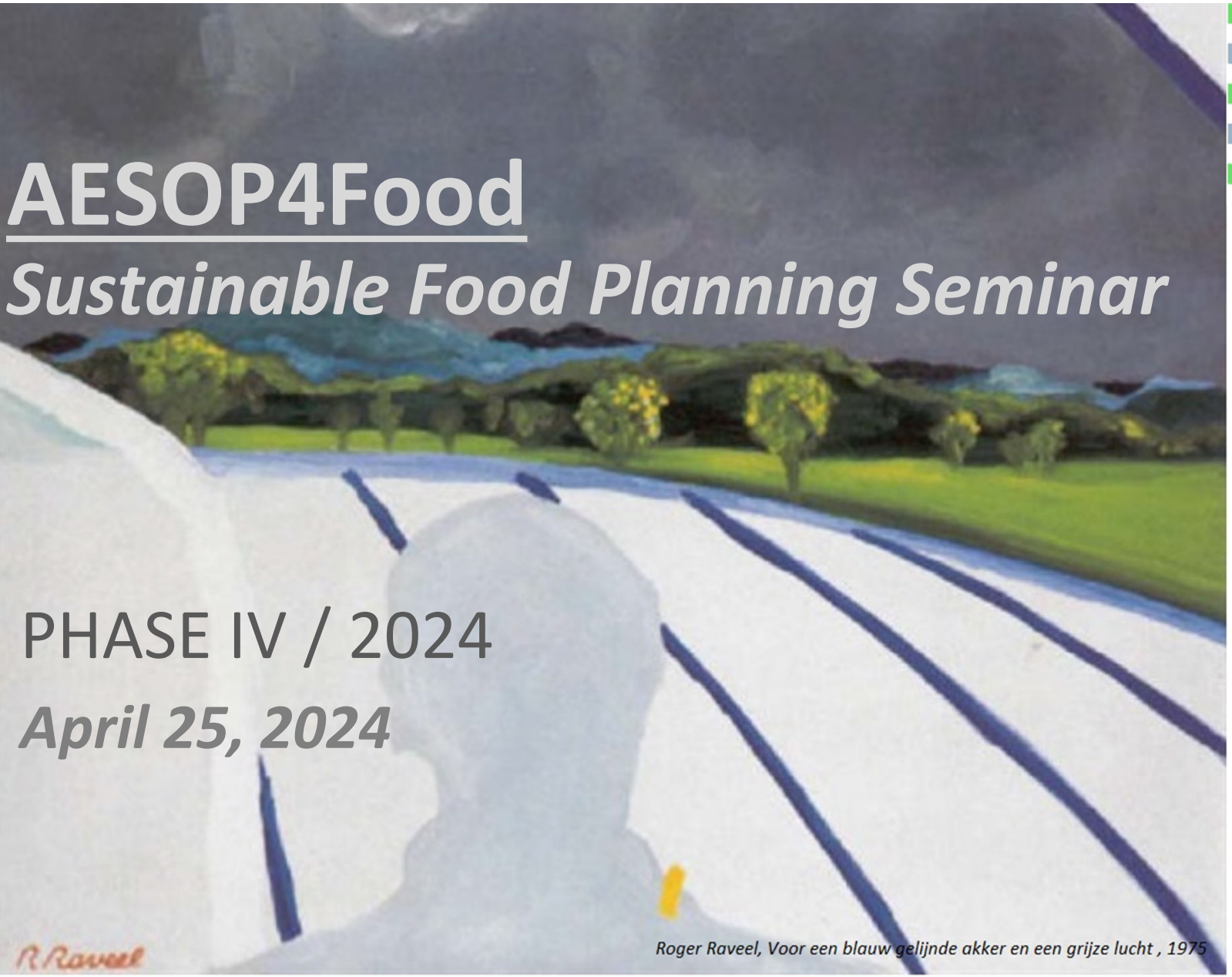

Roger Raveel, Voor een blauw gelijnde akker en een grijze lucht , 1975

AESOP4Food

Sustainable Food Planning Seminar

PHASE IV / 2024

April 25, 2024

AESOP4FOOD
Action for Education Spatial Organisation and Planning For Sustainable Food

This session will be recorded, so if you do not want to be seen you need to switch of your camera.

the interactive part and the Q&A will NOT be recorded.

AESOP4food Online Seminar 2024

AESOP4FOOD
Action for Education Spatial Organisation and Planning For Sustainable Food

COURSE SCHEDULE

February 29 - June 13, 2024 Thursday / 17:00 to 18:30 CET

INTENSIVE WORKSHOP Montpellie 5 – 12 July, 2024

Mainly for students from partners Universities

LE:NOTRE Institute
Linking landscape education, research and innovative practice

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Terres en villes

Erasmus+

Phase IV: Strategie

Session Thursday April 25th, 2024

Strategizing around change agency

Session Thursday May 16th, 2024

Prototyping in Food Planning

Recommended reading

Scoones et al. (2015) The politics of Green Transformation (Chapter 1). New York: Routledge

Wissmann, A et.al (2022) The Policy Environment for Sustainable City Region Food Systems

Extra reading

Mette Vaarst, Arthur Getz Escudero, M. Jahi Chappell, Catherine Brinkley, Ravic Nijbroek, Nilson A.M. Arraes, Lise Andreasen, Andreas Gattinger, Gustavo Fonseca De Almeida, Deborah Bossio & Niels Halberg (2018) Exploring the concept of agroecological food systems in a city-region context, Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems, 42:6, 686-711

Making sense of the proliferation of approaches

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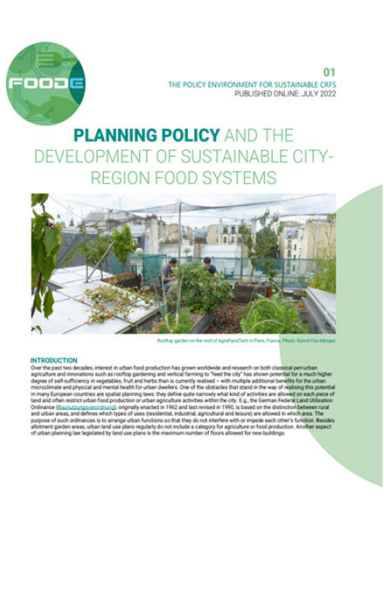
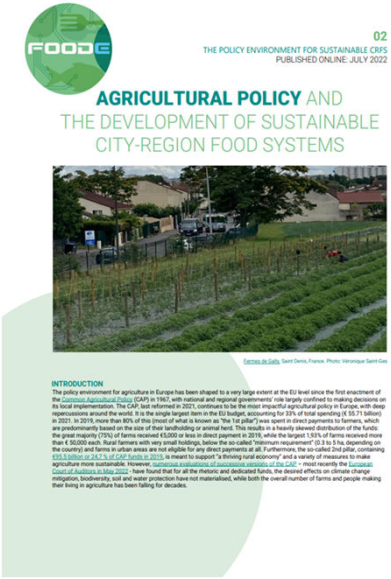
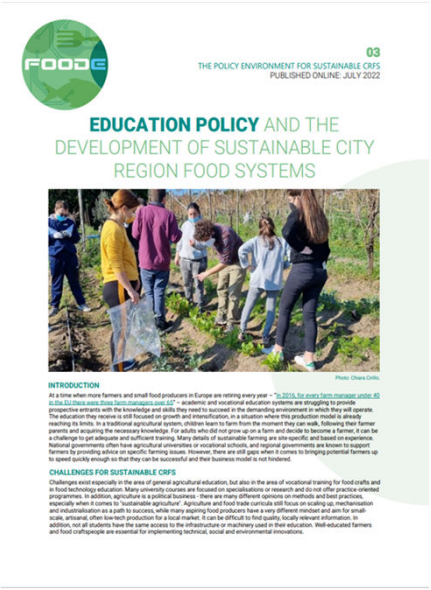
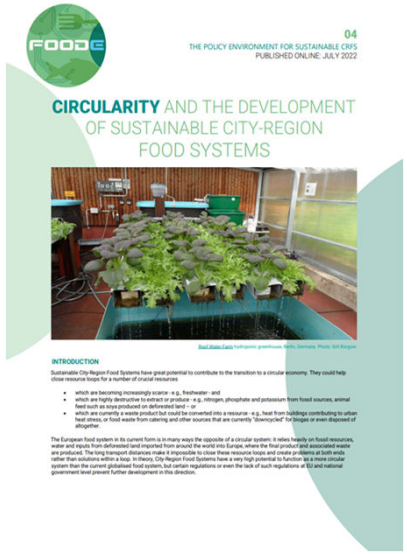
Making sense of the proliferation of approaches









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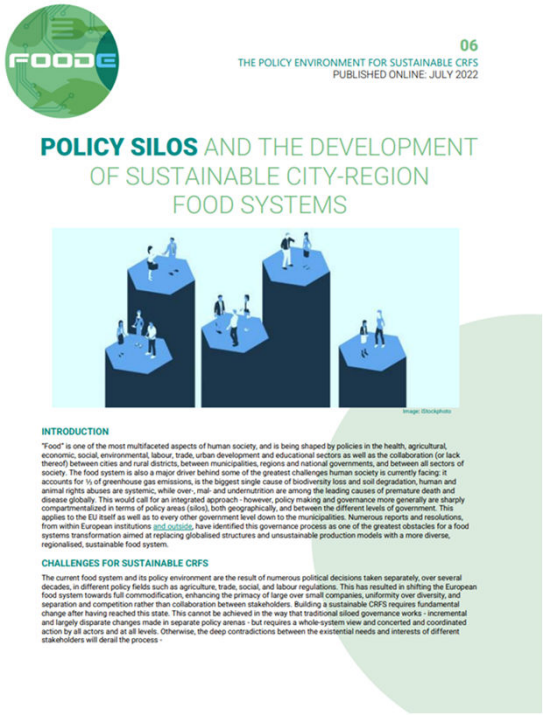


06
THE POLICY ENVIRONMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE CRFS
PUBLISHED ONLINE: JULY 2022

POLICY SILOS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE CITY-REGION FOOD SYSTEMS

Image: iStockphoto

INTRODUCTION

"Food" is one of the most multifaceted aspects of human society, and is being shaped by policies in the health, agricultural, economic, social, environmental, labour, trade, urban development and educational sectors as well as the collaboration (or lack thereof) between cities and rural districts, between municipalities, regions and national governments, and between all sectors of society. The food system is also a major driver behind some of the greatest challenges human society is currently facing: it accounts for ¼ of greenhouse gas emissions, is the biggest single cause of biodiversity loss and soil degradation, human and animal rights abuses are systemic, while over-, mal- and undernutrition are among the leading causes of premature death and disease globally. This would call for an integrated approach - however, policy making and governance more generally are sharply compartmentalized in terms of policy areas (silos), both geographically, and between the different levels of government. This applies to the EU itself as well as to every other government level down to the municipalities. Numerous reports and resolutions, from within European institutions and outside, have identified this governance process as one of the greatest obstacles for a food systems transformation aimed at replacing globalised structures and unsustainable production models with a more diverse, regionalised, sustainable food system.

CHALLENGES FOR SUSTAINABLE CRFS

The current food system and its policy environment are the result of numerous political decisions taken separately, over several decades, in different policy fields such as agriculture, trade, social, and labour regulations. This has resulted in shifting the European food system towards full commodification, enhancing the primacy of large over small companies, uniformity over diversity, and separation and competition rather than collaboration between stakeholders. Building a sustainable CRFS requires fundamental change after having reached this state. This cannot be achieved in the way that traditional siloed governance works - incremental and largely disparate changes made in separate policy arenas - but requires a whole-system view and concerted and coordinated action by all actors and at all levels. Otherwise, the deep contradictions between the existential needs and interests of different stakeholders will derail the process -

Navigating the policy field of food planning

- wicked problems - thinking uncertainty and disagreement
- policy navigation - a policy arrangement perspective
- strategizing: prototyping and scenario planning

City Region Food Systems perspective

holistic, diagnostically strong

blackboxes agency, focussed on the system as it functions today…

vs.

A living lab working on concrete experiments and actions grounded in concrete places

concrete, related to concrete actors, grounded

myopic, self referential, short term, isolated…

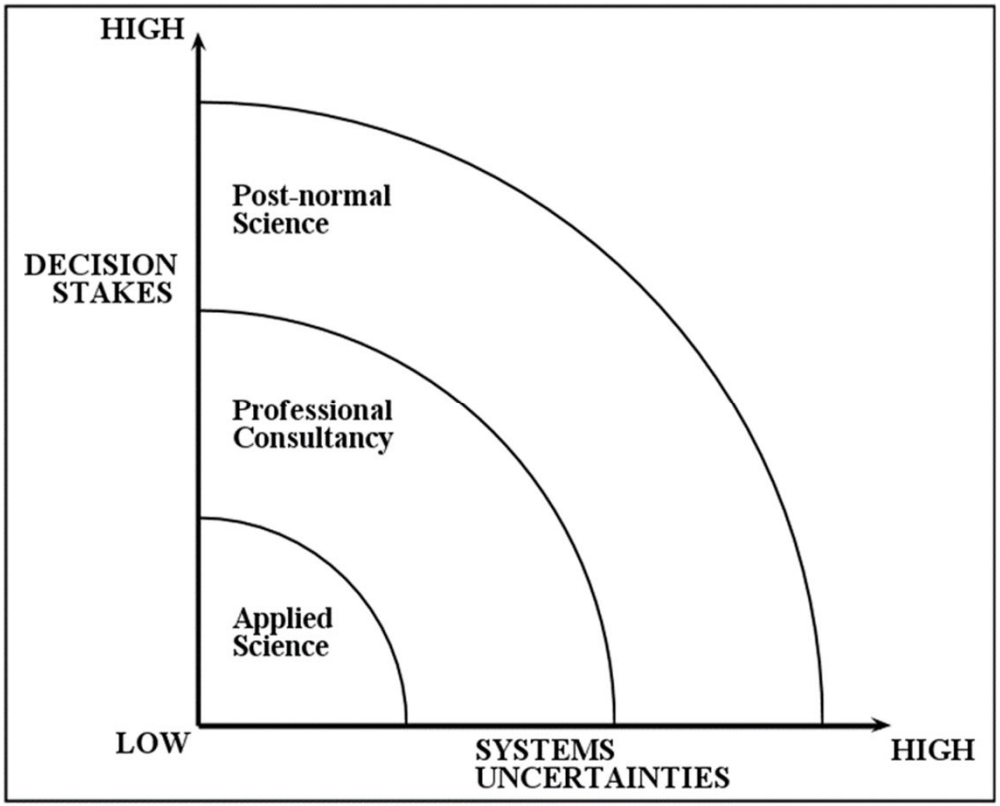
no linear connection between a systematic understanding and systems change

uncertainty: simultaneous uncertainty about facts and values

- thinking pathways and modalities of change
- thinking in terms of possibilities (scenario's)

Post-normal science?

High levels of uncertainty
High stakes



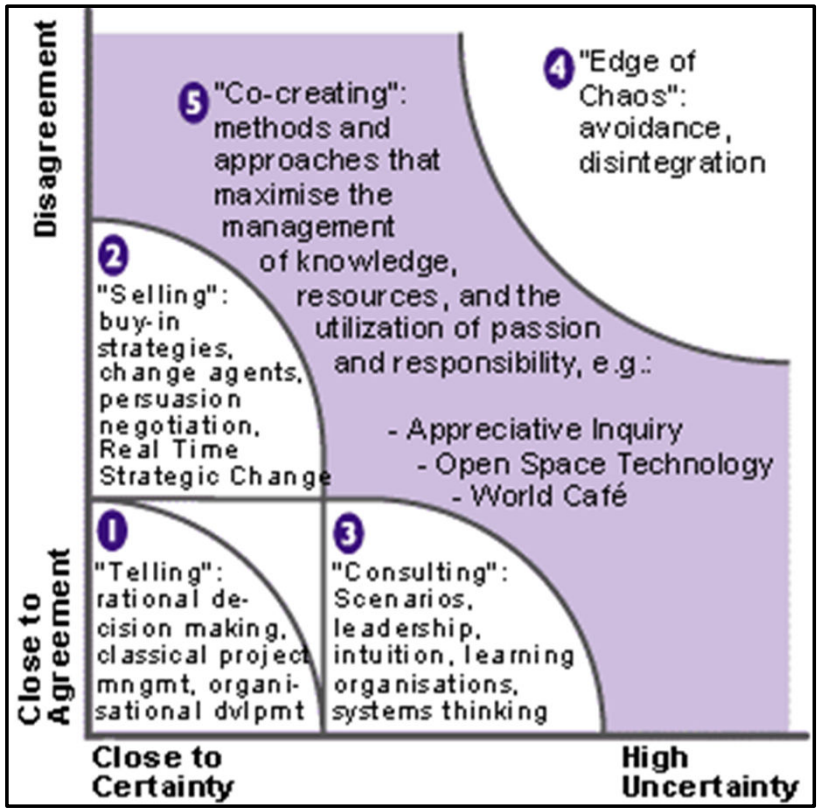
Funtowicz, S.O., Ravetz, J.R., 1993.

Post-normal science?

Uncertainty
(do we know the facts)

vs

Disagreements
(what values do we attach to these facts)



Ralph Stacey's Agreement & (un)Certainty Matrix

WICKED PROBLEMS / Staying with the problem

Rittel & Webber – Dilemmas in a General Theory of Planning, 1973

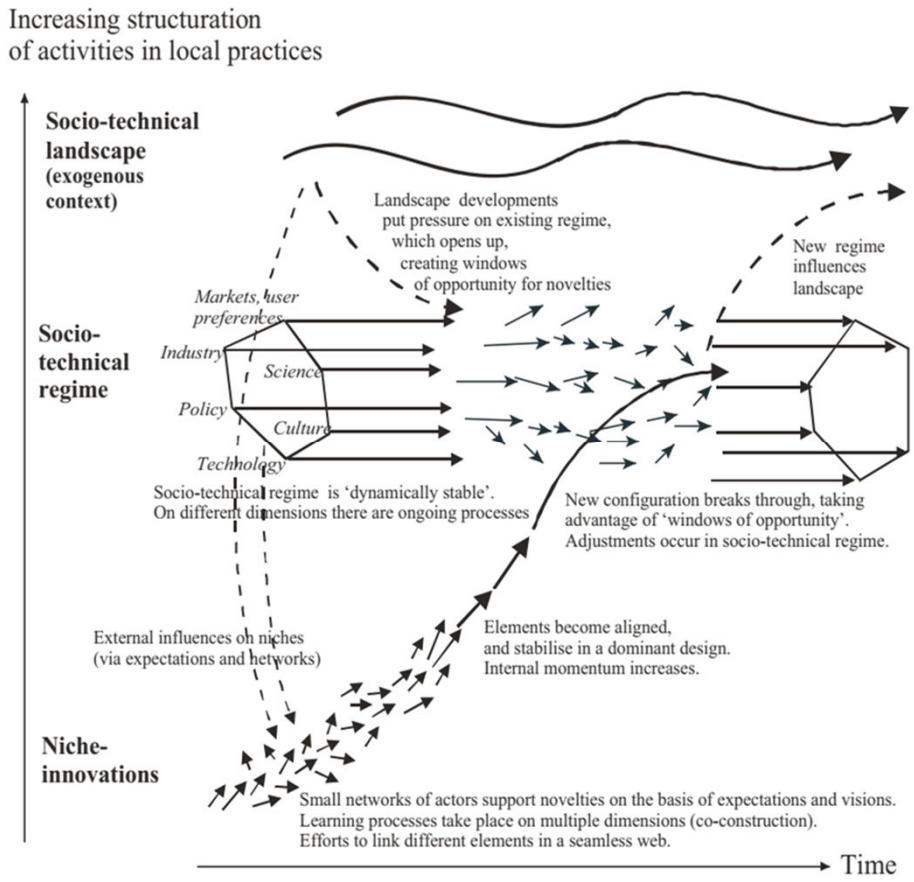
1. There is **no definitive formulation of a wicked problem**.
2. Wicked problems have no stopping rule.
3. Solutions to wicked problems are not true-or-false, **but better or worse**.
4. There is no immediate and no ultimate test of a solution to a wicked problem.
5. Every solution to a wicked problem is a "one-shot operation"; because there is no opportunity to learn by trial and error, every attempt counts significantly.
6. Wicked problems **do not have an enumerable (or an exhaustively describable) set of potential solutions**, nor is there a well-described set of permissible operations that may be incorporated into the plan.
7. Every wicked problem is essentially unique.
8. **Every wicked problem can be considered to be a symptom of another problem**.
9. The existence of a discrepancy representing a wicked problem can be explained in numerous ways. The choice of explanation determines the nature of the problem's resolution.
10. The social planner has **no right to be wrong** (i.e., planners are liable for the consequences of the actions they generate).

no linear connection between a systematic understanding and systems change

uncertainty: simultaneous uncertainty about facts and values

- thinking pathways and modalities of change
- thinking in terms of possibilities (scenario's)

Multi-level perspective on transitions



Source: F.W Geels, Environmental Innovation and Societal Transition 1 (2011) 24-40

Navigating the policy field of food planning

- wicked problems - thinking uncertainty and disagreement
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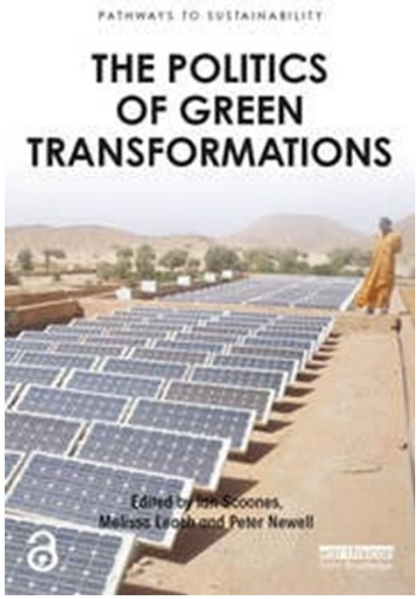


SCOONES et al.

There is growing acknowledgement of the multiple environmental stresses the world faces - from climate change, air and water pollution, and biodiversity loss to land use change, for example. There is growing consensus that these will prove deeply damaging to human well-being and futures unless they are addressed. [...]

But how these are to be tackled remains much disputed, and a clear vision of what green transformations are required, **for what and for whom** remains elusive. This is, of course, due to **political contention**. There is intense competition around framings of how to read and react to the observed trends: what diagnosis they allegedly provide of the origins of the crisis and the sources of the remedies. There is much at stake in the construction of **what drives unsustainability** (who is to blame for what) and of **what forces can be aligned to rebalance socionatures**.

TABLE 1.1 Narratives of green transformations: diagnoses and solutions

Narratives of green transformations/ diagnoses	*Solutions*
Technocentric	
Either about to or already exceed many planetary limits; urgency and crisis	Technologies as global public goods to tackle environmental crisis
Emphasis on population; Malthusian models of scarcity and conflict	Low-carbon transitions: new energy technologies
Highlighting the role of technology as magic bullets . . .	Including 'technical fixes', from geoengineering to genetically modified crops, but also bottom-up, grassroots innovation
. . . but also potentials of alternative technologies	Top-down governance arrangements in favour of 'the planet'
Marketized	
Crisis results from market failures, externalities	Technological entrepreneurs, green capitalists and consumers to lead
Primacy of (green) growth	Prices will reflect scarcity of resources and demand to protect them, and reward ecosystem service providers
Corporations as agents of change	Need to allocate and enforce property rights and use institutions to this end
	Economic investments and market incentives to achieve green growth and a green economy
State-led	
Need for state involvement in steering transformation and re-embedding markets	At the national level, need for a green state, adopting green Keynesian industrial policies of stimulus, infrastructural projects, creating green jobs
State-backed R&D and wider finance central to a 'developmental state'	At the international level, modifying and reforming existing institutions or creating new ones (World Environment Organisation)
Crisis of governance at national and global levels; importance of institutions, agreements, international architectures	Strengthening global architectures (Earth System Governance)
Citizen-led	
Change comes from below, cumulative actions of multiple, networked initiatives	Power from below, involving connected social movements (e.g. green consumers, green living/transition towns; food, water, energy-sovereignty movements)
Linking niches, experiments and demonstrations through movements	Radical system change required (e.g. arguments for eco-socialism, eco-feminism, Third World environmentalism, post-developmentalism)
Behaviour change, advocacy and demonstrating alternatives central: 'another world is possible'	Bio-communities; self-sufficiency; dematerialization; degrowth

illustrations in the context of food planning

Technocentric (diagnosis and therapy side)
often starting from non sustainable use of resources now…
technological fixes to the carbon footprint
potential to reduce land consumption through non land based forms of cultivation
top down introduction of new systems - i.e. biodigestion of green waste

Marketized
negative externalities / food is too cheap
price on packaging - price on waste…
regulation

State led
need for state intervention - missing infrastructure
pubic procurement - decommodified food supply
access to land - counter speculative measures

Citizen led
need for behavioral change and popular support
via campesina, slow food, eco-feminism
niche initiatives - alternative food networks, community supported agriculture
direct buying communities

Multiple transformations: strategies for change

Shaping and resisting structures:

the possibility to contribute to change is distributed unevenly within existing structures
e.g. existing investment in monocrop farming and highly commodified food supply chains
e.g. existing regulation on waste management preventing the use of organic (waste) streams for on farm composting

Reframing knowledge

Existing discursive structures place a limit on how we see and imagine problems and solutions, and how we define, know and frame futures (p. 22)
e.g. the focus on food miles (rather than food sovereignty)
e.g. the lack of knowledge regarding the role of living soils in farming

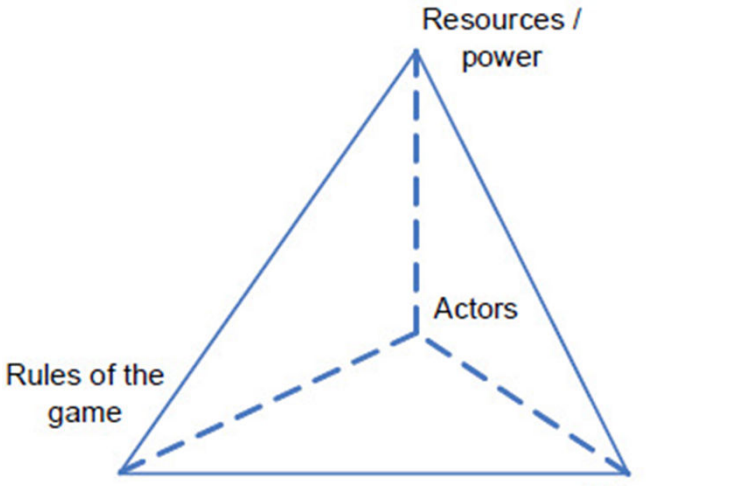
Realigning institutions and incentives

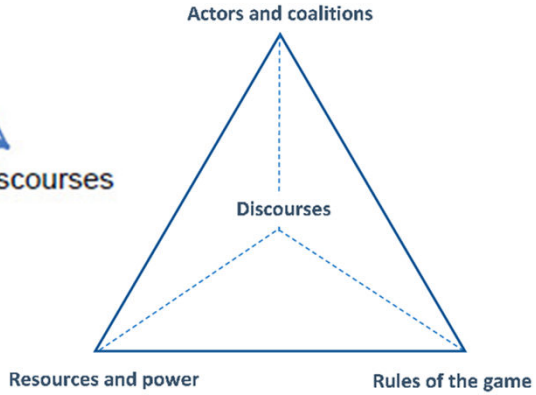
state is both necessary and institutionally poorly placed to contribute to emerging possibilities
e.g. framing (and dismissing) sound solutions as 'alternative'

Mobilizing and networking

the potential of place-based struggles to resonate and 'globalize' through transnational advocacy networks
e.g. via campesina, new municipalism…

policy arrangement perspective





Concept development by Van Tatenhove et al. (2000).

Roots in the field of environmental policy

a ‘meso level theory’ or ‘approach’ for analyzing and understanding change and stability in policy processes

approach to think about policy change

A policy arrangement is defined as “the temporary stabilization of the content and organization of a particular policy domain at a certain policy a level or over several policy levels” (Leroy and Arts 2006).

Multiple transformations: strategies for change

Shaping and resisting structures:

power

the possibility to contribute to change is distributed unevenly within existing structures
e.g. existing investment in monocrop farming and highly commodified food supply chains
e.g. existing regulation on waste management preventing the use of organic (waste) streams for on farm composting

Reframing knowledge

discourse

Existing discursive structures place a limit on how we see and imagine problems and solutions, and how we define, know and frame futures (p. 22)
e.g. the focus on food miles (rather than food sovereignty)
e.g. the lack of knowledge regarding the role of living soils in farming

Realigning institutions and incentives

rules

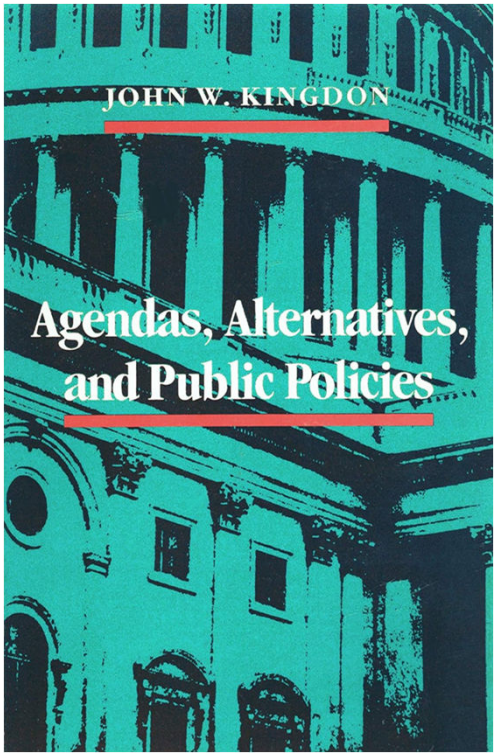
state is both necessary and institutionally poorly placed to contribute to emerging possibilities
e.g. framing (and dismissing) sound solutions as 'alternative'

Mobilizing and networking

actors

the potential of place-based struggles to resonate and 'globalize' through transnational advocacy networks
e.g. via campesina, new municipalism…

policy entrepreneurship and policy windows



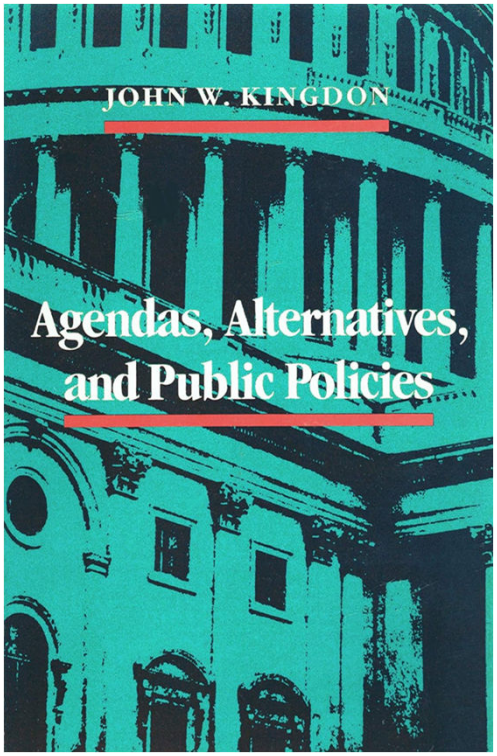
Convergence of:

driving problems

emerging solutions

political will

policy entrepreneurship and policy windows



Policy Window opens when there is convergence of problems, solutions and political will

Policy Entrepreneurs are individuals who exploit opportunities to influence policy outcomes so as to promote their own goals, without having the resources necessary to achieve this alone. They are not satisfied with merely promoting their self-interests within institutions that others have established; rather, they try to create new horizons of opportunity through innovative ideas and strategies. (wikipedia)

Navigating the policy field of food planning

- wicked problems - thinking uncertainty and disagreement
- policy navigation - a policy arrangement perspective
- strategizing: prototyping and scenario planning

prototyping - next session May 16, 2024

- problem solution combinations!
- exploring ‘possibilities’
- mapping conditions in which prototypical action could unfold / could be systematically pursued

May 16th, 17h00

Bram Vandemoortel

Architecture Workroom Brussels
Open Space Platform

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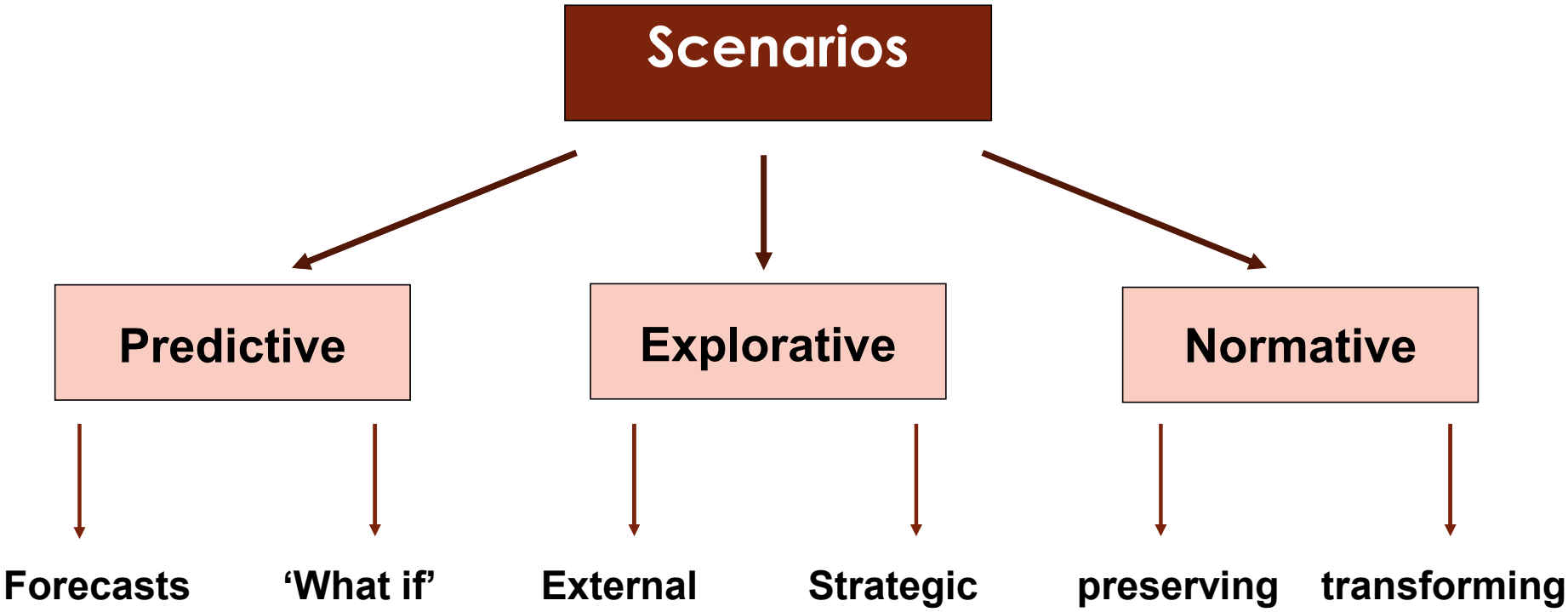
explorative scenario's

- What & Why?
- typical steps
- Exercise

what will happen? what can happen? what should happen?



After: Dreborg, K. H. (2004). Scenarios and Structural Uncertainty. Department of Infrastructure. Stockholm, Sweden, Royal Institute of Technology.

Today 2024

+26 years = future exploration 2050

- 26 years = end of the ‘90s

speed of change factor 2 à 3 → +/- **‘60s**

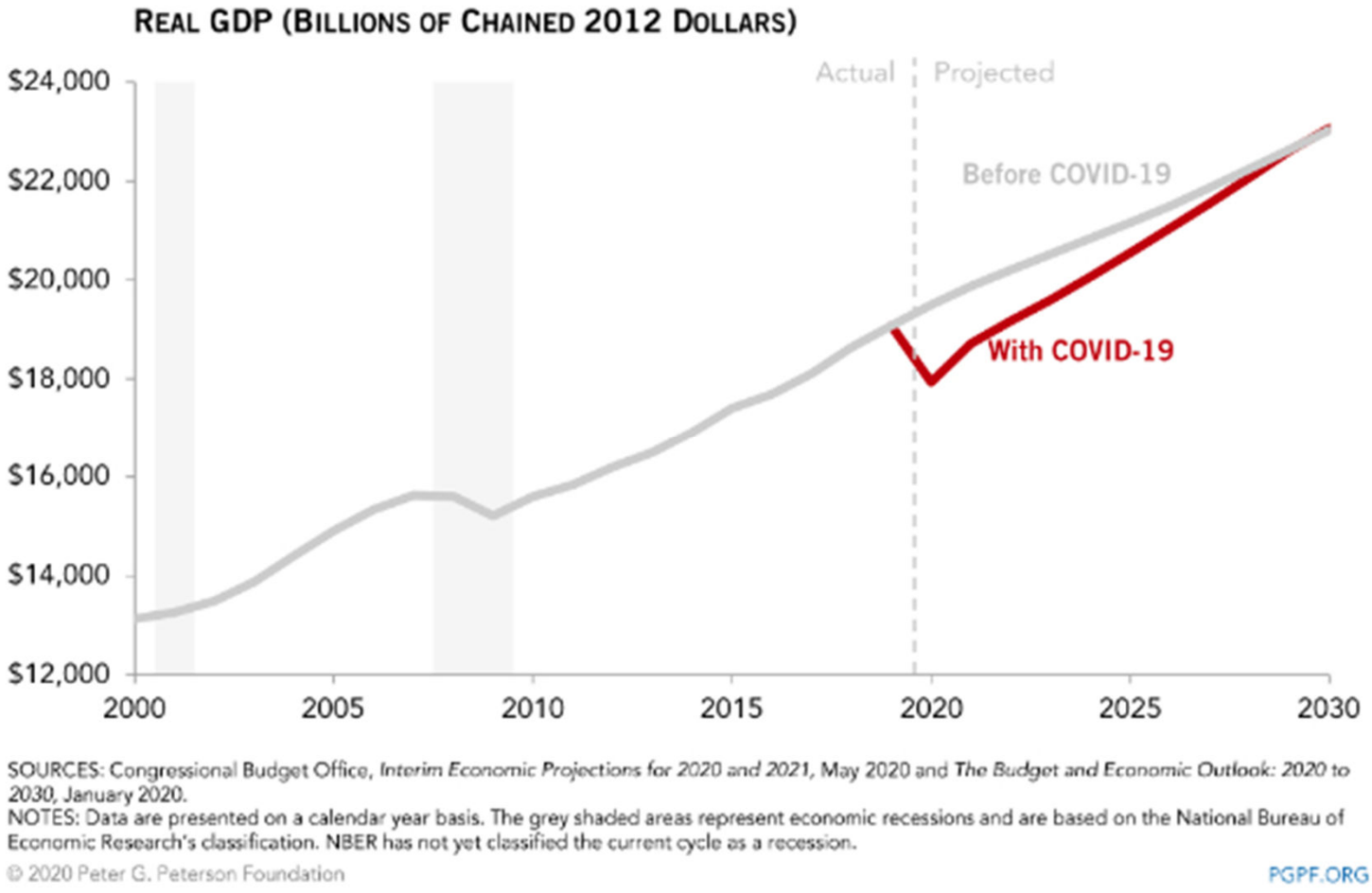
Then

The world potential market for copying machines is 5000 at most
(IBM to founders of Xerox)

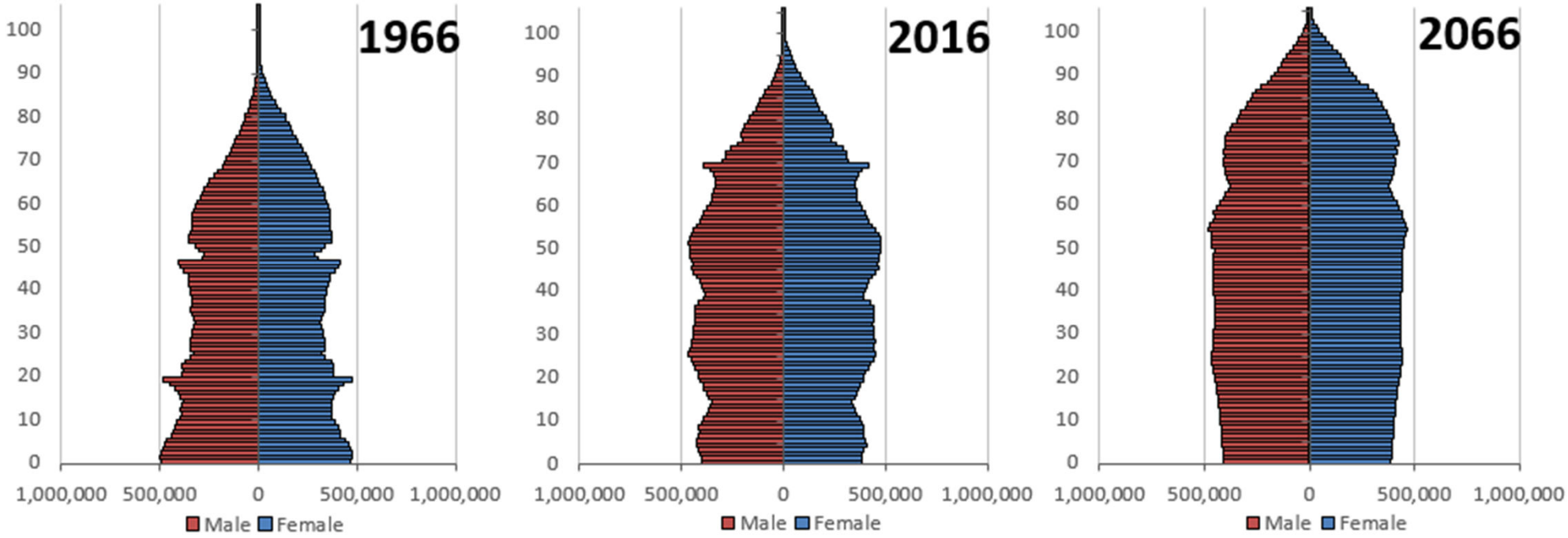
There is practically no chance communications
space satellites will be used to provide better telephone, telegraph, television, or radio service *(T. Craven, FCC Commission)*

Now

not about modelling and complex predicitons



not focused on 'certainties'



Population projections UK, Office for National Statistics

Not about ‘desirable’ futures

explorative scenario's

- also referred to as 'foresight' exercises
- focussed on long term (25 years and more)
- usually based on 'qualitative data'
- sets of scenarios: multiple possible futures
- thinking in possibilities (rather than certainties) - post normal science
- linking (long term) reflection on possible futures to possible (present) actions (via backcasting)

presenting possible futures (rather than predicting futures)

WHAT ARE SHELL SCENARIOS?

Shell has been developing possible visions of the future since the early 1970s, helping generations of Shell leaders, academics, governments and businesses to explore ways forward and make better decisions. Shell Scenarios ask “what if?” questions, encouraging leaders to consider events that may only be remote possibilities and stretch their thinking.

<u>Why</u> explorative scenario's

-fostering strategic discussions in light of long term evolutions

-strengthening the learning capacity of organizations and their ability to cope with unexpected changes

-detecting opportunities - avoiding unwanted evolutions

-policy integration (thinking multiple questions at the same time)

STEP 1 - SCOPING

- Which question to explore. (i.e. which policy objective - exploring futures against the backdrop of which these policy objectives may have to be realized).

- Establish the time horizon (i.e. 2050)

RESULT: a clear and shared objective for all actors involved in the exercise

(Step 1 could follow the methodology of collaborative goal setting)

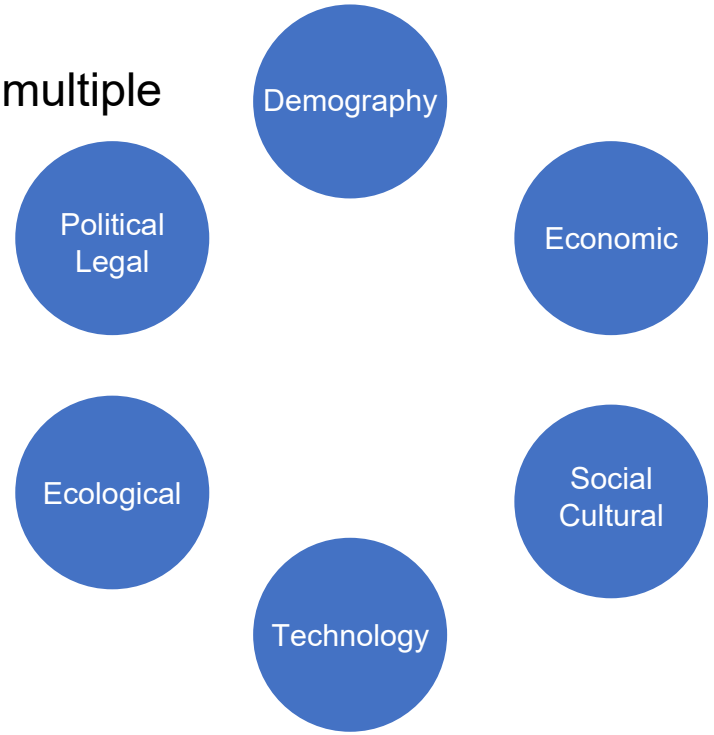
STEP 2 - DRIVING FACTORS

- Identifying driving factors that may determine the future of the question you are exploring

RESULT: list of factors that may have an impact (divided over multiple clusters)

examples:

increase or decrease of food prices
increase or decrease of transportation costs
increase or decrease of vegetarianism
high or low climate scenario
slow or rapid biodiversity decline
high or low virtual life
…



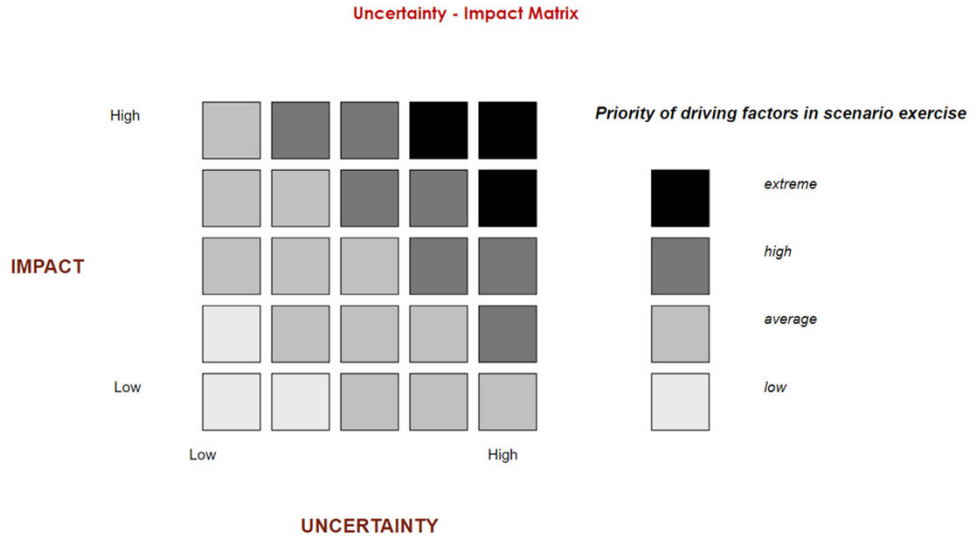
D.E.S.T.E.P. (as a guide)

STEP 3 - ASSESSING UNCERTAINTY AND IMPACT OF DRIVING FACTORS

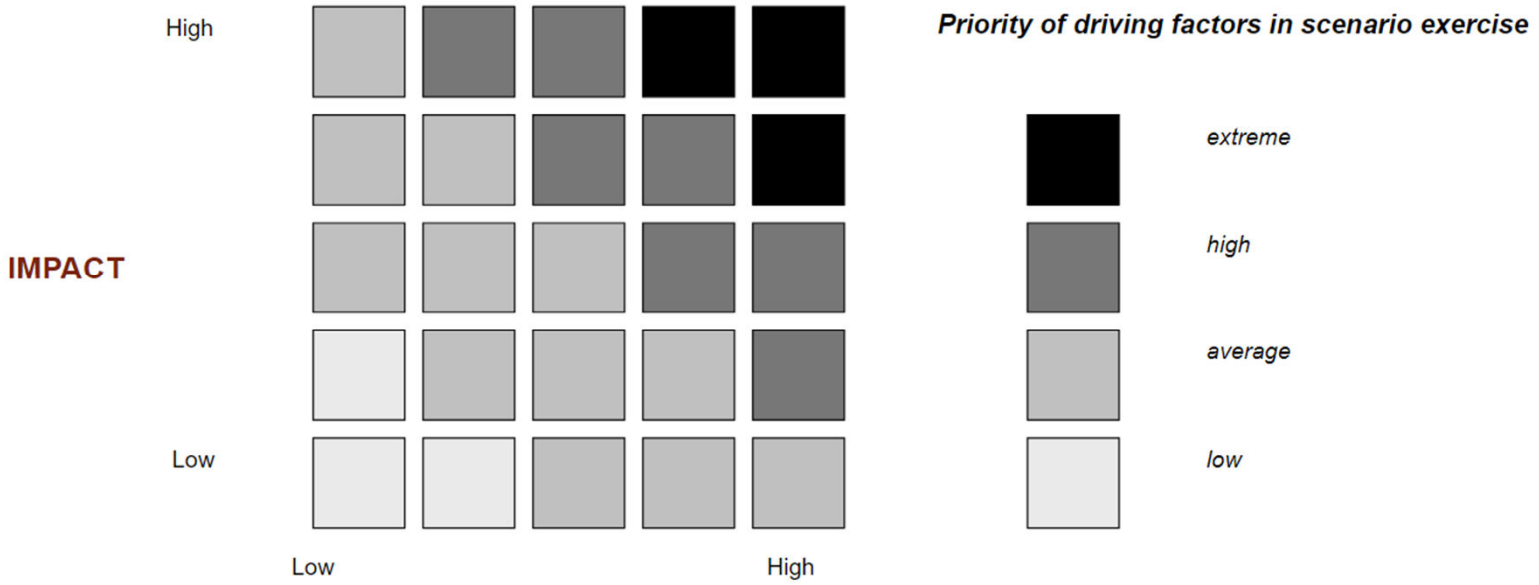
- scoring both the uncertainty (high-low) and impact (high-low) of driving factors

GOALL: identifying factors with high uncertainty and high impact!

Eg. Aging population: low uncertainty & high impact
Eg. Migration: high uncertainty & high impact
…



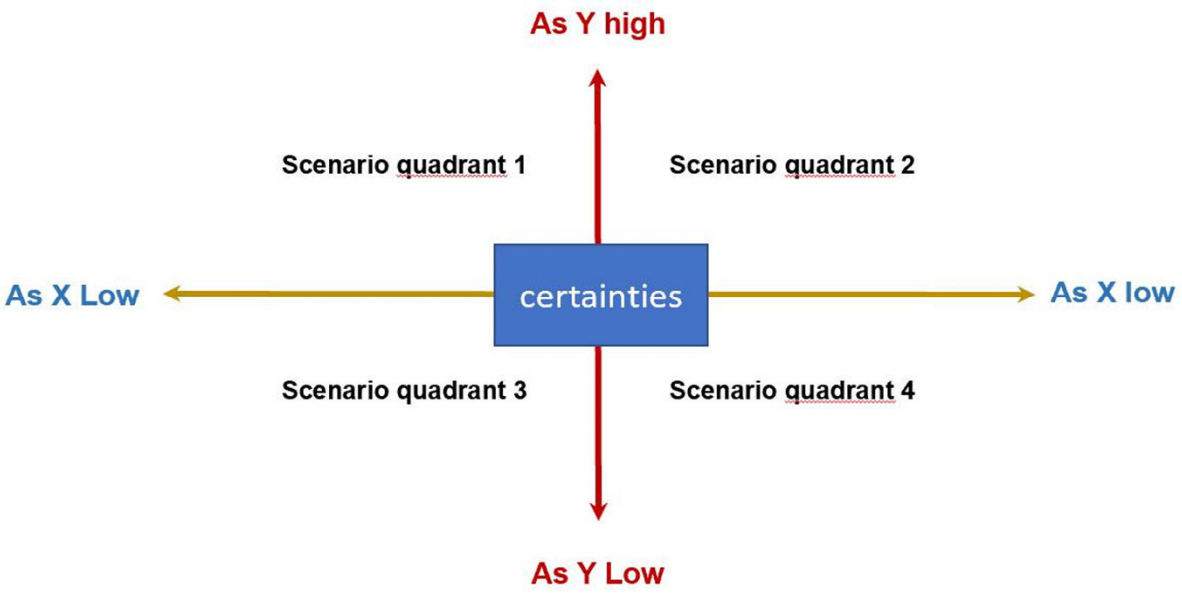
Uncertainty - Impact Matrix



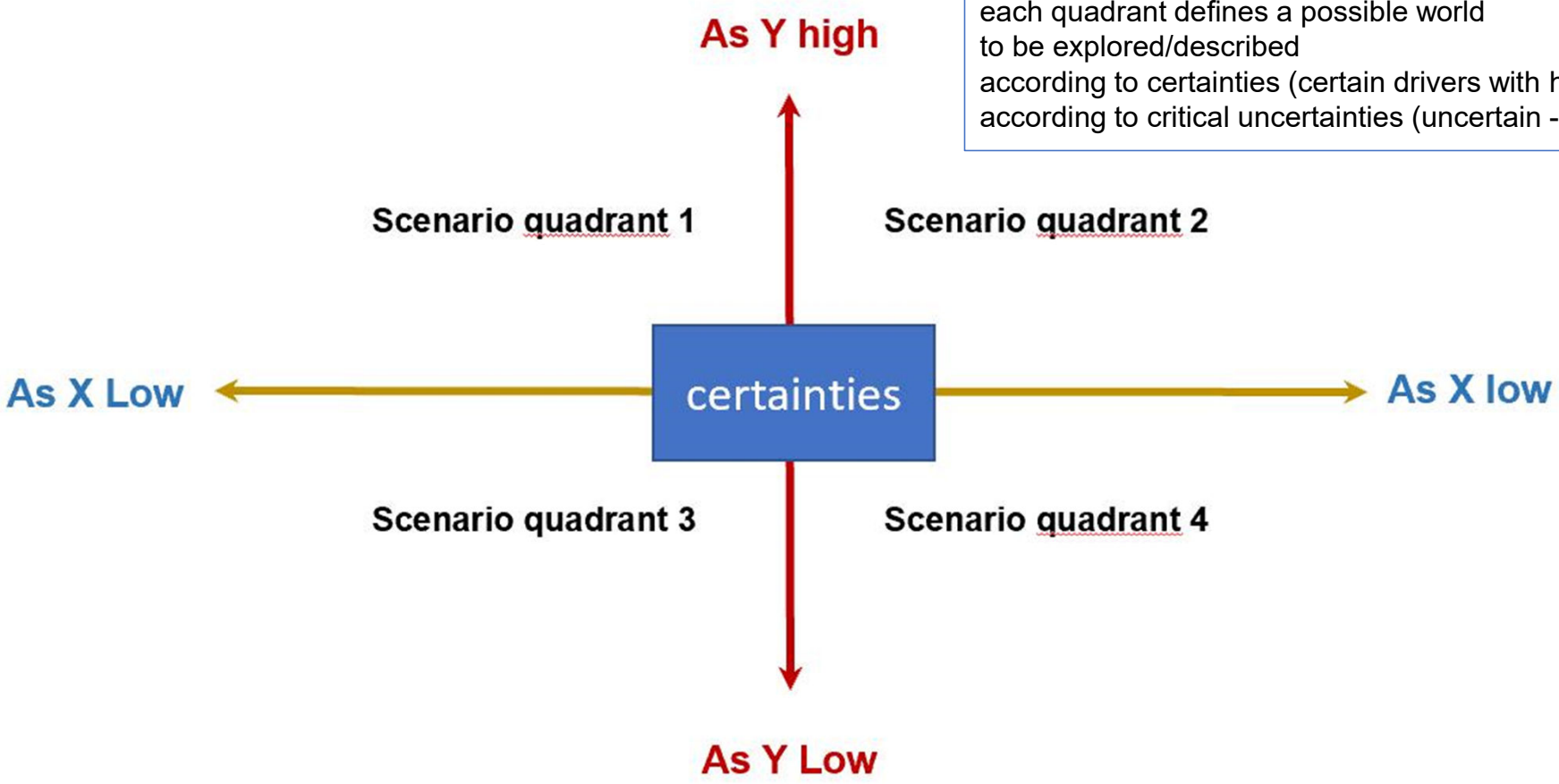
STEP 4 - SCENARIO BUILDING

- Collaborative definition of possible scenarios (possible worlds)

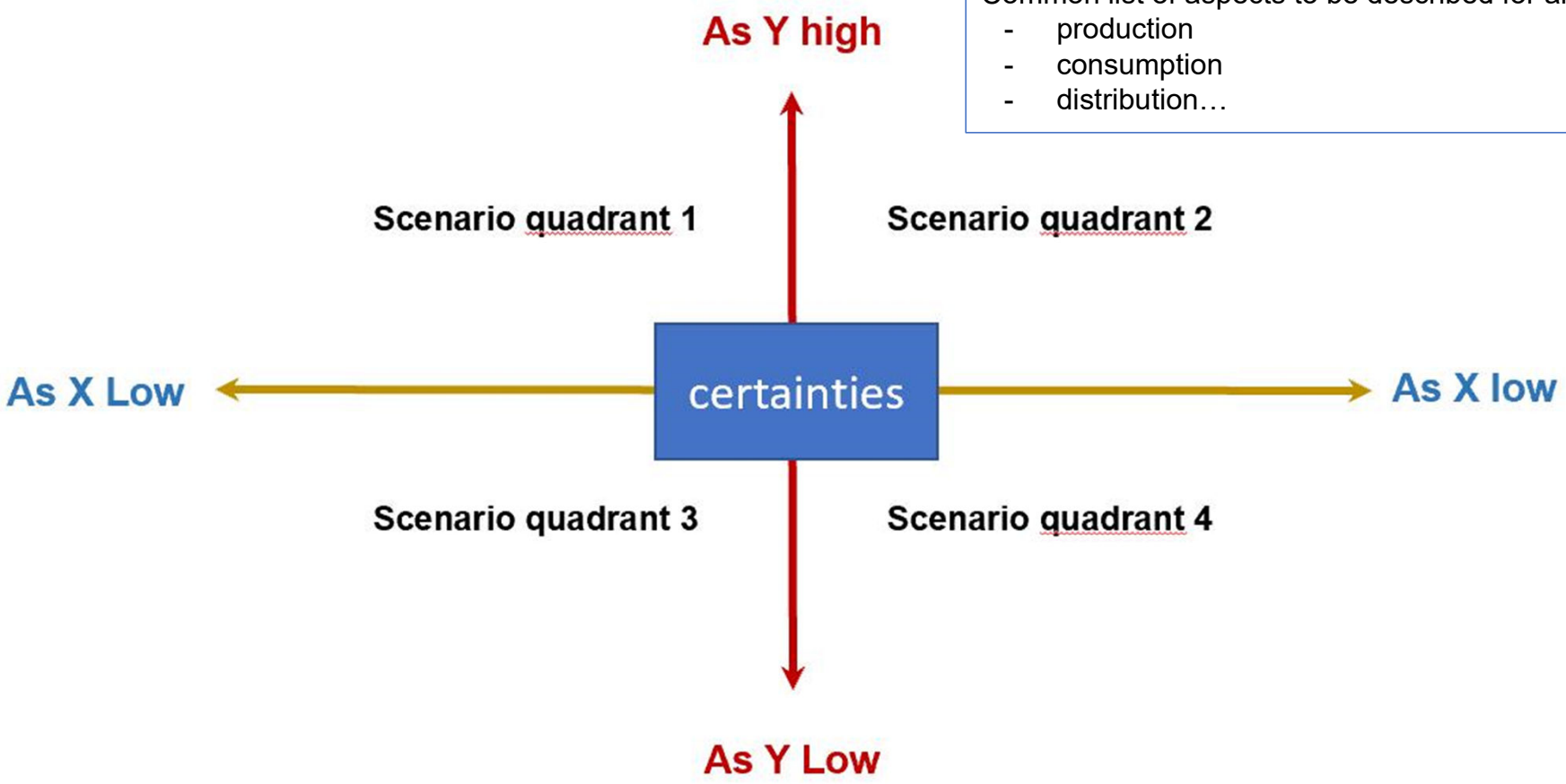
…



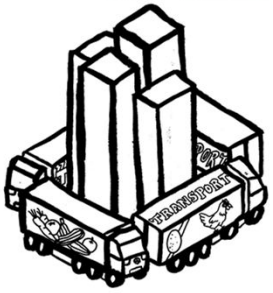
each quadrant defines a possible world
to be explored/described
according to certainties (certain drivers with high impact)
according to critical uncertainties (uncertain - high impact)



Common list of aspects to be described for all quadrants
- production
- consumption
- distribution…



STADS ACADEMIE



ENERGY CHEAP AND ABUNDANT

FOODTOPIA

GATED COMMUNITIES

HIGH POLARISATION

Extreme Climate Crisis
IT Technology
Urban Growth
Superdiveristy

LOW POLARISATION

ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

CLASS-DIVIDED SOCIETY

ENERGY EXPENSIVE AND SCARES

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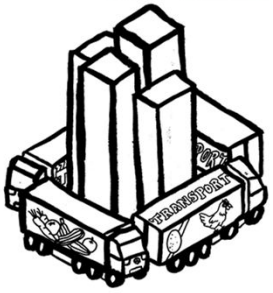

FOOD SECURITY HIGH

UTOPIA?

NETWERK WOLRD

INDIVIDUALISATION LOW

Climate Change
IT Technology
Smaller Families

INDVIDUALISATION HIGH

STRONG TOGETHER

EATING TO STAY ALIVE

FOOD SECURITY LOW

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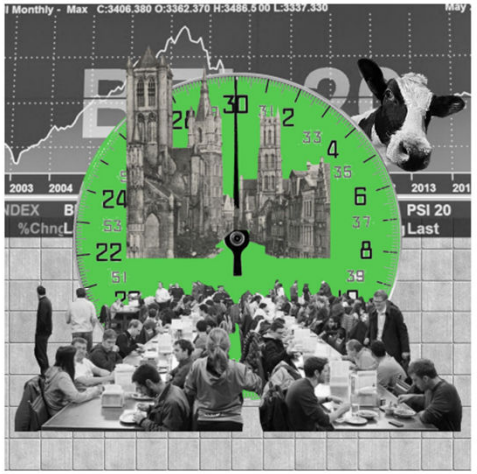
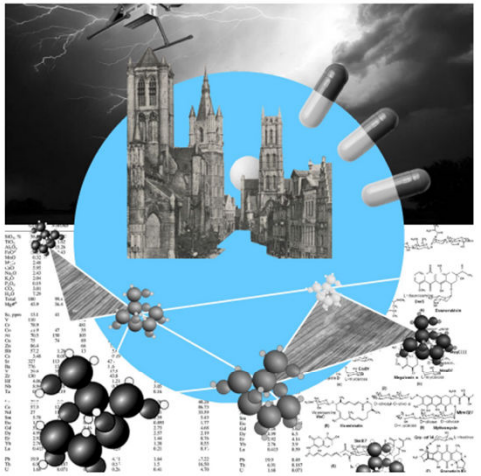
RED DE MUNICIPIOS POR LA AGROECOLOGÍA

pracownia dóbr wspólnych

Terres en villes

STADS ACADEMIE





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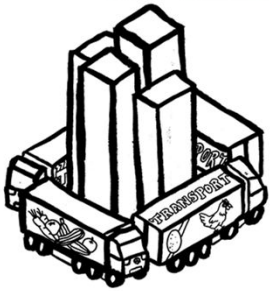

SEGREGATED FARMING

HYPERMARKET SOCIETY

BIG MOTHER™

NO_AMAZON TYPE PLAYERS IN THE FOOD SECTOR

Climate Change
Biodiversity Loss

AMAZON TYPE DISTRIBUTION

THE CITY IS A FARM

ECOTECHNOCRACY

NATURE INCLUSIVE FARMING

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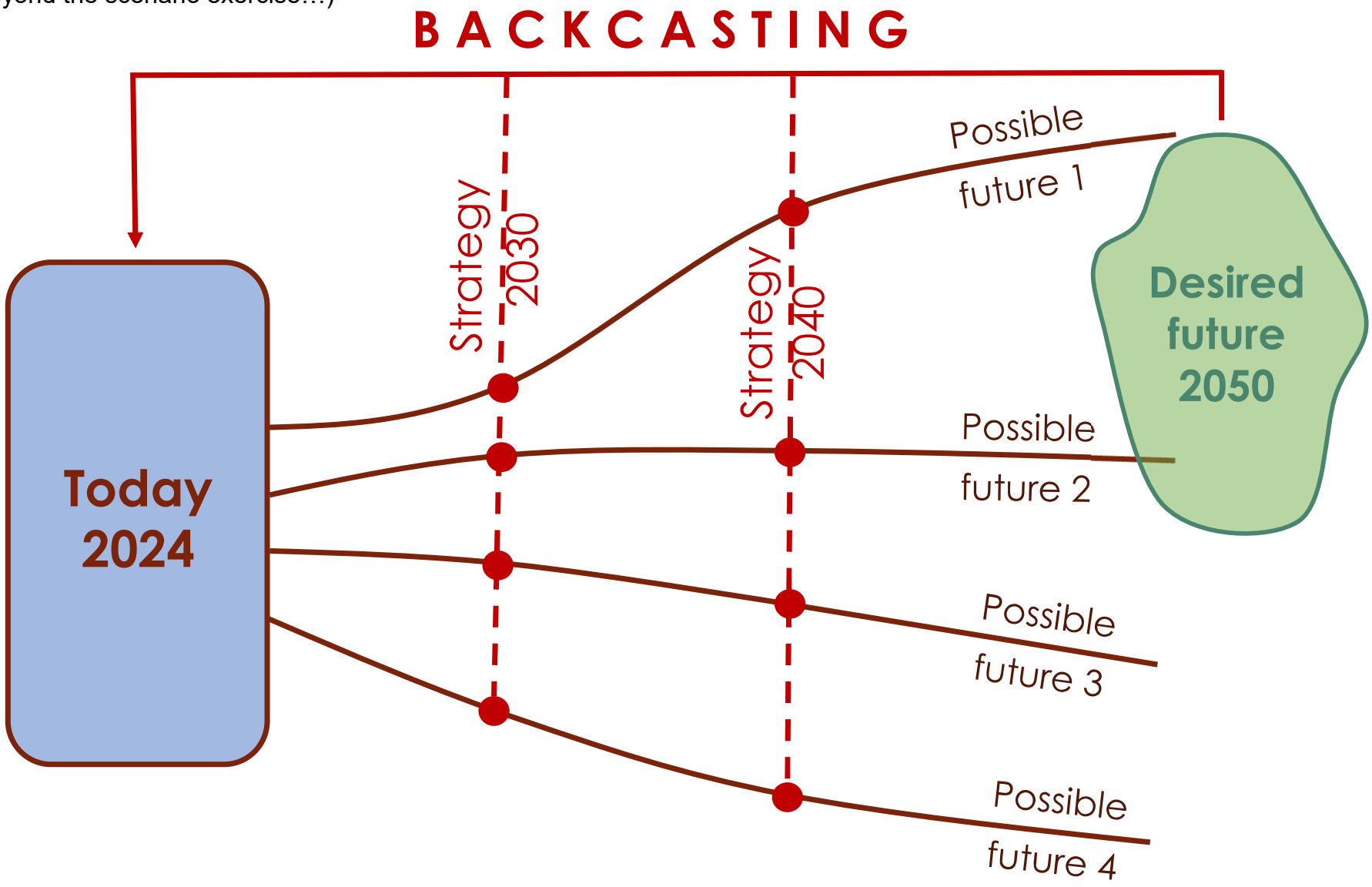
(STEP 5 - beyond the scenario exercise…)



SOME REFLECTIONS

- method gives a guide and is relatively easy to execute

- method requires a lot of (normative) choices

- the reflection and discussion it provokes is as valuable as is the result

- composition of the group involved in the exercise is key

EXERCISE: High Uncertainty + High Impact

Demography	Economy	Social / Cultural	Technology	Ecology	Political-Legal
socio-economic diversity of population	Affordable housing	Multicultural interaction (high - low)	Live Online	Climate change (high or low)	Strong urban food policy (or not)
age pyramid	Access to land	Obesity	Logistical Efficiency	Biodiversity	Common Agriculture Policy
urban growth (or flight)	Economic status	Self sufficiency	Food Tech (GMO)	Soil(fertility)	Green taxing
Migration	Food prices	Food Alienation	Precision farming	Agroecology	Strong local government (or not)
	Employment rates	Nature-Culture divide	supermarkets (dominant or not)		

prototyping – next session May 16, 2024

- problem solution combinations!
- exploring ‘possibilities’
- mapping conditions in which prototypical action could unfold / could be systematically pursued

May 16th, 17h00

Bram Vandemoortel

Architecture Workroom Brussels
Open Space Platform

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