Policy for Just Sustainability Transitions:
lessons from transformative social innovation research

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15th of June 2023
#RSA23 #SmartSpecialisation Ljubljana

Transformative social innovation insights for policy

- **Promote translocal solidarity**

- **Multi-actor approach beyond the triple helix**

- **Embrace paradoxes & multiplicity of transformation**

Promote translocal solidarity

social innovation movements

20 international networks

100+ local/regional/national initiatives

27+ countries EU, Latin-America, other

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

Longhurst et al. 2016

Søgaard Jørgensen et al. 2016

Dumitru et al. 2016

Monticelli 2018

Avelino et al. 2019

Wittmayer et al. 2019

Pel et al. 2020

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

tsimanifesto.org

https://tsimanifesto.org/ **#TSImanifesto**

#TSImanifesto: 13 principles of transformative social innovation

1. Physical and mental space for **learning and experimentation** is a necessary condition.

2. We require **alternative and diverse economies**.

3. Innovation is just as much about shaping the new as it is about **reframing the old**.

4. We need to experiment with **alternative social relations** and relational values.

5. Social & material change are intertwined: we need both **social & technological innovation**.

6. Transformative change requires **hybrid combinations** of civil society, state *and* market.

7. Social innovation should **never be an excuse to dismantle necessary public services**.

8. **Translocal empowerment** is a promising response to the challenges of globalisation.

9. Social innovation is about fostering a sense of **belonging, autonomy and competence**.

10. Transparent and **inclusive decision-making** is a necessary condition for change.

11. **Alternative and diverse narratives** are needed to drive change.

12. More **mutual recognition** and **strategic collaboration** is needed.

13. **Embracing paradoxes** is key to transformative social innovation.

calling for translocal solidarity
Across nations, regions & issues: local-global, urban-rural, North-South

12. More **mutual recognition** and strategic collaboration is needed. −

There are many commonalities that can be found across different networks and initiatives working on social change. However, a lot of complementarities still remain underexplored. Specific approaches to social change are often prom~~oted at the cost of others, instead of~~ stressing their complementarities and collaborating~~...~~ forced to focus on their own strengths, choose their~~...~~ in order to survive. Some interesting network collab~~...~~ these challenges, as can for instance be seen in the~~...~~ *Community-led Initiatives on Climate Change and*~~...~~ networks such as Transition Towns, the Global Eco~~...~~ organisations. We need more of these kind of meta-~~...~~ reflection, including constructive confrontation an~~...~~

8. **Translocal empowerment** is a promising response to the challenges of globalisation. −

Many social innovation networks are globally connected as well as locally rooted. Individuals are empowered by engaging with both local communities as well as international networks. We can't have effective international networks without local rootedness in communities, and vice versa. Translocal networks can integrate the best of both the global and the local, connecting communities internationally and promoting global solidarity while also acknowledging and re-appreciating deep local identities and traditions. By doing so, they can respond to current political debates on globalisation, immigration and nationalism. Examples of translocal alternatives need to be made more visible in these public debates.

transformative
social **i**nnovation
theory

manifesto of
transformative
social innovation

https://tsimanifesto.org/

#TSImanifesto

Multi-actor approach beyond the triple helix

COMPOSITION OF SOCIETY

- State
- Market
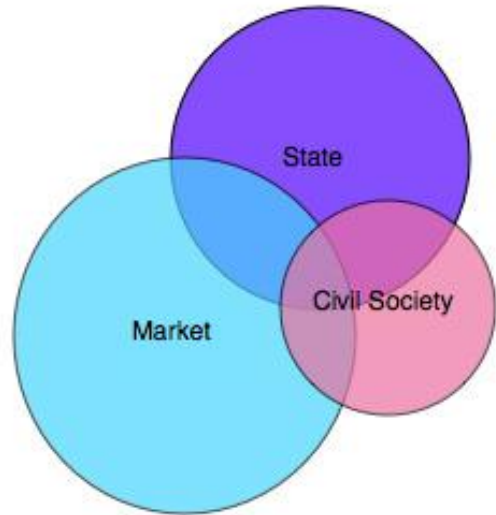- Civil Society

The Triple Helix

University-Industry-Government
INNOVATION IN ACTION

HENRY ETZKOWITZ

Chart 4. The Tripartite Society

State

- Street-level Bureaucracies
- Lawyers Journalists
- Secondary Groups
- Big Corporations
- Political Parties
- Central Gvmt Bureaucracies
- Primary Groups
- Interest Groups
- Small Business
- Labor Unions

Civil society

Market

Academia
- Administration and Deans
- Professors and PIs
- Students

Churns out entrepreneurs
Basic technology
Technical assistance and education
Supplies human capital
Forges Partnerships

Industry
- Corporations
- Chambers and Trade Associations
- Venture Capital
- Spinoffs and SME

Capital
Event sponsorship
Market expertise

Government
- State
- Regional
- Federal
- Local

Basic R&D Funding
SBIR Grants
State incentive programs
Quality of life
Ease of business

Business
manufacturing and services, primary sectors, financial sector, creative industries, social sector, large firms, SMEs, young entrepreneurs, students with business ideas, cluster and business organisations,

Research & education
public and private research bodies, universities, education and training, science and technology parks, Technology transfer offices, etc.

if relevant at different government levels, agencies e.g. for regional development, business advice, public procurement offices, incubators, etc.

NGOs and citizens' initiatives related to societal challenges for which innovative solutions would be helpful, consumers associations, Talents! etc.
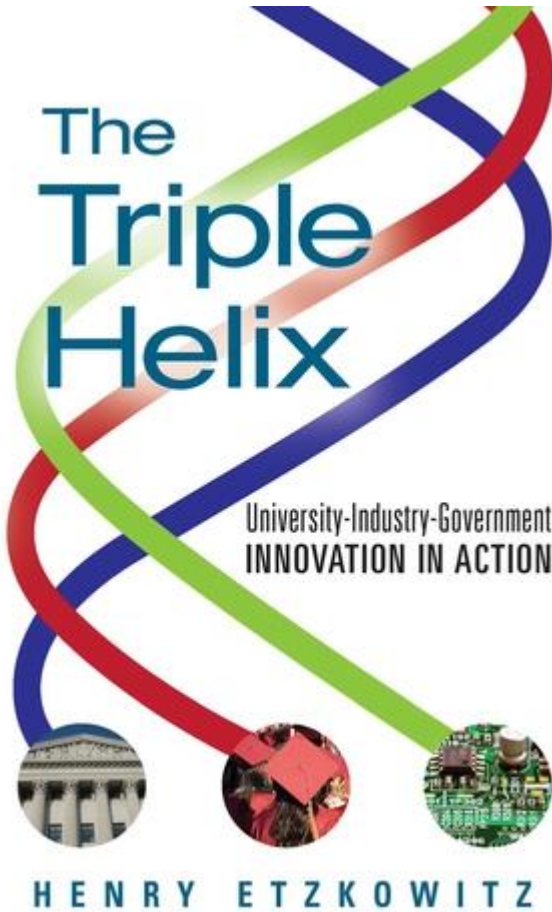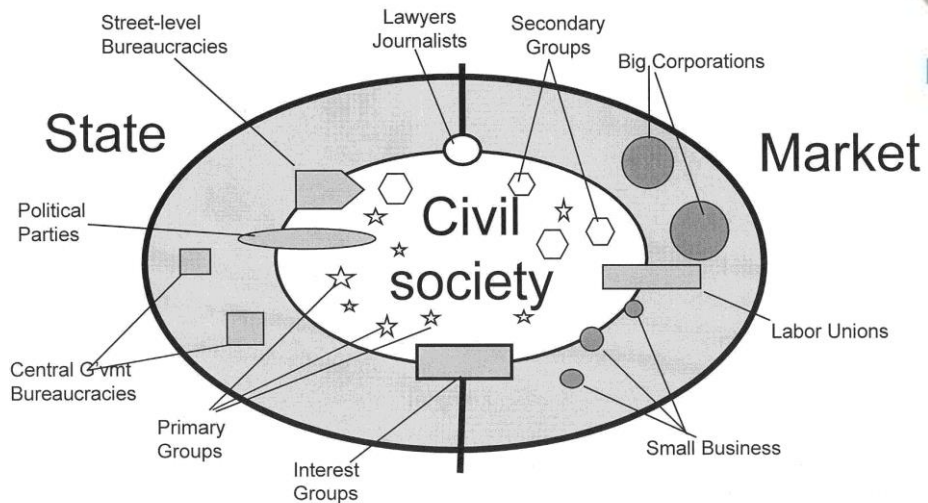
Public administration
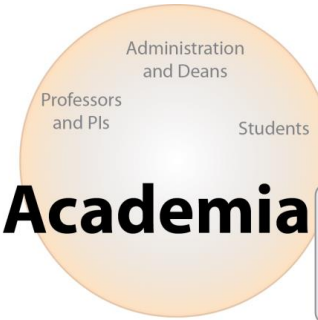
Civil society / Users

How to start entrepreneurial discovery process

Kick-start with consultation in quadruple helix:

Detect potential boundary-spanners between different stakeholder / interest groups, new innovative entrepreneurs, hidden champions, or persons with a potential for this is one of the aims of this first step. …

See new annex III of RIS3 Guide

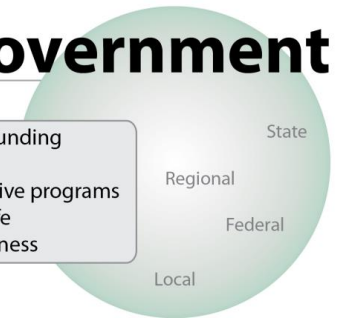# Multi-Actor Perspective

*Multiple institutional
logics & actor roles*

formal
informal

non-profit
for-profit

politician, policy-maker,
bureaucrat, citizen, voter

STATE
(public agencies)

public
private

H Y B R I D

activist, volunteer,
member, benefactor,
researcher

NON-PROFIT
(associations,
NGOs)

resident, neighbour,
family member,
friend

producer, consumer,
employer, employee,
client, entrepreneur

S P H E R E

COMMUNITY
(households, families etc.)

MARKET
(firms, business)

Avelino & Wittmayer 2016, 2019

Multi-Actor Perspective
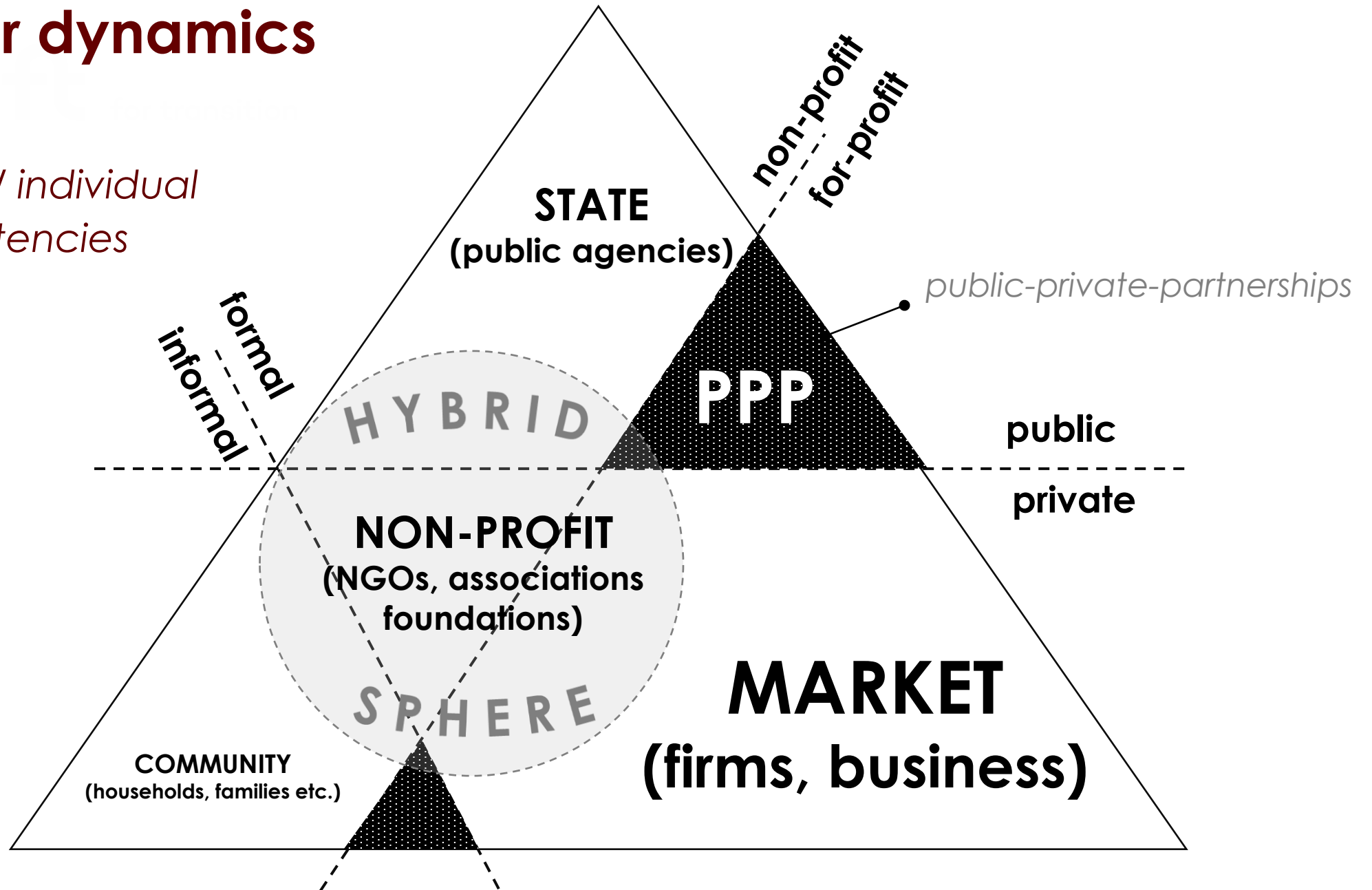
How are people (trying to) contribute to justice and sustainability in and across specific places? (How) can we help?
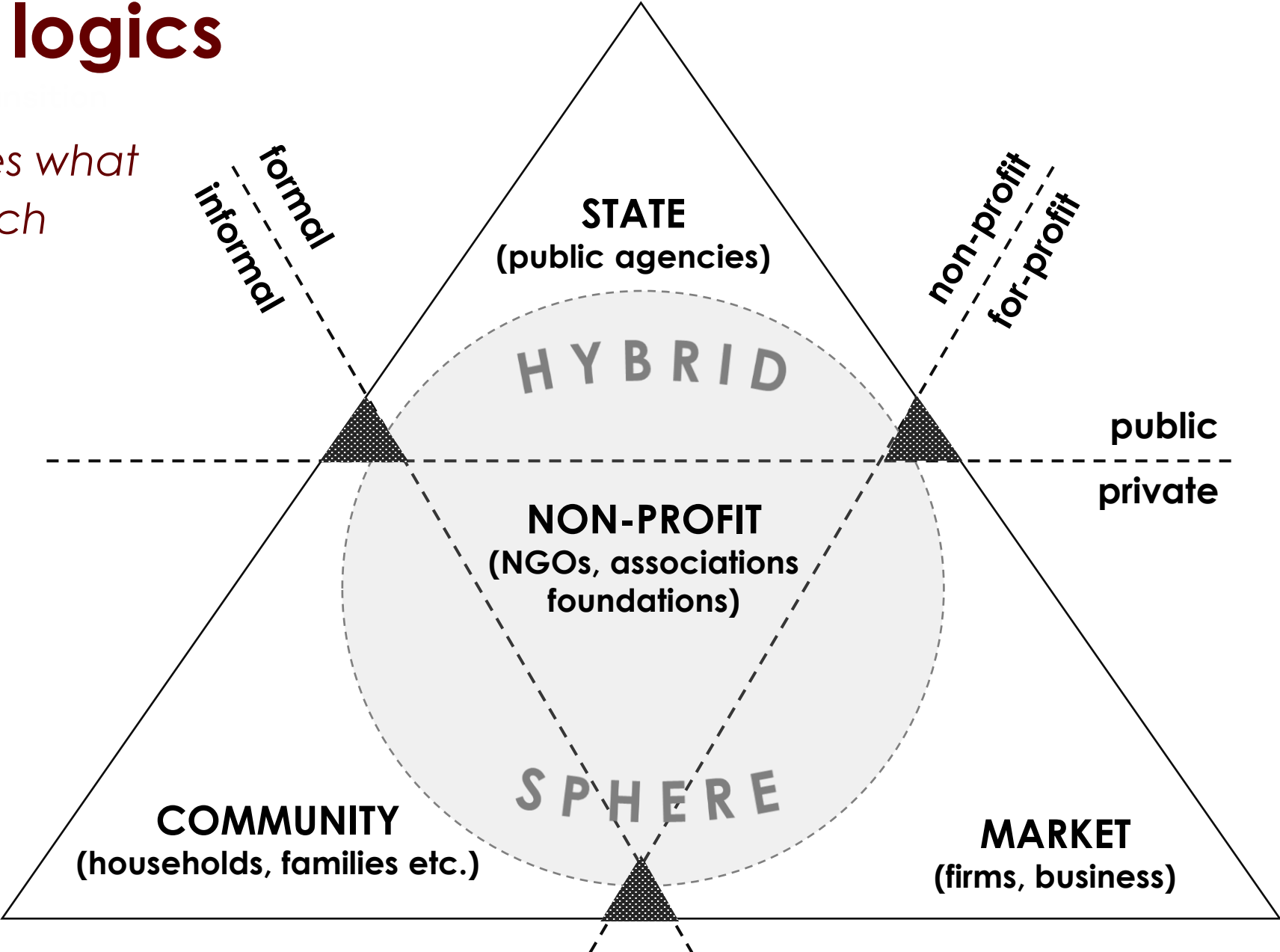

policy-making, vote, political debate, legal action

STATE

formal / informal

non-profit / for-profit

HYBRID

public / private

activism, protest, become a member, donate, like, share

NON-PROFIT

SPHERE

living by example, loving, housekeeping, parenting, talking

COMMUNITY

production, consumption, investment, procurement

MARKET

Avelino & Wittmayer 2016, 2017, 2019
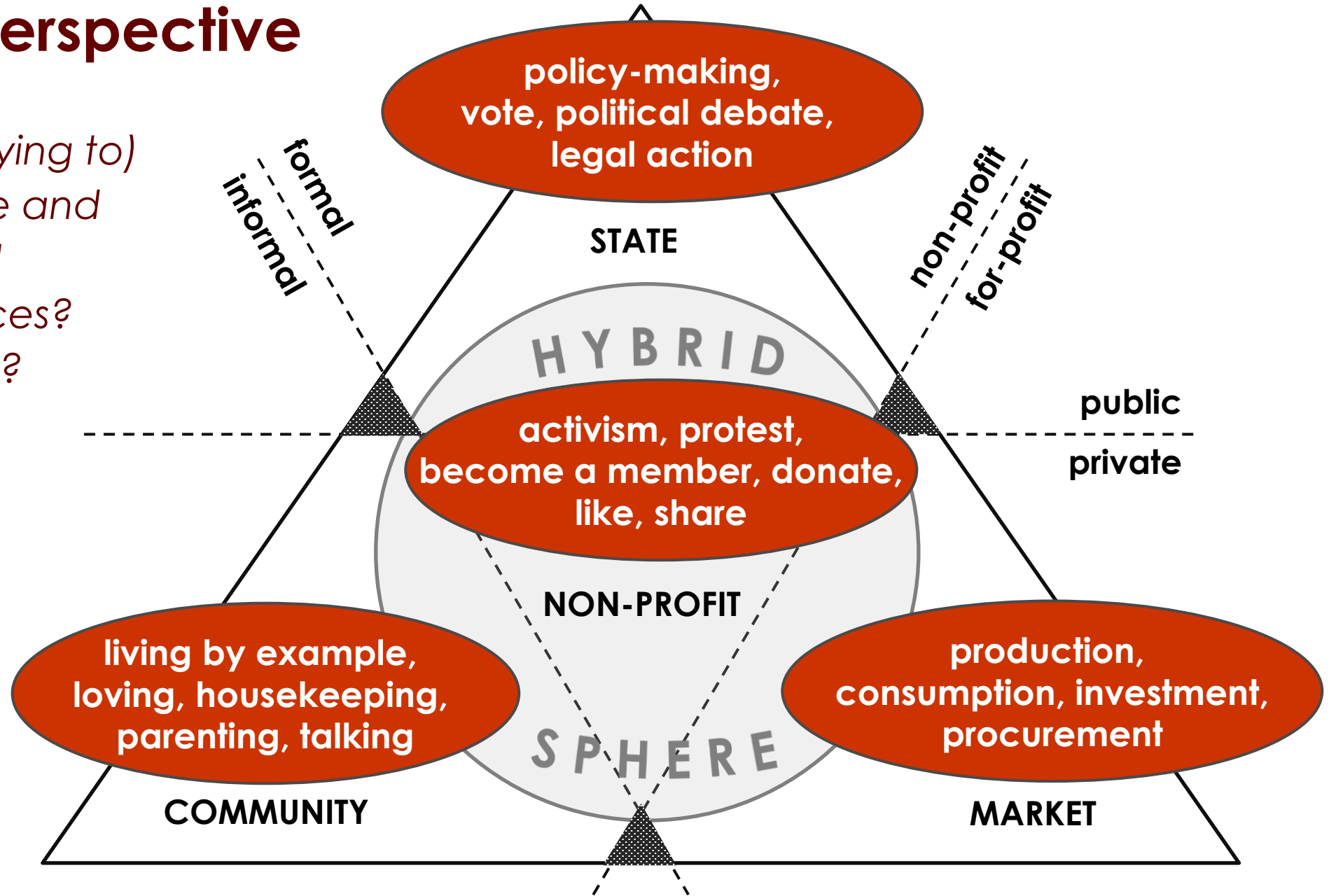
Power dynamics

Internal/ individual inconsistencies

STATE
(public agencies)

non-profit / for-profit

public-private-partnerships

PPP

formal / informal

HYBRID

NON-PROFIT
(NGOs, associations foundations)

SPHERE

public / private

MARKET
(firms, business)

COMMUNITY
(households, families etc.)

Avelino & Wittmayer 2016, 2019

Institutional logics

Who / what exercises what kind of power in which context?

STATE
(public agencies)

formal
informal

non-profit
for-profit

HYBRID

public
private

NON-PROFIT
(NGOs, associations
foundations)

SPHERE

COMMUNITY
(households, families etc.)

MARKET
(firms, business)

Avelino & Wittmayer 2016, 2019, Based on Evers & Laville 2004, Pestoff 1992

Micro-politics: struggles, contestations, inequalities, hierarchies

STATE

formal / informal

non-profit / for-profit

national/ local

politicians/ civil servants

HYBRID

public / private

expert/ lay

ethnicities

NONPROFIT

benefactor/ beneficiary

employer / employee

man/ woman

SHARE

consumer/ producer

young/ old

poor / rich

large / small

COMMUNITY

MARKET

Avelino & Wittmayer 2016, 2019

Beyond the triple helix

Amsterdam Economic Board

nl - en
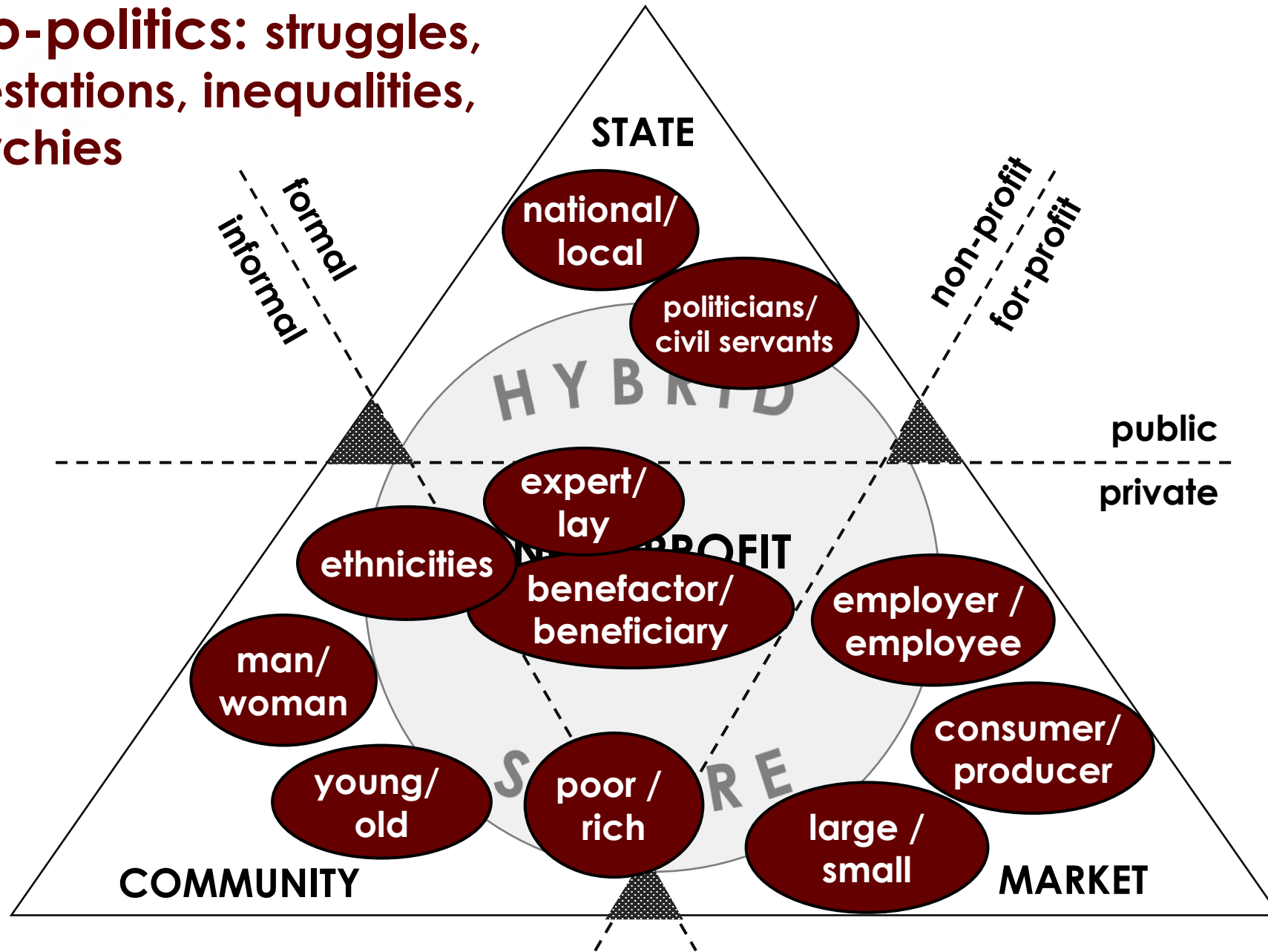
Voorbij de triple helix

19 september 2022   12 min.

Transities kennen naast technologische innovaties ook veel sociale innovaties. Die komen niet alleen uit de markt en overheid, maar ook uit de gemeenschap. Sociale innovaties vragen om een blikveld dat voorbij de 'triple helix' gaat – de klassieke samenwerking tussen overheid, kennisinstellingen en bedrijfsleven – en ruim baan biedt aan innovatieve vormen van sociaal ondernemerschap en coöperatieve burgerinitiatieven.

Tweede gast-essay van het instituut DRIFT

In dit essay geven Gijs Diercks en Flor Avelino van onderzoeksinstituut DRIFT concrete adviezen over coöperatief ondernemerschap en sociale innovatie. Hoe pakken we dit volgens DRIFT het beste aan? Lees de drie aanbevelingen in het groene kader.

Leonie van den Beuken, programmadirecteur van Amsterdam Smart City, geeft onderaan dit artikel haar reactie op de inzichten van DRIFT.

Eerder schreef DRIFT het essay 'Vooruit, struikelen!' over transities: Hoe kunnen we ervoor zorgen dat Amsterdam haar klimaatdoelstellingen haalt?

Neem contact op

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social innovation movements

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tsimanifesto.org

Join the celebration of local communities taking action for a better world!

European Day of Sustainable Communities

A time to celebrate local communities taking action for healthier, fairer, regenerative Europe

EDSC21 takes place on 18th September 2021. We welcome events organized from 11th-25th September.

EUROPEAN DAY OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Embrace paradox & multiplicity of transformation

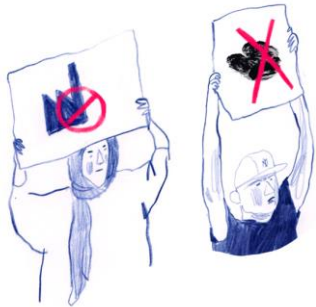# transformative power

=

prefigurative power

prefigure new ways of doing, thinking & organizing

+

countervailing power

capacity to challenge & dismantle existing structures & institutions

+

reinforcive power

(re)produce (existing & new) structures & institutions

Illustrations: Maria Fraaije. Text: Flor Avelino

only

You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.

also

R. Buckminster Fuller

THANK YOU

Dr. Flor Avelino
June 15th 2023
Ljubljana