transformative social innovation theory

drift for transition

Transformative Social Innovation: Insights from the TRANSIT project

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SI-Drive Final conference, 24th of October 2017

Brussels

@TransitSI

This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no 613169.

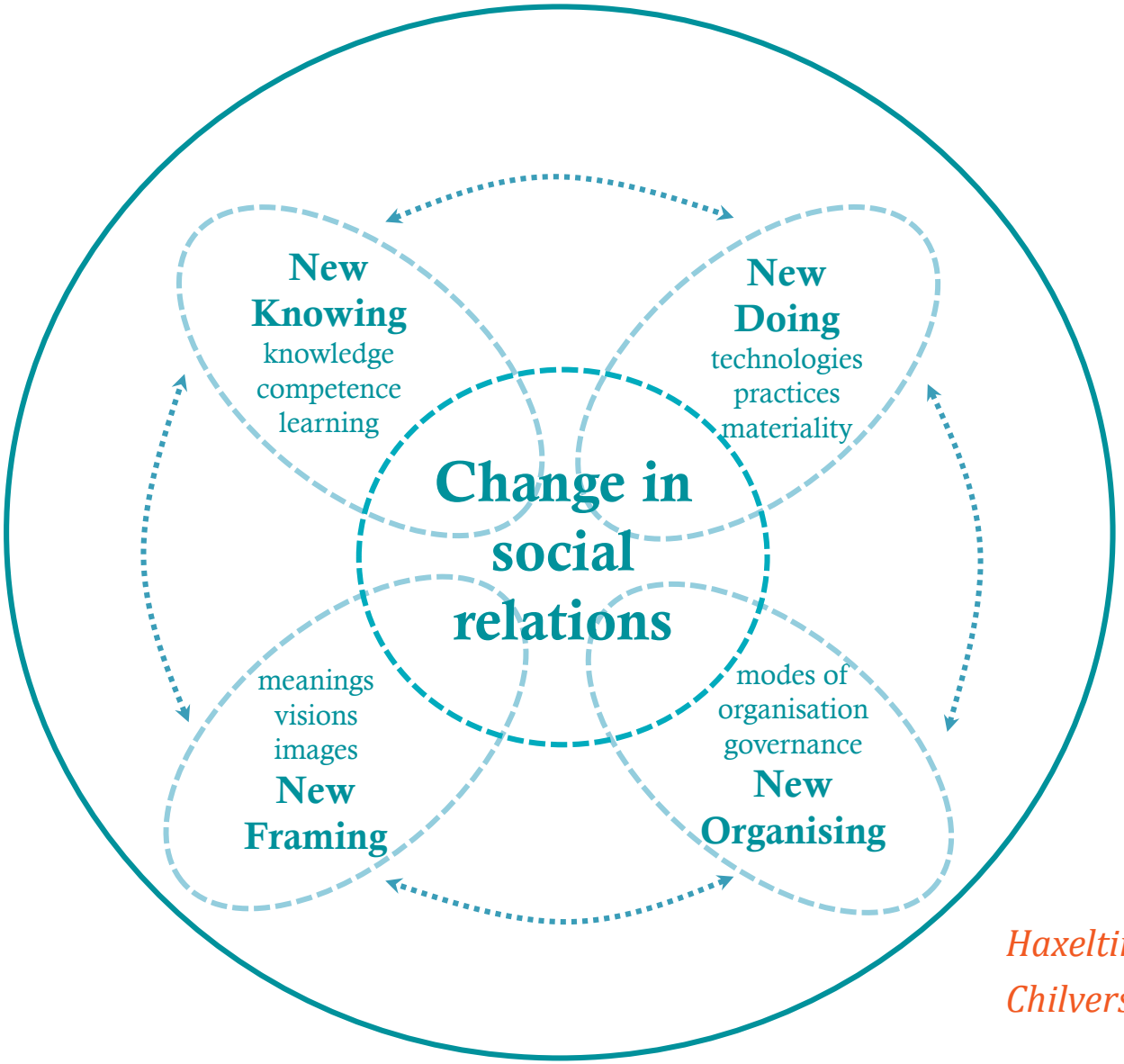
Research Aim

To develop a theory of **transformative** **social innovation**

that is **grounded** and **tested** in empirical data,

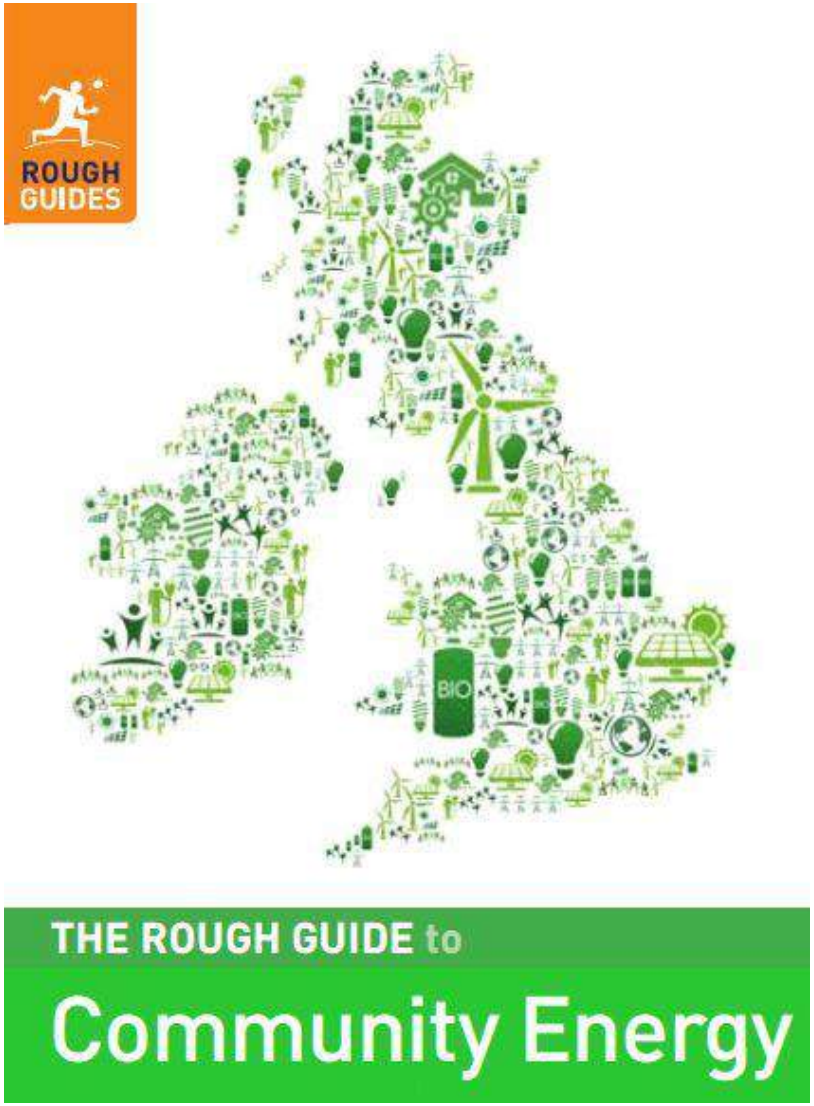
and **useful** to policy-makers, activists, entrepreneurs, critical intellectuals and researchers.

Social innovation



Haxeltine et al. 2016

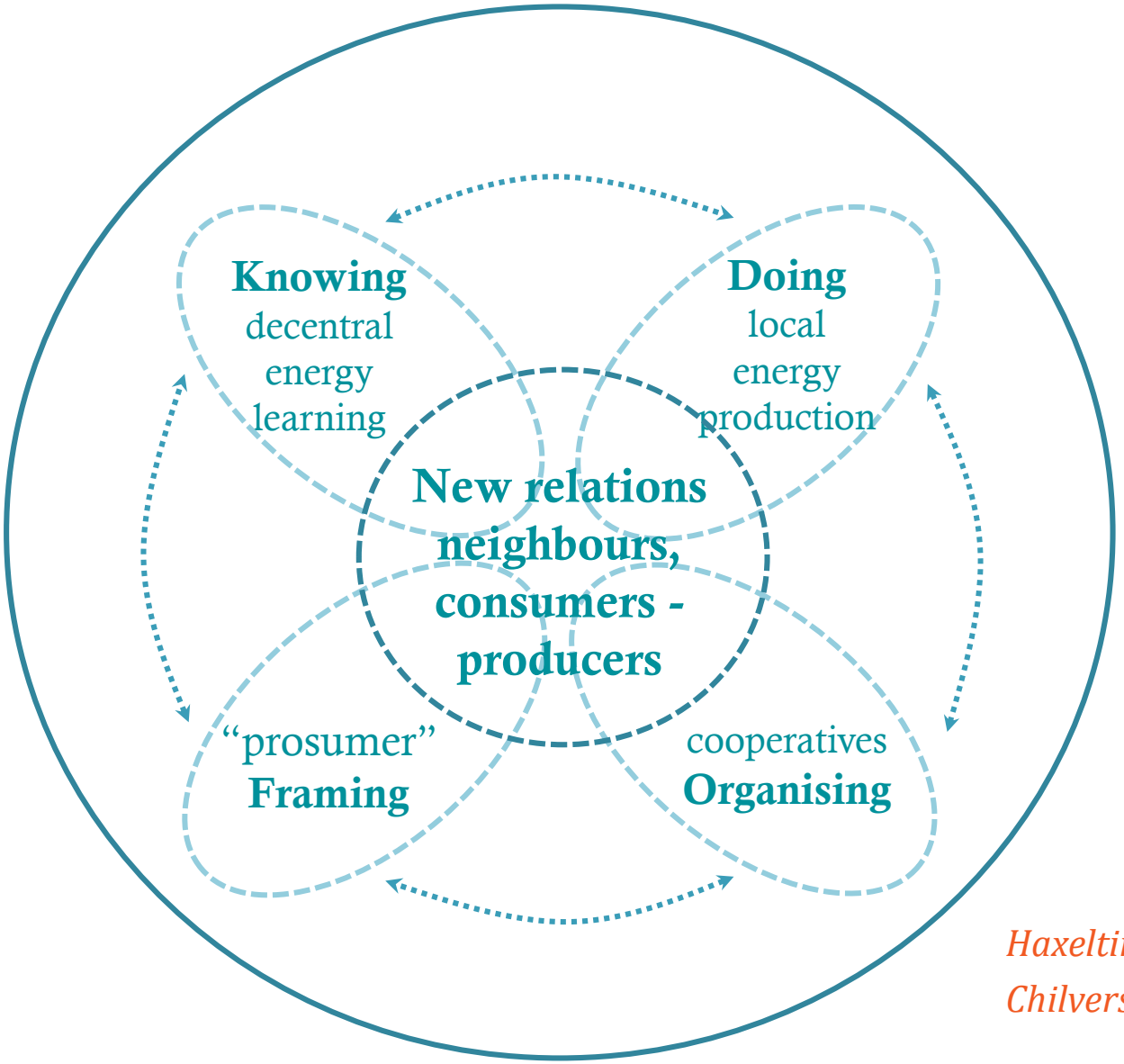
Chilvers & Longhurst 2016



http://www.westmillsolar.coop

http://persoonlijkeruimte.nl/?portfolio=buurtenergie-blijstroom

Example Community Energy



Haxeltine et al. 2016

Chilvers & Longhurst 2016

‘Reinventing’ cooperatives

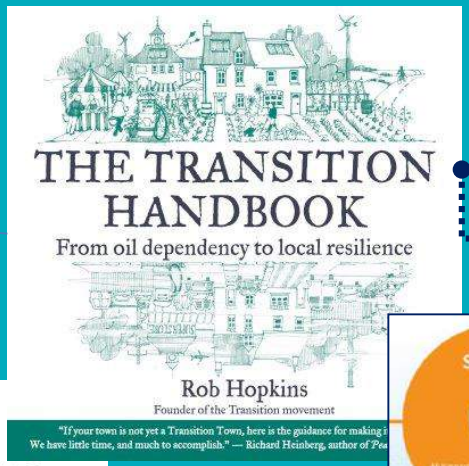
Ecopower cvba

COOPERATIVES Europe

REScoop.EU

2012 - International Year of COOPERATIVES

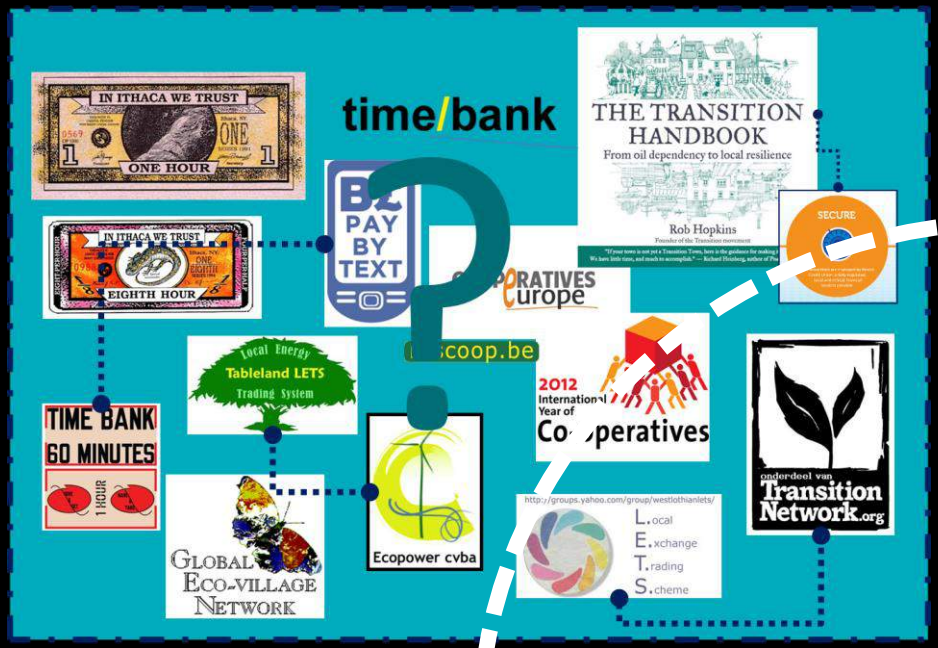
time/bank



?

RATIVES Europe

scoop.be


IN ITHACA WE TRUST
ONE HOUR
time/bank
THE TRANSITION HANDBOOK
From oil dependency to local resilience
Rob Hopkins
IN ITHACA WE TRUST
EIGHTH HOUR
PAY BY TEXT
SECURE
RATIVES Europe
coop.be
Local Energy
Tableland LETS
Trading System
2012
International Year of
Co peratives
TIME BANK
60 MINUTES
1 HOUR
onderdeel van
Transition Network.org
GLOBAL ECO-VILLAGE NETWORK
Ecopower cvba
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/westlothianlets/
L.ocal
E.xchange
T.rading
S.cheme

?

Deutsche Börse

High Expectations of Social Innovation

Former EU commission president José Manuel Barroso:

*"If encouraged and valued, social innovation can **bring immediate solutions to the pressing social issues** that citizens are confronted with."*

BEPA:

*"At a **time of major budgetary constraints**, **social innovation is an effective way of responding to social challenges**, by mobilising people's creativity to develop solutions and make better use of scarce resources".*

SI drive

social innovation
eXchange

Cr|E|S|S|I
Creating Economic Space for Social Innovation

impact
social innovation
economic foundation
empowering people

BENISI
scaling social innovation

transition
TRANSNATIONAL NETWORK
FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION
INCUBATION

DIGITAL
SOCIAL
INNOVATION

SIAN
Social Innovation
Accelerators
Network
initiated by BENISI.eu

SIRCle
Social Innovation for Resilient Communities

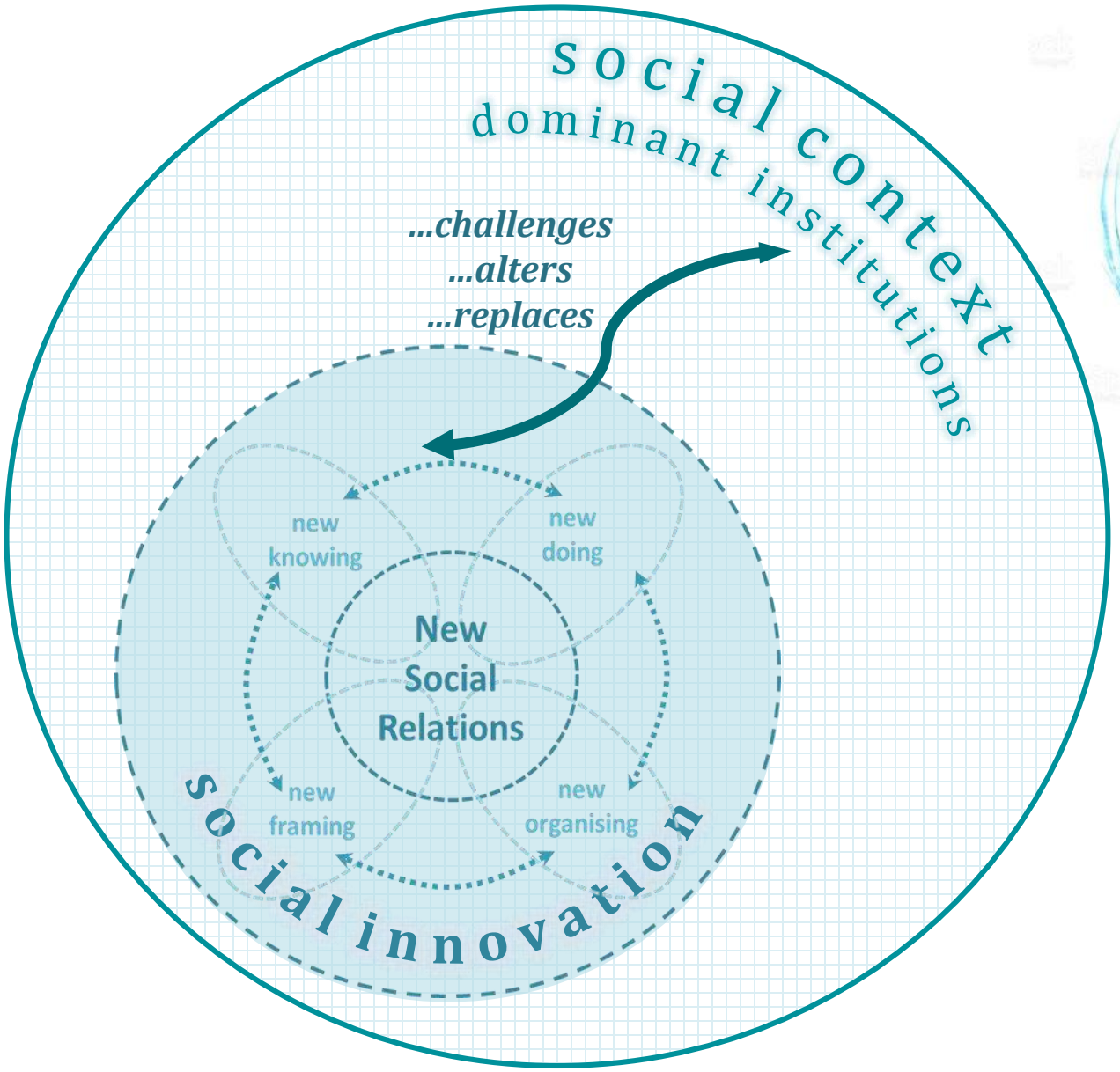
tran
s i
t

SOCIAL
INNOVATION
COMMUNITY

Research Questions

- how, to what extent and under which conditions does social innovation contribute to transformative change?
- how are people empowered (or disempowered) to contribute to such processes?
- how do we conceptualise and study transformative social innovation?

Transformative social innovation?



Haxeltine et al. 2016

Wittmayer et al. 2015

Avelino et al. 2014

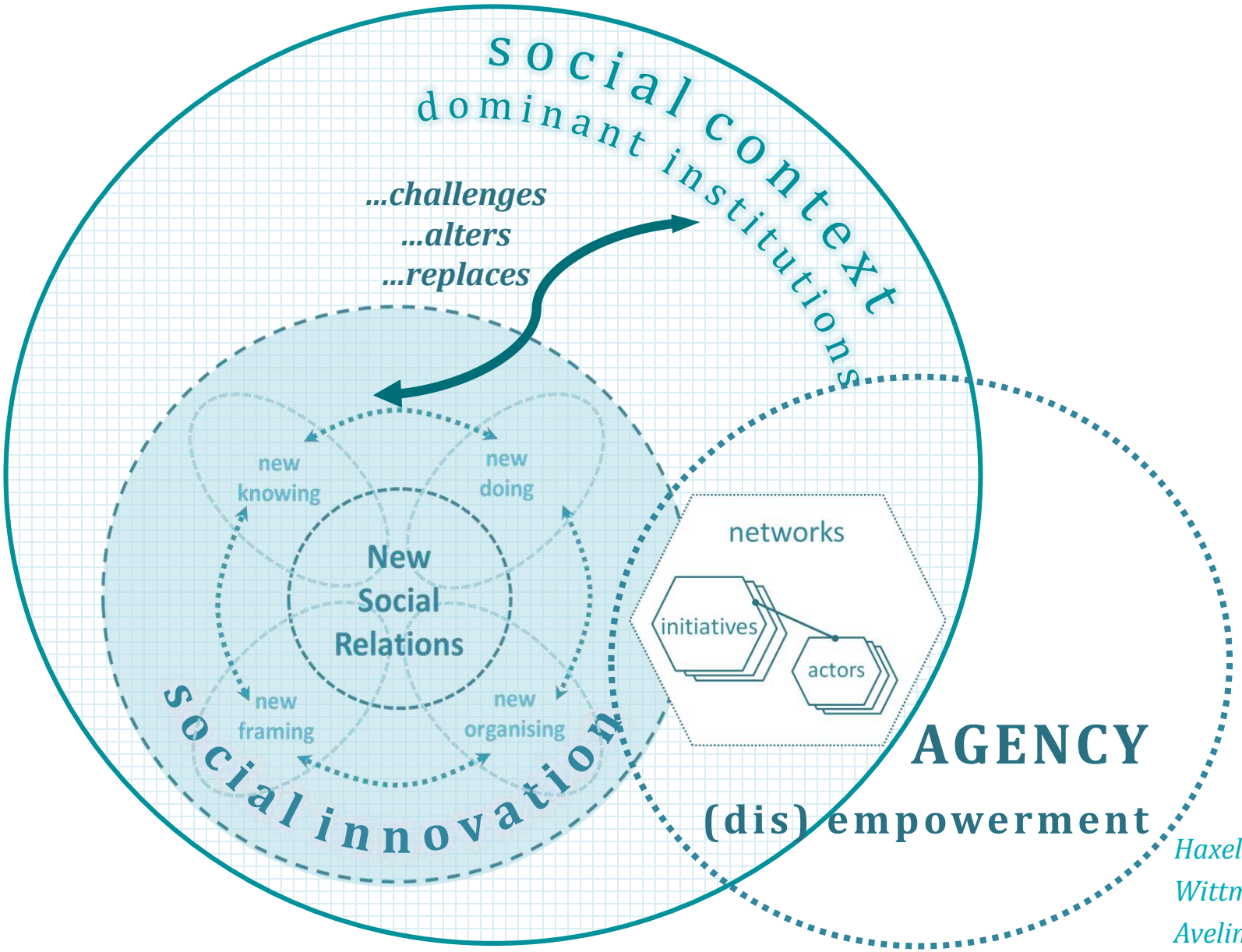
Unpacking the social context

Game-changers =

- Macro-developments, events or trends that are framed as/ perceived to change the (rules, field, players in the) 'game' of societal interaction

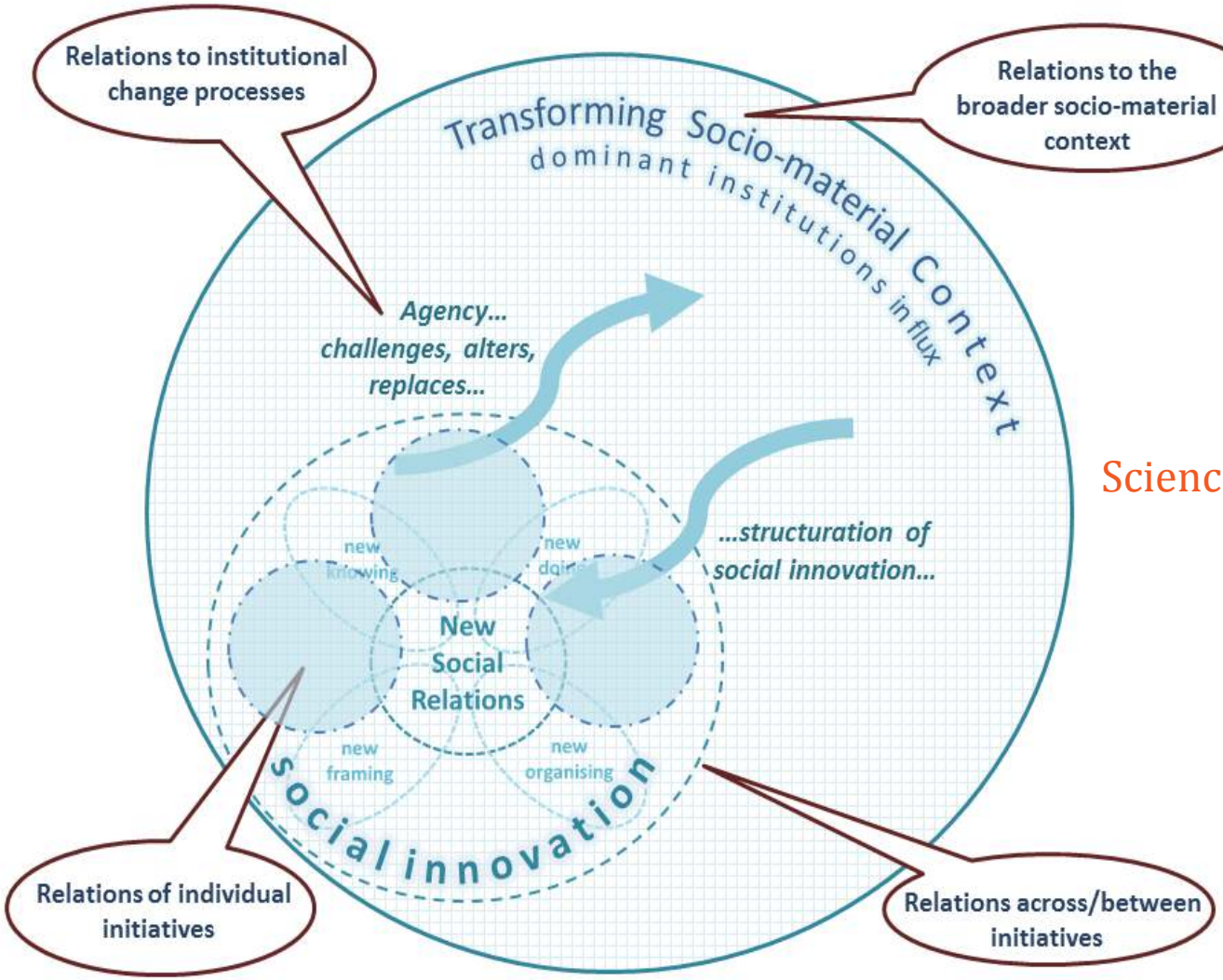
- e.g. (economic) 'crisis', national policy interventions, climate change, ….

Agency for transformative social innovation



Haxeltine et al. 2015
Wittmayer et al. 2015
Avelino et al. 2014

Integrating dimensions & theoretical perspectives



Institutional theory
Relational theory
Structuration theory
Transition research
Science & Technology studies
Innovation studies
Political theory
Political psychology

A middle-range theory of TSI

Conceptual framework & 20 theoretical propositions on TSI

http://www.transitsocialinnovation.eu/deliverables

IMPACT HUB

ASHOKA
Everyone A Changemaker™

European Network of Living Labs

hackerspaces

DESIS NETWORK
Design for Social Innovation and Sustainability

SHAREABLE

Living Knowledge
The International Science Shop Network

INFORSE
International Network for Sustainable Energy

Slow Food®

Global Ecovillage Network

SEED FREEDOM

Transition Network.org

Co-operative Housing International
A Sector of the International Co-operative Alliance

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ripess

OIDP
PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROJECT

TIME BANK
60 MINUTES
1 HOUR

Credit Union

BIEN
Basic Income Earth Network

the PEOPLE'S budget

We want a say in how our money's spent

REAL MONEY, REAL POWER:

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

theguardian

Brazil
Doing things differently

Participatory democracy in Porto Alegre

The first of a new series: this Brazilian city's municipal assembly challenges conventional systems of govermnent - and it works

199 12

Patrick Kingsley

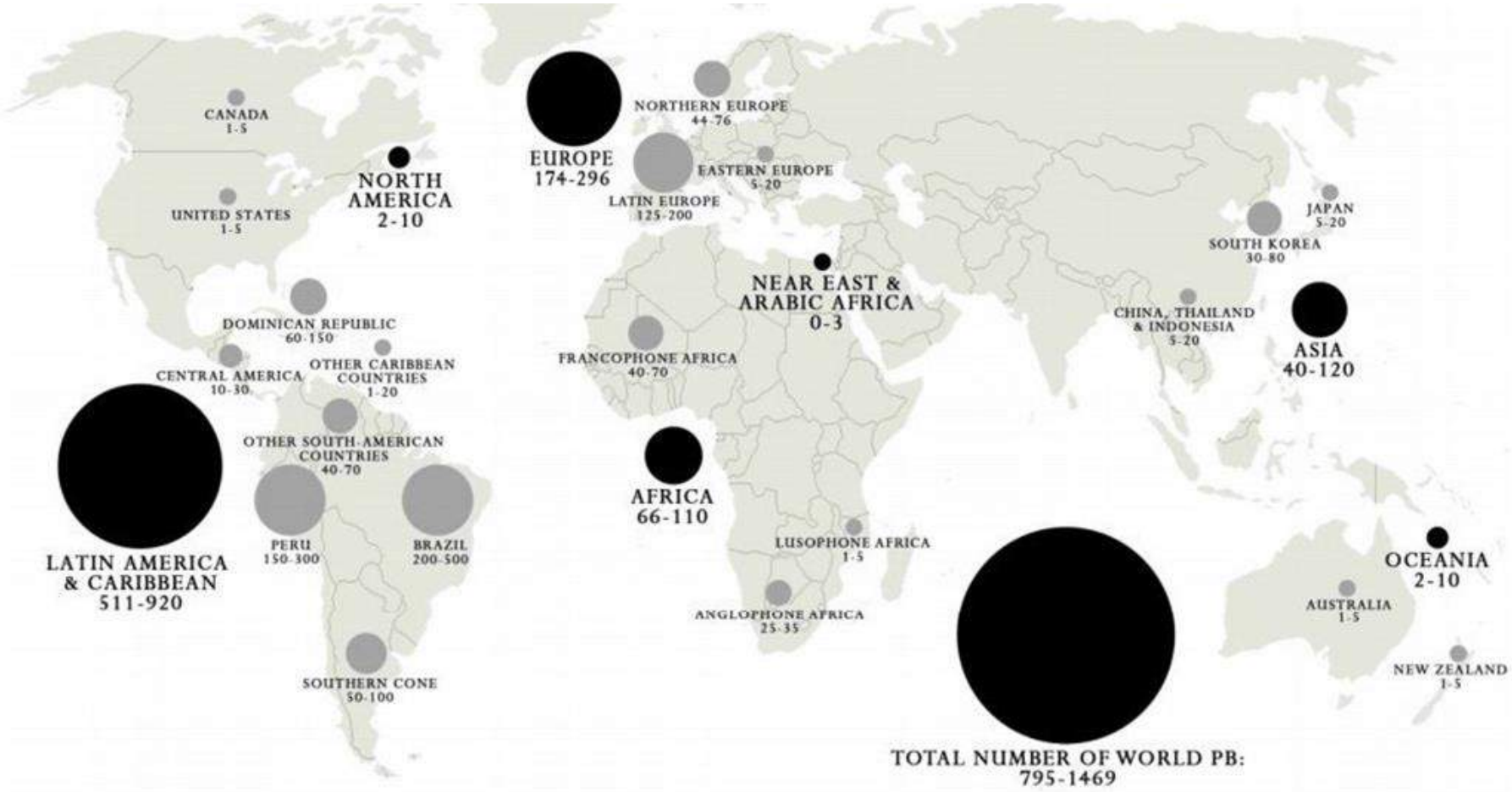
Monday 10 September 2012 20.00 BST

Most popular in US

Manchester bombing: more victims named as threat level is raised to critical - live news

Study finds mushrooms are the safest recreational drug

Morrissey attacks politicians and the Queen over Manchester



Sintomer et al. 2012

A NETWORK OF 547 TOWNS AND CITIES IN 52 COUNTRIES

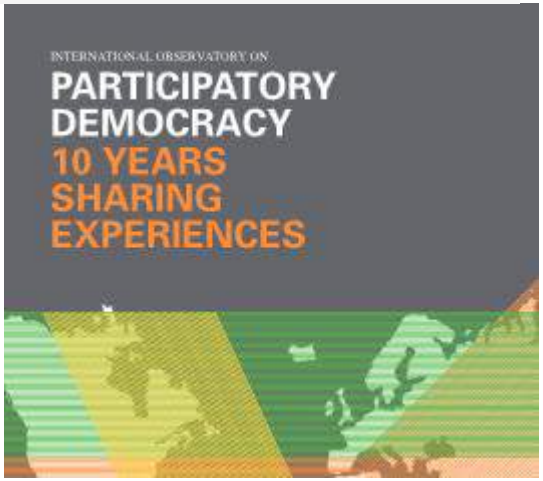
Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Holland, Honduras, Italy, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Togo, Turkey, United Kingdom, Uruguay and Venezuela.

310 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
237 UNIVERSITIES, RESEARCH CENTRES AND ASSOCIATIONS

A NETWORK OF SHARED COMMITMENTS
TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT
BARCELONA
LATIN AMERICA REGIONAL OFFICE
PORTO ALEGRE
ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
12 CITY ORGANISERS

WEB
www.oidp.net

OIDP



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROJECT

https://oidp.net/en/

IMPACT
HUB
Where change goes to work
entrepreneurial
ideas
SKILL
DEVELOPMENT
SEED
FUNDING
WORKSPACE
sustainable
impa
Welcome to Impact Hub
#HelloImpact

86

Open Impact Hubs

21

Impact Hubs in the Making

15,000+

Members

5

Regions

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DESIS NETWORK
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International Network for Sustainable Energy

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Global Ecovillage Network

SEED FREEDOM

Transition Network.org

Co-operative Housing International
A Sector of the International Co-operative Alliance

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ripess

OIDP
PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROJECT

TIME BANK
60 MINUTES
1 HOUR

Credit Union

BIEN
Basic Income Earth Network

Embedded case-study approach

20 translocal networks

100+ local manifestations

25+ countries

EU, Latin-America, other

interviews, participant observation,
document reviews, comparative meta-analysis

http://www.transitsocialinnovation.eu/discover-our-cases-2

A repository of Critical Turning Points: making sense of TSI timelines

On breakthroughs, setbacks and surprises in processes of Transformative Social Innovation.

By Bonno Pel (ULB), Linda Zuijderwijk (IHS) and Adina Dimitru (UDC).

Through this blog we'd like to introduce you to our database project on Critical Turning Points in transformative social innovation. In the following we will explain how these Critical Turning Points help to make sense of social innovation processes, how we describe them, and how we seek to collect a diversity of those experiences from about 80 social innovation initiatives in various countries.

http://www.transitsocialinnovation.eu/sii

transformative
social innovation
theory

The Critical Turning Points database;

concept, methodology and dataset of an international Transformative Social Innovation comparison

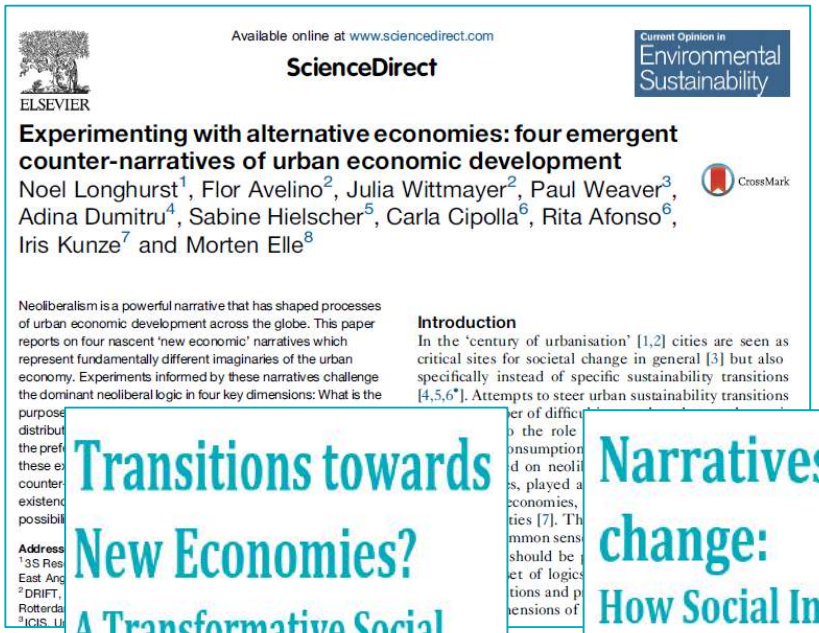
TRANSIT Working Paper #10, July 12th 2017

Pel, B., Bauler, T., Avelino, F., Backhaus, J., Ruijsink, S., Rach, S., Jørgensen, M. S., Kunze, I., Voss, G., Dumitru, A., Lema Blanco, I., Afonso, R., Cipolla, C., Longhurst, N., Dorland, J. Elle, M., Balázs, B., Horváth, J., Matolay, R., Wittmayer, J., Valderrama Pineda, A., Serpa, B., Rösing Agostini, M., Lajarthe, F., Garrido, S., Picabea, F., Moreira, J., Trentini, F., Bidinost, A., Weaver, P., Heimann, R., Skropke, C., Hoffmeister, K.L., Tawakol, D., Olivotto, V., Tsatsou, A., Zahed, Y., Moet, R., Zuijderwijk, L., Renema, J. and Kemp, R.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no 613169

http://www.transitsocialinnovation.eu/sii

Comparative analysis


Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

ScienceDirect

Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability

ELSEVIER

Experimenting with alternative economies: four emergent counter-narratives of urban economic development

Noel Longhurst[1], Flor Avelino[2], Julia Wittmayer[2], Paul Weaver[3], Adina Dumitru[4], Sabine Hielscher[5], Carla Cipolla[6], Rita Afonso[6], Iris Kunze[7] and Morten Elle[8]

CrossMark

Neoliberalism is a powerful narrative that has shaped processes of urban economic development across the globe. This paper reports on four nascent 'new economic' narratives which represent fundamentally different imaginaries of the urban economy. Experiments informed by these narratives challenge the dominant neoliberal logic in four key dimensions: What is the purpose

Introduction

In the 'century of urbanisation' [1,2] cities are seen as critical sites for societal change in general [3] but also specifically instead of specific sustainability transitions [4,5,6•]. Attempts to steer urban sustainability transitions

Transitions towards New Economies?

A Transformative Social Innovation Perspective

TRANSIT Working Paper #3, September 2015

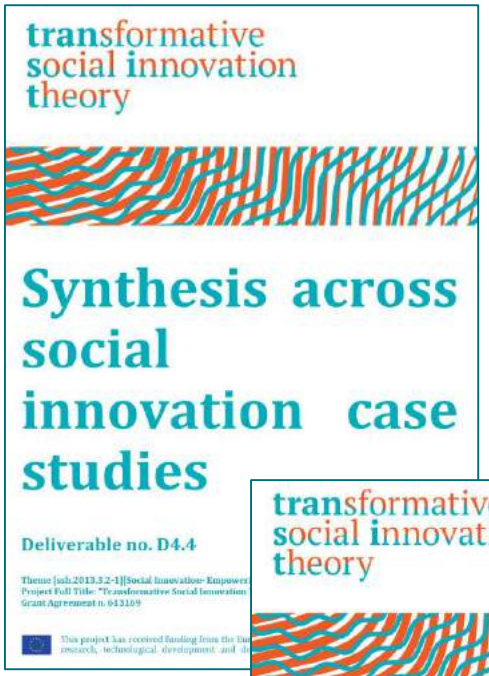
By Flor Avelino , Julia Wittmayer, Adina Dumitru, Noel Longhurst, Sabine Hielscher, Paul Weaver, Carla Cipolla, Rita Afonso, Iris Kunze, Jens Dorland, Morten Elle, Bonno Pel, Tim Strasser, René Kemp and Alex Haxeltine

Narratives of change:

How Social Innovation Initiatives engage with their transformative ambitions

TRANSIT Working Paper #4, October 2015

By Julia M. Wittmayer, Julia Backhaus, Flor Avelino, Bonno Pel, Tim Strasser, Iris Kunze


transformative social innovation theory

Synthesis across social innovation case studies

Deliverable no. D4.4

transformative social innovation theory

Synthesis Report: meta- analysis of Critical Turning Points in TSI

Deliverable 5.4

http://www.transitsocialinnovation.eu/downloads

Narratives of change

Societal discourses on change and innovation, i.e. sets of ideas, concepts, metaphors, and/or story-lines about change and innovation

>> Diagnosis of the social context:

Rationale, Actors, Process

4 clusters of narratives on alternative economies

ASHOKA

Everyone A Changemaker™

"incubating social entrepreneurs"

social entrepreneurship & social economy

Transition Network.org

"living in local, resilient communities"

degrowth & relocalisation

European Network of Living Labs

SHAREABLE

"sharing & redesigning goods"

collaborative economy

BIEN

Basic Income Earth Network

RÉSEAU INTERCONTINENTAL DE PROMOTION DE L'ÉCONOMIE SOCIALE SOLIDAIRE

OIDP

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROJECT

ripess

"political institutional reform"

solidarity economy

Playing with/into discursive dynamics

- Express counter-culture
- Trigger imagination
- Resource for empowerment
- Guide action (-strategies)

- ➢ Continuously changing and adapting
- ➢ Co-evolve with game-changers: Social innovation initiatives play into that ‘discursive dynamic’

Experimenting with social relations

- Physical and mental space for **learning** and **experimentation**.

- Renewing **social relations & relational values.**

  trust, reciprocity, equality, collectiveness, cooperation, sharing, solidarity, inclusion, transparency, openness, connectedness etc.

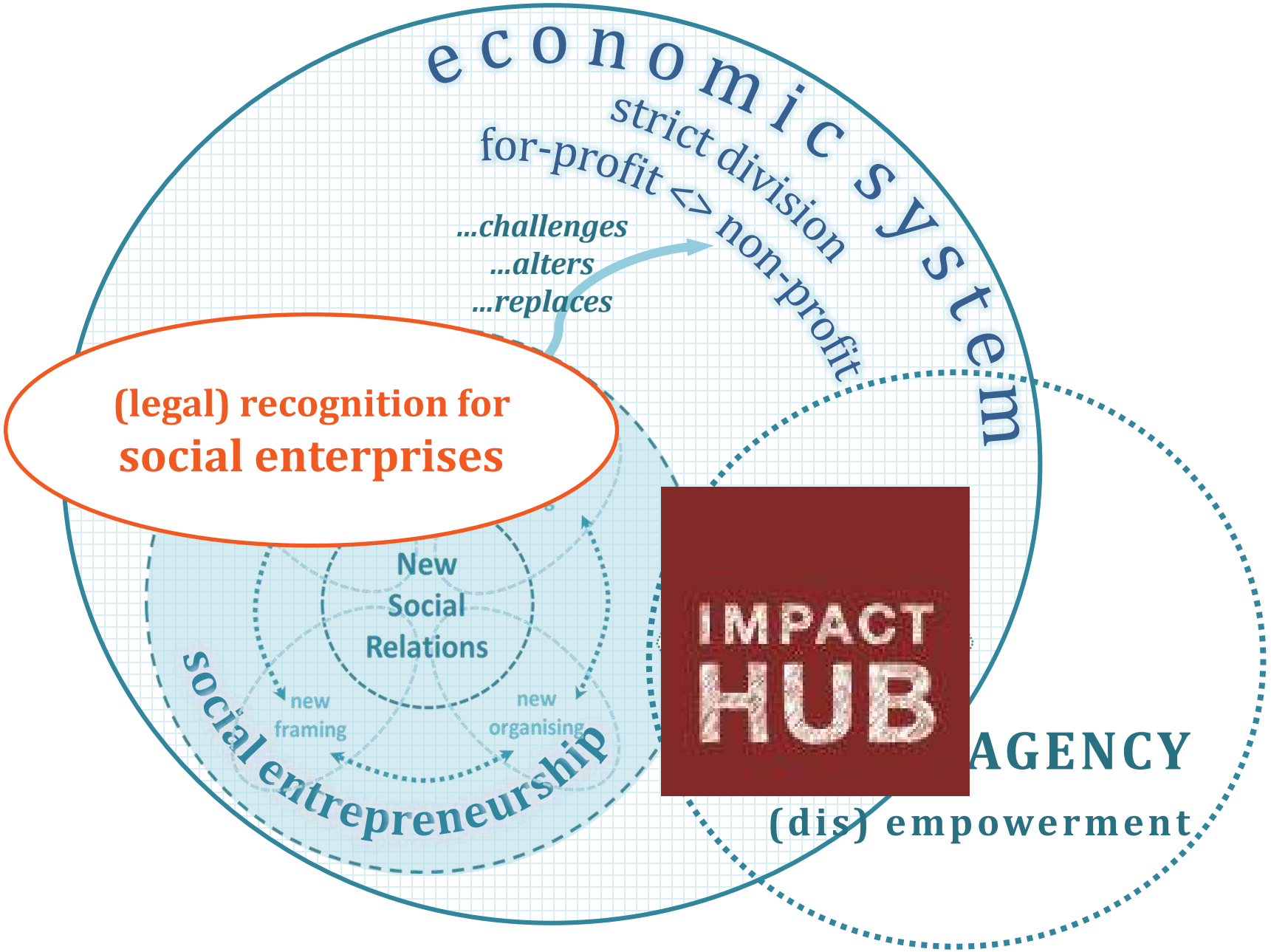
- **Community-building** and transparent, cooperative and inclusive forms of decision-making.

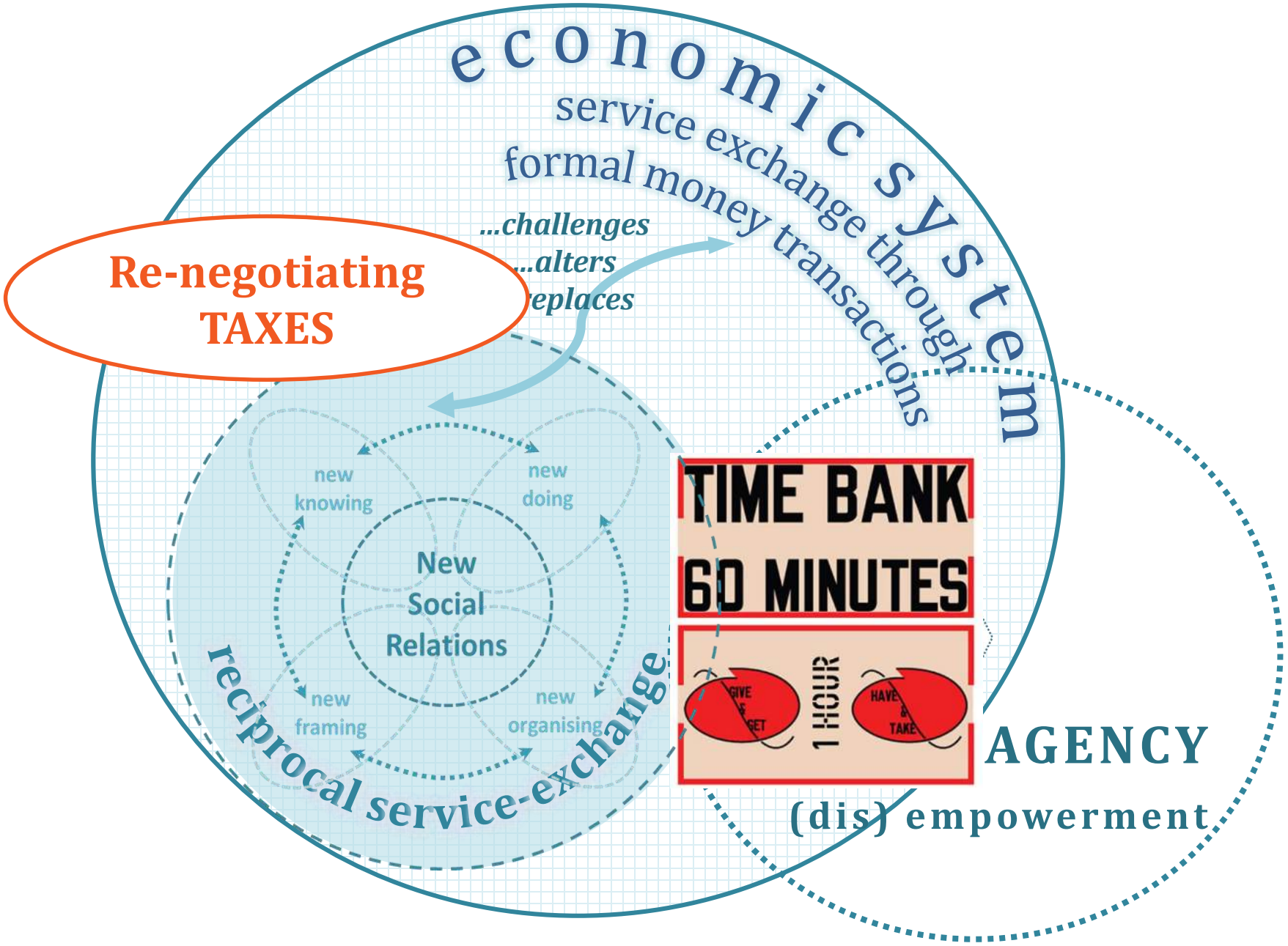
Challenging institutional logics

- Initiatives challenge existing **institutional logics** and **(re)-negotiate** new / adapted institutional logics

- SI-initiatives **lack an 'institutional home'** > **'institutional nomadism'** = both barrier & opportunity for transformative impact.

- **Hybrid organizational forms** instead of 'stretch & conform'.

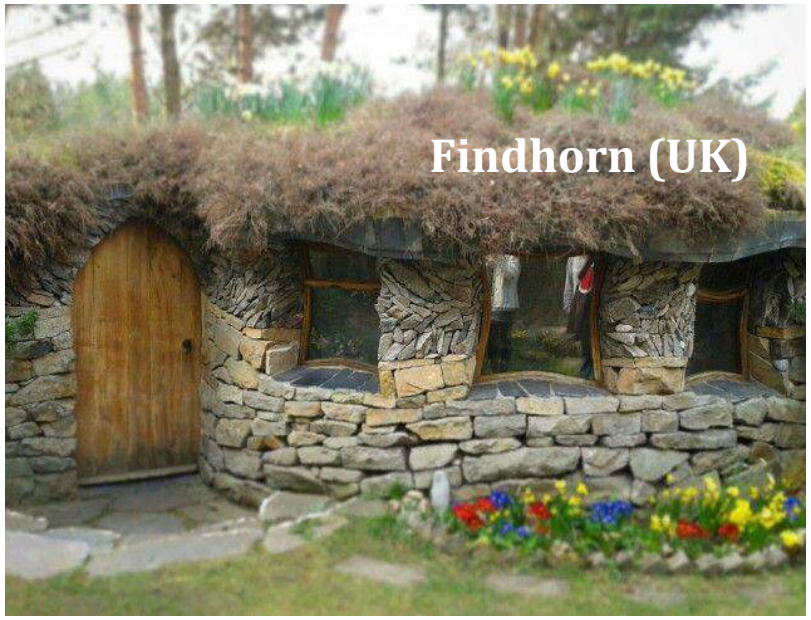

economic system
strict division
for-profit <> non-profit
...challenges
...alters
...replaces
(legal) recognition for
social enterprises
New
Social
Relations
new
framing
new
organising
social entrepreneurship
IMPACT
HUB
AGENCY
(dis) empowerment


economic system
service exchange through
formal money transactions
...challenges
...alters
...eplaces
Re-negotiating
TAXES
new
knowing
new
doing
New
Social
Relations
new
framing
new
organising
reciprocal service-exchange
TIME BANK
60 MINUTES
GIVE & GET
1 HOUR
HAVE & TAKE
AGENCY
(dis) empowerment

The Institutionalization of Social Innovation
between Transformation and Capture

TRANSIT Working Paper 2, 14/10/14

By Bonno Pel & Tom Bauler


Findhorn (UK)

Tamera (Portugal)

Biologische
mozzarella
pizza

- WhiteWashing
- GreenWashing
- WeWashing?

- AirBnB, Uber, etc.

HUFFPOST

THE BLOG 03/16/2015 07:00 pm ET | Updated May 16, 2015

#WeWashing: When "Sharing" Is Renting and "Community" Is a Commodity

By Lee-Sean Huang

WeWashing is a new term that refers to the abuse of words like "sharing" and "community." Use #WeWashing to identify and critique this abuse.

Whitewash, Greenwash, WeWash

I am usually a satisfied user of services like AirBnb and Uber, even if I don't 100% agree with all of their corporate policies and practices. But I cringe every time I hear these companies, and others like it, described as part of the "Sharing Economy."

Stanford SOCIAL INNOVATION REVIEW

Informing and inspiring leaders of social change

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Philanthropy & Funding

A Neoliberal Takeover of Social Entrepreneurship?

A model of social entrepreneurship focused on market-based solutions and profit is threatening to crowd out more collaborative approaches.

SHARE COMMENT PRINT ORDER REPRINTS

By Jyoti Sharma | Sep. 19, 2016

I recently found an interesting article by Martin Jacques, who, in the early 1990s, heralded and warned against th
economics with minir
neoliberalism, but thi
policies have led to sl
90 percent of the popu

The watering down of participatory budgeting and people power in Porto Alegre, Brazil

by DANIEL CHAVEZ

Introduction

In the Brazilian city of Porto Alegre, previously famous as the birthplace of the World Social Forum and the global capital of participatory democracy, the centre-right coalition that took office after the electoral defeat of the left in 2004 has implemented a new institutional scheme in Porte Alegre. It is known as *governança solidária local* (local solidarity governance), which allegedly will deepen and broaden civic engagement. The scheme has been praised by mainstream international organisations but – for reasons to be discussed below – also strongly criticised by local NGOs, engaged researchers, leftwing political parties, and civil society organisations. This process is consistent with broader changes taking place at the international level through the sustained export of a *lite* version of participatory budgeting by rather non-democratic and non-participatory institutions such as the World Bank.[1]

Figure 1: Map showing Porto Alegre

telesur Article

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Venezuela's Violent Right-Wing | Femicides in Latin America | Colombian Peace Process | Corruption i

Opinion > Articles

Basic Income as a Neoliberal Weapon

By: *John Clarke*

A large poster in a square in Geneva, Switzerland, promoting the idea of a universal basic income | Photo: Reuters

NEW THINKING FOR THE BRITISH ECONOMY

openDemocracy free thinking for the world

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25th November 2016 / Dmytri Kleiner ⋮⋮ Uncategorised

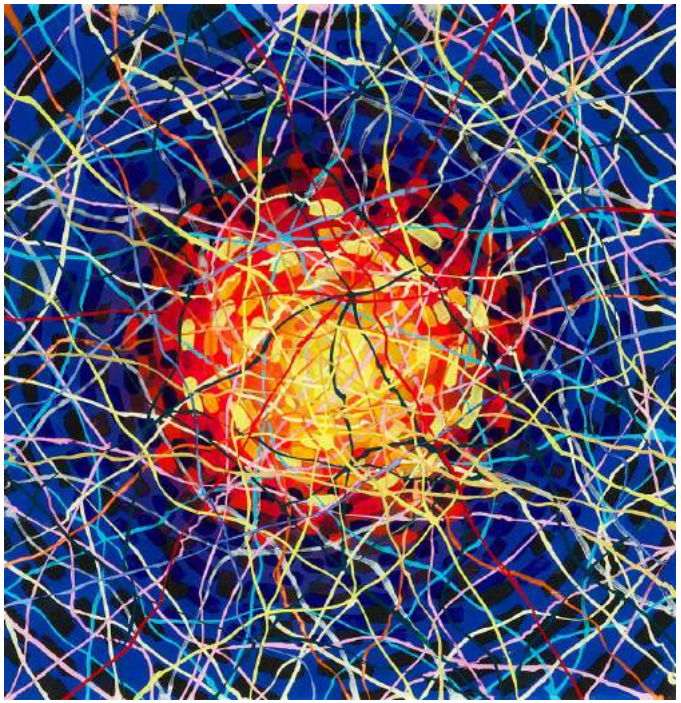
Universal Basic Income is a neoliberal plot to make you poorer

Dialectics of TSI politics

A dialectical perspective on innovation 'capture'
(Bonno Pel 2016)

- Social innovations have a dialectic relation with established institutions - they both challenge them and reproduce them.
- To be transformative, inclusive & accessible, some sort of mainstreaming is needed (marketization, formalization, bureaucratization, normalization).

Paradoxical political strategies



Translation & radical core
(Adrian Smith 2006, 2007)

- **Translating** (new ways of doing, knowing, framing & organizing) to mainstream context, while also maintaining one's **radical core**

- SI-initiatives need flexible **portfolio of different - often paradoxical - strategies** towards institutional change *(supplementing, lobbying, protesting, compromising, complying, circumventing, avoiding, seducing, negotiating, imitating, surprising… etc.)*

See *TSI manifesto website* for online version + more information.

Manifesto for Transformative Social Innovation.

Version 0.1. / October 2017

An age of contradiction is upon us. People and nature are more globally interconnected than ever before, while also increasingly separated by old and new divisions. Scientific knowledge, technological innovation and legal structures have brought progress and previously unimaginable forms of comfort and entertainment. At the same time, there is severe poverty and inequality, ecological disasters, climate change, biodiversity loss and economic downfalls. The past years have been full of political

ercultural tensions, 'post-truth' media wars,

of raging wild fires and hottest days on earth

together with multiple political blasts and

3 Principles of Transformative Social Innovation

Ve uphold and commit to the following **13 principles of transformative social i**
laboration of the principles at the end of this document):

1. Physical and mental space for **learning and experimentation** is a necessa
2. We require **alternative and diverse economies**.
3. Innovation is just as much about shaping the new as it is about **reframing t**
4. We need to experiment with **alternative social relations** and relational val
5. Social & material change are intertwined: we need both **social & technolo**
6. Transformative change requires **hybrid combinations** of civil society, state
7. Social innovation should **never be an excuse to dismantle necessary pu**
8. **Translocal empowerment** is a promising response to the challenges of glo

A commitment and a call to action

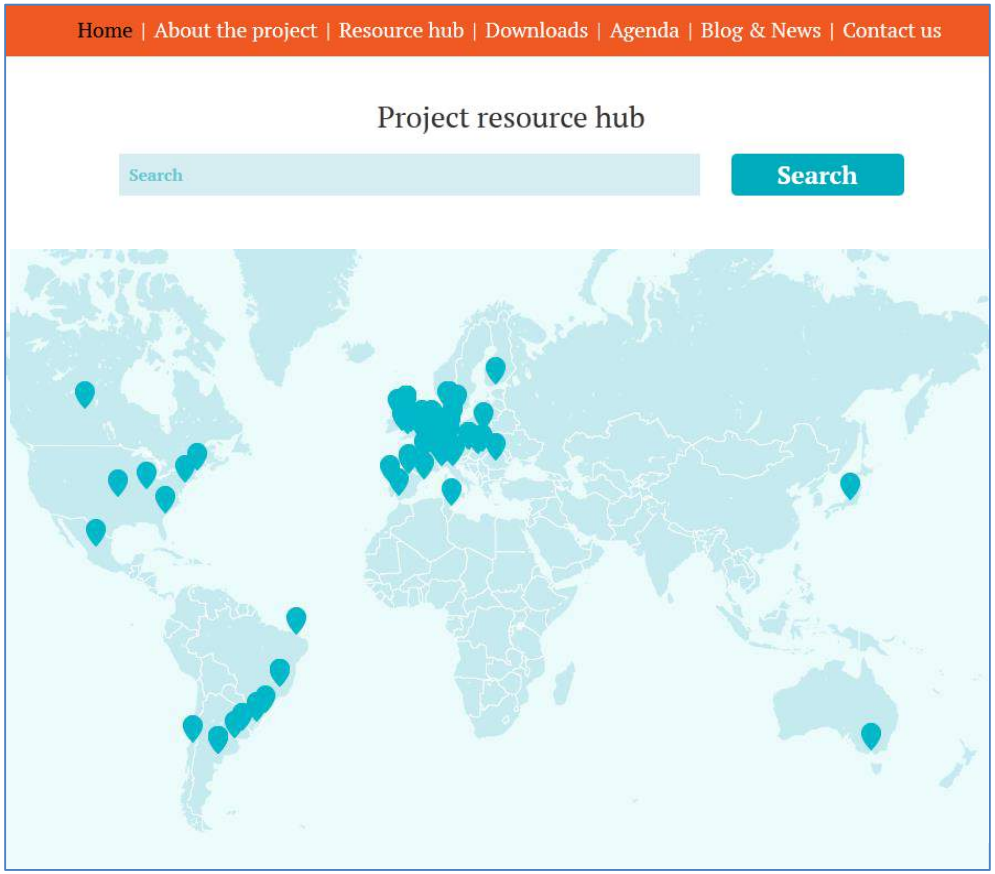
Claiming our right to innovate and foster change implies that we also commit to collaborativ
Achieving transformative change in society requires that we ourselves transform. We c
ourselves and upon you as activists, entrepreneurs, policy-makers, researchers, journalists a
critical intellectuals, or whatever role you play or position you have, to join us in making the
specific and general commitments.

Calling on activists and social entrepreneurs to commit with us to:

- **Collaborate.** We commit to collaborate and explore synergies within and across initiati
locally and globally. We welcome unlikely allies. Supporters can come in different roles
different backgrounds. Whenever we can, we tell the story of our initiatives and listen to
responses.

www.transitsocialinnovation.nl / @TransitSI

transformative social innovation theory

Thank you.

Dr. Julia Wittmayer
DRIFT
Erasmus University Rotterdam
wittmayer@drift.eur.nl