

Welcome to this week's presentation and conversation
hosted by the
Canadian Association for the Club of Rome,
a Club dedicated to intelligent debate and action on global issues.

Transcending Our MTI Form of Civilization: Exploring the New Core Work of the 21st Century.

Our speaker today is Ruben Nelson, Executive Director of Foresight Canada. Ruben was born and raised in Alberta. He has watched Alberta morph from a poor country cousin to what was then a far more prosperous Saskatchewan into an economic powerhouse on which Canada came to depend and take for granted. Given a decade at Queen's University, two in Pierre Trudeau's Ottawa, a year in India and three decades back in Alberta, Ruben has learned see both Canada and Alberta in the context of the *human problematique*. Ruben will explain what he means when he says that our Modern Techno-Industrial (MTI) cultures have no long-term future and must be transcended. He will explore this grand challenge and what might it require of us.

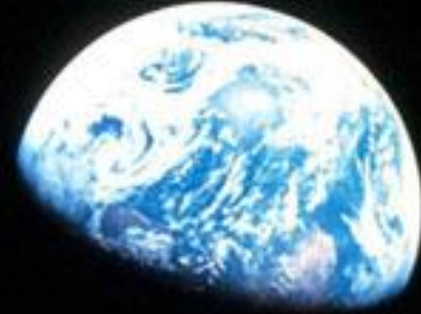
Mr. Nelson's presentation will be followed by a conversation, questions, and observations from the participants.



CACOR acknowledges that we all benefit from sharing the traditional territories of local Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in Canada) and their descendants.

2022 June 22

Zoom #104



Transcending *Our MTI* Form of Civilization_F:* *Exploring the New Core Work of the 21st Century*

CACOR

Ruben Nelson
Foresight Canada
June 22, 2022

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* Modern Techno-Industrial

The Human Challenge

You have to learn the rules of the game.
And then you have to play better than
anyone else.

Albert Einstein

The Human Challenge

You have to learn the rules of the game.
And then you have to play better than
anyone else.

What Game are we in?

Albert Einstein

The Earth's Game

THE Game We are In

Insights into the Earth's "Game"

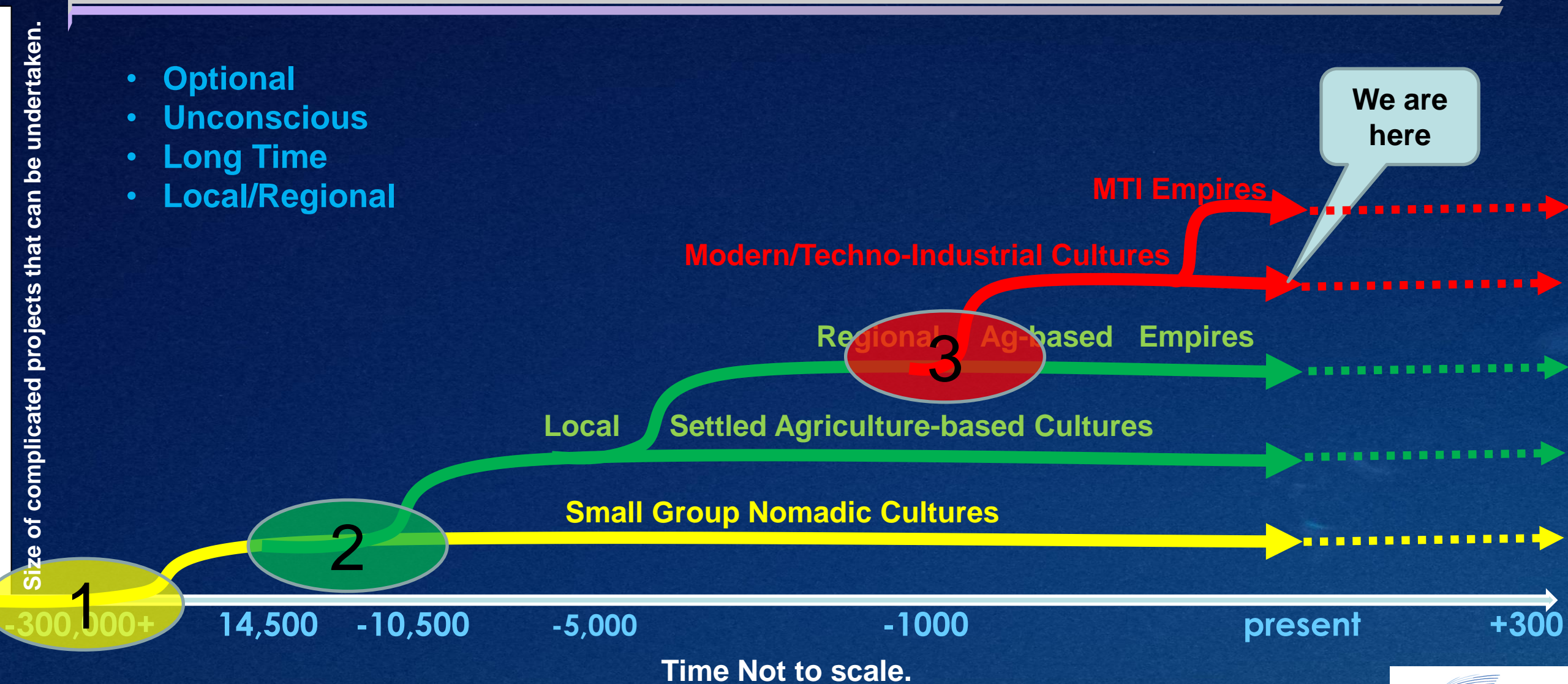
1. Reality is construable and the cultures we co-create construe it.

Insights into the Earth's "Game"

1. Reality is construable and the cultures we co-create construe it.
2. **The way we apprehend reality determines our responses to it.**

The Three BIG Ways of Construing Reality

- Optional
- Unconscious
- Long Time
- Local/Regional



Insights into the Earth's "Game"

1. Reality is construable and the cultures we co-create construe it.
2. The way we apprehend reality determines our responses to it.
3. **All cultures assume their own rightness and continuity.**
 - None are open to dramatic discontinuity. All are "path dependent."
 - Only MTI cultures expect ongoing "improvements/progress."

Insights into the Earth's "Game"

1. Reality is construable and the cultures we co-create construe it.
2. The way we apprehend reality determines our responses to it.
3. All cultures assume their own rightness and continuity.
 - None are open to dramatic discontinuity. All are "path dependent."
 - Only MTI cultures expect ongoing "improvements/progress."
4. **The Earth sets the conditions, offers clues and is the referee.**
 - Must not destroy the Earth's living ecology to the point it cannot support us.
 - Must not consume NNR to the point where diminishing returns become lethal.
 - Must honour these two conditions & be humane enough keep the game going.

The Human Challenge

You have to learn the rules of the game.
And then you have to play better than
any one else.

What Game are we Playing?

Albert Einstein

The Driving Illusion of MTI Cultures

Any decent future for humanity entails the extension and improvement of our MTI form of civilization. MTI can be taken to and beyond the ends of the Earth and extended and improved forever. Doing so is the primary responsibility we have as MTI persons, communities, jurisdictions and cultures.

Yes we face horrendous problems. But problems have solutions. A better version of MTI will do the trick.

We know what needs to be done and have the capacity to do it. All we lack is the political will, leadership and funding to inspire our innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship.

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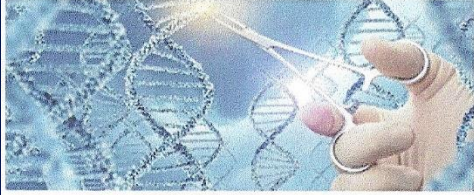




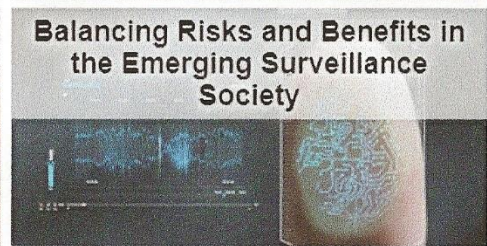

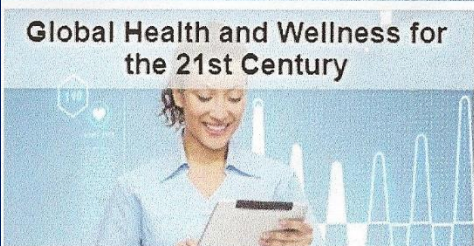
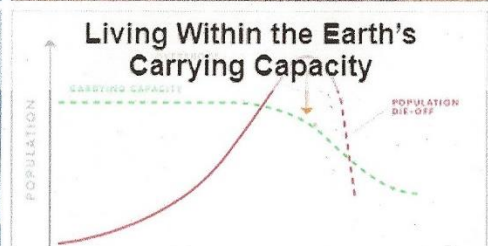


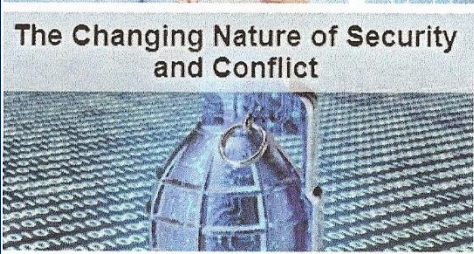
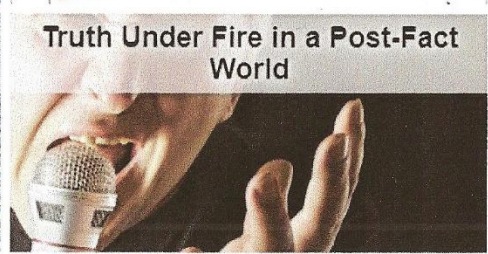
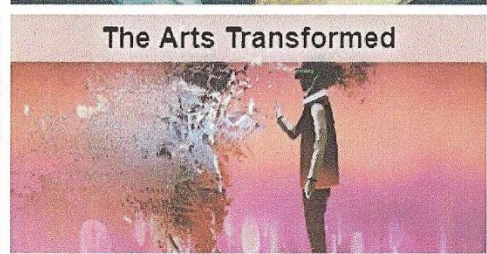
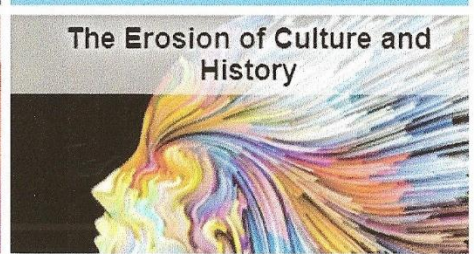
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The Driving Illusion of MTI Cultures

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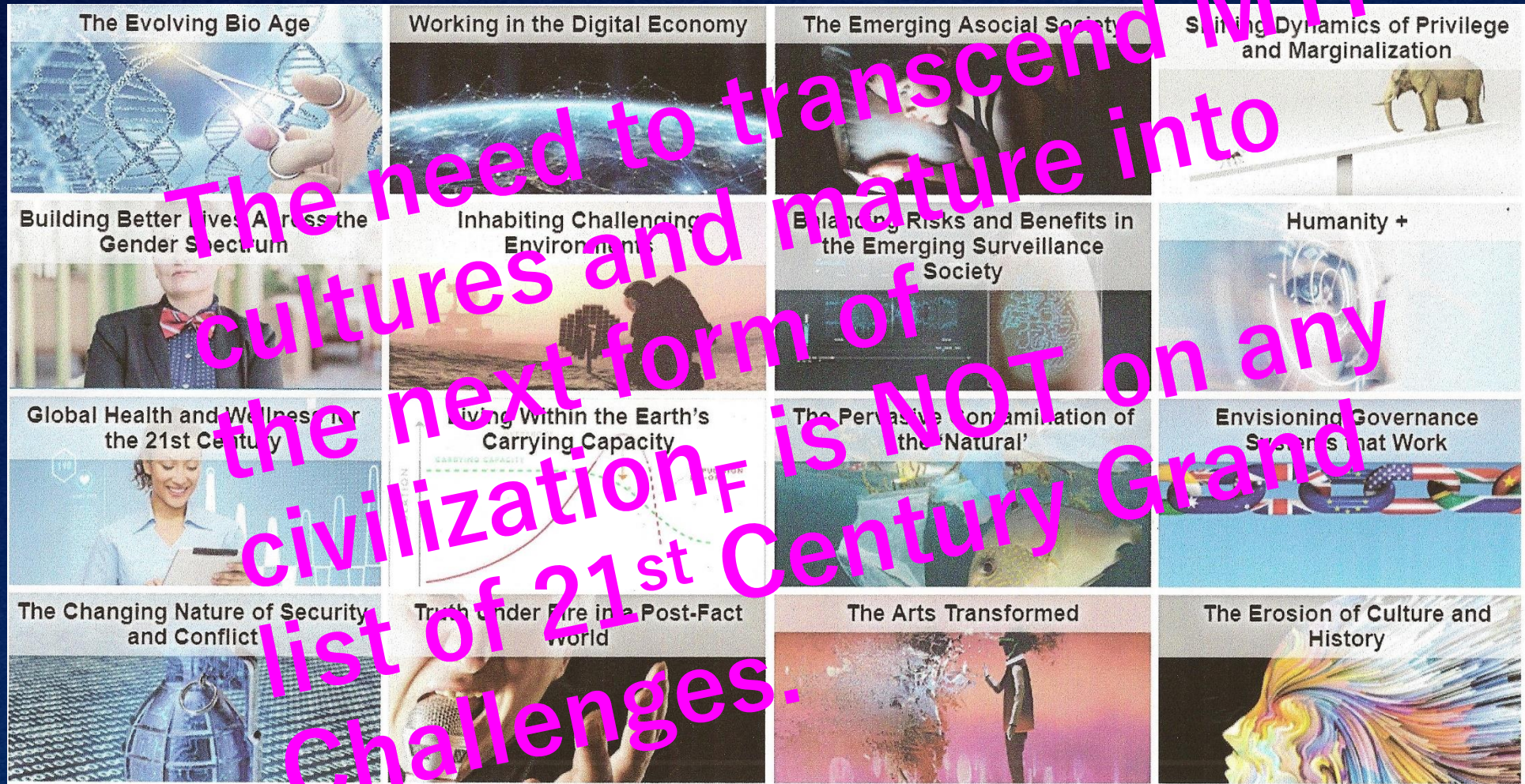
Any problematic condition can be understood and dealt from within the MTI frame of reference.

We MTI are "Civilization_F Trapped"

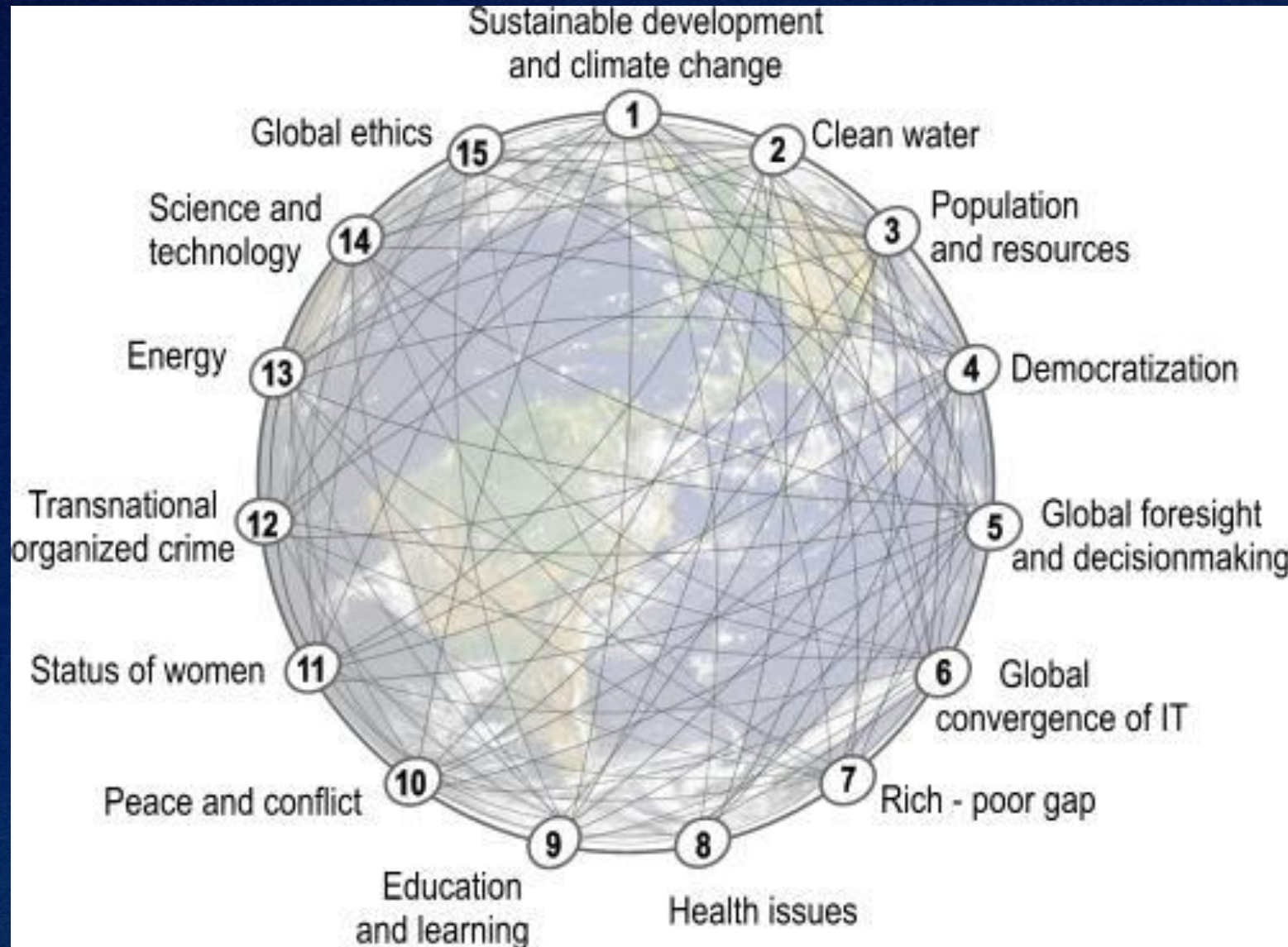
<p>The Evolving Bio Age</p> 	<p>Working in the Digital Economy</p> 	<p>The Emerging Asocial Society</p> 	<p>Shifting Dynamics of Privilege and Marginalization</p> 
<p>Building Better Lives Across the Gender Spectrum</p> 	<p>Inhabiting Challenging Environments</p> 	<p>Balancing Risks and Benefits in the Emerging Surveillance Society</p> 	<p>Humanity +</p> 
<p>Global Health and Wellness for the 21st Century</p> 	<p>Living Within the Earth's Carrying Capacity</p> 	<p>The Pervasive Contamination of the 'Natural'</p> 	<p>Envisioning Governance Systems that Work</p> 
<p>The Changing Nature of Security and Conflict</p> 	<p>Truth Under Fire in a Post-Fact World</p> 	<p>The Arts Transformed</p> 	<p>The Erosion of Culture and History</p> 



Blind to Civilizational_F Transcendence



We are Blind to Civilizational_F Transcendence



CSER



We are dedicated to the study and mitigation of risks that could lead to human extinction or civilisational collapse

MTI is “Context Blind”

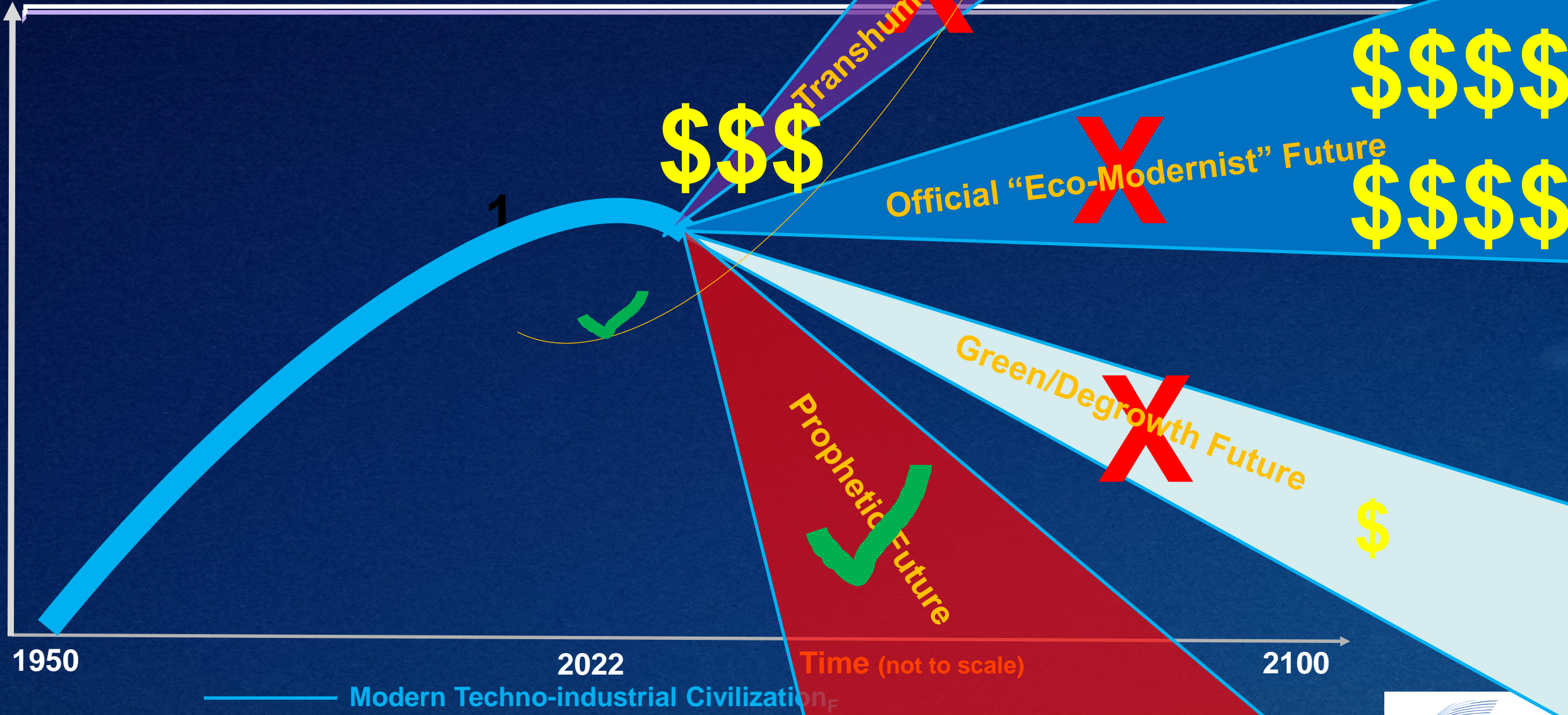


“Nothing
good ever
came out of
a blind
spot.”

Louise Penny
Kingdom of the Blind
2018

Our (MTI) Possible Futures

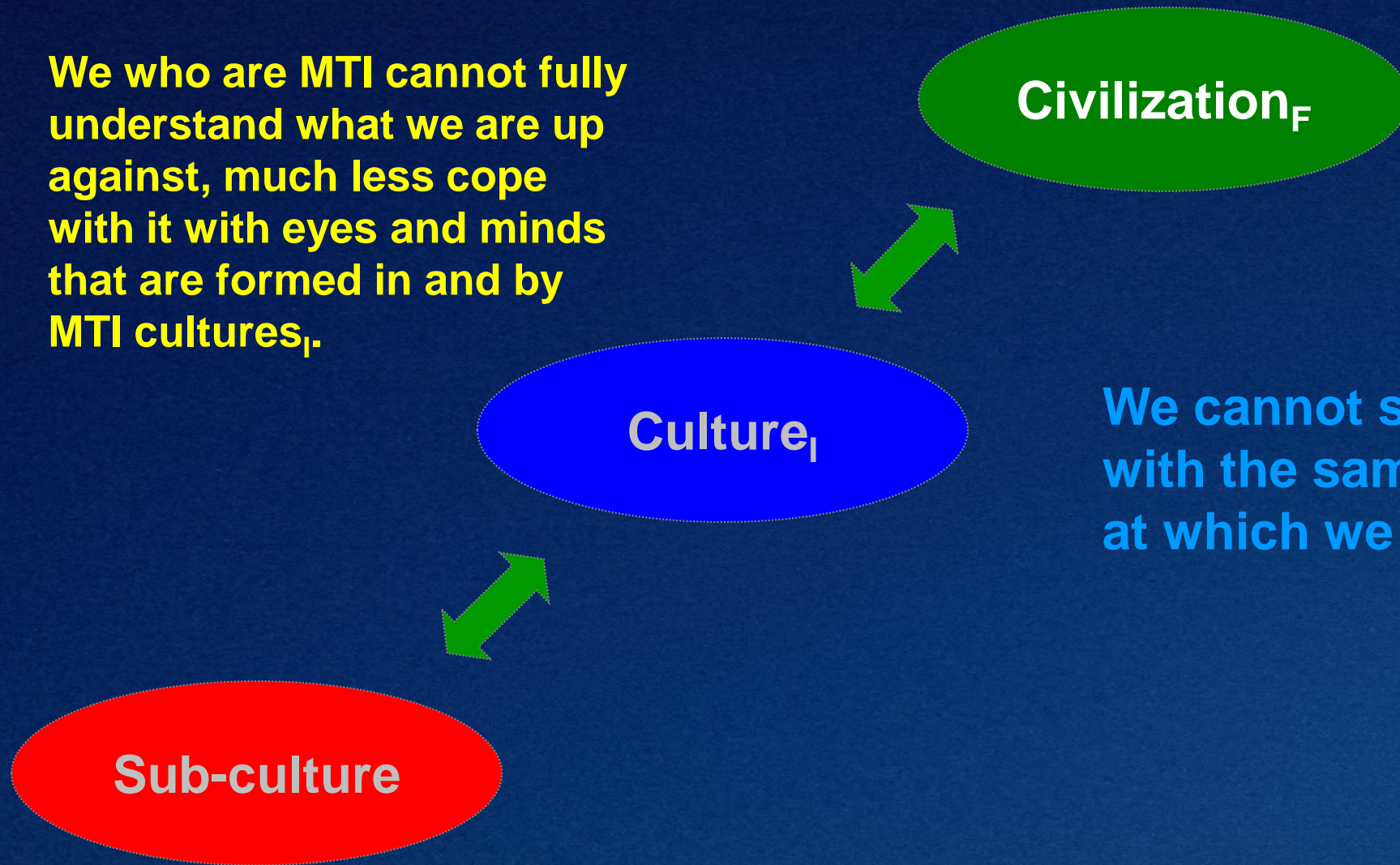
Sacle of complicated systems can cope with.



The BIG 1st Step

Accept that Einstein's Quip Applies to Us

We who are MTI cannot fully understand what we are up against, much less cope with it with eyes and minds that are formed in and by MTI cultures_I.



We cannot solve problems with the same level of thinking at which we created them.

Albert Einstein

Accept the Irony (and the threat)

Our MTI efforts to “save the future” now use and utterly trust and depend on the fitness of the very ways of knowing, being and living that got us into the complex, living messes that now threaten our future, i.e. our Modern Techno-Industrial ways of knowing, **seeing**, thinking things through and **living**.

As of today, we who are MTI peoples are NOT seeking to transcend or escape from our MTI form of civilization.

Rather, we are seeking to improve and extend the life of MTI cultures by making them to be global, equitable and sustainable, e.g. UN SDGs.

Accept the Reality

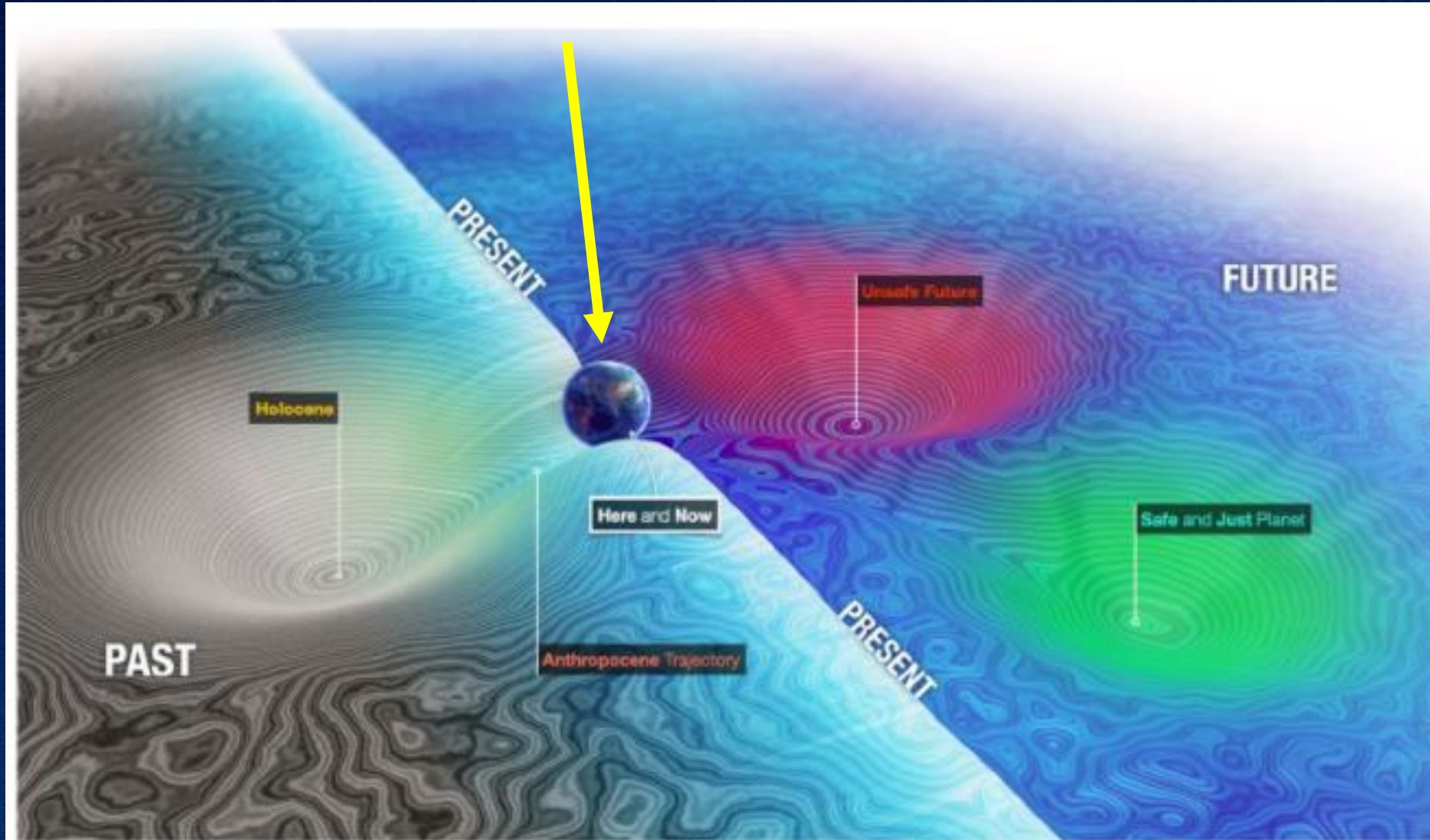


Figure 1. The challenge: To define, and navigate toward, a safe and just future for people and the planet.

Accept the Challenge

What if our core work of the 21st Century is **NOT** to make our MTI cultures sustainable and humane?

What if our new work is *conscious* and reflexive personal-to-civilizational_f re-birth:

1. Learn to let go of our MTI formation and outgrow it?
2. Learn the new work of nurturing the next form of civilization_f into robust life.
3. Learn to dance on the edge of destruction/creativity as MTI Cultures collapse, as we mature as conscious and reflexive cultural co-creators?
4. Learn to invest in and support this new work as our core work in the 21st Century as if our future hangs on it.

The Challenge We Face

So I repeat: “...the real challenge and barrier to change is **how** to ‘socially construct’ a personal-to-civilizational-scale transition to a **whole new cultural narrative**, one which eschews perpetual growth and abandons most of the other beliefs, values and assumptions of modern techno-industrial society concerning long-term human well-being.” I should have added that the breadth and depth of social learning required is likely to take decades, generations. Gaia is likely to impose her own solutions before the denizens of MTI culture have fully wakened to their predicament.

Bill Rees
Email
May 26, 2022

The Challenge We Face — Ruben's Edit

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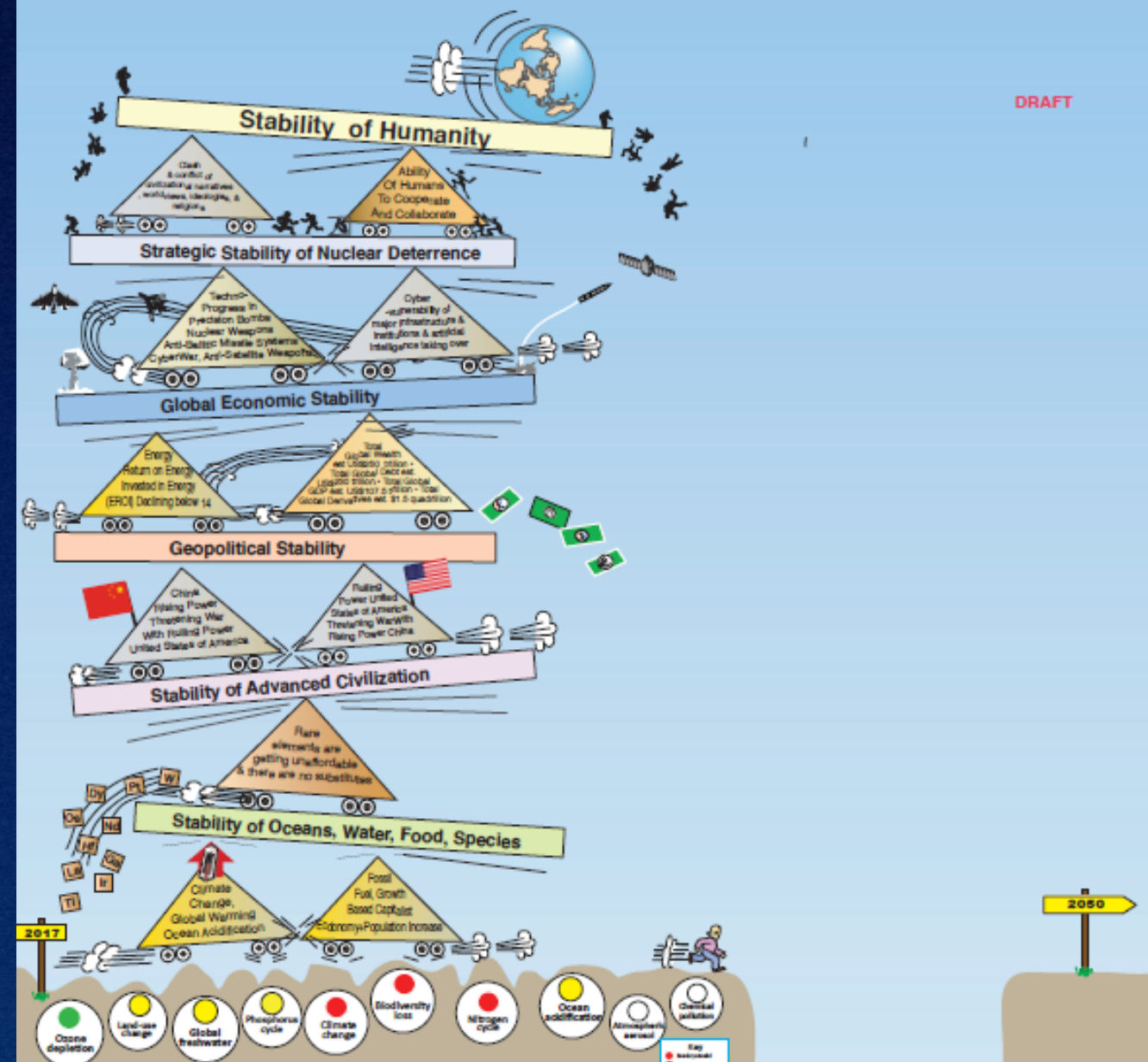
Bill Rees

Email

May 26, 2022

The Canyon of HOW?

DRAFT



Important Planetary Boundaries Dangerously Exceeded

In 2009, the Stockholm Resilience Centre proposed a framework of "planetary boundaries" designed to define a "safe operating space for humanity". Based on current scientific research it asserts that once human activity has passed certain thresholds or tipping points, defined as "planetary boundaries", there is a risk of "irreversible and abrupt environmental change". The group identified nine Earth system processes which have boundaries that, to the extent that they are not crossed, mark the safe zone for the planet. However, because of human activities some of these dangerous boundaries have already been crossed, while others are in imminent danger of being crossed. (Source: Wikipedia)

The Canyon of HOW

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1. What to DO?

Clarify the Key Terms

An Impulse To Change is Gathering Strength

Sustainable. Sustainability. "A Great Transition." "The Great Work." "A Great Journey to Tomorrow Land" "The Next System." "A New Paradigm." "A New Economics." "A Real Green New Deal." "An Ecological Civilization." "A Regenerative Culture." "Systems of Sustainable Production and Consumption." "A Life Affirming Culture. System Change." "Life Affirming Culture" and on, and on, and on...

**Inadequately
Conceived and
Theorized**

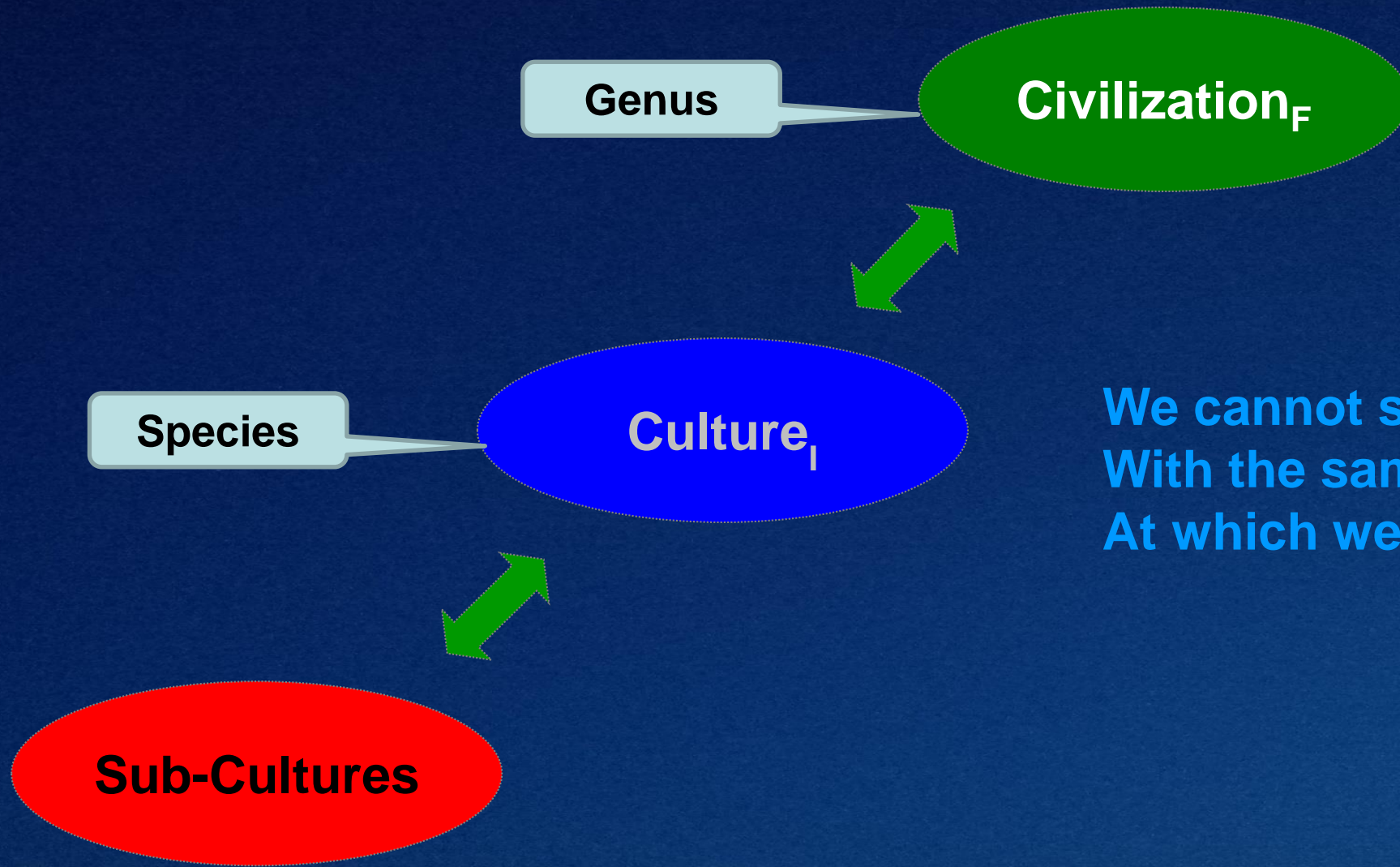
“Culture₁”

An integrated understanding of ‘culture₁’ includes everything that a given people are and do, inside and out, at every level and scale of becoming and being human.

A culture₁ is a distinctive, long-lasting and relatively coherent way of making sense of everything and of being and living (knowing, **imagining**, thinking things through **and doing**) that emerges among a particular people, under particular circumstances, at a particular time and in a particular place, and exemplifies a particular **form of civilization_F**.

All human cultures₁ are unconsciously co-created “cultural constructs.”

'Form of Civilization_F'



We cannot solve problems
With the same level of thinking
At which we created them.

Albert Einstein

'Civilization'

'civilization_G' as the "whole of humanity."



'civilization_O' as in "those who live in towns."



'civilization_P' as geography, e.g. "Eastern" or "Western."



'civilization_C' as 'culture_I', e.g. "Chinese" or "British."



'civilization_F' as in a "form of civilization_F," e.g. MTI.



Form of Civilization_F

A form of civilization_F is a particular shared human way of knowing/ experiencing/responding to reality and being human. Each form of civilization_F has a unique ontological and epistemological framework that implies the core paradigm of the form of civilization_F.

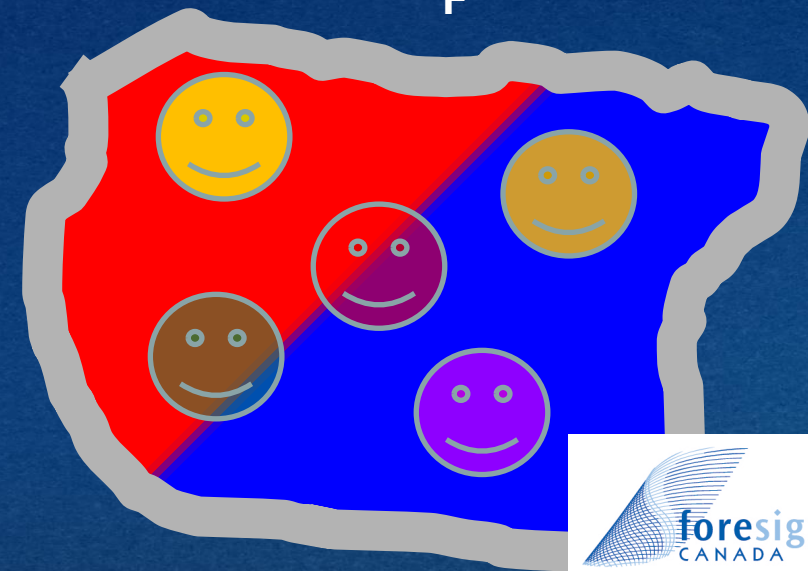
Indigenous_F



Settled Ag-based_F



MTI_F



'Core Paradigm' of a Form of Civilization_F

Predominantly, those who share a form of civilization_F unconsciously share the ways they know, **imagine**, think things through and **conduct themselves** regarding:

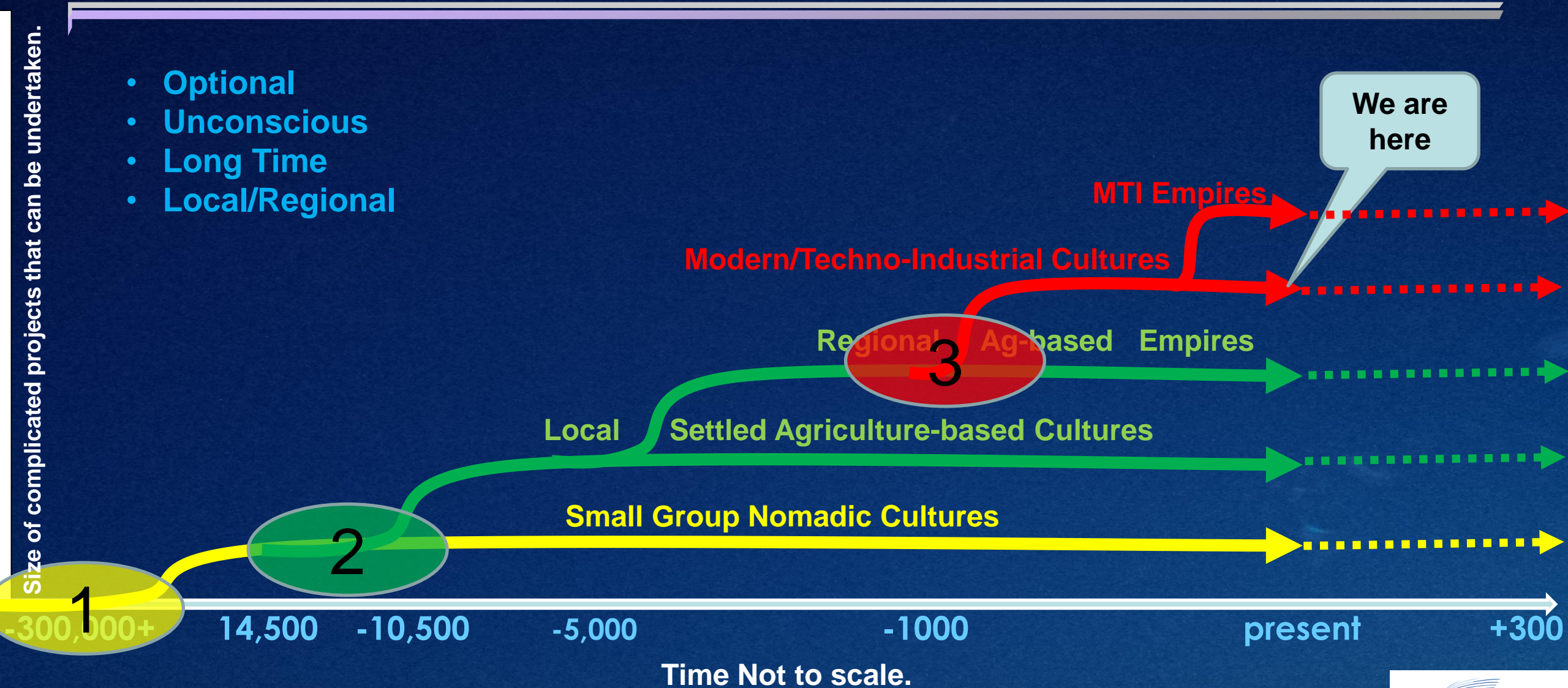
- The nature of reality.
- The nature, place and power of human persons.
- The relationship of persons to reality.

Each civilization_F is one possible way of *“doing the human as beings on the Earth.”*

The trajectory of history changes when a new civilization_F emerges!

3 Forms of Civilization_F Today

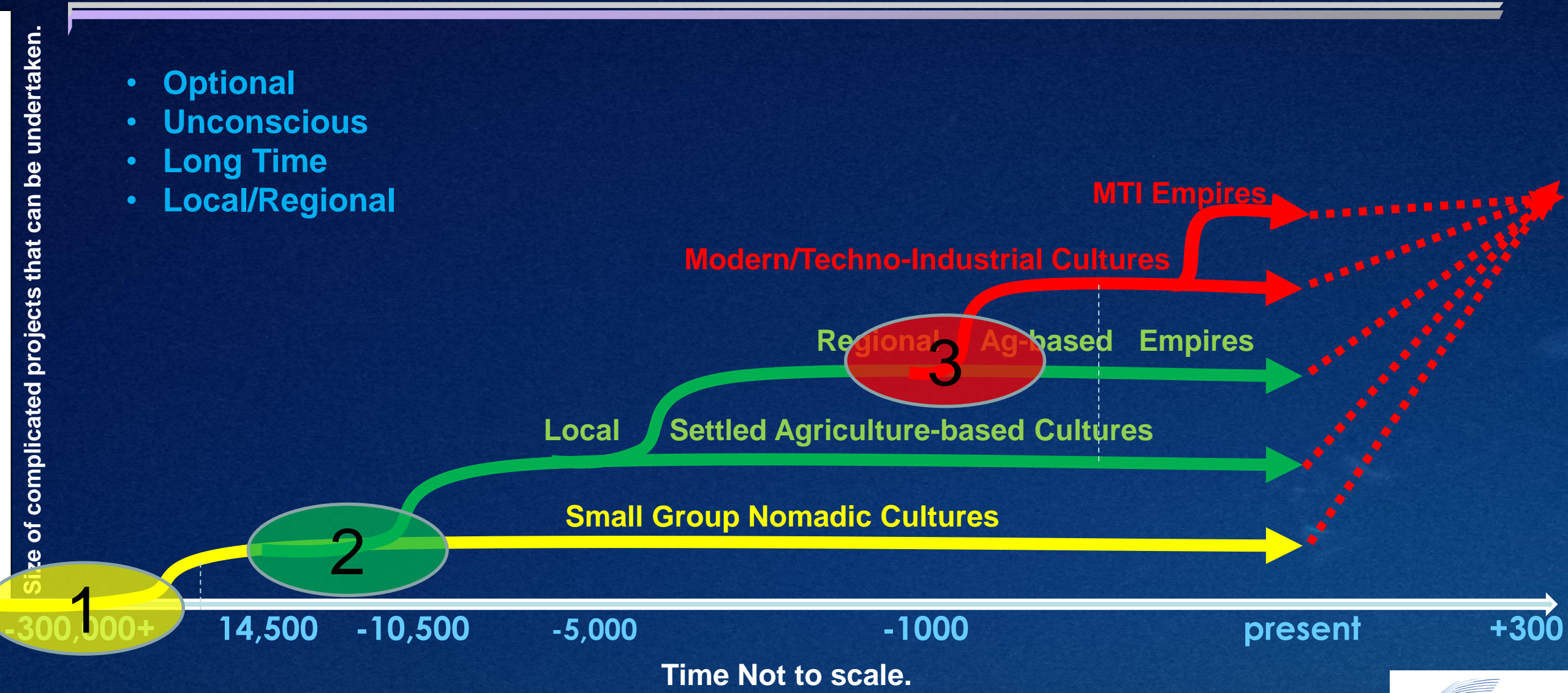
- Optional
- Unconscious
- Long Time
- Local/Regional



Official MTI “Globalization” Project/Fantasy

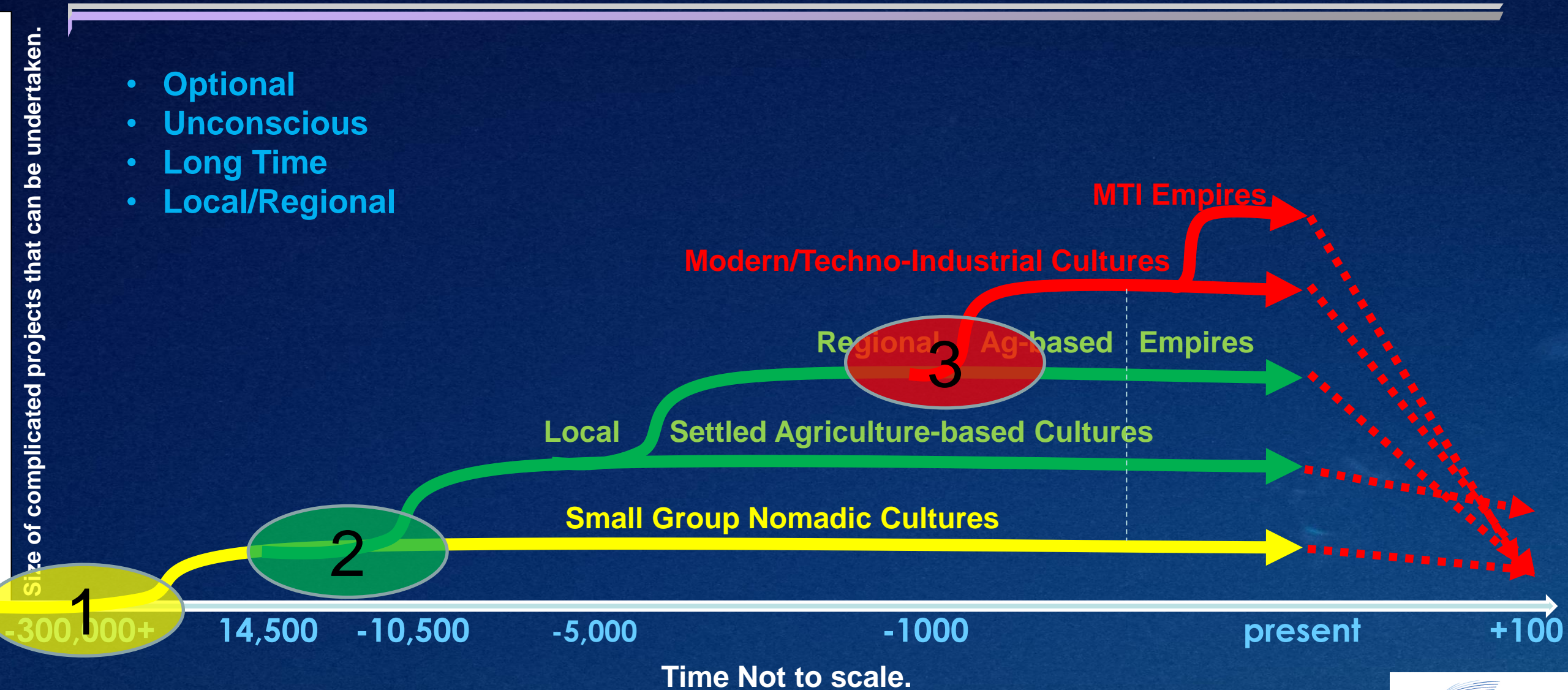
Size of complicated projects that can be undertaken.

- Optional
- Unconscious
- Long Time
- Local/Regional



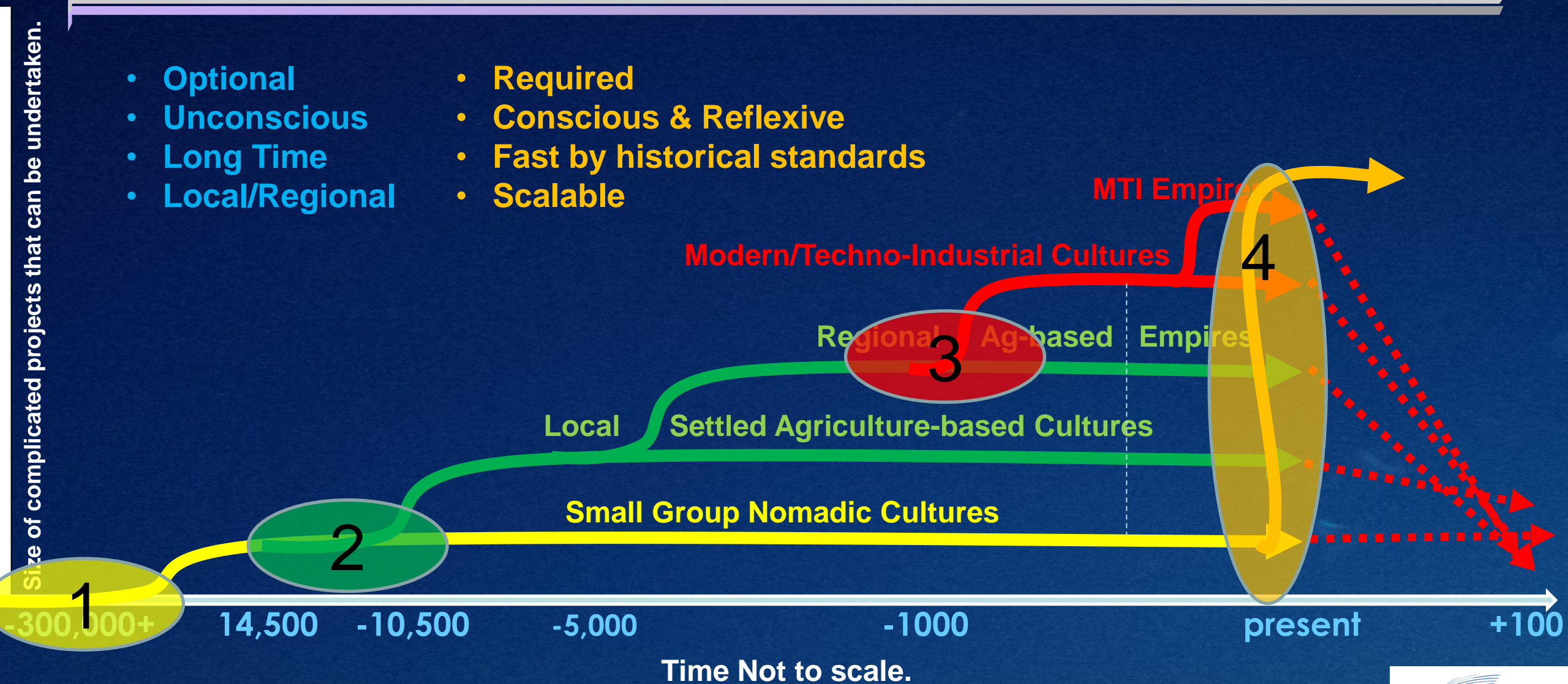
The Emerging Voice of Collapsology

- Optional
- Unconscious
- Long Time
- Local/Regional



The Emerging Voice of the Next Civilization_F

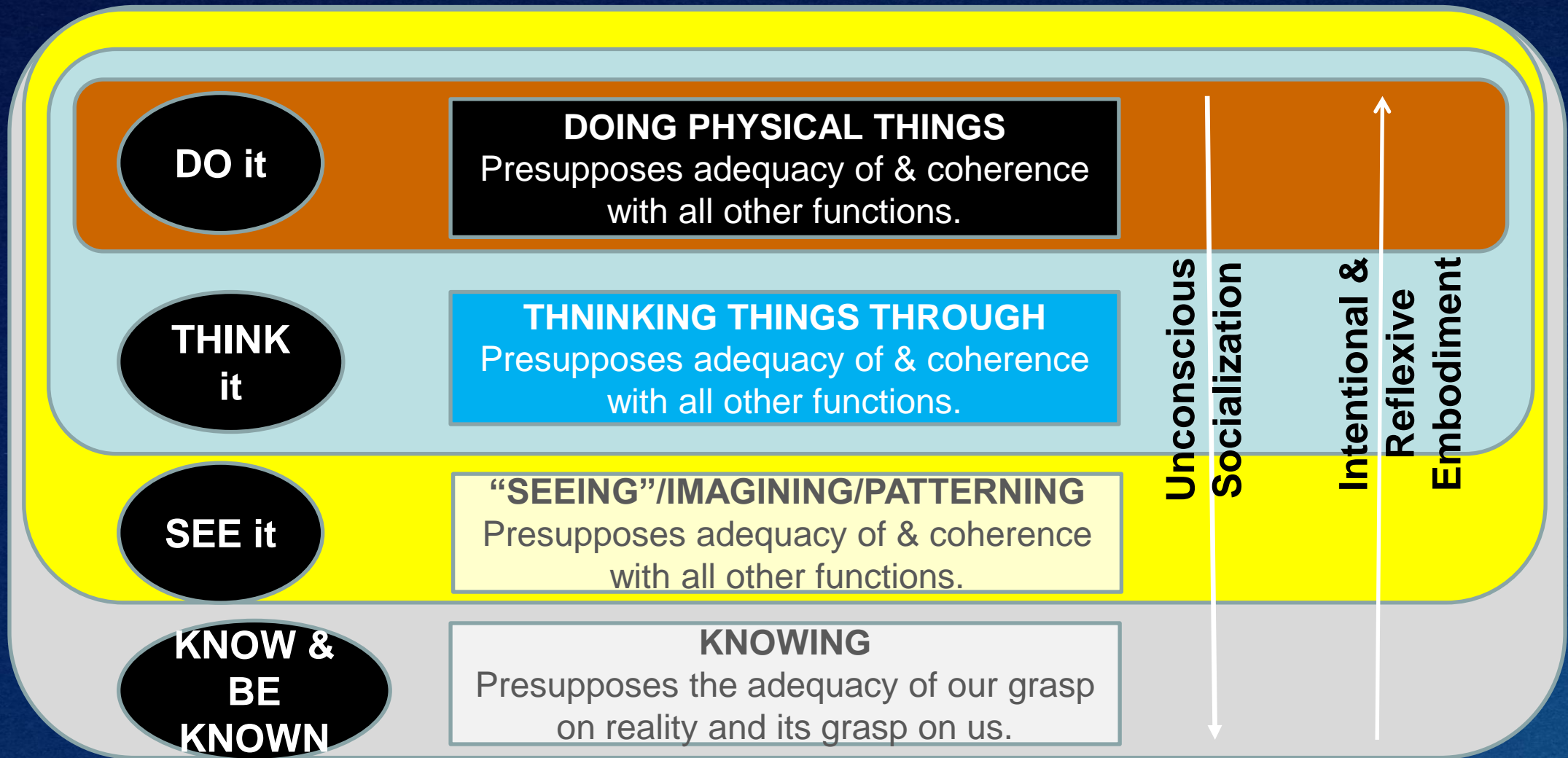
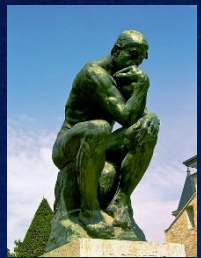
- **Optional**
- **Unconscious**
- **Long Time**
- **Local/Regional**
- **Required**
- **Conscious & Reflexive**
- **Fast by historical standards**
- **Scalable**



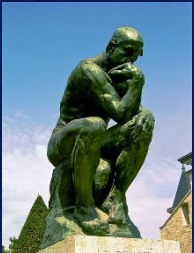
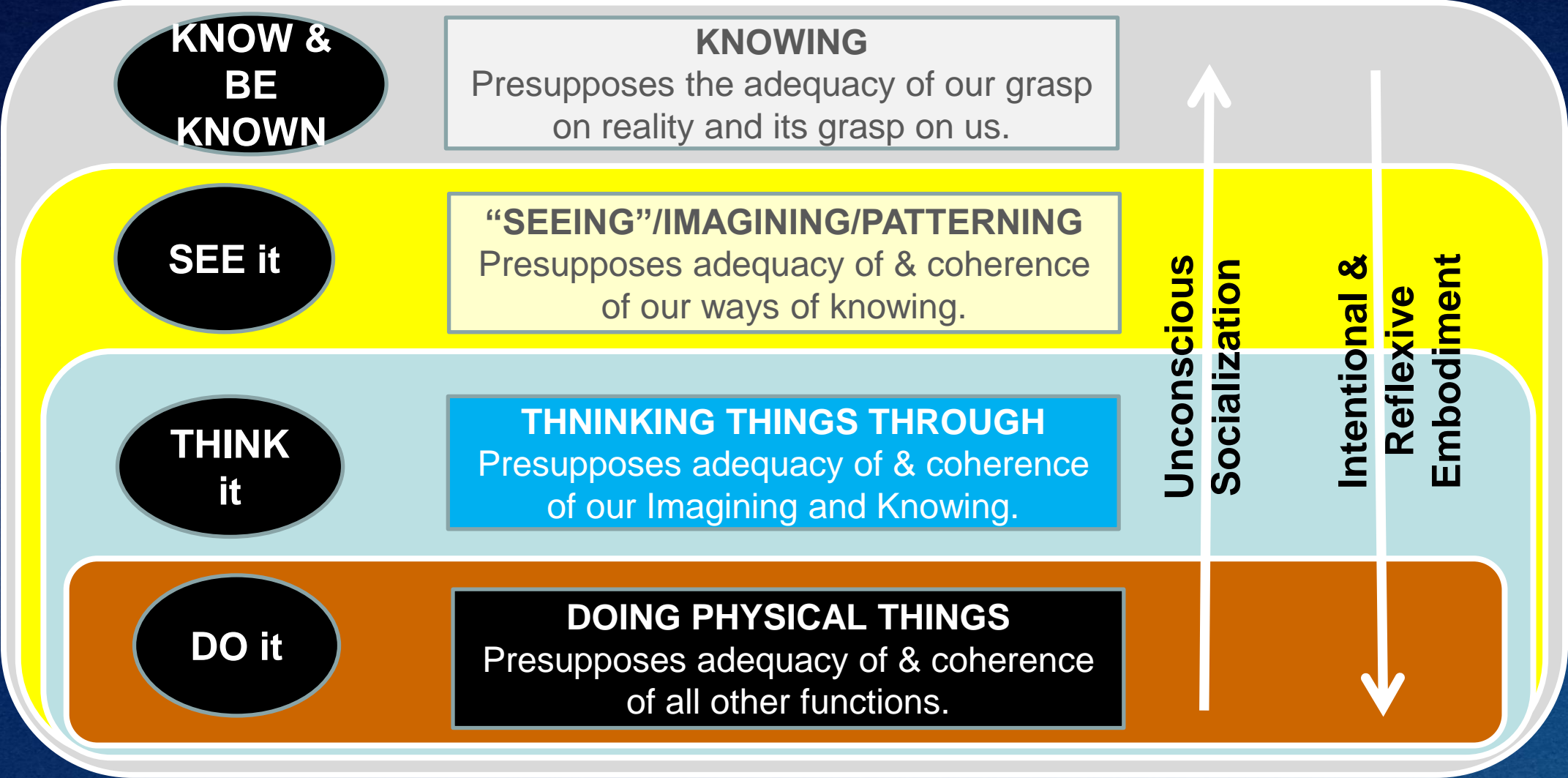
2A. What Else to DO?

**Create Adequate Mental Models:
A Causal Layered Model of
Human Consciousness and Cultures**

Causal Layers of Our Humanity (At Every Scale)



Layers of Our Humanity (At Every Scale)



Dominant Story/Metaphors

- Indigenous Cultures
- Local/Regional Settled Cultures
- Modern Techno-industrial (MT) Cultures
- Next civilization_F?

Capacity to handle complicated matters

- 300,000 years

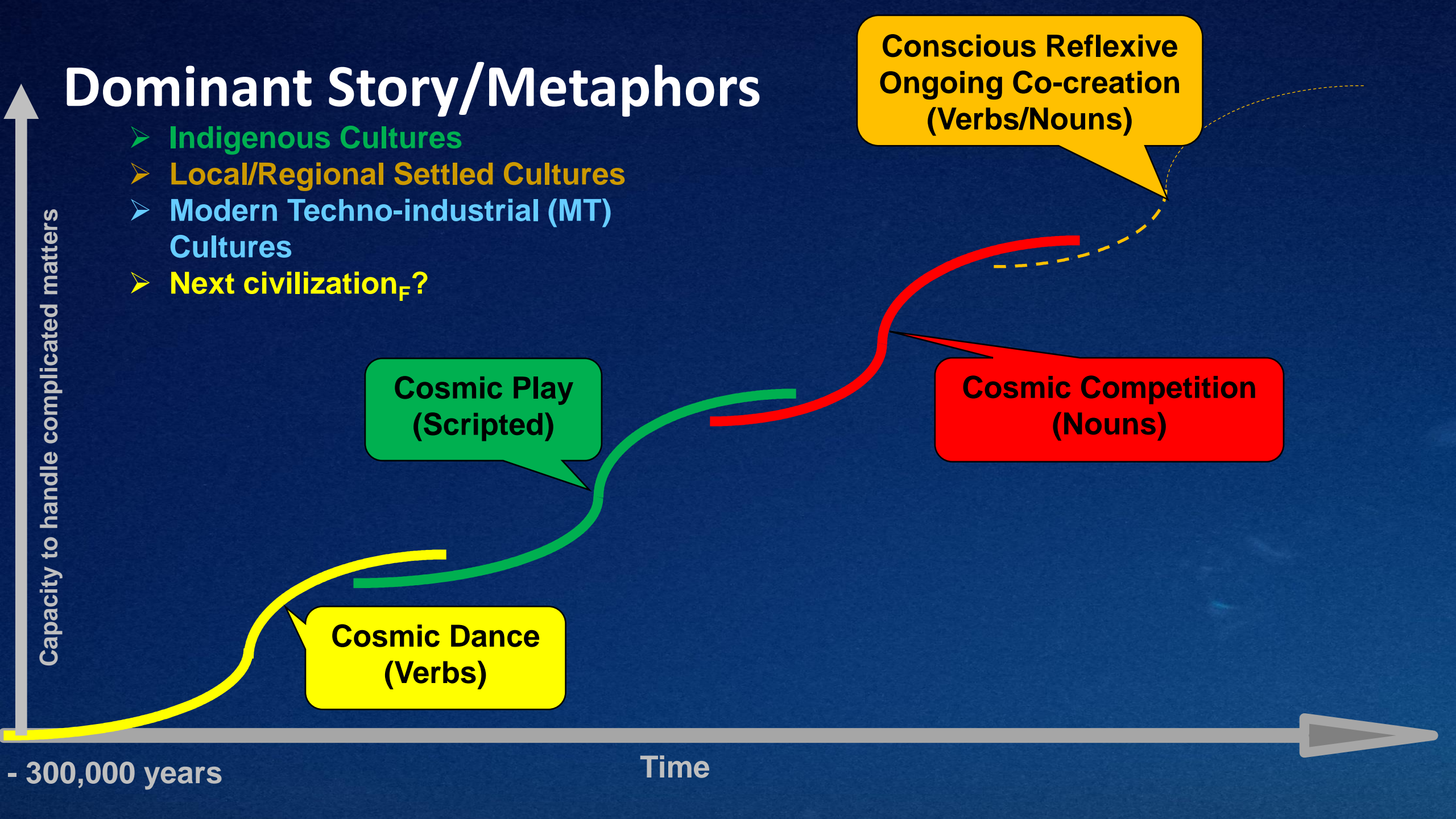
Time

Cosmic Dance
(Verbs)

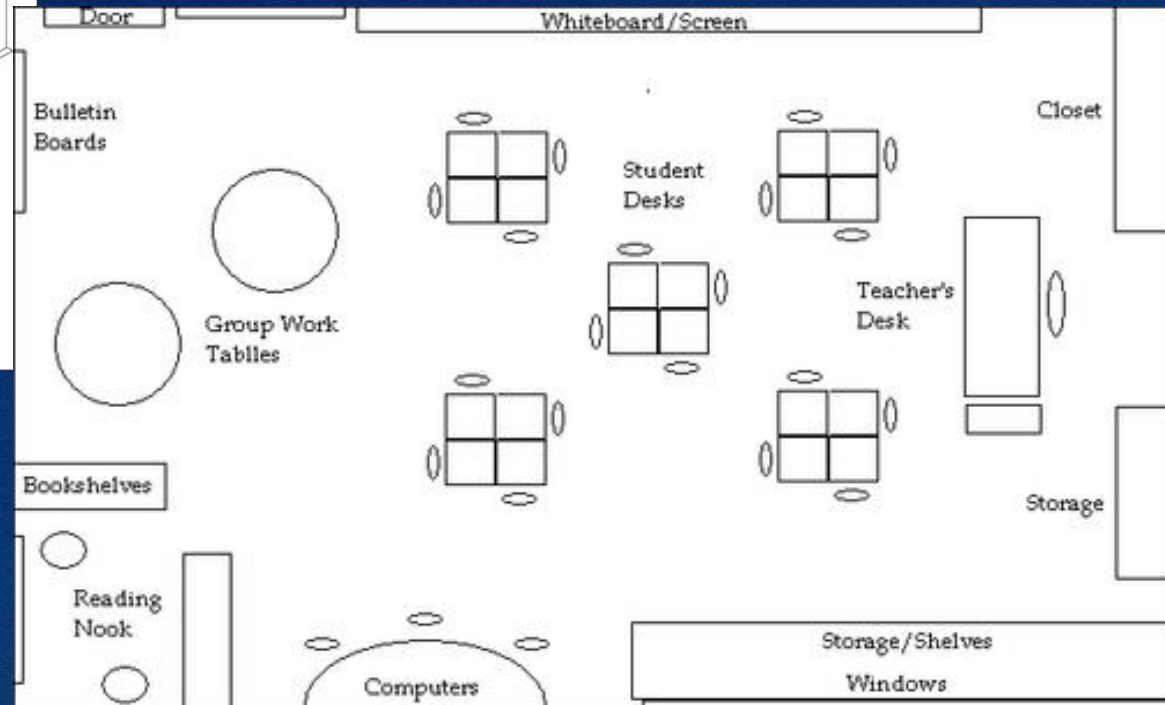
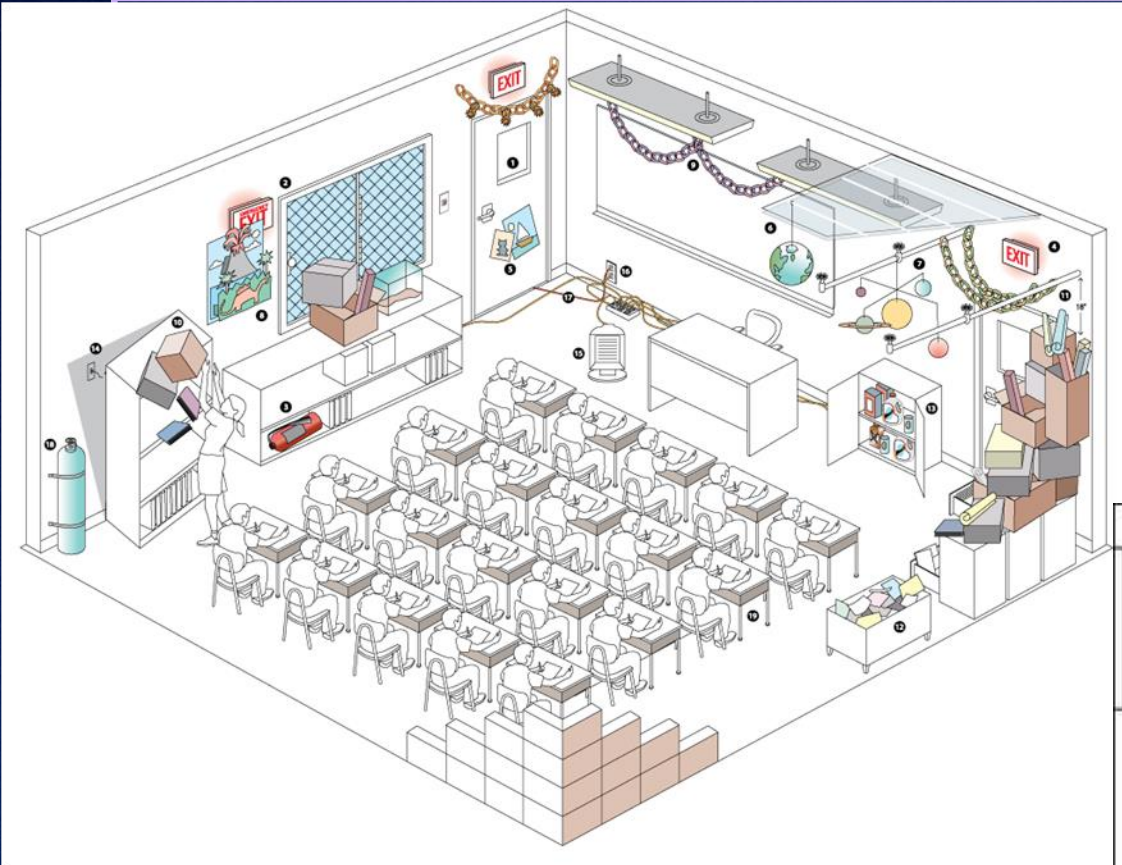
Cosmic Play
(Scripted)

Cosmic Competition
(Nouns)

Conscious Reflexive
Ongoing Co-creation
(Verbs/Nouns)



Consciousness Matters: Stuff as Embodied Consciousness





Black Diamond In



Needed: Wise, Integral, Reflexive WS Governance

The capacity to:

- Know what is real.
- **See what needs to be done.**
- **Think/feel through it well enough.**
- **To be able to get it done.**

All without having to be told what to know, **see**, **think** or **do**.

Today's Governance is Failing Us

The situation of humanity in the face of global transformations can be summarised in two sentences:

Societies are unprepared; Governance is unequipped....

In the main contemporary governance is obsolete and unable to deal fittingly with rapidly mutating problems and opportunities.

Yehezkel Dror
The Capacity to Govern
2001

2B. What Else to DO?

**Create Adequate Mental Models:
Create a Way to Differentiate One
Form of Civilization_F from Another**

The “X” Axis - Ontology

Static-to-Dynamic Reality

Static Reality

Unchanging/Perfect Reality
Essence/Appearance
Timeless/Universal/Truths
For all who truly know
Correspondence indicates Truth
Humility ex ignorance
Dead Hierarchies

Dynamic Reality

Reality changing in time
At different speeds
Truths at Time_T, in Place_P and
Community_C
Coherence indicates Truth
Humility ex ignorance + ambiguity
Living Ecologies

The “Y” Axis – Ontology & Epistemology

Atomized-to-Relational Reality and Knowing

Atomized Reality

& Knowing

Reality is atomized
Individual “X”s
Individual Knowing

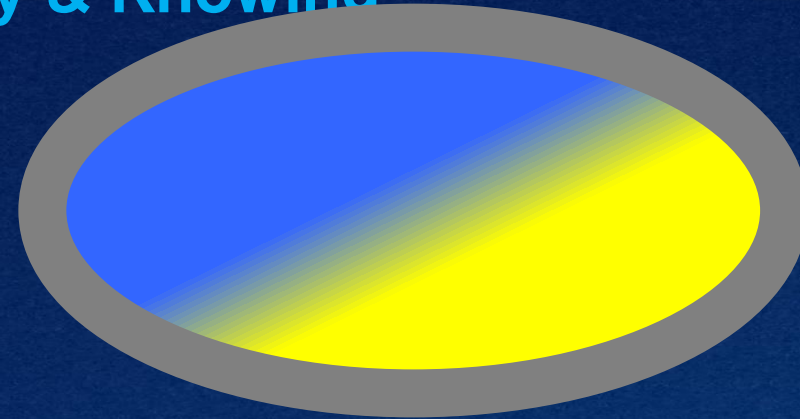
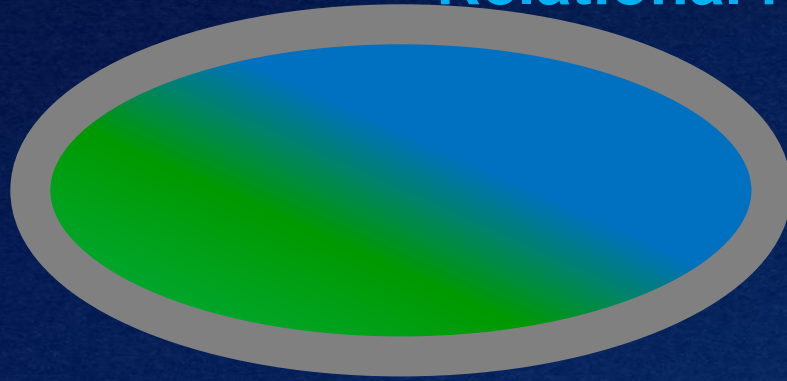
Relational Reality

& Knowing

Reality is Relational/Contextual
“Parts” are always in Context
Intersubjective Knowing

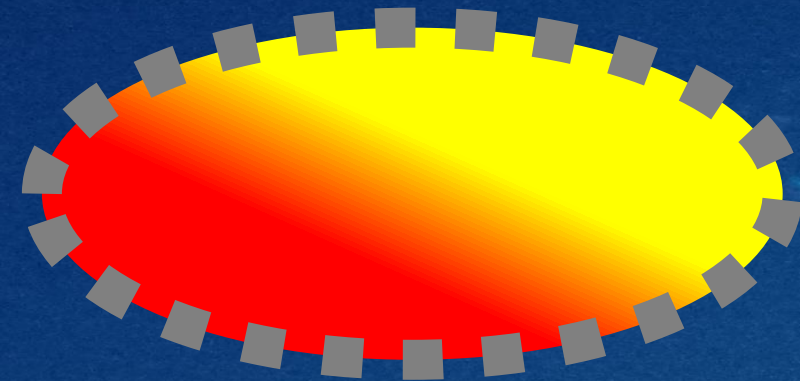
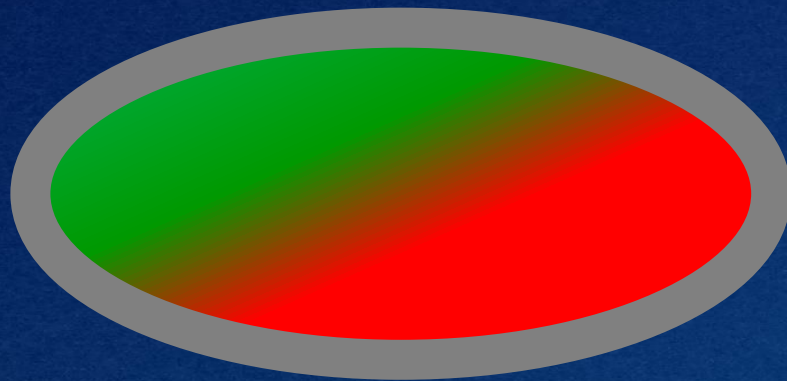
Civilizational_F Possibilities

Relational Reality & Knowing



Static Reality

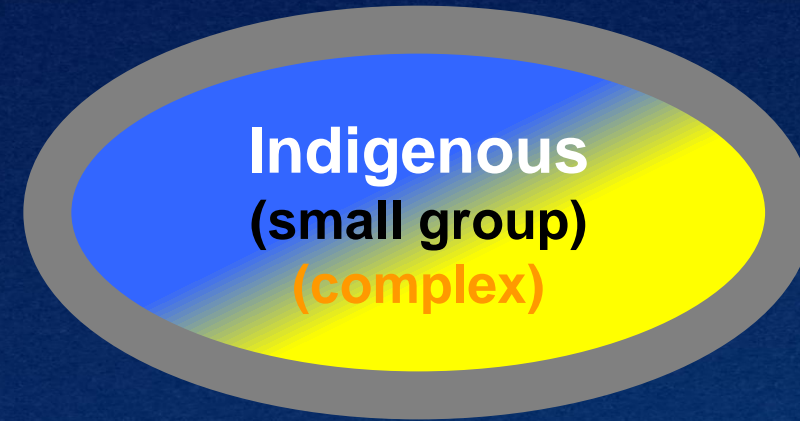
Dynamic Reality



Atomized Reality & Knowing

Who was/is Where?

Relational Reality & Knowing



Static Reality

Dynamic Reality

Atomized Reality & Knowing

Who was/is Where?

Relational Reality & Knowing



Static Reality

Dynamic Reality

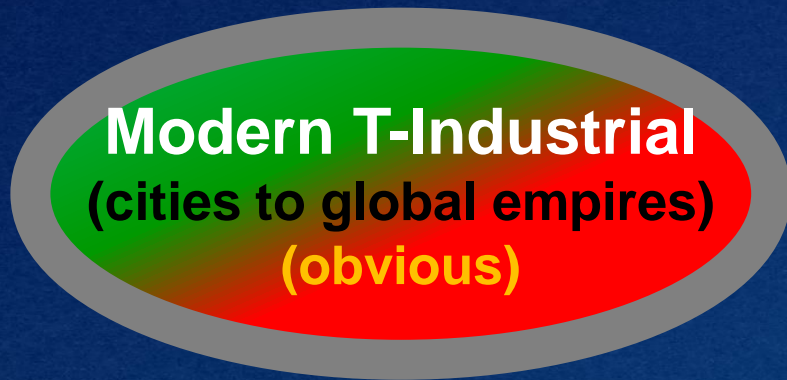
Atomized Reality & Knowing

Who was/is Where?

Relational Reality & Knowing

Static Reality

Dynamic Reality



Atomized Reality & Knowing

Who was/is Where?

Relational Reality & Knowing

Static Reality

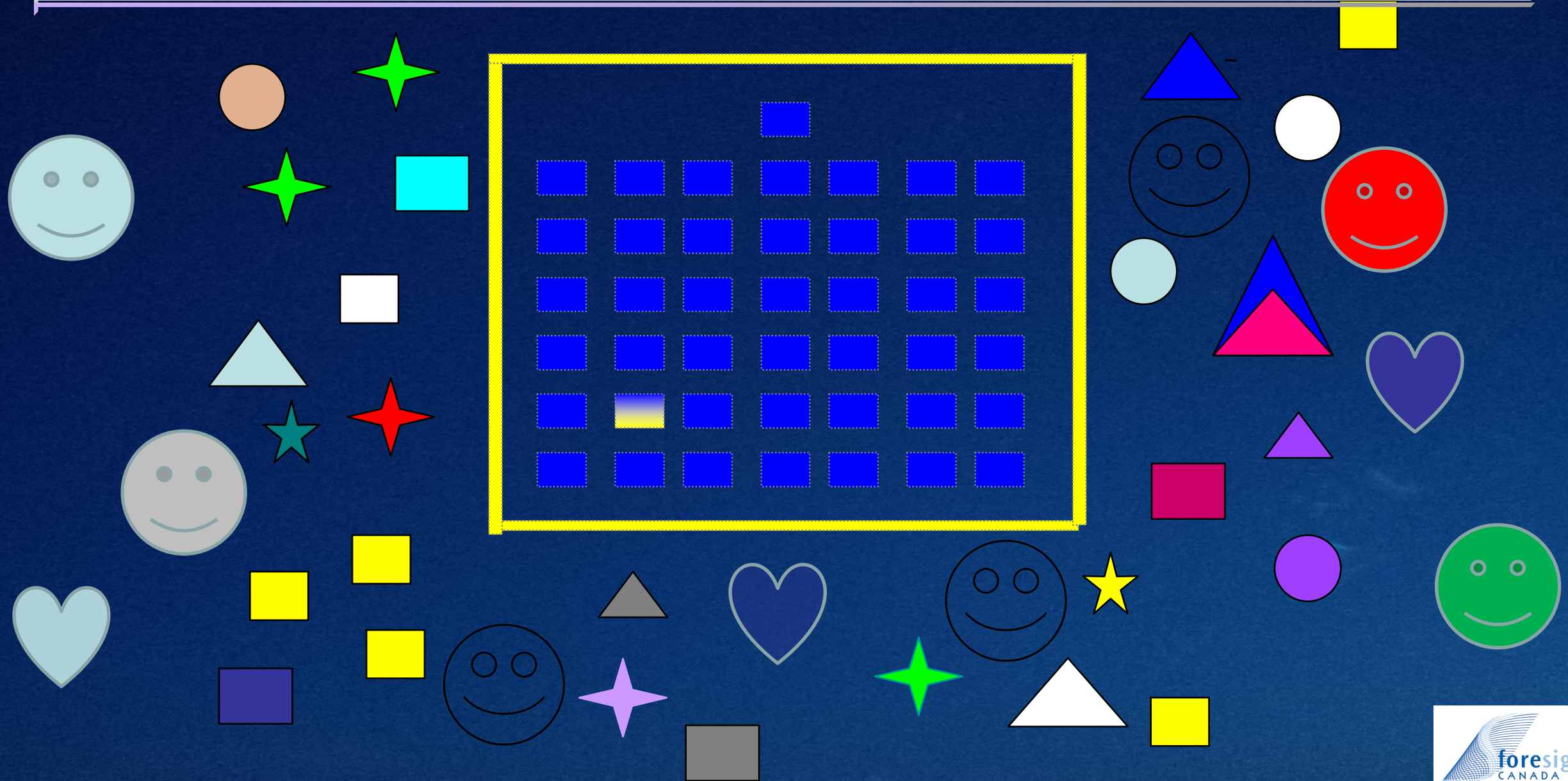
Dynamic Reality



Atomized Reality & Knowing

Without Forever

MTI Imagination of a Whole Culture

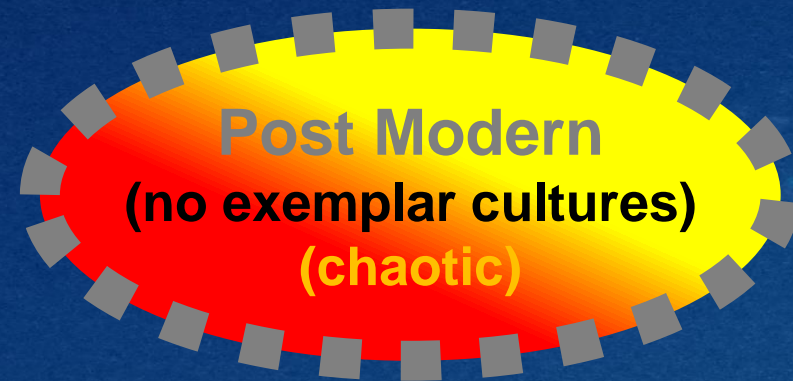


Who was/is Where?

Relational Reality & Knowing

Static Reality

Dynamic Reality



Atomized Reality & Knowing

Learn to Apply these Concepts

To the Evolution of the Homo Sapiens

This Does Change Everything

Relational Reality & Knowing

Truthful

Settled Agricultural
(towns to regional empires)
(complicated)

Science

Static Reality

Indigenous
(small group)
(complex)

Authority

Learning

Dynamic Reality

Relatives

Modern T-Industrial
(cities to global empires)
(obvious)

Person

Spirituality

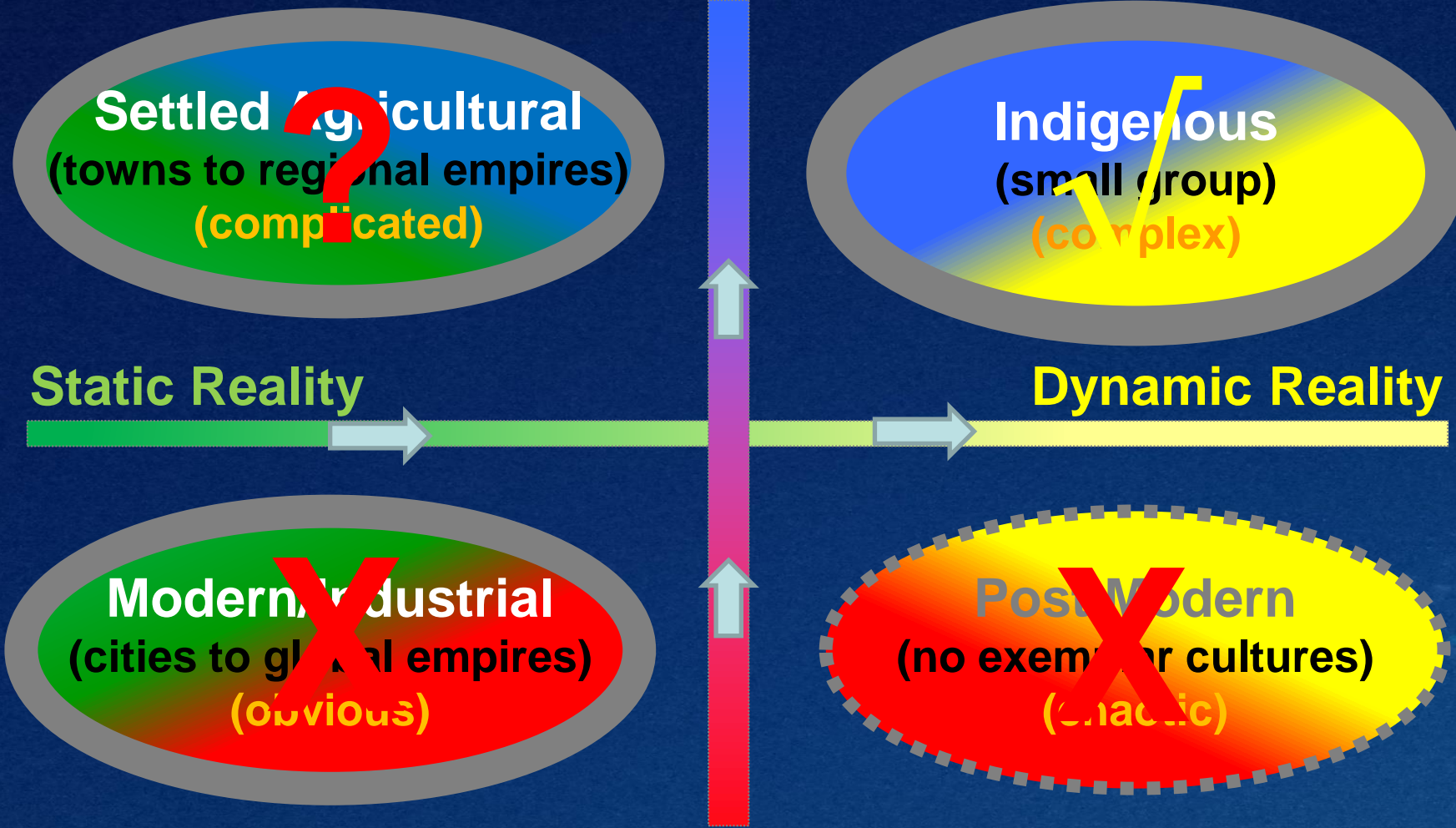
Post Modern
(no exemplar cultures)
(chaotic)

Agency

Atomized Reality & Knowing

Truly Sustainable Civilization_F ?

Relational Reality & Knowing



Atomized Reality & Knowing

Risk New Participation with/in Reality

"Scientific knowledge, originally seen to make possible the prediction and manipulation of nature, appears now to be pointing us toward a new relationship with the natural world based on sensitive observation and participation, rather than control."

Brian Goodwin
Complexity Matters:
A Reintroduction to Complexity,
2017

Dawning Reflexivity

As I fight the system in which I live,
am I ignoring the system that lives in me?

Rashad Manji
Globe and Mail,
March 8, 2019.

Our Personal-to-Civilizational_F Journey

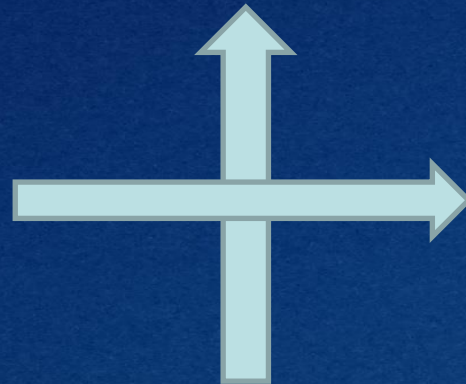
“I have spent much of the last forty years endeavouring to understand world views other than those we in the West have inherited; and in the last several years I have been particularly concerned with the question of what is involved in the endeavour to understand, and to help others understand, an outlook different from the one that one already has.

One of the conclusions to which I have come is that in order to understand a different view – especially if it be radically different and/or profound, comprehensive, humane – *one must oneself become a different sort of person.*”

Wilfred Cantwell Smith
Letter to Butch Nelson
Early 1980s

3. What Else to DO?

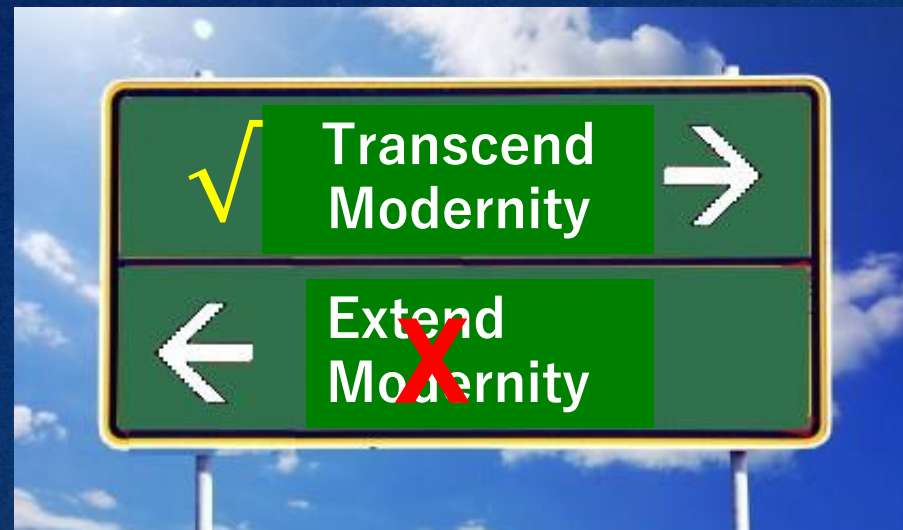
Cooperate with the Reality of P2CT Journey



Our Core Work in the 21st Century:

1. Learn to know, **imagine**, think through and **respond to** the actual situation we MTI's are in as an existential crisis.
2. Let go of and out-grow MTI cultures. Loosen their grip on us.
3. Commit to the ^{new} work of cooperating with our evolution as we consciously [^]co-create the next form of human civilization_F by nurturing into being "**consciously co-creative and reflexive persons and cultures**". (CCR)

- Optional
- Unconscious
- Long Time
- Local/Regional



- Required
- Conscious/Reflexive
- Fast
- Scalable

A wide-angle photograph of a snowy, mountainous landscape. In the foreground, a stone cairn is built from several dark, stacked rocks. The ground is covered in snow with some dark patches. In the background, a range of snow-capped mountains stretches across the horizon under a clear blue sky.

Over to YOU!

Our Future **is** in Our Hands, Minds, Hearts and Spirits

Thank You!

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