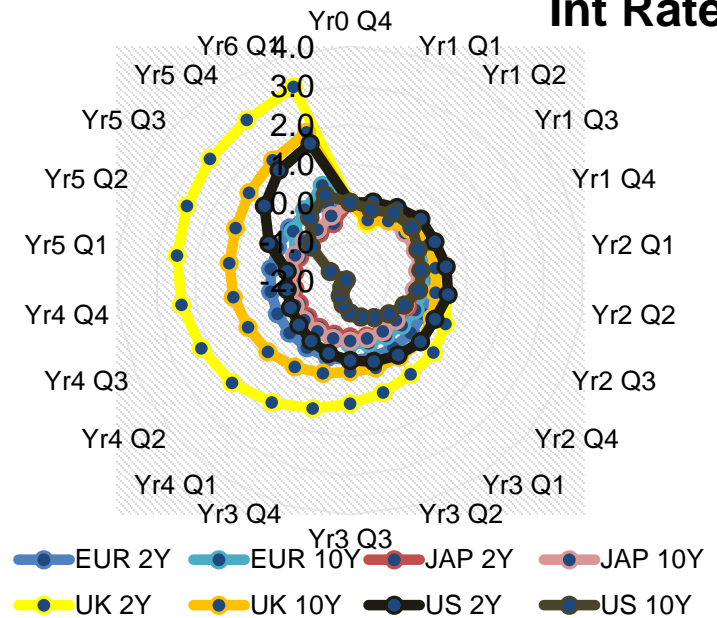


# Financial Market Impacts

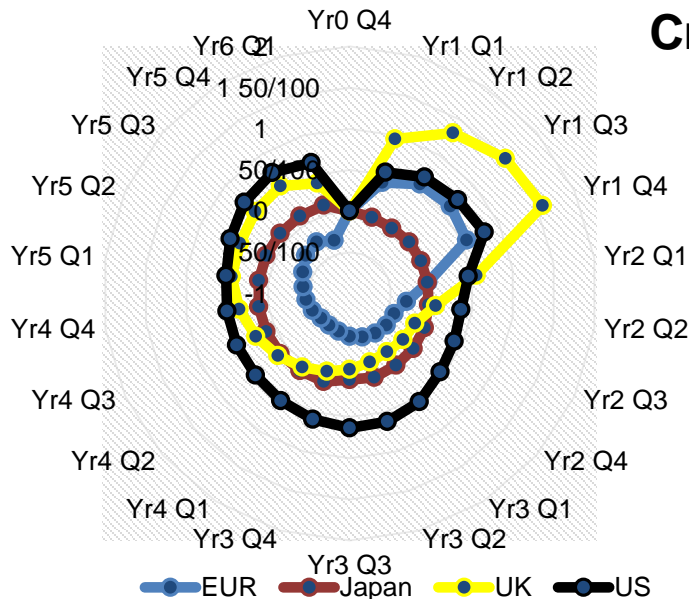
## Equity



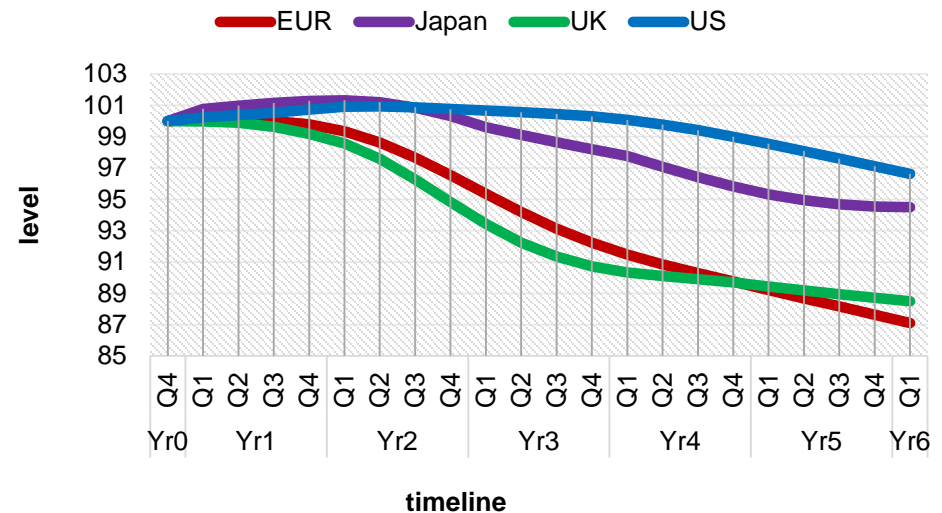
## Int Rates



## Credit



## CPI



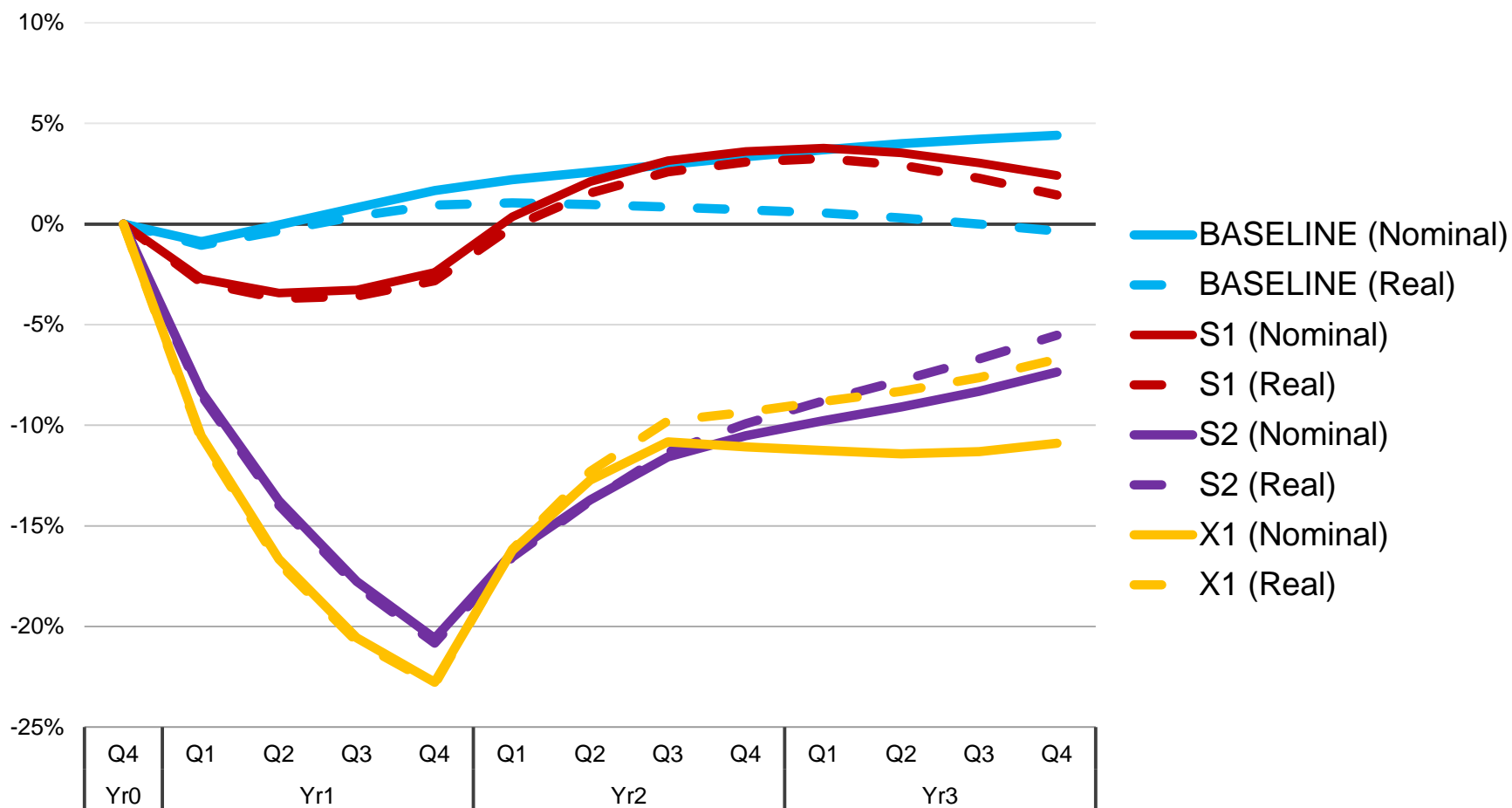




# Total Asset Returns by Scenario Variant

## Conservative Portfolio

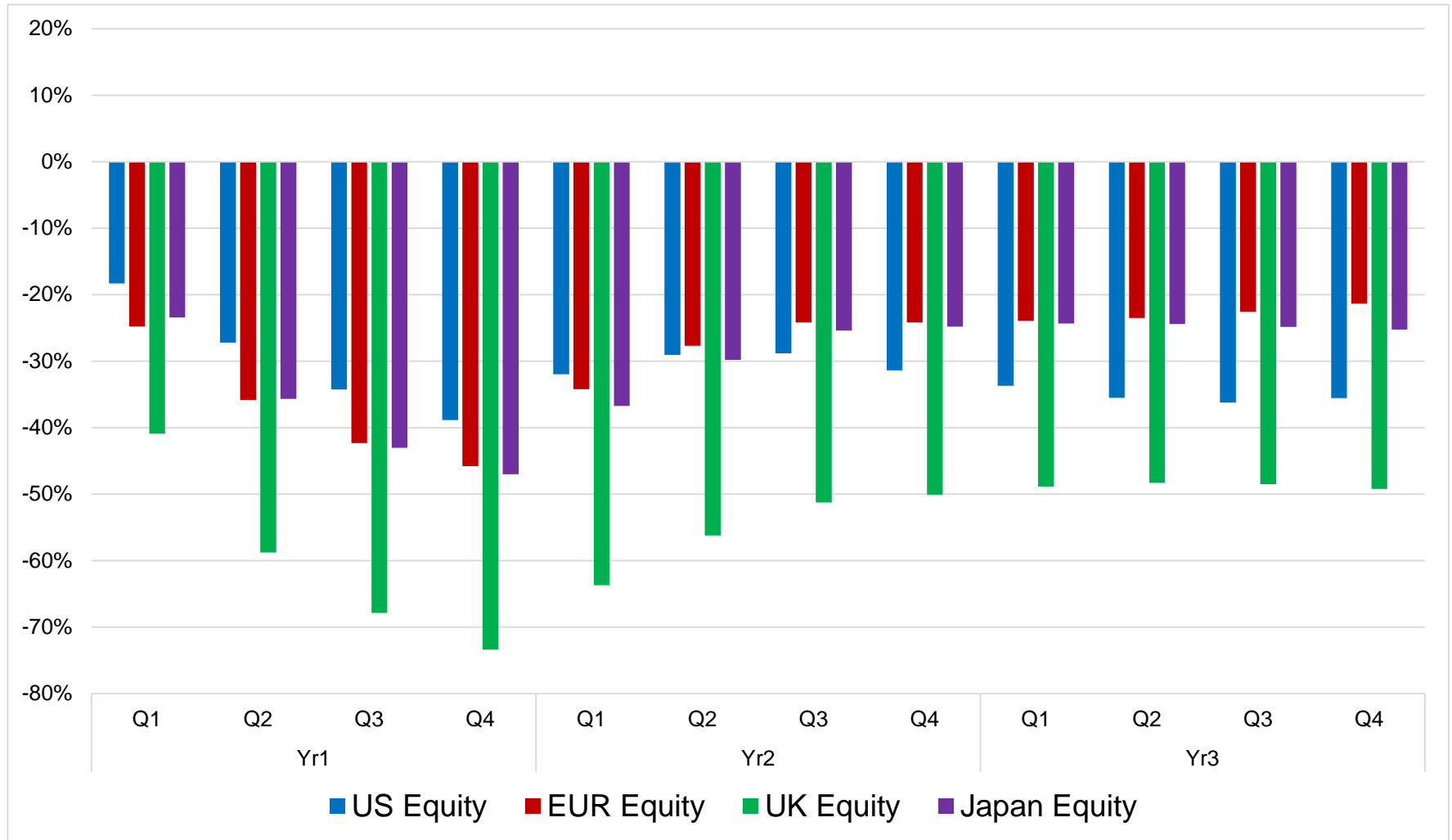
### Scenario Impact by Variant (Nominal vs Real)







# Global Property Crash Equity Performance

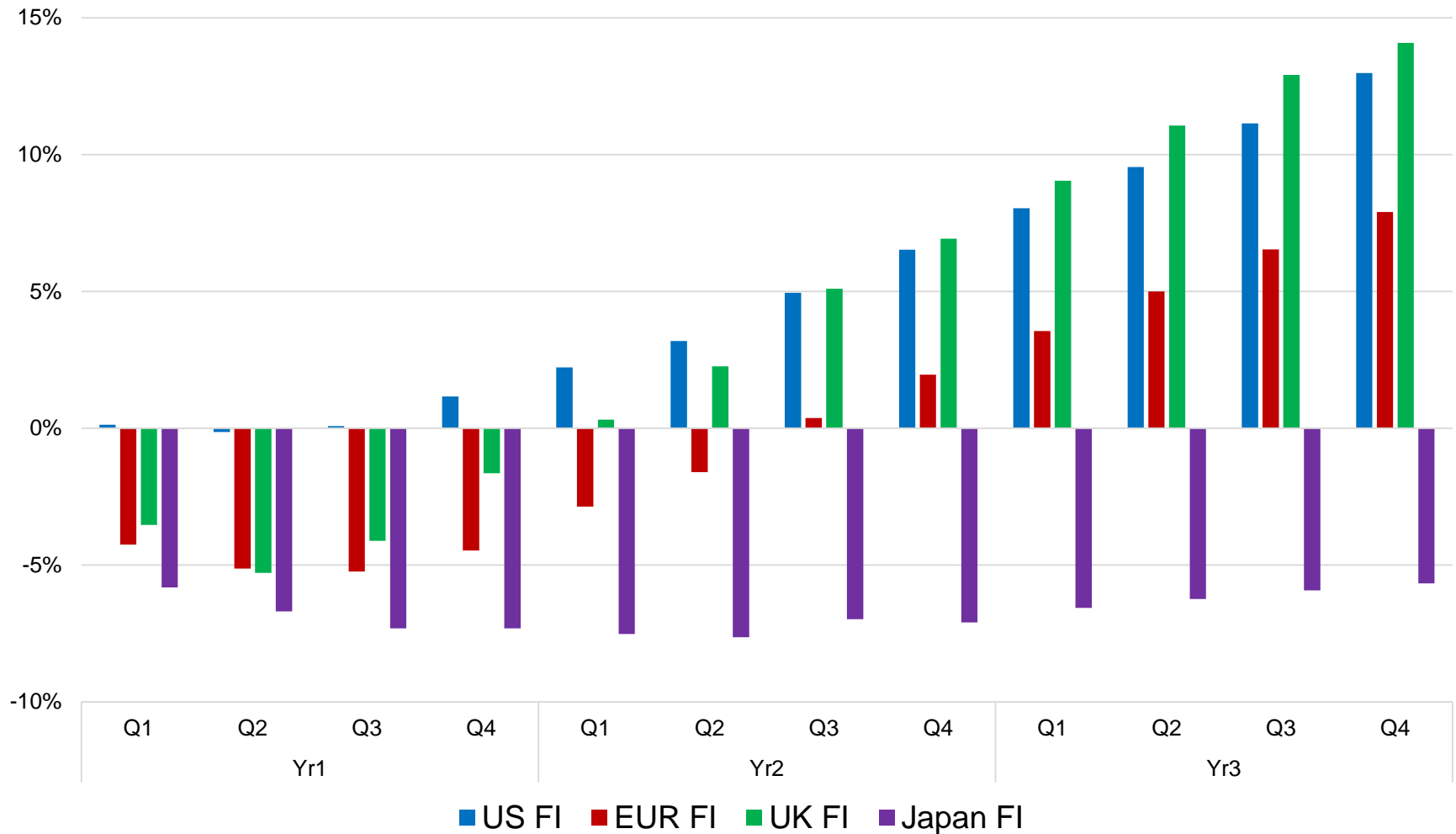






# Global Property Crash

## Fixed Income Performance



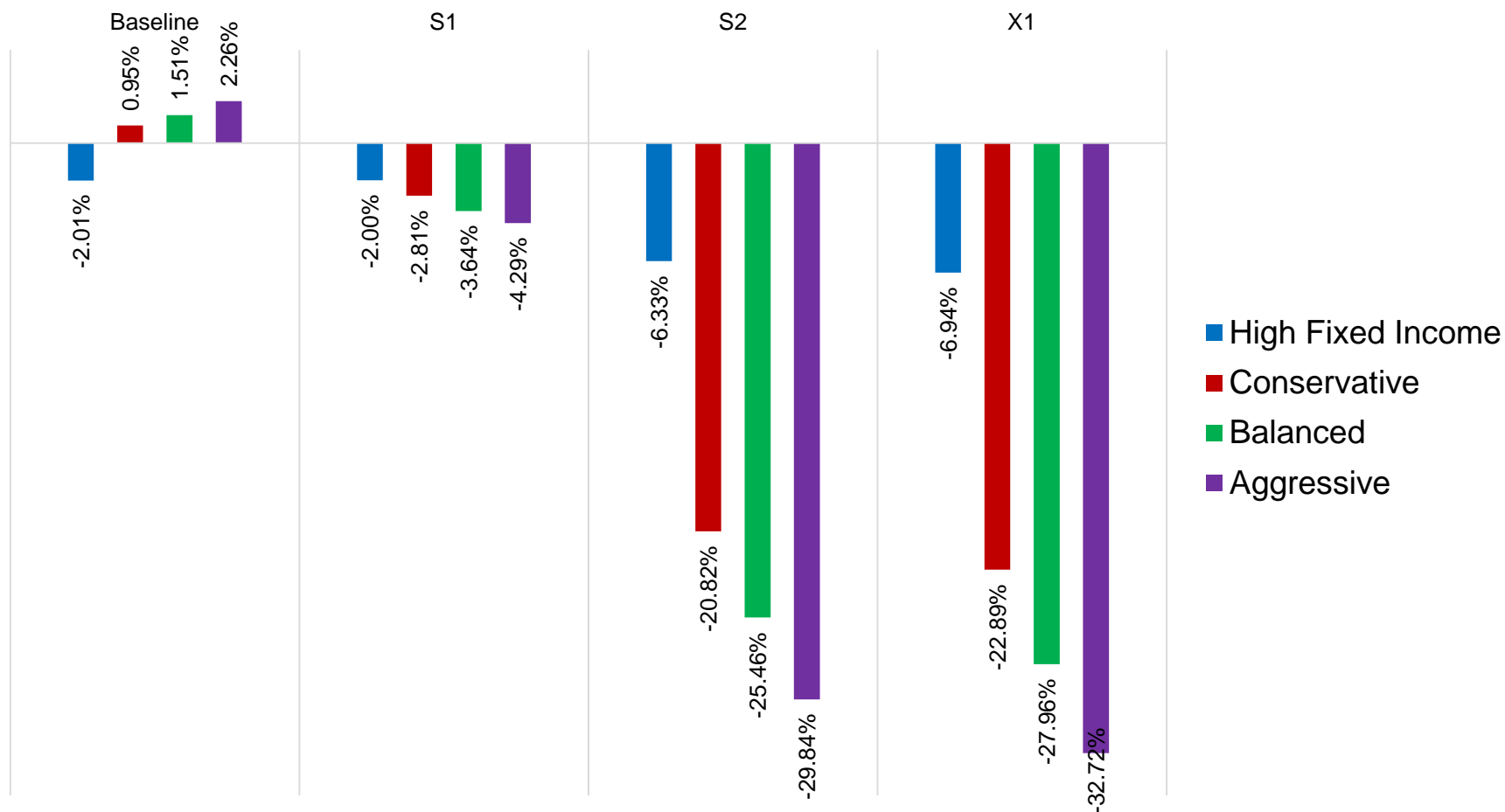




# Global Property Crash

## Portfolio Performance Comparison

### IMPACT AFTER 1 YEAR, REAL USD(%)





# Global Property Crash: Correlation Analysis

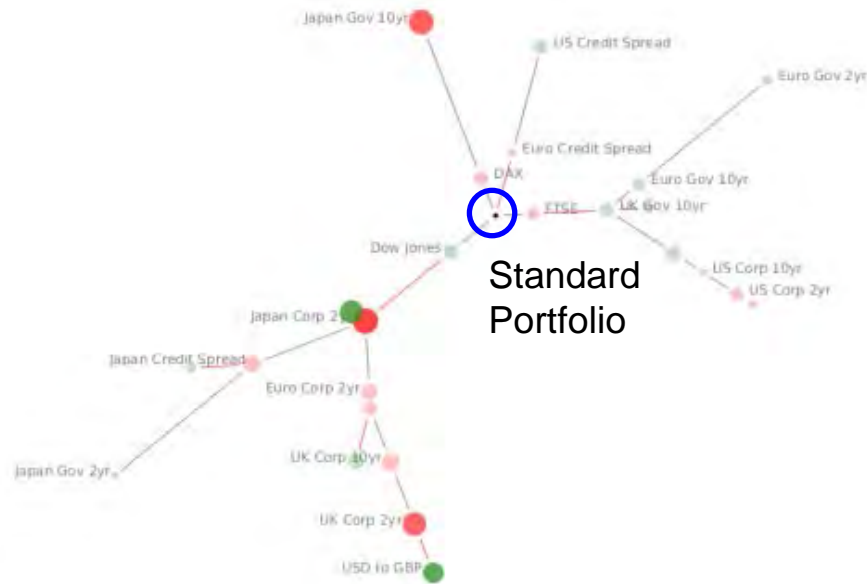


Impact on the assets in a standardized investment portfolio of the hypothetical stress test scenario

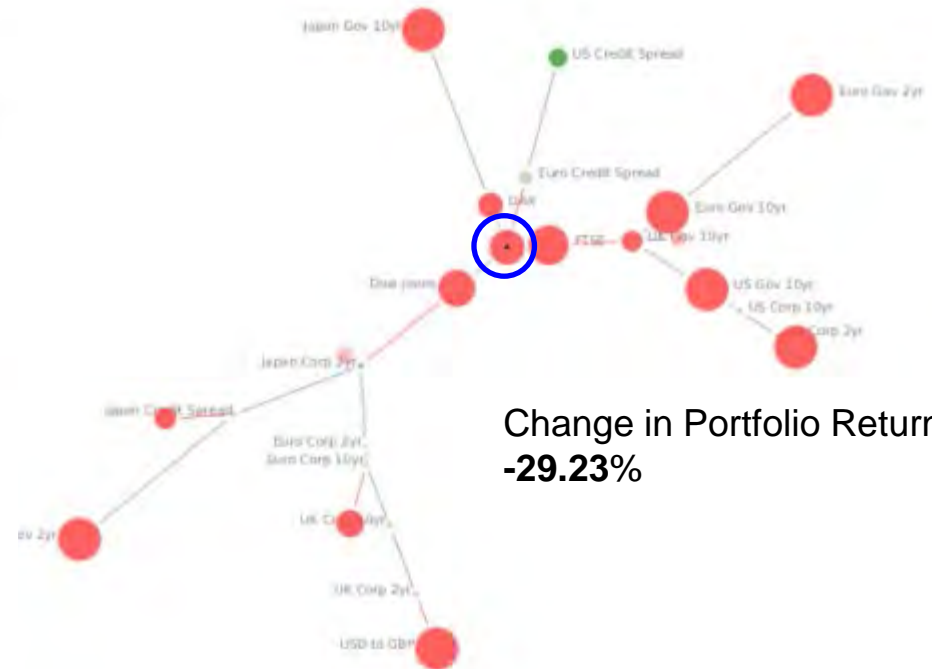
Asset Correlation Structure



## Before Shock

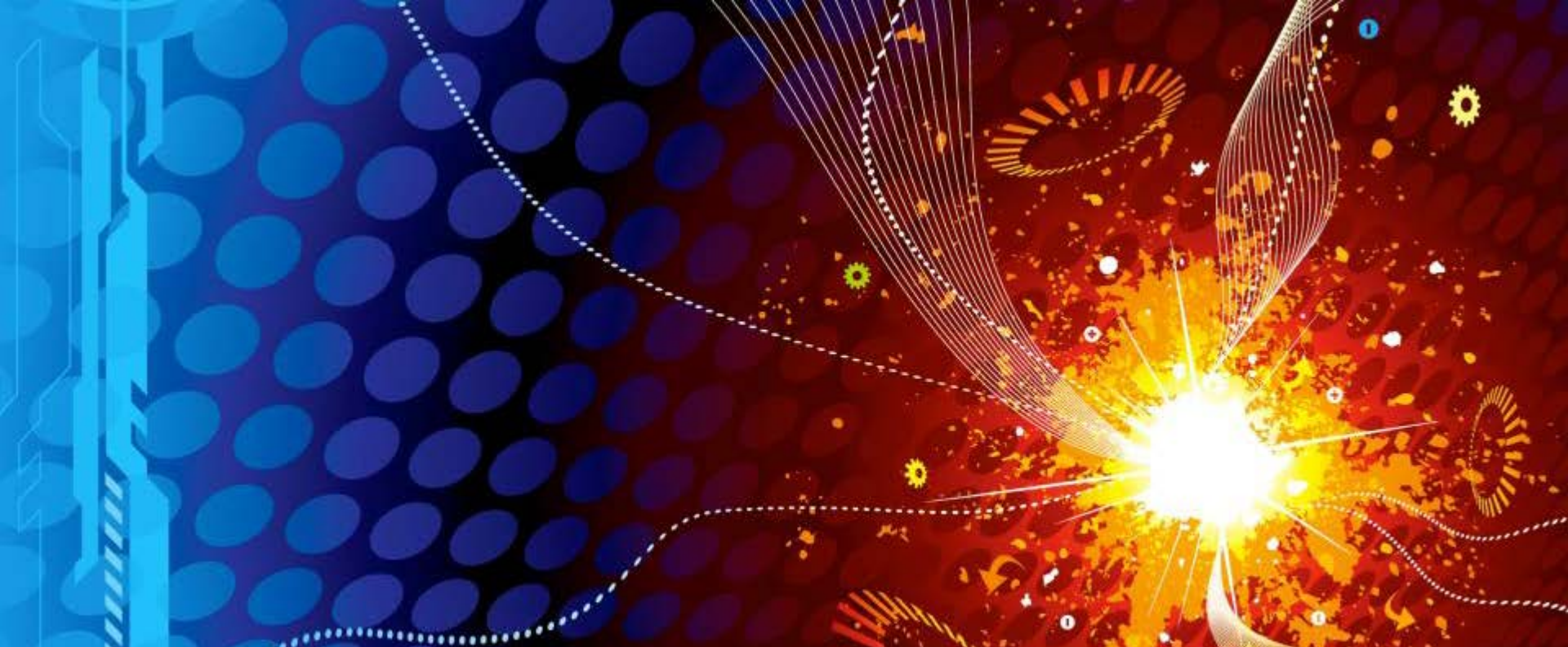


## Portfolio After Crisis



Change in Portfolio Return:  
**-29.23%**





Financial Risk Scenarios: Could Your Portfolio Hold Up?  
Cambridge Centre for Risk Studies - New York Risk Briefing - April 30, 2015

# Managing a Multiplicity of Financial Market Catastrophes

Centre for  
**Risk Studies**



UNIVERSITY OF  
**CAMBRIDGE**  
Judge Business School

**Professor Danny Ralph**

Academic Director  
Centre for Risk Studies



# 2015 Macroeconomic Emerging Risk Scenarios



## Global Property Crash

Sudden collapse of property prices in China followed by many other emerging and developed markets triggers a cascading crisis throughout the global financial system



## Eurozone Meltdown

Unexpected default of Italy is followed by a number of other European countries, leading to multiple cession from the Union and causing an extensive financial crisis for investors



## High-Inflation World

A series of world events puts pressure on energy prices and food prices in a price increasing spiral, which becomes structural and takes many years to unwind







## Dollar Deposed

US dollar loses its dominance as the default trading currency as it becomes supplanted by the Chinese Renminbi, leading to rapid unwinding of US Treasury positions and economic chaos



# Scenarios with their Variants: Economic Impacts

Global GDP@Risk  
US\$ Tn

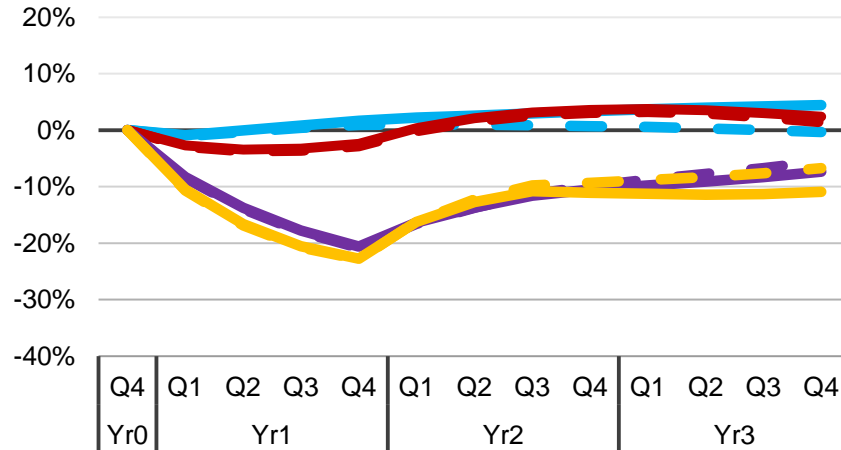
	S1	S2	X1
 <b>Asset Bubble Shock</b> <b>Global Property Crash</b>	<b>11</b> <b>(3%)</b>	<b>16</b> <b>(4%)</b>	<b>23</b> <b>(6%)</b>
 <b>Sovereign Default Shock</b> <b>Eurozone Meltdown</b>	<b>6</b> <b>(2%)</b>	<b>13</b> <b>(3%)</b>	<b>20</b> <b>(5%)</b>
 <b>Food and Energy Price Spiral</b> <b>High Inflation World</b>	<b>5</b> <b>(1%)</b>	<b>8</b> <b>(2%)</b>	<b>11</b> <b>(3%)</b>
 <b>De-Americanisation of Financial System</b> <b>Dollar Deposed</b>	<b>2</b> <b>(0.5%)</b>	<b>2</b> <b>(0.4%)</b>	<b>-2</b> <b>(-0.4%)</b>



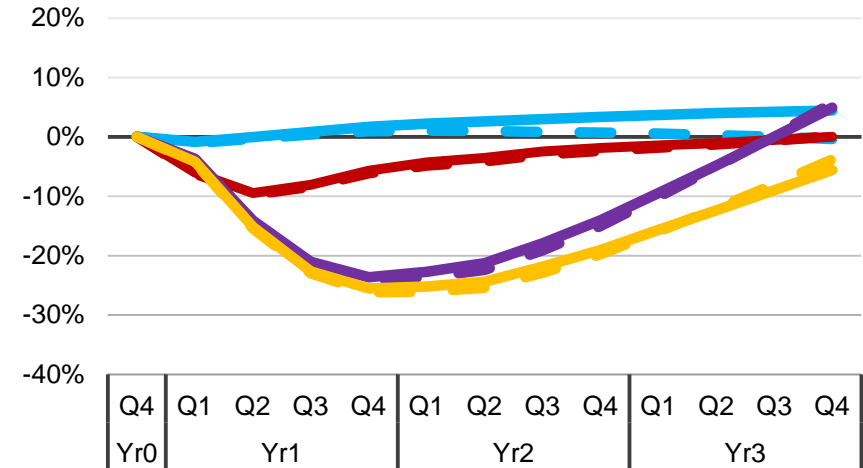
# Total Portfolio Returns by Scenario

## Conservative Portfolio

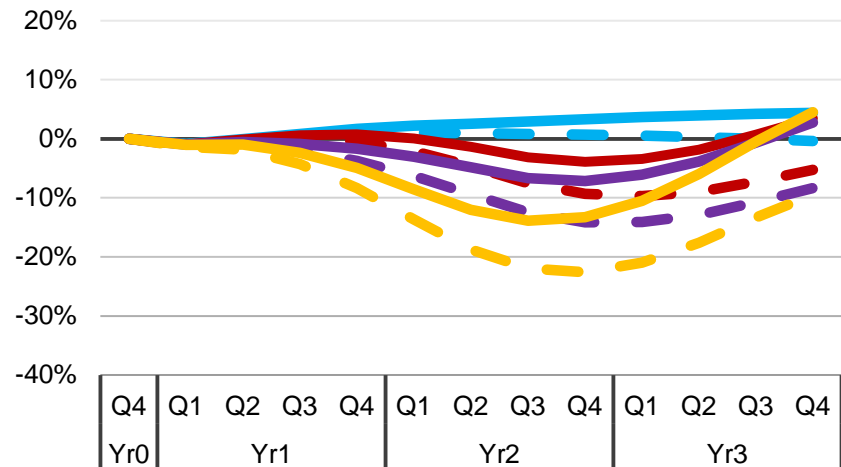
### Global Property Crash



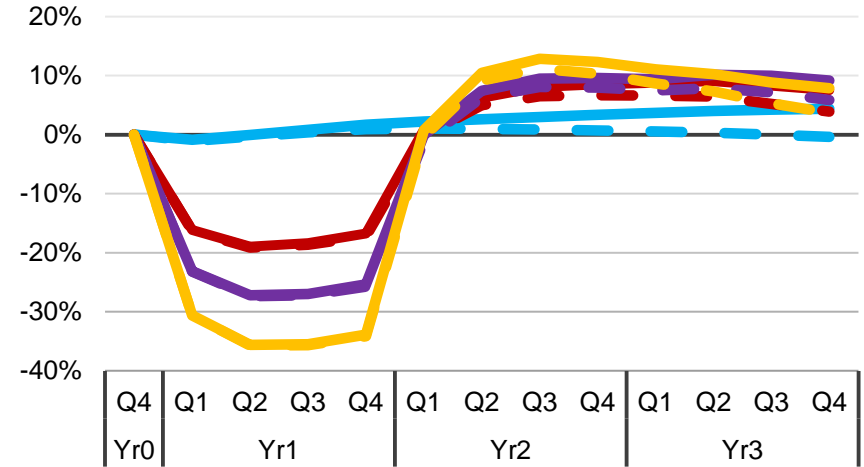
### Eurozone Meltdown



### High Inflation World



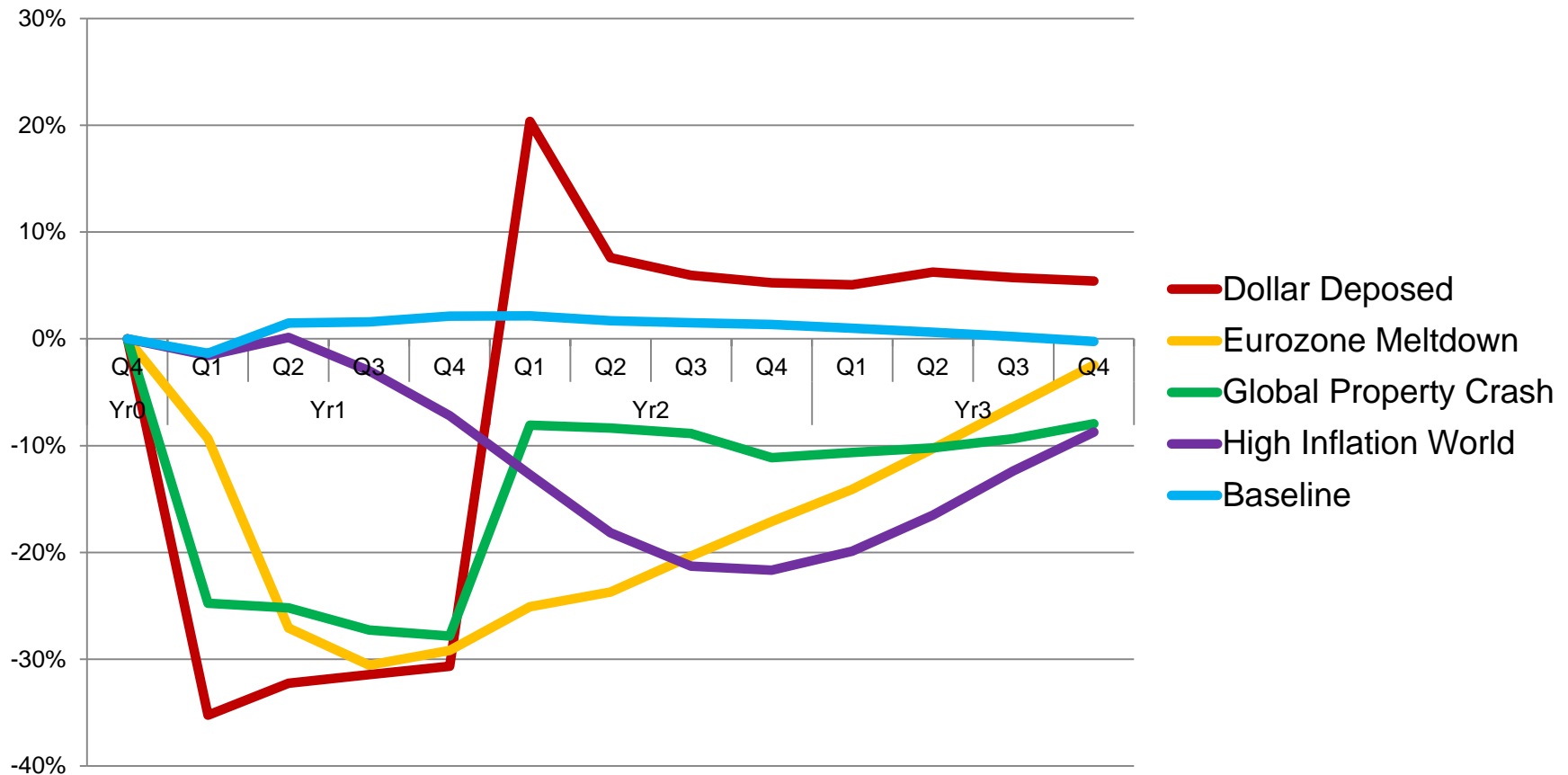
### Dollar Deposed





# Comparison of Equity Performance for all Scenarios

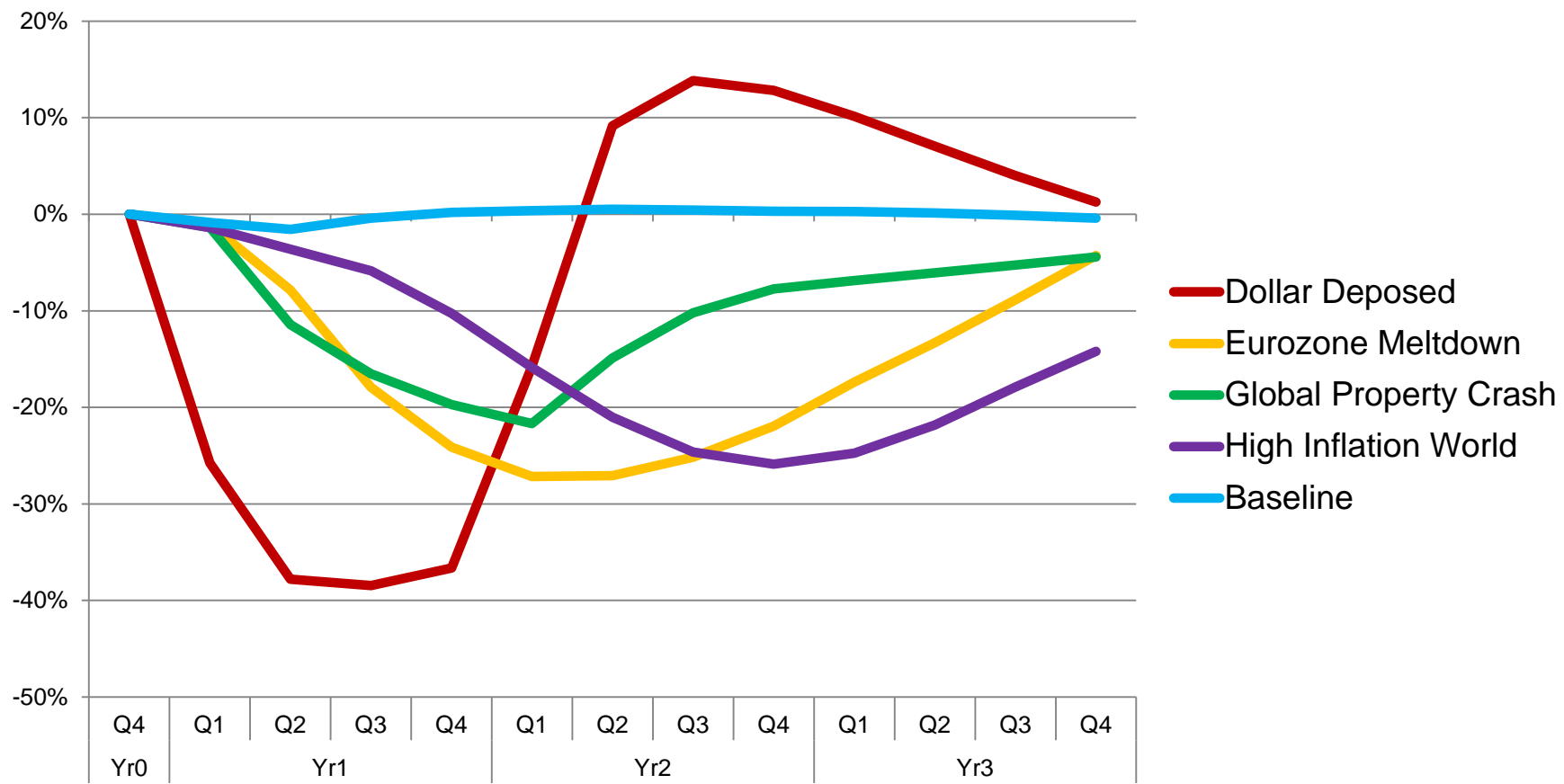
Equity Comparison by Scenario by X1, Conservative Portfolio Structure (Real %)





# Comparison of Fixed Income Performance for all Scenarios



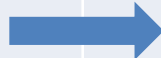



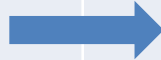



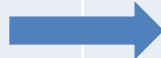



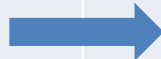

Fixed Income Comparison by Scenario by X1, Conservative Portfolio Structure (Real %)





# Rebalancing Equities













Based on Cumulative Returns for Equity, Real USD %

	Worst Equity Performance	Best Equity Performance
 <b>Asset Bubble Shock</b> <b>Global Property Crash</b>	  	
 <b>Sovereign Default Shock</b> <b>Eurozone Meltdown</b>	  	
 <b>Food and Energy Price Spiral</b> <b>High Inflation World</b>	  	
 <b>De-Americanisation of Financial System</b> <b>Dollar Deposed</b>	  	



# Rebalancing Fixed Income Bonds





Based on Cumulative Returns for Fixed Income Bonds, Real USD %

	Worst Equity Performance	Best Equity Performance
 <b>Asset Bubble Shock</b> <b>Global Property Crash</b>		
 <b>Sovereign Default Shock</b> <b>Eurozone Meltdown</b>		
 <b>Food and Energy Price Spiral</b> <b>High Inflation World</b>		
 <b>De-Americanisation of Financial System</b> <b>Dollar Deposed</b>		



# Resilience Based on 3 Year Outlook

X1 Scenario Variant  
Based on Max Downturn, Real USD %

	High Fixed Income	Conservative	Balanced	Aggressive
 <b>Asset Bubble Shock</b> <b>Global Property Crash</b>	+	-	--	--
 <b>Sovereign Default Shock</b> <b>Eurozone Meltdown</b>	+	0	0	-
 <b>Food and Energy Price Spiral</b> <b>High Inflation World</b>	--	--	-	-
 <b>De-Americanisation of Financial System</b> <b>Dollar Deposed</b>	0	+	+	+



# Portfolio Resilience

- In order to anticipate the effect and your response to financial crises coherent stress tests are essential
  - These link timing, asset classes and geographies
- Allocation involves timing
- Mitigation entails asset classes
- Rebalancing means geographies



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