transformative social innovation theory

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Transformative Social Innovation and its paradoxes

Paradoxes of Transformative Social Innovation: interrogating new knowings of governance and imaginaries of societal transformation, 06-07/12/17, Brussels (BE)

Dr. Bonno Pel (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium)

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1 On the TRANSIT project (2014-2017)

Partners

DRIFT (Coordinator)
Erasmus University of Rotterdam,
the Netherlands

3S-group
University of East Anglia, United Kingdom

ICIS
University of Maastricht, the Netherlands

IHS
Erasmus University of Rotterdam,
the Netherlands

ULB-CEDD
Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium

AAU
Aalborg University, Denmark

SPRU
University of Sussex, United Kingdom

IEC-UNQ
Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, Argentina

COPPE
Rio de Janeiro Federal University, Brasil

People-Environment Research Group
Universidade da Coruna, Spain

BOKU
University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences
Vienna, Austria

ESSRG
research and development SME, Hungary

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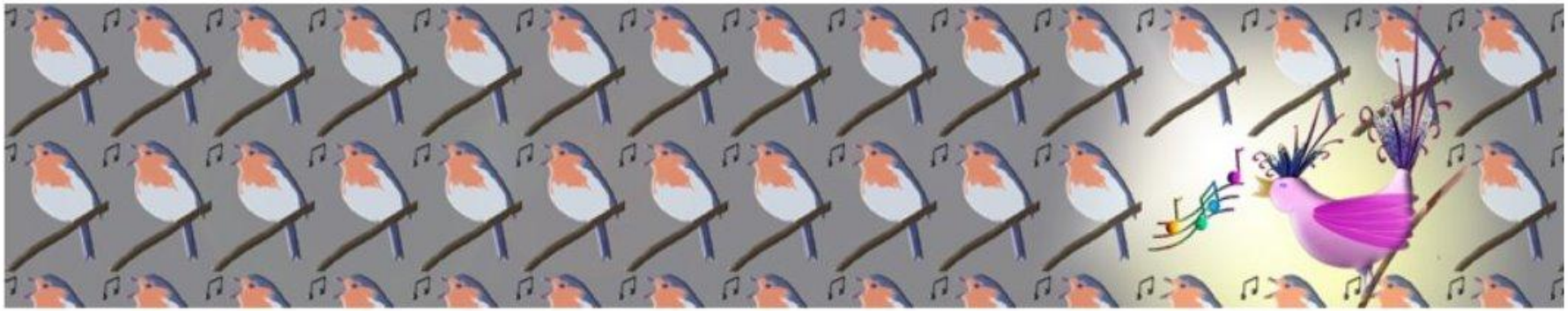
A middle-range theory of TSI

Conceptual framework & 20 theoretical propositions on TSI

http://www.transitsocialinnovation.eu/deliverables

Ecology and Society



Game-Changers and Transformative Social Innovation

Guest Editors: Flor Avelino, Rene Kemp, Julia Wittmayer, and Alex Haxeltine

ELSEVIER

Technological Forecasting and Social Change

Available online 7 June 2017

In Press, Corrected Proof

Transformative social innovation and (dis) empowerment

Flor Avelino [a], Julia M. Wittmayer [a], Bonno Pel [b], Paul Weaver [c], Adina Dumitru [d], Alex Haxeltine [e], René Kemp [c], Michael S. Jørgensen [f], Tom Bauler [b], Saskia Ruijsink [g], Tim O'Riordan [e]

ELSEVIER

Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability

Volume 22, October 2016, Pages 69-74

Experimenting with alternative economies: four emergent counter-narratives of urban economic development

Noel Longhurst [1], Flor Avelino [2], Julia Wittmayer [2], Paul Weaver [3], Adina Dumitru [4], Sabine Hielscher [5], Carla Cipolla [6], Rita Afonso [6], Iris Kunze [7], Morten Elle [8]

TRANSIT final conference “Learning for Change “, Rotterdam (NL) , 14/15 September 2017

https://tsimanifesto.org/

"This is a manifesto 'in-the-making'. It is written by and for activists, entrepreneurs, policy-makers, citizens, critical intellectuals and other engaged individuals who are interested in understanding and contributing to social change to face the challenges of our times and to imagine alternative futures. The aim of this document is to unite those people, to identify complementarities, differences, common insights and challenges."

2 Towards TSI middle-range theory

Social innovation: Changing social relations, involving new ways of doing, organizing, framing and knowing

Transformative social innovation: a process of changing social relations, that involves the *challenging*, *altering* or *replacing* of ***dominant institutions*** in a specific context.

High Expectations of Social Innovation

Former EU commission president José Manuel Barroso:

"If encouraged and valued, social innovation can ***bring immediate solutions to the pressing social issues*** *that citizens are confronted with."*

BEPA:

"At a ***time of major budgetary constraints, social innovation is an effective way of responding to social challenges****, by mobilising people's creativity to develop solutions and make better use of scarce resources".*

Research questions

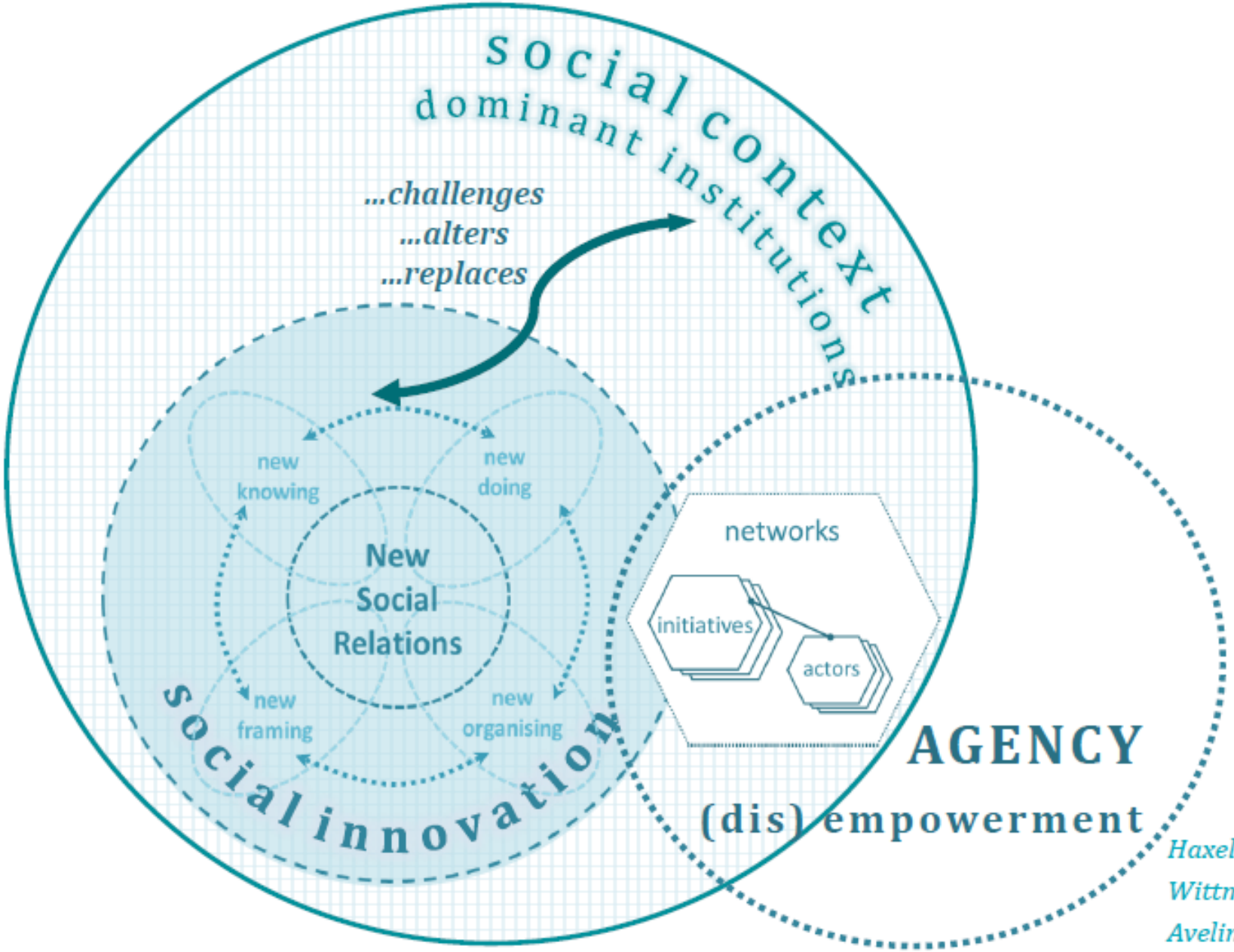
Critically affirmed Assumption:

Social innovation contributes to wider transformative change and empowers people to deal with societal challenges. *("…so we need to scale up!"*)

Research questions TRANSIT-project:

- *How, to what extent and under which conditions does social innovation contribute to transformative change?*
- *How are people empowered (or disempowered) to contribute to such processes?*
- *How do we conceptualise and study transformative social innovation?*

Agency for transformative social innovation



Haxeltine et al. 2015
Wittmayer et al. 2015
Avelino et al. 2014

TSI: Towards middle-range theory.

Geels (2007; 2010): Need for empowering, solid middle-range theory of transformative change. Beyond 'reificophobia'.

Yet also need to avoid reifying, abstract systems theory (Jørgensen 2012; Garud & Gehman 2012; Jessop et al. 2013; Avelino et al. 2016)

Haxeltine et al. (forthcoming): MRT theory-building & relational framework

Pel et al. (forthcoming): Embedded, fluid, provisional Units of Analysis.

-> Cautious MRT development, iterative elaborations of TSI framework

Special issue (forthcoming 2017):
"Methodological challenges in SI research"
Wittmayer, Pel, Bauler & Avelino

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hackerspaces

DESIS NETWORK
Design for Social Innovation and Sustainability

SHAREABLE

Living Knowledge
The International Science Shop Network

INFORSE
International Network for Sustainable Energy

Slow Food®

Global Ecovillage Network

SEED FREEDOM

Transition Network.org

RÉSEAU INTERCONTINENTAL DE PROMOTION DE L'ÉCONOMIE SOCIALE SOLIDAIRE

ripess

OIDP
PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROJECT

TIME BANK
60 MINUTES
1 HOUR

Co-operative Housing International
A Sector of the International Co-operative Alliance

Credit Union

BIEN
Basic Income Earth Network

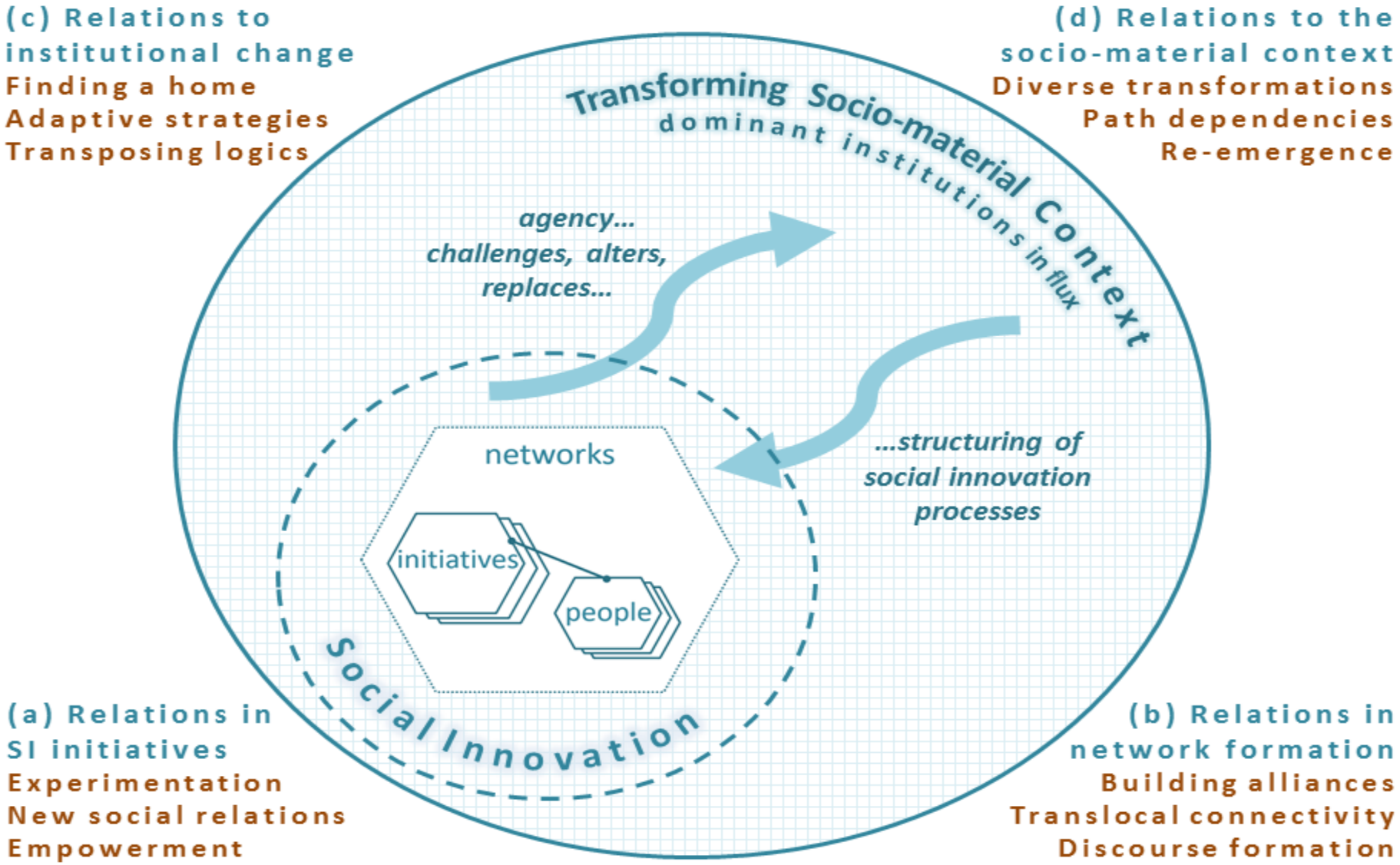
A repository of Critical Turning Points: making sense of TSI timelines

On breakthroughs, setbacks and surprises in processes of Transformative Social Innovation.

By Bonno Pel (ULB), Linda Zuijderwijk (IHS) and Adina Dimitru (UDC).

Through this blog we'd like to introduce you to our database project on Critical Turning Points in transformative social innovation. In the following we will explain how these Critical Turning Points help to make sense of social innovation processes, how we describe them, and how we seek to collect a diversity of those experiences from about 80 social innovation initiatives in various countries.

http://www.transitsocialinnovation.eu/sii



Haxeltine et al. (in progress): "Towards a TSI theory: a relational framework and 12 propositions", to be submitted to *Research Policy*.

3 TSI theorizing: A Critical Theory

10 square miles surrounded by reality? (North 2014)

'Janus face' of governance beyond-the-state; neoliberal governmentalities (Swyngedouw 2005) and neglect of *dis*empowerment (Avelino et al. 2017).

Shaped through New Public Management (Lévesque 2013) and innovation systems (Jessop et al. 2013) ideologies.

Strong/weak SI (Defourny & Nyssens 2013; Klein et al. 2016)

Transformation imaginaries: Silent reproduction of 'Seeing like a state' and expertocracy (Stirling 2016)?

TSI theorizing: Relational Theory

Social relations & organizational forms experimented with (Smith & Stirling 2016, Avelino et al. 2017)

No innovation heroes; distributed innovation agency (Law 1992; Akrich et al. 2002a,b)

Hybrid institutional sphere (Nicholls & Murdock 2012 ; Avelino & Wittmayer 2016)

Travels & circulations of ideas (Czarniawska & Joerges 1996; Pel & Backhaus forthcoming)

Intertwined knowing & doing (Jasanoff 2004; Chilvers & Longhurst 2015; Stirling 2016)

Institutions and action fields as evolving structures (Emirbayer 1997; Fligstein & McAdam 2011; Lowndes & Roberts 2013)

TSI theorizing: Process theory

SI practices as contextual re-introductions (Moulaert & Ailenei 2005; Shove 2012, Godin & Vinck 2017)

Intermittent entities, causality as phases, sequences & pathways (Pettigrew 1997, Langley 1999, Schot & Geels 2007)

SI as phase in adaptive cycles of instutionalization (Moore et al. 2012; Westley et al. forthcoming)

The historical rise of the service-based economy (Howaldt et al. , 2015; Nicholls & Murdoch 2012)

SI as dialectical turn in socio-technical (Pel, Wallenborn & Bauler 2016) and socio-economic (Kemp et al. 2016) relations.

4 TSI paradoxes

Critical, relational, process perspective ->

TSI is a paradoxical affair (Avelino et al. 2017).

Innovative 'island' or 'frontier'? Lifestyle icon or everyday-life transformation?

Defensive resistance or constructive thrust forward?

Trojan horse or sheep in wolf's clothing?

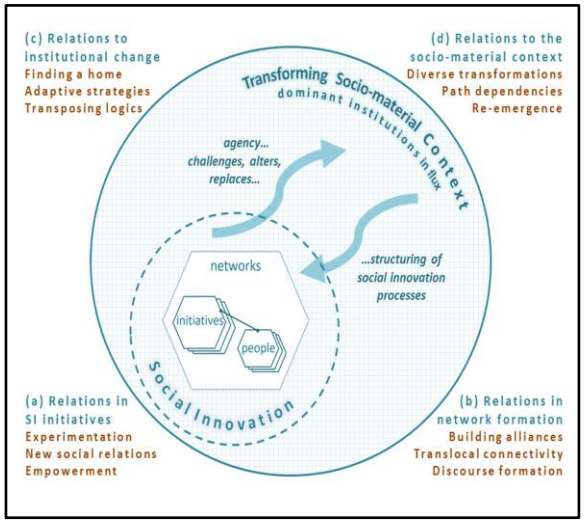
Some TSI paradoxes

Transformation & reproduction of institutions.

Emancipating 'new organizational forms' & new power relations.

SI networks: stabilizing & diluting collective identities.

Historical shaping of SI: re-introduction & fading of social practices – 'progressive' & 'regressive'.



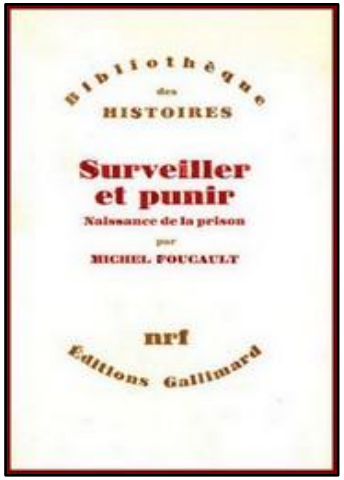
TSI paradoxes, a cross-cutting (symposium) theme

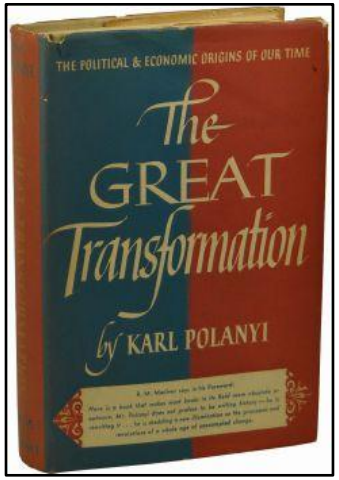
Acknowledgement TSI paradoxes: (re-) positioning SI research firmly in humanities/social theory

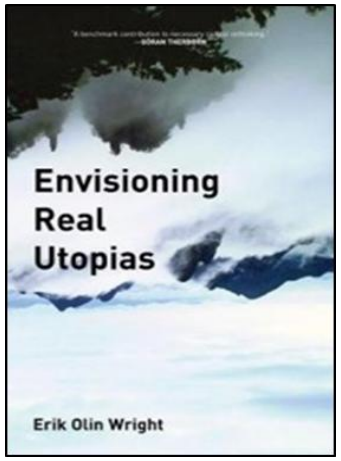
(Cf. Moulaert et al. 2017)

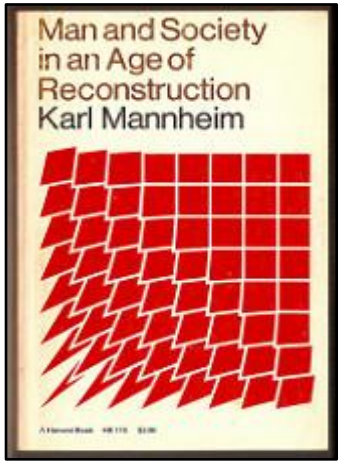
Theme theorized earlier, elsewhere & differently…

- let's explore & discuss!









Wednesday December 6th 2017

12.00 - 13.00 Lunch

13.00 - 15.00 Part I: Dr. Bonno Pel (Université Libre de Bruxelles, BE)
Introduction: TSI and its paradoxes

Part II: *TSI paradoxes – some empirical examples*

Dr. Julianna Faludi (Corvinus University of Budapest, HUN),
Paul-Marie Boulanger, MSc. (Inst. pour un Développement Durable, BE)

15.00 – 15.30 Coffee break

15.30 – 17.00 **Prof. Marthe Nyssens** (Université Catholique de Louvain, BE)
Social enterprise: strong or weak social innovation?

Discussant: **György Pataki** (Corvinus University of Budapest, HUN)

19.30 Dinner: Arcadi café, Rue d'Arenberg 1B

Thursday December 7th 2017

9.30-11.00	**Jens Dorland, MSc.** (Aalborg University, Denmark) *TSI paradoxes in SI network formation* Plenary discussion Moulaert et al. (2017): *"Social Innovation as a Trigger for Transformations; The Role of Research"*
11.00-11.30	Coffee break
11.30-13.00	**Prof. Cornelius Schubert** (Universität Siegen, Germany) *Social innovations as repair innovations. Some paradoxes of governing social change*. Discussant: **Dr. Grégoire Wallenborn** (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium)
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.30	**Prof. Ronan Le Velly** (Montpellier SupAgro, France) *Allowing for the projective in analysing alternative food networks*
Discussant:	**Prof. Olivier de Schutter** (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium)
15.30-16.00	Closing

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