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Information Disclosure and Environmental Performance

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Coming Clean: Information Disclosure and Environmental Performance

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Preliminary Remarks

- Presentation is based on a book project – coauthored by Michael Kraft and Troy Abel
- Based on research funded by NSF
- Initial research interests – community involvement in environmental decision making
- Environmental information disclosure programs
- The puzzle of information

Coming Clean

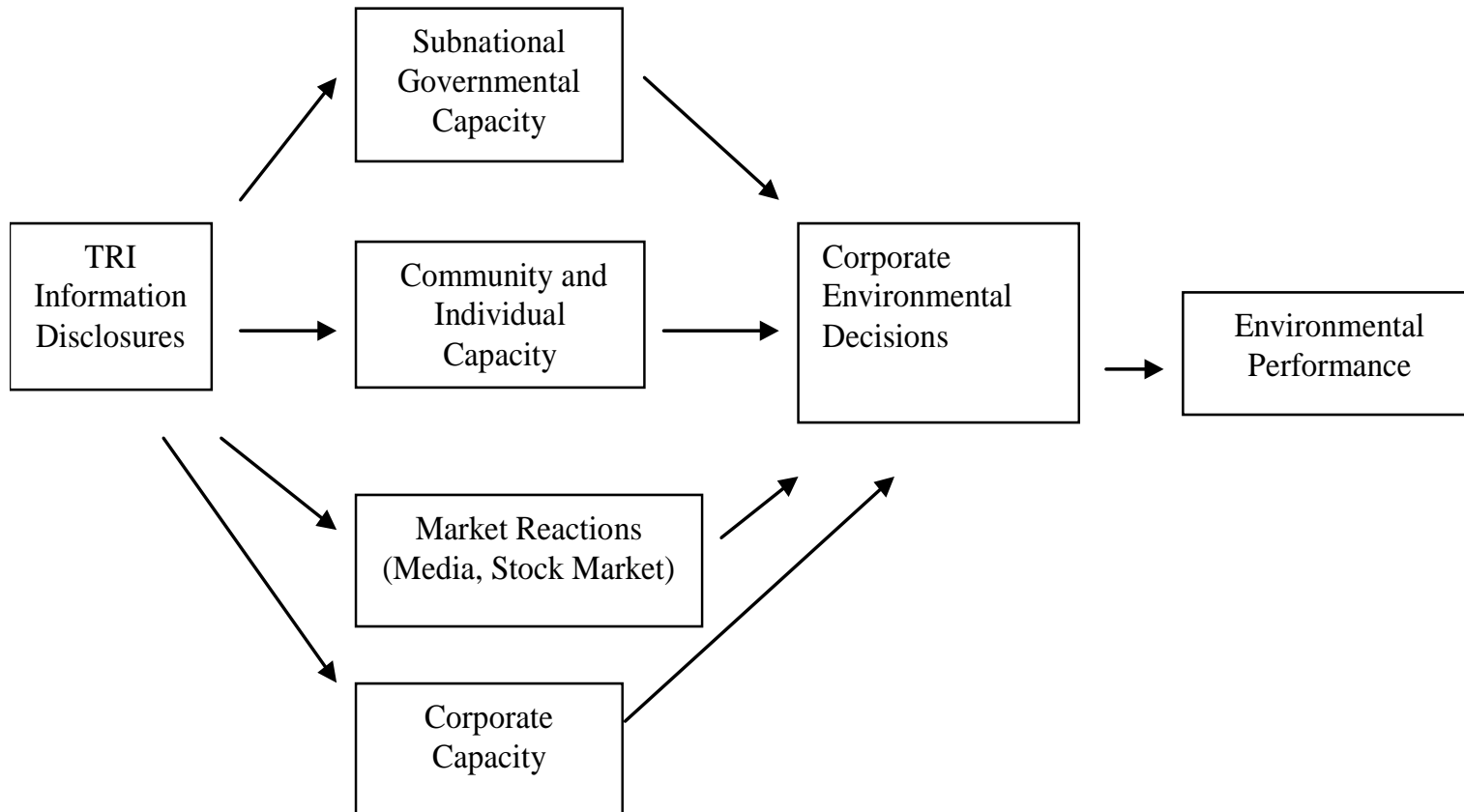
- Controlling and reducing pollution
- Regulatory approaches
- Market-based approaches
- Quasi-regulatory approach: information
- The Toxics Release Inventory

Information Effects

- Reducing information costs
- Shock and Shame
- Comparative Injustice
- Agenda setting

- Uniform Effects? No – quite a bit of variation across facilities
- Need for more theory

Figure 1. The Effect of TRI Information Disclosures on Corporate and Community Decisions



Comparing Systems

- State level analyses
- Leaders and laggards
- Facilities in a larger political, economic, and social context
- Direct and indirect effects

Figure 2 Integrated Causal Model of State Industrial Environmental Performance

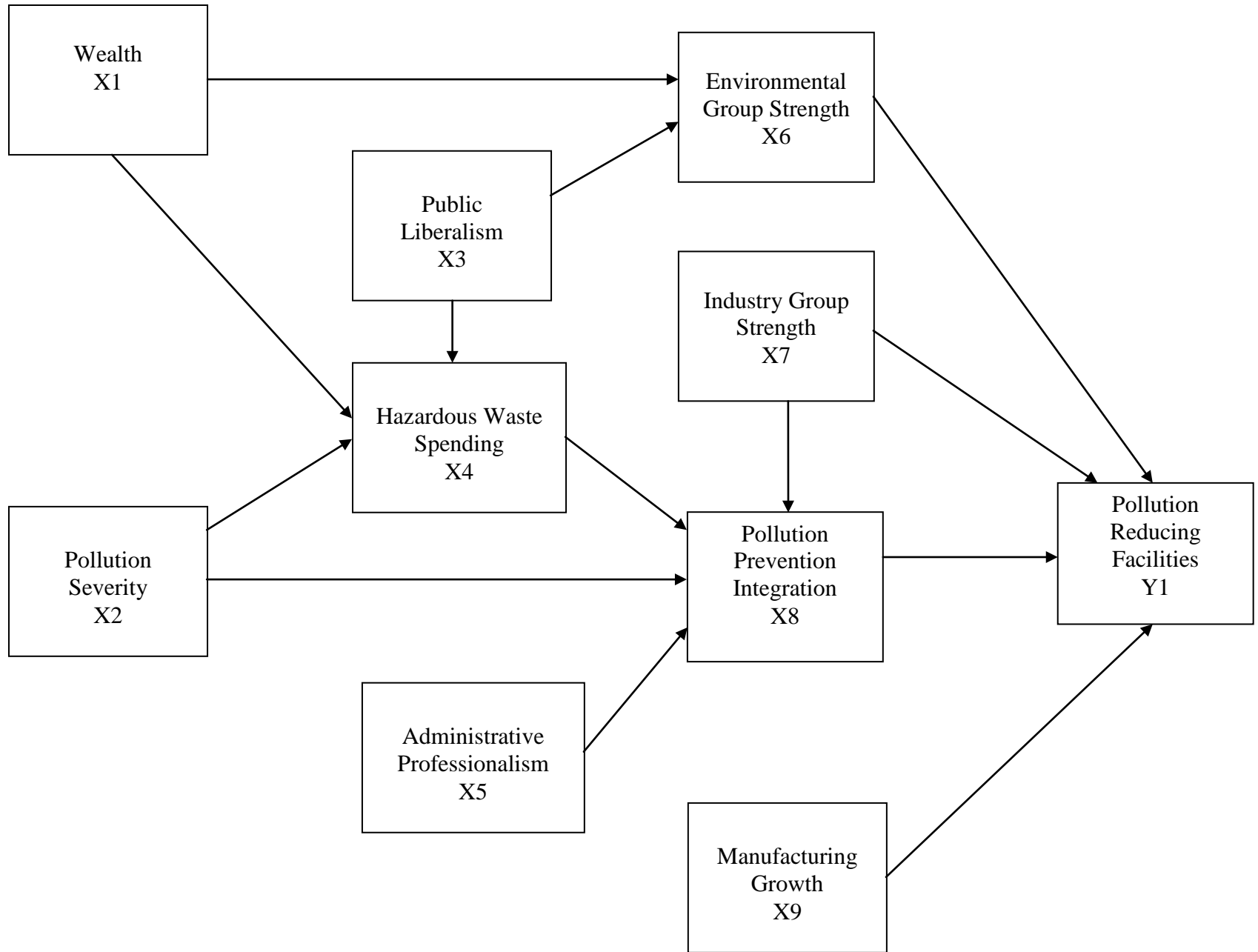


Table 1 Effects Coefficients for Regression on the Percentage of Facilities Reducing Both Releases and Risk

Variable	Standardized Coefficients (Direct)	Indirect Effects	Total Effects
Wealth	--	.176	.176
Pollution severity	--	-.167	-.167
Public liberalism	--	.141	.141
Hazardous waste spending	--	.190	.190
Administrative professionalism	--	.102	.102
Environmental group strength	.212	--	.212
Industry group strength	.410	-.124	.286
Pollution prevention integration	.335	--	.335
Manufacturing production	-.340	--	-.340

(Number of cases = 41)

Final Comments

- Secondary data analysis, but also survey work and interviews
- Ultimately a focus on corporate behavior more than citizen behavior
- Next project: comparing environmental information disclosure policies across countries