

Globalization, Ecosystem Support and Inequality:

Advancing science by stepping outside your disciplinary comfort zone

Dr. Lisa Deutsch

Senior Lecturer, STOCKHOLM RESILIENCE CENTRE

Guest Scholar, NORDIC INSTITUTE OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

lisa.deutsch@su.se

July 2, 2020



Stockholm Resilience Centre
Sustainability Science for Biosphere Stewardship



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Globalization, Ecosystem Support and Inequality:

Advancing science by stepping outside your disciplinary comfort zone

1. **My multi-disciplinary background**
2. **Worldviews & Resilience**
3. **Your questions, self-reflection & break**
4. **Disciplinarity**
5. **Globalization, Ecosystem Support and Inequality: Latin America**
6. **Questions?**

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Global Trade Food Security and Ecosystem support

*making
the interactions
visible*

Lisa Deutsch



Stockholm Resilience Centre
Sustainability Science for Biosphere Stewardship



Natural Resource Management
Department of Systems Ecology
Stockholm University, Sweden, 2004



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RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. What are the ways global trade changes the mix of food and feed inputs?
2. Where are the ecosystem support areas? How do they change over time?
3. How do cities achieve food security? How has this changed over time?
4. How can we tie agricultural management practices to water-related ecosystem services (WRES)?
5. Is intensification of Uruguayan livestock production driving a regime shift?

METHODS & CASES:

Estimate ecosystem subsidies needed for food consumption & production

Method: crop and pasture areas, food flows

Cases: Sweden - national level; Capital cities - Tokyo, ACT, Copenhagen

Method: Fishmeal – quantities produced, traded, consumed

Cases: aquaculture production in Thailand and Norway

Effects on WRES due to livestock intensification – e.g. Regime shift?

Method: interviews, CLDs, conceptual matrix, quantification of WRES based on local contacts and literature

Case: Uruguay

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Worldviews

How do you see the world?

Do you see nature?

What does it matter?

What is important?

Who cares ?



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What is important to you?

- reflecting through the lens of food -



- Sufficient food production
- Prices & affordability
- Farmers' livelihoods
- Urbanization & empty local farms
- Climate change
- Biodiversity loss
- Essential protein
- Obesity
- Pesticide residues
- Animal ethics
- Gastronomy - local food culture

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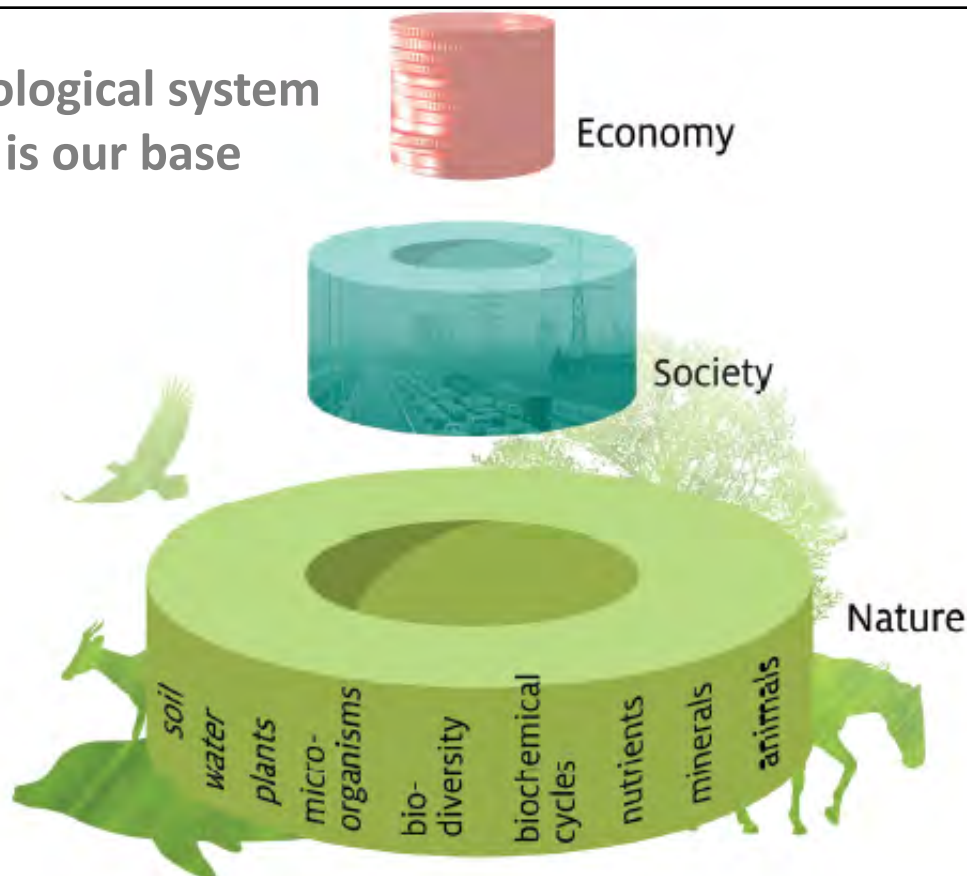
My worldview

1. Nature as base – rebuild 3 pillars of development
2. Coupled social-ecological systems
3. Anthropocene - human-dominated planet
4. Thresholds exist

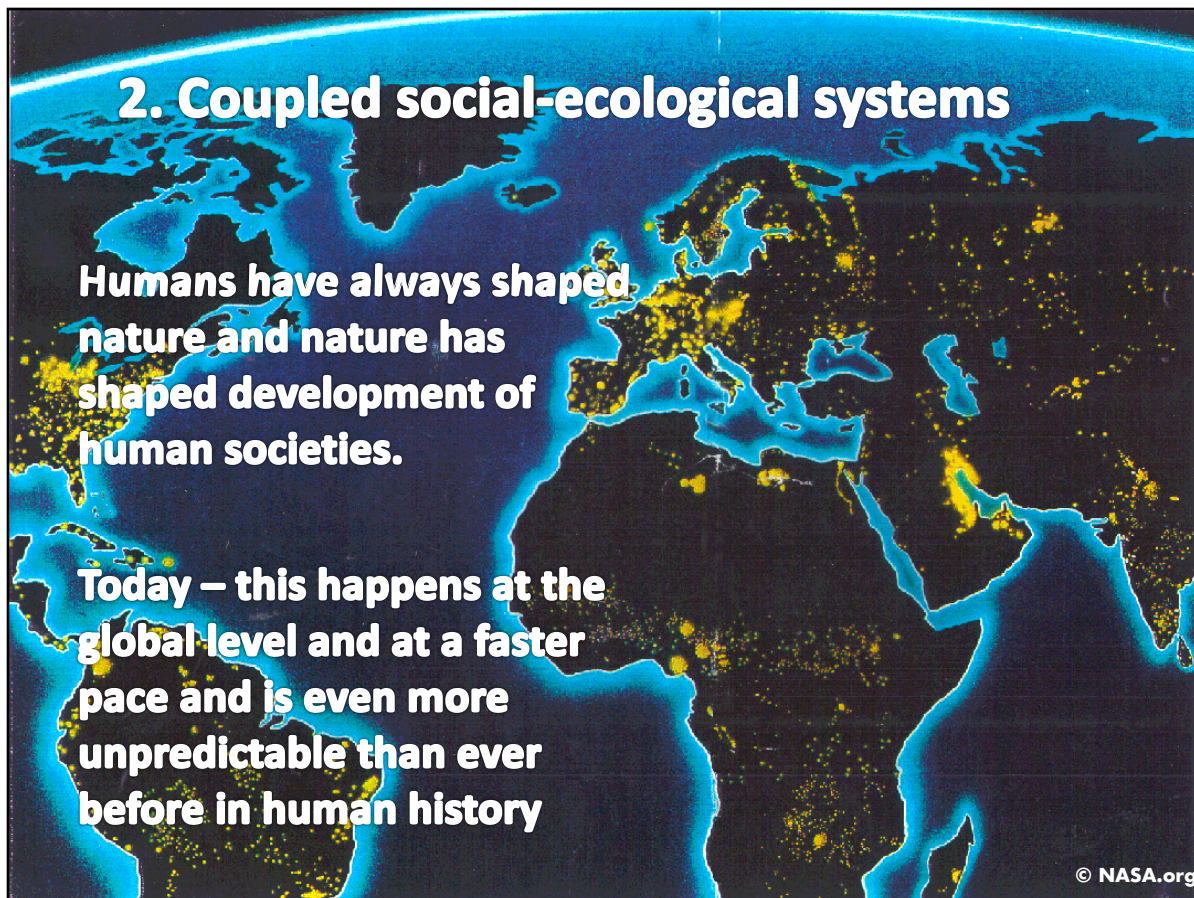
BASIS FOR RESILIENCE THINKING / APPROACH
(not yet a theory)

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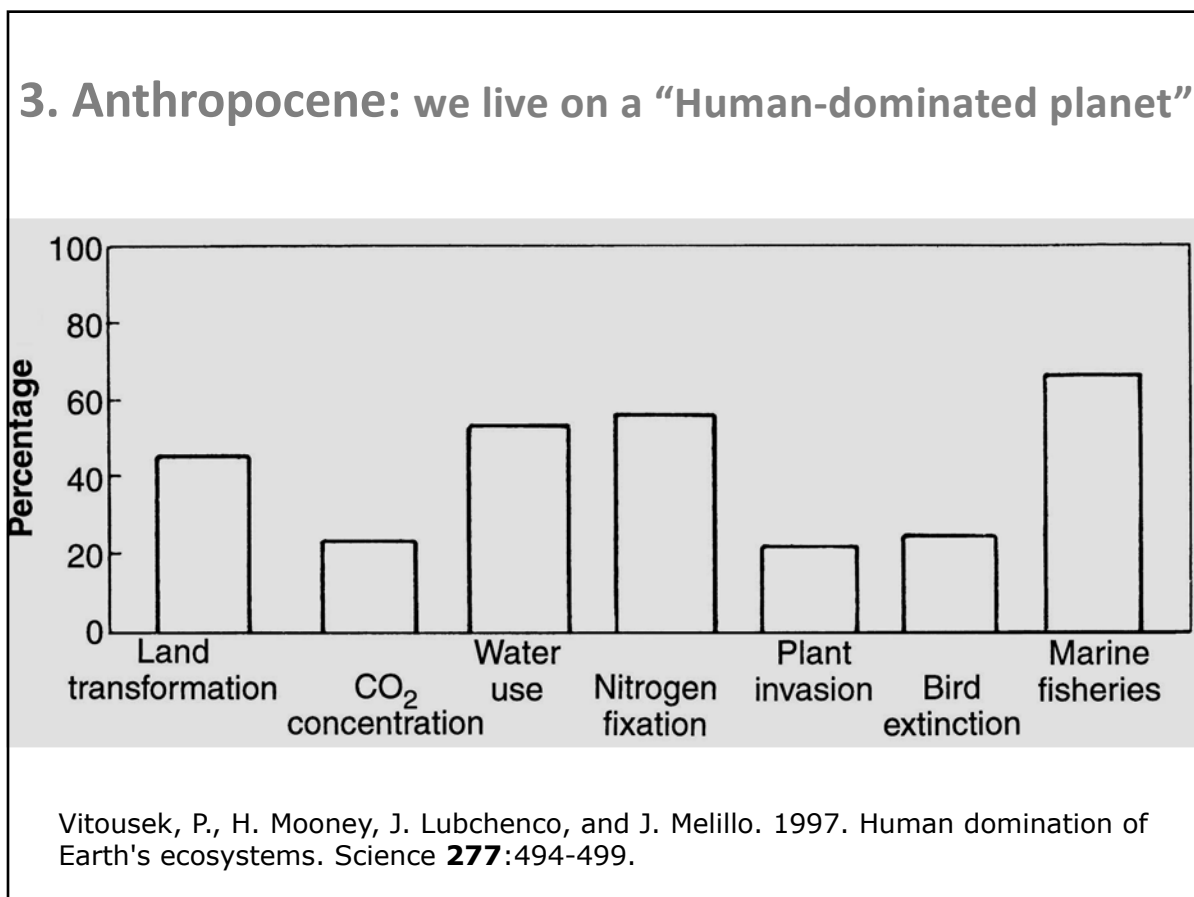
1. Ecological system is our base



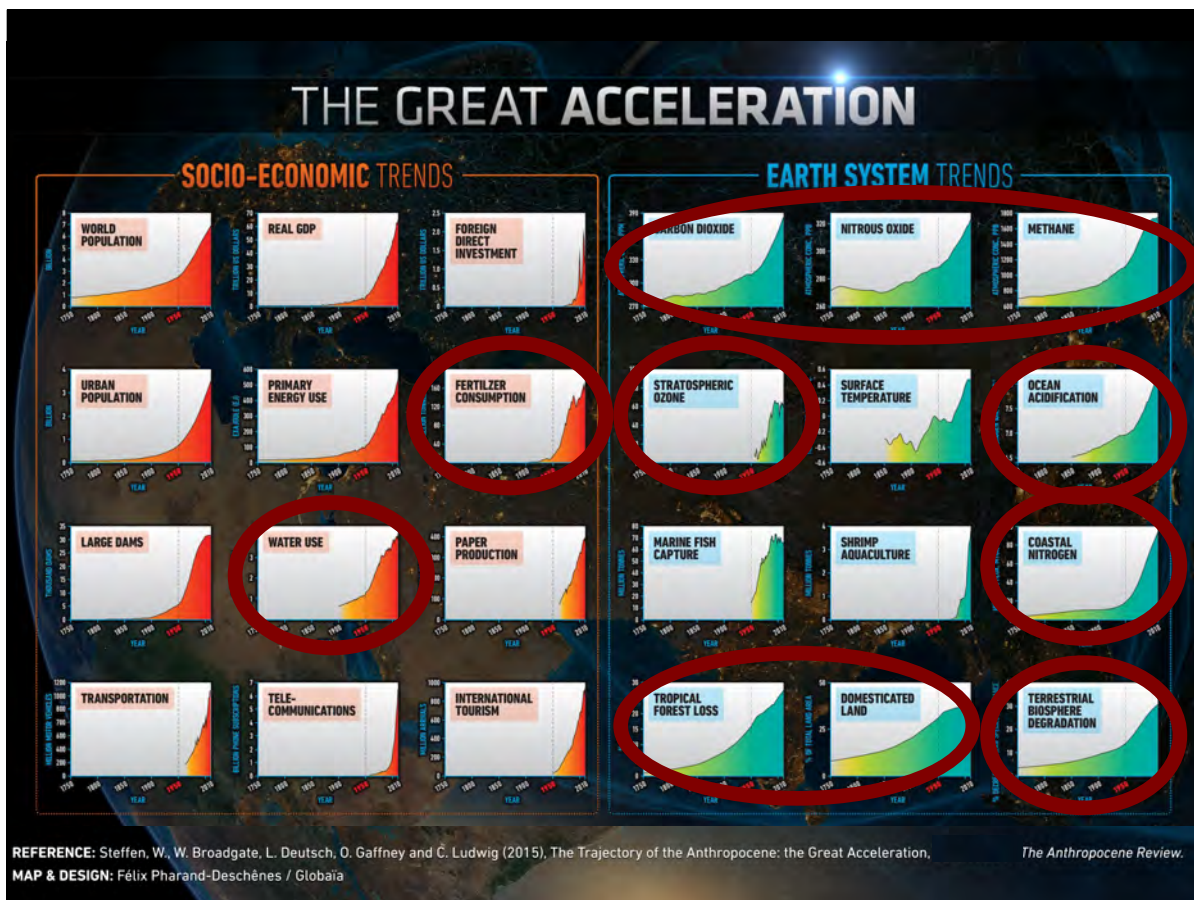
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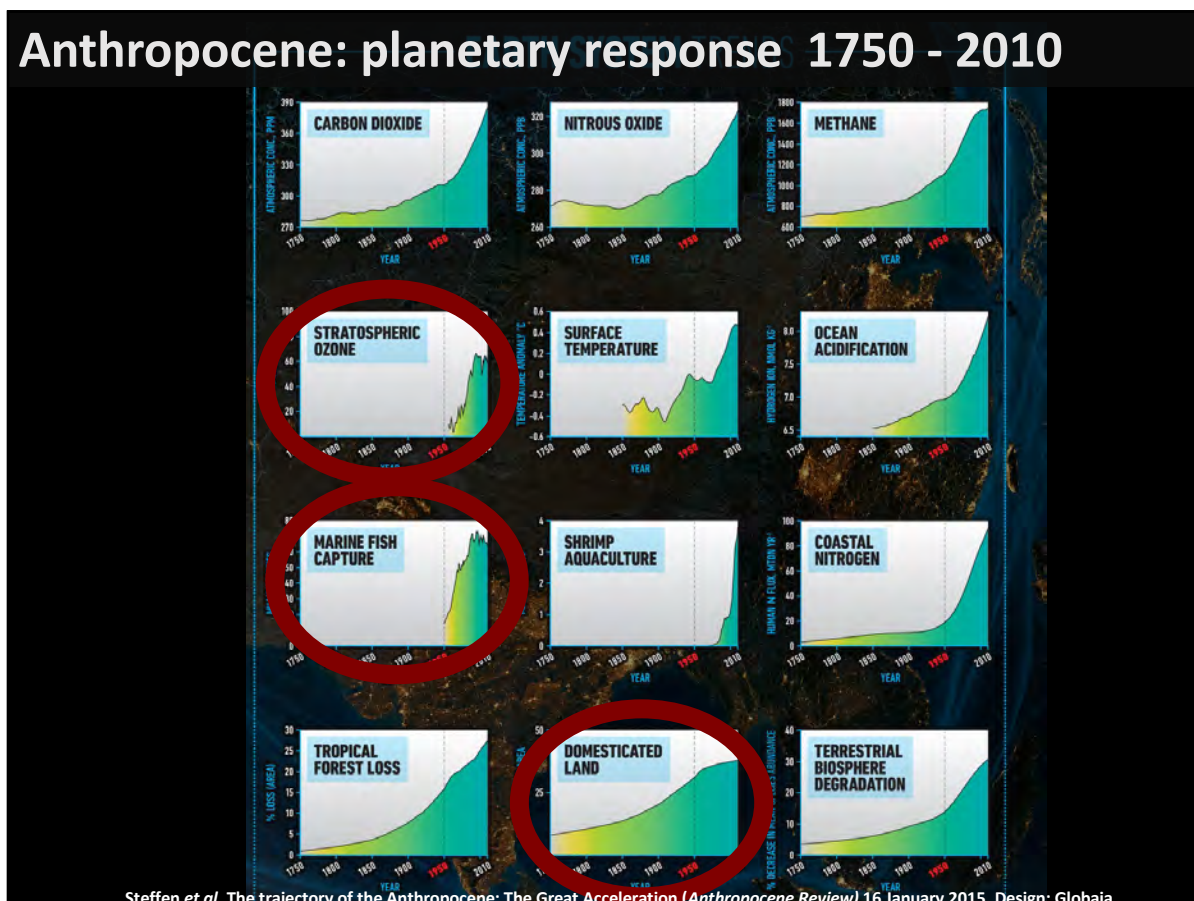
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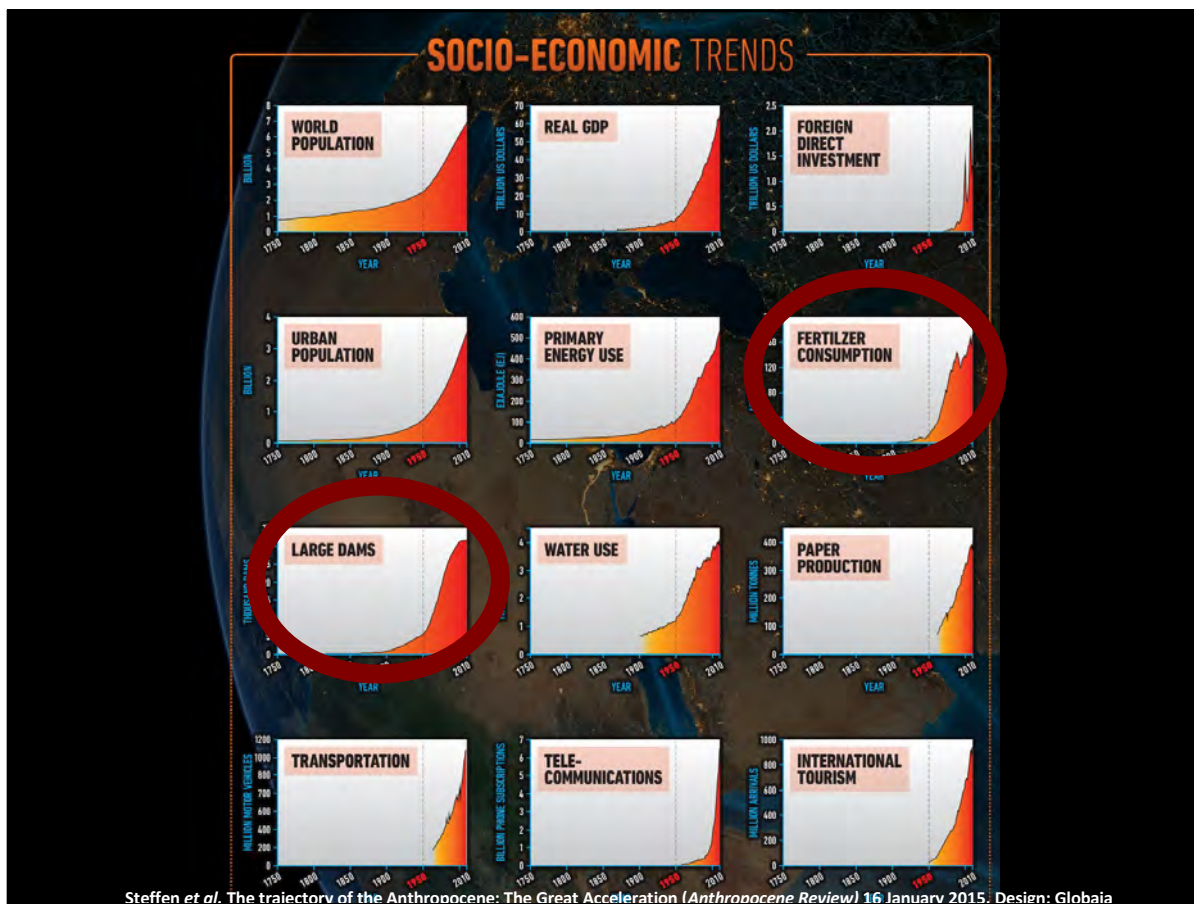
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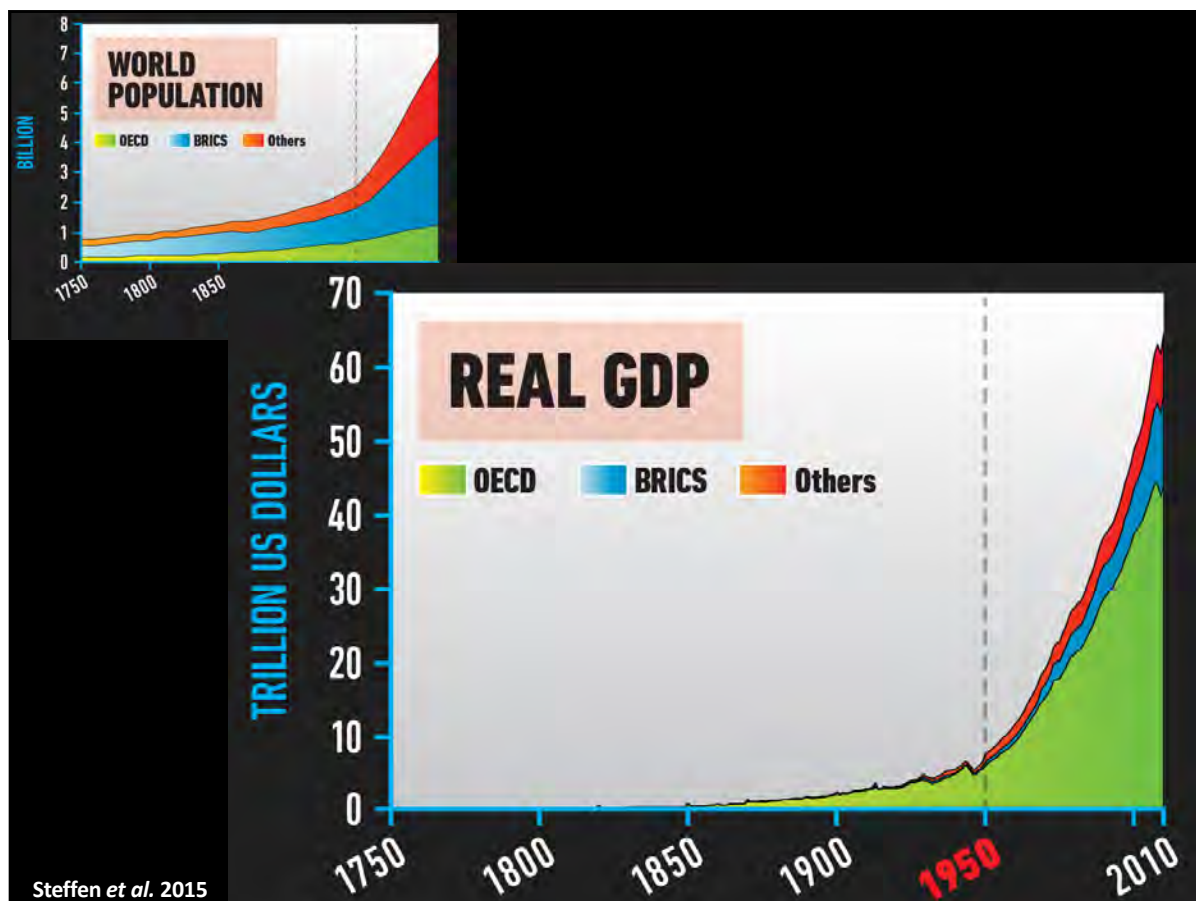
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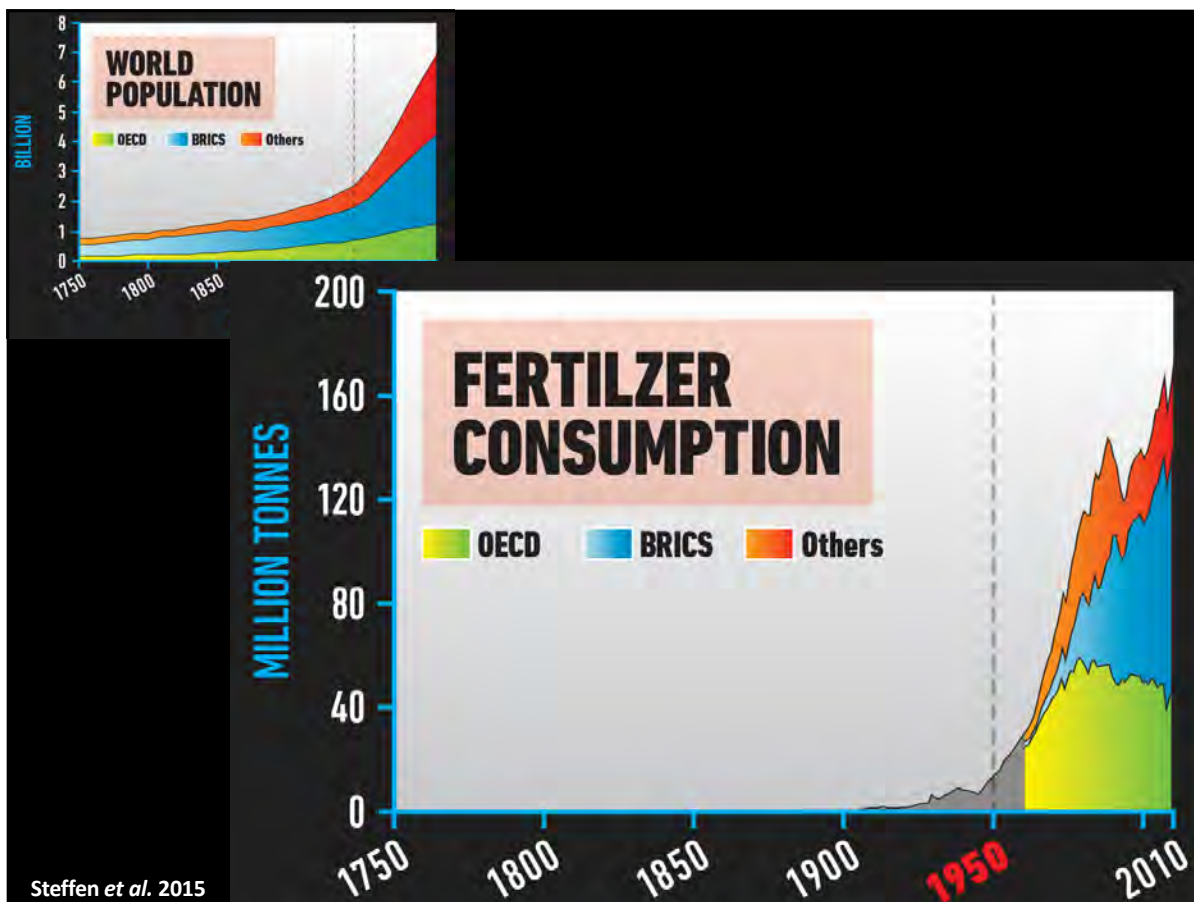
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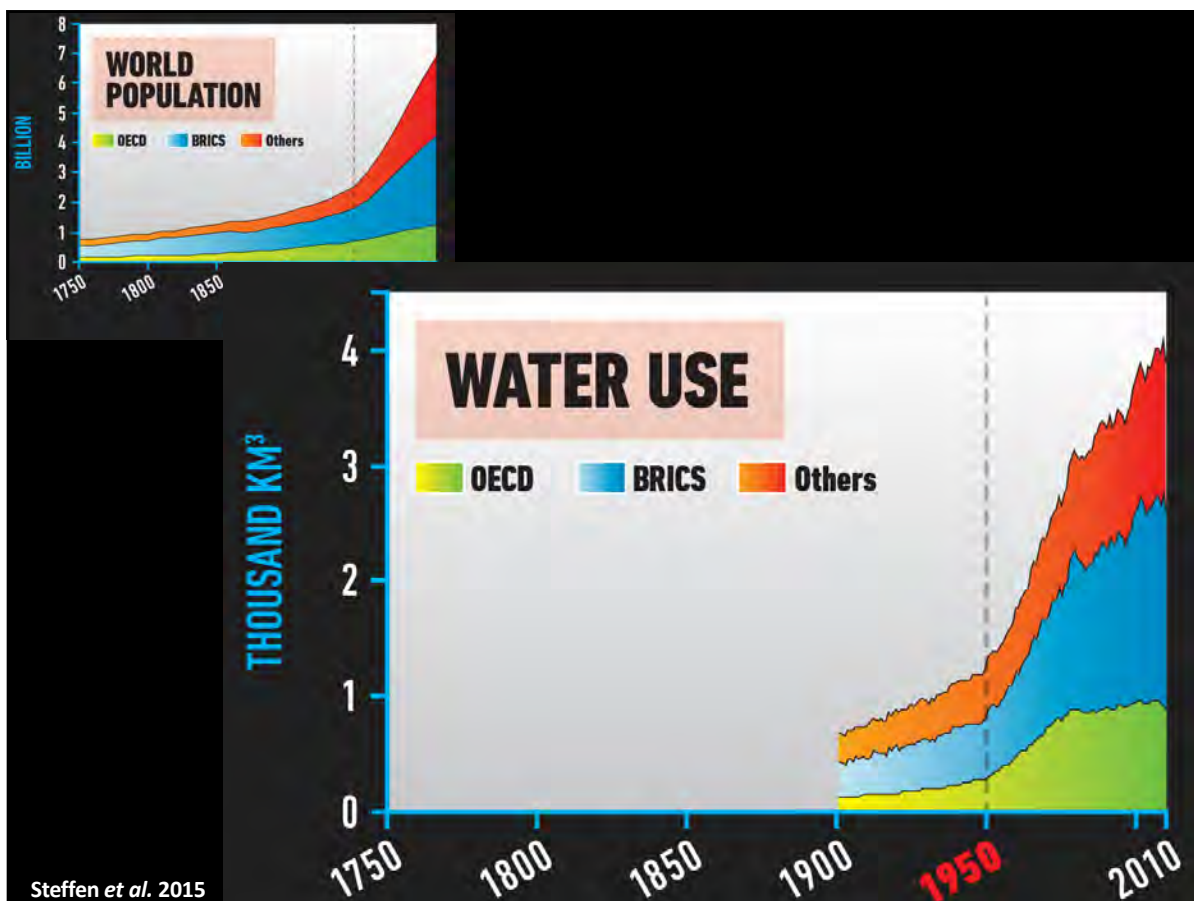
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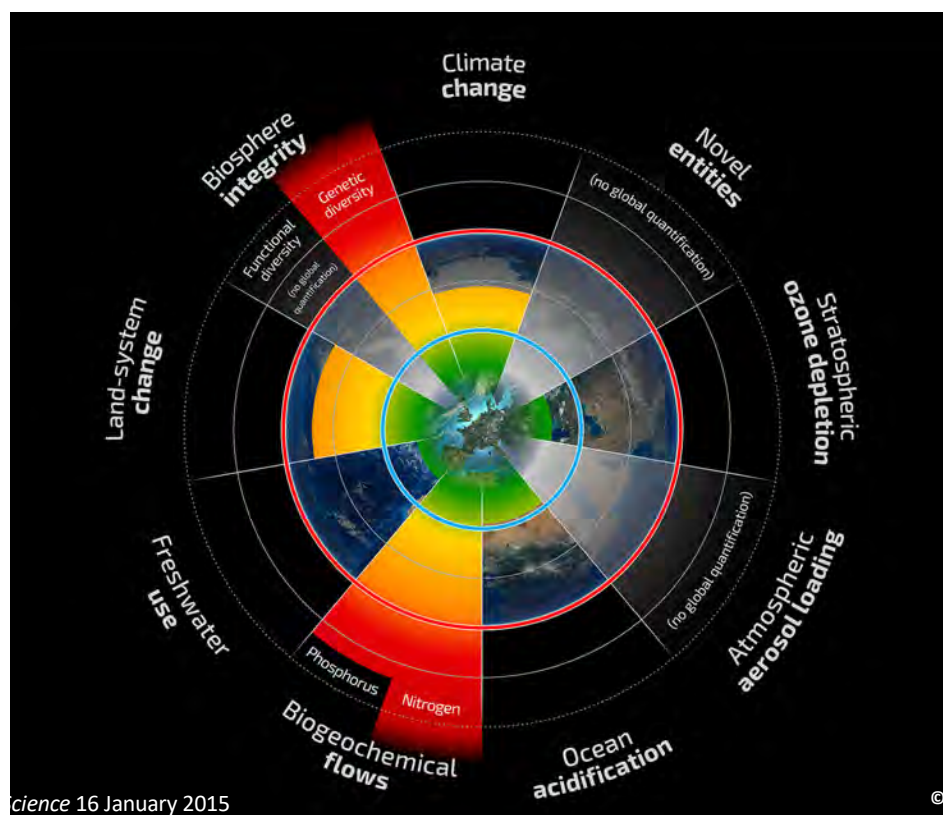


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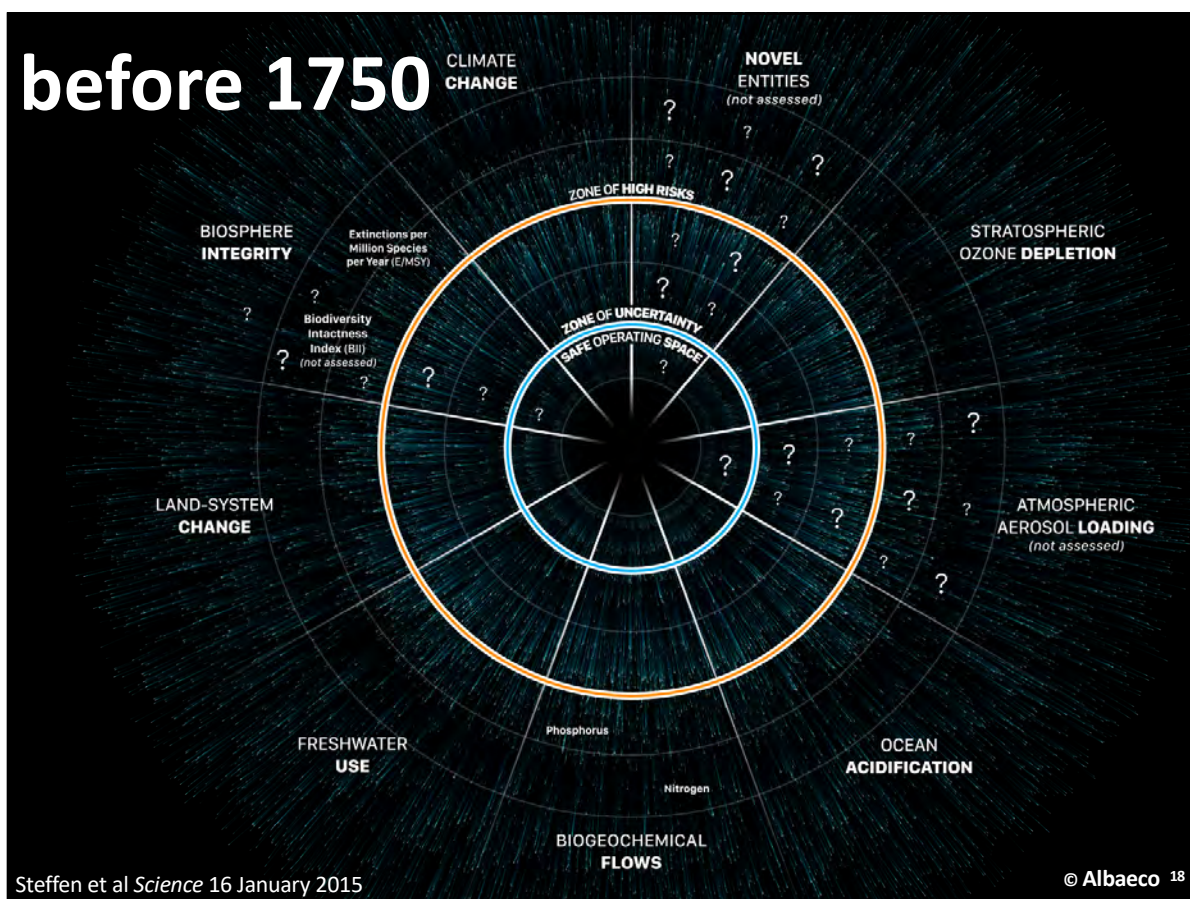


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4. Thresholds exist. What are the planet's boundaries?

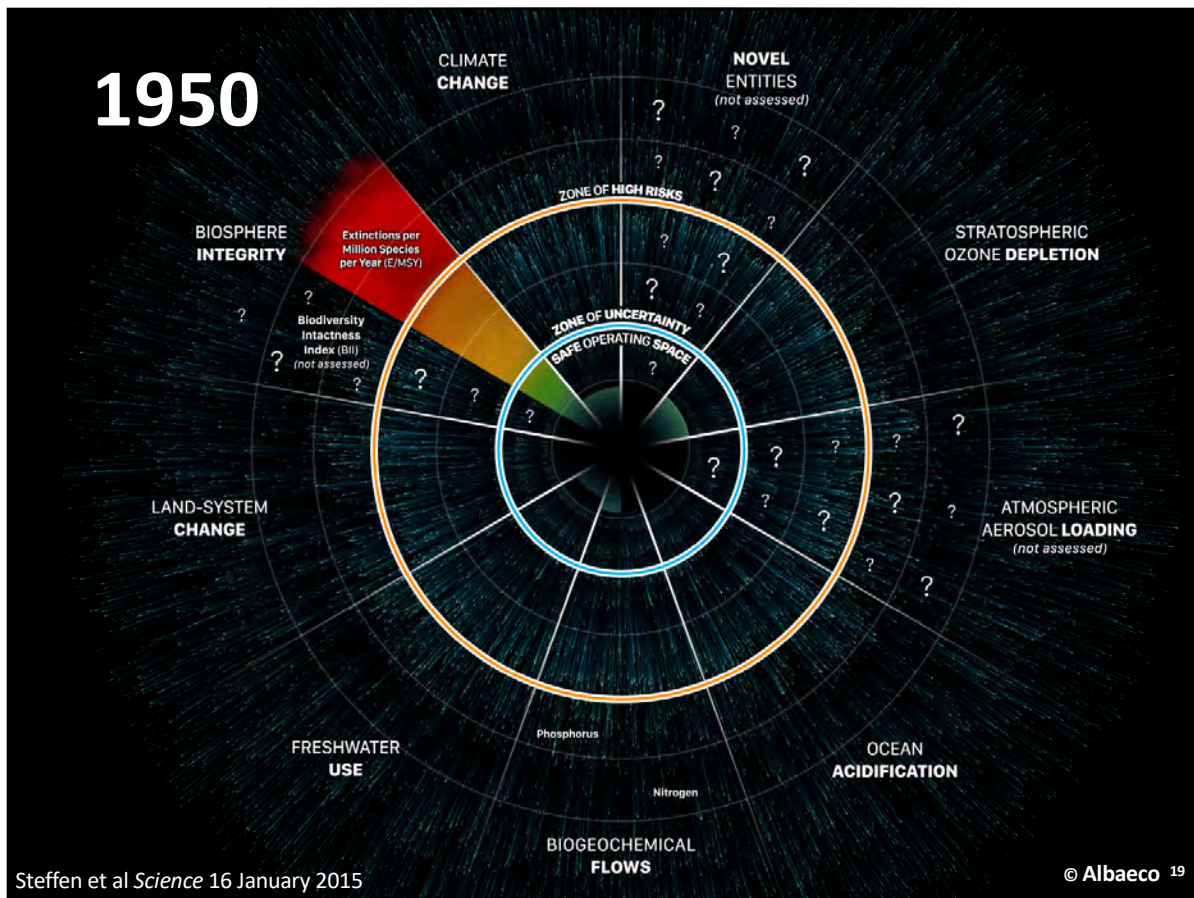


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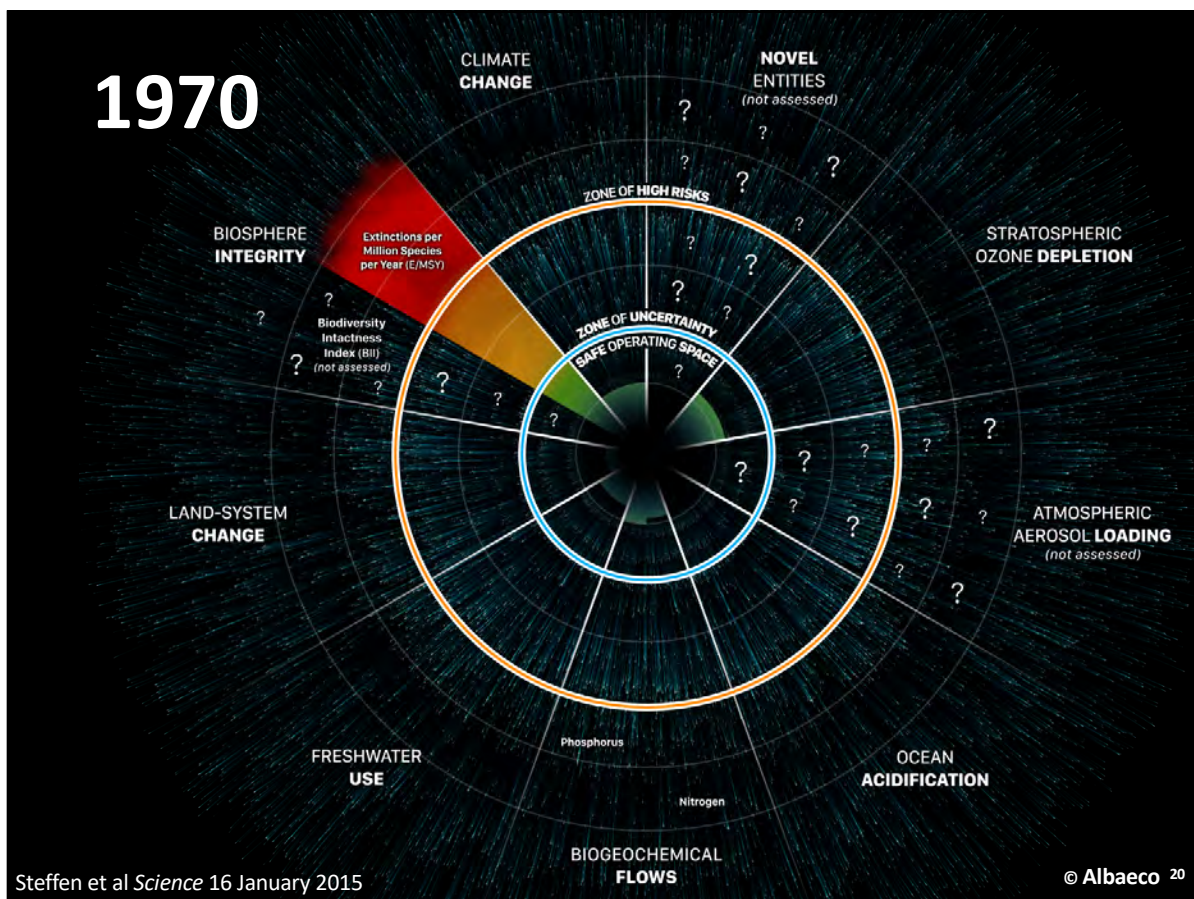
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1950

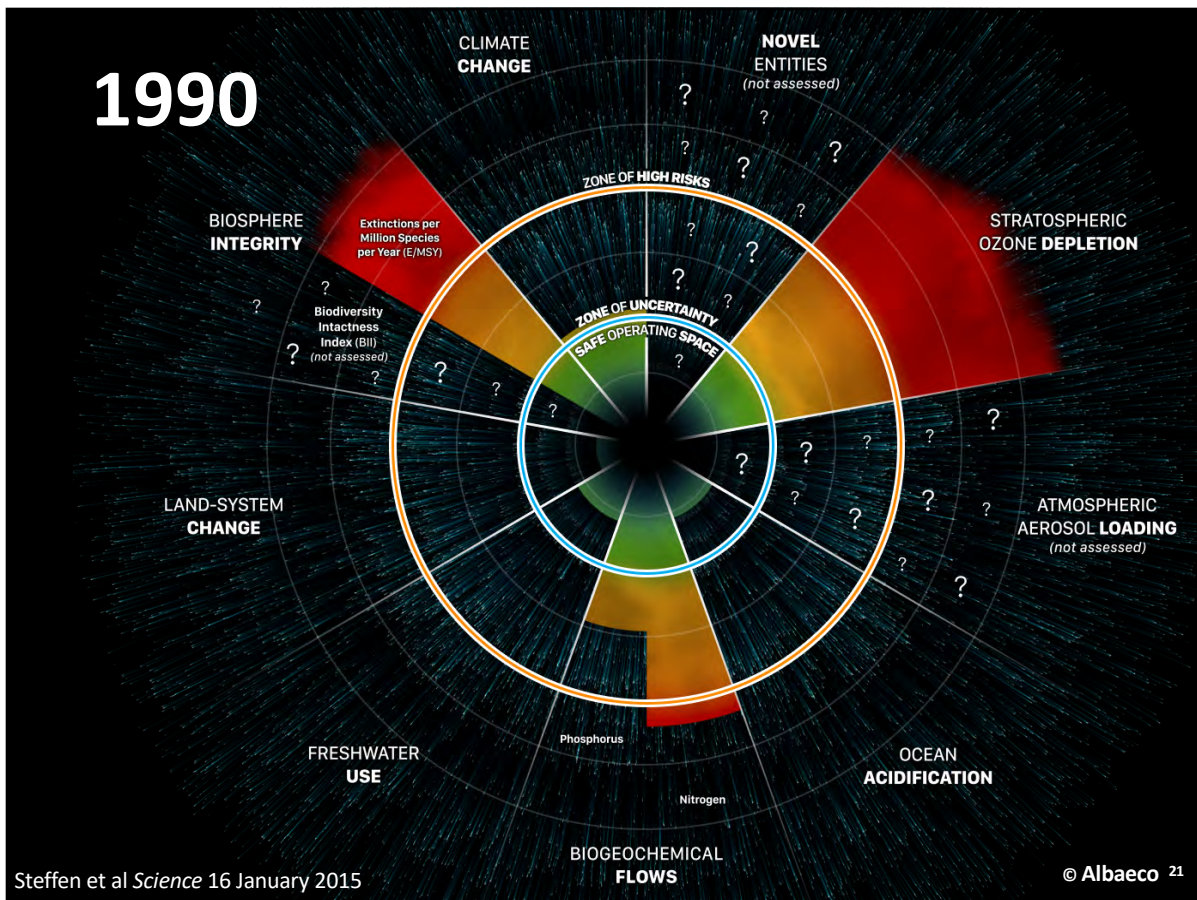


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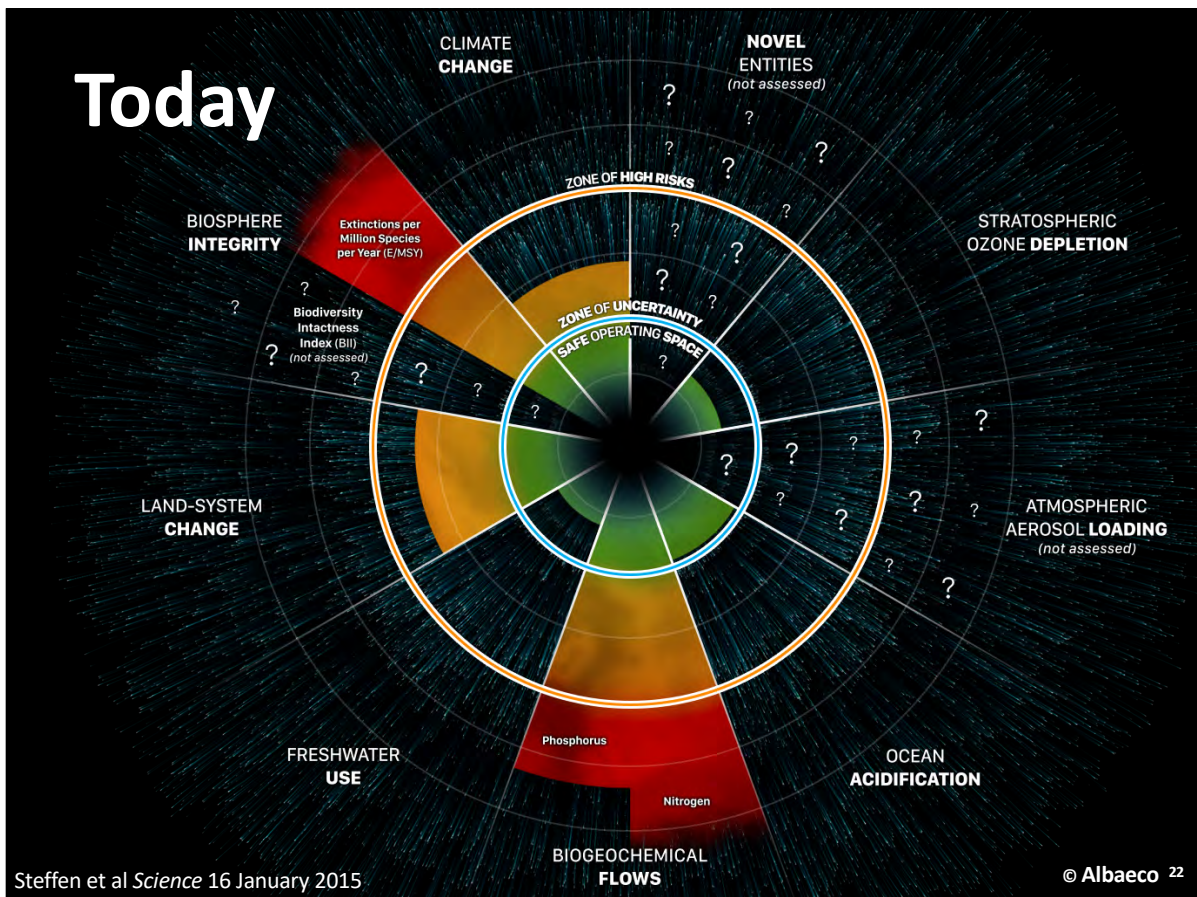
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Resilience is the **capacity of a system**,
be it an individual, a forest, a city or an economy,
to deal with change and continue to develop.

It is about the **capacity to use shocks and disturbances** like a
financial crisis or climate change
to spur renewal and innovative thinking.

Resilience thinking embraces **learning, diversity ..**
...and above all the belief that
humans and nature are so strongly coupled
that they are **one social-ecological system.**

<https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/research-news/2015-02-19-what-is-resilience.html>

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What is your world view?

Write down as many words that describe it
what your assumptions, what matters to you?

How would you describe yourself?
vegetarian, realist, poor, student, Capitalist, optimist

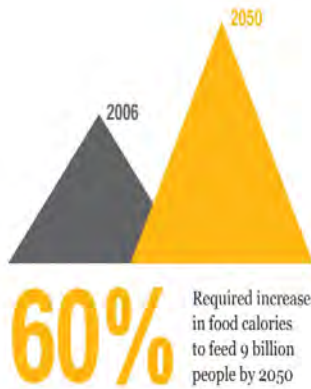
Pause – reflect - Come back with a word/phrase to share

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THE GREAT BALANCING ACT

The world must achieve a “great balancing act” in order to sustainably feed 9 billion people by 2050.
Three needs must be met at the same time.

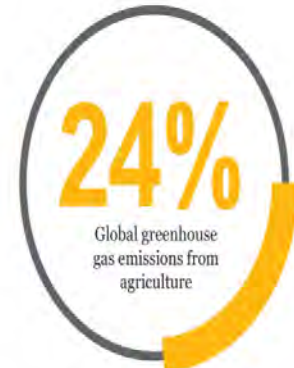
CLOSING THE FOOD GAP



SUPPORTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

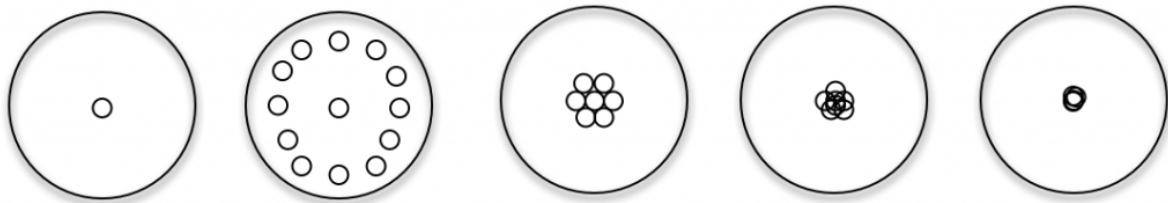


REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

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Intradisciplinary → Crossdisciplinary → Multidisciplinary → Interdisciplinary → Transdisciplinary

Different levels of disciplinarity:

Intradisciplinary: working within a single discipline.

Crossdisciplinary: viewing one discipline from the perspective of another.

Multidisciplinary: people from different disciplines working together, each drawing on their disciplinary knowledge.

Interdisciplinary: integrating knowledge and methods from different disciplines, using a real synthesis of approaches.

Transdisciplinary: creating a unity of intellectual frameworks beyond the disciplinary perspectives.

Marilyn Stember (1991) [Advancing the social sciences through the interdisciplinary enterprise.](#)
Originally based on Zeigler (1990).

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Multidisciplinarity - Interdisciplinarity - Transdisciplinarity

Multidisciplinarity draws on **knowledge from different disciplines** but stays within the (e.g. study and researcher) boundaries of those fields.

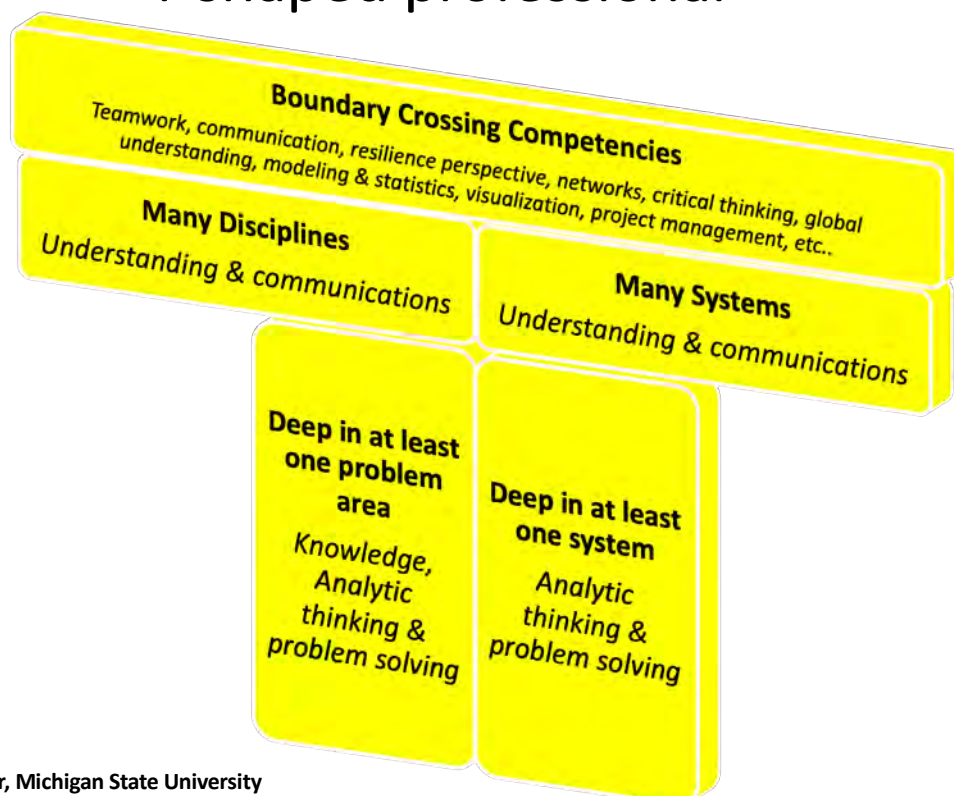
Interdisciplinarity analyzes, **synthesizes** and harmonizes links between disciplines into a coordinated and coherent whole.

Transdisciplinarity integrates different sciences (e.g. natural, social, humanities, health sciences), and in doing so transcends each of their traditional boundaries. Transdisciplinary researchers **work jointly** to create new conceptual, theoretical, methodological, and translational innovations that **integrate and move beyond discipline-specific approaches** to address a **common problem**.

(Choi and Pak 2006, 359; Frances Westley, Philip S. Miller . 2003. Experiments in Consilience: Integrating Social And Scientific Responses To Save Endangered Species; Nicolescu 1996)

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T-shaped professional



Phil Gardner, Michigan State University

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Non-academic stakeholders – to be included? – how?

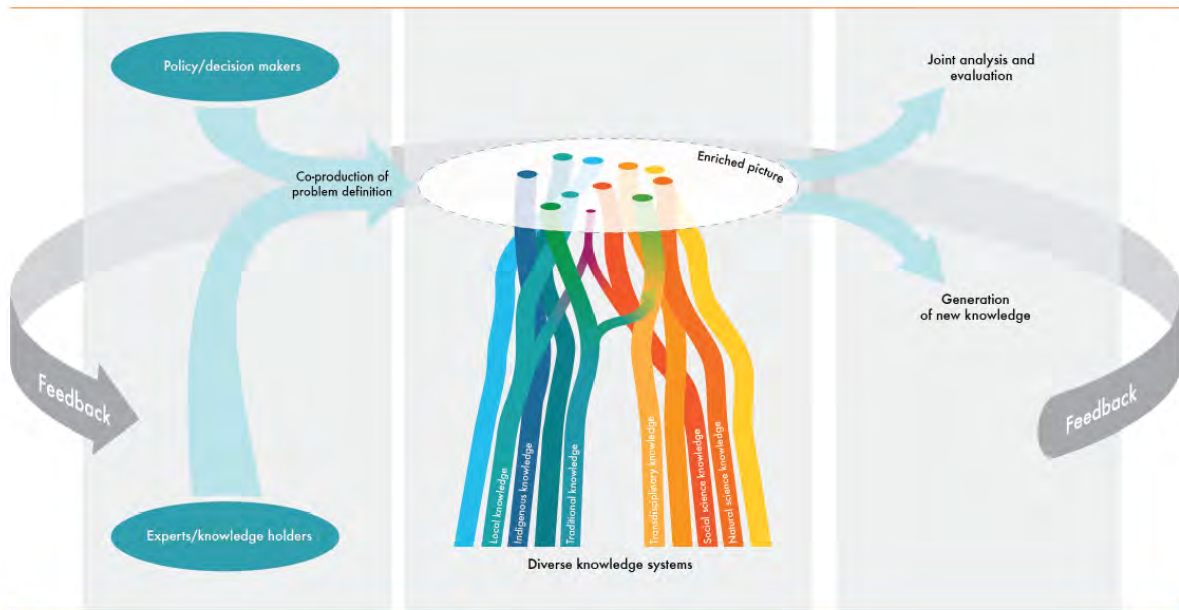


Figure 1. Outlining three phases of a Multiple Evidence Base approach, that emphasizes the need for co-production of problem definitions as well as joint analysis and evaluation of the enriched picture created in the assessment process. Phase 1 Concerns defining stakeholders, problems and goals in a collaborative manner. Phase 2 entails bringing together knowledge on an equal platform, using parallel systems of valuing and assessing knowledge, and Phase 3 is the joint analysis and evaluation of knowledge and insights to generate multi-level synthesis and identify and catalyze processes for generating new knowledge. (Tengö et al 2014)

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The Soybean through World History

What can the soybean tell us about big changes in power, risk, ecosystems, norms and practices in the global food system?

Soybean as a lens into changes in the international agro-food system.

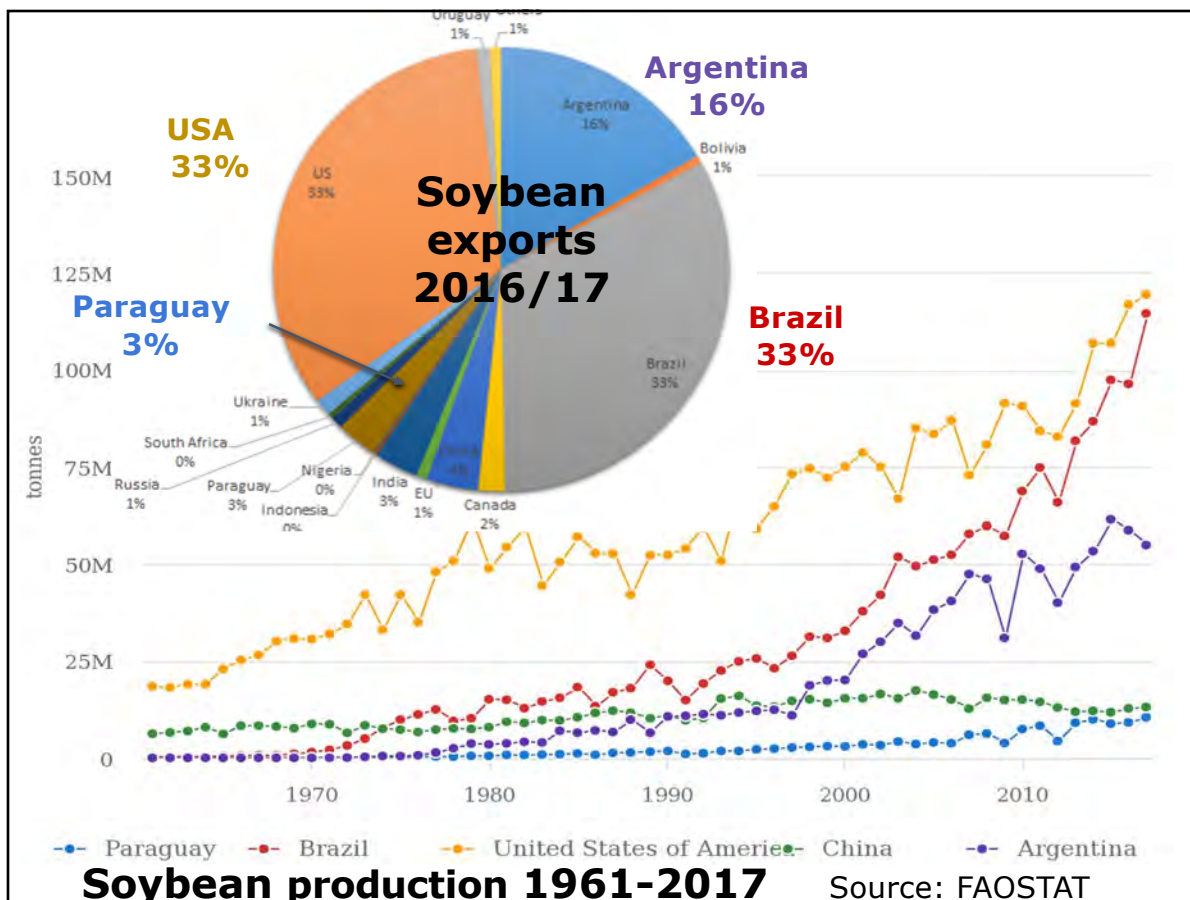
Project complements and integrates theories and methods in *political economy and world systems theory* with *ecology and complexity theory* in a world historical and transdisciplinary way

- **Food Regimes** approach (Friedmann & McMichael):

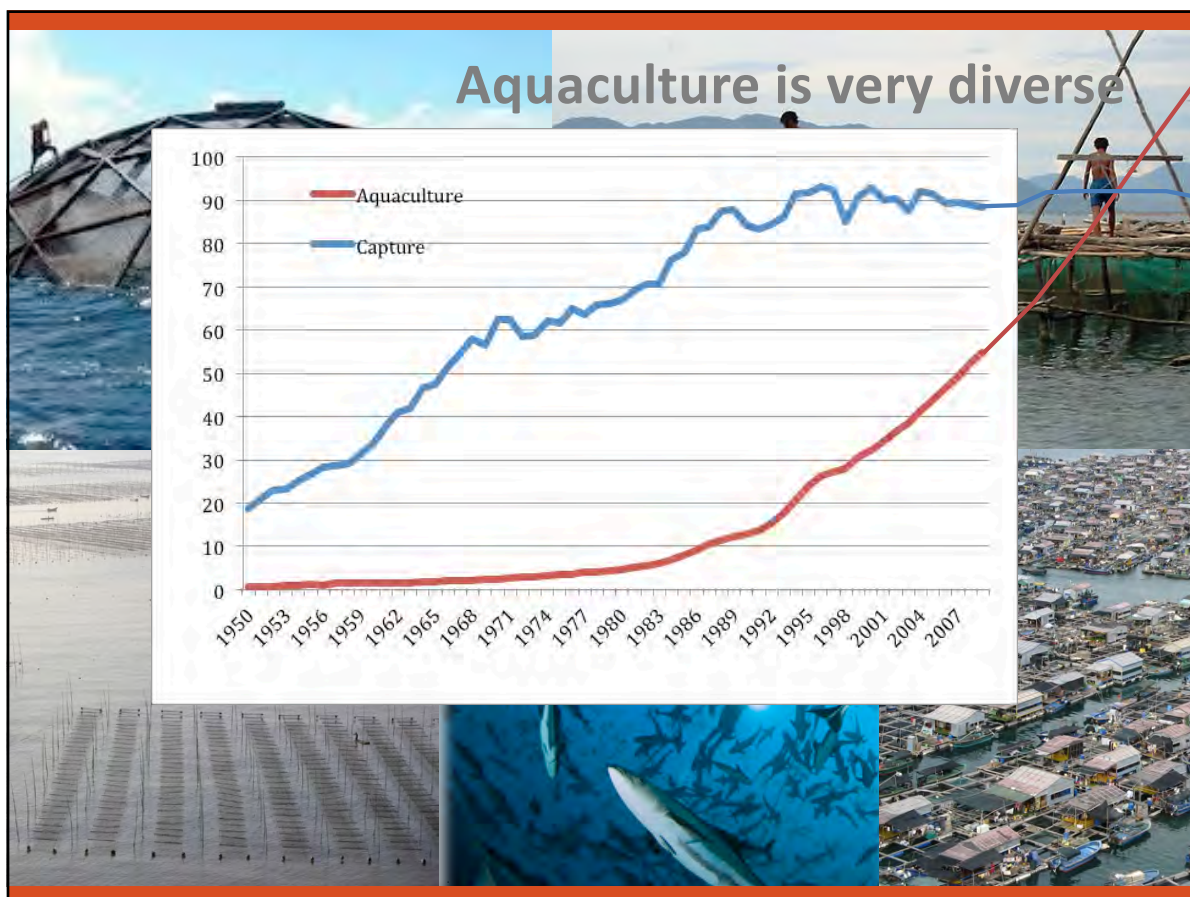
- first international food regime (1870-1914)
- second international food regime (1950s-1973)
- third regime (1980s - present)

- **Global Commodity Chain** Analysis (Gereffi)

- **Resilience Thinking** (Gunderson and Holling 2002, Biggs 2015)



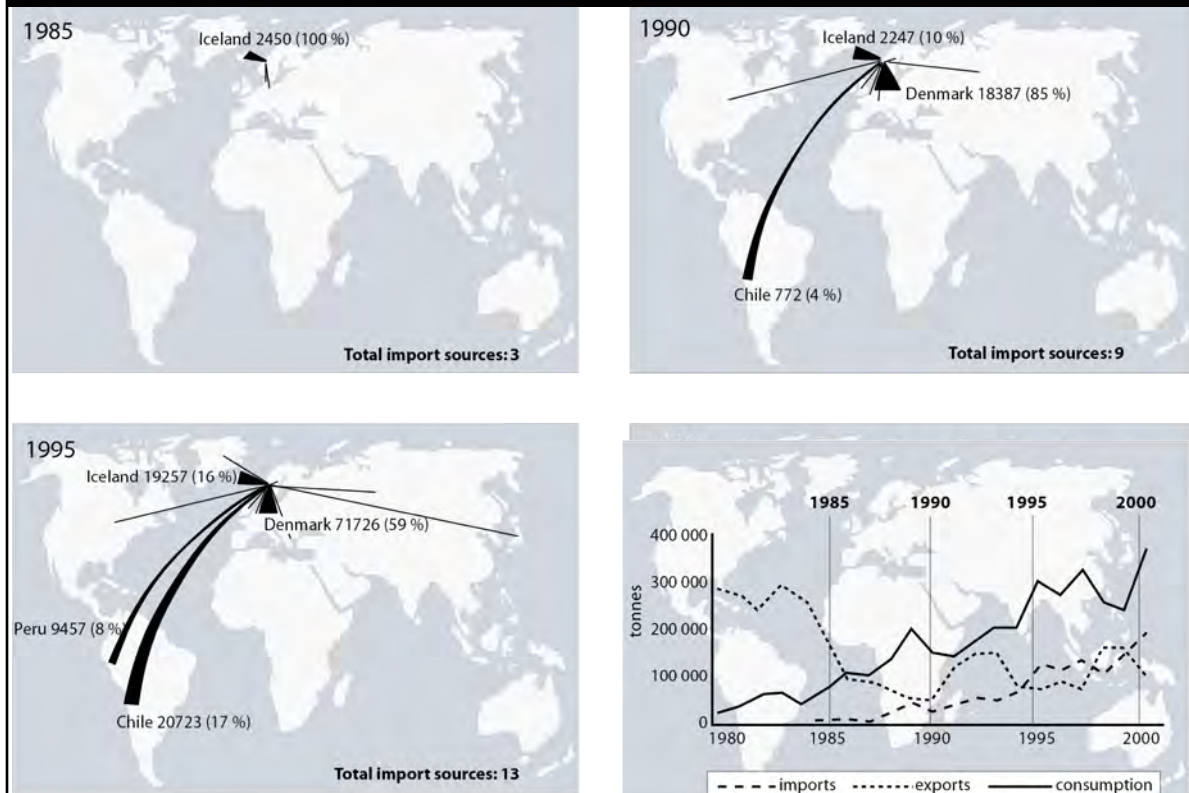
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Fishmeal trade and consumption in Norway – salmon

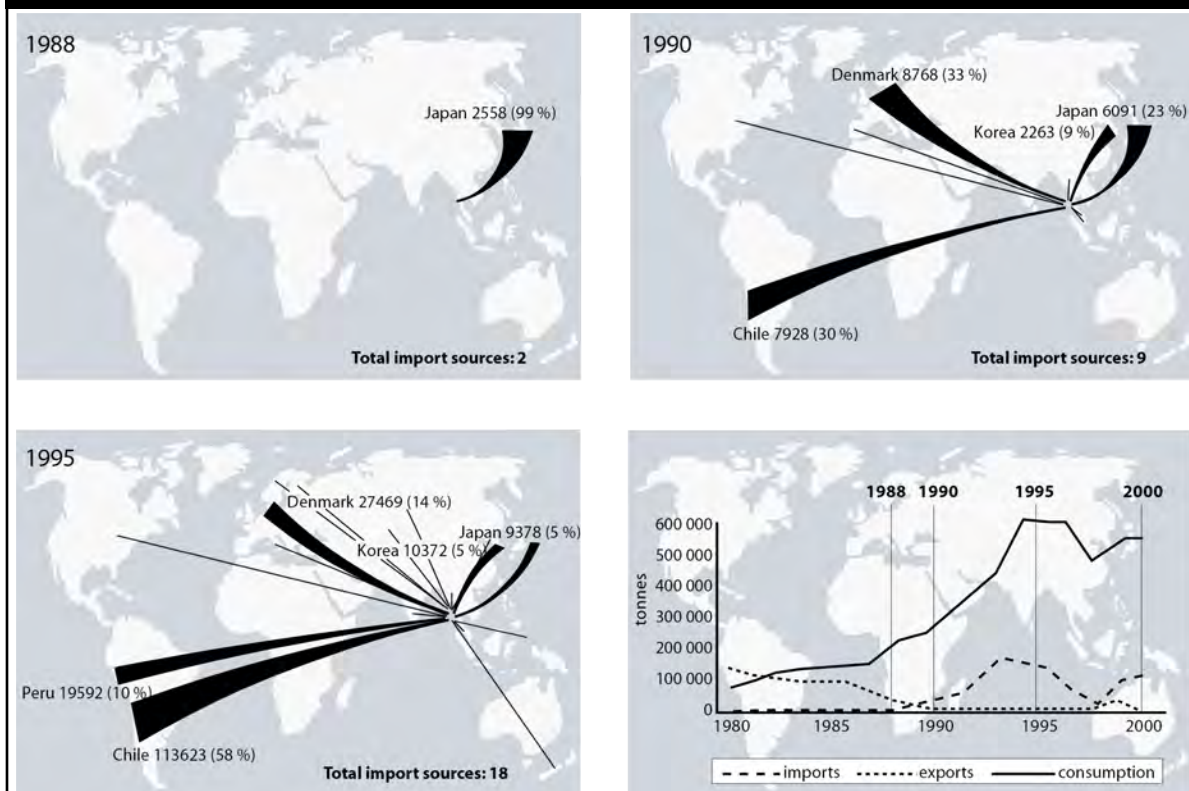
Deutsch et al. 2007. Feeding aquaculture growth through globalization. *Global Environmental Change* 17:238-249.



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Fishmeal trade & consumption in Thailand – shrimp

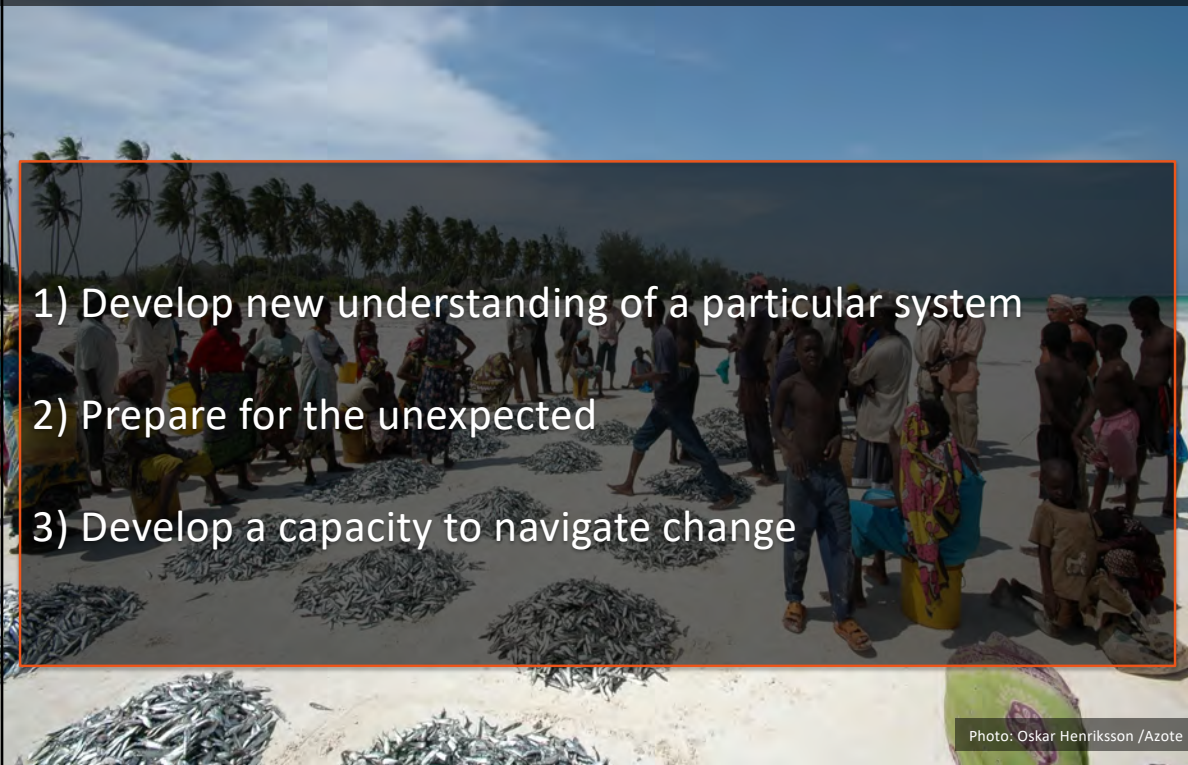
Deutsch et al. 2007. Feeding aquaculture growth through globalization. *Global Environmental Change* 17:238-249.



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Three overarching Resilience Strategies

Source: Biggs, O., et al. 2014



- 1) Develop new understanding of a particular system
- 2) Prepare for the unexpected
- 3) Develop a capacity to navigate change

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What is missed by 'popular' notions of Resilience

Resilience is **not** something that should be maximized

Resilience is **not** something that is "good"

Resilience is:

- dynamic

- emerges from cross-scale connections

- requires embracing uncertainty & enriching diversity

Resilience should be 'navigated' rather than optimized

- strategies need to change over time

- deal with tension & tradeoffs

"Desired" resilience can be enhanced while

"Perverse" resilience can be reduced

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