



**UiO** : **Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture**  
University of Oslo

The role of politics in sustainable transitions:  
The rise and fall of offshore wind in Norway

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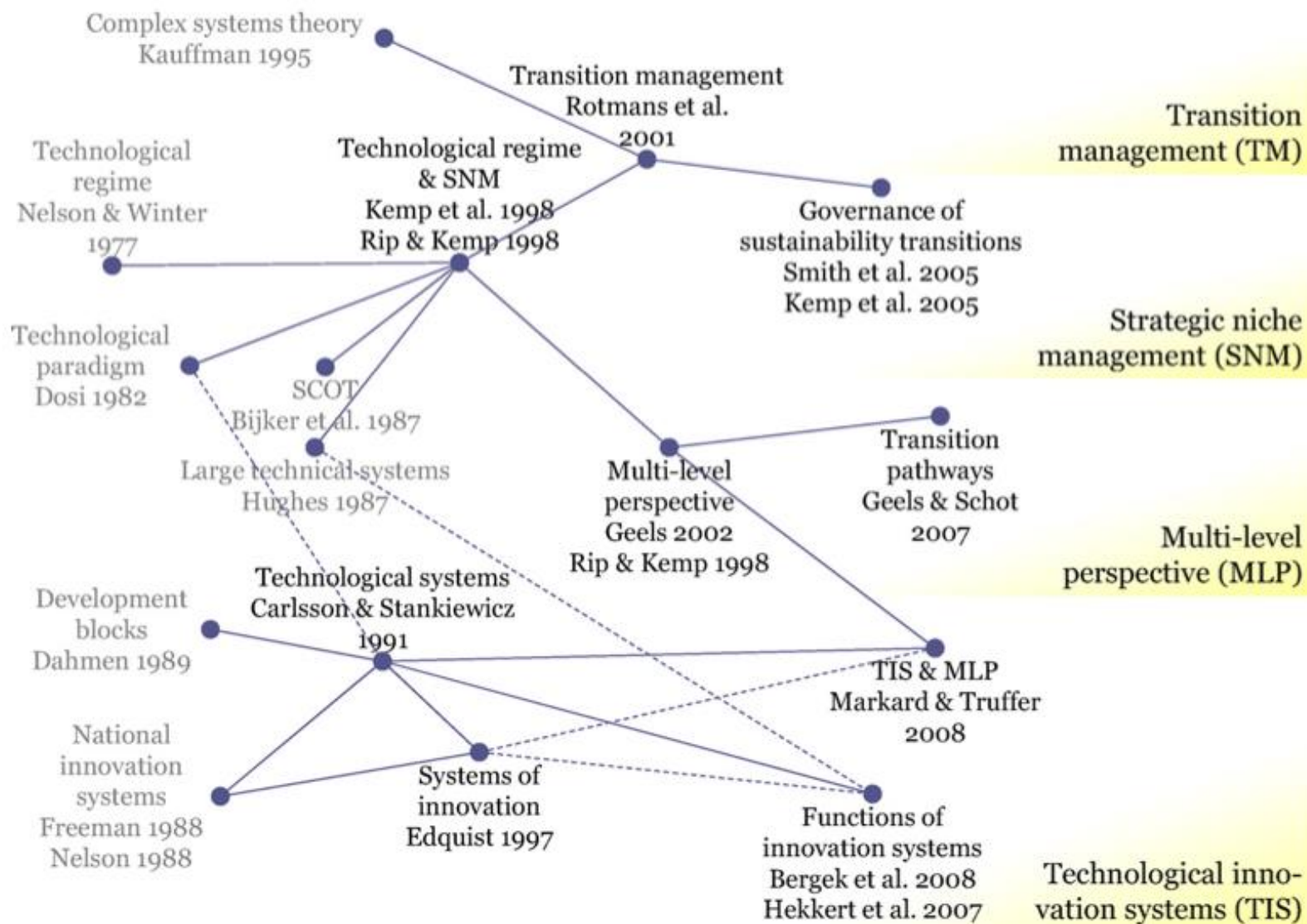
Eu-SPRI Early Career Researcher Conference, Lund 2013



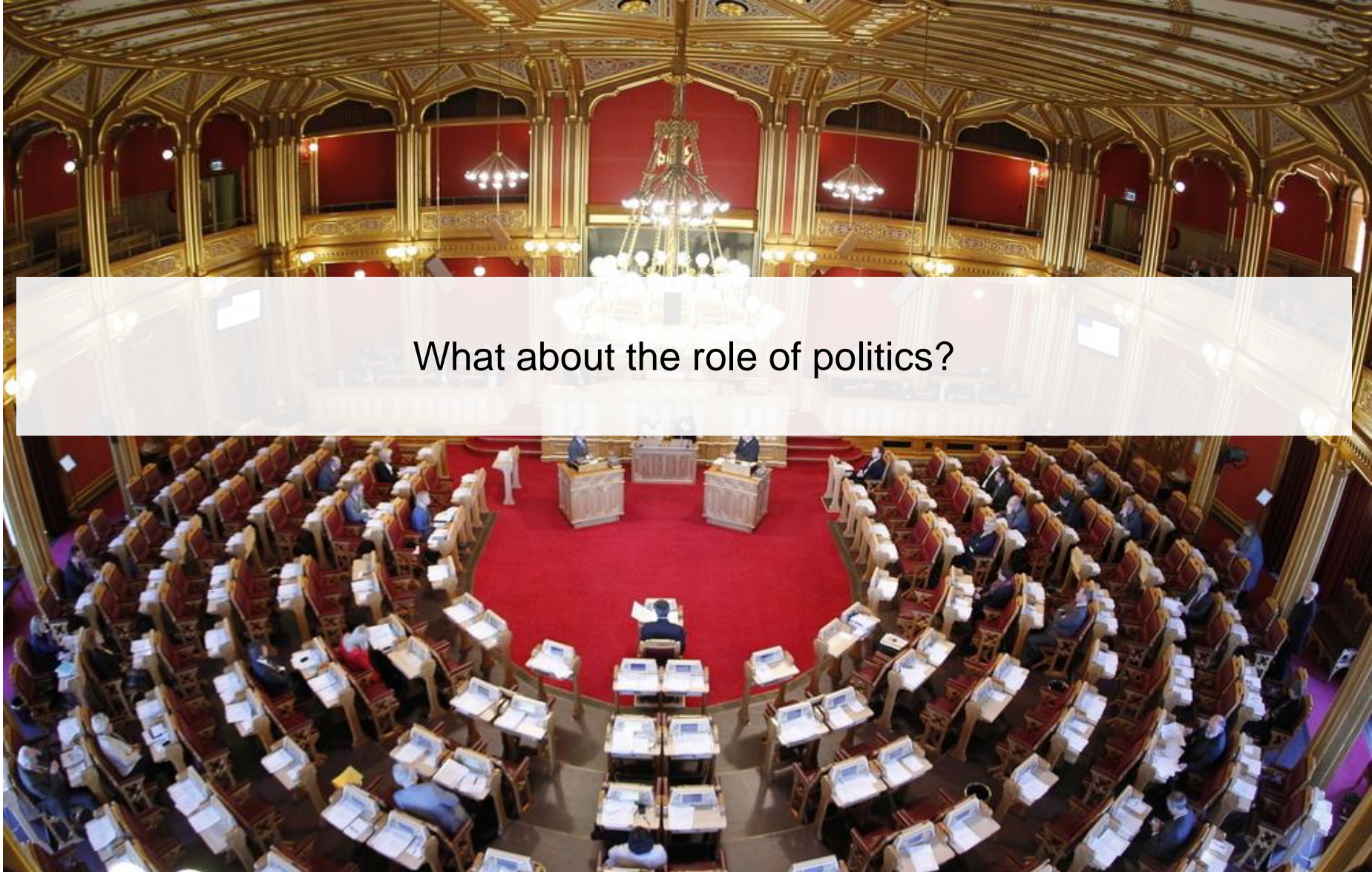
A photograph of an offshore wind turbine in the ocean. The turbine has a white tower and a yellow base. The sky is overcast with grey clouds, and the sea is dark blue. A small boat is visible in the distance on the left.

## Research question

How can we explain the rise and fall of offshore wind in Norway between 2005 and 2012?



**Fig. 1.** Map of key contributions and core research strands in the field of sustainability transition studies.



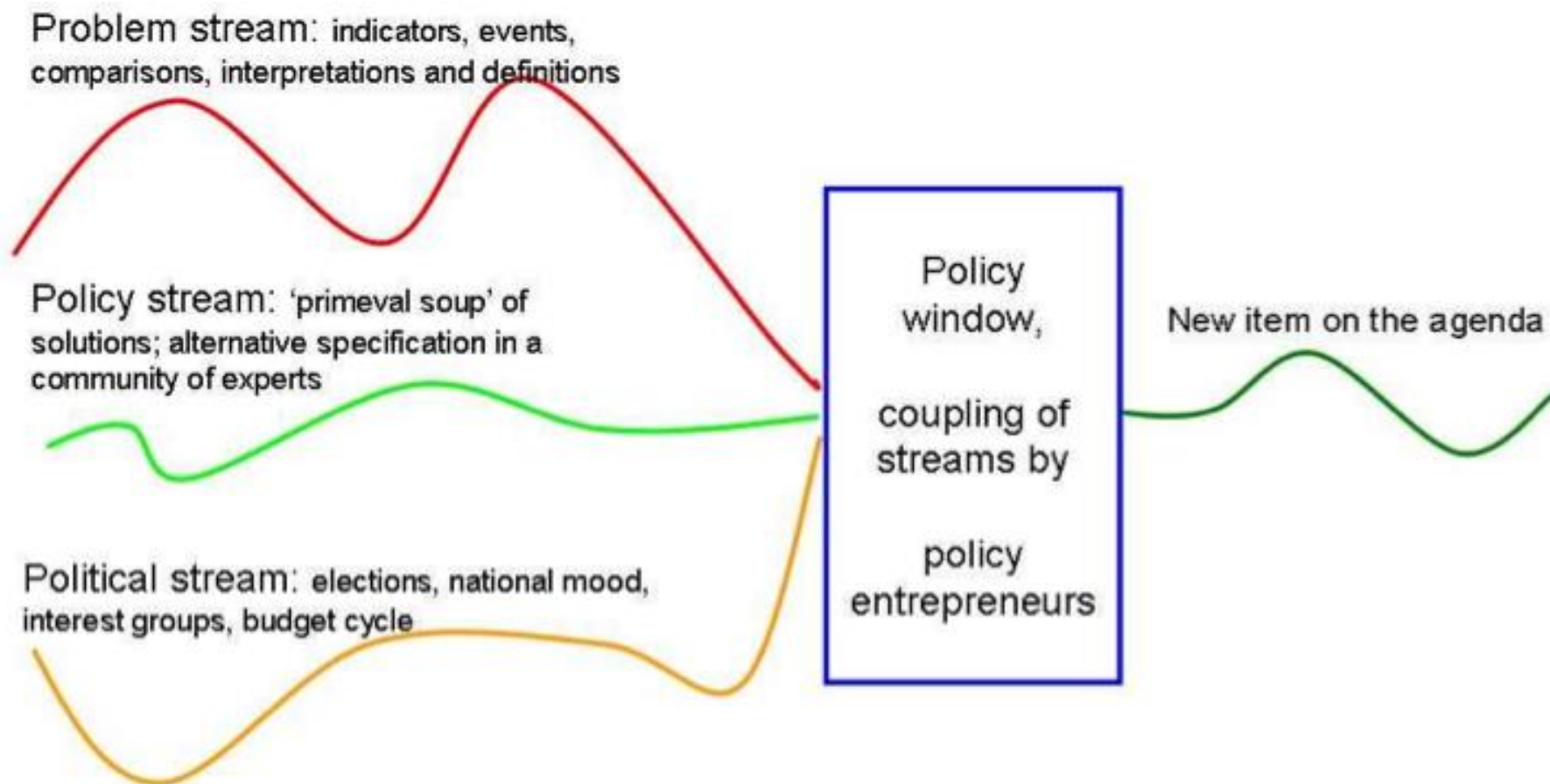
What about the role of politics?

## ***Kingdon's model on agenda setting***

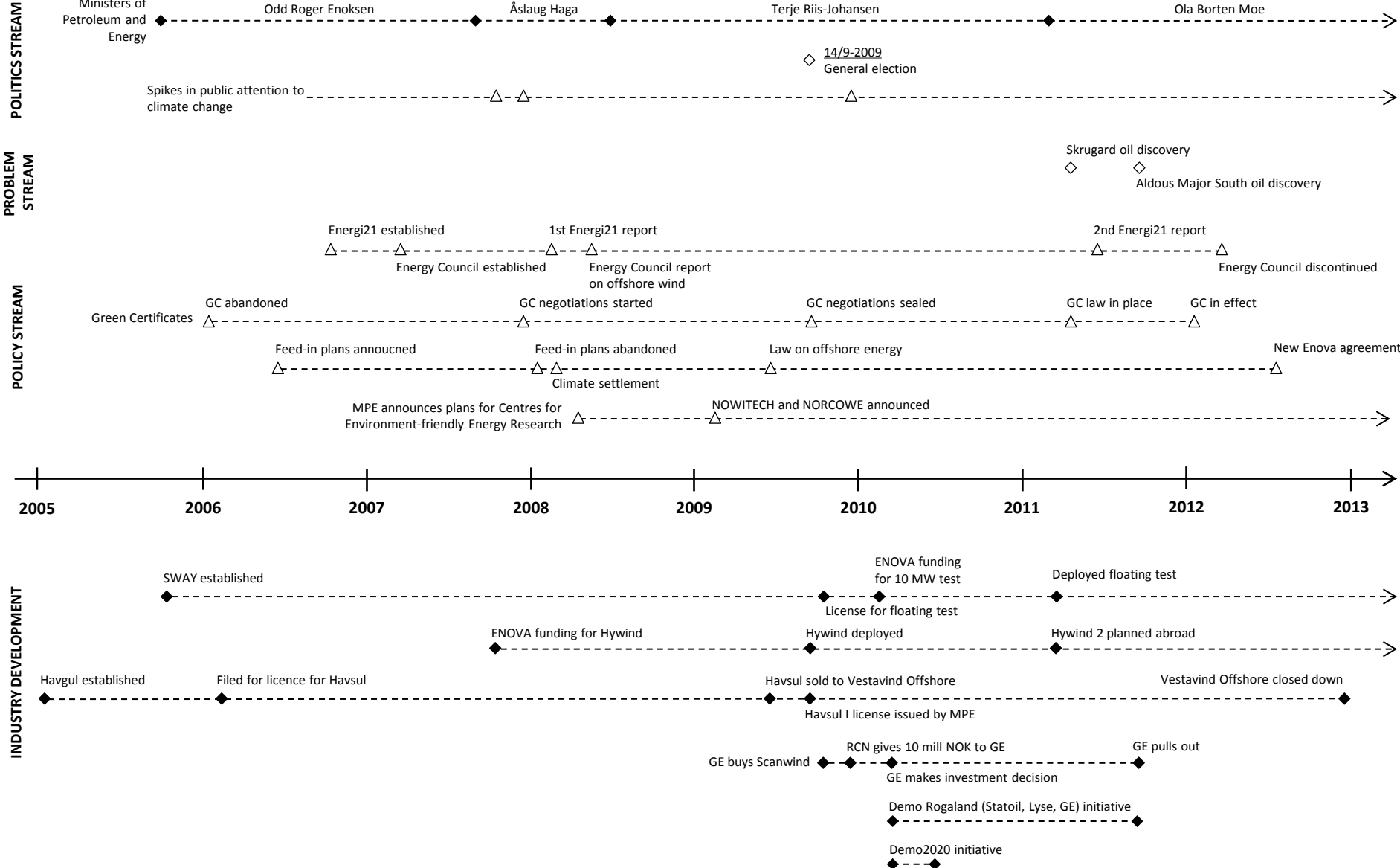
“We conceive of three policy streams flowing through the system – streams of problems, policies, and politics. They are largely independent of one another, and each develops according to its own dynamics and rules. But at some critical junctures the streams are joined, and the greatest policy changes grow out of that coupling of problems, policy proposals, and politics.”

(Kingdon, 1995, p. 19)

## *Kingdon's model on agenda setting*



# Developments of offshore wind in Norway over time



## ***Findings (I)***

### **Opening of a policy window**

- Politics stream: Haga + attention to climate change
- Problem stream:
  1. Reduced petroleum activity
  2. Regional energy shortage
  3. Attention to climate change
- Policy stream: Technological and commercial opportunities for offshore wind



## *Findings (II)*

### The offshore wind policy alternative

- Lacked an enduring policy entrepreneur
- No regulation beyond the baseline (consequences for Hywind)
- Industry not aligned - competition between major initiatives, and between actors.
- Policy makers (bureaucrats) lacked knowledge and experience with offshore wind.

## ***Findings (III)***

What about the context?

- Lack of willingness to support selected technologies
- Cost-efficiency principle
- Influence of the petroleum industry



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Thank you!

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