

# Frameworks and prospects for Integrated Assessment Modelling of Global Change (IAM-GC)

Bert de Vries

Workshop on Coupled Climate-Economics Modelling and Data Analysis  
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and Department IEES Utrecht University (UU) - [b.j.m.devries@uu.nl](mailto:b.j.m.devries@uu.nl)*

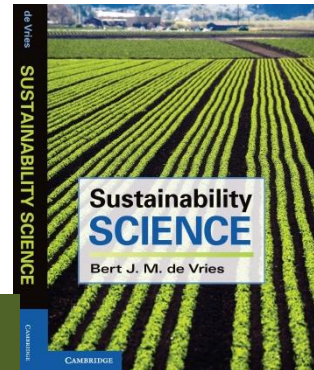


# 1. Introduction: entering a period of tensions

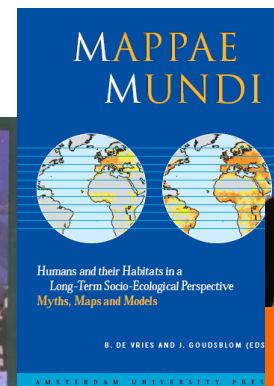
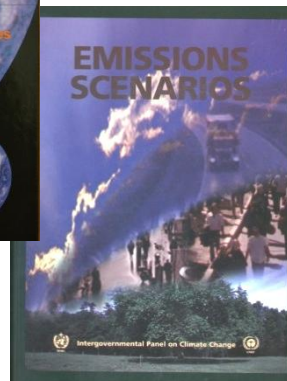
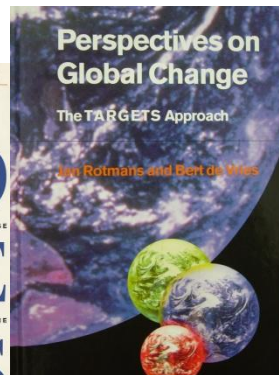
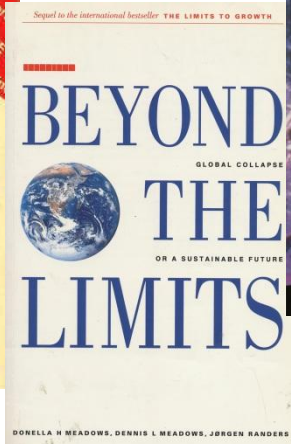
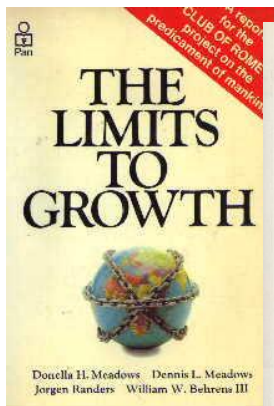
## 2. Three gaps to be bridged

### 3. Some research projects and directions

- a) Use and availability of (ground)water
- b) Competition vs. cooperation in climate policy
- c) The financial system



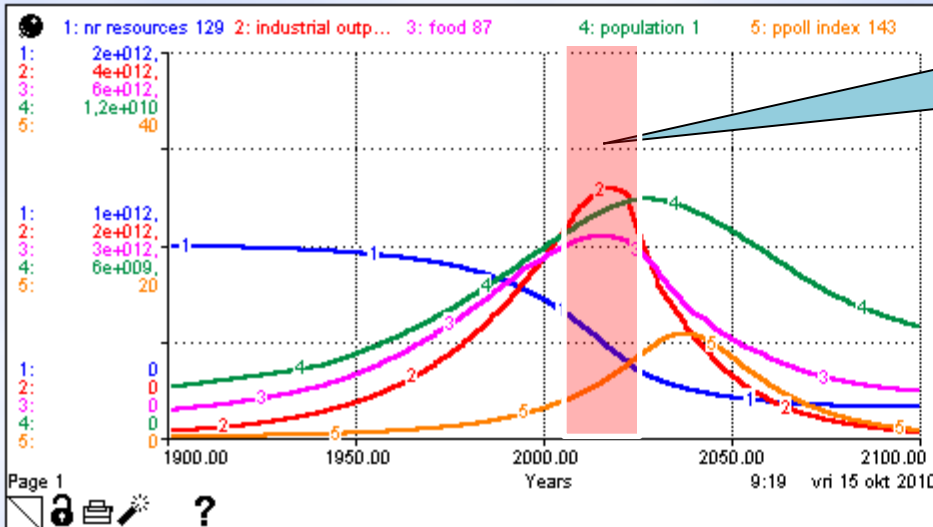
More communicator than scientist...



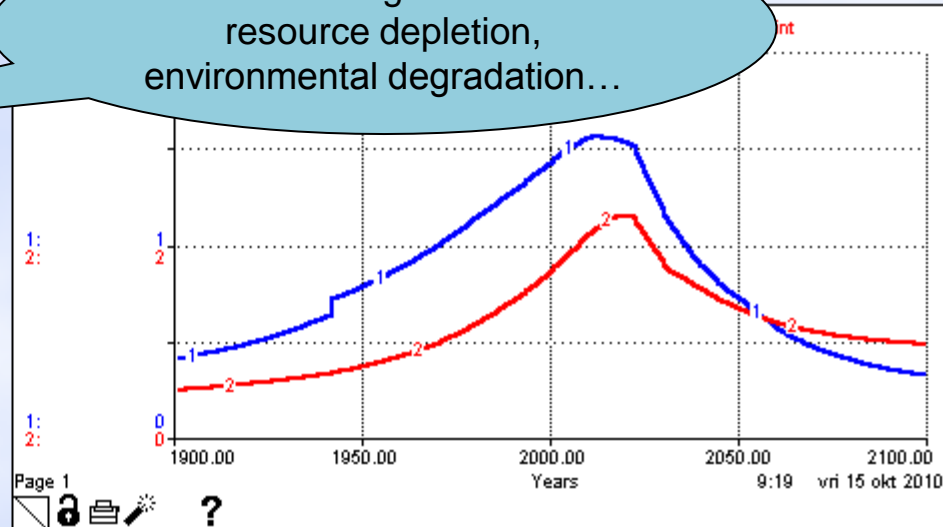
# Scenario #1 Business-as-Usual - A Reference point

## Limits to Growth: Scenario Graphs

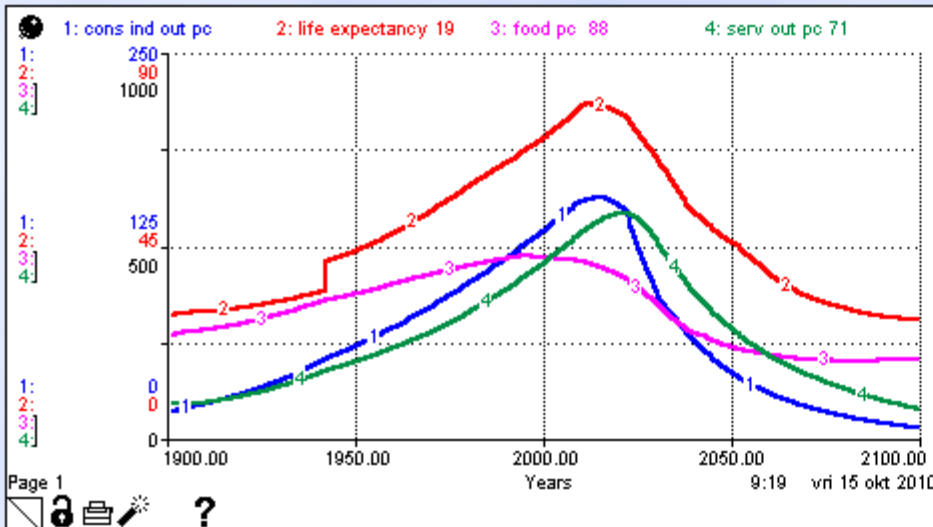
Era of rising tensions:  
resource depletion,  
environmental degradation...



State of the World



Human Welfare and Footprint



Material Standard of Living

Scenario Selection (You must pick only one scenario)

Scenario 1 Scenario 2 Scenario 3 Scenario 4 Scenario 5 Scenario 6 Scenario 7 Scenario 8

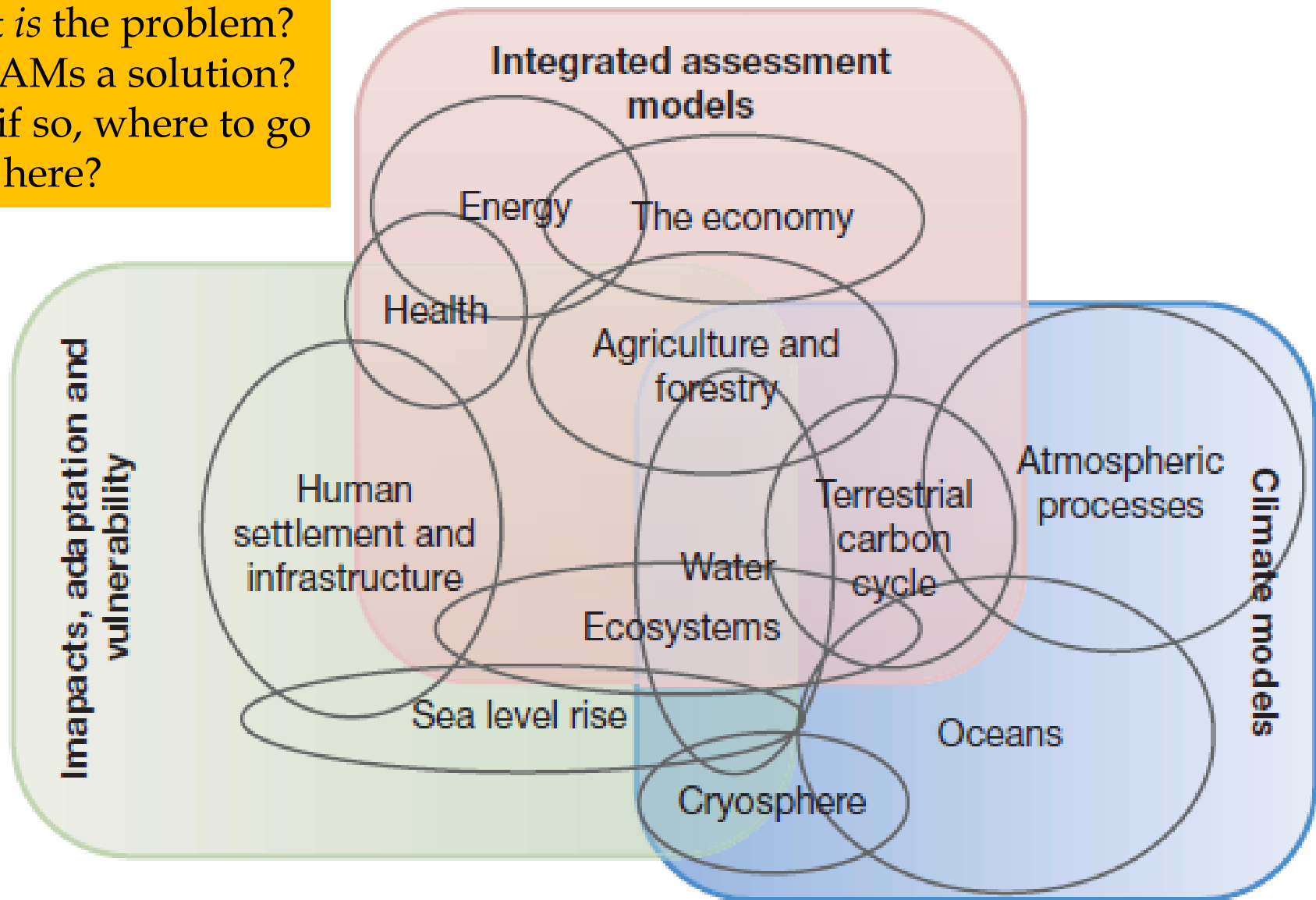
THE LIMITS TO GROWTH

Donella H. Meadows Dennis L. Meadows Jorgen Randers William W. Behrens III

Scenario Selection (You must pick only one scenario)

# Integration: IA Models on climate-society

What is the problem?  
Are IAMs a solution?  
And if so, where to go  
from here?



1. Introduction: entering a period of tensions

2. Three gaps to be bridged

3. Some research projects and directions

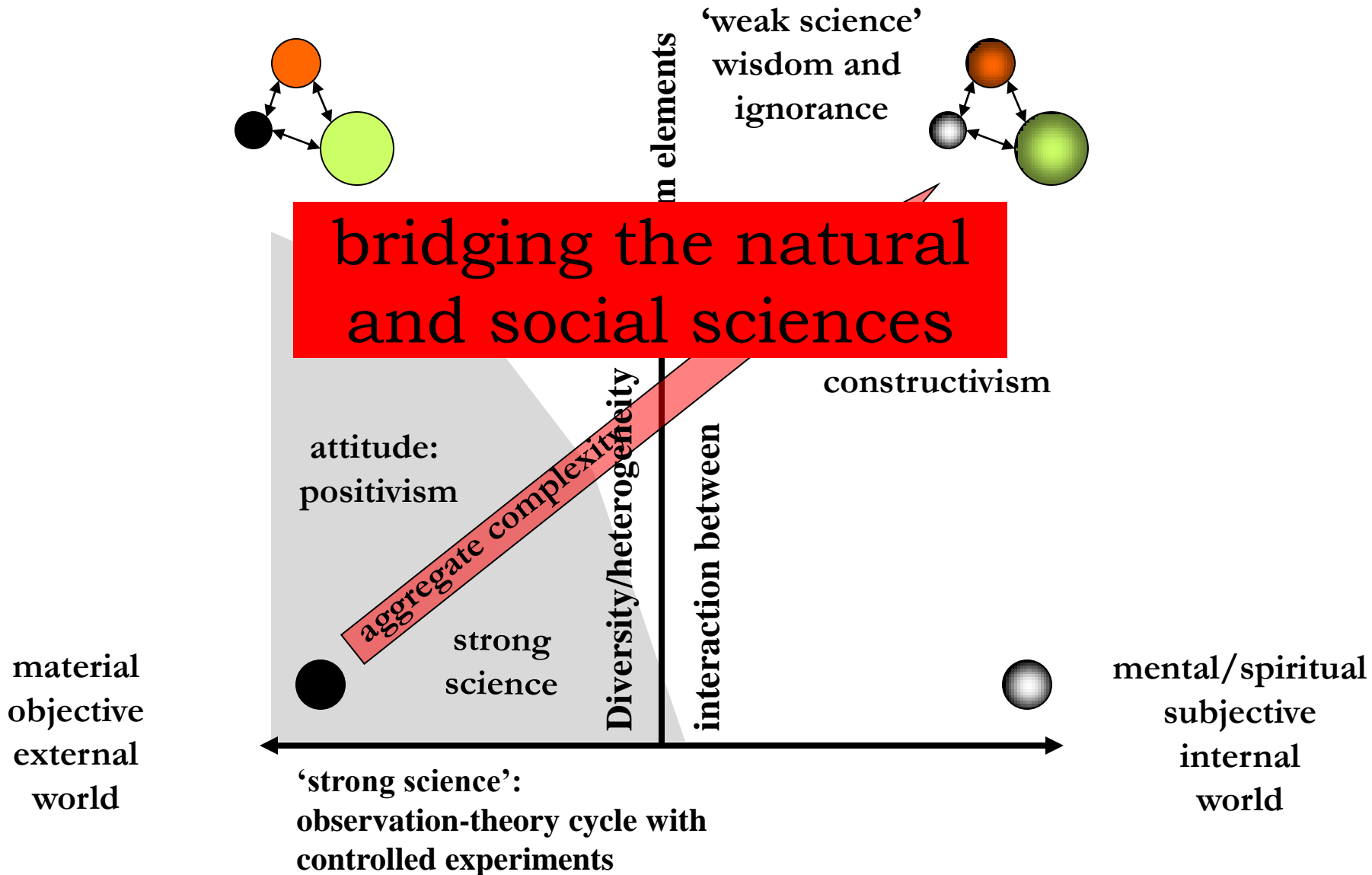
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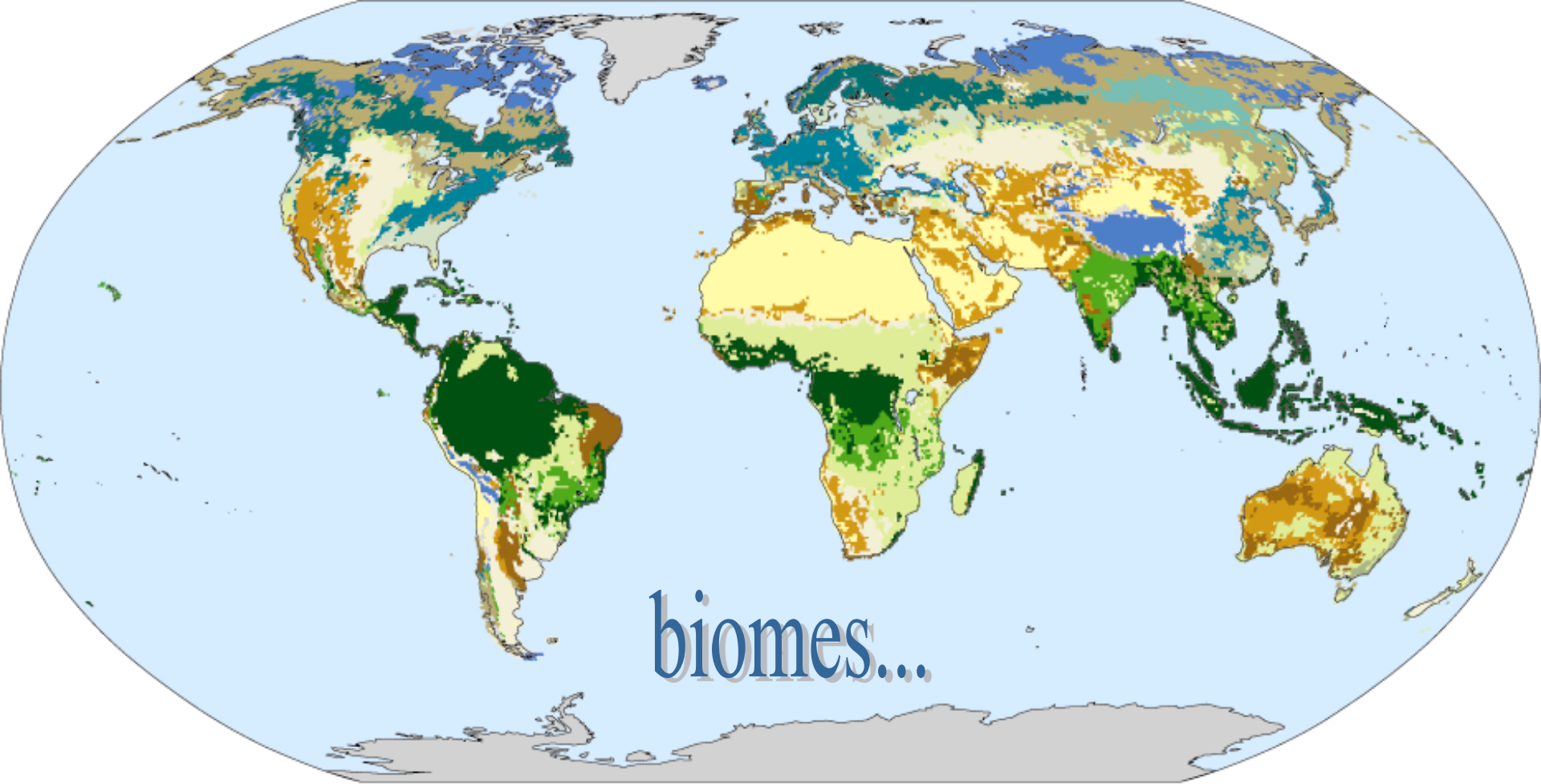
i. Natural science – social science
















ii. Science – policy

iii. Micro - macro

# Global Change Modelling: an increasing need to deal with complexity and uncertainty

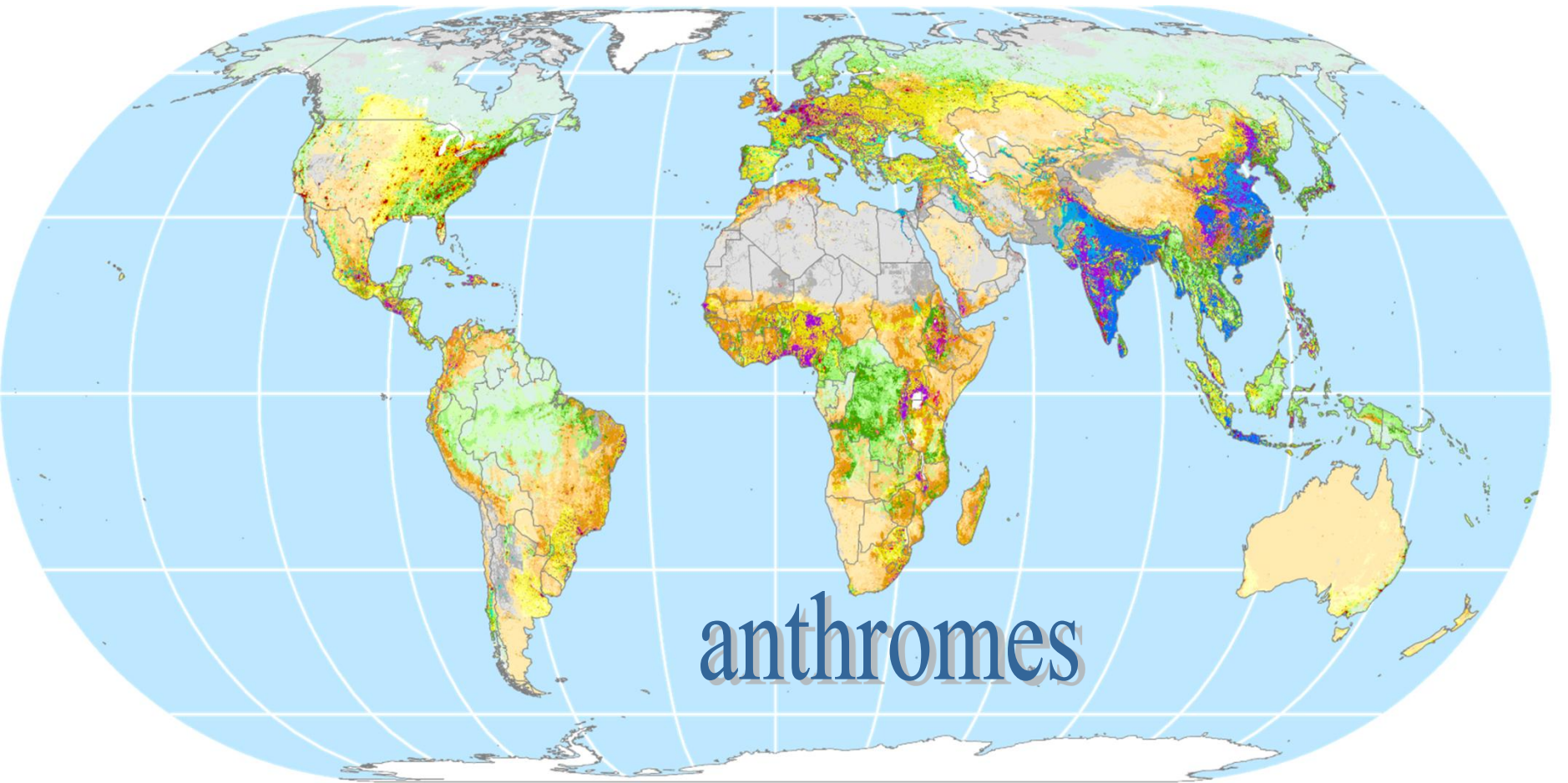




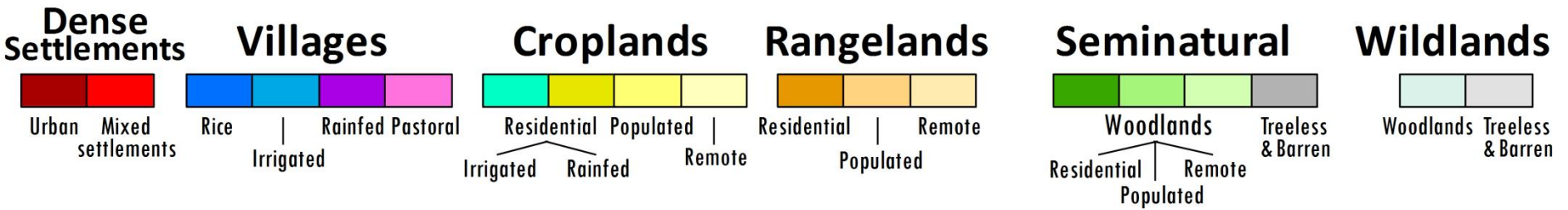
	Trop. Evergr. Forest/Woodland		Boreal Evergr. Forest/Woodland		Dense Shrubland
	Trop. Decid. Forest/Woodland		Boreal Decid. Forest/Woodland		Open Shrubland
	Temp. Broadl. Evergr. Forest/Woodland		Evergr./Decid. Mixed Forest/Woodland		Tundra
	Temp. Ndleaf Evergr. Forest/Woodland		Savanna		Hot Desert
	Temp. Decid. Forest/Woodland		Grassland/Steppe		Polar desert/Rock/Ice

*Potential land cover map (Ramankutty and Foley 1999)*





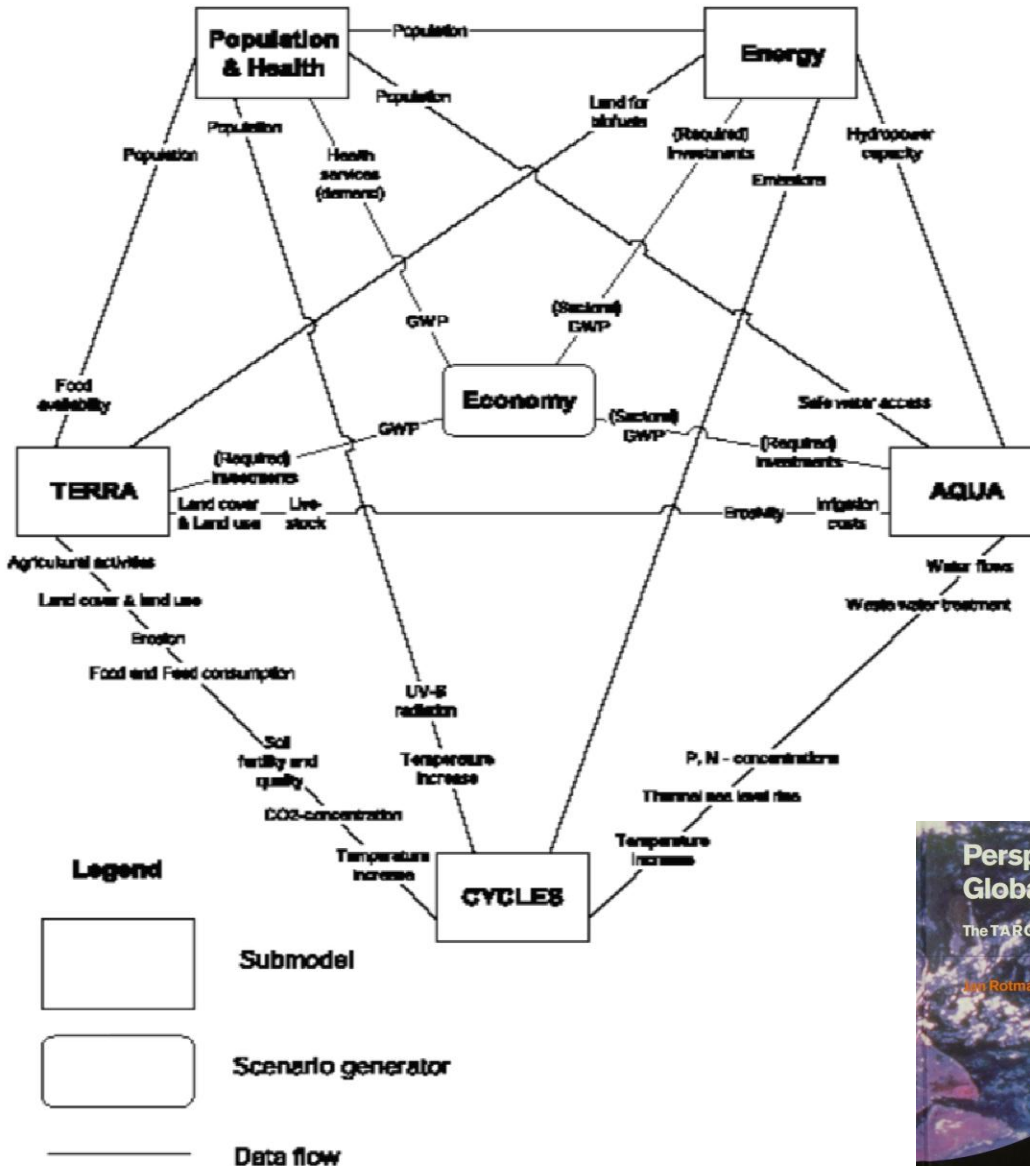
anthromes



*Actual land cover map (Ellis, Klein Goldewijk et al. 2008)*



# Uncertainty and worldviews...



TARGETS1.0 model:

- use of 'stylized facts'
- explicit use of value orientations

*people*

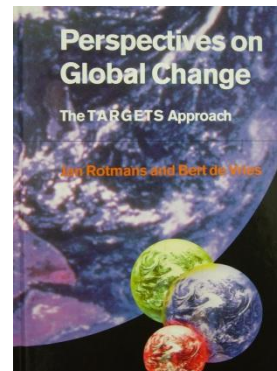
*goods&services*  
*[money]*

*food*

*energy*

*water*

*element stocks*  
*&flows*



(Rotmans and De Vries 1997)

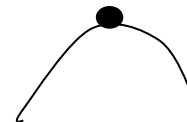
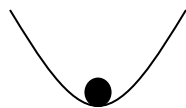
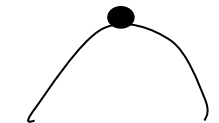
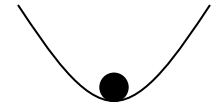
# Worldview: how does the world 'work'?

**Individualist**    **Hierarchist**    **Egalitarian**

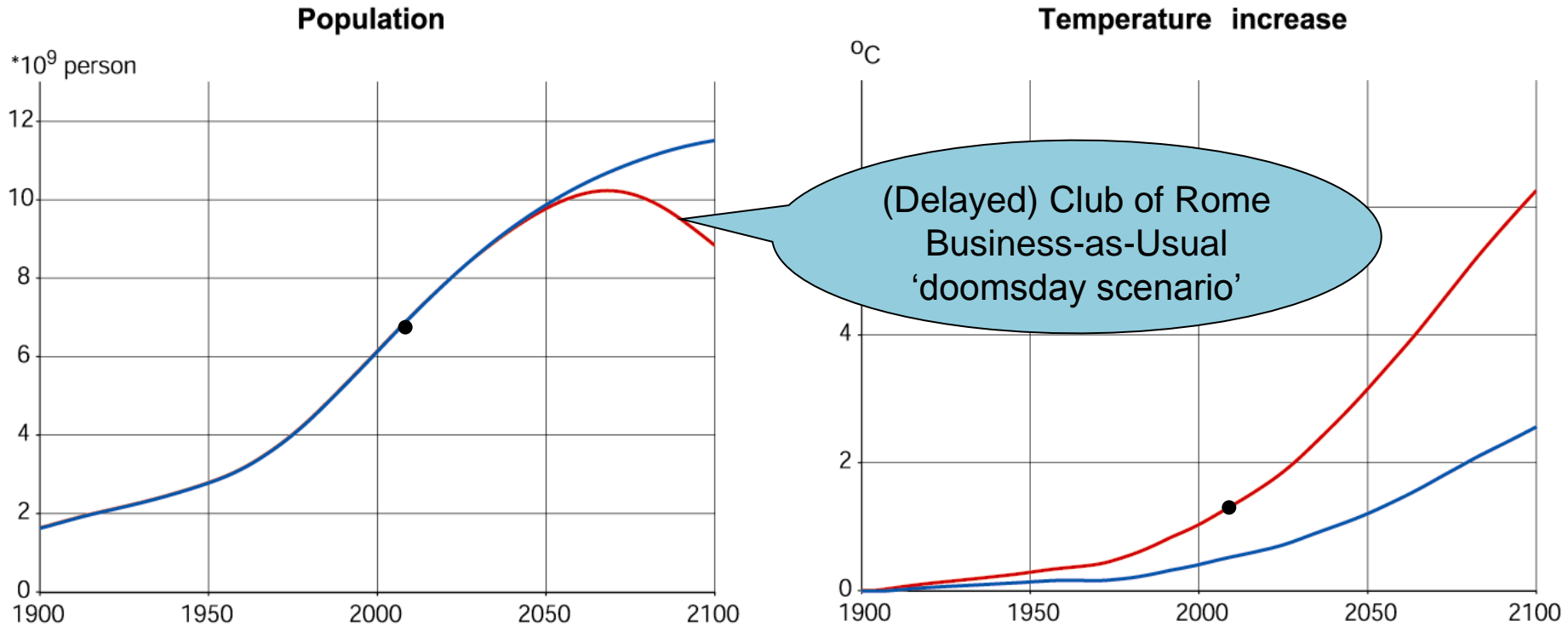
Management style: according to whose interpretation the world is 'managed'?

**Individualist**    **Hierarchist**    **Egalitarian**



**Individualist** **Hierarchist** **Egalitarian**



**A dystopian future - the egalitarian nightmare:**

**population decline due to the integrated feedback from greenhousegas emissions->climate change->declining food availability**

*low*

*agreement*

*high*

*high*

badly structured problem:  
science as **mediator**

structured problem:  
science as **problem solver**

*high*

*consensus on knowledge*

POLITICS zone  
competition in a zero-sum game

RATIONAL zone  
Planning, budgets,  
defined outcomes,  
goal seeking control

*understanding*

**bridging science  
and policy**

CHAOS zone  
teams and projects  
break up in disarray

VISION zone  
missions, values,  
shared vision,  
shared culture

*low*

unstructured problem:  
science as  
**problem recognizer**

moderately structured  
problem:  
science as **advocate**

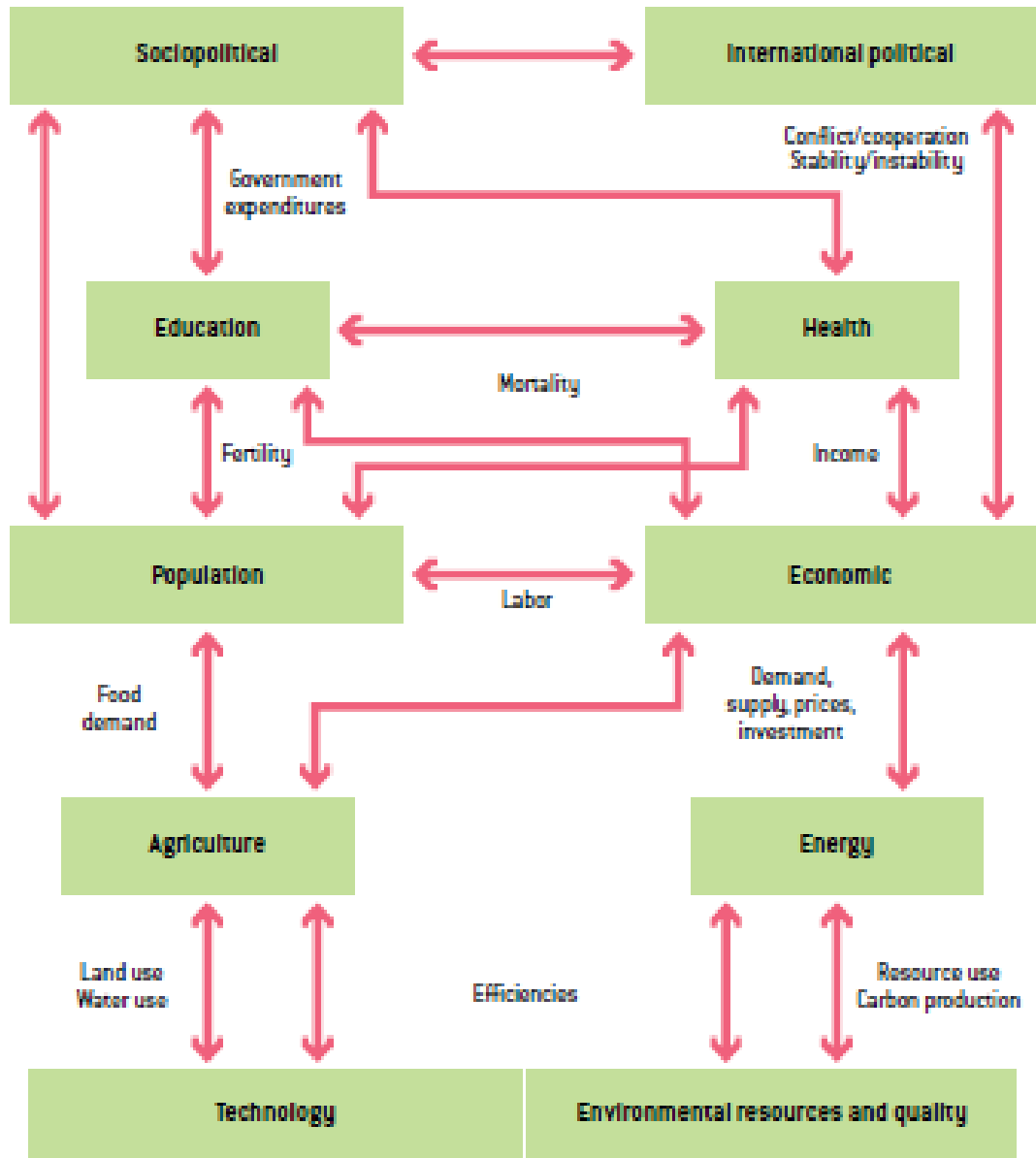
*low*

*low*

*consensus on values*

*high*

**Figure 4.1 The major models in the IFs modeling system and example connections**



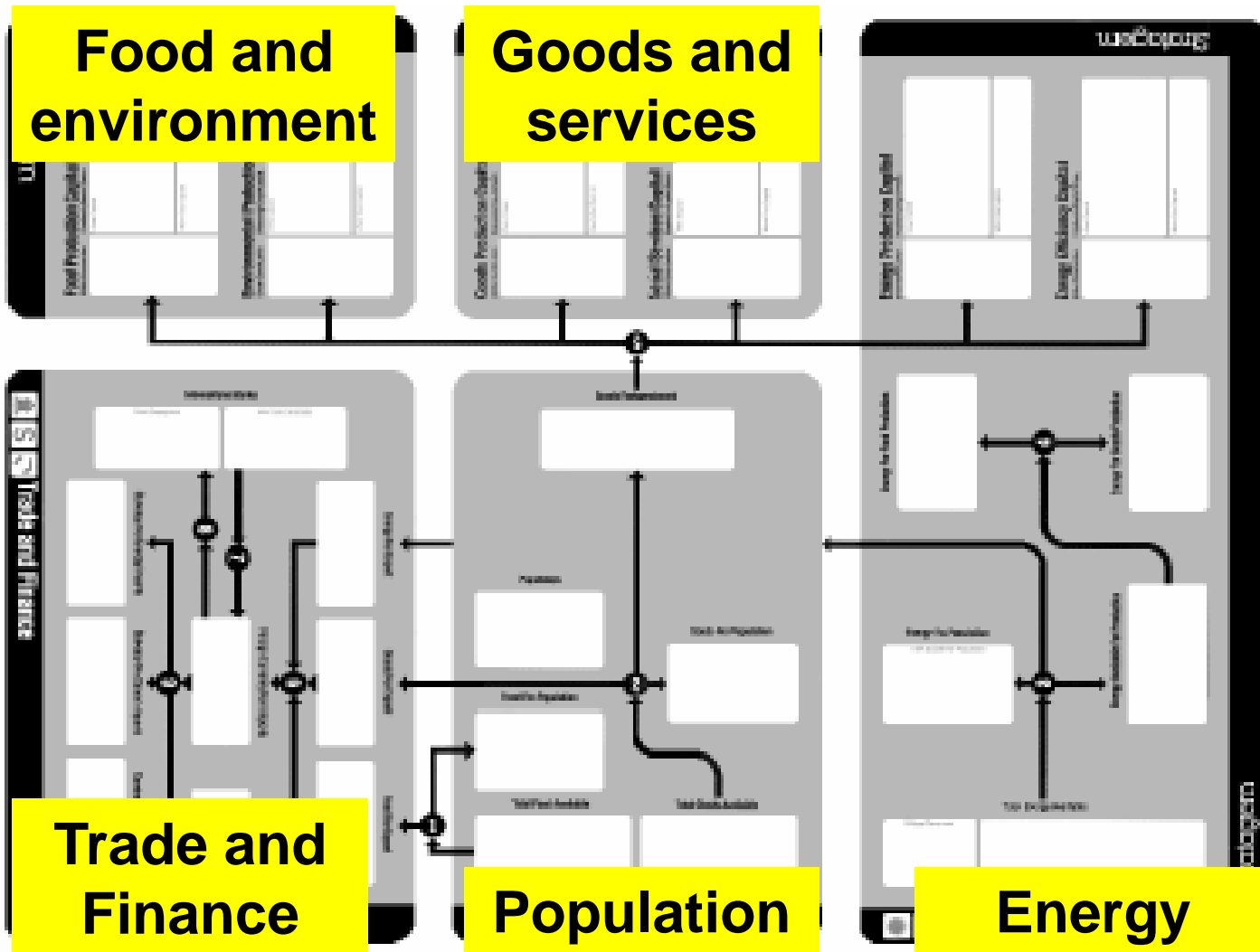
IFs model to simulate local/global development ([www.ifs.du.edu](http://www.ifs.du.edu))

IFs submodel set-up:

- transparent
- interactive
- generic

(cf. GISMO, Hilderink, Lucas et al. 2009, [www.pbl.nl](http://www.pbl.nl))

# Stratagem: World3 made into country model as part of simulation game



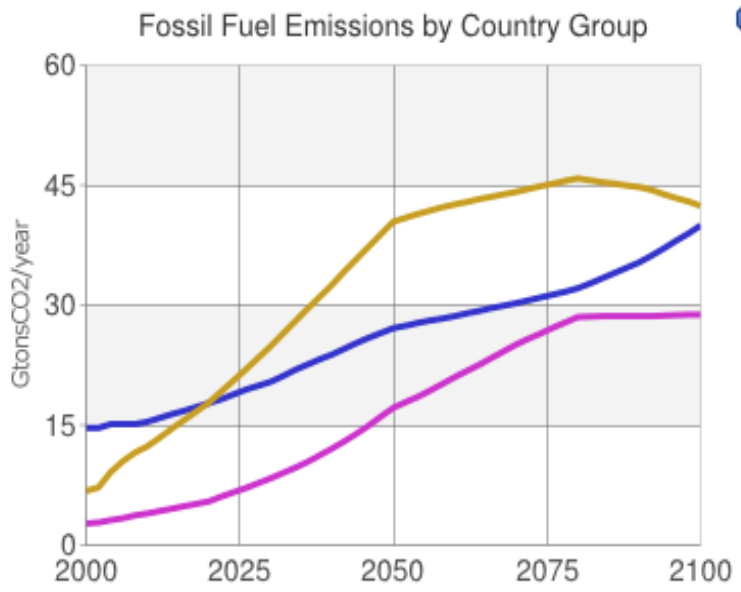
Games  
Metamodels  
Toy models  
...

Game board: Five roles



## Main Control Panel

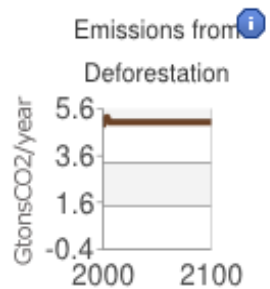
Change the values and click "Run Simulation". See the graphical representations of your decisions below, and explore climate impacts in the graphs to the right and using the menu options above.



	Stop Growth year	Reduction Start Year	% Annual Reduction
Developed	2100	2012	0.0
Developing A	2100	2012	0.0
Developing B	2100	2012	0.0

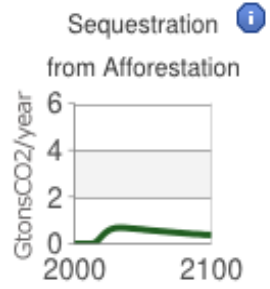
[Click for Info on Baseline Scenarios](#)

[Change scenario name\(s\)](#) | 
 [Run Simulation](#) | 
 [Reset Inputs](#) | 
 [Clear Runs](#)



(0-1 index for low to high values)

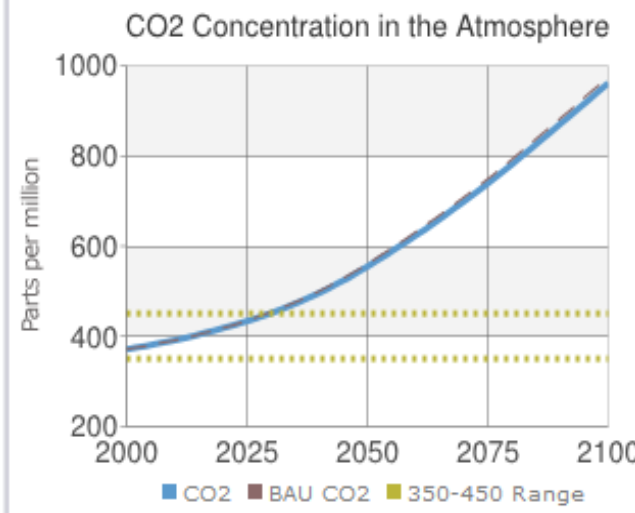
Slider control for Deforestation emissions, set to 1.0



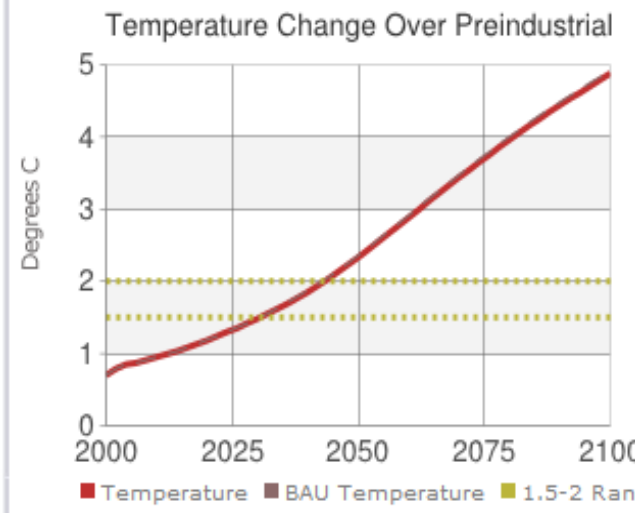
(0-1 index for low to high values)

Slider control for Sequestration, set to 0.5

## Impacts



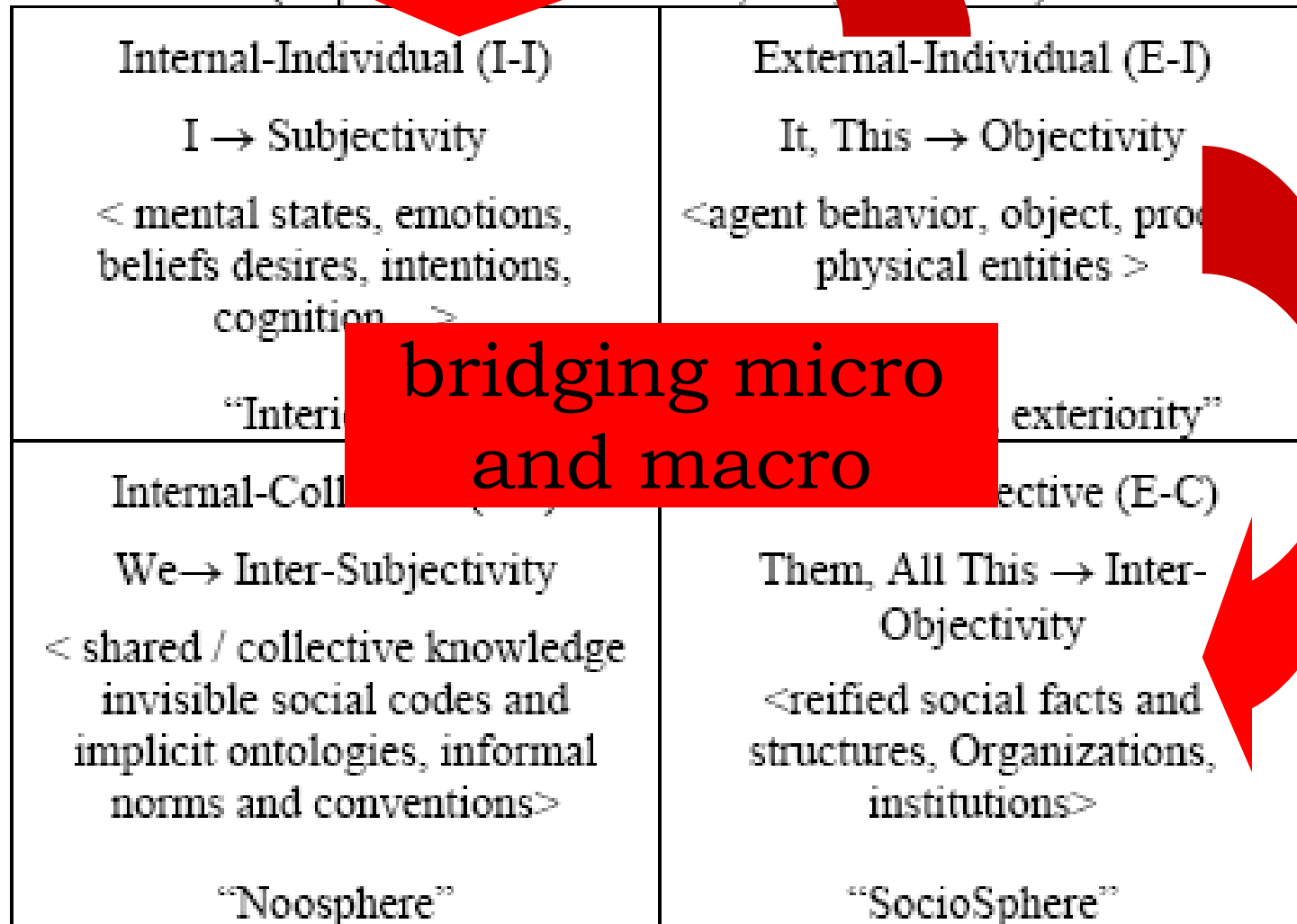
CO2 in 2100: 961 ppm

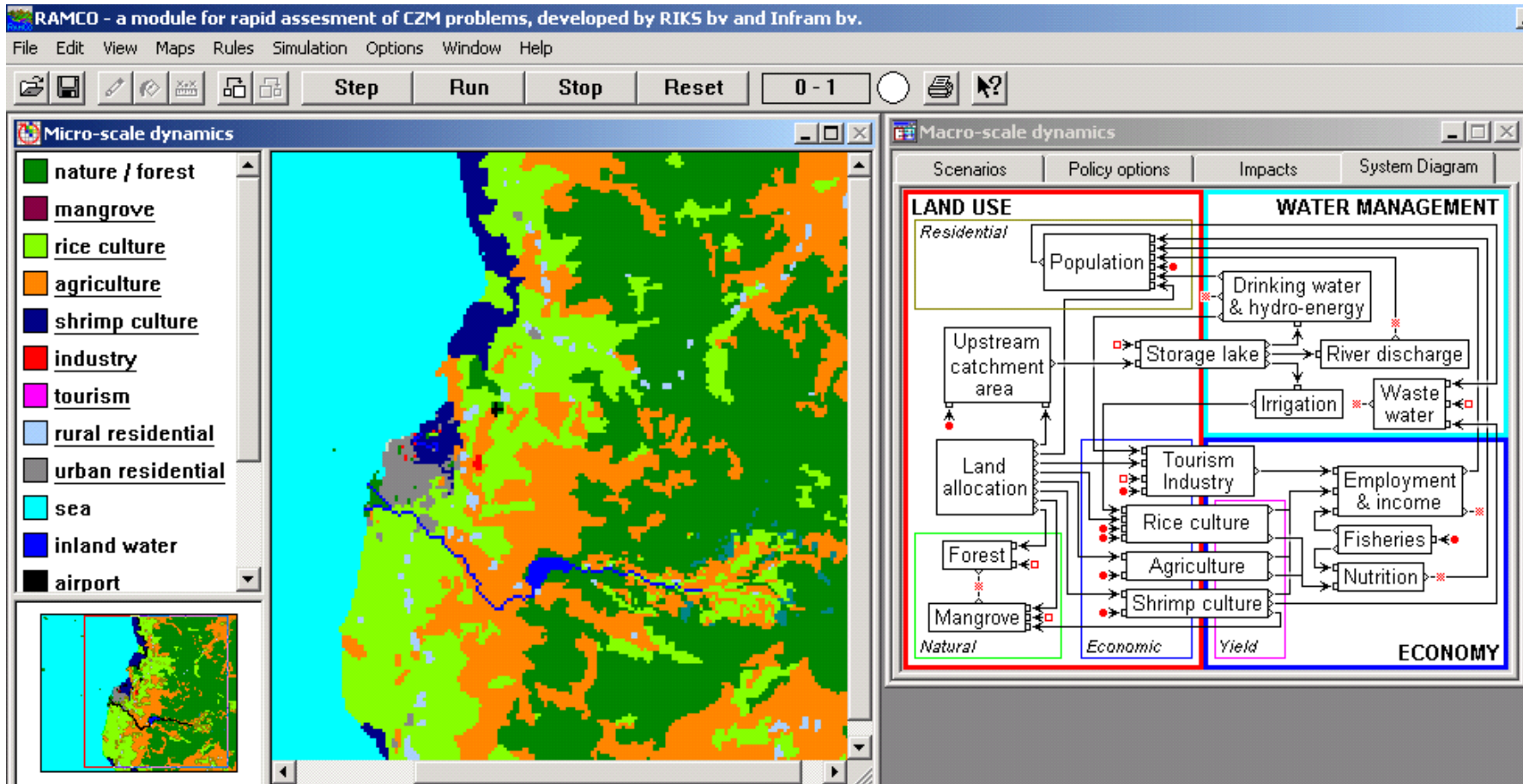


Temperature change by 2100: 4.9 degrees C

# From inner to outer, from individual to collective

**Figure 1** The 4-Quadrant Approach  
(adapted from Wilber 2007a-b, Phan 2007)

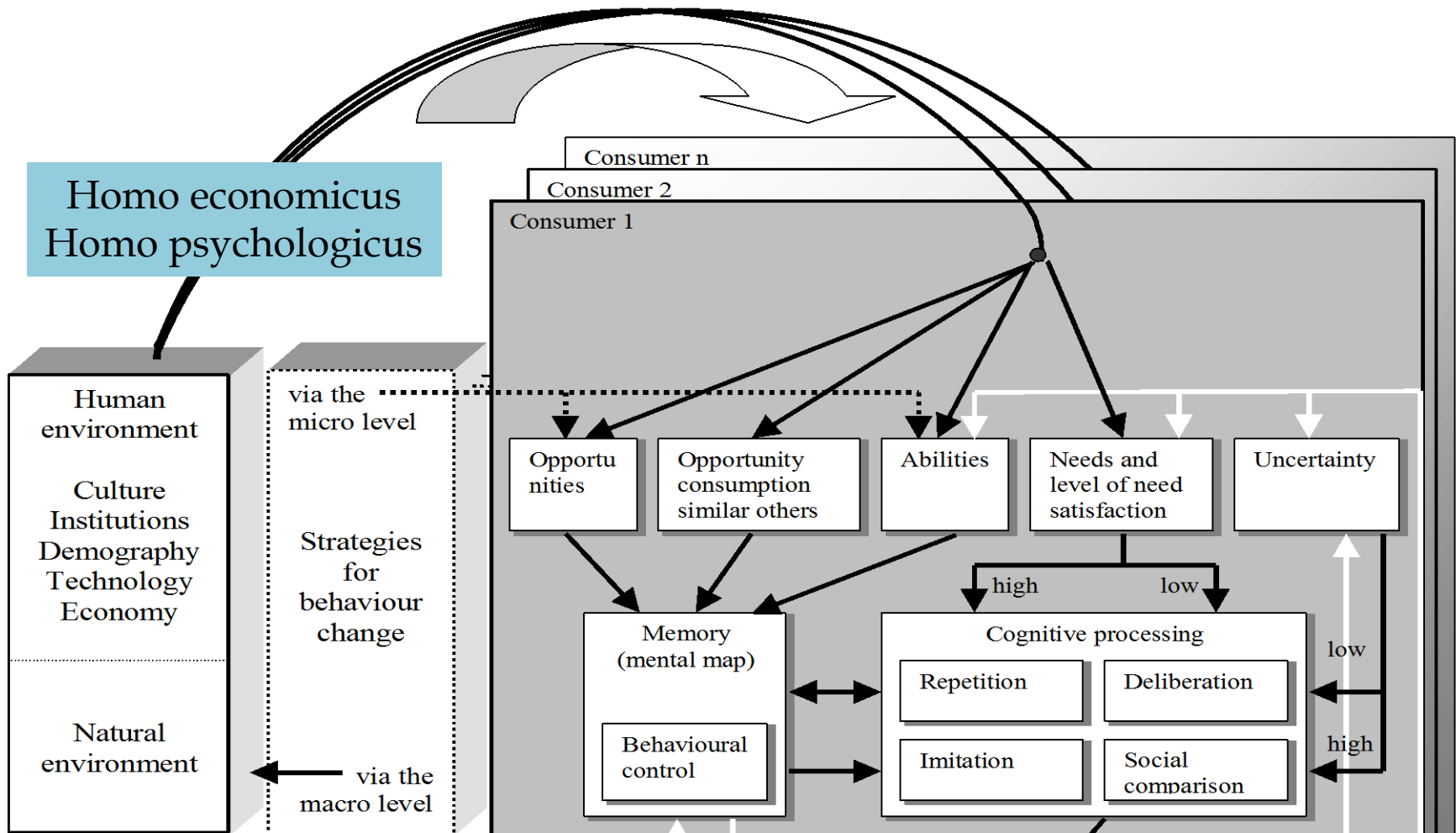




*Application of the Geonamica software to explore sustainable development in western Sulawesi (Indonesia). The right side shows the high-level dynamic simulation model; the left side shows the underlying base maps. The CA-mechanisms relate both. (Courtesy: Guy Engelen).*

Geography leading in discrete spatial modelling  
 e.g. Geonamica (Engelen et al.), Cormas-CompanionModelling...

# Agents in Lakeland: the consumat multi-agent simulation approach



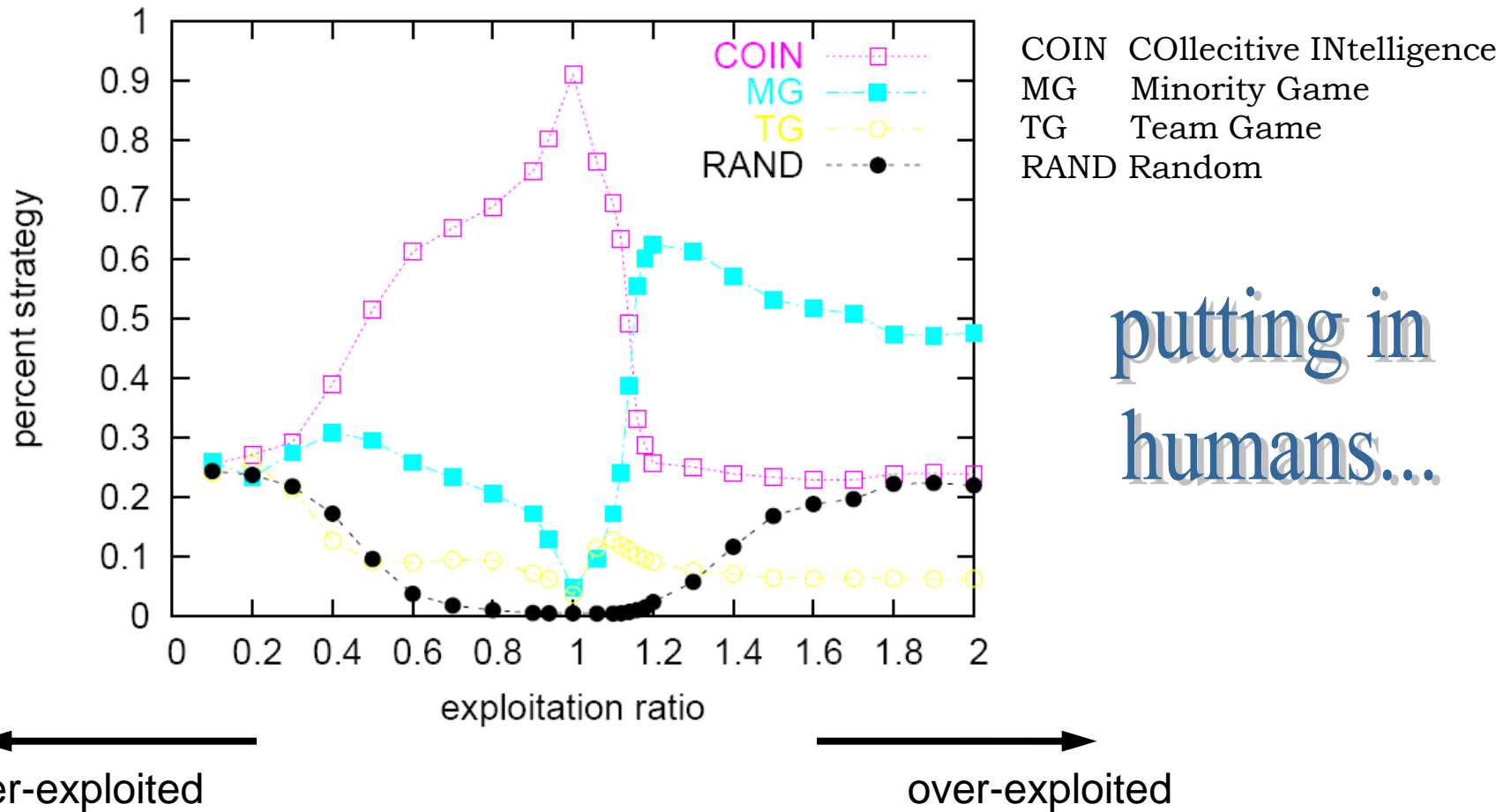
## COMSUMAT MODEL (Jager et al. 2000)

- rational deliberation only one of possible behaviours
- also: imitation, repetition en social comparison
- dynamics depend on degree of satisfaction and of (un)certainty
- ambiguous role of technology: more productive → faster overexploitation

# Fishing strategies: An ABM

Dependence on the exploitation ratio

$$r = \frac{NC_{\max}}{\sum_i Z_i}$$



putting in humans...

- Far above tipping point: uncoordinated and community-based strategies
- Around tipping point: cycles short- and long term planning
- Below tipping point: “Communism” of team games

## Social interaction

- Reproductive encounter
- Fight/flight, compete/cooperate
- Exchange of goods and services
- Exchange of information

## Cognition

- Memory
- Cognitive processing
- Repertoires
- Updating

*social network structuring*

**Agents: collective**

*aggregate  
(‘institutions’  
& media*

**Interaction processes**

**Agents: individual**

*technology*

**Environment**

*physical structuring in space*

## Environment interaction

- Use of landscape/space and land resources
- Extraction / use of mineral resources and (ground)water
- Use of environmental sinks and other ecosystem services

## Behaviour

- Replicate/reproduce
- Starve/die/disappear
- Resource use
- Resource processing
- Needs satisfaction





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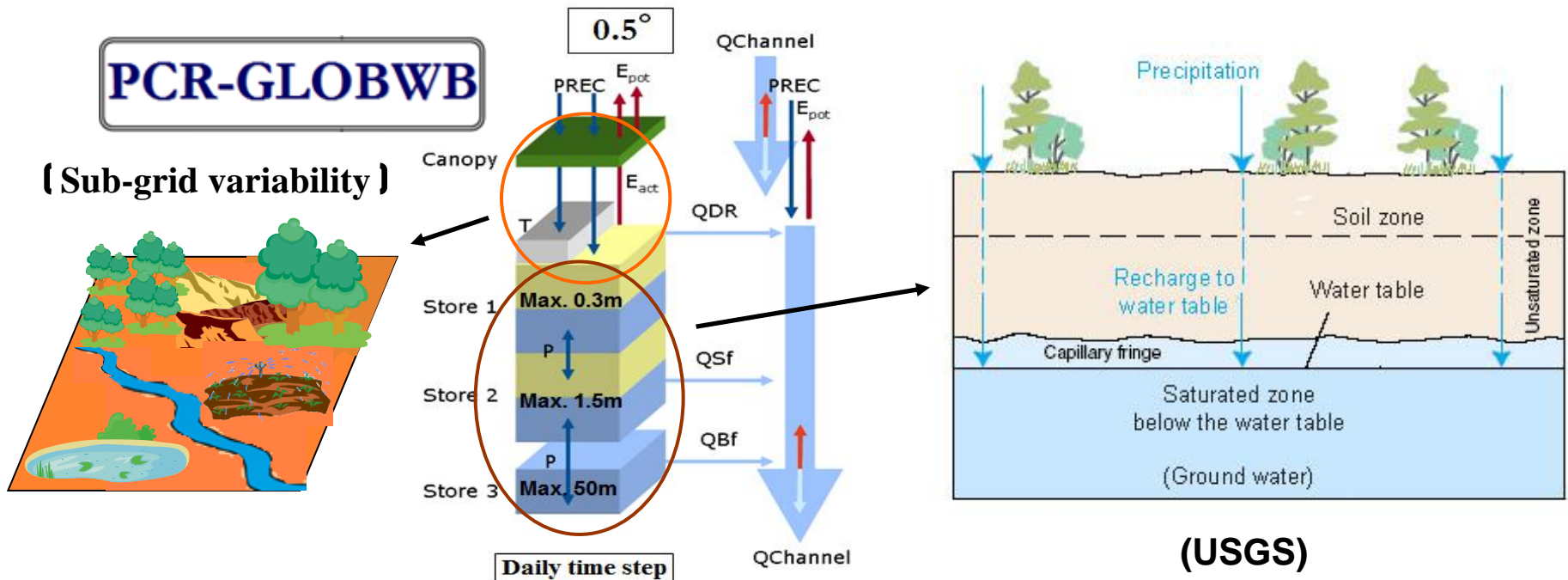
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- a) Use and availability of (ground)water  
as part of joint effort in IAM-GC between PBL and UU
- b) Competition vs. cooperation in climate policy  
paper by Brede & De Vries: a social dilemma with a  
focus on coupling energy -transition & climate  
change
- c) The financial system  
analysis of role of financial system in realizing climate  
change policy targets (within Sustainable Finance Lab)

## PCR-GLOBWB and related models:

- Simulation of hydrological cycle (vegetation-climate)
- Assessment of (ground)water availability (depletion)
- Simulation of N- and P-stock and flows (eutrophication)

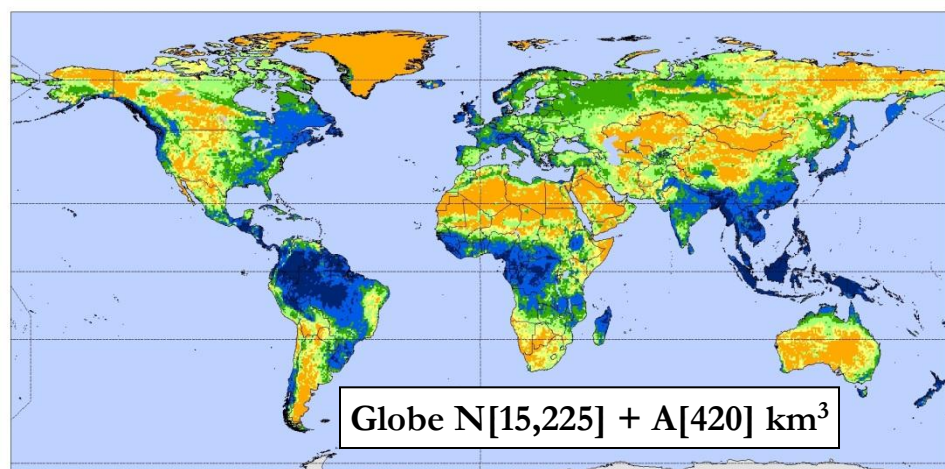


## Processes modelled:

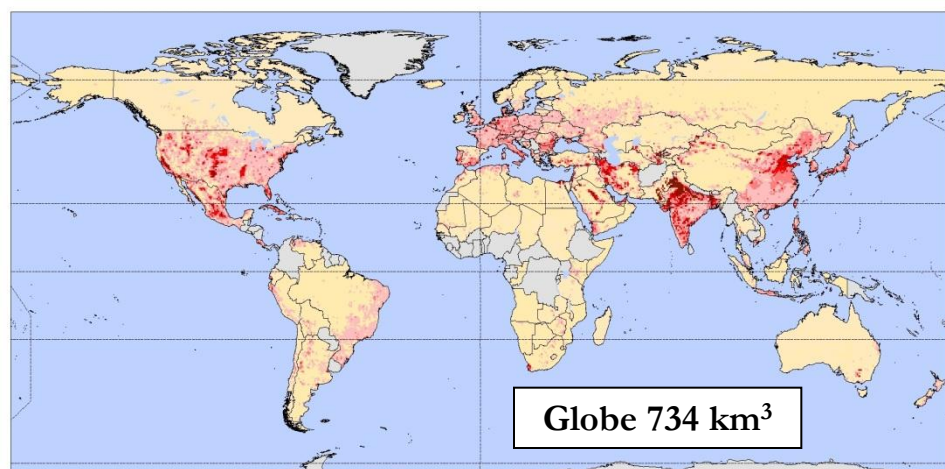
- vegetation and evaporation
- vertical flow
- surface water routing
- floodplain inundation

## Output fields PCR-GLOBWB

- Soil moisture (two reservoirs)
- Active groundwater storage
- Surface water storage (including lakes, reservoirs, floodplains)
- snow cover
- Interception storage
- Runoff (melt water, surface, interflow, groundwater)
- Discharge (daily, monthly, average)
- River stages
- Levels of lakes and reservoirs
- Groundwater recharge
- Evaporation (soil, canopy, open water), transpiration, reference potential



0 - 2    2 - 20    20 - 100    100 - 300    300 - 1000    1000 - 1500

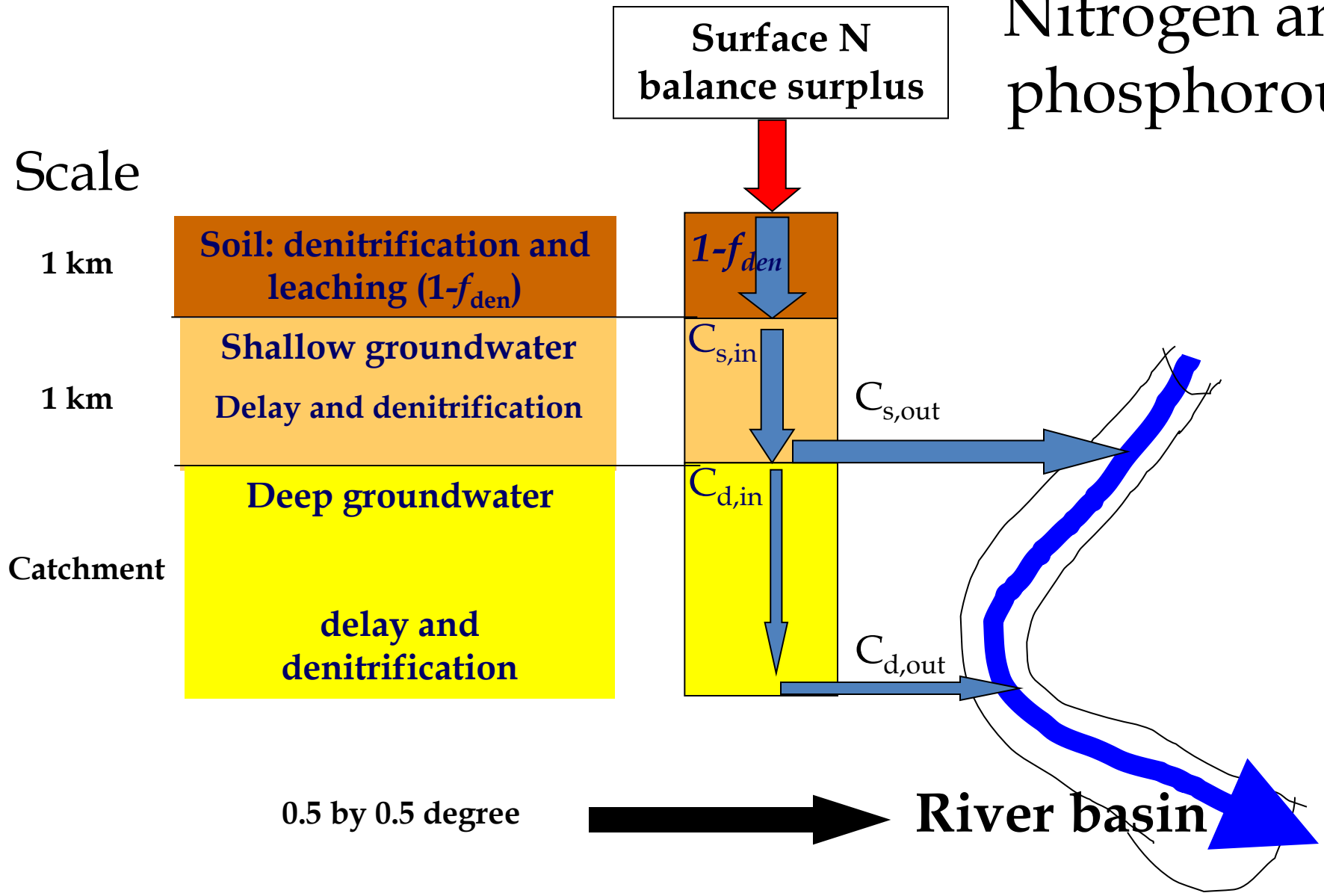


No Data    0 - 2    2 - 20    20 - 100    100 - 300    300 - 1000    1000 - 1500

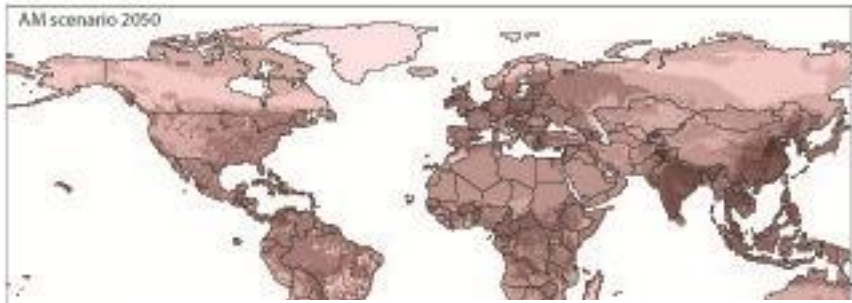
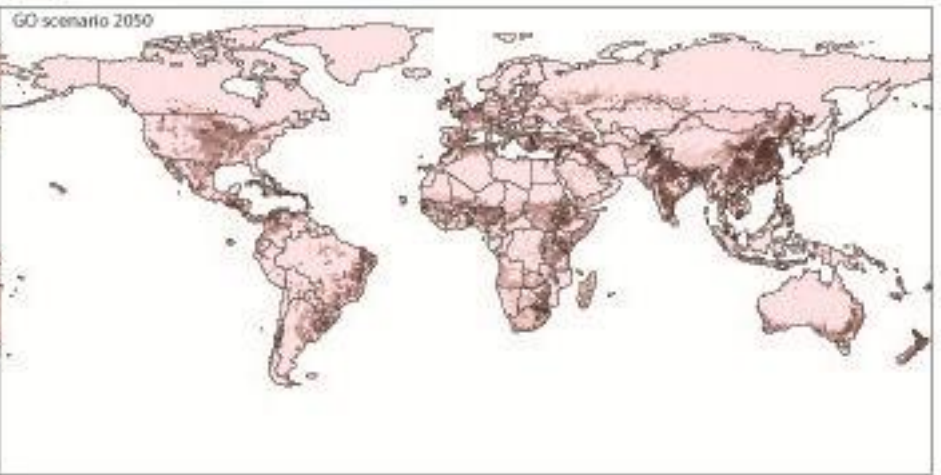
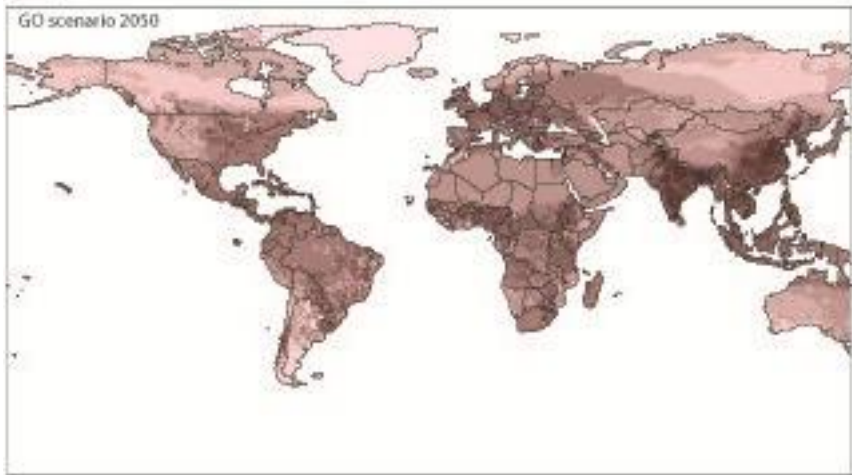
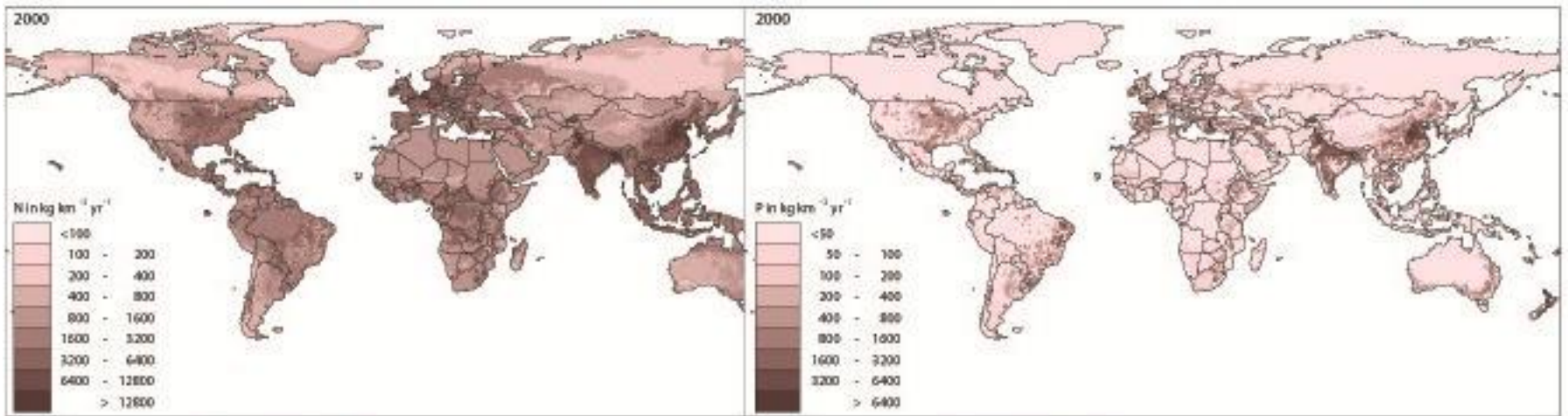


No Data    0 - 2    2 - 20    20 - 100    100 - 300    300 - 1000    1000 - 1500

# Nitrogen and phosphorous

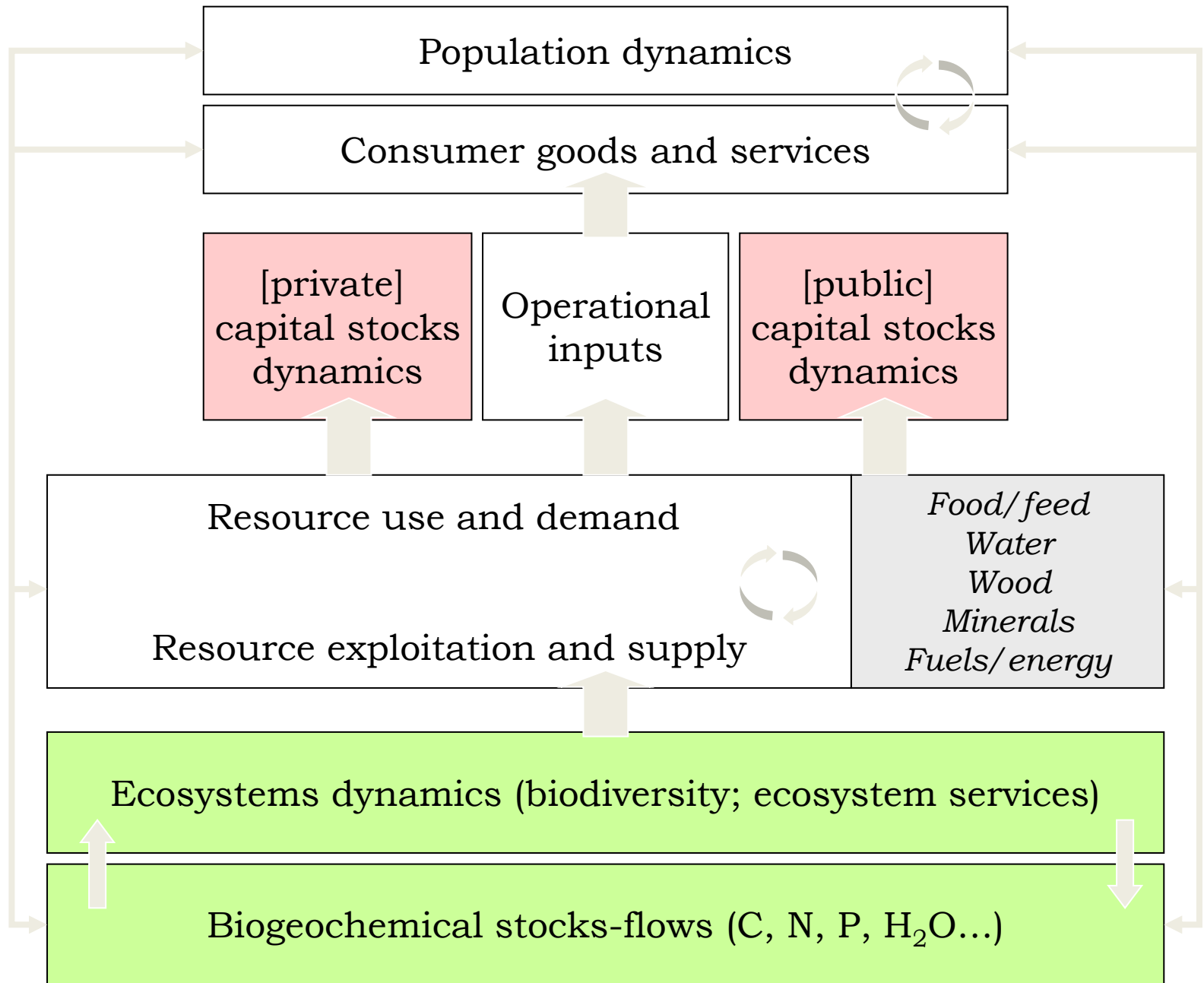






Total net flows of N (left) and P (right) in 2000 and for two scenarios in 2050 (Bouwman et al. 2009)





# Integration: the role of scale and method

*[Simulation] differential-integral equations*

Countries: game theory

Economic systems: Labour, Capital...

Macro: large system scale

Agent-Based Simulation (ABS): [spatial] discrete rule-based interactions

*[Simulation] differential-integral equations*

Ecosystems: Species interactions

Phenomenological level:  
(meso-)observations

Cellular Automata (CA): [spatial] discrete rule-based interactions

*[Simulation] differential-integral equations*

Molecular interactions (chemistry)

Particle/wave descriptions (physics)

Micro: [subsystem]  
element level

method

scale

# climate

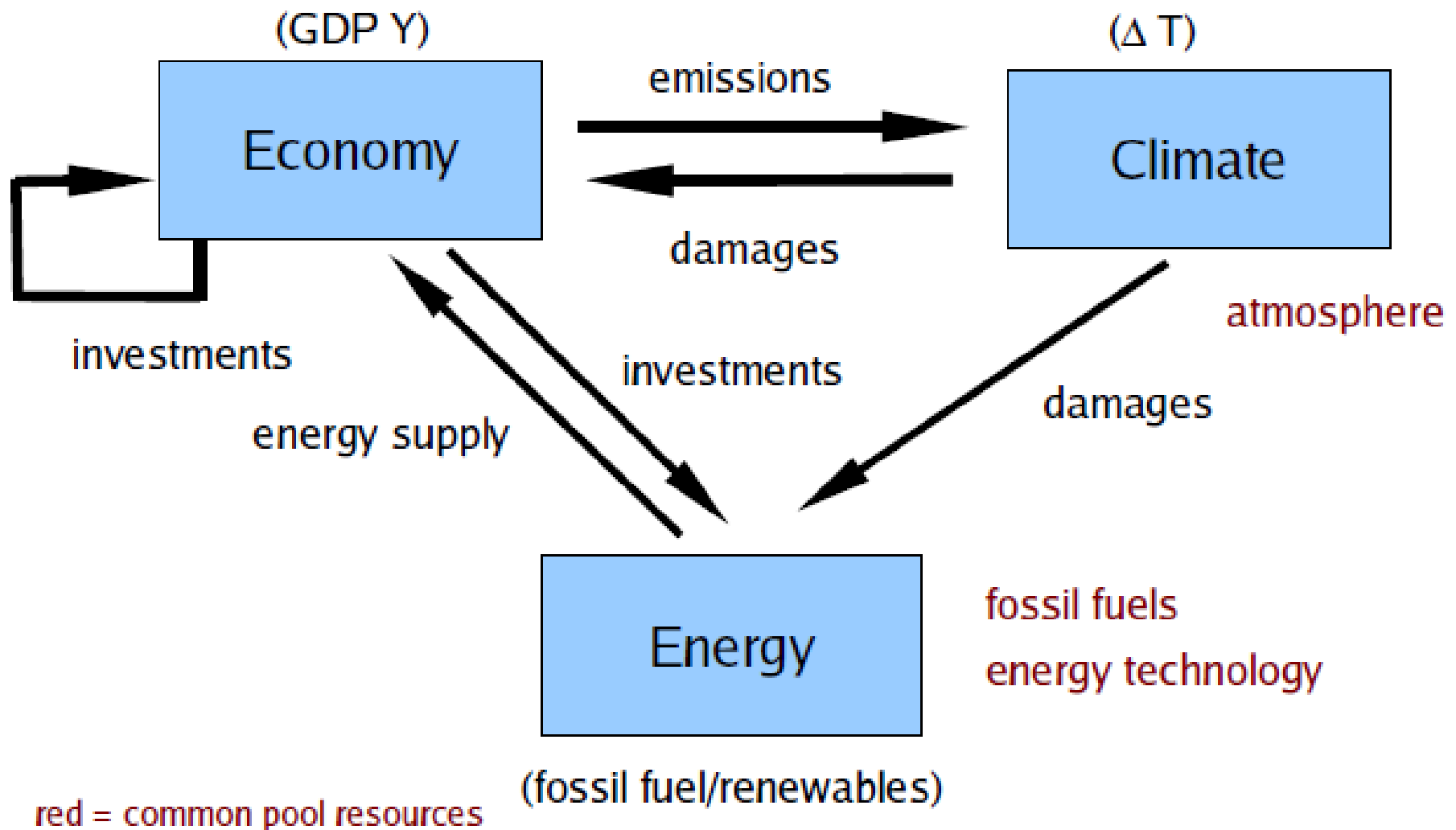
Real world?

- (i) agents optimize a *regional utility* function  $U_i = U(C_i, P_i)$ , where the index  $i$  specifies the consumption and population in region  $i$ . It is based on regional planning in a competitively managed world.
- (ii) agents strive to optimize the *world utility* function  $U = U(P_i C_i, P_i P_i)$ . The latter is based on global planning in a cooperatively managed world

Simulated world in IAMs for climate policy

*What matters is coordination,  
Not optimizing and efficiency...*

# Economy-Energy-Climate Model



# Managing the economy as an optimal control problem

- Given economy-energy-climate system: What is the decision vector  $D=(\sigma_Y(t),\sigma_F(t), \sigma_R(t),\sigma_C(t))$  that maximizes  $U$  (respecting that  $1= \sigma_Y(t)+\sigma_F(t)+\sigma_R(t)+\sigma_C(t)$ ) ?
- Scenarios:
  - collaborative: maximize “world utility”  $U(\sum_i C_i, \sum_i P_i)$
  - competitive: maximize individual utility  $U(C_i, P_i)$

Most models: global optimizer. Only few models explore regional optimization e.g. WITCH-FEEM

# Economy

essence:  
invest in  $K$   
to maximize  $U(C)$

- Goods production  $Y$  (=GDP)

$$Y = Y_0 K^\gamma L^{1-\gamma} D(\Delta T) f_{energy}$$

$K$  ... goods producing capital stock

$$dK / dt = \sigma_Y Y - \delta_Y K$$

$L$  ... labour force

$$L = .25 P$$

$\gamma$  ... capital labour elasticity

$$\gamma = 1/2$$

$D$  ... damage fraction

$$D(\Delta T) = 1 - \alpha \Delta T$$

$\alpha$  ... damage constant

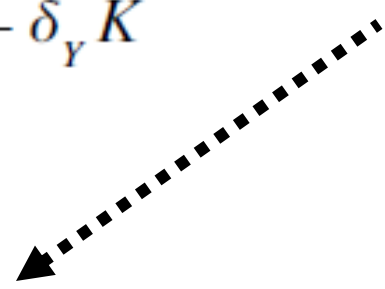
$f_{energy}$  ... energy supply factor

$P$  ... population

$$dP / dt = P \times (\text{const. } c)^{-.6}$$

$c$  ... per caput income

$$c = \sigma_c Y / P$$





# Energy sector

essence:  
optimal transition  
fossil  $\rightarrow$  renewable

- Fossil fuel based vs. renewable energy techs

$K_F$  ... capital stock energy fossil fuels

$$dK_F/dt = \sigma_F Y - \delta_F K_F$$

$K_R$  ... capital stock energy renewables

$$dK_R/dt = \sigma_R Y - \delta_R K_R$$

$S$  ... energy supply

$$S = p_F K_F + p_R K_R$$

$p_{R,F}$  ... productivities of  $K_{R,F}$

$$p_{R,F} = f(\int K_{R,F})$$

$E$  ... emissions

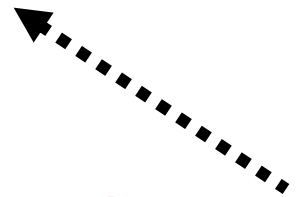
$$E = \epsilon K_F$$

$f_{energy}$  ... energy supply factor

$$f_{energy} = \max(1, S/D)$$

$D$  ... energy demand

$$D = \eta Y$$

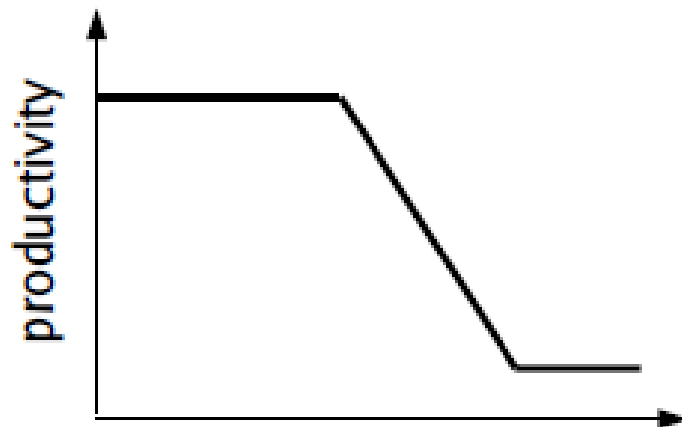


# Energy sector

essence:  
optimal transition  
fossil  $\rightarrow$  renewable

- Evolution of renewables and fossil fuel productivities

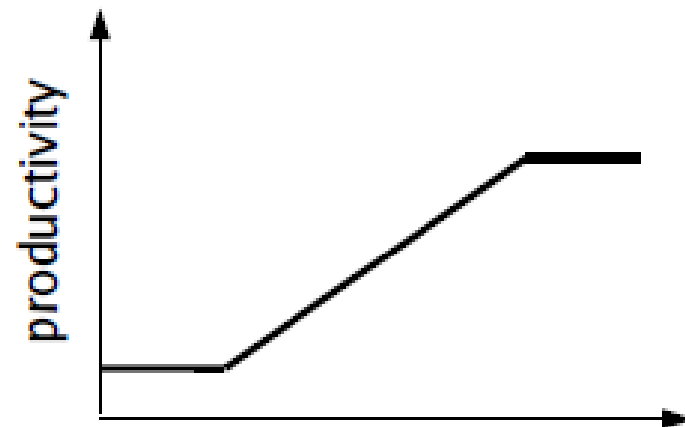
Fossil fuels



cumulated use

resource depletion

Renewable energy sources



cumulated use

“learning by doing”

essence:

# Climate

least damage over time

- Extremely simplified model, “fit” to a suite of climate models

$\rho_{CO_2}$  ... atmospheric  $CO_2$  concentration

$$\rho_{CO_2} = \rho_{CO_2}(0) + \int_{t_0}^t E(\tau) \sum_i \exp(a_i(\tau - t_i)) d\tau$$

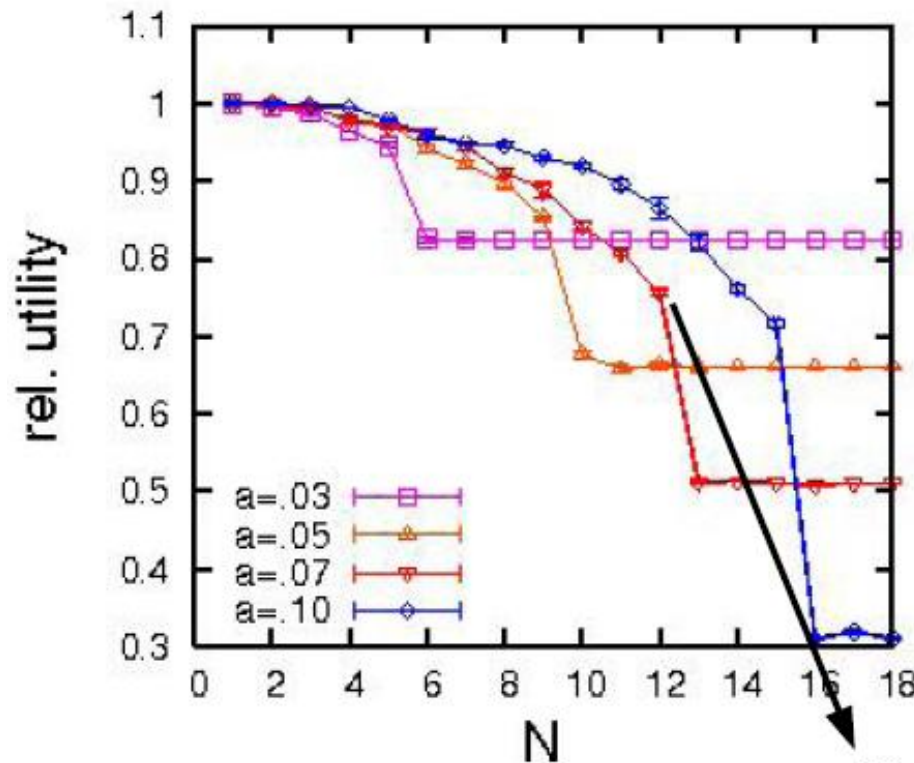
$\Delta T_p$  ... equilibrium change of land surface temperature

$$\Delta T_p(t) = \text{const.} \times \ln(\rho_{CO_2}(t) / \rho_{CO_2}(0))$$

$\Delta T$  ... actual temperature increase

$$d\Delta T / dt = \beta(\Delta T_p - \Delta T)$$

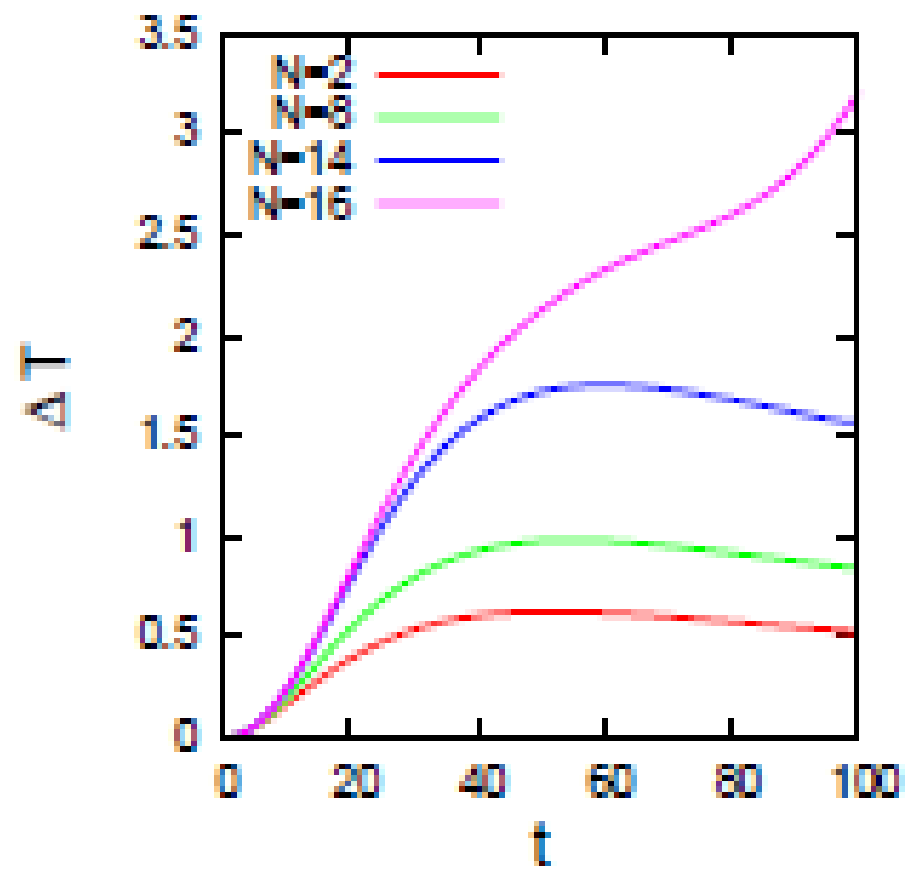
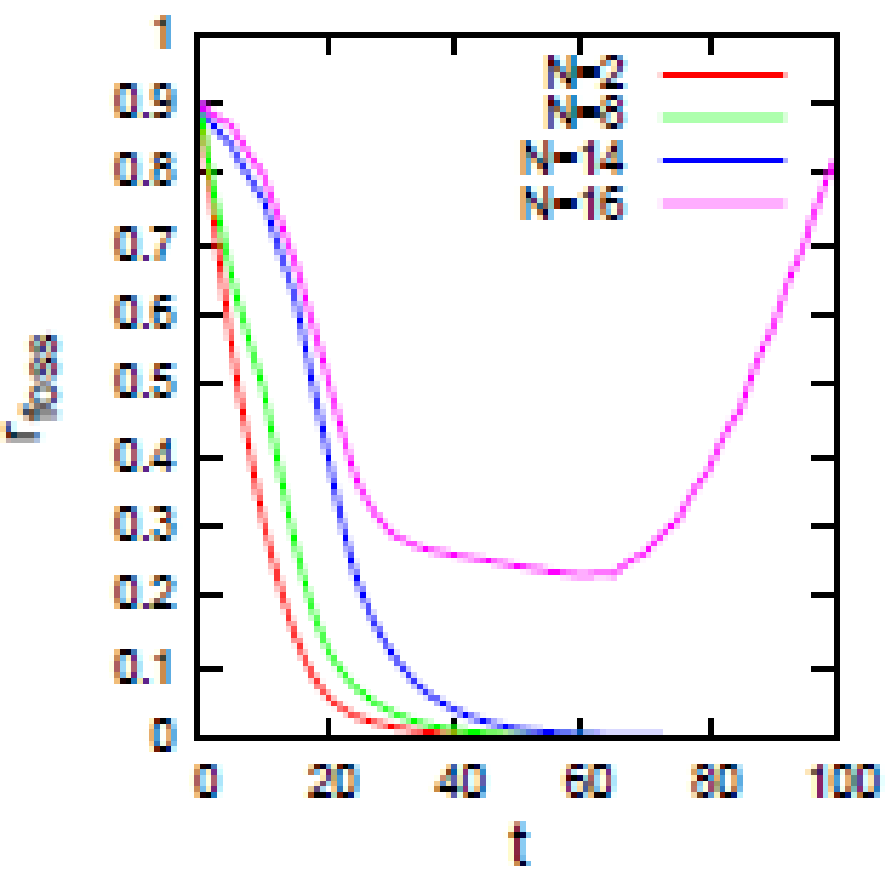
# Competitive management of the atmosphere



- Identical countries
- Developed economies
- Atmosphere CPR
- Fossil fuels individual
- Knowledge individual

$N < N_c$  energy transition

$N > N_c$  no energy transition



**Objective 3: staying below  $2^{\circ}\text{C}$**

# Production

# Output (CES)

finance

## Value-added (CD)

Low-skilled labour  
High-skilled labour  
Capital  
Fixed factor

## Intermediates (CES)

### Energy (CES)

Coal  
Oil  
Gas  
Electricity

**Biofuels**

**Renewables**

### Materials (CES)

Agriculture  
Energy-intensive goods  
Consumption goods  
Capital goods  
Services  
Transport  
Raw materials

(nesting)

WorldScan model

No finance submodel...



## Nonequilibrium

In real/world economic systems are many causes of disequilibria and associated fluctuations, mostly from delays in and anticipation of information, perceptions and actions

- Labour market rigidities create oscillations (Philips curve)
- Investors make decisions on the basis of trend forecasting
- Consumers determine spending on basis of income expectations
- Technological innovations
- ....

...new economics...

## Money creation

The financial system plays an important role, according to recent views (Post/Keynesian school):

- Private banks create money, when they give loans to investors, consumers and governments
- The constraints on loans is set by a minimum amount of reserves (i.e. cash and accounts). This can be expressed with the leverage ratio, defined as the ratio of assets and own capital (equity, net worth)
- The profit incentive induces private banks to give out as many loans as possible (within the official rules and inasfar as on the balance sheet)

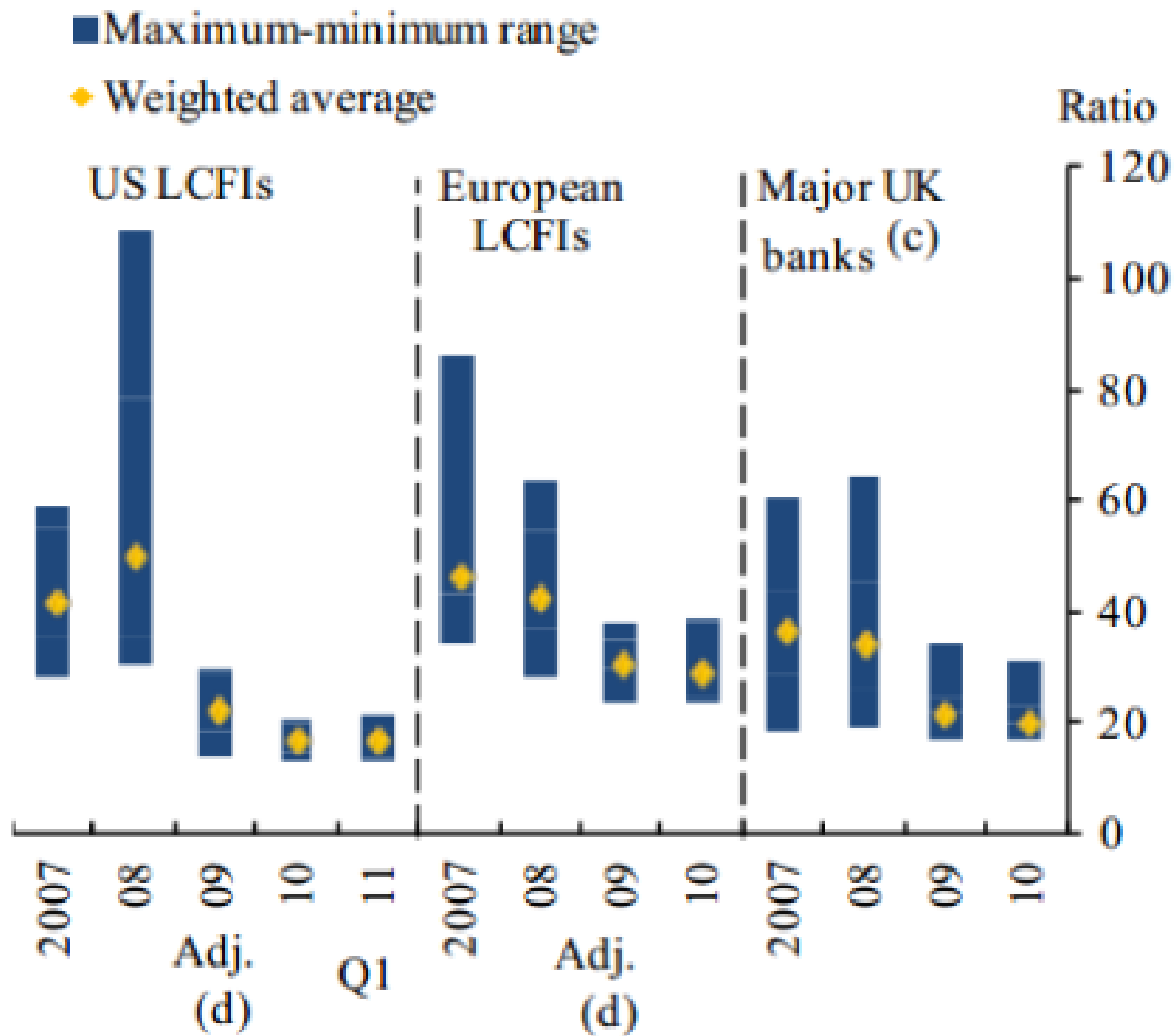


Figure 58. Leverage Ratios of Major US, EU, and UK Banks from 2007-2011 (Haldane, 2011).

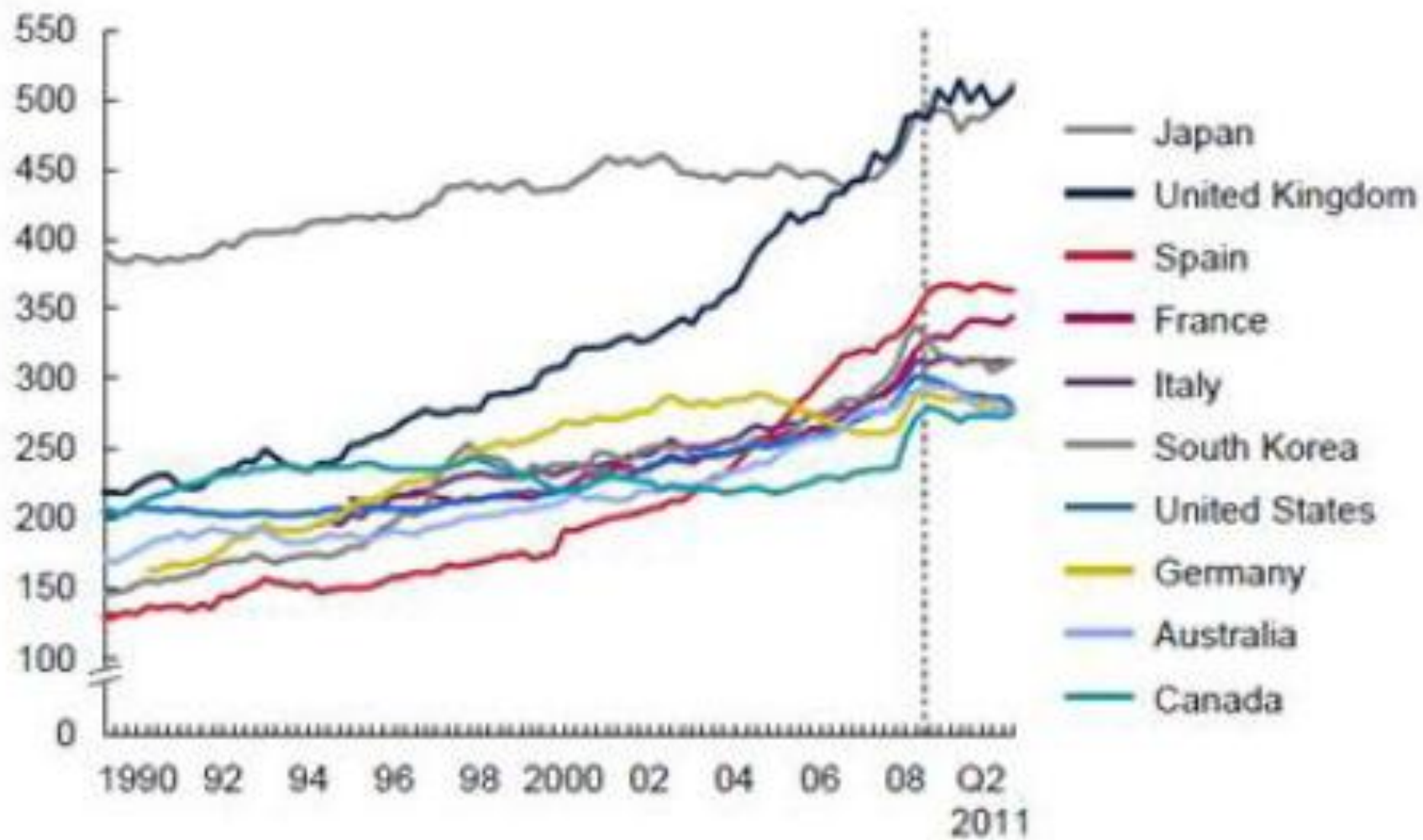
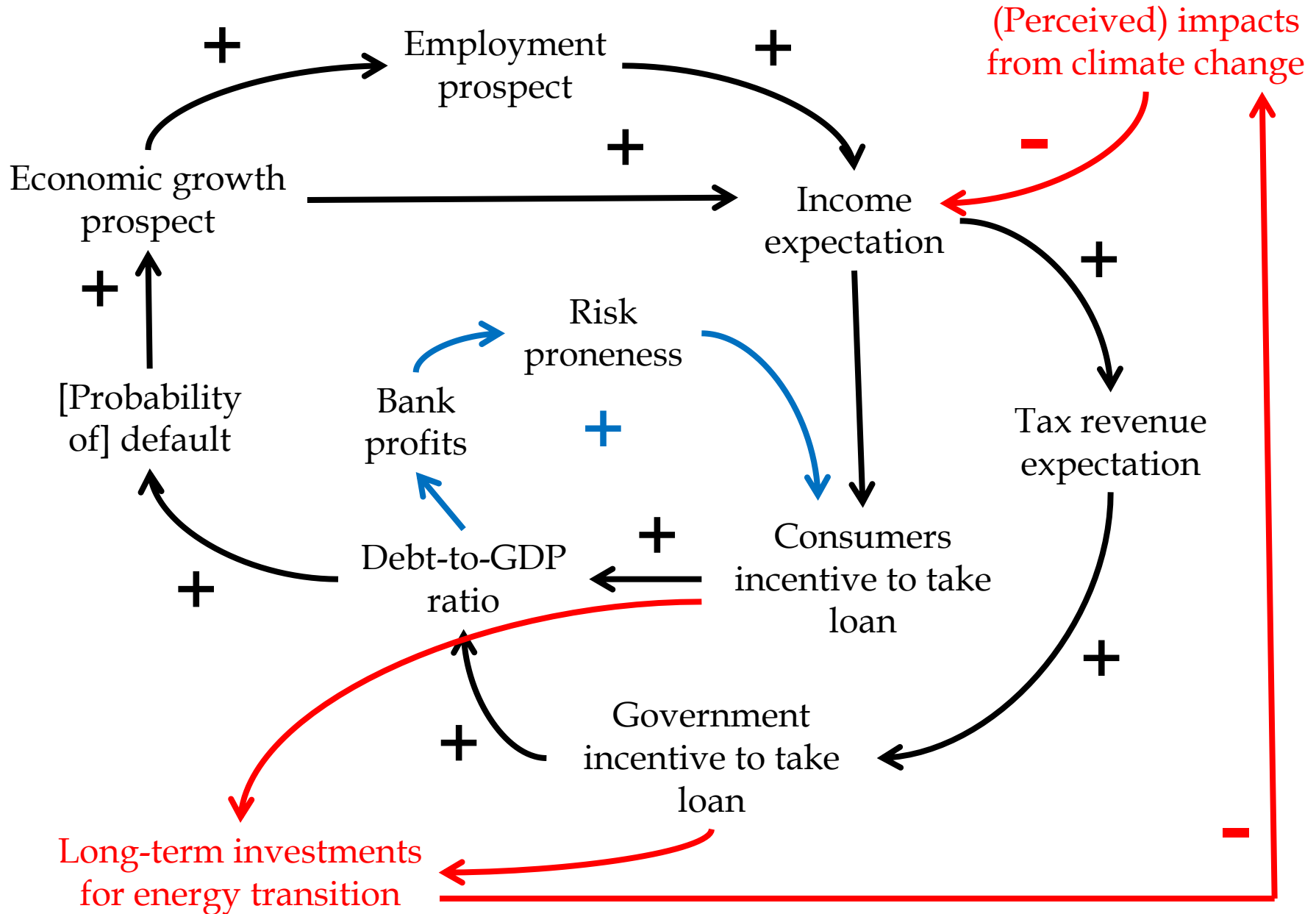


Figure 37. Total Debt-to-GDP Ratio in Ten Developed Economies (Roxburgh et al., 2012).

# What is the relevance in climate-society (or climate-economics) models?



Built-in disequilibria: planned actions as the driver of more (less) loans in times of high (low) expectations

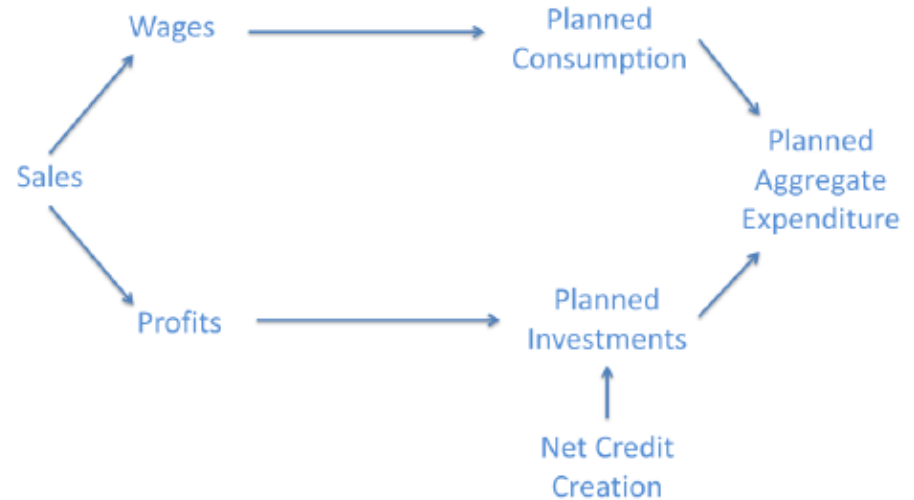


Figure 70. Income Becomes Planned Aggregate Expenditure via Debt (Credit) (Campiglio and Bernardo, 2012).

“aggregate demand equals income plus the change in debt, and aggregate supply equals output plus new purchases of financial assets” (Keen, 2012b)

$$AD = AS + \Delta D = Y + \Delta D$$

$$E = Y + \Delta D_I + \Delta D_S + \Delta D_G$$

AD Aggregate Demand AS Aggregate Supply D Debt

(Keen 2012; Van Dixhoorn 2012)

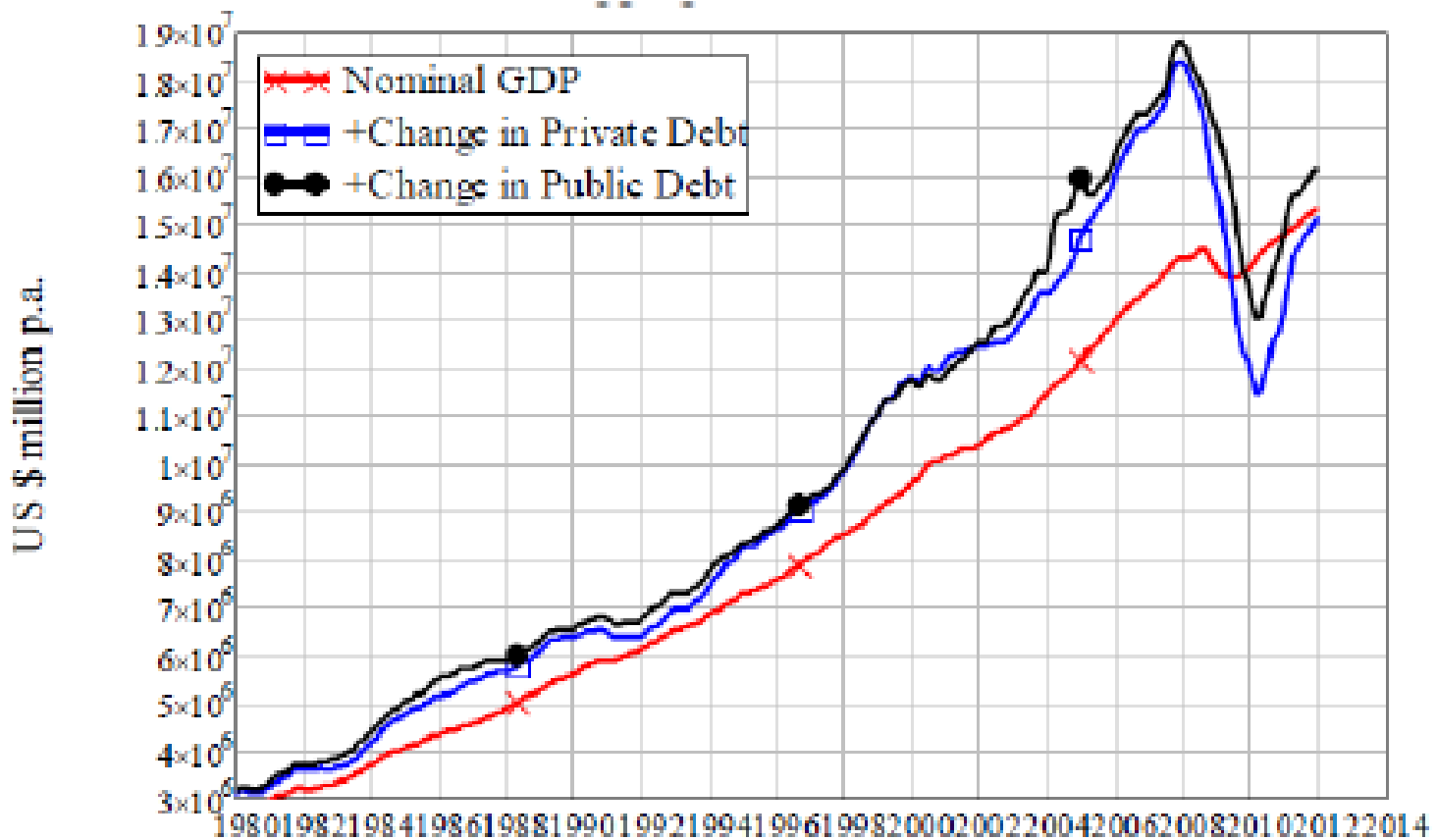


Figure 71. US Aggregate Demand (Including Change in Debts) and Income (GDP) 1980-2012 (Keen, 2012a).

In this way, the (unregulated) financial system can intensify already existing fluctuations



# Do I believe GCM is useful, and if so, why?

There are serious obstacles to advance Integrated Assessment Modelling (IAM) of Global Change (GC) at UU:

- Modest interest and commitment from disciplinary scientists, for various reasons (publication score/status, own disciplinary background/concepts /methods and specialist network...)
- Scientific enterprise tends to become inherently fragmented and application oriented → no time/money for more fundamental (holistic) system approaches
- ‘Great stories’ have become discredited → ‘models of everything’ are impossible and dictatorial
- ‘Earth system’ is too complex → (meta)models à la World3 are bound to fail

# Do I believe GCM is useful, and if so, why?

Yet, I believe we have to continue and advance IAM-GC, because:

- The world is inherently complex with nested dynamics across scales and domains, that demands integrated simulation models to understand uncertainties, non-linearities and associated risks, and side-effects of (more) interventions
- Every local [model-based] investigation into more sustainable pathways is bound to happen in two-way interaction with the rest of the world system
- A (meta)model à la World3 can serve as framework for research agenda and cooperation among researchers

# Do I believe GCM is useful, and if so, why?

Yet, I believe we have to continue and advance IAM-GC, because:

- Science should find ways to connect to the ‘world problématique’ (Sustainable Development, Millennium Development Goals, Biodiversity Convention...) – for this, we need small-scale local and large-scale global models
- The science-policy interface must be strengthened: prevailing attitudes and behaviour, media influences and policy interventions can and will happen on the basis of manipulation and vested interests unless science contributes to (better) understanding as part of a new ‘great story’

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