Prosperity on the Edge of Crisis
(or, Why the Trend is Not Your Friend)

John Casti
X-Event Dynamics, LLC
Vienna, Austria
(casti@xevents.com)

Some Historical Trends

- Dinosaurs – 135 million years
- Roman Empire – 677 years
- Global Financial “Boom” – 32 years
- “Vampiremania” – 5 years (?)
The End of a Trend

Chance and Necessity

Human events = chance + necessity
= “random trigger” + context
Landscape of Events

- *Complexity gap*/mismatch
- *Collective beliefs* about the future (the “mood” of the population)

Complexity Overload

Examples of Complexity Mismatches

**Two Koreas**  
(North vs South)

**2011 Japanese earthquake**  
(nature vs humans)

**Financial Crash of 2007**  
(financial services vs regulators)

**Eurozone/EU**  
(EU regulations vs global markets)

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**Financial Indices are a Measure of Social Mood**

*WIRED*

Twitter Can Predict the Stock Market

by Lisa Chowman 15 October 2016 | 1:30 pm | Category: Main Features
The Skyscraper Index

Middle East Events (1976-2010)
X-Events: Problem or Opportunity?

- Hurricane Sandy
- Nokia
- Lehman bankruptcy
- World War II (Germany & Japan)
- Arab Spring (and Winter)

Resilience and Rebirth

- Die off/crash → resilient survive
- New “eco-niches” → innovation/new species emerge
- Reconfiguration → new trends begin

Big Question: How to create “controlled” X-events?
The Take Away

- Complexity kills
- Human events cannot be forecast
- Mood biases events
- X-events are necessary for rebirth

X-Event Dynamics, LLC

- Understanding the nature of X-Events
- Tools for anticipation of X-events
- Tools for crisis management
To Dig Deeper


Piper, Munich 2013

Copernicus, NY, 2010

(casti@xevents.com)

Bonus

The X-Press, Vienna and New York, 2016