

Governing cybersystemically – innovations in praxis?

Transdisciplinary System-Transformation Research



Dr. Maja Göpel, 30.07.2015

Potentials of a cybersystemic initiative today

1. Transdisciplinarity – *rigorous, robust, relevant knowledge*
2. What systems? – *side-effects of a hype*
3. Transformation \neq adaptation \neq revolution – *the “radical” agenda*
4. Transformative Literacy – *paradigms as structural power & empowering lever*

1. Transdisciplinarity as theory of practice

- **Erich Jantsch**, Club of Rome and University of Hanover— a system's approach to university education and innovation (1970): give it “*a new purpose which may be recognized as a **means of increasing the capability of society for continuous self-renewal***”
- ⇒ Combining expertise of practitioners with theoretical expertise for potentially new knowledge
- ⇒ Self-renewal of which order? Resilience(speak)

2. The hype around system(ic) approaches

- *Ecosystems are dynamic and co-evolving communities of diverse actors who create new value through increasingly productive and sophisticated models of both collaboration and competition.*^{**}
- *Earlier this year, at the World Economic Forum in Davos, I was tremendously impressed by the shared appreciation emerging for ecosystem approaches to wicked opportunity; approaches that engage communities and reimagine government, while tapping market forces for scaling up.*^{**}

^{*}William D. Eggers & Anna Muoio, *Wicked Opportunities*, April 2015, Deloitte University Press

^{**} Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, CEO, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

An ecosystem approach fit for the Anthropocene?

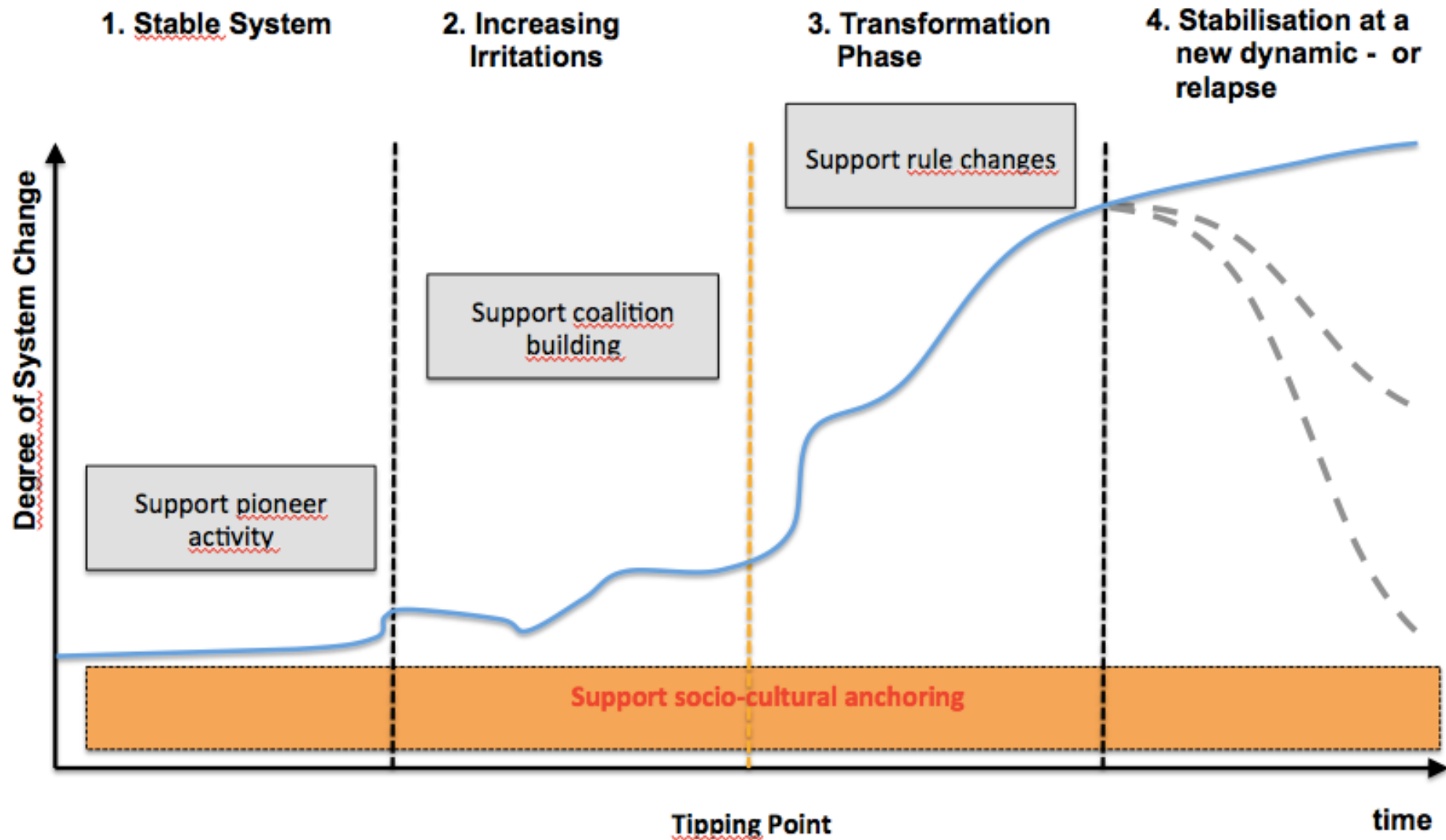
The ecosystem surrounding water as a wicked problem (ibid)



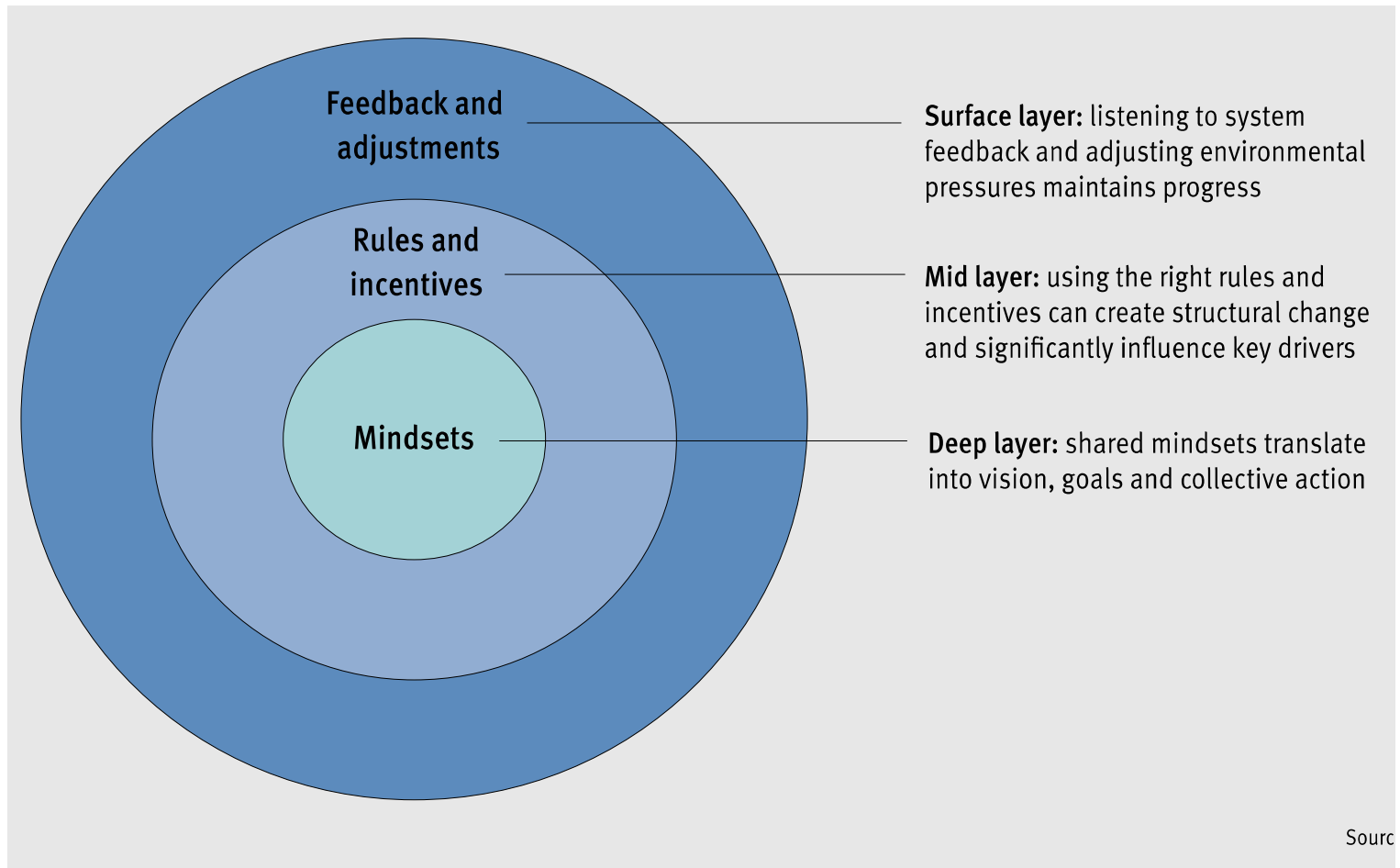
3. Transformation as process and outcome quality

- *“a radical, structural change of a societal (sub)system that is the result of a coevolution of economic, cultural, technological, ecological, and institutional developments at different scale levels”** (Loorbach/Rotmans 2009)

Driving transformations: *incremental* radical change

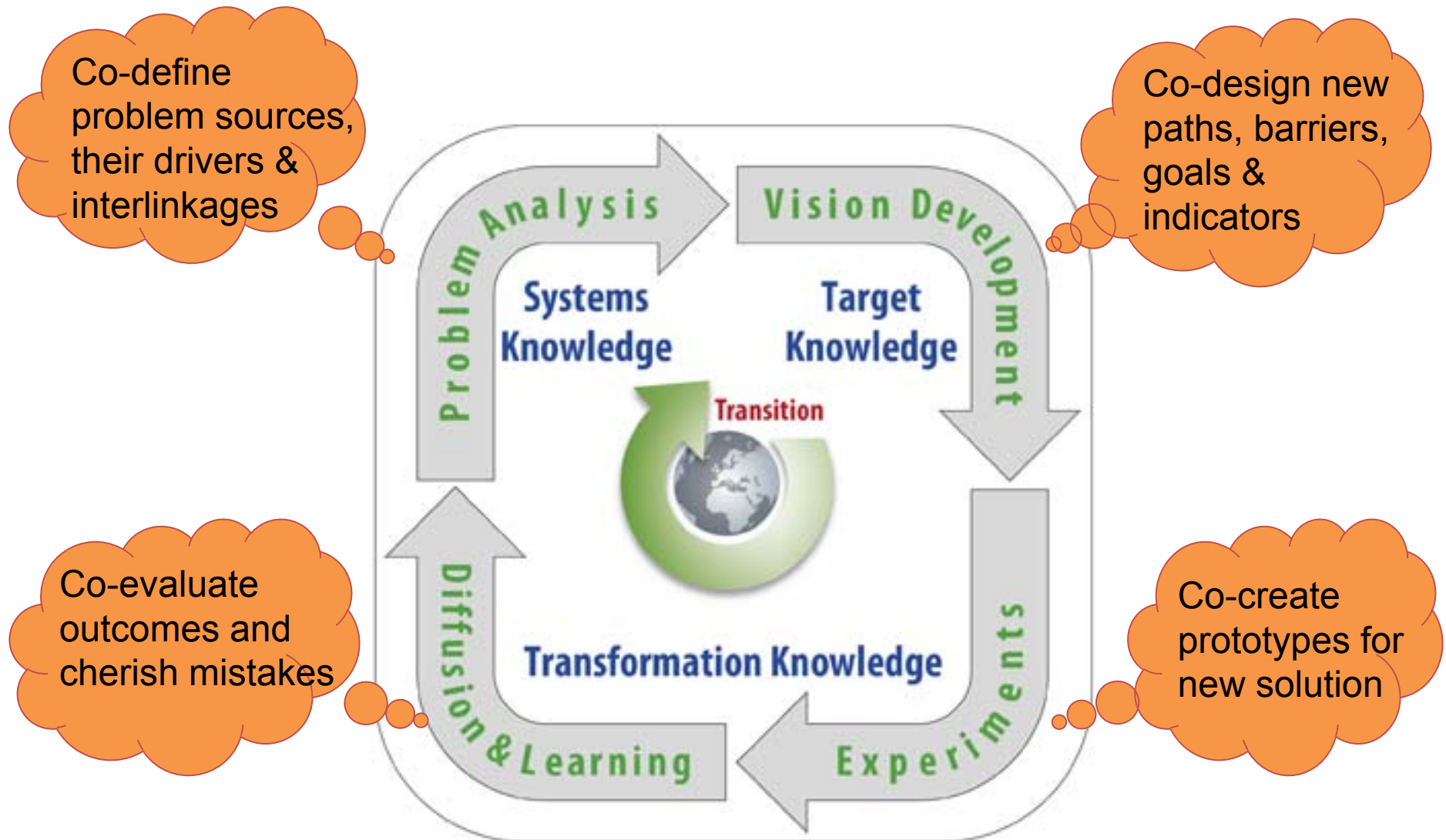


... by repurposing

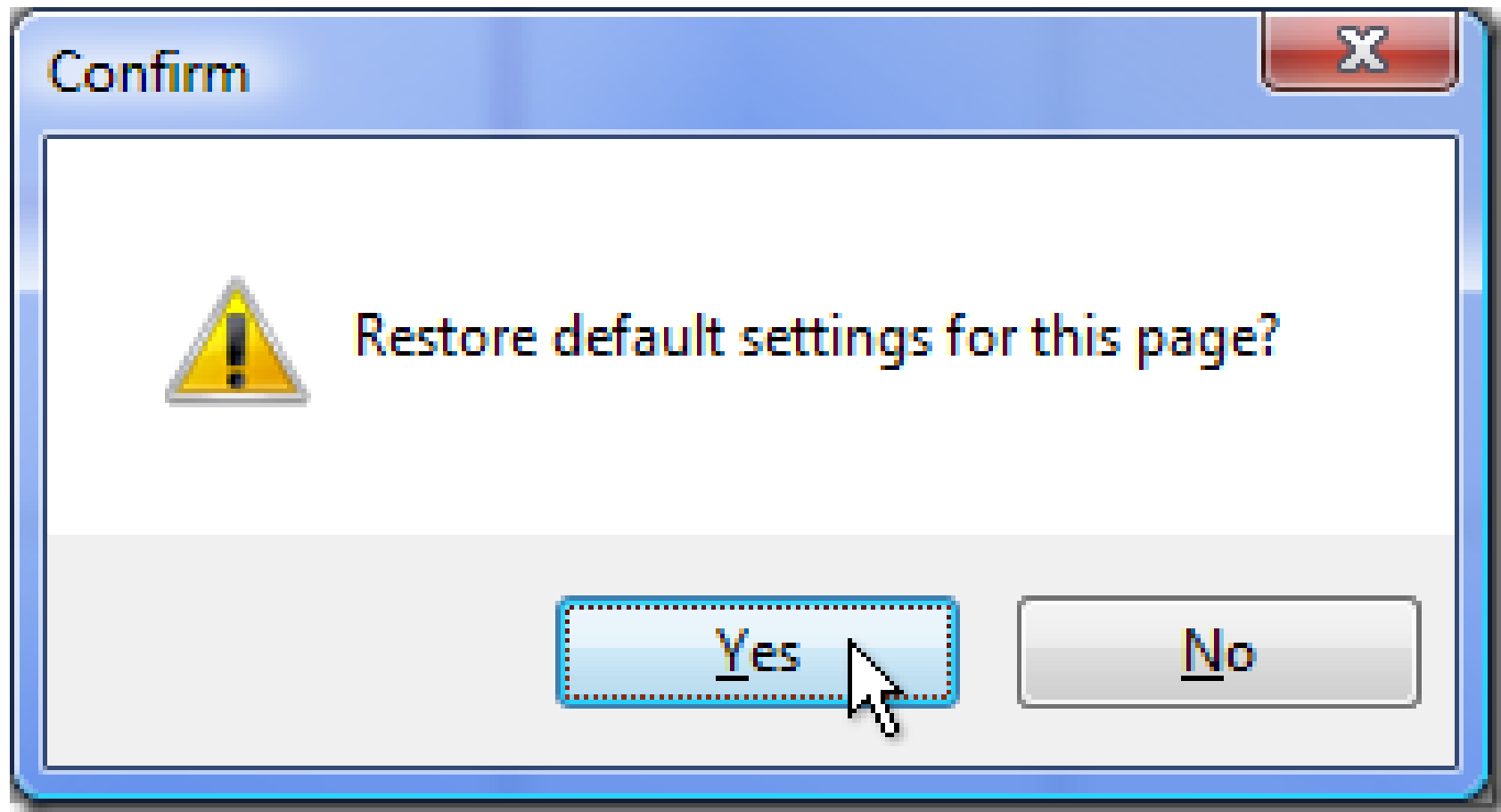


UNEP GEO5 report, 2012, Chapter 16, Scenarios and Governance, building on Donella Meadows' *Leverage Points*

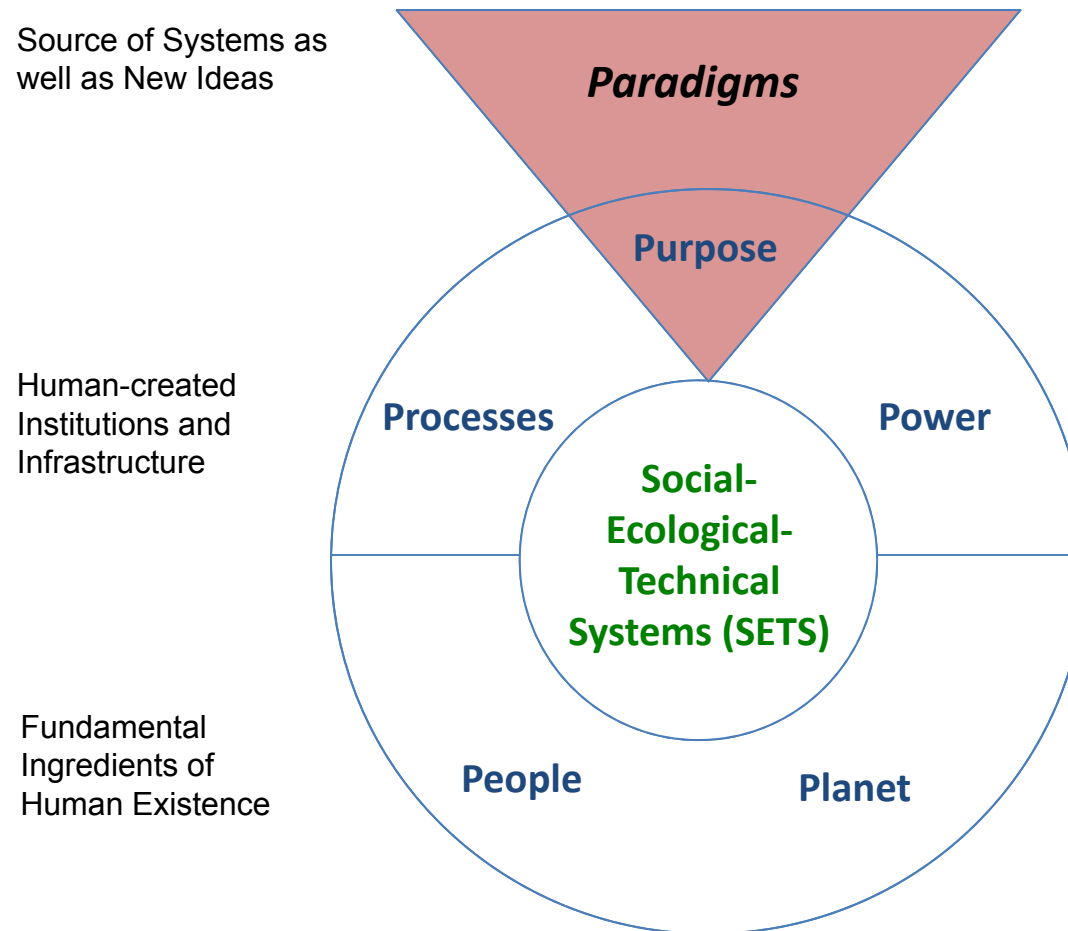
... in adaptive governance



... to change the default



4. Transformative Literacy: hack the system and do not forget about power



Possible research questions

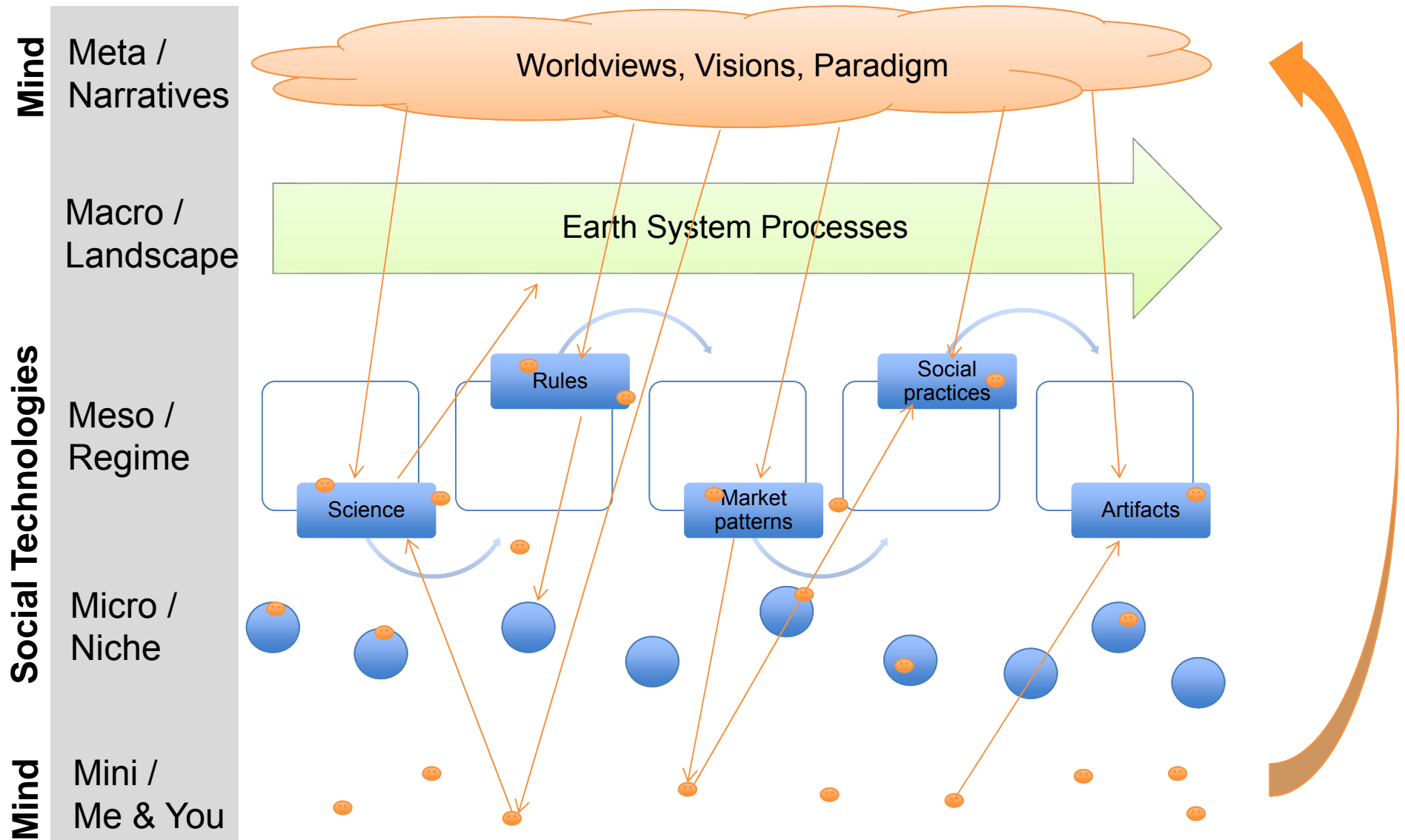
- Which role does power play in cybersystemic governance processes?
- Which structures today inhibit cybersystemic governance?
- Is there a cap on size for cybersystemic governance processes?
- Yes, institutionalize for Deutungshoheit
- Build a lab for ecosystem-based business ecosystems...



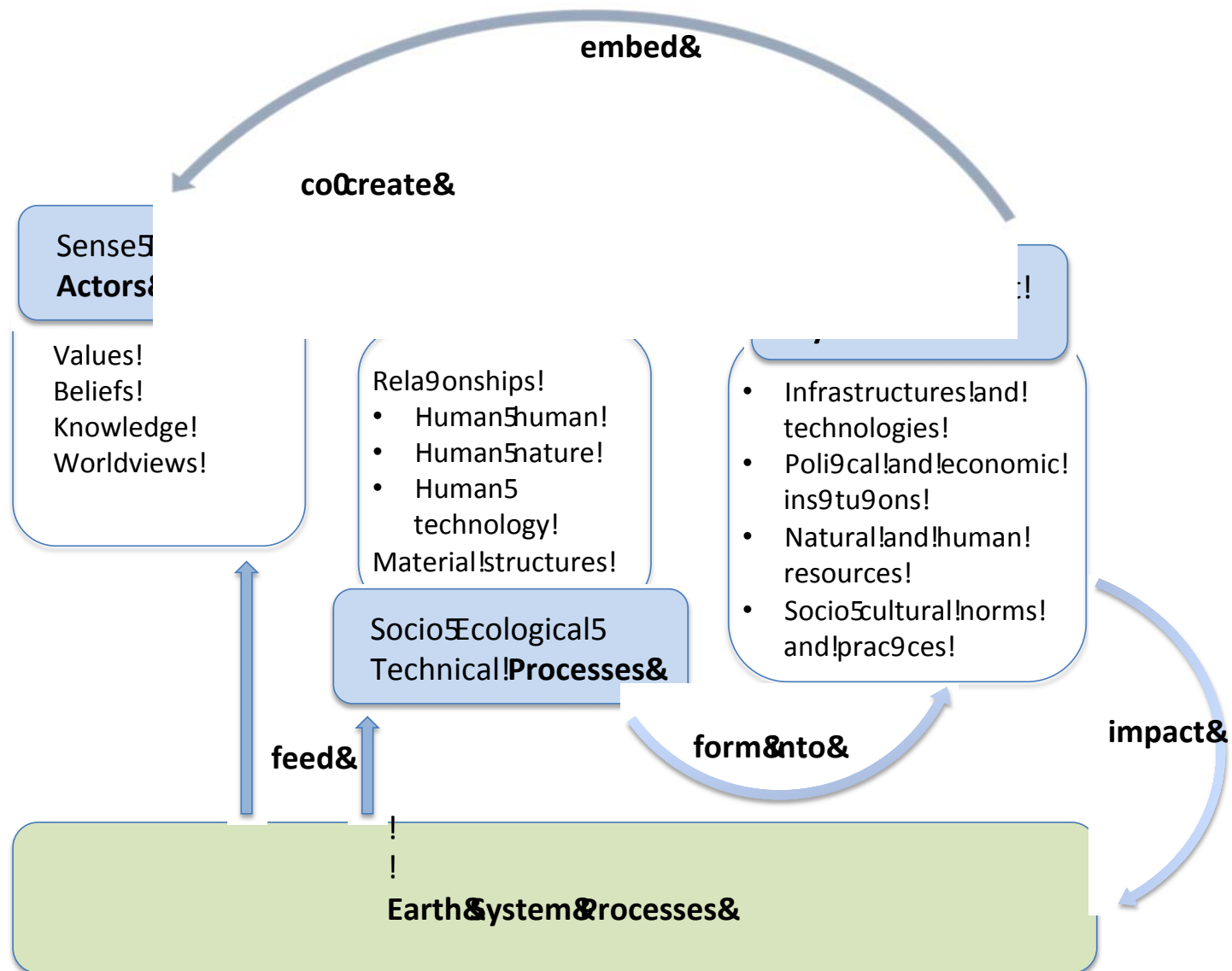
Thank You!

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Mind Sets in Transformative Change Processes II



Transdisciplinarity: reflexivity to unlock the lock-ins



Caveat: Structured Freedom 2

Humans as Competitors over History

