# Sustainability-oriented social learning in hybrid learning configurations

Co-innovation seminar, 28-29/10/2013

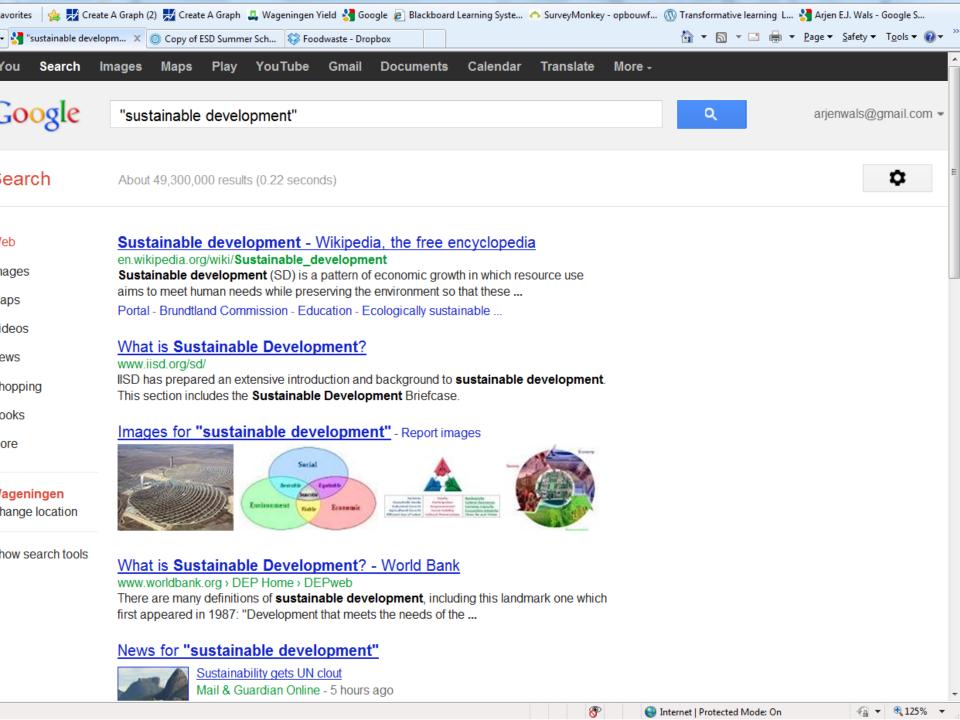
Arjen E.J. Wals



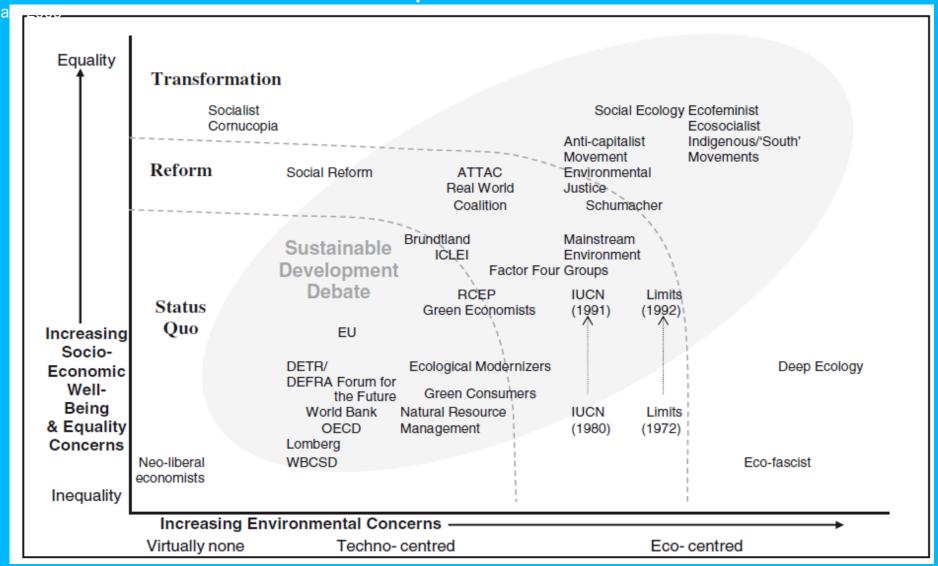








#### Different Sustainable Development Discourses after: Based on Hopwood et





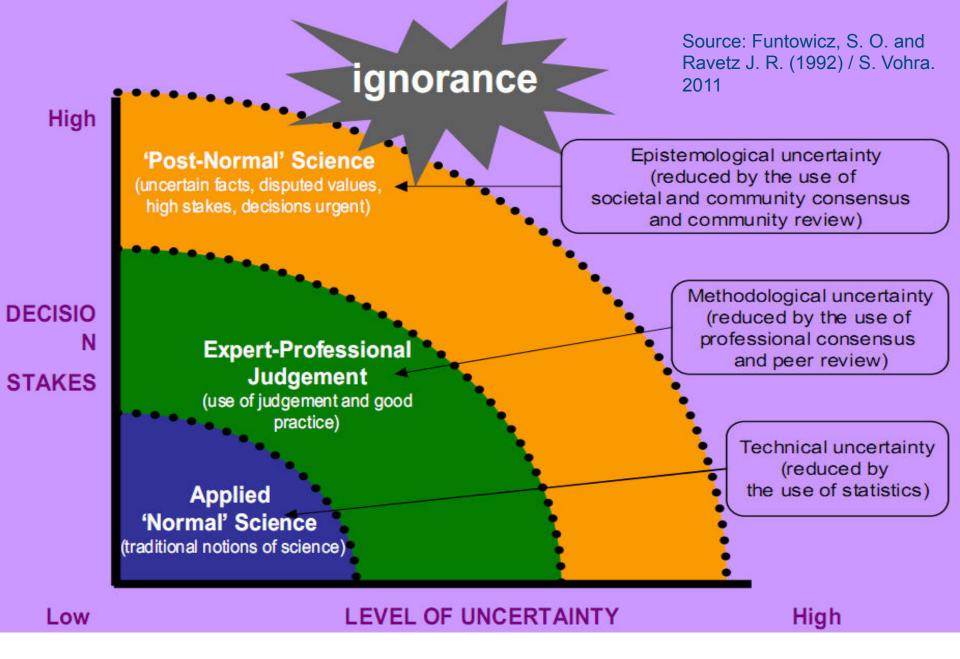
## Erosion of trust in science?

- GMO-foods are inevitable...
- Runaway (?) climate change...
- Calcium supplements for women...
- Should men <50 be tested for prostate cancer?</p>
- Is organic sustainable and locally grown better?
- Are vegetables grown in cities healthy?
  - 'We are drowning in information
- while starving for wisdom' E.O. Wilson, 1998, p. 300)

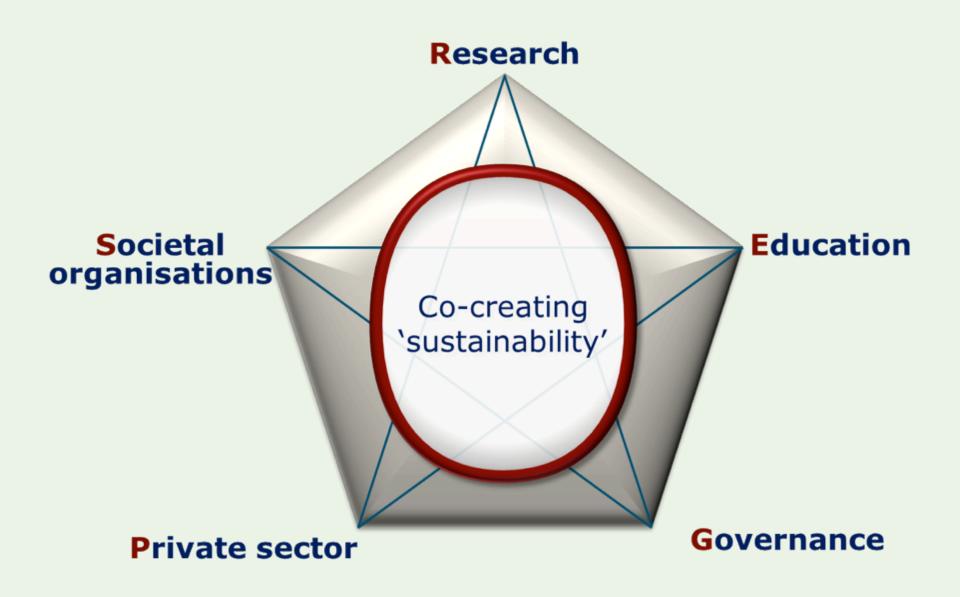


## Post-normalism

- Complexity
- Uncertainty and indeterminacy
- Contestation and controversy extinction of 'truth' & erosion of 'trust" (fact free science, fact free politics, science as opinion)
- Shallowness and hyper-connectivity erosion of meaning
- Emergence reflexivity









# **Hybrid Learning Configuration**

 A vital coalition of multiple stakeholders engaged in a common challenge using a blend of learning processes in a rich context (sum>parts)

## **Policy tools**

**Policy themes** 

climate

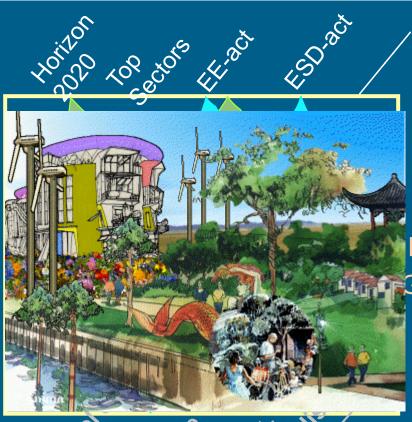
mobility

animal well-being

obesity

energy

biodiversity



Societal actors

Sport clubs

**Schools** 

Colleges

Local government

Garden centers

Restaurants

Elderly homes

aps schooled service multirurally

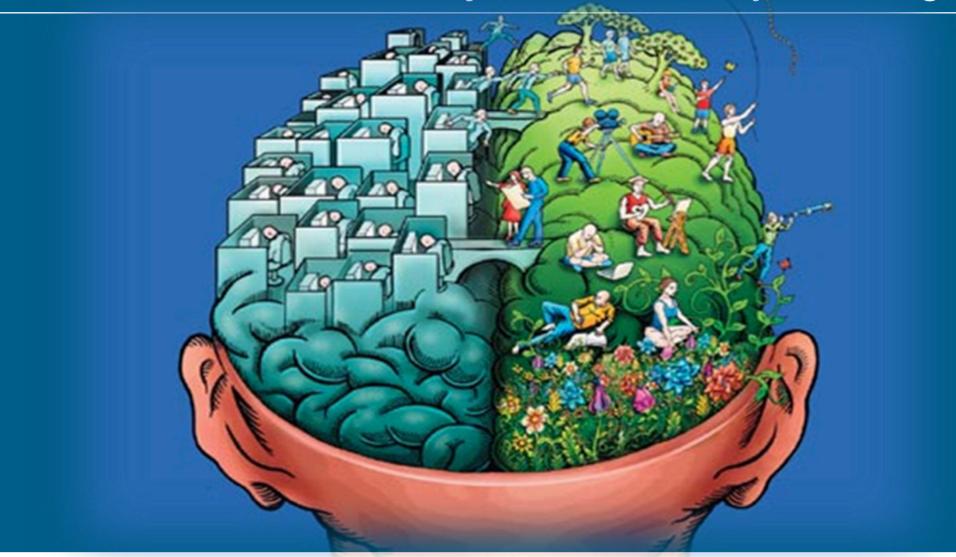
Societal trends



# Social learning

a collaborative, emergent learning process that hinges on the simultaneous cultivation of 'difference' and social cohesion in order to create joint ownership, unleash creativity and the kind of dynamic and energy needed to break with existing patterns, routines or systems.

# Justification of the subject of boundary crossing



Boundaries: "socio-cultural differences leading to discontinuities in action or interaction" (Akkerman & Bakker, 2011)

## Boundary learning mechanisms (Cremers et al, in

press)

- Identification: distinguising boundaries and related identities and perspectives
- Coordination: facilitating exchanges across boundaries
- = adaptation, crossing, negotiating boundaries
- Reflection: expanding, changing, developing new perspectives and identities
- Transformation: co-developing new practices
- = transcending boundaries, creating something new





Goals have

been set in advance



expert-d



Citizens have little input

Citizens have lots of input



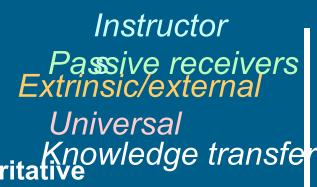




Hierarchical

**Training** 

#### Predetermined Prescribed



Coaches
Active receivers

Knowledge circulation

Participatory
Democratic
Social Learning

Open
Self-determined
Co-created

Facilitators & co-learners
Active-empowered
Intrinsic/internal
Contextual

Knowledge co-

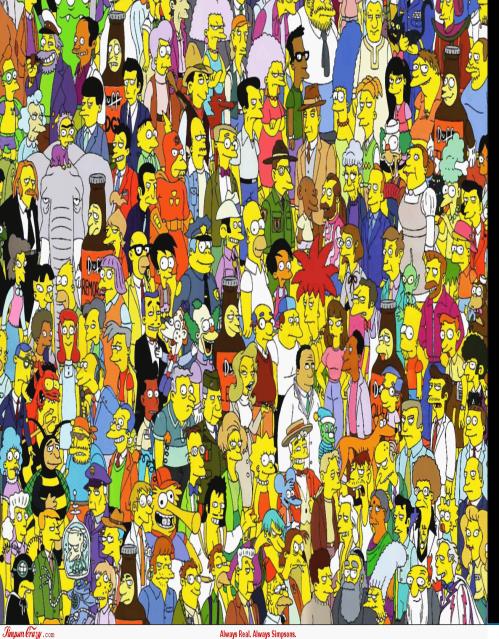
creation Post-normal







HOW THE POWER OF DIVERSITY CREATES BETTER GROUPS, FIRMS, SCHOOLS, AND SOCIETIES





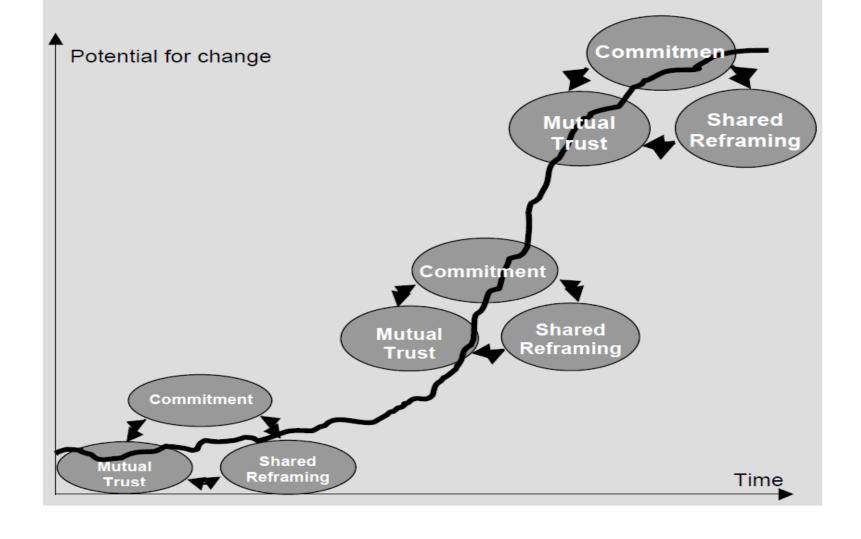
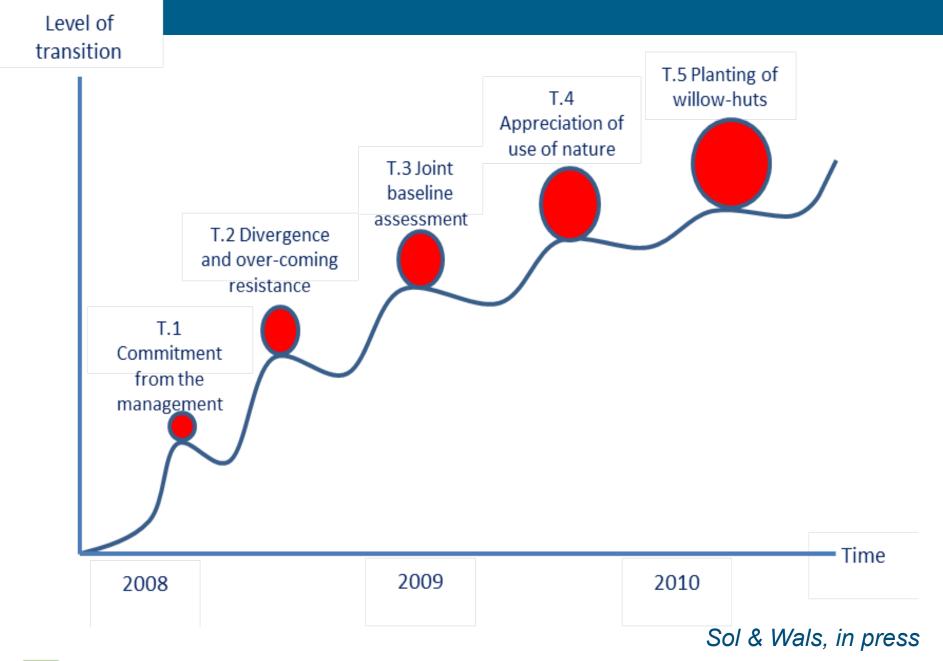


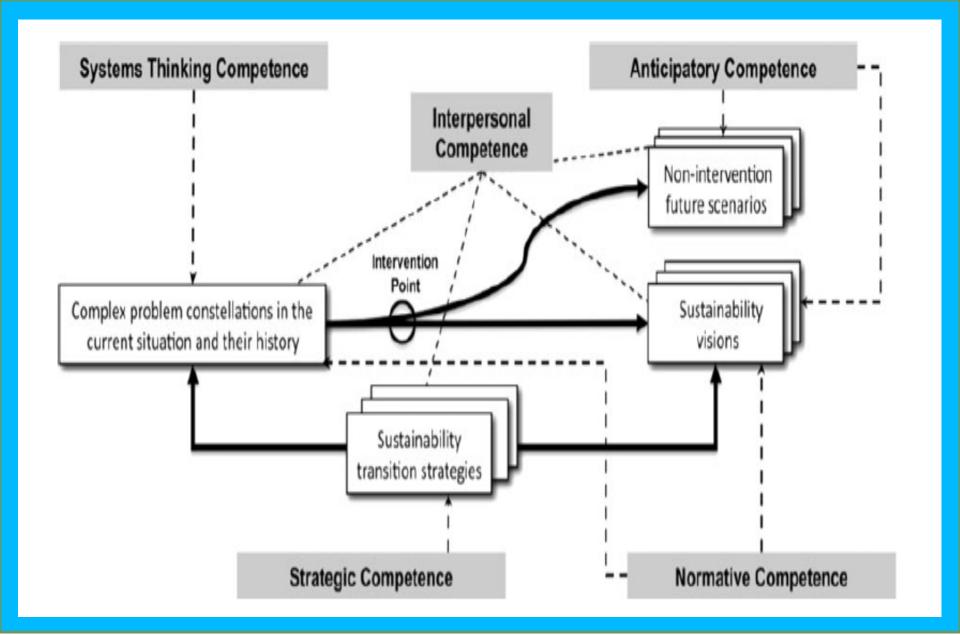
Figure 2. Social learning as the dynamic interplay of shared reframing, mutual trust and commitment. Successful social learning can generate an increased







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# Sustainability Capacities

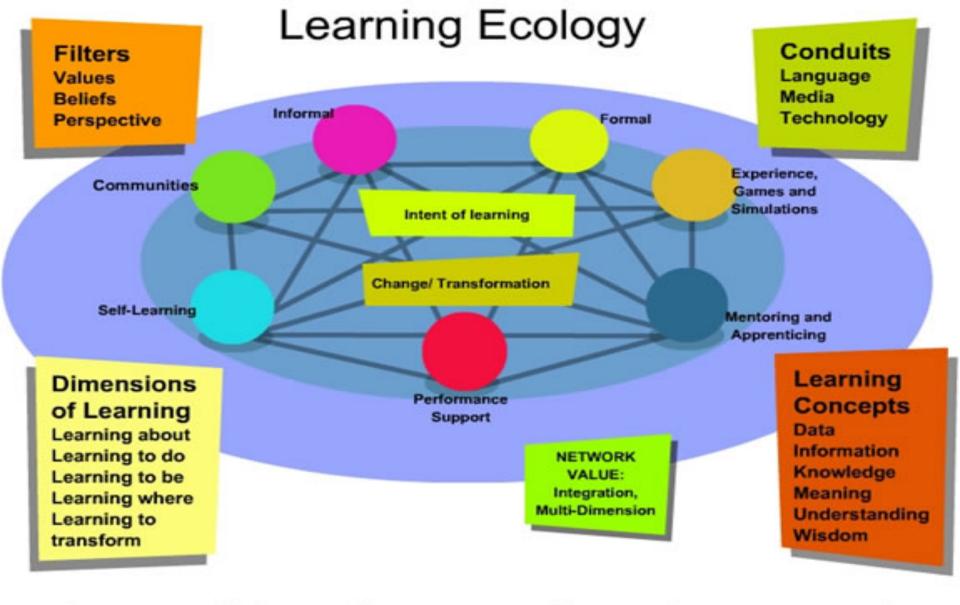
- Understanding sustainable development
- Systems thinking
- Adopting an integral view

Dynamics of SD

- Personal leadership and entrepreneurship
- Unlocking creativity, utilizing diversity
- Appreciating chaos & complexity
- Fostering collective change

Change & Innovation





## Connectivism: Process of creating network



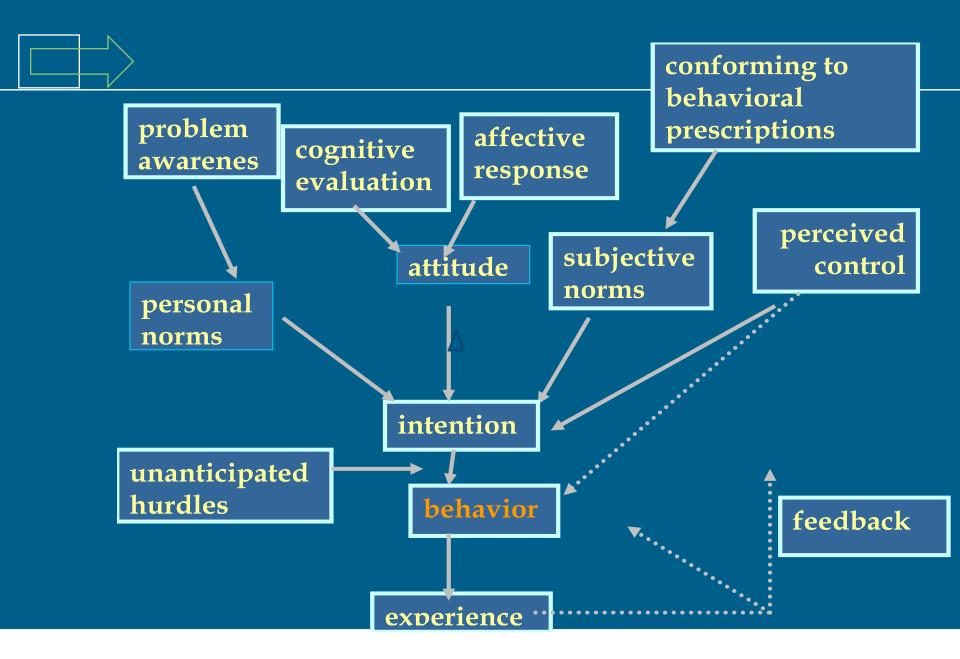
Source: George Siemens, 2008 Arjen.wals@wur.nl

# Assumptions about the learning taking place

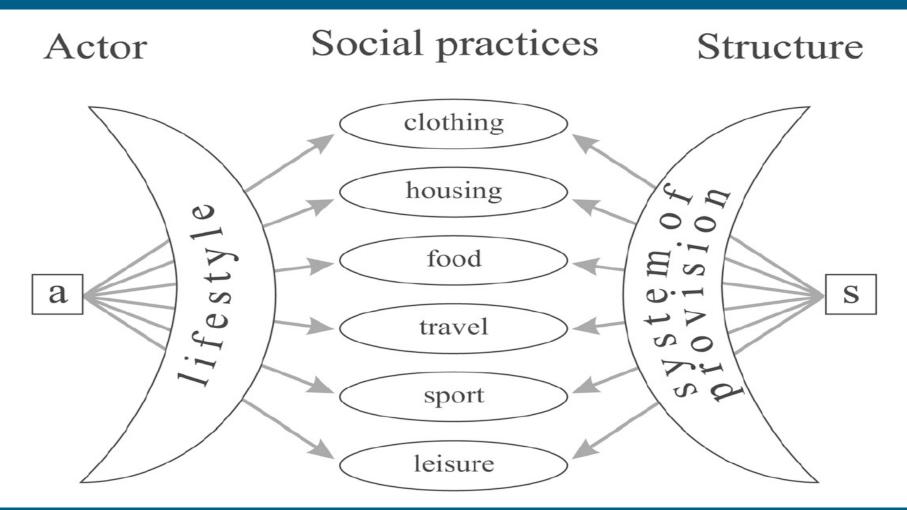
- It's about learning from each other...
- And we learn more in heterogeneous groups than in homogenous groups because…
- Unexpected 'tensions' and commonalities can lead to creativity and energy especially when...
- There is sufficient social cohesion to allow diversity between actors to become constructive to facilitate...
- Joint meaning and sense making -> reframing
- It is crucial to develop joint ownership of both the learning processes taking place and the actions in which they result.

# Research questions

- What are key characteristics of the learning taking place in hybrid learning configuration?
- What factors influence the 'quality' of such a configuration?
- How can these factors be influenced?



# Social practices-based (Spaargaren, 2003)





Agency-competence based

