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Synthesis maps: Systemic design pedagogy, narrative, and intervention

Bowes, Jeremy and Jones, Peter

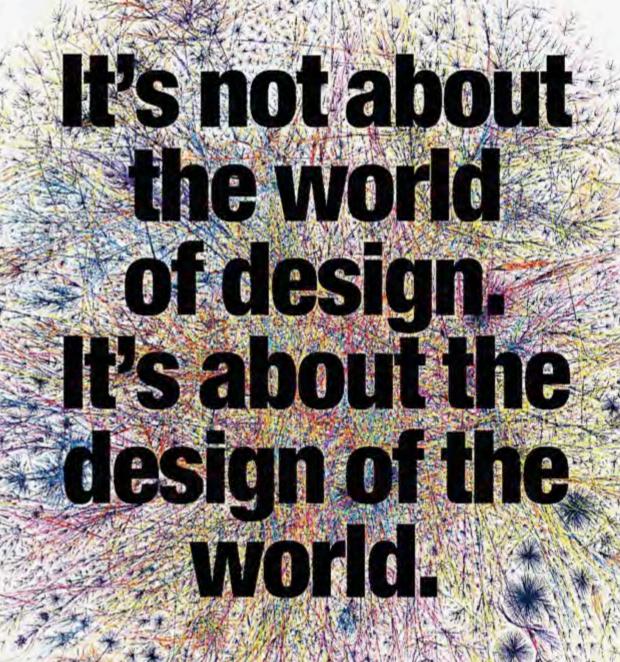
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SYNTHESISMAPS as design constructs



Bruce May and the Institute without Boundaries

how to deal with systemic complexity ...and the wicked systemic problem?...

We as designers can make progress on the historic opportunity to re-envision and redesign existing social systems **through frameworks for understanding**, a shared view of the problem, and tools to allow us to innovate, and provide transformative systemic change.

Design provides a variety of visual tools and frameworks.

CONTEXT

The GIGA-synthesis map as a key systemic visual tool for complex problem understanding

Provide context, precedent and relationship to other systemic mapping approaches

Outline elements & aspects of a **Synthesis Map** creation with examples

1

Synthesis Map

NOW is it a systemic tool?







SCAFFOLDS & INTEGRATES EXISTING DESIGN METHODS TO CREATE A DIALOGUE AROUND A TOPIC

Choosing a topic – What are the essentials?

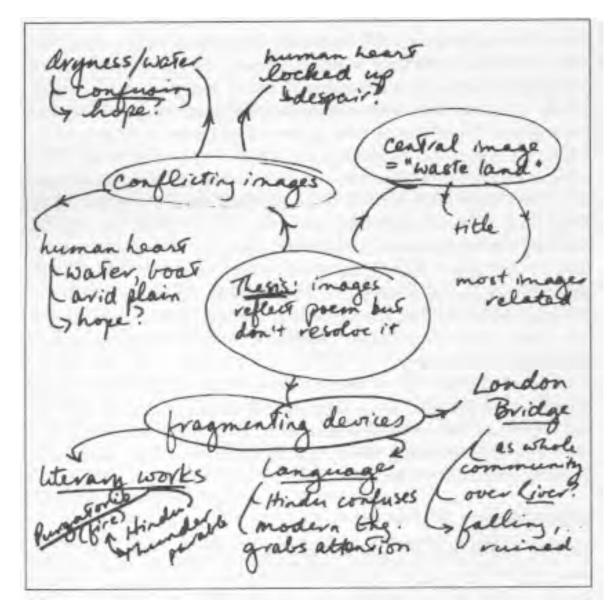
- A topic that interests you
- It should be challenging and have enough scope
- Is adequate research is available
- Who is the appropriate audience?

Thinking it Through: A Practical Guide to Academic Essay Writing, Avery et al..

Bruce Mau, Design and the Welfare of All Life, Design Ecologies: Essays on the Nature of Design, Tilder and Blostein



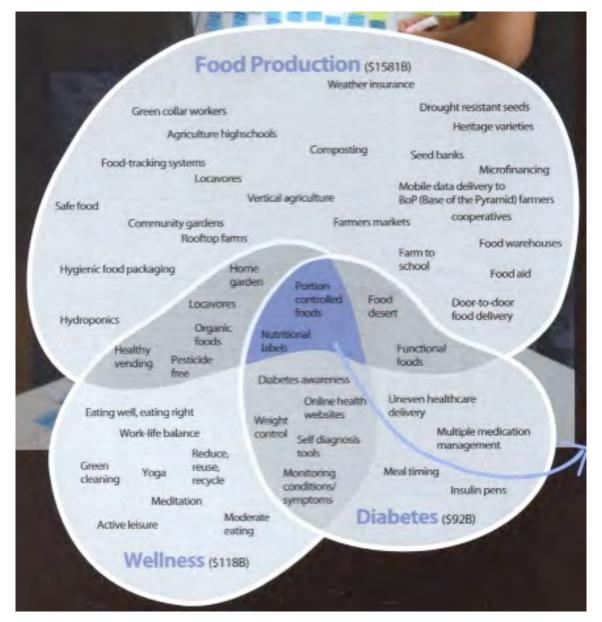




The MINDMAP as a research plan?

Drawing an informal and pictorial outline, sometimes known as a mind map, can be a way of freeing yourself from the constraints of sentences and paragraphs so that you can explore ideas more creatively. To draw a mind map, begin by placing a tentative thesis in the centre of a blank page. Explore the thesis by drawing branches from it to represent ideas and concepts that, from reading and research, you now associate with the topic thesis. As you are drawing / composing your map, create as many branches as you can, and as many twigs as possible from the branches. The mind map can be used as an exploratory method only if you push yourself to explore; restricting your thinking to the main branches will never allow you to recognize the smaller, more subtle possibilities of your topic.

A mind map for the "waste land" sample essay might look something like the diagram to the left. Thinking it Through, Avery

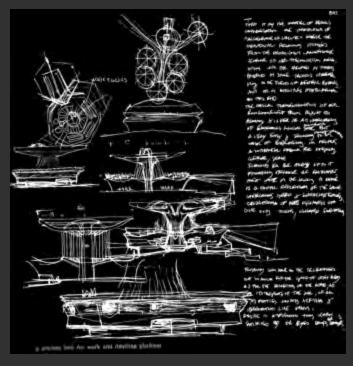


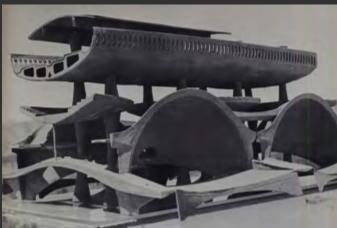
Converging your ideas?

Based on your research about developments in your topical area, and the overlaps between related topics, create diagrams which identify commonalities.

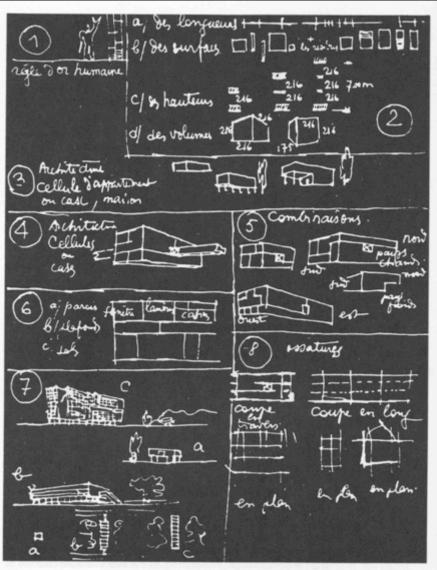
 For example if"diabetes" is the project topic and / or concern, your research might suggest that "food" and "wellness, and maybe "food production" are topics that overlap with it.

- the "referential sketch" as a visual pneumonic to understand a system of complexity
- the model & prototype to test team ideas, and create a dialogue around conceptual development
- A design process artifact needs to do both

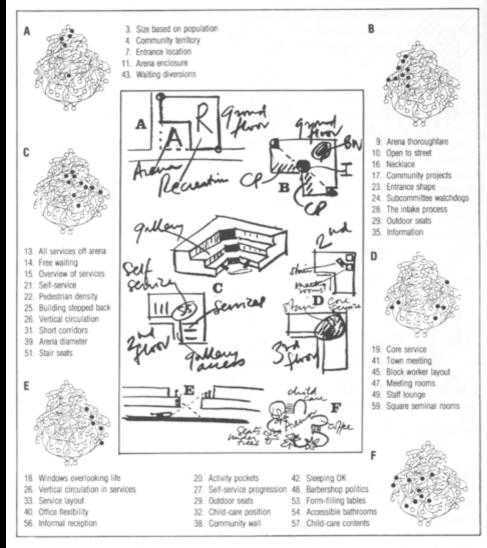




Paolo Soleri's Sketche, and ongoing study model for Arcosanti



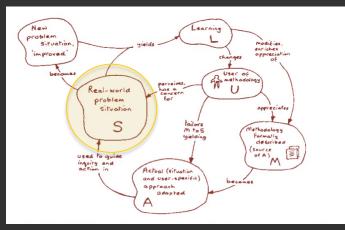
22 Le Corbusier's guidelines for the ATBAT project of 1946.

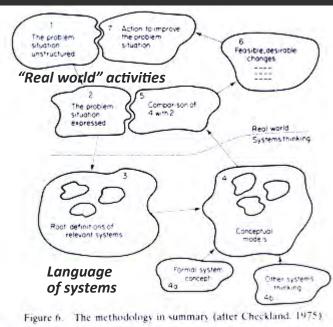


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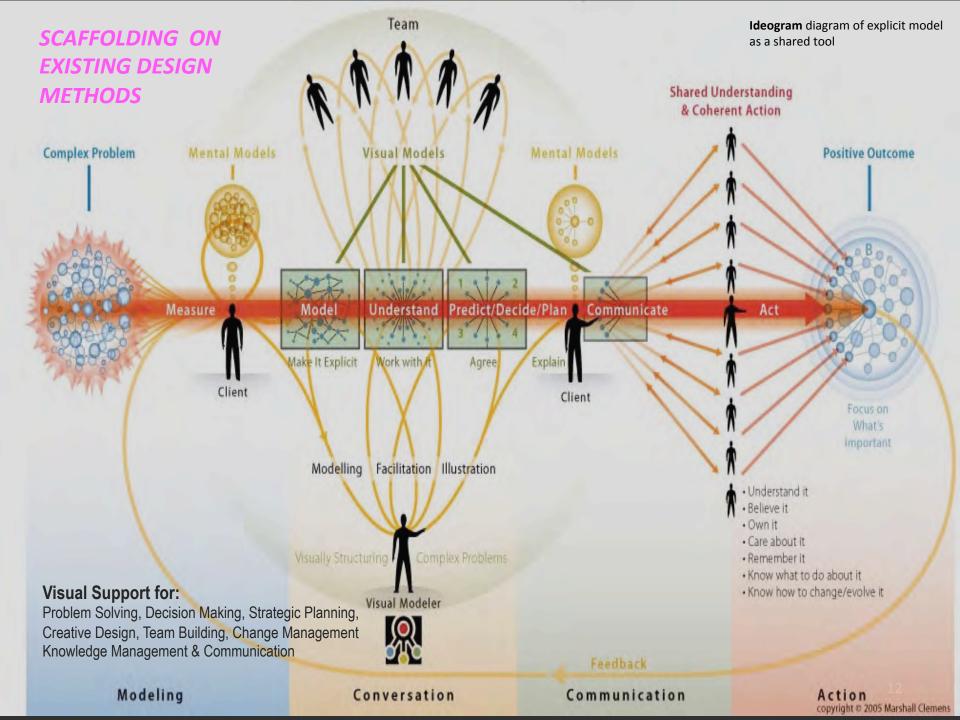
The "pattern language" of Alexander, Ishikawa, and Silverstein (an application in the San Francisco area).

- Checkland's idealized model, as a "learning" model (LUMAS)
- framed with the idea of the "soft system"
 as a more visual and qualitative method of
 seeing systems through an "idealized
 model"
- a systemic map that is a shared vehicle for learning





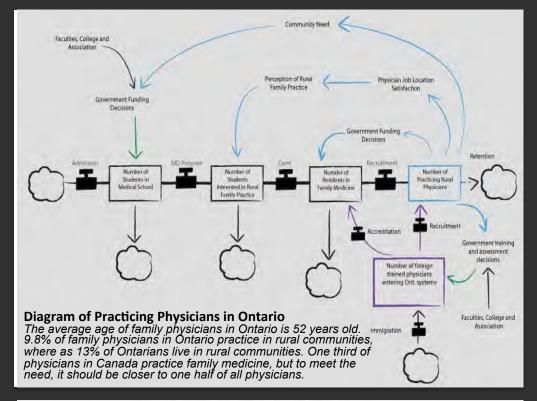
Checkland,, soft systems approach

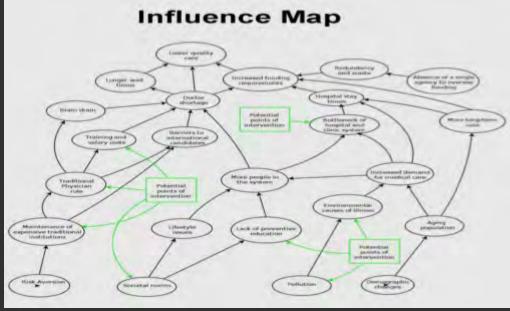


- system stock and flow, and the representation of causal or systemic elemental relations. (Meadows)
- builds on system literacy
- includes influence maps, and other systemic diagrams similar to systemigrams

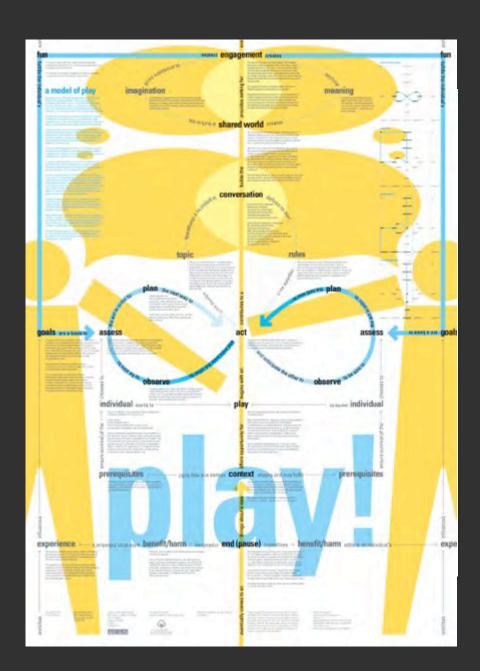
Diagram of Practicing Physicians in Ontario, Josina Vink, Jessica Mills, Phouphet Sihavong, Social Systems project, Strategic Foresight & Innovation, OCAD U

HEALTHY HEALTHCARE, Oksana Kachur, Jonathan Resnick, KarlShroeder, SFI Student Project, identifying points of intervention

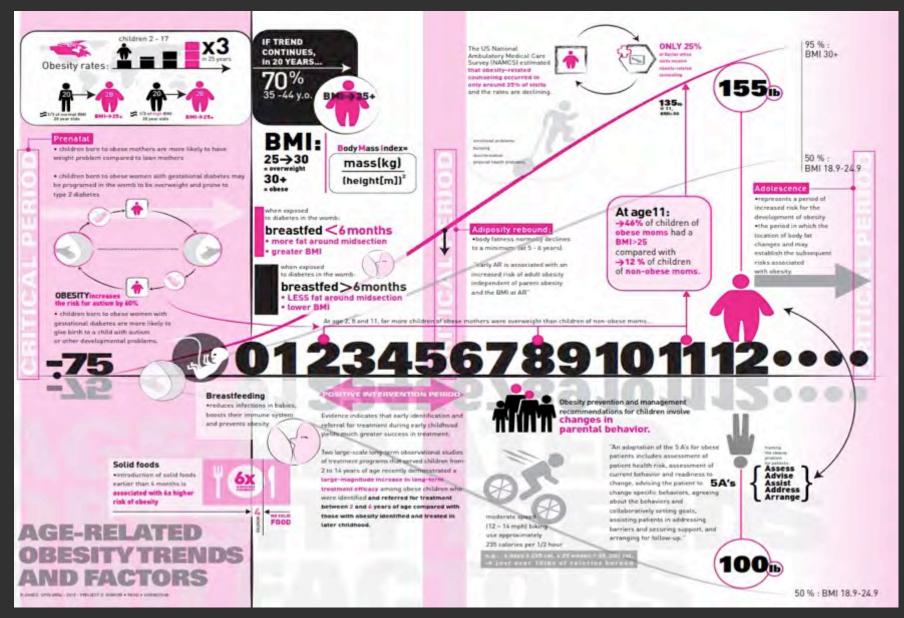


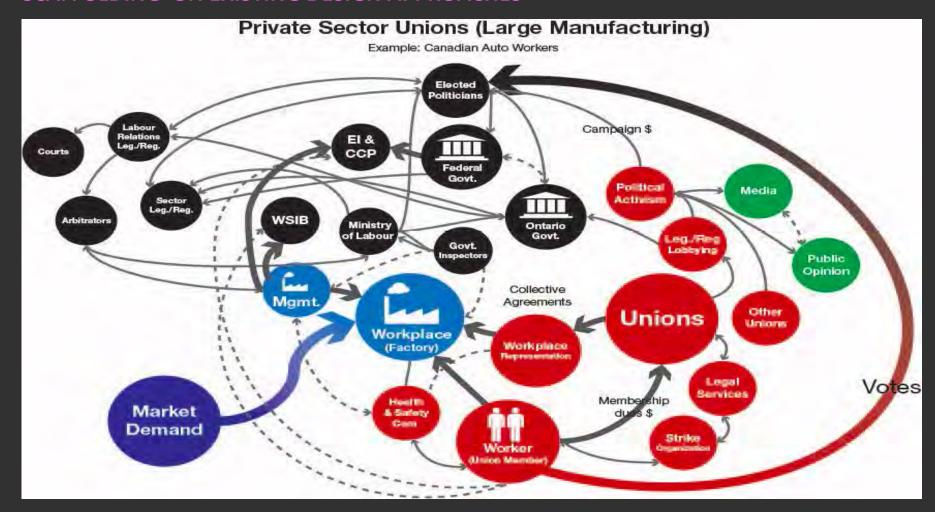


- uses the designed map, to represent a conversation and dialogue around the activity as demonstrated in Dubberley Pangaro work.
- develops a "rich picture"
 as outlined by Checkland to engage
 with the design problem
- co-creates a shared visual model as in the GIGAmaps by Sevaldson.



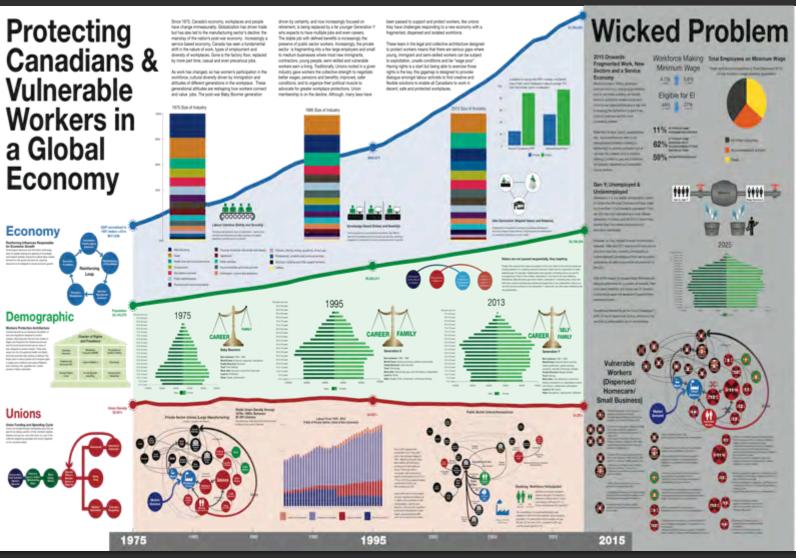
Hugh Dubberley, Paul Pangaro, illustration of Play



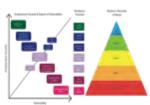


- System diagrams, cause and effect, influence diagrams, etc.
- "Systemigrams" by Boardman and Sauser

Protecting Workers in Global Economy, Maggie Dempster, Pansy Lee, and Simon Trevarthen, Understanding Systems & Systemic Design, Strategic Foresight & Innovation Student Project, OCAD U



Moving Forward



Creative and Generation Y Workers

name of austraction

- Build strong pathways out of menial jobs to meaningful work through the partnership of employers, post-secondary education and training institutions, and youth recessaristion.
- Incent employers to hire Generation Y employees through tax breaks, funding and training expenses.
- Incert workplaces to experiment with alternative to full time employment, such as job-sharing that enable Baby Boomers to split their jobs with young workers.
- Widened the bandwidth of legal and regulatory protection to include part-time, freelance, sub-contractors and creative industries.
- Expand Generation Y funding to create their own start-up companies
- Strengthen public awareness of the dangers of the workplace for Generation Y on occupational health 5 safety. harassment and discrimination, pay equity and employment standards.

Vulnerable Workers

Levers of protection:

- Update and expand existing legal "Workers Protection Architecture" to match the growing segmentation of "vulnerable workers"
- Create greater flexibility in working arrangements and protection to reflect the part-time, causal and seasonal work trends.
- Regularize and skill low-paying work to improve pay and conditions, and to enable transitions beyond merial roles.
- Explore how to organize dispersed and small workforces through
- technology (e.g. social media platforms)

 Provide workers' protection information in easy to read formats in new
- immigrant groups' languages

 Enable community engagement strategies to tackle precarious
- Enable community engagement strategies to tackle precariou employment and unsafe working conditions.
- Faise fines, penalties and punishments for employees exploiting "vulnerable workers" and conditions that lead to death or serious injuries.

Protecting Workers in Global Economy, Maggie Dempster, Pansy Lee, and Simon Trevarthen, Understanding Systems & Systemic Design, Strategic Foresight & Innovation Student Project, OCAD U

Basic systemic stock & flow diagrams, Meadows

Iterative Context diagrams, Structure, Processes, Function and Purpose Gharajedaghi

Influence maps, Warfield

Causal loop diagrams, System Design, Meadows

Soft Systems / Rich Pictures, Checkland, Sevaldson

Systemigrams, Boardman

Gigamaps, Sevaldson

Mind maps, affinity diagrams, concept, & cognitive maps

Images from IDEO Methods cards

Affinity Diagrams



Scenarios

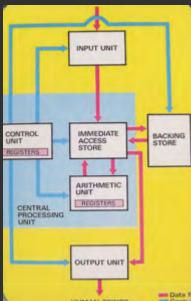


Cognitive Maps









Collage

Draw the Experience

Flow Analysis

Synthesis Map Creation What are the principles?



Toronto Urban Ecology Group, Cathy Clark, Heather Russek, Mike Greenwood, Tara O'Neil, Understanding Systems & Systemic Design, Strategic Foresight & Innovation Student Project, OCAD U

SYNTHESIS MAP CREATION - PRINCIPLES

Synthesis Map creation

Collaborative transdisciplinary inquiry into real world problems to co-design solutions

Practice based approach to studio work & research, collecting user-based information integrated into the understanding of the complex system

Use of design and system thinking to provide a holistic lens, to understand systemic and social system relations, big picture - ecosystem thinking



copyright © 2005 Marshall Clemens

SYNTHESIS MAP CREATION - PRINCIPLES

Establishing of a "shared view" of the systemic problem

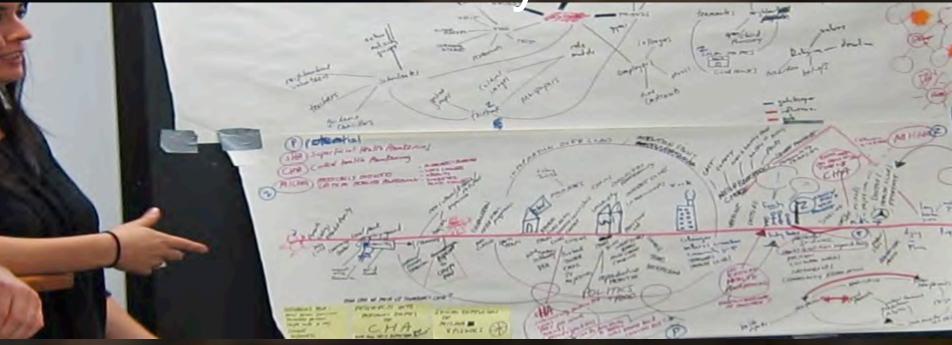
Creation of the map as a process of discovery, ordering, identifying and simplifying problem issues, working through ambiguity, not definitive solutions

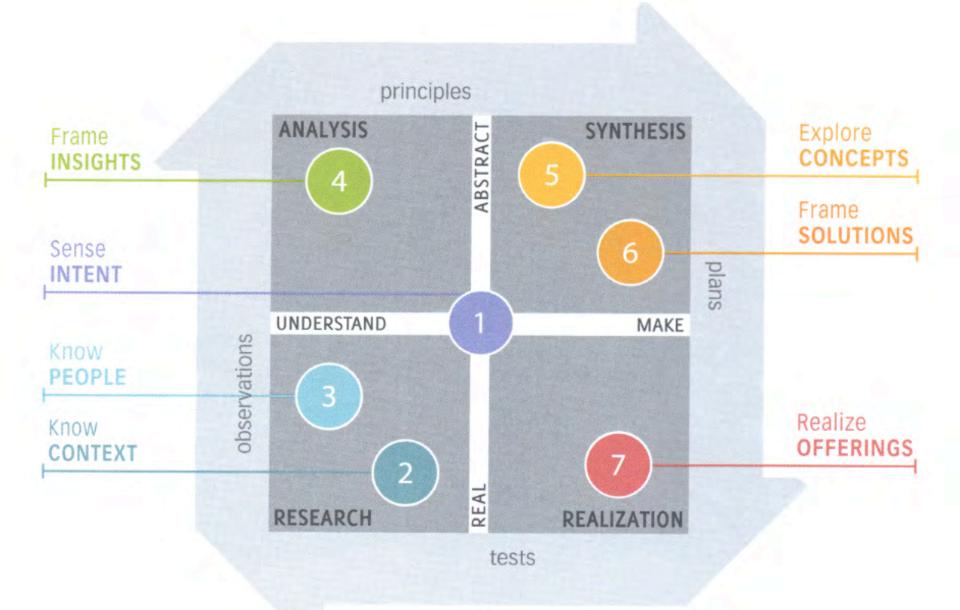
Creation of **narrative of the map as a** problem dialogue around the issues



Synthesis Map method

now are they created?





101 Methods, Innovation Modes, Kumar

Seven Modes of the **Design Innovation Process**

Sense Intent - Gather info, map overviews, reframe problems

Know Context - Workplan for research, search knowledge base, map development and make comparisons, ask experts

Know People - Observe and engage people, collect and organize observations of activities, interactions, and findings

Frame Insights - Find insights, patterns, map values and experiences, create frameworks

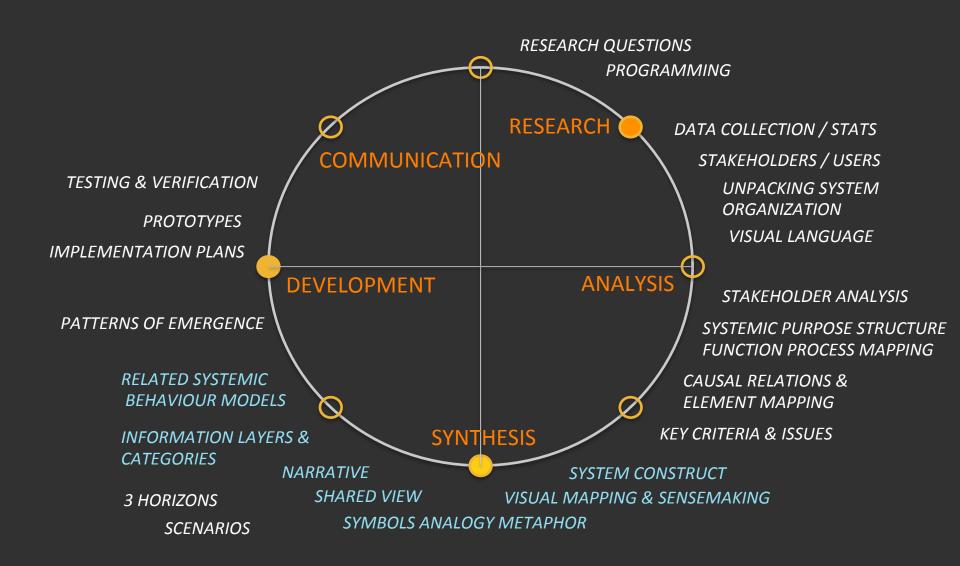
Explore Concepts - Frame concept space, principles, assumptions, organizing concepts, make diagrams, sketches, prototypes

Frame Solutions - Generate options, cluster conceptual ideas, identify solution narratives and areas

Realize Offerings & Implement – create prototypes, strategies and tactics, evaluate feasibility

Thinking it Through: A Practical Guide to Academic Essay Writing, Avery et al..

SYNTHESIS MAP - PROCESS METHODS & TECHNIQUES



SYNTHESIS MAP CREATION

Creating a GIGAsynthesis Map

How do you create a GIGA-synthesis map?

- Research, analyze and summarize evidence & analysis, brief of stakeholder analysis
- Problem statement research question, scope, description, and boundaries of the social system / service.
- Identify user research and terms in different fields, synthesized across different fields, evidence based
- Unpacking of elements of system, and clarification of the systemic purpose function, structure and processes.

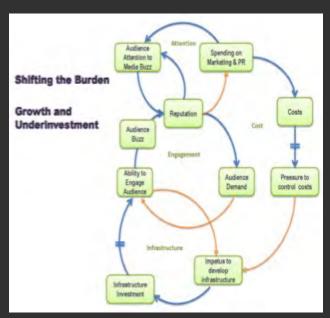


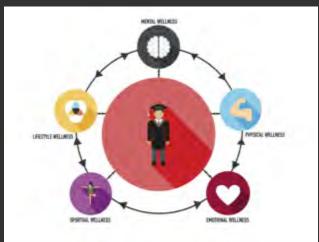
Student team sharing research in a working session for the Synthesis Map project



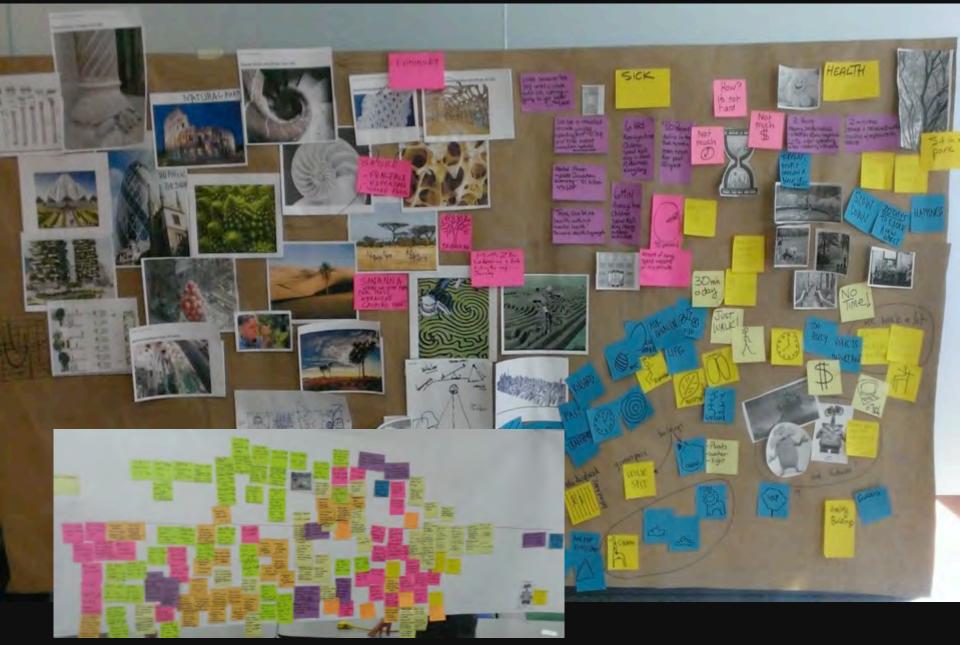
SYNTHESIS MAP CREATION

- Systemic Principles, and associated visual design language and symbols identified
- Visual mapping of components and relationships of the social system
- Framework model selection of a system construct /scaffold to test the framework for solutions, inform a possible way to model / visualize the problem
- Prefigured judgements of the solution set, mapping key issues / aspects of the problem; for "the shared view"; development of a narrative
- Look for analogies, metaphors & iconographic symbols that could serve as a vehicle for integration and assembly

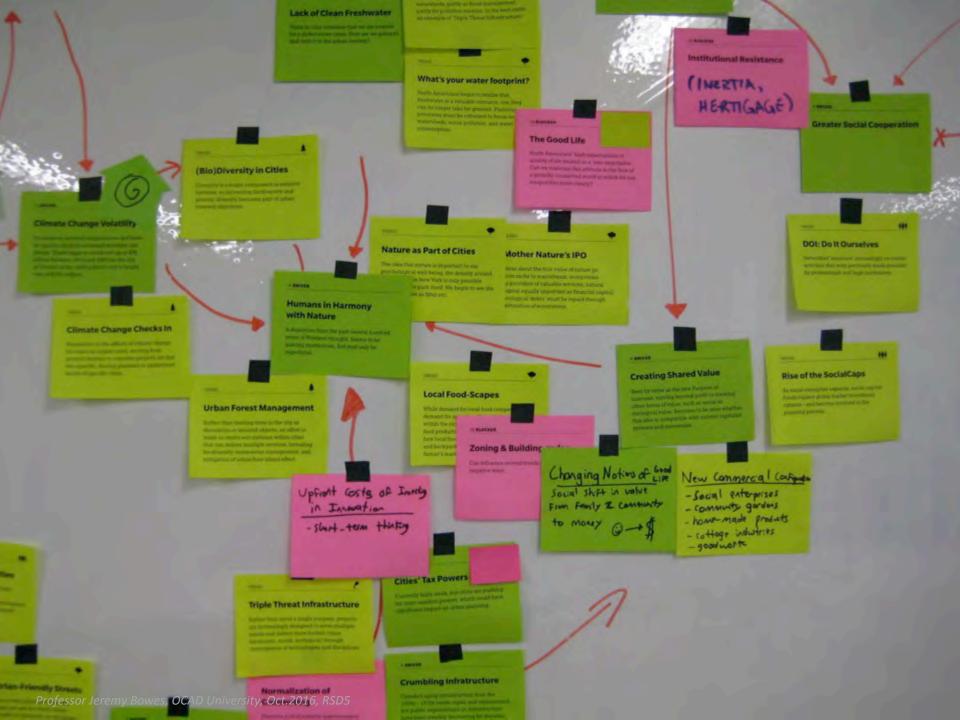


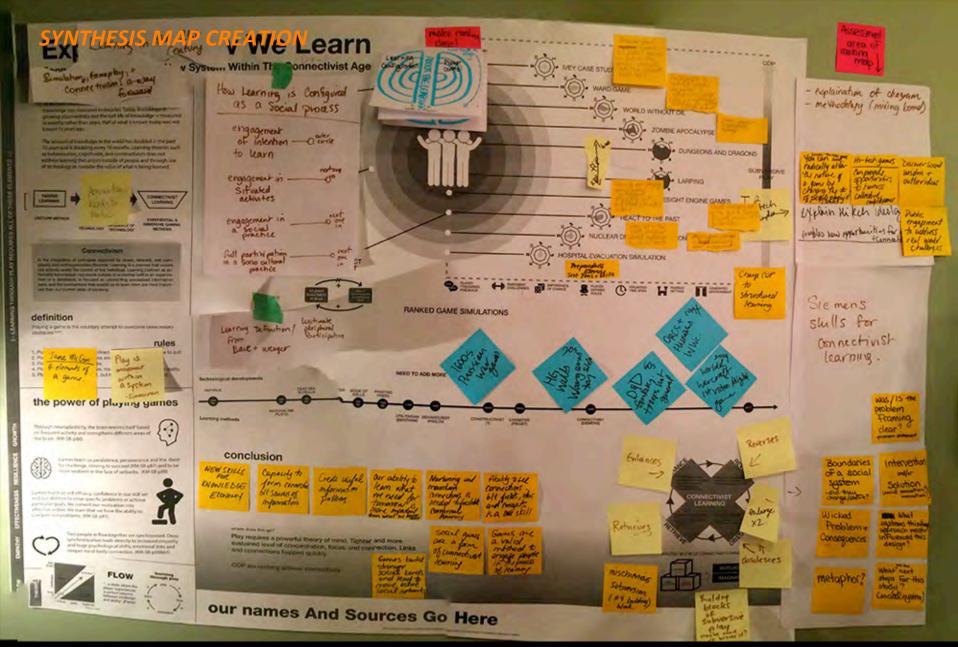


Student team of Icons describing different aspects of wellness for the Culture of Wellness Map project, and top an archetypal diagram of Reputation growth and investment at TIFF



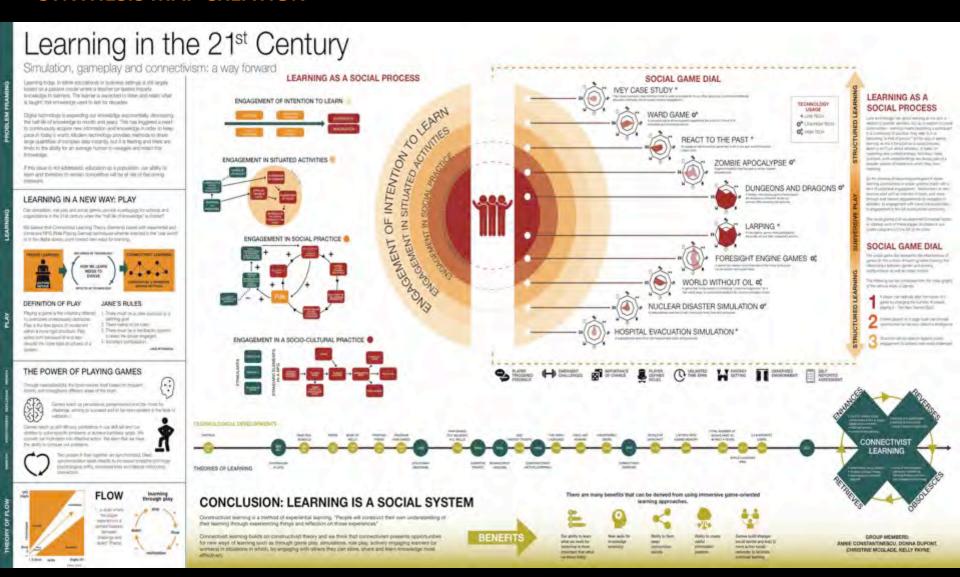
Toronto Urban Ecology Group, Cathy Clark, Heather Russek, Mike Greenwood, Tara O'Neil, Understanding Systems & Systemic Design, Strategic Foresight & Innovation Student Project, OCAD U





Learning in the 21st Century, Christine McGlade, Donna Dupont, Kelly Payne, Understanding Systems & Systemic Design, Strategic Foresight & Innovation Student Project, OCAD U

SYNTHESIS MAP CREATION

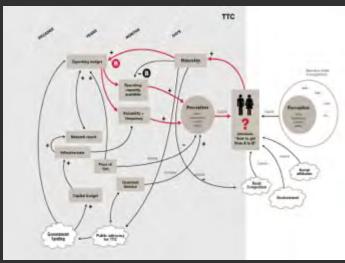


Learning in the 21st Century, Christine McGlade, Donna Dupont, Kelly Payne, Understanding Systems & Systemic Design, Strategic Foresight & Innovation Student Project, OCAD U

SYNTHESIS MAP CREATION

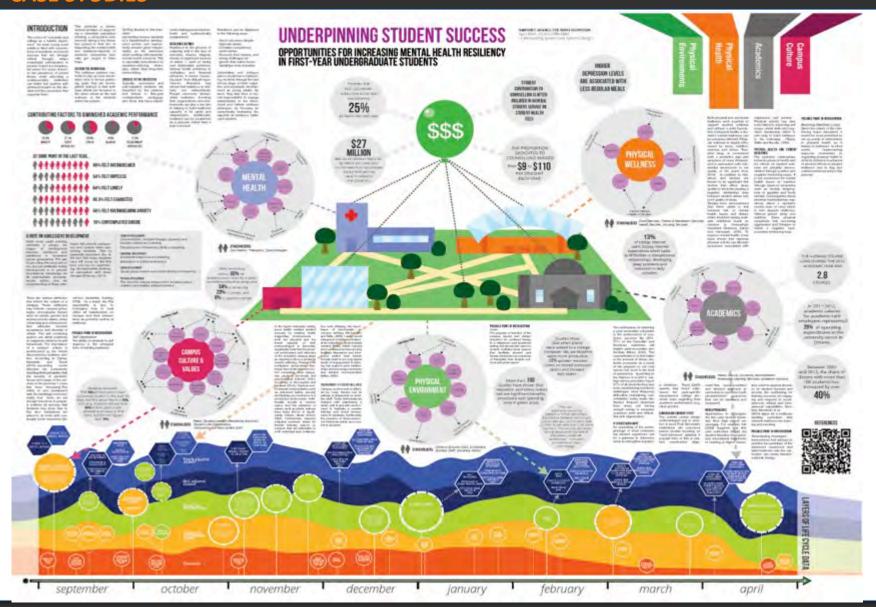
- Sensemaking visualizing the systemic story, and explores the possibilities for design intervention and change – making
- Layers and categories / groupings of information, analysis, visuals, stats etc. to describe complexity
- Patterns of emergence as possibility, future scenarios, and horizons of possible change and outcomes.
- Synthesis map as artefact.
- What other challenges or influences affect the narrative vision?



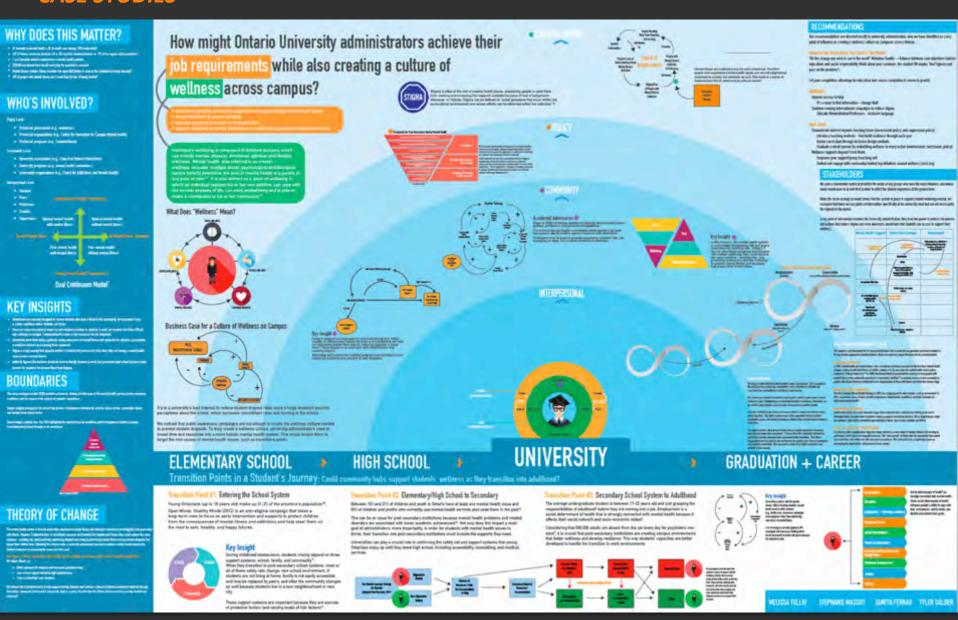


Top: Birger Sevaldson teaching his GIGAmap technique at an OCADU workshop, and above: students drawing a systemic influence map of TTC ridership factors 33

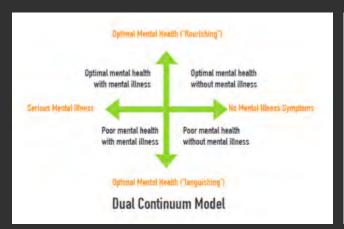




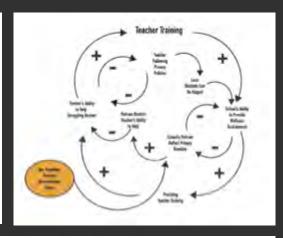
Underpinning Student Success, Shawn Hewitt, Laura Mills, Steve truong, Sheldon Perera, Understanding Systems & Systemic Design, Strategic Foresight & Innovation Student Project, OCAD U



Do Ontario university wellness programs effectively manage and support the mental health of their students?







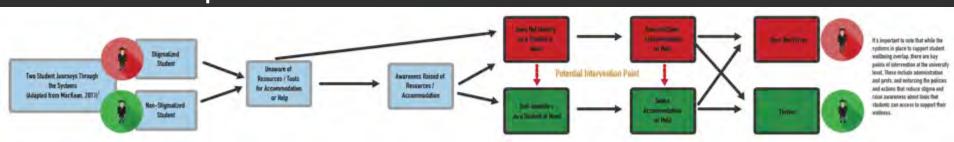


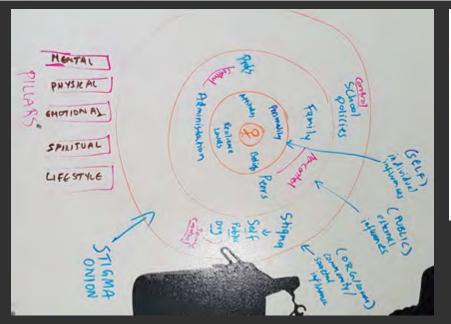


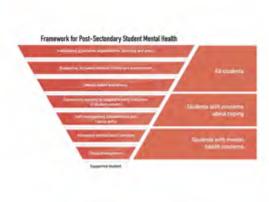


Culture of Wellness, Melissa Tullio, Stephanie Massot, Sunita Ferrao, Tyler Calder, Understanding Systems & Systemic Design, Strategic Foresight & Innovation Student Project, OCAD U, 2016

How might Ontario university administrators achieve their job requirements while also creating a culture of wellness across campuses?







Culture of Wellness, Melissa Tullio, Stephanie Massot, Sunita Ferrao, Tyler Calder, Understanding Systems & Systemic Design, Strategic Foresight & Innovation Student Project, OCAD U, 2016

SYNTHESIS MAP CREATION

Elements of Synthesis Maps

Maps that illustrate and make sense of the complex network of elements

Narrative, graphs, behaviour over time graphs

Systemic and organizational diagrams

Photos, illustrations

Timelines and gant charts etc.

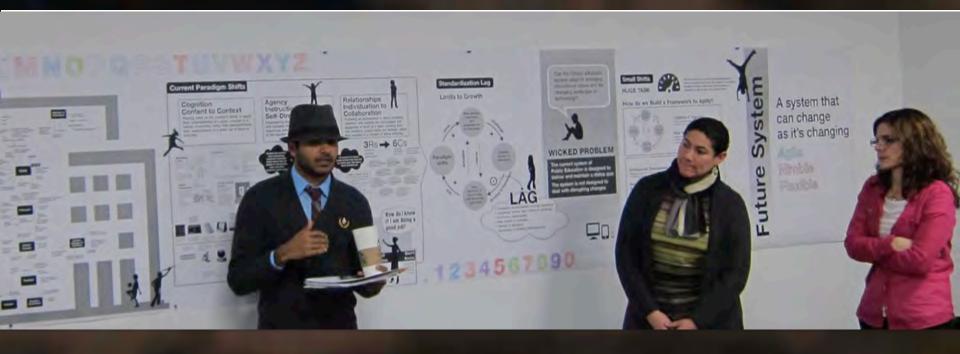
Iconography and symbols

Charts, Graphs, statistics and key quotes

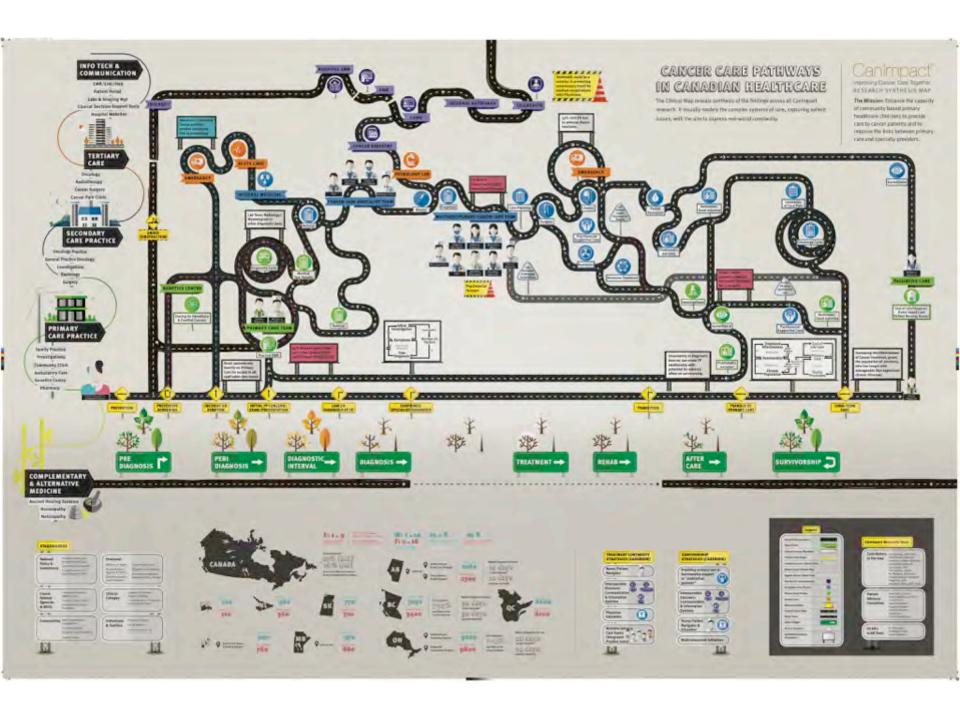
Student team sharing research in a working session for the Synthesis Map project

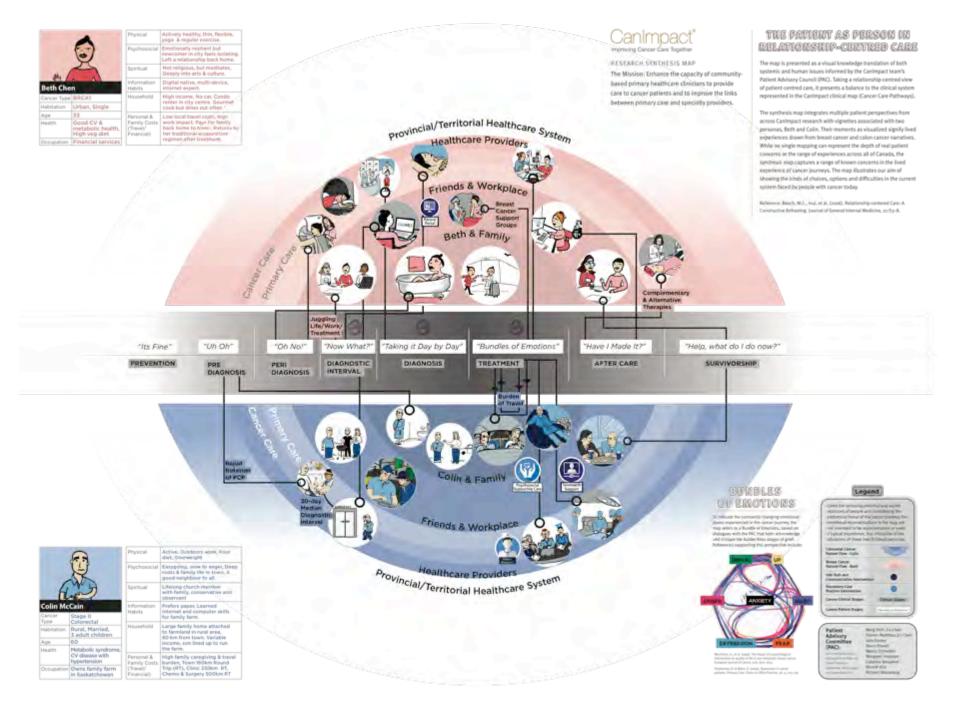


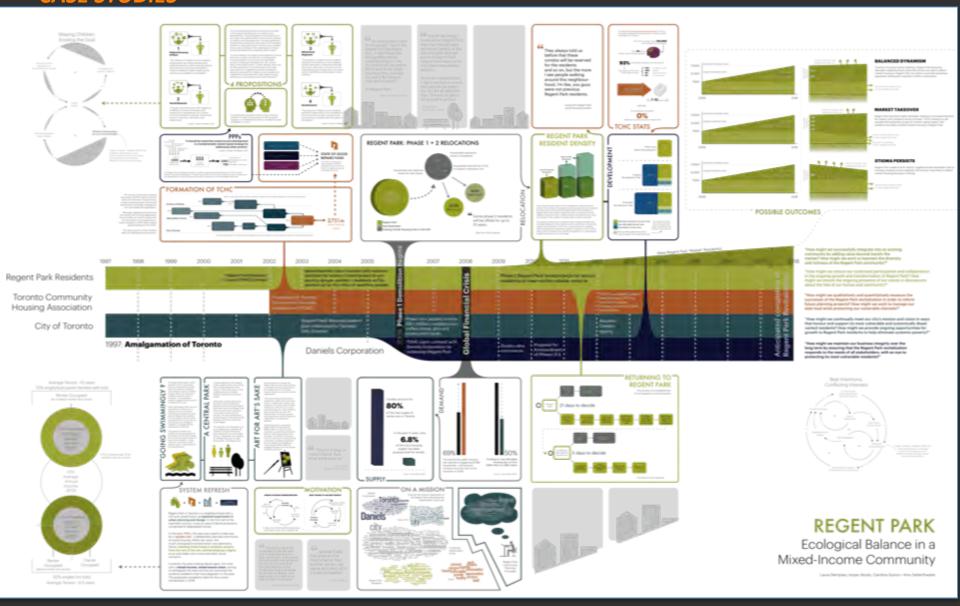
GIGA Synthesis Map Cases



iK-12disRuptU Technology & Innovation in Education, Buajitti, Hastrich, Maxwell, Segal, Roopani, Understanding Systems & Systemic Design, Strategic Foresight & Innovation Student Project, OCAD U







Regent Park, Ecological Balance in A Mixed Income Community, Laura Dempsey, Ioyope Jbodu, Carolina Quiros, Amy Satterwaithe, Understanding Systems & Systemic Design, Strategic Foresight & Innovation Student Project, OCAD U

thank you



Bibliography Resources

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