

drift for transition

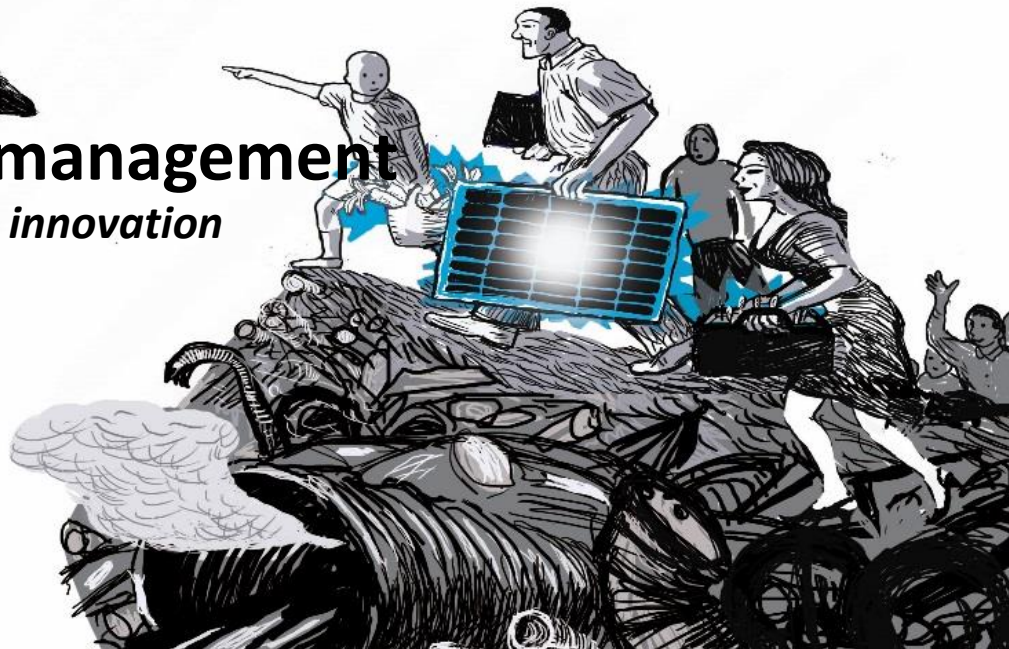


Sustainability transitions management

accelerators, multipliers, disruption and innovation

Prof. dr. Derk Loorbach

Bogis-Bossey, 12-10-2017



Dutch Research Institute For Transitions

Institute of Erasmus University
Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Academic education, research,
consultancy and activism

30 employees

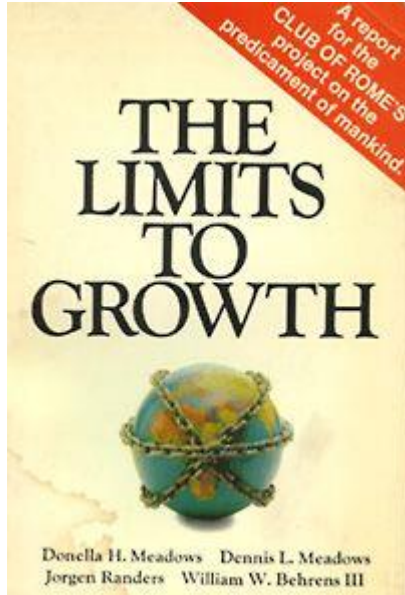
Founded in 2004

mission

Guiding and accelerating
sustainability transitions

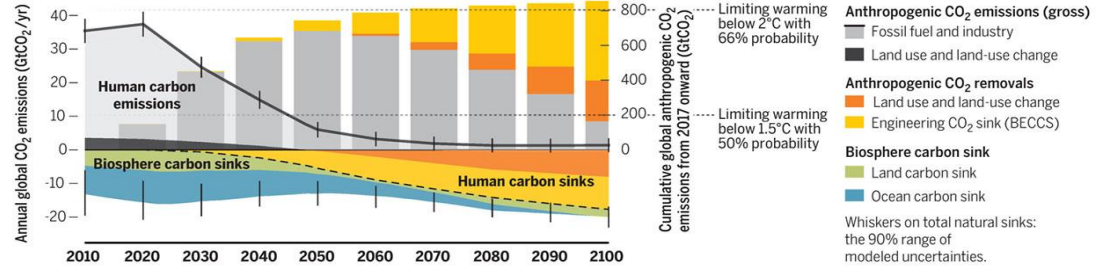


Urgency or persistency?

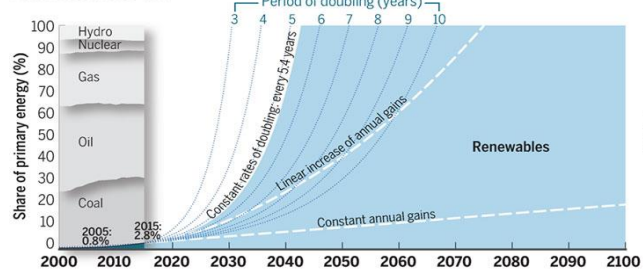


A global carbon law and roadmap to make Paris goals a reality

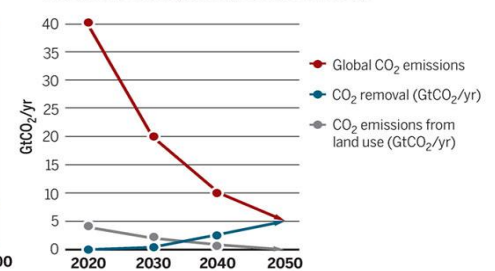
Decarbonization pathway consistent with the Paris agreement



Fossil fuel phase out



Global carbon law guiding decadal pathways



Johan Rockström et al. Science 2017;355:1269-1271

Biodiversity and transition

- Biodiversity loss is a ‘symptom of unsustainability’: it is caused by unsustainable production and consumption
- Efforts to decrease biodiversity loss are often addressing symptoms rather than root causes
- (Similar to climate change) a regime has developed around this based on understanding impacts and reducing these
- The effects are so far not significant and sometimes even have become part of the problem in sustaining current practices by making them less bad

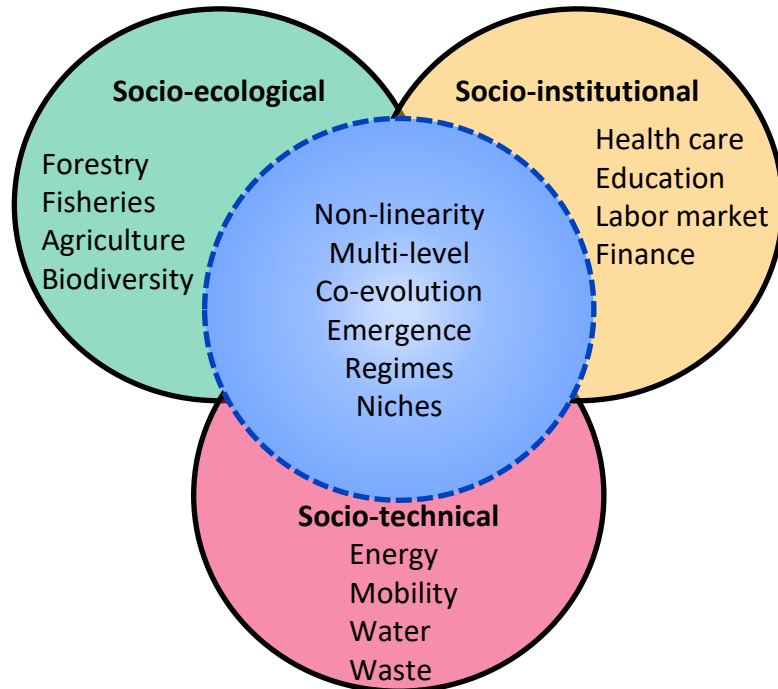
Transitions?

A process of structural, non-linear systemic change in dominant *cultures, structures and practices* (regime) in societal subsystems that takes place over a period of decades (Rotmans et al, 2001, Grin et al, 2010)

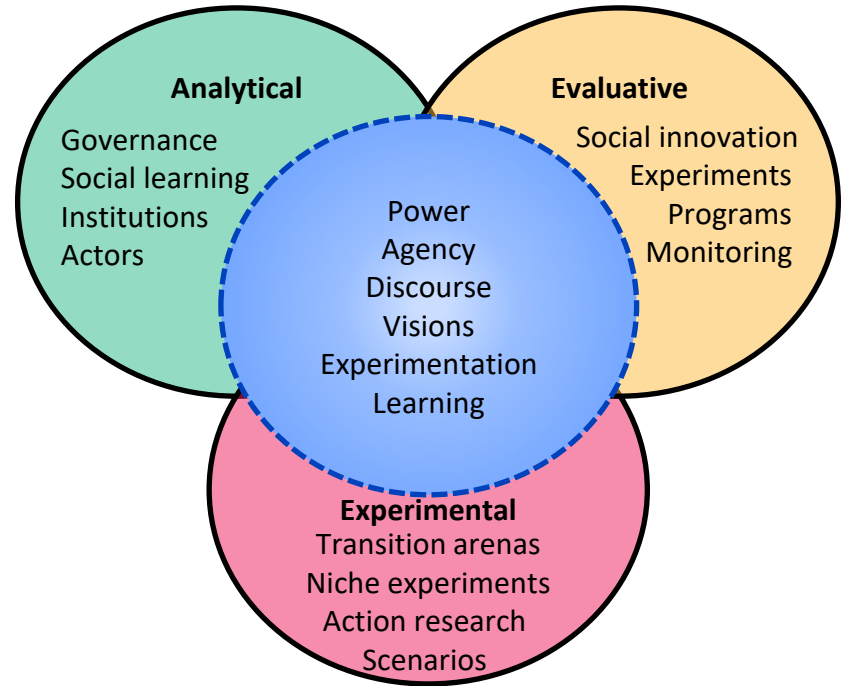
culture:	shared values, paradigms, worldviews, discourses
structure:	institutions, economic structures, physical infrastructures
practices:	routines, behavior, action, lifestyles

Transitions emerge as responses to persistent problems but in turn lead to establishment of new regimes that over time get locked-in and create a new persistent problem

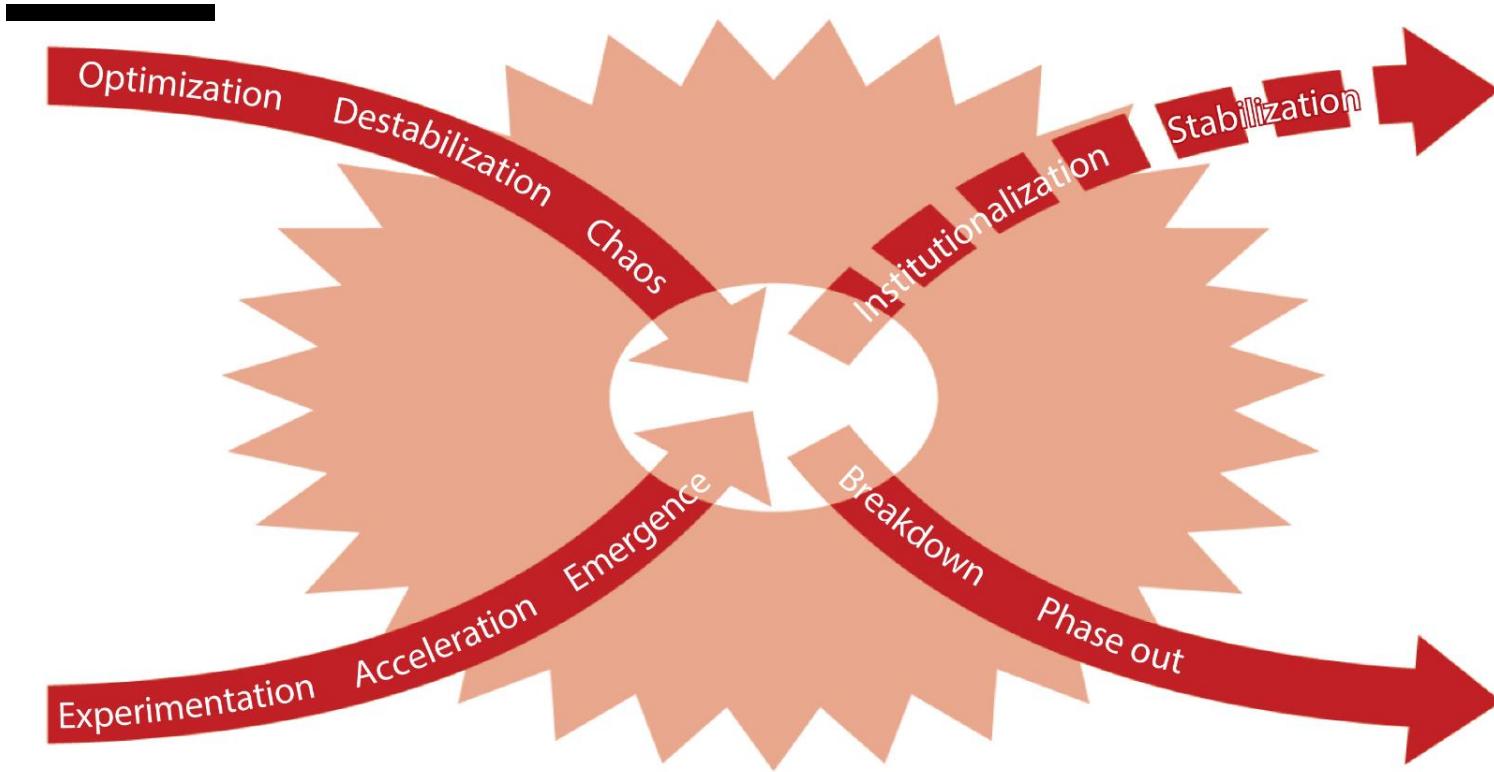
Sustainability Transitions Research



Research perspectives



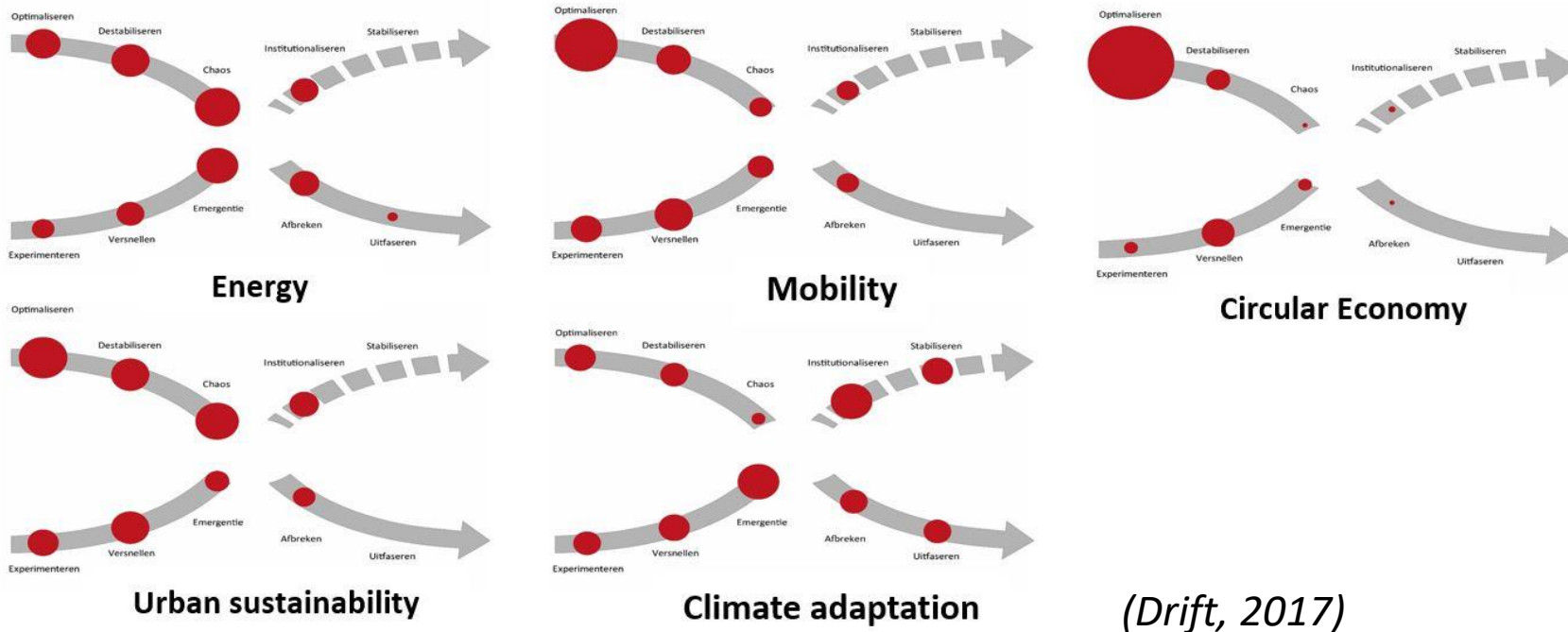
Governance approaches



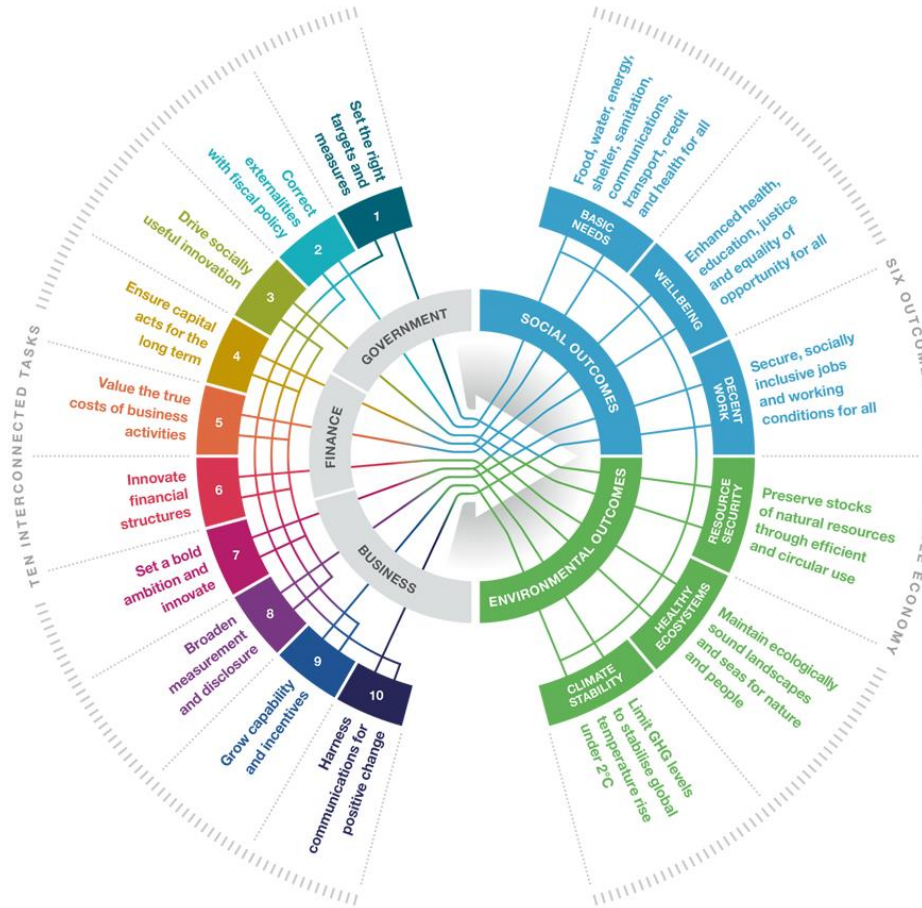
Transitions happening?



Mapping transition dynamics (Dutch government)



Landing zone...?



Transition governance principles

- **Content dictates process and vice versa:** *transition as objective*
- **Multi-level approach:** *engage with dynamics across societal levels*
- **Selective participation:** *differentiate between change agents and incumbents*
- **Back casting scenarios:** *envisioning and scenarios as instruments for change*
- **Adaptive strategy:** *multiple goals and solution pathways*
- **Learning-by-doing and doing-by-learning:** *experimenting and reflexivity*

Transition governance mix: top-down, bottom-up and phase-out

Changing the rules

Pricing externalities, changing subsidies, setting transformative goals, prohibitions

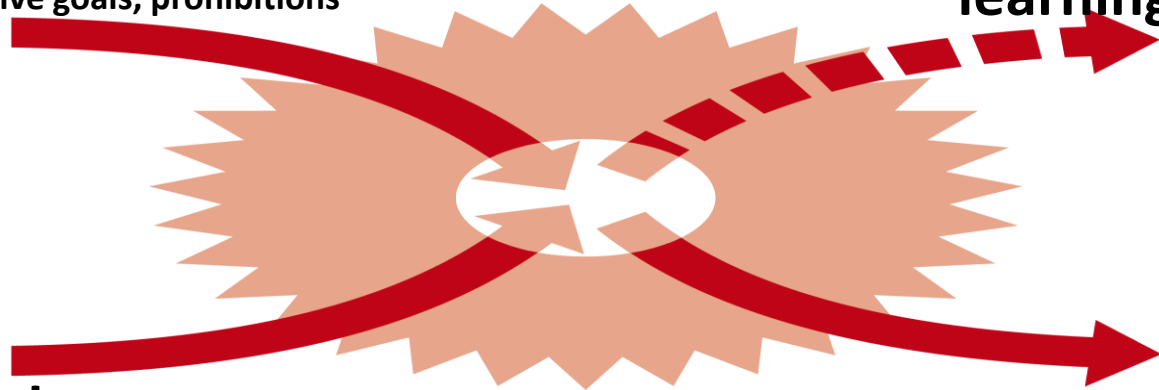
Adjusting and learning

Building the new

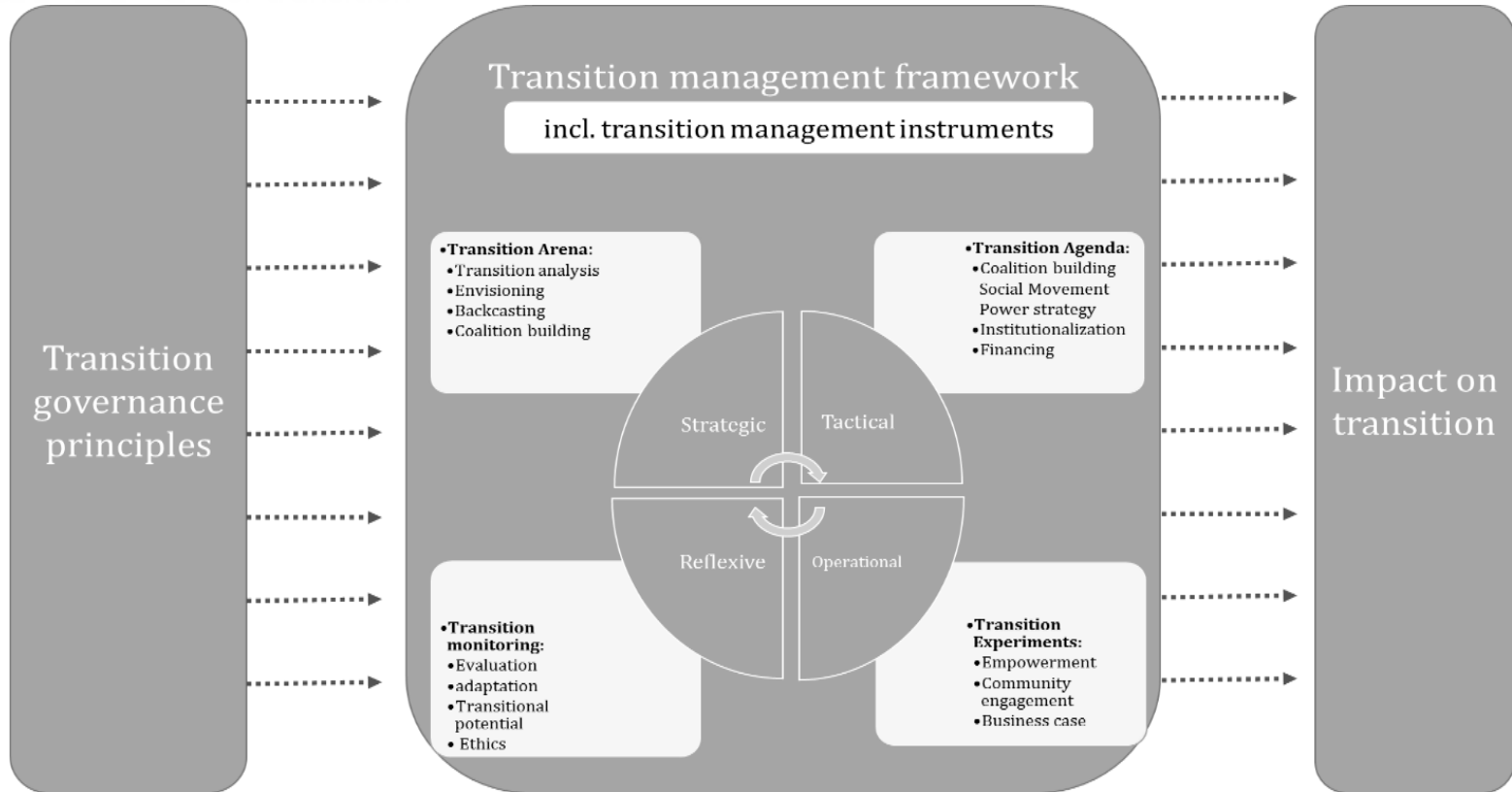
Finding, connecting and empowering niches, new practices, technologies, ...

Managing phase-out

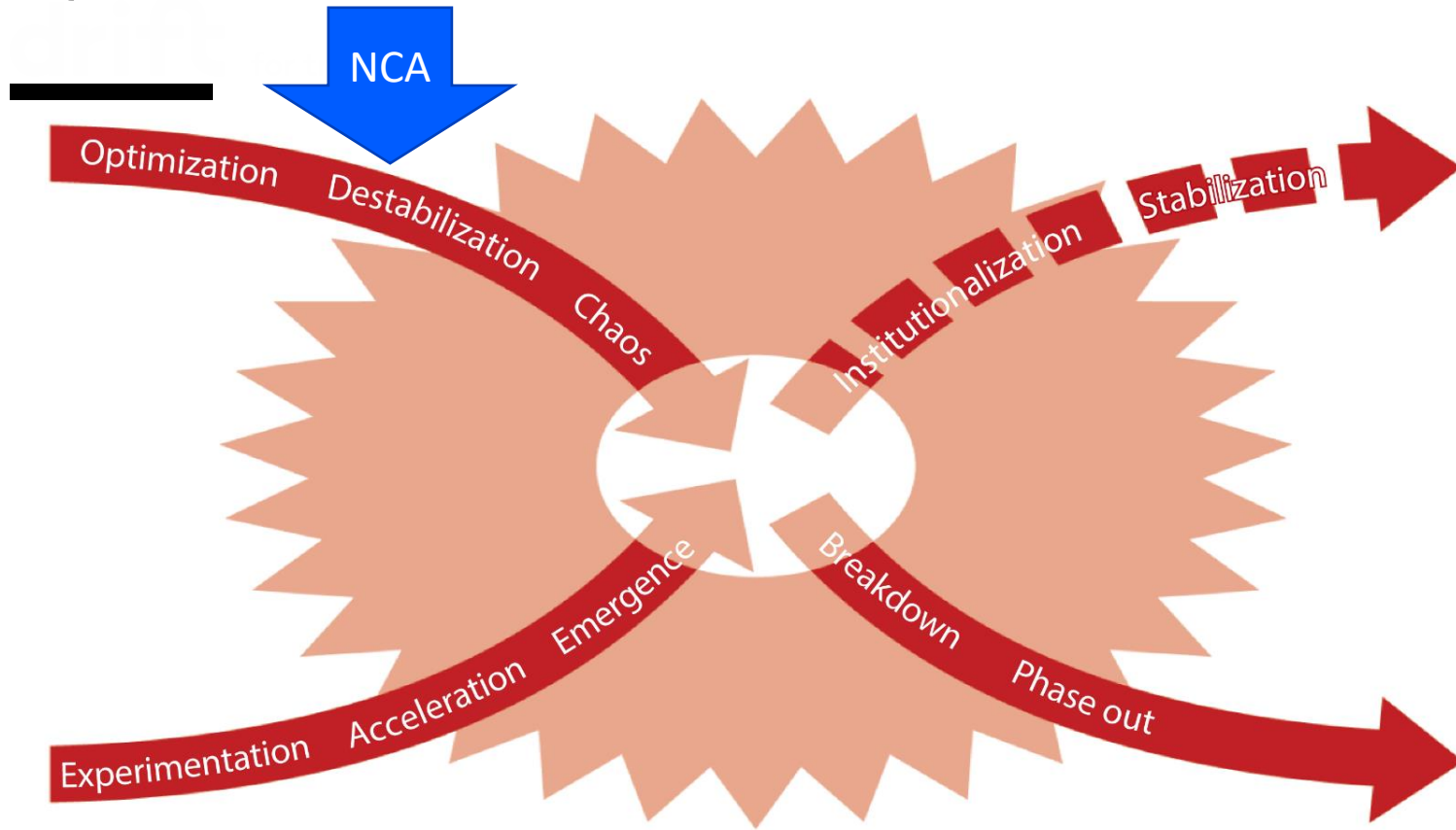
Fossil fuels, waste incineration, industrial meat production, ...

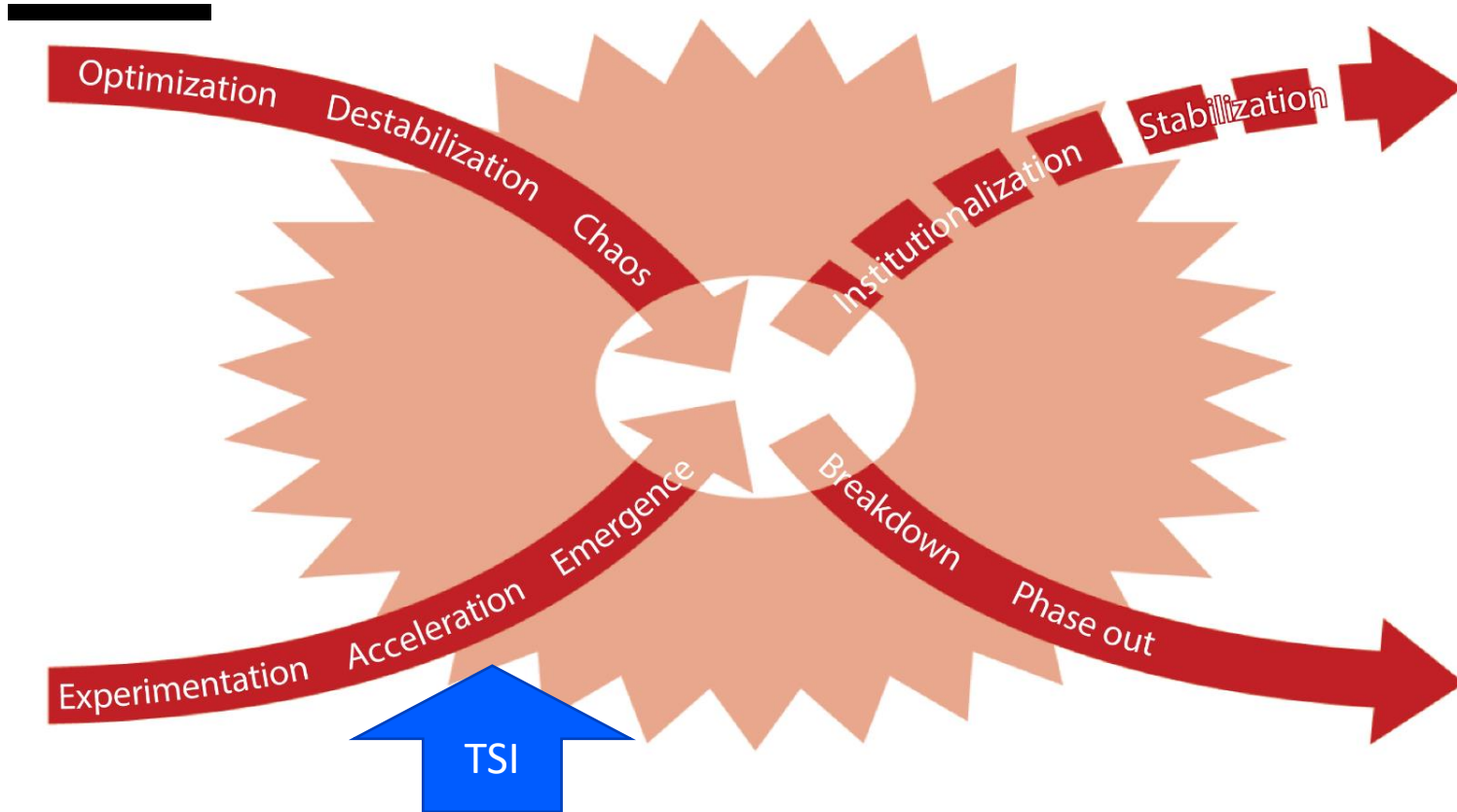


Transition management framework



(adapted from Wittmayer & Loorbach, 2016)







• I.C.L.E.I Local Governments for Sustainability



PROGRAMA
CIDADES
SUSTENTÁVEIS

* work in progress - please do not cite or distribute *

A Manifesto for Transformative Social Innovation

Version 11.09.17

"A manifesto is a published verbal declaration of the intentions, motives, or views of the issuer, be it an individual, group, political party or government. A manifesto usually accepts a previously published opinion or public consensus or promotes a new idea with prescriptive notions for carrying out change the author believes should be made. It often is political or artistic in nature, but may present an individual's life stance."
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manifesto>

Purpose

This is a manifesto on transformative social innovation towards more sustainable, just and resilient societies. It has been written by people that are studying and/or working on social innovation and transformative change (see p. 9). It is written for activists, entrepreneurs, policy-makers, critical intellectuals and other engaged individuals who are interested in understanding and contributing to social change. The aim of this document is to unite those people, to identify complementarities, differences, common insights and challenges. The purpose of doing so is to formulate a common call for action to create focus and momentum for collaboration. To this end, this manifesto also deliberates what we mean by 'transformative' and 'social' innovation, what it has to offer and what sets it apart from other types of change or innovation.

The manifesto is inspired on insights and examples as studied in the [TRANSIT](#) research project. This includes experiences and insights from [20 translocal networks and 100 initiatives across 25 countries](#) that contribute to transformative social innovation in different ways (see overview on p. 9). We entertain no illusions of having ready-made solutions or final answers to global challenges, neither do we claim that our ideas and experiences will call an end to all structural power inequalities. We do, however, maintain that there exist a multitude of well-considered and demonstrably viable responses to these societal challenges, which provide constructive answers and alternatives to the political turmoil of our times. At [TRANSIT's final conference 'Learning for Change' \(14-15 September, Rotterdam\)](#), there will be a gathering of researchers, activists, entrepreneurs, policy-makers and other individuals who share an interest in social change. The Manifesto will be used as an entry point to share, compare and debate our thoughts and experiences on the delights and challenges of transformative social innovation.

Short Summary of Manifesto

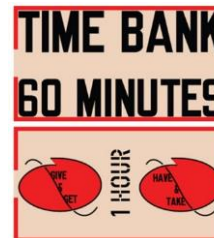
In these times of transition and uncertainty people long for new positive futures. They often look to established institutions and traditional leaders but these seem to be unable to break away

Overview of our insights and principles

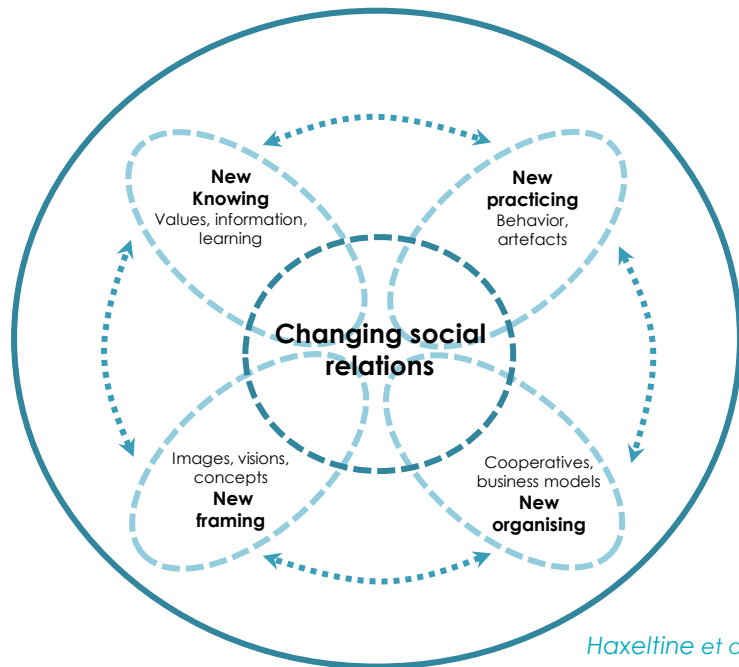
1. Social innovation alone is not enough; we need transformative change to make a difference.
2. Social innovation is just as much about shaping the new as it is about rediscovering the old.
3. Experimenting with alternative social relations is crucial for transformative change.
4. Social and material change are intimately intertwined.
5. Changing relations between civil society, state & market is a form of social innovation in itself.
6. Transformative social innovation is inherently political.
7. Social innovation should never be misused as an excuse to dismantle necessary public services.
8. Translocal empowerment is a promising response to the challenge of globalisation.
9. Social innovation is about fostering a sense of belonging, autonomy and competence.
10. Transformative change requires physical & mental space for learning and experimentation.
11. Transparent and inclusive decision-making is a necessary condition for transformative change.
12. Transformative change requires alternative narratives and theories about the world.
13. Transformative change requires alternative and diverse economies.
14. More mutual recognition and strategic collaboration is needed for transformative change.
15. Balancing paradoxes is key to transformative social innovation.



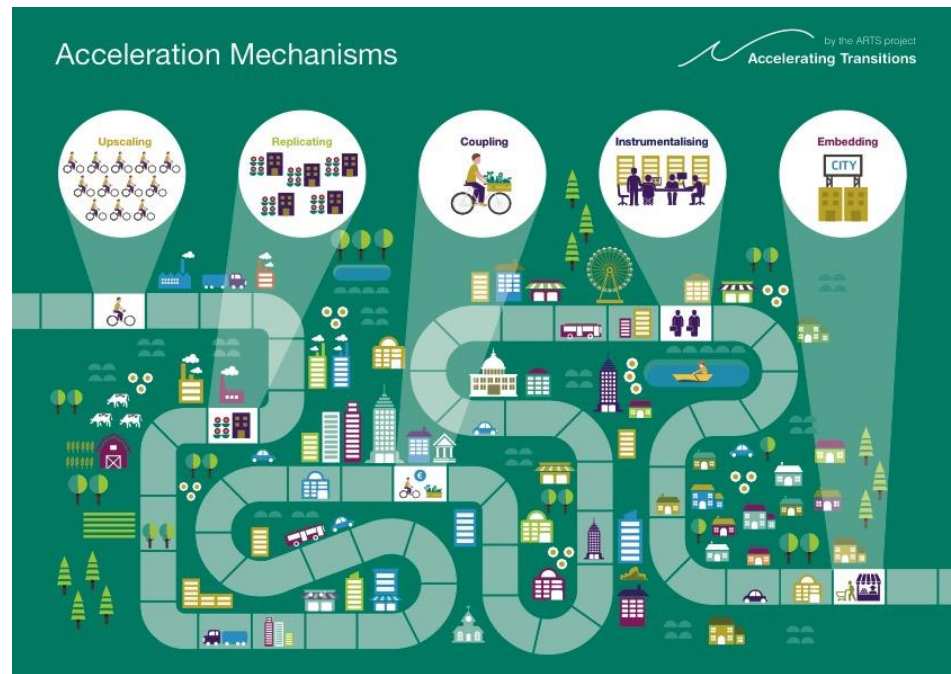
Living Knowledge
The International Science Shop Network



Translocal diffusion of transformation



Haxeltine et al. 2016



Enabling factors for sustainability transitions

- A strong and shared narrative that includes a framing of persistent unsustainability and revolutionary long-term direction
- A diverse niche-regime frontrunner network of individuals that are able to diffuse, translate, and operationalize the narrative within their own contexts
- A diverse set of alternative practices, technologies, business models, and initiatives that can be presented as building blocks for the transition
- An open end reflexive process of engagement, knowledge development, and learning in which adaptation, exchange, and selection take place

CBD in transition

Build a positive and inspiring narrative on biodiversity, resilience and transitions

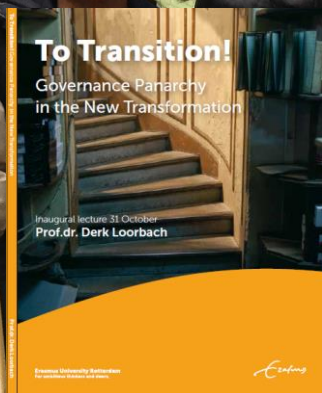
Rethink 'developing' versus 'developed' countries

Engage with other domains, sectors and regions on sustainability transitions

Develop shadow governance tracks supporting desired transitions

Broaden actor networks, policy instruments and intervention repertoire

drift for transition



For more information and publications:

loorbach@drift.eur.nl

www.drift.eur.nl

www.twitter.com/drk75

Erasmus

