

Evaluating Transformative Innovation Policies – MEL for Whole of Society Transformation

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1. Ideas from DSIS Project at UCC

Idea 1 - The Contemporary Polycrisis



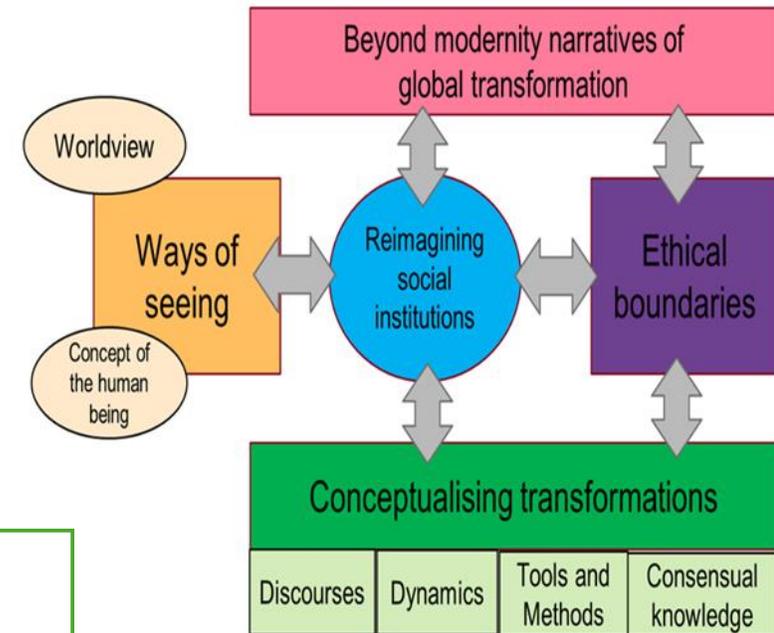
Not only are multiple crises occurring simultaneously, but each crisis amplifies the destructive effects of other crises.

Idea 3 – Social Duality



THE
SACRED|ORDINARY

Idea 2 – Conceptualising W-O-S Transformation



2. Multisystem Dynamics of Multiple Social Systems

Transformative Capacities (Orr)

- Transformation: What needs to change?
- Strategies: How?
 - Capacities needed?

Tipping Points (Lenton)

- Creating conditions
- Sensing potential
- Intervening

Learning Cycles (Magnusson)

- Incremental – Narrow search
- Radical – Wider within system
- Intersystem – Linkages between systems

System Entanglers (Lohr)

- Work to connect systems
- Connect ongoing transitions
- Aim at radical institutional innovation

3. Governance and Evaluation (MEL) of Whole of Society Transformation – Middle Spaces

Lessons including from MELISA Anthology:

Middle Spaces – Bring together top-down and bottom up; allow experimentation; involve diverse participants; capacity building; inter-system linkages; institutional change and inter-institutional ‘governance’.

Need for Critical Pluralism (Kish) - Sense-making; directionality; normativity are central – but different system entanglers will understand ‘What needs to change?’ ‘How it might change?’ And ‘capacities needed’, very differently.

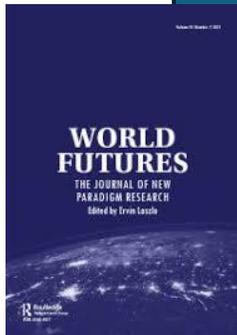
MEL must emerge from within this complex of activities, not be designed and imposed from outside, and must evolve as transformation evolves. There is no MEL blueprint that can be designed from the offset.

Whole-of-society Scale – There are as yet few/no whole-of-society transformation processes – **or ToC** – to apply MEL to! Single flagships; low budgets; circumscribed ‘system’ boundaries.

We have as yet nothing to apply whole-of-society to!

References

BEYOND CLIMATE
CHANGE TO DEEP
SOCIETAL
REIMAGINING



Hughes, I., Byrne, E., Glatz-Schmallegger, M., Harris, C., Hynes, W., Keohane, K., & Gallachóir, B. Ó. (2021). Deep institutional innovation for sustainability and human development. *World futures*, 77(5), 371-394.

CONCEPTUALISING
GLOBAL
TRANSFORMATION



Hughes, I., Hernandez, A. M., Glynn, J., Hynes, W., & Gallachóir, B. Ó. (2024). Conceptualising global cultural transformation. *Environmental Research Letters*, 19(9), 094050.

SOCIAL DUALITY
AND DYNAMICS OF
CHANGE



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