



Berlin Workshop in
Institutional Analysis of
Social-Ecological Systems

Visions for the Workshop in Institutional Analysis of Social-Ecological Systems

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We should play together!

Nobody can do it alone!

Challenges are too large!

Working together simple?

No, but can be organised!

Let us start with a puzzle!



Puzzle behind the WINS Initiative

- Starting from a **“discovery”**:
- There are **many “analytical frameworks”** for SETS institutional analysis
- There must be some reason behind this. Maybe **good reasons for “diversity”**
- Is diversity in framing of research situations a special case of **institutional diversity?**
- But does this diversity hamper cooperation?
- ➔ Should we engage in a **bridging strategy?**

Intention, Meaning and Relevance

- Framing research implies 3 components:
intention, **meaning**, **relevance** (Lichtenberg).
- Intention: What problems do we want to solve with the expected outcomes of our analysis?
- Meaning: theory which provides explanation of reality in that area where the problem is.
- Relevance: empirical substantiation of theories, positive and normative – do we understand the problem and can we help to solve it?

Hypothetical Explanation

Analytical frameworks **grow** from the **theoretical and empirical background** of their producers.

They depend on

- disciplines and schools scholars belong to
- theoretical and empirical approaches used
- biophysical or resource systems analyzed
- sector of production or provision focused
- the way the institutions analyzed developed
- structure, form and level governance systems
- ➡ Analytical frameworks “must” differ in language, heuristics and understanding of SETS

Choices by Actors Resulting in Different Categories of Activity

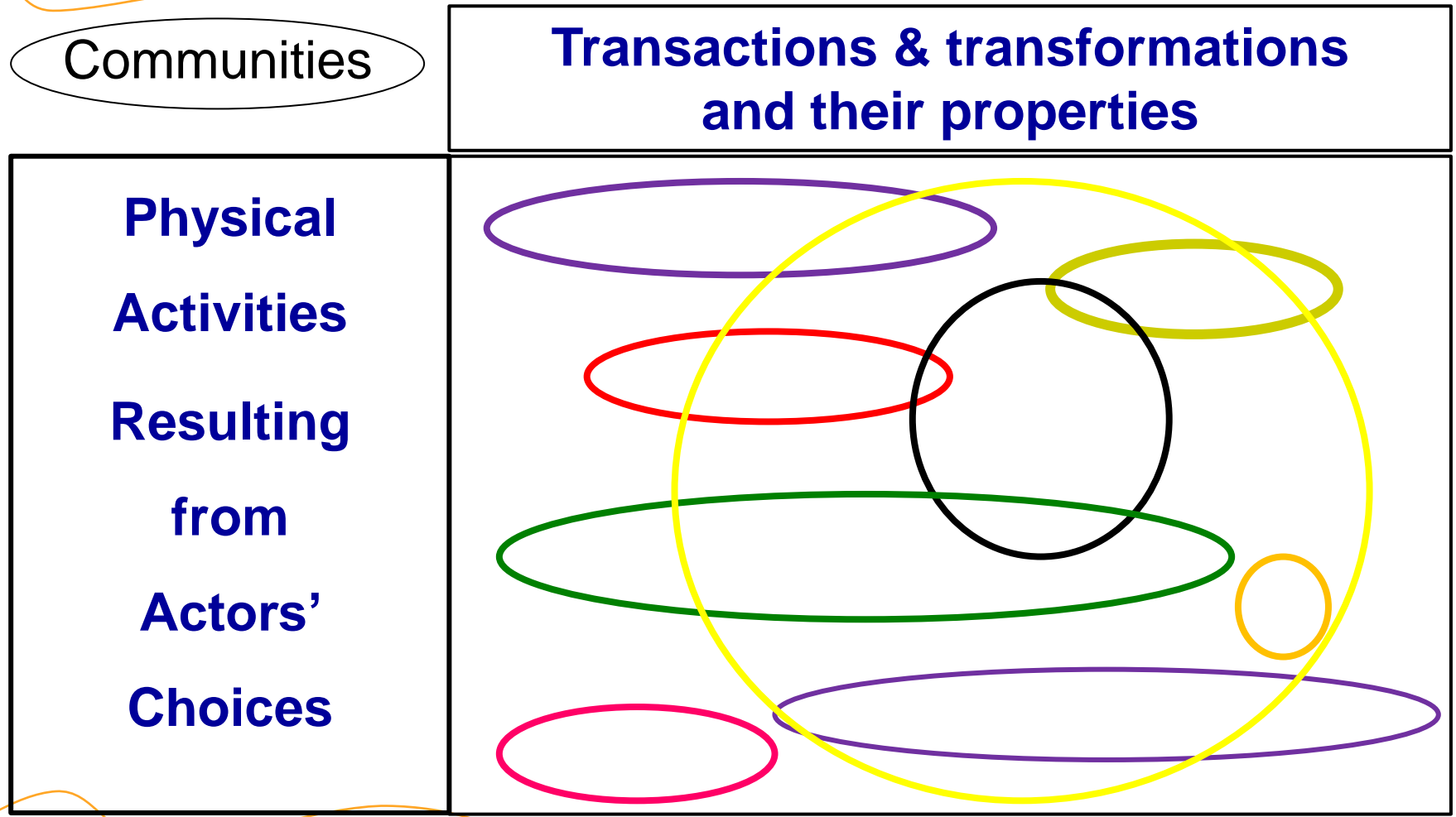
Typology - ordering according to the principle of
“decreasing human intervention into nature”

- Conversion and Conservation of resource systems
- Extraction and Withdrawal of resource units
- *Disposal and Pollution* using absorption capacities
- *Controlling Biological Processes* - cultivating crops
- *Marketing and Processing* decomposed nature
- *Consuming commodities and non-commodities*
- *Protecting humans vis-à-vis* natural conditions

Activity Influences Framing

- ➔ Framing provides heuristics and language for governing **intention, meaning, relevance**
- ➔ What determines these elements during the evolution of a community's research tradition?
- ➔ **The Transaction – Transformation – Interdependence – Institutions – Nexus!**
- ➔ **This nexus is mainly triggered and shaped by the type of activity!**
- ➔ Examples: "withdrawal" and "cultivation"

“Science Map” of Scientific Communities



The Role of WINS

- **Bridging** between communities as a focus
- WINS = institutionalized space for bridging
- Organising scholars' collective action
- Facilitating scholars' self-organisation
- **Becoming "bilingual"**- understanding the language of at least 2 scientific communities
- ➡ Analytical frameworks as a starting point
- ➡ **Real bridging** will occur by **joint practice** in applied research, teaching and learning!

Core Elements of the WINS Agenda



- 1. Integrative Discourses** for institutionalizing communication between members of several research communities
- 2. Interdisciplinary Research** for conducting studies guided by one or more, single or linked analytical frameworks
- 3. Advanced Studies** addressing both junior and senior researchers



Two Main Groups of Actors

- ⇒ **Affiliated faculty*** from HU Berlin and other universities and research institutes
- ⇒ **Young academics** including Master and PhD students and Post-docs

These groups may want to practice mutual learning in an organised process.

* Guidelines can be found on the WINS website www.wins.hu-berlin.de

Establishing a Project in WINS

- **Projects in WINS have in common:**
 - Topic in in WINS knowledge area
 - At least one WINS affiliated faculty
- **WINS Projects**
 - WINS evolved projects
 - WINS adopted projects
- **WINS associated projects**

Guidelines can be found on the WINS website
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Forming a Working Group in WINS

Informal procedure:

- Brief proposal including topic and objectives
- Prospective group members and activities

Working Groups should meet the following criteria:

- Topic in WINS knowledge area
- Participation of WINS affiliated faculty

Integration into flow of information:

- Meeting schedule
- Website presentation

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Other Components in WINS

- ▶ WINS Seminar – a weekly colloquium
- ▶ Visiting Scholar Program – starting!
- ▶ Young Researcher Groups – welcome!
- ▶ Courses and Trainings – in formation
- ▶ WINS PhDs – part of THESys PhD program

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WINS Organisation

- ▶ WINS coordinators
- ▶ WINS staff
- ▶ Deliberation Group
- ▶ Interdisciplinary Group
- ▶ Affiliated Faculty
- ▶ Young Researchers Club

Welcome to WINS !!!

- Our understanding of WINS is not to form a strongly formalized group working in the bondage of strict rules and inflexible procedures
- Our visioning orients towards a permanent lively workshop developing a culture of openness
- Welcoming everybody who may contribute to creative discourse, research and teaching

THANK YOU for your attention!

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