



Faculty of Design

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## Panarchy as a Sensemaking Tool

Giancola, Mikal M

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# “Panarchy” as a Sensemaking Tool

Mikal Giancola, MPH, DrPH(c)

Saturday, October 15, 2022

RSD11 Brighton England

#NewMacy

# Overview

- Purpose
- Describe the Adaptive Cycle
- Share my own story through Adaptive Cycle
- Use the slides as a framework for your own stories
- Develop questions/hypotheses
- Reflect on the utility of this framework in practice

## Sources/Lean More...

- Panarchy: Understanding Transformations in Human and Natural Systems. (Gunderson & Holling, 2002)
- <https://www.resalliance.org>

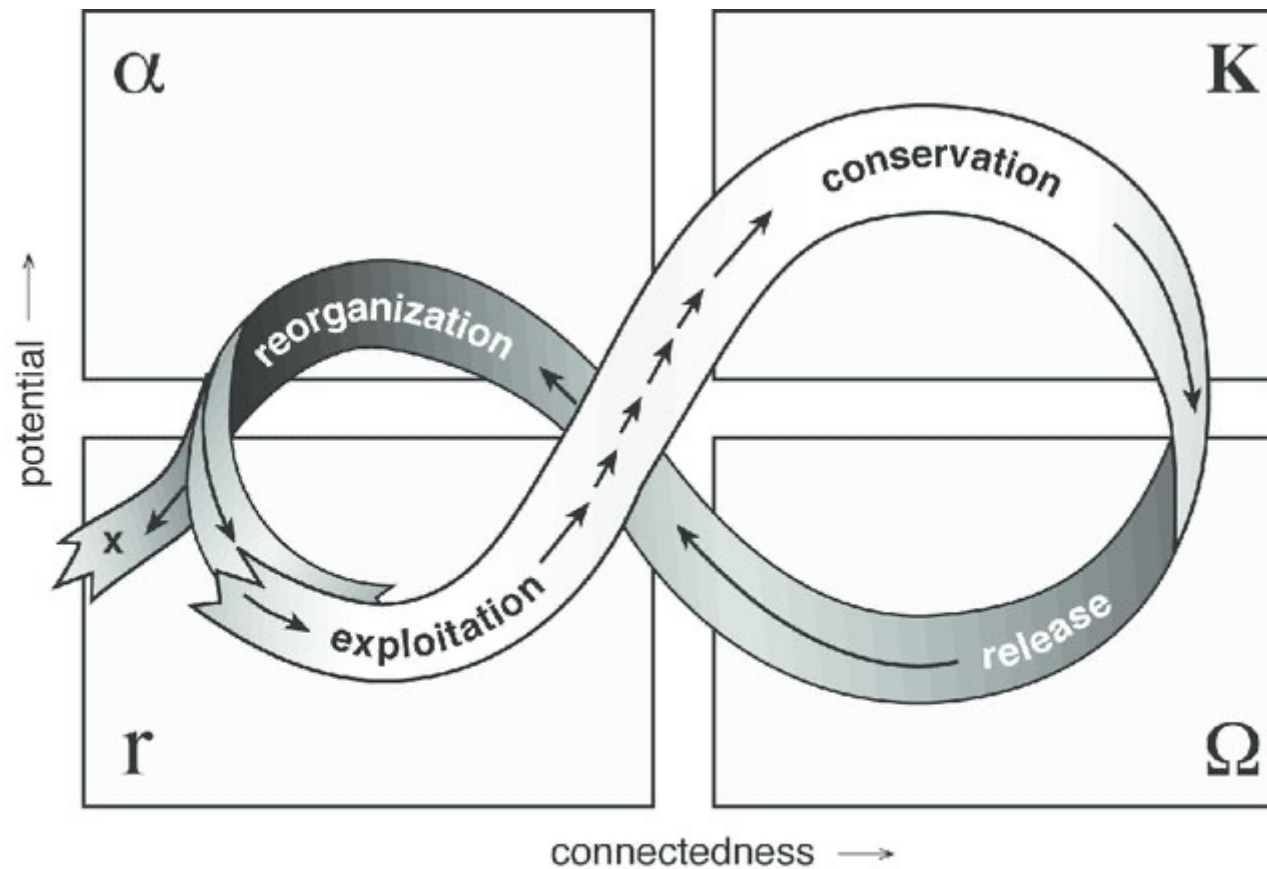
# Mikal 'Mack' Giancola

- Candidate in the University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health DrPH in Public Health Leadership
  - Food Systems
- Work-life
  - Evaluator
  - Leadership Training
  - Action Learning Coach for Teams
- *Disclosure:* My background is in public health, not design, as my reflected by my slides...
- Help Wanted- Designer!

# Activity and Purpose for Today

- Use frameworks to facilitate understanding of adapting as a non-linear and evolutionary process
- Play with the Adaptive Cycle as a framework to understand how to reduce vulnerability/increase resilience
- Gain experience adapting this as a framework for potential future use
- Generate questions for you to leave with

# What is the Adaptive Cycle?



The adaptive cycle (from Panarchy, edited by Lance H. Gunderson and C.S. Holling: Figure 2-1 (page 34). Copyright © 2002 Island Press.

# Why use the Adaptive Cycle?

*“...[T]he goal is to develop a framework for adaptive change that has generality. Such a framework is hardly a theory, therefore. Rather it is a metaphor to help interpret events and their gross causes”*

*(Panarchy pg. 33)*

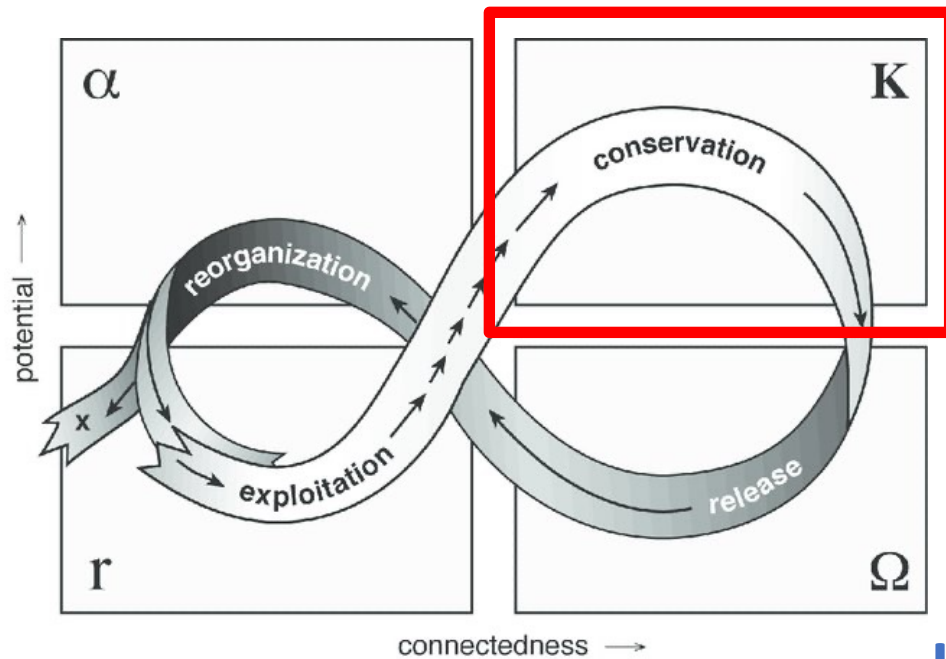


# My Intention for today

I hope that you will come out of this thinking of resilience as evolution through learning, as opposed to “bouncing back,” as it is commonly referred to

# Conservation: How does the status quo look?

H  
O  
T



The adaptive cycle (from Panarchy, edited by Lance H. Gunderson and C.S. Holling: Figure 2-1 (page 34). Copyright © 2002 Island Press.

**Let your taste buds explore the city.**

COOLinary New Orleans is back! Here's your chance to taste the best of New Orleans at the best prices of the year. Join us for this annual culinary tradition featuring prix-fixe lunch and dinner menus all August long.

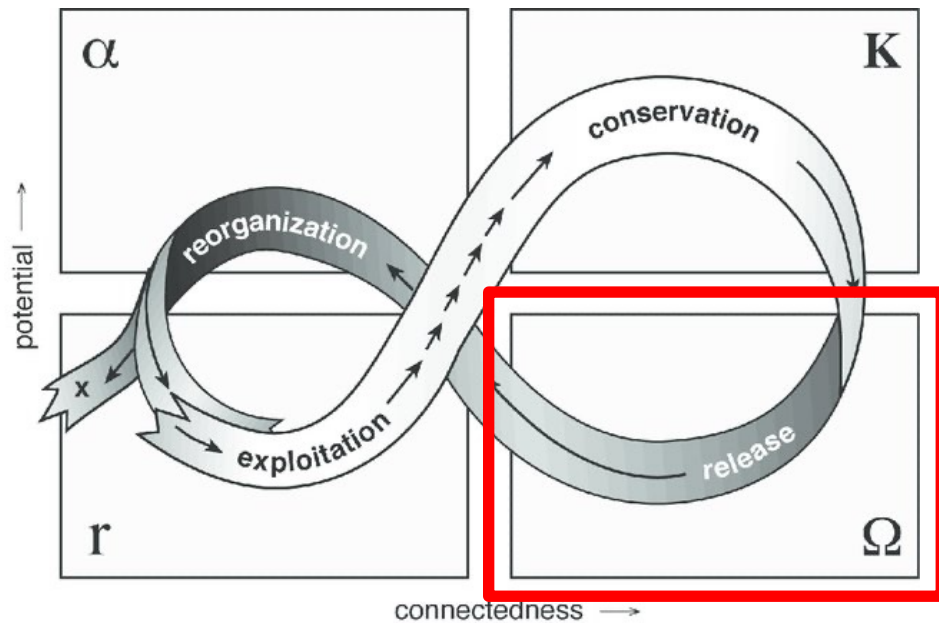
More than 60 amazing restaurants are participating in COOLinary New Orleans with inventive menus for brunch, lunch and dinner. Check out our favorites.

HUMID



<https://www.accuweather.com/en/hurricane/hurricane-watches-issued-for-new-orleans-parts-of-gulf-coast/1006485>  
<https://www.neworleans.com/coolinary/>

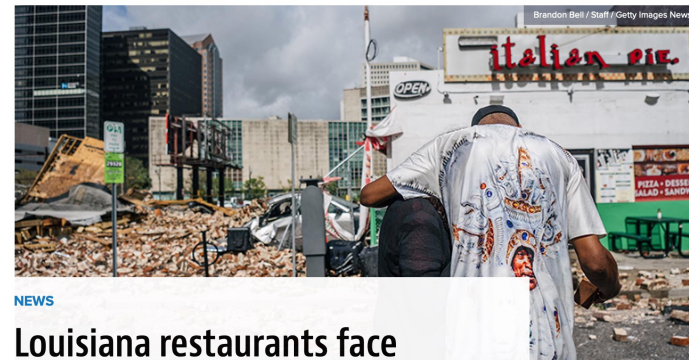
# Release: Blown Apart!



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**Category 4 storm forecast to make landfall on Sunday**  
**Mayor warns: 'Time is not on our side'**



NEWS

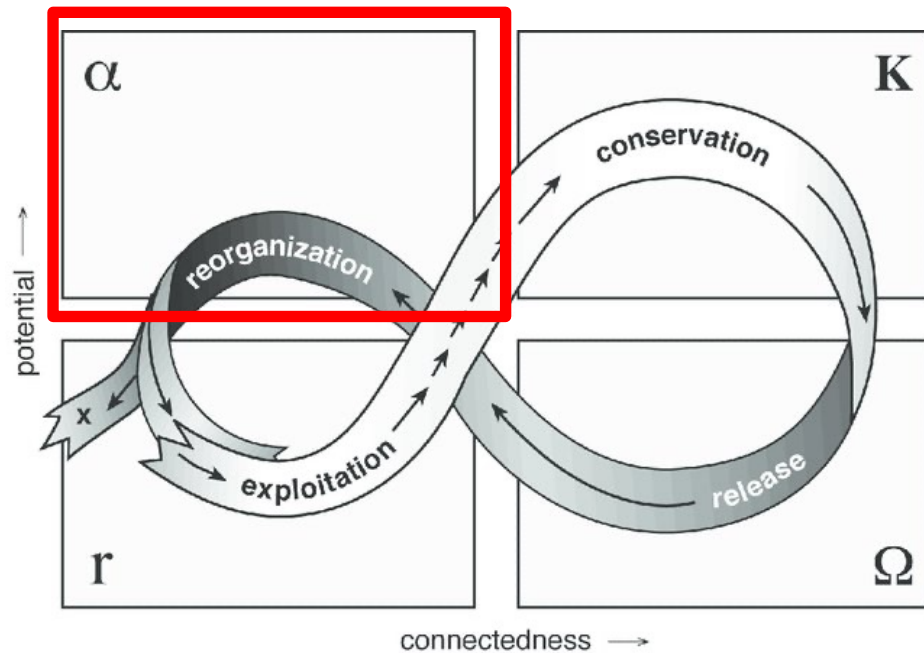
## Louisiana restaurants face potentially weeks without power following yet another massive storm

The few restaurants that could open reportedly did a brisk business, with many residents looking for comfort food as they dealt with assessing damage and the prospect of extended power outages.

- <https://www.nrn.com/news/louisiana-restaurants-face-potentially-weeks-without-power-following-yet-another-massive-storm>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/28/hurricane-ida-thousands-evacuate-new-orleans>



# Reorganization:



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At Wishing Town Bakery Cafe in Metairie, staff work furiously to package up the kitchen's inventory to give away to anyone who showed up, with whole cakes, prepped dumplings and raw ingredients dished out, on Aug. 31, after Hurricane Ida cut power to the New Orleans area. (Staff photo by Ian McNulty, Nola.com | The Times-Picayune)

Jessica and Alonzo Knox did the same thing at their Basin Street café Backatown Coffee Parlour, leaving their own home that was damaged in the

*“Friends in the restaurant business started bringing food from their kitchens to donate, and regular customers leaving the blacked-out city post-storm brought groceries from their own pantries there on the way out. Within days, what Kelly had started with a table full of goods and a few coffee pots had taken over the entire bakery, with caches of supplies inside and various cooking stations around the parking lot, producing burgers, steaks and even fresh juice and gazpacho made using bins of fresh produce restaurants had left out for community use in the outage.”*

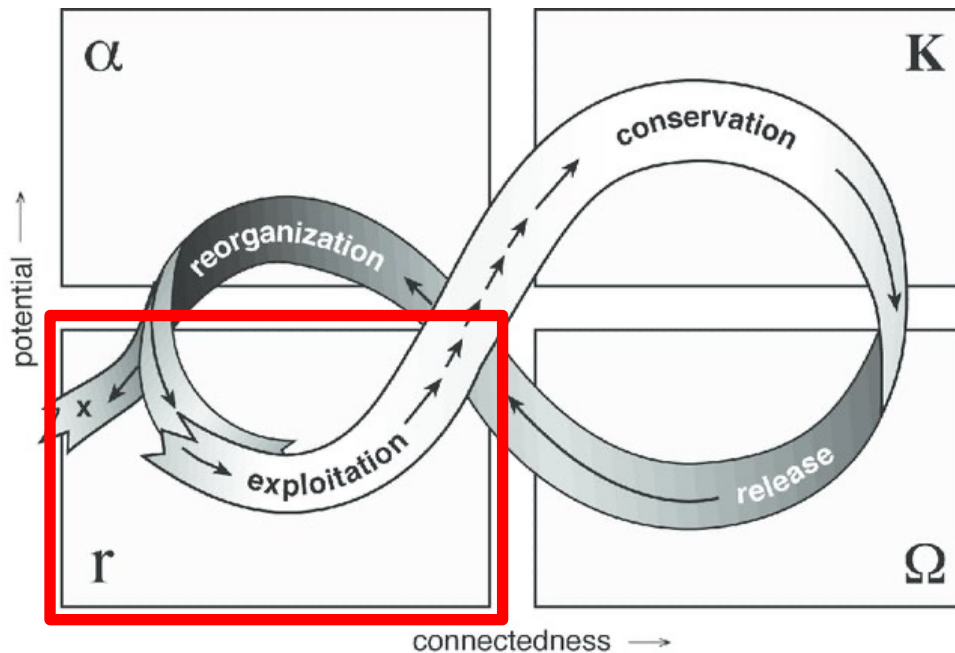
[https://www.nola.com/entertainment-life/eat-drink/article\\_5bc85eec-0cfa-11ec-850d-f34dbf570651.html](https://www.nola.com/entertainment-life/eat-drink/article_5bc85eec-0cfa-11ec-850d-f34dbf570651.html)

# Exploitation

## How NOLA restaurants are preparing to be first responders before the next hurricane

Keeping restaurants running after a hurricane means communities will have food, cooling centers and power alternatives

**Opinion** | How to lessen suffering after the worst hurricanes? Outfit restaurants with solar panels and batteries.



The adaptive cycle (from Panarchy, edited by Lance H. Gunderson and C.S. Holling: Figure 2-1 (page 34). Copyright © 2002 Island Press.

## GET LIT STAY LIT

### RESILIENT RESTAURANTS FOR THE FUTURE OF NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans is one of the best food cities in the world - and almost every neighborhood in our city has a great restaurant or two. When the next hurricane hits..... those restaurants could become the "first first responder" for our community. . . we want to help empower them to serve their neighborhood.....

This can be done through solar + batteries, making each restaurant a micro-grid. Then, when the power goes out, that restaurant will still have power. Freezers and fridges stay operational, and lots of food is kept safe . . . instead of throwing away thousands of pounds of food, the restaurant can use that to feed the community....

in addition to saving food waste, a "Stay Lit" restaurant can become a cooling center, a phone charging center, a food-distribution hub, and a place where neighbors can grab a little ice.....

additional benefits are: less job interruptions, stronger small businesses, more compassion in relief-work (as it's local)

Each restaurant installation will cost between \$60,000 to \$90,000 - which is a lot, but that can save lives in the aftermath of the next hurricane....

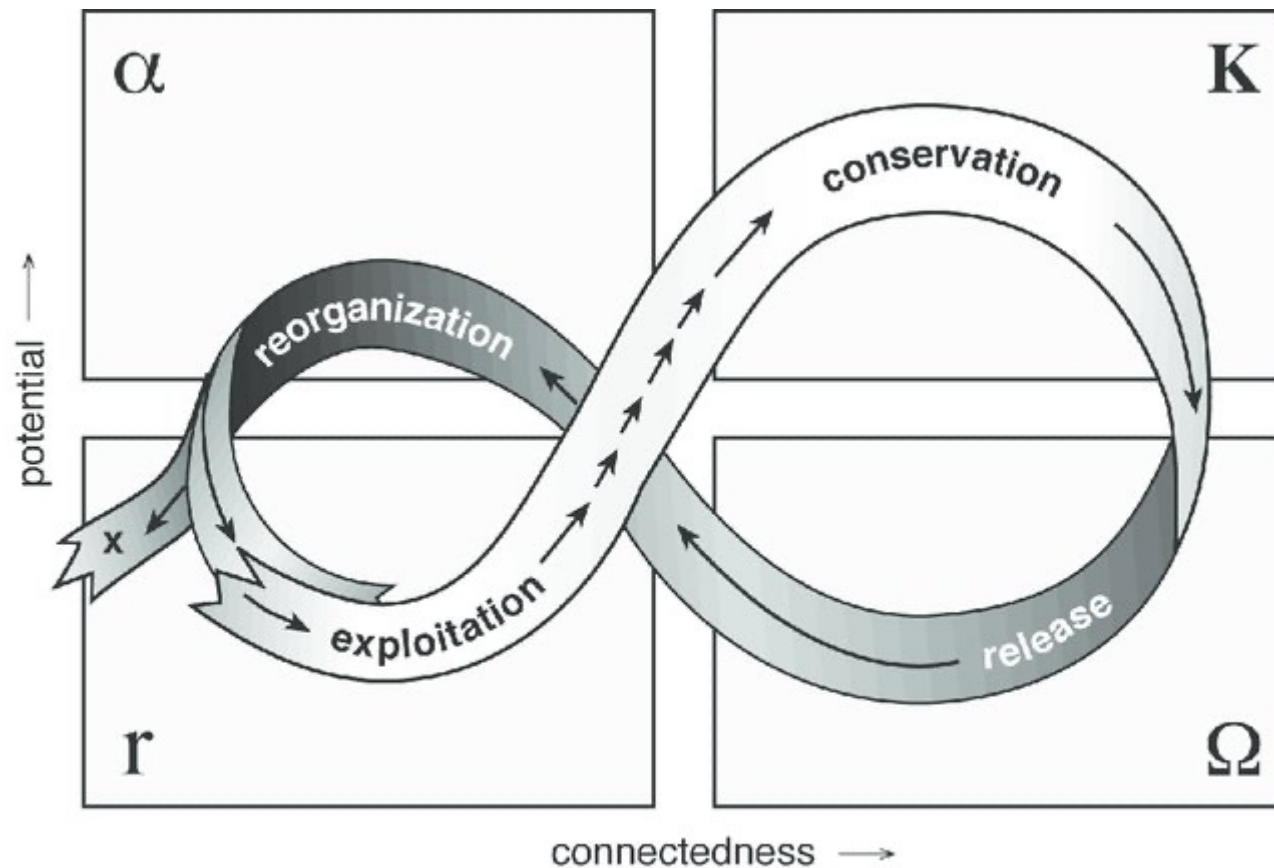
Screenshot

W

<https://www.foxweather.com/weather-news/new-orleans-restaurants-first-responders-hurri>  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/09/14/hurricanes-solar-panels-batteries-restaura>

<https://vimeo.com/599947966>

# Review of the Adaptive Cycle

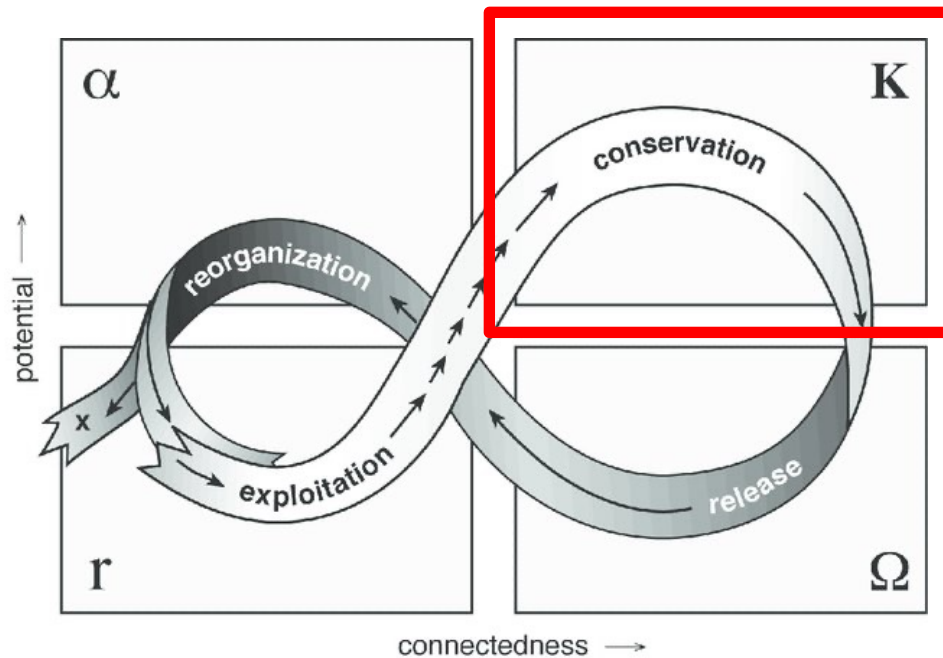


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# Instructions: Workshop

- Work in pairs using the Adaptive Cycle Framework (personal, interpersonal, organizational, social, political, imaginary etc...) to develop your story.
  - One member will develop their story, and the pair will ask questions- feel free to use the ones on the slides.
- Bring the story back to the group if you would like to tell it
- Develop questions or hypotheses based on your use of the framework and share them with the group

# Conservation

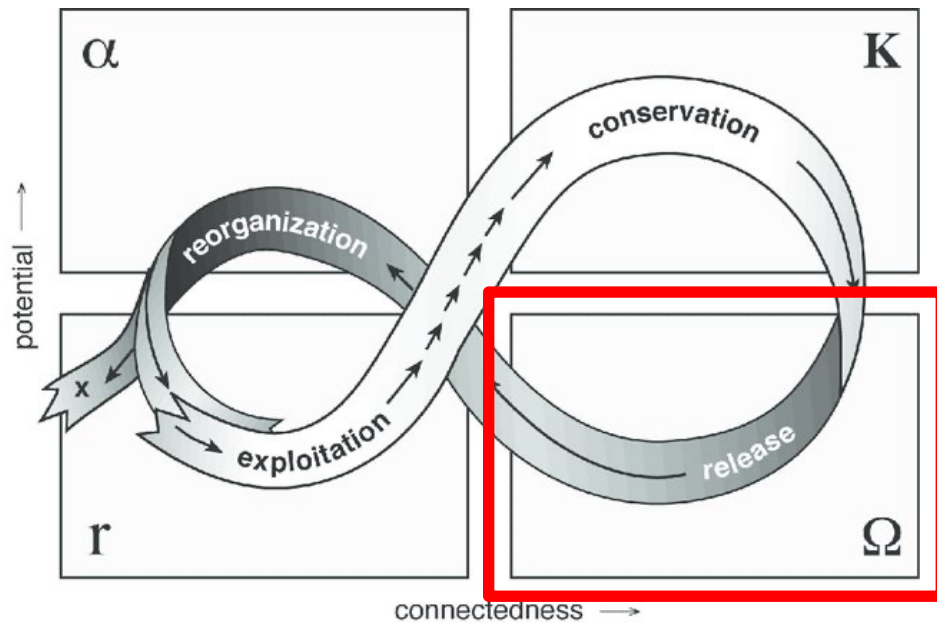


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- What date/era/in the past are you starting with?
- What are some characteristics of this prior status quo?
  - You may come back to this and fill in as your memory is jogged



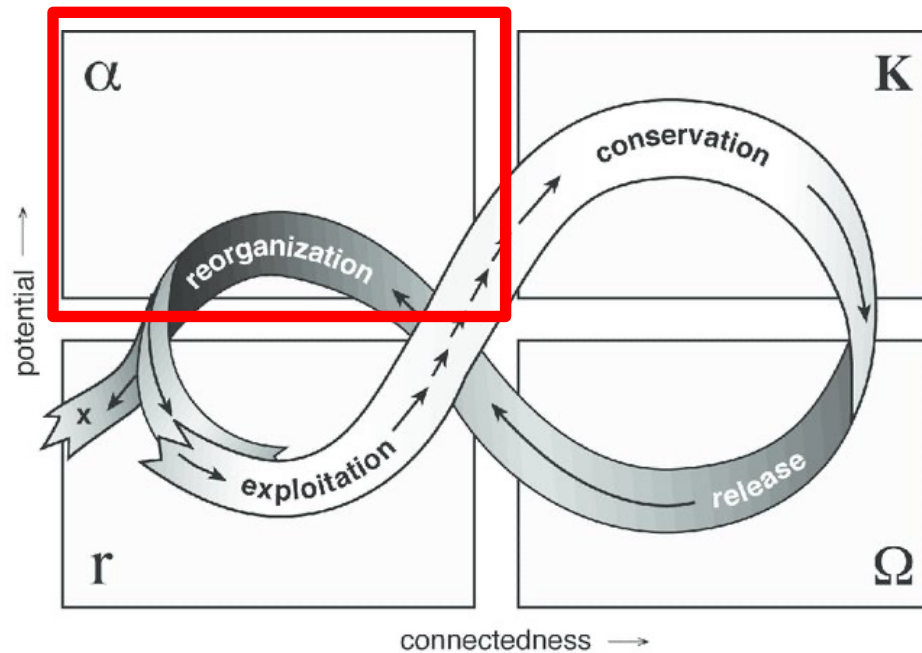
# Release



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- What connections and elements fell apart, collapsed, or came undone?
- Does the release/collapse/crisis happen quickly or slowly?
- What did you learn here?

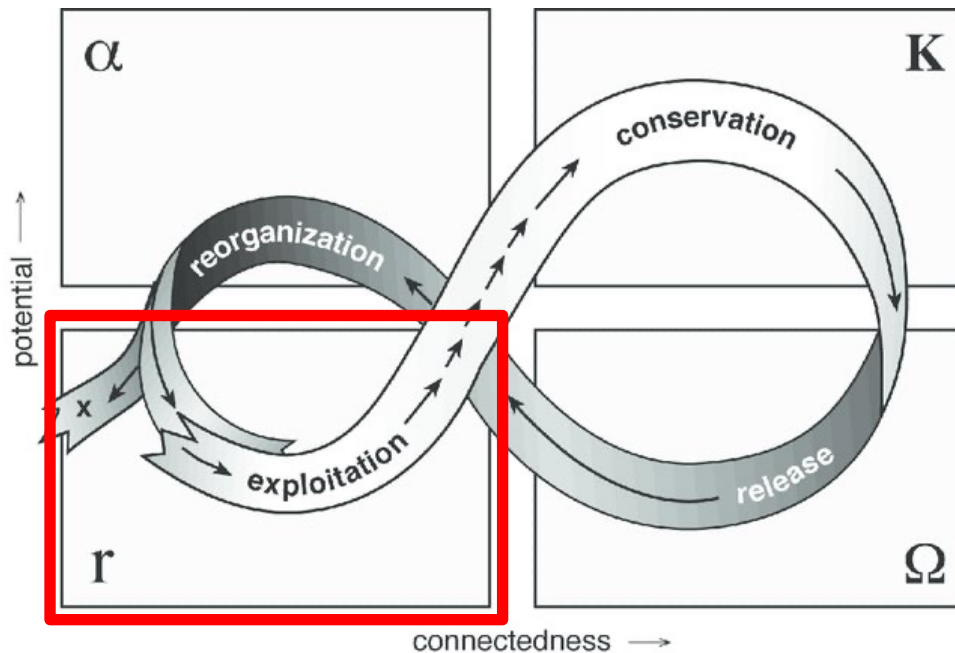
# Reorganization



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- What new things started happening? Coming Together?
- *Did anything happen here that was unexpected?*
  - *What conditions allowed that to happen?*
- What did you experiment with that did not continue?
- What role did your relationships with others play in “reorganizing?”
- How quickly/slowly did this happen?

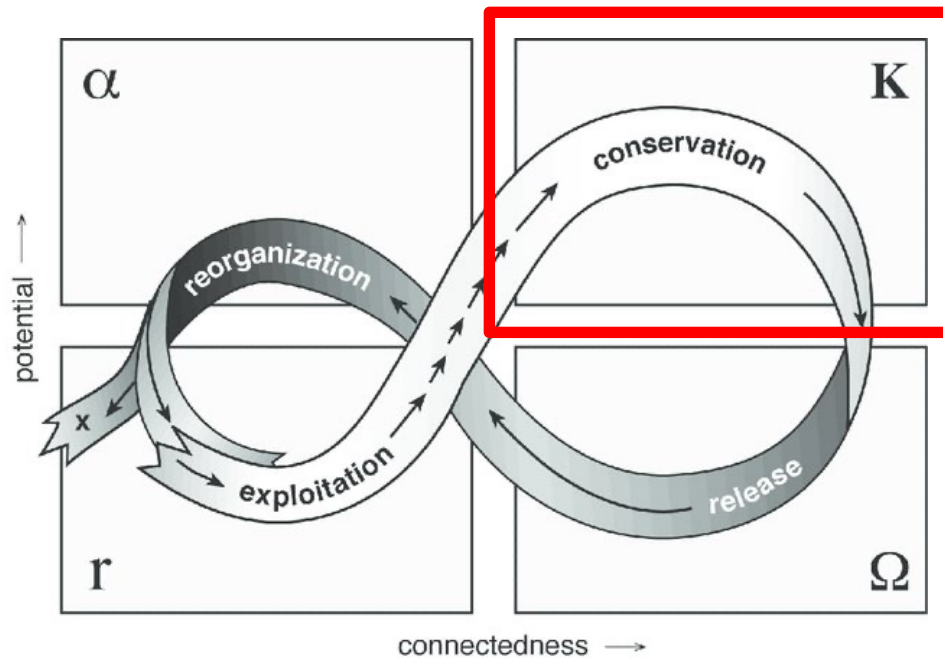
# Exploitation



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- What took hold from the alpha-stage and increased?
- What has been allocated resources?
  - Were they scaled up based on those resources?
  - How is resource allocation different from before?
- How slowly or quickly is the scaling happening?

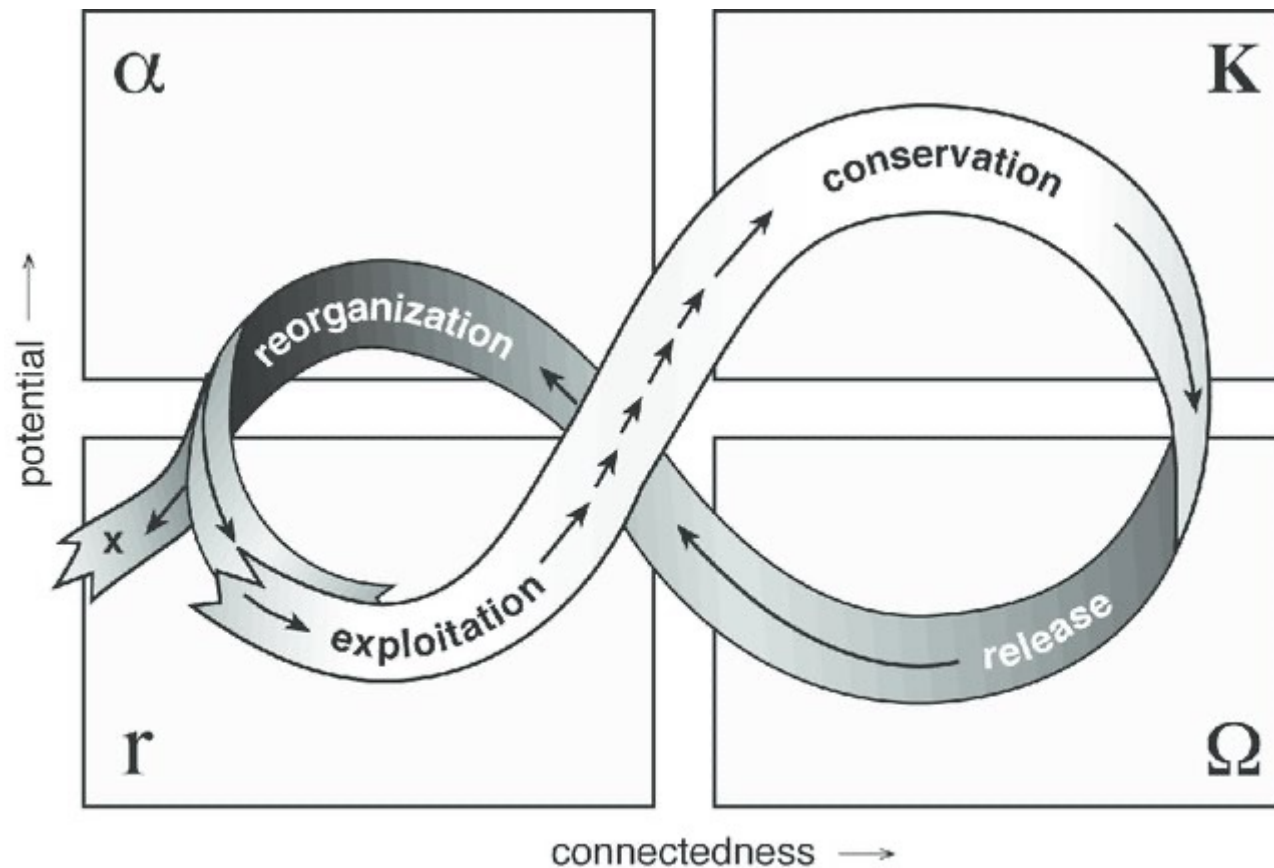
# Conservation



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- What are some characteristics of the present?
  - How would you describe it?
- Compare the present to the prior state (K).
  - What are the similarities and differences?

Share your story with the group:



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# Conclusions/Beginnings/Conclusions/...

- How did working with a partner (languaging?) help/shape the story's development?
- What might have pushed the transitions between the phases?
  - You may still be trapped in a phase- are you?
- After this exercise, what is important to focus on?
- What is important to keep your eye on but in the periphery?

# Thank You

Mikal 'Mack' Giancola

[mgiancol@gmail.com](mailto:mgiancol@gmail.com)

+1 (504) 939-2295

[Linkedin.com/mackgiancola](https://www.linkedin.com/mackgiancola)