

# What Price Reputation? Changing Corporate Reputation Dynamics in a Post-Crisis World

Jonathan Low Predictiv LLC jon.low@predictiv.net

# May your enemies live in intercontrol for Communities in the Knowledge Economy in the Knowledge Economy intercontrol time String times...

"My administration is the only thing between you and the pitchforks."

US President Barack Obama to bank CEOs, April 3, 2009



### So much for Milton Friedman...

49%, eg, less than half, of U.S. respondents to the 2009 Edelman Trust Barometer survey say the free market should be allowed to function independently.

# Hard to Find the Silver Lining in This Cloud

Across 20 countries, trust in business down 62% v 2008 Fortune magazine

Americans' trust in business down in 13 of 15 industries.

Better Business Bureau

Americans' trust in business hits ten year low.

17% trust CEOs; 29% trust info provided by CEOs ('08-36%). 13% trust advertising ('08 – 20%).

Edelman Trust Barometer

88%: corporate reputation "not good" or "terrible."

Harris Interactive



### Impact on Financials

- Bid for Madoff Trading Unit is \$15 million, "Based on trading volume, valuation experts had estimated the business might bring \$200 million to \$400 million, a figure they said was depressed by the stain his fraud had left on its reputation." New York Times, 3/28/09
- AIG receives low bids for aircraft leasing business, "The three bids under \$5 billion may be considered low given ILFC's book value of \$7.5 billion but they reflect the industry's uncertain outlook." RTT News 4/27/09

### 2007 - 2009 MOST RESPECTED CO.s

BARRON'S
A survey of institutional investors regarding the attributes that contribute to a company's reputation

	<u>07</u>	<u>09</u>
Strong Management	32 %	27%*
Sound Business Strategy	25	27
Ethical Business Practices	21	20
A Competitive Edge	9	10
Consistent Revenue, Profit Growth	6	0

<sup>\* %</sup> who pick each factor as most important



# **FORTUNE** Magazine Most Admired Companies

Primary factors driving selection of Fortune's Most Admired:

<u>2008</u> <u>2009</u>

Innovation Strong, stable strategy

Leadership Global talent

Financial Strength Leadership

No statistically significant performance difference in organizational structure.

## Different Data From Growing Economies Economies

 Trust in business has increased in some BRIC countries;

Brazil 61% (08)

69% (09)

China 54%

71%

Why does this matter?

Increasing power of services; increased local competition

# Recent Surveys on Corporate Reputation Factors

Results of recent client stakeholder surveys including clients, business partners, employees, lenders/investors

Construction/Real Estate Hea	allii	Care
------------------------------	-------	------

Ethics Service Level

Trustworthiness Staff

Performance Quality of Care

Collaboration Outcomes

Service/Client Experience Facilities/Tech

# Emerging Factors in Post-Recession Corporate Reputation Corporate Reputation

- Quality
- Treatment of Employees
- Trust
- Transparency
- Financial prospects
- Job Creation
- Corporate social responsibility
- Innovation



### Trends in Disclosure

### **Common Practice**

#### Communication

One way communication
Single co. progress report
Public relations
Voluntary reporting

#### **Standards**

Verification as option
Inputs and outputs
Ad hoc standards
Corporate boundary definition

### **Emerging Trend**

#### Communication

Multi-stakeholder dialogue Industry benchmarking More Corporate Governance Mandatory reporting

#### **Standards**

Assurance Models/strategy Global standards Dialogue set definition



### Implications; What Does It Mean?

- Respondents in all surveys reflecting loss of confidence in experts, expertise, institutions
- Control (greater need for personal control given relative helplessness in face of economic crisis
- Fairness
- Greater reliance on self, family and friends
- Distrust of experts and information
- Shaken faith in projections

# Focus on Social Media Reputation Impact

Some Context; Social Media Penetration

Europe 36% of total population

*Asia* 11%

US 48%

US - 52% women, 45% men

Women +40; fastest growth segment

US – 20 million bloggers, 2 million paid

450,000 make primary living blogging

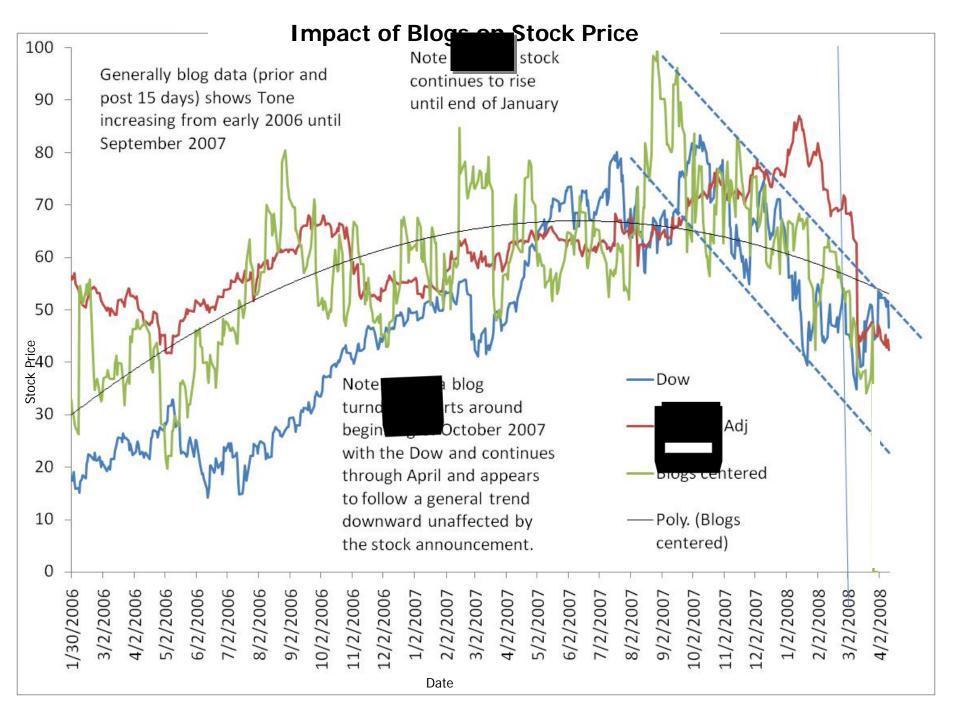
> firemen or computer programmers

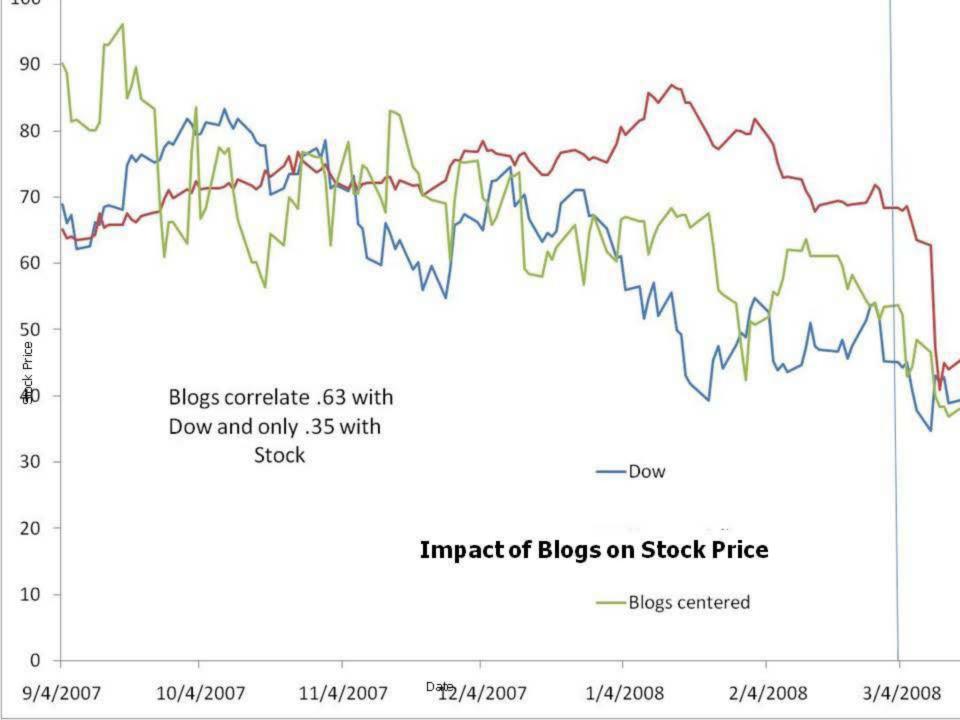


### Measuring the Impact of Social Media; Media Coverage Impacts Market Value and Public Perceptions

Date	Stock	Shares	Market Value
10/30/2007	\$76.18	170051	\$12,954,485
3/31/2008	\$44.86	170051	\$7,628,488

The company's downward revision of its projected earnings per share (1Q08) led to negative media coverage, which in turn drove market value downward. This occurred despite a concurrent increase in the CPI and increase in the DJIA, and demonstrates how negative coverage of a single "bad" event can have a huge impact on business outcomes.







### Impact on stock price:

 Blog messages contributed approximately \$2.77 to stock price on an average day

### Impact on market value:

 Blog messages contributed approximately \$471 million to average quarterly market value In the analysis of June 2008, media coverage continues to drive blog messages, not vice-versa.

Media messages continue to have a greater impact on market value than blog messages