

THE SPATIAL JUSTICE OF THE COMMONS

ROBERTO ROCCO
DELFT UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY

THE SPATIAL JUSTICE OF THE COMMONS

1. What are the commons?

2. Why are the commons important for city planning?

3. Why justice is crucial for the governance of the commons?

4. Why is spatial justice central for the planning of sustainable cities and communities?

Sustainability + Justice

"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



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

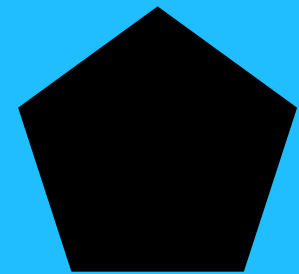
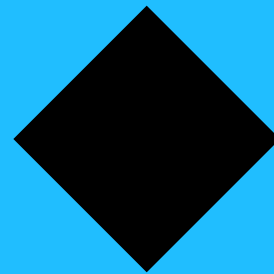
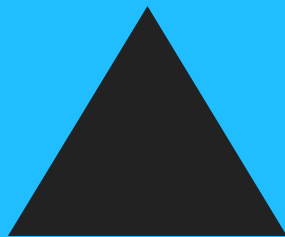


Intergenerational justice

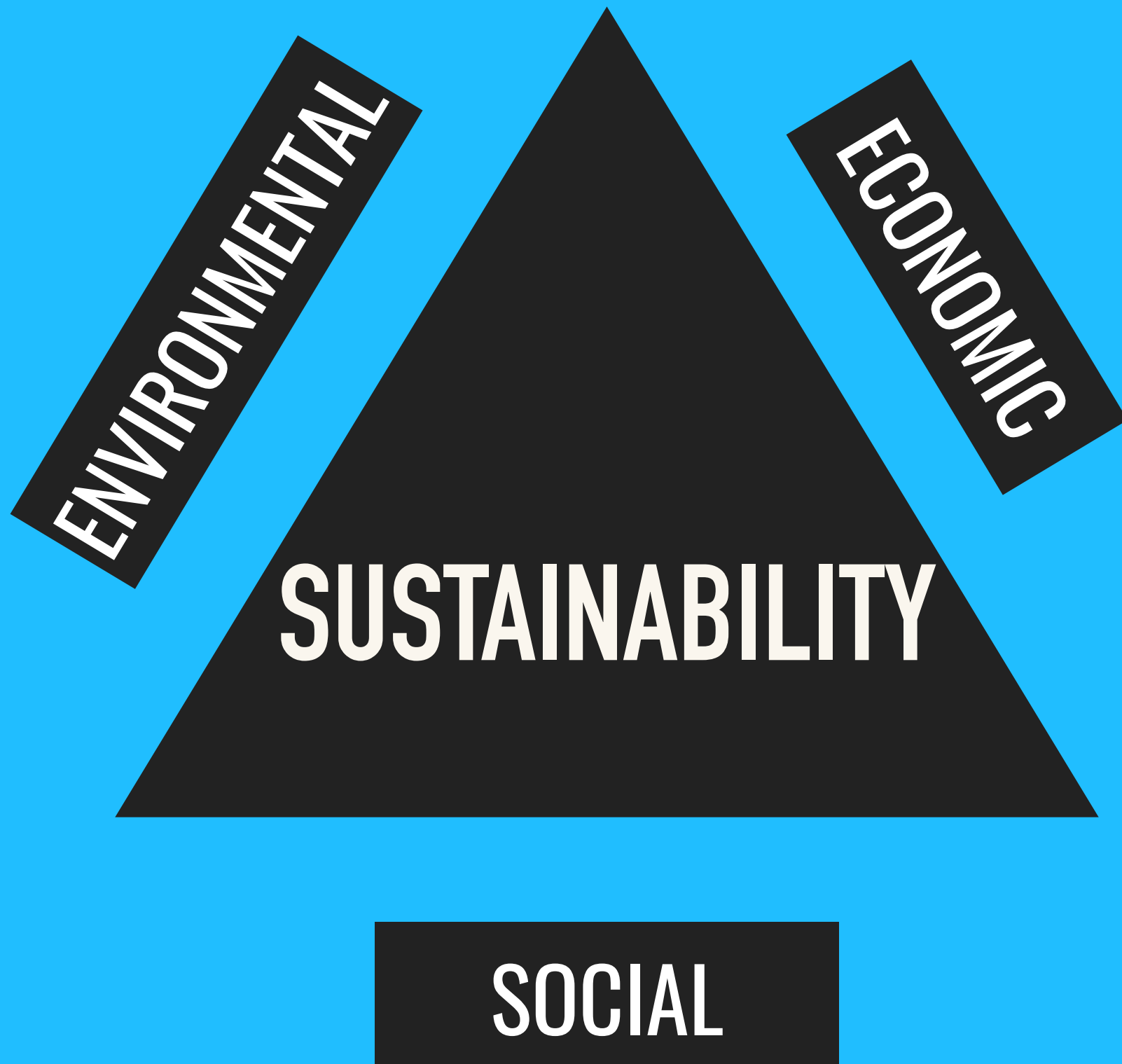


Intragenerational justice

Sustainability is multidimensional



Sustainability is multidimensional



Sustainability is multidimensional

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

Larsen, 2012





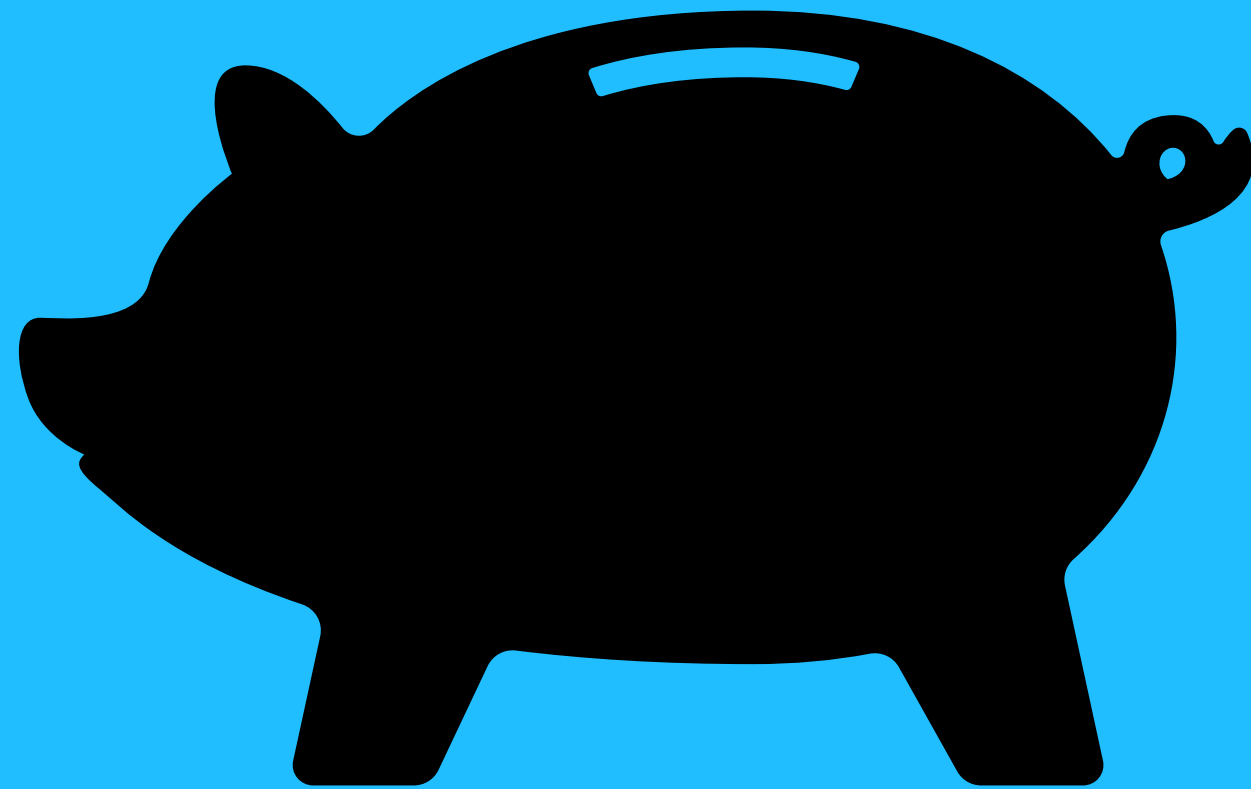




Image: Kathputi dweller, New Delhi, photo by Jordan M. Jones (2013). Photo reproduced here with special permission from the author

Social Sustainability

**Justice underscores
sustainability**

Moral imperative:

**“Leave no one
behind”**

Acceptability

Support

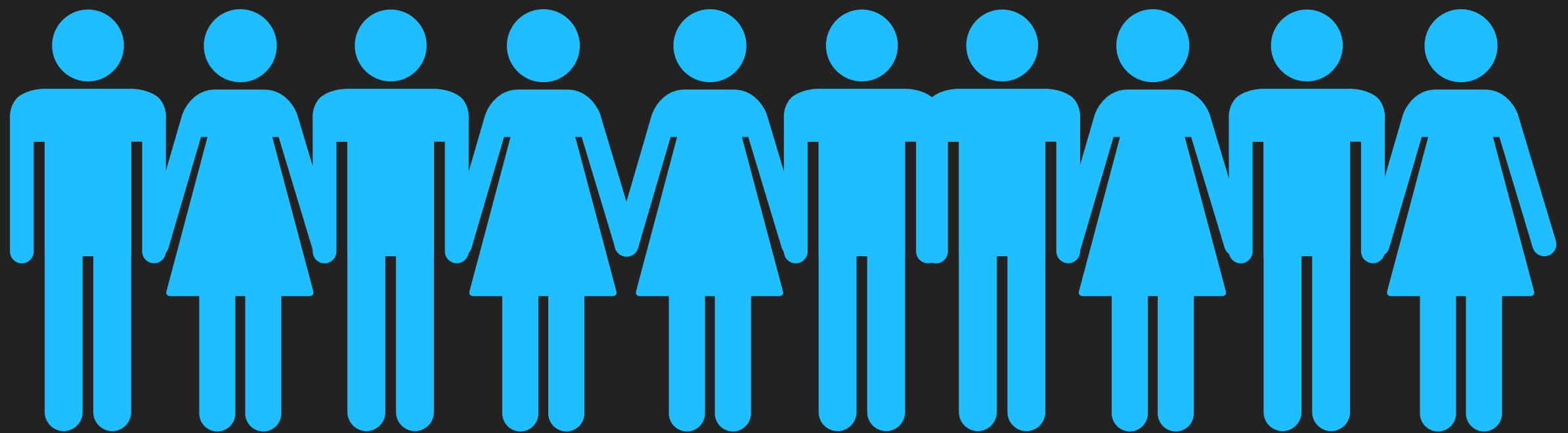
Compliance

Suitability

Spatial

Justice?

The governance 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.

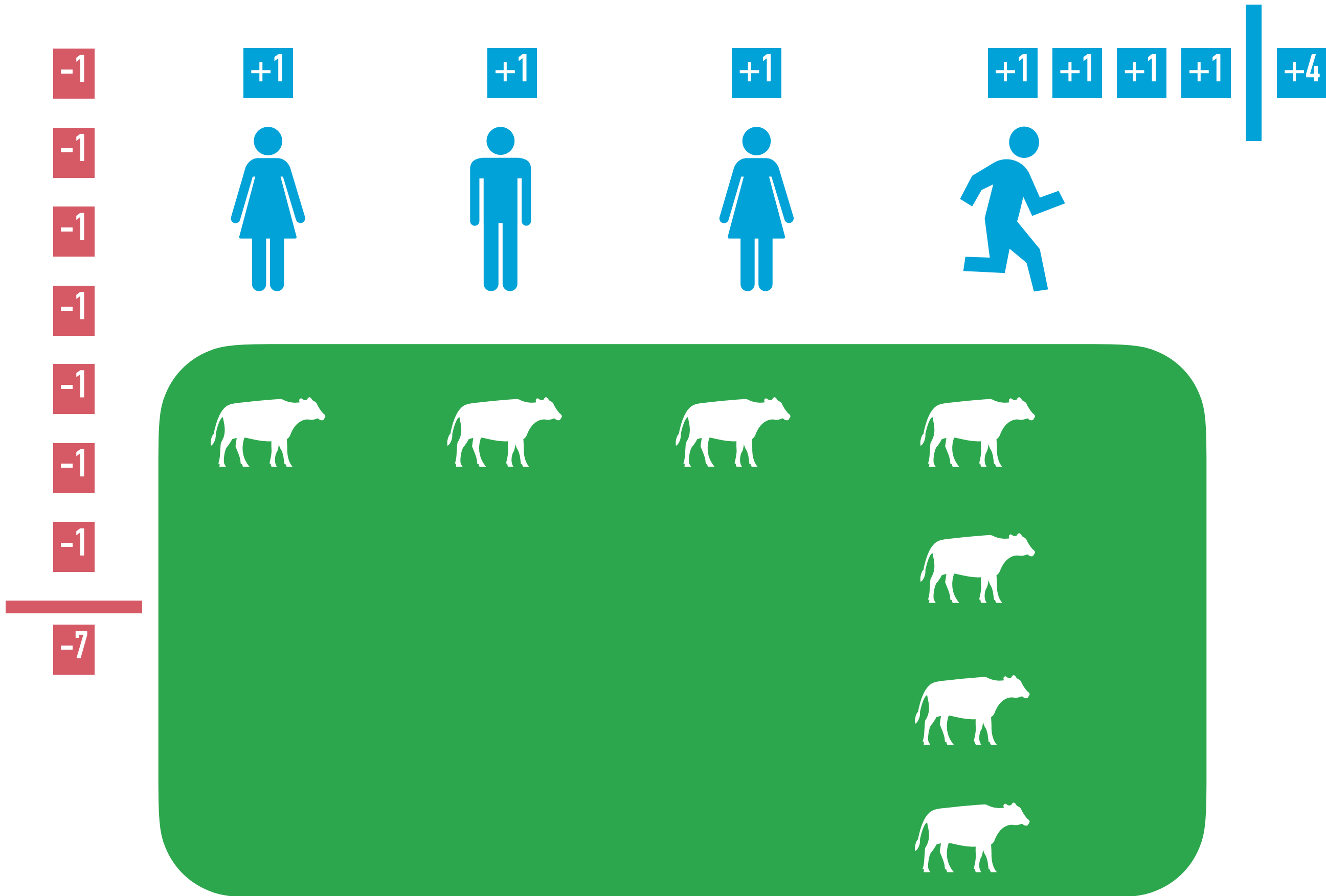
Neoclassical economics

Rational choice theory

The Tragedy of the Commons

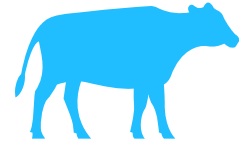


Negative effects of unregulated use of common resources



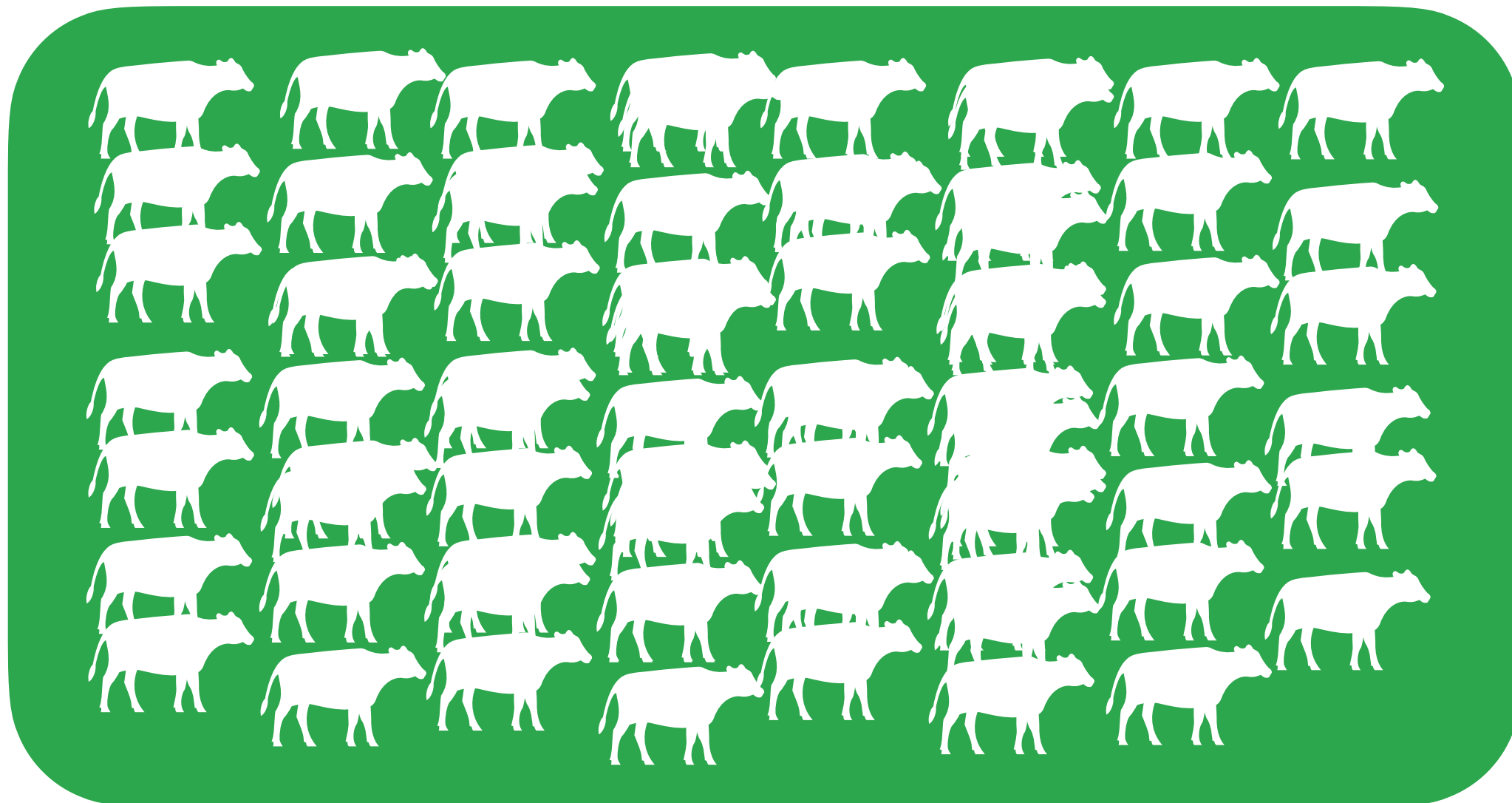
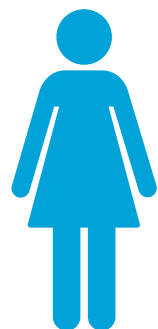


what does this mean?



**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.



Original intention of the
Commonwealth was to be
as a warning against
overpopulation and as a
defence of private property



**Intra
generational
justice**

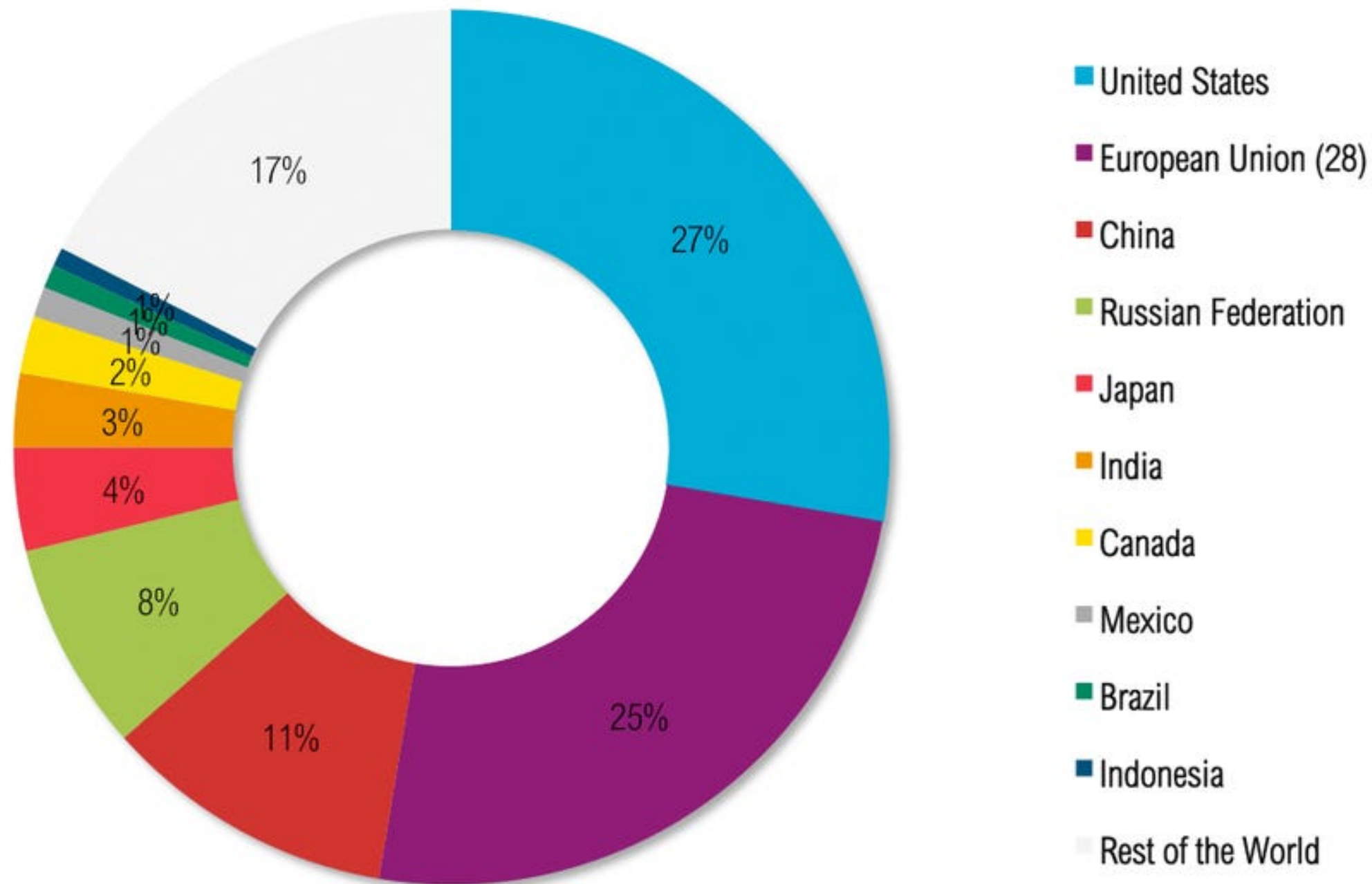


**Inter
generational
justice**

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

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)

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

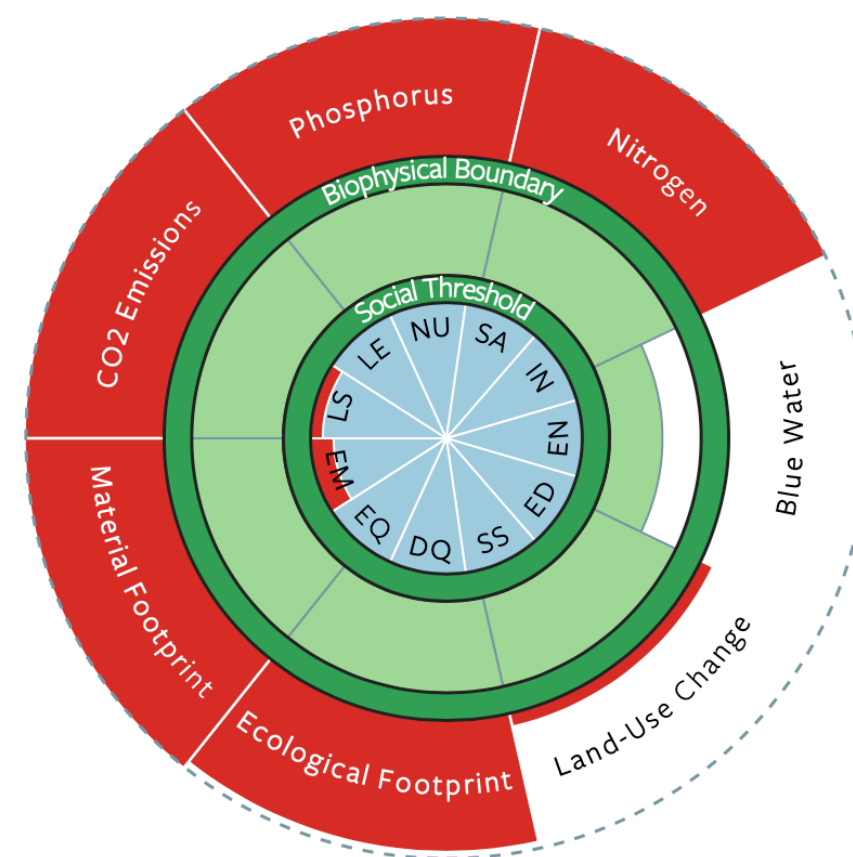
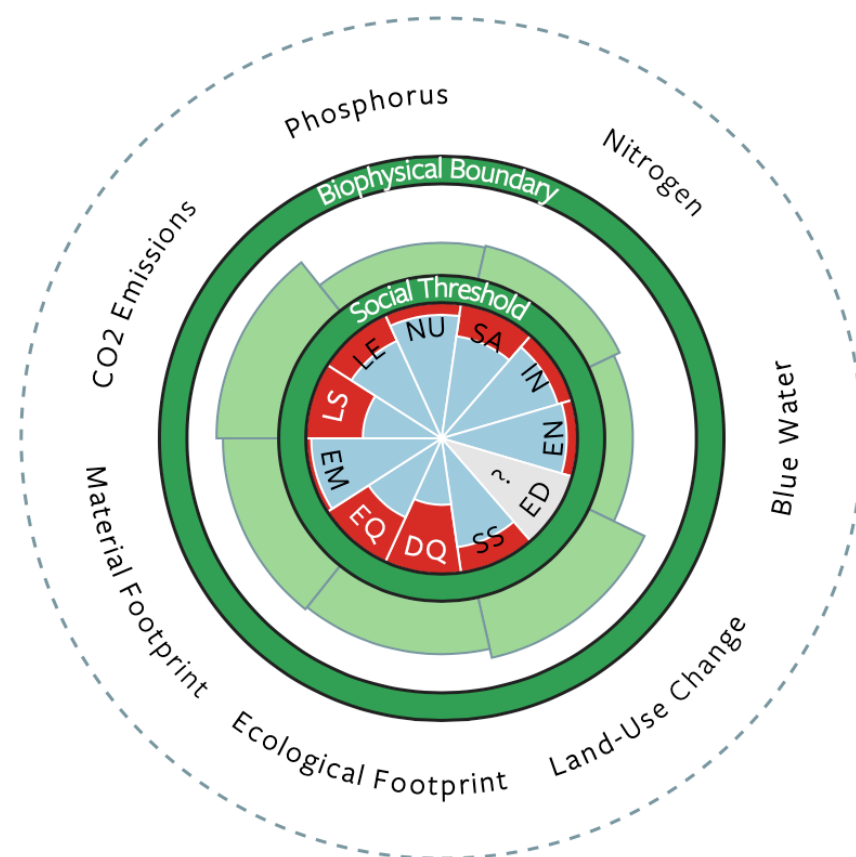


<https://www.climateinteractive.org/analysis/us-role-in-paris/>

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	

<https://goodlife.leeds.ac.uk>

Trump just pulled out of the Paris Agreement — but the US has contributed more to climate change than any other country

Kevin Loria Jun 1, 2017, 10:40 PM



President Trump has announced that the US will withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement, the 2015 international accord by which 195 nations agreed to limit greenhouse gas emissions in order to prevent global temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.



Trump speaks about the apparent attack in Manchester, England, before his remarks alongside Abbas after their meeting at the Presidential Palace in the West Bank city of Bethlehem Thomson Reuters

VIDEOS YOU MAY LIKE

by Taboola



<https://www.businessinsider.com/us-effect-on-climate-change-co2-emissions-warming-2017-6?international=true&r=US&IR=T>

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/10/23/politics/climate-crisis-presidential-debate-analysis-weir-wxc/index.html>

Spatial Justice



IBRAHIM

I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWNS 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



LATOYA

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



LAURA

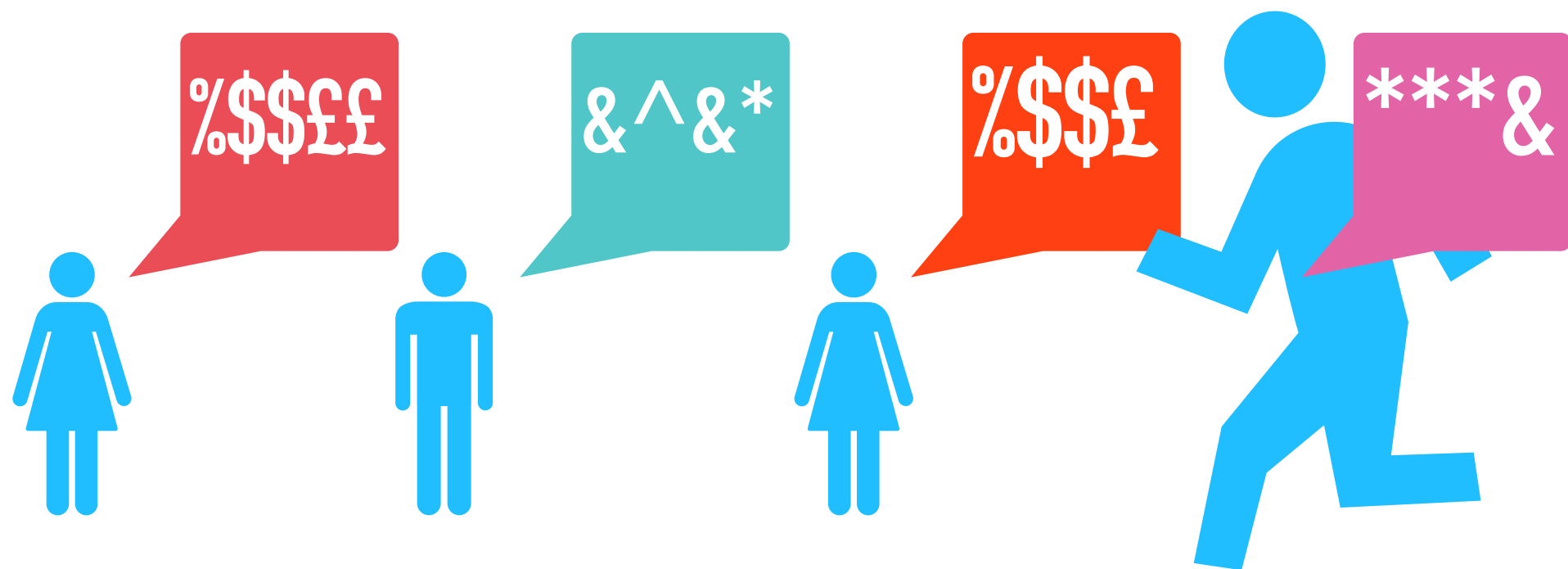
I HAVE WORKED VERY HARD TO BUY THIS FLUTE. JUST WHEN I WISH TO ENJOY IT, YOU WANT TO TAKE IT AWAY FROM ME.

LIBERTARIANISM

MERIT AND HARD WORK

FREEDOM FROM OPPRESSION

**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?





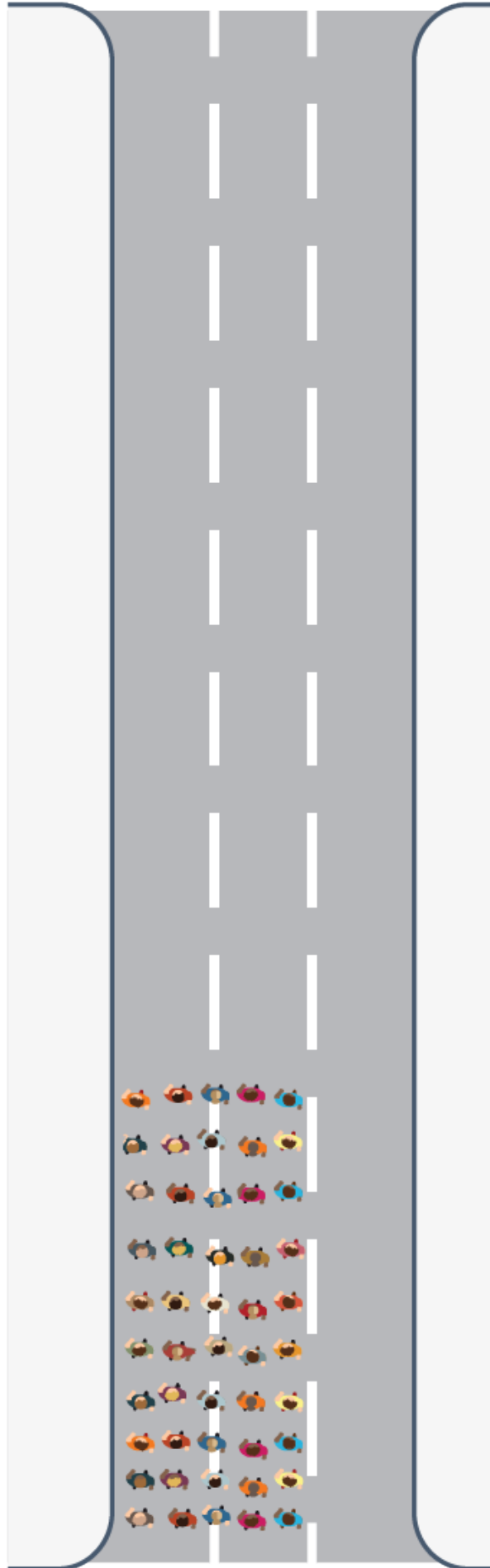
[HTTPS://BEST-WALLPAPER.NET/STREET-CAR-TRAFFIC-JAM_WALLPAPERS.HTML](https://best-wallpaper.net/street-car-traffic-jam_wallpapers.html)

Here are 200 people in 177 cars

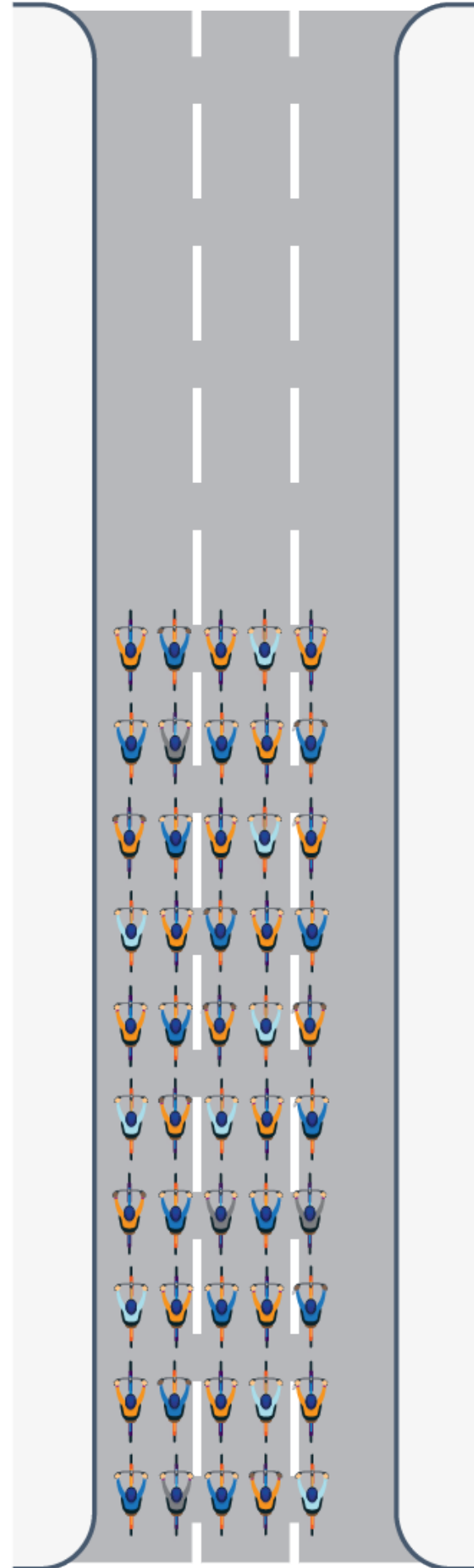




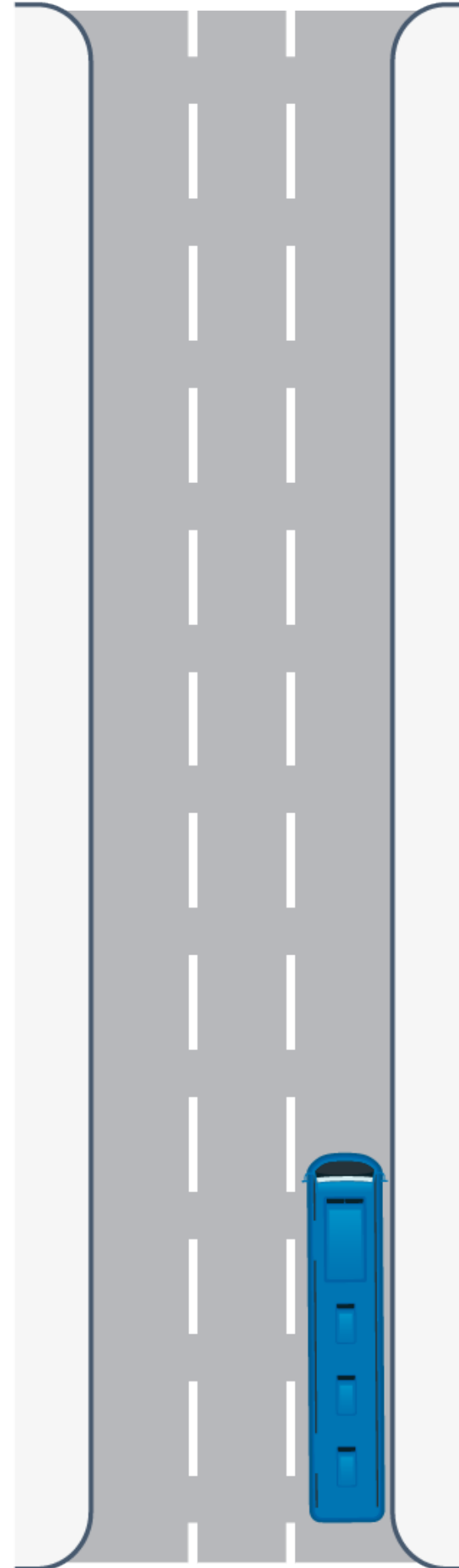
50 pedestrians



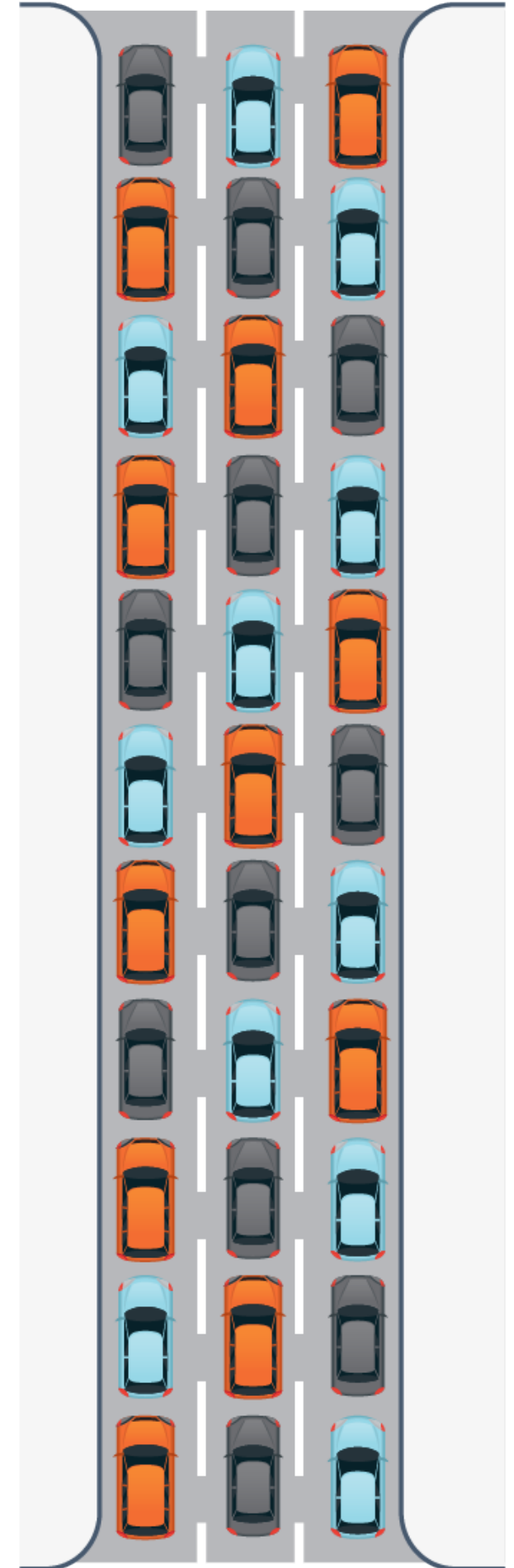
50 cyclists



50 people on a bus



50 people in 33 cars



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

Kowloon Walled City



BY IAN LAMBOT - [HTTP://CITYOFDARKNESS.CO.UK/GOVERNMENT-INTERVENTIONS/1975-02-2/](http://CITYOFDARKNESS.CO.UK/GOVERNMENT-INTERVENTIONS/1975-02-2/) ALSO FOUND IN THE BOOK CITY OF DARKNESS - LIFE IN KOWLOON WALLED CITY BY IAN LAMBOT (ISBN 1-873200-13-7)..
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Kowloon Walled City



AN AERIAL PHOTO OF THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY TAKEN IN 1989. THE NEW PARK WHICH WAS LAID OUT AT THE SITE OF THE FORMER SAI TAU TSUEN SQUATTER SETTLEMENT IS VISIBLE AT THE SOUTH EDGE OF THE CITY. [HTTP://CITYOFDARKNESS.CO.UK/ORDER-PRINT/01-AERIAL-VIEW/](http://CITYOFDARKNESS.CO.UK/ORDER-PRINT/01-AERIAL-VIEW/) ALSO FOUND IN THE BOOK CITY OF DARKNESS - LIFE IN KOWLOON WALLED CITY BY IAN LAMBOT (ISBN 1-873200-13-7).



Kowloon Park



Shenzhen Hand-shake buildings



HANDSHAKE BUILDINGS IN SHENZHEN SKYLINE FROM THE 96TH FLOOR KINGLEY FINACE PLAZA. PHOTO BY CHRIS [HTTPS://WWW.FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/76224602@N00/8143434172/IN/PHOTOLIST-DPBEGS-DK7TVS-DZEEPV-9UAPRW-9WABUC-9WAATD-9WADEK-9WDAYU-9CHSAB-DK7TUD](https://www.flickr.com/photos/76224602@N00/8143434172/in/photolist-DPBEGS-DK7TVS-DZEEPV-9UAPRW-9WABUC-9WAATD-9WADEK-9WDAYU-9CHSAB-DK7TUD)

**NOW IMAGINE A
PLACE...**

**WHERE HAVING A CAR IS THE ULTIMATE SIGN OF
SUCCESS AND PERSONAL FREEDOM...**



trip that ends
your life

**AND WHERE CITIES HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY
(RE)DESIGNED TO FIT THIS DREAM . . .**



**NOW IMAGINE YOU
CAN'T AFFORD A
CAR...**

FOOD DESERTS



[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/E6ZPKHPCIAU](https://youtu.be/e6zpkhpciau)

[HTTPS://WWW.MOVEFORHUNGER.ORG/HARSH-REALITY-FOOD-DESERTS-AMERICA/](https://www.moveforhunger.org/harsh-reality-food-deserts-america/)

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Guardian Selects
Food poverty

Anna Brones

Tue 15 May 2018 17:59 BST



4,681 228

Food apartheid: the root of the problem with America's groceries



▲ 'When we say 'food apartheid,' the real conversation can begin.' Illustration: **Daniel Chang Christensen**

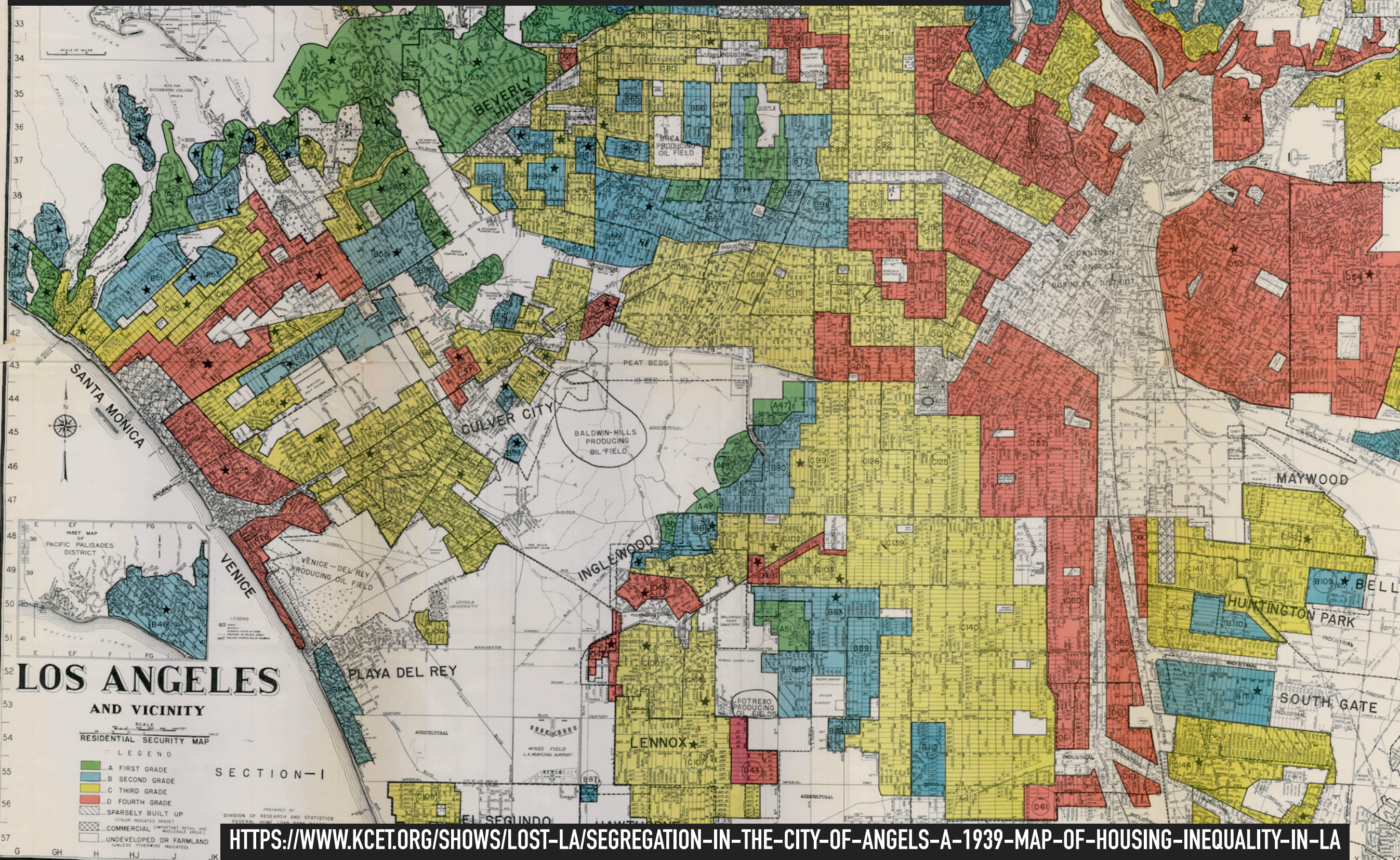
Food justice activist Karen Washington wants us to move away from the term 'food desert', which doesn't take into account the systemic racism permeating the food system

Screenshot

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SEGREGATION IN LOS ANGELES ~ ~ : A 1939 MAP OF HOUSING INEQUALITY IN L.A.



[HTTPS://WWW.KCET.ORG/SHOWS/LOST-LA/SEGREGATION-IN-THE-CITY-OF-ANGELS-A-1939-MAP-OF-HOUSING-INEQUALITY-IN-LA](https://www.kcet.org/shows/lost-la/segregation-in-the-city-of-angels-a-1939-map-of-housing-inequality-in-la)

Fuel poverty kills more people than road accidents

At least 2,700 people die every winter because they can't afford their soaring heating bills.



By **Mirror.co.uk**
00:01, 20 OCT 2011 | **UPDATED** 14:49, 31 JAN 2018

NEWS



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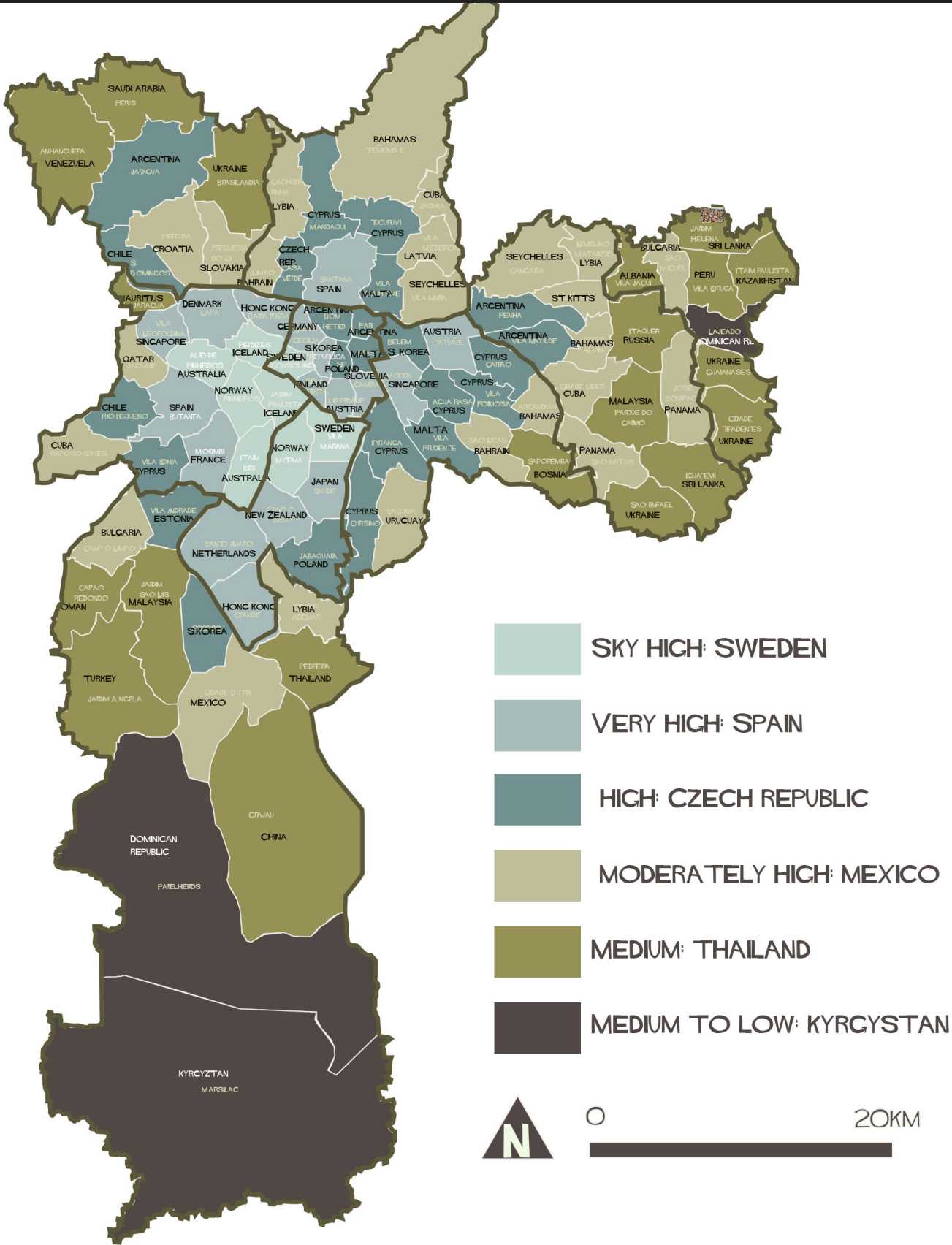
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There are no more questions to answer at this time, but we can save your points and let you know when more are available.

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HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX: HDI (2007)



MAP BY R. ROCCO

ADDITIONAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX ★2007★

São Paulo, Brazil



BY FERNANDO STANKUNS – OWN WORK, CC BY-SA 4.0, [HTTPS://COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG/W/INDEX.PHP?CURID=62274526](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=62274526)

São Paulo, Brazil



CABUCU NEIGHBOURHOOD, SAO PAULO, PHOTO BY ROBERTO ROCCO

But...

most cities do not collapse because
of the mindless pursuit of self-
interest

Why Not?



PATSY HEALEY



ELINOR OSTROM



ELINOR OSTROM



WAYNE QUILLIAM PHOTOGRAPHY / YOTHU YINDI FOUNDATION. YOLNGU PEOPLE PREPARING FOR TRADITIONAL CEREMONIES AT THE 2011 GARMA FESTIVAL IN ARNHAM 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, SÃO PAULO. PHOTO: ROBERTO ROCCO.



COMMUNICATIVE PLANNING

PATSY HEALEY

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



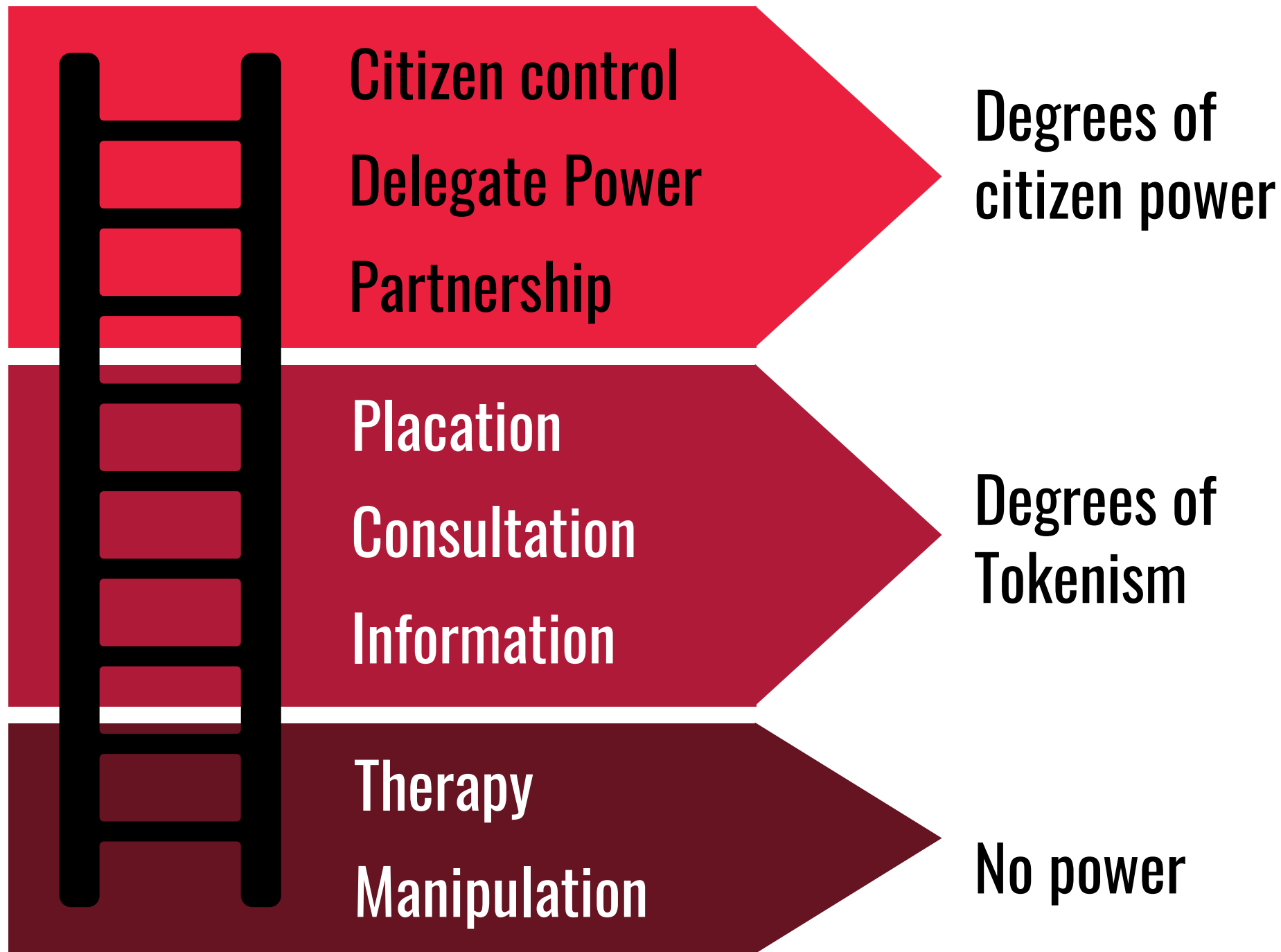
“RECONSTRUCTING THE
MEANING OF A
DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE”
BASED ON MORE
INCLUSIVE PRACTICES OF
“INCLUSIONARY
ARGUMENTATION”.

EMPHASIS ON
PARTICIPATION OF ALL
MEMBERS OF A
COMMUNITY, INCLUDING
THOSE WHOSE VOICES
ARE SILENT OR WHOSE
KNOWLEDGE IS
CONSIDERED
UNIMPORTANT



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

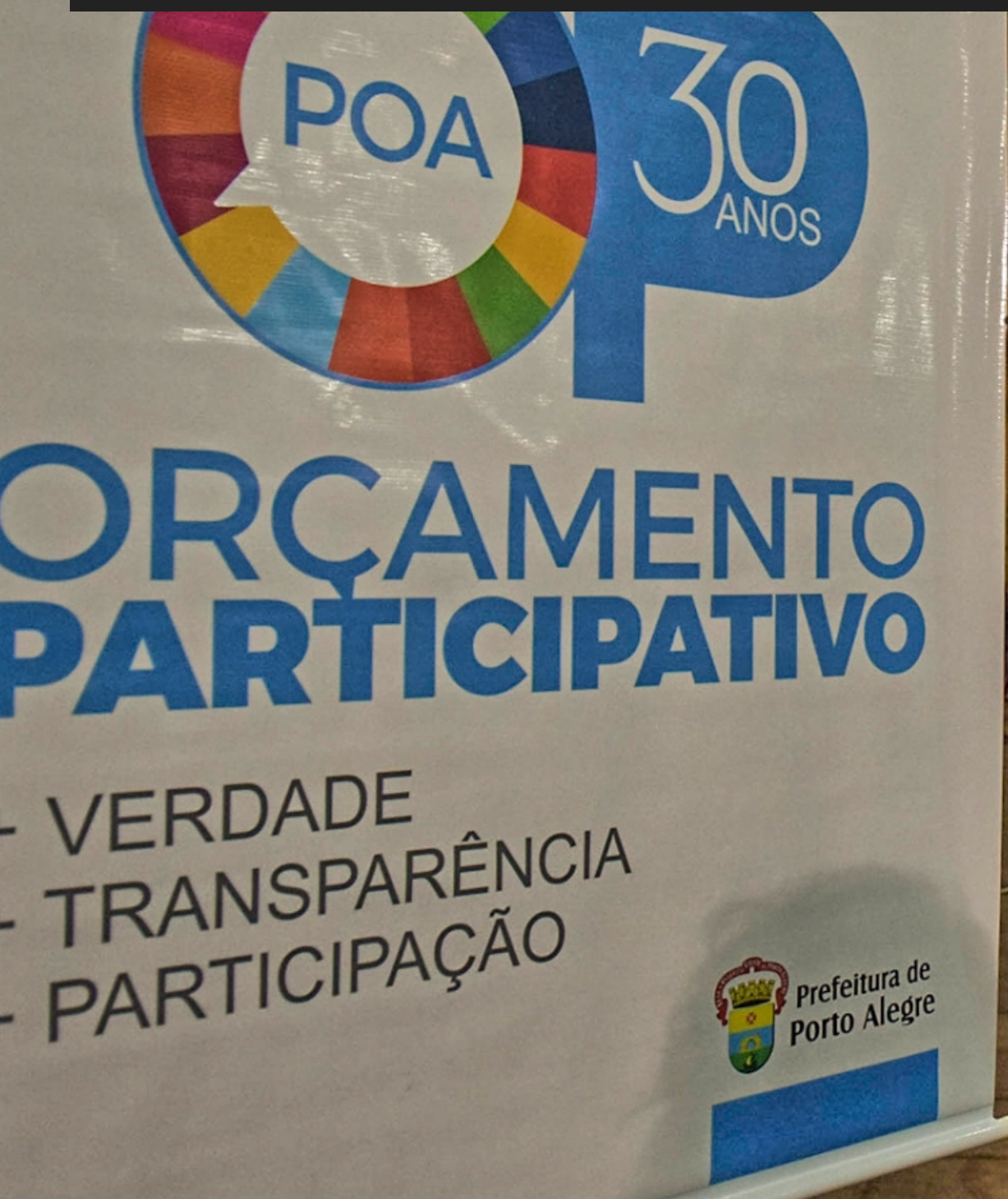
**WHAT CAN WE CONCLUDE FROM THE
JUSTICE OF THE COMMONS?**

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

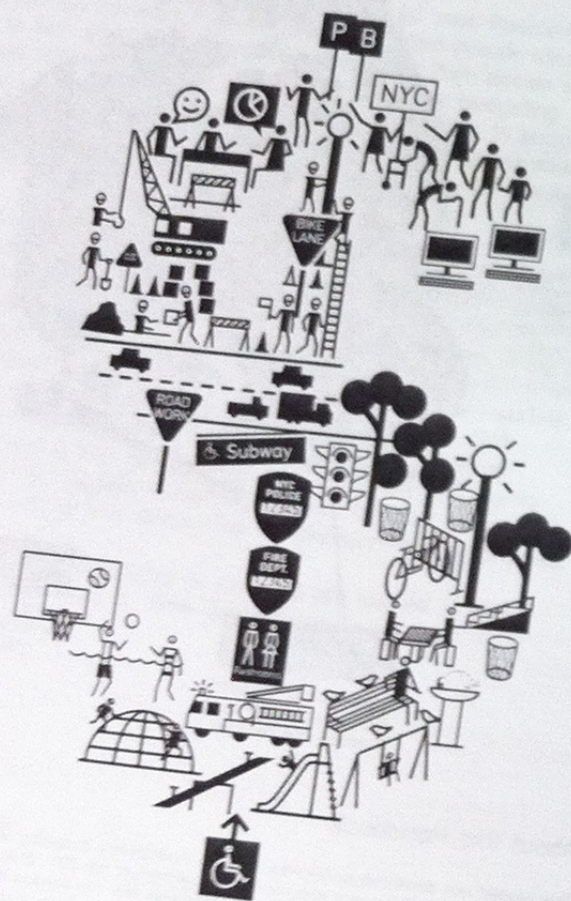


PORTO ALEGRE, RS - 11/11/2019: ORÇAMENTO PARTICIPATIVO - REGIÃO EIXO-BALTAZAR. FOTO: MARIA ANA KRACK/PMPA

EXAMPLES OF CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT

PARTICIPATORY BUDGET

Participatory Budgeting in New York City



Real Money.
Real Projects.
Real Power.



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)

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

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)

A photograph showing a group of people, primarily women, at a public meeting or convention. In the foreground, a woman with short white hair and glasses is looking towards the right. Behind her, another woman with dark hair and glasses is also looking right. A hand with a ring is visible in the lower right, holding a pen. The background is slightly blurred, showing other participants and a wooden wall.

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

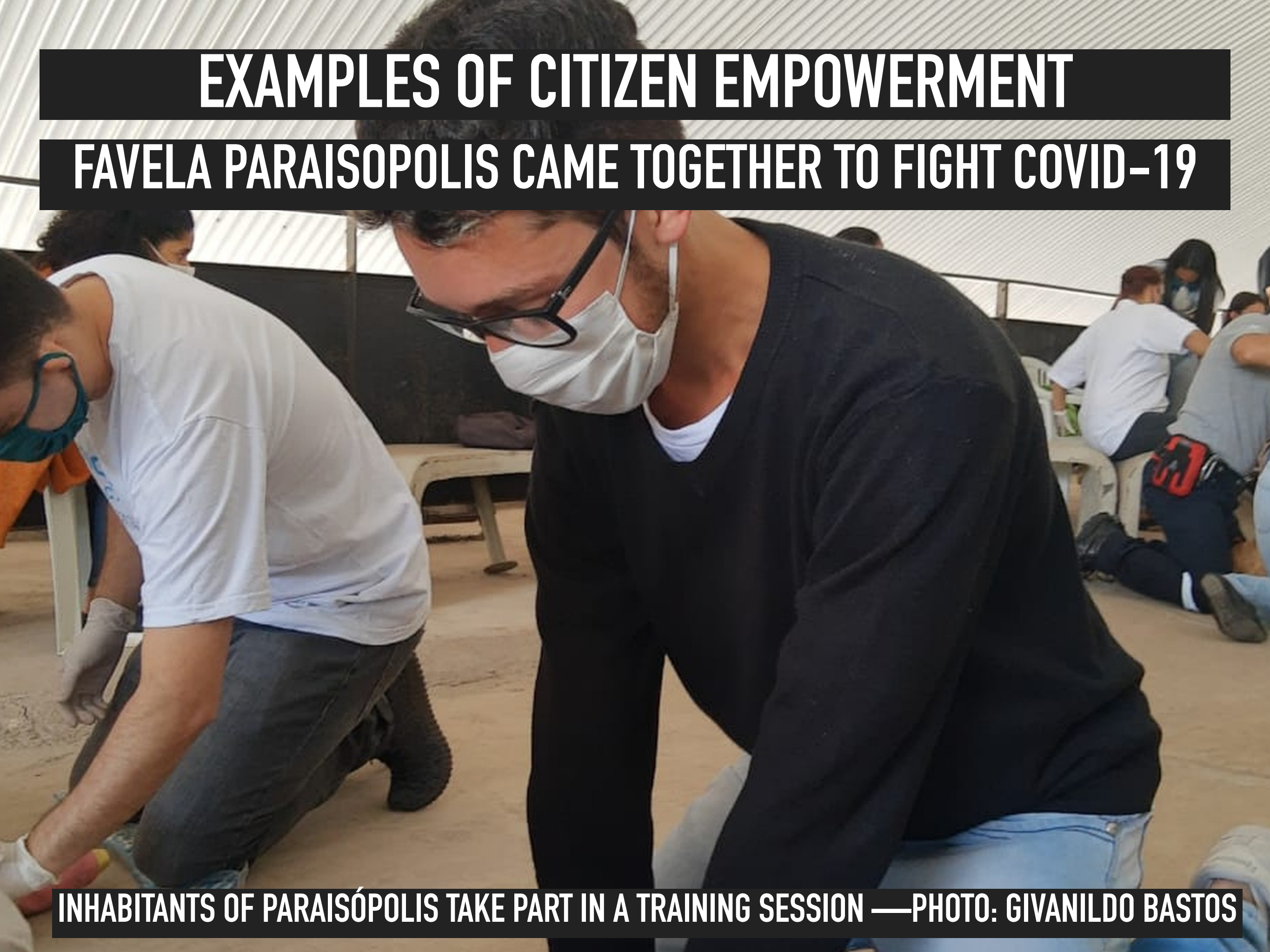
FAVELA PARAISOPOLIS CAME TOGETHER TO FIGHT COVID-19



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**

A black and white portrait of Amartya Sen, an elderly man with glasses, smiling slightly. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt. The background is a plain, light color.

AMARTYA SEN

**PUBLIC
REASONING/
PUBLIC
JUSTIFICATION**

A black and white portrait of Amartya Sen, an elderly man with glasses, smiling slightly. The image is the background for the entire slide.

AMARTYA SEN

**GOVERNMENT
BY DISCUSSION**

VON ELKE WETZIG (ELYA), CC BY-SA 3.0, [HTTPS://COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG/W/INDEX.PHP?CURID=3157355](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3157355)



NEW ROLES FOR PLANNERS AND DESIGNERS



**WHAT IS YOUR
ROLE?**

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THANKS FOR LISTENING

QUESTIONS?

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