

Systems Thinking and the Tragedy of Consciousness

by Dr. Anthony Hodgson

for the
Institute and Faculty of Actuaries
5th July 2021



“Along with civilization, technology brings a new barbarism that is both anonymous and manipulative. The word of reason signifies not only critical rationality, but also the logical delirium of rationalization with its blindness to concrete beings and the complexity of reality. What we take to be advances in civilization are at the same time advances in barbarism.”



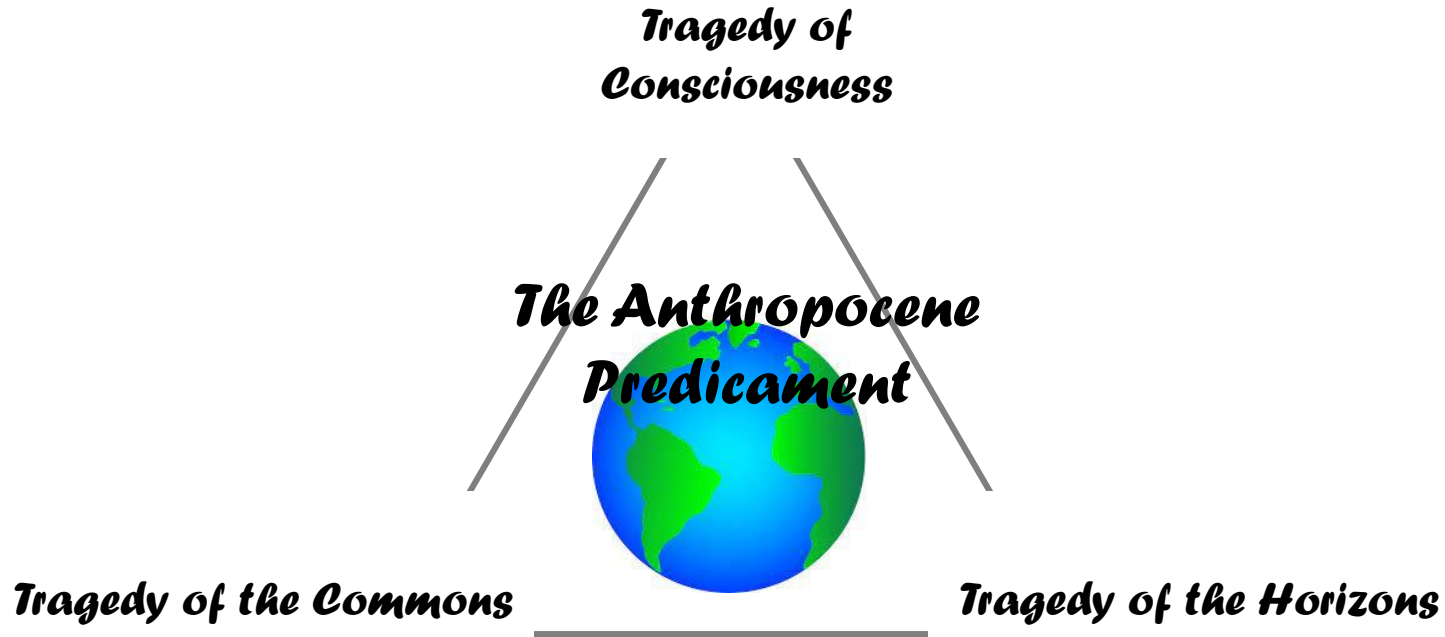
Professor Edgar Morin, National Centre for Scientific Research, Paris
in *Homeland Earth, a manifesto for the new millennium*,
1999, Hampton Press
UNESCO Chair of Complex Thought



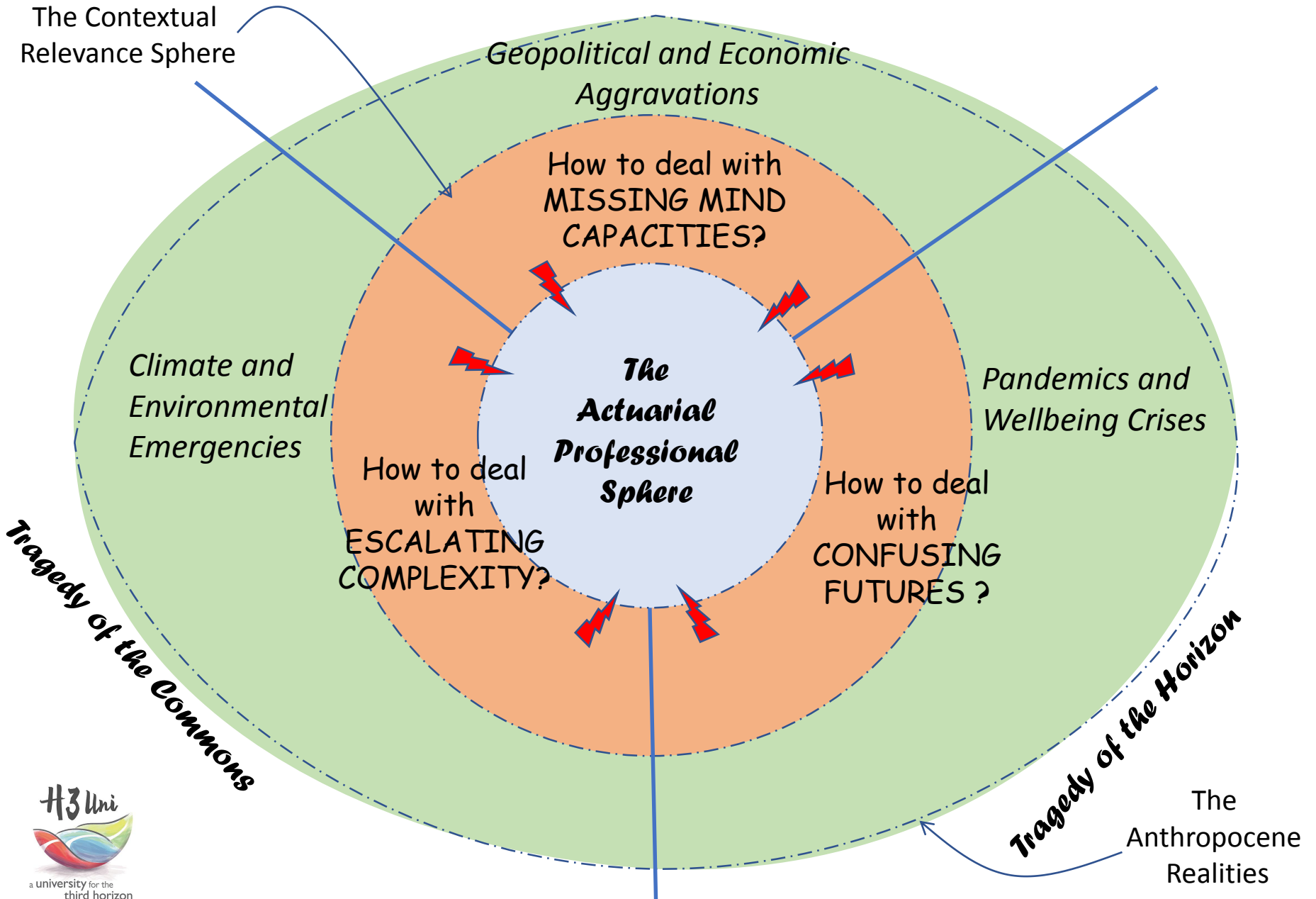
“An organization unable to grasp new circumstances is an organism that behaves on the basis of stimuli that belong to a previous era,”

Professor Roberto Poli, University of Trento
in *Working With the Future*, 2019, Bocconi University Press
UNESCO Chair of Anticipation

Waking Up to the Anthropocene Predicament

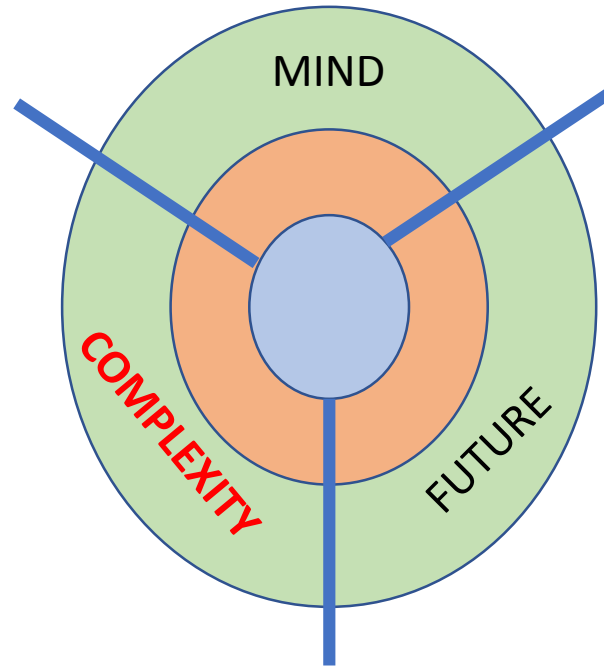


Tragedy of Consciousness

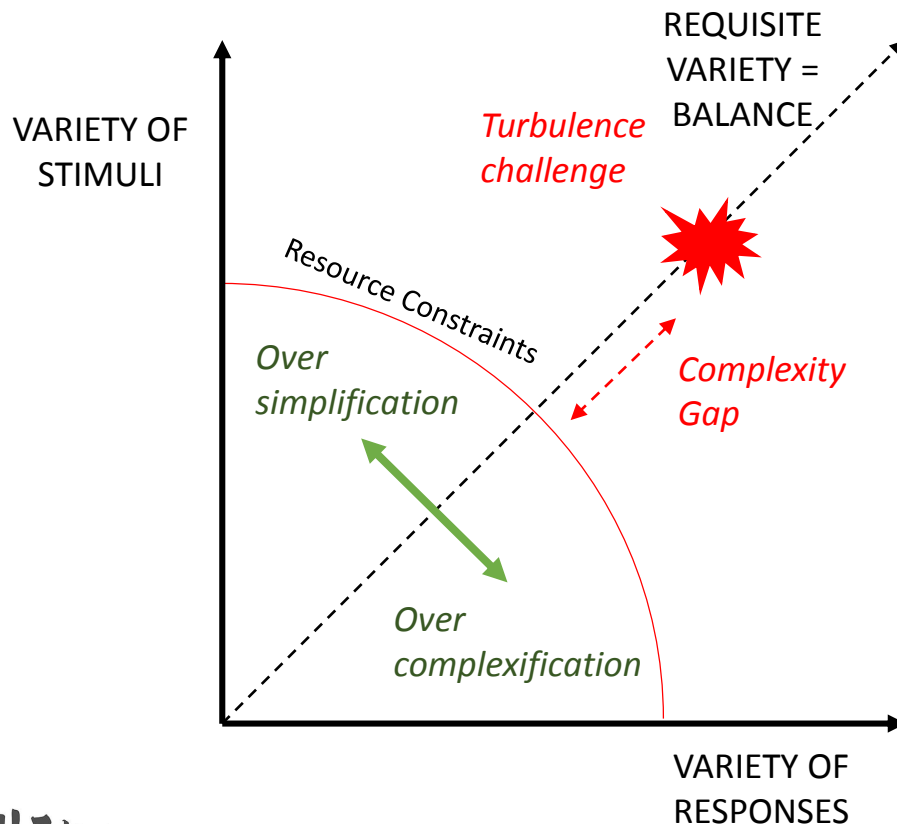
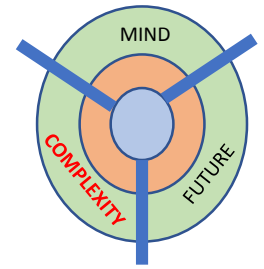


Complexity

How to deal
with
ESCALATING
COMPLEXITY?



Facing up to the Complexity Gap

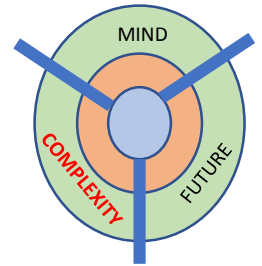


“There are serious governance problems at all levels of our societies: individuals suffer from growing life-management problems, corporations struggle to adapt their rigid hierarchies, governments run from one crisis to another and multinational institutions make very little progress in solving global problems.

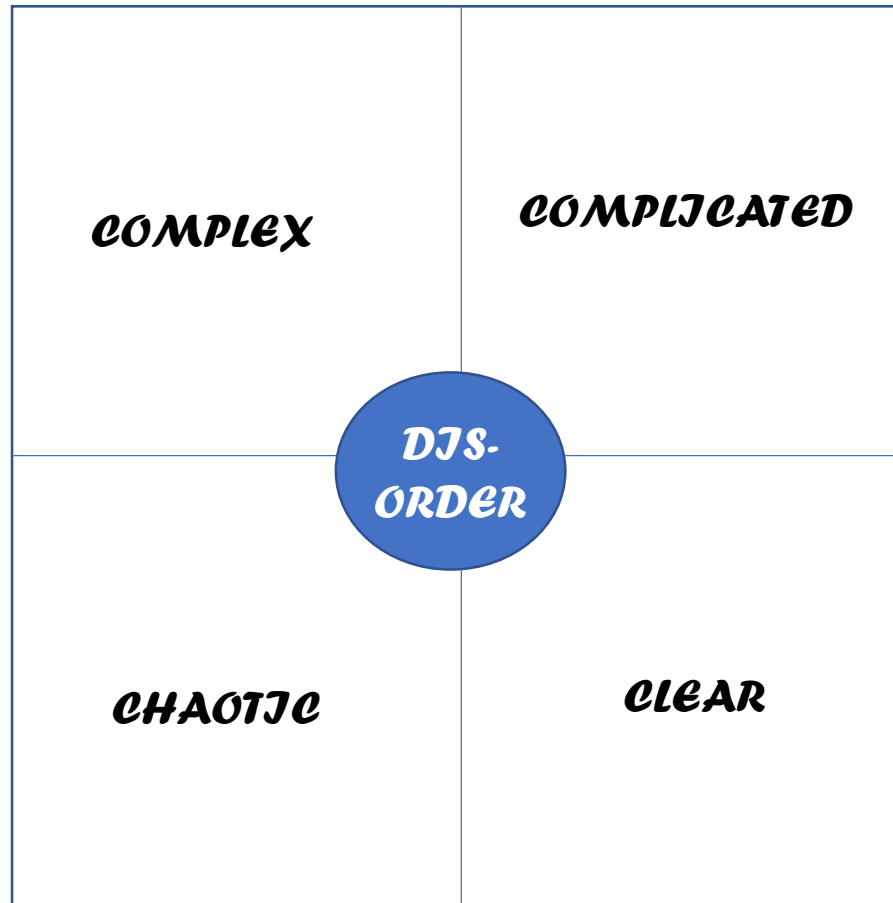
A transition to the next phase of societal development requires closing the complexity gap with new governance innovations. Or else societies may face disintegration and chaos. Some complexity scientists use the term “*complexity gap*” for this situation.”

Timo [Hämäläinen](#)

We are living in an Old Paradigm

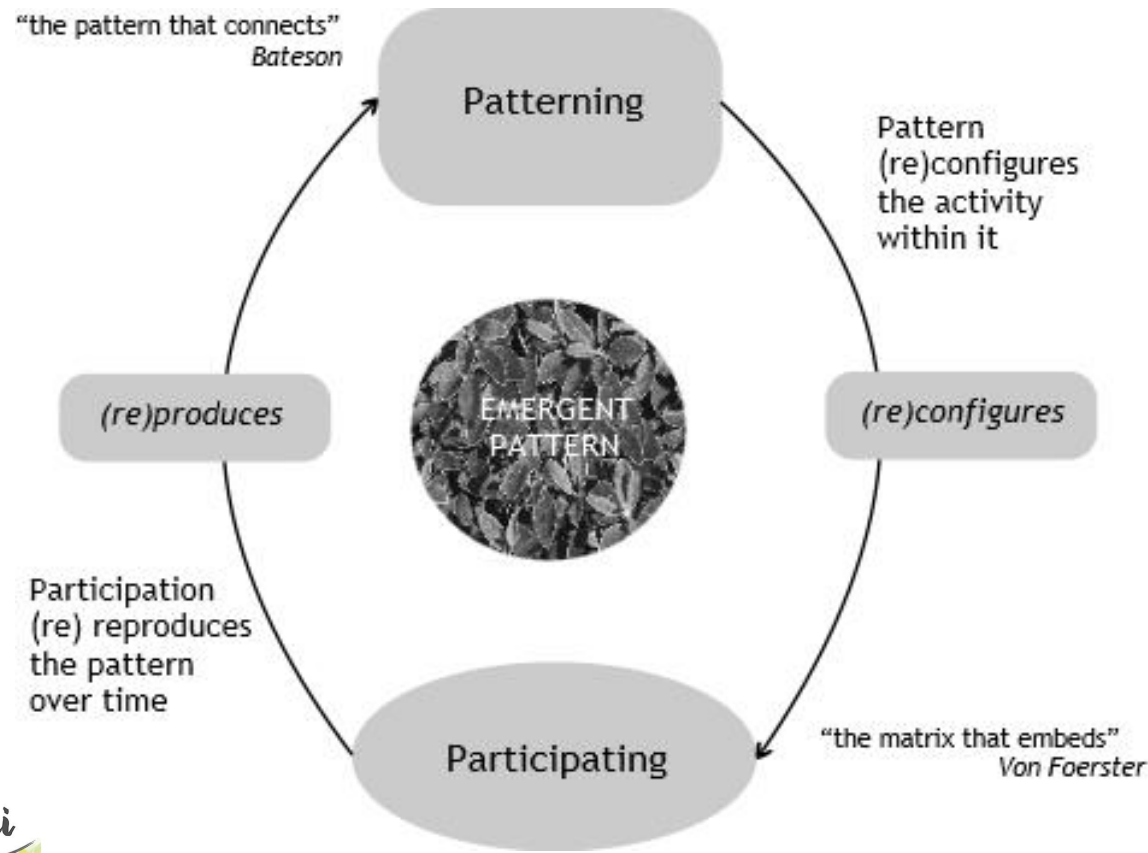


**NEW
PARADIGM**
turbulence



**OLD
PARADIGM**
stability

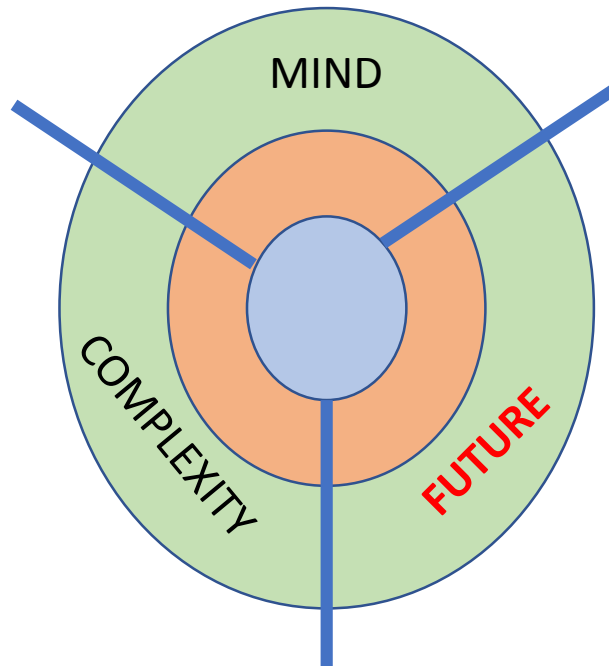
Systems as Patterns – Thinking in Patterns



PATTERN INTEGRITY

"A pattern has an integrity independent of the medium by virtue of which you have received the information that it exists."

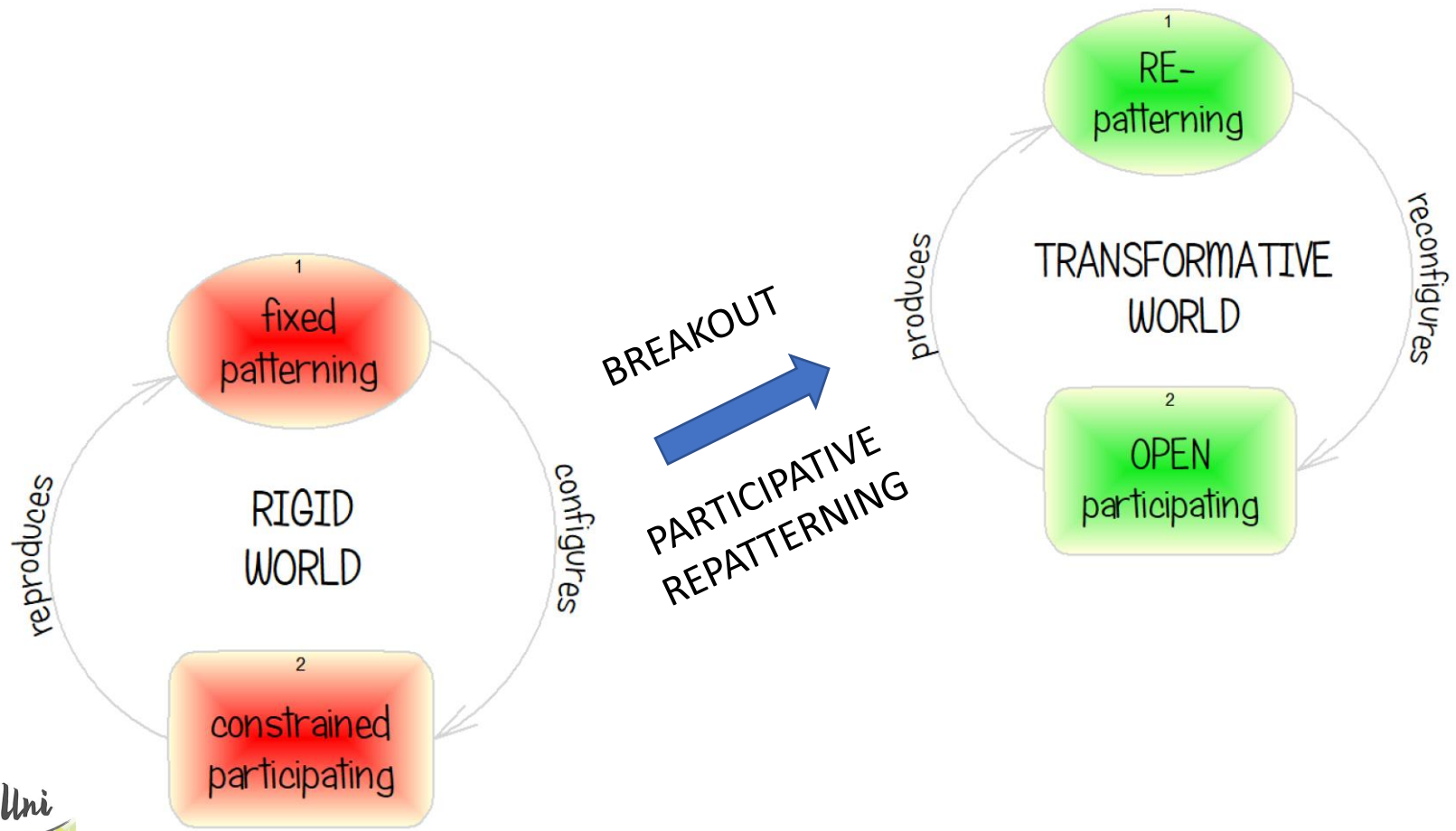
***Buckminster
Fuller***



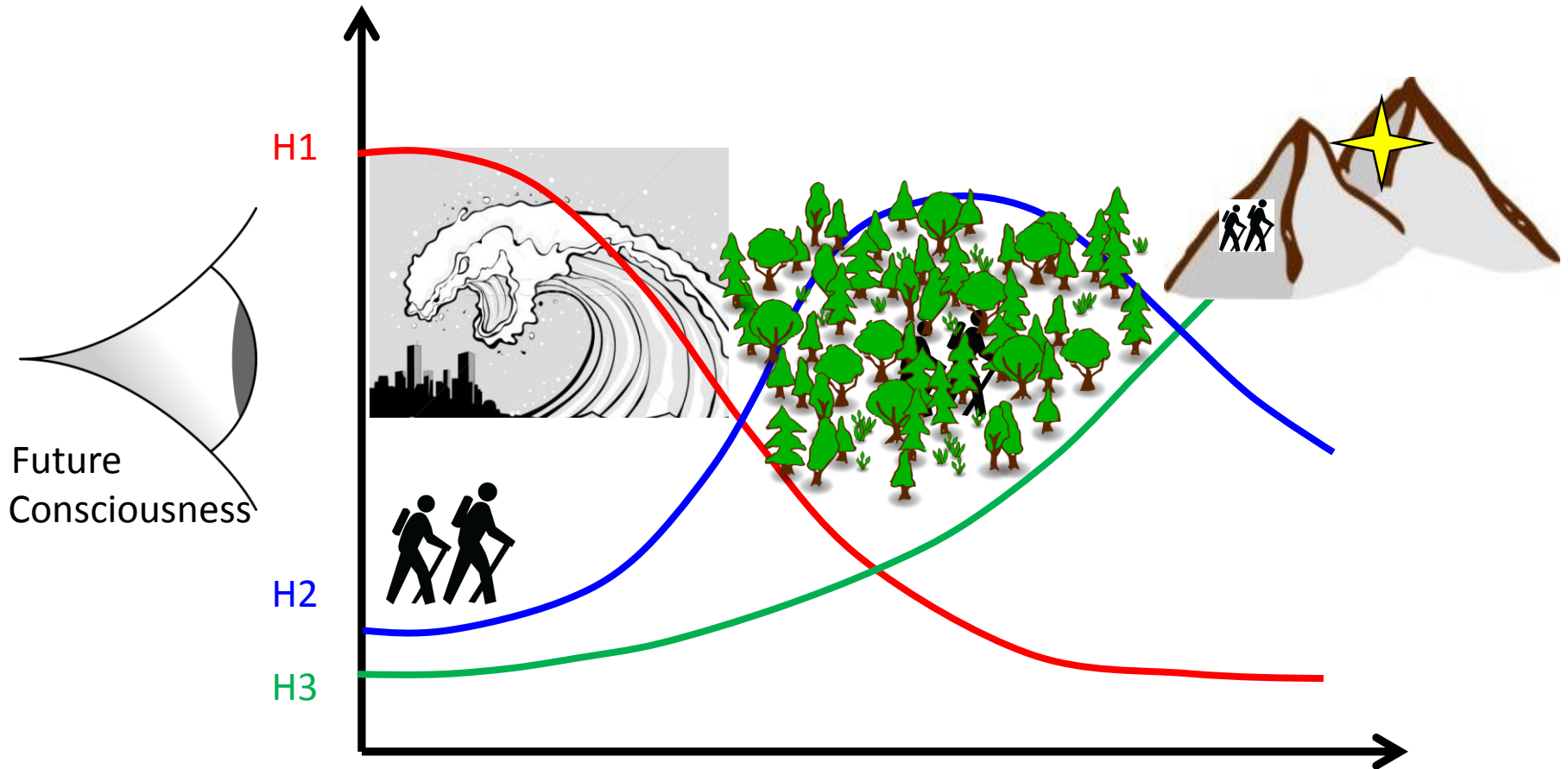
Future

How to deal
with
CONFUSING
FUTURES ?

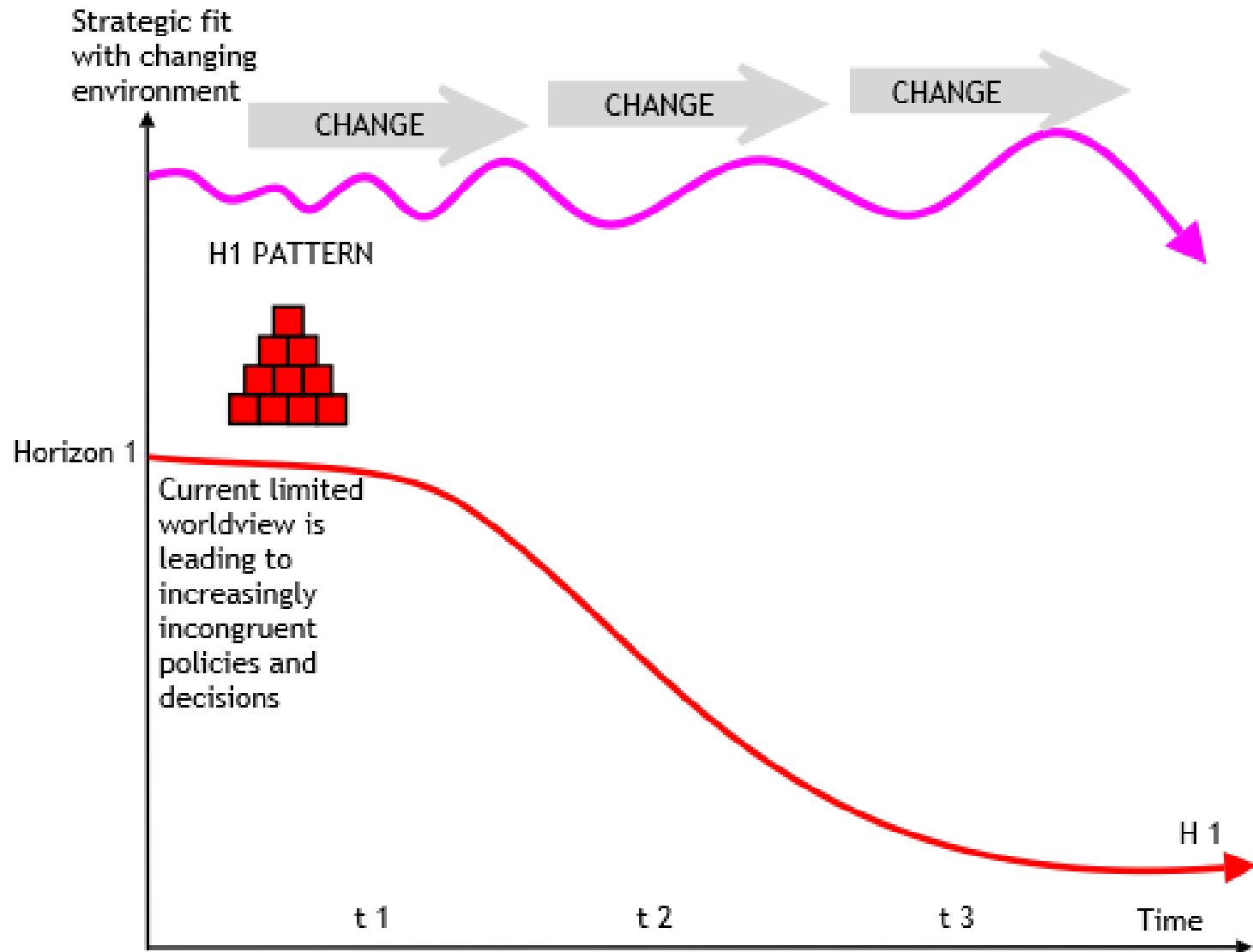
Is the future fixed or open to agency?



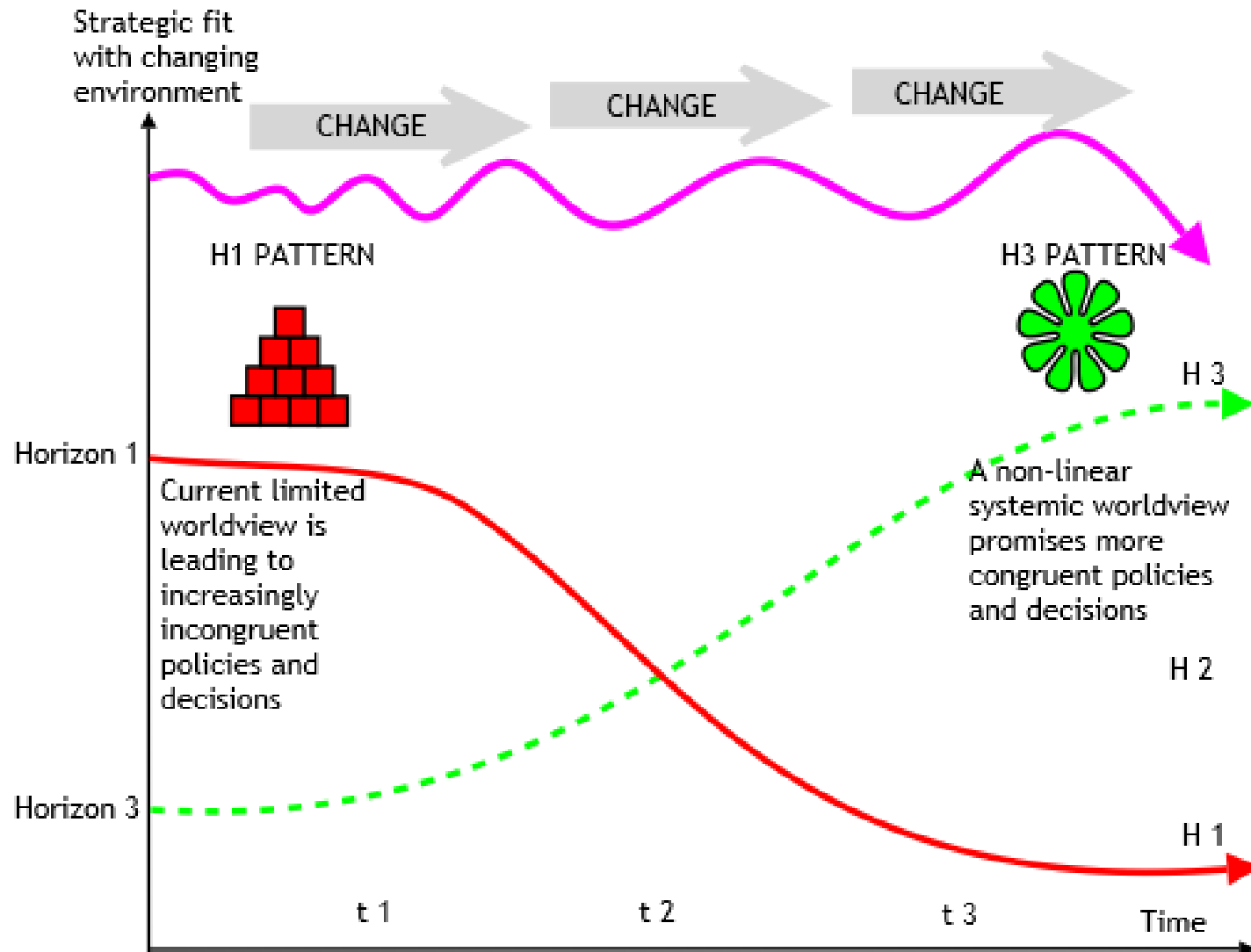
Three Horizons - The High Agency/ High Uncertainty Visioning Method



Horizon 1 – Managerial Professional

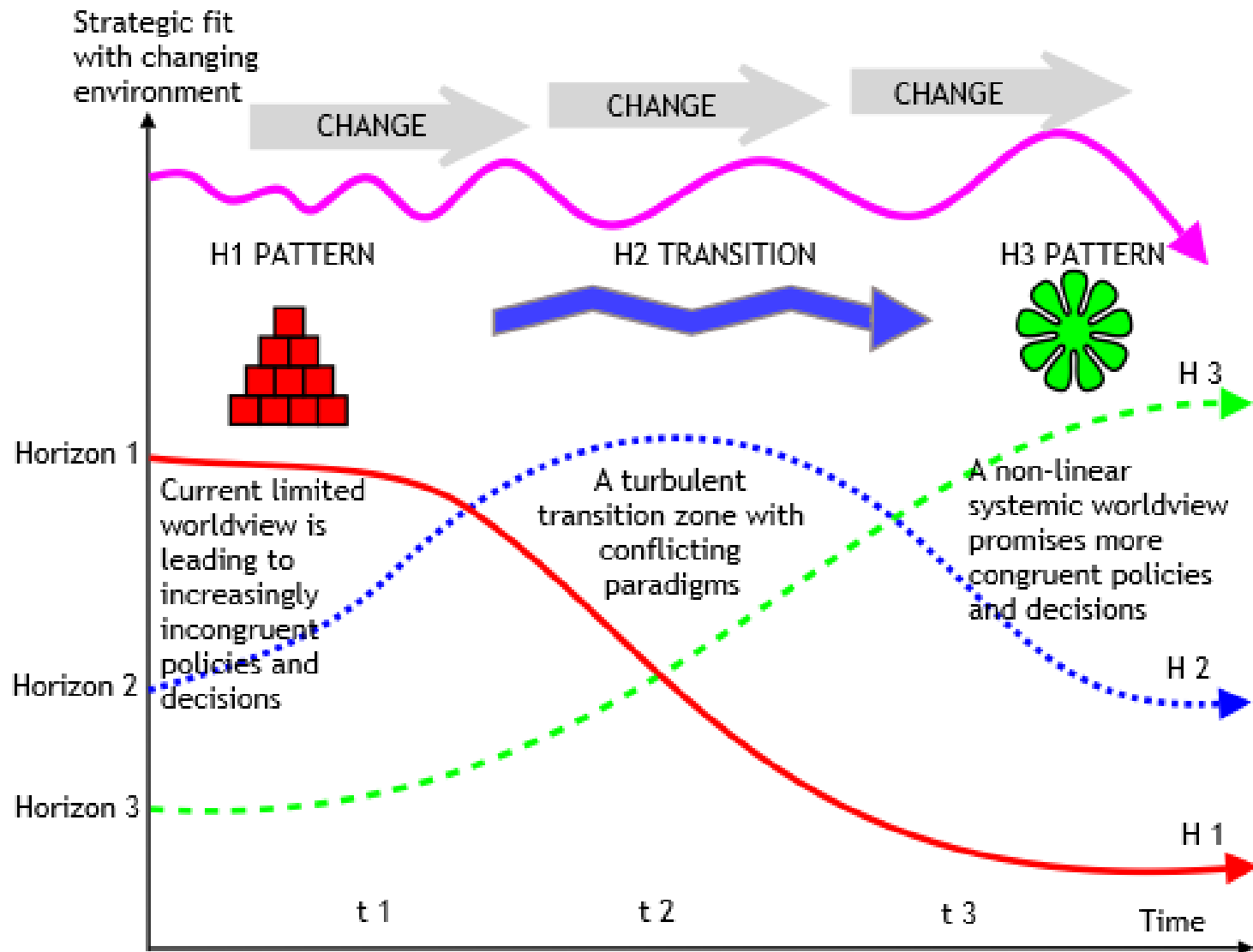


Horizon 3 – Visionary Regenerative

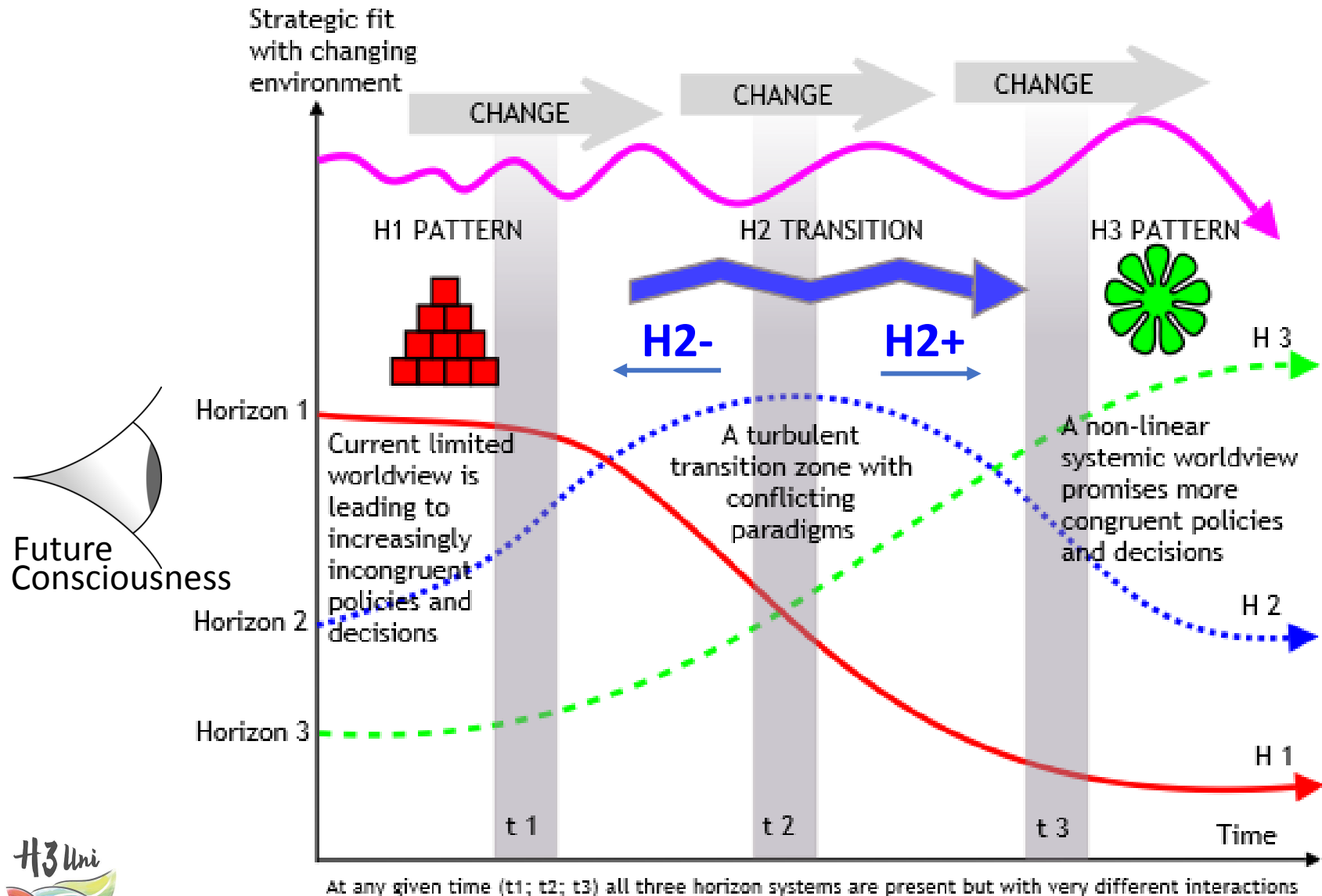


At any given time (t1; t2; t3) all three horizon systems are present but with very different interactions

Horizon 2 – Enterprising Transformative

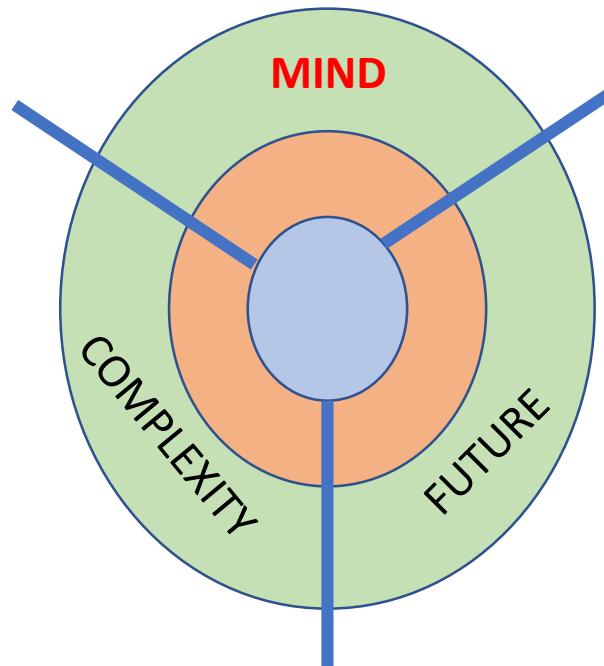


Anticipating Future Phases of Change

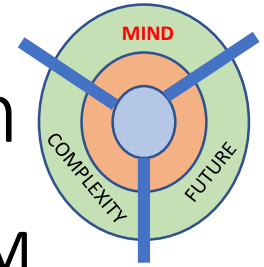


Mind

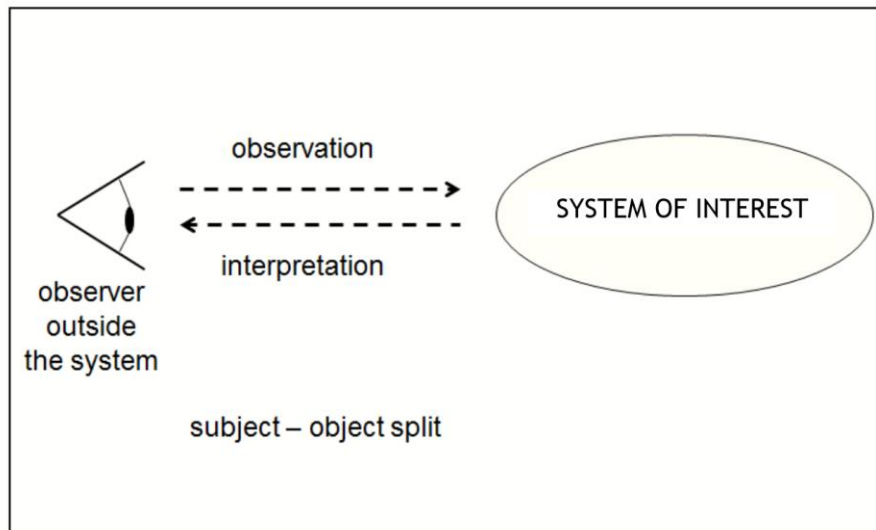
How to deal with
MISSING MIND
CAPACITIES?



We are not external to the global system

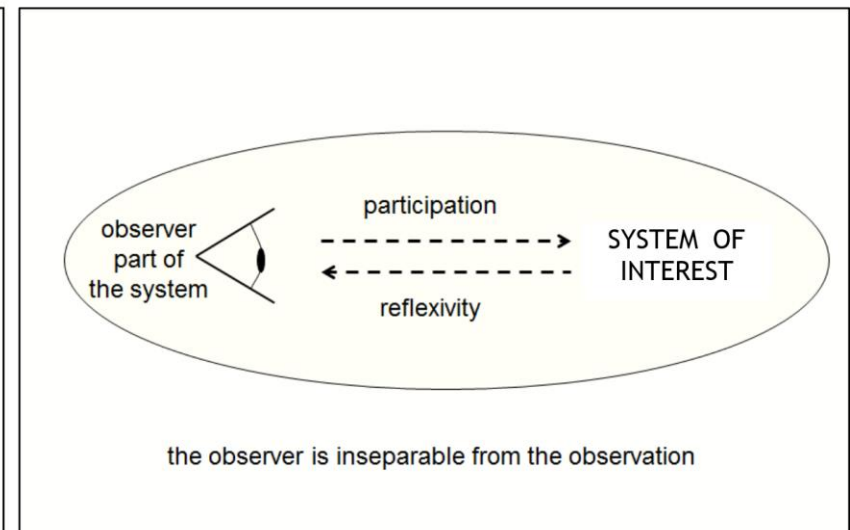


HISTORICAL PARADIGM → EMERGENT PARADIGM



OLD PARADIGM

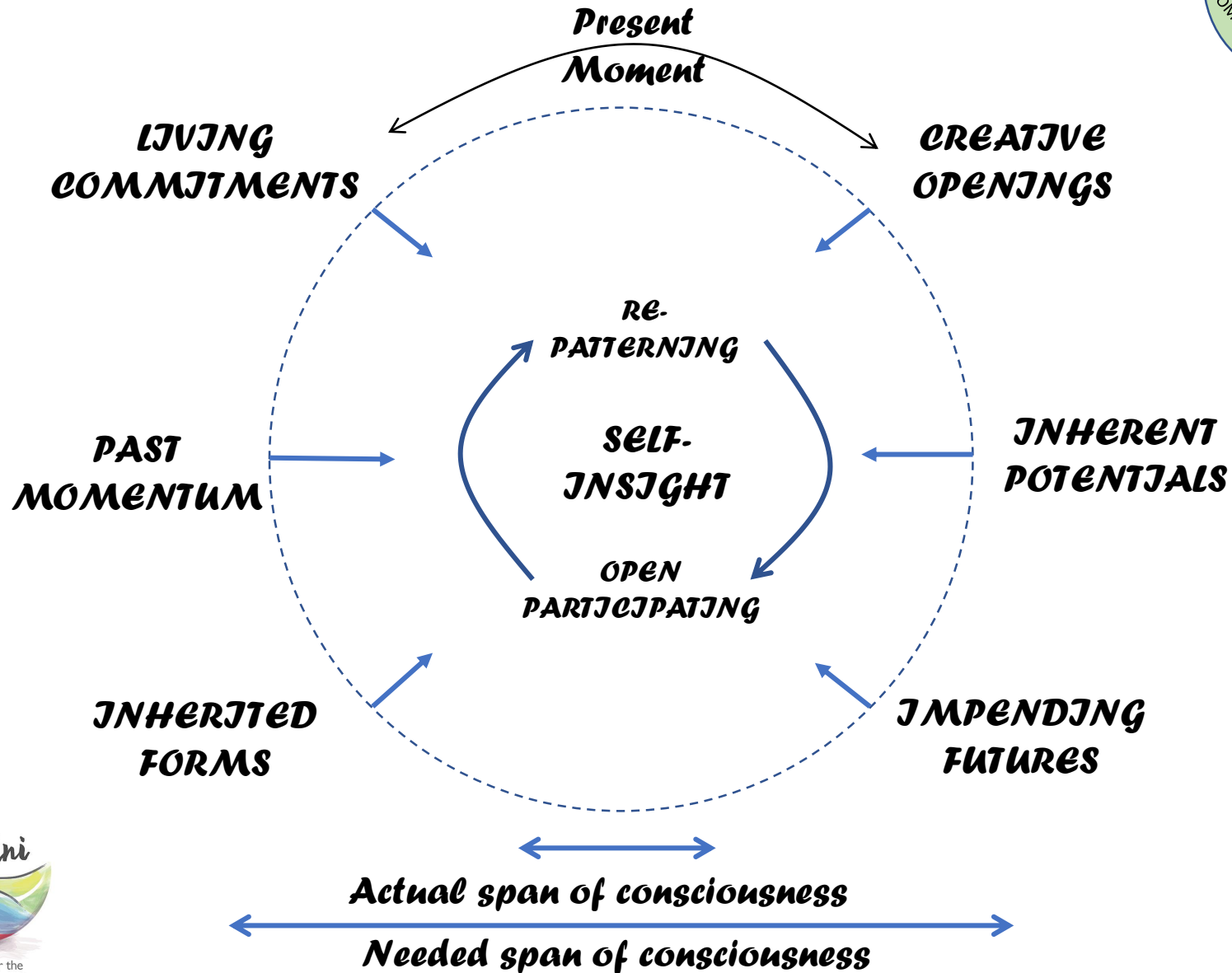
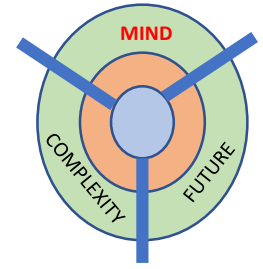
Data and knowledge are considered to be external fact; can separated and classified; is 'outside' the user of the knowledge; is second-hand.



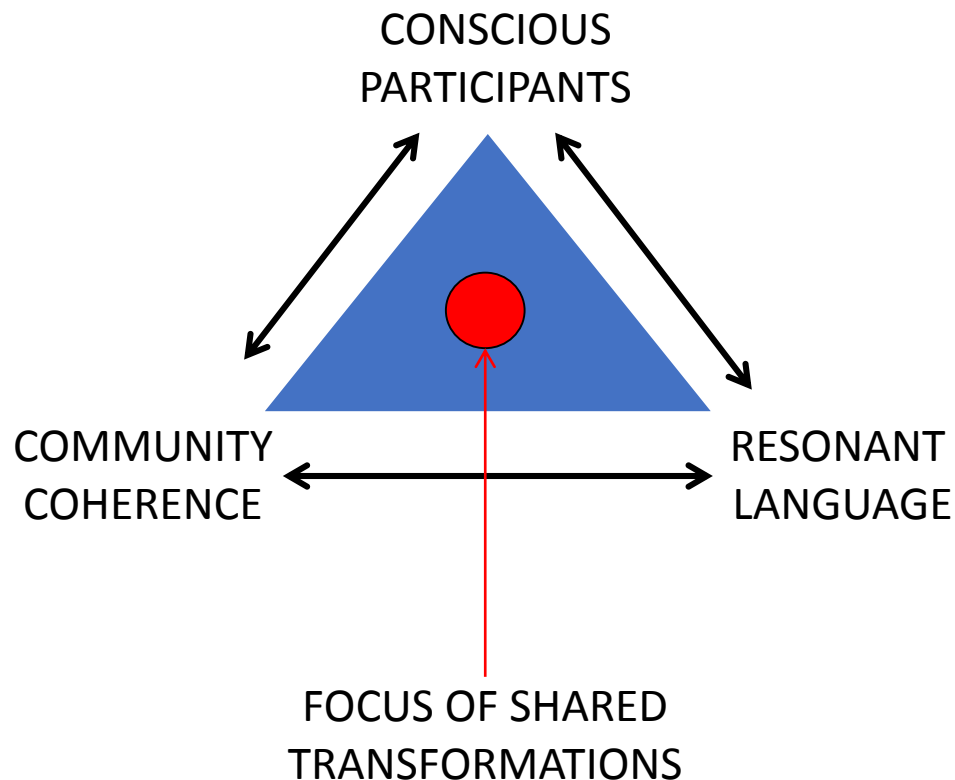
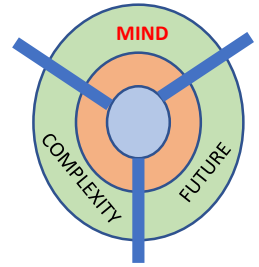
NEW PARADIGM

Knowledge is internalised to the experience of the user; the user participates in the field of knowledge; the understanding is first-hand

The Anticipatory Present Moment (APM)



Conditions for Conscious Participative Repatterning in the Present Moment

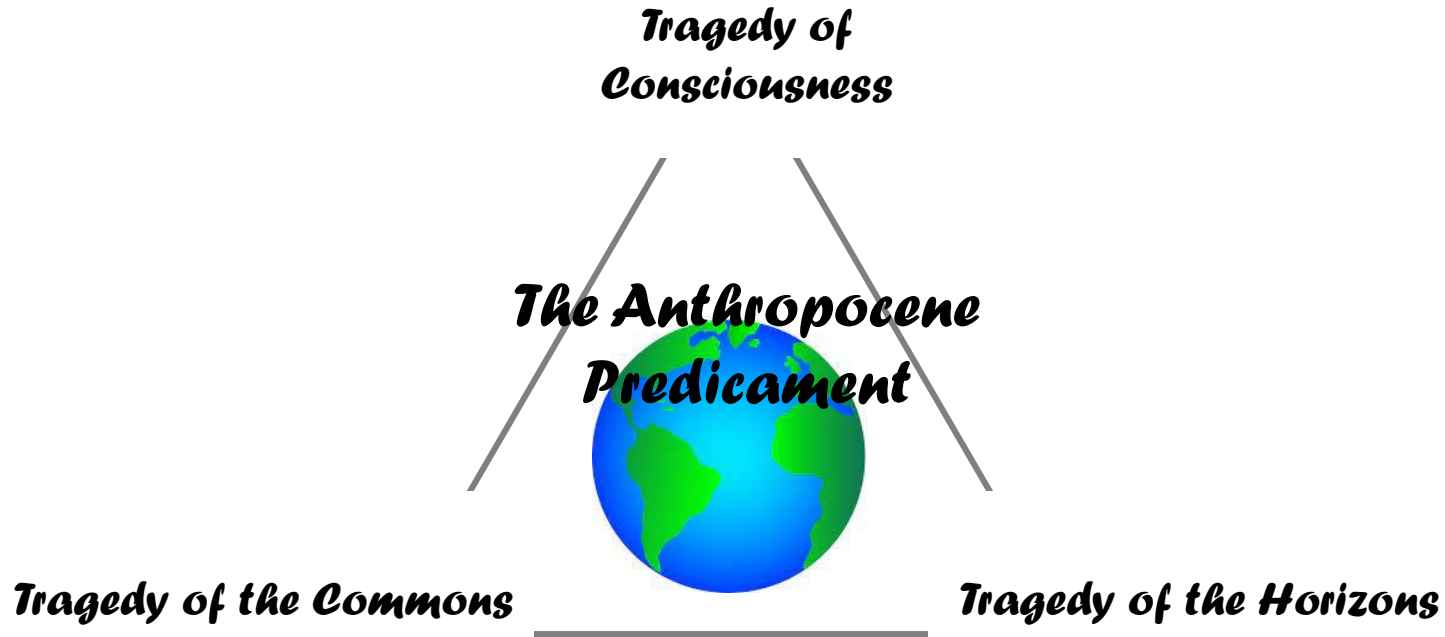


This requires three conditions to be established to effect the transformational change.

Like chicken, egg, rooster:

To have any one it is necessary to have all three.

Waking Up to the Anthropocene Predicament



Systems Thinking for a Turbulent World: A Search for New Perspectives



Look inside

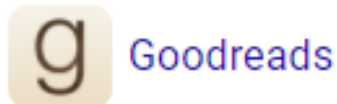
[Goodreads](#)

3.2/5 ★★★★★

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Systems Thinking for a Turbulent World will help practitioners in any field of change engage more effectively in transf... +



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