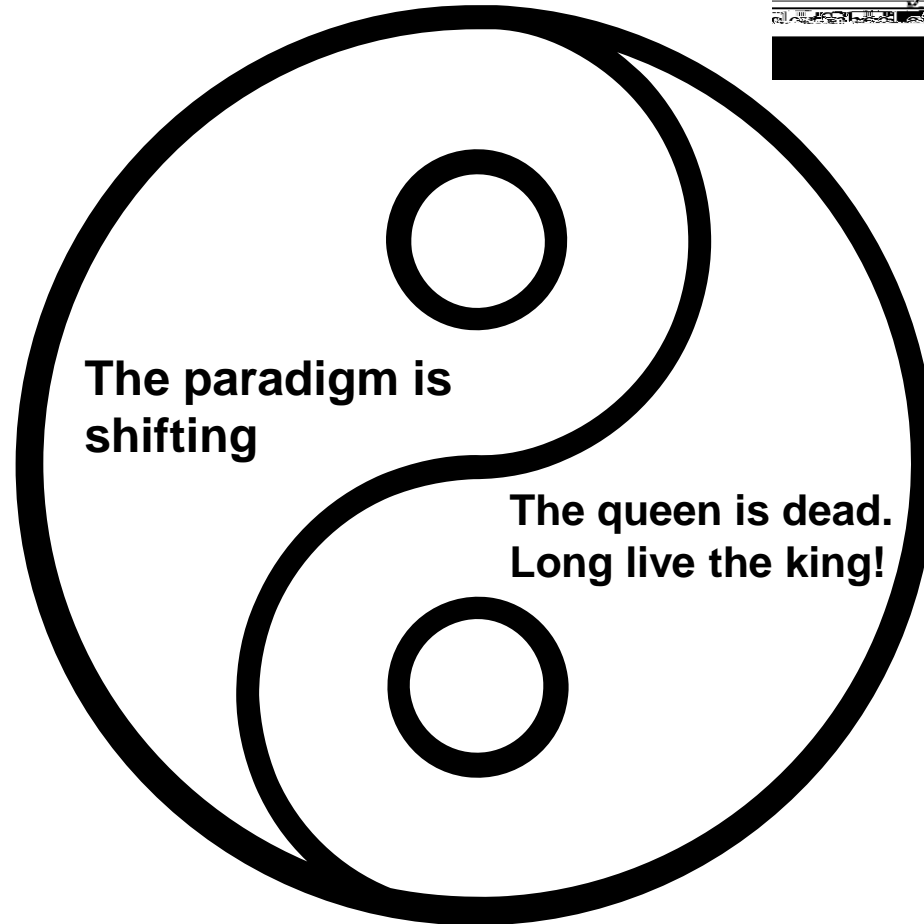


Acting for Public Health: Legal Work for a Better Future

Scott Burris, JD

**something
happening**

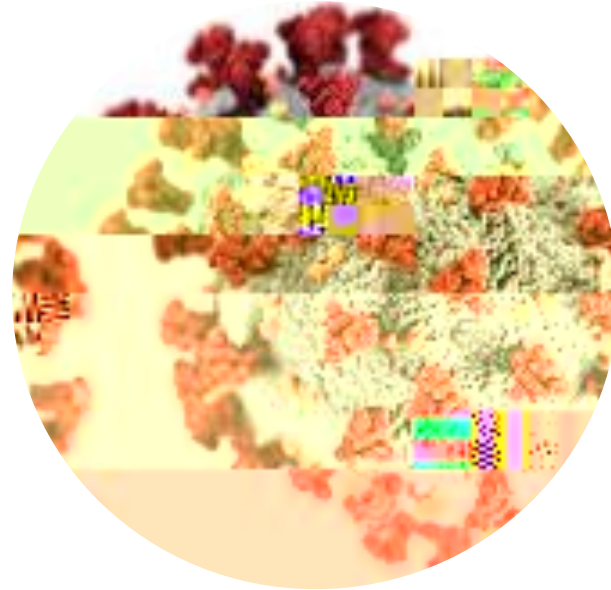


*But what it is ain't exactly
clear."
Buffalo Springfield, 1967

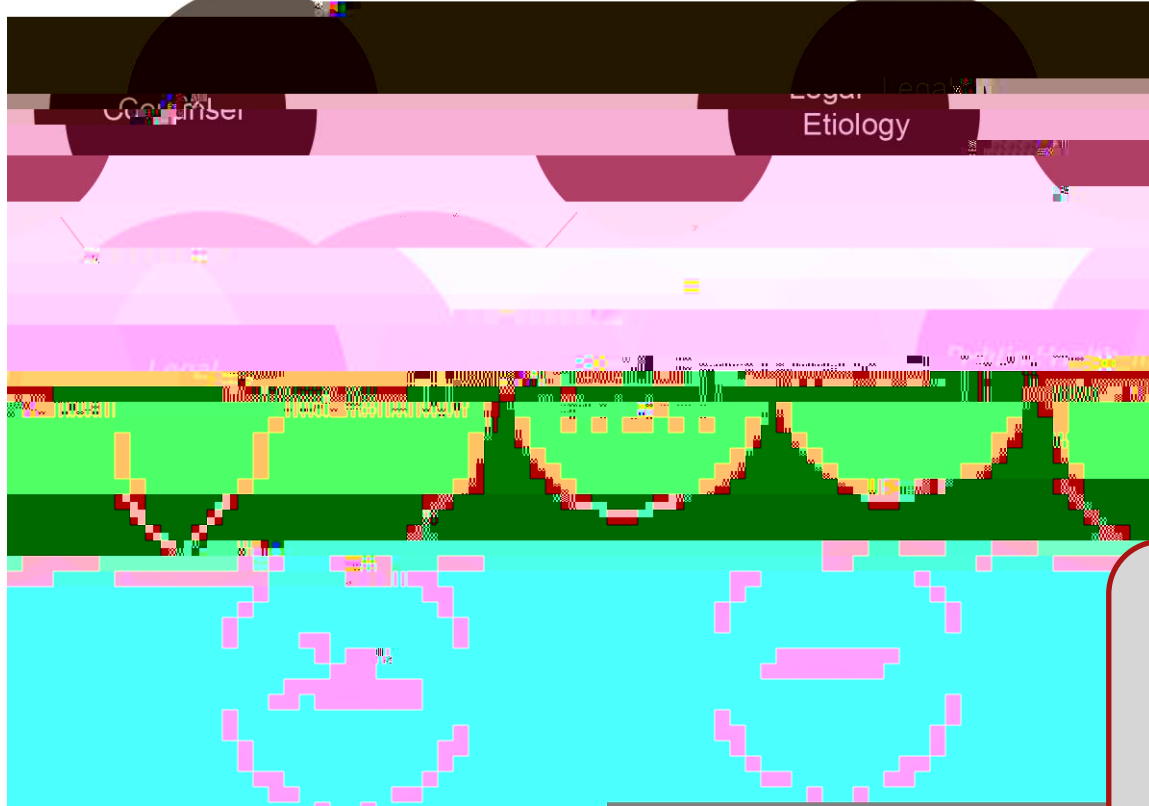
COVID

Lots happened related to law during COVID

- Mis - management
- Ideologically driven excess
- Changes in the Supreme Court
- Lots of lawmaking
- Lots of lawyering, better and worse (**See** Kelly)
- Terrible health outcomes and disparities

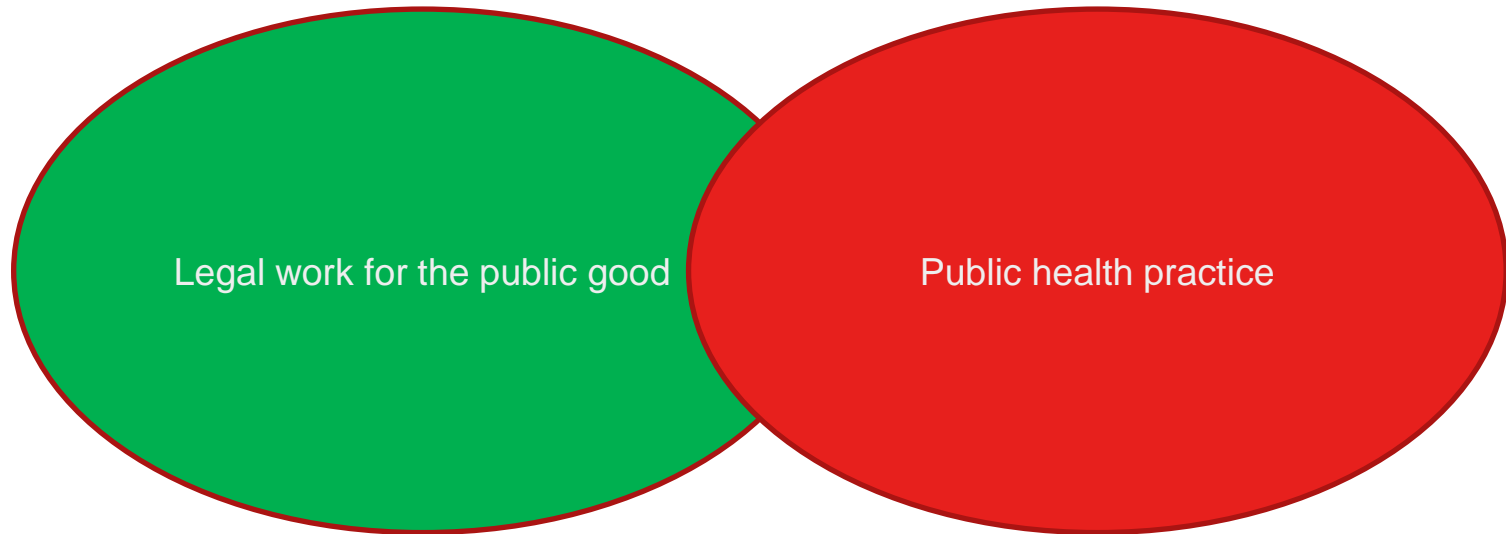


Approach

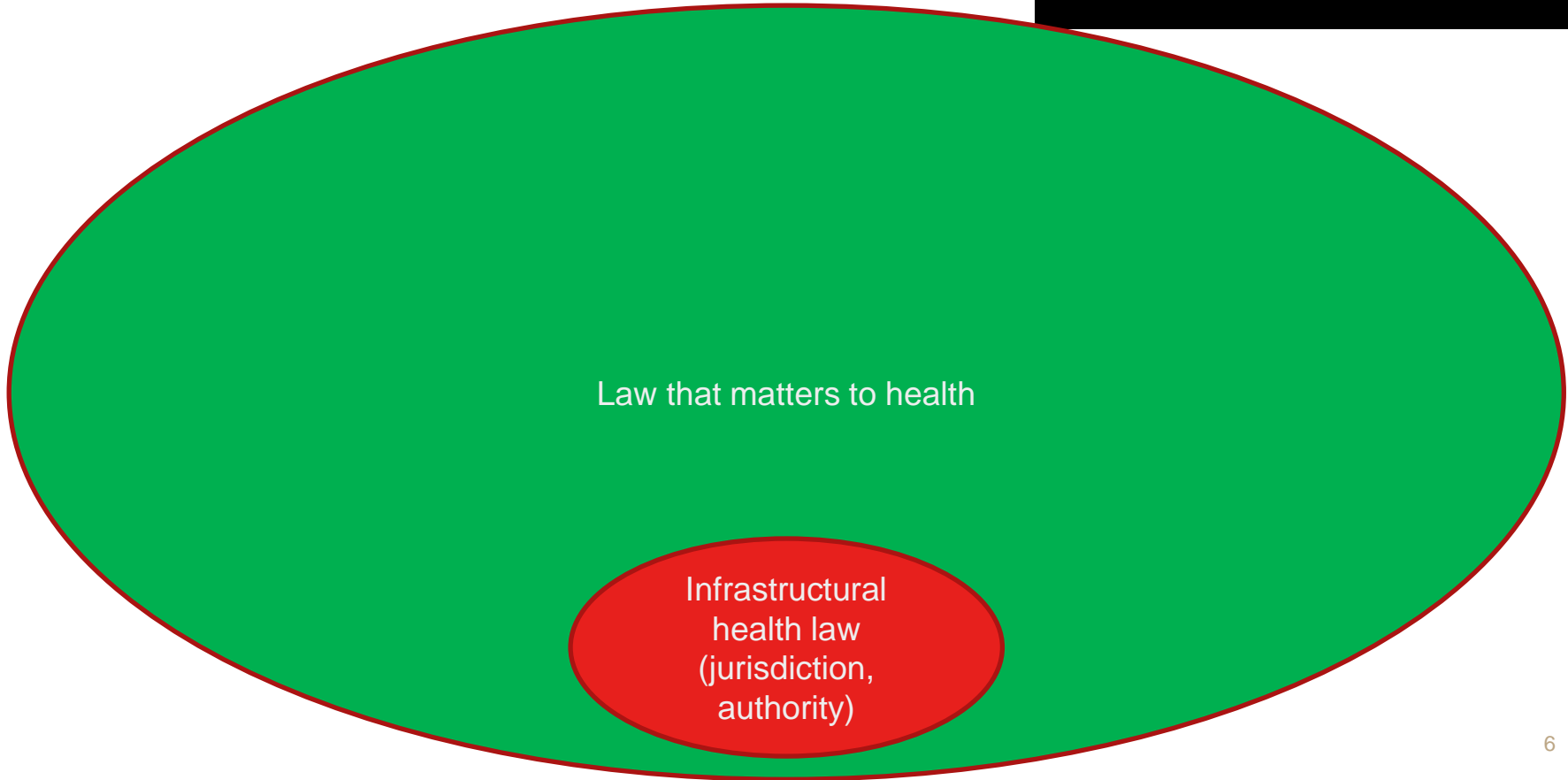


Didn't work too well:

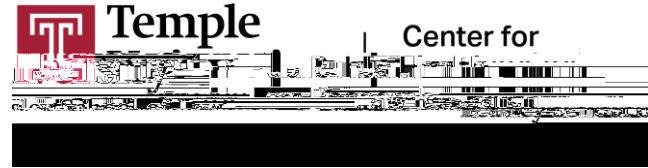
COVID raised basic questions about what public health law is all about



And its targets



What are we doing?



There is an easy list of things we are against (see Wendy, Sabrina, Dawn)

Preventable morbidity and mortality

Health disparities and inequities

Racism, discrimination and the inequitable application of government power

Systematic use of preemption to frustrate local efforts to act for local health and welfare

Activist republican courts constraining elected officials' power

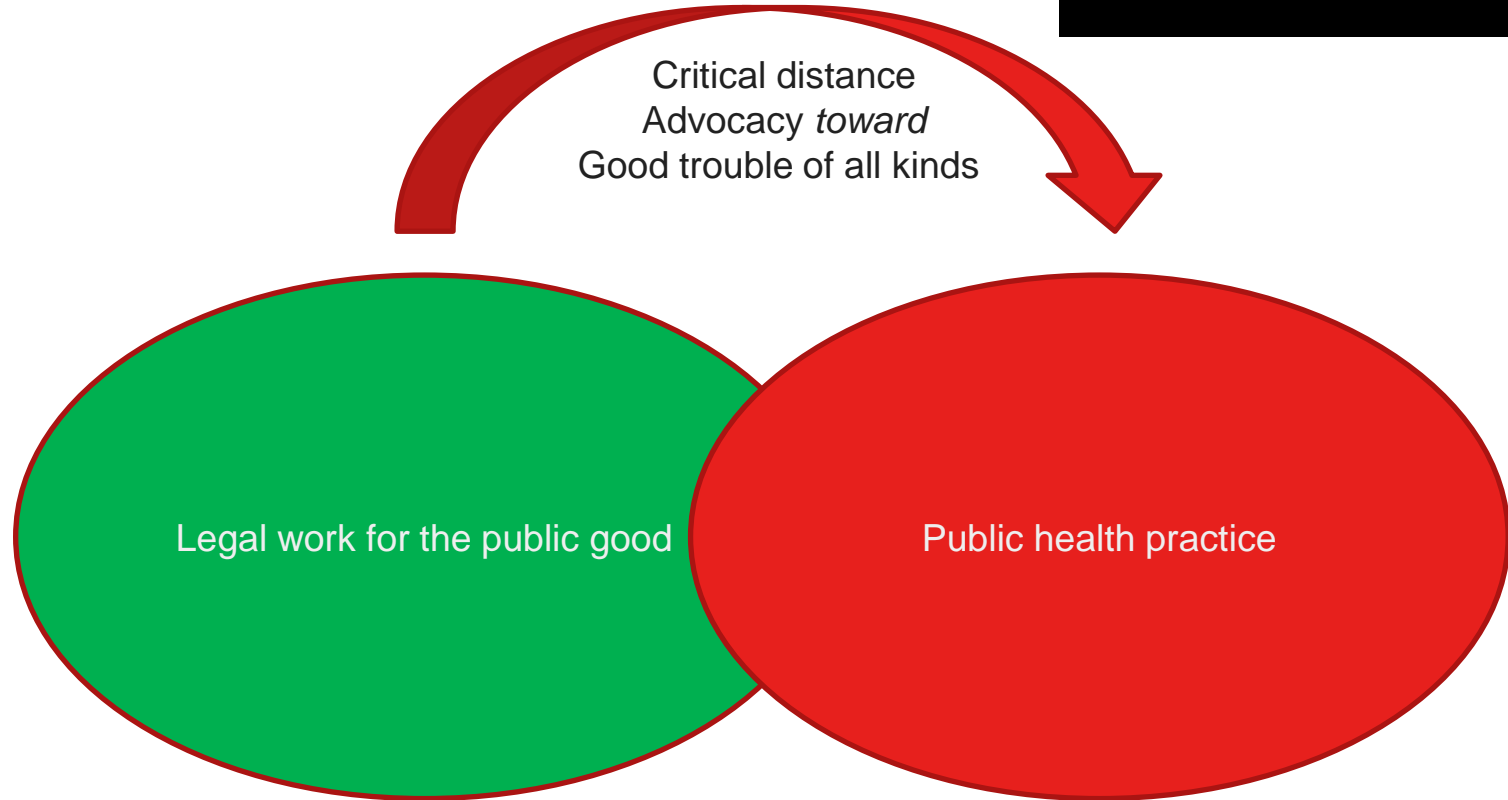



FOR



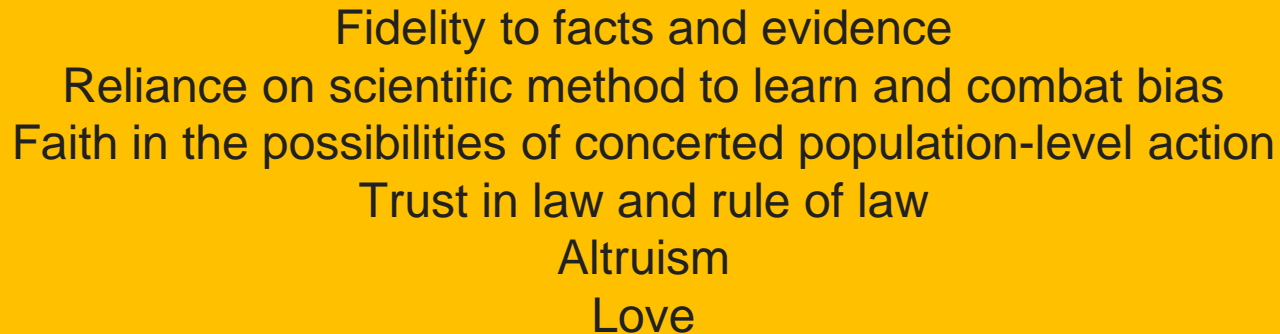
MORE than just supporting public health agencies or pursuing disease reductions

We may even by critics sometimes



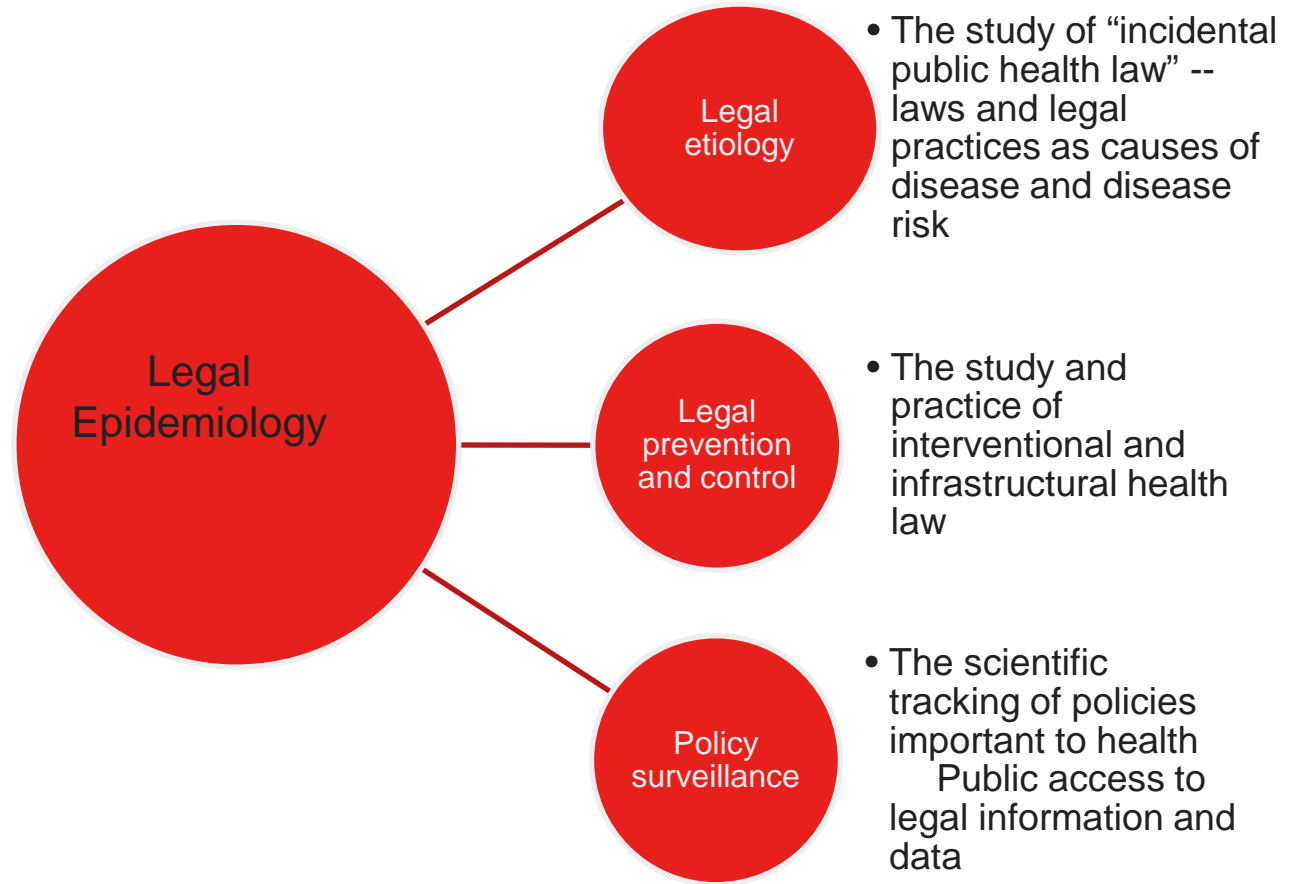


Public health provides
a strong foundation for
any new paradigms –
and for OPTIMISM



Fidelity to facts and evidence
Reliance on scientific method to learn and combat bias
Faith in the possibilities of concerted population-level action
Trust in law and rule of law
Altruism
Love

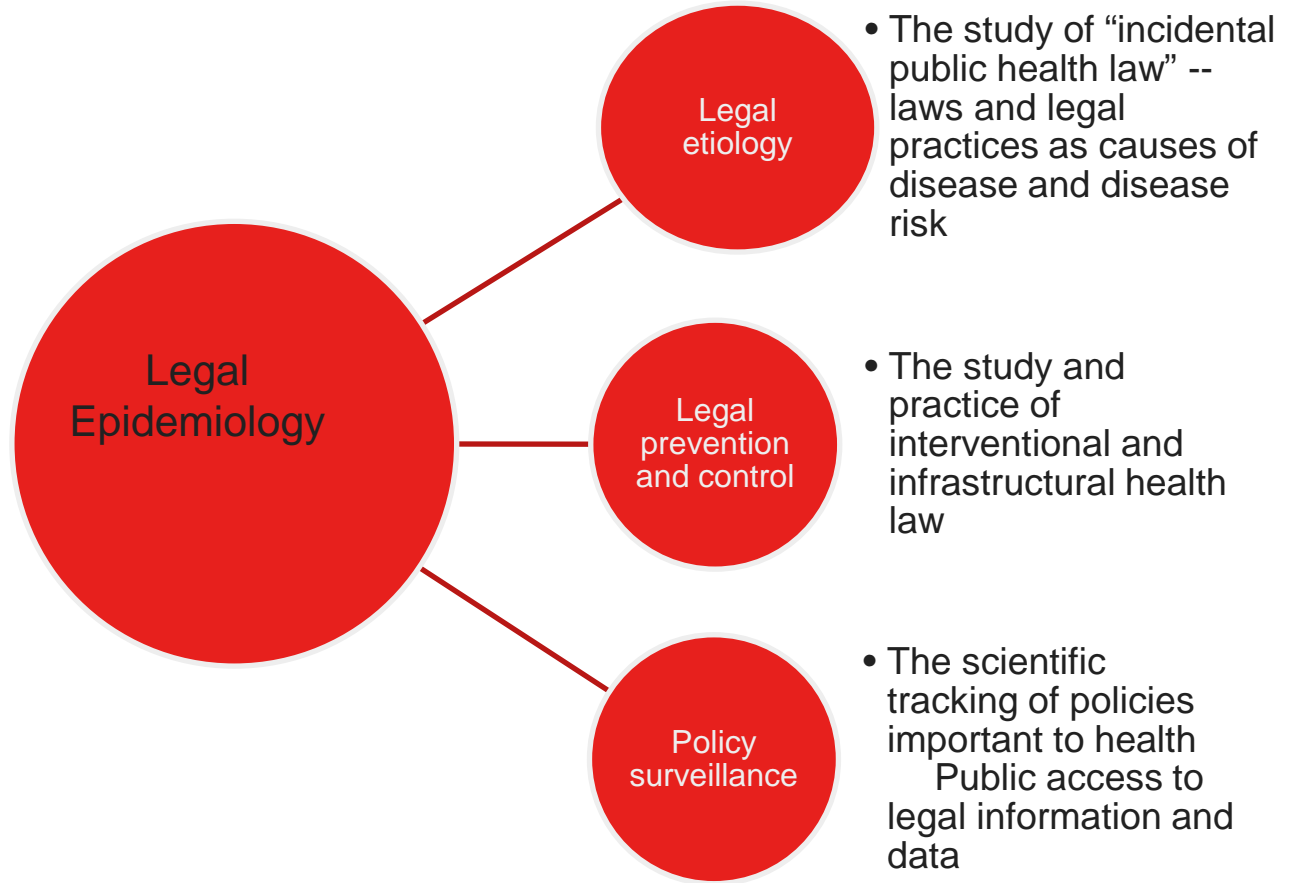
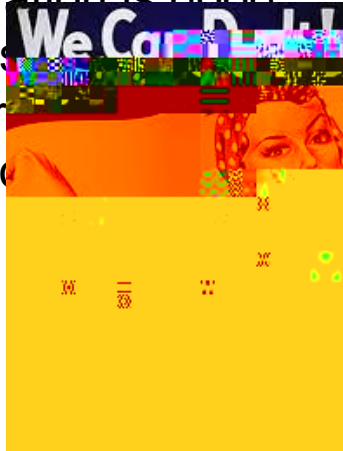
SO: Doubling down on legal epidemiology



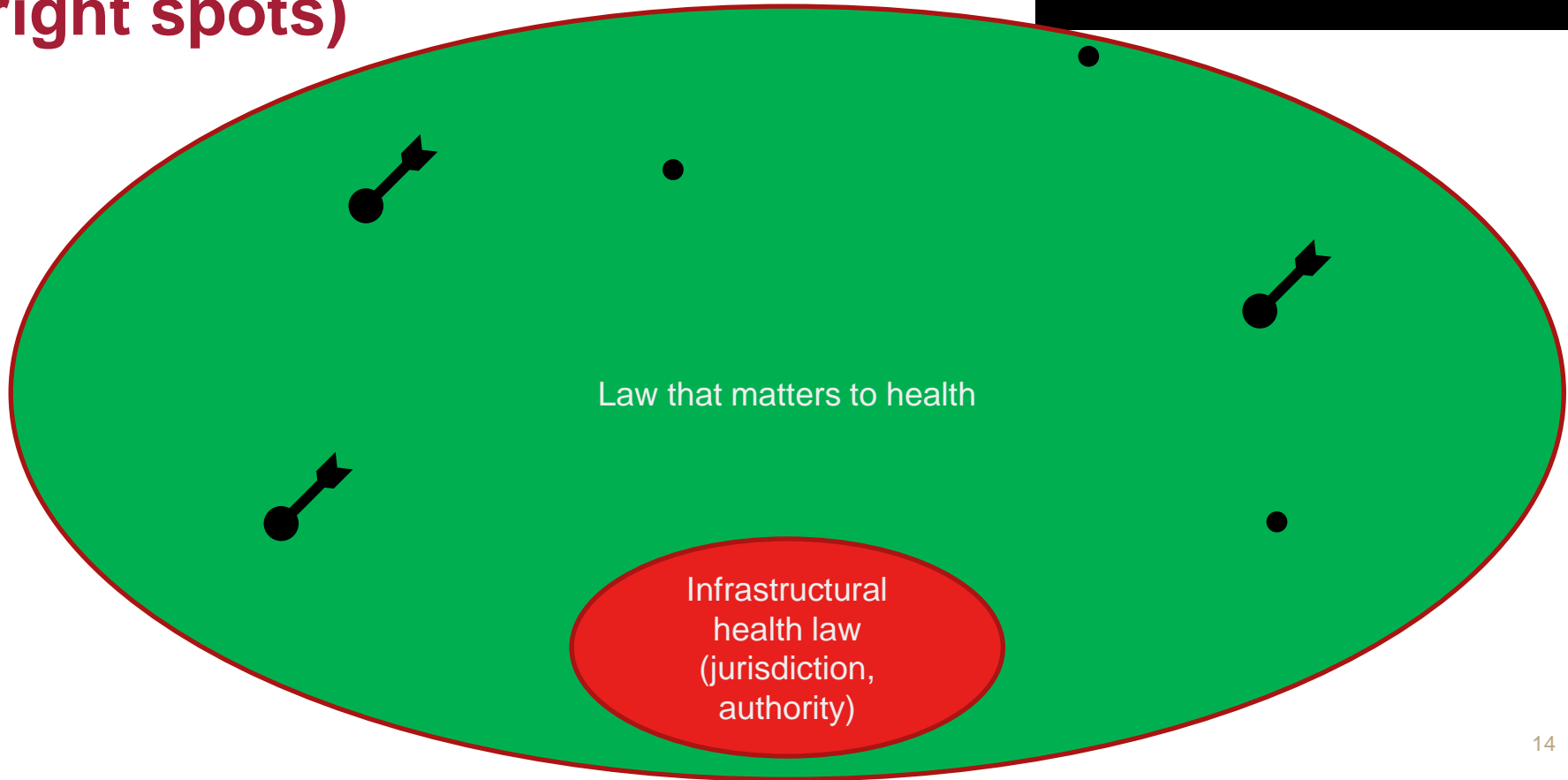
SO: Doubling down on legal epidemiology

Legal epi stands for great ideas:

- Laws can be effective
- Policymakers can be held accountable
- Innovation is good
- Law is a tool to spread solutions



Opportunity (big) (see bright spots)



But more targets and allies bring challenges

Choosing

Defining goals

Thinking through ideological and other biases

Incorporating diverse perspectives and expertise


Seeing new possibilities within robust strategies

Implementing

Coordination and cooperation

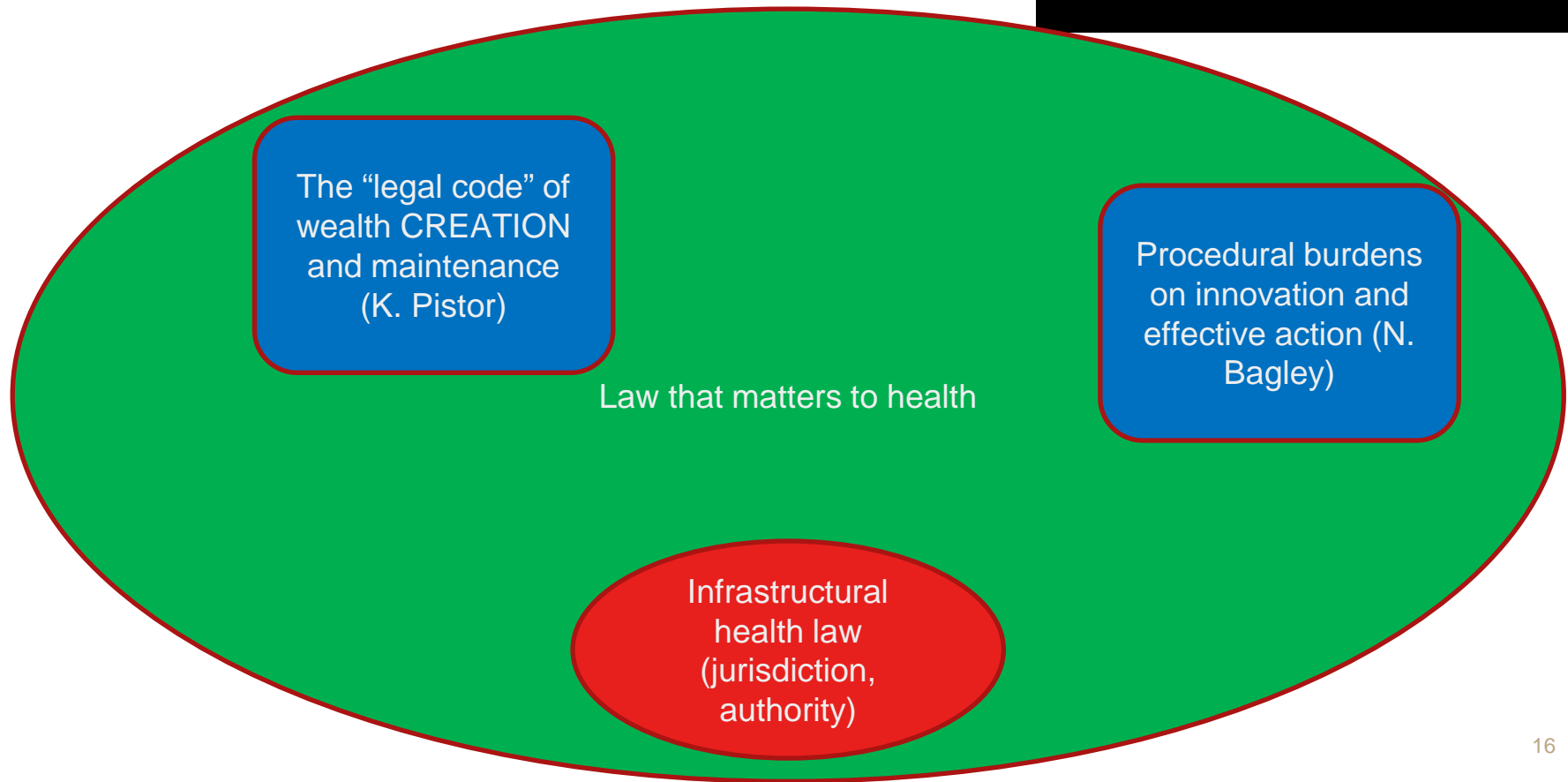
Funding and institutional infrastructure

Framing and messaging



See, e.g.,
Dawn: A new
paradigm is
not necessarily
an equitable
one

New target examples (challenging)





Temple

Center for

