

THE SPATIAL JUSTICE OF URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

THE OPEN CITY INITIATIVE

ROBERTO ROCCO

THE SPATIAL JUSTICE OF URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

1. How does justice underscore sustainability?
2. Why is justice crucial for the governance of the commons
(and the city)?
3. (and is the city a commons?) Can we have an OPEN
CITY?
4. What are alternatives for the “tragedy” of the commons?
5. What are new roles for Planners and Designers in this
perspective?

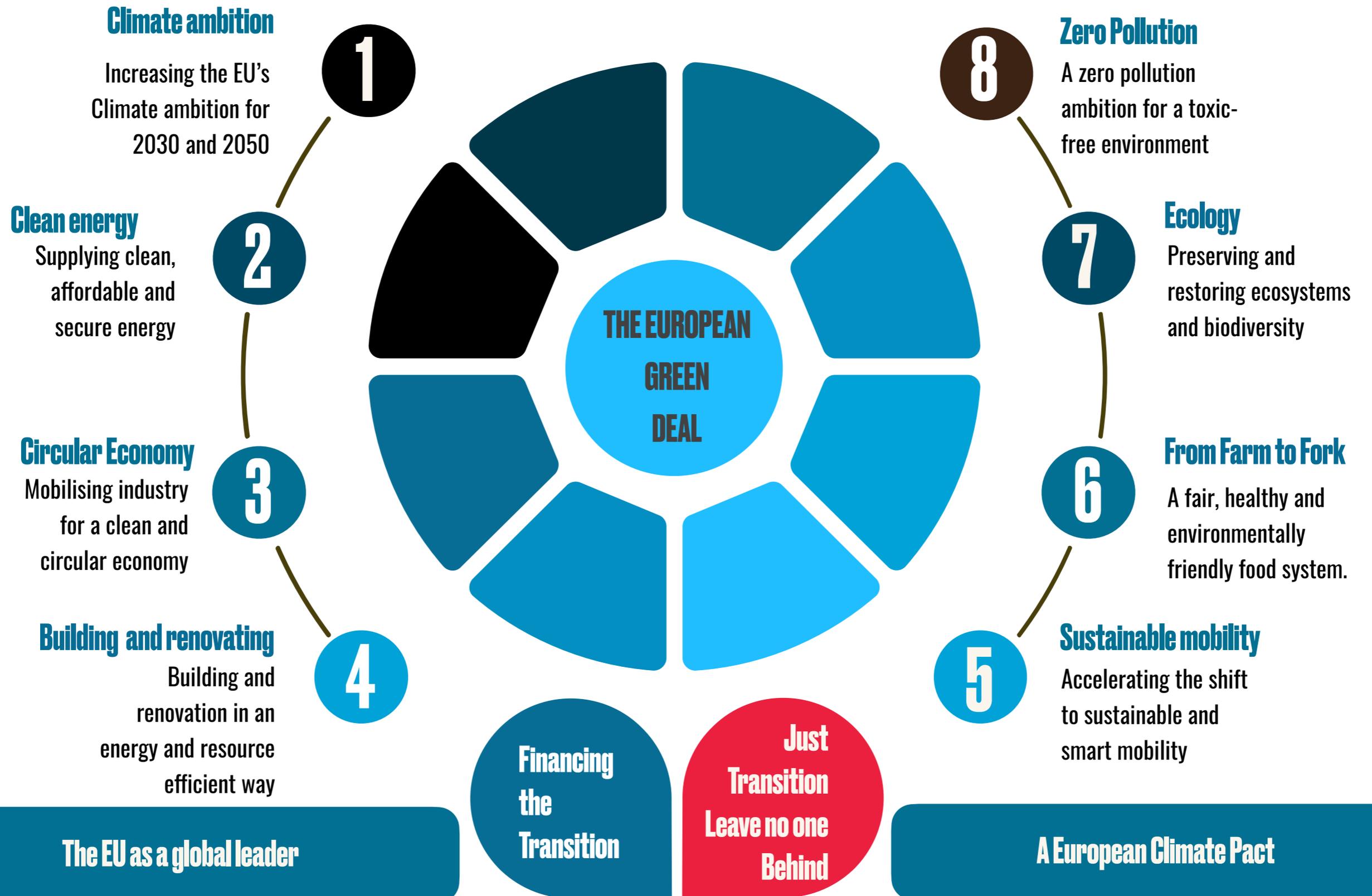
Campbell, S. D. (2013). Sustainable Development and Social Justice: Conflicting Urgencies and the Search for Common Ground in Urban and Regional Planning. Michigan Journal of Sustainability, 1(1), 75-91.

Sustainability + Justice



Transforming the EU's economy for a sustainable future

Mobilising research and fostering innovation



A large red semi-circle graphic is positioned on the left side of the page. Inside the semi-circle, the text "Just Transition Leave no one Behind" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font, arranged in three lines.

Just Transition

Leave no one

Behind



IBRAHIM



LATOYA



LAURA

I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO PLAY THE FLUTE. I CAN MAKE THE BEST USE OF IT.

UTILITARIANISM

THE EFFECTS OF ACTIONS

THE BEST OUTCOME FOR THE LARGEST NUMBER

I AM THE POOREST OF US, AND I DON'T HAVE ANY TOYS. THE FLUTE WILL MAKE ME HAPPIER.

ECONOMIC EGALITARIANISM

EQUITY OF OPPORTUNITY/ FAIR REDISTRIBUTION

CIVIL RIGHTS

I HAVE WORKED VERY HARD TO BUY THIS FLUTE. JUST WHEN I WISH TO ENJOY IT, YOU WANT TO TAKE IT AWAY FROM ME.

LIBERTARIANISM

MERIT AND HARD WORK

FREEDOM FROM OPPRESSION



"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Our Common Future (1987):The Brundtland Report

Gro Harlem Brundtland

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/3_6CL71L870](https://youtu.be/3_6CL71L870)

Basic Human
Rights

"Sustainable development is development that meets the **needs** of the present without compromising the ability of **future generations** to meet their **own needs.**"

World Commission on Environment and Development (1987).

We are not
here now!

“...even a narrow notion of physical sustainability implies a concern for social equity between generations, a concern that must logically be extended to equity within each generation”.

Brundtland Report, 1987, p.43

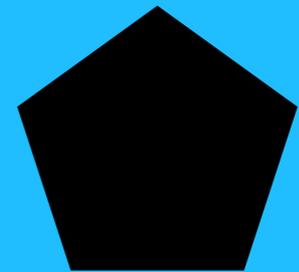
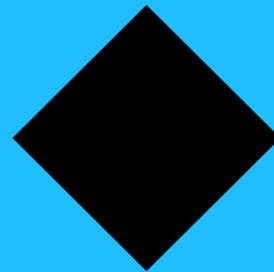


Intergenerational justice

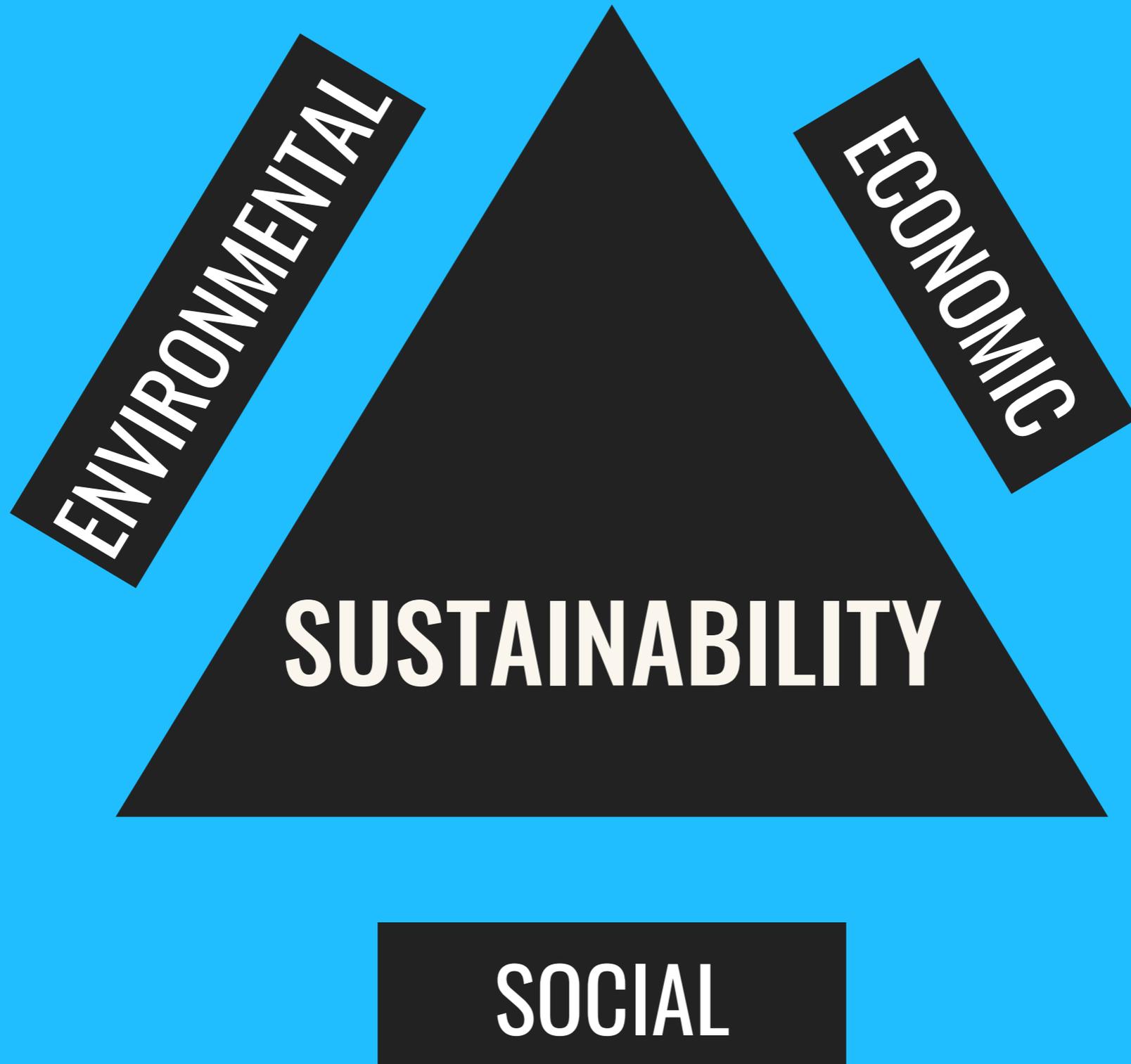


Intragenerational justice

Sustainability is multidimensional



Sustainability is multidimensional



SUSTAINABILITY IS MULTIDIMENSIONAL

**“LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY
CAN ONLY EXIST WHEN ITS THREE
CRUCIAL DIMENSIONS OCCUR
SIMULTANEOUSLY”**

Larsen, 2012



SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

**THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC
STRUCTURES THAT SUPPORT
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
(AND LIFE IN OUR PLANET).**

Social Sustainability

**Justice underscores
Social sustainability**

Moral imperative:

**“Leave no one
behind”**

Acceptability

Support

Compliance

Suitability

Coordination

John Rawls (2005)

TRUTH concerns validation

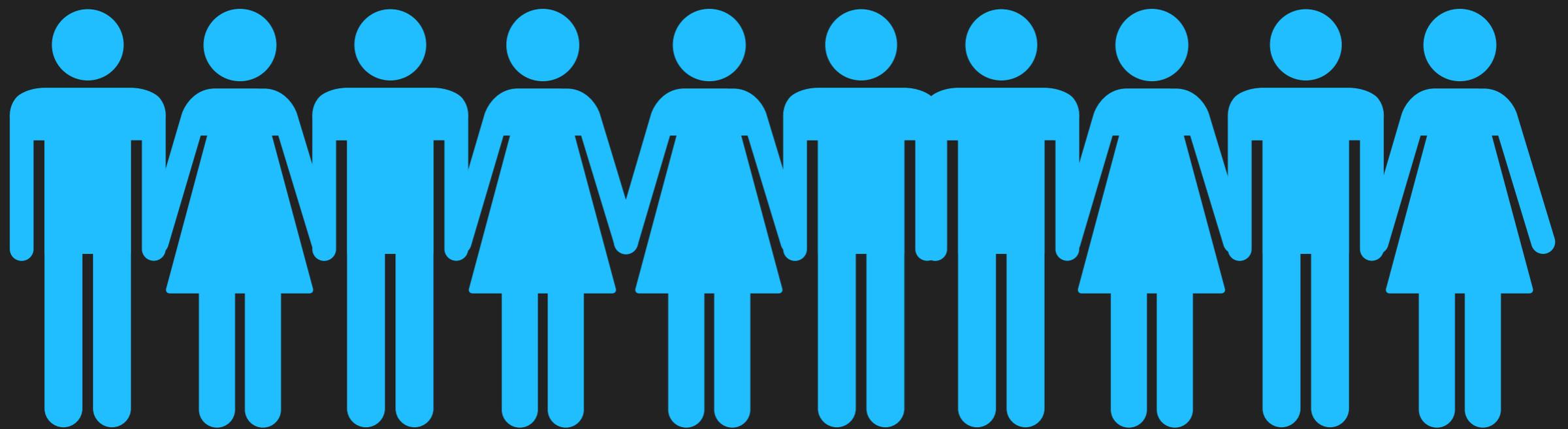
whereas

JUSTICE determines acceptability

**Both justice and truth contribute to
the formation of a democratic public
sphere.**

**Spatial
Justice?**

The “tragedy” of The Commons





ADAM SMITH'S INVISIBLE HAND

**THE UNSEEN FORCES THAT
MOVE THE FREE MARKET
ECONOMY:
THROUGH RATIONAL
INDIVIDUAL SELF-
INTEREST, THE BEST
INTEREST OF SOCIETY, AS A
WHOLE, IS FULFILLED.**



ADAM SMITH'S INVISIBLE HAND

“...HE INTENDS ONLY HIS OWN GAIN, AND HE IS IN THIS, AS IN MANY OTHER CASES, LED BY AN **INVISIBLE HAND** TO PROMOTE AN END WHICH WAS NO PART OF HIS INTENTION ...

...BY PURSUING HIS OWN INTERESTS, HE FREQUENTLY PROMOTES THAT OF THE SOCIETY MORE EFFECTUALLY THAN WHEN HE REALLY INTENDS TO PROMOTE IT.”

AN INQUIRY INTO THE NATURE AND CAUSES OF THE WEALTH OF NATIONS, 1776.



Neoclassical economics

Rational choice theory



Jason Hickel  @jasonhickel · 1d

Imagine what economic theory would look like if the basic unit of behavioral modelling wasn't an abstract, bourgeois male individual but a mother.

[HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/JASONHICKEL/STATUS/1326455726190055425](https://twitter.com/jasonhickel/status/1326455726190055425)

The Tragedy of the Commons



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+1



+1



+1



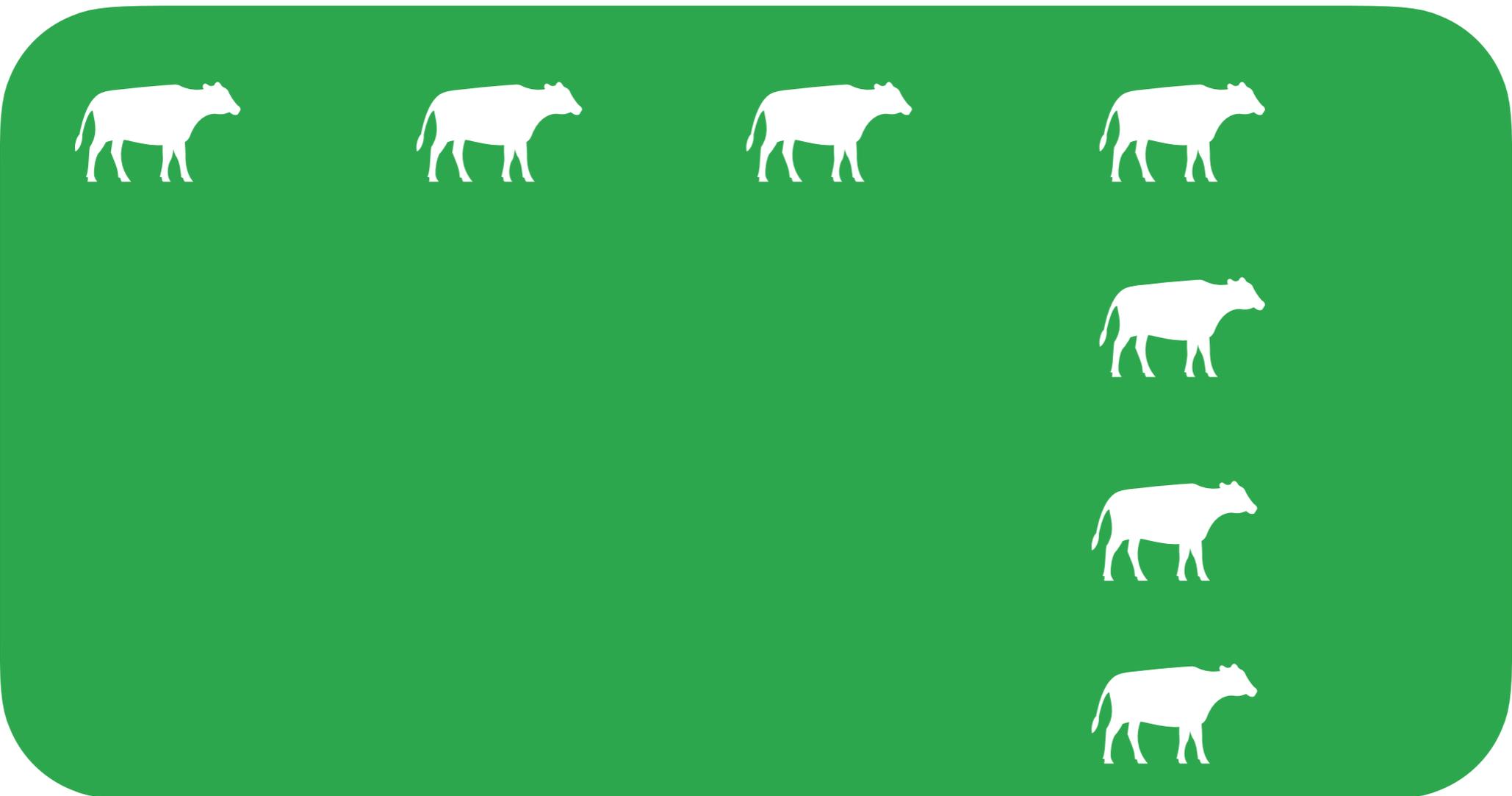
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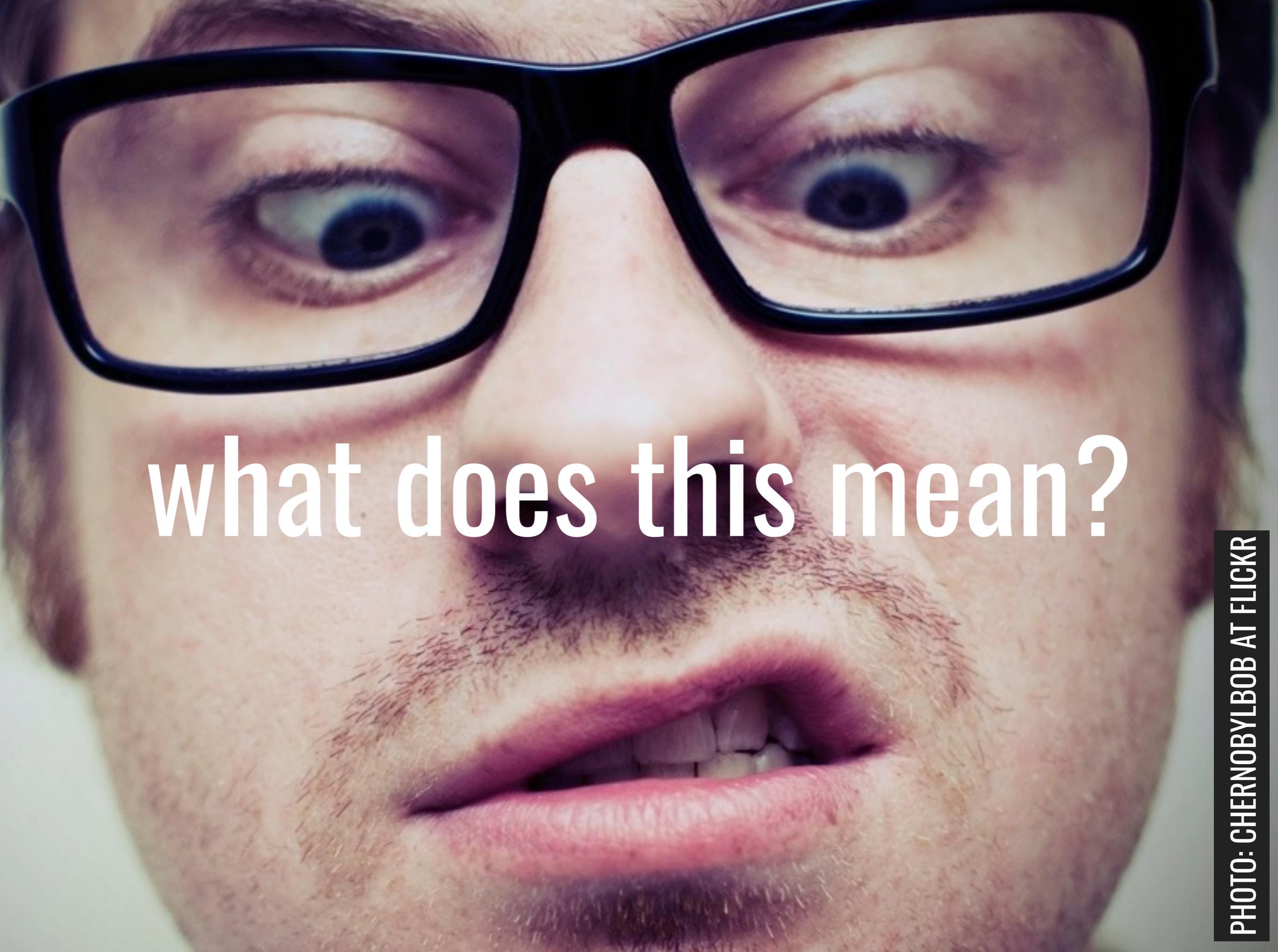
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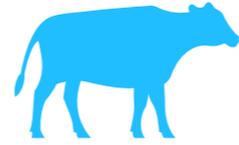
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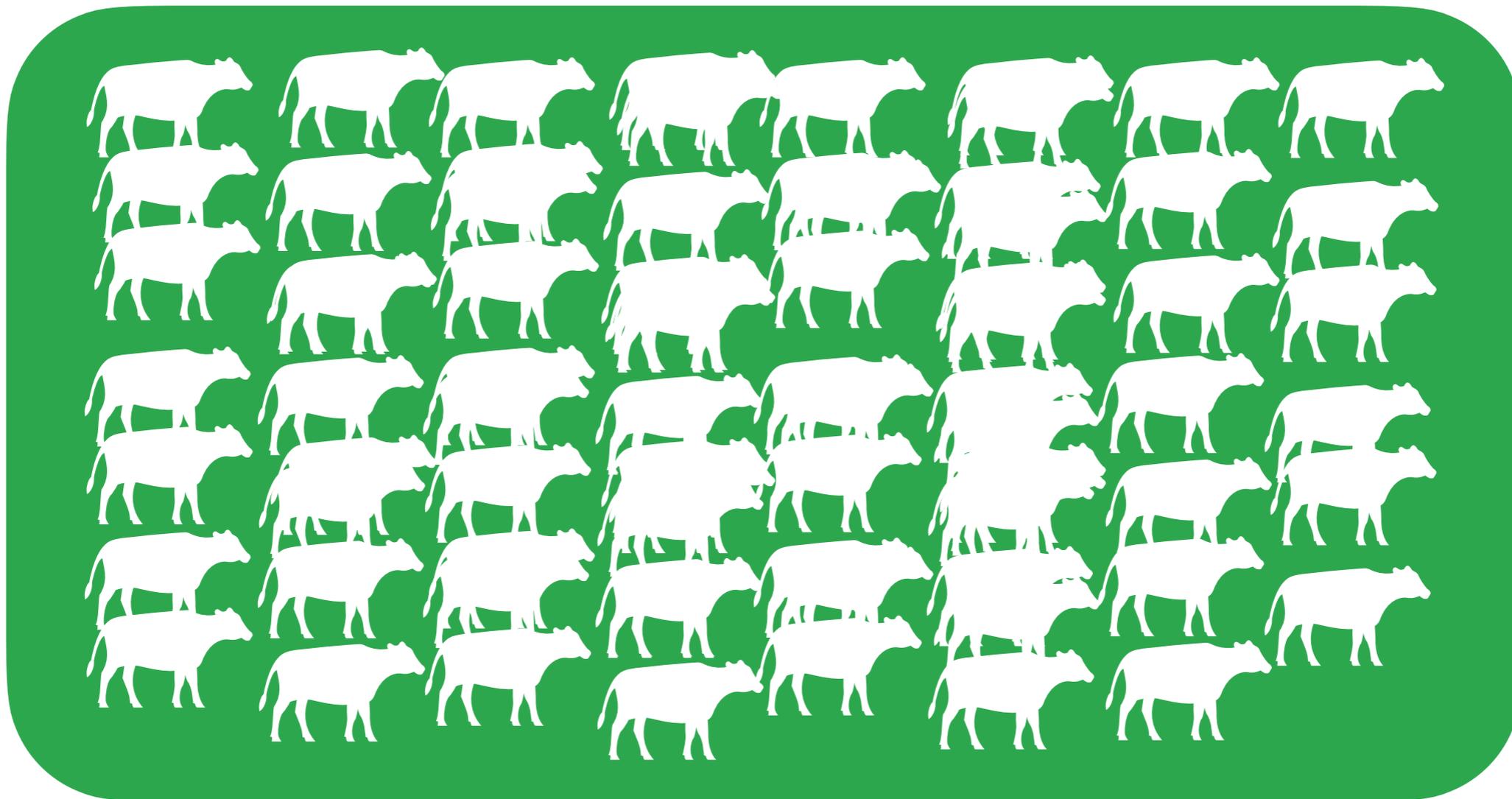
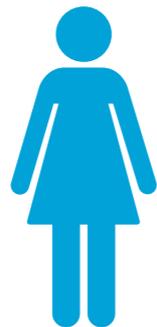


what does this mean?



**Big INCENTIVE for the farmers to
put more cows to graze in the field**

**Little INCENTIVE for them to
control the number of cows**



The boundaries of sustainability of the field have been exceeded and no resources will be available for future generations.

Unfair for future generations.

**Unfair for the vulnerable people
in THIS generation.**

This is the “tragedy” of the commons:

In a world where everyone is seeking their own self interest, if left unregulated, common resources are destined to exhaustion.

**It's an
analogy!**

**Intra
generational
justice**



**Inter
generational
justice**

**Sustainability studies start to conceptualise
our planet as a big commons**



↻ Henk Ovink Retweeted



Amina J Mohammed  @AminaJ... · 1d ...

By 2050, it's projected that 9 billion people will be sharing a finite resource – water.

To [#ValueWater](#), we need to understand that climate change, pollution and growing demand for water are adding up to scarcity.

Time to value water now!



8

↻ 107

♥ 281



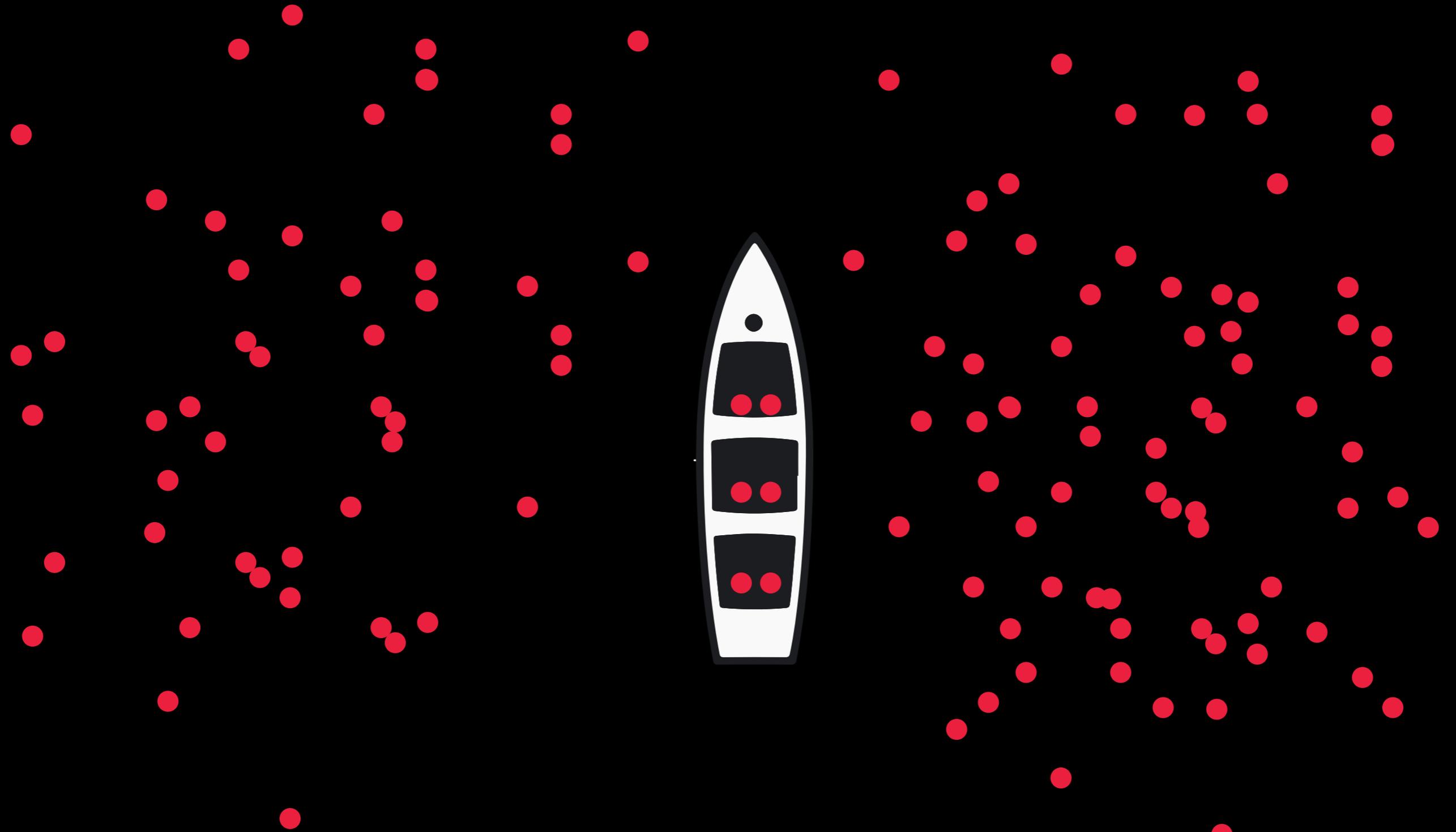
No agreement



The life boat hypothesis

The boat hypothesis

The Titanic hypothesis



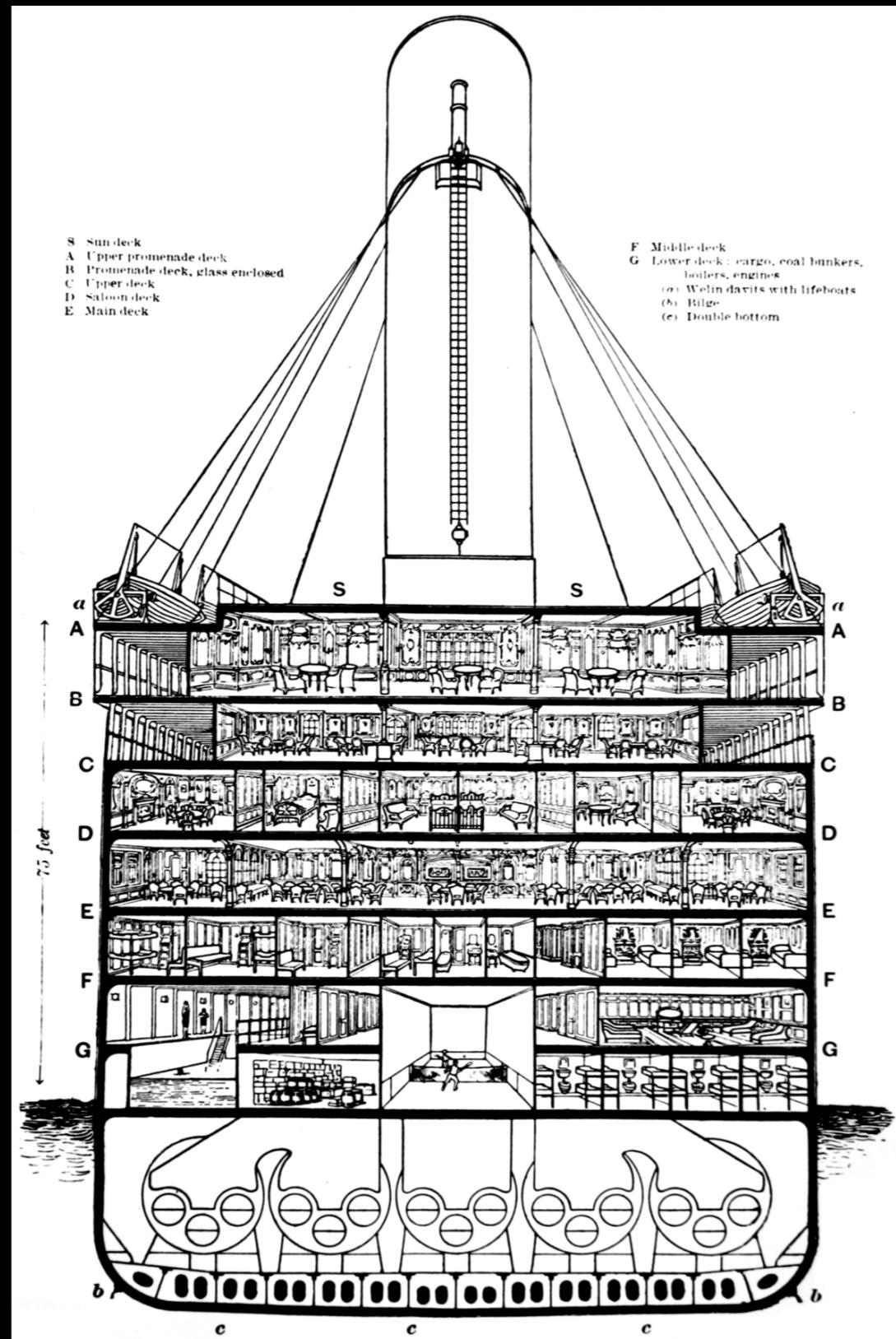
The life boat hypothesis

PHOTO BY NASA 4 JAN 2012 [HTTPS://WWW.FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/GSFC/6760135001/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/gsfcr/6760135001/) ATTRIBUTION 2.0 GENERIC (CC BY 2.0)



The boat hypothesis

[HTTPS://XLR8R.COM/PAGE/948/?SEARCH=](https://xlr8r.com/page/948/?search=)



1st class

The Titanic hypothesis

[HTTPS://COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG/WIKI/FILE:TITANIC_CUTAWAY_DIAGRAM.PNG#FILELINKS](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Titanic_cutaway_diagram.png#filelinks)

MAKE
AMERICA
FIRST AGAIN

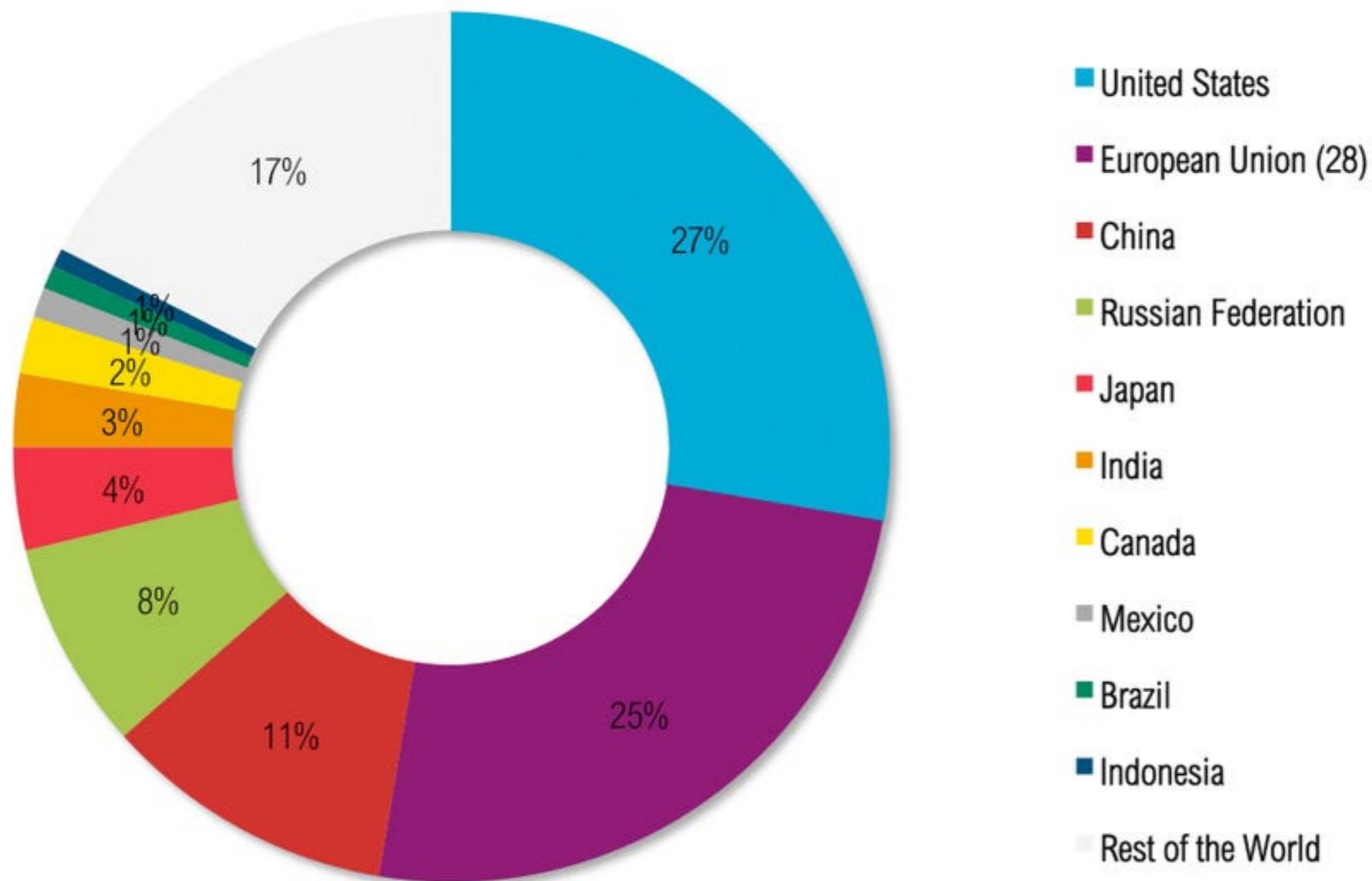
MAKE
AMERICA
FIRST AGAIN

MAKE
AMERICA
FIRST

Nationalists believe in the
life-boat hypothesis

<https://youtu.be/jP55meWILt4>

Cumulative CO₂ Emissions 1850–2011 (% of World Total)



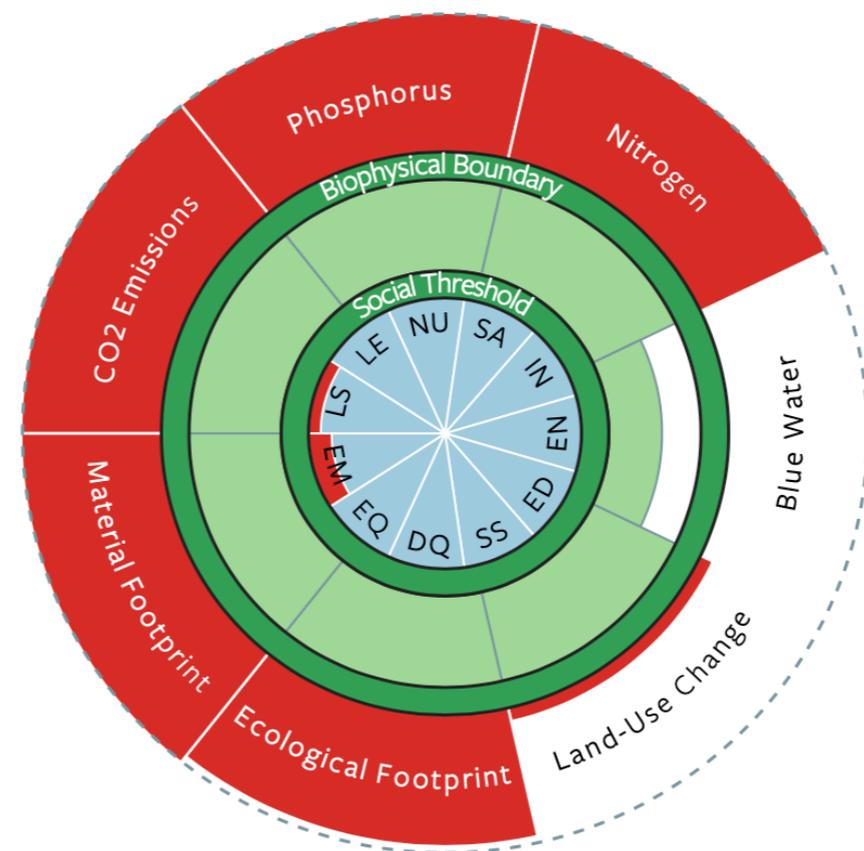
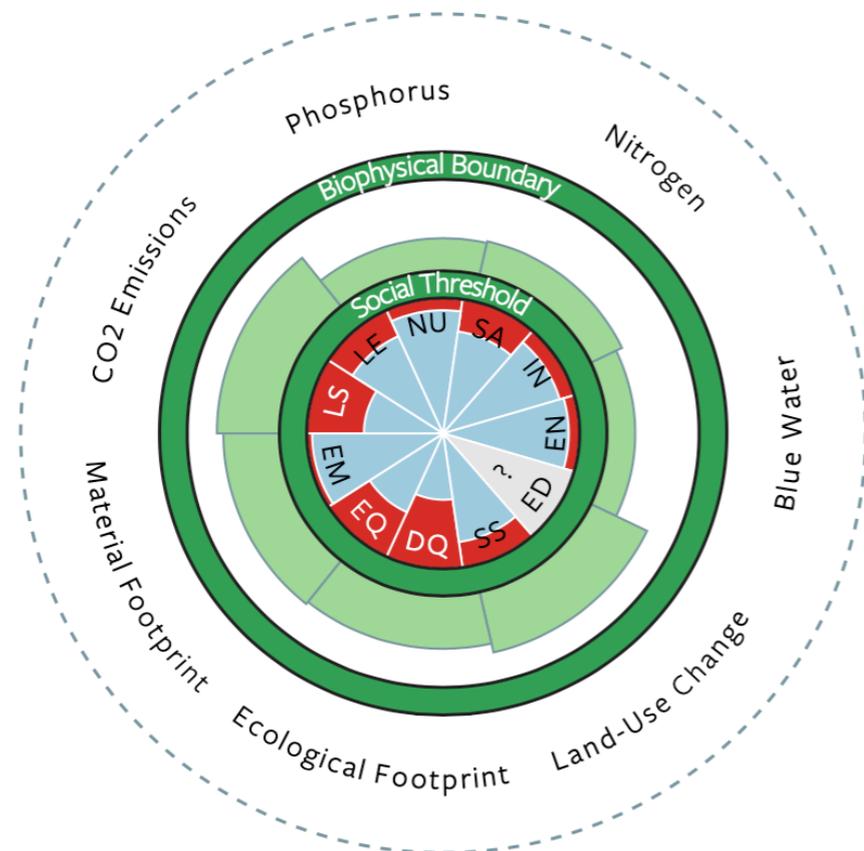
[HTTPS://WWW.CLIMATEINTERACTIVE.ORG/ANALYSIS/US-ROLE-IN-PARIS/](https://www.climateinteractive.org/analysis/us-role-in-paris/)

<http://bit.ly/11SMpjA>

The Doughnut Economy

Philippines

EU-28

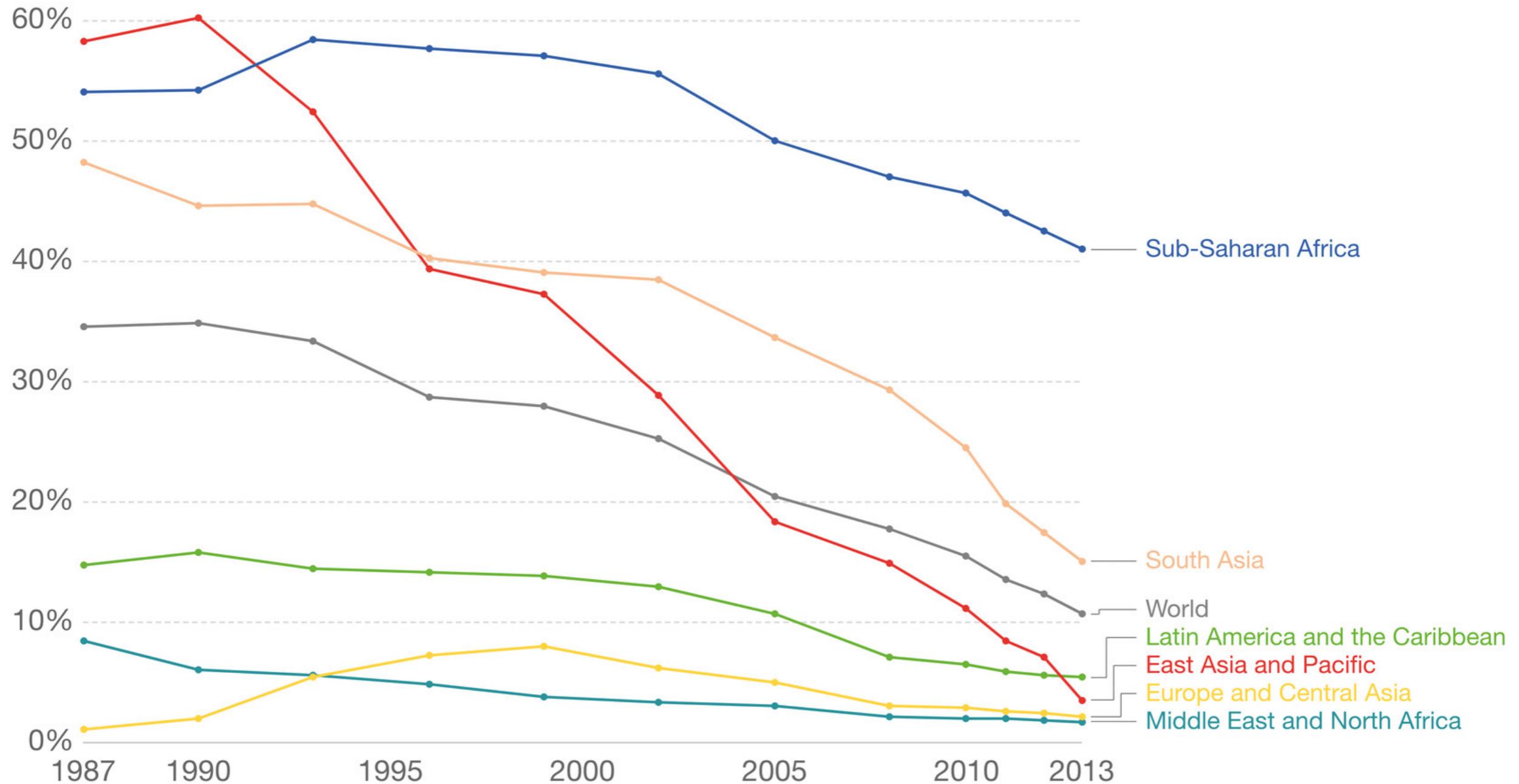


- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| LS - Life Satisfaction | ED - Education |
| LE - Healthy Life Expect. | SS - Social Support |
| NU - Nutrition | DQ - Democratic Quality |
| SA - Sanitation | EQ - Equality |
| IN - Income | EM - Employment |
| EN - Access to Energy | |

BY OXFORD ECONOMIST KATE RAWORTH IN THE OXFAM PAPER A SAFE AND JUST SPACE FOR HUMANITY AND ELABORATED UPON IN HER BOOK DOUGHNUT ECONOMICS: SEVEN WAYS TO THINK LIKE A 21ST-CENTURY ECONOMIST.

Share of the population living in extreme poverty, by world region

Extreme poverty is defined as living with per capita household consumption below 1.90 international dollars per day (in 2011 PPP prices). International dollars are adjusted for inflation and for price differences across countries.



Source: Share of the population living in extreme poverty by world region - PovcalNet World Bank

Note: Consumption per capita is the preferred welfare indicator for the World Bank's analysis of global poverty. However, for about 25% of the countries, estimates correspond to income, rather than consumption.

OurWorldInData.org/extreme-poverty/ • CC BY-SA

Spatial Justice

What are the spatial justice issues in the management of the commons?



\$\$\$££



&^&*



\$\$\$£



***&

Distribution (of resources in space):

Distributive justice

How (and by whom) it is decided:

Procedural justice

Summary of issues of spatial justice in the commons

Regulation

Property

Role of the State

Individual Rights X Collective Rights

Planning (Spatial Planning)

Power Asymmetry/ Information asymmetry

Can we
conceptualise the
city as a commons?

pollution



private cars

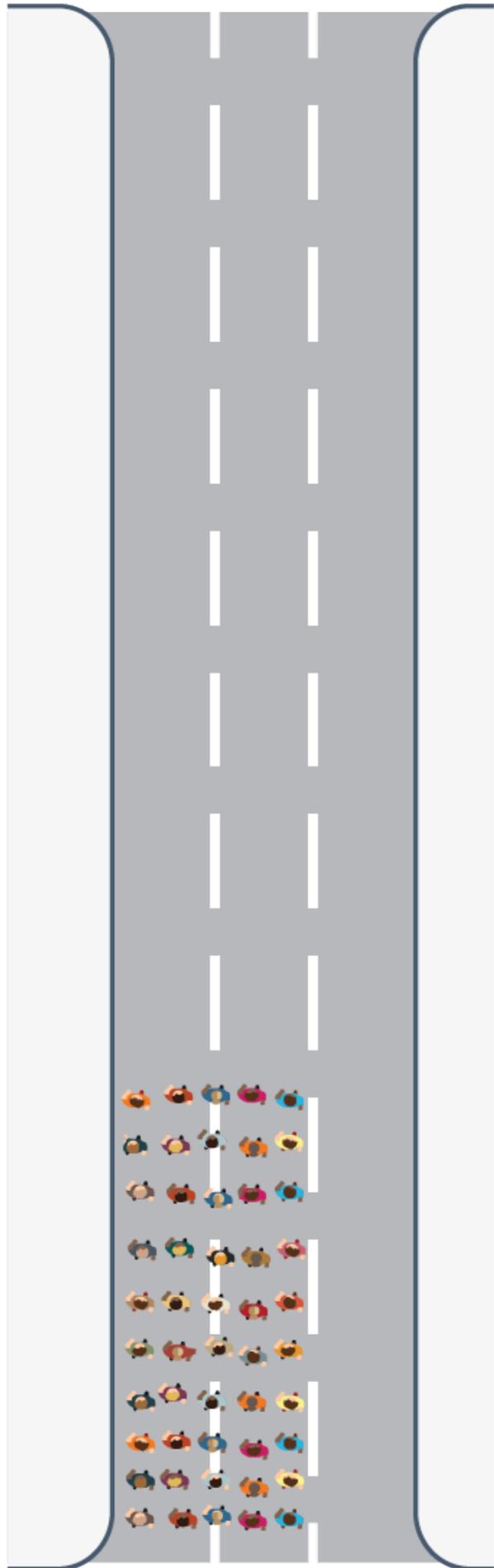


great individual utility x
shared negative externalities

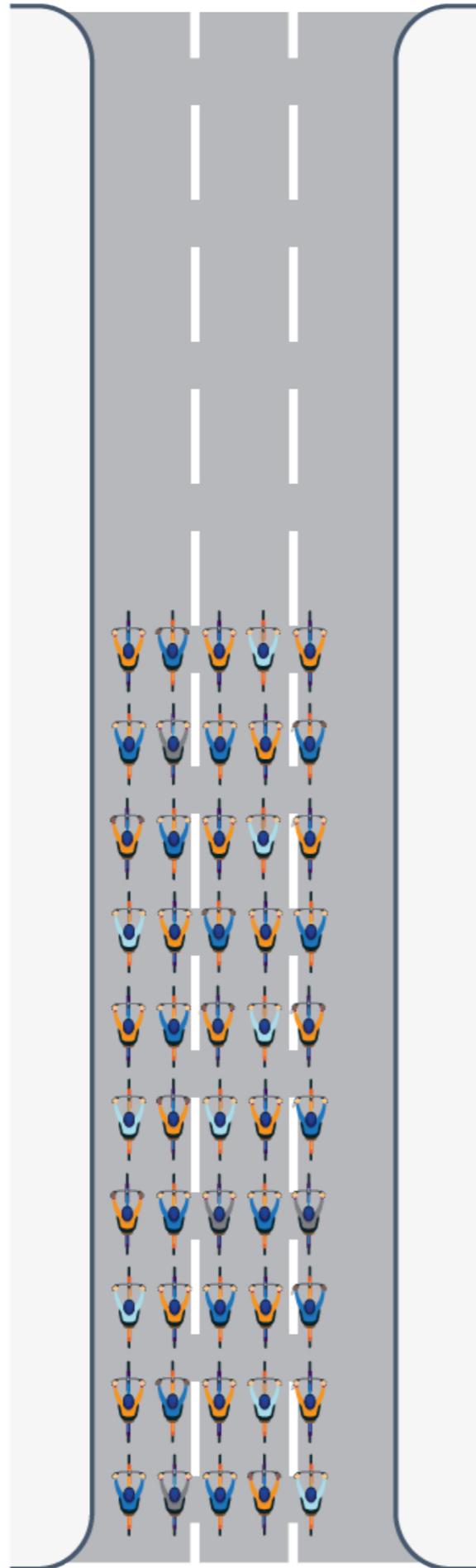
Here are 200 people in 177 cars



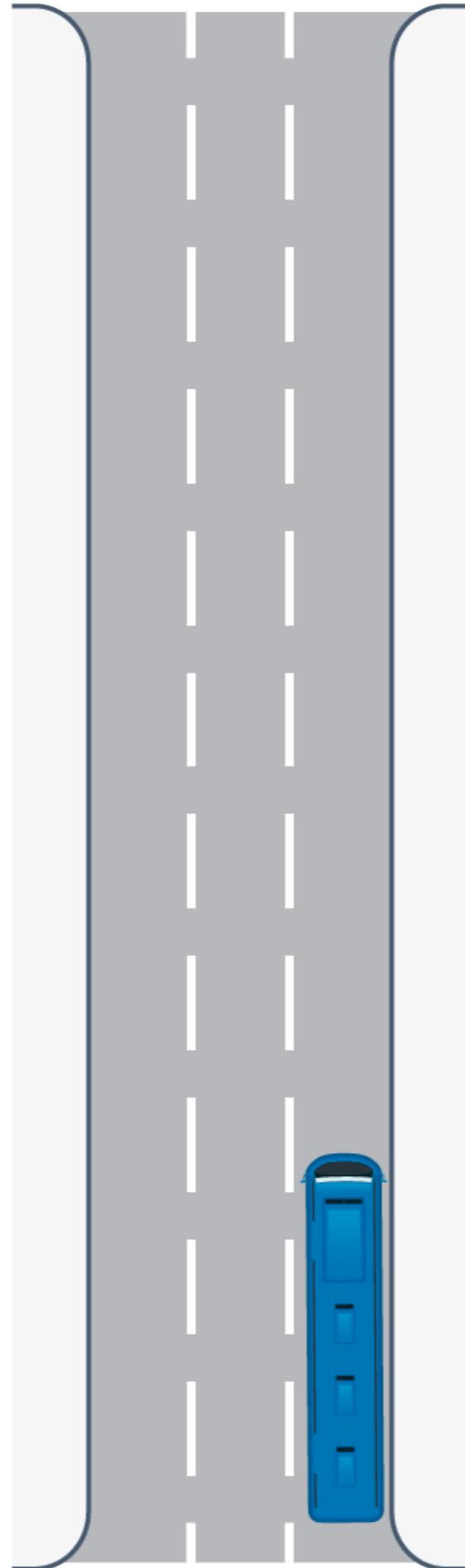
50 pedestrians



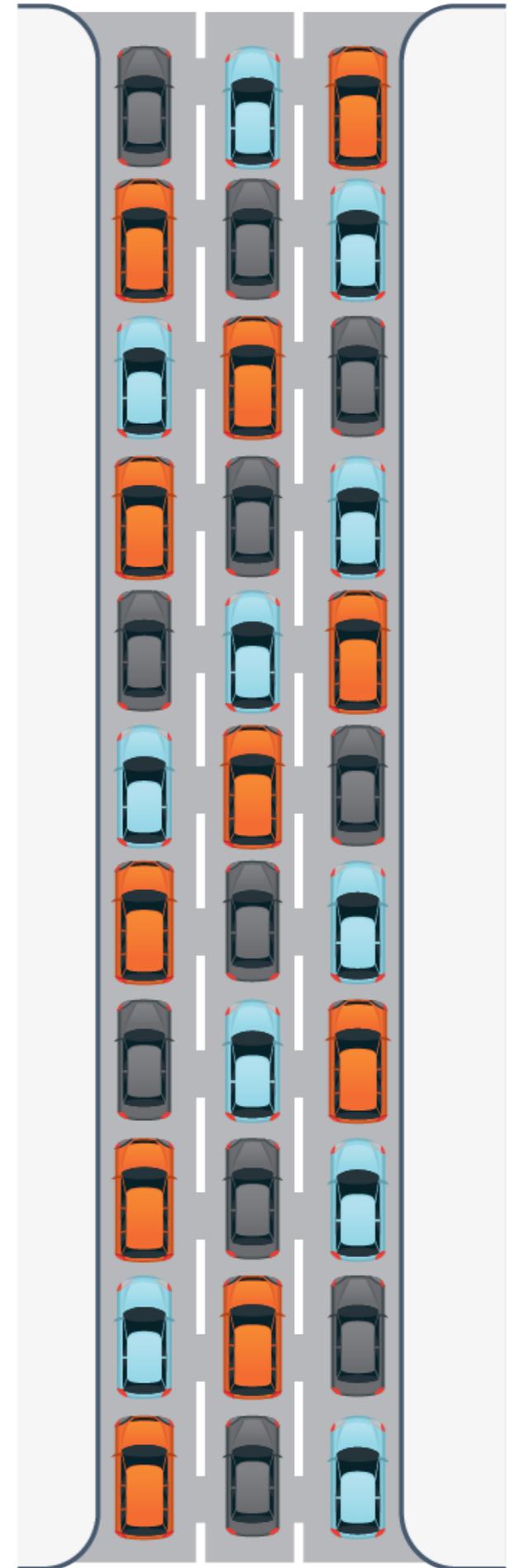
50 cyclists



50 people on a bus



50 people in 33 cars



[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/06IJFBQDNNM](https://youtu.be/06IJFBQDNNM)

**But cities usually do not collapse
because of mindless competition
for resources.**



**although sometimes they
do get a bit congested**

Why not?



ELINOR OSTROM



PATSY HEALEY



JUDITH INNES



ELINOR OSTROM



WAYNE QUILLIAM PHOTOGRAPHY / YOTHU YINDI FOUNDATION. YOLNGU PEOPLE PREPARING FOR TRADITIONAL CEREMONIES AT THE 2011 GARMA FESTIVAL IN ARNHEM LAND.



Symmetric communication

Subsidiarity

Polycentric governance

WATCH ME SPEAK HERE: [HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/N8CXGBSQHCA?T=330](https://youtu.be/N8CXGBSQHCA?T=330)

SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.NOBELPRIZE.ORG/PRIZES/ECONOMIC-SCIENCES/2009/OSTROM/BIOGRAPHICAL/](https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/economic-sciences/2009/ostrom/biographical/)





PARAISÓPOLIS, SAO PAULO. PHOTO: ROBERTO ROCCO.



**COMMUNICATIVE
PLANNING**

PATSY HEALEY

FOR HOW COMMUNICATIVE RATIONALITY INFLUENCES PLANNING AND DESIGN PLEASE SEE PATSY HEALEY



**Emphasis on participation
of all members of a
community, including
those whose voices are
silent or whose
knowledge is considered
unimportant**



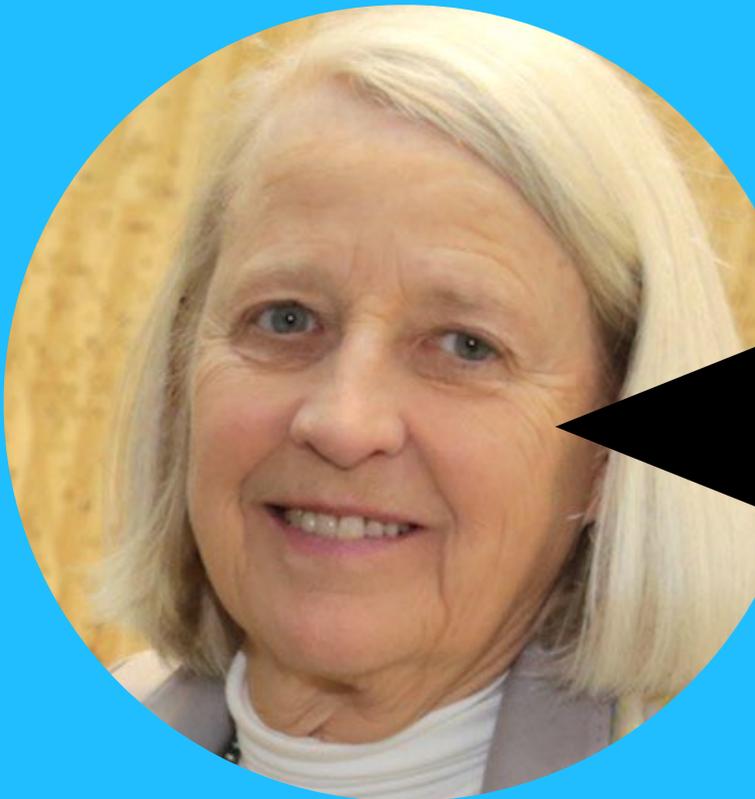
“Reconstructing the meaning of a democratic practice” based on more practices of “inclusionary argumentation”.



“He [Habermas] shows us that **we are not autonomous subjects competitively pursuing our individual preferences**, but that our sense of ourselves and of our interests is constituted through our relations with others, through communicative practices. **Our ideas about ourselves, our interests, and our values are socially constructed through our communication with others and the collaborative work this involves.** If our consciousness is dialogically constructed, surely, we are deeply skilled in communicative practices for listening, learning, and understanding each other.” (Healey, 1996, p.219)

“DIAD”

- **Diversity of Interests: the full inclusion of participants who have a stake in the problem**
- **Interdependence of Interests: a recognition by the participants that they must depend on each other to meet their interests**
- **Authentic Dialogue: the engagement of all participants in face-to-face conversations.**

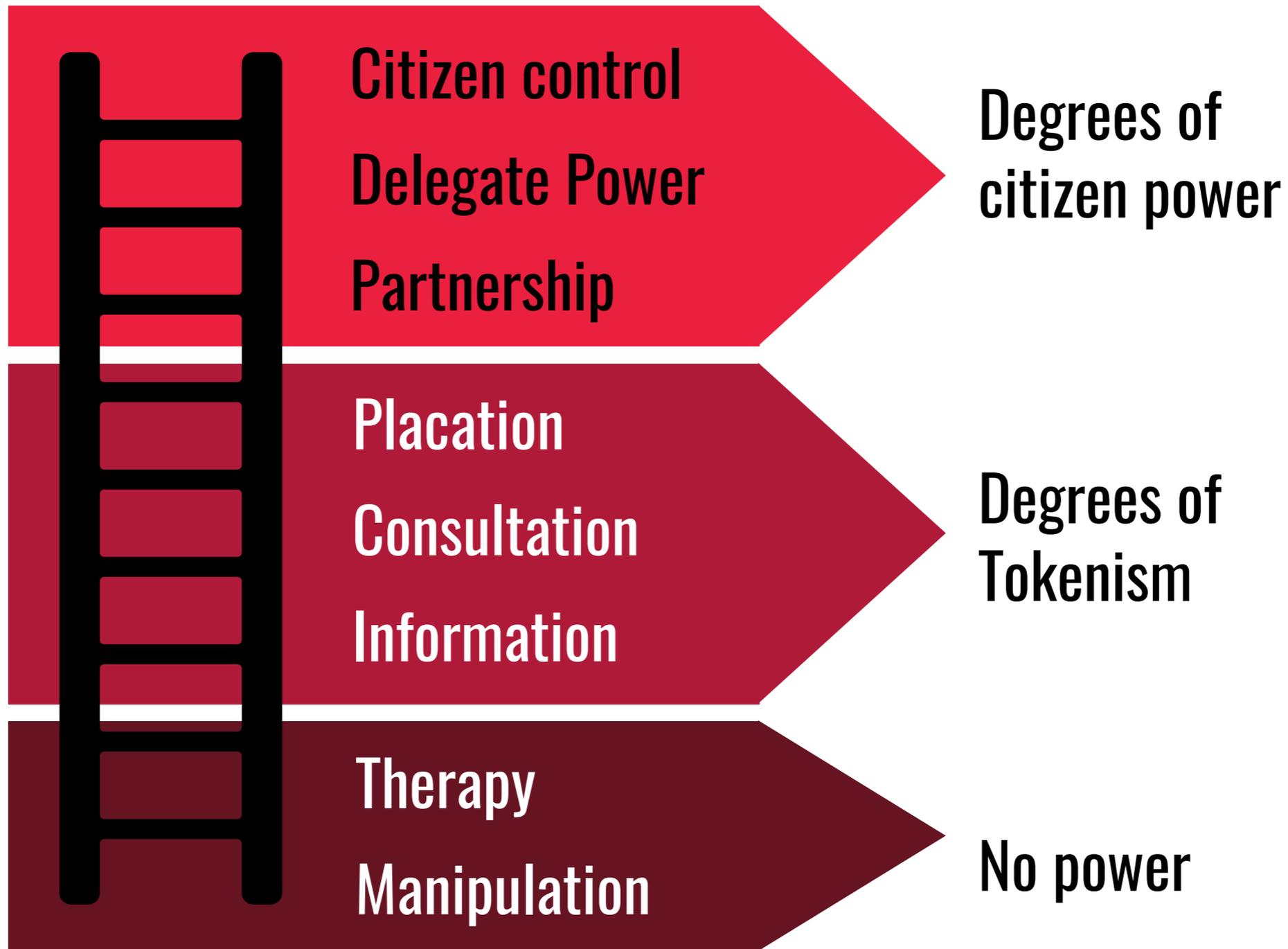


WATCH ME SPEAK HERE: [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=UKEWHQKMJUS](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKEWHQKMJUS)

SOURCE: [HTTPS://SENATE.UNIVERSITYOFCALIFORNIA.EDU/IN-MEMORIAM/FILES/JUDITH-INNES.HTML](https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/in-memoriam/files/judith-innes.html)

Ladder of citizen participation

Arnstein (1969)



‘RIGHT TO THE CITY’

**THE RIGHT TO SHAPE YOUR LIVING ENVIRONMENT TO
YOUR NEEDS AND DESIRES,
THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVERNANCE OF
THE CITY.**

Henri Lefebvre, Le droit à la ville, 1968

**WHAT CAN WE CONCLUDE FROM
THE
JUSTICE OF THE COMMONS?**

**CITIES ARE SPACES OF SIMULTANEOUS
COMPETITION AND LOTS AND LOTS OF
COOPERATION**

WE CAN CONCEPTUALISE THE CITY AS A COMMONS IF UNDERSTOOD AS THE PRODUCT OF COMMON WORK, SHARED BY ALL WHO CONTRIBUTE TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN IT: A “COLLECTIVE ENDEAVOUR” AS CONCEPTUALISED BY HENRI LEFEBVRE.

AND WE CAN ALL DRAW FROM THE RESOURCES IT PROVIDES US (PROXIMITY, DENSITY, SYNERGY, OPPORTUNITY)

BUT THE CITY IS NOT A COMMONS IN THE CLASSIC SENSE OF COMMON PROPERTY.

WHO DOES THE CITY BELONG TO?

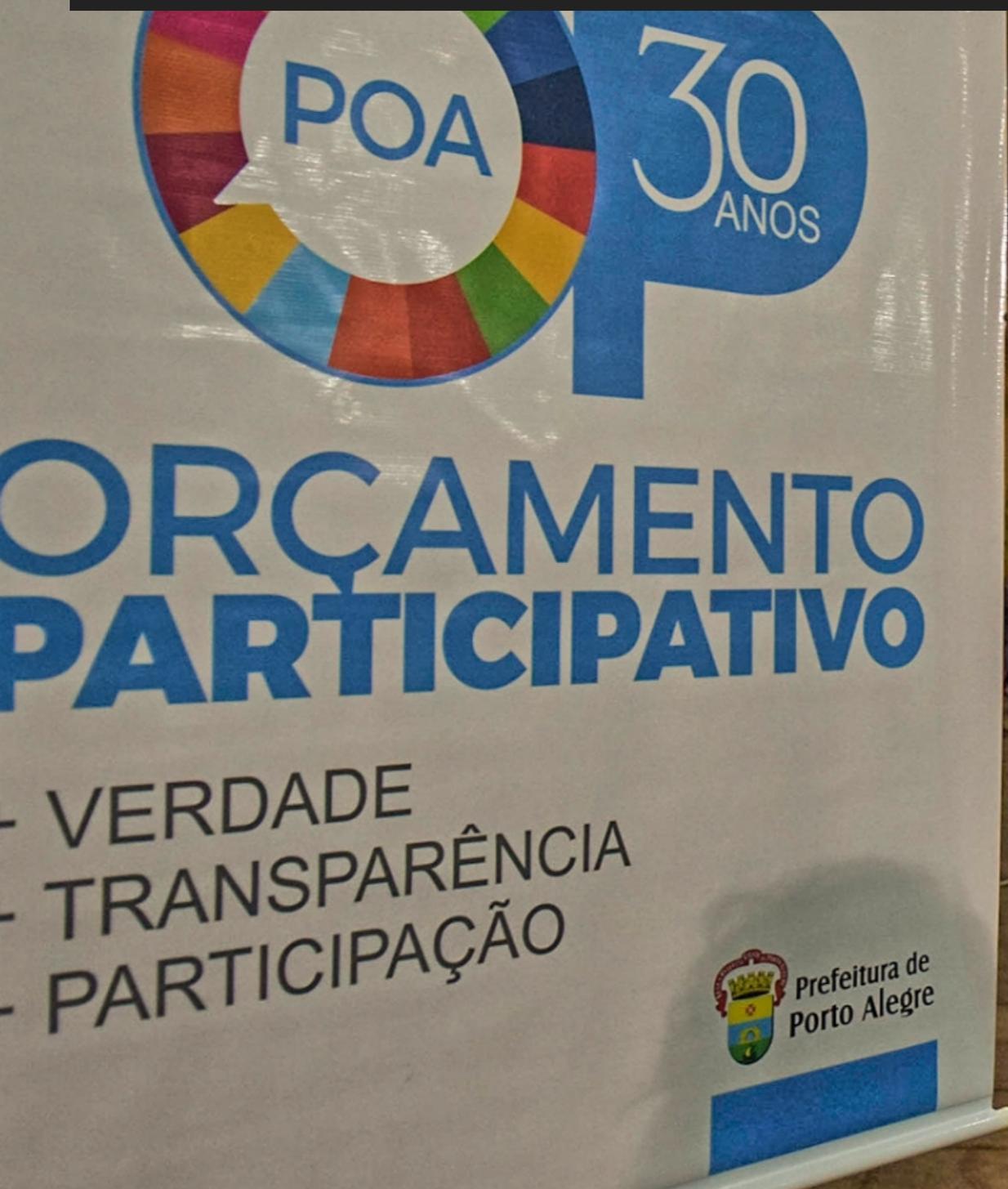
**IF A PERSON CANNOT AFFORD HOUSING, DO THEY
HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE IN THE CITY?**

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT + PARTICIPATION**
- **MAKE COALITIONS & SEEK CONSENSUS THROUGH COMMUNICATIVE PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES**
- **LISTEN TO THE MOST SILENT STAKEHOLDERS: FUTURE GENERATIONS, THE PLANET, THE VULNERABLE**

EXAMPLES OF CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT

PARTICIPATORY BUDGET

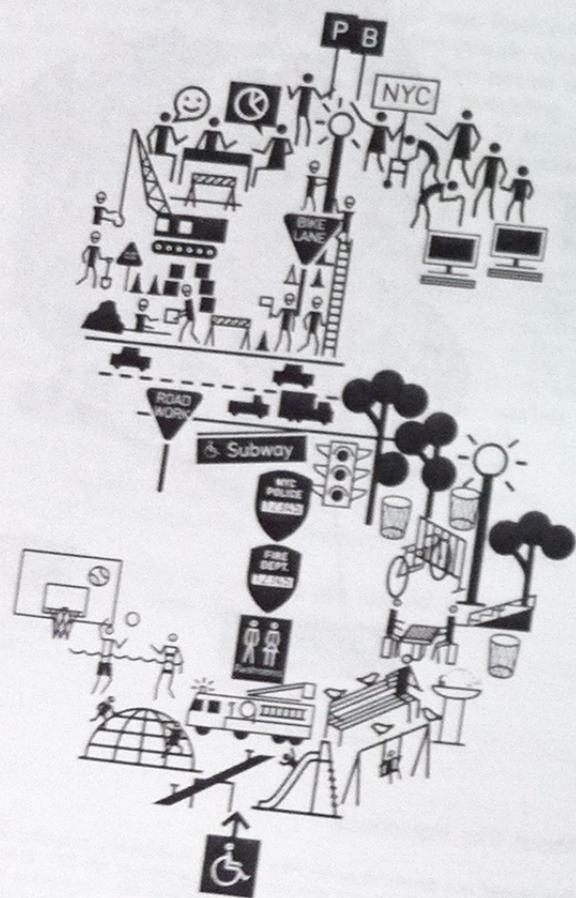


PORTO ALEGRE, RS - 11/11/2019: ORÇAMENTO PARTICIPATIVO - REGIÃO EIXO-BALTAZAR. FOTO: MARIA ANA KRACK/PMPA

EXAMPLES OF CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT

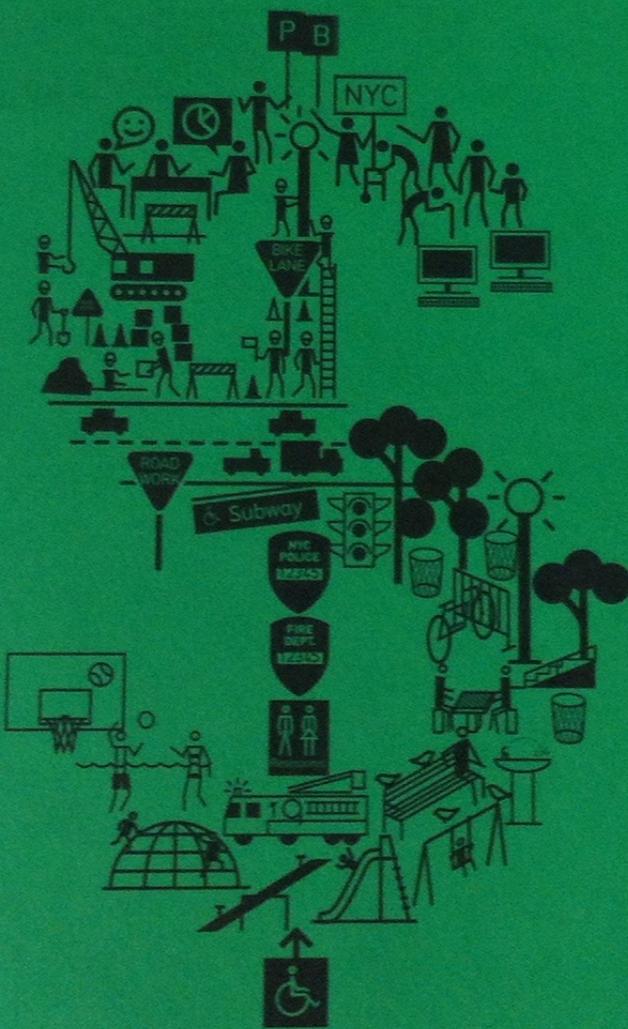
PARTICIPATORY BUDGET

Participatory
Budgeting
in New York City



2012
book

Real Money.
Real Projects.
Real Power.



Be a part of a new way of making decisions
about public money in New York City.

HOW WOULD
YOU SPEND
\$1 MILLION
OF THE
CITY'S MONEY?

COME TELL US HOW:

Monday, Oct 24, 2011

Tabernacle of Praise

1274 Utica Avenue

(betwn Ave D and Foster)

6-8:30PM

BY DANIEL LATORRE - [HTTPS://WWW.FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/NEOTINT/6267976938](https://www.flickr.com/photos/NEOTINT/6267976938), CC BY 2.0, [HTTPS://COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG/W/INDEX.PHP?CURID=62853174](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=62853174)

EXAMPLES OF CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT

CITIZENS' CONVENTION FOR THE CLIMATE



[HTTPS://WWW.CONVENTIONCITOYENNEPOURLECLIMAT.FR/EN/](https://www.conventioncitoyennepourleclimat.fr/en/)

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CONVCITOYENNE/PHOTOS/A.120563659339647/208996803829665/?TYPE=3&THEATER](https://www.facebook.com/convcitoyenne/photos/a.120563659339647/208996803829665/?type=3&theater)

EXAMPLES OF CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT

CITIZENS' CONVENTION FOR THE CLIMATE



[HTTPS://WWW.CONVENTIONCITOYENNEPOURLECLIMAT.FR/EN/](https://www.conventioncitoyennepourleclimat.fr/en/)

[HTTPS://EUROPEANCLIMATE.ORG/A-TALE-OF-TWO-CITIZENS-ASSEMBLIES/](https://europeanclimate.org/a-tale-of-two-citizens-assemblies/)

EXAMPLES OF CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT

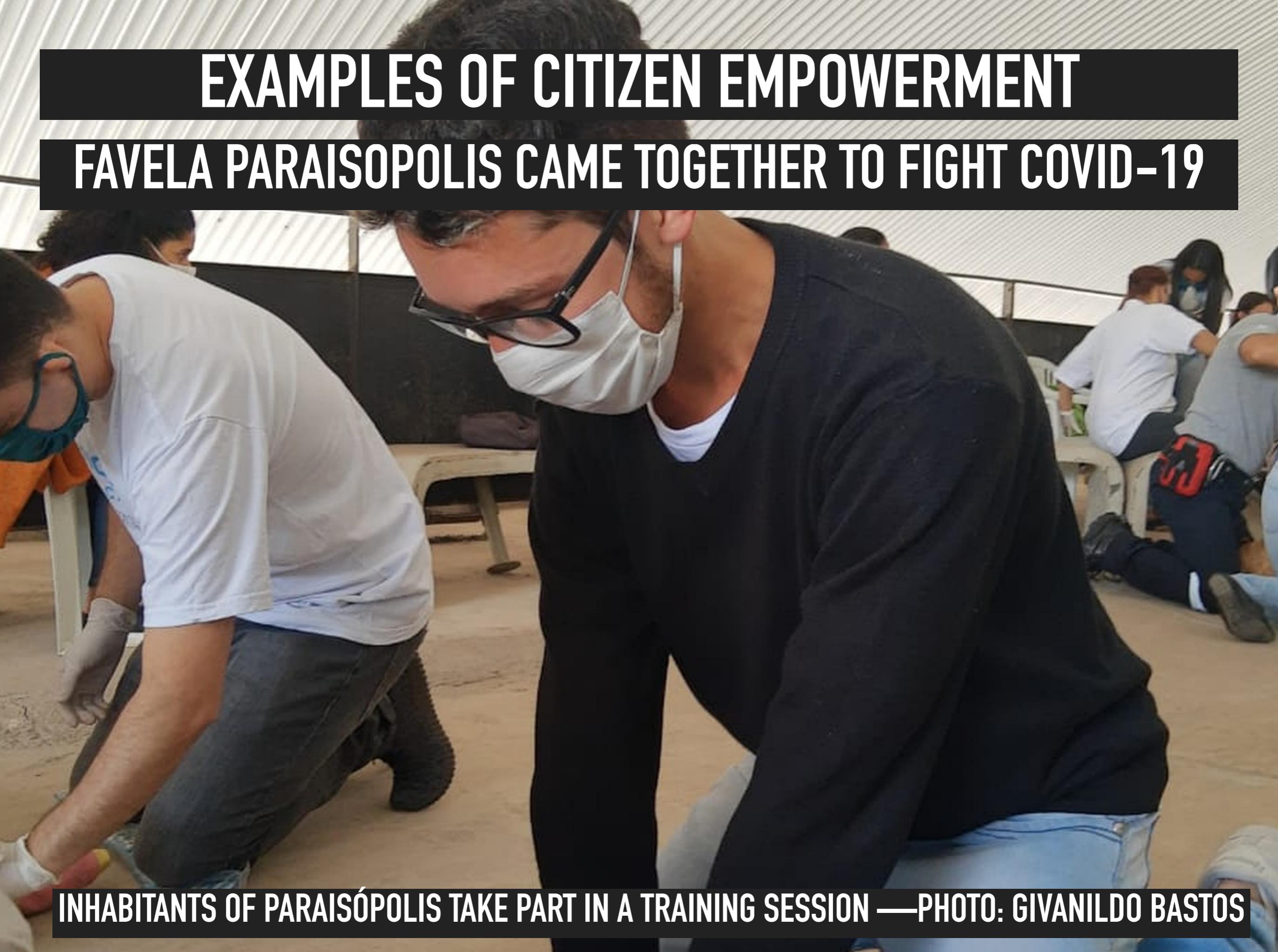
FAVELA PARAISOPOLIS CAME TOGETHER TO FIGHT COVID-19



PHOTO BY JOSI MARTINS

EXAMPLES OF CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT

FAVELA PARAISOPOLIS CAME TOGETHER TO FIGHT COVID-19



INHABITANTS OF PARAISÓPOLIS TAKE PART IN A TRAINING SESSION —PHOTO: GIVANILDO BASTOS

LESSONS LEARNED PARTICIPATION HELPS:

- (RE) CREATE A PUBLIC SPHERE**
- SOLVE CONFLICTS**
- BALANCE THE POWERS IN GOVERNANCE PROCESSES**
- INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC GOODS**
- POTENTIAL FOR SOCIO-SPATIAL JUSTICE**

AMARTYA SEN

**PUBLIC
REASONING/
PUBLIC
JUSTIFICATION**



AMARTYA SEN



**GOVERNMENT BY
DISCUSSION**



**NEW ROLES FOR
PLANNERS AND
DESIGNERS**



**WHAT IS YOUR
ROLE?**



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THANKS FOR LISTENING

QUESTIONS?

YOU CAN ALSO WRITE TO R.C.ROCCO@TUDELFT.NL