

Progress on Systems Changes Learning: Coevolving towards Rethinking Systems Thinking

David Ing

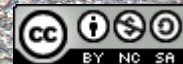
<http://systemschanges.com>

CSR Institute Symposium

Brussels, Belgium

November 2021

Image CC-BY Mike Cassano (2009) Most Interesting Pothole



systemschanges.com, 2021

Agenda: Systems Change Learning first reorients attention, and then aims to nurture both competence and mentoring

Praxis

Theoria

Poiesis

Educating of attention

Behavioral or ecological?
(A)

Changelessness or temporality?
(B)

Wei or Wuwei?
(C)

Learning for competence

Action-learning
(D)

Theory-using
(E)

Methods-deploying
(F)

Learning for mentoring

Action-guiding
(G)

Theory-building
(H)

Methods-making
(I)

A. Behavioral or ecological? (Educating of attention, in praxis, #1 of 2)...

What is the way of *castor canadensis* (beaver) in habitats?



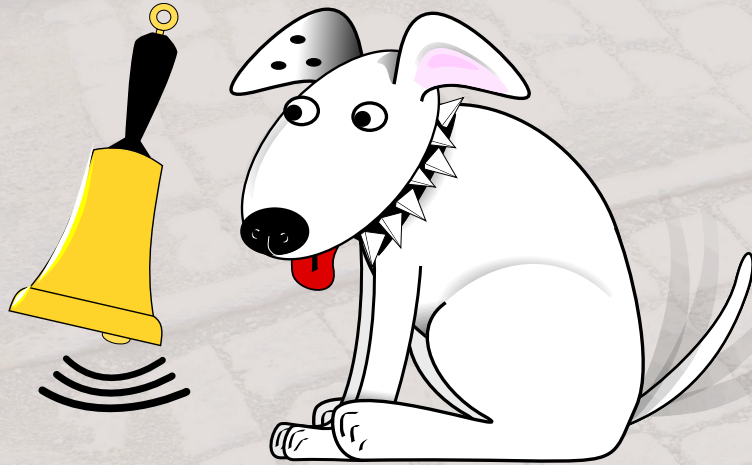
Image: CC-BY D.W. Ross (2010) "North American Beaver"



Image: CC-BY Steve HERSHEY (2007) "Happy Beaver"

Ask Not What's Inside Your Head, but What Your Head's Inside of

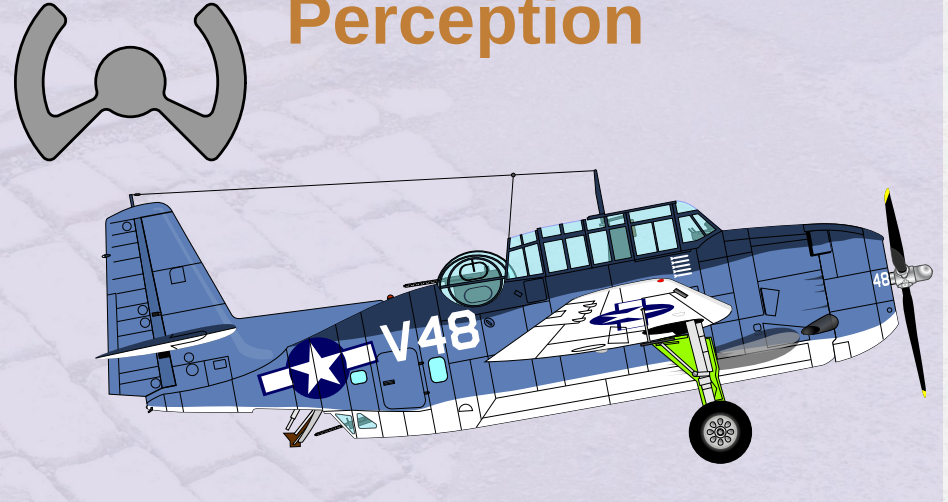
Stimulus – Response (Behavioral Psychology)



[In the 1950] psychophysics of perception ... "givens" in the light to the eye could not support perceptual phenomena, but only elementary experiences such as sensations. [...] Succinctly put, the **psycho-physical program** was ... traditional in considering perception to be a set of responses to presented stimuli (albeit "higher order" stimuli).

William M. Mace 1977. "James J. Gibson's Strategy for Perceiving: Ask Not What's inside Your Head, but What Your Head's inside of." In *Perceiving, Acting, and Knowing: Toward an Ecological Psychology*, edited by Robert Shaw and John Bransford, 43–65.

Ecological Approach to Perception

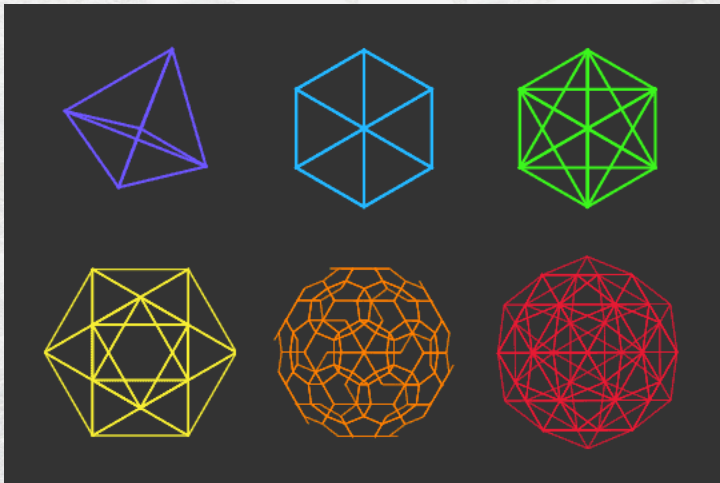


Over the last 10-15 years [James J. Gibson] has tried to develop enough theory ... to demonstrate that direct perception is indeed plausible even if hordes of difficult details remain to be worked out. The ... analysis of the optic array, stimulus organization, and the **functional organization of perceptual systems** are what Gibson often points to as radical features

Two ways of seeing nature, since ~500 BCE, have set how humans beings negotiate with themselves and in their world(s)

Reality as a **changelessness state**

- Parmenides of Elea, Confucius
- Shift → stability → sustainable
- Analytic paradigm



Hyper Platonic, by Nathan P. Seddig (natpbs.tumblr)

Reality as a **state of change, not a change of state**

- Heraclitus of Ephesus, Laotse
- Beauty of dynamic (c.f. protection of static)
- Contextual appreciation



Walking, by Dominique Taswell (strawberrylicorice.tumblr)

Hawk, David L. 1999. "Changelessness, and Other Impediments to Systems Performance." In *Proceedings of the Conference to Celebrate Russell L. Ackoff, and the Advent of Systems Thinking*, edited by Matthew J. Liberatore and David N. Nawrocki. Villanova University. <http://davidhawk.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Ackoff-Birthday-Conference.pdf#page=59> .

B. Changelessness or temporality? (Educating of attention, in theoria, #2 of 2)...

A *dwelling* perspective is beyond a naturalistic view of landscape as neutral backdrop, and culturalistic view as cognitive or symbolic ordering of space



Landscape

... the landscape is the world as it is **known** to those who **dwell** therein, who **inhabit** its places and **journey** along the paths connecting them.

Ingold, Tim. 2000. "The Temporality of the Landscape." In *The Perception of the Environment: Essays on Livelihood, Dwelling and Skill*, 189–208. Routledge. Images from Tenor: JoseFilm walk-forest; dirtriderofc pov-motocross; JoseFilm walk-forest



Temporality

It is to the entire ensemble of tasks, in their mutual interlocking, that I refer by the concept of **taskscape**. [...] – the taskscape is **an array of related activities**.



Temporalizing the Landscape

... landscape seems to be what we see around us, whereas the **taskscape** is what we **hear**. [...] In short, what I hear is **activity**, even when its source cannot be seen.

Willful action and non-intrusive action are central in Chinese thinking

為

wèi

無為

wú wèi

为 (為) wéi: p. 517

I (动, verb)

1. **do; act:** 敢做敢 ~ gǎn zuò gǎn ~ bold in action
2. **act as; serve as:** 以此 ~ 凭 yǐ cǐ ~ píng This will serve as proof.
3. **become:** 变沙漠 ~ 良田 biàn shā mó ~ liáng tiān turn the desert into arable land.
4. **be; mean:** 一公里 ~ 二里 yī gōng lǐ ~ èr huā lǐ One kilometer is equivalent to two li.

无 (無) wú: p. 526

I (名, noun) **nothing; nil:** 从 ~ 到有 cóng ~ dào yǒu start from scratch

II (动, verb) **not have; there is not; without:** ~ 一定计划 ~ yī dìng jì huà have no definite plan

III (副, adverb) **not:** ~ 须多谈 ~ xǔ duō tán need not go into details

Concise English-Chinese Chinese-English Dictionary (2004), 3ed, Commercial Press and Oxford University Press

Wei meant application of **the force of will-power**, the **determination** that things, animals, or even other men, should do what they were ordered to do, but **wu wei** was the opposite of this, **leaving things alone**, letting **Nature** take her course, profiting by **going with the grain** of things instead of going against it, and **knowing how not to interfere**.

Needham, Joseph. 2004. "General Conclusions and Reflections." In *The Social Background*, edited by Kenneth Girdwood Robinson. Vol. VII:2. *Science and Civilisation in China*. Cambridge University Press. p. 16

Some scholars have argued that the interpretation of **wuwei** as "**non-intrusive action**" or "**non-interfering action**" is more philosophically profound and interesting. These latter translations support a meaningful rendition of the concept **wuwei both at the sociopolitical level** (arguing against the imposition of artificial, conformist and universally binding norms) **and at the metaphysical level** (acknowledging the inappropriateness and fatality of imposing egocentric or anthropocentric norms upon other individuals or species).

Lai, Karyn. 2003. "Conceptual Foundations for Environmental Ethics: A Daoist Perspective." *Environmental Ethics* 25 (3): 247–66. <https://doi.org/10.5840/enviroethics200325317> .

Are your changes systematic, or systemic?

Systematic

Somatic
(adaptive, cellular)
change

Non-living,
effect-producing
(allopoietic)

Reactive

Systemic

Genotypic
(generational)
change

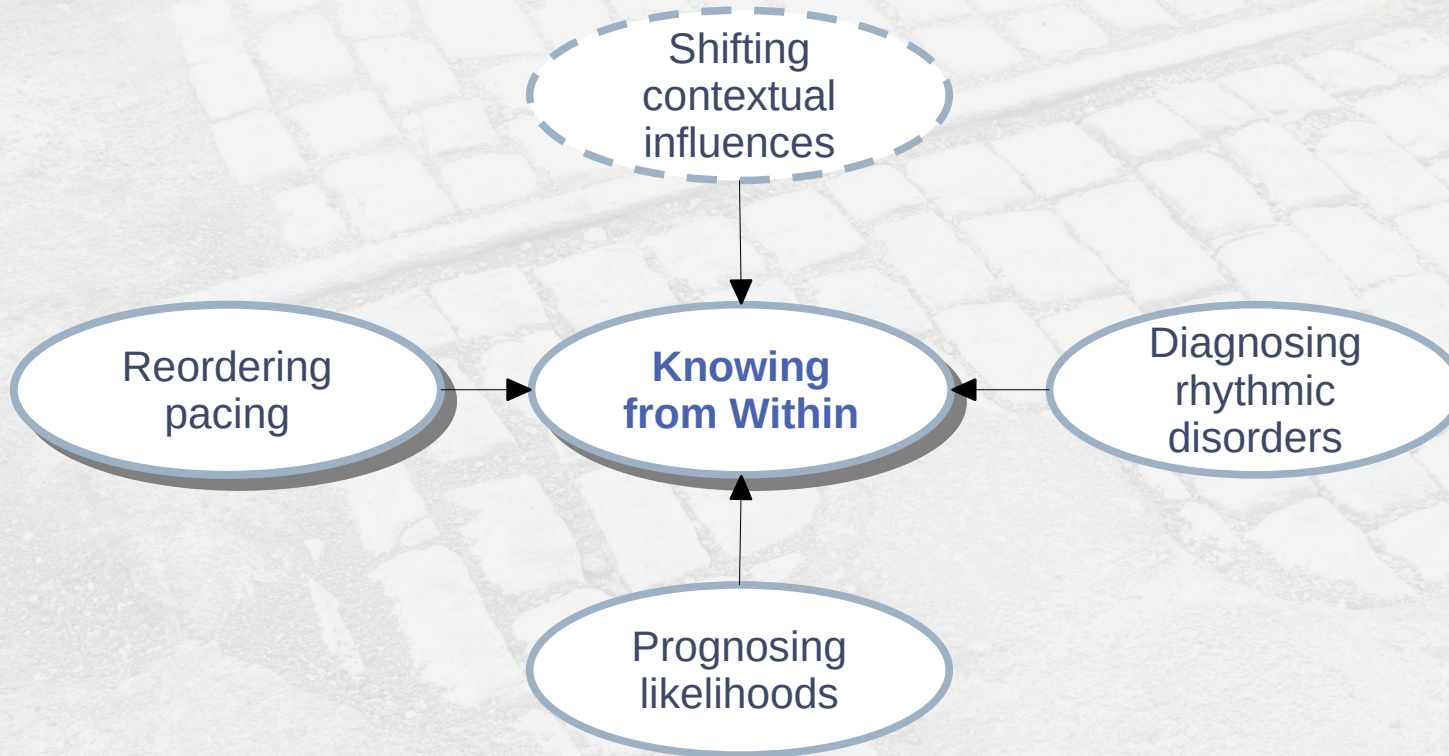
Living,
systems-generating
(autopoietic)

Co-responsive

Agenda: Systems Change Learning first reorients attention, and then aims to nurture both competence and mentoring

| | <i>Praxis</i> | <i>Theoria</i> | <i>Poiesis</i> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Educating of attention</i> | Behavioral or ecological? (A) | Changelessness or temporality? (B) | Wei or Wuwei? (C) |
| <i>Learning for competence</i> | Action-learning (D) | Theory-using (E) | Methods-deploying (F) |
| <i>Learning for mentoring</i> | Action-guiding (G) | Theory-building (H) | Methods-making (I) |

Systems Changes Learning authentically depends on Knowing from Within, appreciated through four movements

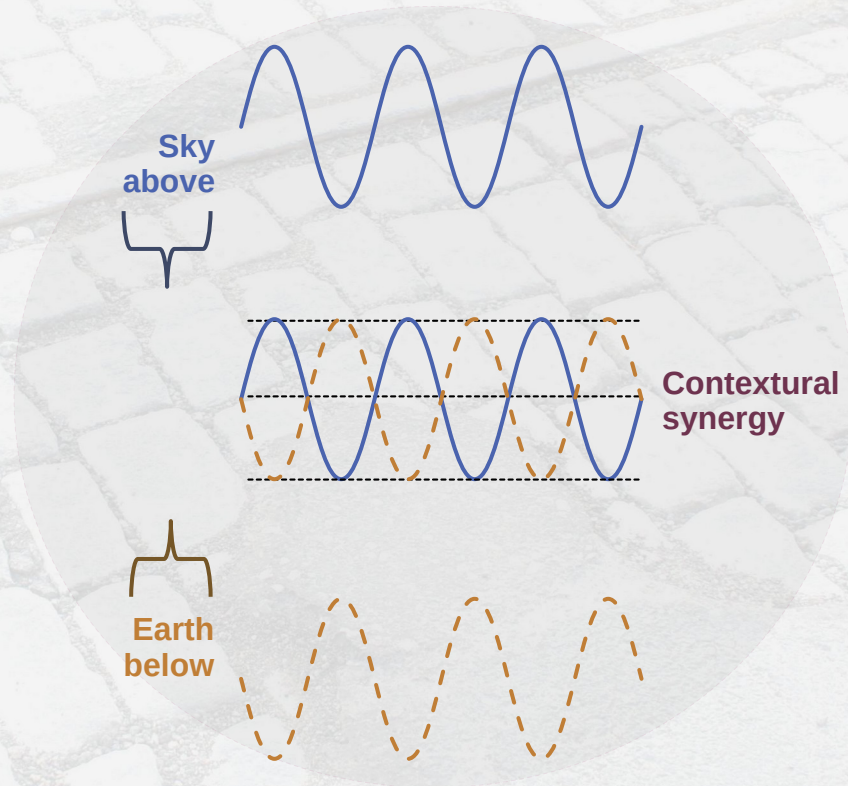


Object Process Language

- *Knowing from Within* is physical and systemic.
- *Knowing from Within* consists of *Shifting contextual influences conditions*, *Diagnosing rhythmic disorders*, *Prognosing likelihoods*, and *Reordering pacing*.
- *Shifting contextual influences* is informational and environmental
- *Diagnosing rhythmic disorders* is informational and systemic.
- *Prognosing likelihoods* is informational and systemic
- *Reordering pacing* is physical and systemic

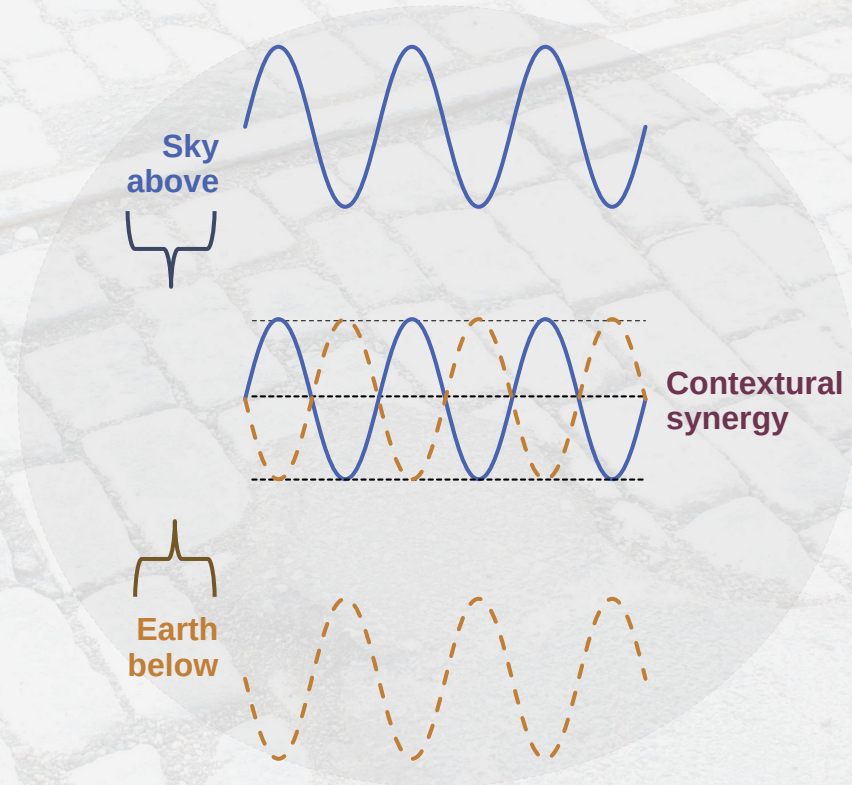
E. Theory-using (for competence, in theoria, #1 of 4)...

Farming can be viewed as a dyad of (i) warming-drying from the sky above, and (ii) cooling-watering in the earth below, (iii) generating vegetation in the contextural synergy between



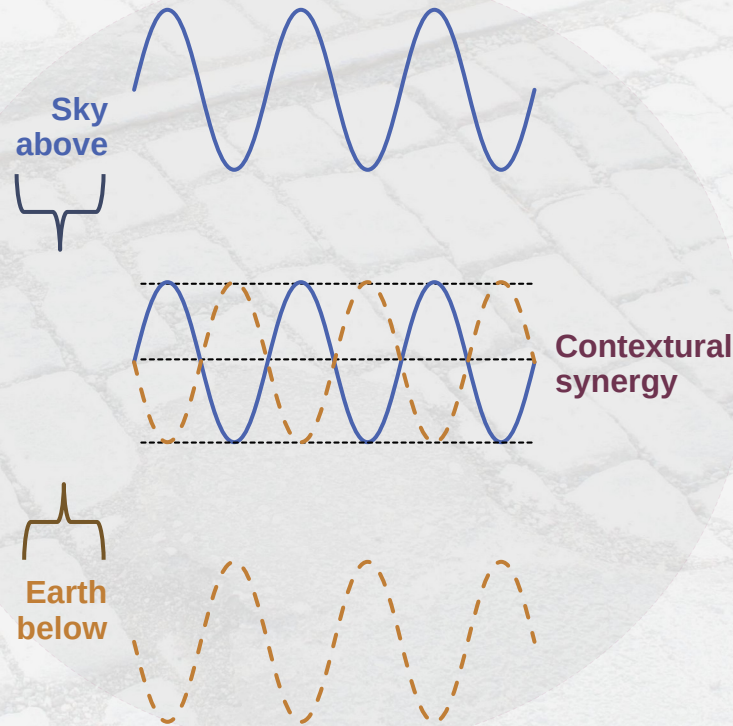
E. Theory-using (for competence, in theoria, #2 of 4)...

(Towards diagnosing a pathology), first identify two rhythms in relationship, generating synergy in the contexture



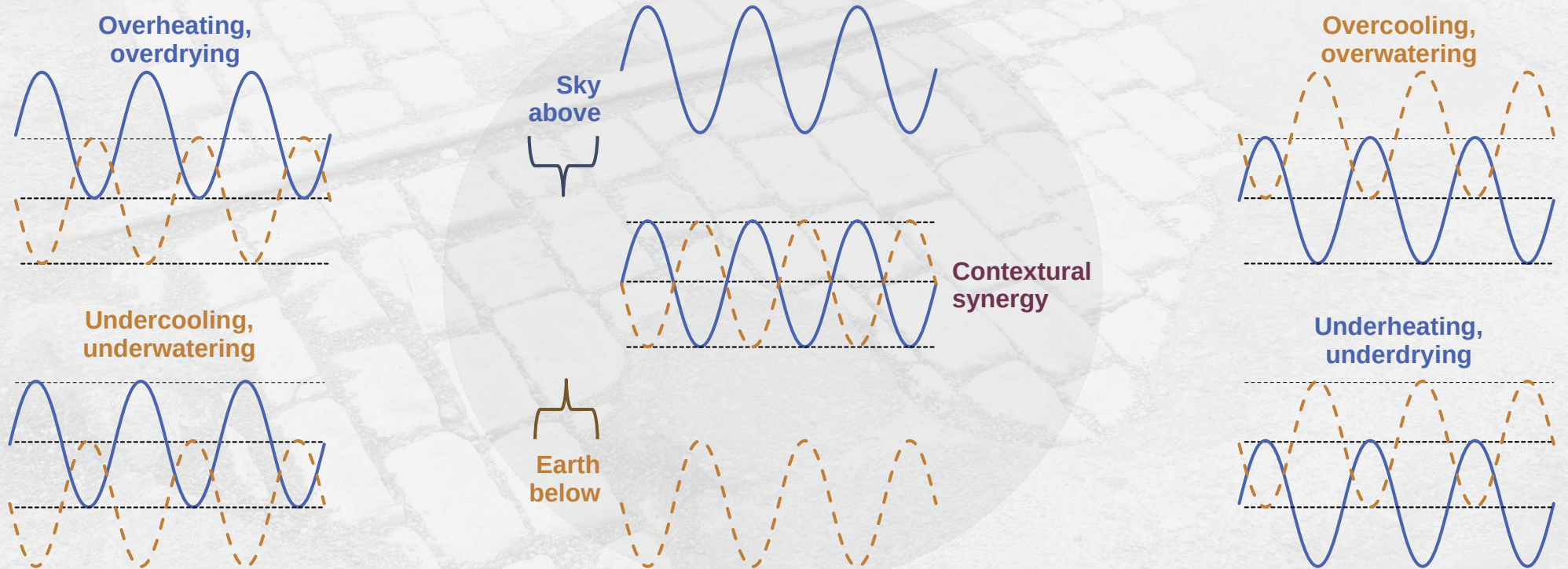
E. Theory-using (for competence, in theoria, #2 of 4)...

(Towards diagnosing a pathology), first identify two rhythms in relationship, generating synergy in the contexture



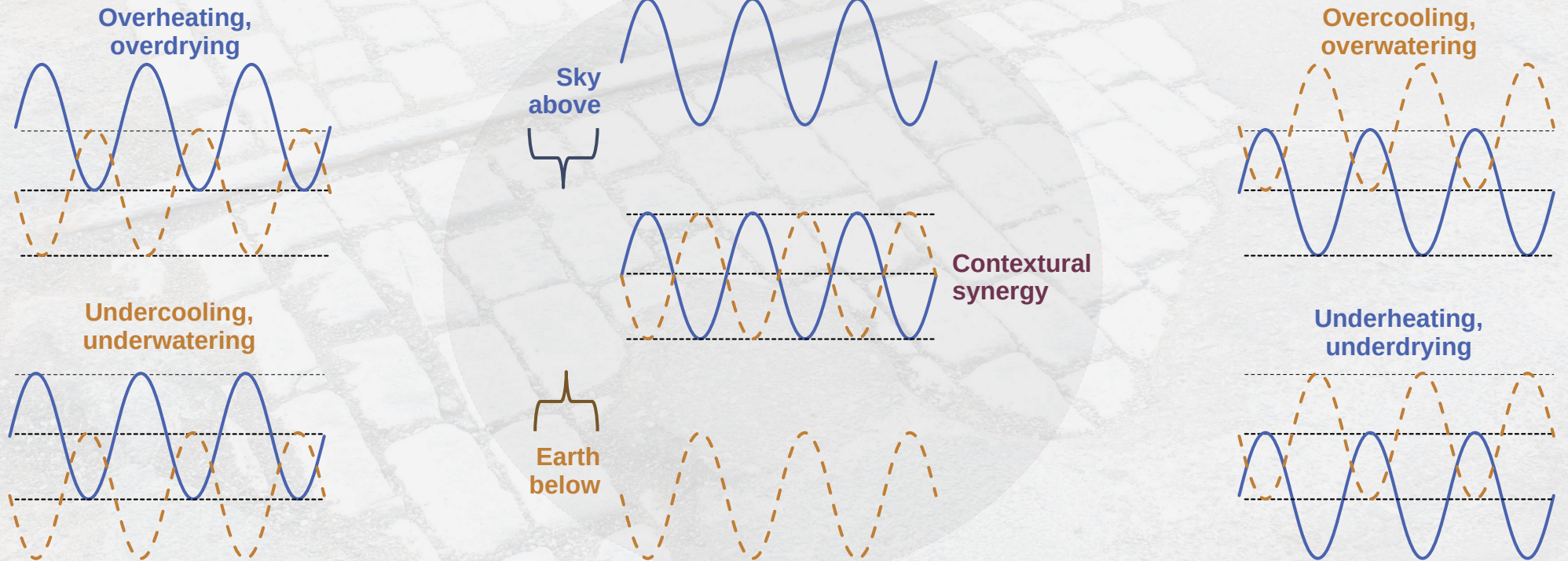
E. Theory-using (for competence, in theoria, #3 of 4)...

Pathology in generating vegetation is an (a) excess or (b) deficiency of (i) warming-drying from the sky above, or (ii) cooling-watering in the earth below



E. Theory-using (for competence, in theoria, #4 of 4)...

Looking for pathology [= pathos (suffering) + logos (study of)] in a contexture finds (a) excess or (b) deficient, trapping of the rhythms (i) above or (ii) below



If they can get you asking the wrong questions, they don't have to worry about answers (Thomas Pynchon)

Type 1 error **False positive:**
finding a (statistical) relation that isn't real

Type 2 error **False negative:**
missing a (statistical) relation that is real

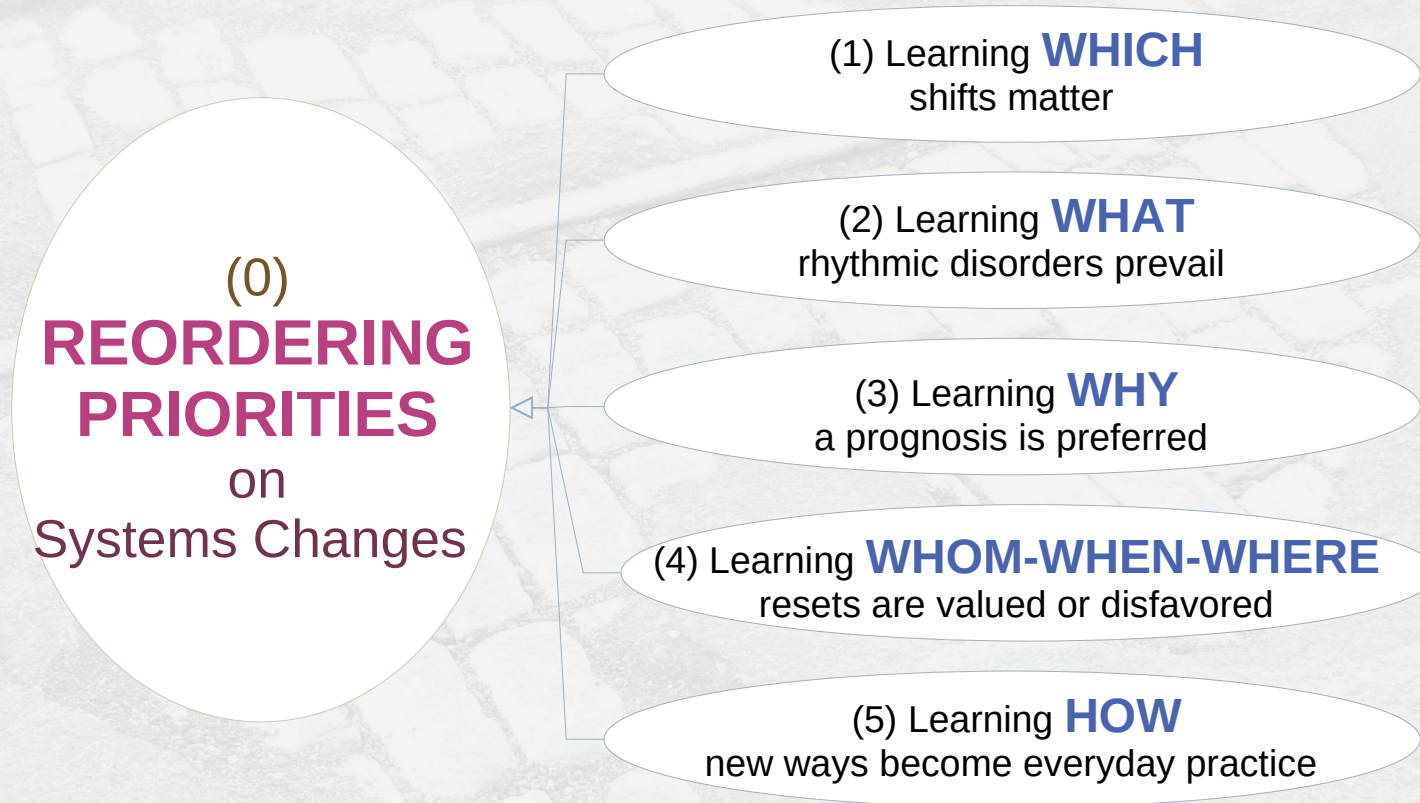
Type 3 error **Tricking ourselves:**
Unintentional error of solving wrong problems precisely (through ignorance, faulty education or unreflective practice)

Type 4 error **Tricking others:**
Intentional error of solving wrong problems (through malice, ideology, overzealousness, self-righteousness, wrongdoing)

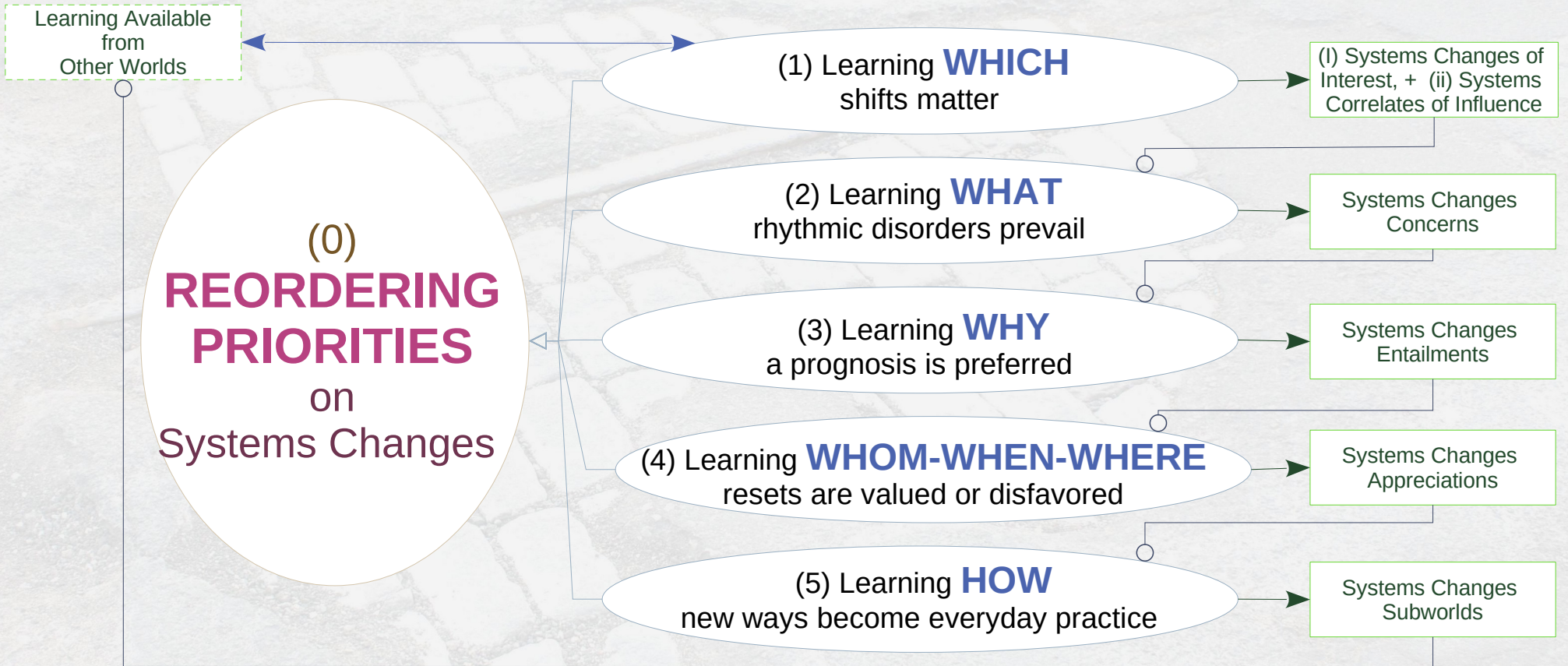
Anticipating outcomes leads inquiries beyond *science* as a search for better answers, with *philosophy* as a search for better questions



Precise framing of five learnings poses questions sequenced for deeper understanding of conditions, alternatives and options



Methods involve not on the processes of learning, but also artifacts on which progress can be marked



Agenda: Systems Change Learning first reorients attention, and then aims to nurture both competence and mentoring

| | <i>Praxis</i> | <i>Theoria</i> | <i>Poiesis</i> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Educating of attention</i> | Behavioral or ecological? (A) | Changelessness or temporality? (B) | Wei or Wuwei? (C) |
| <i>Learning for competence</i> | Action-learning (D) | Theory-using (E) | Methods-deploying (F) |
| <i>Learning for mentoring</i> | Action-guiding (G) | Theory-building (H) | Methods-making (I) |

The 56th Annual Meeting of the
International Society for the Systems Sciences

ISSS San Jose 2012

July 15-20 2012, at San Jose State University, California

Service Systems, Natural Systems

A call for participation in San Jose, CA USA, July 15-20, 2012

The systems sciences provide a platform of concepts and language that enables communities of interest to transcend disciplinary boundaries towards developing new knowledge and perspectives. The *ISSS 2012* theme of Service Systems, Natural Systems draws attention to complex issues in today's world, where dialogue amongst the learned may lead to better futures.

The *service systems* sciences focus on the value cooperatively created and shared in human activities. Service systems support basic needs such as food and water, develop social potential through education and healthcare, and advance our societies through businesses, governments and social enterprises working in a globalized, networked world.

The *natural systems* sciences focus on the sustainability and diversity of life on our planet. Social ecological systems balance competing interests of human well-being, social development and economic progress. Maintaining resilience of natural capital and resources across temporal and spatial scales challenges policies, governance and stewardship.

The sessions of ISSS 2012 will foster learning conversations. The dialectic between service scientists and natural scientists will sweep in new perspectives in dialogues beyond disciplinary boundaries.

Venue:
•San Jose State University, San Jose, California, USA
•On-campus accommodations and special hotel rates available

Conference Schedule:
•Sunday, July 15 (6 p.m.) to Friday, July 20, 2012 (1 p.m.)
•Pre-conference workshops on Sunday, July 15 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
•Post-conference workshops on Friday, July 20 (2 p.m. to 5 p.m.)

Important Dates:
•May 10, 2012: The end of early, discounted registration.
•June 15, 2012: The deadline for full papers to be included in the online proceedings.
•June 15, 2012: The deadline for abstracts and poster sessions to be streamed into the conference program.

Watch for conference updates on iss.org



Systems Research and Behavioral Science

Syst. Res. 30, 527–547 (2013)

Published online 10 October 2013 in Wiley Online Library
(wileyonlinelibrary.com) DOI: 10.1002/sres.2229

■ Research Paper

Rethinking Systems Thinking: Learning and Coevolving with the World

David Ing*

Department of Industrial Engineering and Management, School of Science and Technology, Aalto University, Espoo, Finland

Much of systems thinking, as commonly espoused today, was developed by a generation in the context of the 1950s–1980s. In the 2010s, has systems thinking changed with the world in which it is to be applied? Is systems thinking *learning* and *coevolving* with the world? Some contemporary systems thinkers continue to push the frontiers of theory, methods and practice. Others situationally increment the traditions of their preferred gurus, where approaches proven successful in prior experiences are replicated for new circumstances. Founded on interactions with a variety of systems communities over the past 15 years, three ways to rethink systems thinking are proposed:

1. 'parts and wholes' snapshots → 'learning and coevolving' over time
2. social and ecological → emerged environments of the service economy and the Anthropocene
3. episteme and techne → pronesis for the living and nonliving

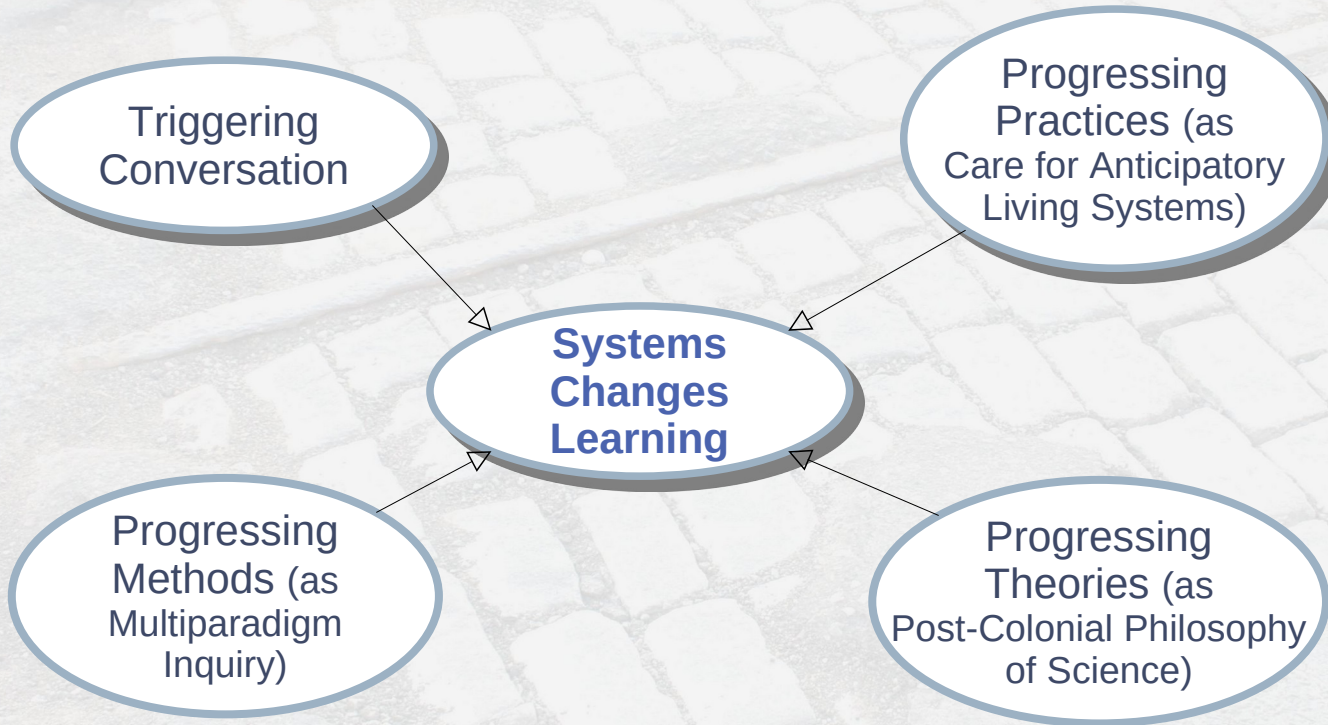
These proposed ways are neither exhaustive nor sufficient. The degree to which systems thinking should be rethought may itself be controversial. If, however, systems thinking is to be authentic, the changed world of the 21st century should lead systems thinkers to engage in a reflective inquiry. Copyright © 2013 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Keywords systems thinking; learning; coevolution; world

Since 2019, the core team has been coevolving our thinking both (practice → theory) and (theory → practice)

| We appreciate ... | ... through ... | ... disinclined towards ... |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Processual taskscapes, co-responding lines | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Becoming, fluidity (Heraclitus, Laozi)• Ecological anthropology (Ingold) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being, solidity (Plato) structuralism, functionalism• Behavioral psychology (Skinner) |
| 2. Restoring rhythmic synchrony | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post-colonial science (Lin + Law)• Contextual-dyadic thinking (Keekok Lee) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The one best way (universality)• Unfreezing – changing – refreeze (Lewin misquoted) |
| 3. Pacing layers of learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panarchy, hierarchy (Holling, Brand, Allen)• Contextual action learning (Trist) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Everything is connected” (mechanistic flat networks)• Preactive planning, ideal-directed teleology |

Systems Changes Learning begins with Triggering Conversation, towards Progressing Practices, Theories + Methods



Object Process Language

- *Systems Changes Learning* is physical and systemic.
- *Triggering Conversation* is physical and systemic.
- *Triggering Conversation* is instance of *Systems Changes Learning*,
- *Systems Changes Learning* exhibits *Progressing Practices (as Care for Anticipatory Living Systems)*,
- *Progressing Theories (as Post-Colonial Philosophy of Science)*, and *Progressing Methods (as Multiparadigm Inquiry)*.
- *Progressing Practices (as Care for Anticipatory Living Systems)* is physical and systemic.
- *Progressing Theories (as Post-Colonial Philosophy of Science)* is informational and systemic.
- *Progressing Methods (as Multiparadigm Inquiry)* is informational and systemic.

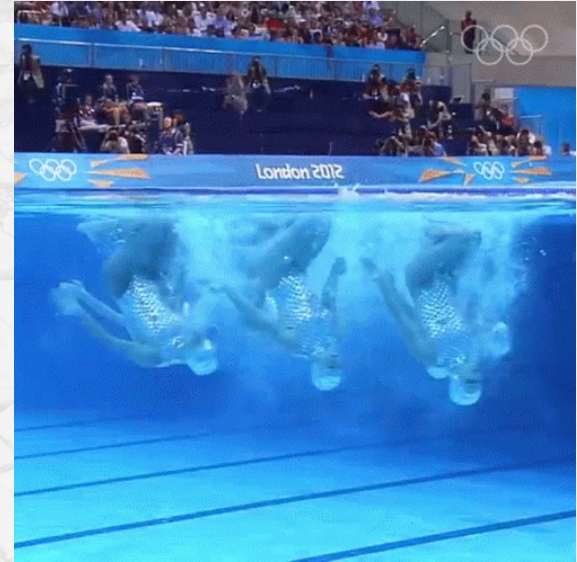
G. Action-guiding (for mentoring, in praxis, #2 of 7)...

Embodied Becoming (action, being) comes from *Knowing from Within* and *Co-responding along Contextures* (travelling along meshwork)



[The Sami people] did not inform me of *what* is there, to save me the trouble of having to inquire for myself. Rather, they told me *how I might find out*. They taught me what to look for, how to track things, and that knowing is a process of active following, of *going along*.
... you know as you go ... **knowing is movement.**

Ingold, Tim. 2013. "Knowing from the Inside." In *Making: Anthropology, Archaeology, Art and Architecture*, 1–14. Routledge. p.1.



... **the ground of knowing ... is itself the very ground we walk,** where earth and sky are tempered in the ongoing production of life.

Ingold, Tim. 2015. "Knowledge." In *The Life of Lines*, 46–50. Oxford, UK: Routledge. pp. 48-49.

G. Action-guiding (for mentoring, in praxis, #3 of 7)...

In balancing priorities, Eisenhower said that
“The urgent are never important, and the important are never urgent”



Urgent ... but not important?



Important ... but not urgent?

Image from Giphy: "Ringing Telephone" 2015 BY Phillippa Rice. Image from Flickr; "Inner Levee Breach" CC-BY 2015 Infrogmat of New Orleans

G. Action-guiding (for mentoring, in praxis, #4 of 7)...

Systems changes may be with relations perceived as (i) *local* in direct interaction, or (ii) *distant* through representations with equivocality



Local in direct interaction

- Co-responding alongside



Distant through representations with equivocality

- Mediated with a contextual landscape

Images from Flickr: "Hand in Hand" CC-BY 2009 Carrie Kellenberger; "USFK Commander and ROK CJCS" CC-BY 2017 Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

With multiple contextual changes at play at any given time, our attentions are divided between the immediate and the anticipatory

Distant



Local

Urgent

Important

We can place concurrent changes over time and space as (i) closer for engaging directly, and (ii) distant via engagement of others

Distant Expediting trauma emergencies



Organizing operating room teams



Local Summoning battlefield medics

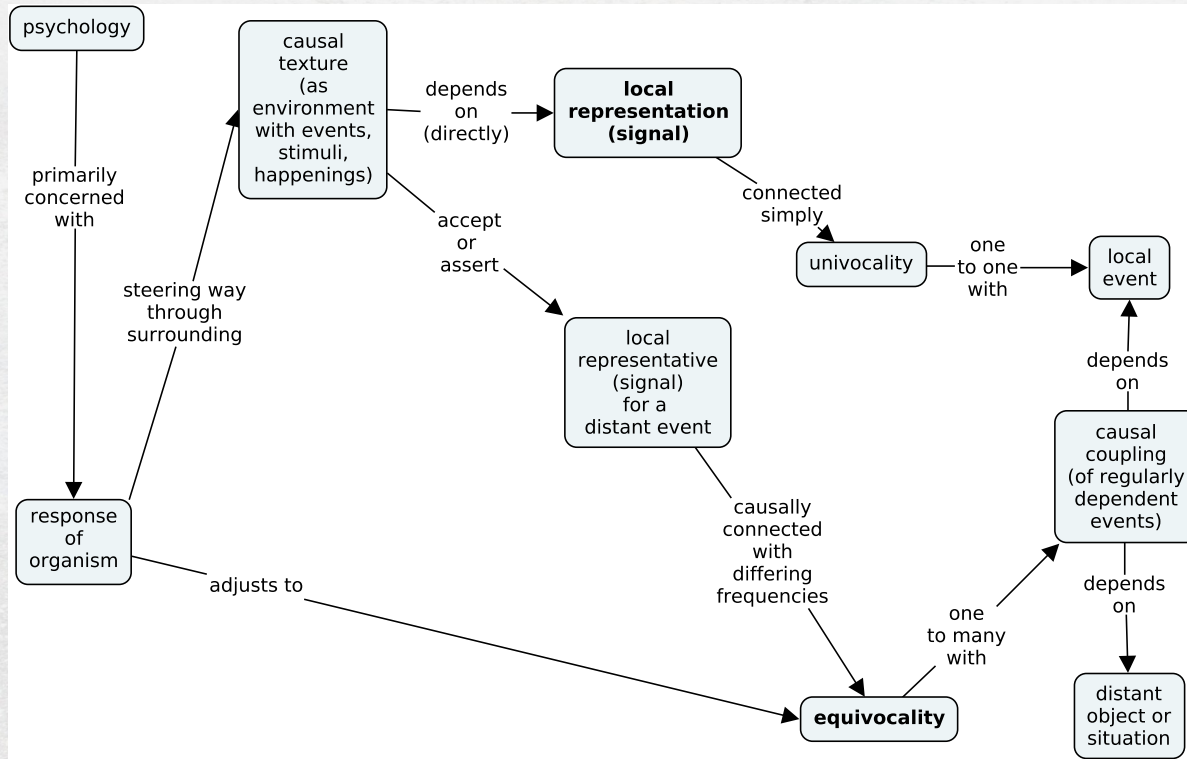


Scheduling neighbourhood clinics

Urgent

Important

Causal texture theory sees perceptual distance with (i) events closer and directly observable; and (ii) events more distant and represented



The system of interest is in the discipline of psychology, primarily concerned with the response of an organism.

The “real world” (in a column at the rightmost) has local events that an organism can perceive directly, as well as distant objects or situations that can’t be perceived directly. There’s a causal coupling between the local event and the distant objects/situations that also can’t be perceived directly.

The organism steers its way through a causal texture, which is an environment.

- The causal texture depends directly on a local representation (i.e. a signal) this is connected simply with the local event. The connection has a feature of univocal — like a single speaking in a narrative mode — as there’s a one-to-one relationship with the local event. The organism can observe the event, stimulus or happening directly.
- The causal texture accepts or asserts a local representative (signal) for a distant event that it can’t observe directly. Organisms are not omnipresent, e.g. they can’t have visibility to everything happening in the world.

There’s equivocality — ambiguity, with two or more voices in conflict over meaning — both about the causal coupling, and the associated distant objects or situations. The organism recognizes the mediation of signals (i.e. not observing directly), and adjusts responses accordingly.

Tolman, Edward C., and Egon Brunswik. 1935. “The Organism and the Causal Texture of the Environment.” *Psychological Review* 42 (1): 43.

<https://doi.org/10.1037/h0062156>.

Ing, David. 2020. “Causal Texture, Contextualism, Contextual.” Blog. Coevolving Innovations (blog). June 9, 2020.

<https://coevolving.com/blogs/index.php/archive/causal-texture-contextual-contextualism/> .

H. Theory-building (for mentoring, in theoria, #1 of 6)...

Post-colonial philosophy of science in Taiwan hybridizes correlativity in TCM pulse + tongue diagnosis, alongside analytical biomedicine



[Dr. Lee] works with a body that has circulating qi and meridians. [...]

Dr Lee adds the biomedical results to her findings. They supplement her diagnosis.

Lin, Wen-yuan, and John Law. 2014. "A Correlative STS: Lessons from a Chinese Medical Practice." *Social Studies of Science* 44 (6): 801–24.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0306312714531325>.

Images: "Chinese Medicine" by Kian2018 (2015) on Pexels; "Examination" by Semevent (2017) on Pixabay; "Sphygmomanometer" by Pavel Danilyk (2021) on Pexels

Philosophy of science in the West differs from Classical Chinese logic

| Dualistic (Modern Western formal logic) | | Contextual-dyadic (Classical Chinese implicit logic) |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| Abstract and permanent, is independent of context <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can extrapolate from propositions | Truth - Falsity | Application and meaning is relative to a particular context <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate assertion as embedded |
| <i>Oppositions</i> Superior ↔ Inferior Superordinate ↔ Subordinate Intrinsic value ↔ Non-intrinsic value Human ↔ Nonhuman | Pairings | <i>Characteristics under context</i> A term presupposes its opposite <ul style="list-style-type: none">• e.g. <i>cat</i> implies <i>non-cat</i>, not universe Context-dependence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• e.g. men or women superior when/where? |
| Hierarchical Reductionist Entity- (thing-) ontology | Frames | Yin-Yang Harmonious whole Mutually engendering or constraining |

Lee, Keekok. 2017. *The Philosophical Foundations of Classical Chinese Medicine: Philosophy, Methodology, Science*. Lexington Books.
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781498538886/The-Philosophical-Foundations-of-Classical-Chinese-Medicine-Philosophy-Methodology-Science>.

The primordial dyad of a hill with (i) *yang* as the sunny side, and (ii) *yin* as the shady side, embeds correspondences in Chinese traditions

As two phases of a cyclical movement

| <i>Yang</i> | <i>Yin</i> |
|-------------|------------|
| Light | Darkness |
| Sun | Moon |
| Brightness | Shade |
| Activity | Rest |
| Heaven | Earth |
| Round | Flat |
| Time | Space |
| East | West |
| South | North |
| Left | Right |

As two states of density of matter

| <i>Yang</i> | <i>Yin</i> |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Immaterial | Material |
| Produces energy | Produces form |
| Generates | Grows |
| Non-substantial | Substantial |
| Energy | Matter |
| Expansion | Contraction |
| Rising | Descending |
| Above | Below |
| Fire | After |

As qualities in clinical practice

| <i>Yang</i> | <i>Yin</i> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Fire | Water |
| Heat | Cold |
| Restless | Quiet |
| Dry | Web |
| Hard | Soft |
| Excitement | Inhibition |
| Rapidity | Slowness |
| Non-substantial | Substantial |
| Transformation / change | Conservation / storage / sustainment |



”As has long been recognized, China tends to treat opposites as complementary, the West as conflicting”

Earliest pairs (from the Ma-wang-tui manuscript of Lao-tzu)

| <i>Yang</i> | <i>Yin</i> | <i>Yang</i> | <i>Yin</i> |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Heaven | Earth | Elder brother | Younger brother |
| Spring | Autumn | Older | Younger |
| Summer | Winter | Noble | Base |
| Day | Night | Getting on in the world | Being stuck where one is |
| Big states | Small states | Taking a wife, begetting a child | Having a funeral |
| Important states | Insignificant states | Controlling others | Being controlled by others |
| Action | Inaction | Guest | Host |
| Stretching | Contracting | Soldiers | Labourers |
| Ruler | Minister | Speech | Silence |
| Above | Below | Giving | Receiving |
| Man | Woman | | |
| Father | Child | | |

The cosmos (from Hui-nan-tzu)

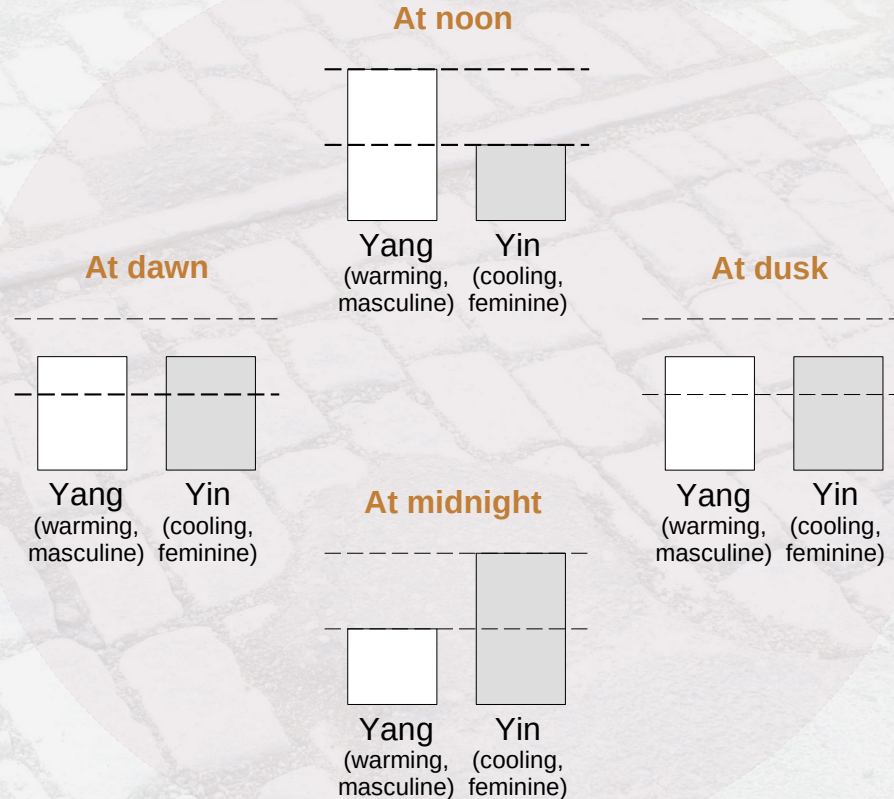
| <i>Yang</i> | <i>Yin</i> |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Clear and subtle | Heavy and muddy |
| HEAVEN | EARTH |
| Hot | Cold |
| FIRE | WATER |
| SUN | MOON |
| Round | Square |
| Illuminates | Retreats to dark |
| Expels | Holds in |
| Does to | Is transformed by |
| Scatters | Congeals |
| RAIN and DEW | FROST and SNOW |
| FURRED and FEATHERED | SHELLED and SCALY |
| Flies or runs | Hibernates or hides |
| Goes up | Goes down |

* NOMINAL CONCEPTS IN UPPER CASE, Verbal concepts lower case

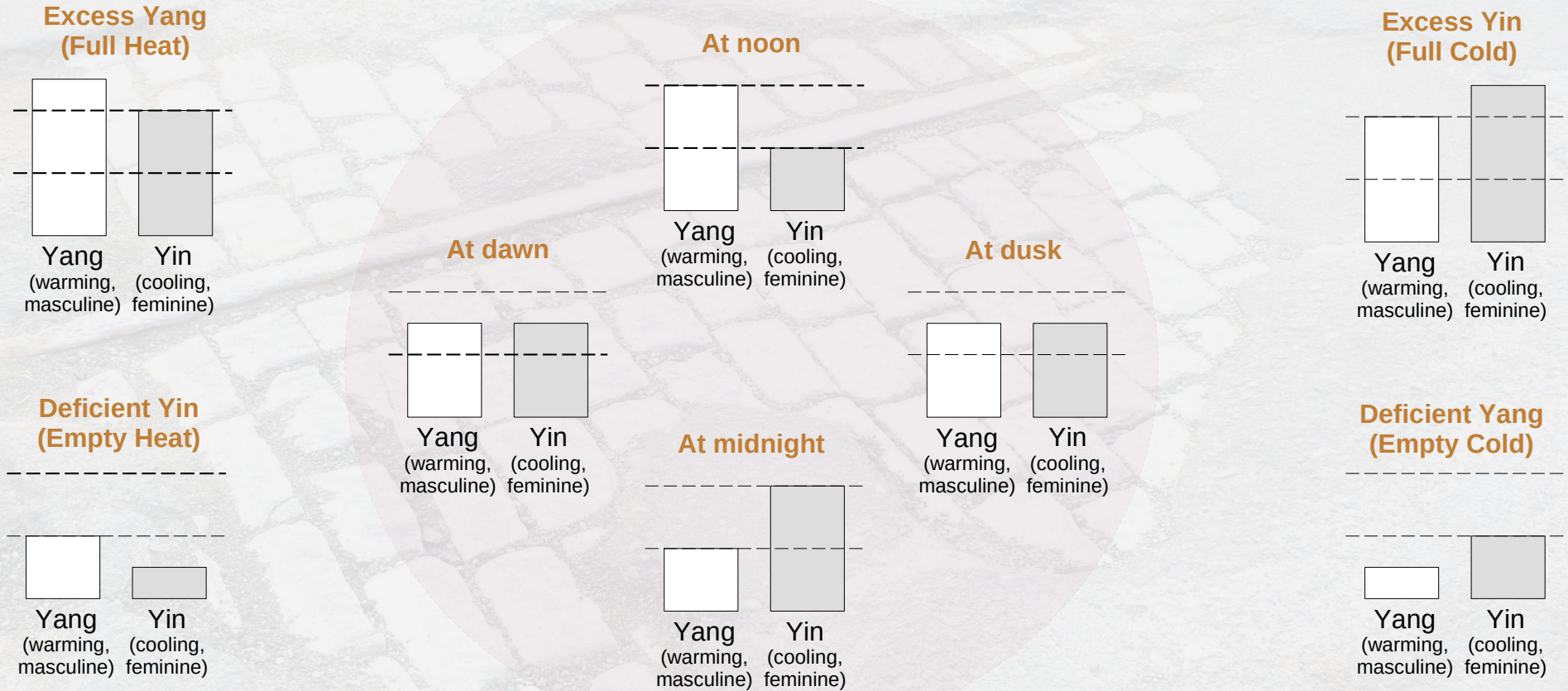


H. Theory-building (for mentoring, in theoria, #5 of 6)...

Let's shift cosmology as *dyadic* with (i) sunny change (light, fire) **and** (ii) cloudy change (dark, water), not *dualistic* (i) change **or** (ii) no change



Context then puts dynamics changes (e.g. sunny and cloudy) as (a) freely intercourses, or (b) blocked into excess or deficient levels



Three principal concerns of systems changes relate to three perspectives, and logical categories of learning

| <i>Concern</i> | <i>Perspectives</i> | <i>Learning</i> |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <i>Taskscape-Landscape Concern</i> | | Redefining the System and Taskscape-Landscape Trito-learning |
| <i>Ecological-Functional Concern</i> | Availing or Removing Affordances | Deutero-learning |
| <i>Behavioral-Processual Concern</i> | Building up or Breaking down Capacities (Metabolic Reserves) | Proto-learning |

I. Methods-making (for mentoring, in poiesis, #2 of 6)...

Taking action recognizes modes of systems changes, as (i) unfolding nature; (ii) fixing problems; and (iii) making history



Unfolding nature

- Systems generating systems



Fixing problems

- Solution (engineering resilience)

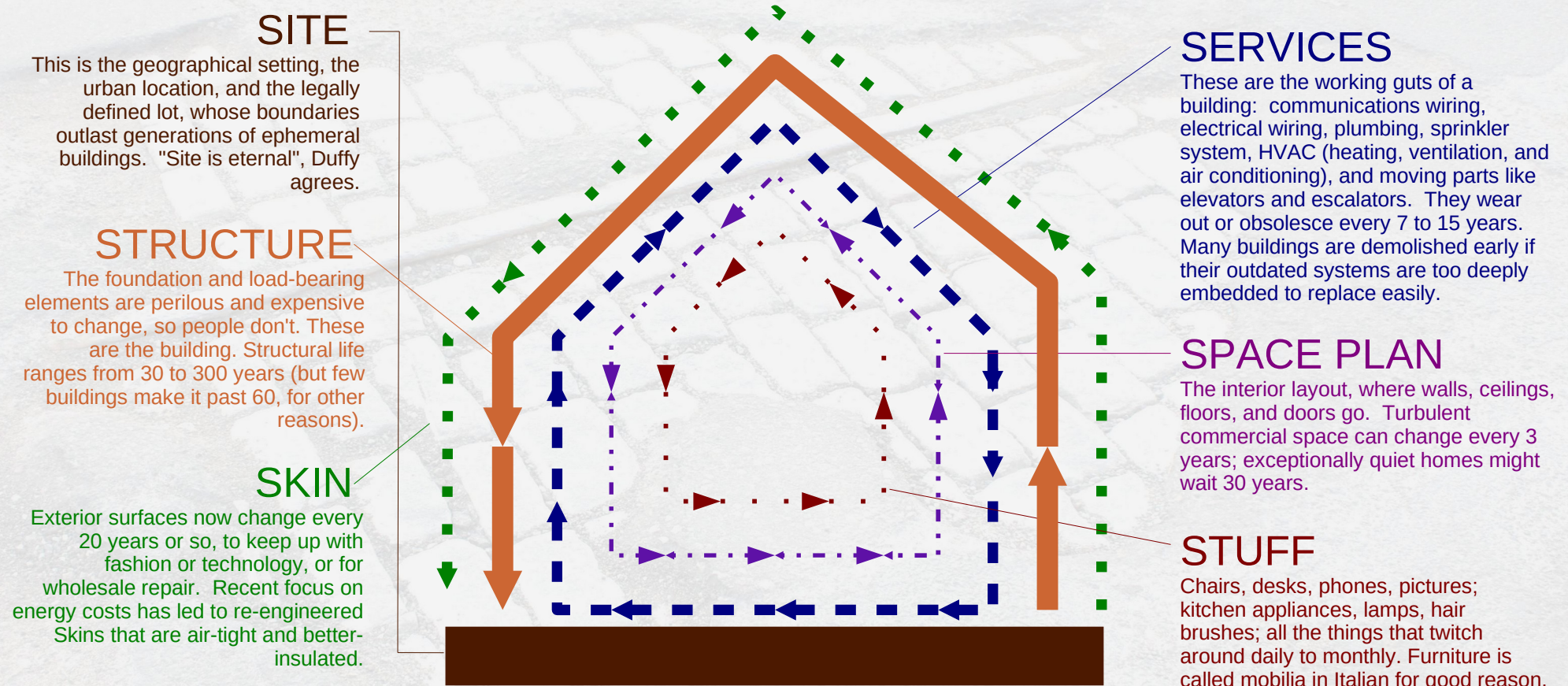


Making history

- Disclosing new worlds

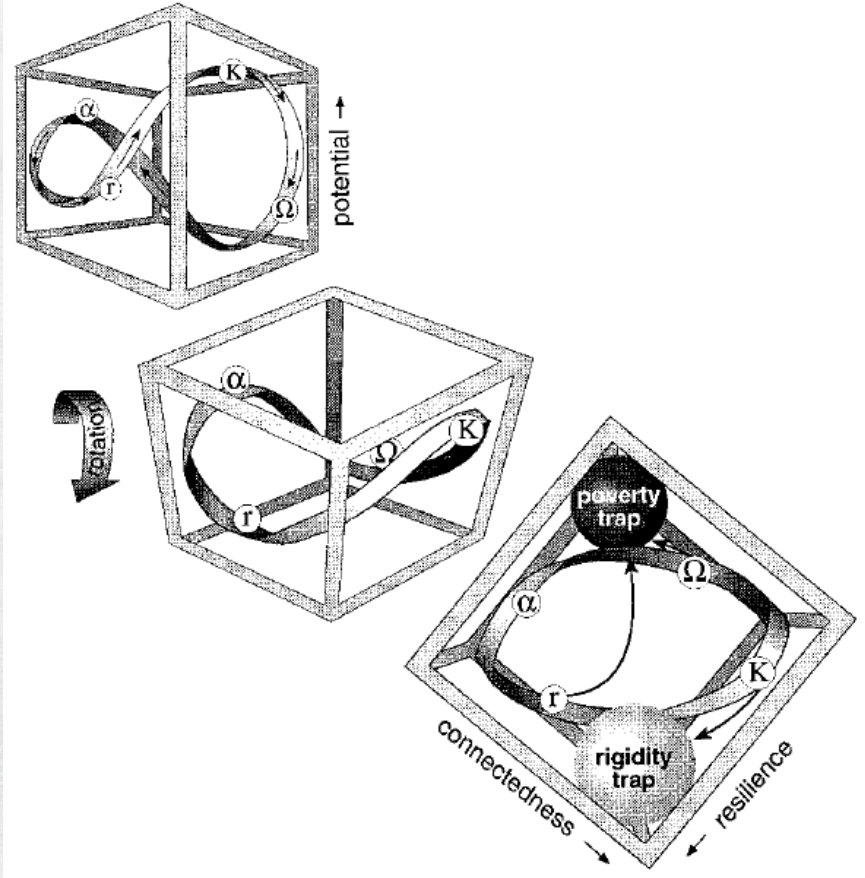
Images from Giphy: "Summer Grow" Kristy Good; "DIY Tools" BY Reuben Armstrong; "Thomas Edison" BY General Electric

Coevolving and learning are constrained by slower-larger layers, and ephemeral in faster-smaller layers

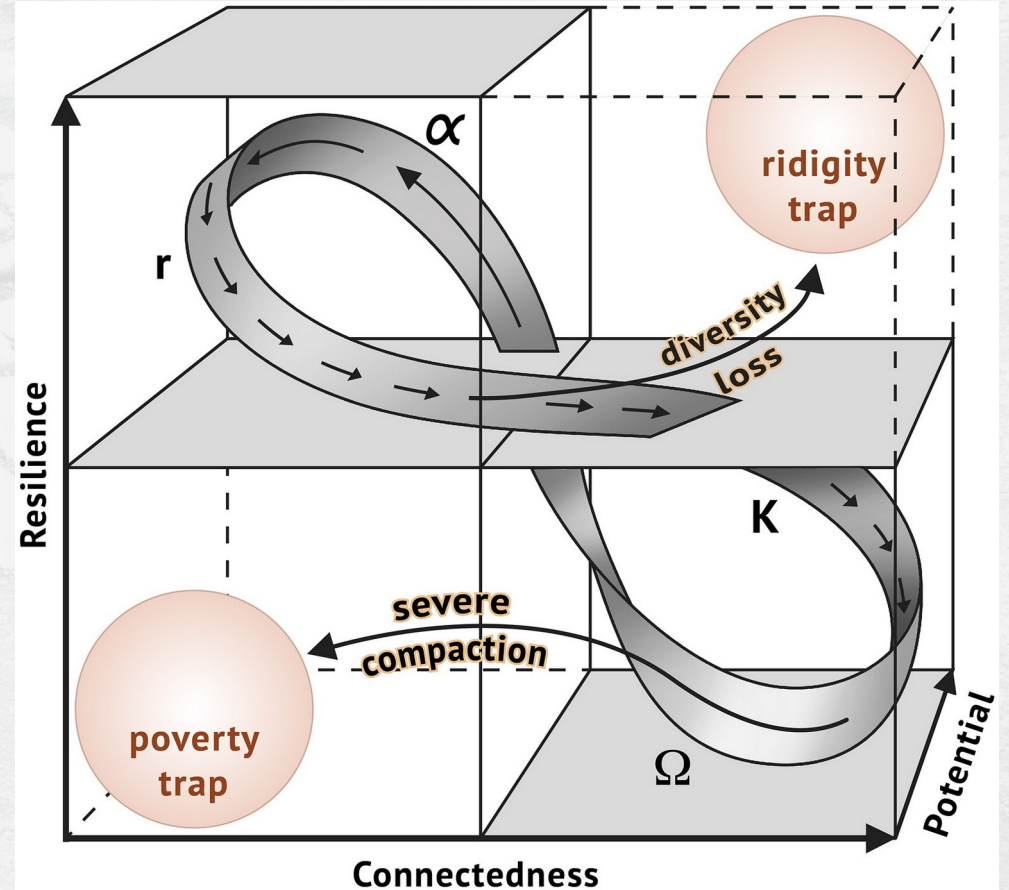


Source: Stewart Brand. 1994. *How Buildings Learn: What Happens after They're Built*. New York: Viking.

A maladapting adaptive cycle may be stuck in a rigidity or poverty trap



Holling, C. S. 2001. "Understanding the Complexity of Economic, Ecological, and Social Systems." *Ecosystems* 4 (5): 390–405. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10021-001-0101-5>.



Ludwig, Marie, Paul Wilmes, and Stefan Schrader. 2018. "Measuring Soil Sustainability via Soil Resilience." *Science of The Total Environment* 626 (June): 1484–93. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2017.10.043>.

When direct immediate interventions fail, *Systems Changes Learning* incorporates five philosophical schools as an open system of inquiry

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | Schools of Philosophy ← → | |
| | Which? (phenomena, perception) | |
| | What? (ontos, becoming) | |
| | Why? (episteme, science) | |
| | Whom, when, where? (phronesis, situated action) | |
| | How? (techne, skills + tools) | |

When direct immediate interventions fail, *Systems Changes Learning* incorporates five philosophical schools as an open system of inquiry

Systematic, self-referential closed loop, self-sealing logic

| <i>Linear-Sequential Logical Positivism</i> | Schools of Philosophy | <i>Systems Changes Learning</i> |
|---|---|--|
| Intention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solution ← problem | Which? (phenomena, perception) | Attending/attention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wicked messes |
| Human will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Machines, linear causes | What? (ontos, becoming) | Living beings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluid course of nature |
| Dynamic equilibria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering resilience | Why? (episteme, science) | Regime shifts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological resilience |
| Scaling technocracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawful order | Whom, when, where? (phronesis, situated action) | Practical wisdom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiated order |
| Unfreeze-Δ-freeze <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavior (collective?) | How? (techne, skills + tools) | Social practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordances |

Open system sweeping in multiple paradigms
Omissions?

Agenda: Systems Change Learning first reorients attention, and then aims to nurture both competence and mentoring

| | <i>Praxis</i> | <i>Theoria</i> | <i>Poiesis</i> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Educating of attention</i> | Behavioral or ecological? (A) | Changelessness or temporality? (B) | Wei or Wuwei? (C) |
| <i>Learning for competence</i> | Action-learning (D) | Theory-using (E) | Methods-deploying (F) |
| <i>Learning for mentoring</i> | Action-guiding (G) | Theory-building (H) | Methods-making (I) |



Image CC-BY Mike Cassano (2009) *Most Interesting Pothole*