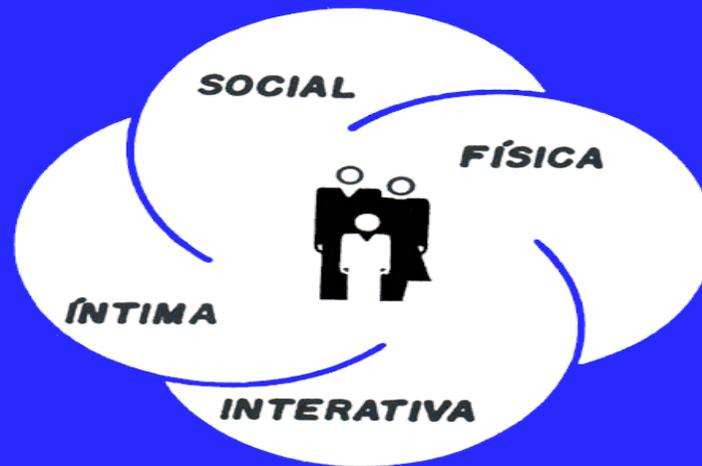
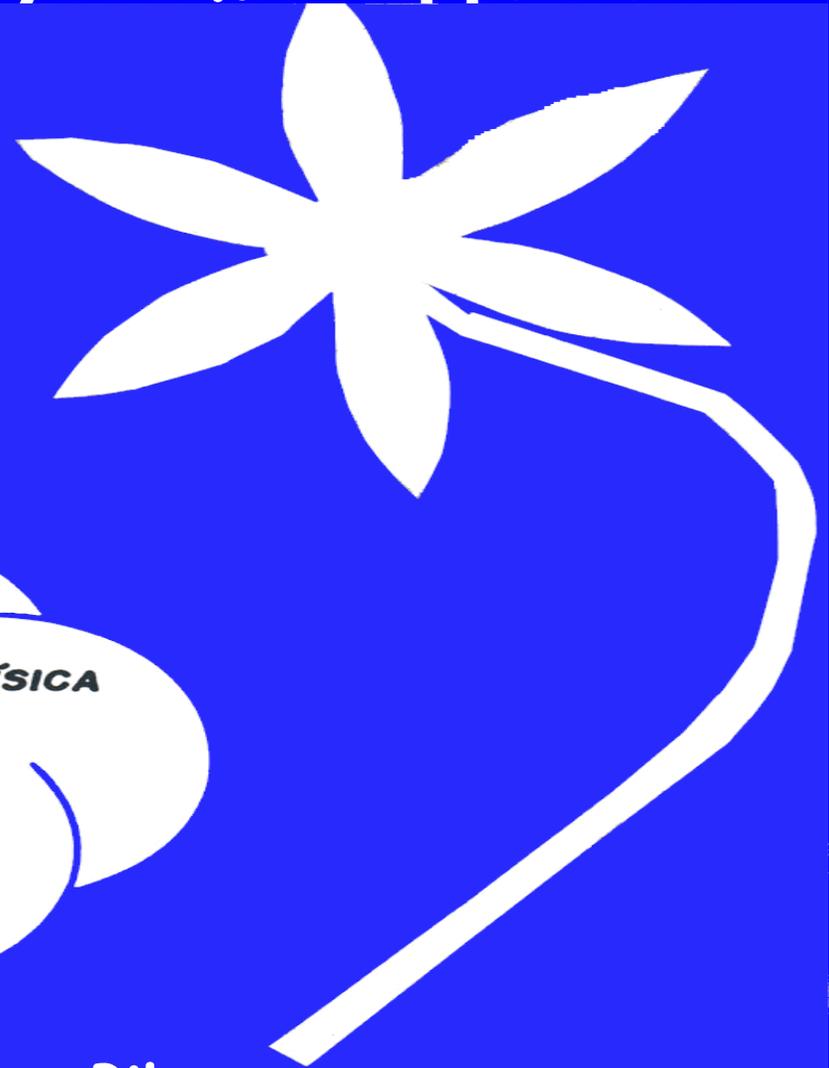
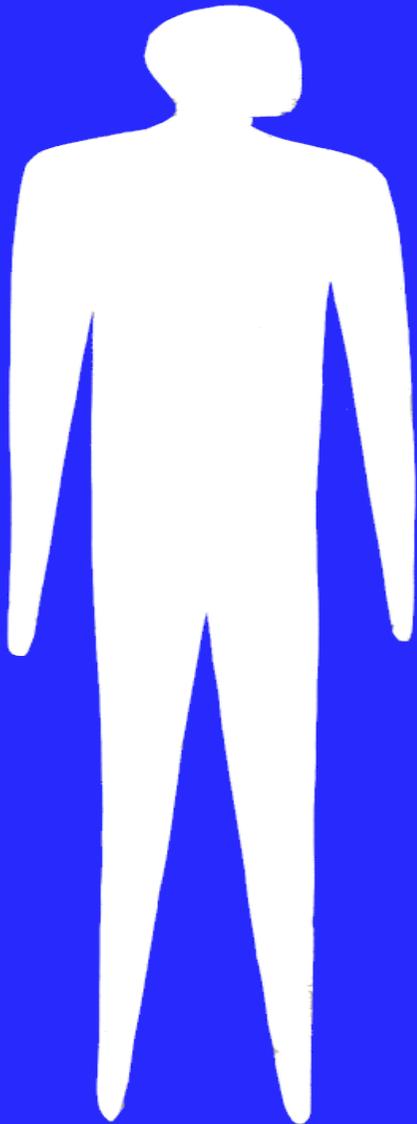
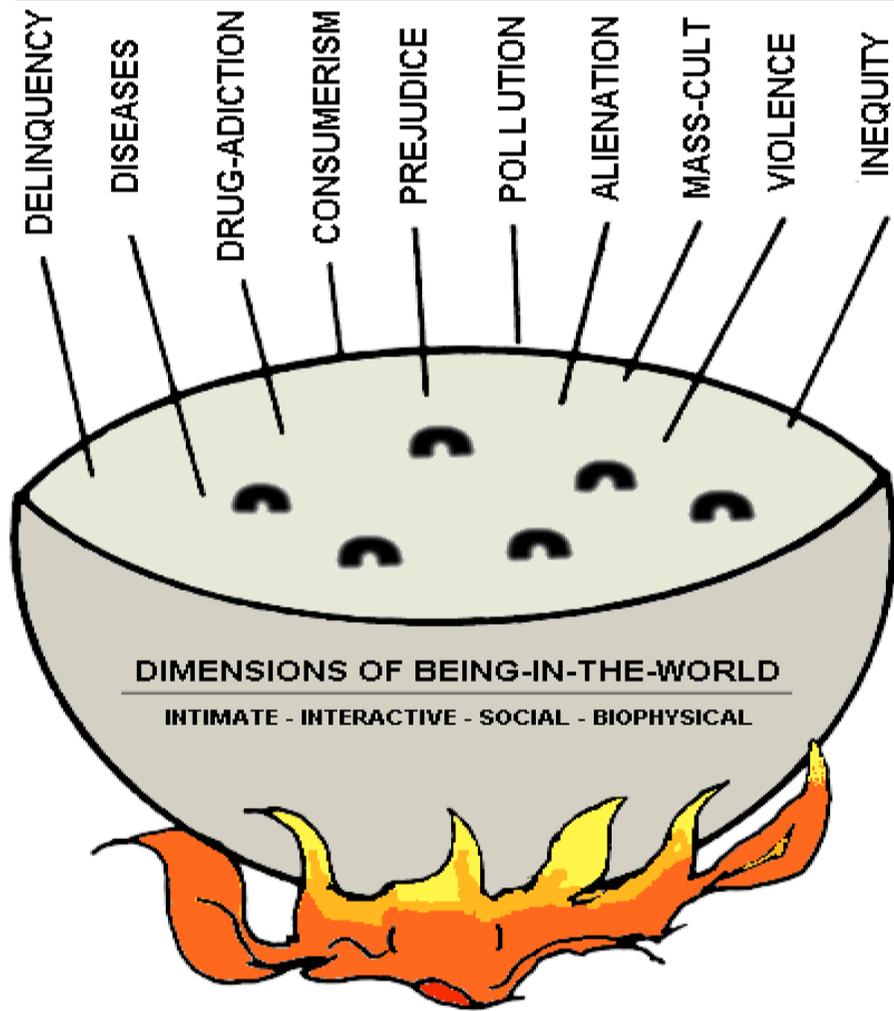


# Global Transformation in the Mirror of the Ecosystemic Approach



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# The Bubbles or the Boiling Pot? Where to Find the Real Problems



The real problems are not the in bubbles of the surface, as sorted out by the market-place interests, the academic formats, or the mass-media headlines, but in the entanglement of environmental, political, economic, and cultural systemic conditions.

# Cultural, Political, Economic and Environmental Threats

- Political-economic power asymmetries
- Corporations-oriented public policies
- Bigoted "development", "growth" paradigms
- Inhospitable and violent urban centers
- Lack of natural and cultural public spaces
- Degraded areas, noise, stress, crime
- Deforestation, pesticides, mining
- Pollutants, additives, plastics
- Meat, sugar, alcohol, fats consumption
- Electromagnetic fields, pathogenic germs
- Environmental change distress: solastalgia



# Business and Institutions Connubiality

Because of the strong connubiality between political institutions and business corporations, green practices and eco-innovations suffer fierce resistance and are blocked in the very heart of the system.



Sustainability Transitions, The Research Network

CONSUMERIST  
PROFIT-ORIENTED

GLOBAL STRUCTURES  
OF VIOLENCE

SOCIO-POLITICAL-  
ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

INEQUITIES  
CULTURAL BREAKDOWN

PRIVATISATION OF  
PUBLIC GOODS

ENVIRONMENTAL  
COLLAPSE

SOCIAL, MENTAL AND  
PHYSICAL ILLNESS

# The Four Dimensions' Interplay in the Fabric of the Events

**INTIMATE  
PERSONAL**  
+  
**INTERACTIVE  
RELATIONAL**  
+  
**SOCIAL  
POLITICAL  
ECONOMIC**  
+  
**BIOPHYSICAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL**



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# Dimensions' Interplay in Poor Livelihoods Conditions

**INTIMATE**  
Lack of  
Resilience  
+  
**INTERACTIVE**  
Group  
Marginalization  
+  
**SOCIAL**  
Cultural  
Vulnerabilities  
+  
**-BIOPHYSICAL**  
Unhealthy  
Environments



# A Four-Dimensional Ecosystemic Framework for Planning and Evaluation

	<b>INTIMATE</b>	<b>INTERACTIVE</b>	<b>SOCIAL</b>	<b>BIOPHYSICAL</b>
<b>DIAGNOSIS OF THE EVENTS</b>	SUBJECTS' COGNITIVE AND AFFECTIVE ACTUAL STATUS	GROUPS ' AND COMMUNITIES' DYNAMICS AND COHESION	PUBLIC POLICIES LAW ENACTMENT CITIZENSHIP PARTICIPATION	NATURAL AND MAN-MADE ENVIRONMENTS BEINGS, THINGS
<b>ELICITING NEW EVENTS</b>	DEVELOPMENT OF SUBJECTS' EXISTENTIAL SELF-CONTROL	DEVELOPMENT OF GROUPS AND PRO-ACTIVE COMMUNITIES	DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES AND CITIZENSHIP	PROMOTION OF NATURAL AND MAN-MADE ENVIRONMENTS
<b>IMPACT ON EACH DIMENSION</b>	ENHANCEMENT OF SUBJECTS' WELL-BEING	ENHANCEMENT OF GROUPS AND COMMUNITIES	ENHANCEMENT OF POLICIES AND CITIZENSHIP	ENHANCEMENT OF OVERALL ENVIRONMENT

# Dimensions' Reciprocity in the Ecosystemic Model of Culture

	Dimensions as Donors			
Recipient Dimension	<i>INTIMATE</i>	<i>INTER-ACTIVE</i>	<i>SOCIAL</i>	<i>BIO-PHYSICAL</i>
<i>INTIMATE</i>	<small>Creativeness</small> creativity	<small>Support</small> support	<small>Services</small> services	<small>Vitality</small> vitality
<i>INTER-ACTIVE</i>	altruism	team-work	alliances	<small>Niches</small> niches
<i>SOCIAL</i>	citizenship	partnerships	<small>Organisation</small> equity	<small>Spaces</small> spaces
<i>BIO-PHYSICAL</i>	<small>Care</small> care	<small>Preservation</small> defence	sustainability	<small>Equilibrium</small> balance

# Dimensions' Disruptions in the Non-Ecosystemic Model of Culture

		Dimensions as Inflictors			
Suffering Dimension	<i>INTIMATE</i>	<i>INTER-ACTIVE</i>	<i>SOCIAL</i>	<i>BIO-PHYSICAL</i>	
<i>INTIMATE</i>	<small>Creativeness</small> solipsism	<small>Support</small> subjection	<small>Services:</small> neglect	<small>Vitality</small> harm	
<i>INTER-ACTIVE</i>	egotism	fanaticism	<small>Diversity:</small> co-opting	<small>Niches</small> dispersal	
<i>SOCIAL</i>	abuse	corporatism	<small>Organisation:</small> tyranny	<small>Spaces</small> extinction	
<i>BIO-PHYSICAL</i>	<small>Care:</small> injury	<small>Preservation</small> damage	spoliation	un-balance	

# Working with the Socio-Cultural Learning Niches

- Niches are “new structures”, protective spaces for “path breaking innovations”, having three functions in the transition processes: “shielding, nurturing and empowering” (Smith and Raven, 2012); a small core of agents emerges within the system as the incumbent for innovation, emergent structures form around niches for their development and the emergence of niche-regimes” (Frantzeskaki and Loorbach, 2009).

# Intimate Dimension Unveiling Subject-Object Relationships

- Current paradigms, forms of being-in-the-world, epistemic positions, are unveiled by asking the participants to write down (in a non-identified piece of paper), whatever comes to their minds when intermediary objects are passed along in the group: images to catch the eyes, illustrations, curious things (bottle caps linked by a string, etc.)

# Interactive Dimension

## Sharing Perceptions in the Group

- The written statements are subsequently distributed out of sort to all the participants, who share their form and content by reading them aloud; the experience goes beyond individual initial perceptions and is enriched by the contributions of all the participants.

# Social Dimension

## Creating New Ways for Being-in-the-World

- Ecosystemic and non-ecosystemic forms of being-in-the-world are examined, economical, political, cultural, social and environmental consequences are analysed, present values, current and potential new paradigms of work, power, wealth, growth and freedom are confronted in view of their meaning for overall quality of life.

# Biophysical Dimension

## Reassessment of Concepts and Actions

The environment is understood as a concept, a domain of scientific enquiry, an object of knowledge, encompassing the relationships between beings and things, man's activities upon the built and natural milieu, co-existing with the vital processes and integrating our perceptions and everyday life experiences.

# Epistemic Analysis

## Subject-Object Relationships

- *Common-sense*: Adherence to established, stereotyped preconceptions.
- *Academic*: reduction to logical categories, describing to achieve closure.
- *Dependency*: Trust on exterior authority to qualify own experience.
- *Resistance*: Refusal to being involved, failure to see meaning in the experience.
- *Dogmatism*: Compliance to fixed paradigms for being-in-the-world.
- *Appropriation*: alteration of cognitive, affective and conative processes.

# Thematic Analysis

## Contents in the Four Dimensions

- ▶ *Intimate* Description of the experience in view of own expectations and desires.
- ▶ *Interactive* Description of the experience in view of the relationships with other people.
- ▶ *Social* Description of the experience in view of political-economical-social aspects.
- ▶ *Biophysical* Description of the experience in view of the natural and built environments.

# Selected Statements in a Socio-Cultural Learning Niche

- 1) "Three black seeds, three elastically connected bottle caps, three white river stones and a heart shaped, dried, open seed pot lay in a white rectangular open top plastic container; remains of living plants, time worn rocks and man-made metal objects represent earth materials"
- 2) "Box having within: 3 bottle caps tied up by an elastic string (it may suggest interaction, integration, inter-personal communication, horizontality); a seashell, 3 pink stones (it may suggest compartment, non integration between parts); a ribbon of paper with the inscription: how many parts have a grain? (it may suggest the type of information discussed, interaction)."
- 3) "I wonder what type of music these items make; was/is the heart-shaped thing good to eat?; what are the little "black beans"?, how were the holes drilled in the pop tops?; what kind of soda are the 2 unfamiliar?"

# The Ecosystemic Approach: Conclusions and Policy Lessons

- ☐ Development of public policies, community projects, research and teaching programmes must combine all the dimensions of the world.
- ☐ Individuals, groups, society, natural and built environments should be considered in view of their singularity and reciprocity.
- ☐ Quality of life, physical, social and mental well-being, natural and built environments, are by-products of ecosystemic models of culture.
- ☐ Current concepts of development, power, growth, wealth, work and freedom must be changed to face the problems of difficult settlement in the world.

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"Trying to solve specific problems, without addressing the general phenomenon is a conceptual error of prevalent segmented public policies, mass media headlines and reduced academic formats."

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Instead of the "anthropocene", the next era in human history should be named "symbiocene", from the Greek symbiosis, or companionship.

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