



Sustainability

The Context

& The Conditions

Presented by...

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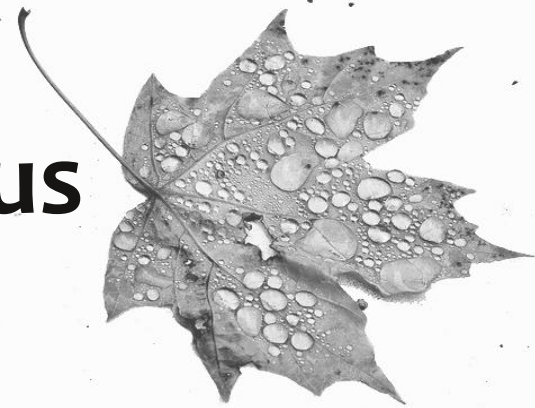
of the Abundance Collaborative

(formally know as the Midwest Regional Collaborative for Sustainability Education)



“The Plight of the Niatsus”

Plight of the Niatusus Activity Guide



You make up the last surviving population of the Niatusus species. A combination of unique hunting practices, low birth rates and deteriorating habitat have all contributed to your decline.

In this activity, thumb wrestling represents the method you use to accumulate the resources you need to survive. We will play two rounds. If the population of Niatusus drops below 40, the species will not be able to recover and will go extinct.



YOUR GOAL: Survive. Collect as many points as you can in one minute. To get a point, one partner pins the thumb of the other partner.

Thumb Wrestling Results



You must have over **15 points** to survive and continue on to round two. If you have over **50 points** you gained enough resources to give birth. Select a person who did not survive the first round to become your offspring.

How many Niatsus are left?

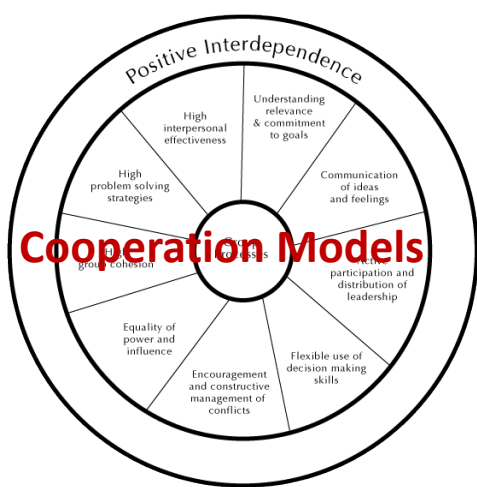


Did you SUSTAIN the NIATSUS?

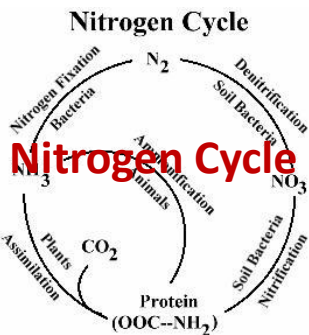
Why Not??



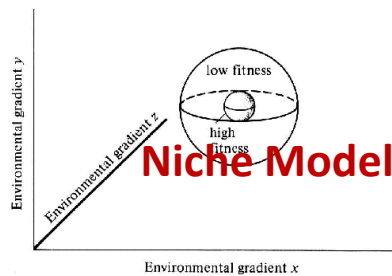
**What we have is a very complex
situation ...**



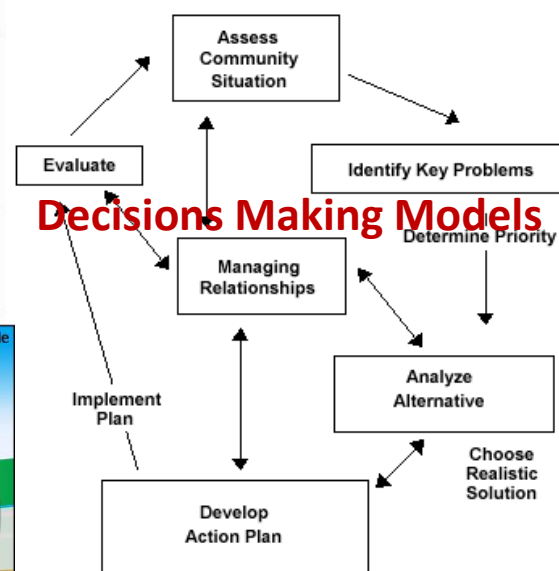
Components of an effective group



Nitrogen Cycle

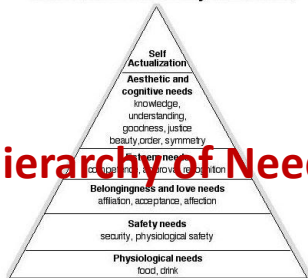


Niche Model

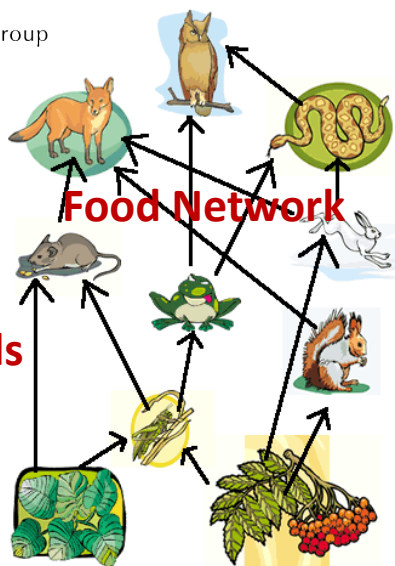


Decisions Making Models

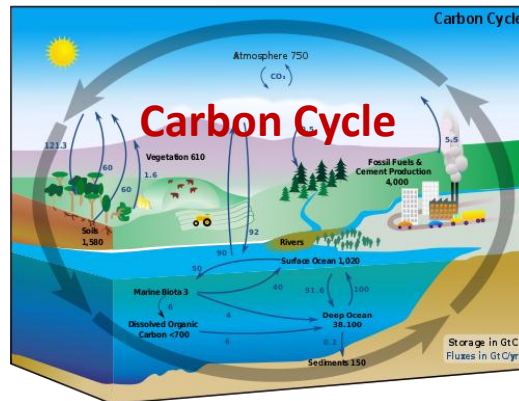
Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



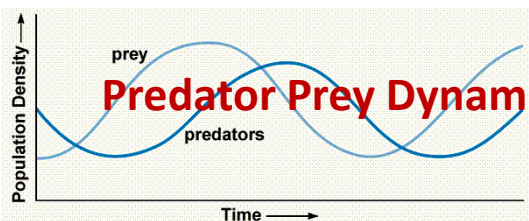
Hierarchy of Needs



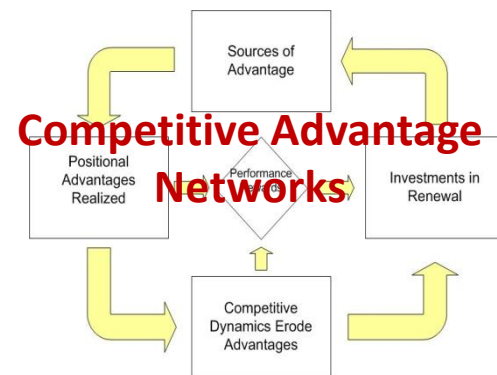
Food Network



Carbon Cycle



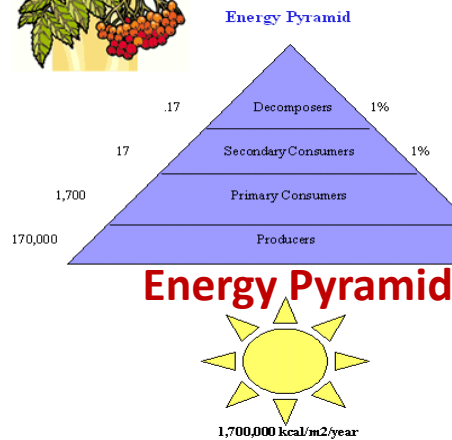
Predator Prey Dynamics



Competitive Advantage Networks

The Trust Equation

$$\frac{\text{Weighted expectations}}{\text{Clarity of expectations}} \times \frac{\text{Delivery on promises}}{\text{Usefulness of feedback}} = \text{Trust}$$



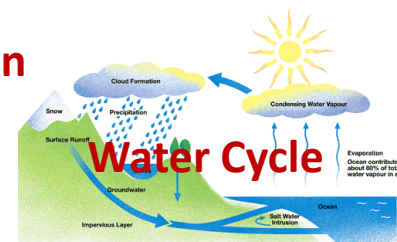
Energy Pyramid

GROUPTHINK
Problem < -> Too Rapid Convergence -> Action

IDEAL GROUP PROCESS
Problem -> Gathering Intelligence -> Debate -> Coming to Conclusions -> Action

DEBATING SOCIETY
Problem -> (No Closure) -> No Action

Group Thinking-Action Processes



Water Cycle

The image features four overlapping circles arranged in a diamond pattern. The top-left circle contains the text 'Systems Thinking and Complexity'. The top-right circle contains 'Collective Intelligence and Intuition'. The bottom-left circle contains 'Play Theory and Creativity'. The bottom-right circle contains 'Transformative Learning'. To the right of the circles is a detailed black and white photograph of a leaf with numerous water droplets of various sizes on its surface. The circles overlap each other and the leaf image.

**Systems
Thinking and
Complexity**

**Collective
Intelligence
and Intuition**

**Transformative
Learning**

**Play Theory
and Creativity**

The **Abundance** Collaborative...

Educators, learners, scientists, business people, and creative artists collaboratively pursuing a new story of sustainability—one that restores abundance & integrity to our ecological and social communities.



The size of a forest fire often has little to do with the spark that started it and lots to do with the state of the forest.





The Context ...



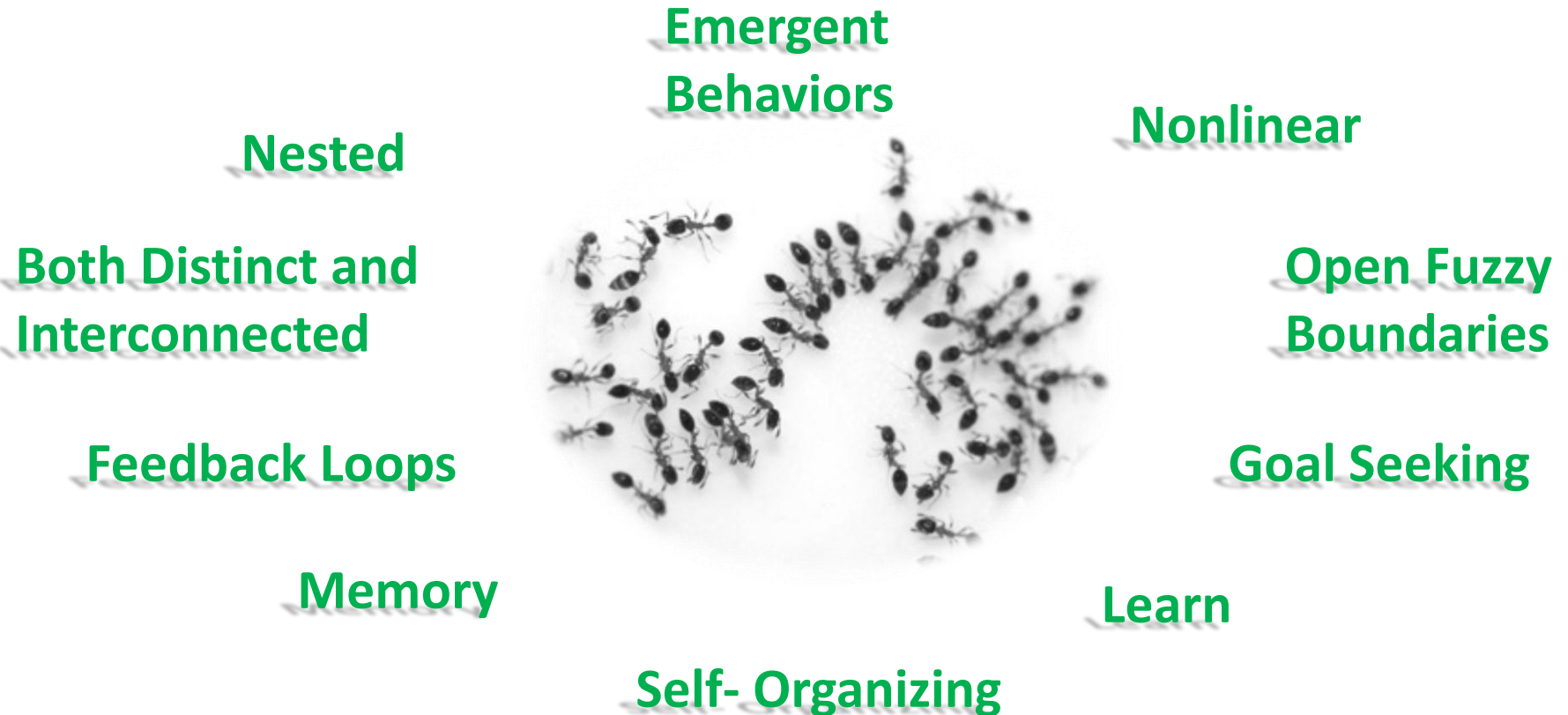
It's a Complex World



A Complex System

Entangled relationships interacting over time
and space in unpredictable ways.

Key Characteristics of Complex Systems





We are Semi-Permeable Beings

Sustainability is a Super Wicked Problem



A Super Wicked Problem

- The problem has no definitive definition.
- Every attempt to solve the problem changes the nature of the problem.
- Stakeholders have radically different world views and frames for understanding the problem.
- The longer it takes to address the problem, the harder it will be to do so.
- Those seeking to solve the problem are also causing it.
- The problem has no definitive solution.





The Context ...

We are living in a complex world as semi-permeable beings trying to solve a super wicked problem.



The Conditions ...

**Sustainability ... an Emergent
Property of a Highly
Functional Community???**





**Transformative Communal
Platform... Creating the
Conditions for the Emergence of
the As-Yet-Imagined**

Eastern Complex Systems Thinking...



Shinayakana Systems Approach

The 5 I's:

Intelligence (existing knowledge)

Involvement (social motivation)

Imagination (creativity)

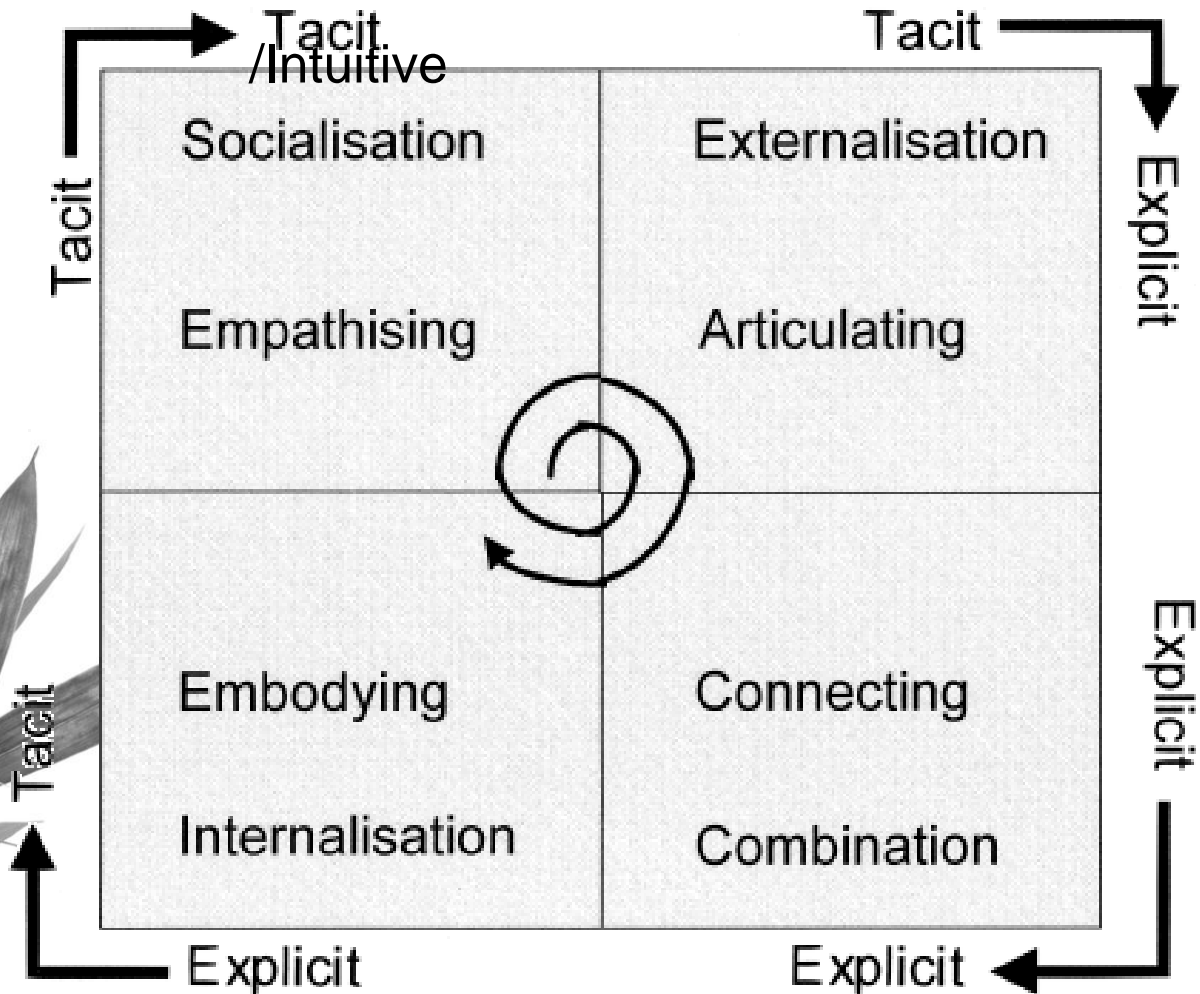
Integration (using systemic knowledge)

Intuition (knowledge over time)

**The 3 H's: Honesty, Humanity,
Harmony**



Shinayakana SECI Spiral



Shinayakana SECI Spiral

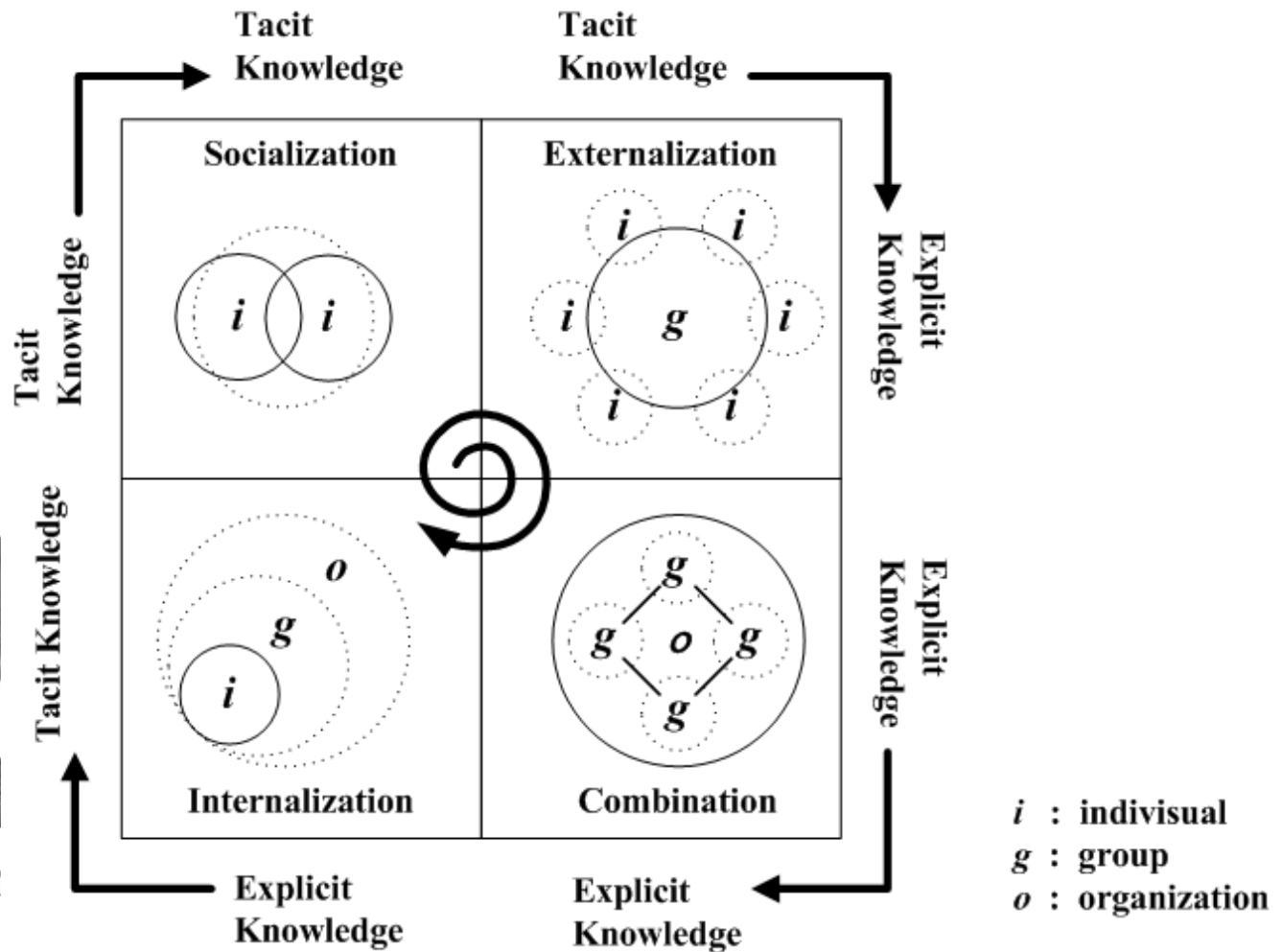
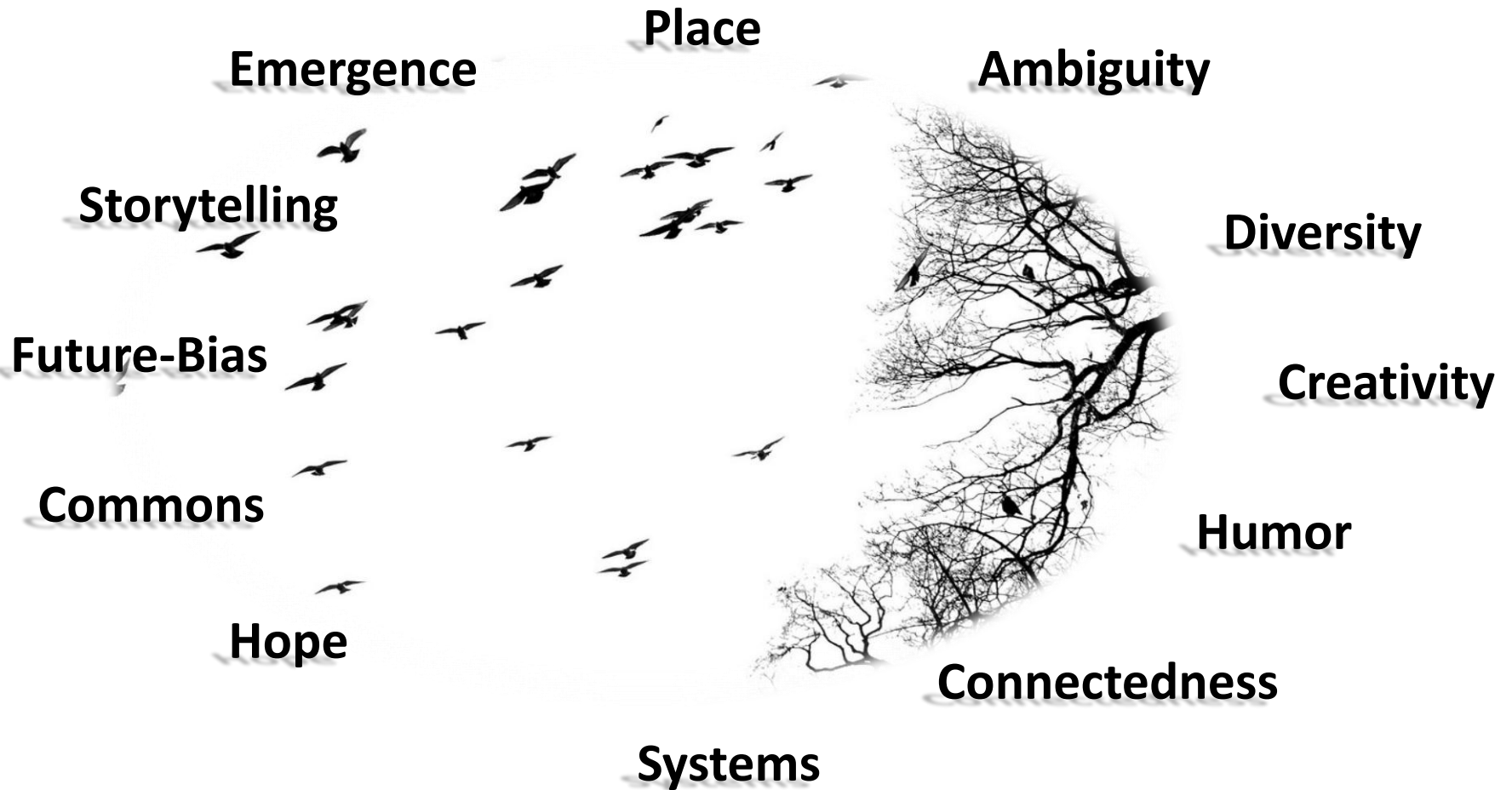


Figure 1. Knowledge Creation as the Self-Transcending Process

Sustainability Habits of Mind for Transformative Communities





Sense of Ambiguity

The ability to recognize and accept information and/or choices that are unclear, often having opposing interpretations that are both equally true.



A Sense of Diversity

A sense of appreciation for and inquisitiveness about the strength and necessity of distinct, unlike or paradoxical elements/ideas that are necessary part of the greater whole.



Sense of Creativity

A sense of the use of multiple modalities--metaphor, symbols, myth, ritual, reflection, imagination, play, music, dance, poetry, art --to enrich and deepen understanding.



Sense of Humor

The ability to be amused, laugh at jokes and to have a smiling attitude towards life and its imperfections.



A Sense of Connectedness

A sense of ourselves as purposeful relationships
through time and space.



Sense of Hope

The ability to have conviction that one's actions make sense and have meaning no matter how things turn out.



Sense of Future Bias

The ability to make choices today that our future self's would prefer, despite the fact that our present self would choose differently.



Sense of Storytelling

The ability to use the interactive art, words, images and actions to reveal a story that heightens the listener's imagination-- turning something individual into something shared.



Sense of Emergence

The ability to understand that nothing more is needed
to get something more.

The Conditions ...



Cultivate a Sense of Place

Foster Complex Systems Thinking

Increase Resilience and Vulnerability

Plan for the Not-Yet Planned, Expect Surprise

Elevate Contemplation, Creativity and Play

Mentor, Support, Challenge, Act, Inspire

Think Globally, Think Locally,
Act Locally, Act Locally Again

Build Trust and Acceptance

The Conditions ...

Make Kindling
through the
Celebration of Life

**Then Light
a Match**



Our Collective Capacity

