



Adaptation as Transformation:

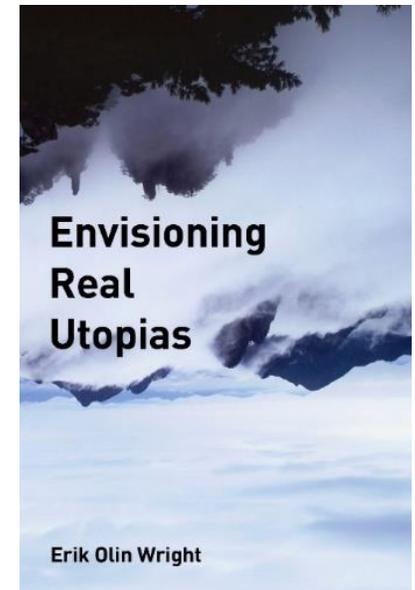
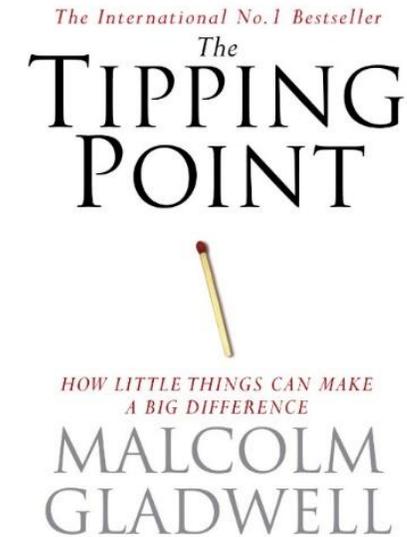
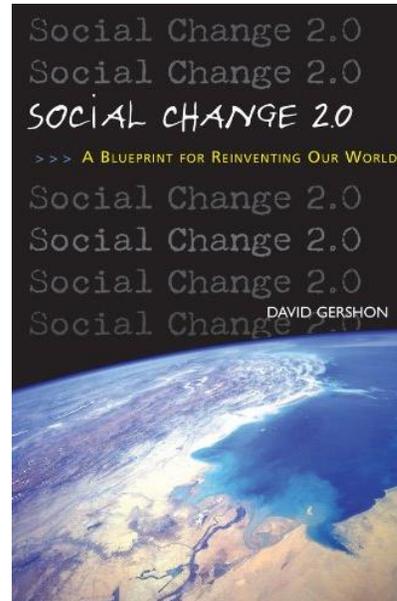
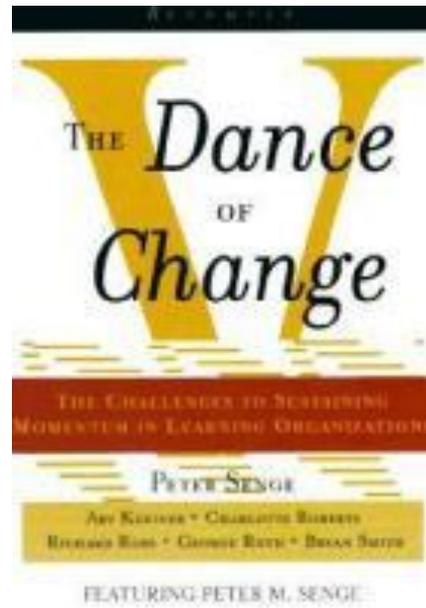
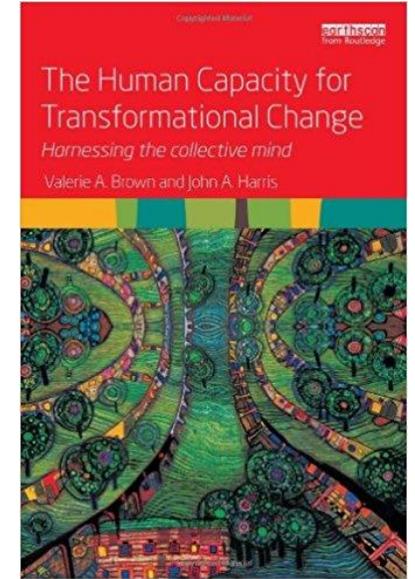
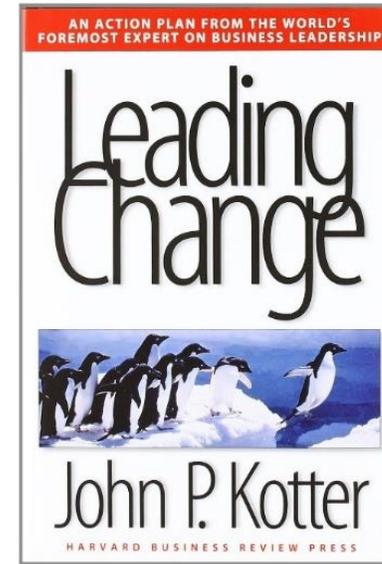
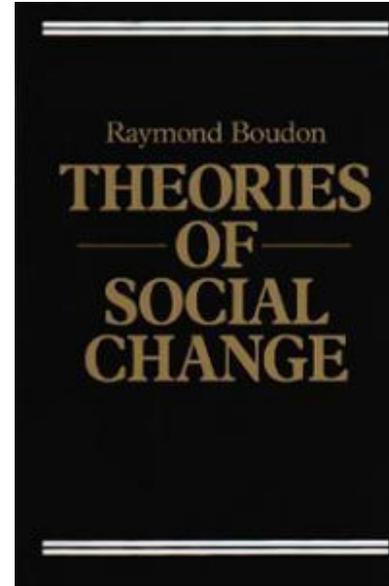
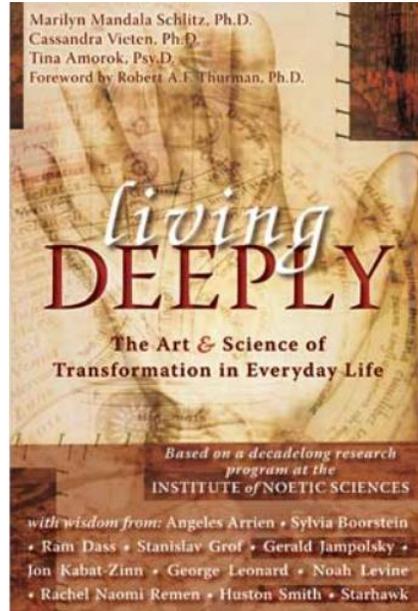
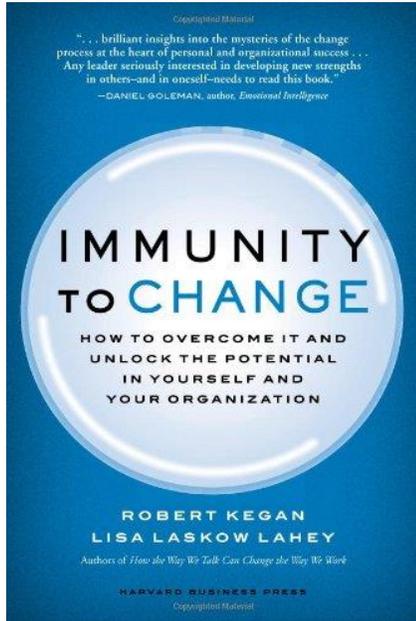
How do we make it happen?

Karen O'Brien

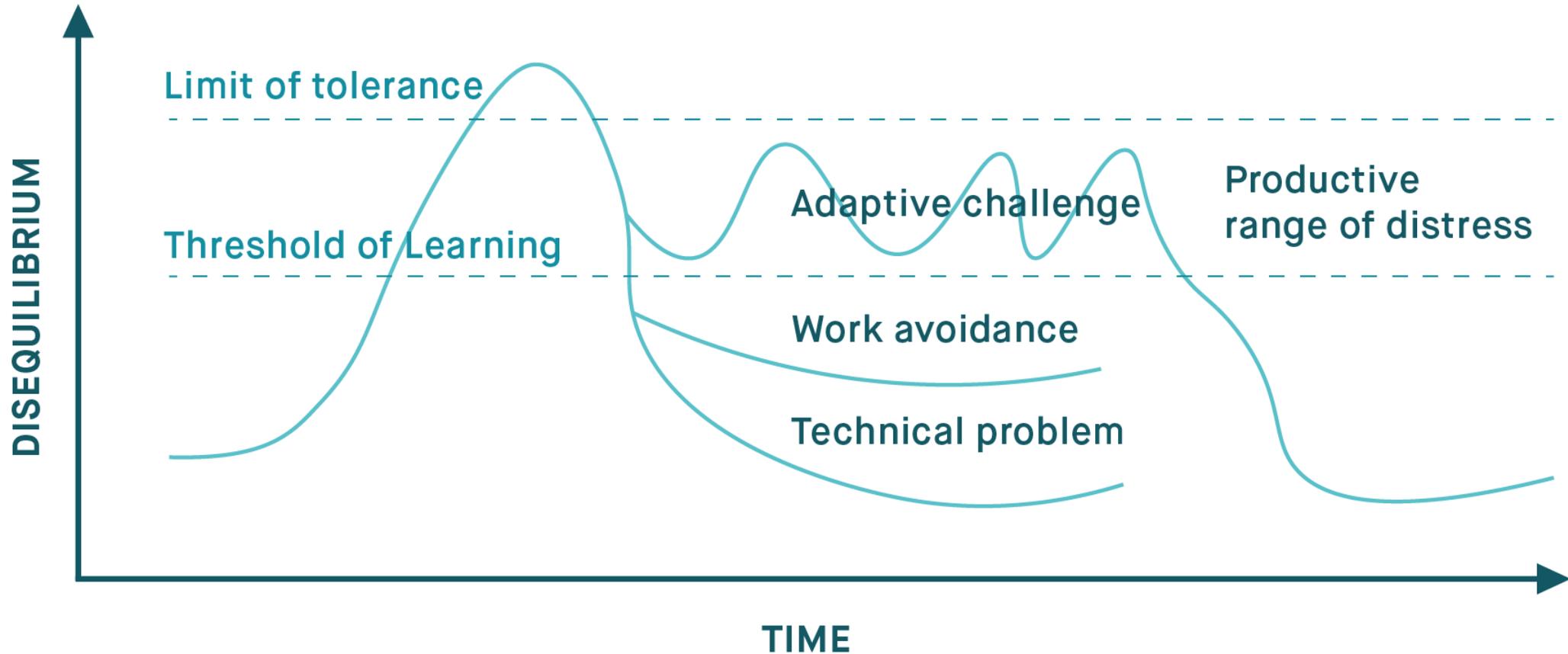
University of Oslo



- How do we adapt – practically, politically, and personally – to the very idea that we are transforming the climate system, and that we have the potential to transform systems and create a sustainable world?



Why do we resist adaptive challenges?

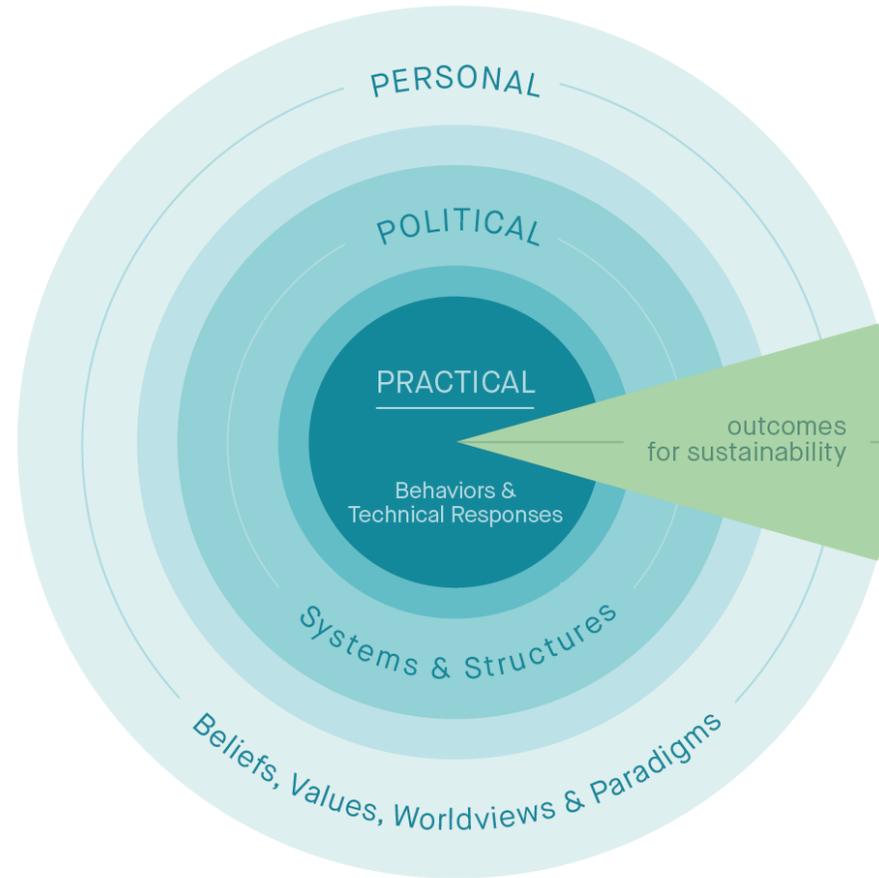




Transformation: Physical and/or qualitative changes in form, structure, or meaning-making.



Three Spheres of Transformation

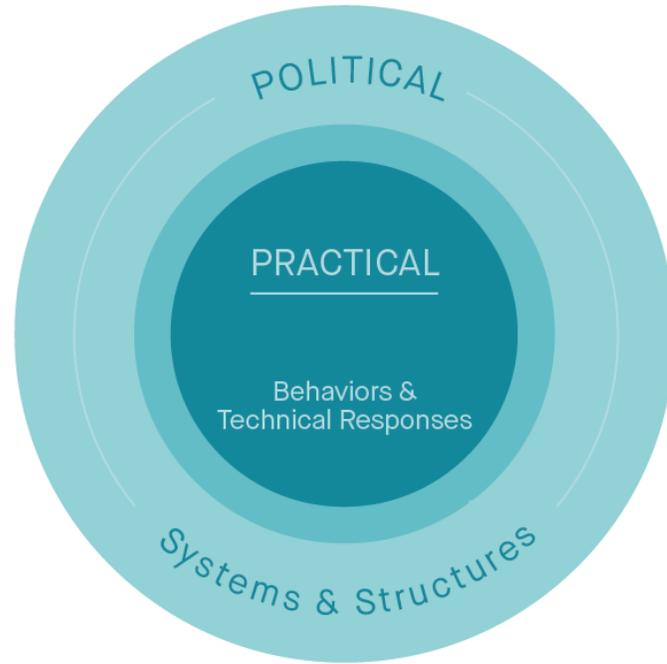


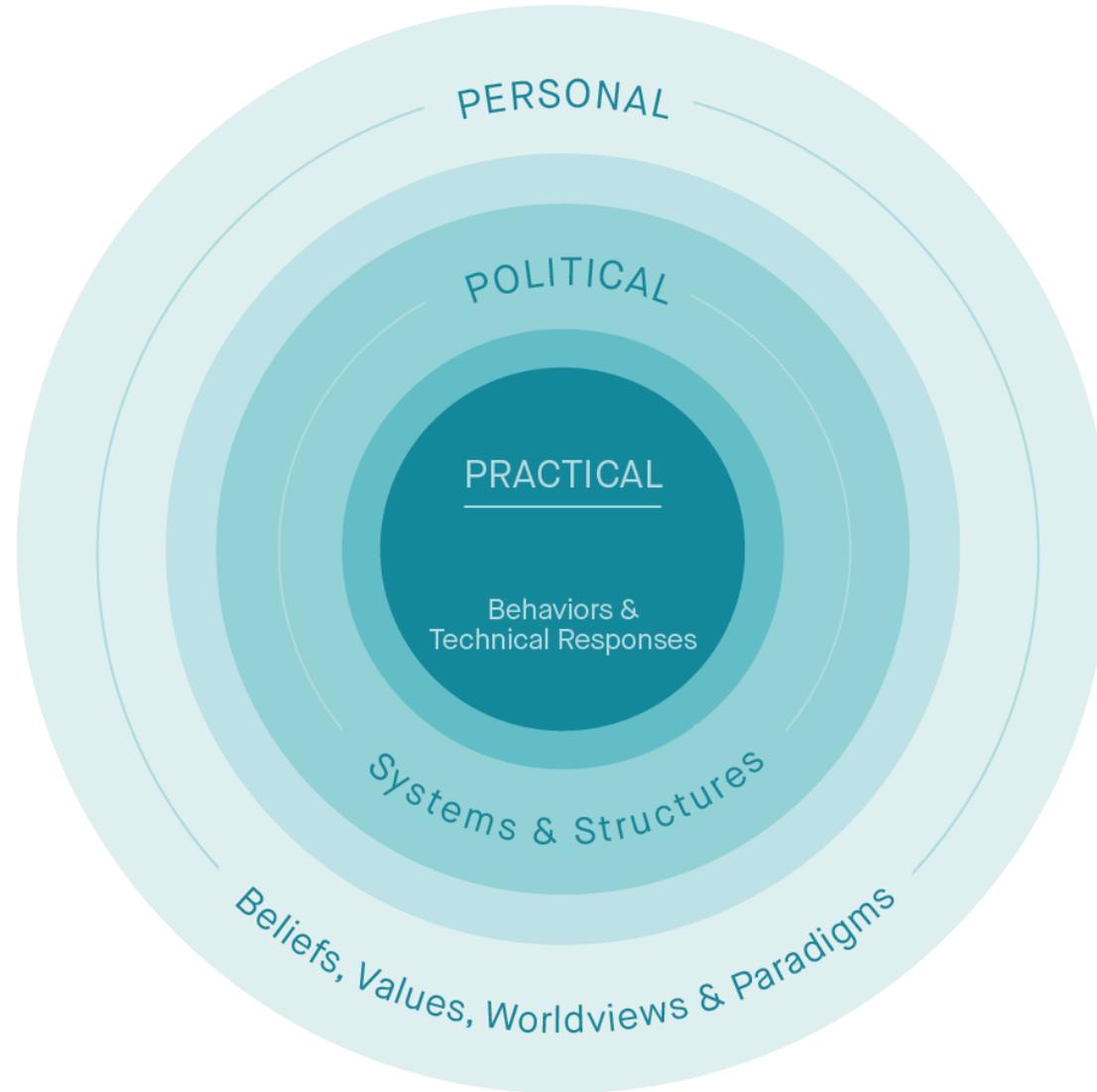
(Based on O'Brien and Sygna, 2013; Sharma 2009)

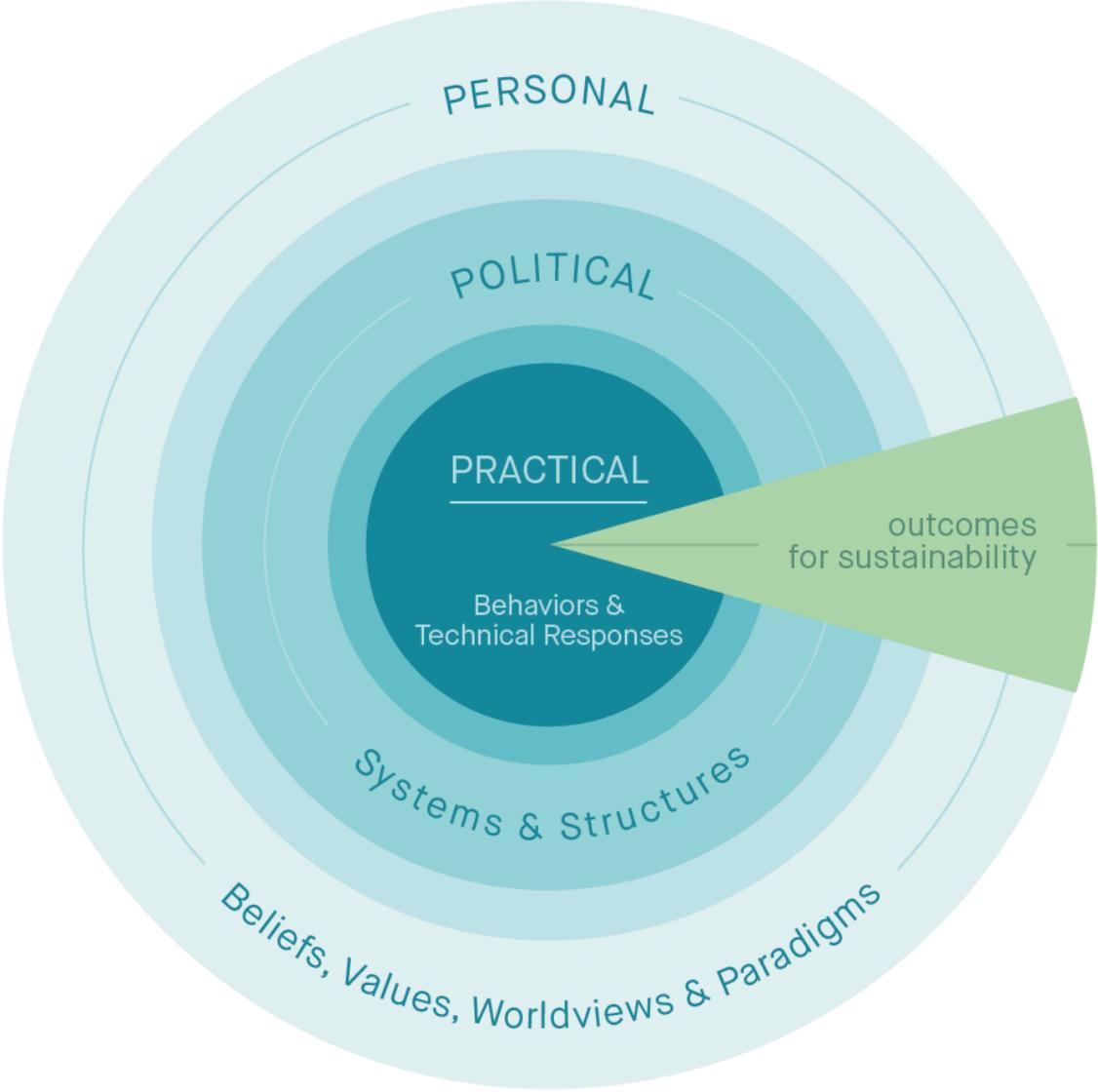


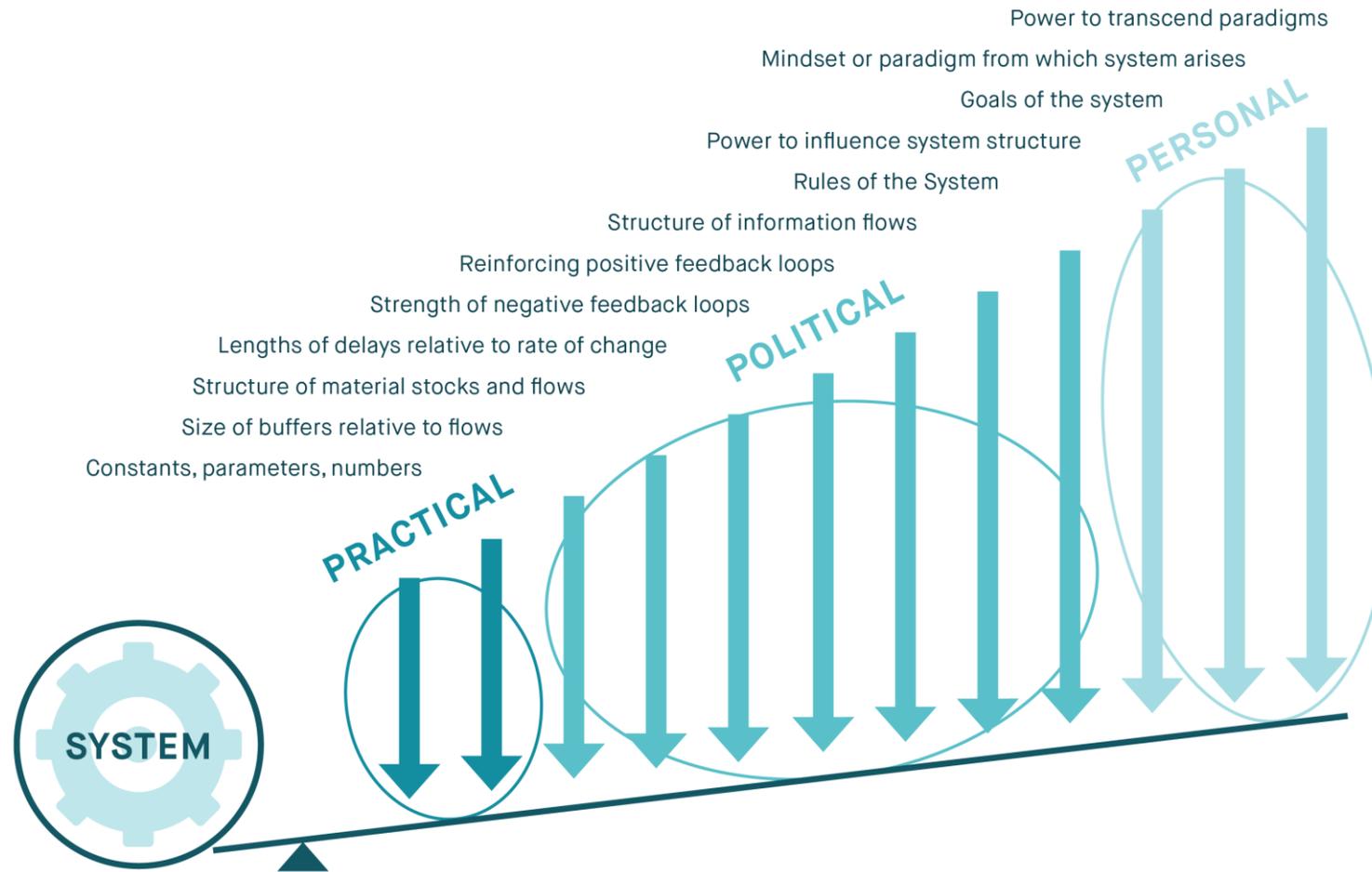
PRACTICAL

Behaviors &
Technical Responses







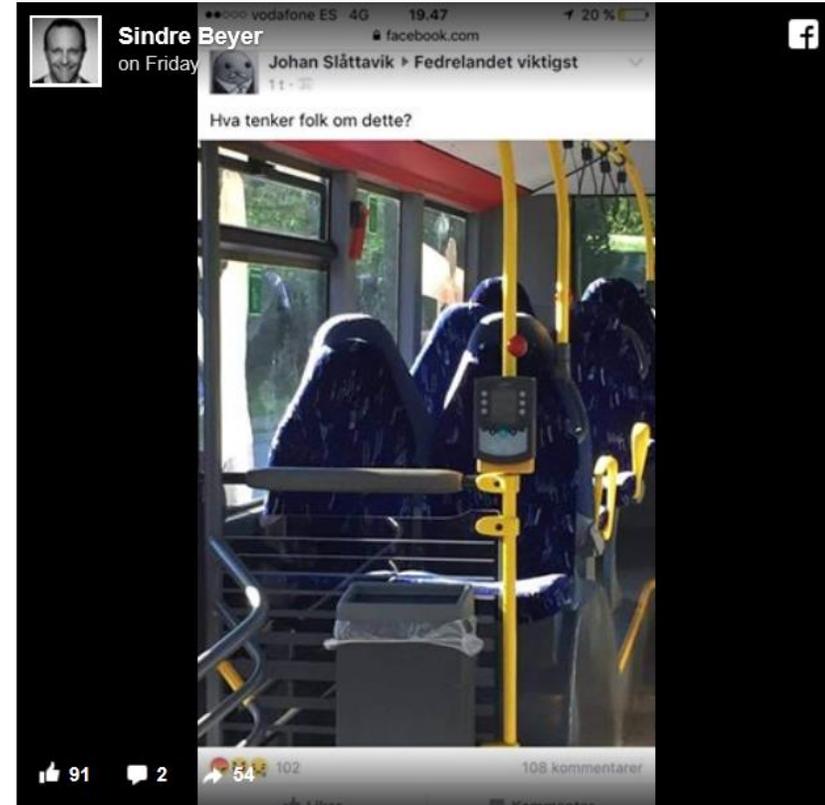


Based on: Meadows, D. H. 1999. "Leverage Points: Places to Intervene in a System." The Sustainability Institute.

BELIEFS

*Do we believe what we see,
or see what we believe?*

We tend to find evidence to support our beliefs, and seldom do we challenge the underlying assumptions.



WorldViews

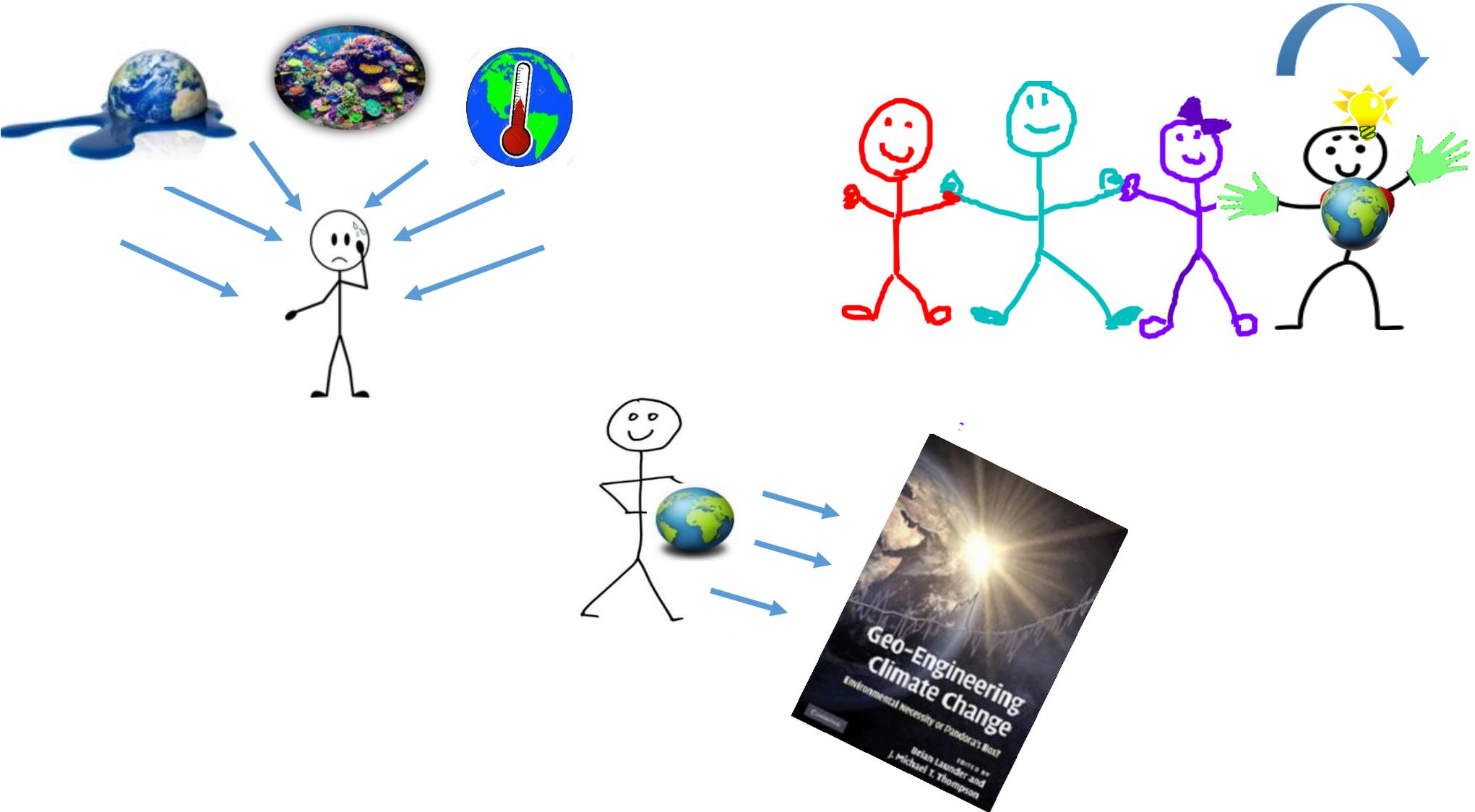
An anti-immigrant group mistook empty bus seats for women wearing burqas

By Adam Taylor August 1 at 11:52 AM

Perspectives

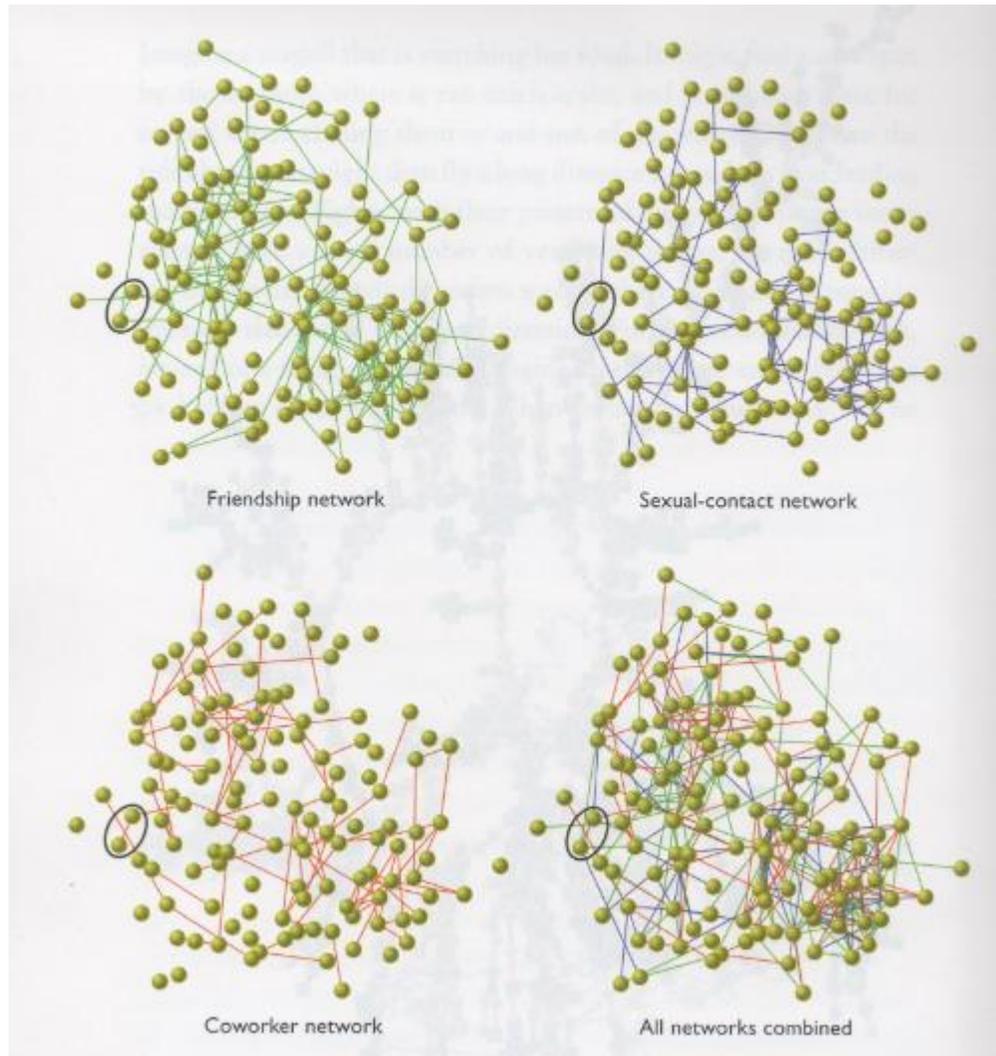


TRANSFORMATIONS INVOLVE A SHIFT IN PERSPECTIVES

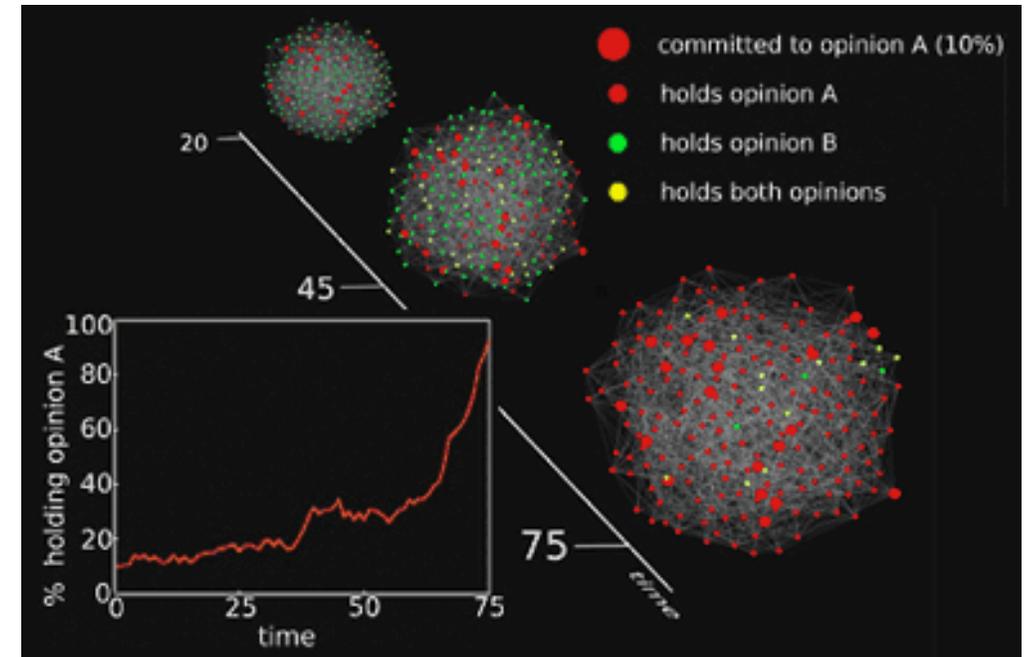




"I'm afraid you've had a paradigm shift."



Christakis and Fowler, 2009. *Connected. The Surprising Power of Our Social Networks and How They Shape Our Lives.* Back Bay Books.



In this visualization, we see the tipping point where minority opinion (shown in red) quickly becomes majority opinion. Over time, the minority opinion grows. Once the minority opinion reached 10 percent of the population, the network quickly changes as the minority opinion takes over the original majority opinion (shown in green).

Image credit: SCNARC/Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Xie J et al (2011) Social consensus through the influence of committed minorities. *Physical Review E* 84: 011130-38.



World Cafe

Adaptation as Transformation
How do we make it happen



Process

- Welcome each other
- Assign a table host
- Write, doodle and draw ideas on the paper
- Change table after 15 minutes
- The assigned table host will remain at the table
- The table host welcome their new guests and briefly share the main ideas, themes and questions from the previous conversation (max 2 min).
- We will have four rounds of shifting tables
- At the end we will sharing discoveries and insights in a whole group conversation



World Cafe Etiquette

- Focus on what really matters.
- Contribute your ideas & thinking.
- Speak your mind and heart with humility.
- Listen to understand.
- Connect your ideas with others.
- Play, doodle and draw – use your tablecloths to full effect.
- Have fun!



Questions

Row 1: What strategies can we use to promote policies and actions that integrate adaptation, mitigation and sustainable development?

Row 2: Adaptation and transformation are never neutral. How do you make values and interests more visible?

Row 3: Transformations that challenge current systems and vested interests are often met with strong pushback. What are some strategies for dealing with this pushback?

Row 4: From your experience, what are the most effective ways to support champions or 'ilfdsjeler' for transformative change?

Row 5: In your experience, how do we best deal with the emotional edge of climate change in adaptation work?