

# Japan, post-3.11

Social Innovations & new "Commons": Bottom-up *Strategies*  
for Adaptive Change and Community Resilience



# Japan, post-3.11

Social Innovations & new "Commons": Bottom-up *Strategies*  
for Adaptive Change and Community Resilience





# Japan, post-3.11

Social Innovations & new "Commons": Bottom-up *Strategies*  
for Adaptive Change and Community Resilience



# Japan, post-3.11

Social Innovations & new "Commons": Bottom-up *Strategies*  
for Adaptive Change and Community Resilience









“Change is the new normal !”

“Change is the new normal !”

... hasn't it always been?



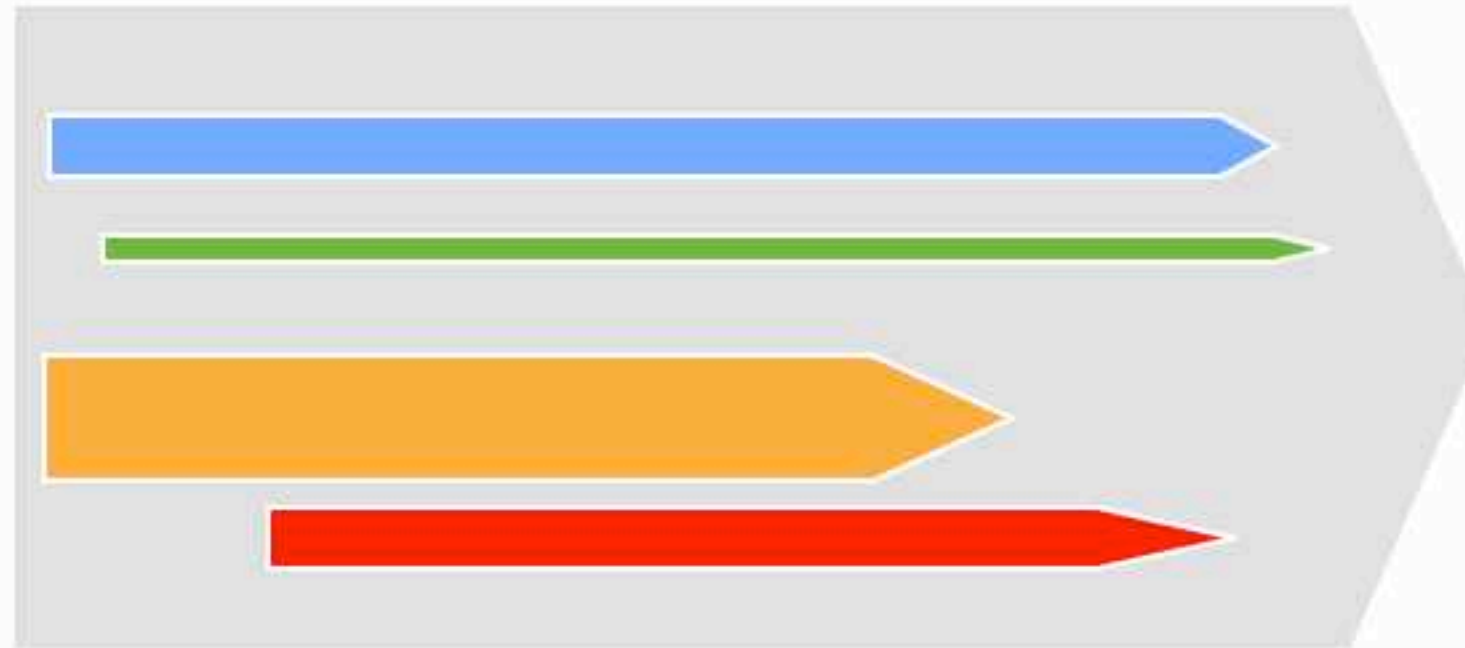
“Change is the new normal !”

... hasn't it always been?

- ↳ need for transition, adaptation ... are climate change, disaster resilience our only problems?
- ↳ societies and cities are dynamic & complex, and consequences of resource depletion, pollution, climate change migration, poverty, violent conflicts, etc. will increase this dynamism & complexity
- ↳ cascading effects, thresholds, surprises, co-emergence, and abrupt changes, in short many alternative, unknowable futures

unsustainable

unresilient



sustainable

resilient

- ↳ not one transition needed but **multiple transitions**  
(physical adaptation to environmental change, better quality of life, more social inclusion, more pluralistic, democratic societies, etc.)
- ↳ we don't know yet, what will work and which new problems will emerge in the future
- ↳ not one 'golden bullet' solution, but many micro, mesa, macro level ideas, alternative practices, experiments; testing of these

# Transformation through social innovations?



**Wolfgang ZAPF**  
German Sociologist

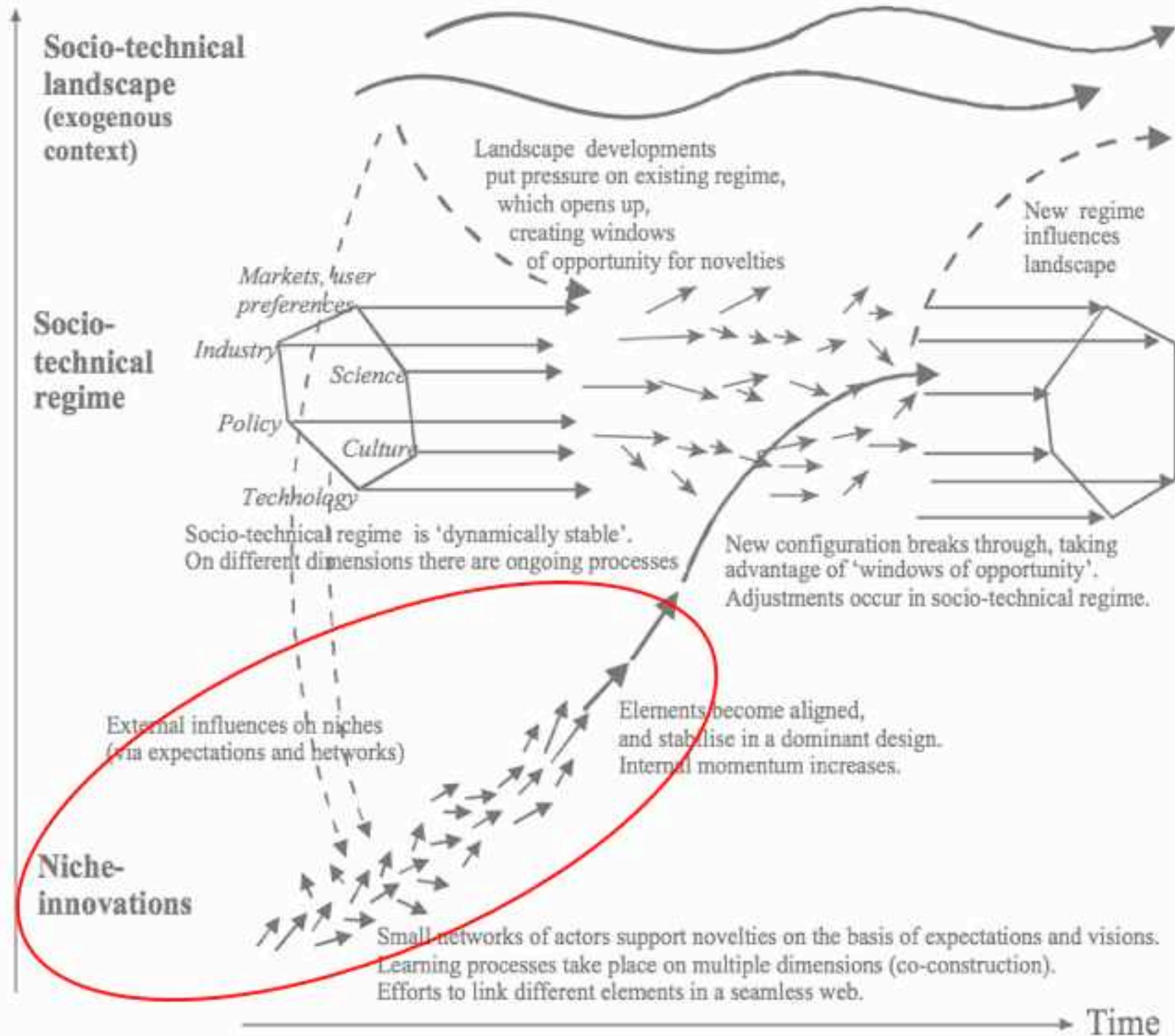
Social Innovations are new ways of achieving objectives, especially new organisational forms, new regulations and institutions, **new lifestyles** that are changing the direction of social change, **solving problems in better ways than earlier practices**, and that are worth to be **emulated and institutionalised**.

Zapf, Wolfgang. 1989. Über soziale Innovationen. *Soziale Welt*, 40, (1), 170-183.

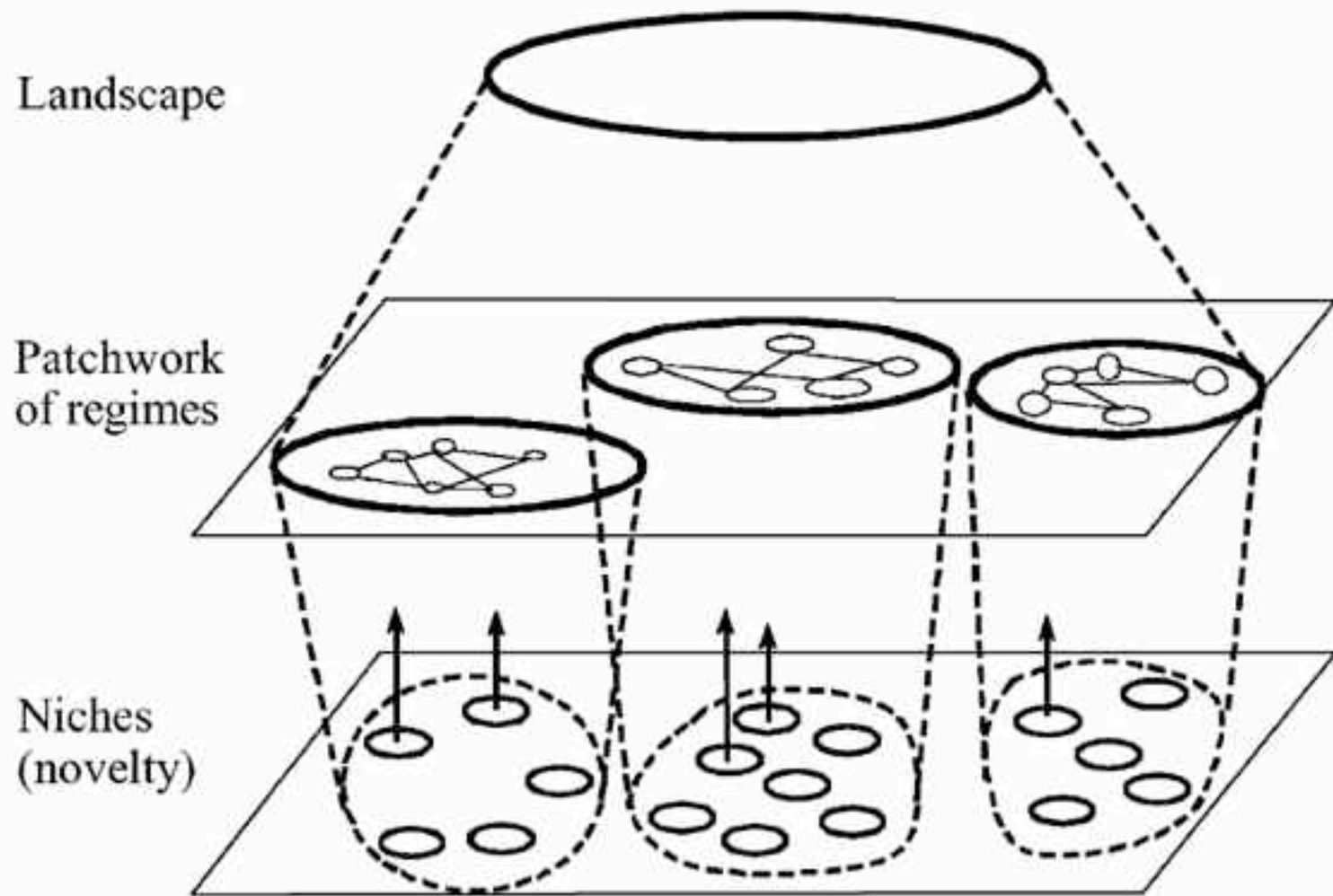
- ↳ social innovations as one emergent field of experimentation; social innovators & entrepreneurs as **multipliers, translators**
- ↳ less dependent on planning systems and other institutions, there possibility of national/ international knowledge exchange



Increasing structuration  
of activities in local practices



**Frank W GEELS**  
Manchester Institute of  
Innovation Research



**Frank W GEELS**  
Manchester Institute of  
Innovation Research

Geels, Frank W. 2002. Technological transitions as evolutionary reconfiguration process.  
*Research Policy* (31) 1257-74

↳ **how to aggregate & integrate** social innovations on a grassroots level, how to scale-up, how to institutionalise, how to interlace different transitory trajectories with one another?





What will help us with these transitions?

# Smart Cities?

for some problems

What will help us with these transitions?

**Smart Cities?**  
for some problems

What will help us with these transitions?

**Smart Citizens?**  
for many others



**Smart Cities?**  
for some problems

What will help us with these transitions?

**Smart Citizens?**  
for many others



**Adam  
GREENFIELD**  
LSE

"In truth, competing visions of the smart city are proxies for competing visions of society; in particular about who holds power in society ... There will come a time, very soon, when we are told that something very like totalitarianism is necessary to save us from global warming. They will want to wire our streets, our homes, our very bodies into an apparatus whose name is "radical resource efficiency. It is our job to demonstrate that this is the falsest of false dichotomies, that \*only\* democratic action can save us from ourselves."

# Smart Cities?

for some problems

What will help us with these transitions?

## Smart Citizens?

for many others



**Richard SENNETT**  
LSE

"The stupefying smart city versus the smart smart city."



**Adam GREENFIELD**  
LSE

"In truth, competing visions of the smart city are proxies for competing visions of society; in particular about who holds power in society ... There will come a time, very soon, when we are told that something very like totalitarianism is necessary to save us from global warming. They will want to wire our streets, our homes, our very bodies into an apparatus whose name is "radical resource efficiency. It is our job to demonstrate that this is the falsest of false dichotomies, that \*only\* democratic action can save us from ourselves."



“There are **three** interlocking **dimensions of empowerment**: 1) the development of a more **positive** and potent **sense of self**, 2) the **construction of knowledge and capacity** for a more critical comprehension of the web of social (, environmental,) and political realities of one’s environment, and 3) the **cultivation of resources and strategies**, or more functional competence, **for attainment of personal and collective goals.**”

Judith LEE | 2001 | Empowerment Approach to Social Work Practice- Building the Beloved Community | Columbia Univ. Pr. | p.34

# Empowerment / 縁パワメント

“**Empowerment** is the confidence in one’s ability **to challenge existing relations of domination**. It occurs when people regain the **sense** that their **actions and opinions matter** and that they **have the power to influence things in society** which they deem to be important.”

Carl CASSEGARD | 2011 | Play and Empowerment- The Role of Alternative Space in Social Movement



### Your Own Recovery

- Fully Recovered
- Mostly
- About Half
- Somewhat
- Not At All Recovered
- Extent of Flooding

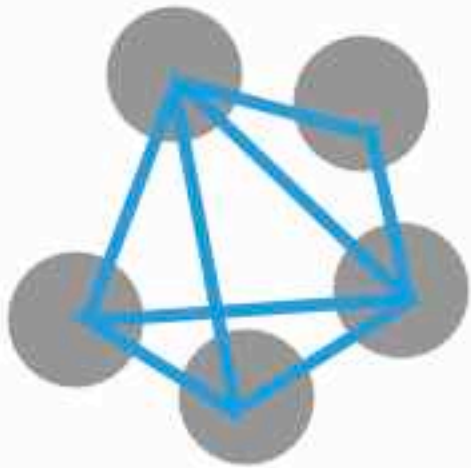


Courtesy of Daniel P. Aldrich



---

## **Binding Social Capital** (within communities)



Network A

---

**Binding Social Capital**  
(within communities)



Network A

**Bridging Social Capital**  
(horizontal, between communities)



Network B



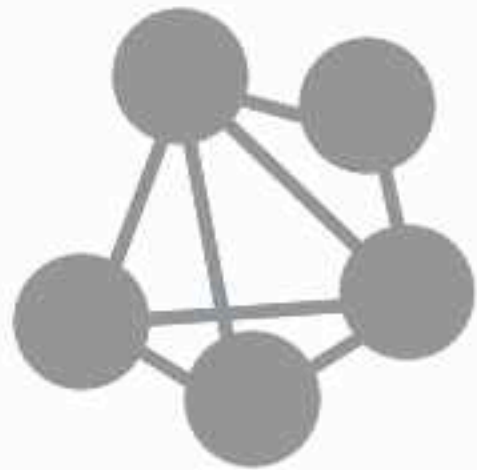


authoritative figure, VIP

**Linking Social Capital**  
(across vertical gradients)

---

**Binding Social Capital**  
(within communities)



Network A

**Bridging Social Capital**  
(horizontal, between communities)



Network B



**Daniel P. ALDRICH**  
Purdue University

“Governments should **stop focusing** their relief efforts **only on physical infrastructure** and recognize that **social infrastructure** is at least as **important** as sandbags, tents & evacuation plans.”

“Policies should **concentrate on fostering local community networks** & social capital. Social capital **thrives** in a political & cultural environment, **where residents believe in their efficacy;** feel **empowered** as citizens and **trust** each other and their representatives. Existing governance mechanisms & institutions should be assessed as to their effects on social capital.





unsustainable

unresilient

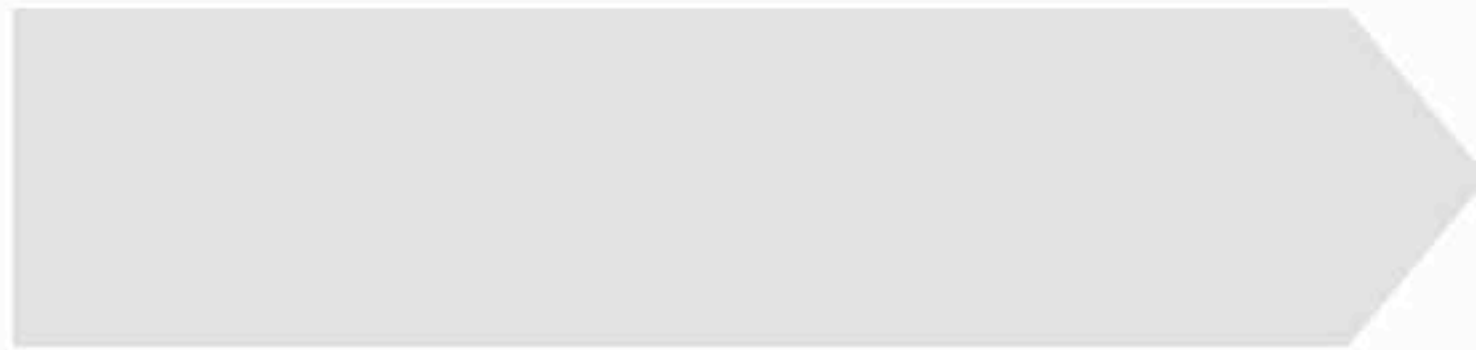


sustainable

resilient

unsustainable

unresilient



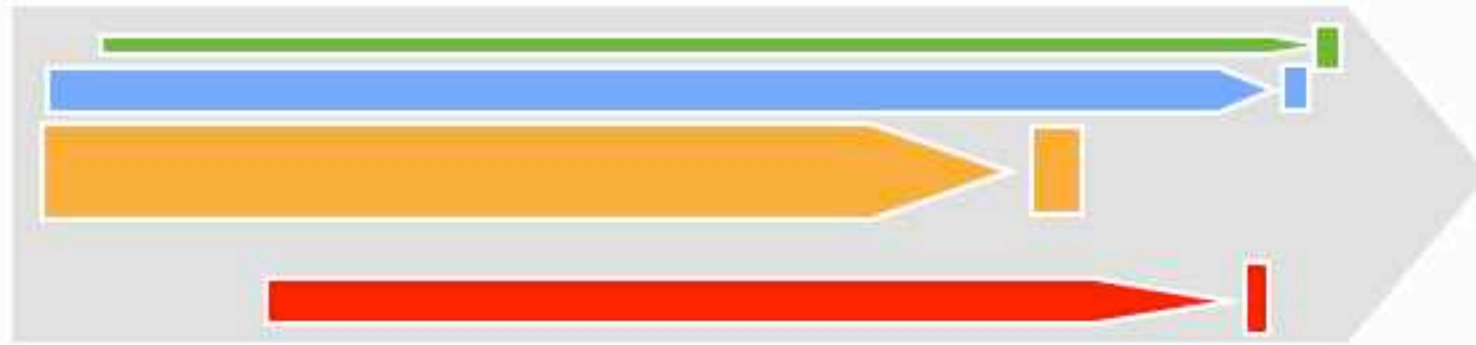
sustainable

resilient



unsustainable

unresilient



sustainable

resilient





**“Change is the new normal”** ... no end in sight  
co-design, cyclical processes, new governance mechanisms



unsustainable

unresilient

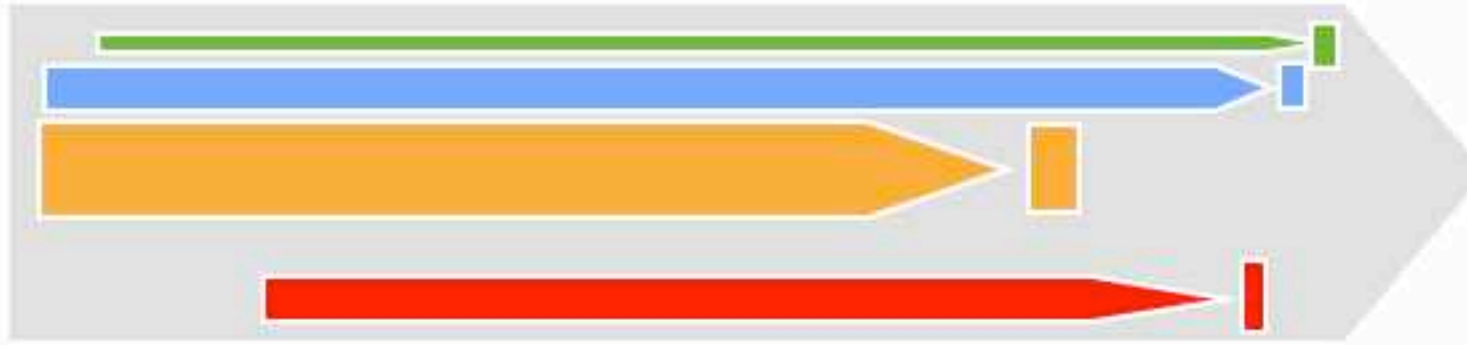


sustainable

resilient

unsustainable

unresilient



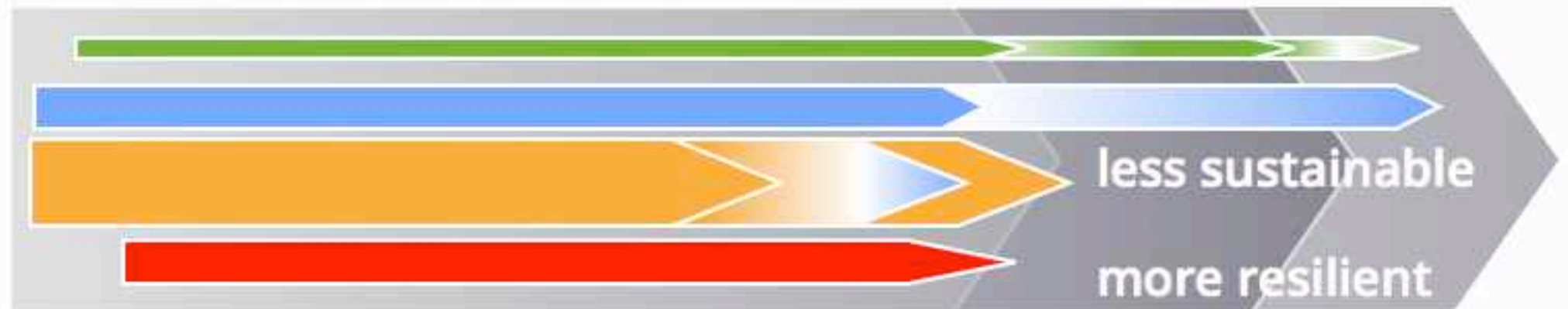
sustainable

resilient

**“Change is the new normal”** ... no end in sight  
co-design, cyclical processes, new governance mechanisms

unsustainable

unresilient



less sustainable

more resilient