

# Sustainable intensification in a post-Brexit landscape

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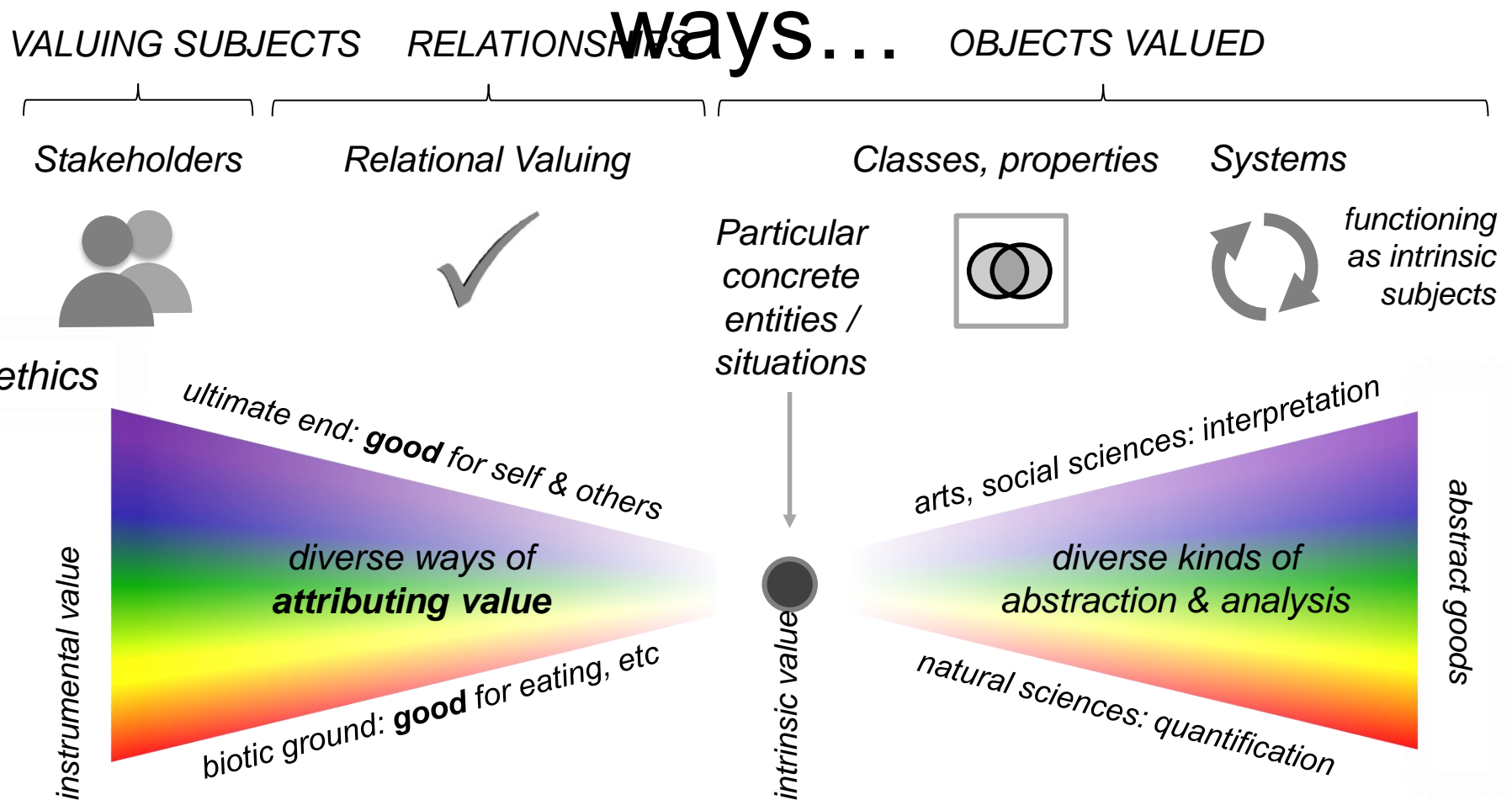
# [Abstract]

Faced with a step-change in economic constraints and the ongoing call to be more 'competitive', the agricultural sector is likely to experience major change in the coming months and years. Farmers will need a clear vision of their business models, regulatory constraints and strategic possibilities in the changing landscapes that lie ahead. This talk explores how the concept of sustainable intensification offers a unifying framework for valuing nature and other goods, and how various players in the agricultural sector may best cooperate to achieve optimal outcomes. It draws upon a pluralistic evaluation framework offering a set of categories for thinking about the full diversity of stakeholders, values and systems that diverse agri-environmental businesses, regulatory bodies and NGOs may be concerned with.

# Overview

1. **Valuing** nature and other goods
2. **Sustainable intensification** as a unifying systems framework
3. **Diverse players**: their roles in the agricultural sector
4. A **pluralistic evaluation framework** across values, systems and players

# People value things in multiple



Even *what* we value depends on our education, work, life story...

- What *particular* things do we love?
- What do we recognise as *goods*?

# How scalable is sustainable intensification?

Sustainable intensification is a concept of growing importance, yet it is in danger of becoming scientifically obsolete because of the diversity of meanings it has acquired. To avoid this, it is important to consider the various scales on which it can aid progress towards feeding human populations while also protecting the environment.

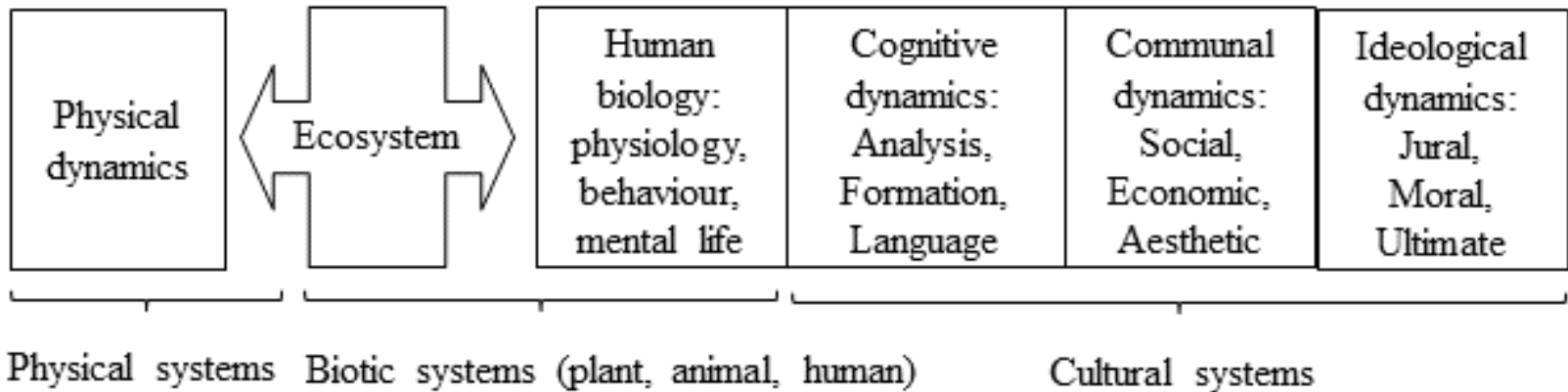
Richard M. Gunton, Leslie G. Firbank, Alex Inman and D. Michael Winter

## A canonical definition of sustainable intensification:

- Changes to a farming system that maintain or increase the production of specified **agricultural products** while enhancing or maintaining the delivery of a specified range of **other ecosystem services**, measurable from a specified **area** and over a specified **time-frame**.

# SI brings a systems framework

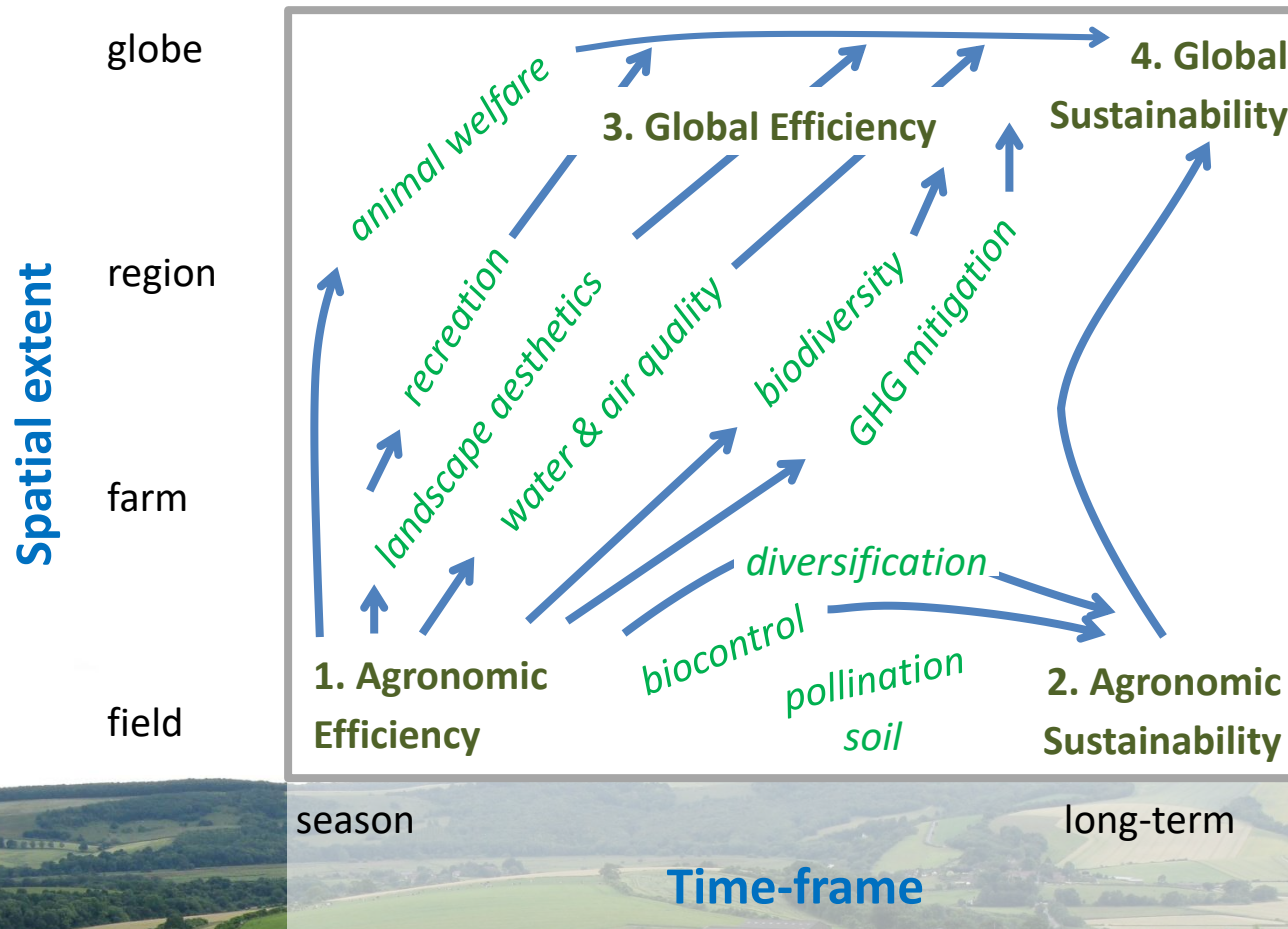
There are layered systems to consider...



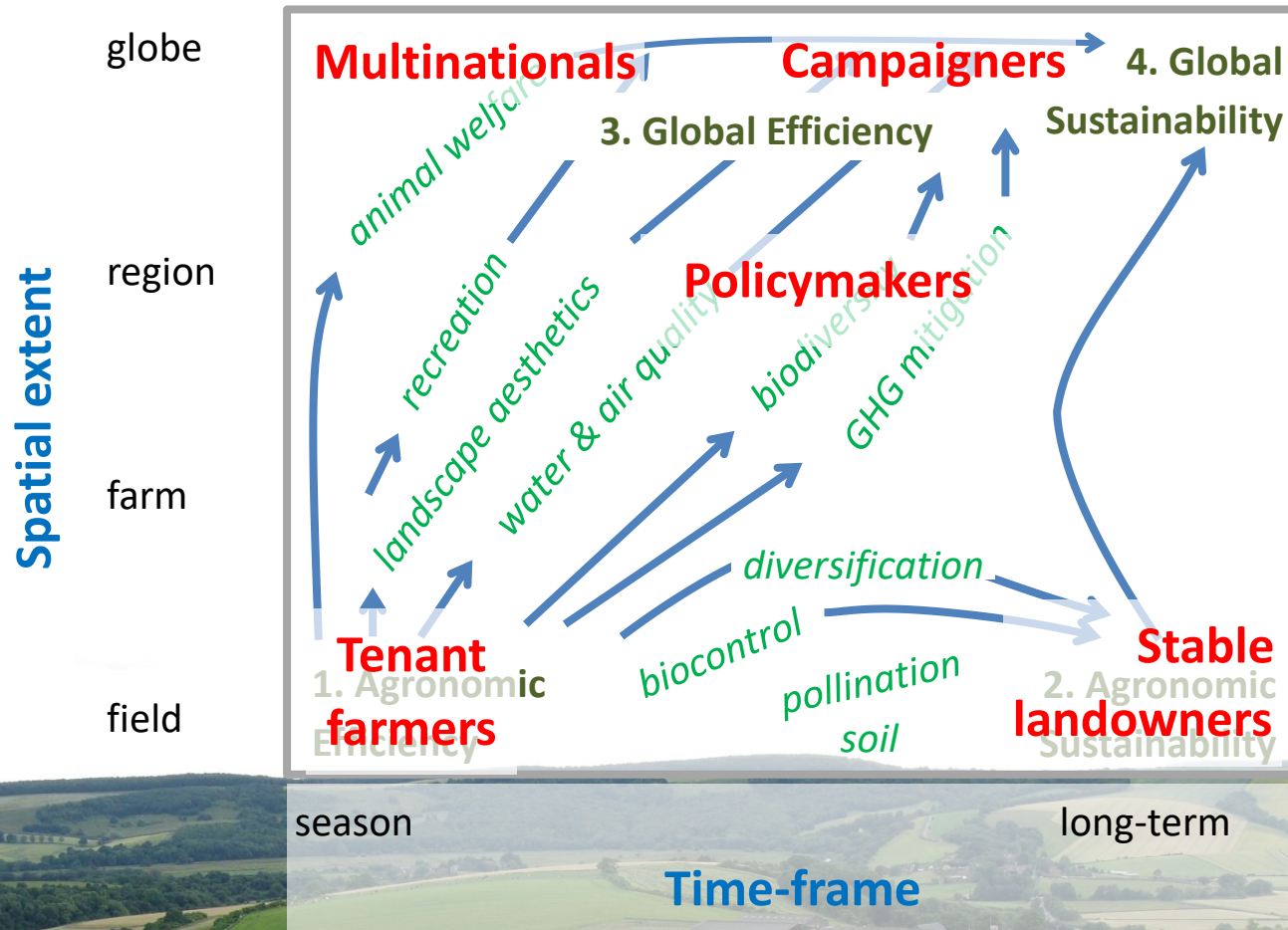
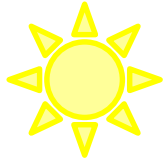
...calling for a multi-disciplinary approach



# We can specify our ethical horizons



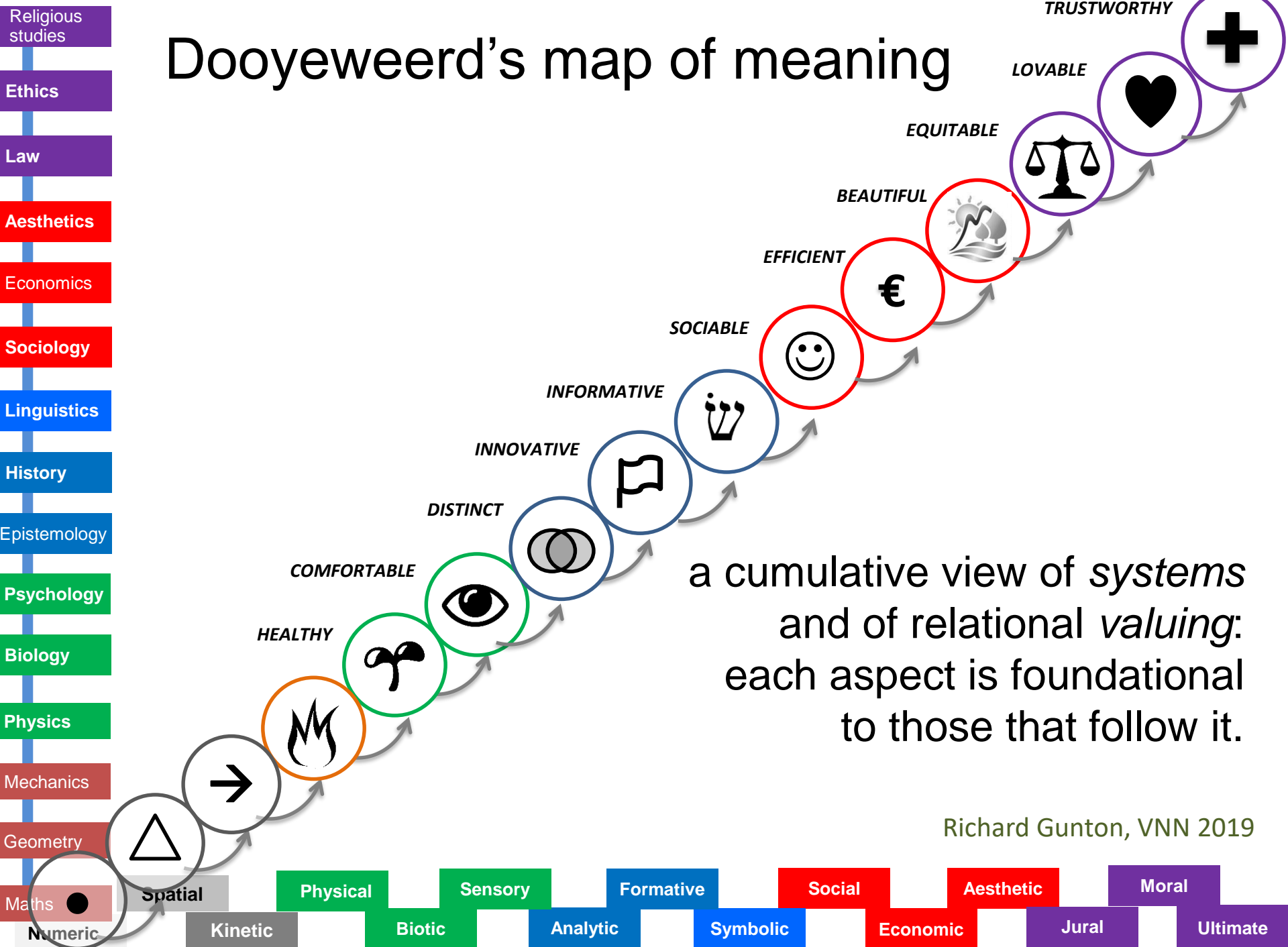
# Recognise players in the landscape...



...whose horizons and perspectives may differ



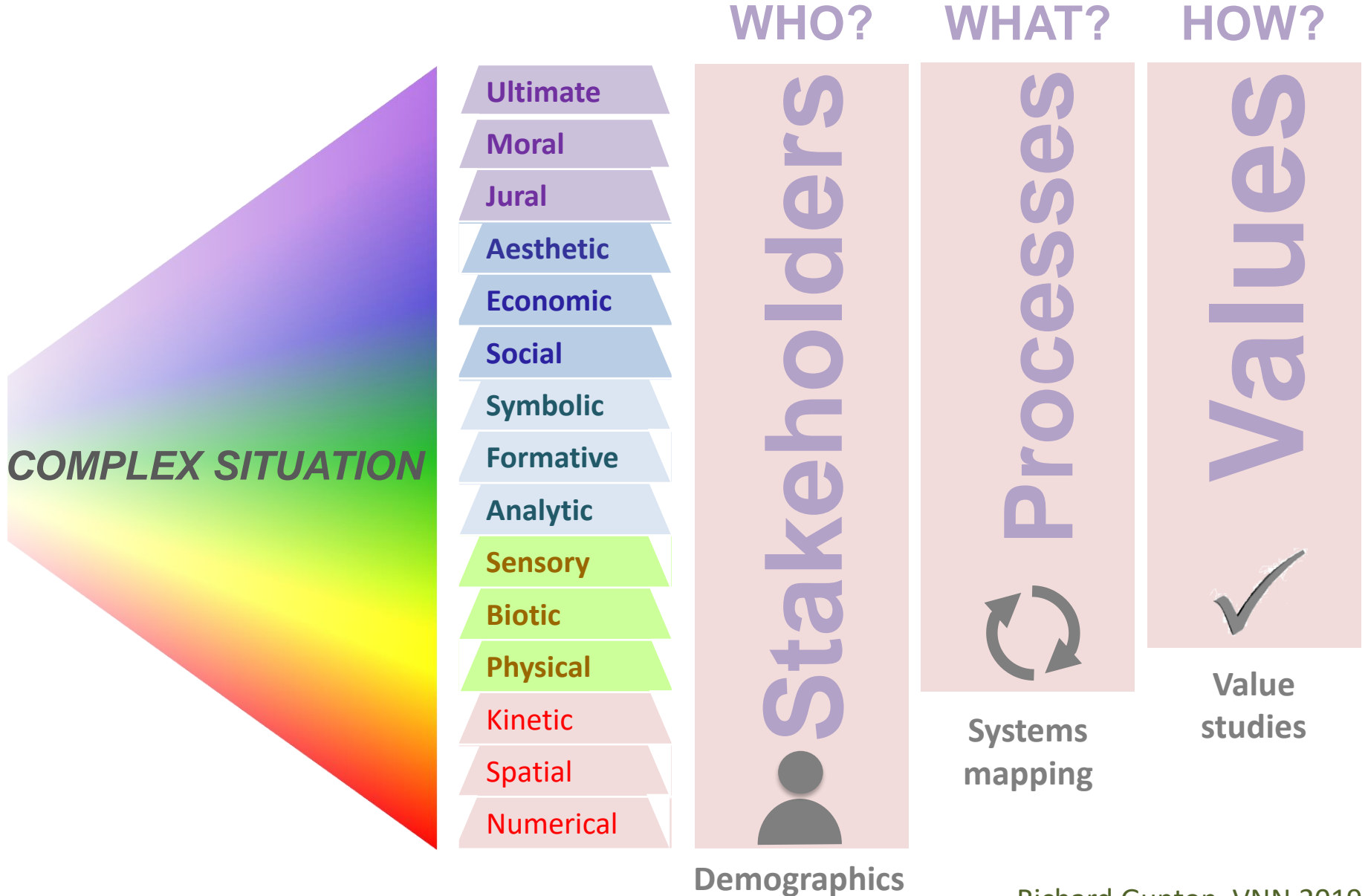
# Dooyeweerd's map of meaning



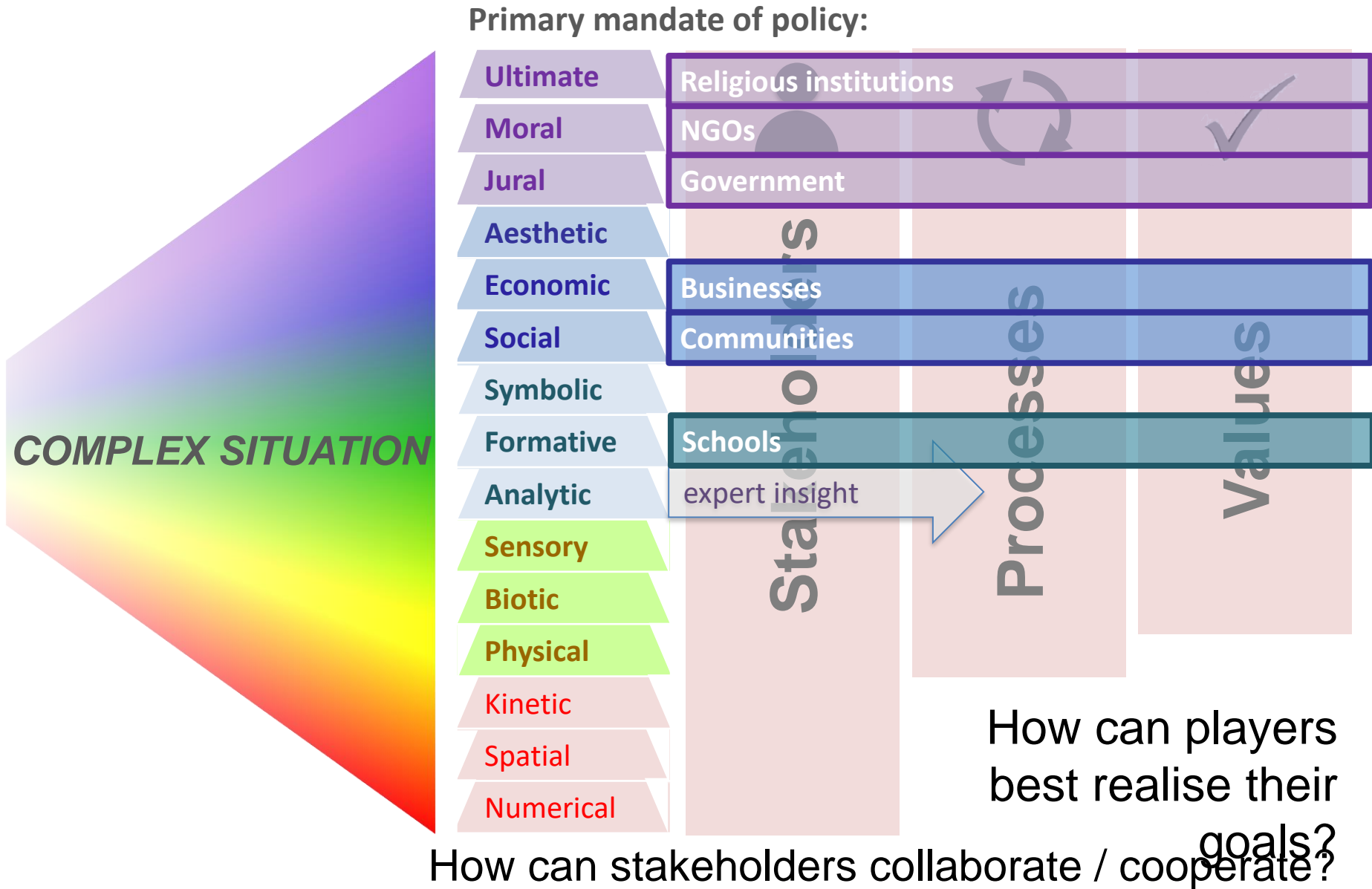
a cumulative view of systems  
and of relational valuing:  
each aspect is foundational  
to those that follow it.

Richard Gunton, VNN 2019

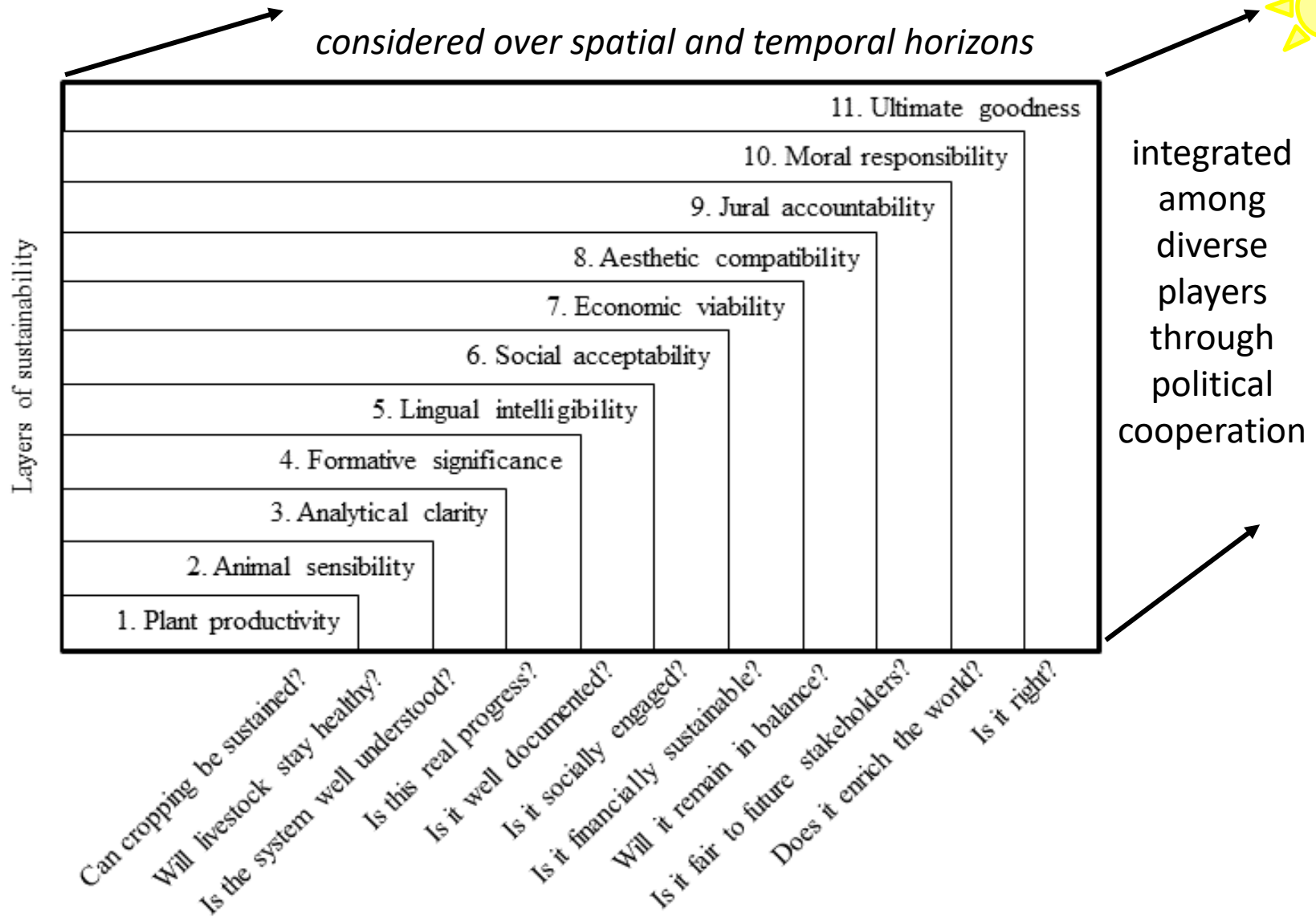
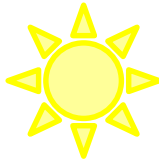
# A Pluralistic Evaluation Framework



# Integrating different players' roles



# Layers of sustainable intensification



# Conclusion

- **Sustainable intensification** is a broad term inviting players to clarify their ethical horizons
- A **value-pluralism** model helps do this
- A **layered systems** model (e.g. Dooyeweerd's) helps analyse environmental complexity
- A **pluralistic evaluation framework** helps put it all together, pointing to opportunities for economic collaboration and political cooperation.

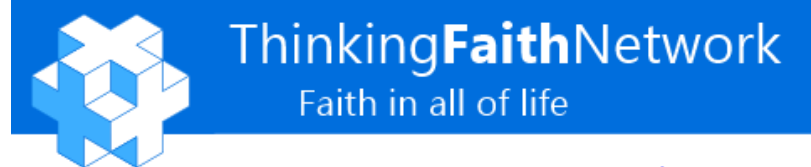
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