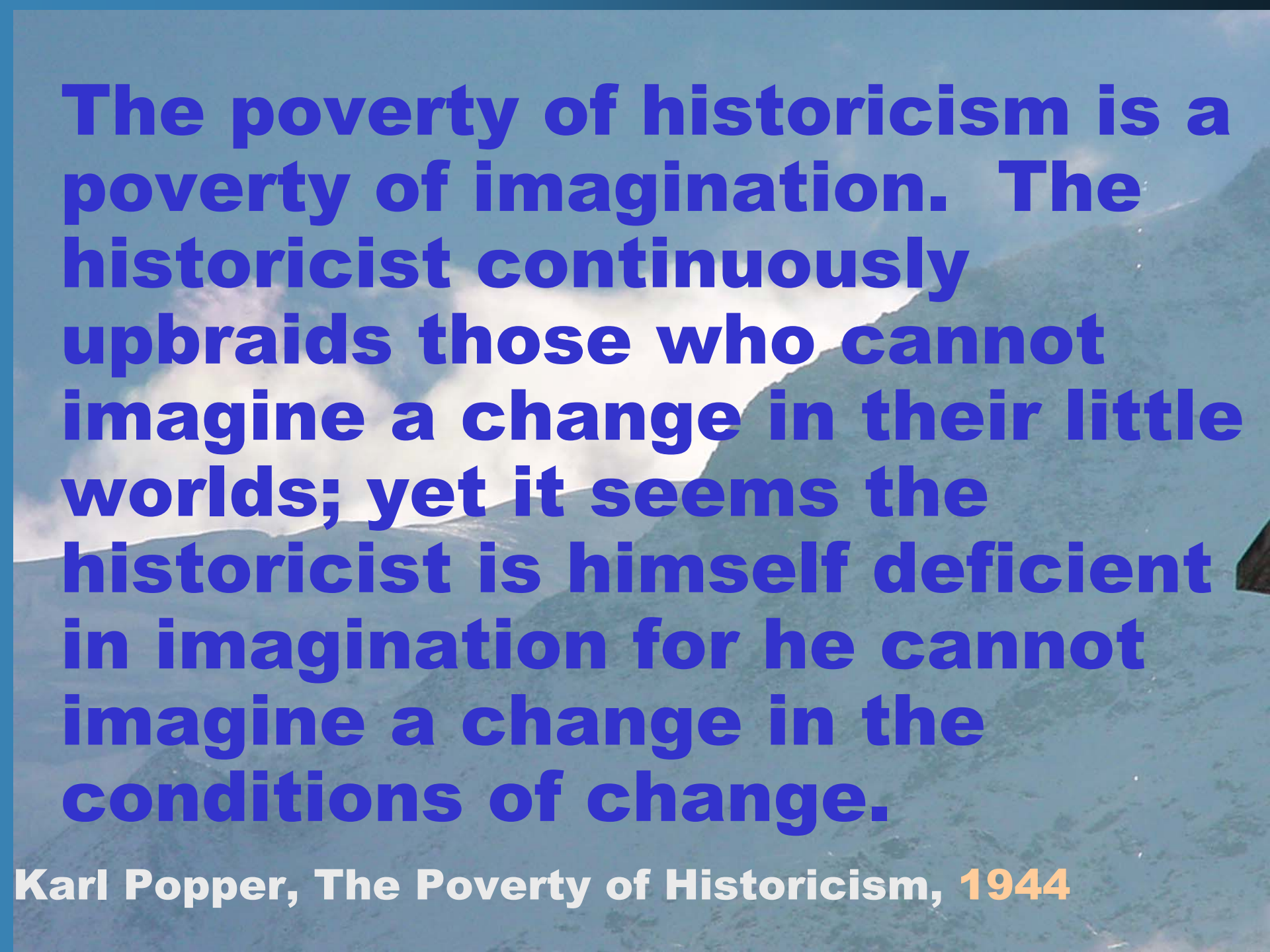


**Dimensions of a Post-
industrial Society as a
Frame for “Research”
Actor Scenarios**

Riel Miller

**The Future of Key Research Actors in the ERA
Brussels, September 21, 2005**



The poverty of historicism is a poverty of imagination. The historicist continuously upbraids those who cannot imagine a change in their little worlds; yet it seems the historicist is himself deficient in imagination for he cannot imagine a change in the conditions of change.

Karl Popper, The Poverty of Historicism, 1944

A wooden picture frame with a white center containing the text 'Framing the scenarios'. The frame is made of dark wood with a decorative, slightly distressed finish. The text is in a bold, green, sans-serif font, centered within the white space.

**Framing
the
scenarios**





Two hypotheses for the “frame”

- **There is a possibility (without assigning any degree of probability) that many EU countries could be transformed on a scale equivalent to the transition from agricultural to industrial society in the next 30 years.**
- **One of the primary attributes of such a transition is that the composition (weight of specific shares) of both the total knowledge produced and the methods/organisation of the production of knowledge will be radically different than in industrial society.**

Scenarios as stories – five narrative criteria

- 1. Purpose/genre**
- 2. Point-of-view**
- 3. Temporal-chronological frame**
- 4. Protagonists**
- 5. Causal rules – the “physics of the situation”**

1. What is the type or purpose of the story?

Not tragedy or comedy, thriller or romance; but basic types:

- contingency planning/simulation/training**
- optimisation testing**
- strategic imagining**

2. What is the point-of-view?

Not first or third person, stream-of-consciousness or dialogue; but is the story told in terms of:

- the choices people make in their everyday lives (micro) or**
- aggregate outcomes (macro) – or**
- both explicit relationship between micro & macro**

3. What is the temporal or chronological frame?

Not beginning, middle and end; but

- comparative static (two or more cross-sections) or**
- dynamic/path (time-series) or**
- backcasting (reverse engineered)**

4. What are the main protagonists?

Not hero and villain; but is the unit of action

- a specific institution (unit) or**
- a social/economic system (nation, sector, etc.) or**
- institutions nested within a dynamic socio/economic context**

5. What rules apply to the action?

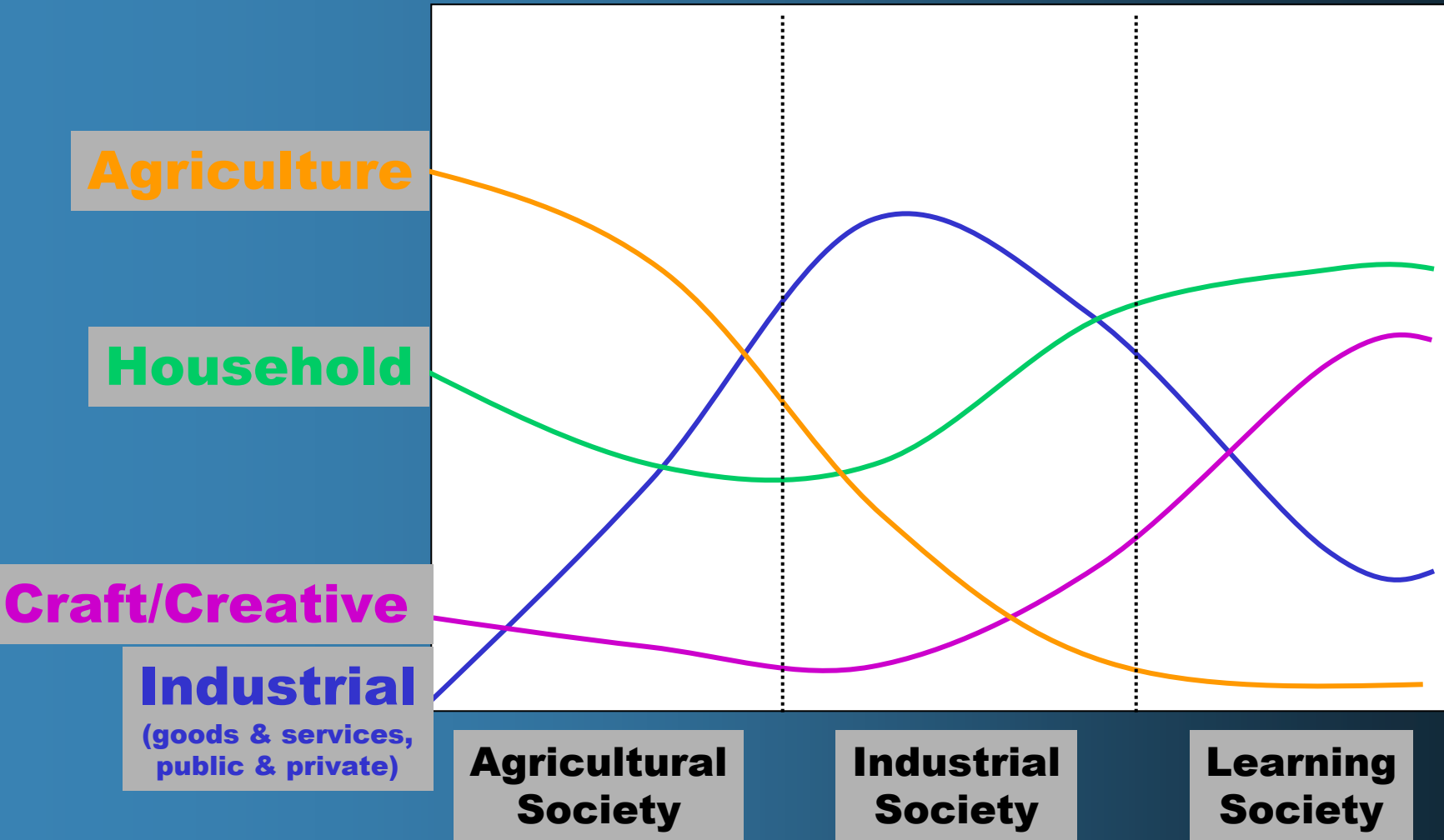
Not is time travel allowed or Matrix like suspension of the rules of physics; but what are the assumptions that provide the analytical definitions and causal relationships that make for robust social science.

Assumptions for the “framing” narrative:

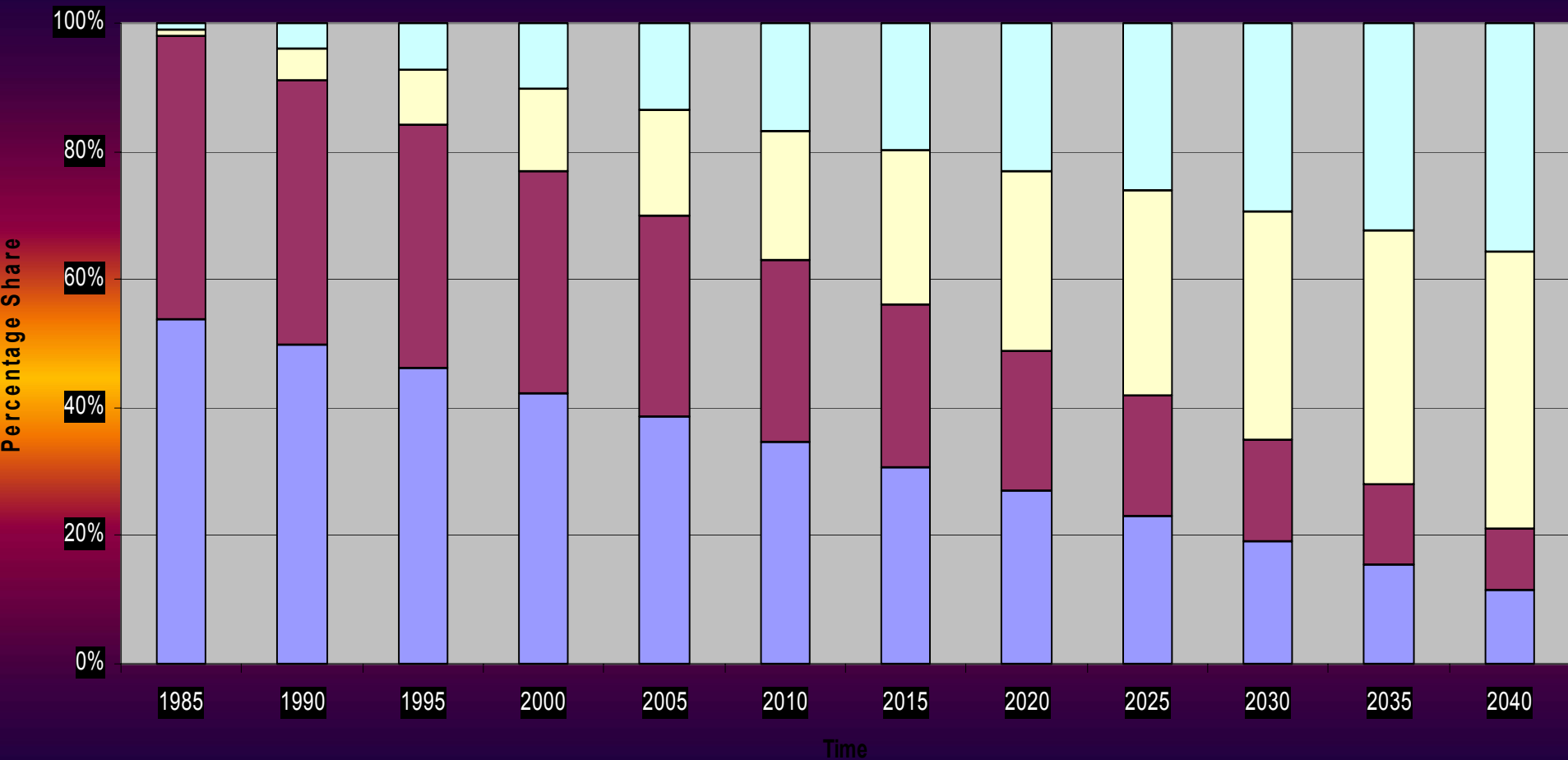
- **Purpose : Simulation – the framing scenario is a space for simulating different actor scenarios**
- **Point-of-view: Change in daily life (metric: agriculture to industry)**
- **Temporal frame: Comparative static cross-section in 2025**
- **Protagonist: socio-economic system (wealthy countries)**
- **Rules: universal declaration of human rights, representative democracy, mixed economies (markets not planning)**

Compositional Transformation

Share of total wealth creation by source



Changing Composition of Output



Industrial products

Innovation (S&T/R&D)

Personal products

Creativity (Refinement of taste)

Pervasive Technology:

“Four Dimensions to Frame the

- the STS of ubiquity has happened

Learning Intensive Society of 2025 Economy: Unique creation:

- shift in structure of wealth creation
- from “pyramid to pancake”
- from innovation & engineering to creativity & spontaneity

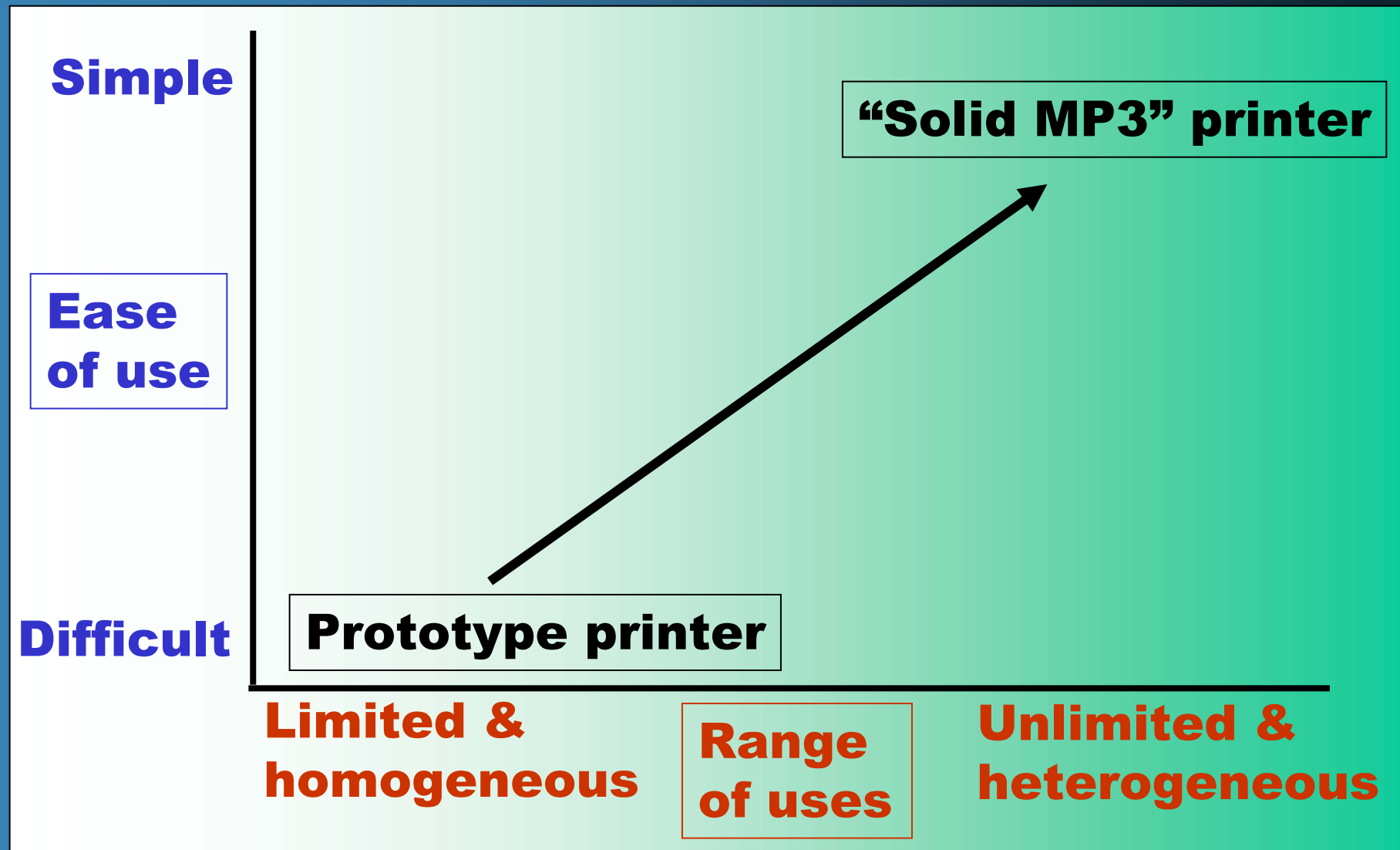
Society-Identity Self-actualisation:

- capacity of the individual to continuously evolve their social identity
- beyond the dualism of collective vs individual

Decision making capacity:

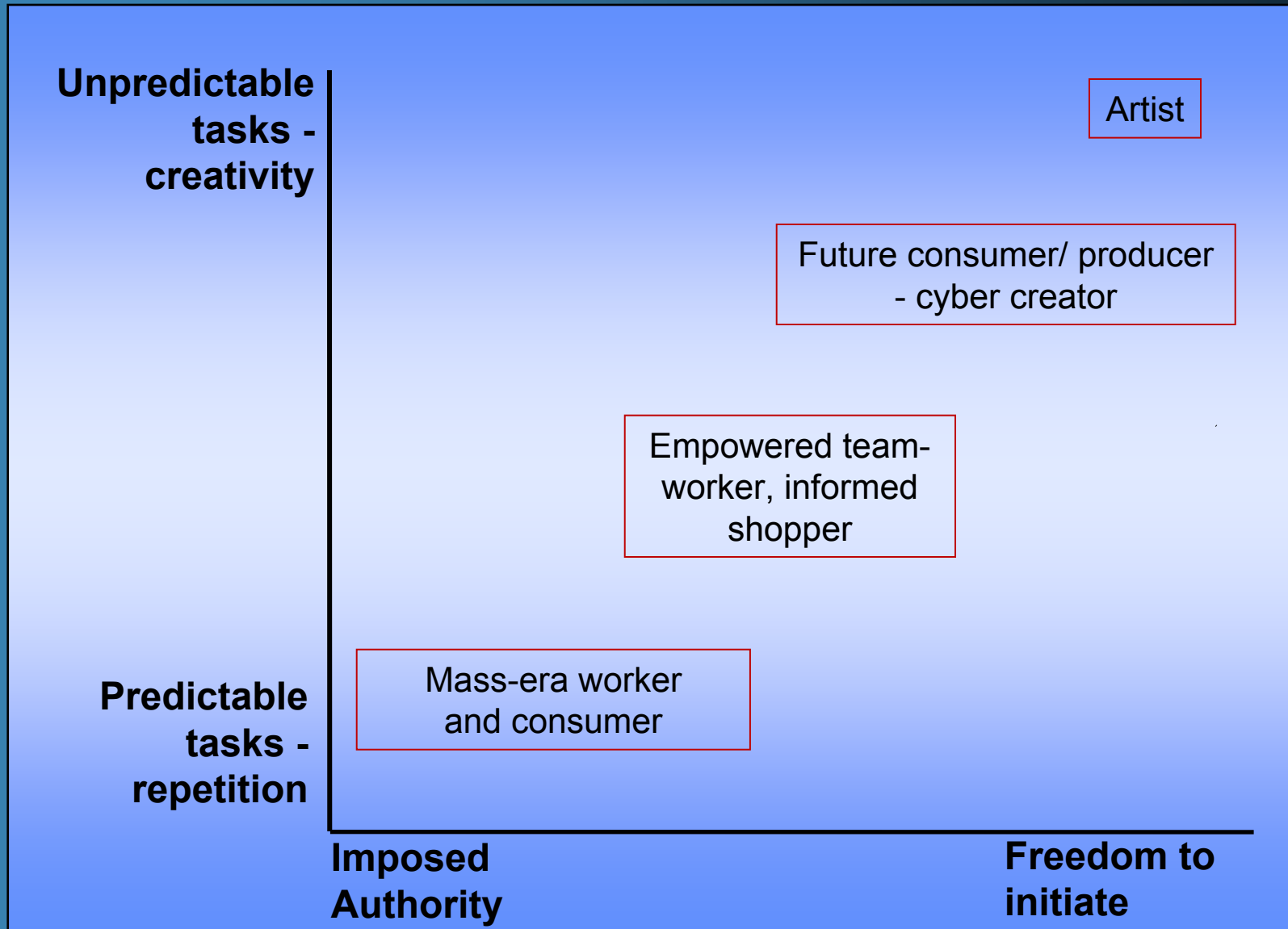
- embracing complexity, heterogeneity, diversification and spontaneity
- capacity to use information & network density/fluidity to “manage” risk

Technology possibility space



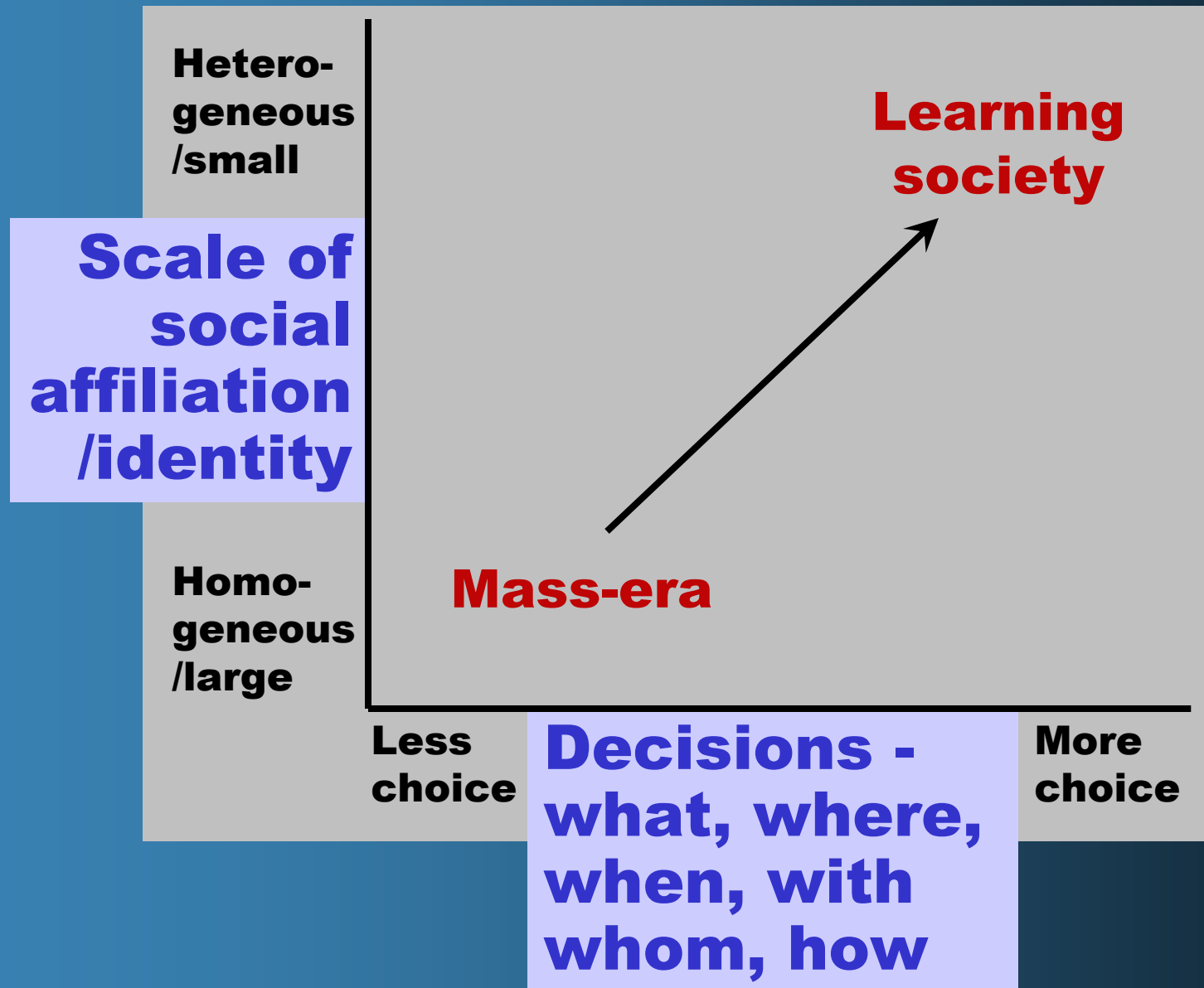
“Technology is not destiny”

A creative economy



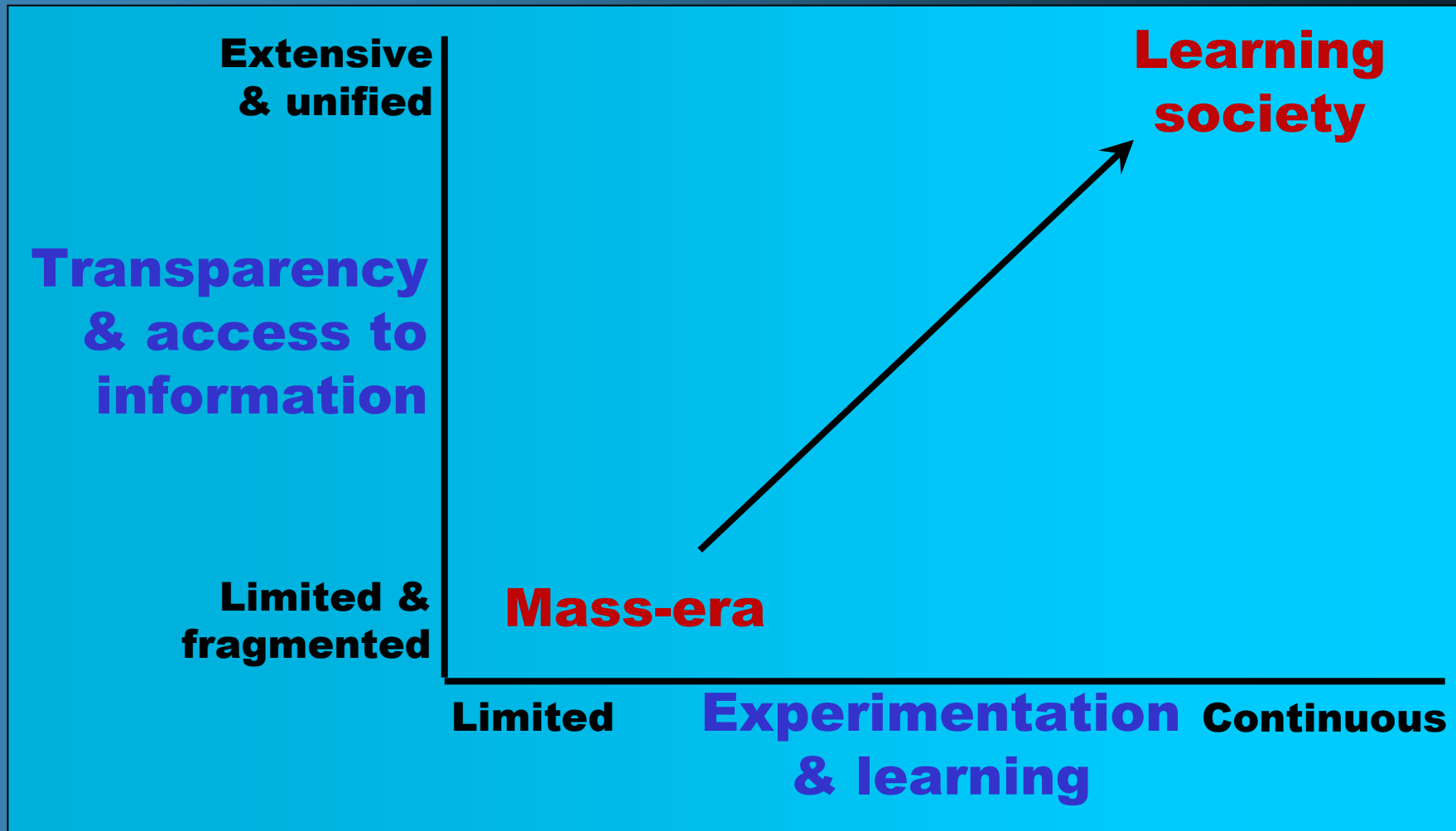
Fusing of supply & demand

Identity & choice



Beyond the dualism of individual vs collective

Capacity to make & implement decisions

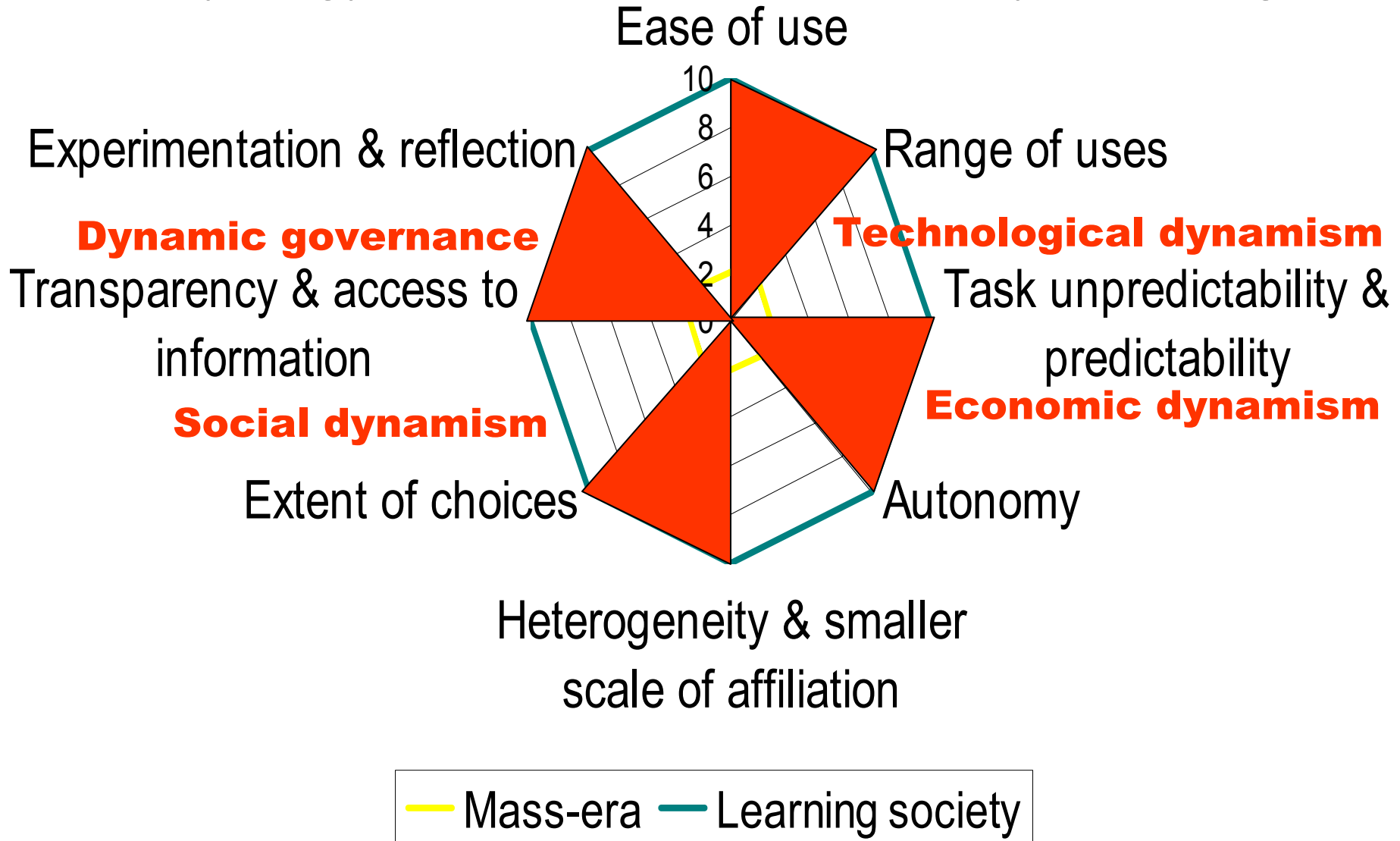


Policy matters

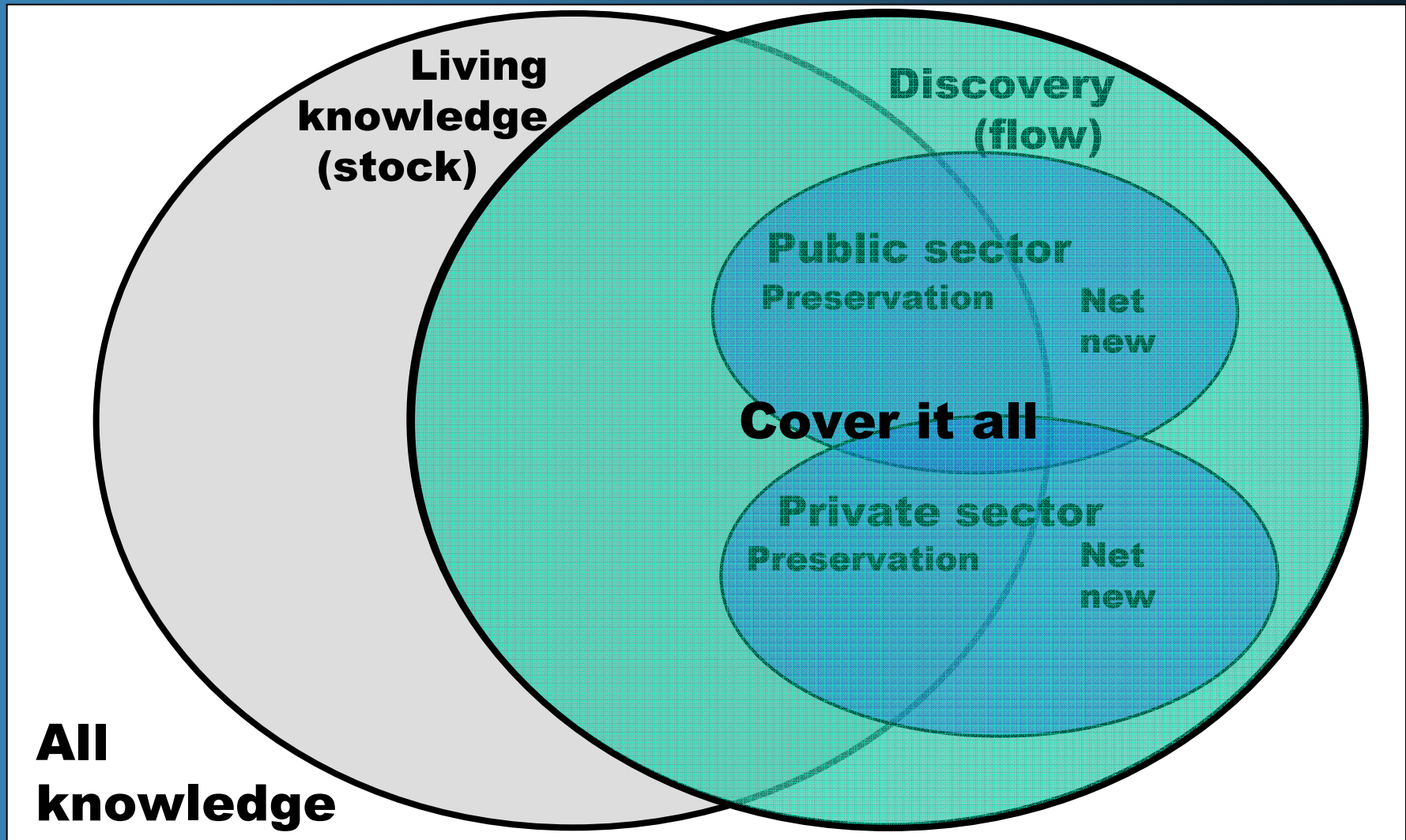
Four Dimensions of the frame

- **Technological $T_t = f(E, R)$**
 - E = ease of use
 - R = range of uses
- **Economic $T_e = f(U, I)$**
 - U = degree of unpredictability
 - I = freedom of initiative
- **Social $T_s = f(A, D)$**
 - A = diversity of social affiliation
 - D = significance/intensity of decision making
- **Governance $T_g = f(Y, L)$**
 - Y = extent of transparency and access
 - L = degree of experimentation and learning

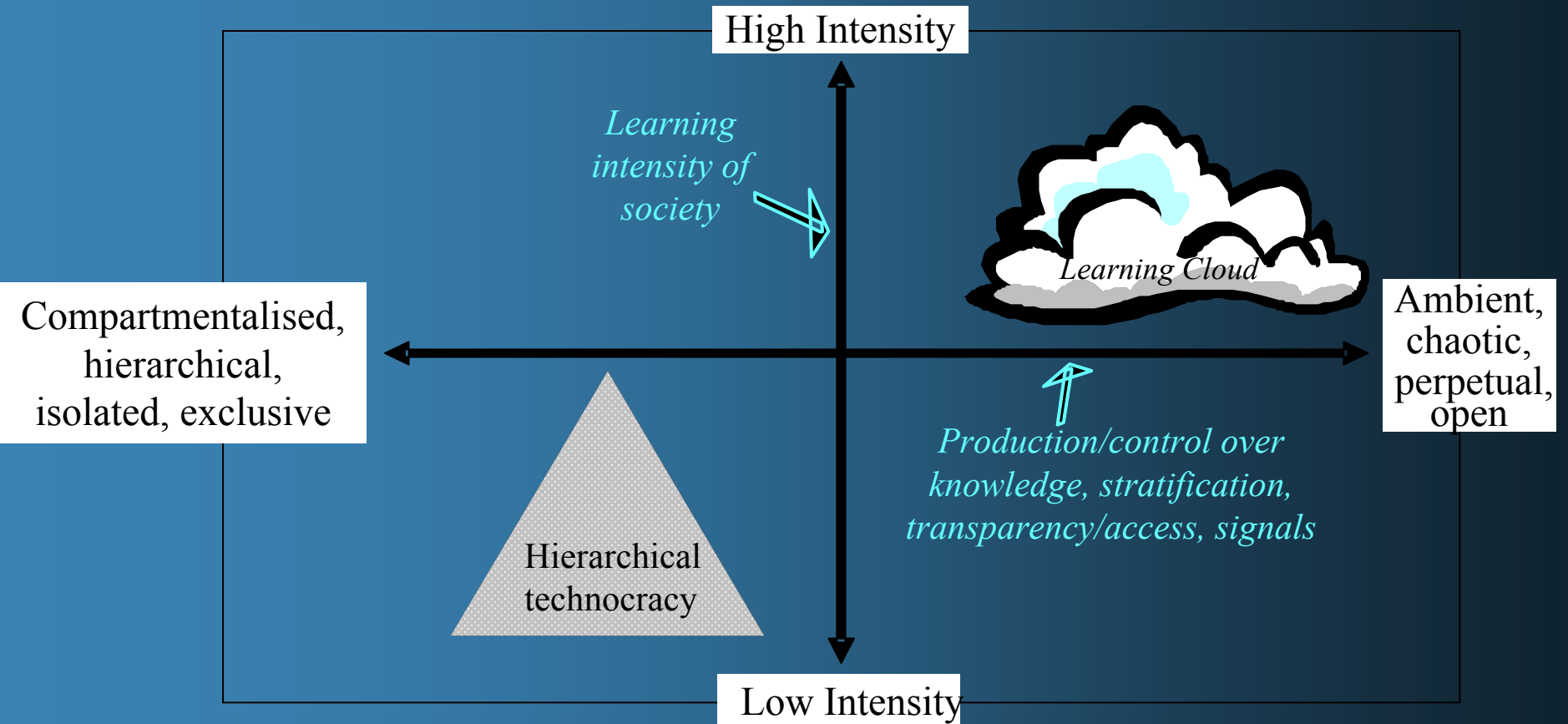
21st Century Transitions: Synergy Conditions and the Policy Challenge



Subject: Knowledge Production – Covering all of the actors



Knowledge Production in a Learning Intensive Society



"You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you are going, because you might not get there."

Yogi Berra



Thank you
Riel Miller

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Part Two Actor Scenarios

Riel Miller

**The Future of Key Research Actors in the ERA
Brussels, September 21, 2005**

A wooden picture frame with a white mat inside. The frame is made of dark wood with a decorative, slightly distressed finish. The text "Stories within the frame" is written in a bold, green, sans-serif font, centered on the white mat.

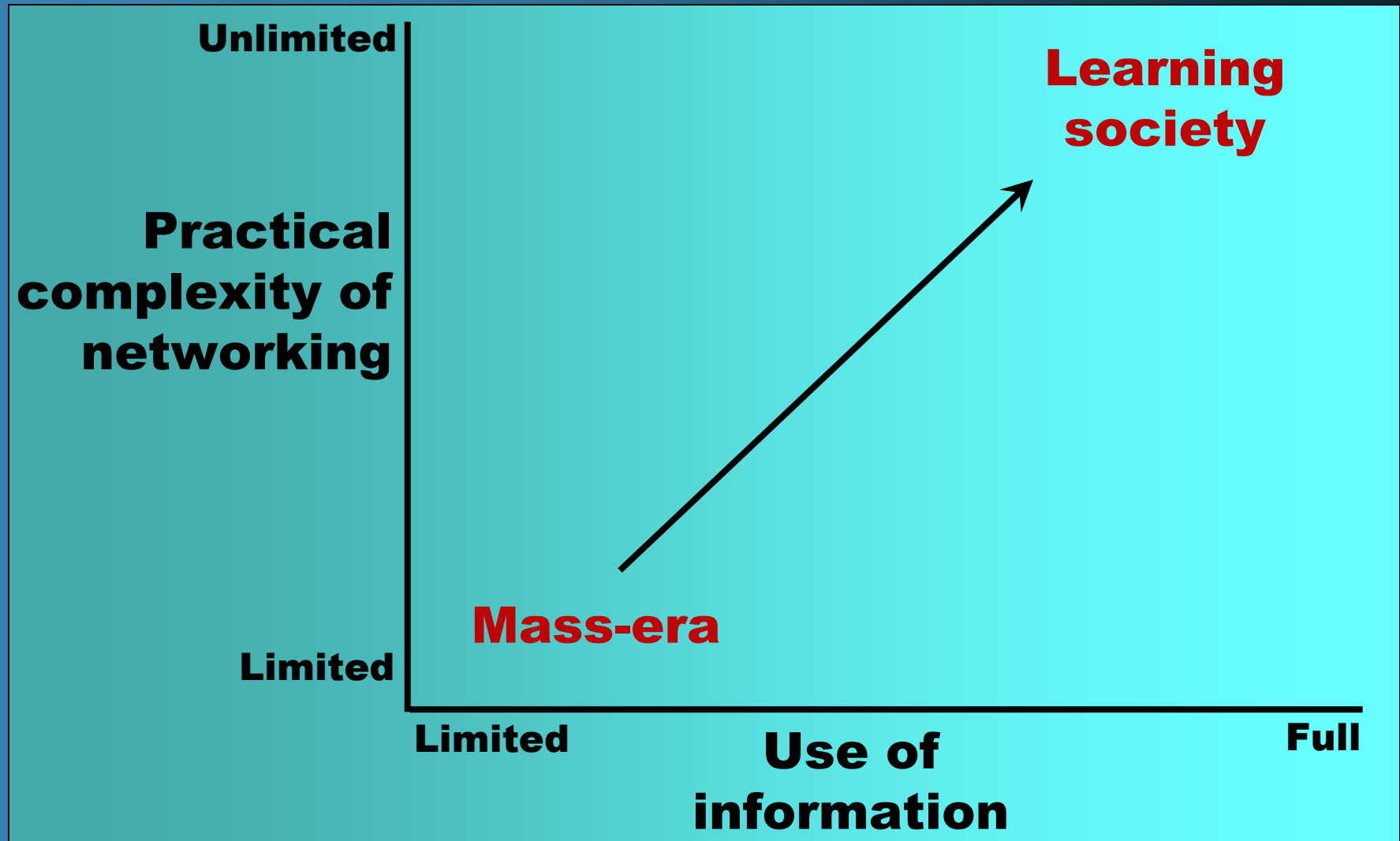
**Stories
within
the frame**

Actor Scenarios

Form and function scenarios

- What role might the actors play in a learning intensive society?**
- How might the role be organised?**
- What role might new conventions and institutions of the LIS alter the roles and organisation of existing actors**

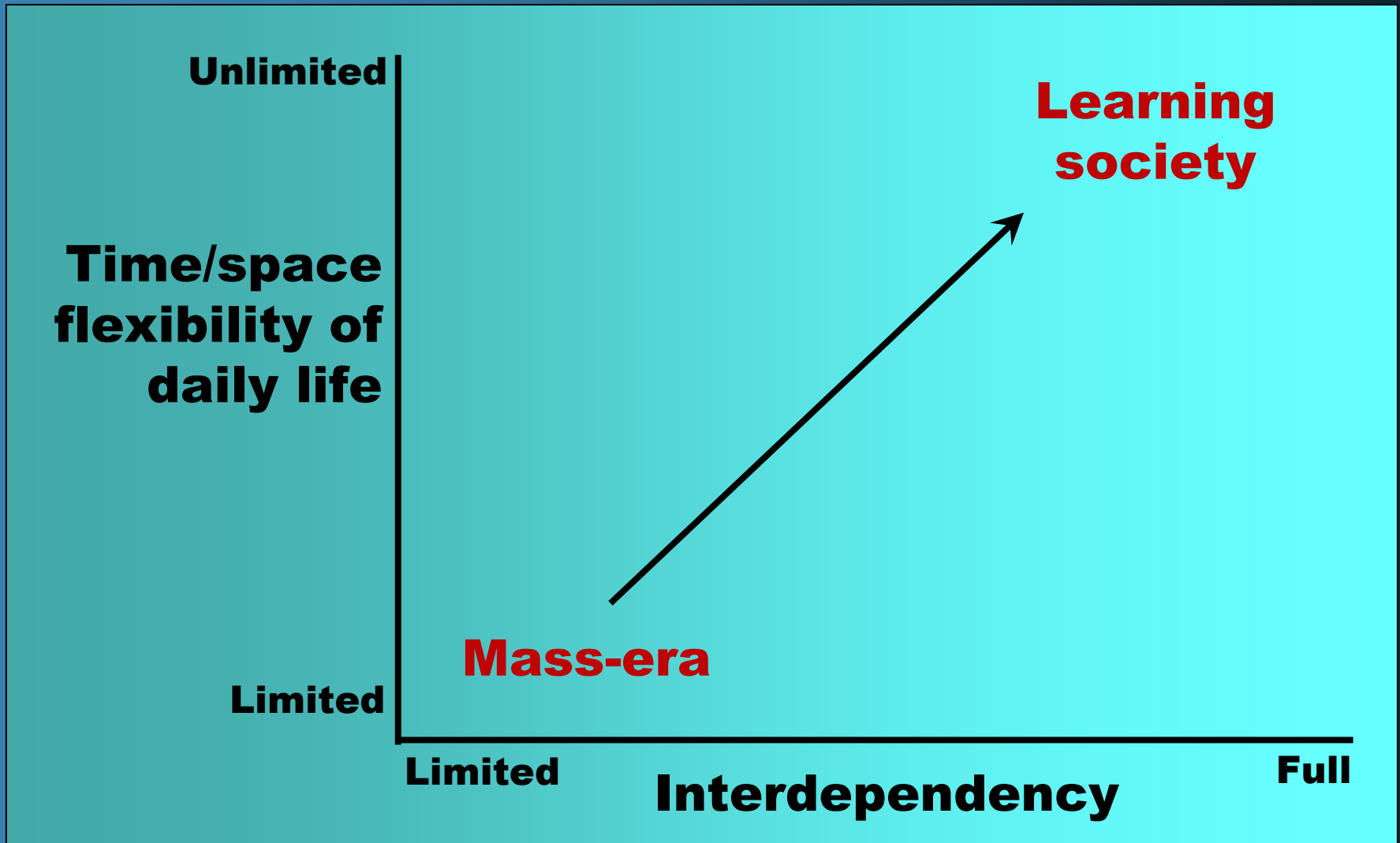
Actor roles & methods for facilitating spontaneous & fluid networking



Do we have the capacity to tell the stories that would allow us to embrace this spontaneity & fluidity?

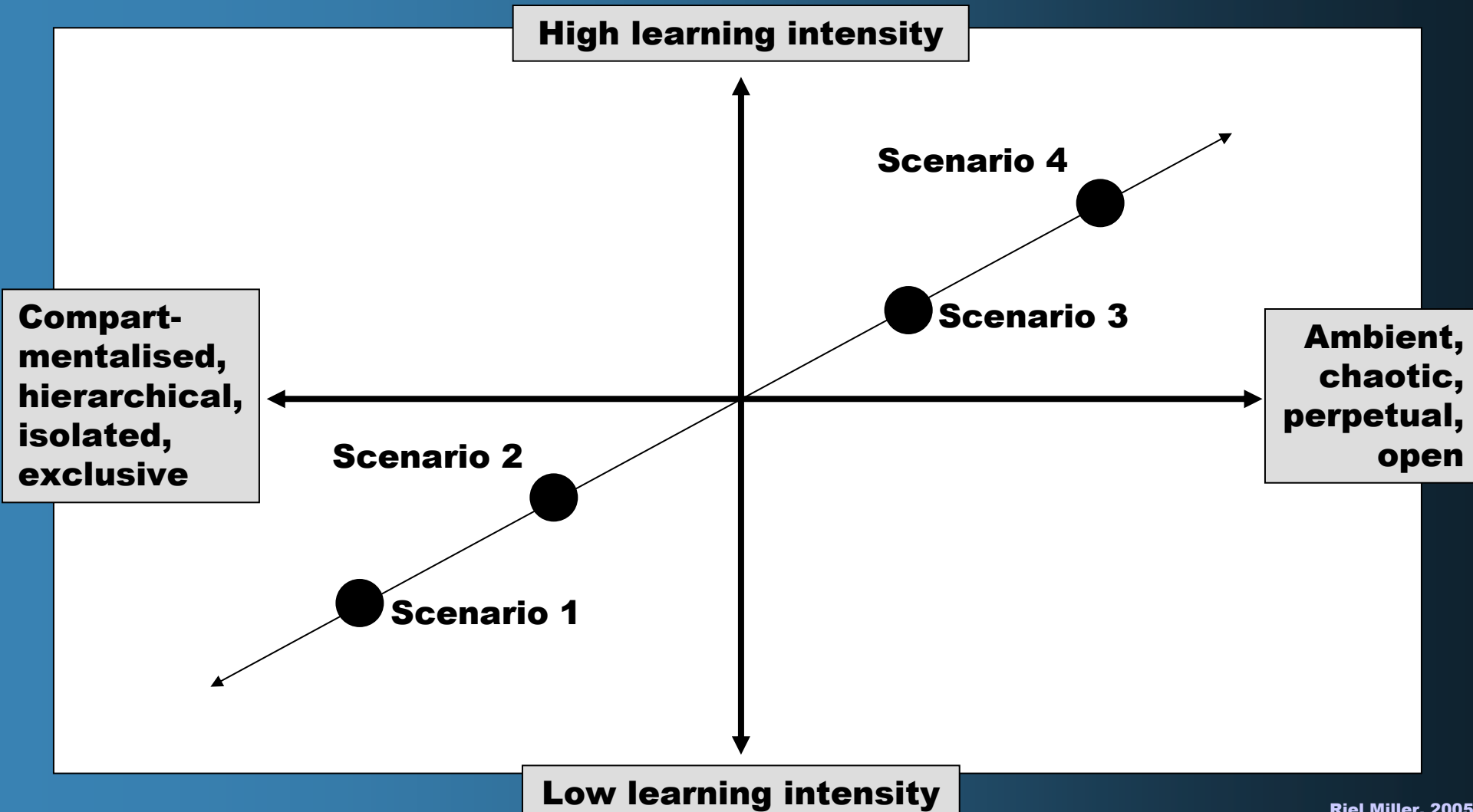
Network governance? Open Source?

Actor roles & methods for facilitating networks & network communities

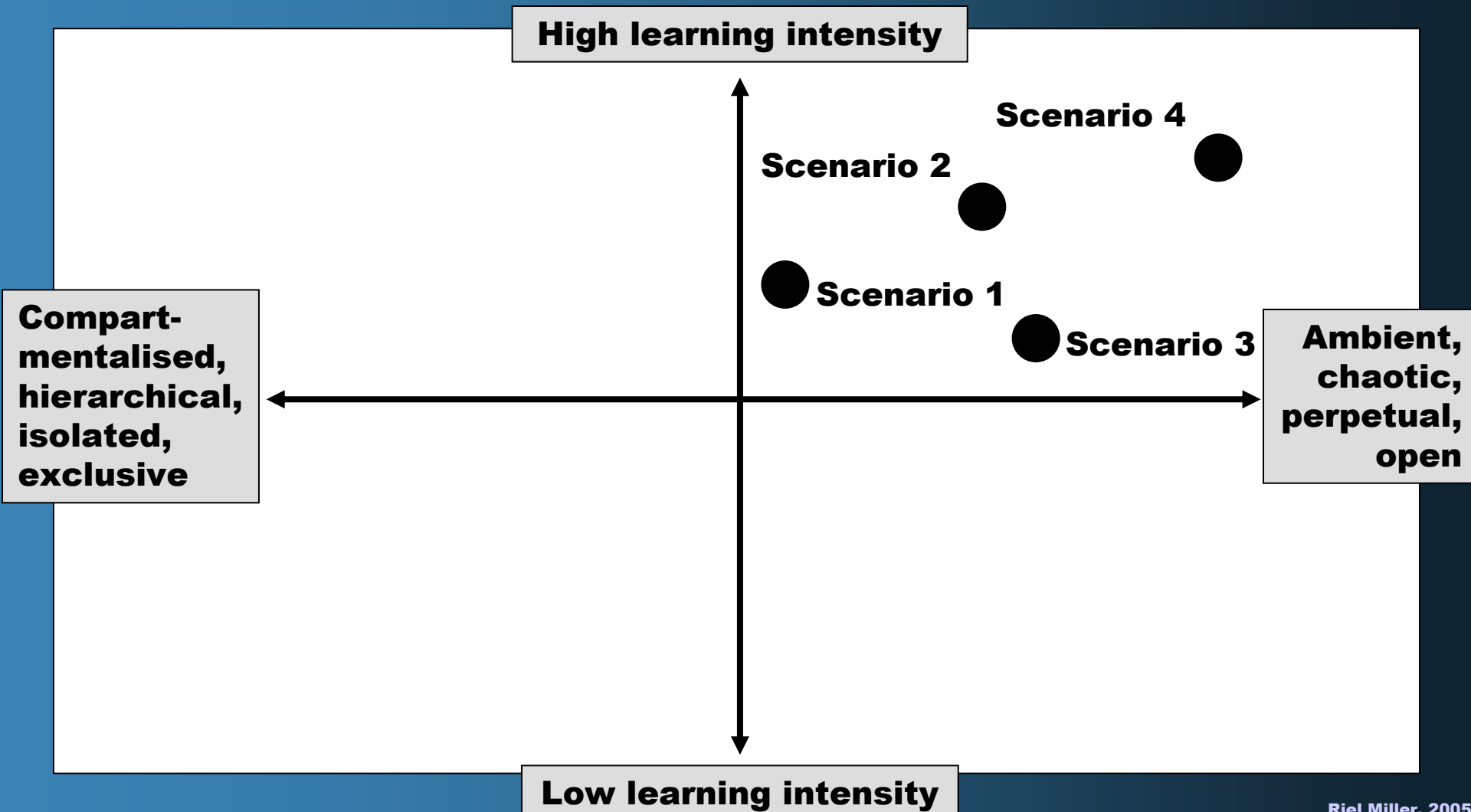


*Network density is a function of ease of building transparency & trust
birth, death, entry, exit*

Strategic scenarios: Roles & Methods of Actors



Strategic scenarios: Roles & Methods of Actors



I want to assert that almost all of the issues that we are concerned with in this room are uncertainty issues. Some result straightforwardly from simply not having enough knowledge. Faced with that kind of uncertainty, we can acquire more knowledge and therefore convert uncertainty into risk, which is what human beings have done for a long period of time. Other uncertainty issues, however, arise from the non-ergodic aspects of the systems with which we are concerned. That is, the systems in which we are interested reside in a world of continuous change, in many dimensions—not only in terms of physical change but also change in the social structure and behavior of human beings. Furthermore, to make our lives even more difficult, all the theory that we have in economics, at least all of the theory that is well developed, is *static* theory. Whether one looks to neoclassical price theory or its derivatives, it is all a static body of theory. However, all of the important issues with which we are interested here concern a *dynamic* world, one of continuous change.

Douglas C. North

Scale of the transition

- **Wealth, rules, governance, values**
 - Physical/financial vs human capital
 - Simple vs complex property rights
 - Ex-ante vs real-time allocation of power
 - Shared values as basis for transaction trust (Universal Declaration of Human Rights)
- **Quality of life**
 - Mass production vs production for self/community
 - Life organized for work vs work organized for life
 - Hierarchy vs autonomy
 - Imposed identity vs self-generated identity
 - Sen's definition of "freedom"

A Spontaneous Learning Society has the capacity to use diversification, experimentation, imagination & inter-dependency to manage risk & realise aspirations (values in practice)