

The Spatial Justice *of* Urban Sustainability



ARCHITECTURE

Spatial Justice

Urban Sustainability

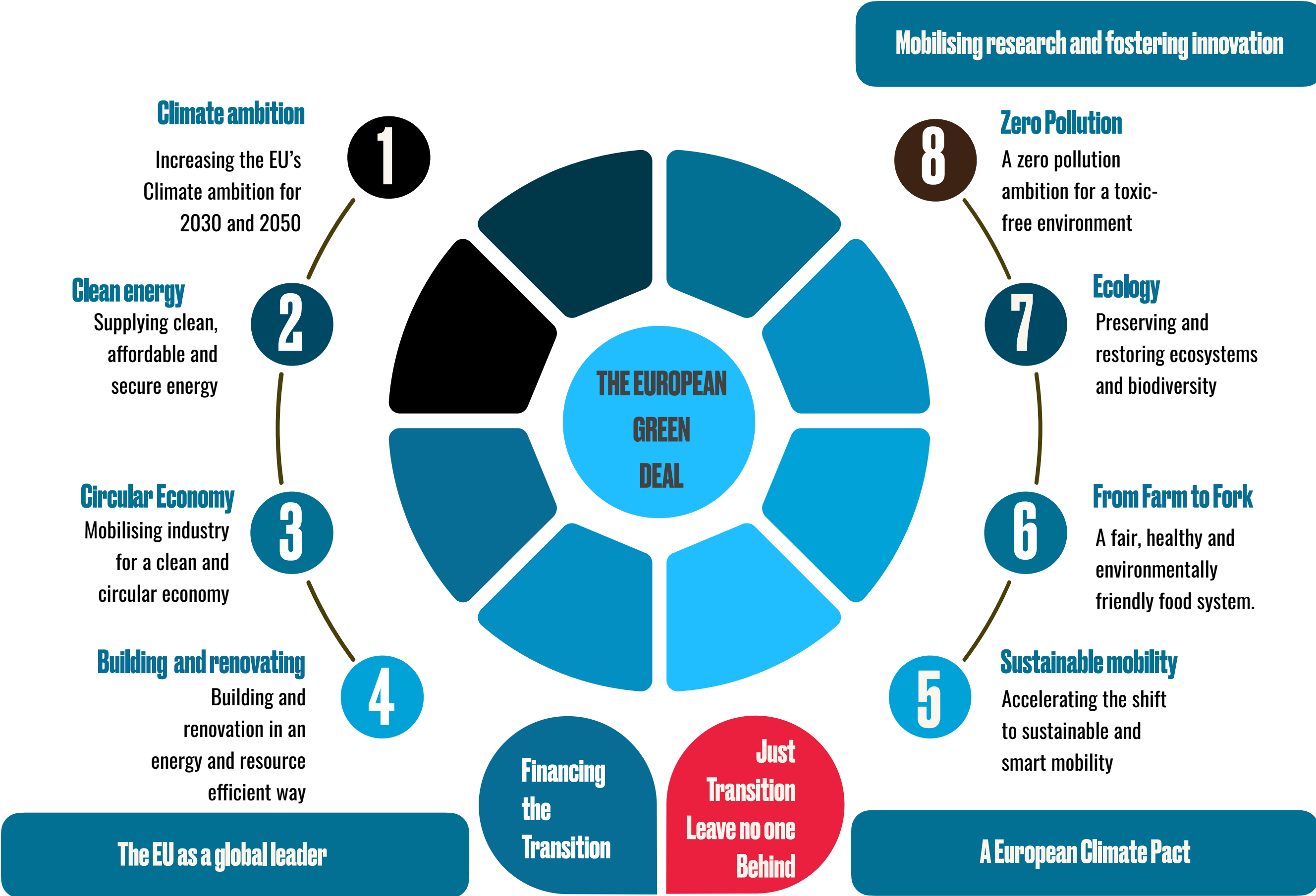
1. How does justice underscore sustainability?
2. Why is justice crucial for the governance of the city?
3. ...and is the city a commons?
4. What are alternatives for the “tragedy” of the commons?
5. What are new roles for Planners and Designers in this perspective?

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



A large red semi-circle graphic is positioned on the left side of the slide, containing the text.

**Just
Transition
Leave no one
Behind**



IBRAHIM

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



MARY

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

"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."

We are not
here now!

World Commission on Environment and Development (1987).

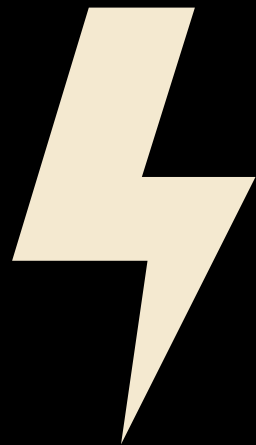
future generations need advocates

“...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

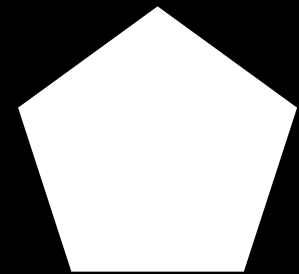
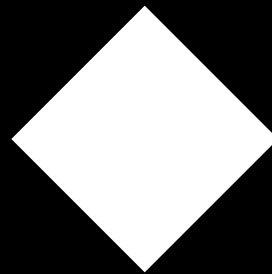
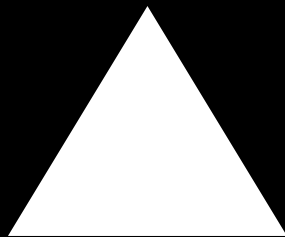
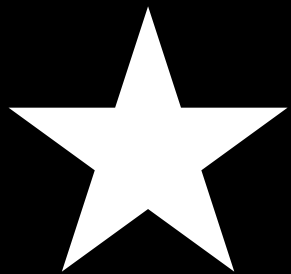


Intergenerational justice

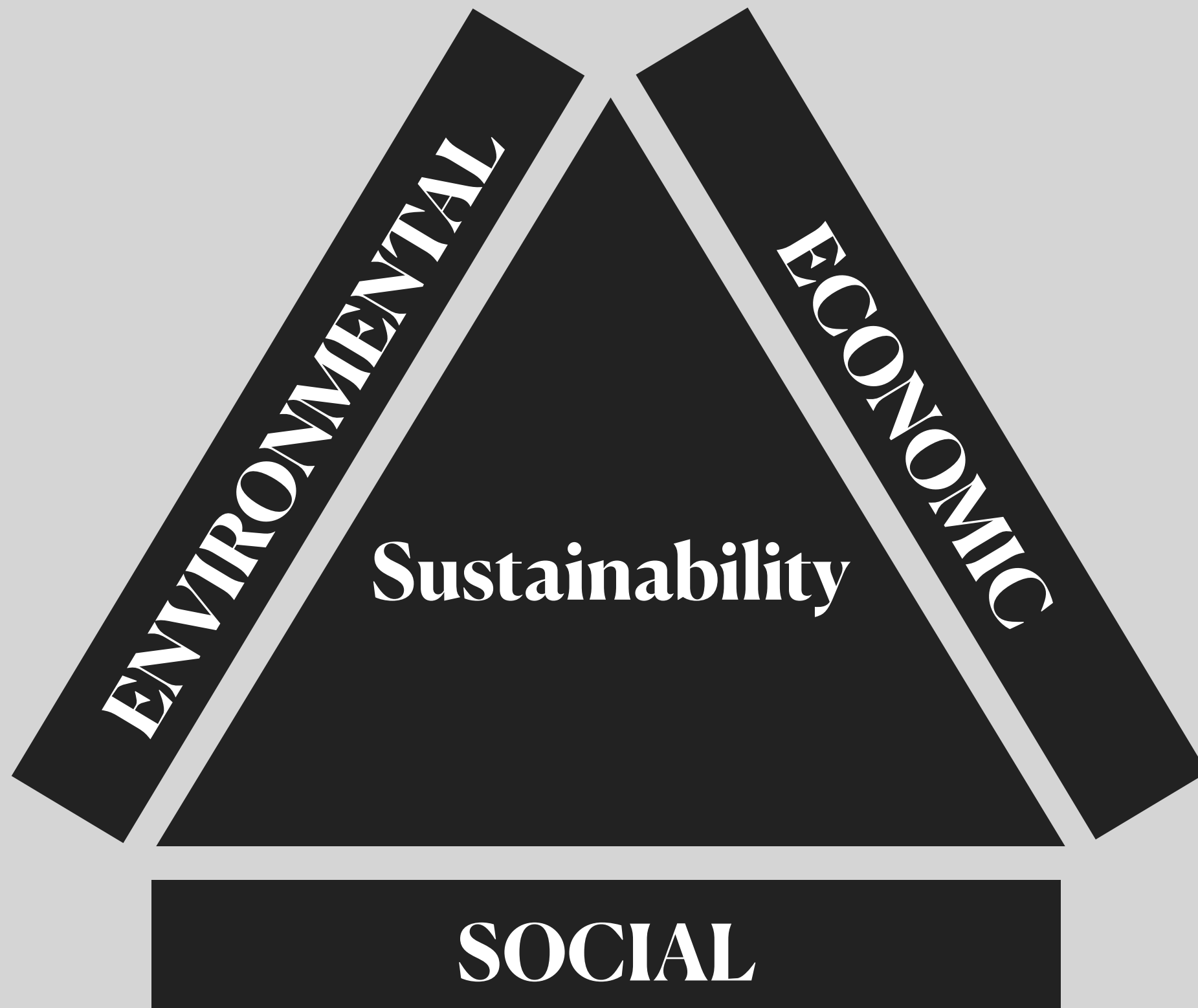


Intragenerational justice

Sustainability is
multidimensional



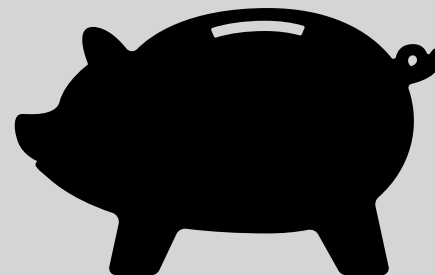
Sustainability is multidimensional



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

The transition
is urgent,
but is it fair?

Can you think of
examples of
transitions in the past?
Were they fair?

John Rawls (2005)

TRUTH concerns validation

whereas

JUSTICE determines acceptability

Both JUSTICE and TRUTH
contribute to the formation of a
democratic public sphere.



Greta Thunberg  @GretaThu... · 19m ...

Science and democracy are strongly interlinked - as they are both built on freedom of speech, independence, facts and transparency.

If you don't respect democracy then you probably won't respect science. And if you don't respect science then you probably won't respect democracy.

 437

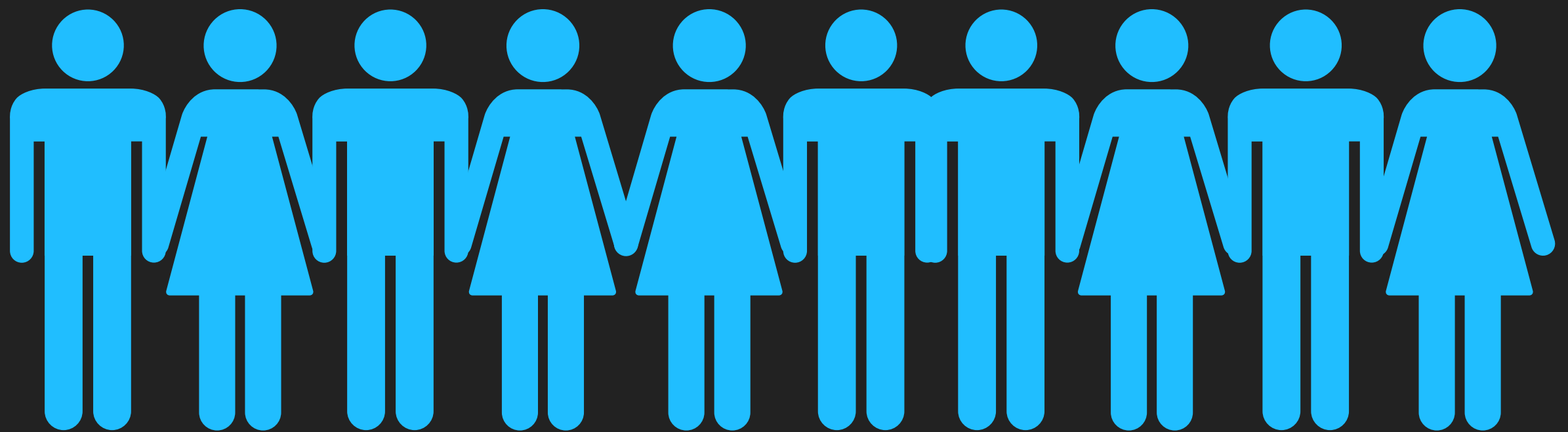
 2,514

 9,938



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.



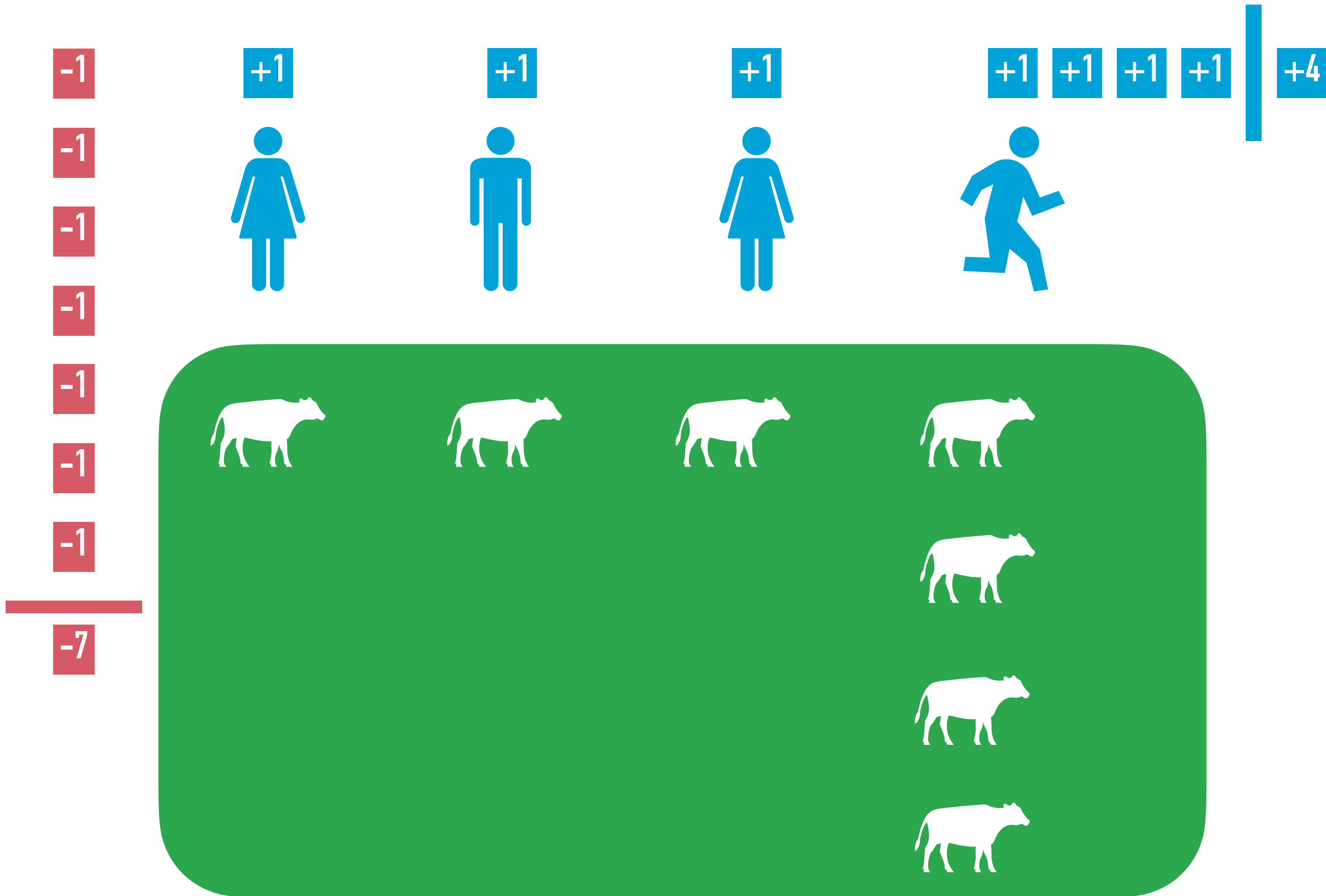
Rational choice theory



Neoclassical economics

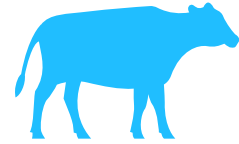
The Tragedy of the Commons





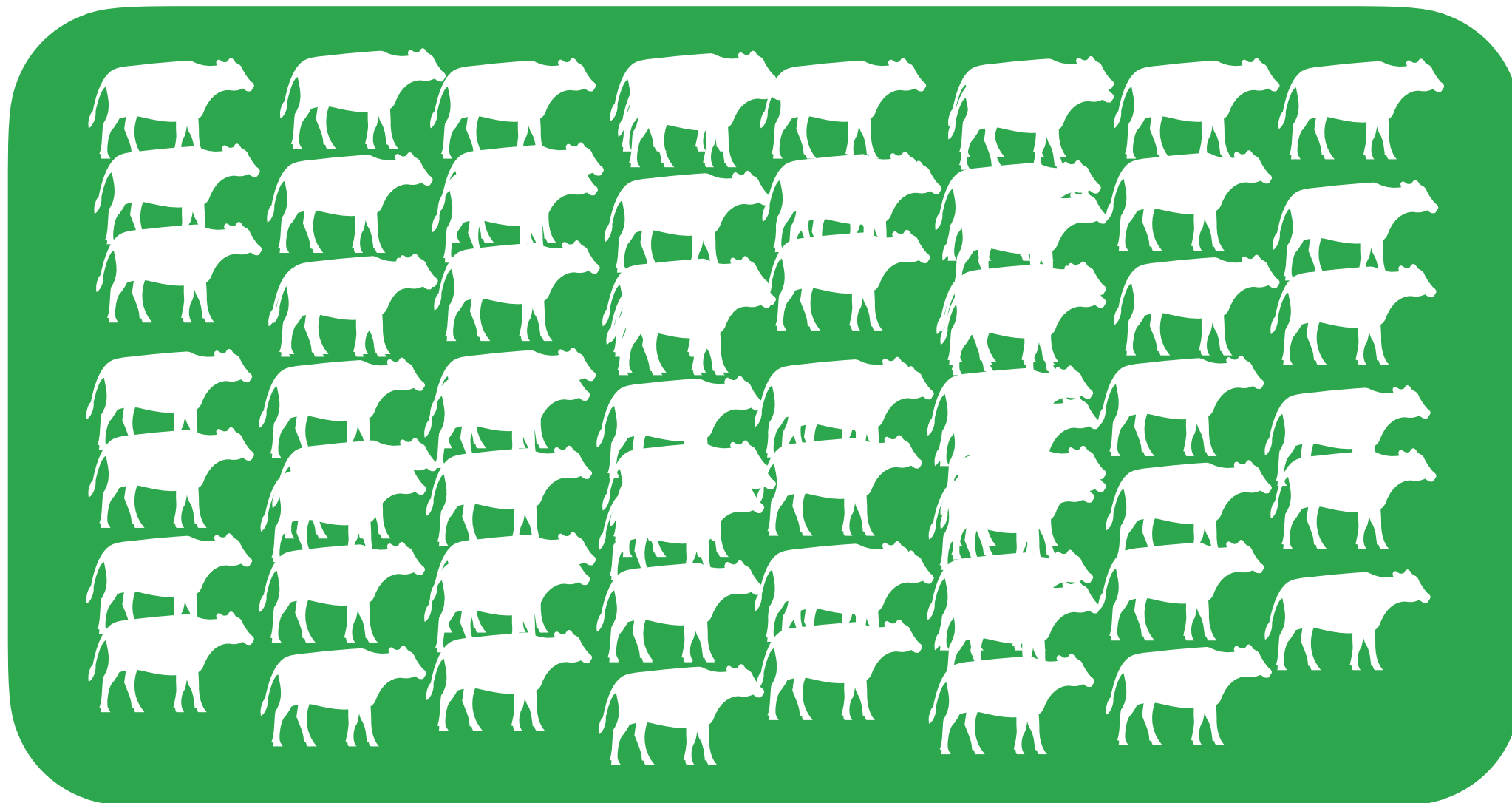
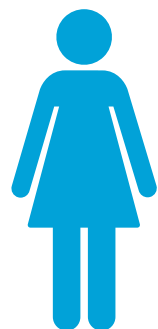


If rational choice
theory applies...



BIG INCENTIVE for the farmers to
put more cows to graze in the field

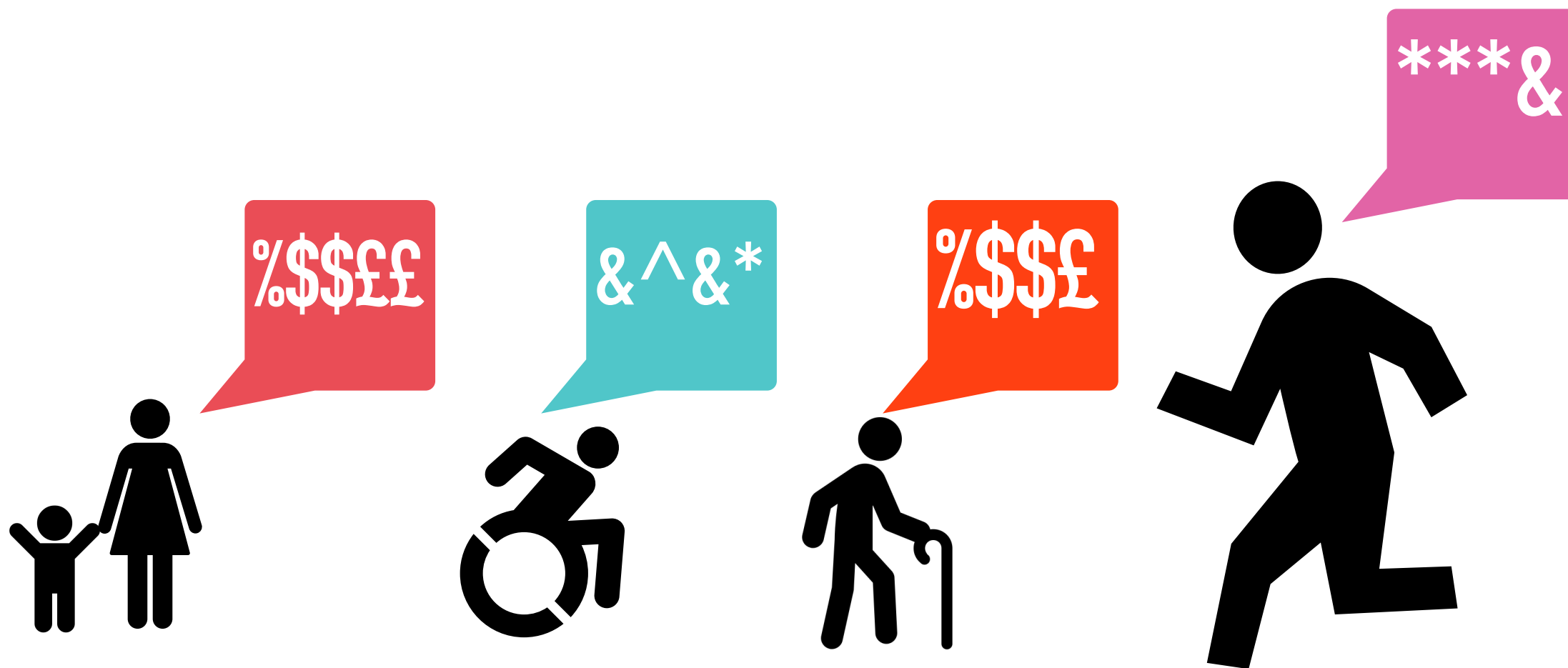
LITTLE INCENTIVE for them to
control the number of cows



**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.

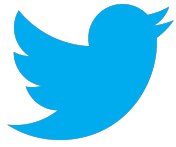


This is the “tragedy” of the
commons:

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

But is this
true?

Does rational
choice theory
always apply?



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.

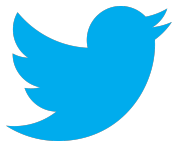
[HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/JASONHICKEL/STATUS/1326455726190055425](https://twitter.com/jasonhickel/status/1326455726190055425)

Intra
generational
justice



Inter
generational
justice

Sustainability studies start to conceptualise our
planet as a big commons



↻ Henk Ovink Retweeted

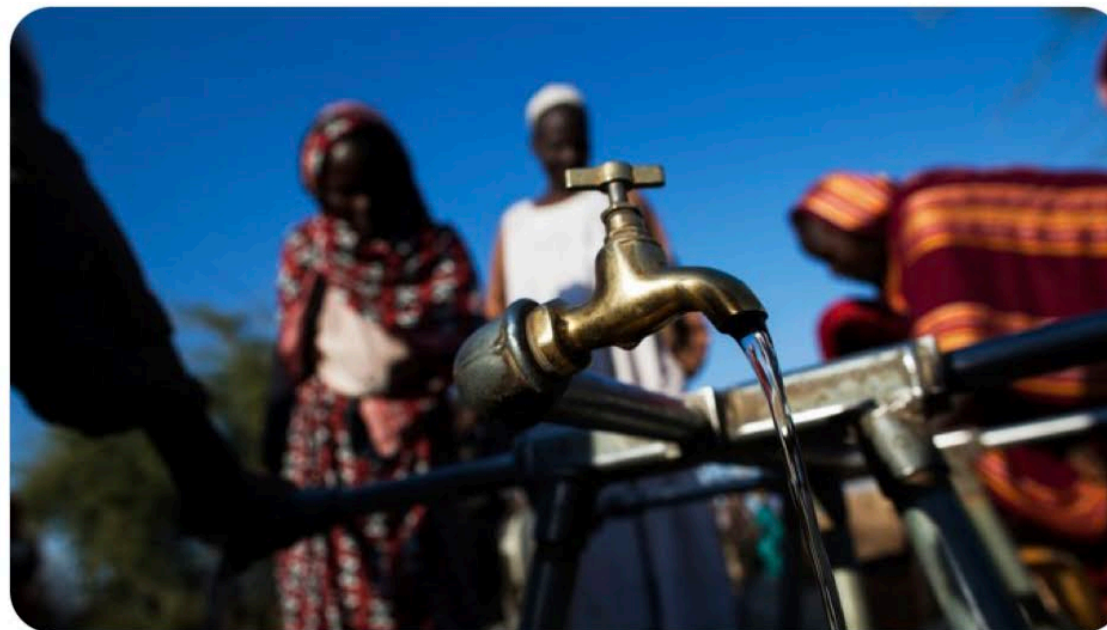


Amina J Mohammed  @AminaJ... · 1d ...

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



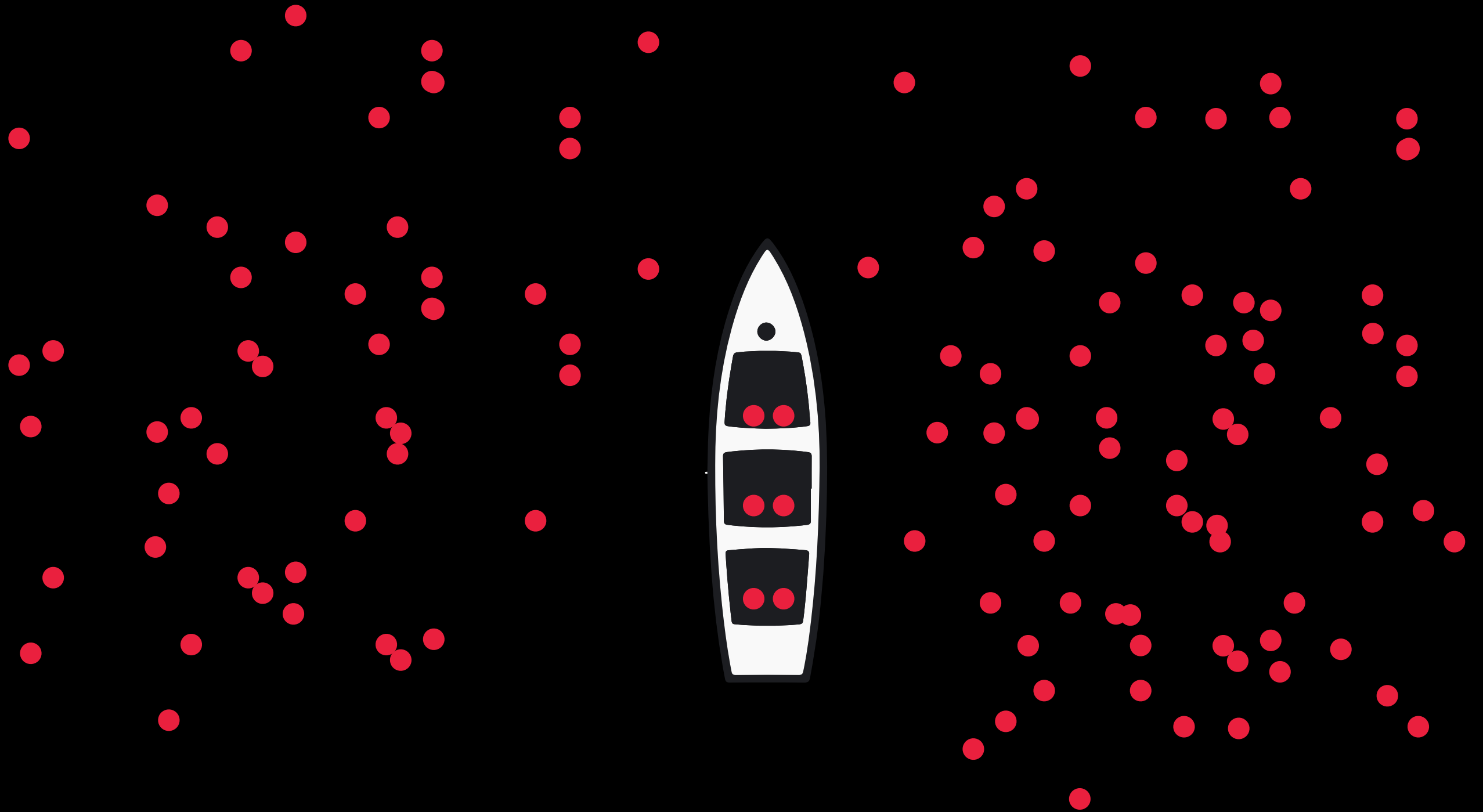
No agreement



The life boat hypothesis

The boat hypothesis

The Titanic hypothesis



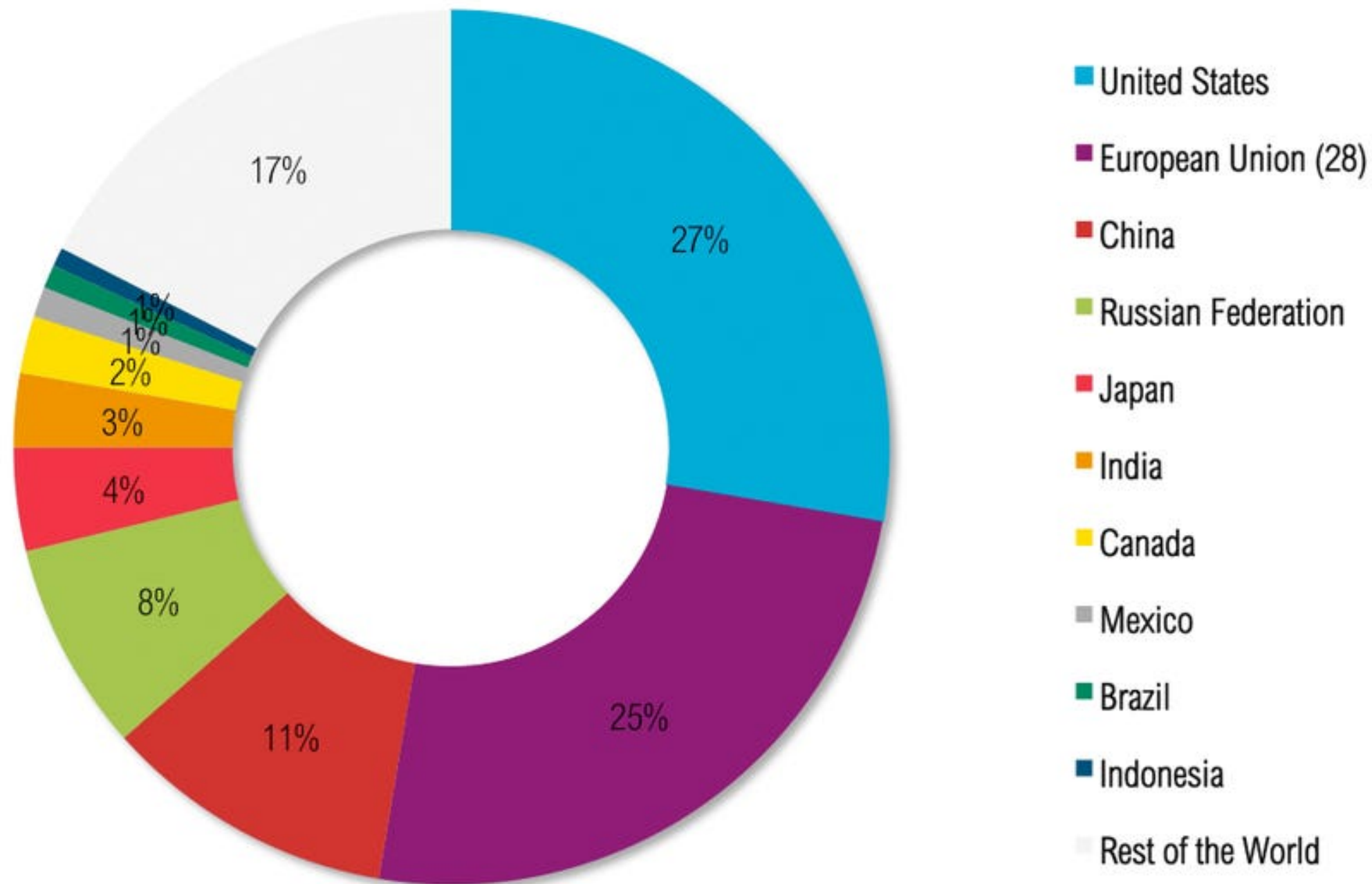
The life boat hypothesis

An example of the life boat mentality



<https://youtu.be/jP55meWlLt4>

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>



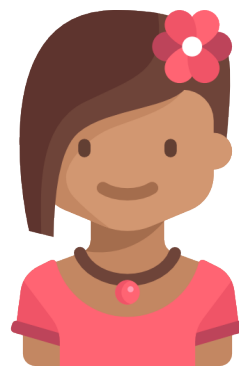
The big boat hypothesis

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

**But if we are in the same boat...
how are we going to divide the
resources of this boat
among us?**



UTILITARIANISM

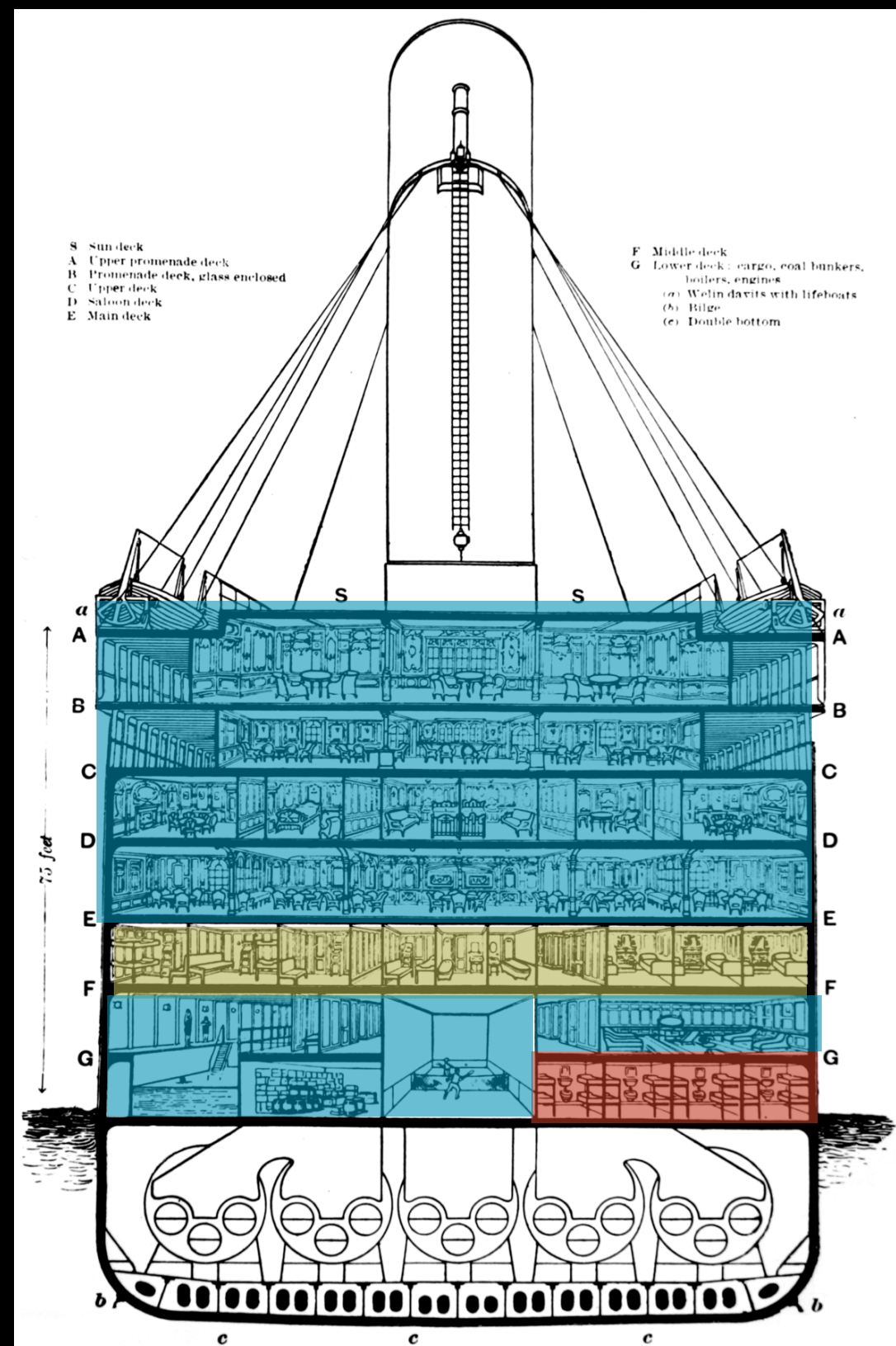


**ECONOMIC
EGALITARIANISM**



LIBERTARIANISM

**My own (humorous)
take on the boat
hypothesis**



The Titanic hypothesis

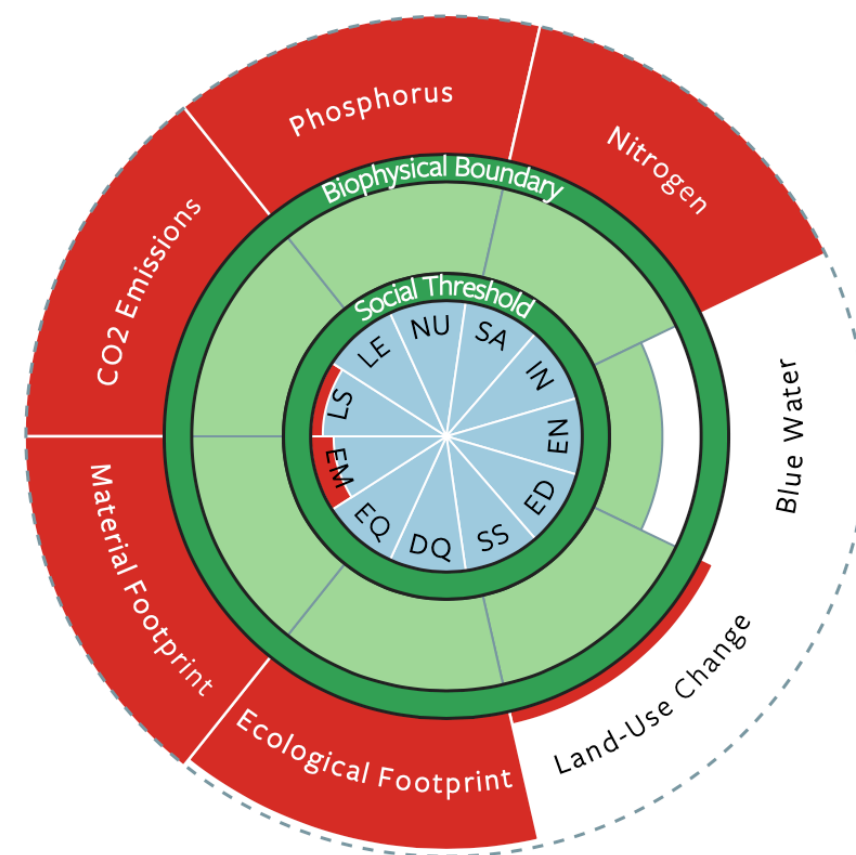
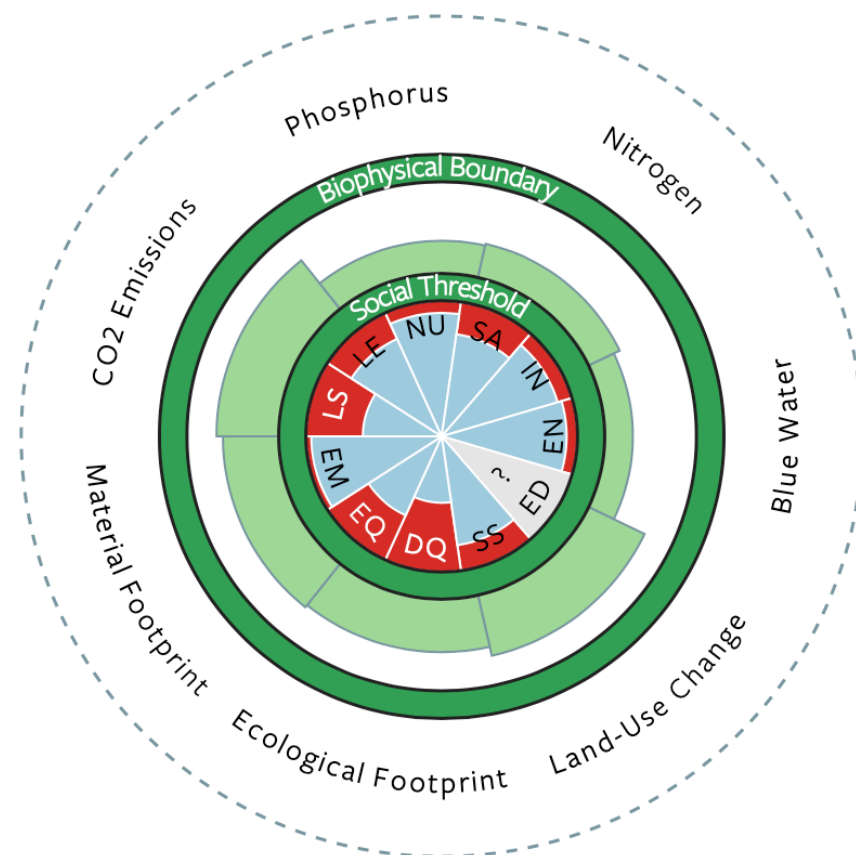
[HTTPS://COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG/WIKI/FILE:TITANIC_CUTAWAY_DIAGRAM.PNG#FILELINKS](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Titanic_cutaway_diagram.png#filelinks)

The Doughnut Economy

Philippines



EU-28

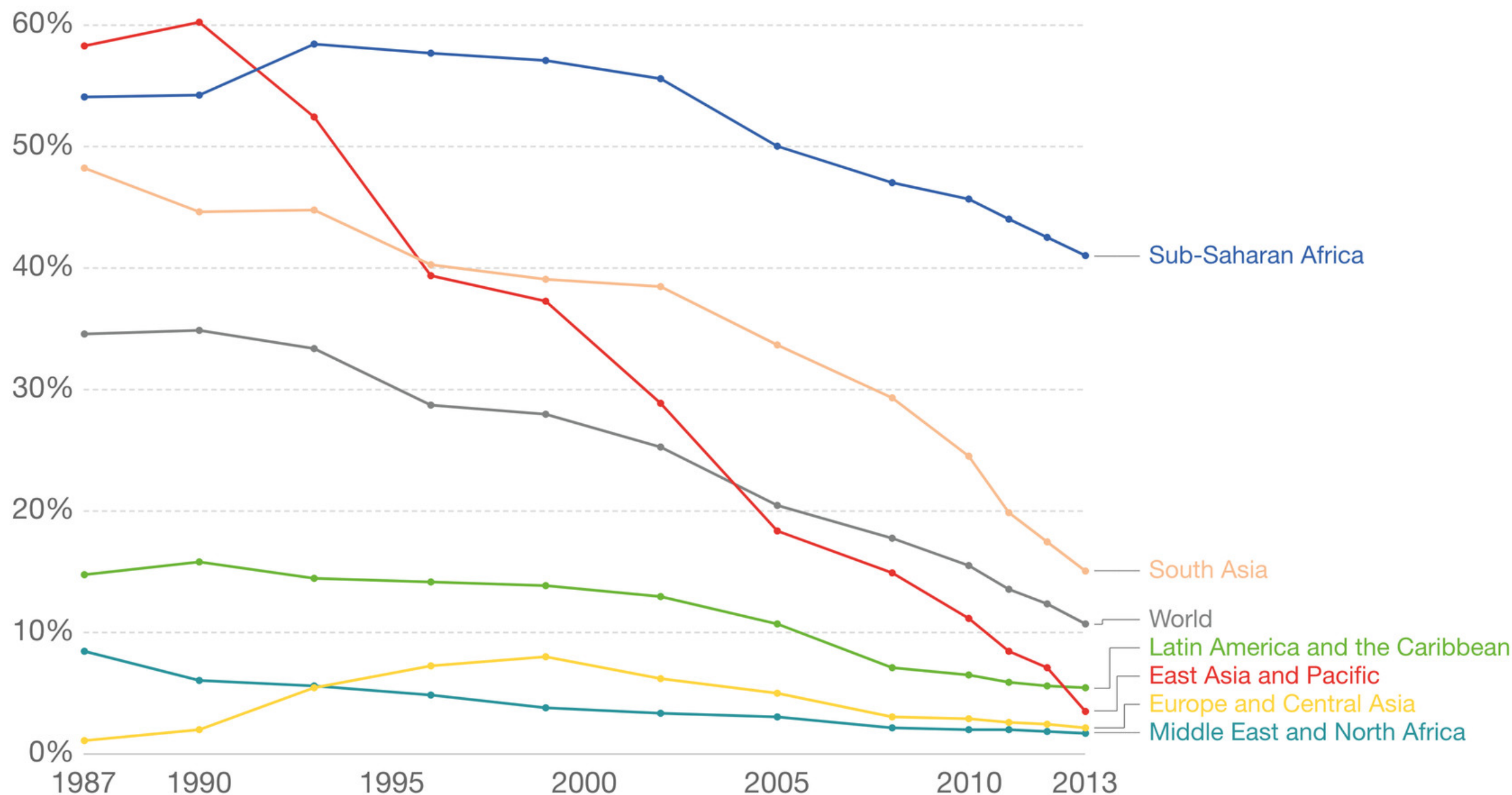


LS - Life Satisfaction	ED - Education
LE - Healthy Life Expect.	SS - Social Support
NU - Nutrition	DQ - Democratic Quality
SA - Sanitation	EQ - Equality
IN - Income	EM - Employment
EN - Access to Energy	

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

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

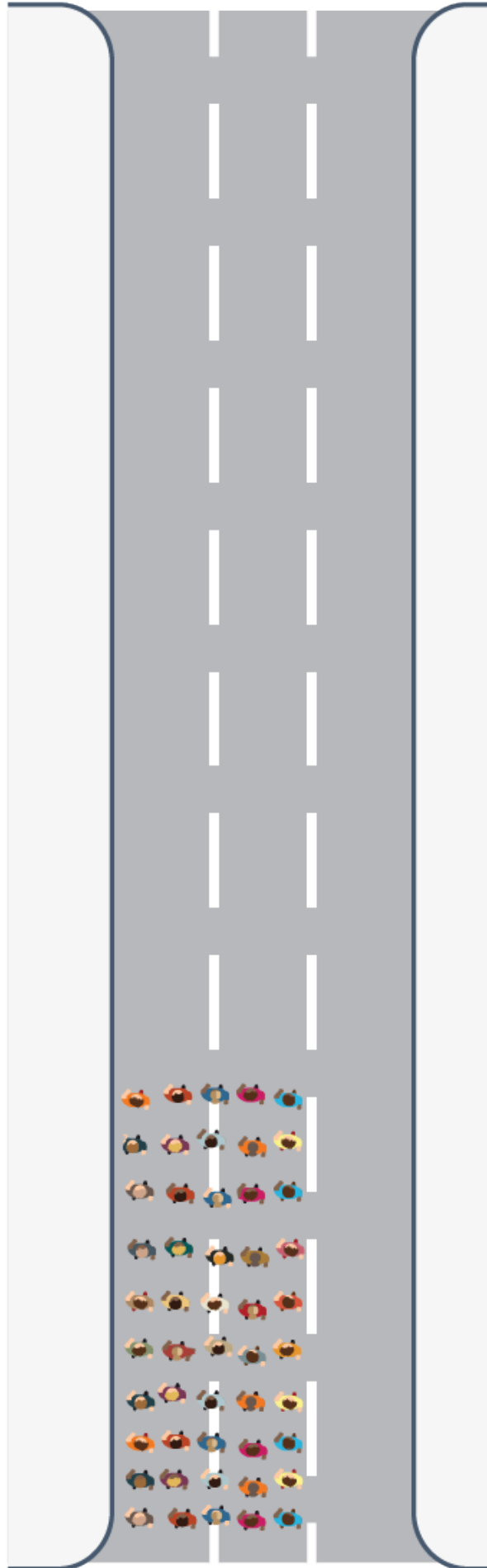
great individual utility x
shared negative externalities

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

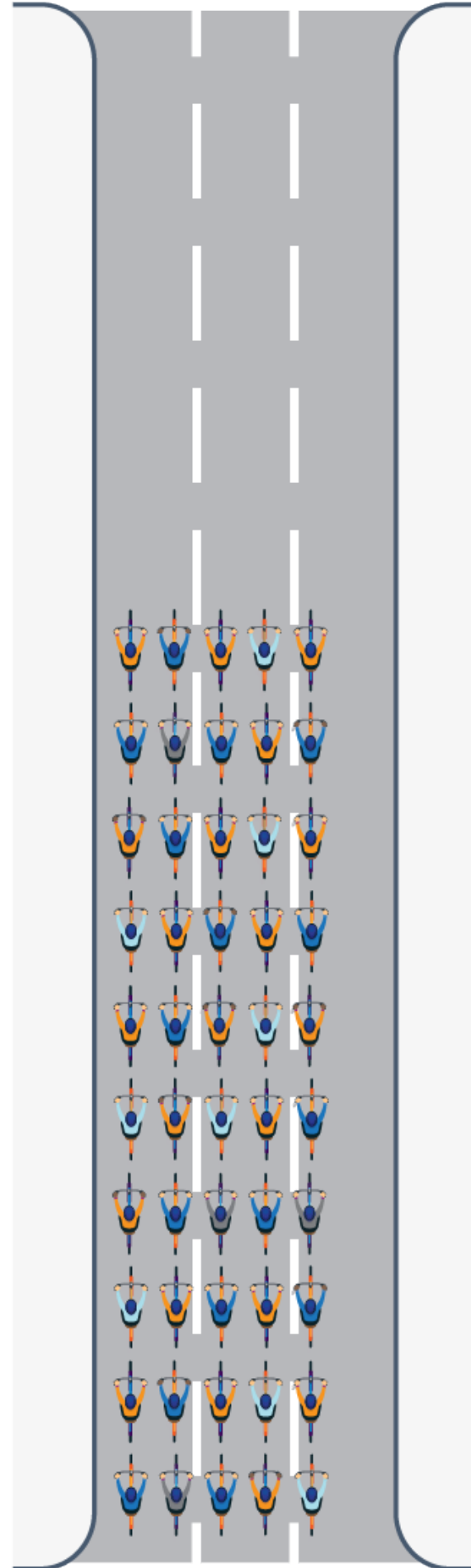
Here are 200 people in 177 cars



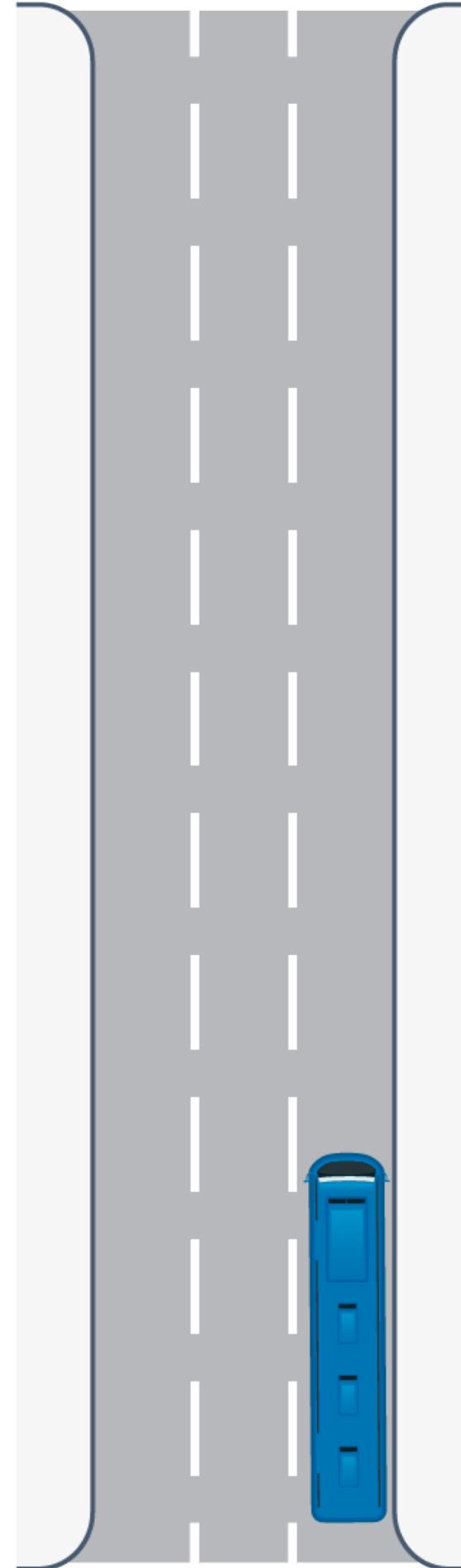
50 pedestrians



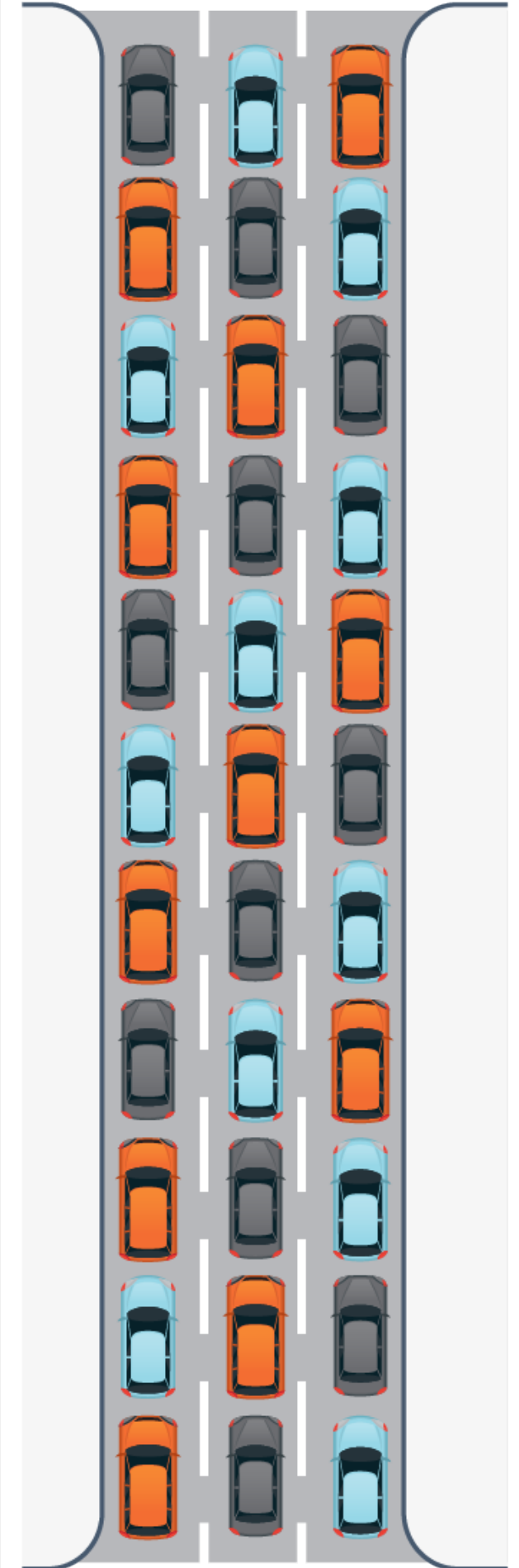
50 cyclists



50 people on a bus



50 people in 33 cars



<https://youtu.be/06ljfbqdnNM>

**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**



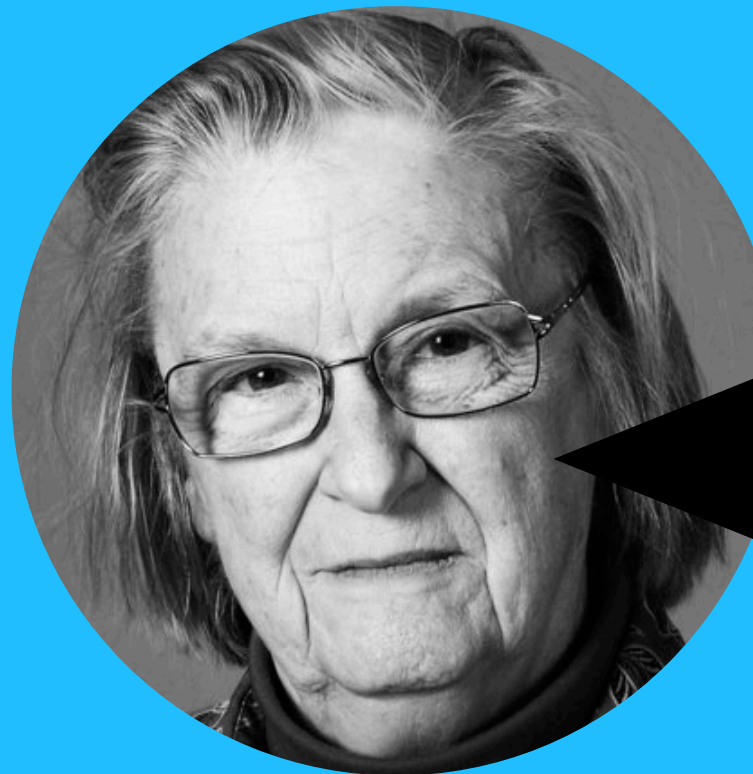
**Judith
Innes**



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/)



**Communicative
planning**

PATSY HEALEY

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



“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)



Emphasis on the 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 “inclusiionary argumentation”.

How are we going to live together?



“DIAD”

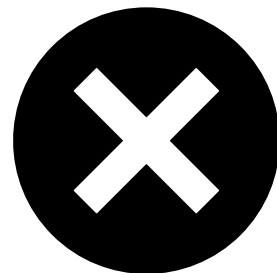
- Diversity of Interests: the full inclusion of participants who have a stake in the problem
- Interdependence of Interests: a recognition by the participants that they must depend on each other to meet their interests
- Authentic Dialogue: the engagement of all participants in face-to-face conversations.



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)

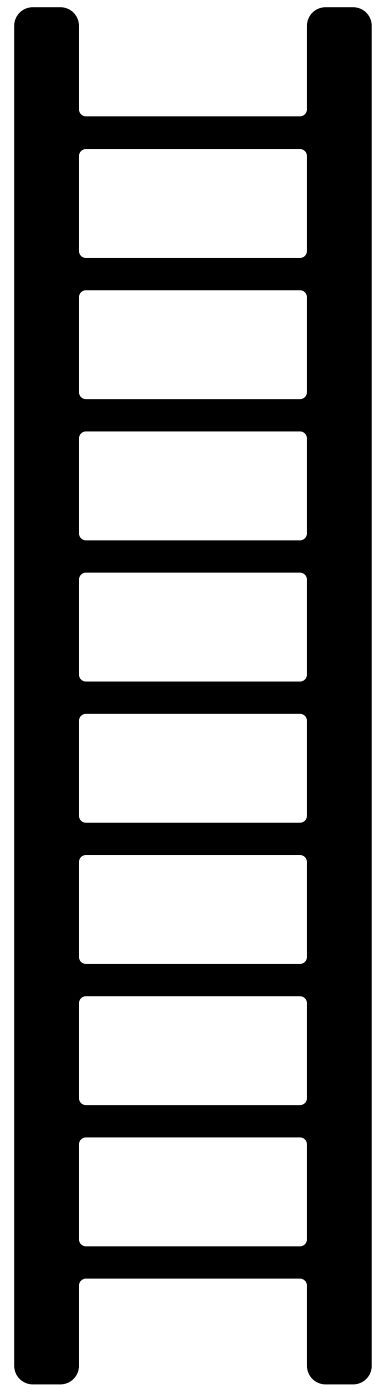
**Rational
choice
theory**



**Collective
public
rationality**

Ladder of citizen participation

Arnstein (1969)



Citizen control
Delegate Power
Partnership

Degrees of
citizen power

Placation
Consultation
Information

Degrees of
Tokenism

Therapy
Manipulation

No power

‘Right to the City’

Henri Lefebvre, *Le droit à la ville*, 1968

The right to shape your living
environment to your needs and desires,
The right to participate in the governance
of the city.

What can we conclude from the
justice of the commons?

Cities are spaces of simultaneous
COMPETITION...

and lots and lots and lots of **COOPERATION**

Can the city be
conceptualised as a
commons in the classic sense
of common property?

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)

WHO does the city
belong to?

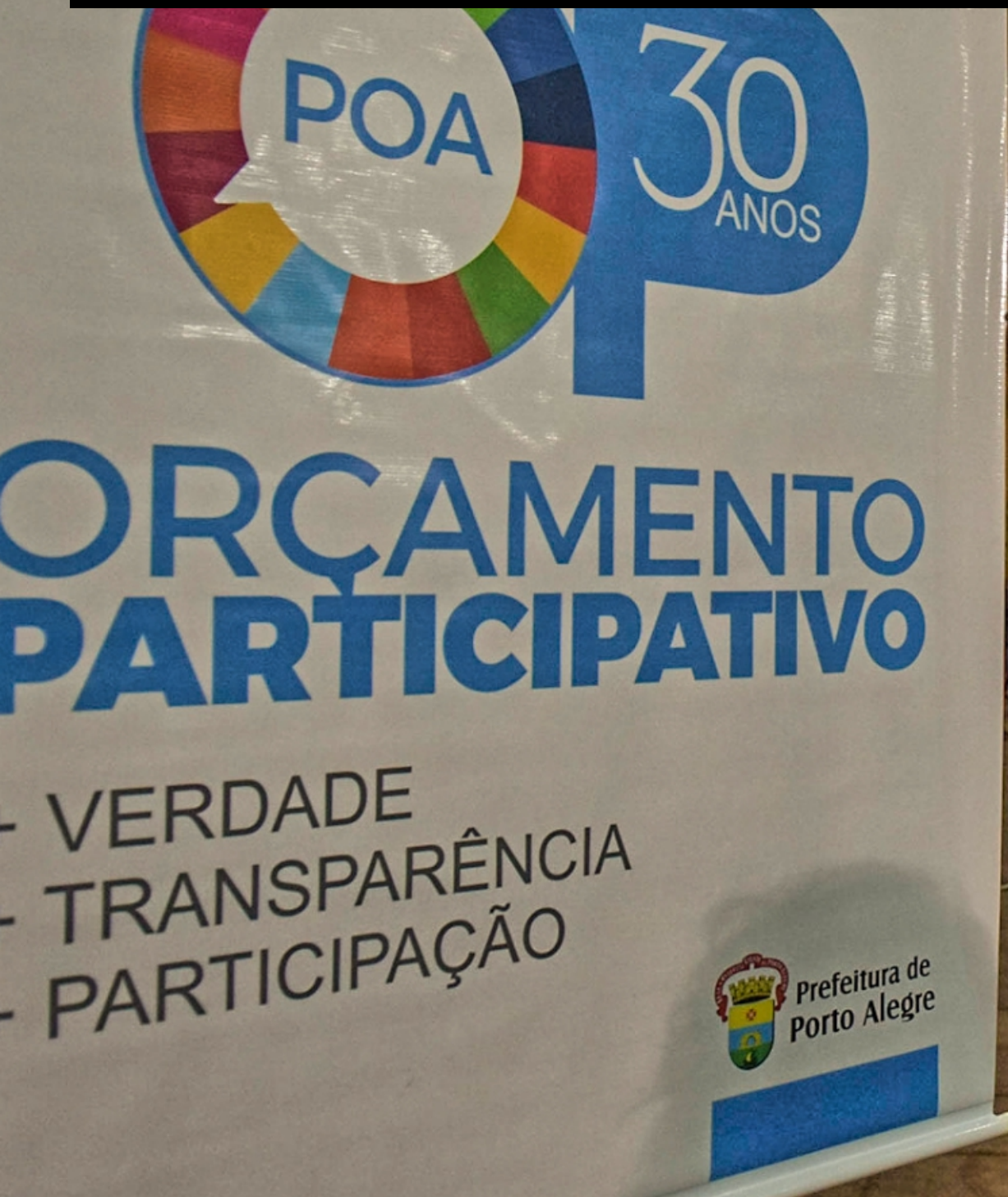
If a person cannot afford
housing, do they have the
right to live in the city?

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

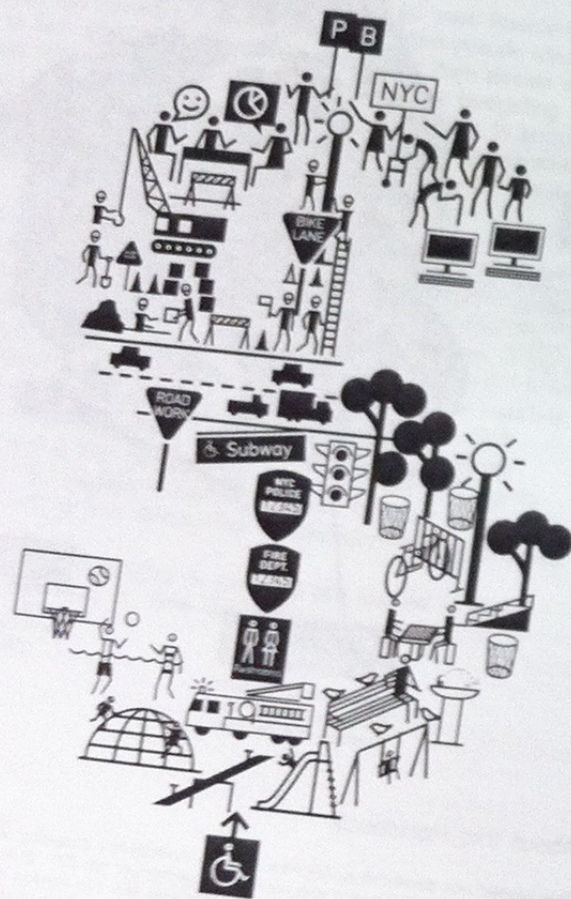


PORTO ALEGRE, RS - 11/11/2019: ORÇAMENTO PARTICIPATIVO - REGIÃO EIXO-BALTAZAR. FOTO: MARIA ANA KRACK/PMPA

Examples of citizen empowerment

PARTICIPATORY BUDGET

Participatory Budgeting in New York City



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)

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

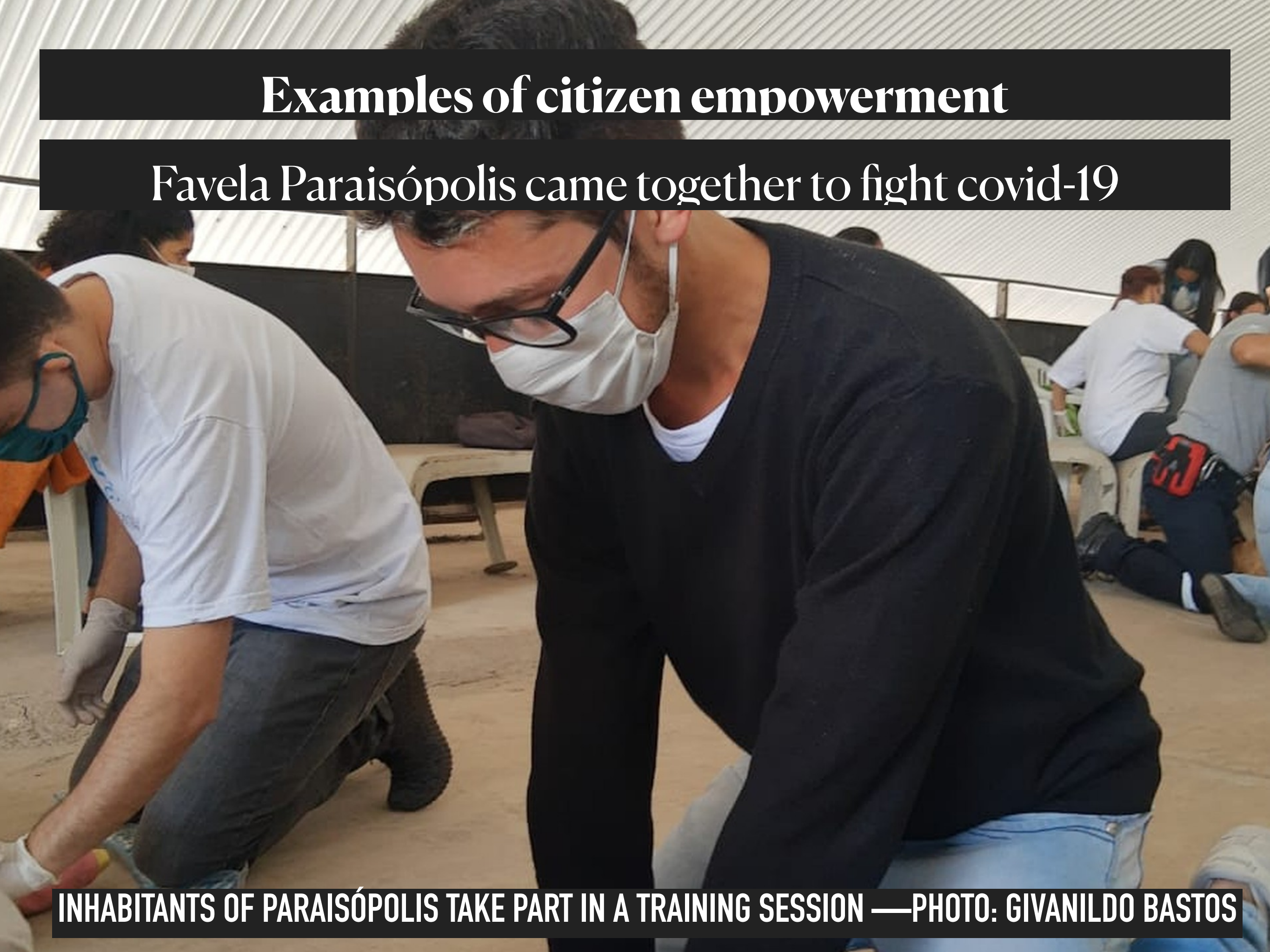
Favela Paraisópolis came together to fight covid-19



PHOTO BY JOSI MARTINS

Examples of citizen empowerment

Favela Paraisópolis came together to fight covid-19



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

LESSONS LEARNED

- **(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
Nobel laureate
Economist
Philosopher

**Public
reasoning/
Public
justification**



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