



TNO

 **Neth-ER** | Netherlands house for
Education and Research

April 25th, 13:00 - 17:00

‘Unlock System Transitions’ Workshop

Aarlenstraat 22
1050, Elsene, België

Agenda

- 📄 Welcome and introduction – Geraud Guilloud
- 📄 Keynote speech: What is system thinking?
 - 📄 Mieke van der Bijl-Bouwer
 - 📄 Associate professor at TU Delft, Founder of IDE system design lab
- 📄 Seizing the potential of systems thinking
 - 📄 Bianca Cavicchi
 - 📄 Policy officer – DG RTD – European Commission
- 📄 14h15 Coffee break
- 📄 14h30 Workshop

An introduction to systems thinking & system change

Dr.ir. Mieke van der Bijl-Brouwer
TU Delft – Systemic Design Lab – Faculty of
Industrial Design Engineering
Meerkat Consultancy





the world as a machine?



reductionism - Descartes

the Cartesian method

- reductionism attempts explanation of entire systems in terms of their individual, constituent parts and their interactions



determinism - Newton

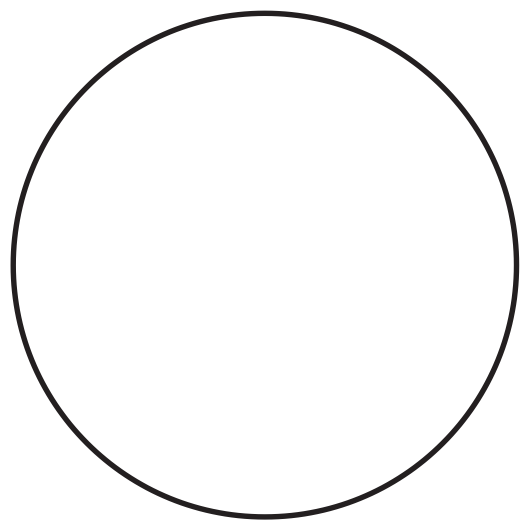
- world operates according to a fixed set of laws
- linear cause effect relations

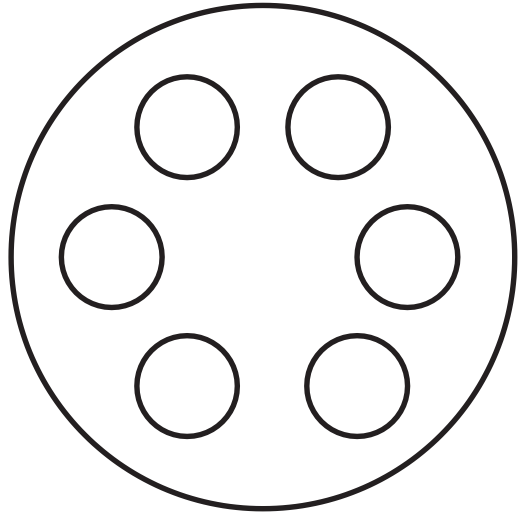
systems thinking

a system is not the sum of the
behaviour of its parts, it's the
product of their interactions

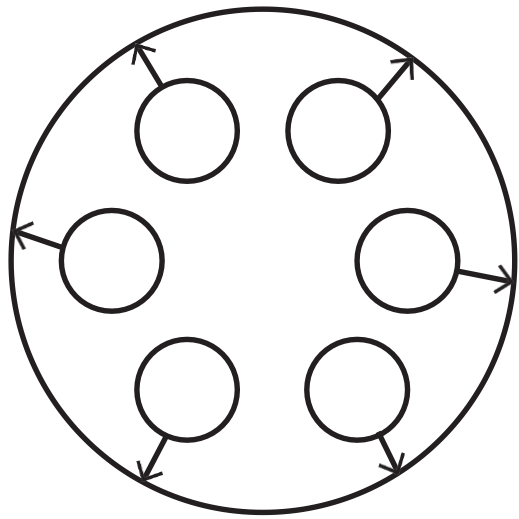
systems thinking

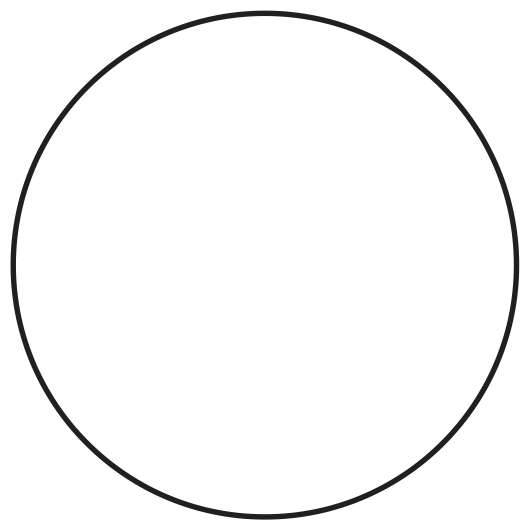
- systems thinking: complements analysis with synthesis
- analysis : reductionism & determinism (linear cause & effect)
- synthesis: expansionism

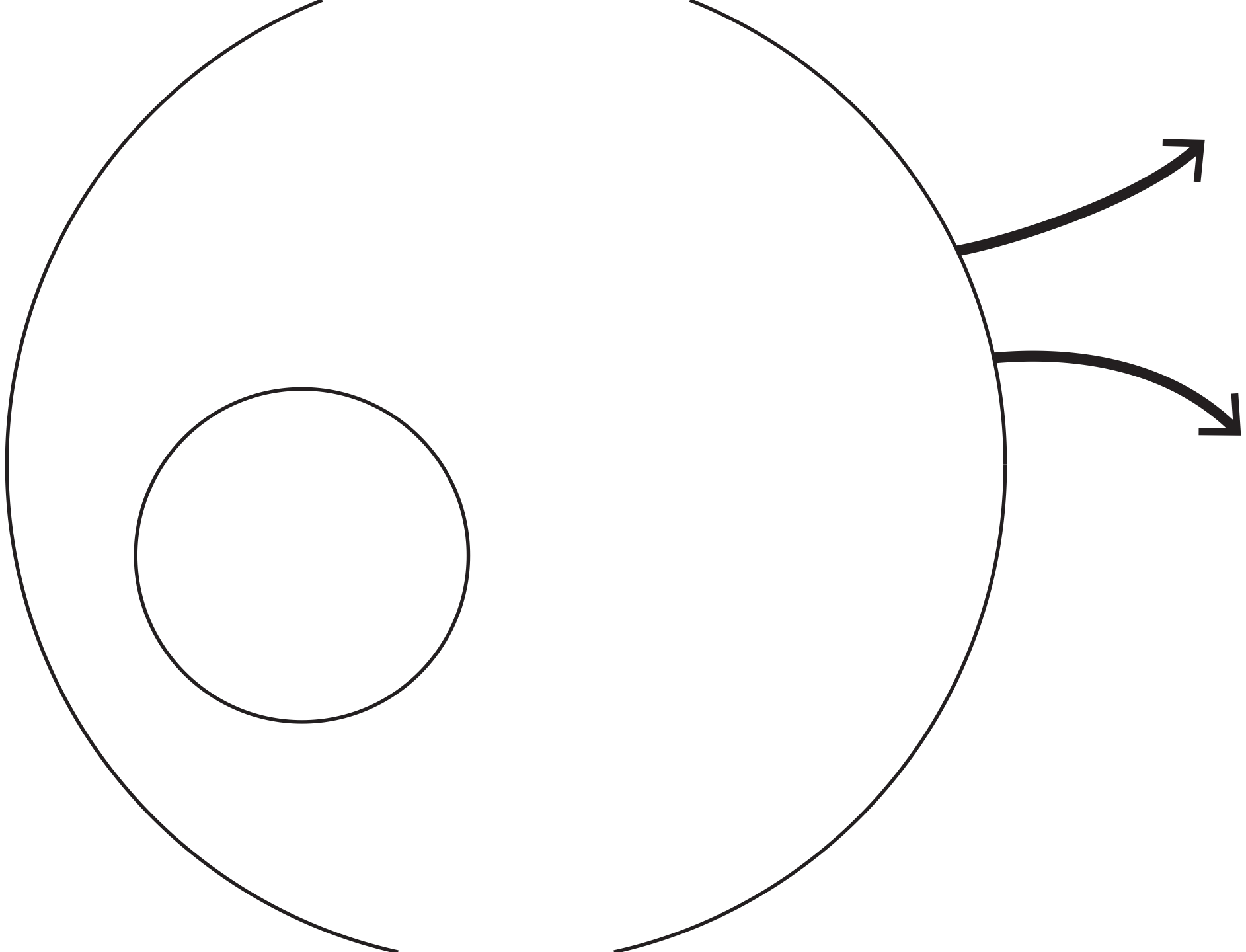


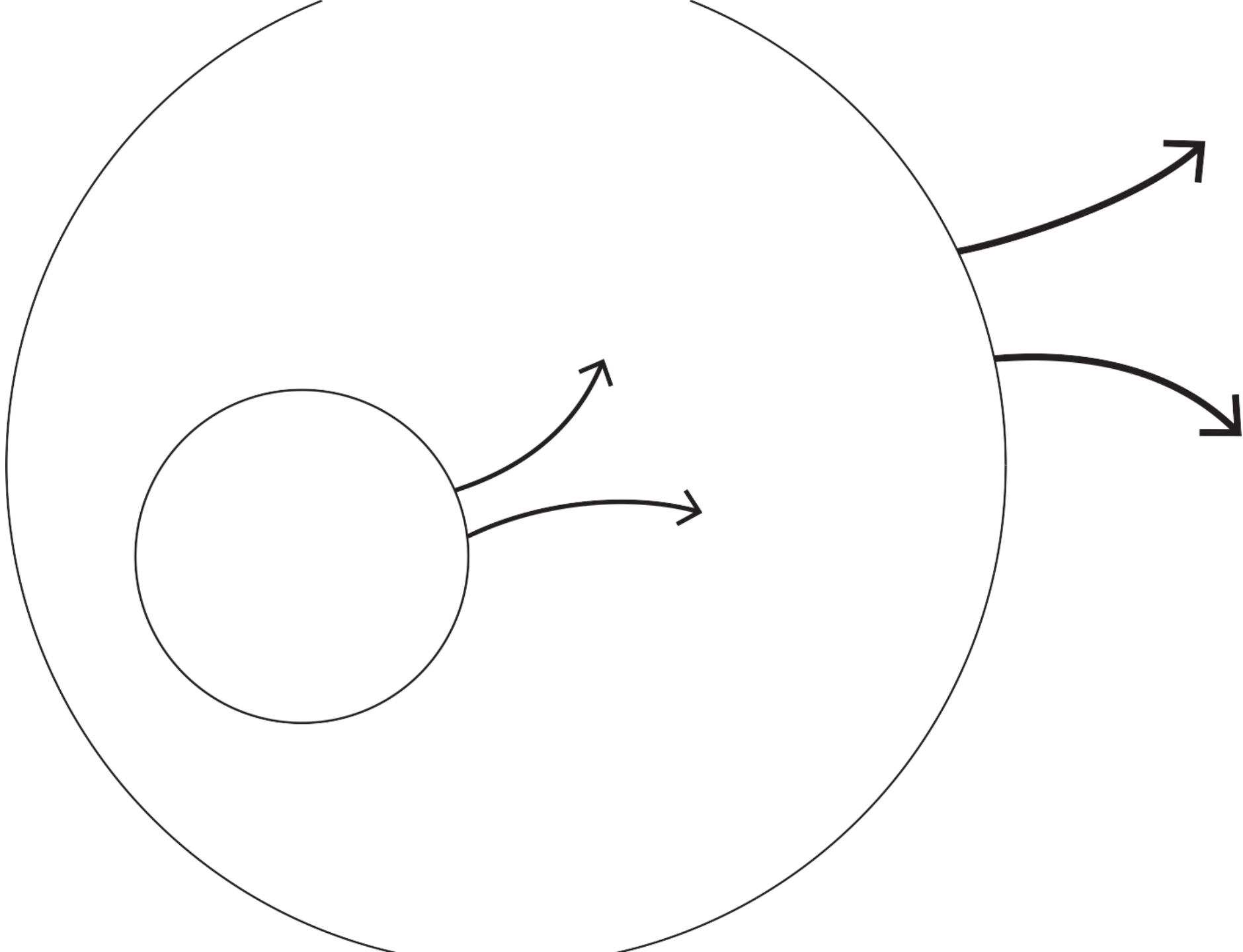


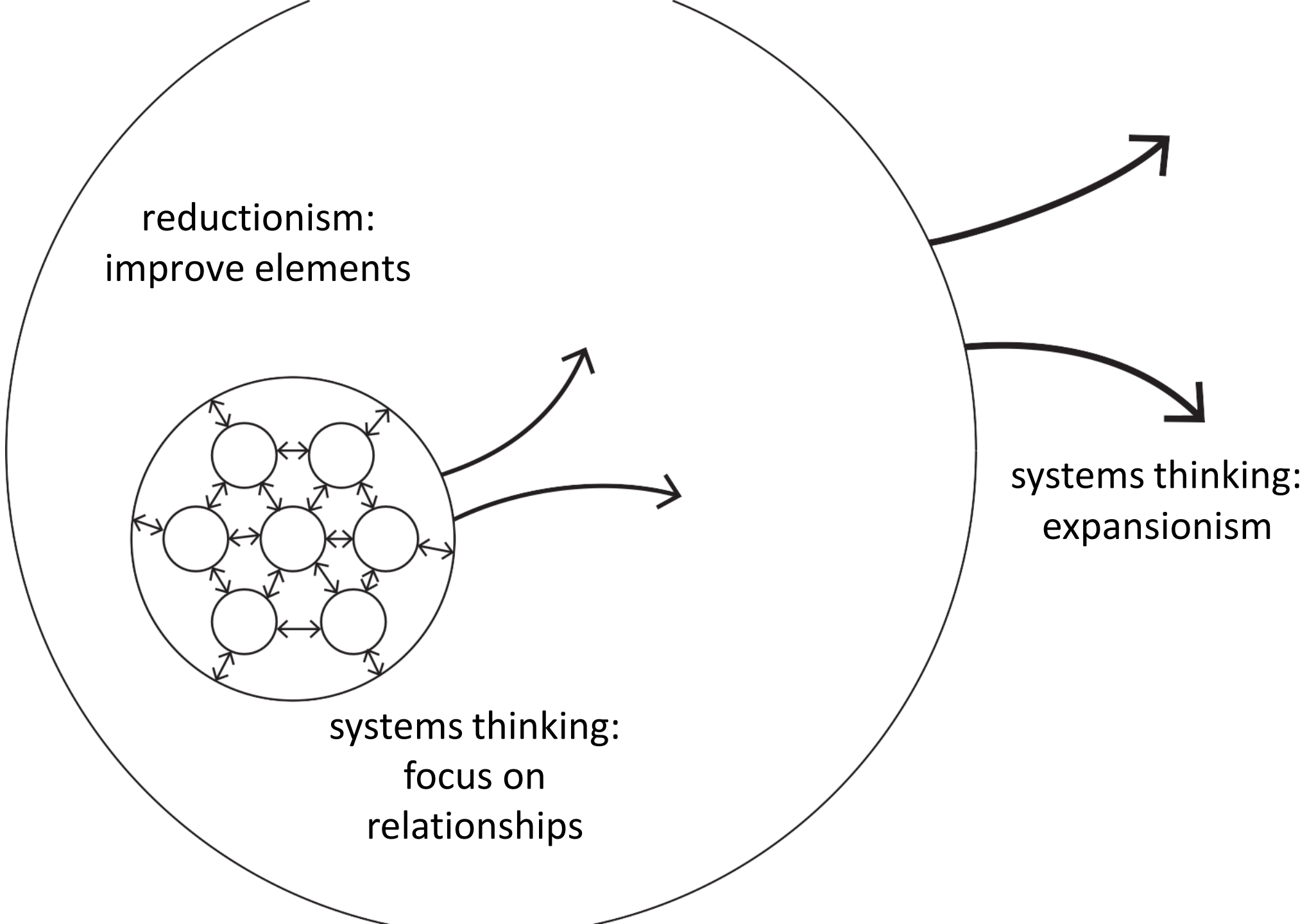
reductionism:
improve elements



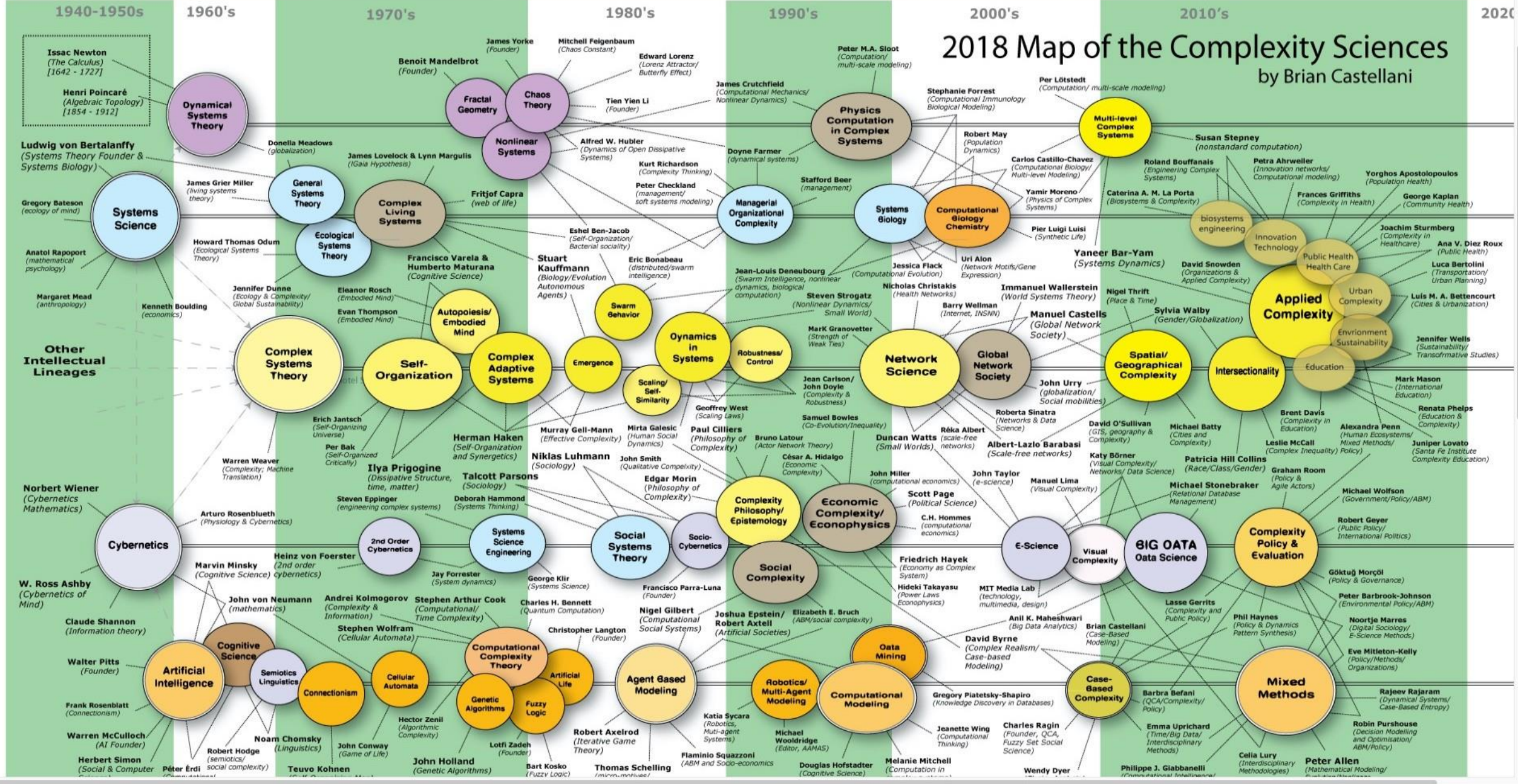








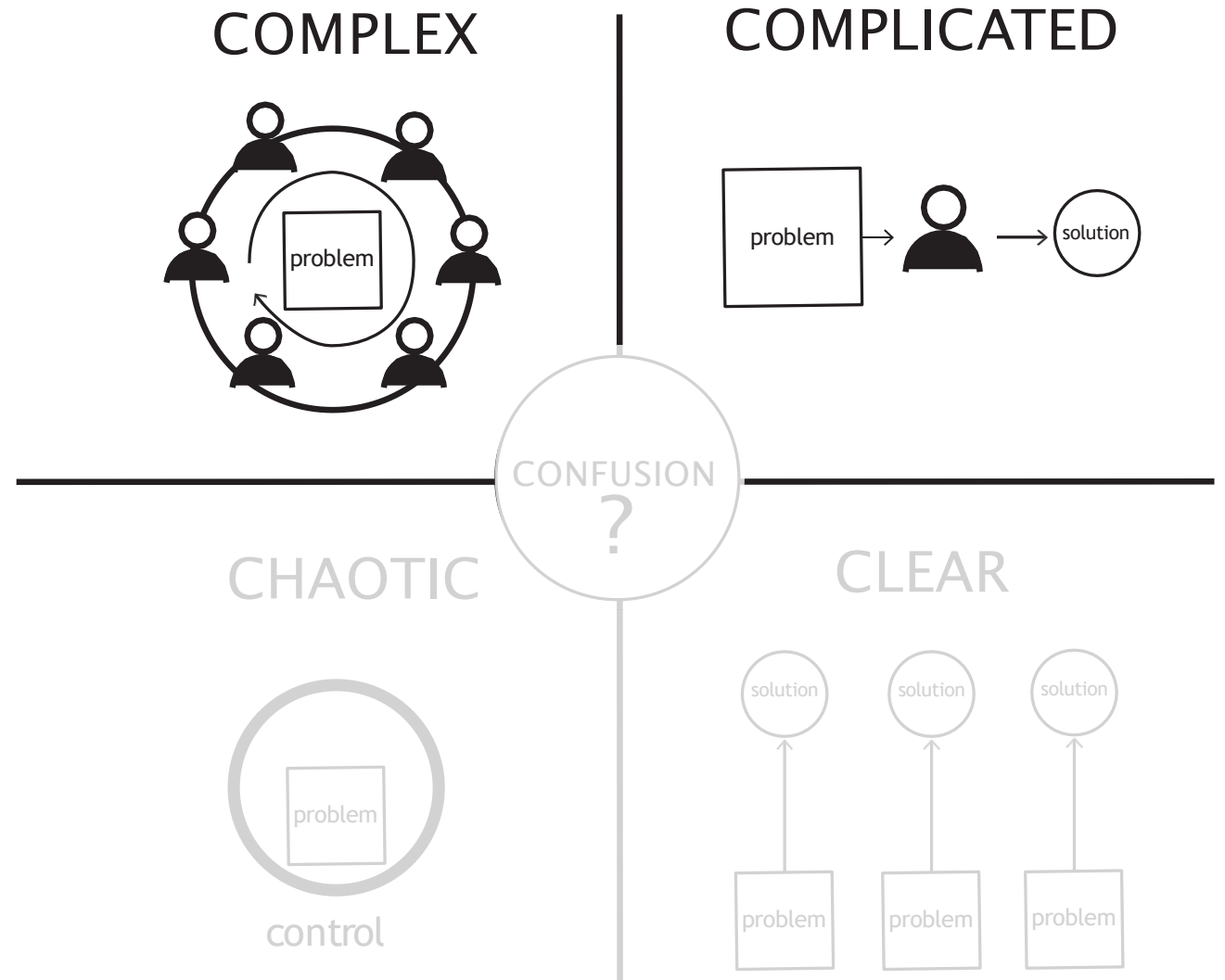
complex systems



Castellani, Brian (2018) "Map of the Complexity Sciences." Art & Science Factory. https://www.art-sciencefactory.com/complexity-map_feb09.html

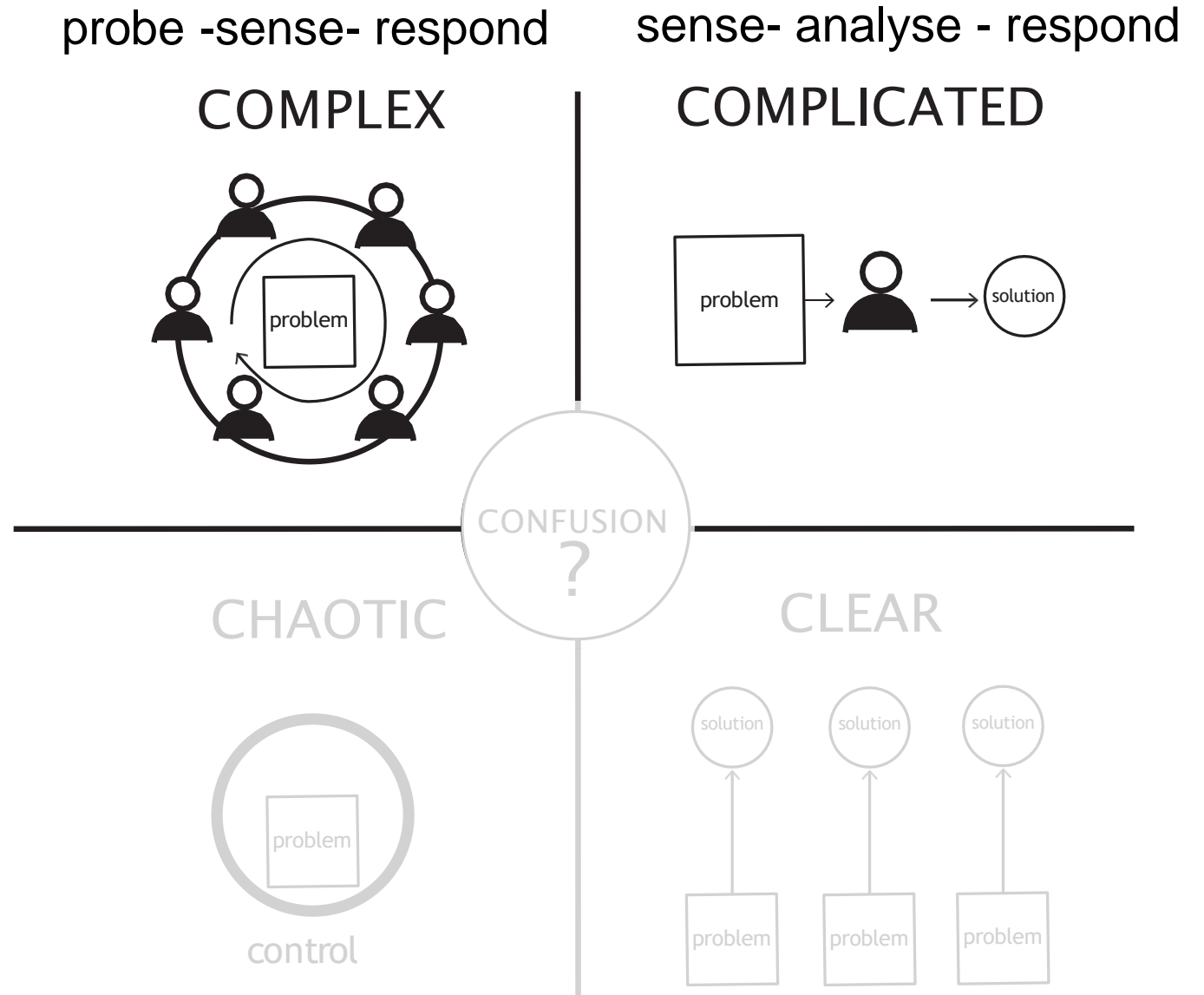
Cynefin Framework

Snowden, David J., and Mary E. Boone. "A Leader's Framework for Decision Making." *Harvard Business Review* 85, no. 11 (December 2007): 68-76.



Cynefin Framework

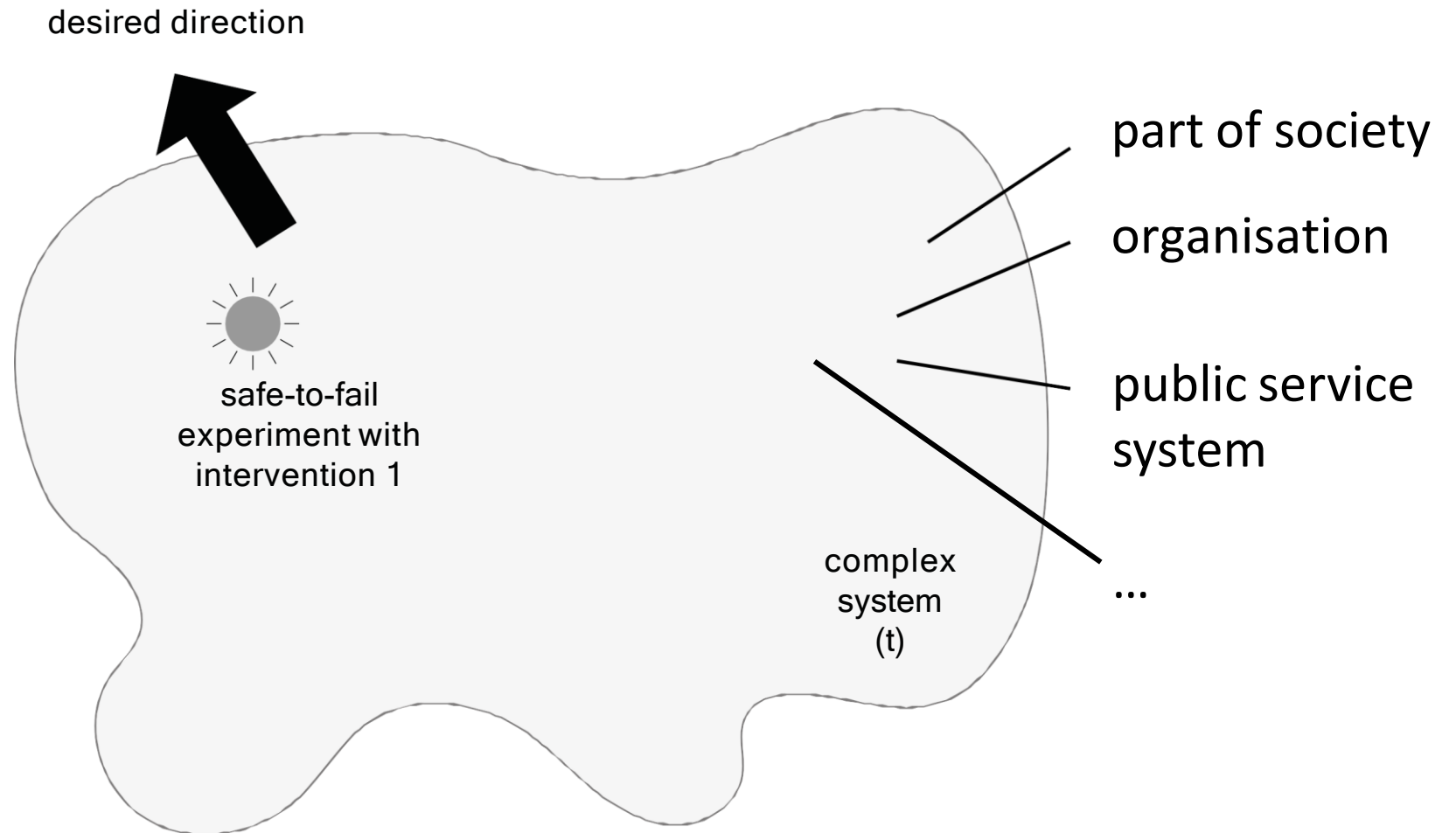
Snowden, David J., and Mary E. Boone. "A Leader's Framework for Decision Making." *Harvard Business Review* 85, no. 11 (December 2007): 68-76.



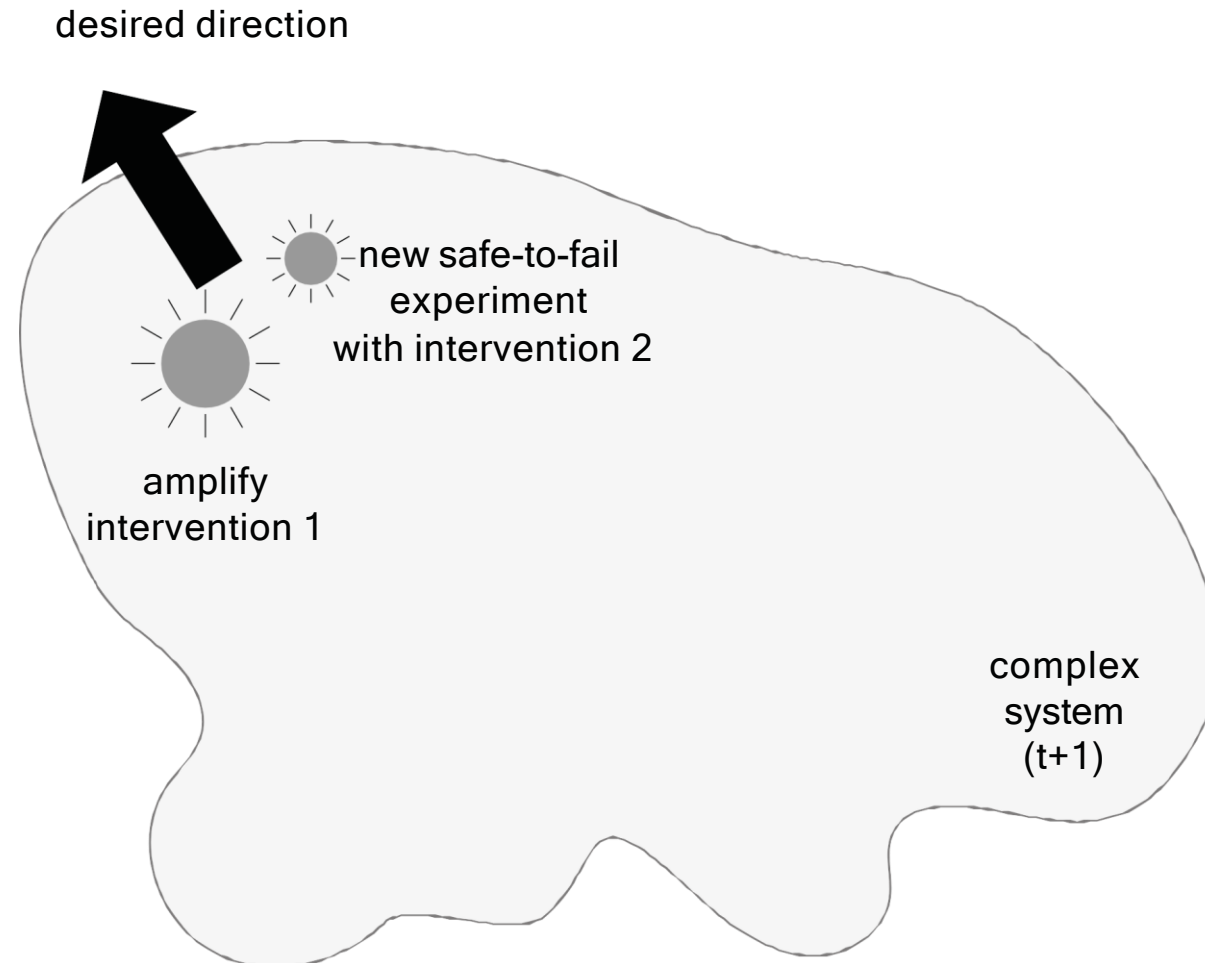
system change

van der Bijl - Brouwer, M., Kligyte, G., & Key, T. (2021). A Co-evolutionary, Transdisciplinary Approach to Innovation in Complex Contexts: Improving University Well-Being, a Case Study. *She ji: The Journal of Design, Economics and Innovation*, 7(4), 565-588.

Safe-to-fail experiment: Snowden, David J., and Mary E. Boone. "A Leader's Framework for Decision Making." *Harvard Business Review* 85, no. 11 (December 2007): 68-76.



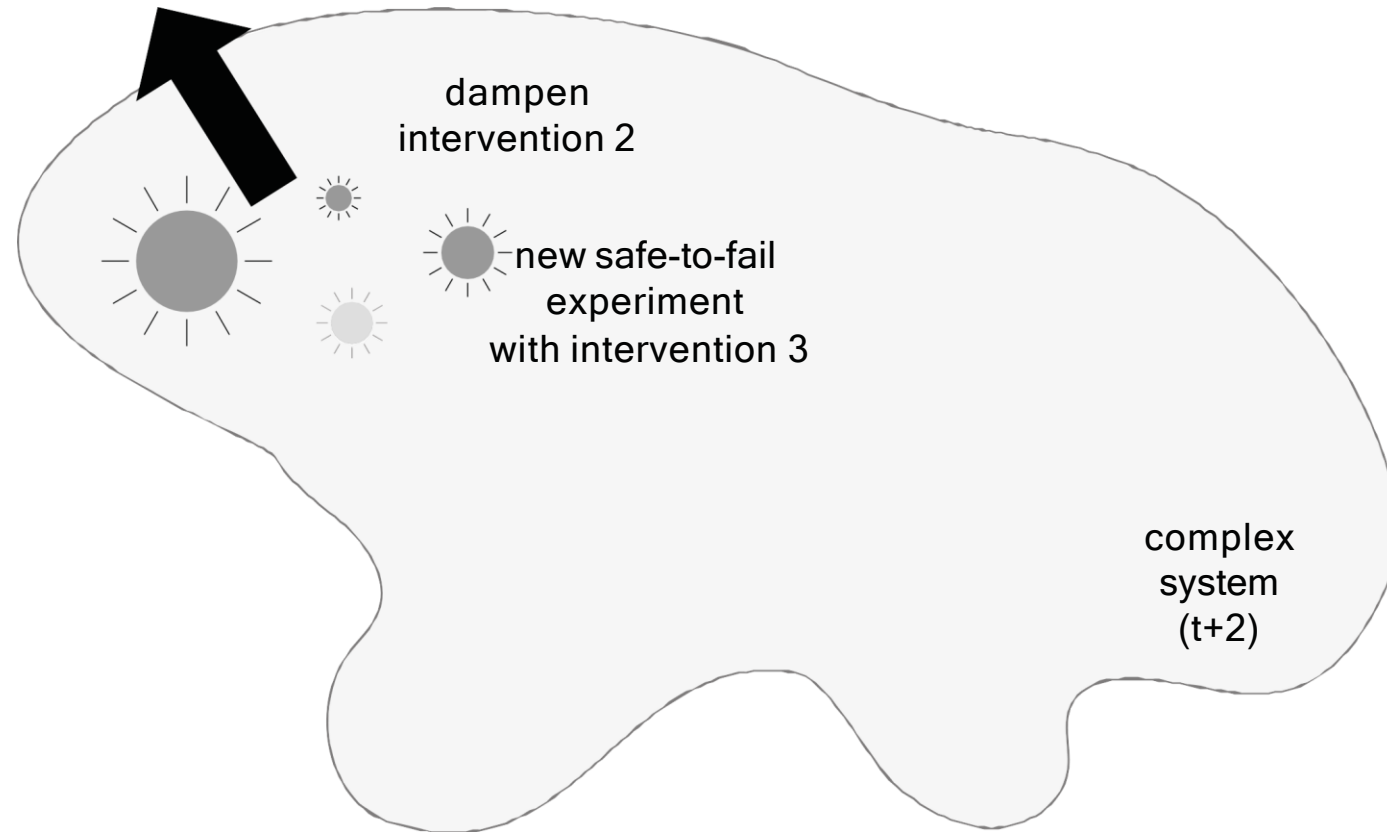
evolutionary approach



van der Bijl - Brouwer, M.,
Kligyte, G., & Key, T. (2021). A
Co-evolutionary,
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ji: The Journal of Design,
Economics and Innovation*,
7(4), 565-588.

evolutionary approach

desired direction



van der Bijl - Brouwer, M.,
Kligyte, G., & Key, T. (2021). A
Co-evolutionary,
Transdisciplinary Approach to
Innovation in Complex
Contexts: Improving University
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leverage points

leverage points: places in a system where a small change could lead to a large shift in behaviour (Meadows, 1999)

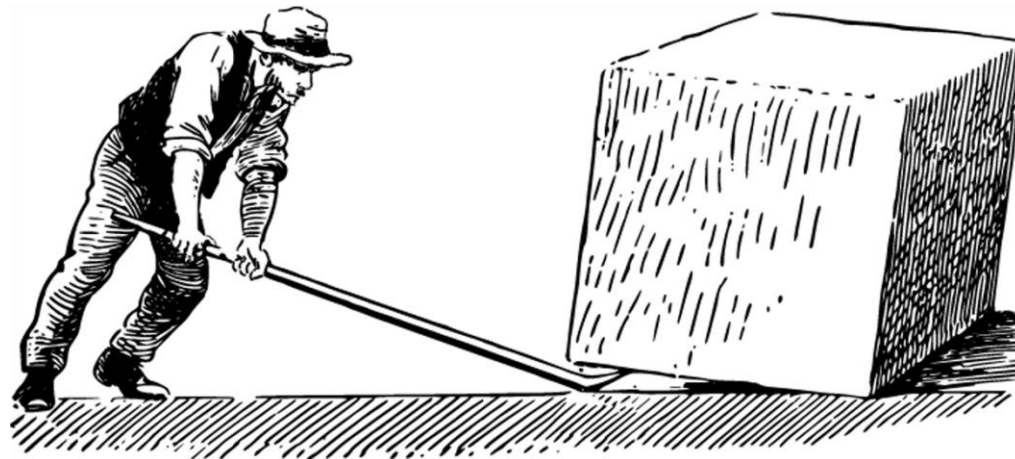


Image source: OpenClipart-Vectors via <https://pixabay.com>

Meadows, D. H. (1999). *Leverage Points: Places to Intervene in a System*. The Sustainability Institute.

<http://donellameadows.org/archives/leverage-points-places-to-intervene-in-a-system/>



Photo by Tan Kaninthanond on Unsplash

(in increasing order of effectiveness)

12. Constants, parameters, numbers (subsidies, taxes, standards)

11. Buffers — the size of stabilizing stocks relative to their flows

10. Physical systems and their nodes of intersection

9. Delays

8. Regulating negative/balancing feedback loops.

7. Driving reinforcing/ positive feedback loops.

6. Information flows.

5. The rules of the system (incentives, punishments, constraints).

4. Self-organization

3. The goals of the system.

2. The mindset or paradigm out of which the system — its goals, power structure, rules, its culture — arises.

1. Transcending paradigms



(in increasing order of effectiveness)

12. Constants, parameters, numbers (subsidies, taxes, standards)

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1. Transcending paradigms

thank you!

Dr. Mieke van der Bijl-Brouwer

www.miekevanderbijl.com



SEIZING THE POTENTIAL OF SYSTEMS THINKING

Concrete examples

*Bianca Cavicchi, Policy officer, DG Research
and Innovation, Chief Economist Unit*



Systems thinking journey

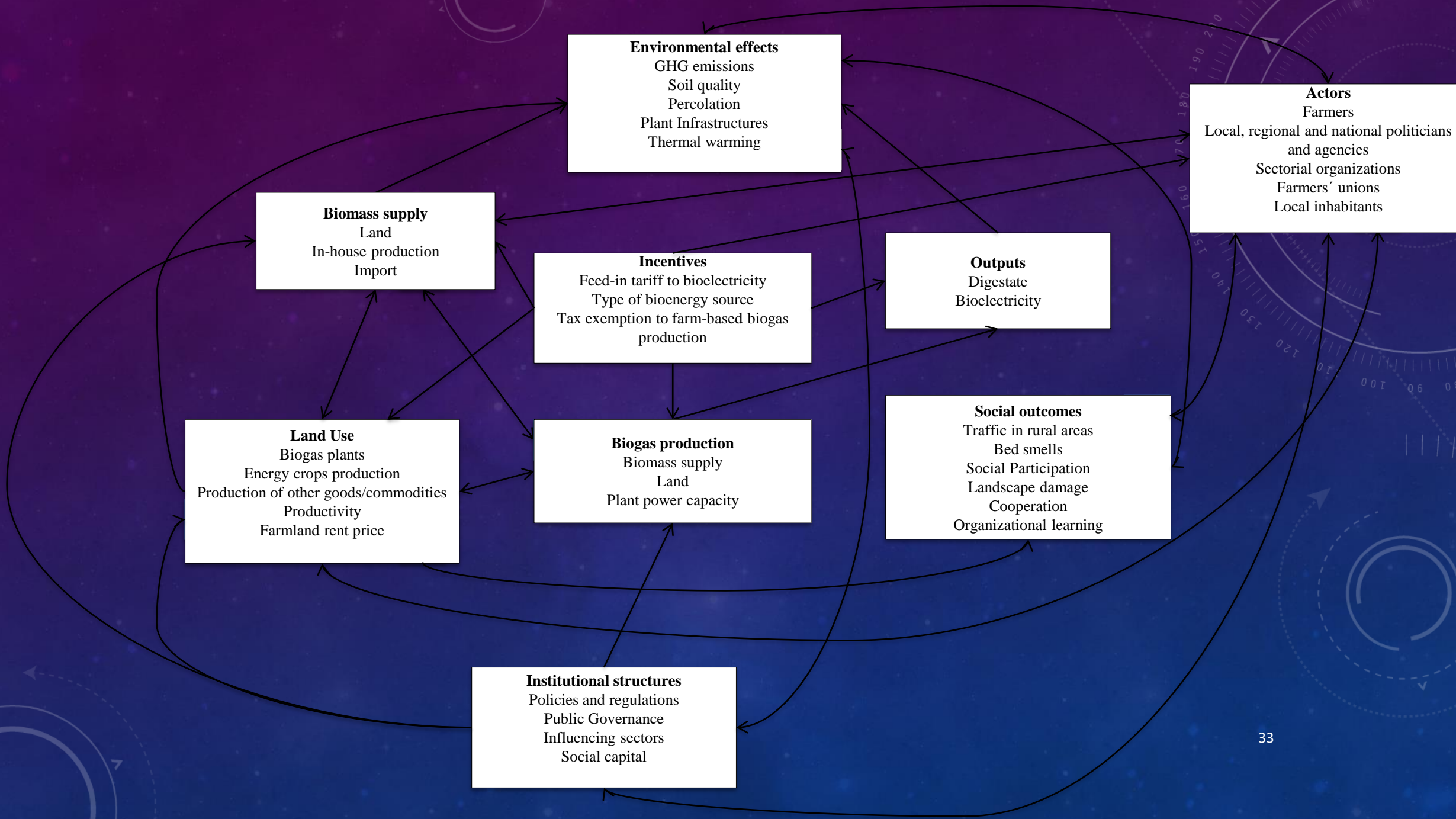
Initiatives at DG R&I

Next steps



SYSTEMS THINKING JOURNEY





SYSTEMS THINKING IN THE WORK AT DG R&I

EXPERIMENTING WITH POLICY
INTERVENTIONS



USEFULLNESS OF SYSTEMS THINKING AND SYSTEM DYNAMICS



Ex-ante impact
assessment



Assess relevance and
coherence of policy
design



Continuous monitoring
and evaluation

INITIATIVES AT DG R&I



STUDY ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE
FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR
R&I



EXPERT STUDY ON SYSTEM-BASED
METHODS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE
INNOVATION POLICY



TRAINING SYSTEM DYNAMICS
SIMULATION



EXPERT STUDY WITH SYSTEM
DYNAMICS SIMULATION TO
EVALUATE THE IMPACTS OF THE FP
ON SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

EVOLUTION OF THE TRANSFORMATIVE NATURE OF THE OF THE FP FOR R&I 2002-2023

BIANCA CAVICCHI, OCEANE PEIFFER-SMADJA, JULIEN RAVET, ALEXANDR HOBZA



INTERLINKS BETWEEN FP COMPONENTS



Goals and
priorities



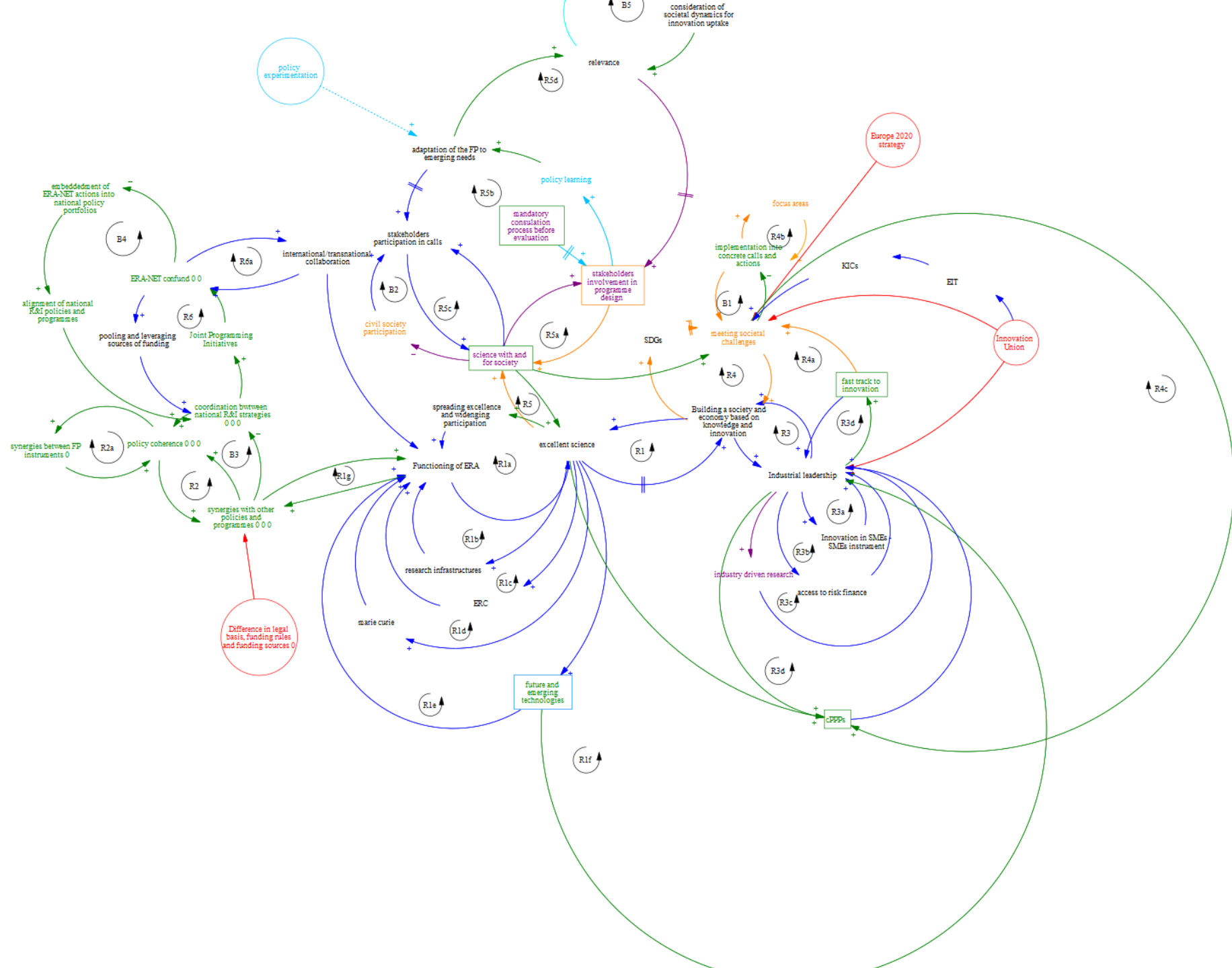
Portfolio of
instruments



Synergies between
instruments



Governance
practices

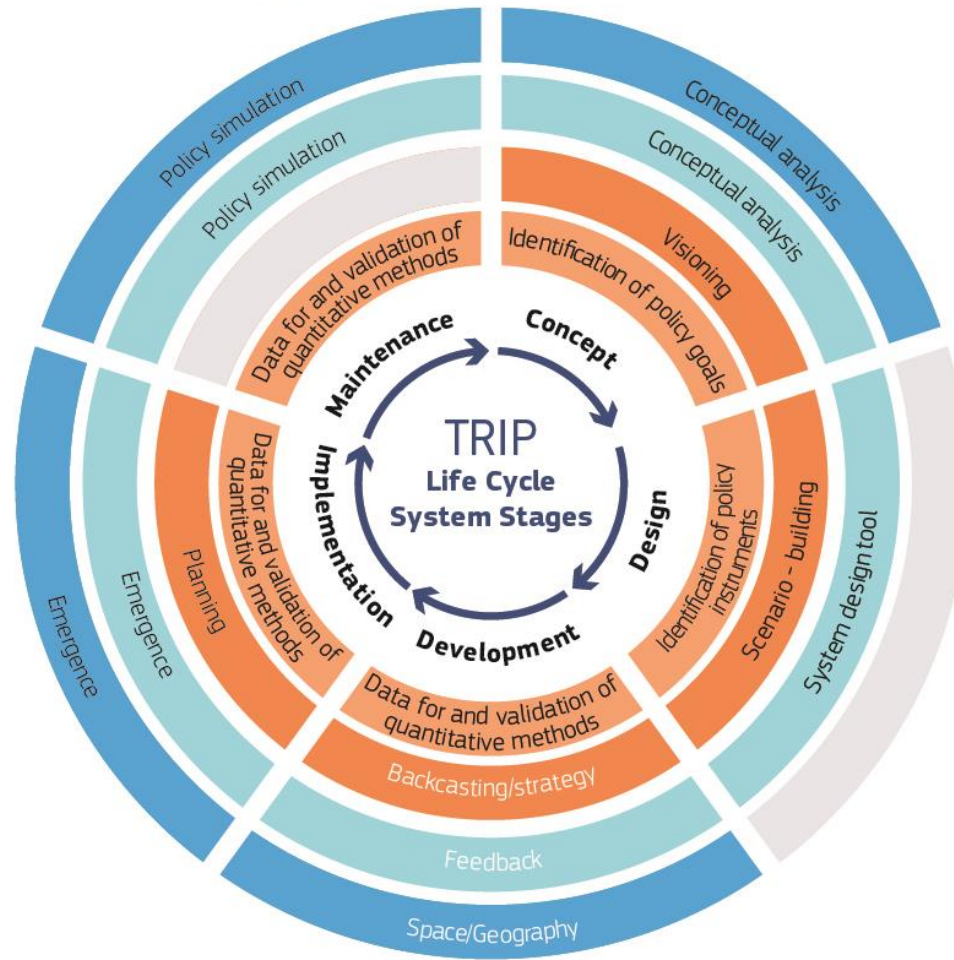




SYSTEM-BASED METHODS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE INNOVATION POLICY

ERIKA PALMER, BIANCA CAVICCHI

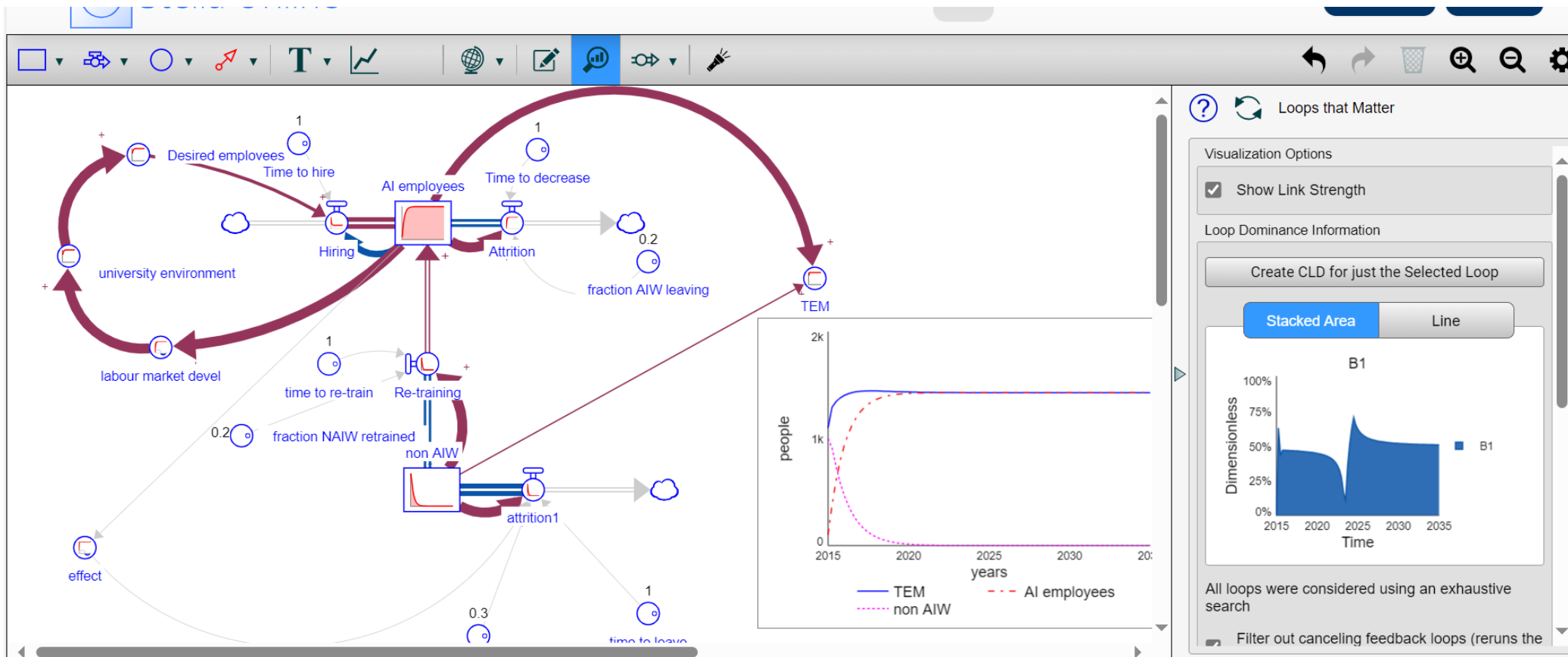
Strategic Foresight | Agent based modeling (sim)
 Causal Loop Diagrams/ System Mapping | System Dynamics Modeling (sim)



TRAINING: INTRODUCTION TO SYSTEM DYNAMICS SIMULATION

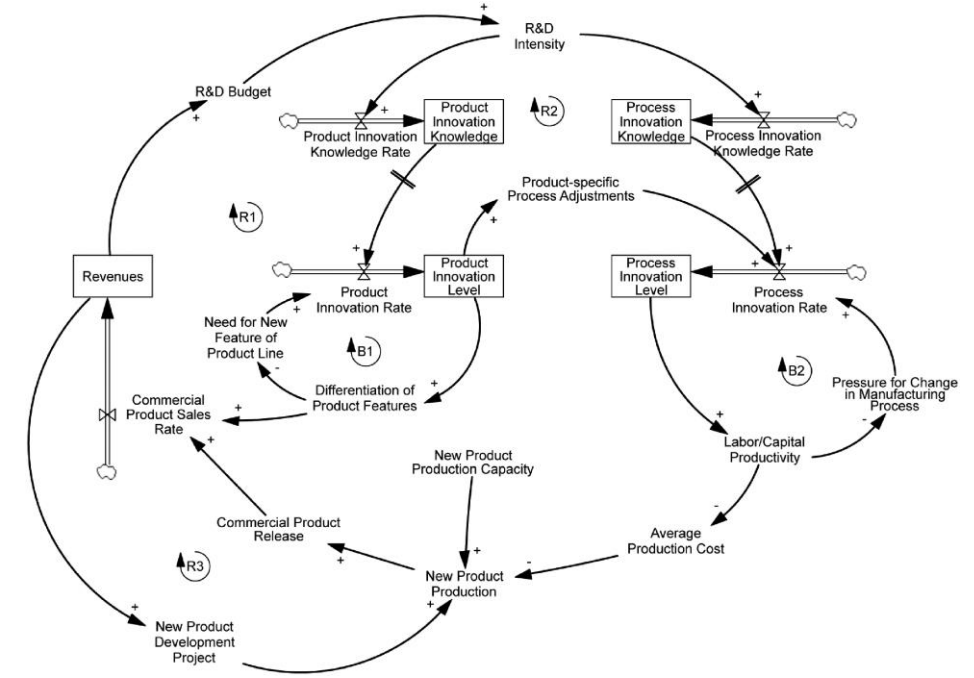
ERIKA PALMER





ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THE FP ON SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

SYSTEM DYNAMICS SIMULATION





Impacts of Framework Programme for R&I on sustainability/societal challenges



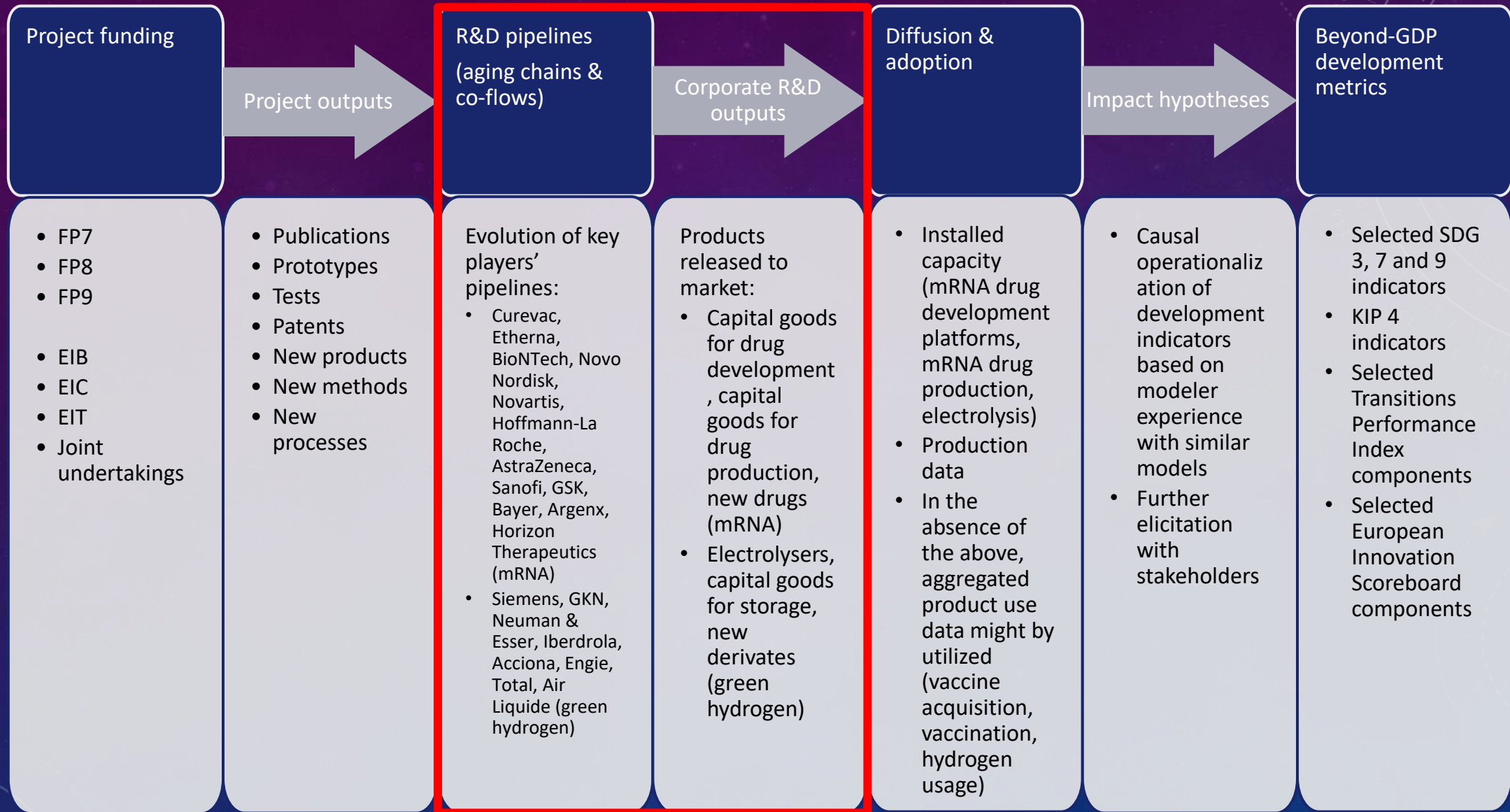
mRNA vaccines and green hydrogen domains

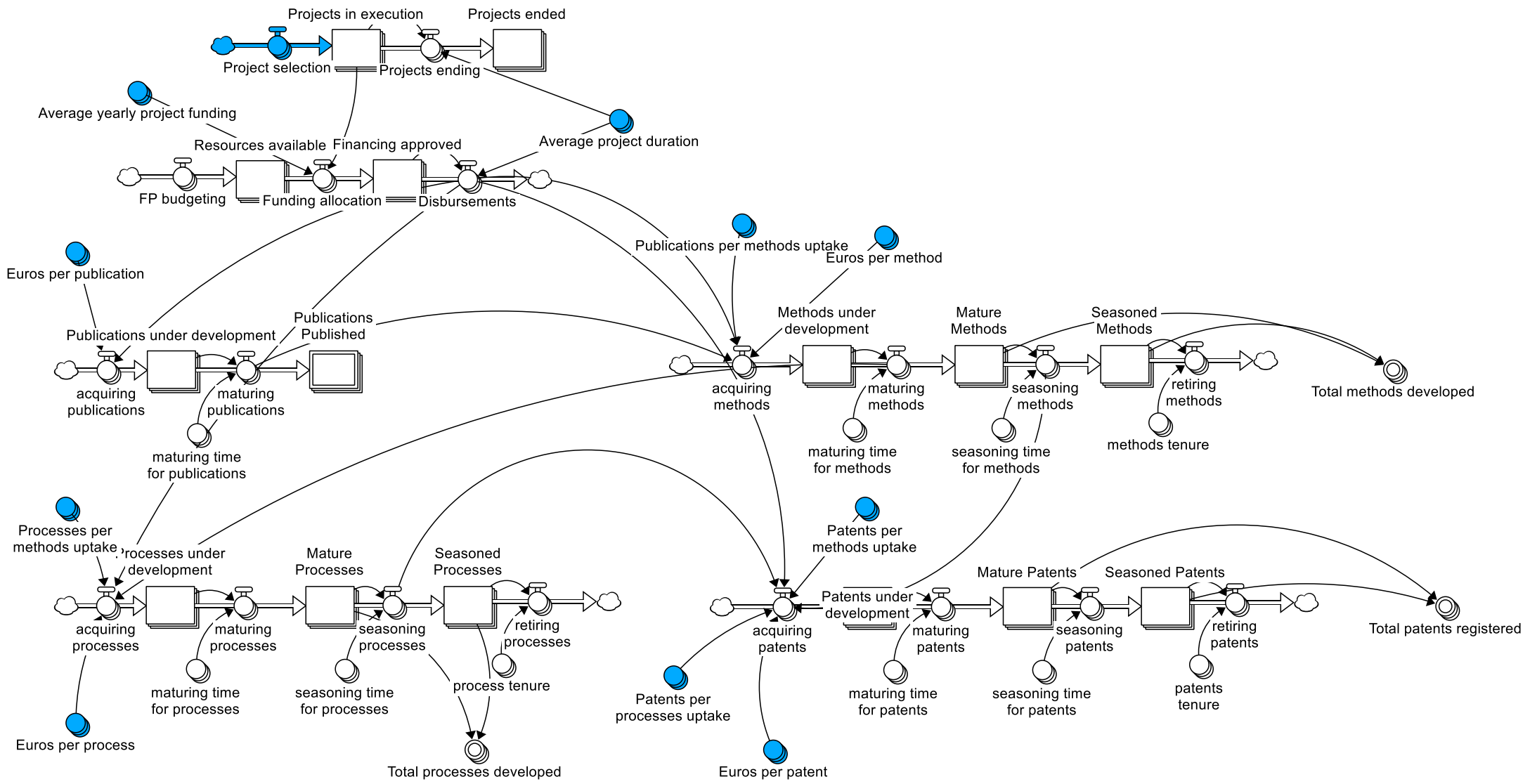


Links between R&D pipeline and innovation deployment/diffusion



Explore data gaps and needs for comprehensive SD modelling





VERY PRELIMINARY EVIDENCE



DATA COVERS R&D



DIFFUSION AND ADOPTION
STAGES LESS COVERED



NEED FOR COMPANY DATA

NEXT STEPS





Results expert contract



On-going collaboration with JRC Sevilla on system dynamics



Bigger study to develop the SD tool for impact assessment



Connect with interested parties in EU institutions, MSs and localities and academic/research organisations to exchange and pull together resources

THANK YOU

Bianca Cavicchi, Policy Officer, DG RTD, G1. bianca.cavicchi@ec.europa.eu



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UNLOCK System Transitions

Marjoleine 't Hart, Bastiaan van Bloppoel, Josephine Sassen

UNLOCK Neth-ER

Workshop UNLOCK System Transitions



Agenda

Plenary

- UNLOCK System Transitions methodology; what is it? 20 min

Interactive workshop

- Discovering Paradox; a lens on the system 30 min
- CRM case study 10 min
- Developing a paradox mindset - exercises 60 min

Wrap up 5 min

Creating breakthroughs in wicked problems requires:

- 🔑 A deep understanding of the system
- 🔑 Transdisciplinary capacity
- 🔑 Opening pathways to system transitions

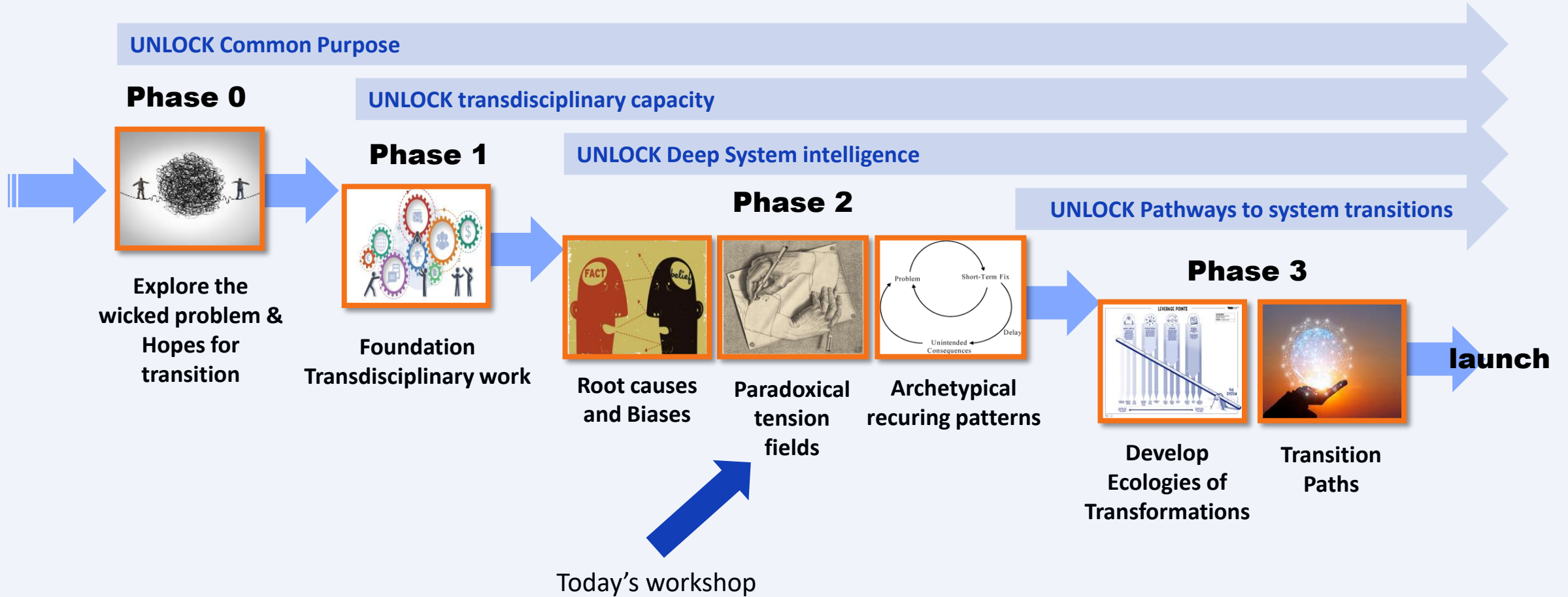


TNO's UNLOCK System Transitions

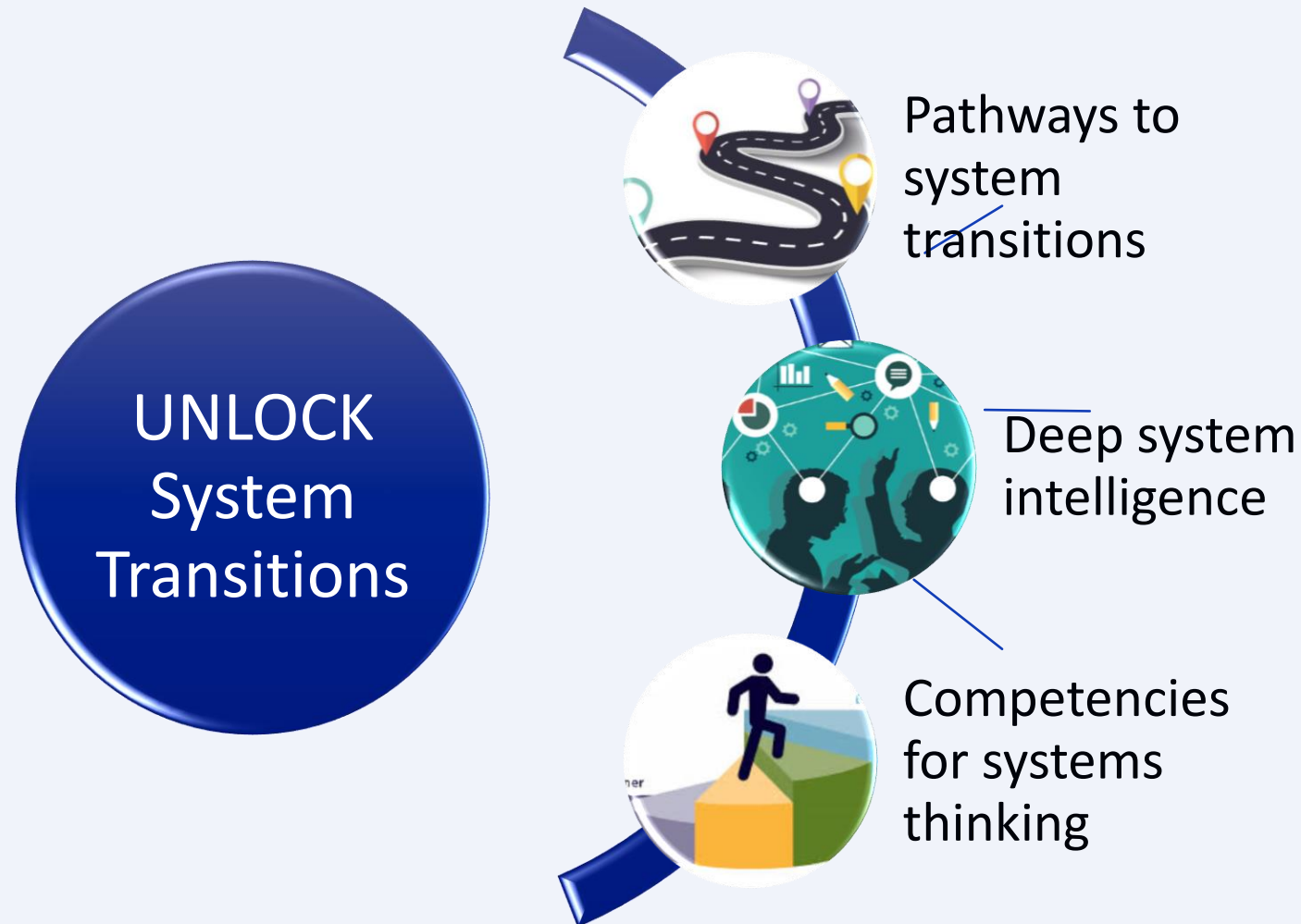
“Don't look at the world, look at your lens.”

Edward W. Said in 'Orientalism'

TNO's UNLOCK System Transitions Methodology



The promise of UNLOCK System Transitions



System tables

- 8-12 experts
- Large diversity of perspectives
- Selection in advance based on profile
- 10 days in 2-3 months
- Systems practitioner & systems coach lead the table
- Content & interaction: transdisciplinary competencies continuously interwoven into the program
- Involvement of the entire ecosystem



› **EXPLORING PARADOXES IN SYSTEM INNOVATION**
RECOGNIZING, APPRECIATING, RECONCILING

Marjoleine t Hart





The paradox lens

What is a paradox?

- An apparent contradiction:
Diametrically opposed *while also* inherently connected (two sides of the same coin)
- If you choose, you lose...

Why are paradoxes worth exploring?

- Understanding deeper tension fields in a system
- Prevent *short term reliefs*
- Potential gateway to innovative ideas for transition

The Samurai

Disciplined & methodical

Stable & unwavering

Thoughtful & vigilant

Reliable & trustworthy

Strong moral-ethical framework

Excels through unparalleled mastery of
swordsmanship



The Ninja

Fast & flexible

Resourceful & imaginative

Creative out-of-the-box thinking

Takes by surprise

Jack of all trades

Excels through improvisation in unfamiliar territory



Which power do you feel most connected to?



Robustness
stability

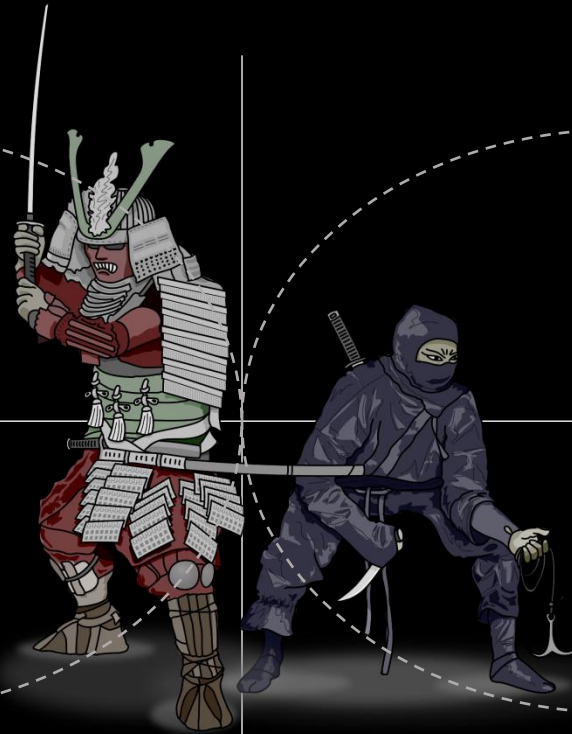
Flexibility,
transformation

Strength

Pitfall

Rigidity

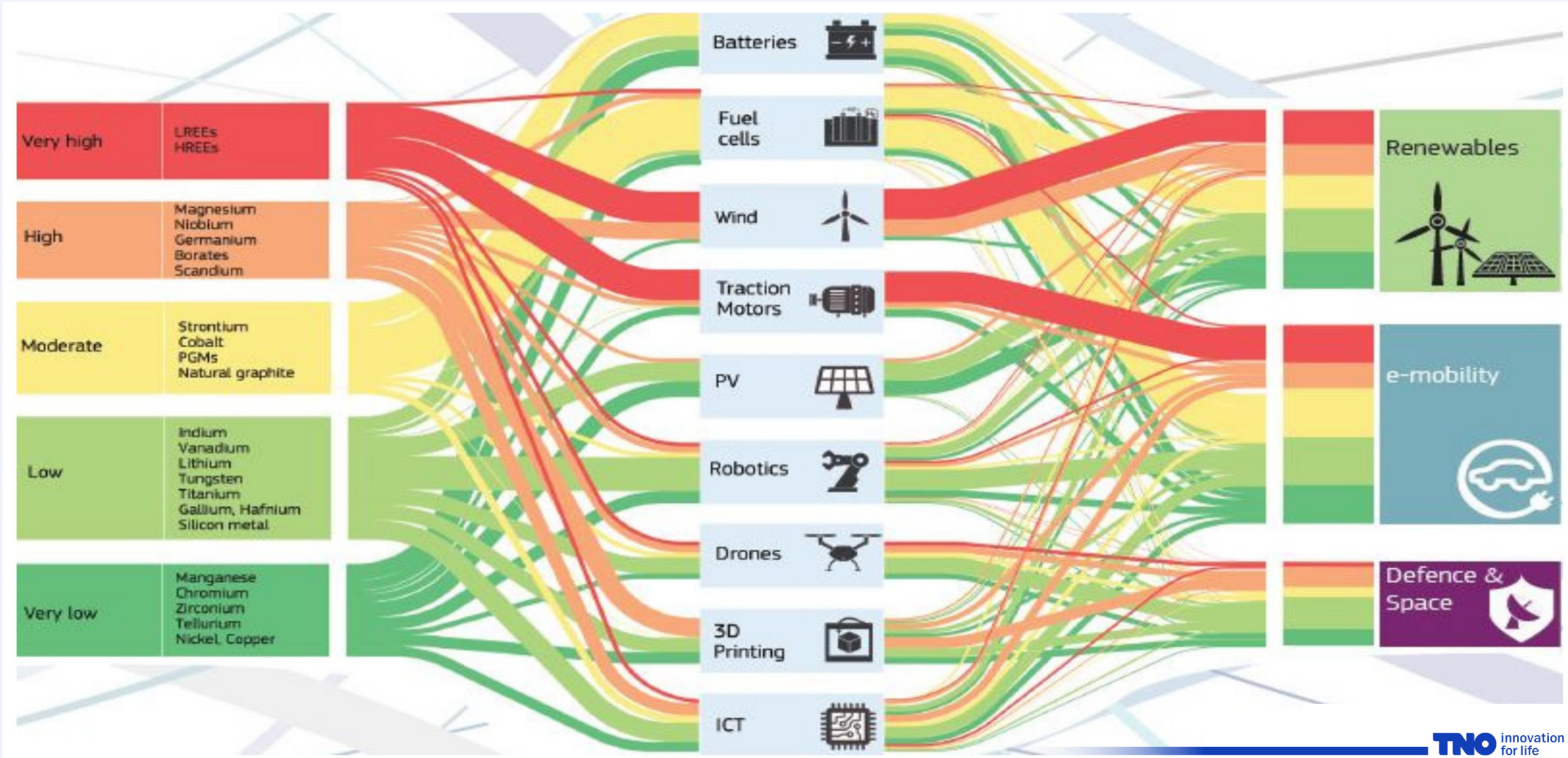
Chaos

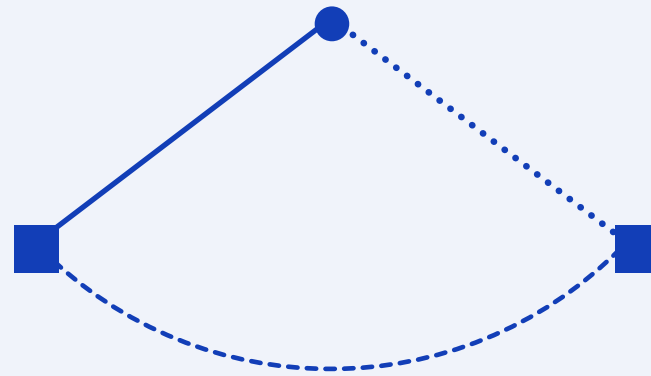


Which paradoxes do you experience?

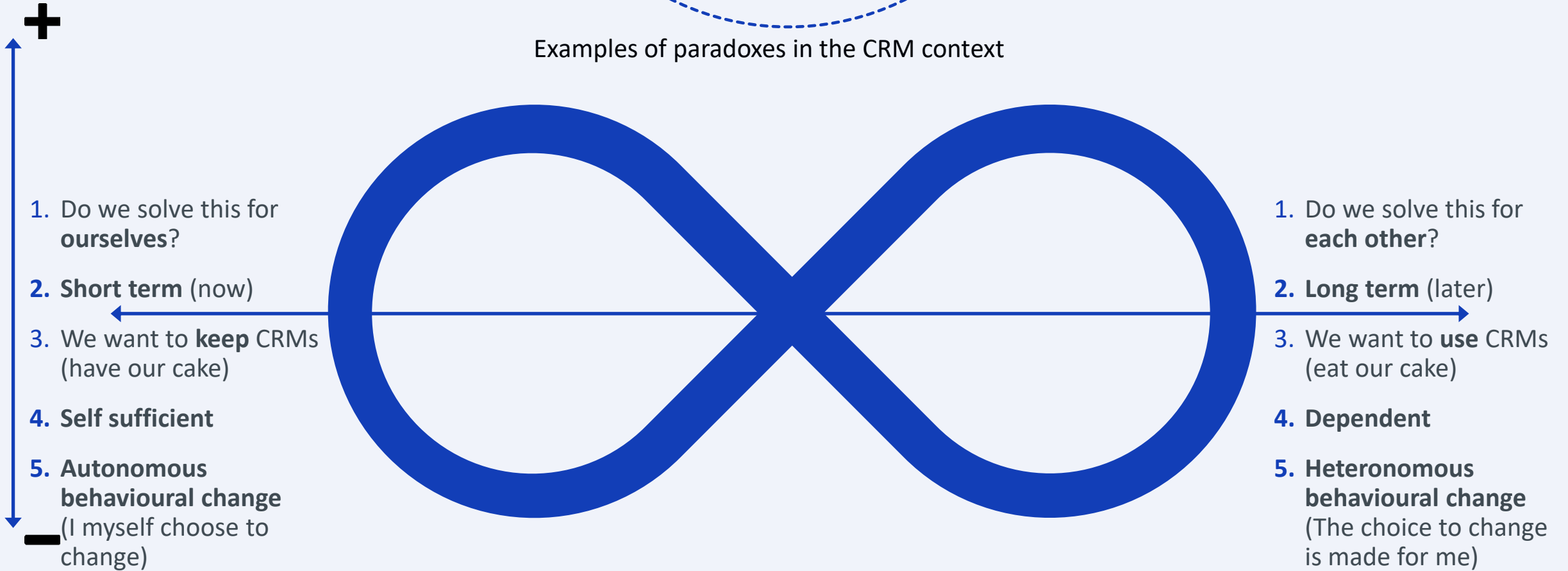


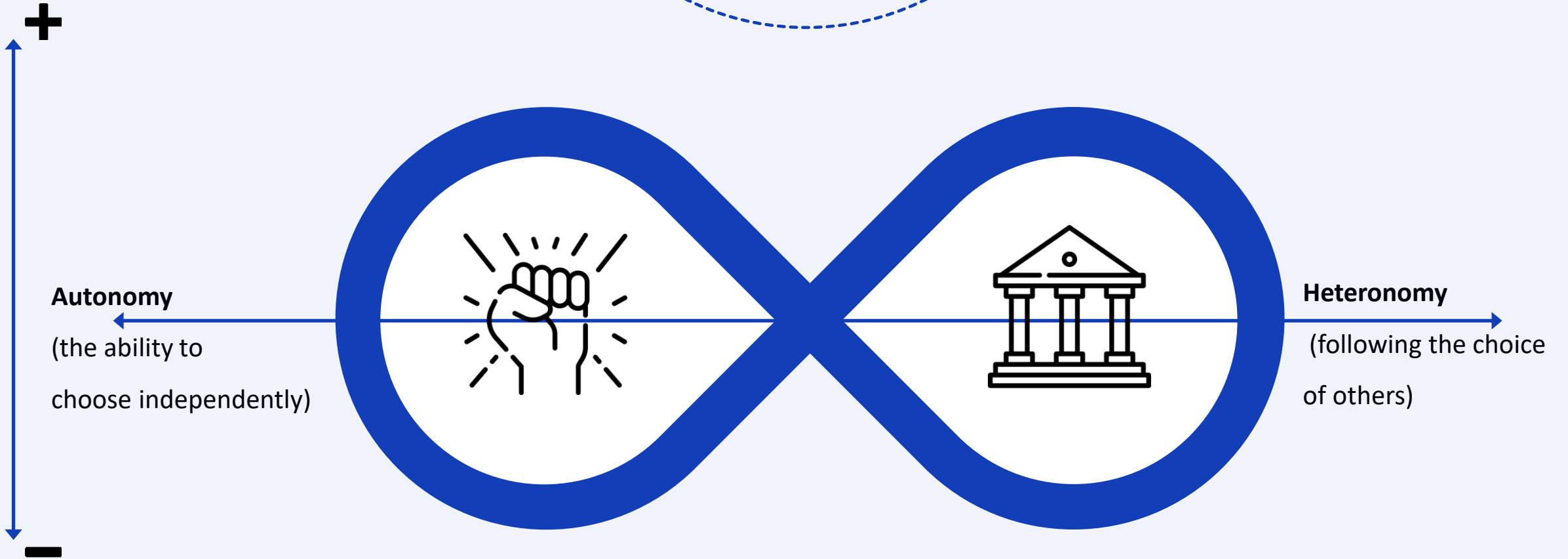
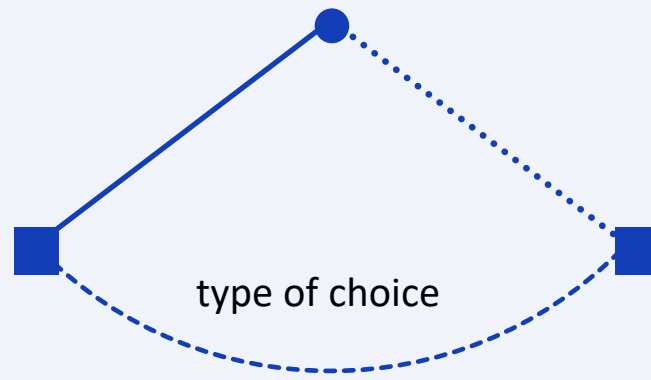
Use case: Critical Raw Materials





Examples of paradoxes in the CRM context



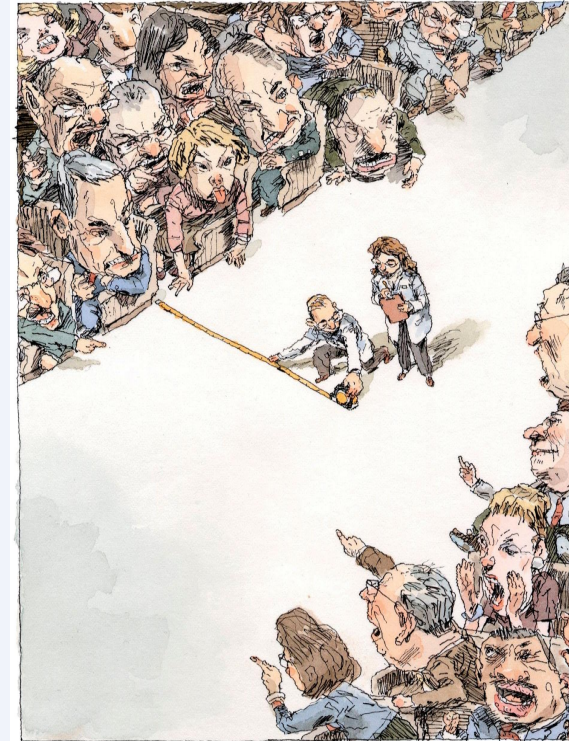


We will divide in 2 groups

1. Exploring the polarities



2. Stretching the polarities



Exploring the polarities – debate preparation

Make teams:

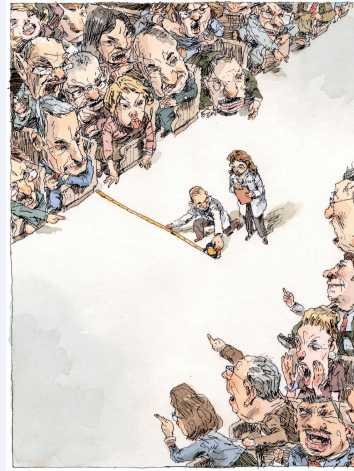
- Four debate teams of 5 participants; team A, B, C and D
- Teams A and B are ‘pro-autonomy’; teams C and D are ‘pro-heteronomy’)

Preparation:

- All teams think of arguments that support their position, and/or that weaken the position of the other opponent.
- Each team decides who will be their spokesperson
- Spokesperson A and C have 2 minutes to speak
- Spokesperson B and D have 1 minute to rebuttal
- All team-members that are not speakers, make notes on the arguments made for both sides and help their speakers



Stretching the polarities - Assignment



In couples:

- Within the CRM context...
- Describe the positive and negative consequences of autonomous choice if it were solely and exclusively implemented, without any consideration or possibility for any other mode of choice.
- Describe the positive and negative consequences of heteronomous choice if it were solely and exclusively implemented, without any consideration or possibility for any other mode of choice.
- Consider both hard (e.g. economic, physical) and soft (e.g. social, psychological) consequences

In groups of 4 (2 couples merge):

- Think of a metaphor, a sketch, a cartoon, a (funny) slogan or an epithet for each of the polarities when implemented to the extreme.
- See if you can show how both polarities will (eventually) suffer damage if only one side gains full passage at the expense of the other side.

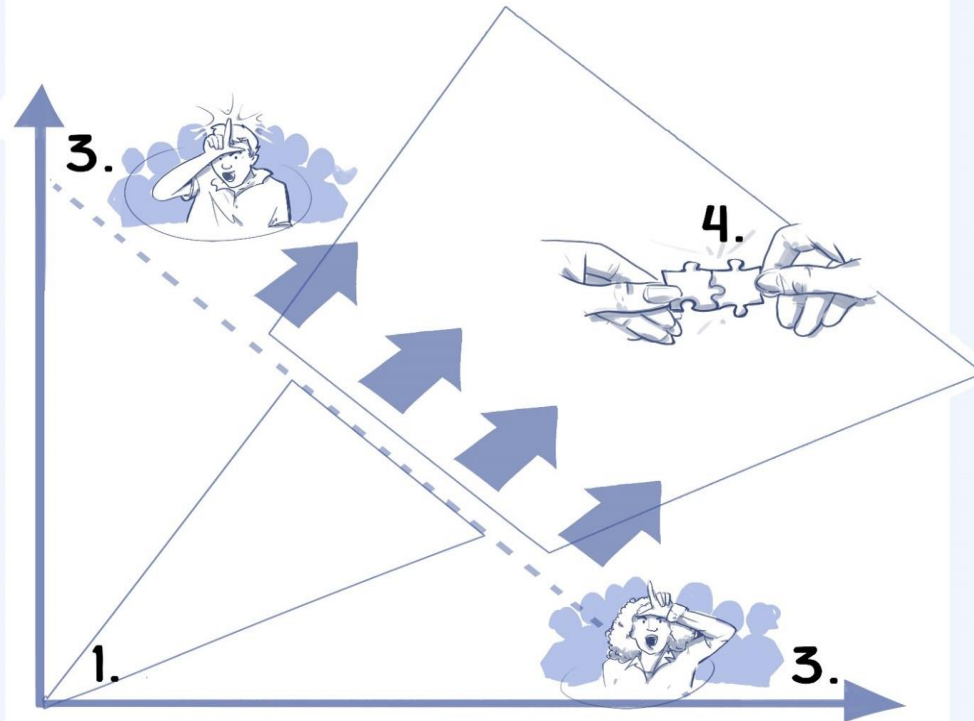
Stretching the polarities

ANALYSING:
PARADOXEN EN DILEMMA'S IN HET
SYSTEEM

VERSIE: 23 JANUARI 2022

3. Autonomy

3. Heteronomy



Exploring the polarities – debate

Timeline:

All teams: 10 minutes to prepare your arguments

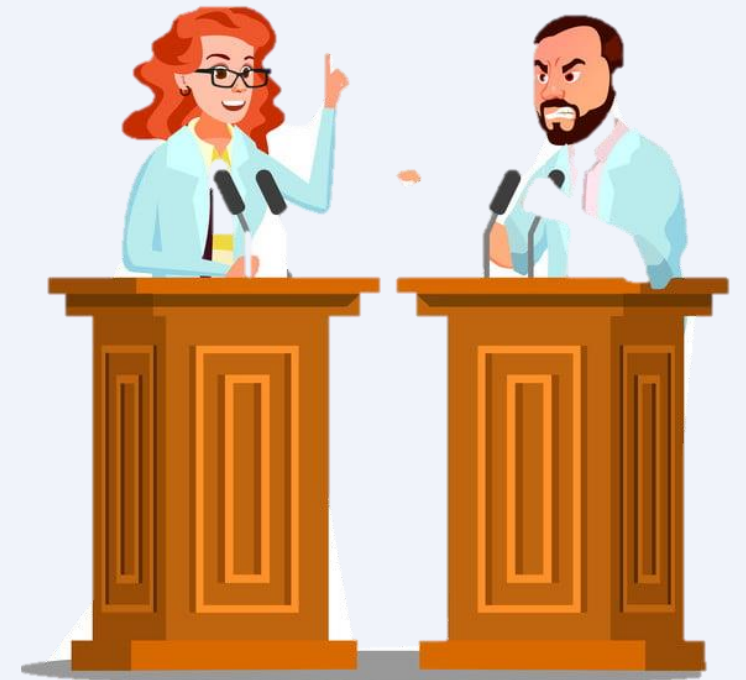
- Speaker team A (2 minutes)
- Speaker team C (2 minutes)

5 minutes huddle team B and D to decide on rebuttal /counter-arguments

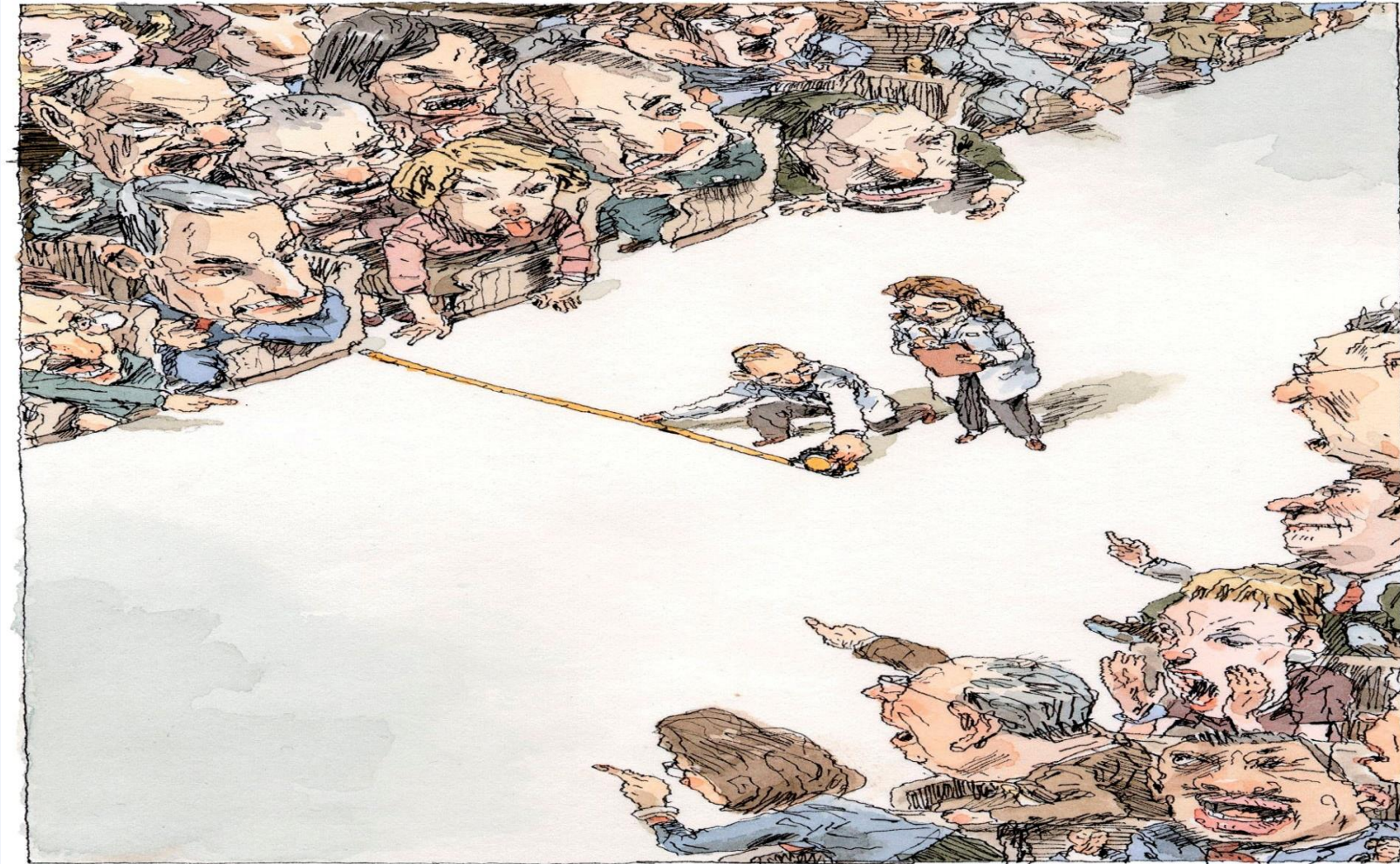
- Speaker team B (1 minute)
- Speaker team D (1 minute)

Audience participation:

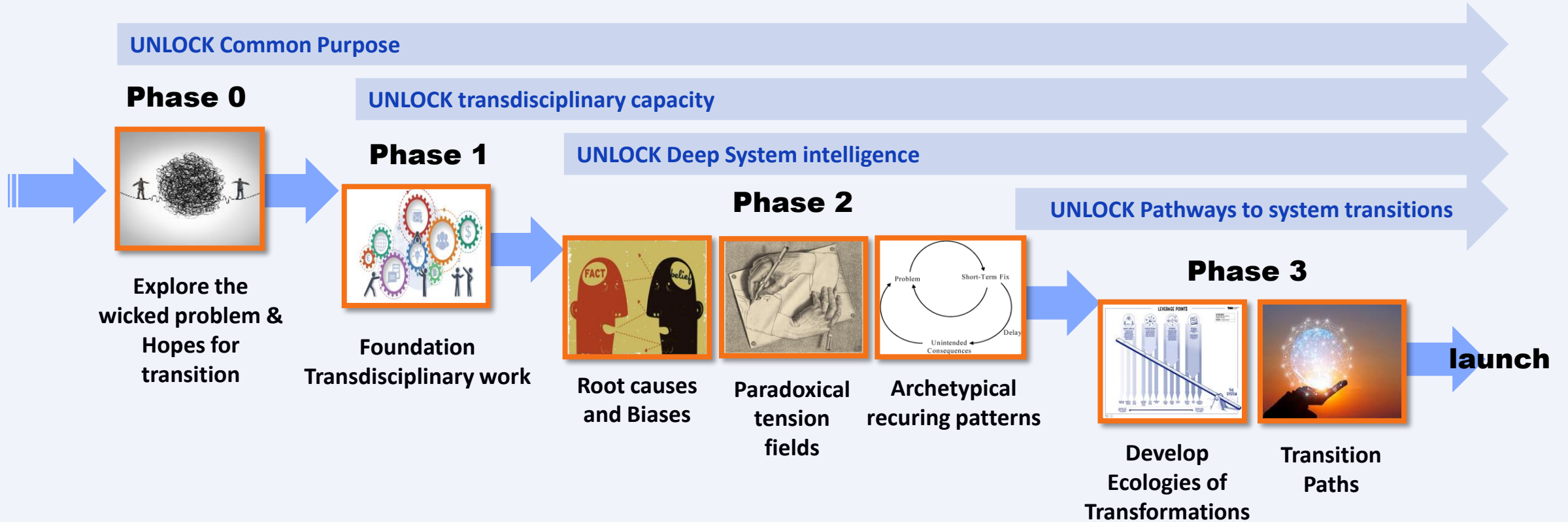
- Applaud and/or call out your approval if you agree with an argument



Stretching the polarities – outcomes



TNO's UNLOCK System Transitions Methodology



Thank you!

[Meeting with Oren, R. \(Ron\)-20240422_094003-Meeting Recording.mp4](#)

- More info?
- Marjoleine.thart@tno.nl
- Josephine.sassen@tno.nl