



Faculty of Design

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Systemic Design for democratic engagement: Where the bottom-up and top-down process meet

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What do they have in common?



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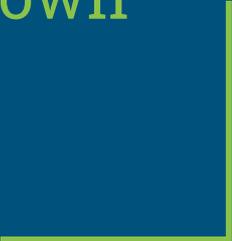
What do they have in common?





Systemic Design for democratic engagement:

Where the bottom-up and top-down
process meet



Understanding the role of design*

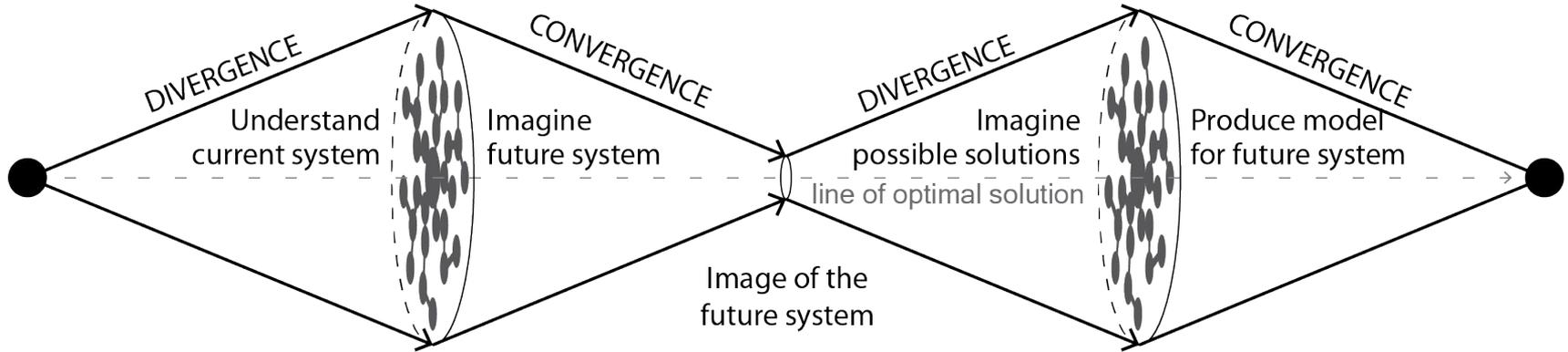
How do the objects that we design facilitate certain relationships based on the values that we have embedded on them?

How do we design for a better society by empowering communities to actively become decision-makers of their future?

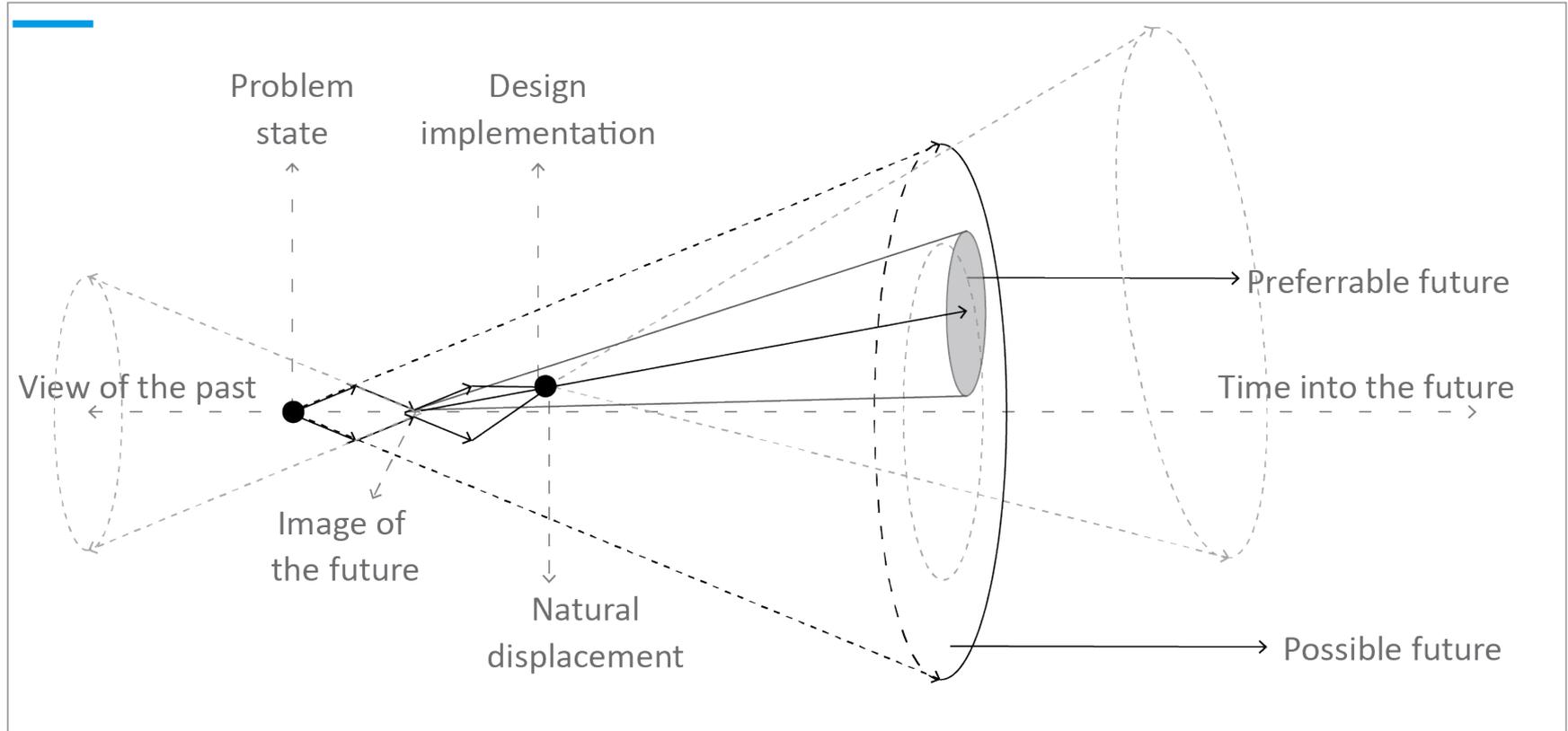


Understanding the role of design*

Using divergence and convergence Banathy's model (1996) for design process



Understanding the role of design*

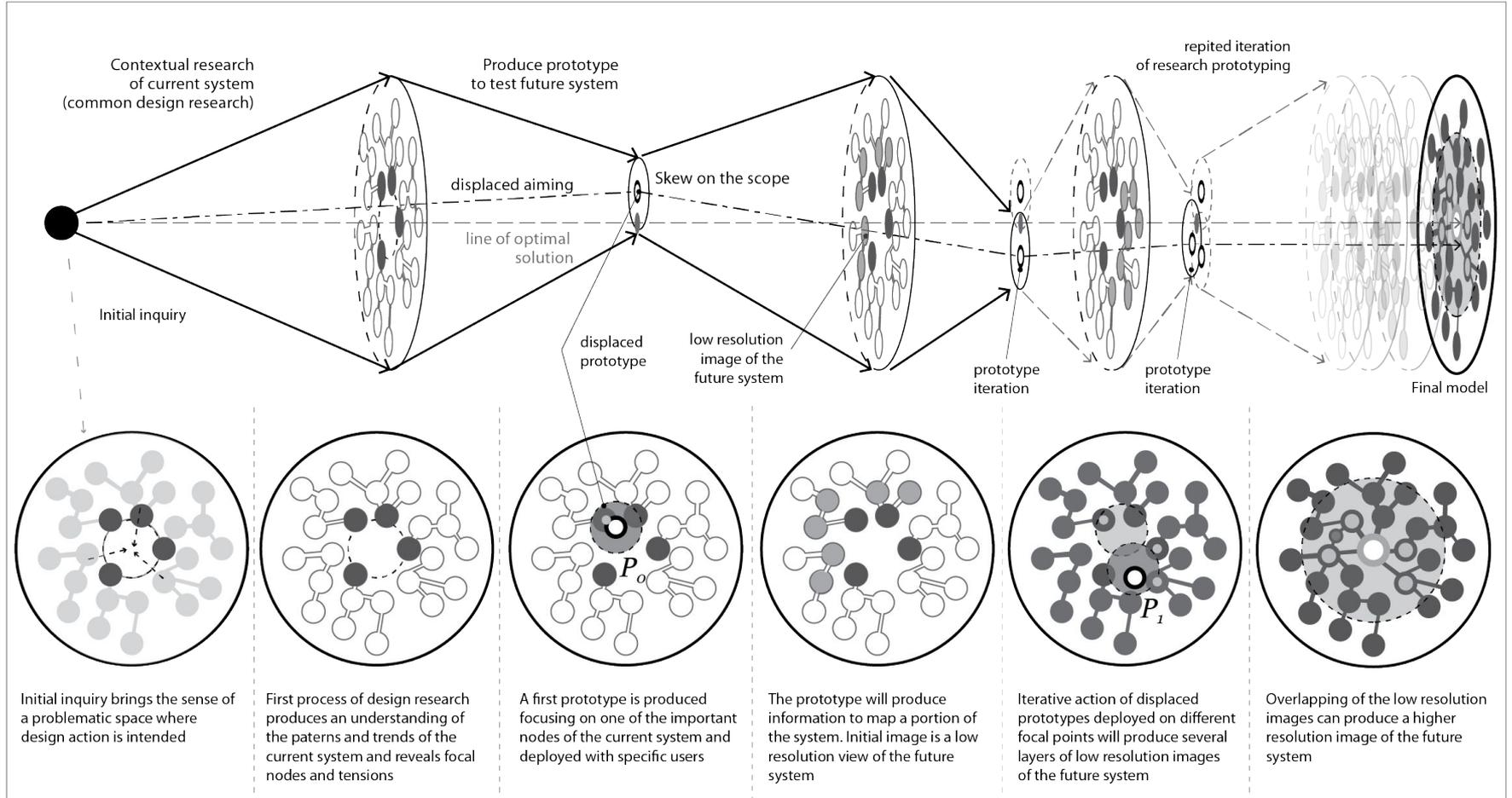


Using prototypes to map the future

Bødker (1987) argues that prototypes allow users to partially experience a possible view of the future and that they are desirable tools in the process of design.

Prototypes have a special quality as '*conversational objects*', since they make tangible a specific representation of the problem or the perception of the state of the system (Galey and Ruecker, 2010) .

ITERATIVE MODEL FOR DESIGN RESEARCH BASED ON DISPLACED PROTOTYPING



Using prototypes to map the future

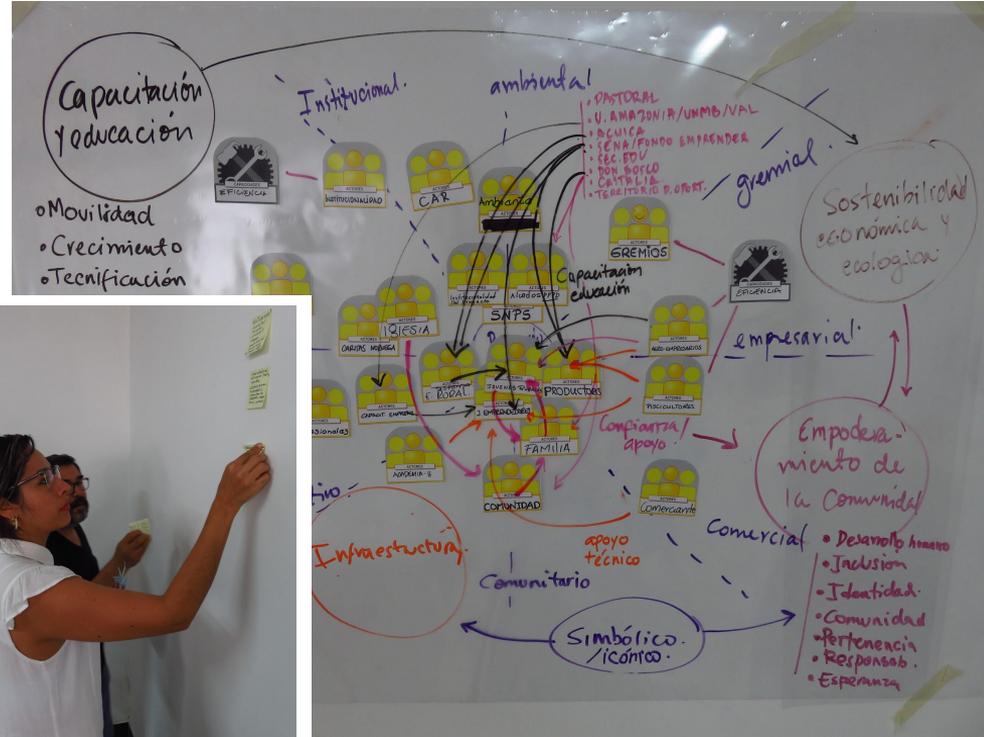
Using a participatory process allows to produce maps of the possible future state of the system that include a more detailed consideration of unintended consequences. It also include communities in decision-making and actionable transformation.



Using prototypes to map the future

It also enlarges the view of the future and situated actions as mediators of strategic action.

Backcasting based on values changes the nature of infrastructure.



What we have learned about participation

- Envisioning (a bigger picture)
- Individual values are confronted with common wellbeing
- Joint futures can be envisioned
- Enables extended participation
- Effect of reverberance

What do **WE** want?

How do **WE** get there?

Are needs real? (Escobar, 2007)

Are futures collective?

Is change possible?

Democracy and the level of participation

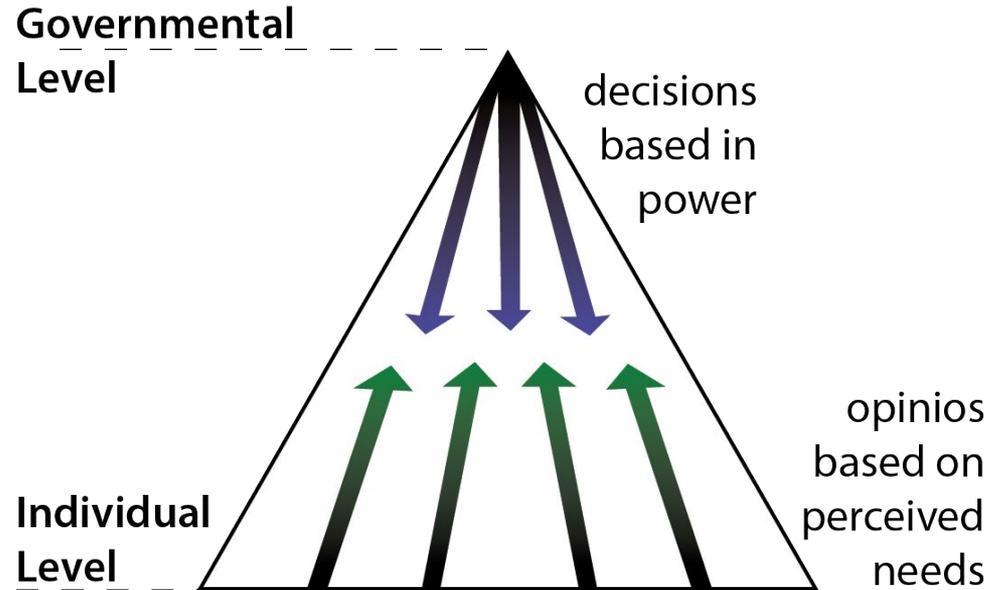
What we have learned while working with governmental organizations

- Short term policies
- Reactive vs adaptive
- Lack of flexibility
- Partisan intentions
- Participation as validation

Democracy and the level of participation

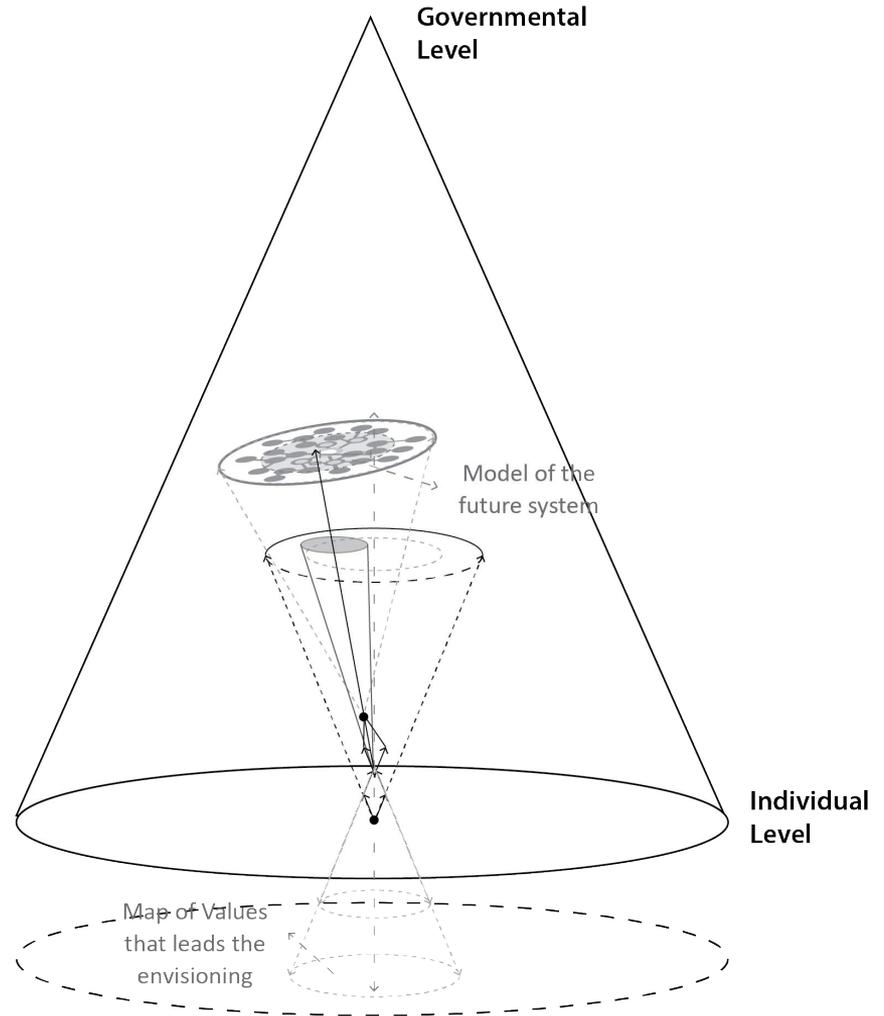
Participation does not necessarily imply a democratic process.

Top-down models are based on opinion-based participation and power-based decision making.



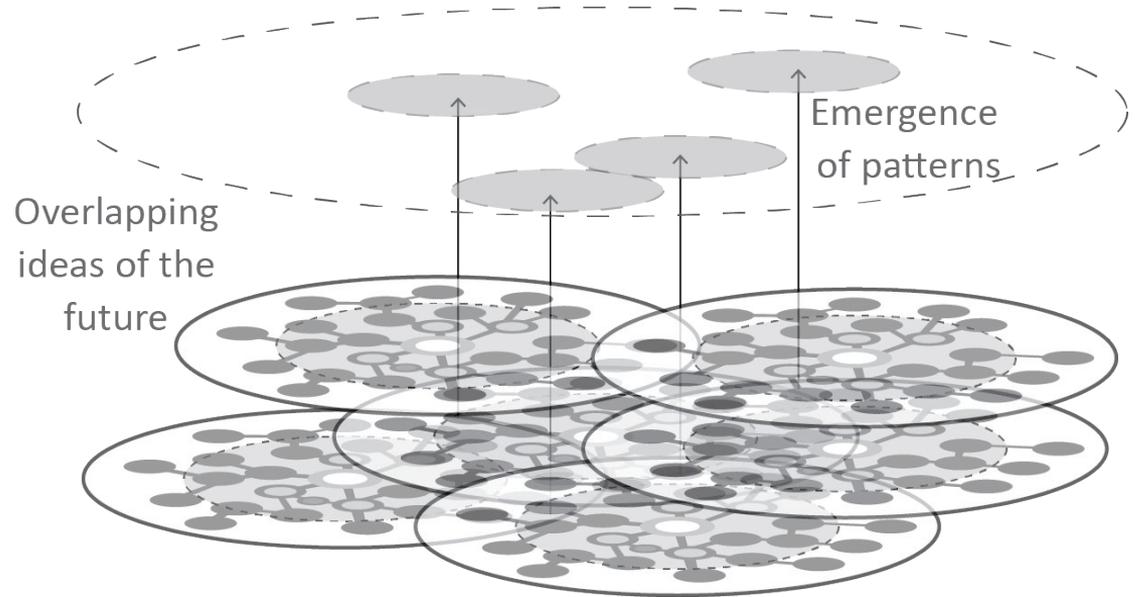
Envisioning together

Matters of concern of society
driven by bottom-up values

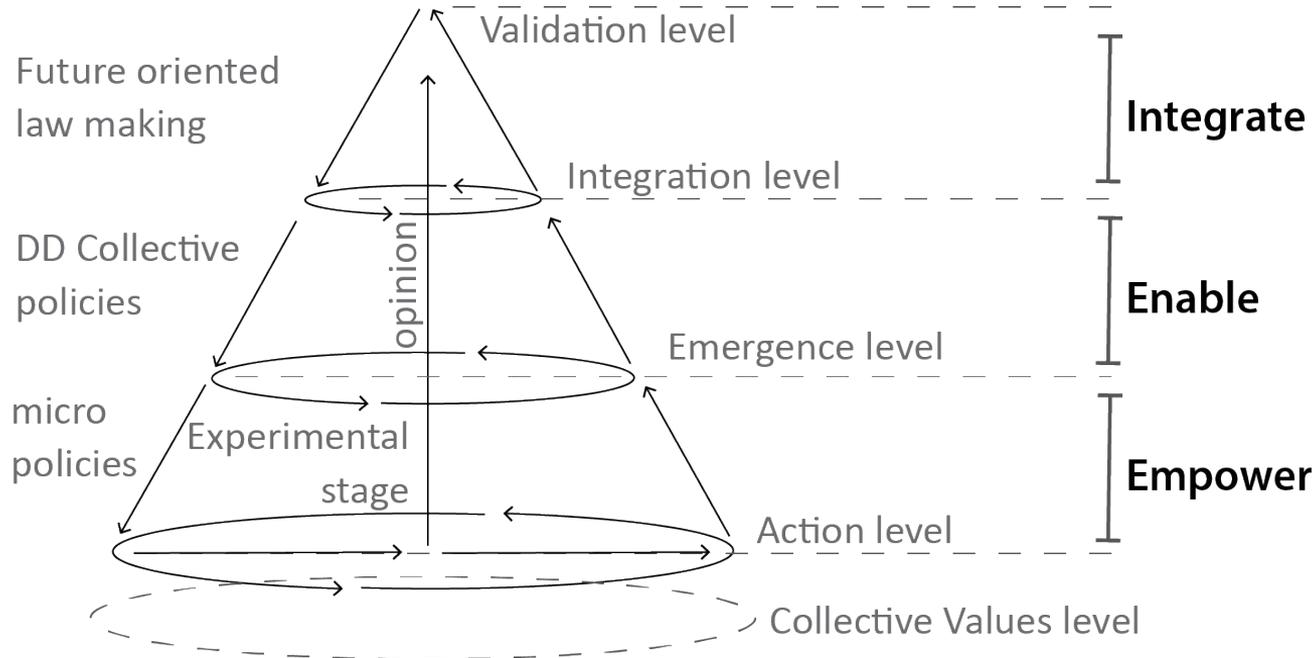


Envisioning together

Scope and resolution

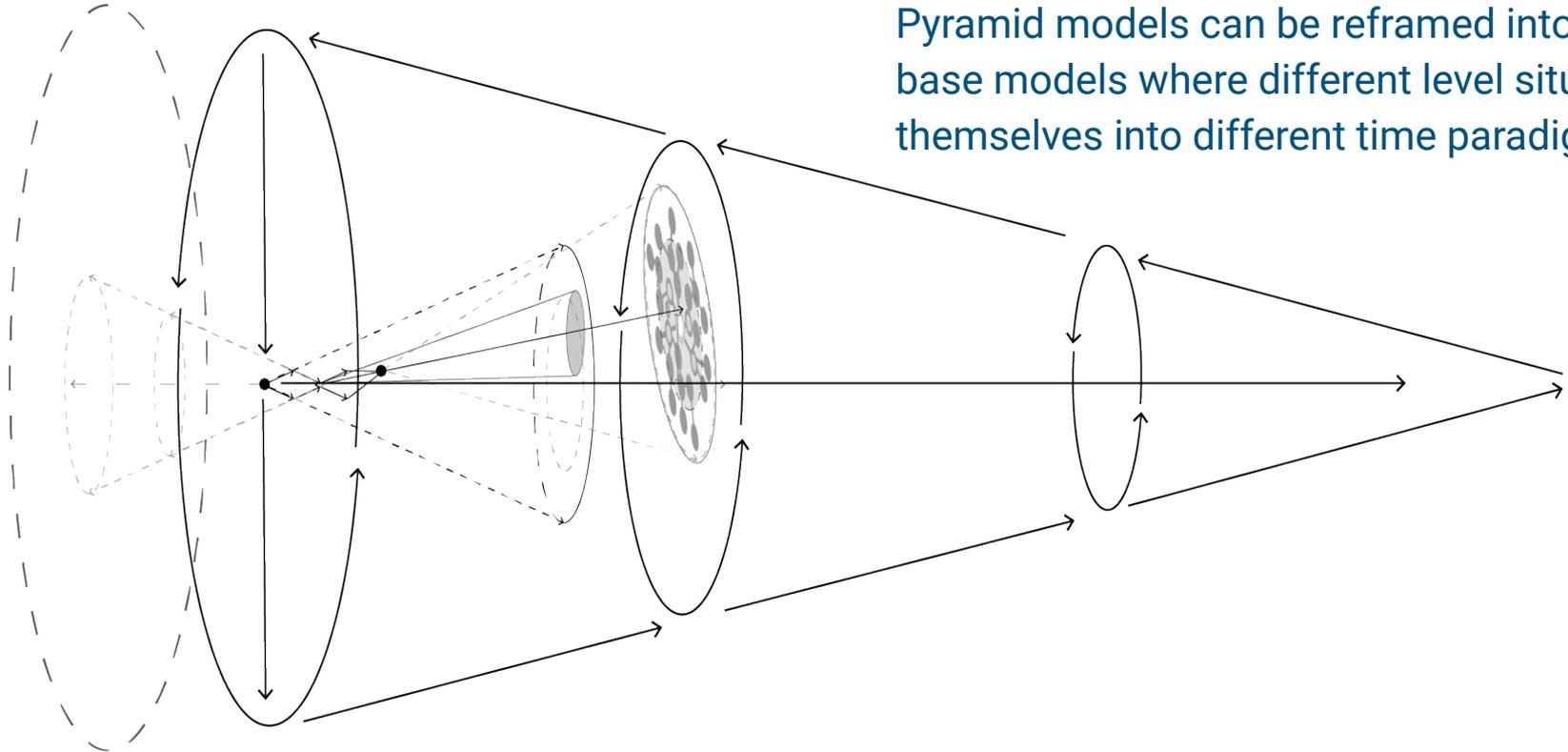


Democracy and the level of participation



Bottom-up models do not conflict with structures, instead they validate them. They also provide enough granularity and flexibility to produce policies in an adaptive way.

Democracy and the level of participation



Pyramid models can be reframed into time base models where different level situate themselves into different time paradigms

Discussion

Design ability to envision possible futures, include different voices and define objects of actionable transformation is a great recipe to start defining possible ways to transform social scale complex problems.

Is the design community, especially the systemic one, ready to assume the challenge.

Thank you!

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