



LEIBNIZ-INSTITUT  
für interdisziplinäre Studien e.V. (LIFIS)

*Justus Schollmeyer*

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# TRIZ, Paradigm Shifts, and the Challenge of Sustainability

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*Paradigmenwechsel in  
Wissenschaft, Technik und  
Wirtschaft  
27.-29.9.2017, Workshop in  
Großbothen*



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# Content

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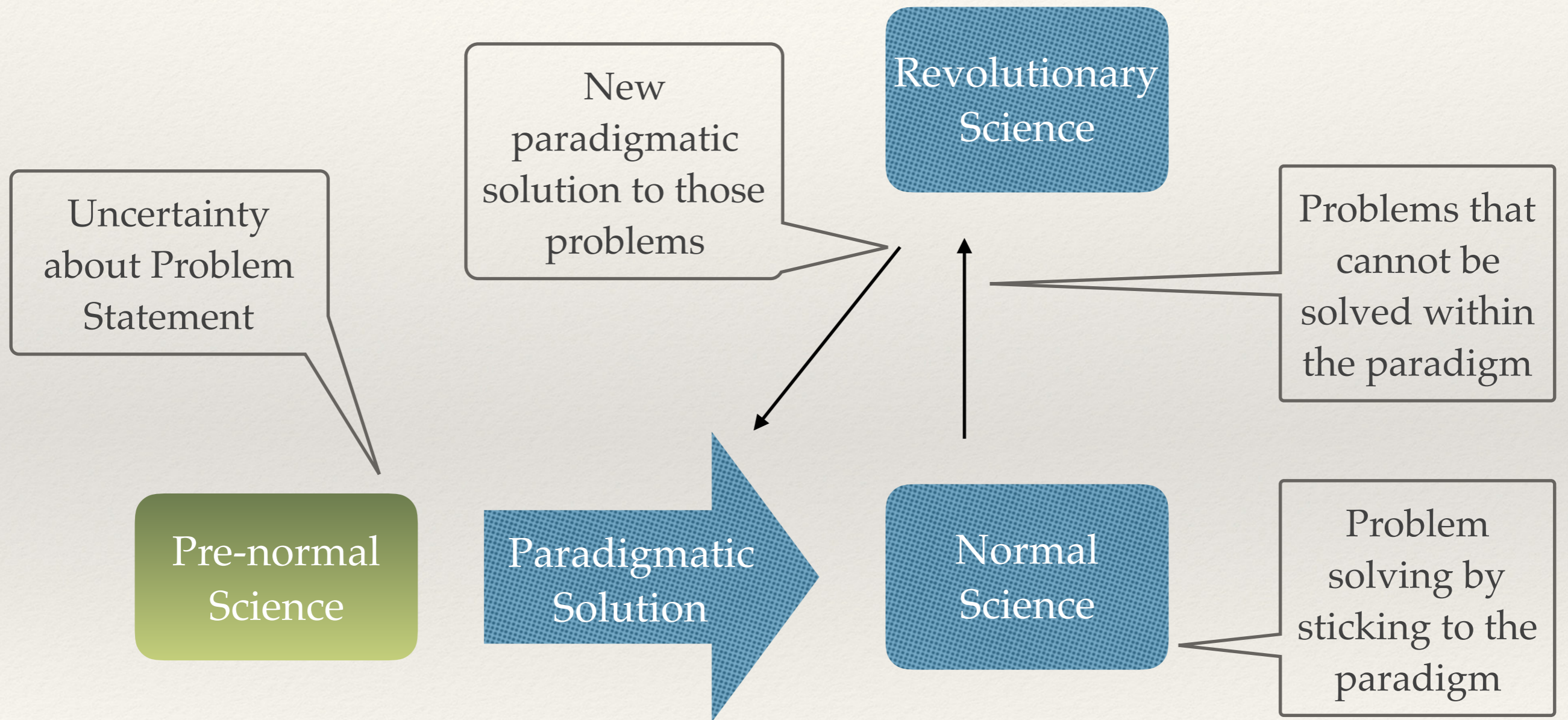
1. TRIZ and its potential to organise progressive interdisciplinary research
2. Interdisciplinarity and the challenge of sustainability
3. Towards an interdisciplinary multi-level-perspective based on the notion of system contradictions



1) TRIZ and its potential to organise progressive interdisciplinary research

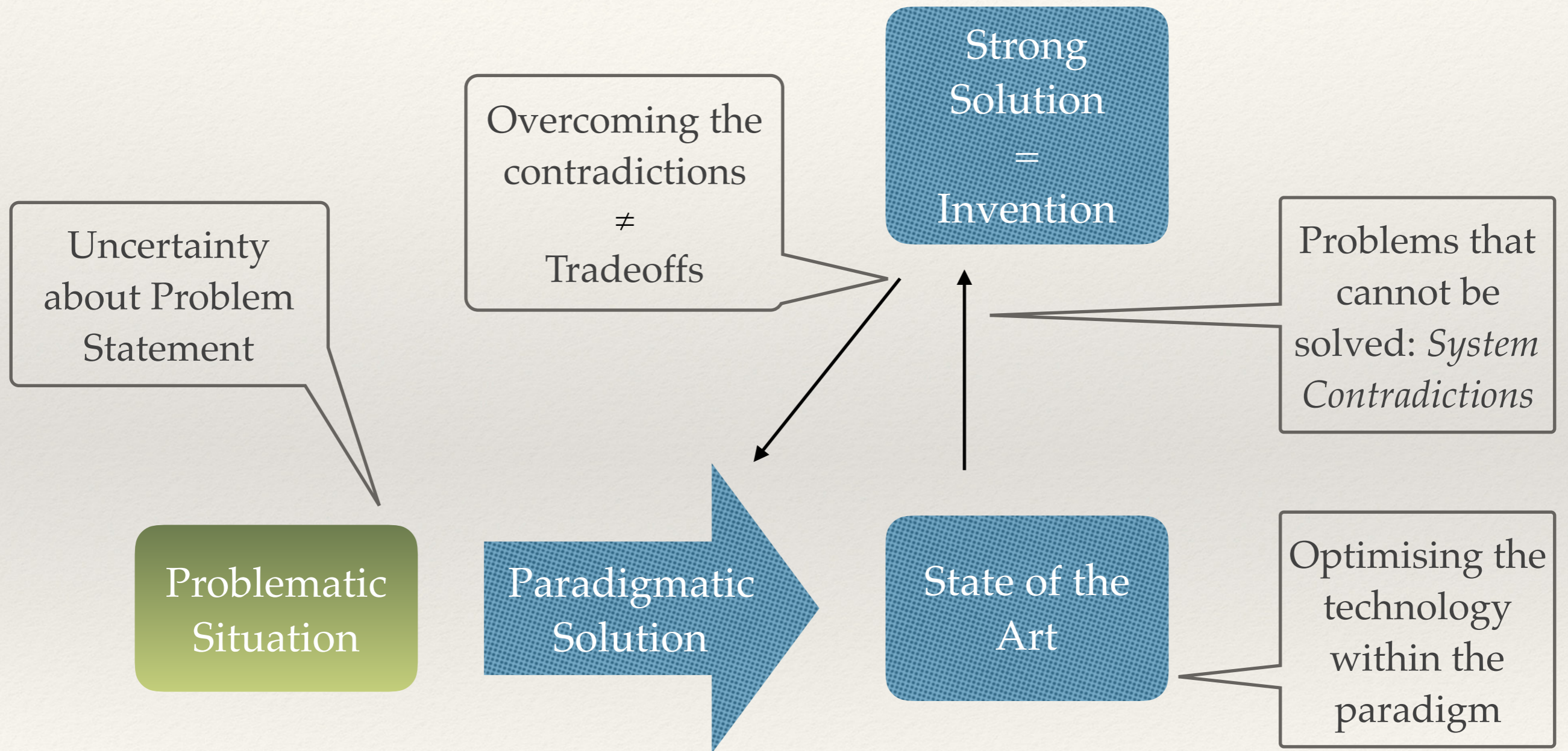


# Thomas Kuhn: The Structure of Scientific Revolutions (1962; 2nd ed. 1970)





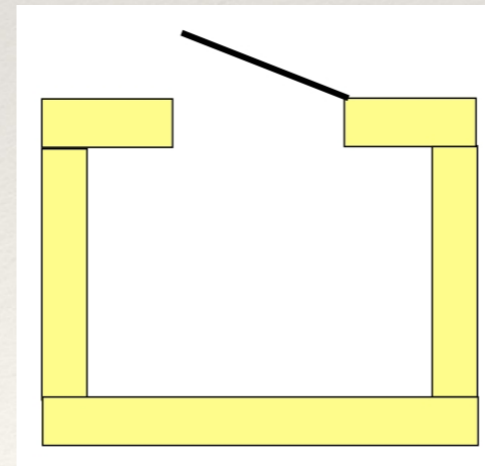
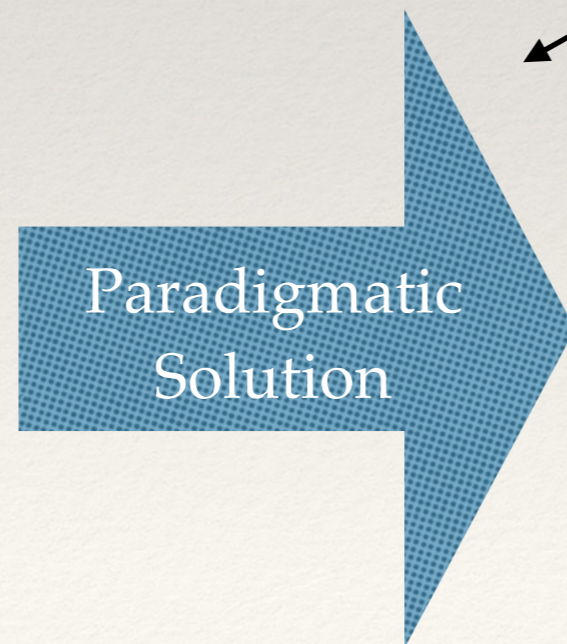
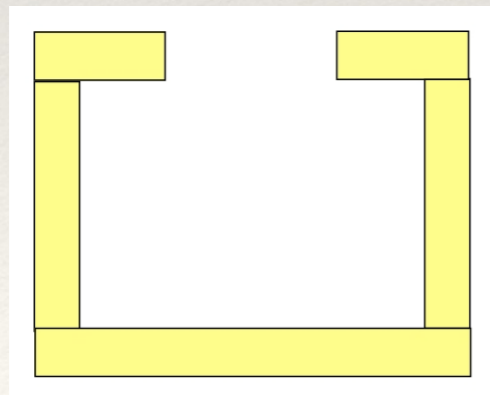
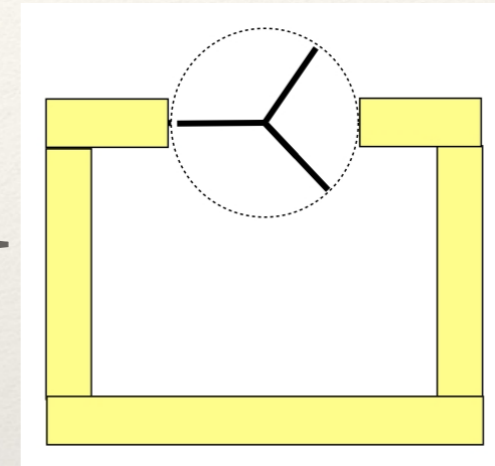
# Genrich S. Altshuller: The Theory of Inventive Problem Solving



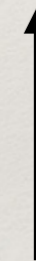
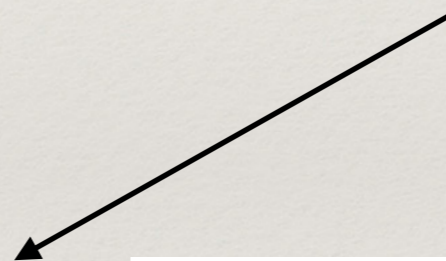
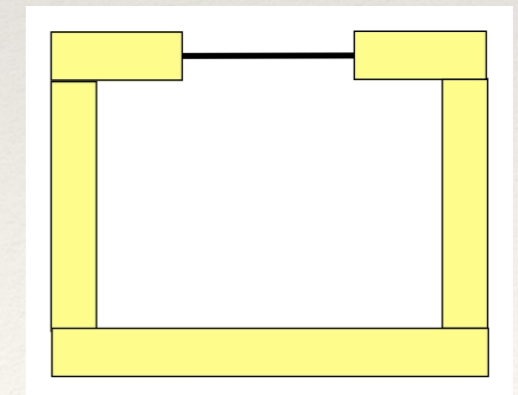


# System Contradiction

H. Bockhacker (1881):  
German Patent 18349  
and  
Theophilus Van Kannel  
(1888): US Patent 387571

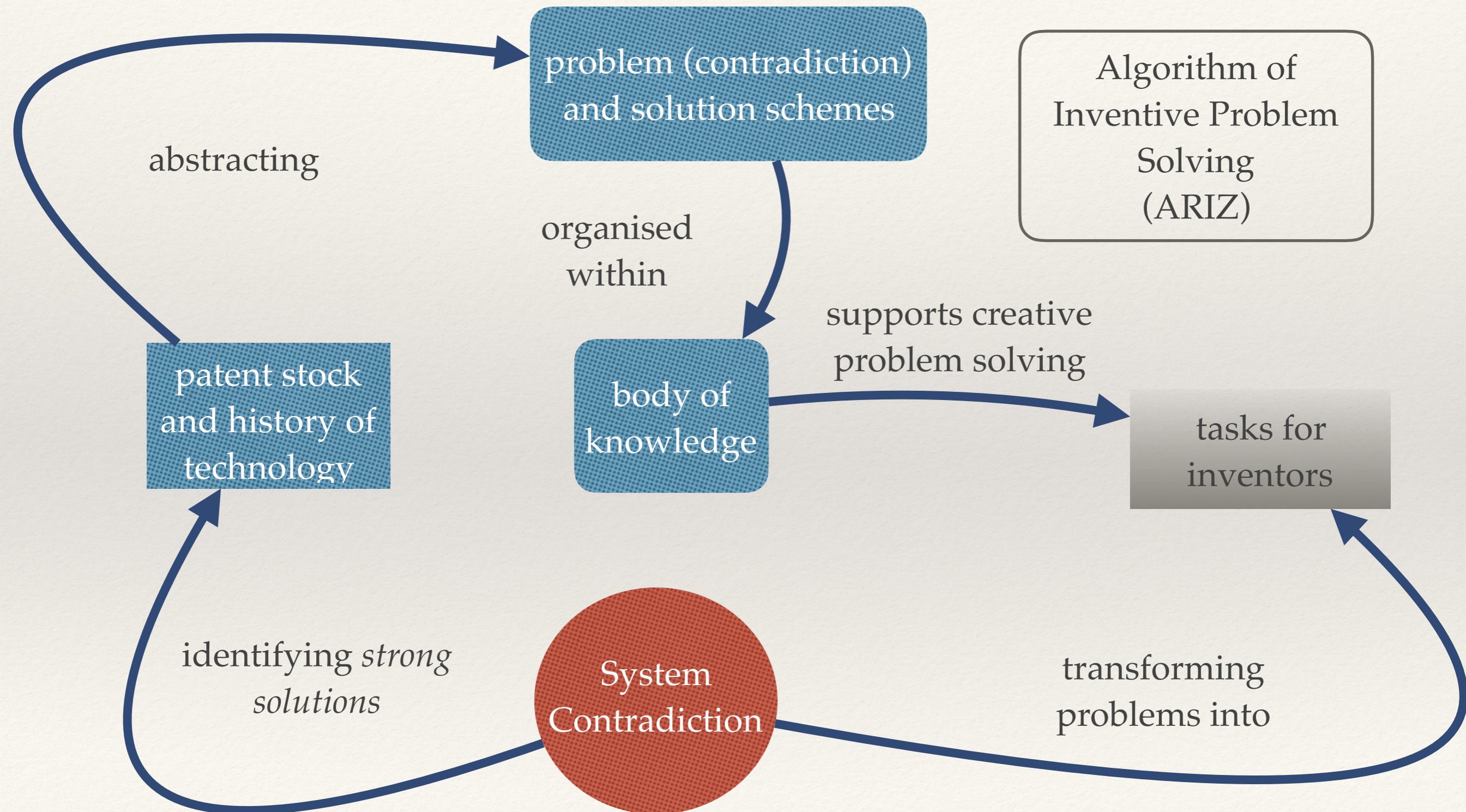


or



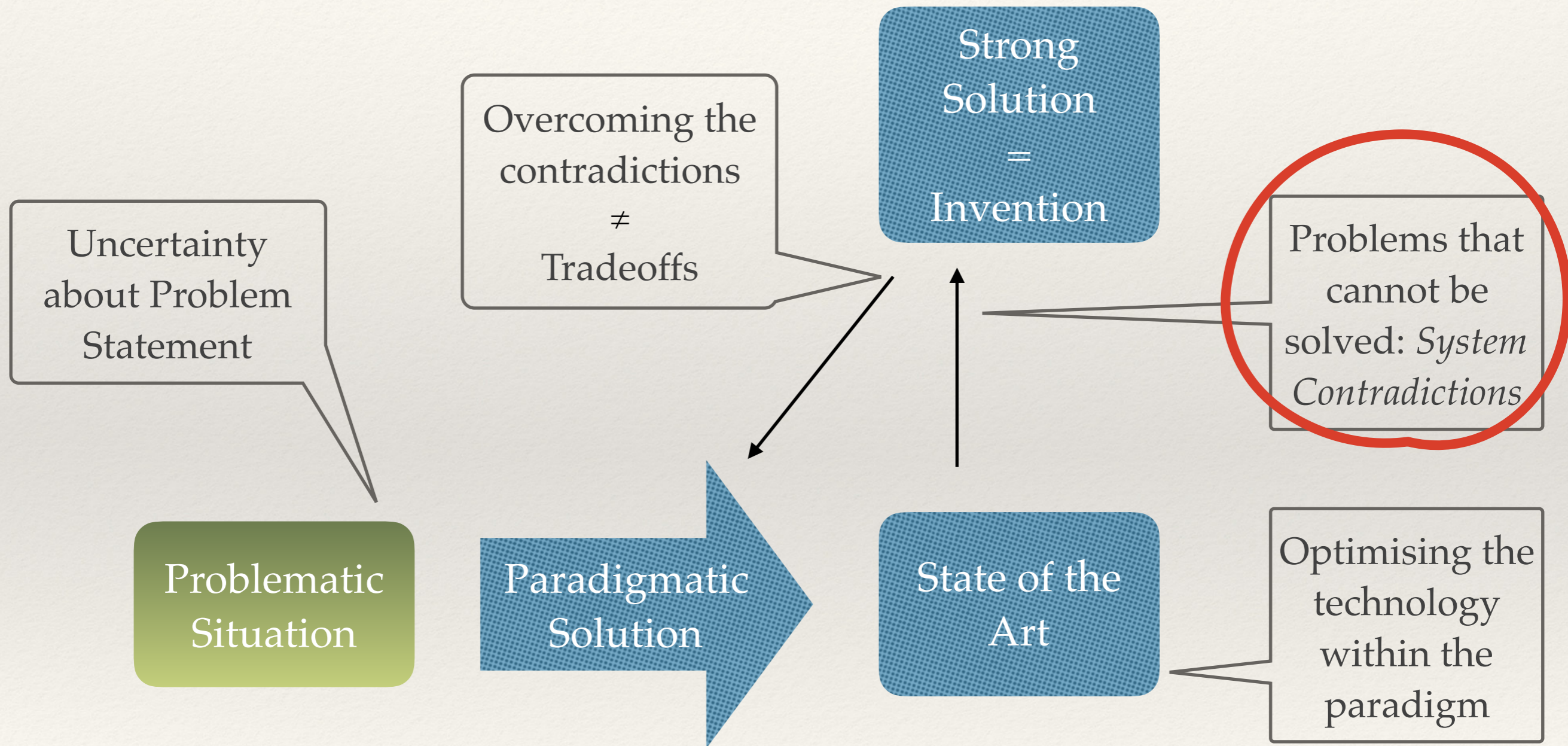


# On the heuristic value of the concept of system contradictions in technology



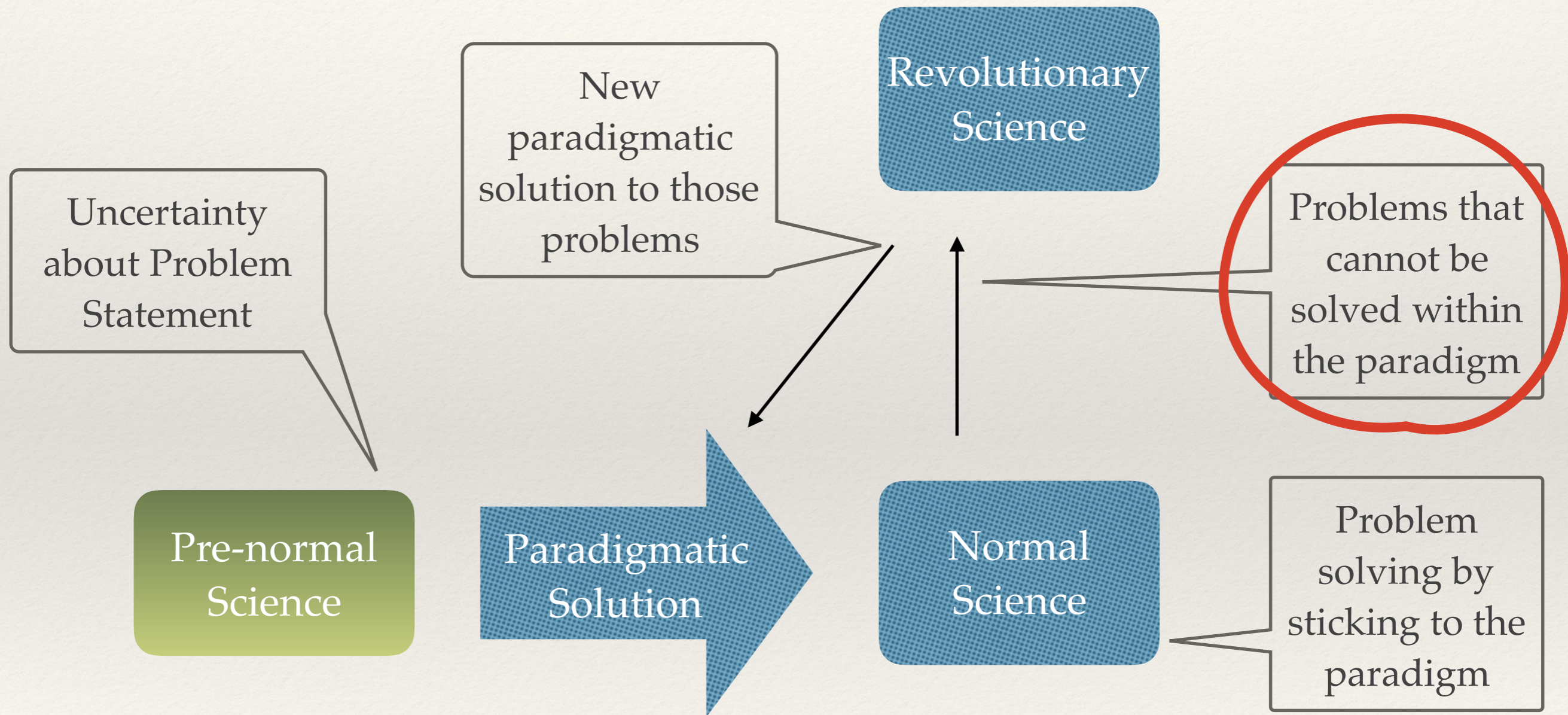


# Genrich S. Altshuller: The Theory of Inventive Problem Solving

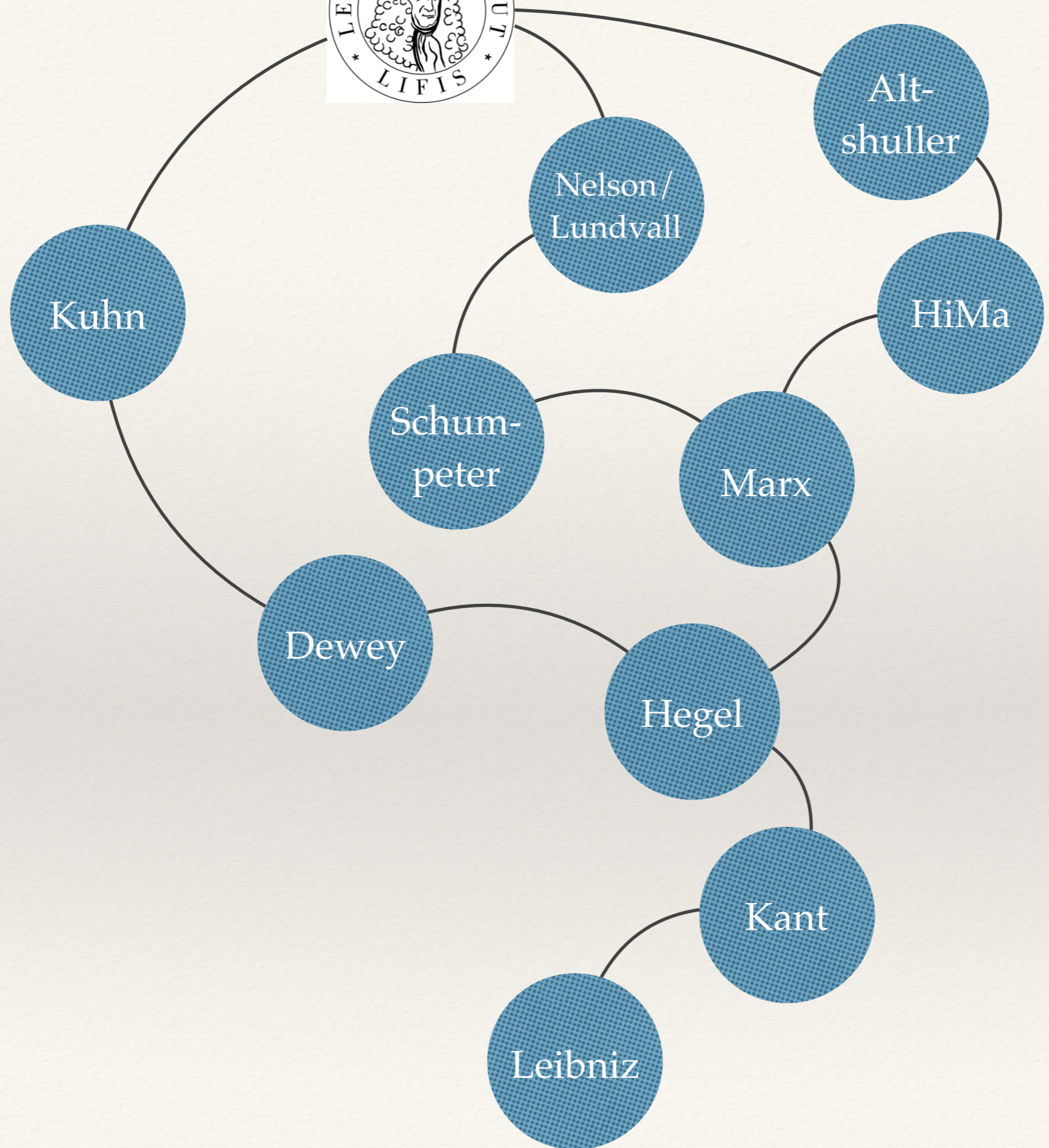




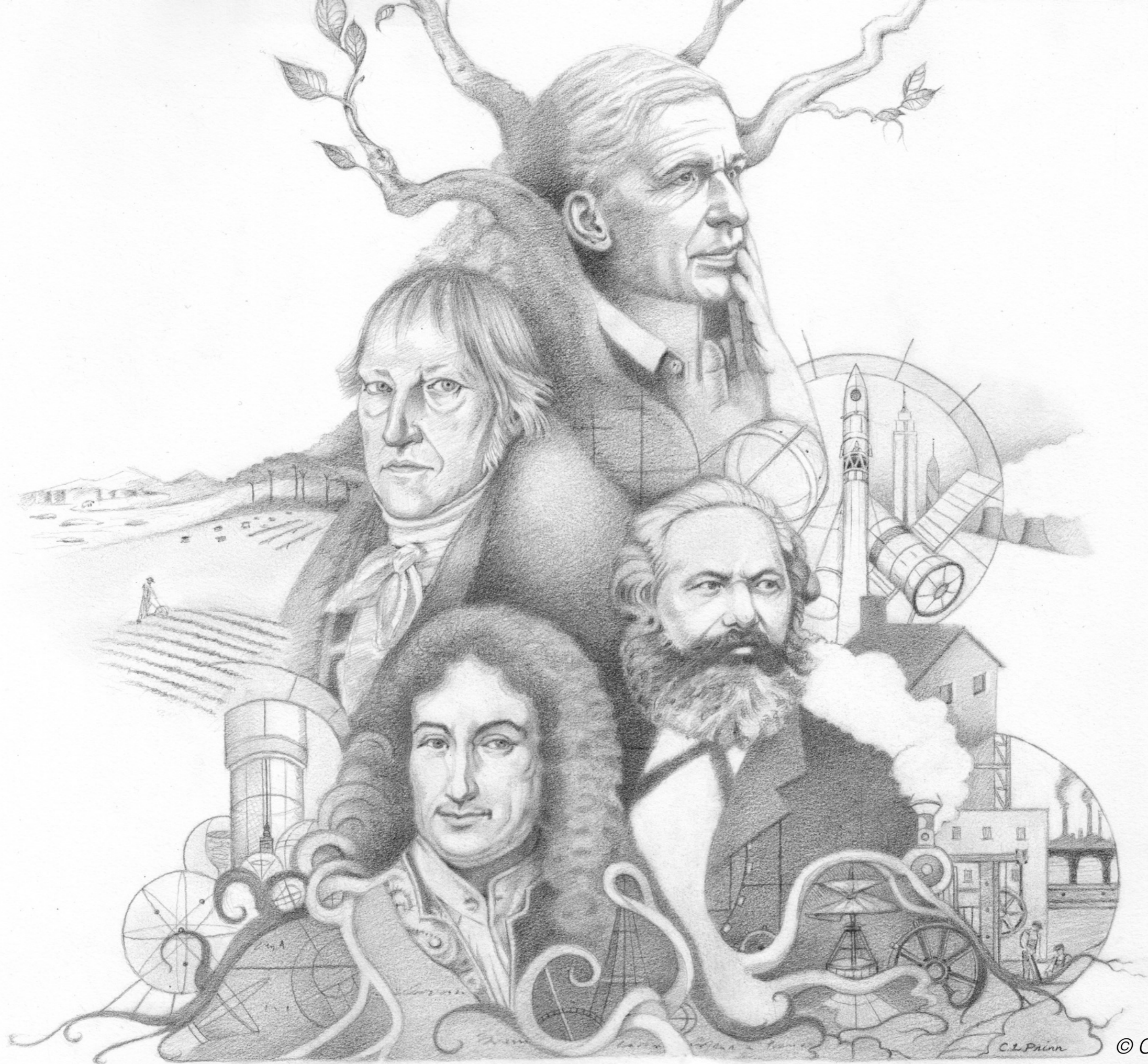
# Thomas Kuhn: The Structure of Scientific Revolutions





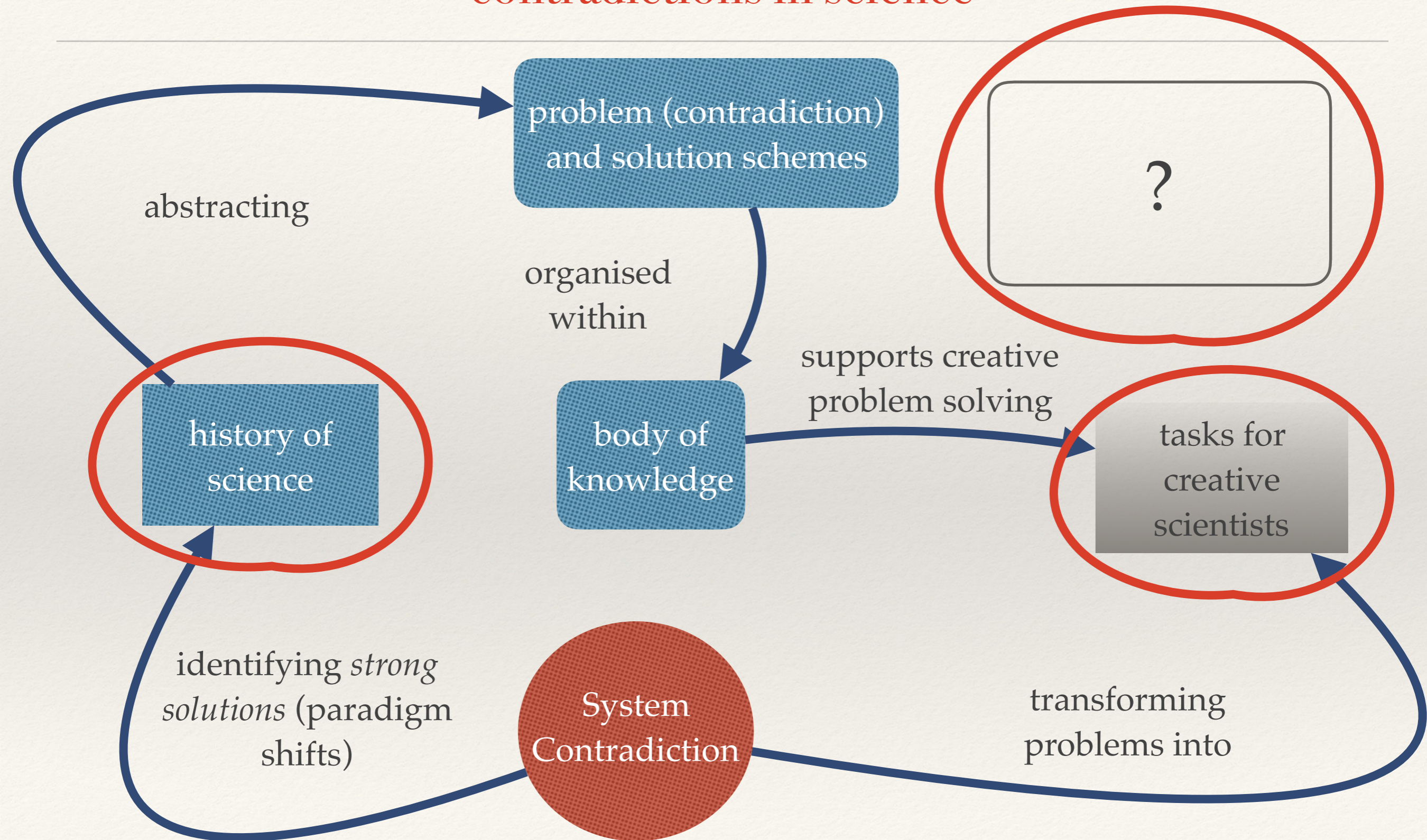




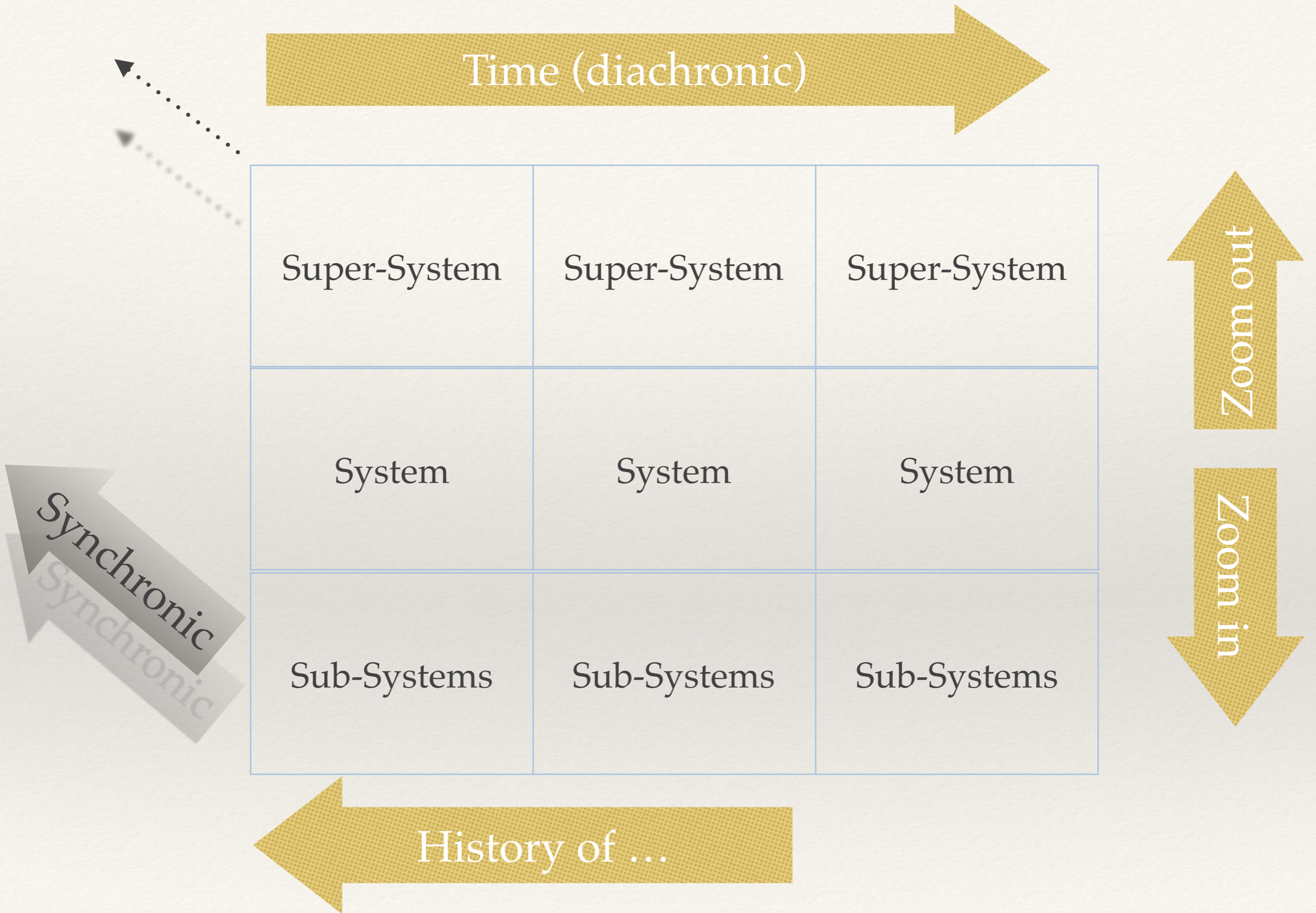




# On the potential heuristic value of the concept of system contradictions in science









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# TRIZ and Interdisciplinarity

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- ❖ **Synchronic:** A solution that works in field A might also work in field B — knowing the state of the art in many disciplines helps.
- ❖ **Diachronic:** A solution type that induced a paradigm shift in Field A might also induce a paradigm shift in Field B: knowing the history of multiple disciplines helps.
- ❖ **System Thinking:** Some solutions can only be tackled from a higher or lower system level, while the different levels are studied by different disciplines: knowing the perspectives from multiple disciplines helps.



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## On the potential heuristic value of the concept of system contradictions in management and entrepreneurship

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“In my opinion it is appropriate to say that a good entrepreneurial design has the character of a patent.” (transl. by J.S.)

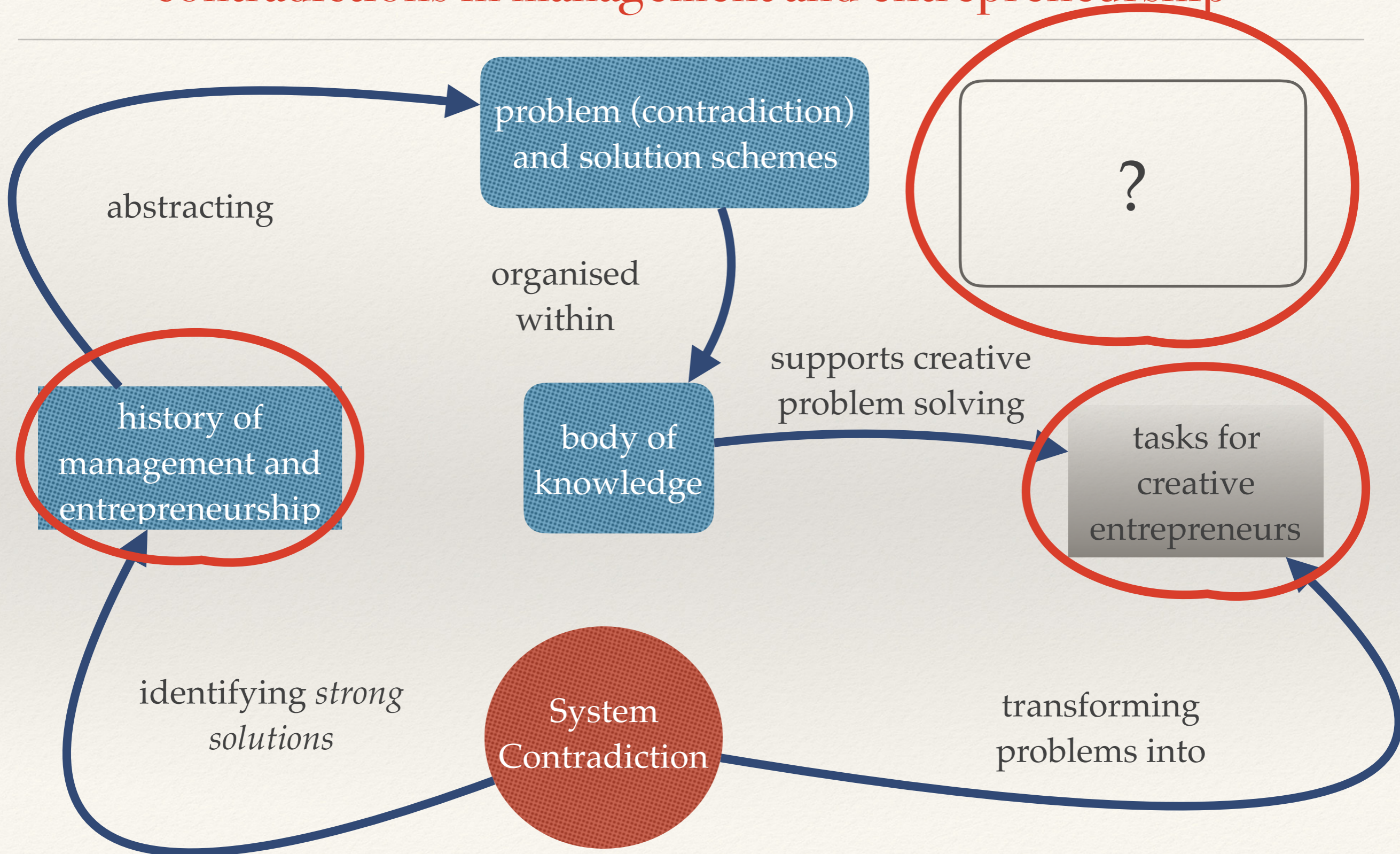
– Günter Faltn, *Kopf schlägt Kapital*, 2007, S. 57.

Management is basically always management of contradictions.

– Henry Mintzberg, *Mintzberg on Management: Inside Our Strange World of Organizations*, 1989.



# On the potential heuristic value of the concept of system contradictions in management and entrepreneurship





## 2) Interdisciplinarity and the challenge of sustainability



# Hans Carl von Carlowitz

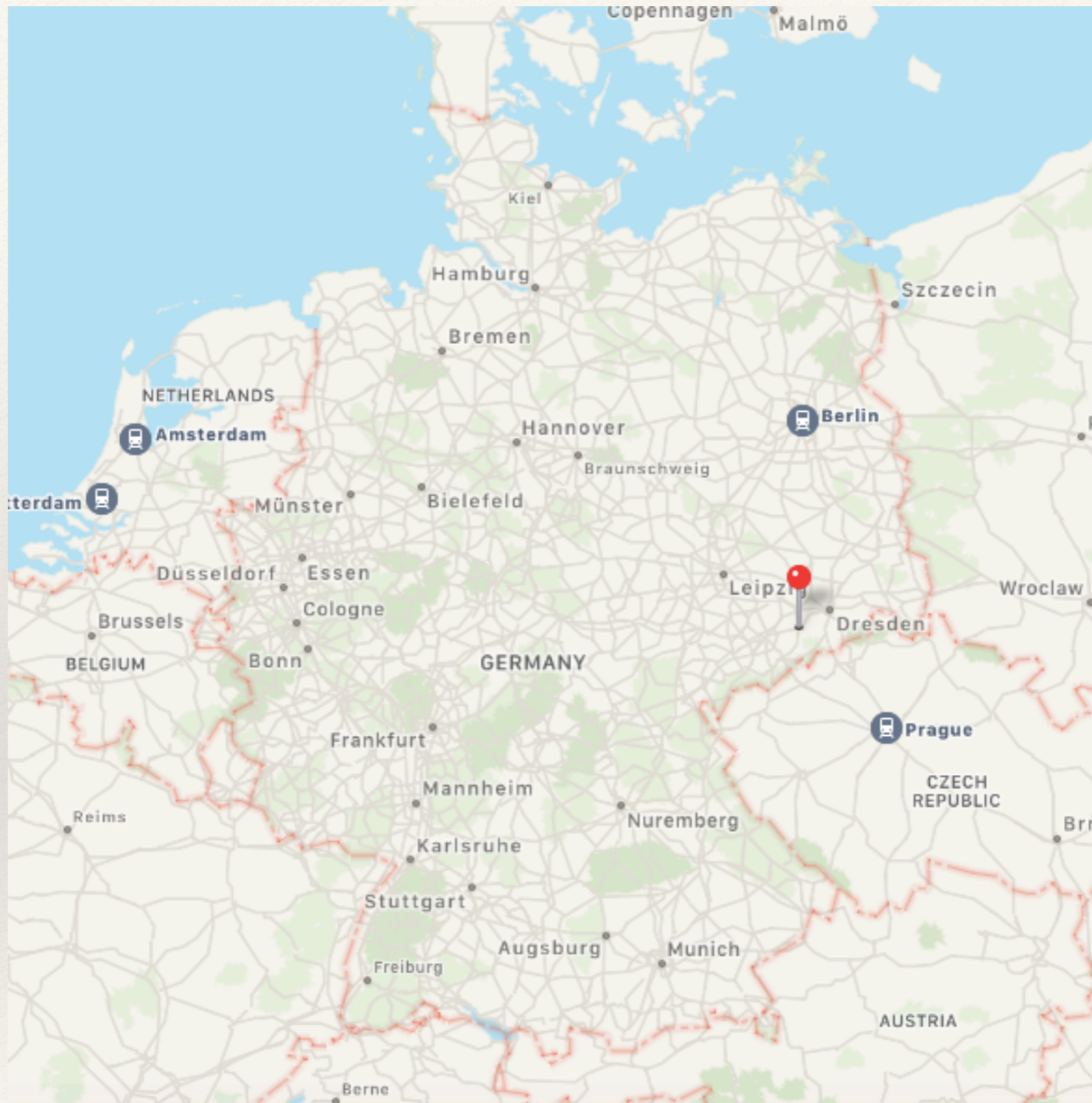


1645–1714

Photo: Technische Universität Freiberg.

- ❖ Mining administrator (at Freiberg) and son of a forest master
- ❖ 1700: Mining (ore) ↑ Timber ↓
- ❖ River system was engineered to import timber (postponed problem)
- ❖ Timber prices ↑ —> bankruptcies (10000 miners employed in the Erzgebirge)
- ❖ —> Formulated the concept of sustainability in forestry







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# The Root Contradiction of Sustainability according to Georg Müller-Christ (2007 and 2014)

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Meeting a set of goals to the lowest costs in order to increase profitability

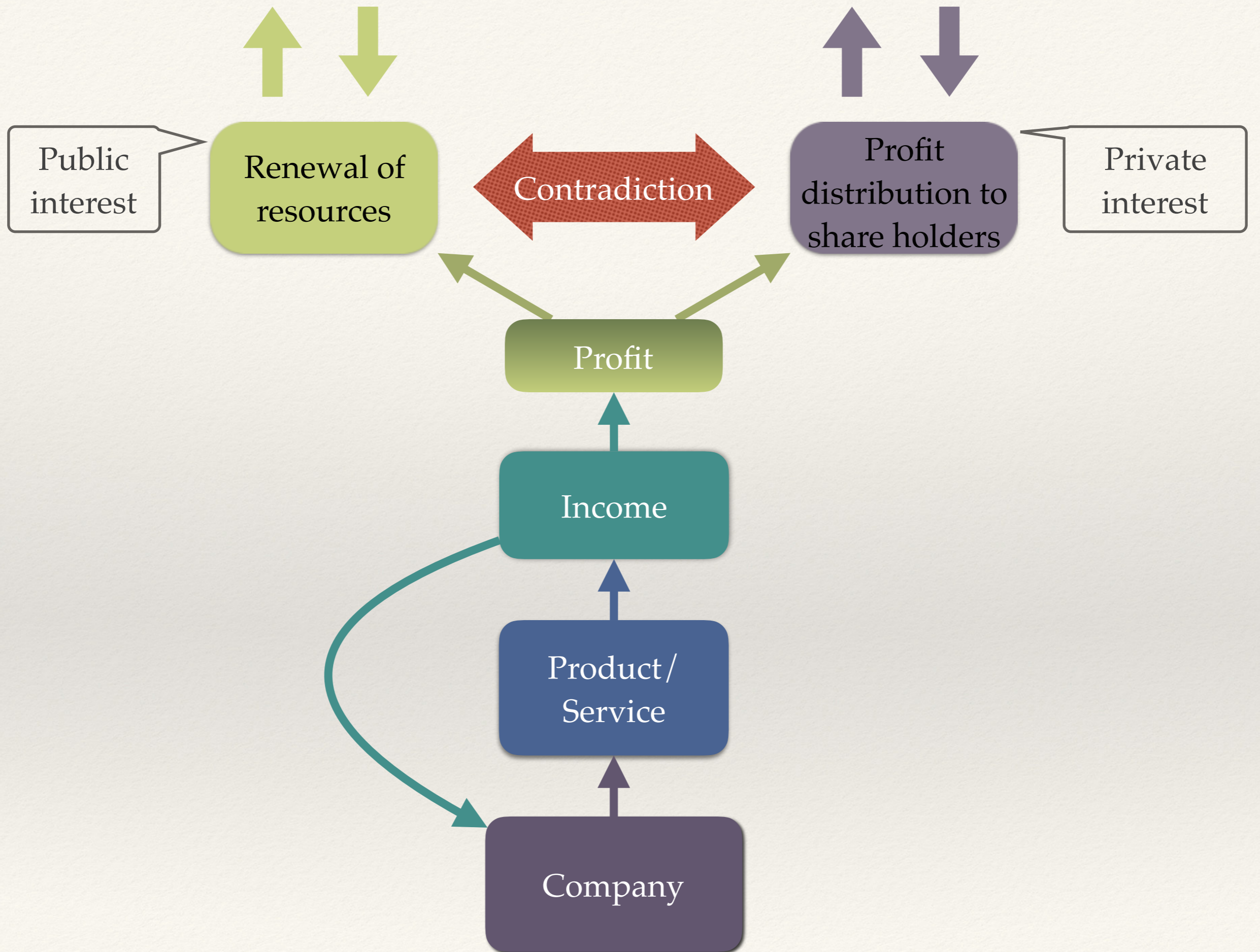
A) Efficiency

Renewal of the resources on which our reproduction depends

B) Sustainability

- ❖ Efficiency  $\uparrow$  does not imply Sustainability
- ❖ Dilemma for managers: Spending a dollar for either A or B and thus either offending the shareholders or the public





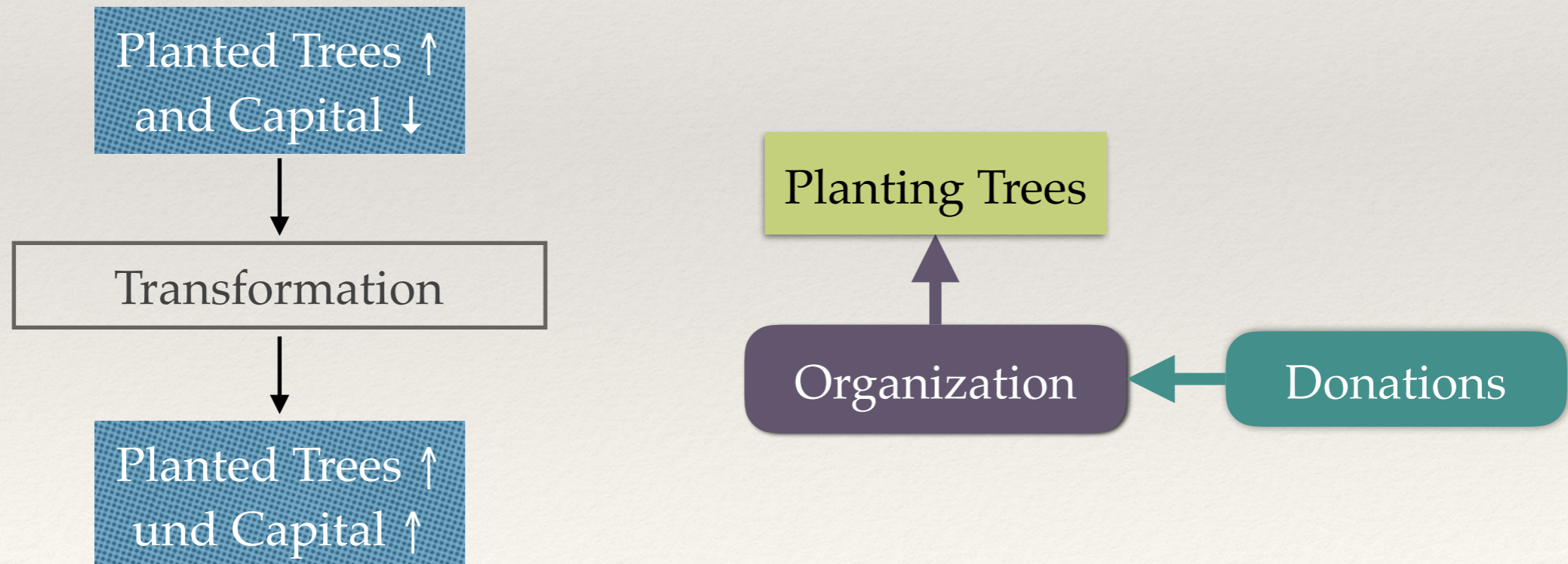


# First Solution Type



# Ecosia

- ❖ Planting trees to act against climate change
- ❖ When investing capital into tree planting, the capital will be rapidly consumed





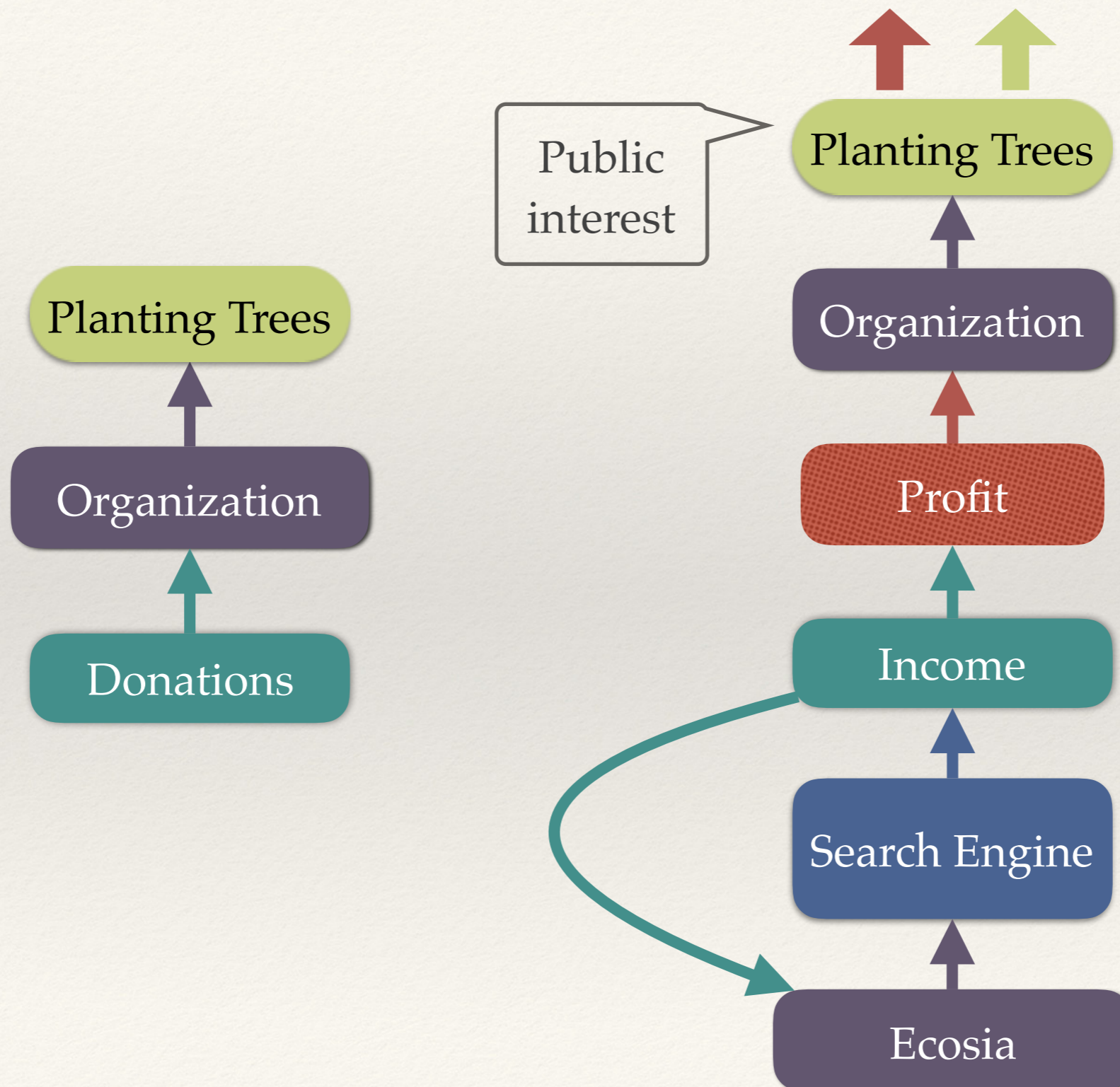


Christian Kroll

All photos on Ecosia taken from <https://www.ecosia.org/>



# Ecosia








Make Ecosia your default search engine

- ✓ The Ecosia community plants a tree every 1.7 seconds
- ✓ You can help with every search
- ✓ First class search experience

 ADD TO CHROME

14,389,901

Trees already planted with Ecosia

[LEARN MORE](#)

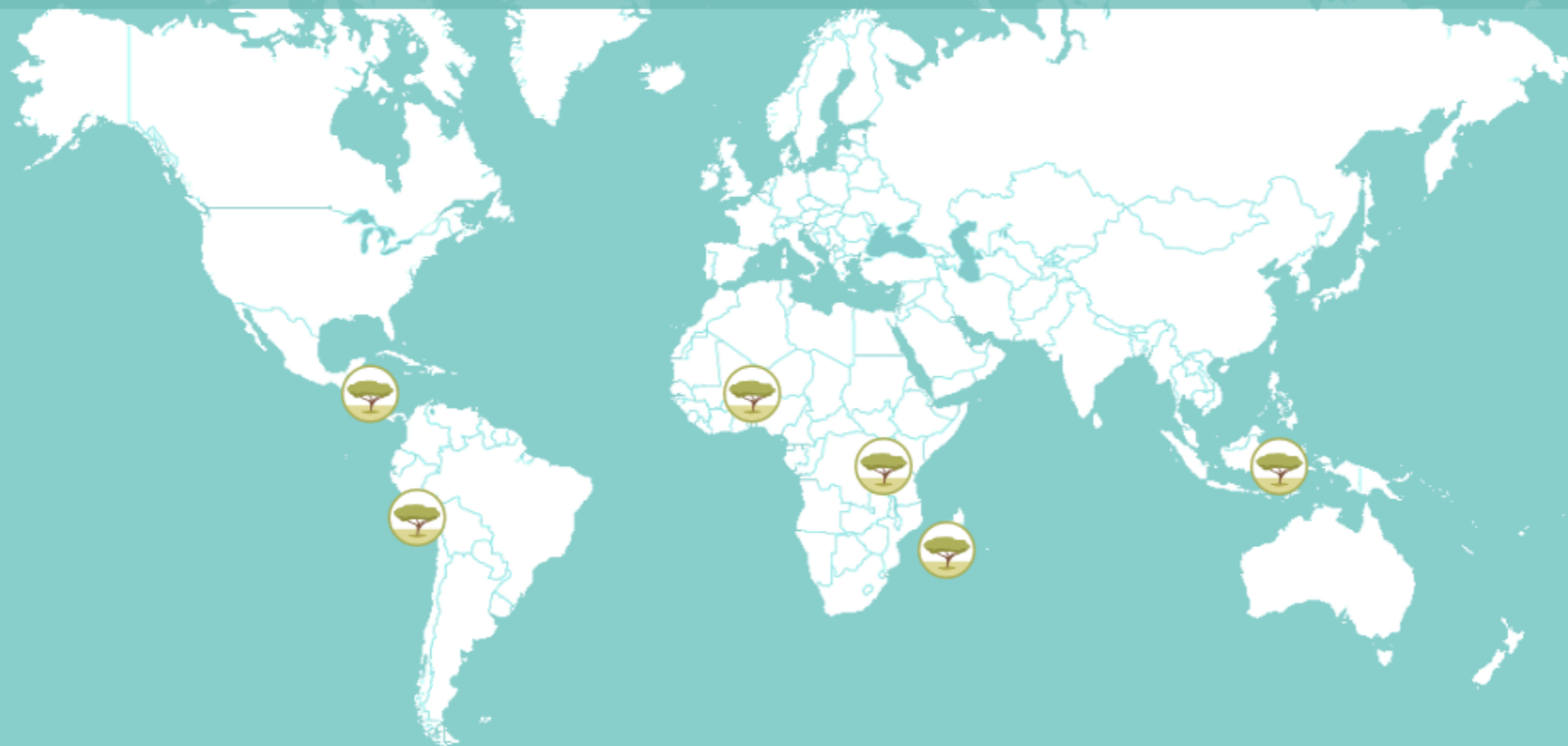


Screenshot of <https://www.ecosia.org/> from October 4, 2017:



## We're planting all around the world

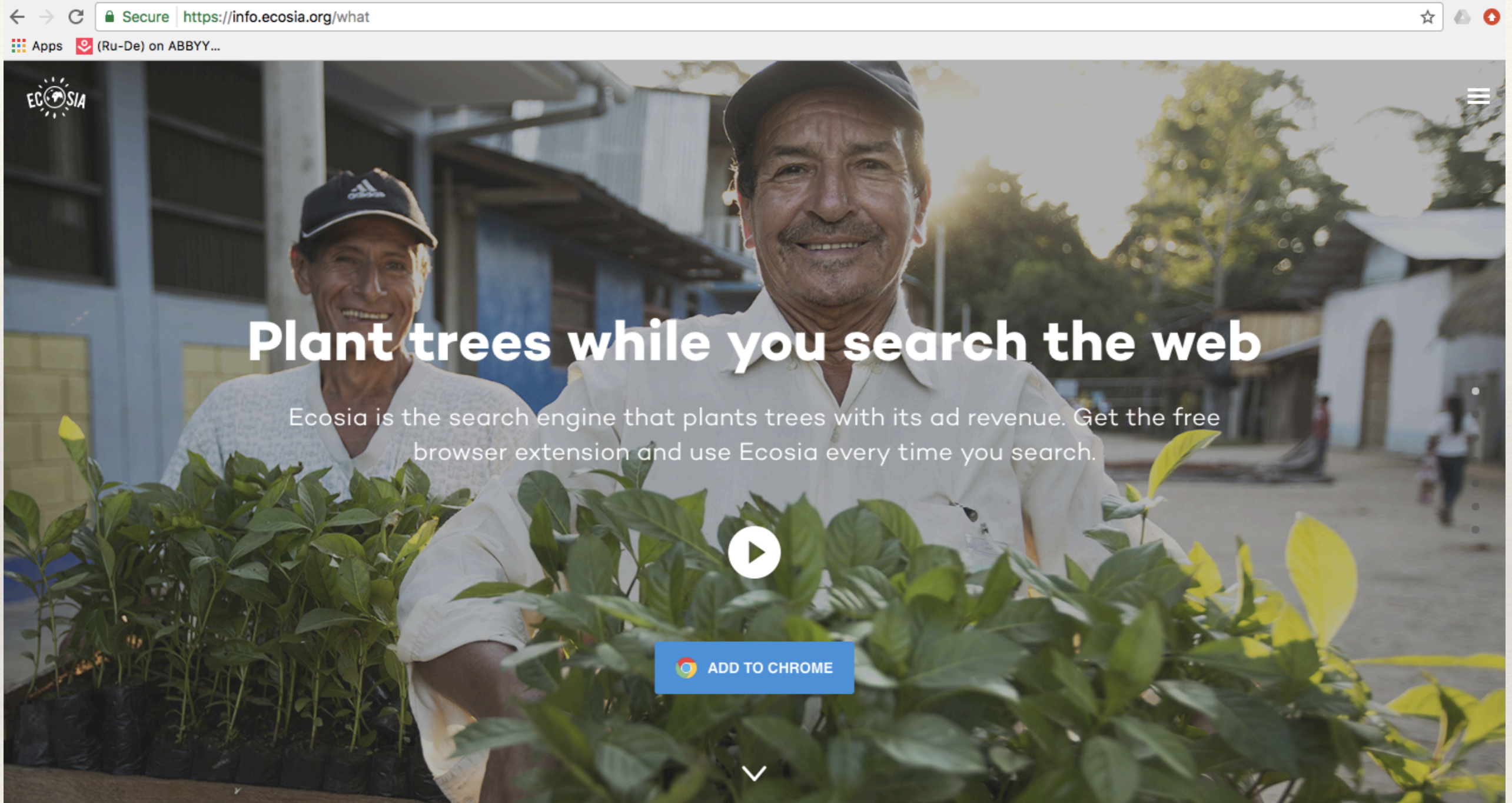
Each of the tree planting projects that we finance has a unique approach and is helping to reforest the world in a very special way.



Help

Screenshot of <https://www.ecosia.org/> from October 4, 2017:





Screenshot of <https://www.ecosia.org/> from October 4, 2017:




← → ↻ Secure | <https://info.ecosia.org/what> ☆

Apps (Ru-De) on ABBYY...

ECOSIA Search the web to plant trees... Q ADD TO CHROME 1

UP  
WOR  
THY SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN theguardian SALON Forbes

## How it works



You search the web with Ecosia.

Search ads generate income for Ecosia.

Ecosia uses this income to plant trees.

**Over 14 million trees planted**

Help

Screenshot of <https://www.ecosia.org/> from October 4, 2017:



Secure | <https://info.ecosia.org/what>

Apps (Ru-De) on ABBYY...

ECOSIA Search the web to plant trees... ADD TO CHROME 1

1.7 sec	OVER 5.5 million	NOW 14,389,969	OVER 4,911,896	0.22 euro
TO PLANT A TREE	ACTIVE USERS	TREES TOTAL	EUR INVESTED	PER TREE

## Trees are vital for our planet

These are just a few of the benefits.

- BIODIVERSITY
- HAPPY PEOPLE
- WATER SECURITY
- CLEAN AIR

Help

Screenshot of <https://www.ecosia.org/> from October 4, 2017:



# Financial Reports & Tree Planting Receipts by Ecosia

32 items



July 2017



June 2017



May 2017



April 2017



March 2017



February 2017



January 2017



December 2016



November 2016



October 2016

Screenshot of <https://www.ecosia.org/> from October 4, 2017:



February 2017

January 2017

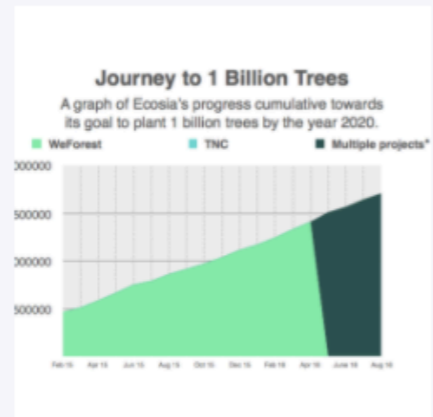
December 2016

November 2016

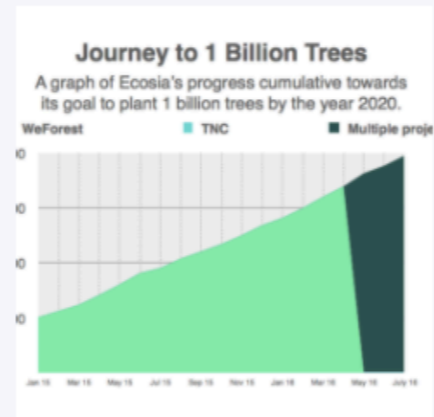
October 2016



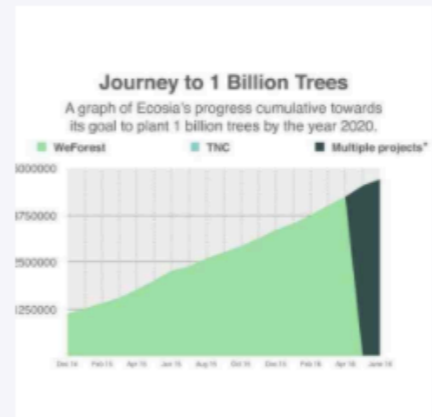
September 2016



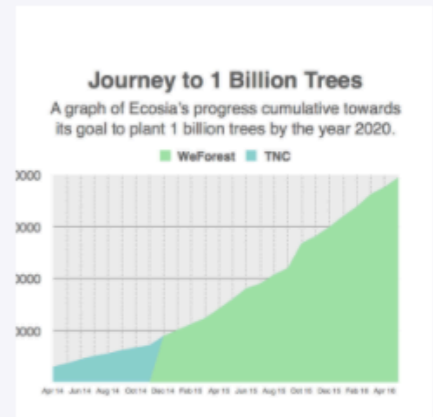
August 2016



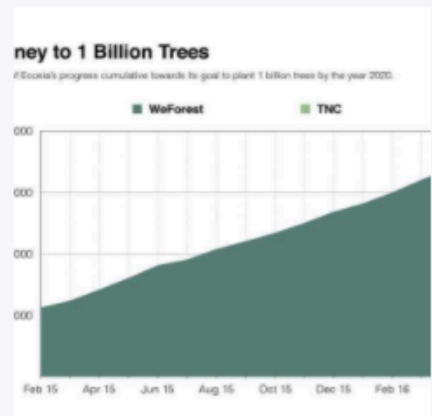
July 2016



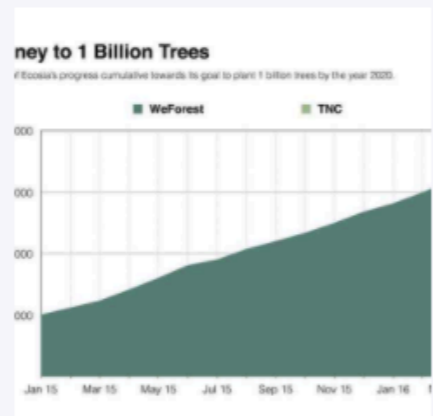
June 2016



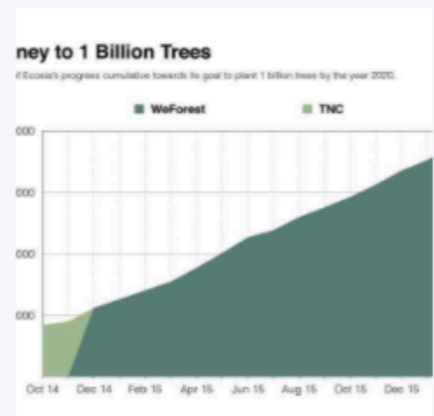
May 2016



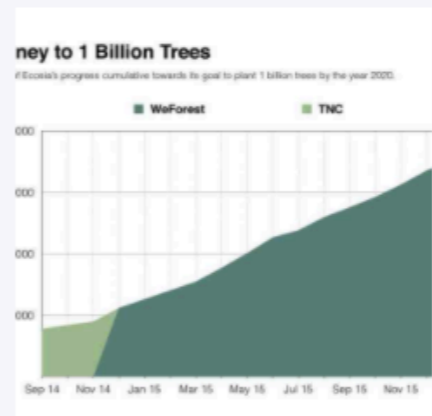
April 2016



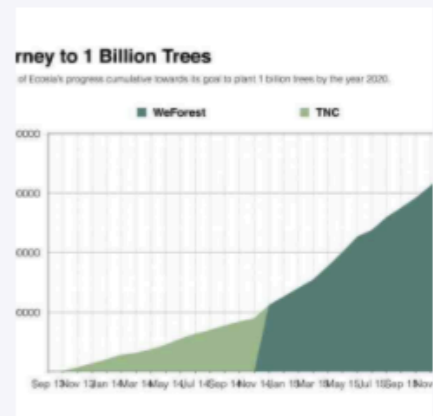
March 2016



February 2016



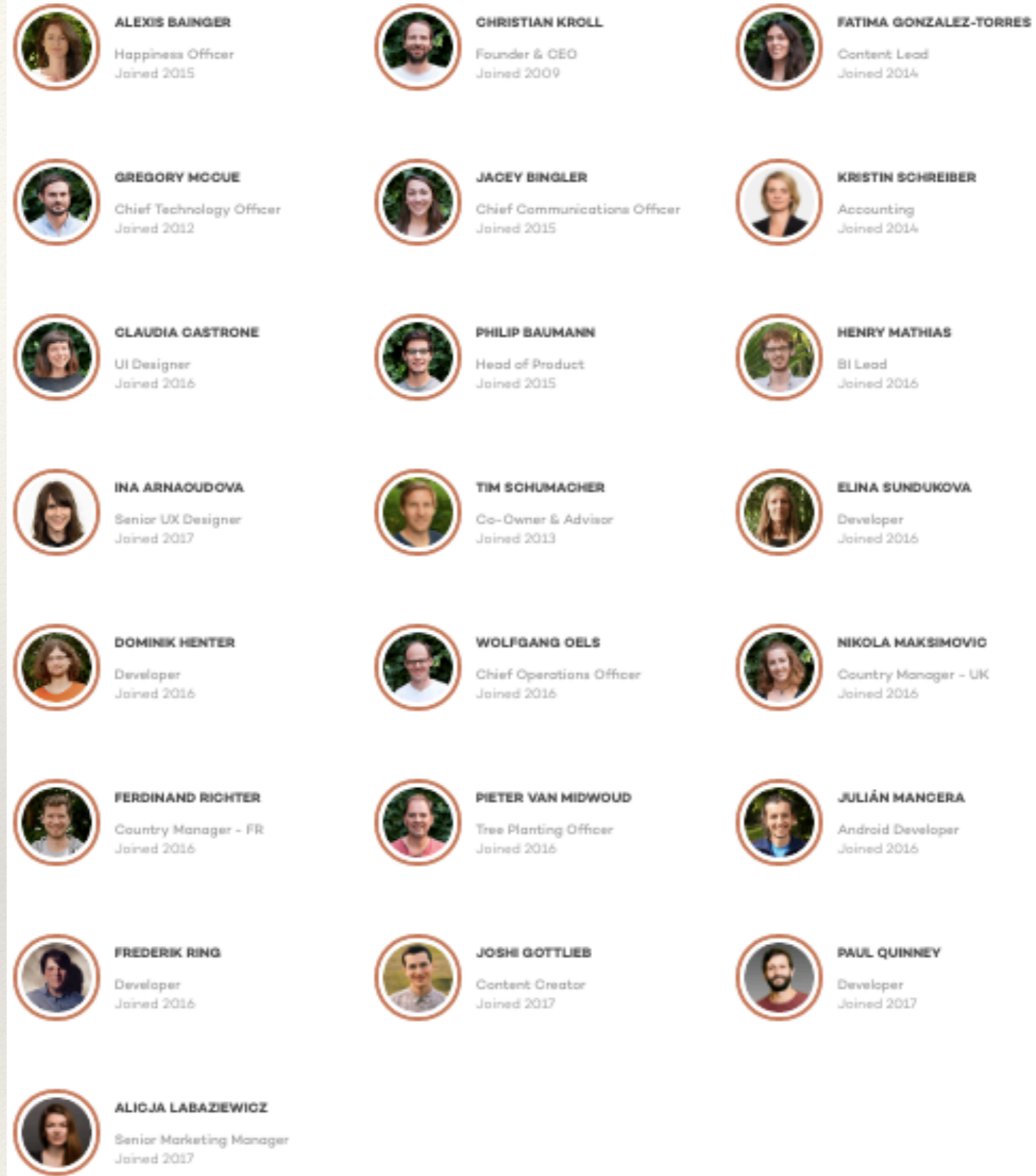
January 2016



December 2015

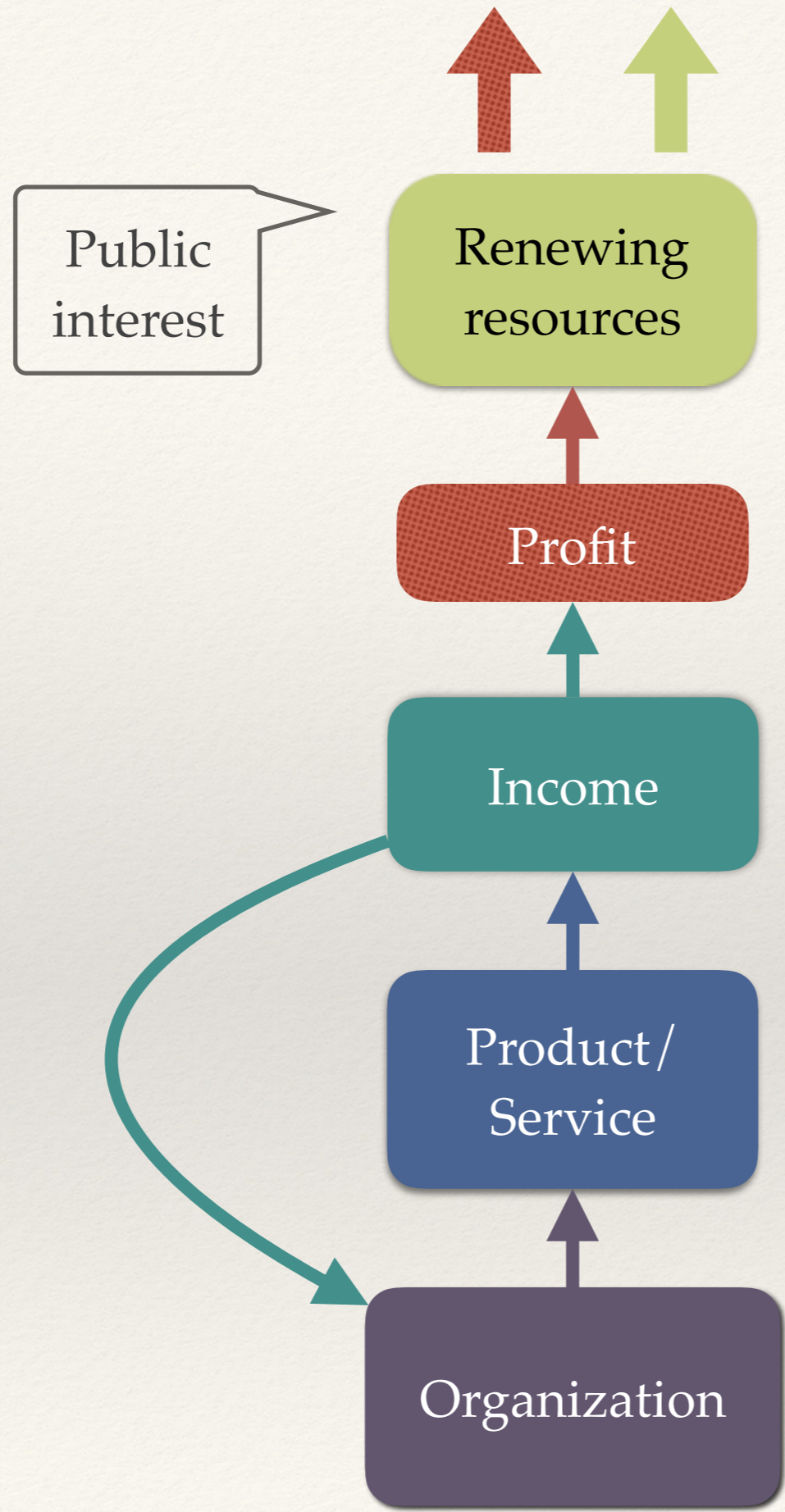
Screenshot of <https://www.ecosia.org/> from October 4, 2017:





Screenshot of <https://www.ecosia.org/> from October 4, 2017:

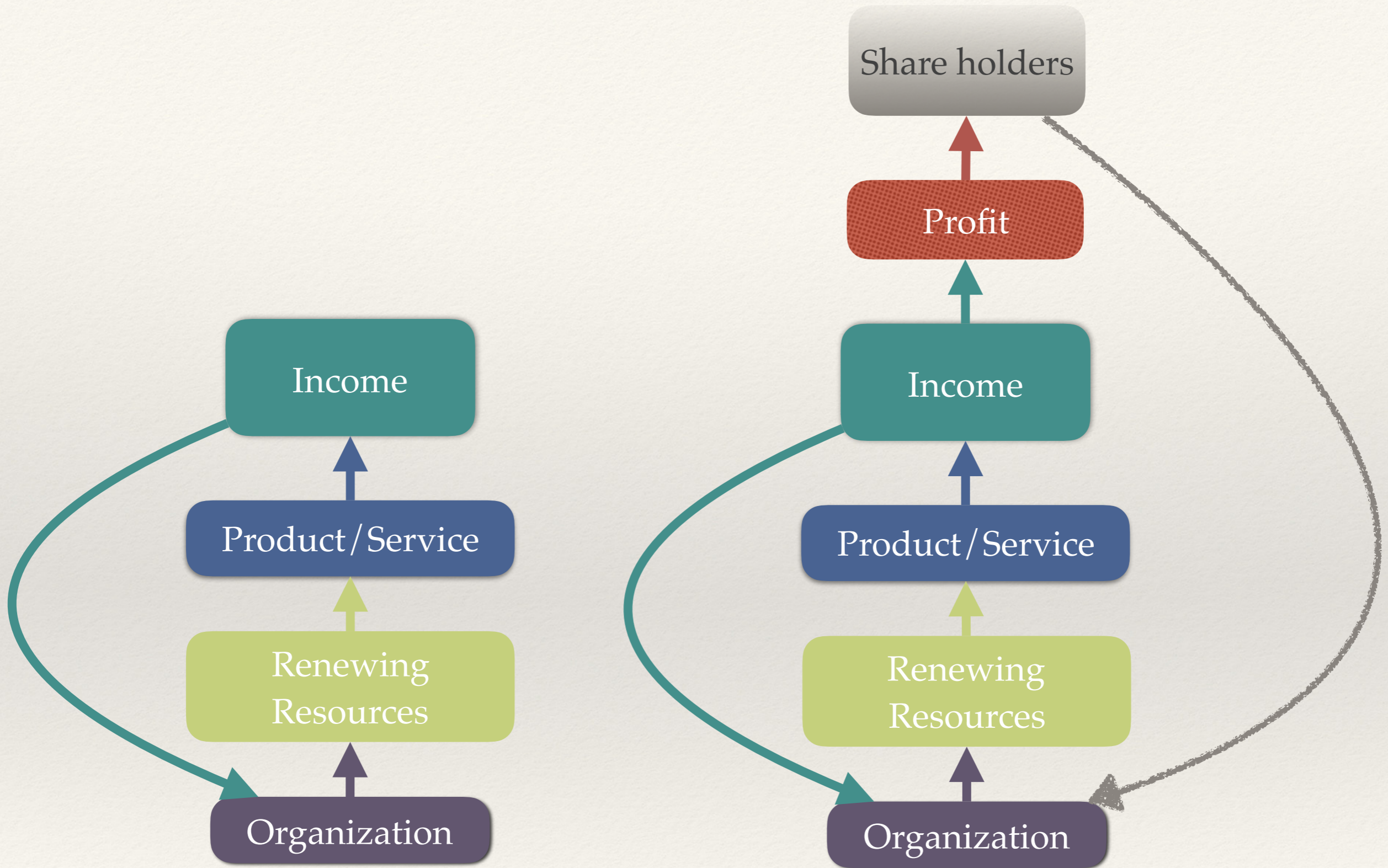






# Second Solution Type







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# Richard Perkins

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Information and pictures taken from  
<http://www.ridgedalepermaculture.com/>

- ❖ Small Farm in Ridgedale, Sweden
- ❖ 4 months without frost; low light intensity
- ❖ Paying four Stockholm salaries
- ❖ After 5 years all investment costs paid off
- ❖ Constantly increasing soil quality





## DESIGN OVERVIEW



- Savannah style wide spaced Nut plantings over pasture over Keyline subsoil pattern
- Spring fed ponds and microclimate plantings
- Mixed species Holistic Planned Grazing across all paddocks. Dairy Cows, Sheep, Layers & Broilers moving daily on planned grazing
- Spring fed reflective pond and cold climate vines on protected slope
- Sea Buckthorn & Japanese Quince plantation
- Front field with fruit trees over berries on Keyline Layout optimized for maximum solar gain with trees in center of each row & berries on each side
- Contoured kitchen gardens & paddy fields with commercial polytunnel, root cellar, extensive vegetable beds & microclimate leveraging
- Jean Pain compost and wood fired heating system
- Perennial leaf crops used as architectural features in farm center
- Plant based sewage system



- 90 Yr+ Spruce
- Pig paddocks and leaf tree reforestation
- RAM pump supplies quick release water access across farm
- Larger Creek
- Keyline Agroforestry strips planted for optimal solar gain. Hazel, Apple, Pear, Plum & Cherry on back rows and Berry fruit along the front
- 30 yr+ Larch Planting
- "The Medicine Cabinet" ; Berry & super fruits
- Riparians protected from grazing animals & planted with Coppice timber, fruit, nut & berry production. Edible mushroom production below.
- Smaller Creek
- Rotational coppiced Willow biomass & windbreak
- Natural Swimming pool
- Teaching & Dining yurts and social spaces



See: <http://www.ridgedalepermaculture.com/>

Bill Mollison,  
David Holmgren

Perma-  
culture

- Energy cycling
- No waste
- Polyculture and diversity of species
- Observation and replication of natural patterns

P.A. Yeoman

Keyline  
Design<sup>®</sup>

- Profitable agriculture ↑ but Soil quality ↓
- Desertification and erosion
- Profitable agriculture ↑ Soil quality ↑

1. Climate
2. Land shape
3. Water
4. Roads
5. Trees
6. Buildings
7. Subdivision
8. Soil

Holistic  
Management<sup>®</sup>

Allan Savory

- Livestock ↑  
Desertification ↑
- Livestock ↓  
Desertification ↑
- (moving) Livestock ↑  
Land health ↑



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# Willie Smits

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- ❖ Reforestation of eroded grassland in Indonesia (Borneo and Sulawesi)

Pictures taken from a movie made by Raymond Hartman on the  
**Village hub in Tomohon**

<http://masarang.nl/en/projects/sugar-palm-miracle-tree/>









<http://masarang.nl/en/projects/sugar-palm-miracle-tree/>



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# Arenga Pinnata – Sugar Palm

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<http://masarang.nl/en/projects/sugar-palm-miracle-tree/>



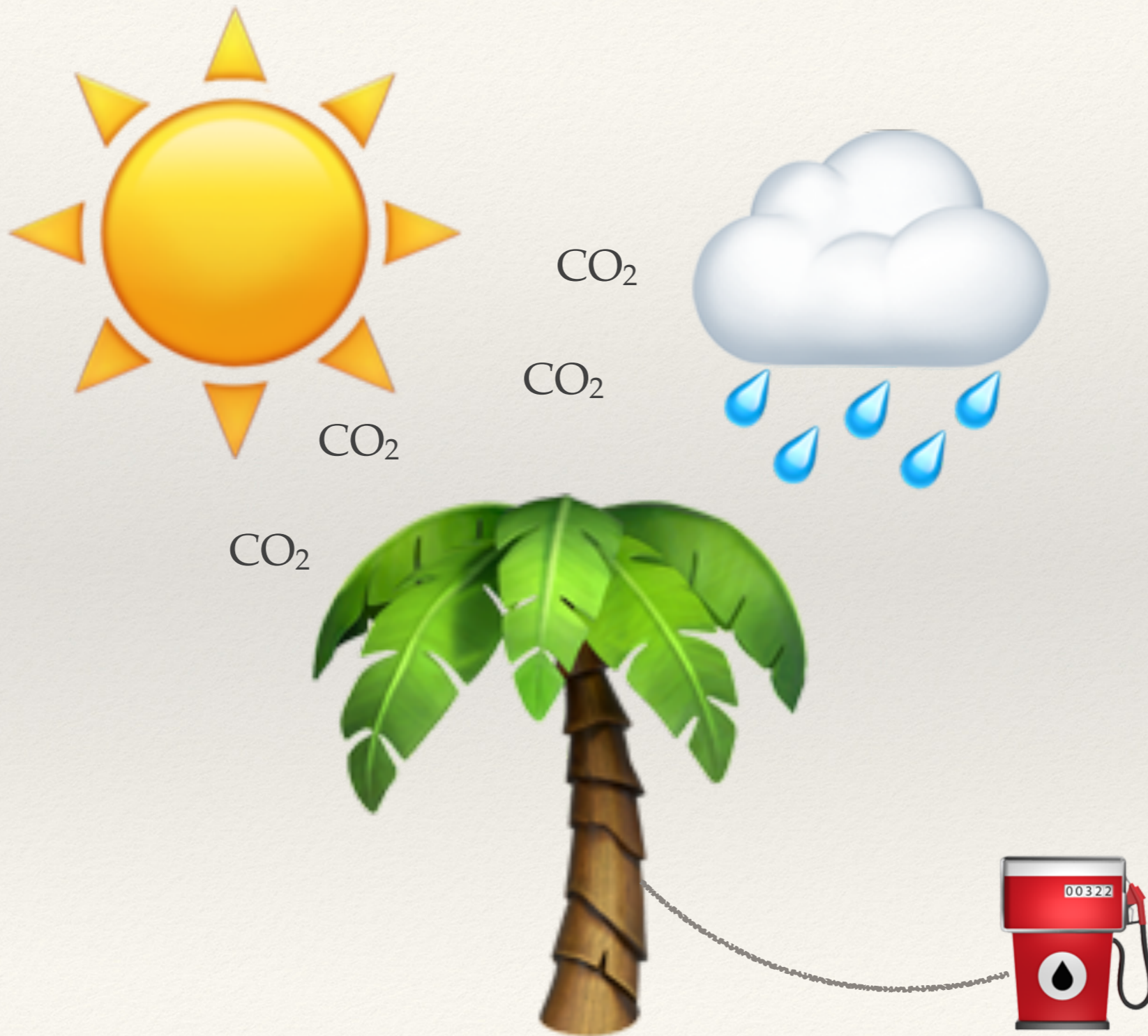
- ❖ The palm transforms sunlight, rainwater and carbon dioxide into sugar juice:
  - ❖ harvested on a daily basis (full grown palms 20-30 litres per day; some even 50)
  - ❖ sugar concentration of 11%
- ❖ 60 different products can be produced from the palm
- ❖ Produces 3 times more energy than raw cane sugar
- ❖ Longer and more efficient photosynthesis process
- ❖ Palm doesn't exhaust the soil
- ❖ No parts of the tree need to be cut off for harvest
- ❖ Grows on low-nutrient soils
- ❖ Profound root system: Protection against erosion, resisting fires and floods



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# Willie Smits

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3) Towards an interdisciplinary multi-level-  
perspective based on the notion of *system*  
*contradictions*



Thank you!

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