

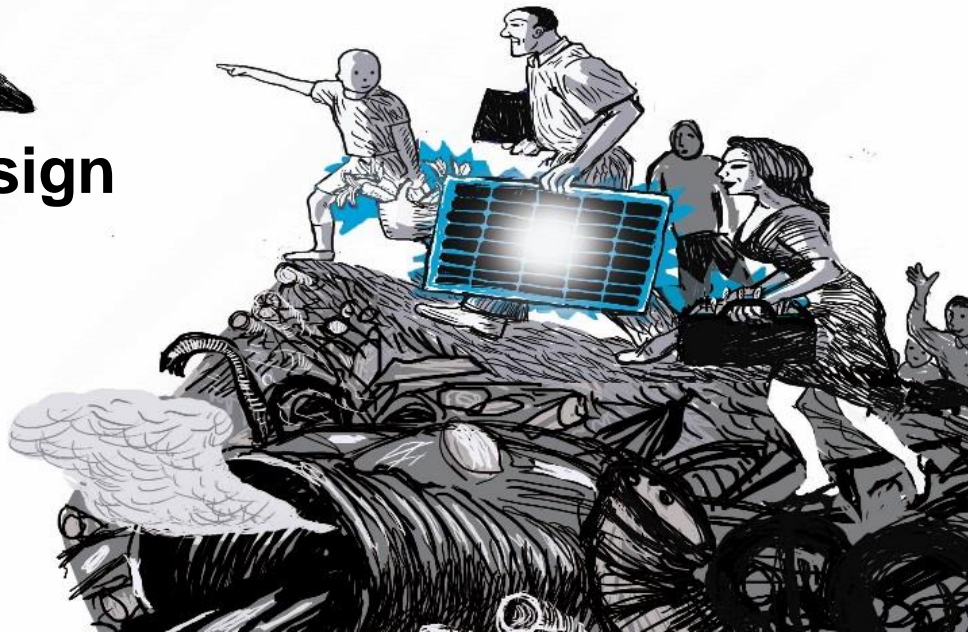


---

# Mobilizing research and design *for sustainability transitions*

Prof. dr. Derk Loorbach

Online, 16-12-2021



---

## Dutch Research Institute For Transitions

Academic research, consulting,  
education, activism

Social enterprise

30+ employees

Founded in 2004

### mission

Accelerate and guide just  
sustainability transitions by  
developing knowledge in and with  
practice

## Design Impact Transition platform

Transdisciplinary and transformative  
research, education and engagement

Strategic university platform

Core team and academics with impact  
assignments

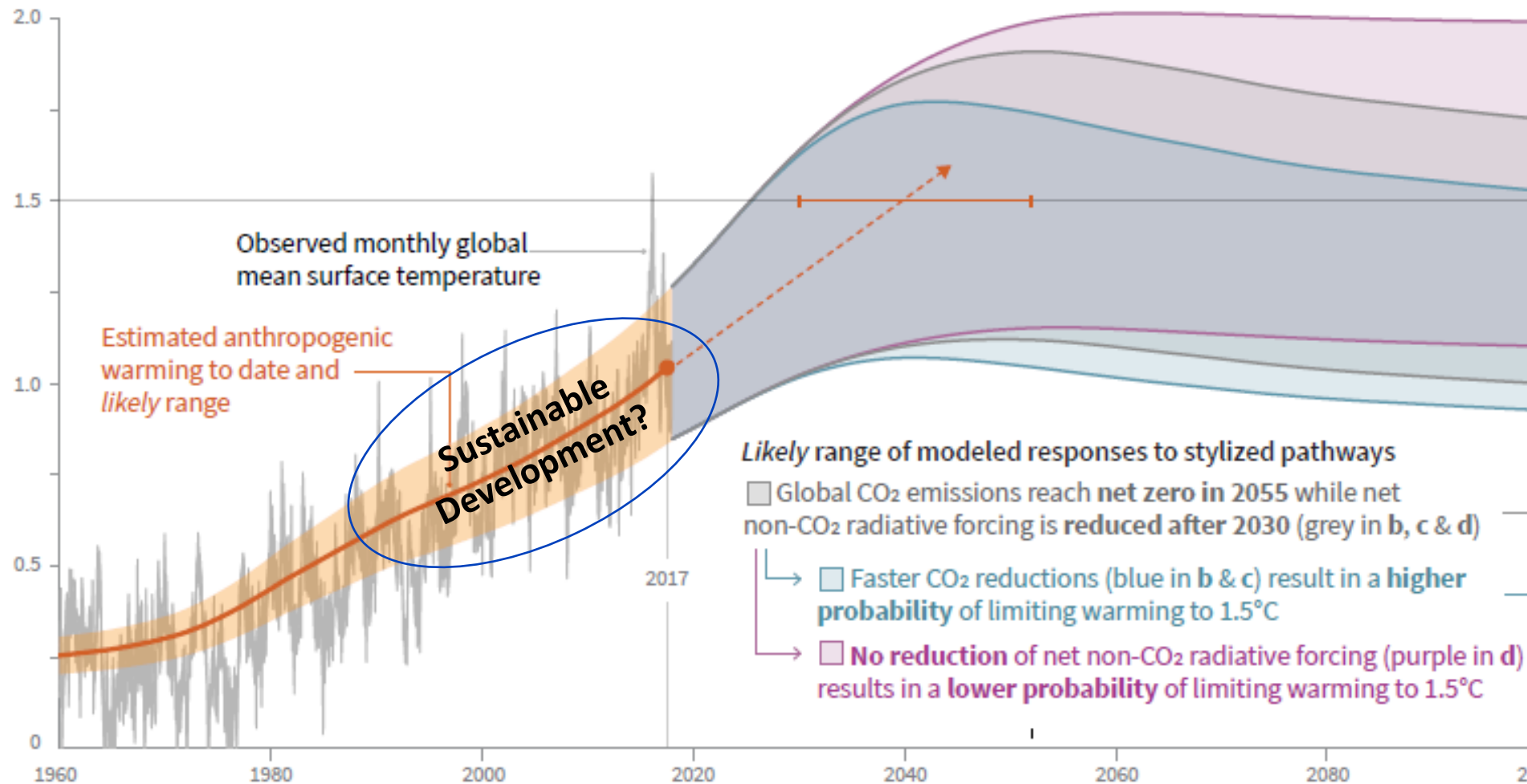
### mission

Establish and institutional space  
for transformative academic work  
at EUR

**Come join the DIT launch November 25!**



# Global warming relative to 1850-1900 (°C)



---

# Regime

Dominant and shared ways of **thinking, organising and doing** in a societal (sub)system

**cultures:** shared values, paradigms, worldviews, discourses

**structures:** institutions, economic structures, physical infrastructures

**practices:** routines, behavior, action, lifestyles



The dominant paradigm in policy and management

Implementation illusion

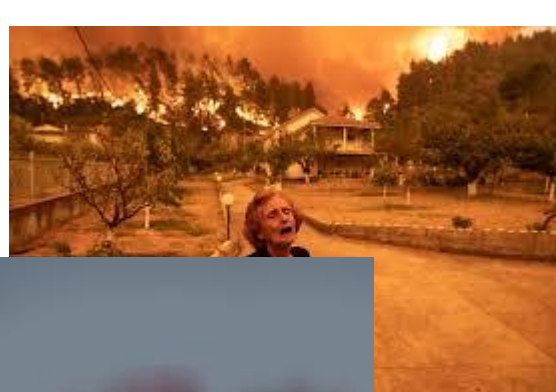
Risk paradox

Innovation trap

Imagination deficit



dr



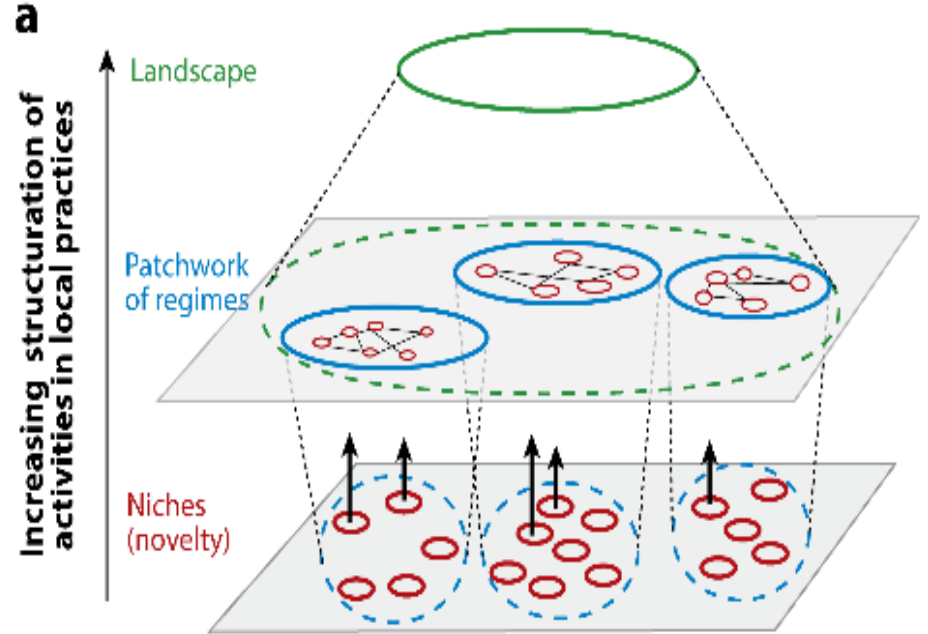
# COVID-19

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

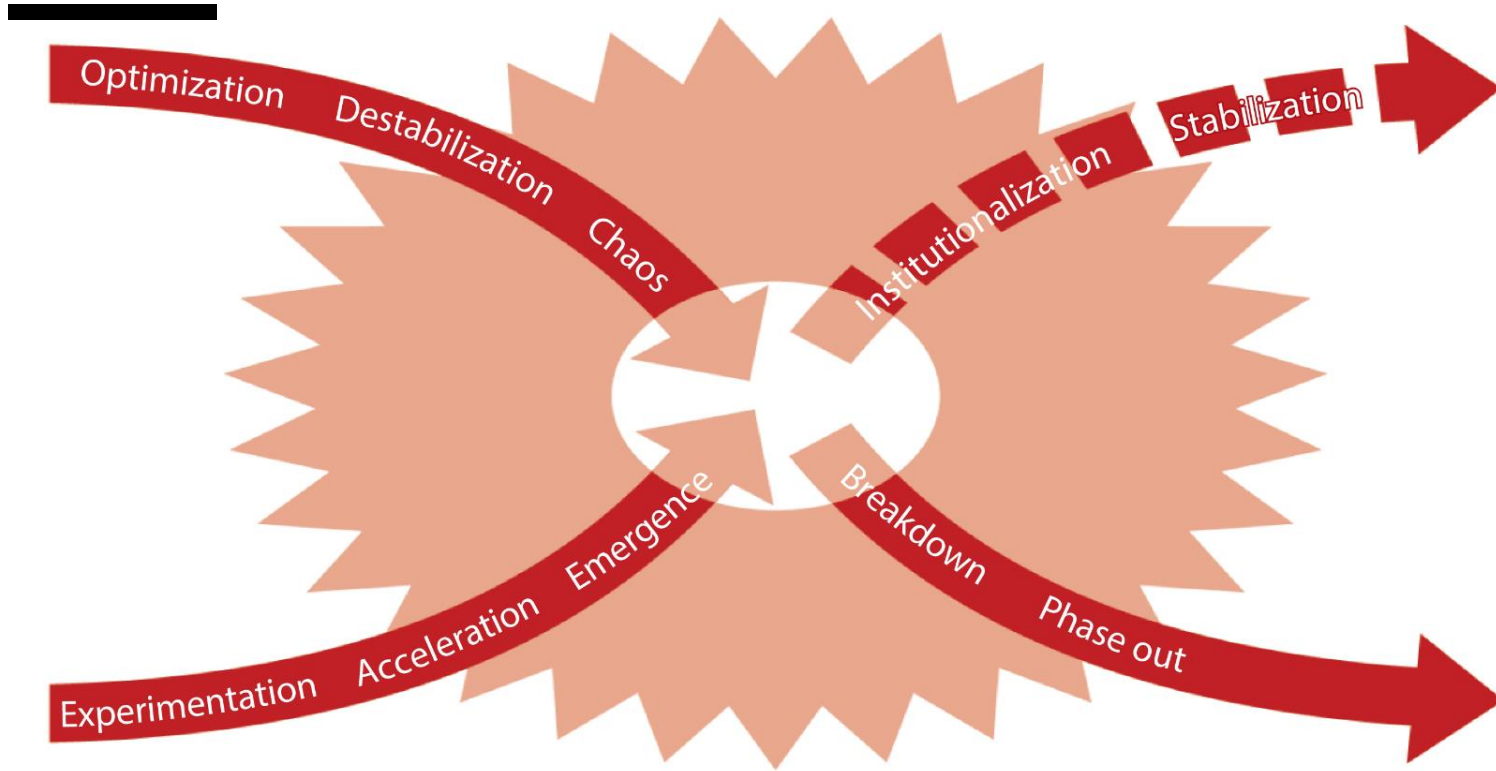
A large central graphic featuring a 3D model of a coronavirus particle on the left, which is spherical with a grey surface and red, crown-like spikes. To the right of the model, the text "COVID-19" is written in large, bold, white capital letters, and "CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019" is written in smaller, white capital letters below it. The background of this section is a blurred, greyish-blue.

## Transition: out of equilibrium

A process of structural, non-linear systemic change in dominant regime that takes place over a period of decades (Rotmans et al, 2001, Grin et al, 2010)







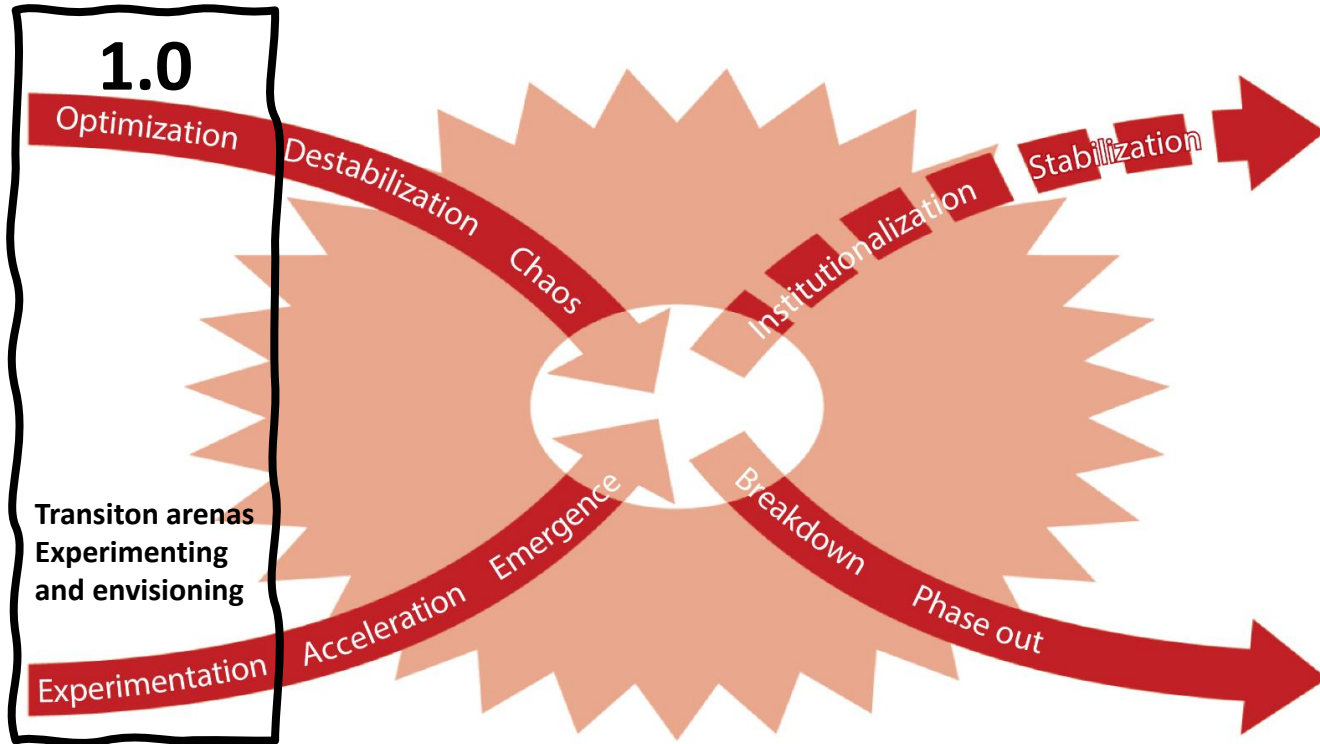
---

## Transition governance principles: design logic?

Radical on the long-term, diplomatic on the short-term

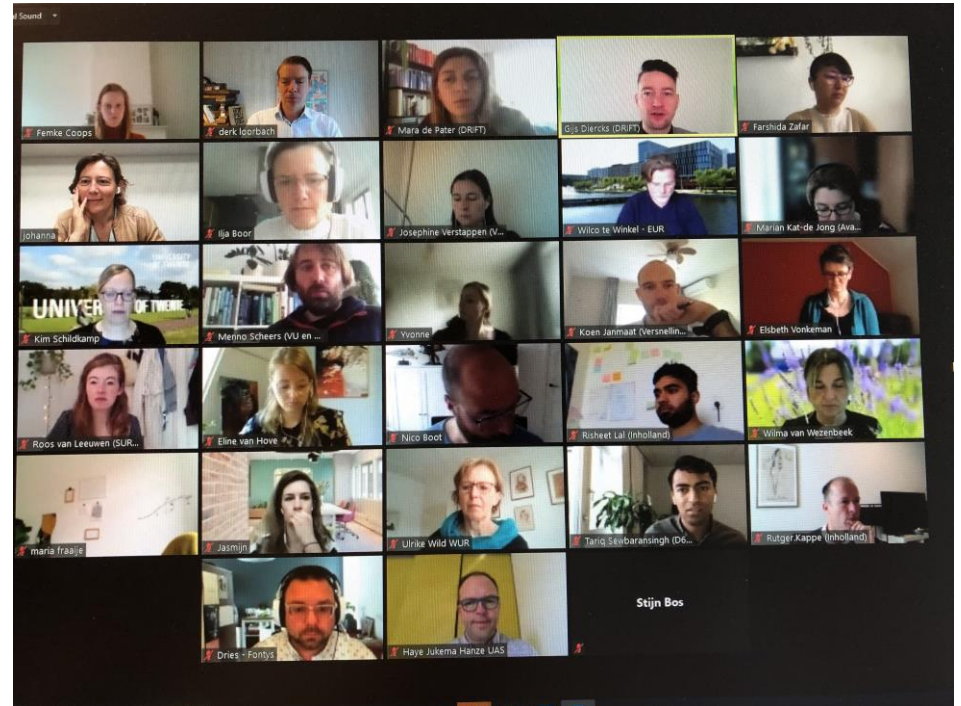
- **Systemic:** *engage with emerging dynamics across societal levels*
- **Back-casting:** *taking desired transition as starting point*
- **Selective:** *focus on transformative agency already engaging with transition*
- **Adaptive:** *experimenting towards multiple goals and transition pathways*
- **Learning-by-doing and doing-by-learning:** *ensure monitoring and reflexivity*

# Creating transformative discourse, triggering destabilisation and accelerating transformative innovation



## Transition arena higher education

- 4 sessions online
- Individuals from (applied) uni's, politics, SURF, government
- New transition narrative about digitalization and future of HE



het onderwijsstelsel  
is enorm  
gegroeid



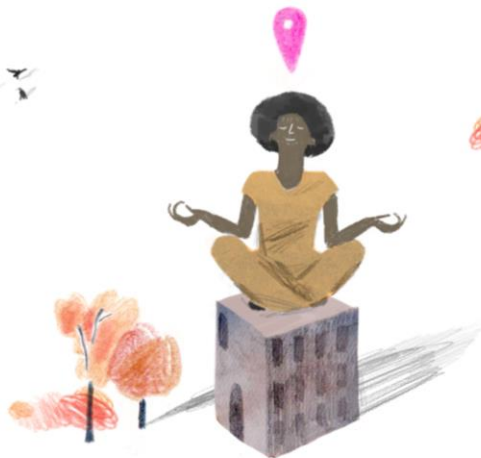
op je 12<sup>e</sup>  
spring je  
door een  
hoepel  
heen



Lerenden geven  
hun eigen leerpad vorm



Bij leren is  
blended de norm



Hoger onderwijsinstellingen  
dienen als thuisbasis

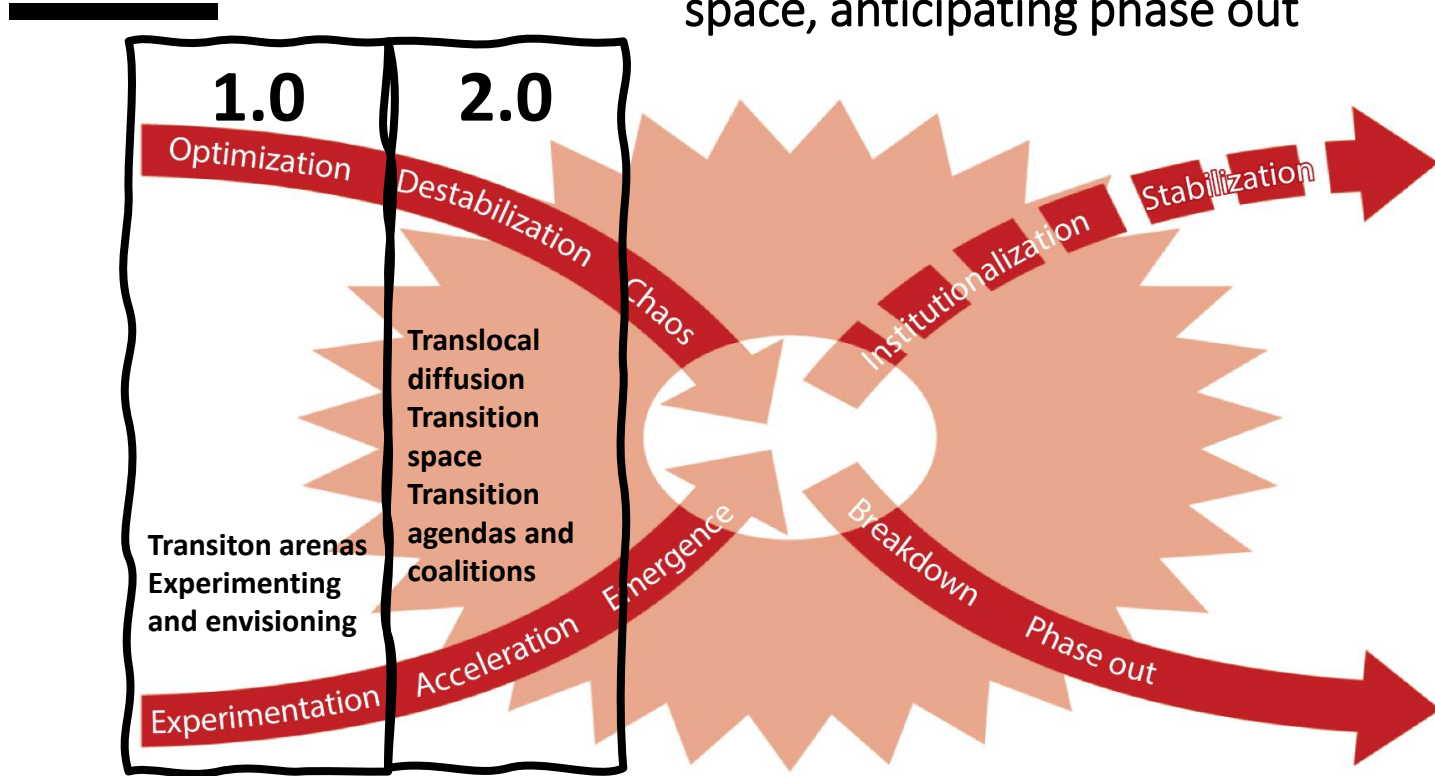


Docenten werken samen in teams  
waarbij ze een diversiteit in  
disciplines en rollen inbrengen



Een gemeenschappelijke  
fundering op basis van  
Open Education

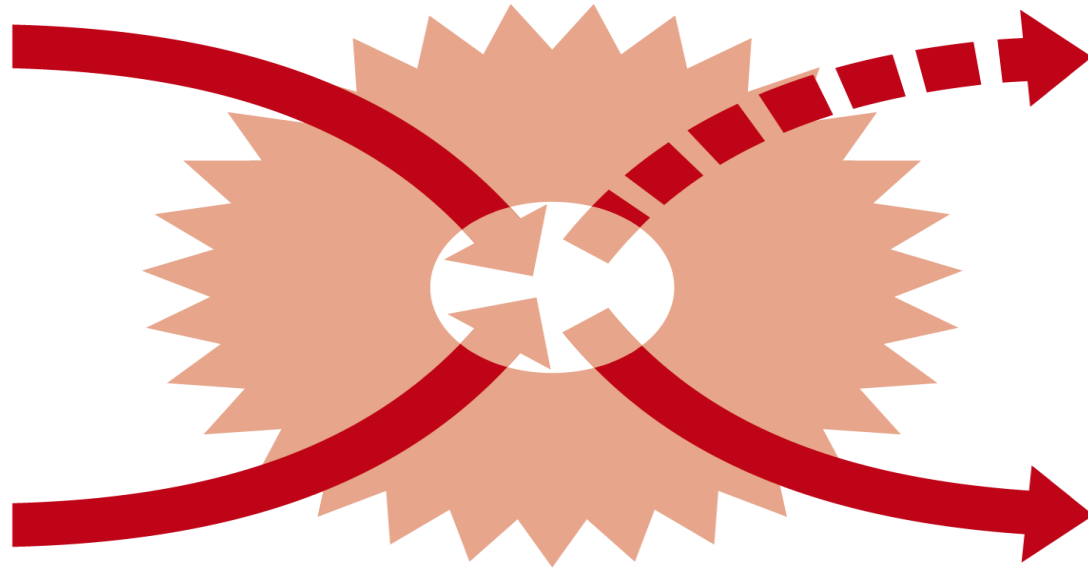
Connecting transformative agency, developing competitive niche-regimes, creating transition space, anticipating phase out



---

## Transition governance mix

*Transform the  
existing*

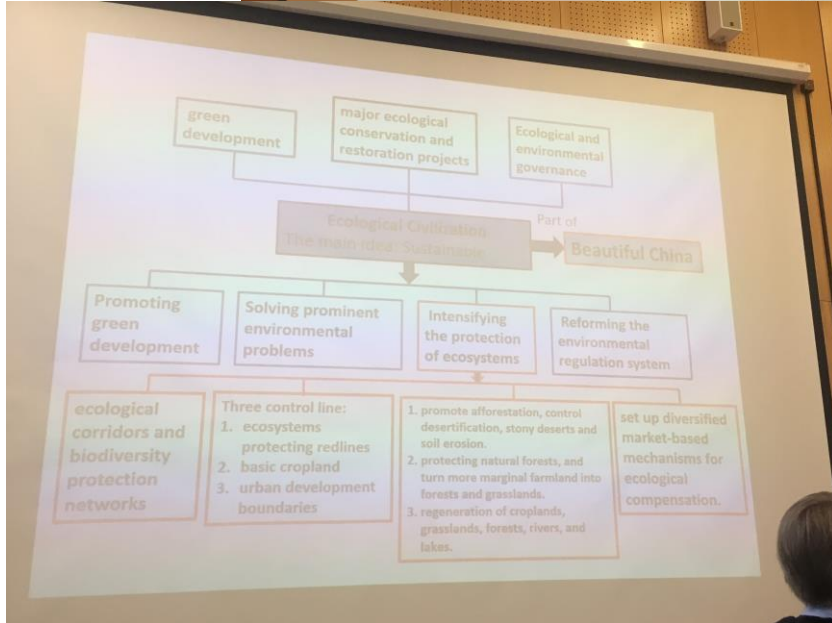
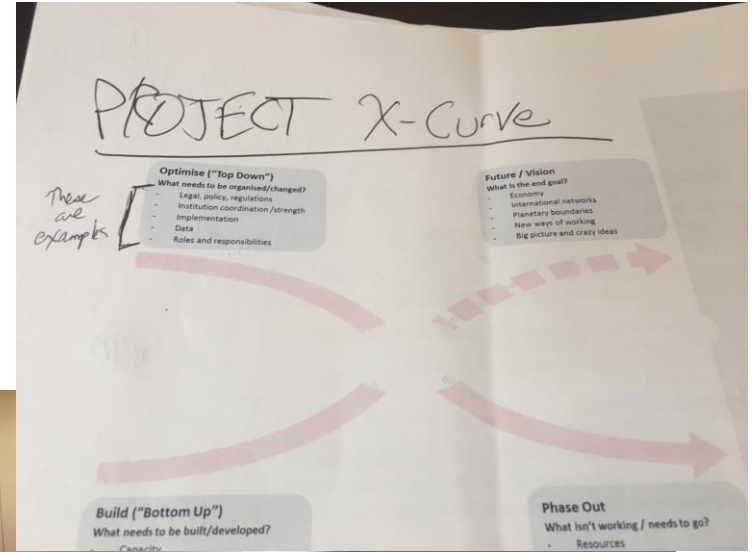
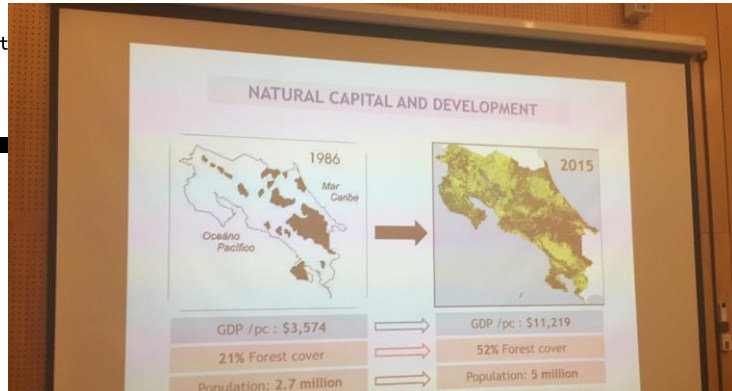


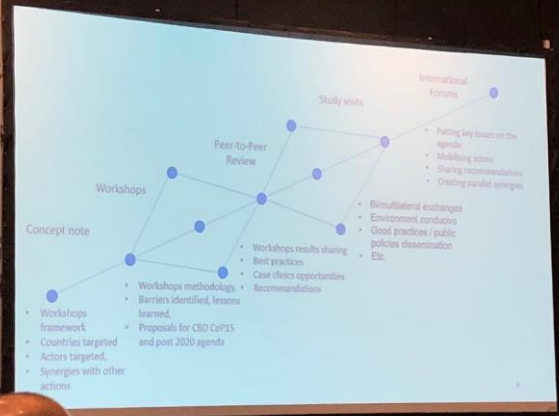
*Guiding  
direction,  
reflexivity and  
learning*

*Build-up the  
sustainable*

*Phase out the  
undesired*







## COP14 Side-event Invitation

# TOWARDS POST-2020



Which are the lessons learnt from the preparations and the recent diplomatic achievements in international environmental and sustainable development negotiations to reach an ambitious and effective follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity?

**Sunday, November 18, 6:15 p.m.**  
**El Wadi contact group 6 room - building 1**

Financed by  Organised by 

# COP14



25 YEARS  
 Convention of Biological Diversity  
 SUSTAINING LIFE ON EARTH



20th Anniversary  
 Convention of Biological Diversity  
 SUSTAINING LIFE ON EARTH



**UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE**  
 Investing in biodiversity for people and planet  
 COP14 - CP/MOP9-NP/MOP3  
 Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, 2018



**UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE**  
 Investing in biodiversity for people and planet  
 COP14 - CP/MOP9-NP/MOP3  
 Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, 2018



# "Transformative change"



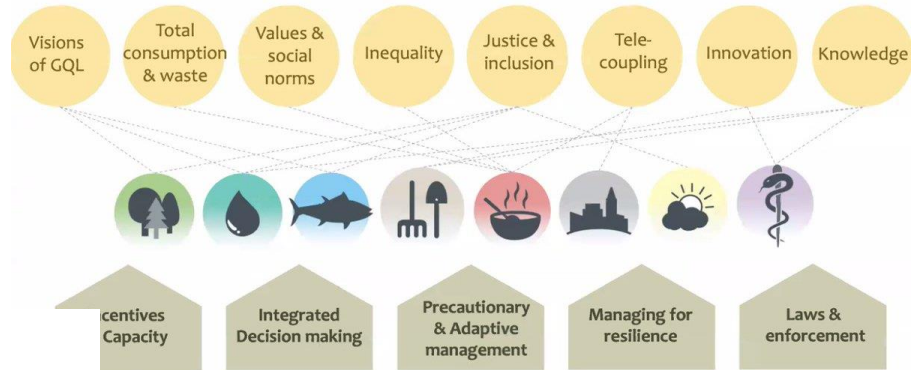
means a fundamental, system-wide reorganization across technological, economic and social factors, including paradigms, goals and values.

By its very nature, transformative change can expect opposition from those with interests vested in the status quo.

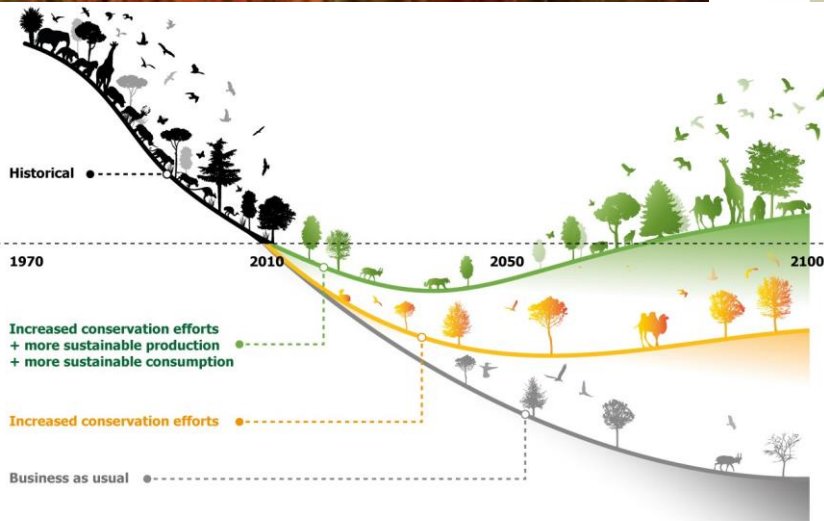
But such opposition can be overcome for the broader public good.\*

—IPBES  
Global Assessment

## LEVERAGE POINTS

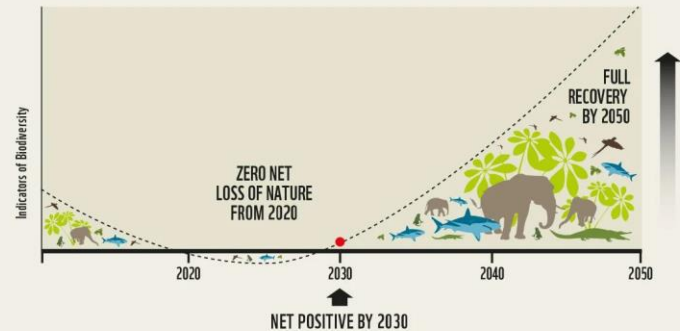


## LEVERS for transformative change



This artwork illustrates the main findings of the article, but does not intend to accurately represent its results (<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-2705-y>)

## Global Goal for Nature: Nature Positive by 2030



# Transitions in the making?

**“The people of the world do not want half measures or empty promises. They are demanding transformative change that is fair and sustainable... Together, let us kick-start a decade of delivery and action for people and planet.”**



António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

**Neste and Mirova back Recycling Technologies to accelerate transition to circular economy for plastic**

NESTE

mirova  
Investing in sustainability

Recycling Technologies

## The EU Green Deal

The European Green Deal is about **improving the well-being of people**. Making Europe climate-neutral and protecting our natural habitat will be good for people, planet and economy. No one will be left behind.

The EU will:



Become climate-neutral by 2050



Protect human life, animals and plants, by cutting pollution



Help companies become world leaders in clean products and technologies



Help ensure a just and inclusive transition

## Votes for Climate Resolutions

Follow this

Shareholders support the company to set Paris-aligned targets for all emissions (Scope 1, 2, and 3\*)

\* Scope 3 = product emissions  
Total: filed by institutional investors







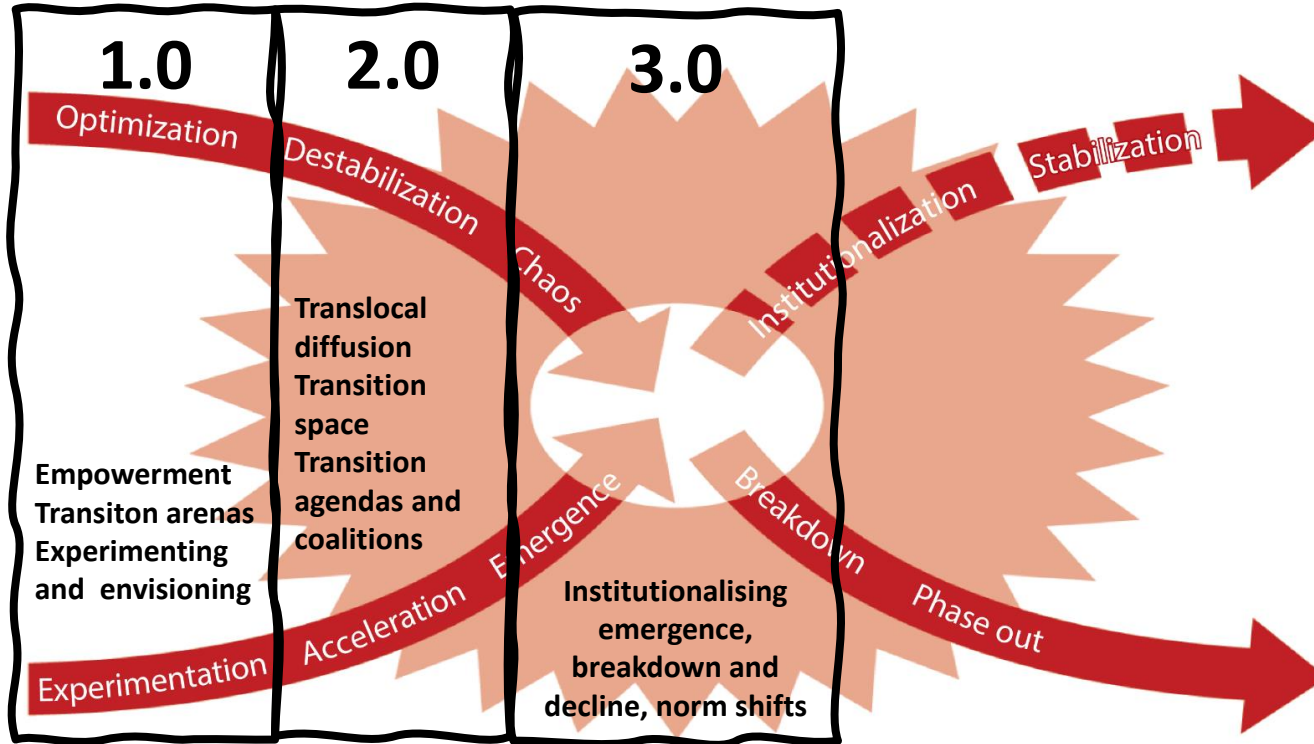
NEWS

## Germany to pump additional €3 billion in ailing automotive industry

The investment will extend a subsidy for electric vehicles and attempt to secure jobs that are in jeopardy due to the coronavirus pandemic. The announcement follows talks between Chancellor Merkel and industry heads.



Catalyse radical transitions, develop socio-political momentum, accelerate breakdown



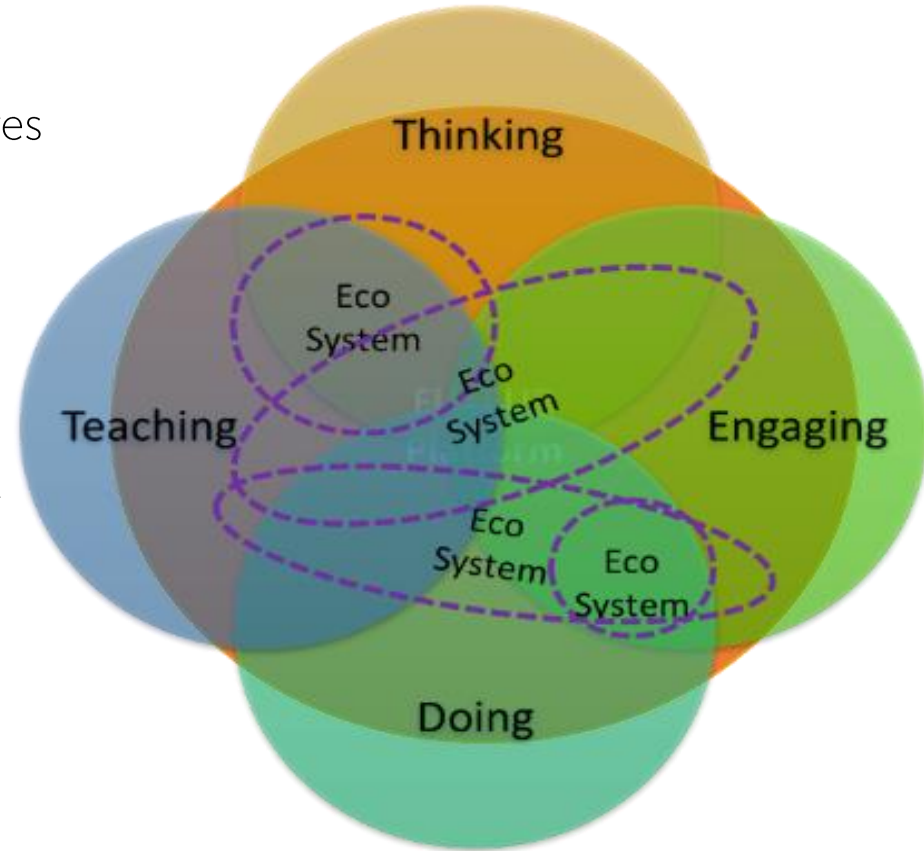
# DIT as a Platform

- Academic platform approach through affiliate and visiting researchers and practitioners based on membership charter
- Flexible organisation with distributed leadership (one DIT fellow per School) and continuously evolving research agendas around societal challenges
- Capacity building, training and career development based on design, impact and transition to nurture impact culture, ethics and practices
- Toolbox and method base for schools and other initiatives to draw from (Impact at the Core, Recognition and Reward, Erasmus Initiatives, Professional Services, Communication, Leadership, Diversity and Inclusion)
- Core mechanisms for connectivity and synergy to avoid duplications and achieve critical mass and scale



# Supporting the university transition

- Organizing academic ecosystems and spheres
- Create conditions, spaces, incentives and capacities for transdisciplinarity
- Invest in new methods, tools and practices
- Design career paths, evaluations, funding for impact and transition
- Facilitate institutional redesign and experimentation



## Making radical transitions visible

Commons  
based local

Social  
shared  
mobility

Nature  
positive new

Ecological  
infrastructure

Regenerative  
nature

29.03.2021

## DERK LOORBACH APPOINTED CHIEF CURATOR 10TH IABR, SHOCK AND ROLL (2022)

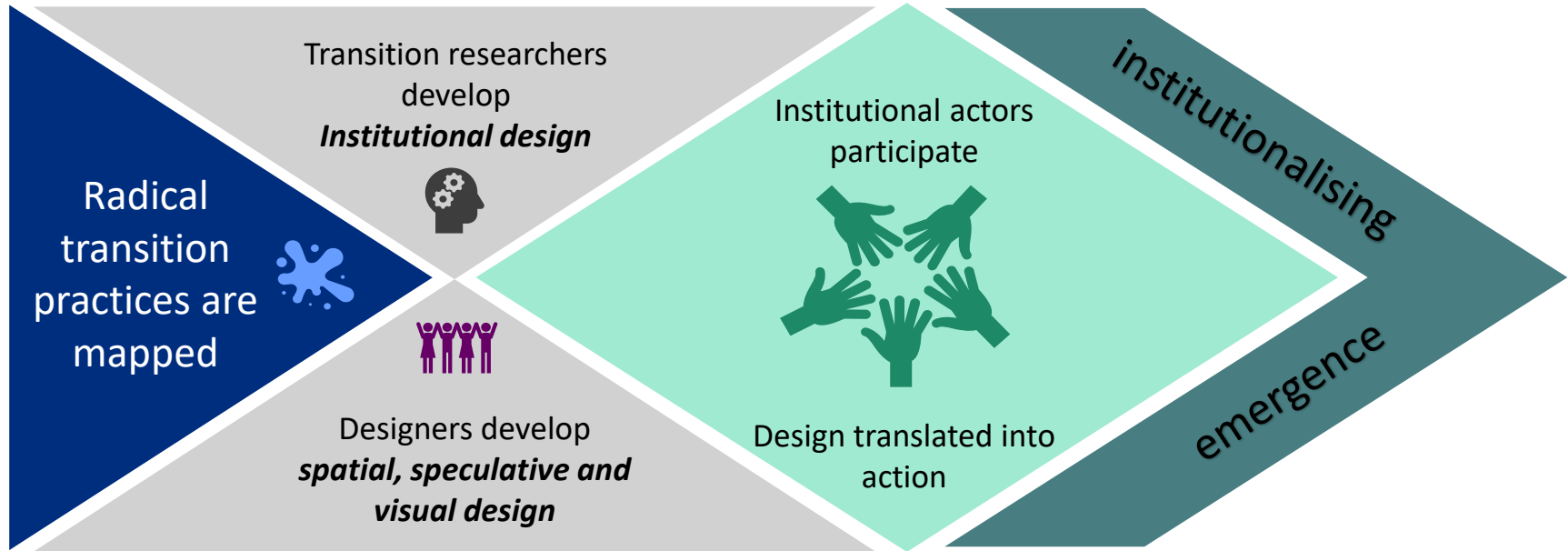
The board of the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR) has appointed director of *Dutch Research Institute for Transitions* (DRIFT) and professor of *Socioeconomic Transitions* at the Erasmus University Rotterdam's *Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences* DERK LOORBACH as chief curator of the next edition of the IABR, *SHOCK AND ROLL*.

*SHOCK AND ROLL* will open in the fall of 2022 and is the first in a new series of biennales that will go all out for transition. The series will focus on the urgent need to put into design practice the all-embracing change to which science incites us, which the Paris climate objectives call for, to which the



- Global call for transition practices
- TM 3.0 process
- International exhibit and cultural program fall 2022

## 'Development by design'



**drift** for transition



For more information and publications:

[loorbach@drift.eur.nl](mailto:loorbach@drift.eur.nl)

[www.drift.eur.nl](http://www.drift.eur.nl)

[www.twitter.com/drk75](https://www.twitter.com/drk75)

*Erasmus*