

NIDO Webinar

Citizen Engagement in innovative public policies

Tapping into Collective Intelligence
to renew democracy: Why? How?

June 20, 2024



For 2,000 years we've been hearing this...

“

A democracy is nothing more than mob rule, where 51 percent of the people may take away the rights of the other 49.

- Thomas Jefferson

The best argument against democracy is a 5-minute conversation with the average voter.

- Winston Churchill

Democracy is merely a method ensuring a competitive selection of leaders by the people, not the rule of the people themselves.

- Joseph Schumpeter



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Since 2014

vTaiwan

On+offline process, brings together ministries, elected officials, scholars, experts, business leaders, civil society organizations and citizens

#web+meetings
#Hackathons



Proposition 1:

CI is key to public
administration's needs
now



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Dangerous times... What can we do?



”

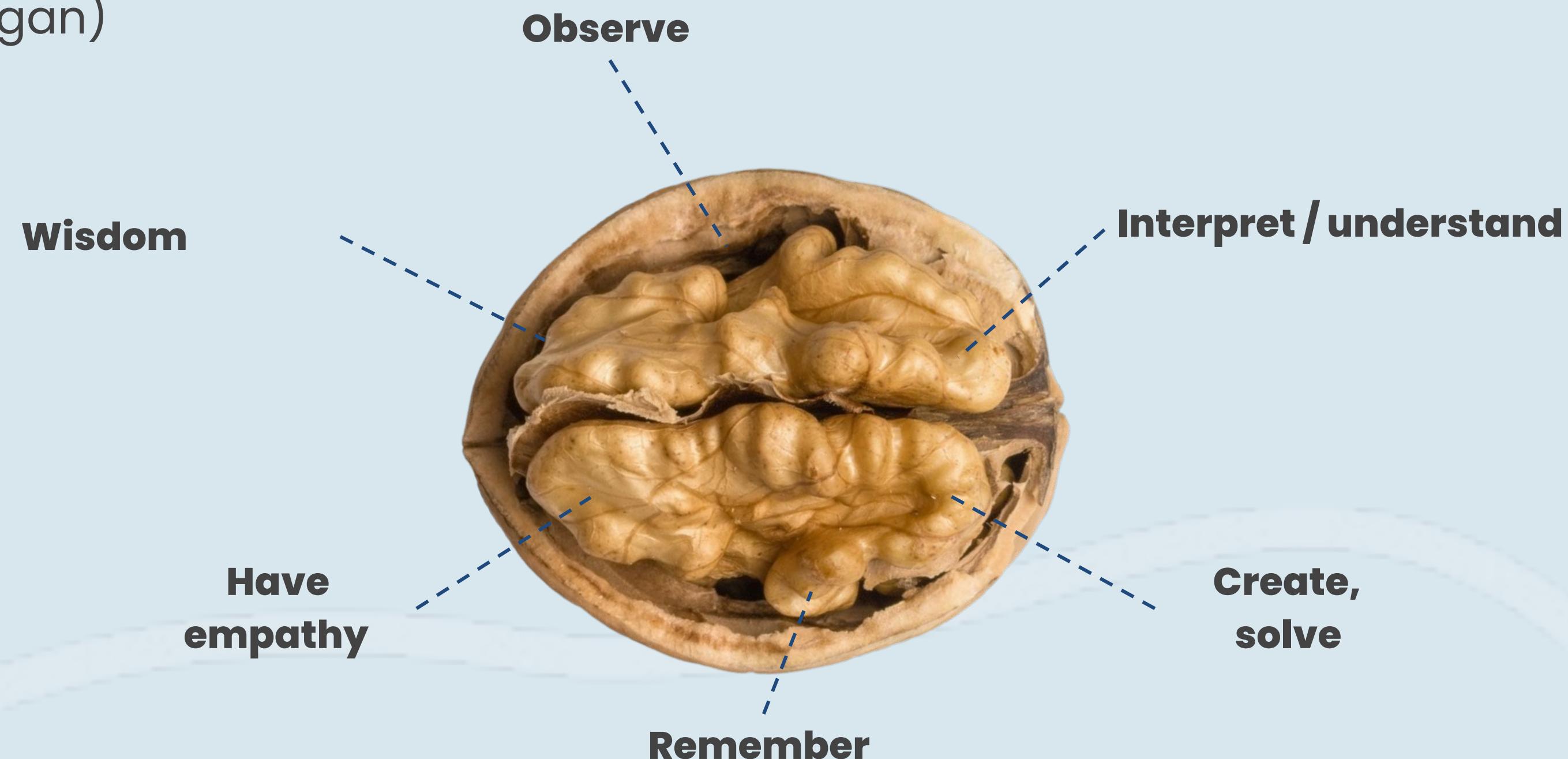
Democracy is in crisis because today's governments largely fail to capitalize on their **greatest untapped resource: the collective intelligence of their citizens.**

Prof. Hélène Landemore,
Yale University



What if we thought of government as a brain?

(Geoff Mulgan)



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“

Under the right circumstances, groups are remarkably intelligent, and are often smarter than the smartest people in them.

James Surowiecki



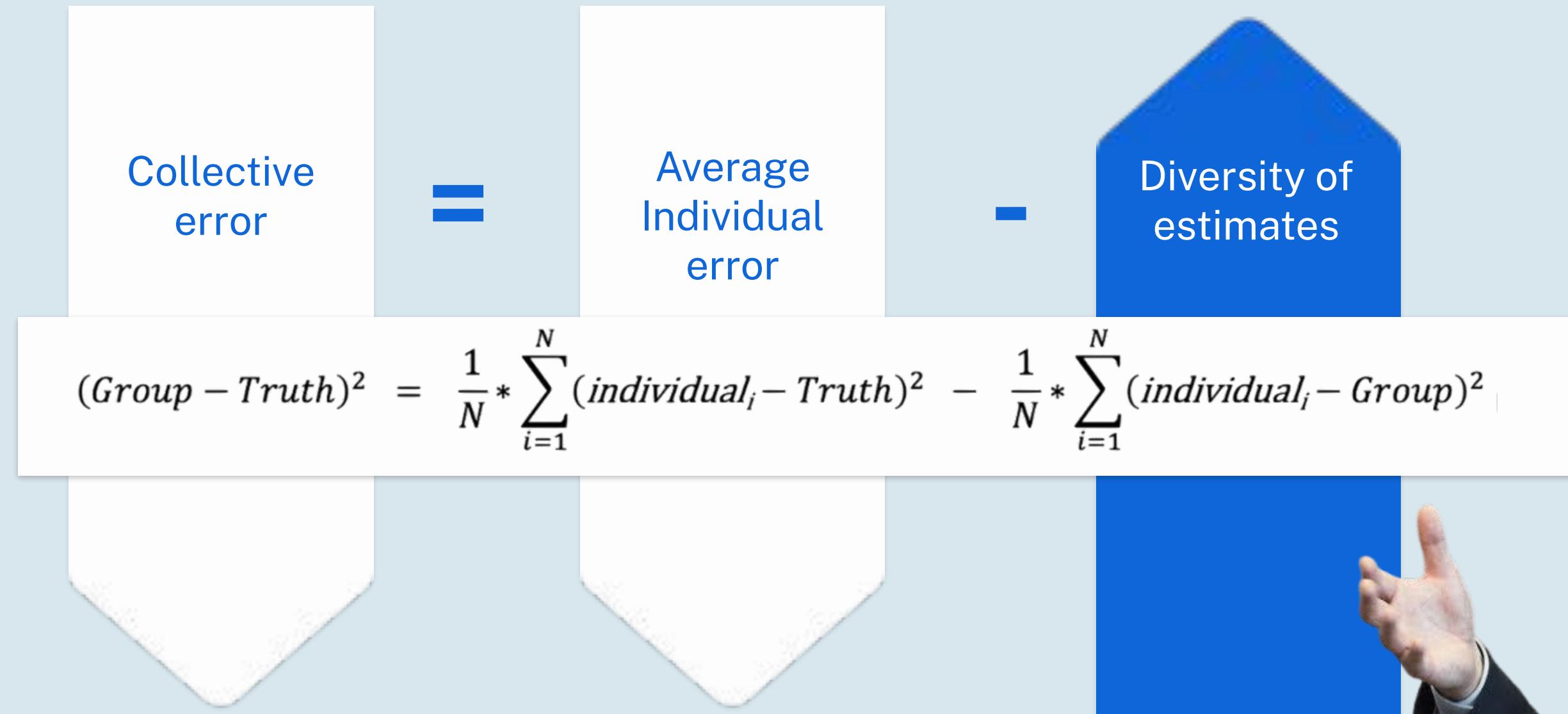
Our definition of CI

Collective intelligence (CI) is the capacity of groups to outperform individuals in problem-solving, innovation, prediction, creativity, and other cognitive tasks.

$$1 + 1 > 2$$

The diversity theorem

To reduce collective error, diversity matters as much as individual expertise



⇒ See Hypermind's videos on CI

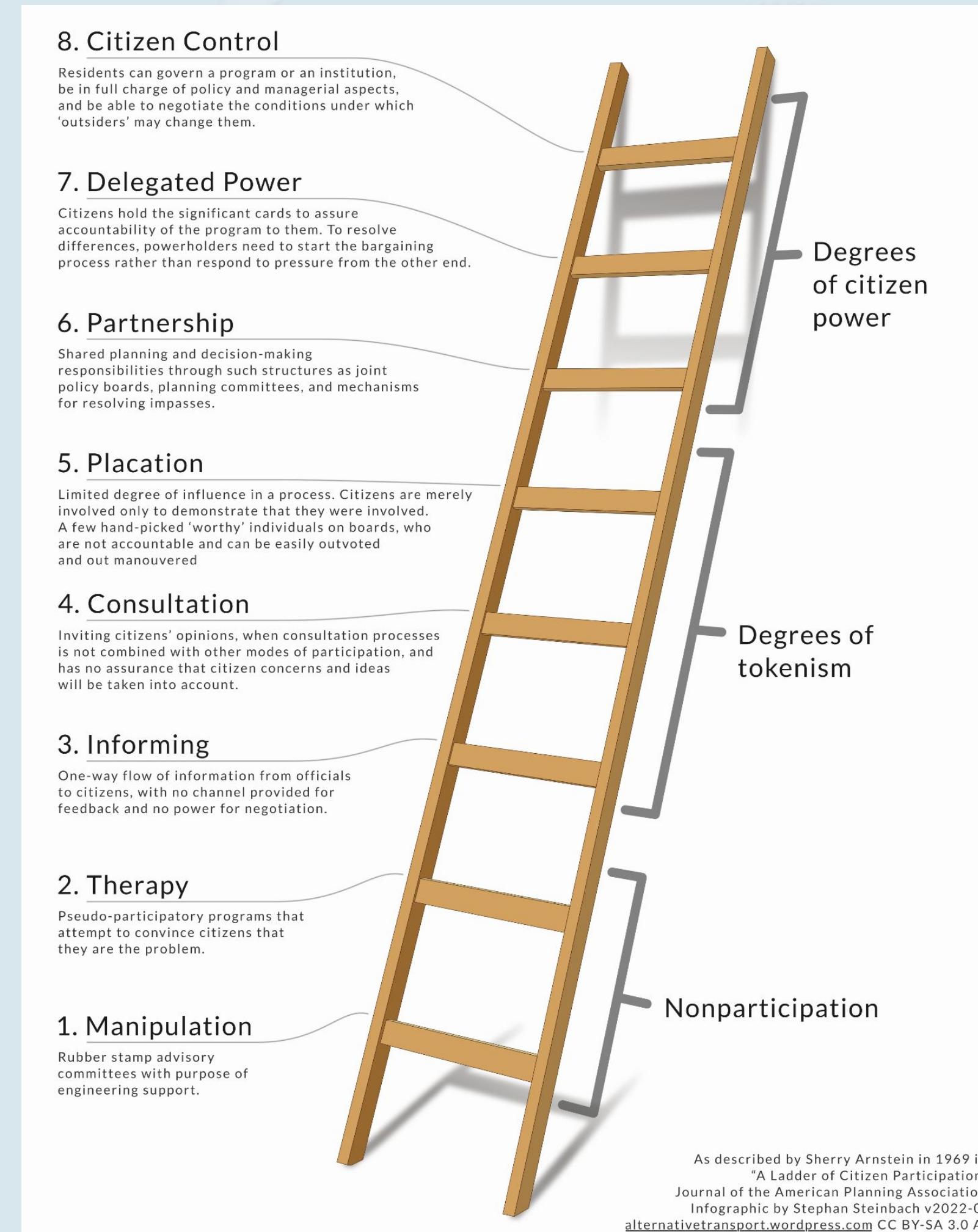
Scott E. Page

Definitions

Originality



Levels of engagement



Key drivers of CI done well

1 Include **more** people

Larger groups tend to be more intelligent, under the right conditions...

3 Deliberate well

Open, respectful, and informed dialogue thanks to:

- Accurate and balanced information
- Substantive balance of arguments
- Participants represent all major positions
- Equal consideration of arguments on their merits
- Conscientiousness

5 Aggregate smartly

Combine participants' opinions into a collective judgment or decision in fair and accurate ways

2 Include **different** people

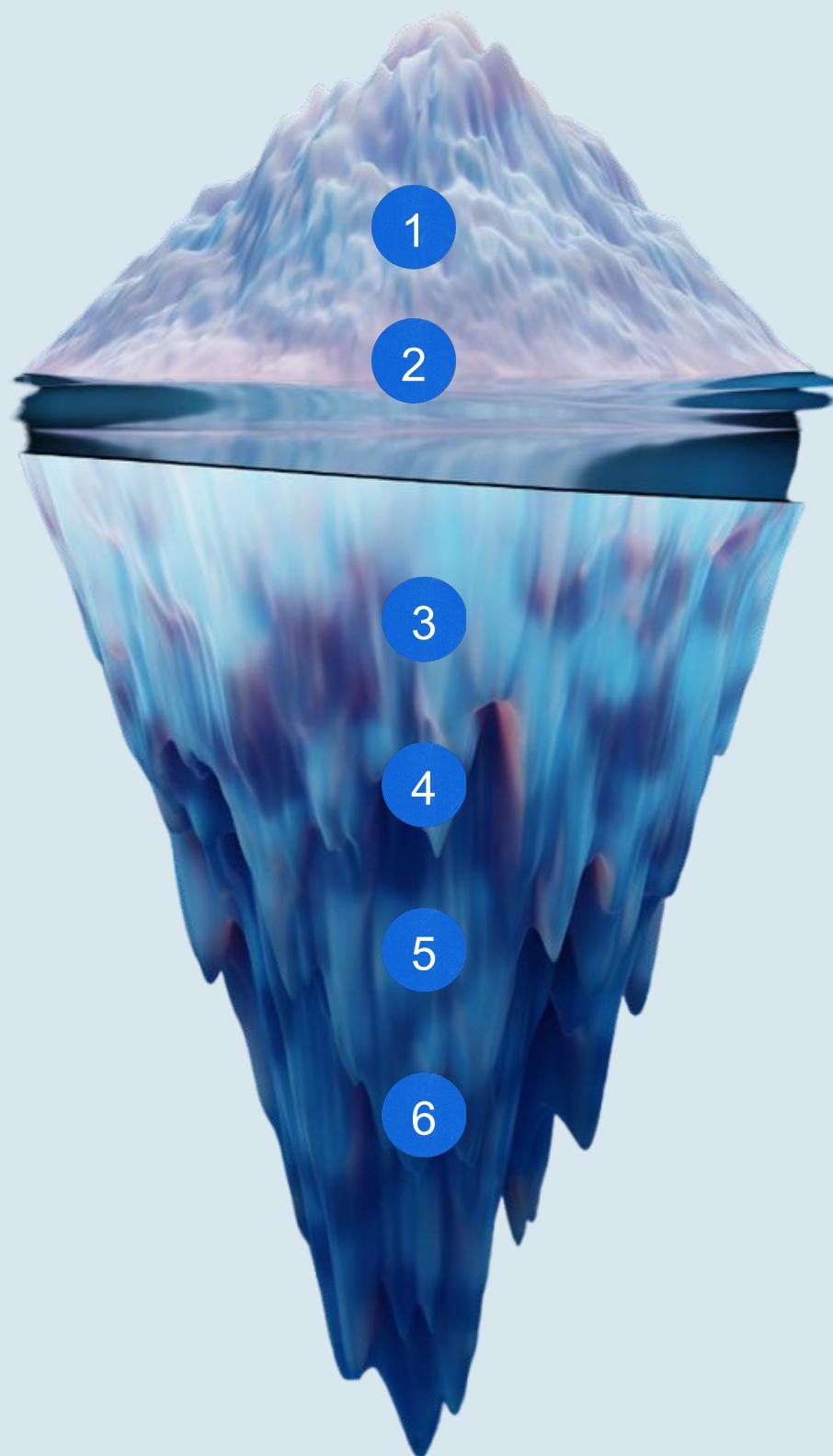
Maximize cognitive diversity thanks to the individuals' different perspectives, experiences, abilities, values, and knowledge.

4 Motivate and ensure **psychological safety**

Collective intelligence is fostered by a combination of intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, depending on the task at hand and allowing safety and dissent.

6 Extend

Collective thinking is enhanced through specially designed spaces and artifacts that extend the minds of the participants



Public governance: 4 types of legitimacy

Impact

- * Adequacy of policy results with population's expectations

Process

- 🚀 Acceptance of preference aggregation and decision-making procedures

Input

- 🔌 Responsiveness to citizen concerns as a result of participation by the people

Emotions

- ❤️ Adherence to attachment to norms, values, deeper aspirations and fears



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When CI meets democracy: potential impact

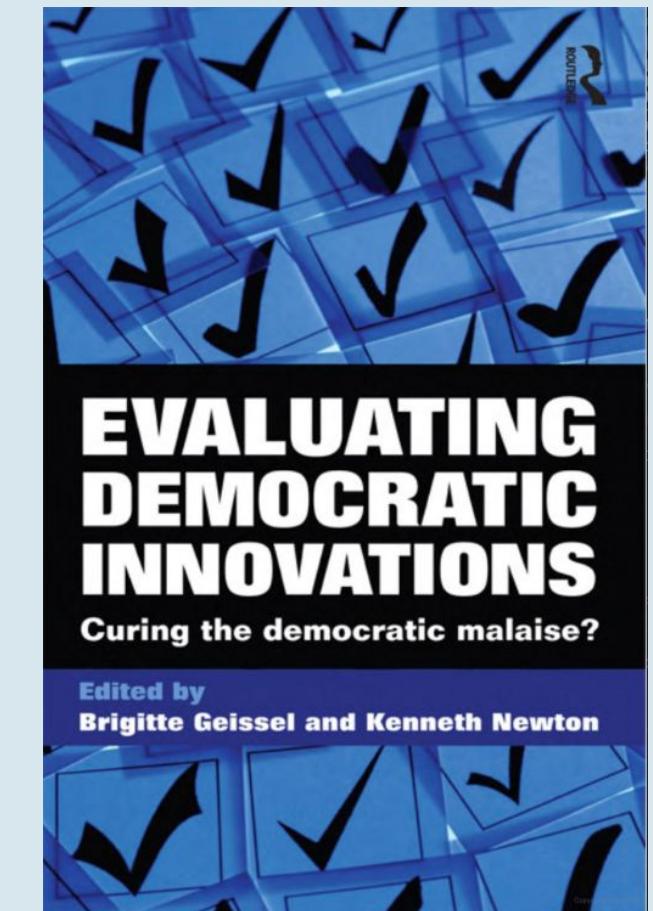


Impact legitimacy
Process legitimacy
Emotions legitimacy
Input legitimacy



What scientists says about the impact of CI processes

- 1 **Input legitimacy** - Ability to include citizens and to increase the perception of legitimacy
- 2 **Democratic process** - Ability to increase the quality of democracy and of deliberation in particular
- 3 **Effectiveness** - Ability to identify collective goals and promote their achievement
- 4 **Civic education** - Ability to support acquisition of skills and knowledge



Geissel, B., (2012). Impacts of democratic innovations in Europe: Findings and desiderata. In Evaluating Democratic Innovations (pp. 173–193). Routledge



Proposition 2:

**There's more to CI and
governance than meets
the eye**



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From one wave to the next



Deliberation with citizens

- Deliberative polls
- Participatory budgeting
- Consensus conferences
- Citizens Assemblies
- ...



People+, Collectively intelligent communities

- Safe spaces, Agoras, Assemblies...
- Open innovation platforms, public challenges, civic hackathons...
- Hybrid approaches: Political Task Committees, Transformative Scenario Planning, deliberative committees...
- Prediction markets, prediction contests
- Social Impact Bonds
- ...

Mapping CI / democratic innovations [1]

Policy cycles

Agenda-setting and problem definition	Creating solutions	Selecting options	Arguing and accepting	Implementing, testing, scaling	Evaluating, learning, correcting
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civic- and gov-tech• Data mining• Predictive / future studies,• AI• ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open calls• Public challenges• Collaborative platforms• Living labs / policy labs• ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mini-public deliberations• Focus groups• Data collaboratives• ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Citizen hearings• Door-to-door canvassing• Gamification• ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulatory sandboxes and innovation hubs• Randomised control trials• Nudging• ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wikis• Communities of practice• User committees• ...



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Mapping CI / democratic innovations [2]

Cognitive functions

Observing, gathering data	Modeling, predicting	Generating options	Deliberating, deciding	Implementing / pooling labor	Learning, remembering, wisdom
<hr/>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crowdsourcing• Open data• Citizen science• e-petitions• Citizen hearings• Door-to-door canvassing• ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prediction markets• Future studies• Collaborative mapping• ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open government• Citizens' assemblies• Hybrid processes (citizen+officials)• Public challenges• Policy labs• Hackathons• ...• ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mini-public deliberations• Participatory budgeting• Transformative Scenario Planning• ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Innovation• "Activist <i>laissez-faire</i>" policies such as social impact bonds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CoP, e.g. What Works Centres• Communities of practice• Wikis• Knowledge management• Collective learning & sense-making



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Mapping CI / democratic innovations [3]

Levels of governance

Municipal	Regional	National	Supra national
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participatory budgeting• Townhall meetings• Co-governance structures• E-consultations• Community-led initiatives• Liquid democracy• ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliberative Committees• Citizen panels• ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Citizens Assemblies• Deliberative Polling• E-petitions• Citizen science / crowdsourcing• Collaborative Governance Networks• Open gov / open data initiatives• ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Citizens Assemblies• Deliberative polling• E-petitions• ...



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Seeing 'government as a system'

UK Policy Lab

Influence	Engage	Design	Develop	Resource	Deliver	Control
advise	listen	connect	champion	charge	nudge	devolve
lobby	inform	engage	agree	incentivise	educate	assure
Agenda set	consult	analyse	partner	contract	build	license
Role model	convene	forecast	plan	co-fund	provide	regulate
audit	collaborate	model	commission	target	reform	intervene
govern	negotiate	test	interpret	invest	safeguard	enforce
publish	elect	pilot	codify	fund	prevent	sanction
scrutinise	dictate	evaluate	legislate	recover	protect	prosecute



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Proposition 3:

CI is key to public administration's future



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A photograph of an underwater coral reef. A scuba diver is visible in the center, illuminated by a bright light from their gear. The water is a deep blue, and the coral reef is filled with various small, colorful fish.

Now everything is going deep!



**Deep insights, deep learning, deep artificial
minds combined with more purpose and more
ethics.**

- Friedman, 2019



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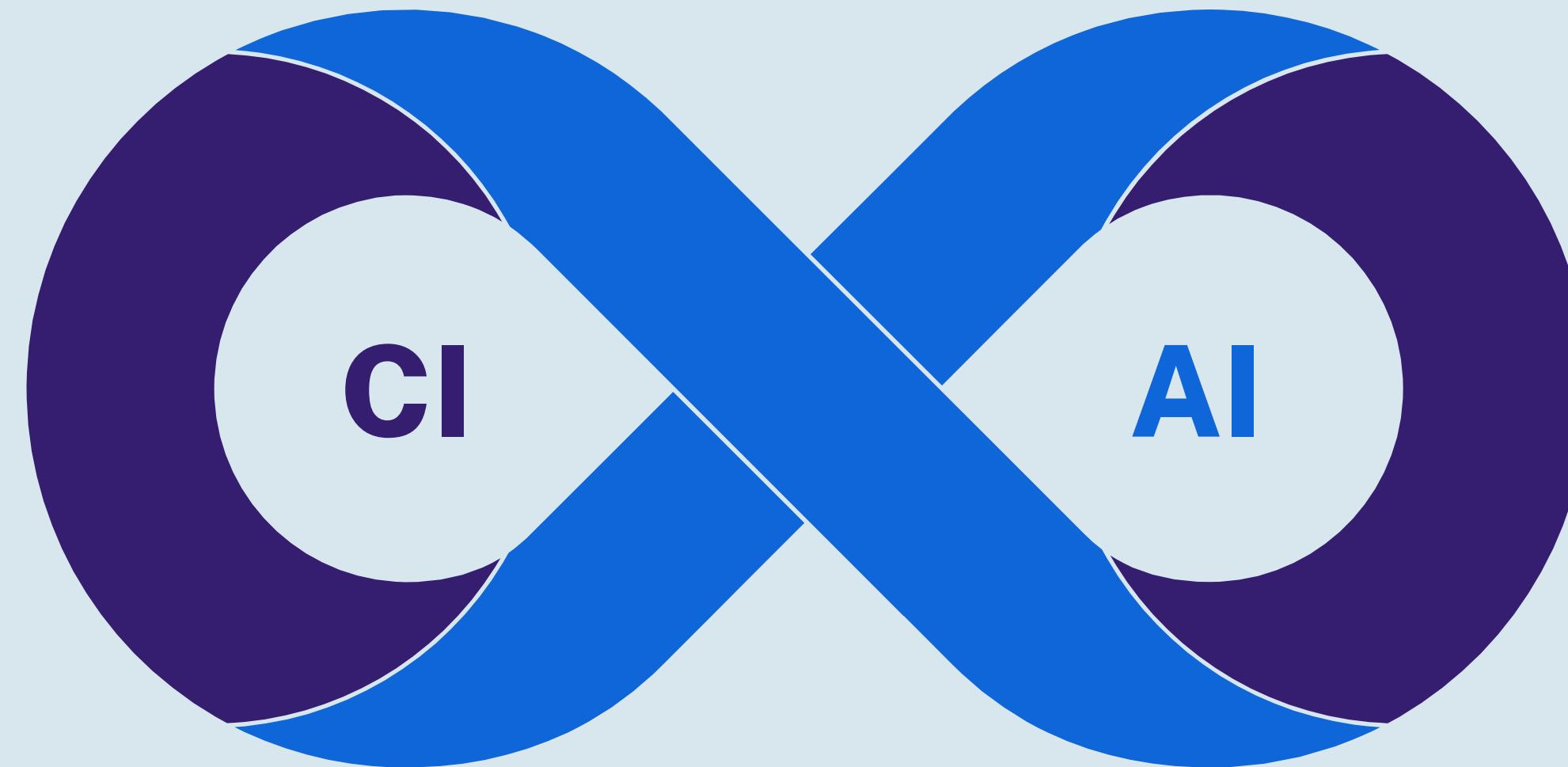
Now the harnessing of tacit knowledge from stakeholders (citizens) can be crowdsourced effectively and an early warning system for governance is surfacing.

- Andersen & Hallin, 2017



CI and AI are becoming a symbiosis for policymaking

Reinforcing each other

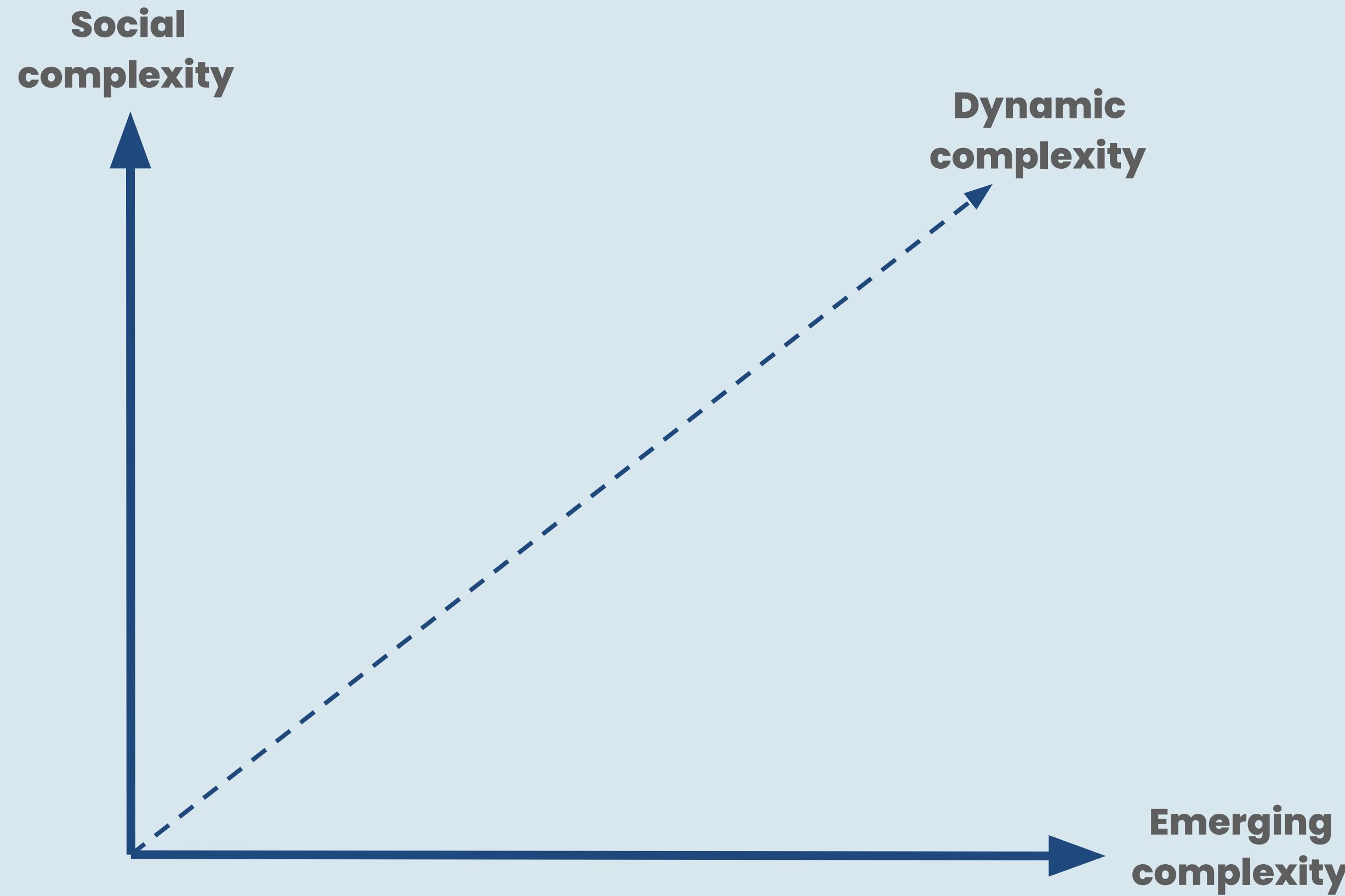


As AI becomes increasingly implemented in organizations, CI is needed to keep artificial intelligence ethical and human

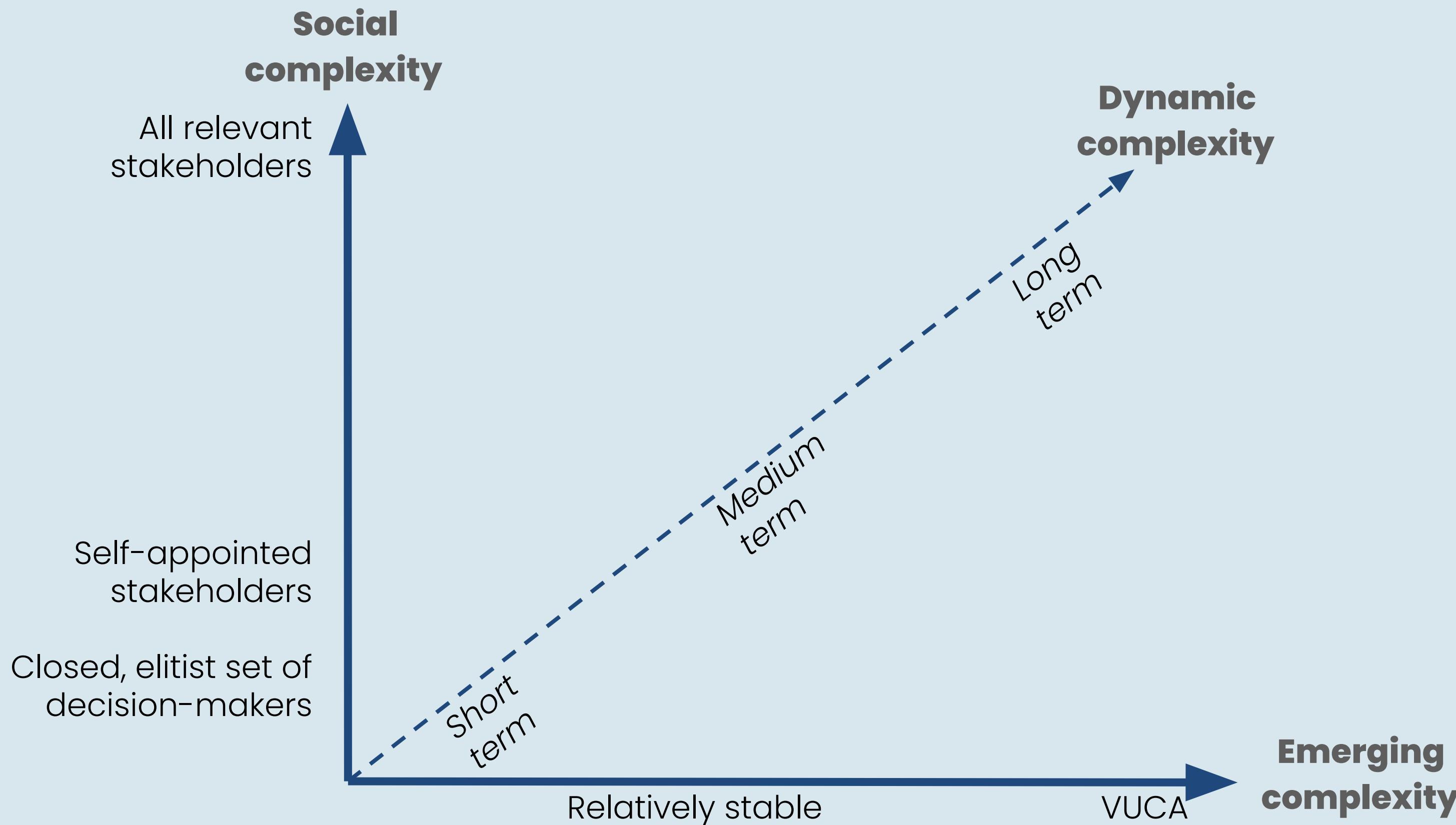


The way ahead

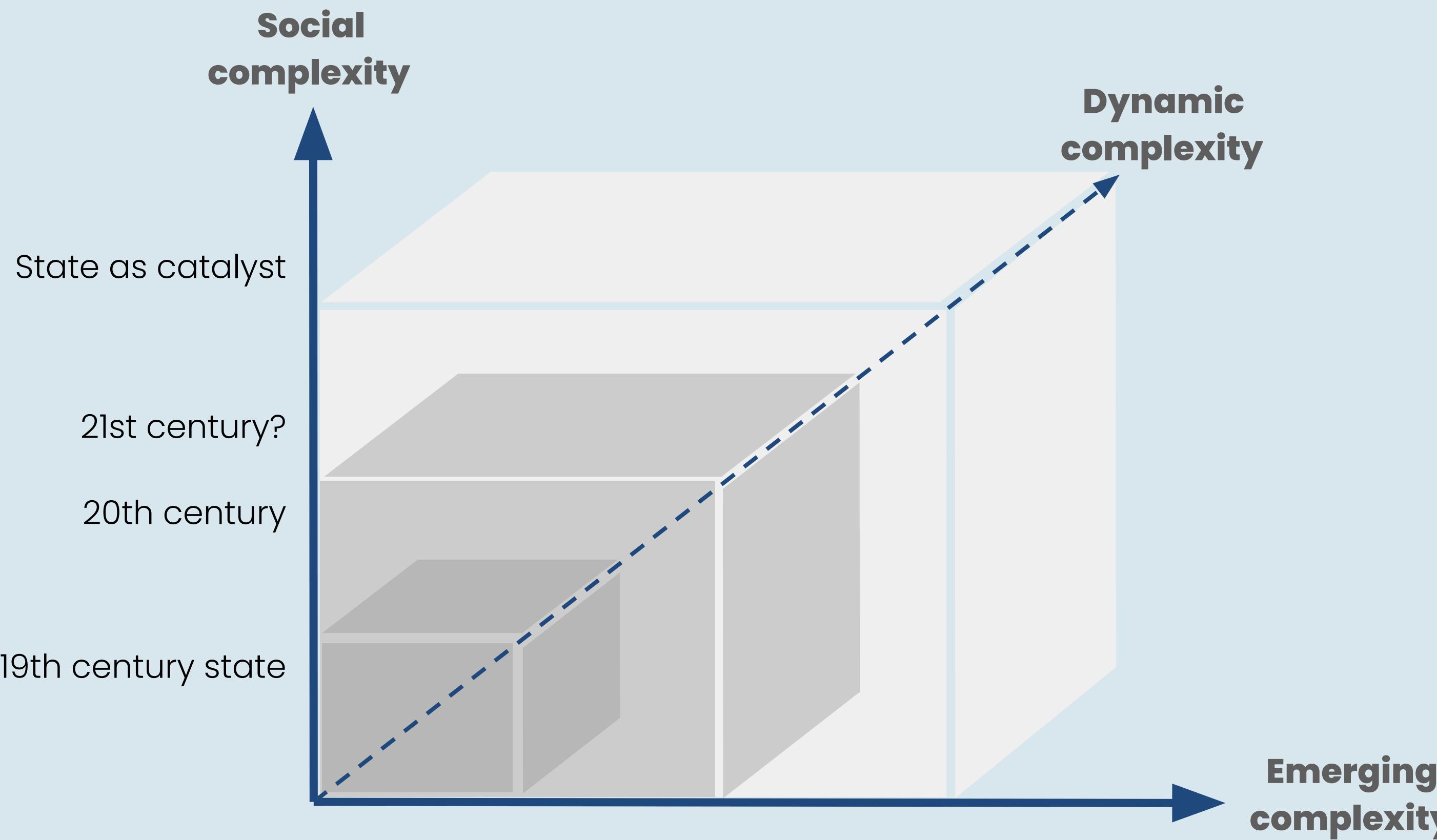
(Borrowing from Otto Scharmer)



The way ahead

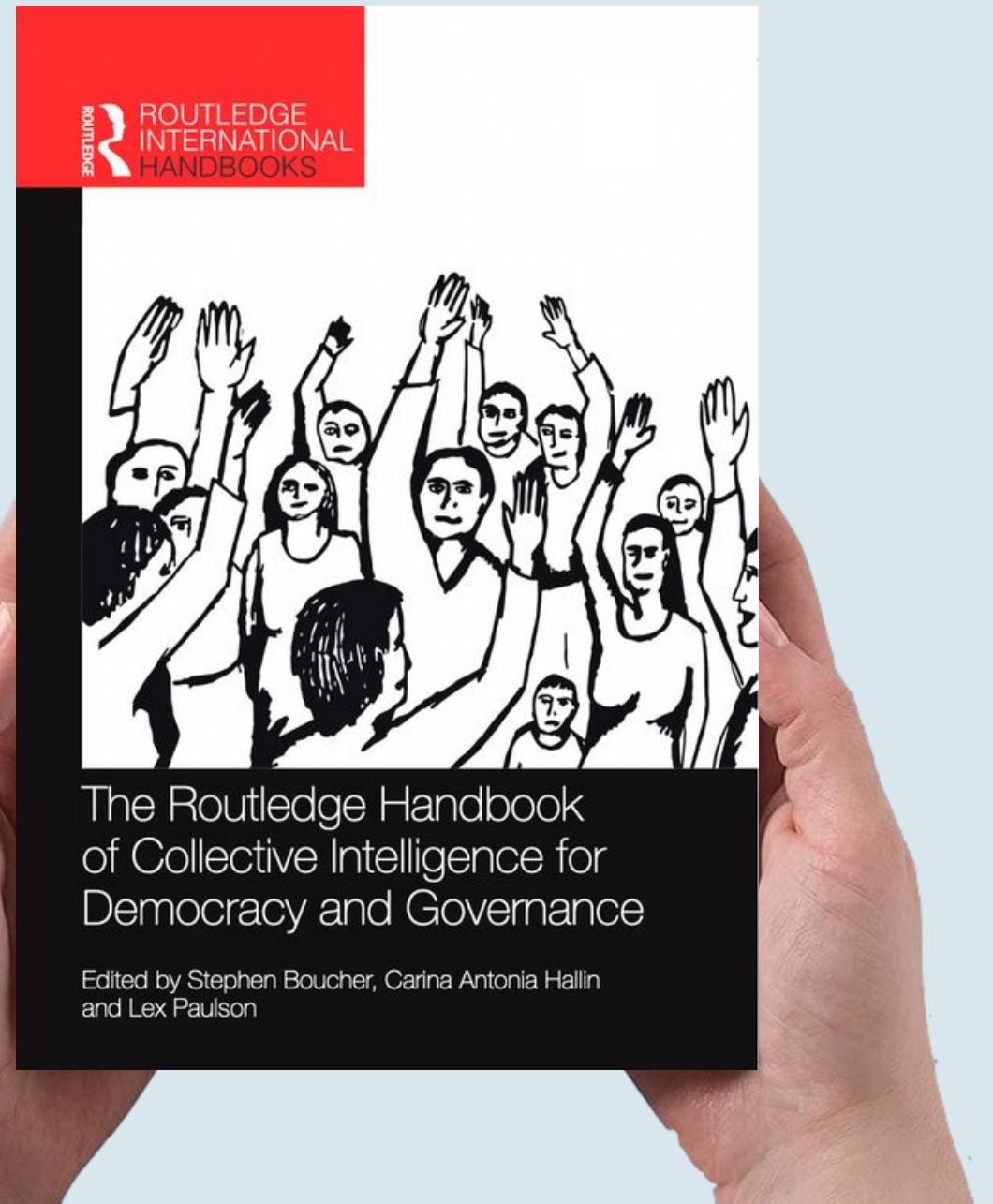


The way ahead



The Routledge Handbook of Collective Intelligence for Democracy & Governance

Open Access:
<https://tinyurl.com/CI-democracy>



- 100k 100k+ chapter downloads
- 70 High profile contributors
- 36 Case studies from around the world
- 1st Handbook with latest science at the intersection of politics and CI



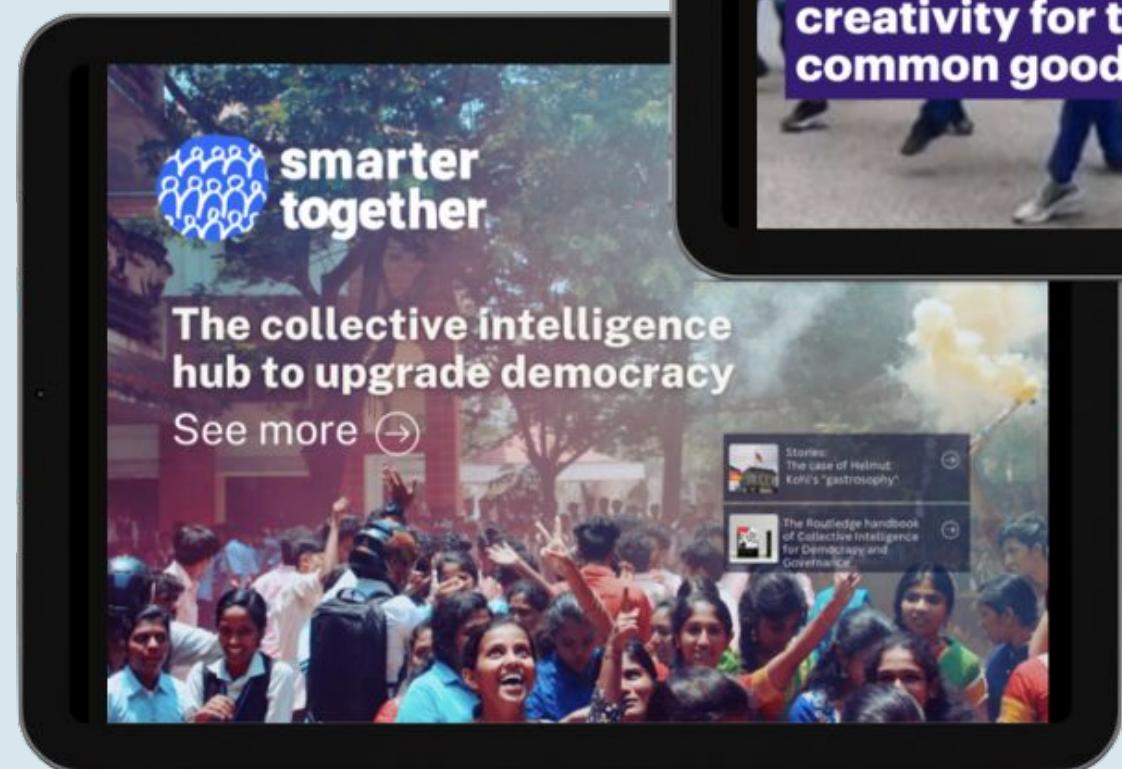
Thank you.

stephen.boucher@dreamocracy.eu

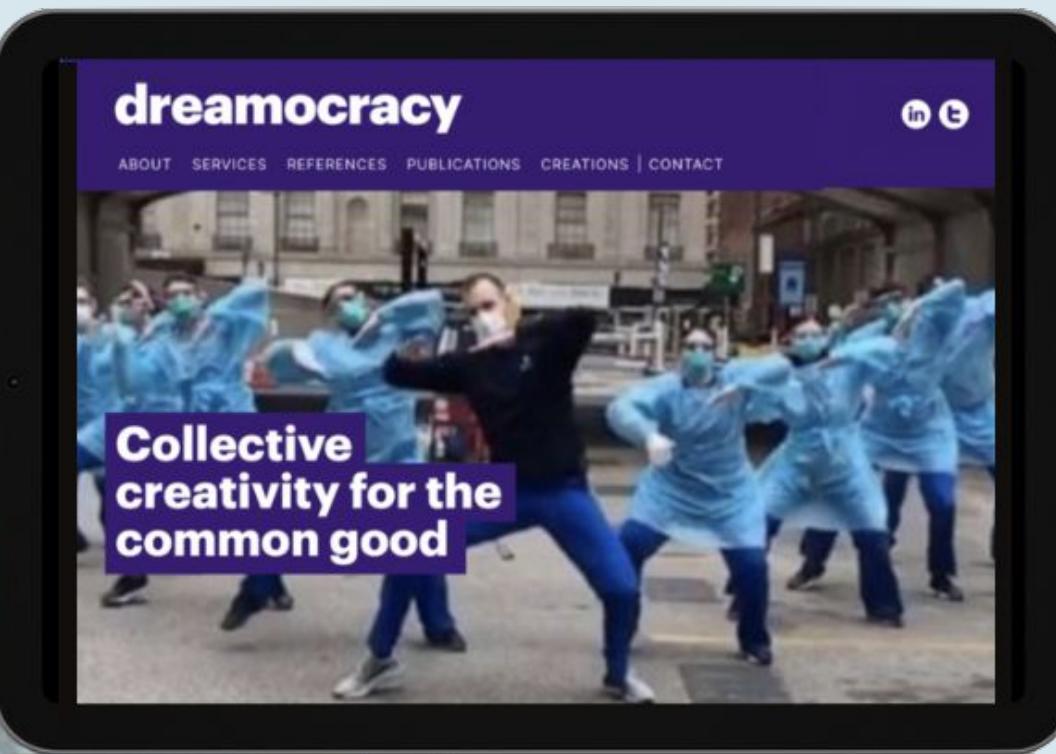


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