

Power dynamics in transformative social innovation

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date / location

October 29th 2019

ESSI conference

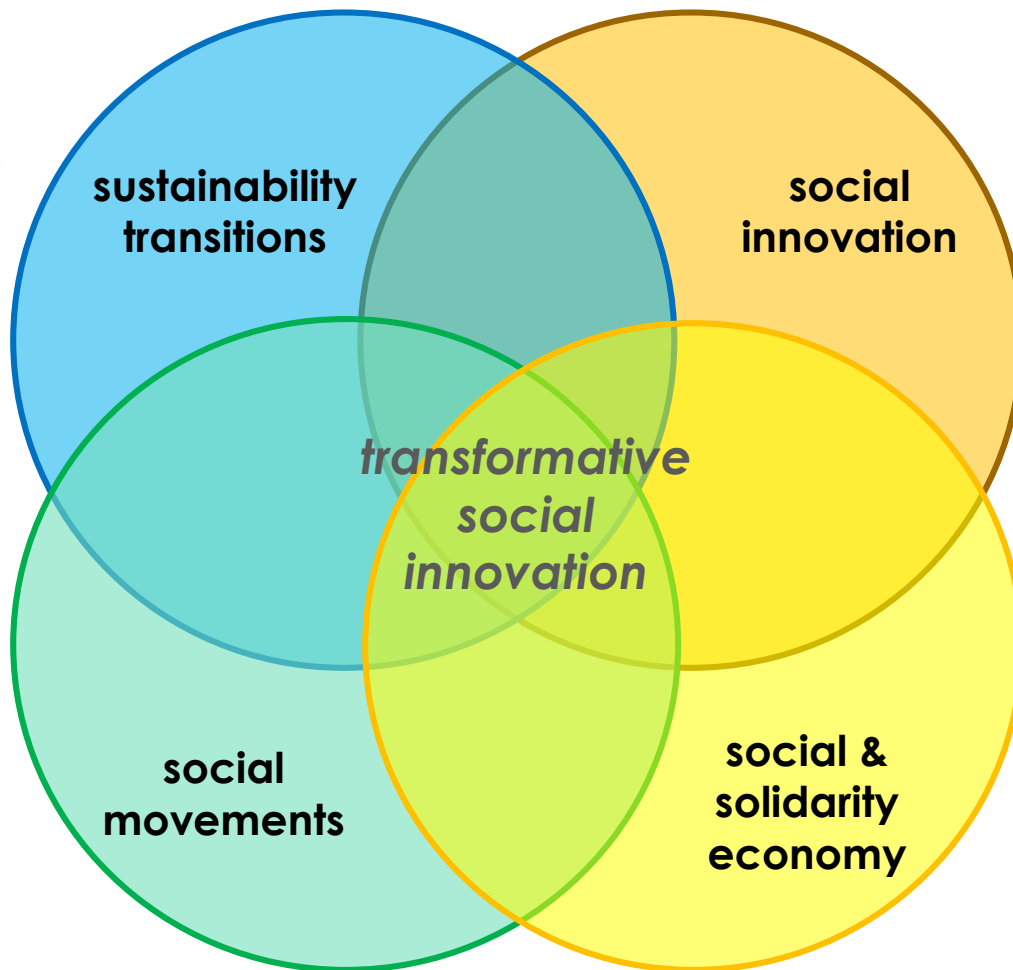
#DortmundSI2019

Dortmund

09.00 – 10.30 <i>Stahlhalle</i>	Plenary Session Social Innovation and Societal Transformation
	Johan Schot (Utrecht University) Transformative Innovation Policy
	Flor Avelino (DRIFT Erasmus University Rotterdam) / René Kemp (Maastricht University) The Origins and Politics of Transformative Social Innovation & Alternative Economies
	Lars Hulgard (Roskilde University) The Role of Social Innovation in Processes of Societal Transformation



e.g. Schot & Geels 2007,
Grin et al. 2010,
Loorbach et al. 2017



e.g. Westley et al. 2013,
Moulaert et al. 2013, 2017,
Howaldt & Kopp 2012

Monticelli 2018
Della Porta &
Diani 2015

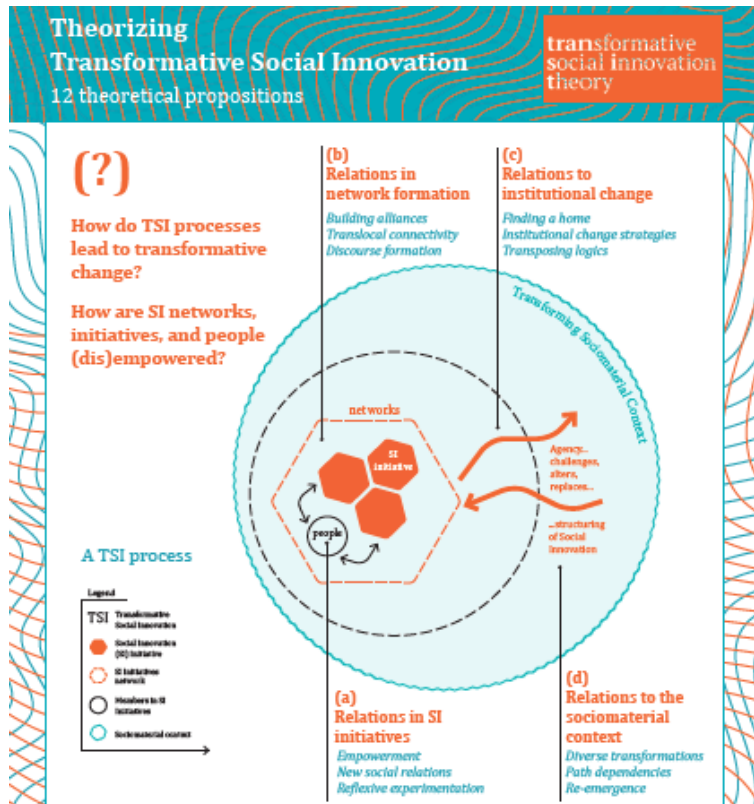
Laville 2015
Pestoff & Hulgard 2015
Eynaud et al. 2019



transformative social innovation theory



- 2014-2017
- 12 partners, 25 researchers
- EU & Latin-America
- 20 transnational networks & 100+ initiatives in 25+ countries
- 12 theoretical propositions





**SOCIAL
INNOVATION
COMMUNITY**



Prosumers
for energy
transitions

PROSEU



SONNET

social innovation in
energy transitions



urbanA

URBAN ARENAS
FOR SUSTAINABLE AND JUST CITIES

Publications (selection)

- Avelino, F., J.M. Wittmayer, B. Pel, P. Weaver, A. Dumitru, A. Haxeltine, R. Kemp, M.S. Jørgensen, T. Bauler, S. Ruijsink, T. O'Riordan (2019), Transformative Social Innovation and (Dis)Empowerment, *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 145: 195-206: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techfore.2017.05.002>
- Wittmayer, J.M., Backhaus, J., Avelino, F., Pel, B., Strasser, T. & Zijderwijk, L. (2019), Narratives of change: how social innovation initiatives construct societal transformation, *Futures*, online at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.futures.2019.06.005>
- Avelino, F., Dumitru, A., Cipolla, C., Kunze, I. & Wittmayer, J. (2019): Translocal empowerment in transformative social innovation networks, *European Planning Studies*, Available online: <https://doi.org/10.1080/09654313.2019.1578339>
- Pel, B. & Backhaus, J. (2018), Realizing the Basic Income: Competing Claims to Expertise in Transformative Social Innovation, *Science & Technology Studies*, <https://sciencetechnologystudies.journal.fi/forthcoming/view/index>
- Avelino, F., Monticelli, L. and Wittmayer, J.M. (2019), How transformative innovation movements contribute to transitions, chapter in: *Atlas of Social Innovation*.
- Eynaud P., Laville J.L., Dos Santos L.L., Banerjee S., Hulgard H., Avelino F. (2019), *Theory of social enterprise and pluralism: Social Movements, Solidarity Economy, and Global South*, Routledge Publisher, Oxfordshire
- Avelino, F., Wittmayer, J., Kemp, R., & Haxeltine, A. (2017). Guest Editorial: Game-changers and transformative social innovation. *Ecology and Society*, 22(4). <https://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol22/iss4/art41/>
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- Longhurst, N., Avelino, F., Wittmayer, J., Weaver, P., Dumitru, A., Heilscher, S., Cipolla, C., Afonso, R., Kunze, I. and Elle, M. (2016), Experimenting with alternative economies: four emergent counter-narratives of urban economic development, *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 22, 69-74
- Manifesto for Transformative Social Innovation, <https://tsimanifesto.org/>
- Overview of all publications TRANSIT research project: <http://www.transitsocialinnovation.eu/discover-our-cases-2>

Forthcoming / in development (selection)

- Haxeltine, A., Bonno Pel, Flor Avelino, Adina Dumitru, René Kemp, Tom Bauler, Iris Kunze, Jens Dorland, Julia Wittmayer, and Michael Søgaard Jørgensen, Towards a TSI theory of Transformative Social Innovation: a relational framework and 12 propositions, to be submitted to *Research Policy*
- Pel, B, Wittmayer, J., Bel, P. and Bauler, T. (2019), Paradoxes of Transformative Social Innovation: From Critical Awareness towards Strategies of Inquiry, paper presented at *International Social Innovation Research Conference (ISIRC)*
- Pel, B., Wittmayer, J.M., Dorland, J., Jorgensen, M.S. (under review) Unpacking the Social Innovation Ecosystem: An empirically grounded Typology of empowering Network Constellations. *Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research*.
- Wittmayer, J.M., Avelino, F., Pel, B. & I. Campos (to be submitted) Hybridising Energy? Mainstreaming the Prosumerism of Renewable Energy across Institutional Logics. *Energy Policy*.
- Pel, B., Bauler, T., Avelino, F., Backhaus, J., Ruijsink, S., (...) J. & Kemp, R. (2017), The Critical Turning Points database; concept, methodology and dataset of an international Transformative Social Innovation comparison, TRANSIT Working Paper #10, TRANSIT: EU SSH.2013.3.2-1 Grant agreement no 613169.
- Pel, B. & Kemp, R. (under review), Between Innovation and Restoration; A critical-historicizing Typology of Social Innovation Niches, *Technology Analysis & Strategic Management*
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- Avelino, F., Theories of Power and Social Change. Power Contestations and their Implications for Social Change Research, submitted to the *Journal of Political Power*, March 2018 > accepted with moderate revisions > under revision
- Kemp, R., Pel, P., Goldschmeding, F., Scholl, C. (2019) Bringing political economy, immaterial needs and cultural change into the framework of a Deep Transition, Paper for the IST2019 conference in Ottawa, June 24-26, 2019.
- Avelino, F. & Wittmayer, J. Power Dynamics in Transformative Social Innovation: a Multi-Actor Perspective, to be submitted to *VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*

Critical perspectives on power, politics & paradoxes in innovation & transformative change (selection)

- Smith, A., & Stirling, A. (2018). Innovation, sustainability and democracy: an analysis of grassroots contributions. *Journal of Self-Governance and Management Economics*, 6(1), 64-97.
- Pel, B, Wittmayer, J., Bel, P. and Bauler, T. (2019), Paradoxes of Transformative Social Innovation: From Critical Awareness towards Strategies of Inquiry, paper presented at *International Social Innovation Research Conference (ISIRC)*
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- Avelino, F. and Grin, J. (2017) Beyond Deconstruction. A Reconstructive Perspective on Sustainability Transition Governance, *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 22: 15-25, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2016.07.003>
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- Pel, B., Avelino, F. R., & Jhagroe, S. S. (2016). Critical Approaches to Transitions Theory. In: Hans Günter Brauch, Úrsula Oswald Spring, John Grin, Jürgen Scheffran (Eds.): *Handbook on Sustainability Transition and Sustainable Peace* (pp. 451-463). Springer International Publishing. http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-43884-9_19
- Avelino, F. and Wittmayer, J.M. (2016) Shifting Power Relations in Sustainability Transitions: A Multi-actor Perspective, *Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning*, 18(5), 628-649, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1523908X.2015.1112259>
- Pel, B. (2016). Trojan horses in transitions: A dialectical perspective on innovation 'capture'. *Journal of Environmental Policy & Planning*, 18(5), 673-691.

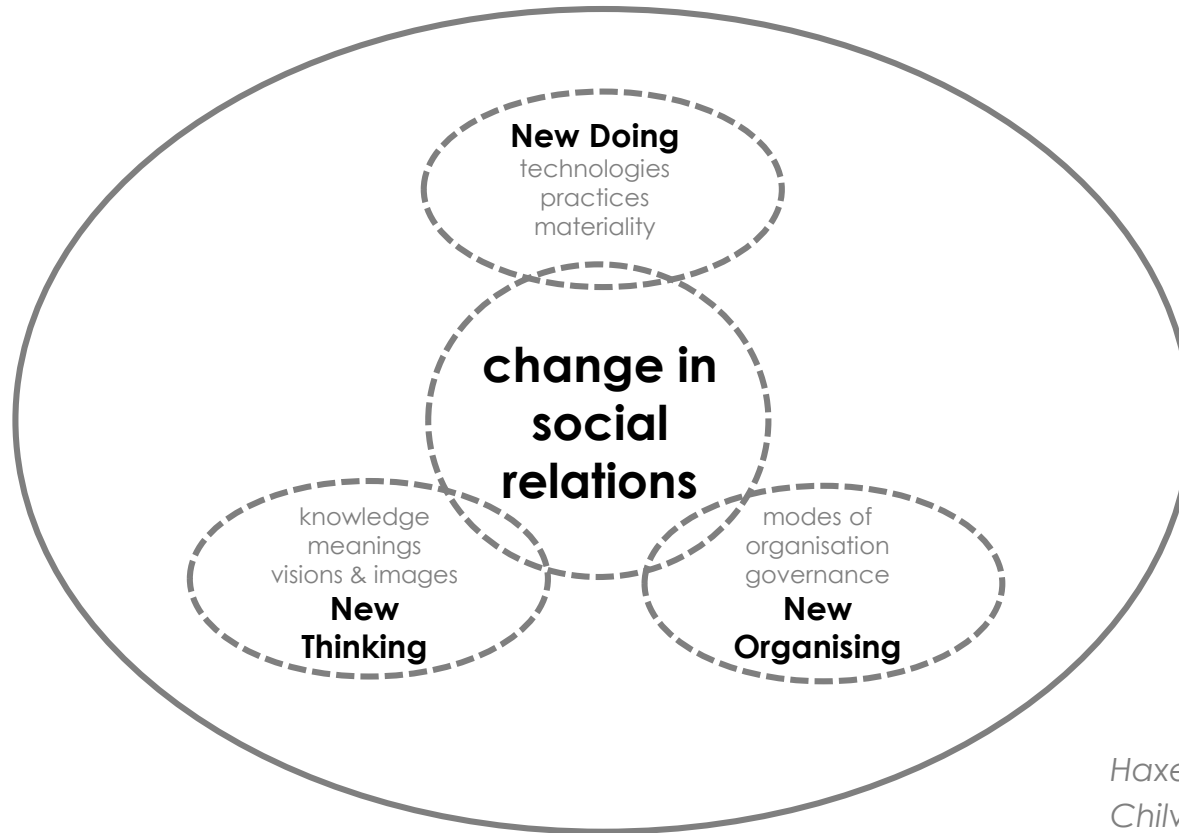
Focus on power dynamics in TSI



- Transformative social innovation (TSI)
- Power contestations
- Multi-actor perspective on shifting power relations
- Some concluding reflections

Social innovation

set of ideas, object and/or activities that involve...

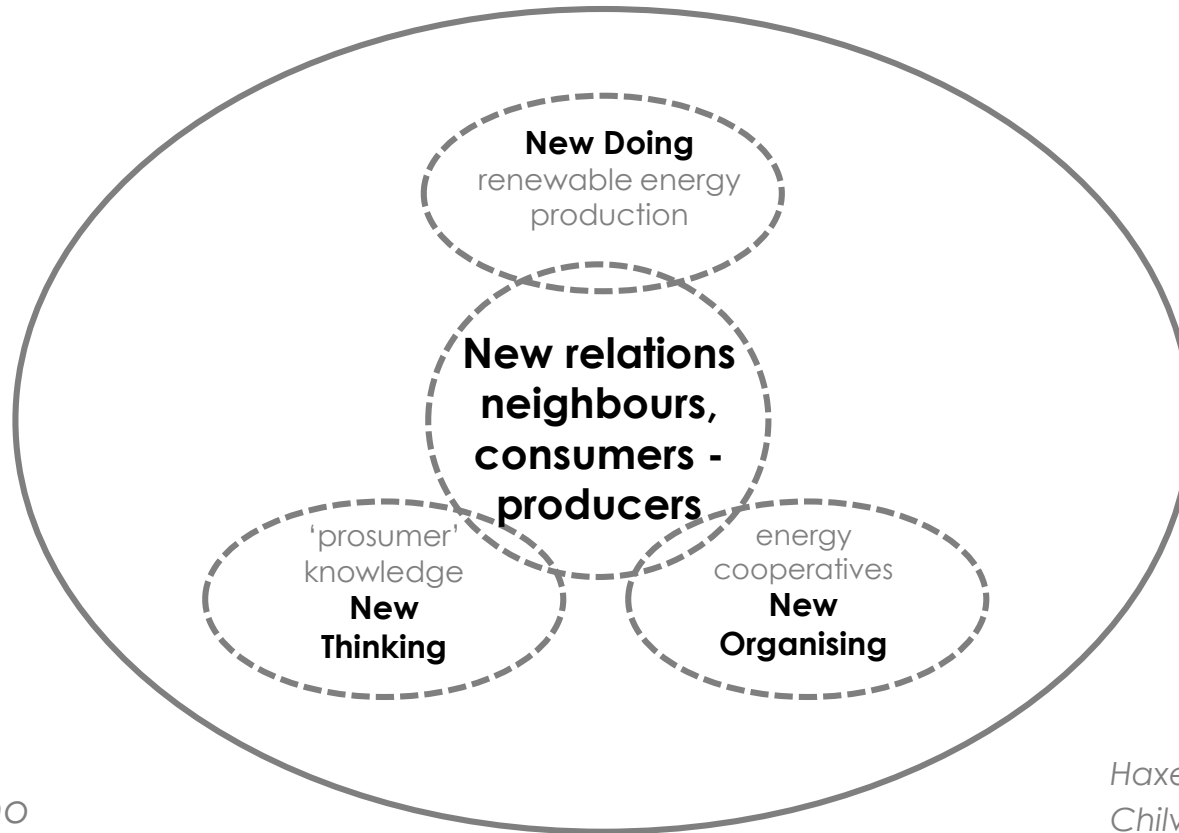


Haxeltine et al. 2017
Chilvers & Longhurst 2016



social innovation

example community energy



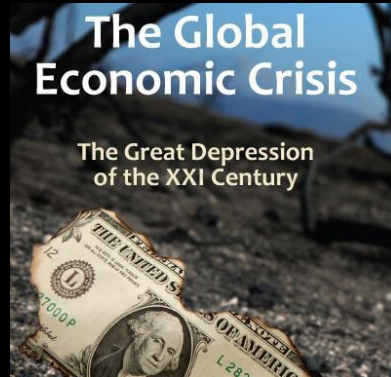
transformative social innovation



innovations are transformative to the extent that they

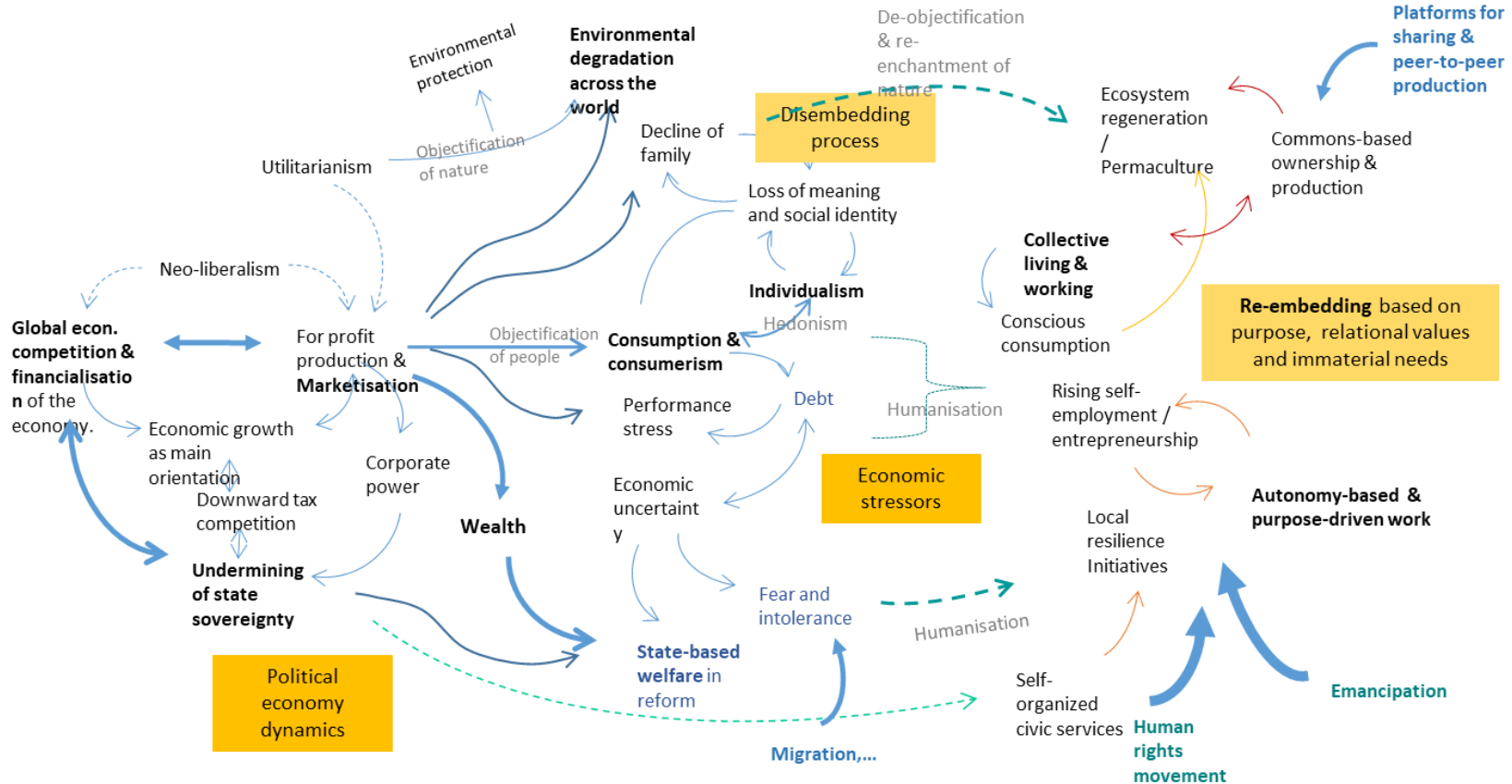
- *challenge*
- *alter*
- *replace*

dominant structures & institutions in socio-material context



*Avelino et al. 2017
Haxeltine et al. 2017*

Broader movement of 're-embedding'





Universiteit Utrecht

HOMO COOPERANS

Institutions for collective action and the compassionate society



Tine De Moor

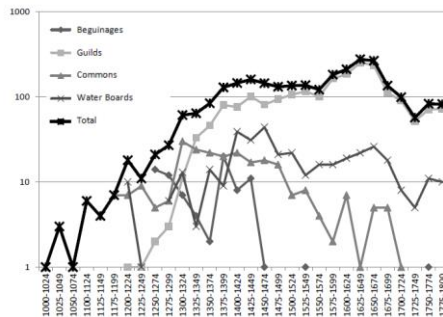


Figure 2: Evolution of the number of new institutions for collective action (beguinages, guilds, commons, and water boards) per quarter century in the Netherlands, 1000-1800 (logarithmic scale)¹¹

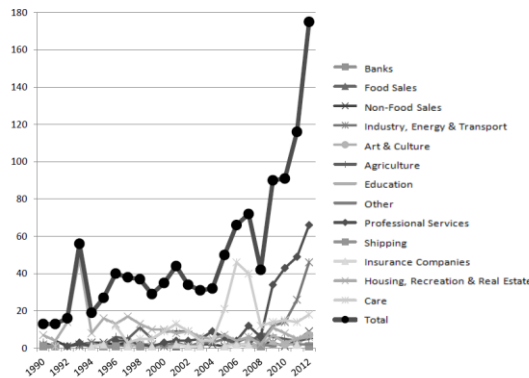


Figure 1: Evolution of the number of new cooperatives per sector from 1990 to 2012¹²

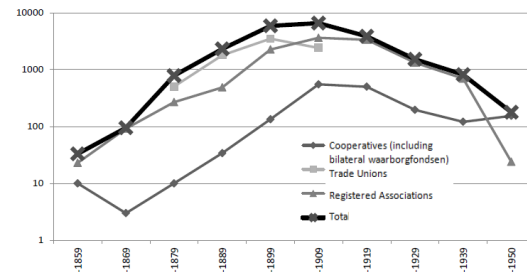


Figure 3: Evolution of the number of new institutions for collective action (cooperatives (including bilateral *waarborgfondsen*), trade unions, and registered associations) per decade in the Netherlands, 1850-1950 (logarithmic scale)¹¹

3 waves of
institutions for
collective action in
the past 1000 years

Why 'transformative'?

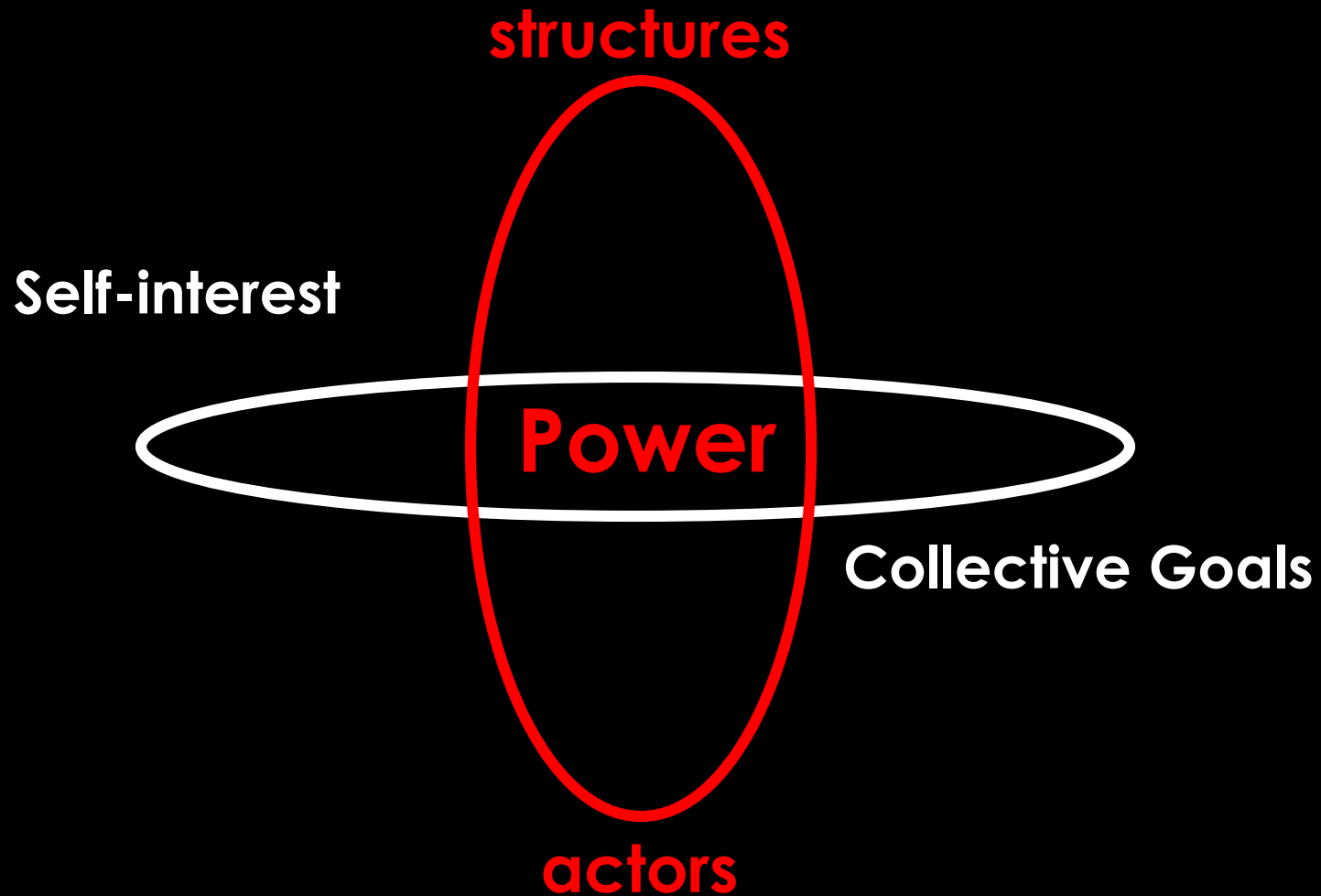
09.00 – 10.30 <i>Stahlhalle</i>	Plenary Session Social Innovation and Societal Transformation	10.30 – 12.00 <i>Stahlhalle</i>	Keynotes
	Johan Schot (Utrecht University) Transformative Innovation Policy		Geoff Mulgan (NESTA) New Pathways to the Future of Social Innovation Policy
	Flor Avelino (DRIFT Erasmus University Rotterdam) / René Kemp (Maastricht University) The Origins and Politics of Transformative Social Innovation & Alternative Economies		Elizabeth Shove (Lancaster University) The Dynamics of Social Practice
	Lars Hulgard (Roskilde University) The Role of Social Innovation in Processes of Societal Transformation		Jürgen Howaldt (TU Dortmund University) The Role of Social Innovation in Societal Transformation

Why 'transformative'?

- Why are structures supposed to be transformed, be they “dominant institutions” (Haxeltine et al. 2017), “socio-technical regimes” (Geels 2014) or “neo-liberal hegemonic discourses” (Moulaert et al. 2007, Longhurst et al. 2016)?
- **Problematic power relations:** inequality, oppression, exclusion, exploitation, injustice
- **How are social innovations challenging / reproducing power relations?**



Power contestations



power as (in)capacity

broad dialectic definition of power:

relational & structural (in)capacity of actors to
mobilise resources & institutions to achieve particular goals

Seven power contestations

1. Power 'over' vs. power 'to'
2. Centred vs. diffused
3. Consensual vs. conflictual
4. Constraining vs. enabling
5. Power = knowledge vs. power \neq knowledge
6. Empowerment vs. disempowerment
7. Power as means vs. power as end in itself

Not choose sides but ask diverse empirical questions...

Power Contestations	Questions about transformative social innovation (TSI)
Power 'over' <> power 'to' (e.g. Dahl, Parsons, Foucault, Morris, Davis, Giddens, Arendt, Gordon, Stewart)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Power to</i>: How is what kind of power exercised for/through/against TSI? How are which resources mobilised? • <i>Power over</i>: Who is exercising power over whom? How are which structures of domination/ oppression/ dependence changed or (re)produced? • <i>Power with</i>: What are the power coalitions that enable/resist TSI, and how do actors collaborate in the exercise of power?
Centred <> diffused (e.g. Dahl, Bachrach & Baratz, Lukes, Mann, Foucault, Gramsci)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are the three/four faces of power manifested in TSI? • Who are the TSI elites, who sets the agenda, which issues are on/off the agenda, how are preferences shaped? Who is included and excludes? • How is power diffused, (de)centralised and/or recentralised by TSI?
Consensual <> conflictual (e.g. Parsons, Arendt, Mann, Haugaard)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are both consensus and conflict manifested in TSI? • Which conflicts are 'hidden' under seemingly consensual processes? • (How) is consensus oppressive, how is conflict emancipatory, and vice versa?
Constraining <> enabling (e.g. Foucault, Giddens, Clegg, Davis, Arendt, Hayward & Lukes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are both structure & agency manifested in TSI? Who is enabled and who is constrained in TSI, how and by whom or what? • How/to what extent are which structures (a) an object of TSI (to be transformed), (b) a constraint for TSI, (c) an enabler for TSI?
Empowerment <> disempowerment (e.g. Boje & Rosile, Hardy & Leiba-O'Sullivan, Follet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is (dis)empowered in/by TSI, by whom or by what? • (How) is (dis)empowerment manifested in TSI as (a) intentional outcome (empowerment as end), (b) constraining/enabling factor (empowerment as means), or (c) object/type of TSI in itself?
Knowledge as <> prior to power (e.g. Bourdieu, Flyvbjerg, Lukes, Foucault, Barnes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is knowledge in/for TSI organised, for and by whom? • How is knowledge manifested as (a) an object of change & TSI, or (b) an instrument for enabling/constraining TSI? • What are the discourses and ideologies underlying TSI?
Power as means vs. power as an end in itself (e.g. Foucault, Arendt, Haugaard)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which power relations are implied by future visions of TSI? • What are (un)intended consequences of TSI in power terms? • What are the power-ethical issues in TSI from both an empirical and normative political theory point of view?

consensual



Power

conflictual

Violence as “the most concentrated, if bluntest, instrument of human power”.

(Mann [1986]2002:177)

Violence can destroy power, but “is utterly incapable of creating it”, and “power and violence are opposites; where the one rules absolutely, the other is absent”.

(Arendt [1969] 2002:143).

“Subjection is not only obtained by the instruments of violence or ideology; it can also be direct, physical, pitting force against force, bearing on material elements, and yet without involving violence; it may be calculated, organized, technically thought out; it may be subtle, make use neither of weapons nor of terror and yet remain a physical order”.

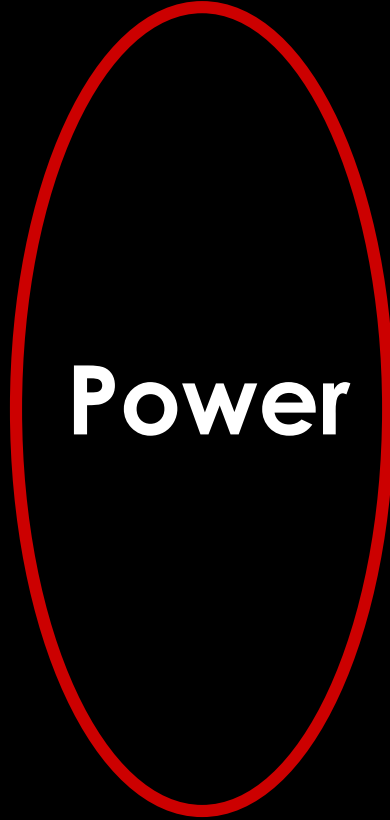
(Foucault [1975] 2002:192).







centred



diffused

Three faces of power

1. Dahl (1958)
 - beyond ruling elites
2. Bachrach & Baratz (1962)
 - agenda-setting
3. Lukes (1974)
 - preference shaping





**How are 3 faces
of power manifested
in/for processes of
social innovation**

**How is power
decentralised
and/or
(re)centralised?**

(De)/(re)centralization

Decentralisation in one place can lead to (re)centralisation elsewhere (and visa versa).



(De)/(re)centralization in SI in energy?

Which power relations are being (de)/(re)centralised in decentralised energy initiatives, and how?



constraining (structure)



Power

enabling (agency)

“In its most general sense, power is (...) the ‘can’ which mediates the desired or intended outcomes of social actors and the actual realization of these outcomes in their daily social practices”.

(Davis et al. [1991] 2002:214)

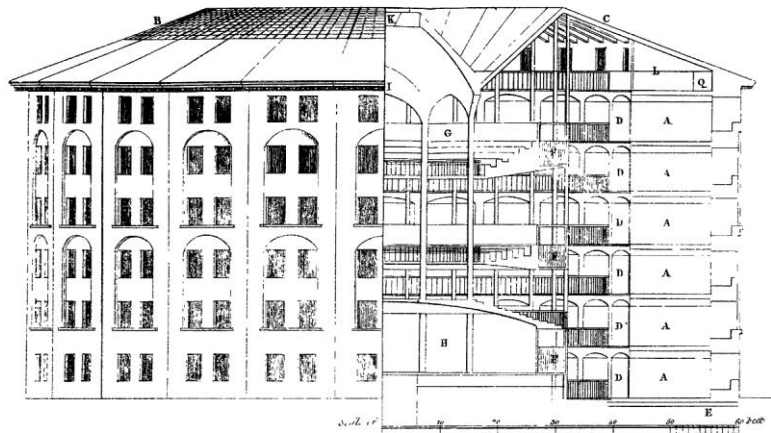
“Individuals are the vehicles of power”

(Foucault 1980:101)

‘Automated’ and ‘disindividualised’ power: material or ideological structures are “creating and sustaining a power relation independent of the person who exercises it”.

(Foucault ([1975]2002: 196)

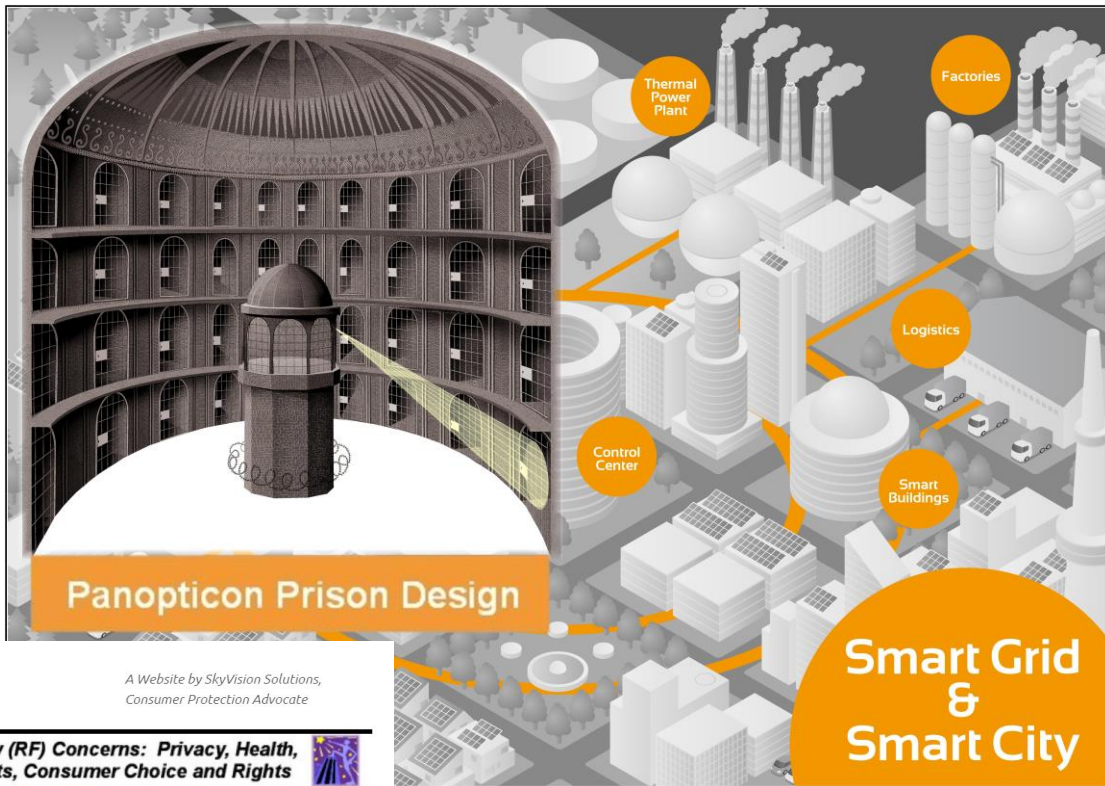
Panopticon...



I'VE UPGRADED TO...



I SEE ALL ACTIVITY!



Smart Grid Awareness

Raising Public Awareness to Smart Grid, Smart Meter, and Radiofrequency (RF) Concerns: Privacy, Health, Cybersecurity, Safety, Economics, Societal Impacts, Environmental Impacts, Consumer Choice and Rights



*A Website by SkyVision Solutions,
Consumer Protection Advocate*



aanmelden
tot 25 juni

Lokaal peakshaven bij Particulieren

Uitnodiging: Pressure cooker workshop

3 juli, 12:00-16:30 @ Aardehuizen, Olst

drift for transition

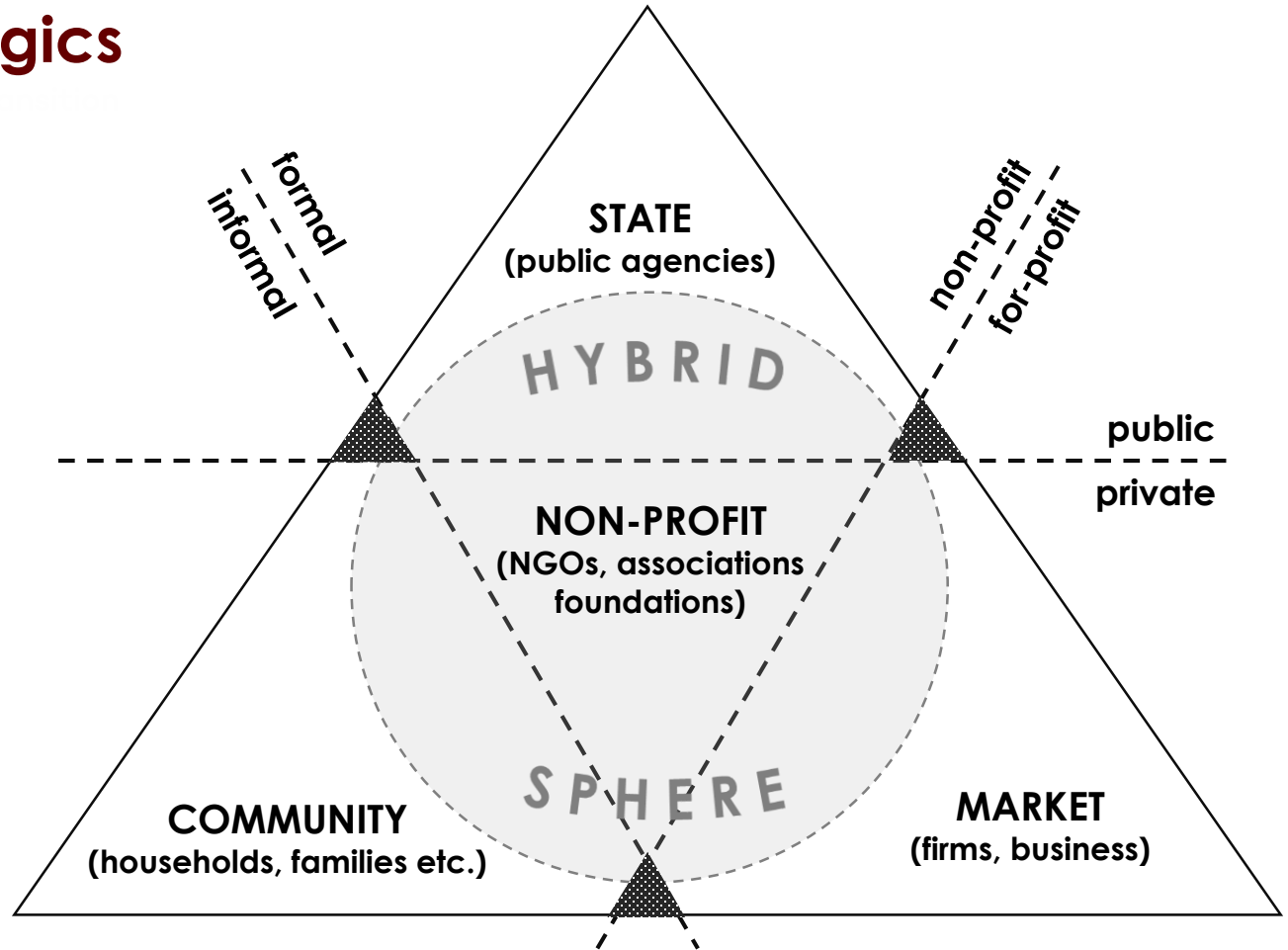


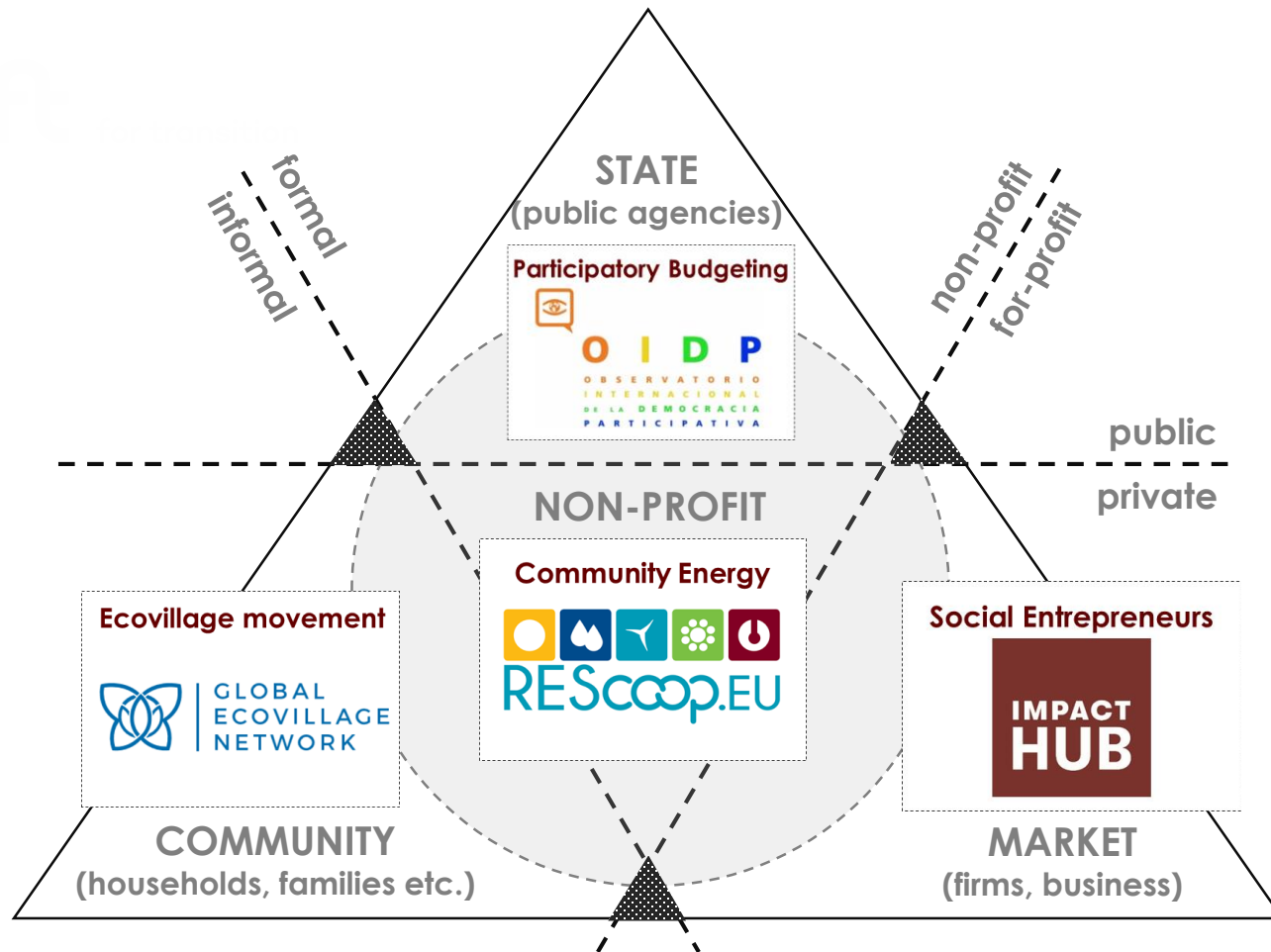
Decentrale opwekking van elektriciteit is aan de orde van de dag. Echter zorgt dit voor grote schommelingen op het net. Door grote pieken in elektriciteitsopwek te 'peakshaven' kunnen deze schommelingen worden voorkomen. Particulieren en wijken wagen zich aan peakshaven, door middel van wijkopslag en microgrids. Maar dit gaat niet zonder slag of stoot.

**Wat kunnen we leren van particulieren die zich wagen aan peakshaven?
En hoe kunnen instanties hen hierbij verder helpen?**

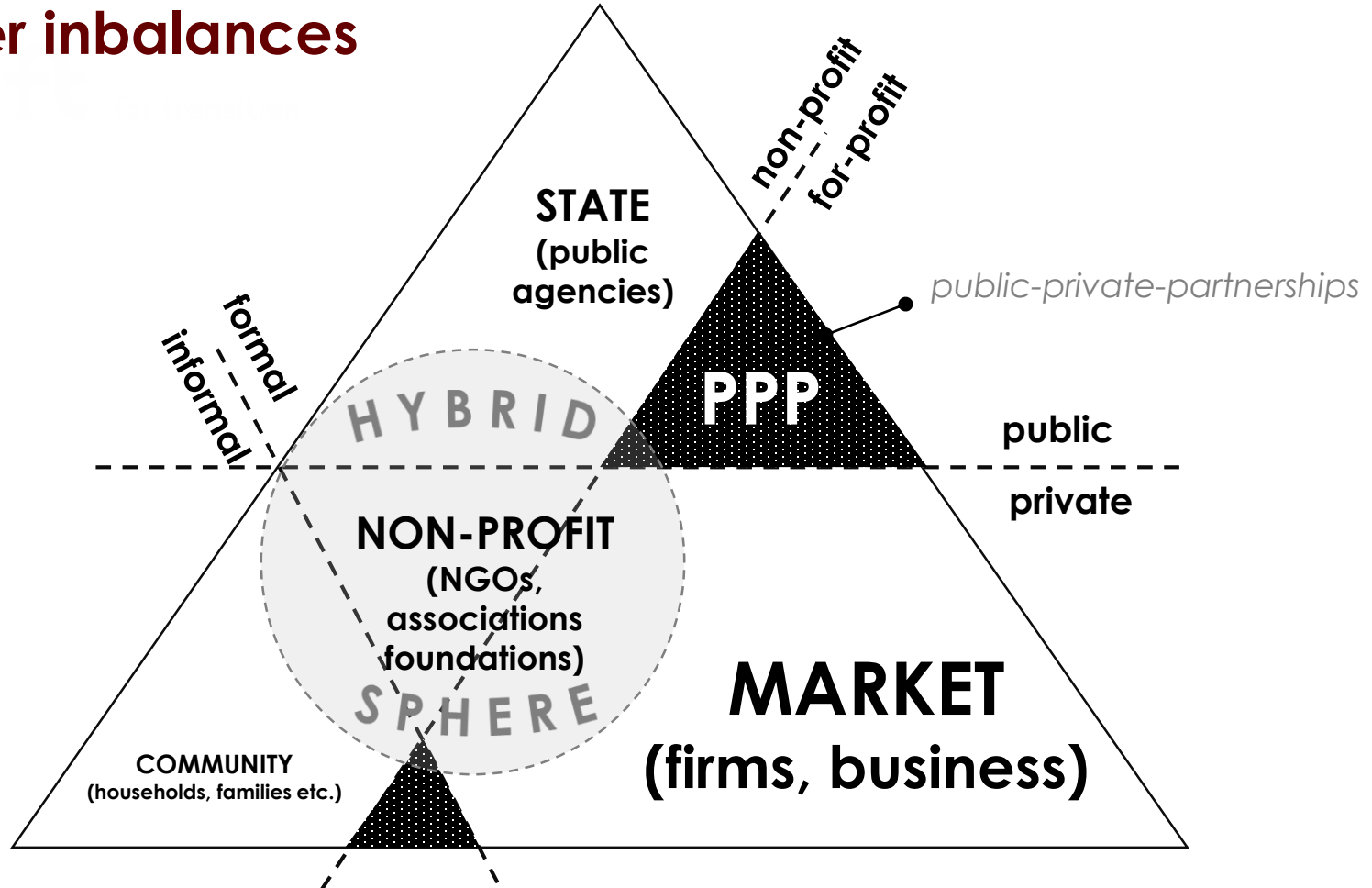
multi-actor perspective on shifting power relations

Institutional logics



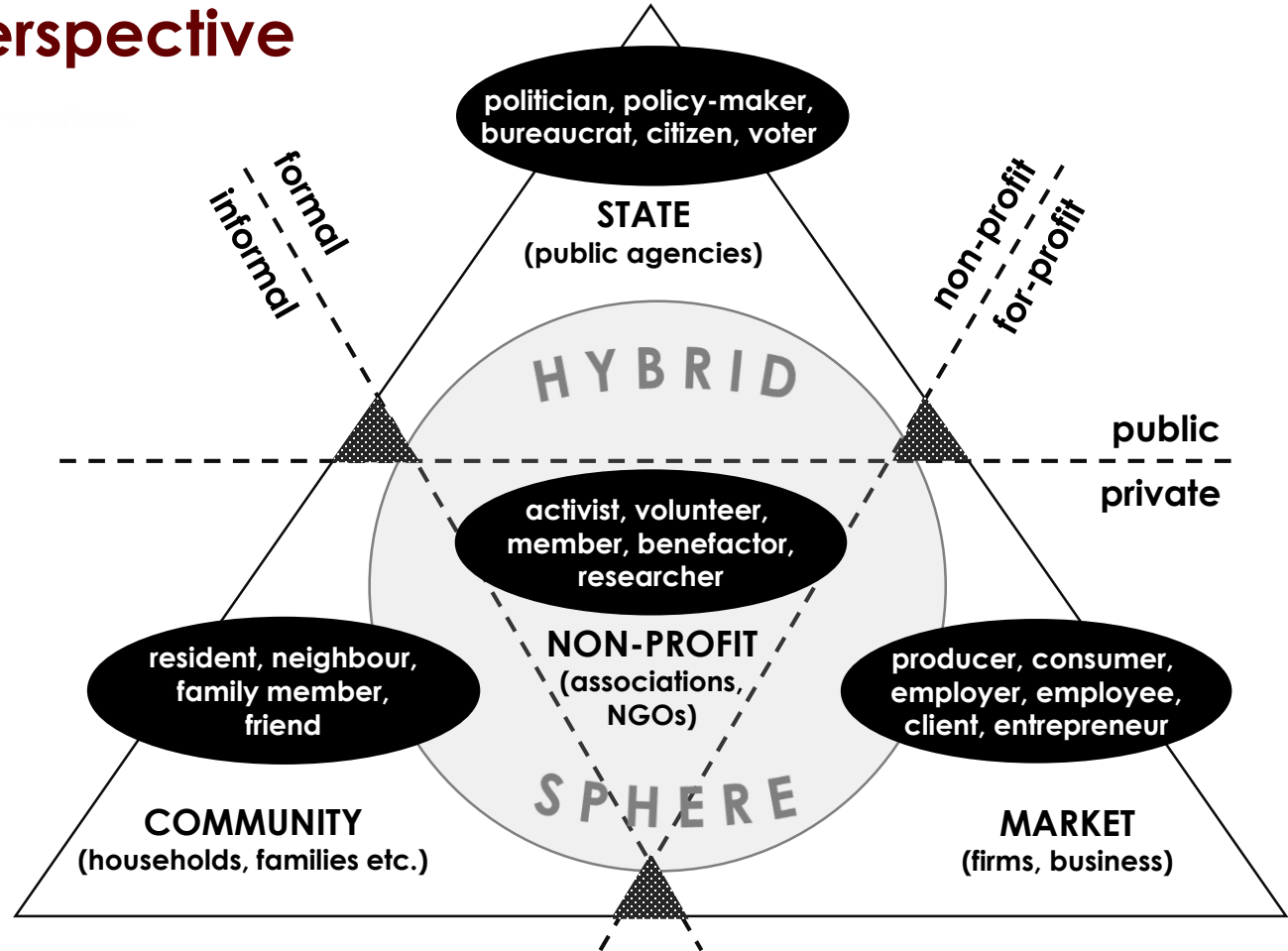


Power imbalances

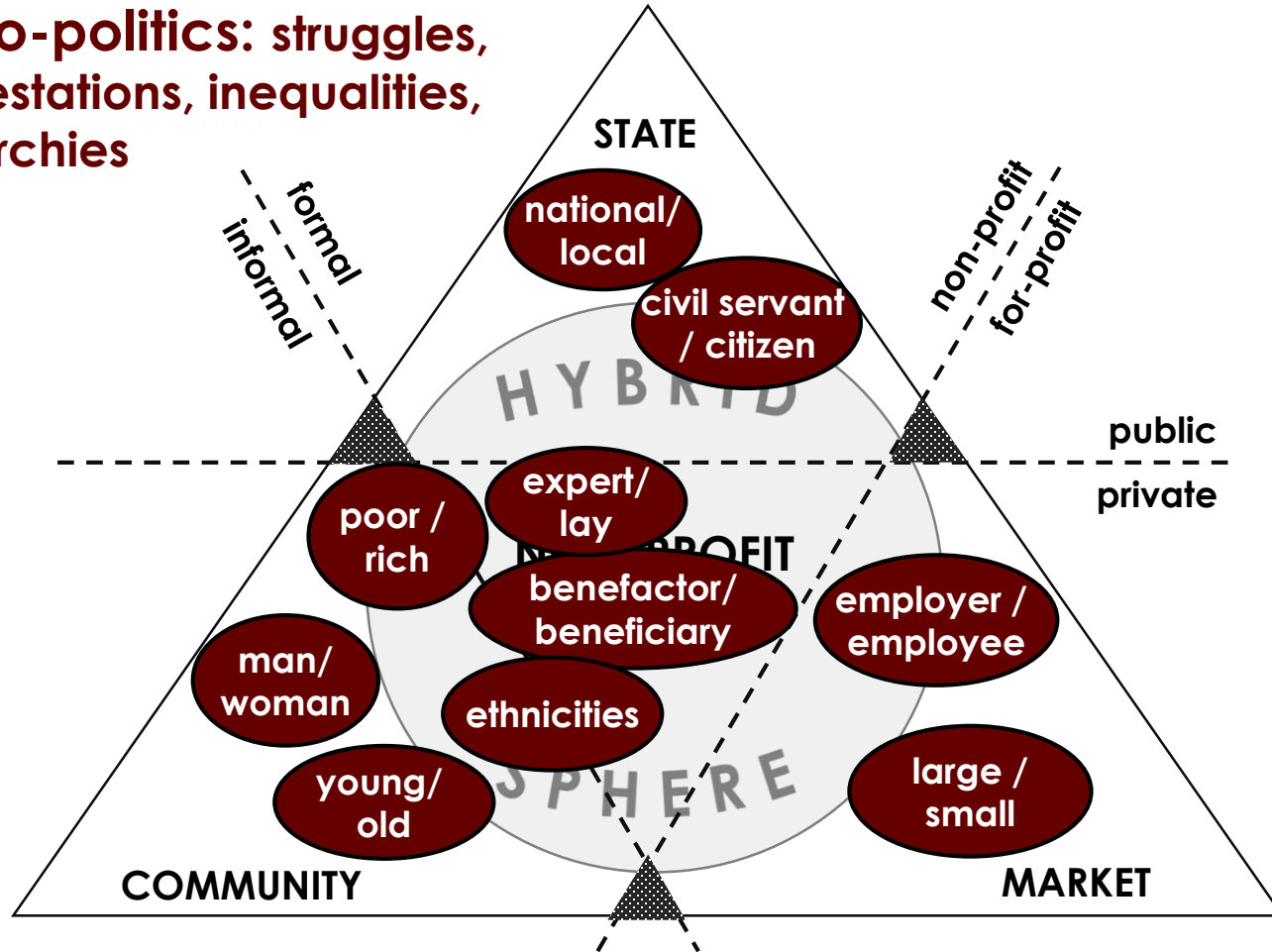


Multi-Actor Perspective

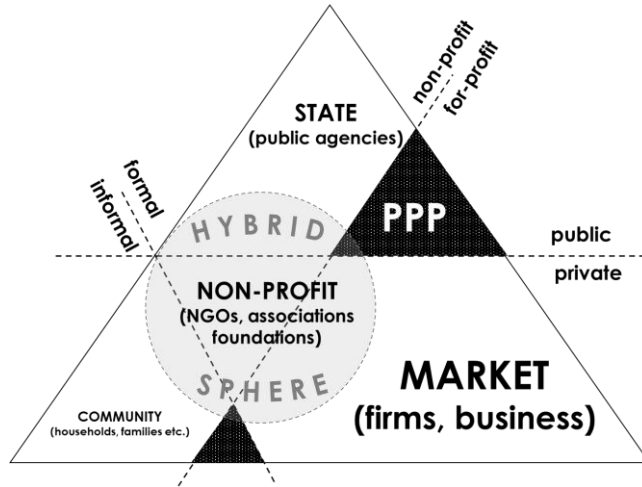
*Multiple institutional
logics & actor roles*



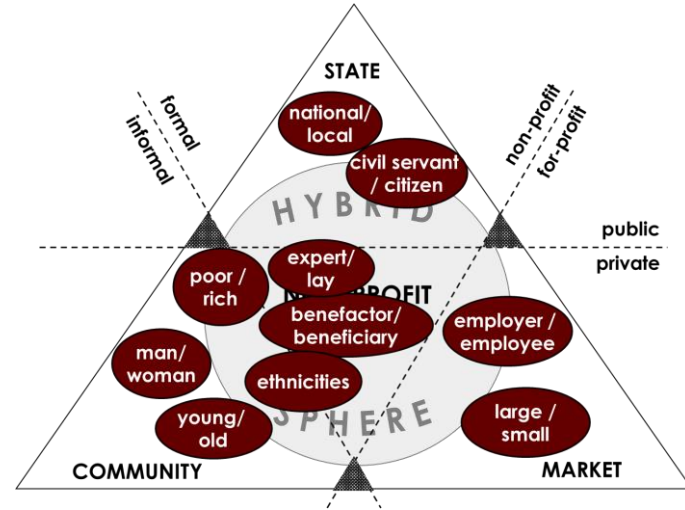
Micro-politics: struggles, contestations, inequalities, hierarchies



macro-level power relations



micro-level power relations



ENERGY DEMOCRACY:

Redistributing Power to the People Through Renewable Transformation

by
Jennie C. Stephens

As the expansion of renewable energy accelerates, the transformative potential of moving away from fossil fuel reliance is becoming increasingly clear. Around the world, individuals, communities, organizations, cities, states, and countries are recognizing that renewable energy offers much more than just reliable clean electricity, pollution reductions, and climate mitigation. In addition to these environmental benefits, the renewable energy revolution also provides potential to transform society by redistributing jobs, wealth, health, and political power more equitably.

Energy democracy is a growing social movement that prioritizes this potential for redistributing power to the people through renewable transformation. Energy democracy acknowledges how fossil-fuel-based energy systems and the associated massive corporate profits of large multinational energy companies have perpetuated inequities, exacerbated disparate vulnerabilities, and promoted widespread injustices among and within communities around the world. By highlighting the negative societal impacts of fossil-fuel-based concentration of power and wealth, the principles of energy democracy connect energy system change with an associ-

ated transformation toward a socially just and equal society.'

Energy democracy recognizes replacing fossil-fuel-based infrastructure with renewables is much more than a technological substitution; it is a social change potential by changing a vision of more distributed energy systems with an appropriate mix of different sources satisfying 100% of society's needs.

Whether the renewable energy transition delivers on this potential

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Renewable energy

Power to the people: how Spanish cities took control of energy

The 'sunshine tax' is dead, and Barcelona and Cádiz are mounting a renewables revival

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African Clean Energy (ACE)

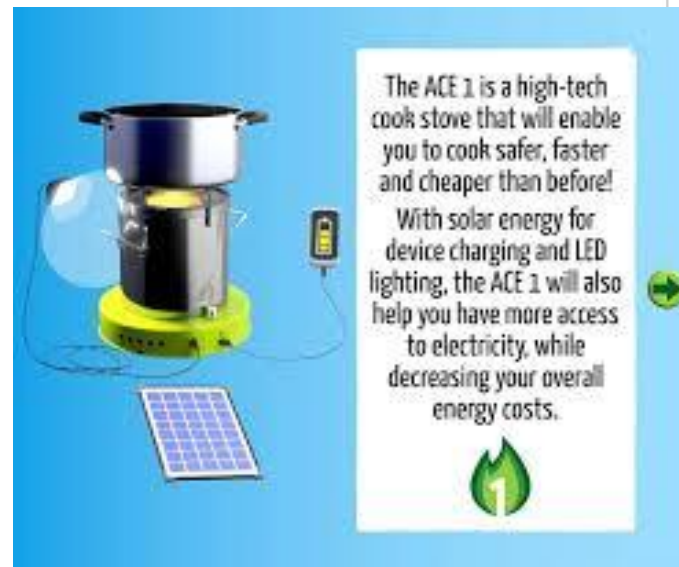
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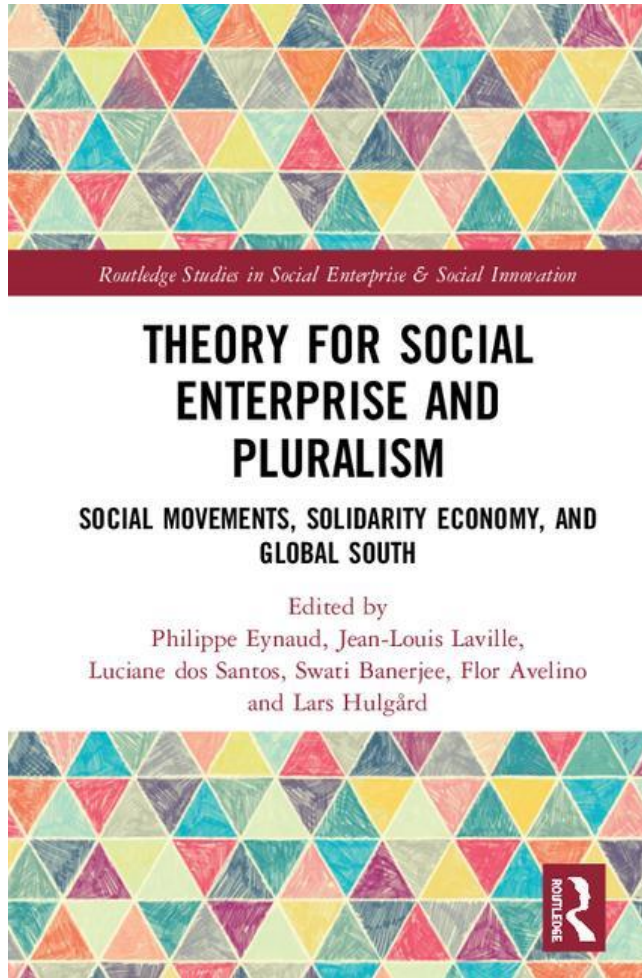
African Clean Energy (ACE) is a social enterprise specialised in manufacturing and directly distributing the ACE 1.

The @BCorporation #BestForTheWorld2019 list is out and we're proud to be among the top 10% of all #BCorps. We vote every day for a better world through the way we achieve our business' mission. Thank you for your support!



African Clean Energy





Unpacking the transformative potential of social enterprise

10 The Transformative Potential of Plural Social Enterprise

A Multi-Actor Perspective

Flor Avelino and Julia M. Wittmayer

Introduction

What is the transformative potential of social enterprise to challenge, alter or replace existing power relations? This is the question that we ponder in this chapter, by taking a multi-actor perspective to unpack concepts and empirical manifestations of social enterprise.

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Reflections for future inquiry



political paradoxes of transformative social Innovation

Pel et al. 2019



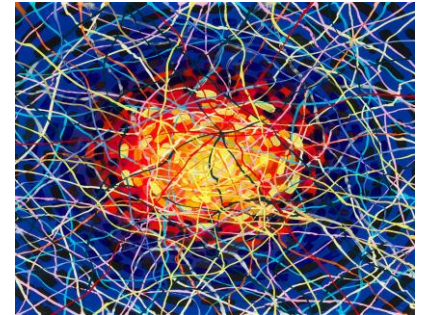
FOOTPRINT
DRINKS SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

Dialectics of transformative social innovation



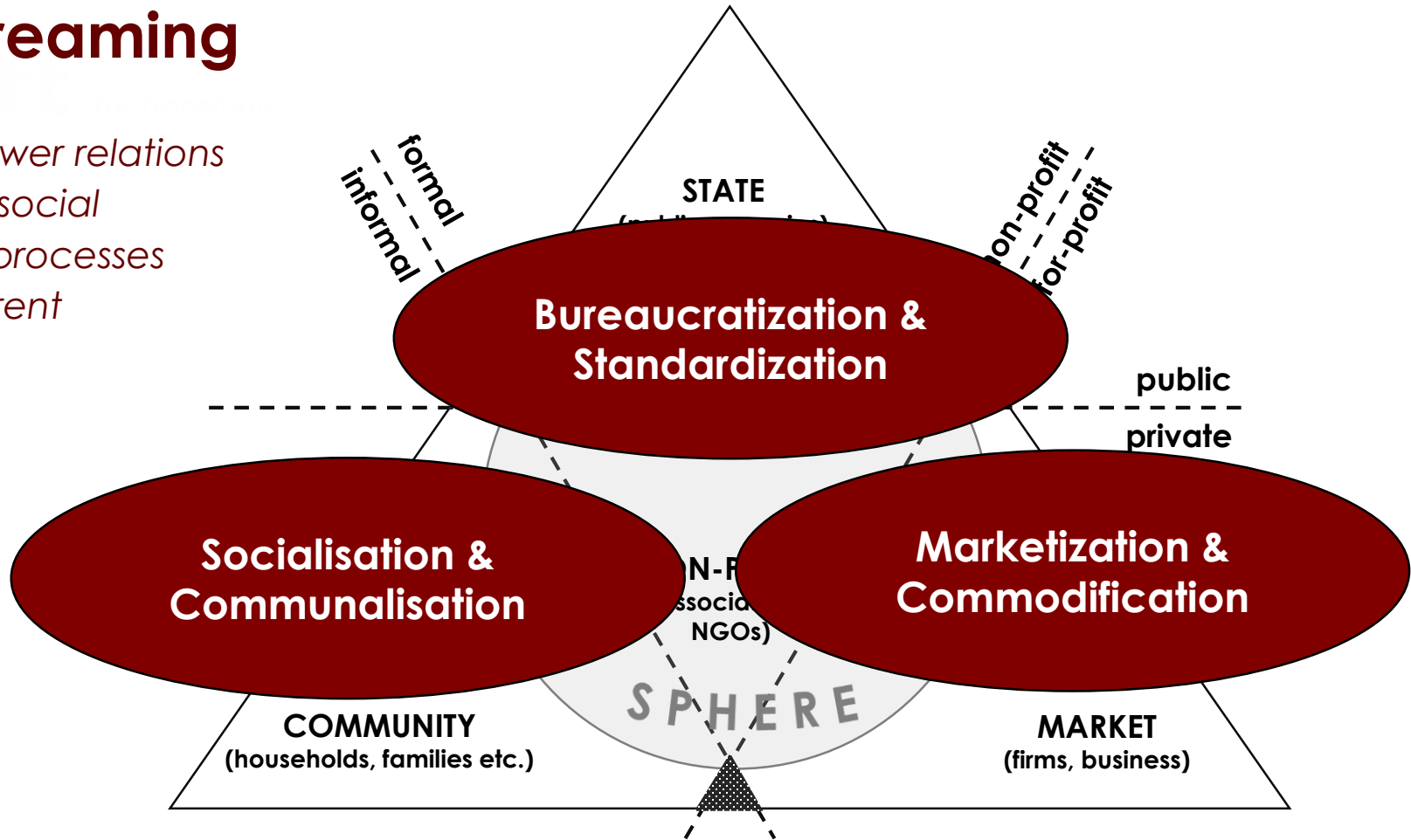
- **Dialectic relation:** innovations both challenge & reproduce established institutions. Need to be prepared for innovation capture (Pel 2016)
- Translating to wider, institutional context, while also maintaining one's **radical core** (Smith 2006, 2007)

How can social innovations be mainstreamed and gain power while maintaining their transformative potential?



Mainstreaming

How are power relations affected in social Innovation processes across different institutional logics?





Painting by Hundertwasser

Why 'social' 'innovation'?

1. Focusing on the **social** as an object of innovation in itself (rather than a mere dimension of technological innovation)
2. **Innovation** as a dimension of (prefigurative) social movements (Monticelli 2018) & other forms of social change

Prefigurative social movements (Monticelli 2018)

- Class-based movements 19th century
- New social movements 60s & 70s
- Alter-globalization 90s-early 2000s
- New wave of prefigurative social movements

“strive to reproduce in the present the kind of society they envision for the future (...) embody their ultimate goals and their vision of a future society through their ongoing social practices & social relations (...) not only opposing capitalism but also prefiguring post-capitalist societies (...) by re-thinking and re-politicising conventional modes of production, consumption and living by defending, restoring and creating spaces of resistance and experimentation”

(Monticelli 2018:509-515)

tripleC 16(2): 501-517, 2018
<http://www.triple-c.at>

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Embodying Alternatives to Capitalism in the 21st Century

Lara Monticelli

Independent researcher, monticelli.lara@gmail.com

Abstract: The goal of this article is twofold. First, to illustrate how in the last decade a growing number of critical and Marxist thinkers committed to discussing and developing theories of change have started to broaden their focus by including social movements and grassroots initiatives that are “interstitial”, i.e. initiatives that are developing within capitalism and are striving to prefigure a post-capitalist society in the here and now without engaging in contentious, violent and revolutionary actions and activities. To achieve this, I mainly focus on the work of four authors: Erik Olin Wright, John Holloway, Ana C. Dinerstein, and Luke Martell. The second goal of this article is to understand why these interstitial movements are getting so much attention from critical scholars and to argue that the time is ripe for establishing a theory of (and for) prefigurative social movements. The article closes with some brief reflections on the future of radical thinking that includes an invitation, directed mostly at the young generation of critical and Marxist scholars, to begin a dialogue with theories of change developed within other disciplines, to engage with activists, and to experiment with participatory methods and techniques.

Keywords: Karl Marx, bicentenary, 200th anniversary, capitalism, crisis, utopia, prefigurative social movements

HOW TRANSFORMATIVE INNOVATION MOVEMENTS CONTRIBUTE TO TRANSITIONS

Transformative innovation movements create new ways of doing, thinking and organizing with transformative ambitions. They challenge existing systems through (1) prefiguration, (2) socio-material innovation across domains, (3) translocal empowerment, (4) a diverse repertoire of actions and (5) strategic collaboration across movements.

Flor Avelino / Lara Monticelli / Julia M. Wittmayer

Participatory Budgeting



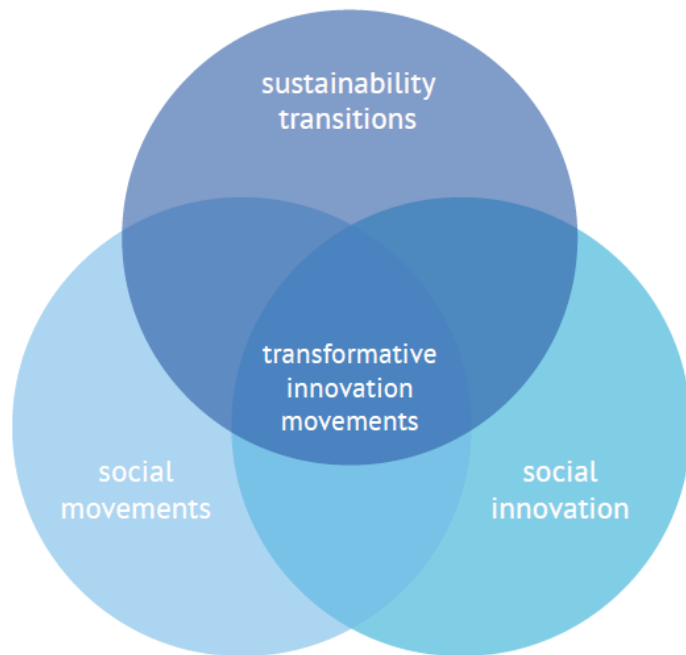
Ecovillage movement



Community Energy



Social Entrepreneurs

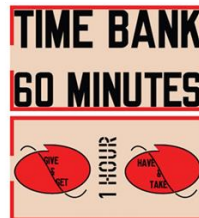


Positioning transformative innovation movements in three fields of research

Avelino, F. , Monticelli, L. and Wittmayer, J.M. (2019), How transformative innovation movements contribute to transitions, chapter in: *Atlas of Social Innovation*. Available online at: <https://www.socialinnovationatlas.net/>



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transformative
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theory

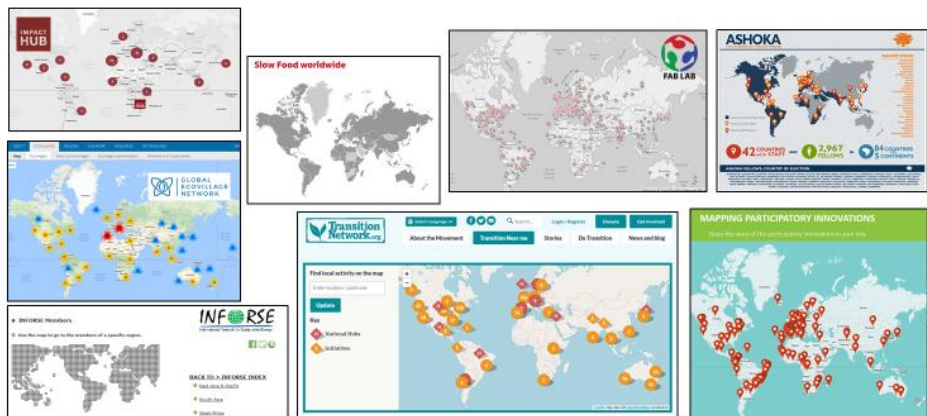
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Why 'social' 'innovation'?

1. Focusing on the **social** as an object of innovation in itself (rather than a mere dimension of technological innovation)
2. **Innovation** as a dimension of (prefigurative) social movements (Monticelli 2018) & other forms of social change
3. Innovation as a **type/source of power** ('innovative power' – Avelino & Rotmans 2009). Social innovation > changing social relations > changing power relations > empowering....

translocal empowerment

local embeddedness + global connectedness



Unpacking the Social Innovation Ecosystem: a typology of empowering network constellations

Pel, B.¹, Wittmayer, J.², Dorland, J.³, & Jørgensen, M.S.³

10th International Social Innovation Research Conference

September 3rd -5th 2018, Heidelberg (GER)

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Translocal empowerment in transformative social innovation networks

Flor Avelino^a, Adina Dumitru^b, Carla Cipolla^c, Iris Kunze^d and Julia Wittmayer^a

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ABSTRACT

This paper contributes to public and academic discussions on empowerment and social innovation by conceptualizing the mechanisms of empowerment from a *social psychology* perspective, and empirically exploring how people are empowered through both local and transnational linkages, i.e. *translocal networks*. Section 2 conceptualizes empowerment as the *process through which actors gain the capacity to mobilize resources to achieve a goal*, building on different power theories in relation to social change, combined with self-determination theory and intrinsic motivation research. Based on that conceptualization, empirical questions are formulated to be asked about cases under study. Section 3 then provides an empirical analysis of translocal networks that work with social innovation both at the global and local level. A total of five networks are analyzed: *FEBEA*, *DESI*, *the Global Ecovillage Network*, *Impact Hub* and *Slow Food*. The embedded cases-study approach allows an exploration of how people are empowered through the transnational networking

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KEYWORDS

Empowerment; translocal networks; social innovation; self-determination



Thank you!

Dr. Flor Avelino

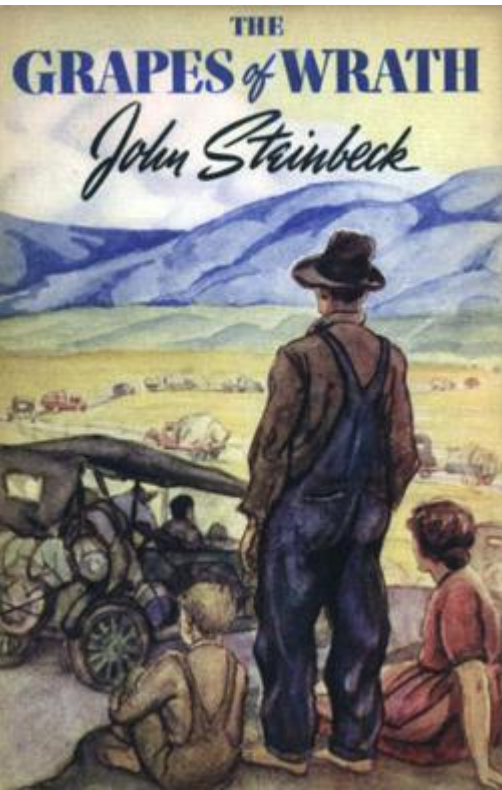
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The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in the mind at the same time, and still retain the ability to function. One should, for example, be able to see that things are hopeless and yet be determined to make them otherwise.

(F. Scott Fitzgerald)



“Who can I shoot?”

We are reminded of the quandary of the tenant farmer in John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, who confronts a tractor driver on the verge of bulldozing his shack. The farmer threatens to shoot the driver, who after all *looks to be* the (agentive) source of his domination. Nevertheless, the driver strenuously objects:

It's not me. There's nothing I can do. I'll lose my job if I don't do it. And look – suppose you kill me? They'll just hang you, but long before you're hung there'll be another guy on the tractor, and he'll bump the house down. You're not killing the right guy.

‘That's so,’ the tenant said. ‘Who gave you orders? I'll go after him.’ ‘You're wrong. He got his orders from the bank. The bank told him, “Clear those people out or it's your job.”’

‘Well, there's a president of the bank. There's a board of directors. I'll fill up the magazine of the rifle and go into the bank.’ The driver said: ‘Fellow was telling me the bank gets orders from the East. The orders were: “Make the land show profit or we'll close you up.”’

‘But where does it stop?’ Steinbeck has his farmer ask the driver of the tractor. ‘Who can we shoot? I don't aim to starve to death before I kill the man that's starving me.’ ‘I don't know,’ the driver replies. ‘Maybe there's nobody to shoot’ (Steinbeck 1992, pp. 40–41)

Hayward, C., & Lukes, S. (2008). Nobody to shoot? Power, structure, and agency: A dialogue. *Journal of Power*, 1(1), 5-20.



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journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/techfore

Transformative social innovation and (dis)empowerment

Flor Avelino^{a,*}, Julia M. Wittmayer^a, Bonno Pel^b, Paul Weaver^c, Adina Dumitru^d, Alex Haxeltine^e,
René Kemp^c, Michael S. Jørgensen^f, Tom Bauler^b, Saskia Ruijsink^g, Tim O'Riordan^e

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Transformative change

ABSTRACT

This article responds to increasing public and academic discourses on social innovation, which often rest on the assumption that social innovation can drive societal change and empower actors to deal with societal challenges and a retreating welfare state. In order to scrutinise this assumption, this article proposes a set of concepts to study the dynamics of *transformative social innovation* and underlying processes of multi-actor (dis)empowerment. First, the concept of transformative social innovation is unpacked by proposing four foundational concepts to help distinguish between different pertinent 'shades' of change and innovation: 1) social innovation, (2) system innovation, (3) game-changers, and (4) narratives of change. These concepts, invoking insights from transitions studies and social innovations literature, are used to construct a conceptual account of how transformative social innovation emerges as a co-evolutionary interaction between diverse shades of change and innovation. Second, the paper critically discusses the dialectic nature of multi-actor (dis)empowerment that underlies such processes of change and innovation. The paper then demonstrates how the conceptualisations are applied to three empirical case-studies of transformative social innovation: Impact Hub, Time Banks and Credit Unions. In the conclusion we synthesise how the concepts and the empirical examples help to understand contemporary shifts in societal power relations and the changing role of the welfare state.



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Translocal empowerment in transformative social innovation networks

Flor Avelino^a, Adina Dumitru^b, Carla Cipolla^c, Iris Kunze^d and Julia Wittmayer^a

^aDRIFT/Transition Academy, Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; ^bUniversity A Coruña, A Coruña, Spain; ^cUniversidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; ^dUniversity of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) Vienna, Austria

ABSTRACT

This paper contributes to public and academic discussions on empowerment and social innovation by conceptualizing the mechanisms of empowerment from a *social psychology* perspective, and empirically exploring how people are empowered through both local and transnational linkages, i.e. *translocal networks*. Section 2 conceptualizes empowerment as the *process through which actors gain the capacity to mobilize resources to achieve a goal*, building on different power theories in relation to social change, combined with self-determination theory and intrinsic motivation research. Based on that conceptualization, empirical questions are formulated to be asked about cases under study. Section 3 then provides an empirical analysis of translocal networks that work with social innovation both at the global and local level. A total of five networks are analyzed: *FEBEA*, *DESIS*, *the Global Ecovillage Network*, *Impact Hub* and *Slow Food*. The embedded cases-study approach allows an exploration of how people are empowered through the transnational networking with transnational actors, the domestic and international actors.

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Empowerment; translocal networks; social innovation; self-determination



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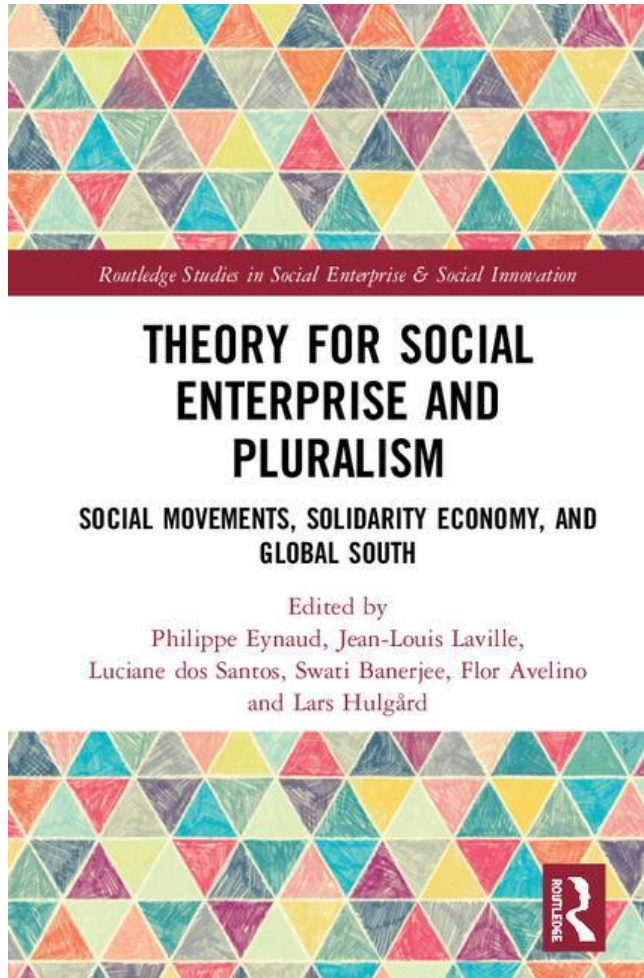
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Shifting Power Relations in Sustainability Transitions: A Multi-actor Perspective

Flor Avelino & Julia M. Wittmayer

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Unpacking the transformative potential of social enterprise

10 The Transformative Potential of Plural Social Enterprise A Multi-Actor Perspective

Flor Avelino and Julia M. Wittmayer

Introduction

What is the transformative potential of social enterprise to challenge, alter or replace existing power relations? This is the question that we ponder in this chapter, by taking a multi-actor perspective to unpack concepts and empirical manifestations of social enterprise.

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Theories of Power and Social Innovation. Power Contestations and their Implications for Social Innovation Research

Author: Flor Avelino¹

Paper presented at the International Social Innovation Research Conference, Heidelberg, 3-5th of September 2018

Paper submitted to the Journal of Political Power > now under moderate revision [June 2018].

Abstract

There is increasing attention for social change towards more 'sustainable', 'just' and 'resilient' societies. This is manifested in public and academic discourses on e.g. 'sustainability transitions', 'social innovation' or 'socio-ecological transformation'. These discourses share notions of change and innovation as drivers for societal improvement, and an implicit or explicit belief in human capacity to change the world for the better. Therein, the 'dark' and unintended effects of social change often tend to be underemphasised, as well as the fierce power struggles that come with it. This paper discusses these challenges and sets out to broaden and deepen the theoretical basis for studying the implications of power in social change processes. Power is one of the most contested concepts in social and political theory; definitions are manifold and highly diverse. This paper discusses eight prevailing points of contestation in academic debates on power: Power over vs. power to, centred vs. diffused, consensual vs. conflictual, constraining vs. enabling, power =

***Submitted &
Under Revision***



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Power in Sustainability Transitions: Analysing power and (dis)empowerment in transformative change towards sustainability

Flor Avelino*

Erasmus University of Rotterdam, Dutch Research Institute for Transitions, Rotterdam, Netherlands

ABSTRACT

This paper conceptualizes power and empowerment in the context of sustainability transitions and transition governance. The field of transition studies has been critically interrogated for undermining the role of power, which has inspired various endeavours to theorize power and agency in transitions. This paper presents the P*OW*er I*N*Transition framework (POINT), which is developed as a conceptual framework to analyse power and (dis)empowerment in transformative

Game-changers and transformative social innovation

[Flor Avelino](#)¹, [Julia M. Wittmayer](#)¹, [René Kemp](#)² and [Alex Haxeltine](#)³



ABSTRACT. This editorial introduces the special feature on the role of game-changers, broadly conceptualized as macro-trends that change the “rules of the game,” in processes of transformative social innovation. First, the key concepts are introduced together with the academic workshop that brought together 25 scholars in transformative social innovation, resulting in the 9th issue of the journal. The role of game-changers in transformative social innovation is discussed in the light of the different empirical examples of game-changers in different geographical contexts across Europe, North America and Asia. The different approaches used to explain social change are noted, and the different approaches are discussed. Finally, a synthesis is provided of the main findings.

Key Words: *game changer; sustainability transitions; transformative social innovation*



1	Frances Westley [*] , Katharine McGowan , Nino Antadze , Jaclyn Blacklock , Ola Tjørnbø , Erin Alexiuk	How game changers catalyzed, disrupted, and incentivized social innovation: three historical cases of nature conservation, assimilation, and women's rights	Canada & USA
2	Marc Swilling	Africa's game changers and the catalysts of social and system innovation	Africa
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4	Shambu Prasad	Innovating at the margins: the System of Rice Intensification in India and transformative social innovation	India
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Original Research Paper

Beyond deconstruction. a reconstructive perspective on sustainability transition governance



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ABSTRACT

This paper reviews criticisms of sustainability transition studies, using transition management (TM) as a case study. While these criticisms have yielded theoretical progress, underlying epistemological issues remain. Contrasting the TM approach to complexity with other more deconstructive views on complexity, it becomes clear that some criticisms on TM are inherently based on a deconstructive questioning of whether complex systems

Editorial Synthesis: Methodological Challenges in Social Innovation Research

Julia Wittmayer, Bonno Pel, Tom Bauler, Flor Avelino



Abstract

In recent years, there have been substantial efforts towards theory-building and conceptual clarification in social innovation (SI) research further contributing to its consolidation as a research field. Taking a different angle, this special issue aims to contribute to such consolidation by introducing greater research diversity. It features eight contributions from the main methodological development and action-oriented research that discuss how synthesis serves to take stock and elicit their broader significance and comparative dimensions of methodology choices. Dimensions specific methodological tradition. As such, they reflect on the research field and open up a methodological discussion to

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Social Innovation and Sustainable Consumption

Research and Action for Societal Transformation



Edited by **Julia Backhaus, Audley Genus, Sylvia Lorek, Edina Vadovics, Julia M Wittmayer**

Haxeltine, A. Flor Avelino, Julia Wittmayer, Iris Kunze, Noel Longhurst, Adina Dumitru, and Tim O'Riordan,

Conceptualising the role of social innovation in sustainability transformations

Chapter 2 in: Backhaus, J., Genus, A., Lorek, S., Vadovics, E., & Wittmayer, J. M. (Eds.). (2017). Social Innovation and Sustainable Consumption: Research and Action for Societal Transformation. Routledge.

Transformative social innovation – What have we learned in four years of research?



transformative social innovation theory

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Current Opinion in
Environmental
Sustainability

Experimenting with alternative economies: four emergent counter-narratives of urban economic development

Noel Longhurst¹, Flor Avelino², Julia Wittmayer², Paul Weaver³, Adina Dumitru⁴, Sabine Hielscher⁵, Carla Cipolla⁶, Rita Afonso⁶, Iris Kunze⁷ and Morten Elle⁸

Neoliberalism is a powerful narrative that has shaped processes of urban economic development across the globe. This paper reports on four nascent 'new economic' narratives which represent fundamentally different imaginaries of the urban economy. Experiments informed by these narratives challenge the dominant neoliberal logic in four key dimensions: What is the purpose of economic development? What are the preferred distributive mechanisms? Who governs the economy? What is the preferred form of economic organisation? The emergence of these experiments illustrates that cities are spaces where counter-narratives can emerge and circulate. Acknowledging the existence of these alternative visions opens up a wider set of possibilities for future urban transitions.

Addresses

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Introduction

In the 'century of urbanisation' [1,2] cities are seen critical sites for societal change in general [3] but also specifically instead of specific sustainability transition [4,5,6]. Attempts to steer urban sustainability transition create a number of difficulties, not least how such transitions relate to the role of cities as sites of economic production, consumption, exchange and innovation. narrative based on neoliberal market rationality has, in recent decades, played a significant role in shaping the governance, economics, built environment and infrastructure of cities [7]. The power of this narrative is that it creates a 'common sense' way in which urban economic development should be pursued, which is underpinned by a certain set of logics and enacted through a set of decisions, relations and practices. Here we highlight four important dimensions of the overall neoliberal narrative:

transformative
social innovation
theory

Synthesis of social innovation studies

Deliverable no. D4.4

Thesis [July 2013, 2.2-1] [Social Innovation: Empowering People]
Project Full Title: "Transformative Social Innovation Theory project"
Grant Agreement n. 613169

This project has received funding from the European Union
Research, technological development and demonstration

Narratives of change: How Social Innovation Initiatives engage with their transformative ambitions

TRANSIT Working Paper #4, October

By Julia M. Wittmayer, Julia Backhaus, Flor Avelino, Bonno
Strasser, Iris Kunze

transformative
social innovation
theory

WP4 | CASE STUDY Report: Impact Hub

Final Draft 01.02.2015

Thesis [July 2013, 2.2-1] [Social Innovation: Empowering People, changing content]

Project Full Title: "Transformative Social Innovation Theory project"

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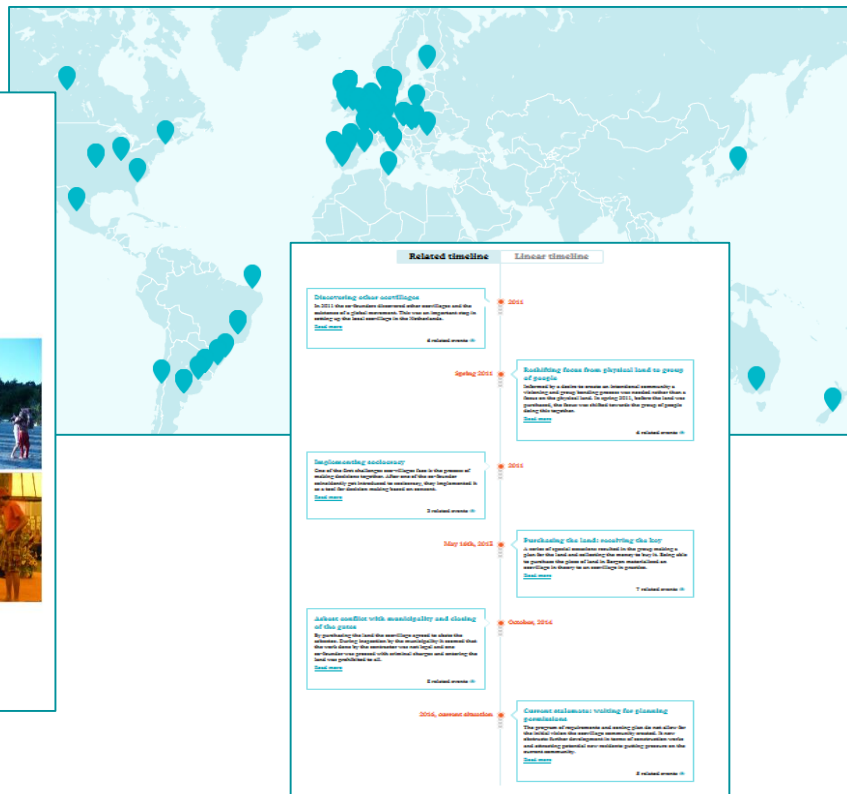
WP4 Transformative Social Innovation Narrative of the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN)



photos: Iris Kunze

By Iris Kunze and Flor Avelino – DRAFT 2015-02-17

This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no 631160.



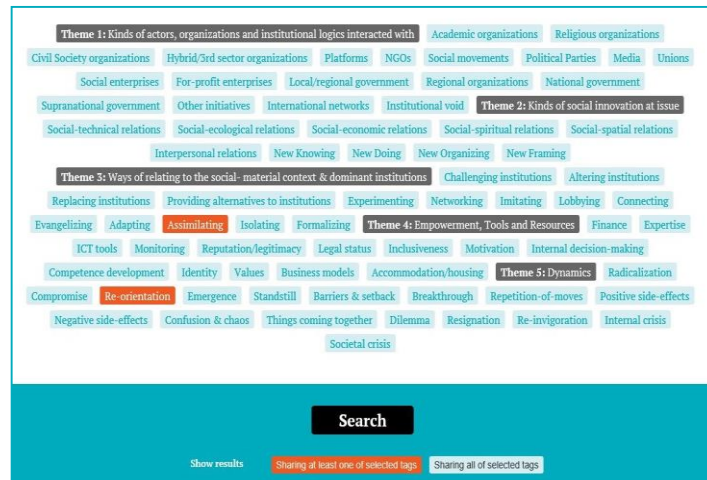
The Critical Turning Points database; concept, methodology and dataset of an international Transformative Social Innovation comparison

TRANSIT Working Paper #10, July 12th 2017

Pel, B., Bauler, T., Avelino, F., Backhaus, J., Ruijsink S., Rach, S., Jørgensen, M. S., Kunze, I., Voss, G., Dumitru, A., Lema Blanco, I., Afonso, R., Cipolla, C., Longhurst, N., Dorland, J., Elle, M., Balázs, B., Horváth, J., Matolay, R., Wittmayer, J., Valderrama Pineda, A., Serpa, B., Rösing Agostini, M., Lajarthe, F., Garrido, S., Picabea, F., Moreira, J., Trentini, F., Bidinost, A., Weaver, P., Heimann, R., Skropke, C., Hoffmeister, K.L., Tawakol, D., Olivotto, V., Tsatsou, A., Zahed, Y., Moet, R., Zuidervijk, L., Renema, J. and Kemp, R.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no 613169



A middle-range theory of TSI

Conceptual framework & 20 theoretical propositions on TSI



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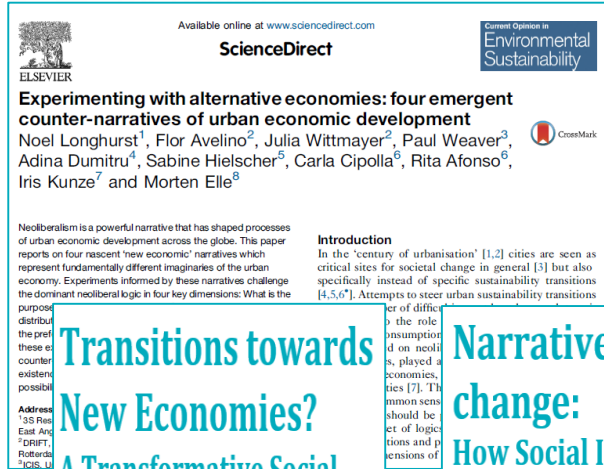
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By Alex Haxeltine, Bonno Pel, Adina Dumitru, Flor Avelino, René Kemp, Tom Bauler, Iris Kunze, Jens Dorland, Julia Wittmayer, and Michael Sogaard Jørgensen

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16. [Towards a TSI theory: a relational framework and 12 propositions](#)

Comparative analysis



Transitions towards New Economies? A Transformative Social Innovation Perspective

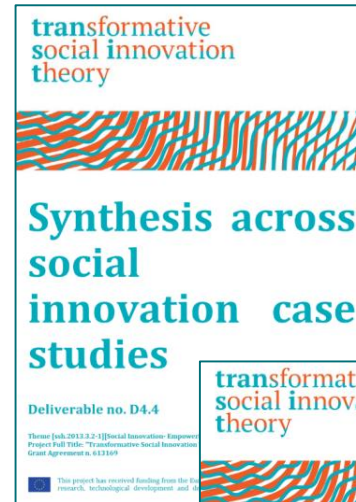
TRANSIT Working Paper #3, September 2015

By Flor Avelino, Julia Wittmayer, Adina Dumitru, Noel Longhurst, Sabine Hielscher, Paul Weaver, Carla Cipolla, Rita Afonso, Iris Kunze, Jens Dorland, Morten Elle, Bonno Pel, Tim Strasser, René Kemp and Alex Haxeltine

Narratives of change: How Social Innovation Initiatives engage with their transformative ambitions

TRANSIT Working Paper #4, October 2015

By Julia M. Wittmayer, Julia Backhaus, Flor Avelino, Bonno Pel, Tim Strasser, Iris Kunze



transformative social innovation theory

Synthesis Report: meta- analysis of Critical Turning Points in TSI

Deliverable 5.4

Thesis [pub.2013.3.2-1] [Social Innovation: Empowering People, changing societies]
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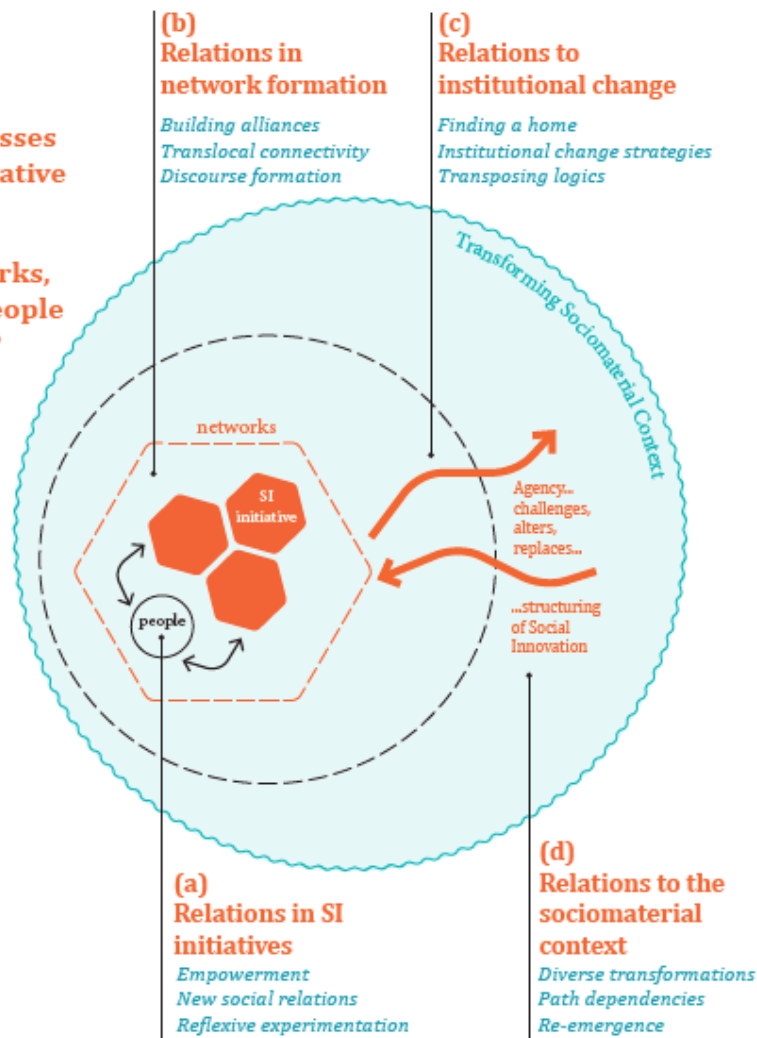
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(?)

How do TSI processes lead to transformative change?

How are SI networks, initiatives, and people (dis)empowered?

A TSI process



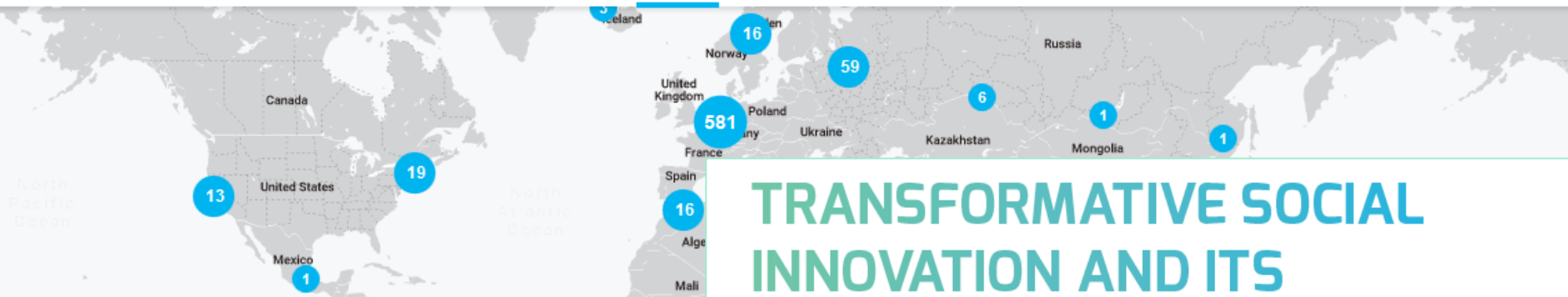
Towards a TSI theory: a relational framework and 12 propositions

TRANSIT Working Paper 16, December 2017

By Alex Haxeltine, Bonno Pel, Adina Dumitru, Flor Avelino, René Kemp, Tom Bauler, Iris Kunze, Jens Dorland, Julia Wittmayer, and Michael Søgaard Jørgensen

Building on...

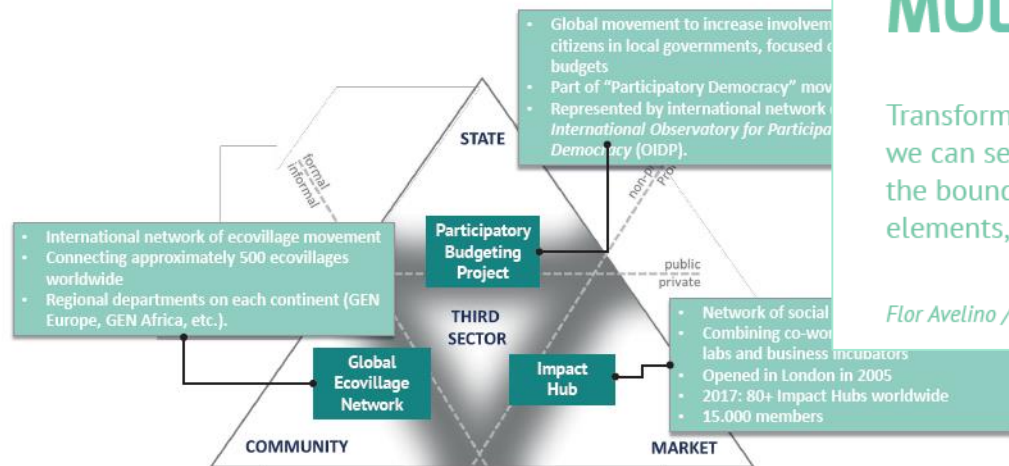
- Institutional theory
- Relational theory
- Structuration theory
- Science & Technology studies
- Innovation studies
- Political theory
- Social psychology



TRANSFORMATIVE SOCIAL INNOVATION AND ITS MULTI-ACTOR NATURE

Transformative social innovation is a multi-actor phenomenon where we can see the emergence of a hybrid sector that blurs and challenges the boundaries between the traditional sector logics, including new elements, roles and challenges from all of them.

Flor Avelino / Julia Wittmayer



HOW TRANSFORMATIVE INNOVATION MOVEMENTS CONTRIBUTE TO TRANSITIONS

Transformative innovation movements create new ways of doing, thinking and organizing with transformative ambitions. They challenge existing systems through (1) prefiguration, (2) socio-material innovation across domains, (3) translocal empowerment, (4) a diverse repertoire of actions and (5) strategic collaboration across movements.

Flor Avelino / Lara Monticelli / Julia M. Wittmayer

Participatory Budgeting



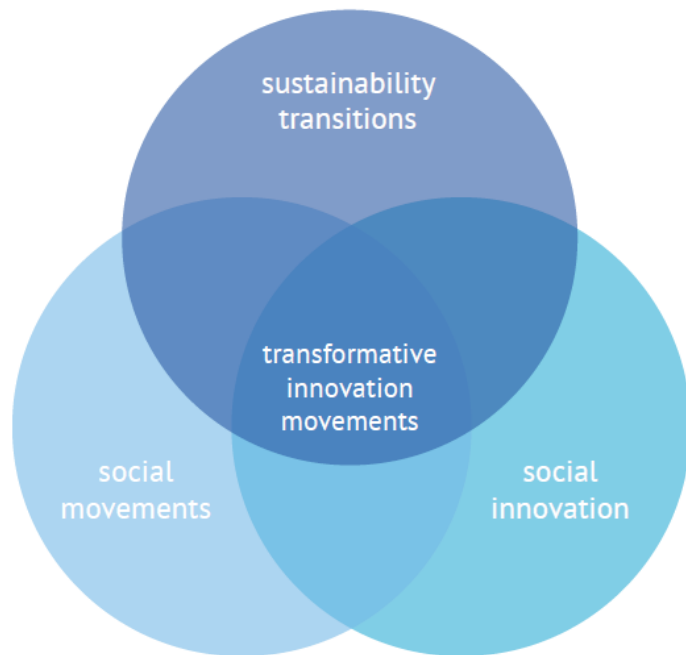
Ecovillage movement



Community Energy



Social Entrepreneurs



Positioning transformative innovation movements in three fields of research

Avelino, F. , Monticelli, L. and Wittmayer, J.M. (2019), How transformative innovation movements contribute to transitions, chapter in: *Atlas of Social Innovation*. Available online at: <https://www.socialinnovationatlas.net/>

Governance

- multi-actor phenomenon (rather than bottom-up)
- requires requires political struggle and negotiation; portfolio of different and often paradoxical strategies
- dialectic relation with established institutions and structures: challenging and reproducing

Governance

**Co-production challenges
in Transformative Social
Innovation.**



Social Learning

= new shared meanings, through interaction, collective experimentation and joint reflection, and these become situated in shared norms and practices

- Acquire specific knowledge about how particular institutions and systems work
- Develop competencies for cooperation and dealing with tensions to create new social relations and maintain motivation in the face of obstacles
- Develop effective strategies of engagement with other relevant actors and institutions, to achieve their objectives

Social learning in social innovation initiatives

**Learning about systemic
relations and strategies for
transformative change**



Resourcing & Monitoring

Three **resourcing** pathways:

- External funding (seek investment and/or income by delivering services)
- Autonomous funding (develop own income stream)
- Strategy of embedding (partner with larger organisation with complementary mission)

Developmental **evaluation** (based on Patton 2010) for obtaining lessons for doing things better...

Resourcing, Monitoring and Evaluation:

Scaling challenges and pathways

