

# Transformation der Agrarsysteme und die Rolle von Politik

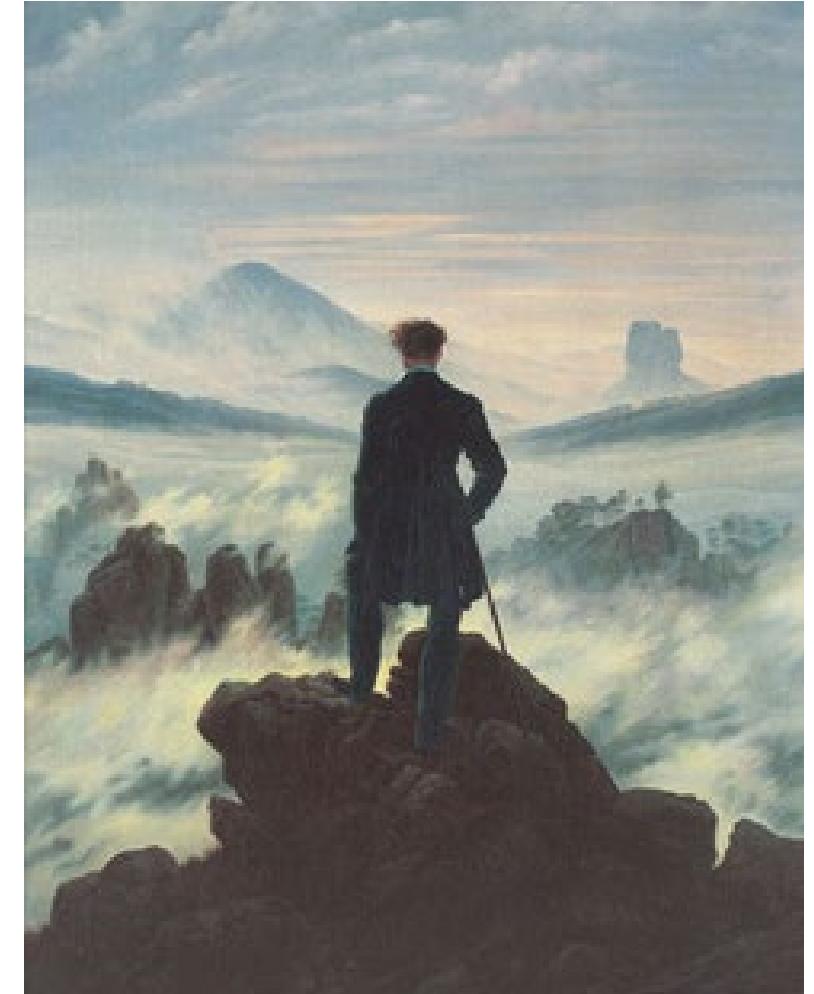
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Deutsche Agrarforschungsallianz  
Universität Potsdam  
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# Überblick

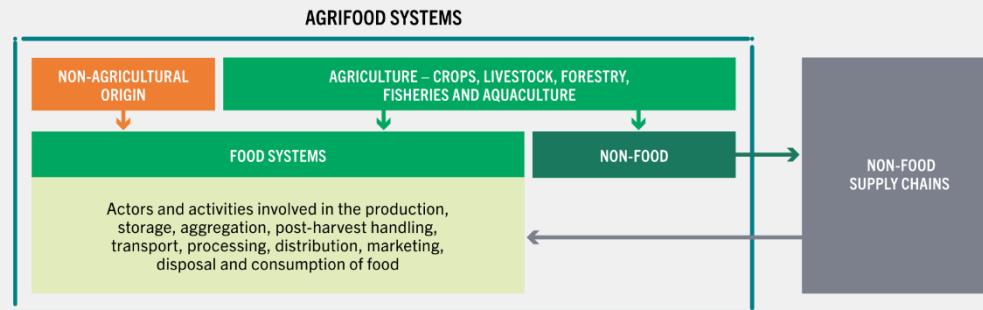
- Agro-Food-Systeme und Transformationsbedarf
- Krisen- und Lock-In-Perspektive
- Die ambivalente Rolle von Politik in der Transformation sozio-technischer Systeme
- Das „magische Dreieck“ transformativer Politik
- Eine reflexive Kritik des Konzepts transformativer Governance
- Herausforderungen für eine transformative Politik in pfadabhängigen politischen Systemen
- Fazit



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# Agro-food systems

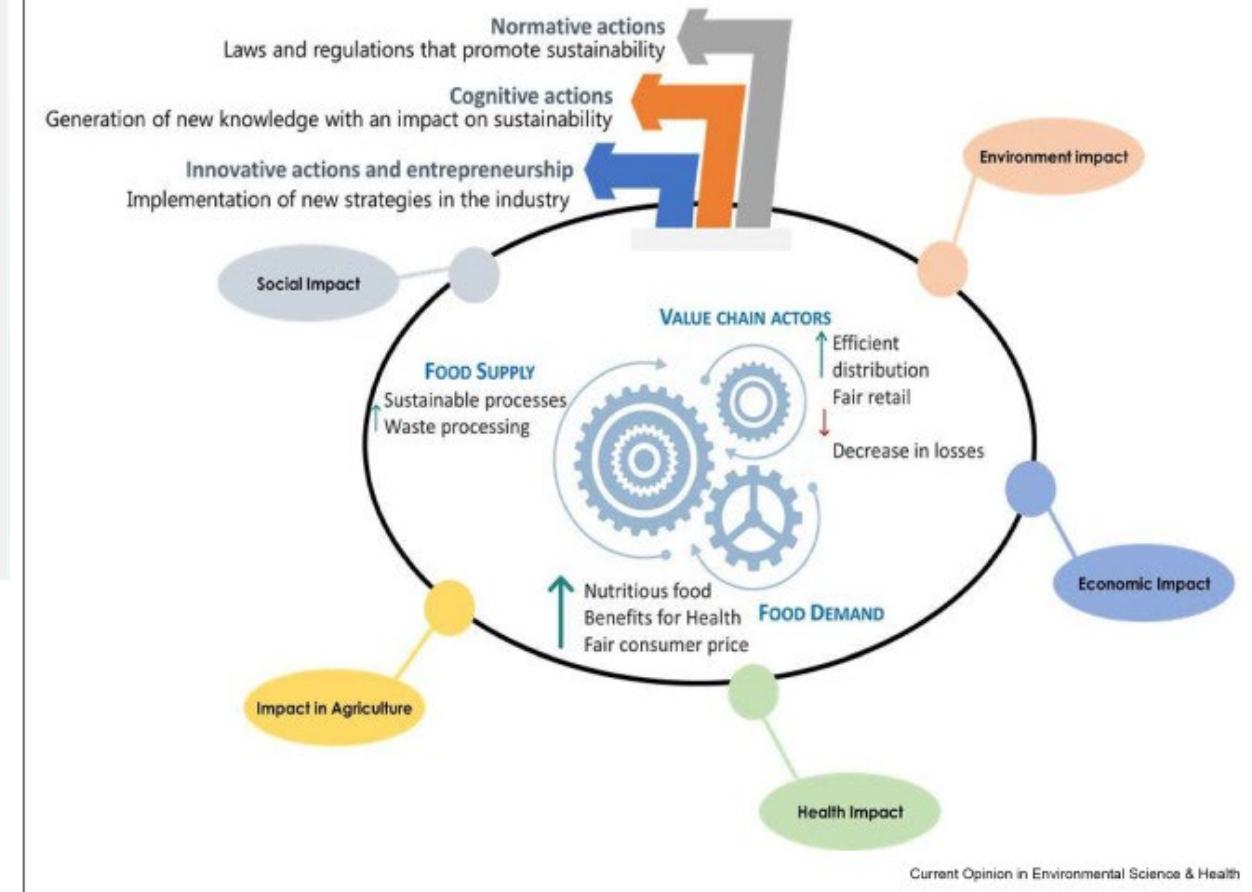
## A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS



NOTES: Food of non-agricultural origin includes meat analogues produced through synthetic biology.

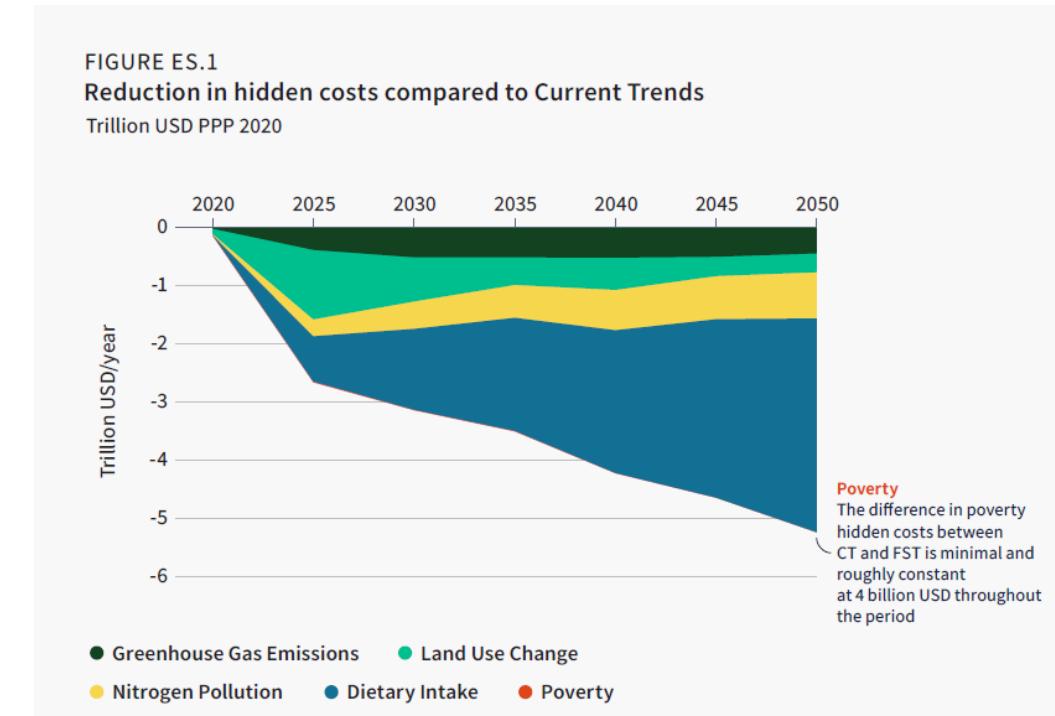
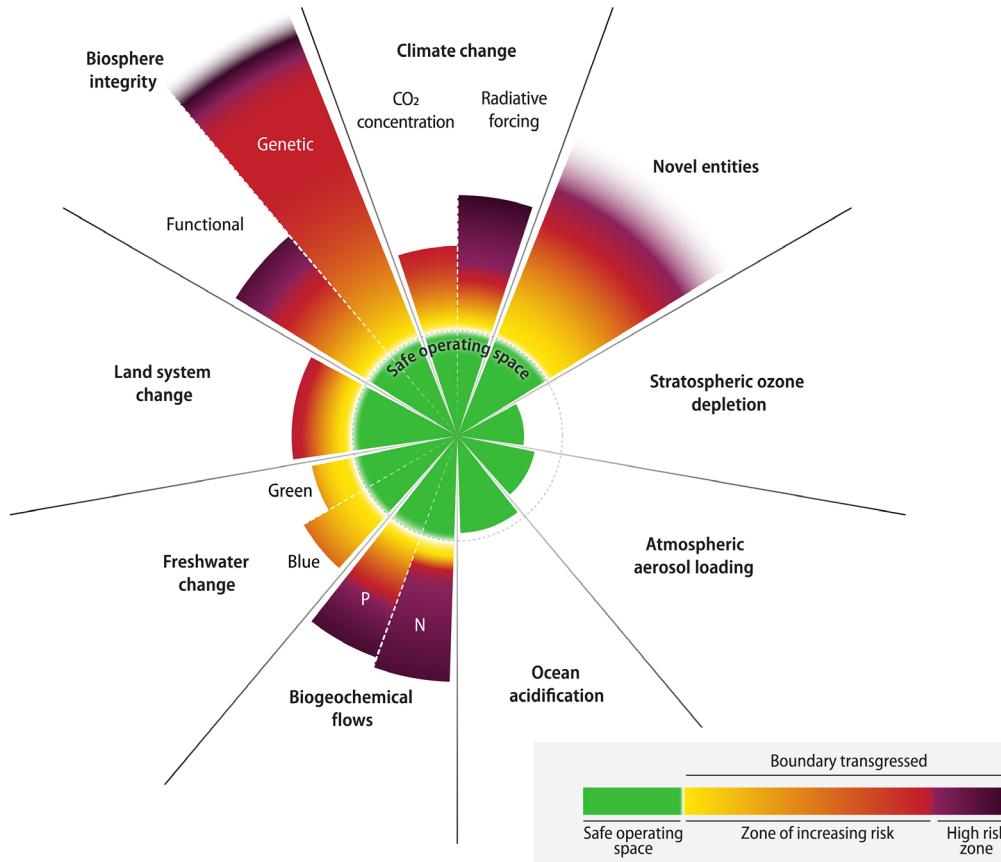
SOURCE: FAO elaboration for the report.

FAO. 2021. *In Brief to The State of Food and Agriculture 2021. Making agrifood systems more resilient to shocks and stresses*. Rome.



R. G. Araújo, R. A. Chavez-Santoscoy, R. Parra-Saldívar, E. M. Melchor-Martínez and H. M. N. Iqbal (2023): Agro-food systems and environment: Sustaining the unsustainable, Current Opinion in Environmental Science & Health 2023 Vol. 31 Pages 100413, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.coesh.2022.100413>

# The need for transformation



Laderchi et al. (2024): (2024). The Economics of the Food System Transformation. Food System Economics Commission (FSEC), Global Policy Report.

- Agriculture contributes to transgression of planetary boundaries

- External costs of agro-food systems are as high as value added

# Komplementäre Perspektiven: Krisen und Lock-Ins

## Krisen-Perspektive

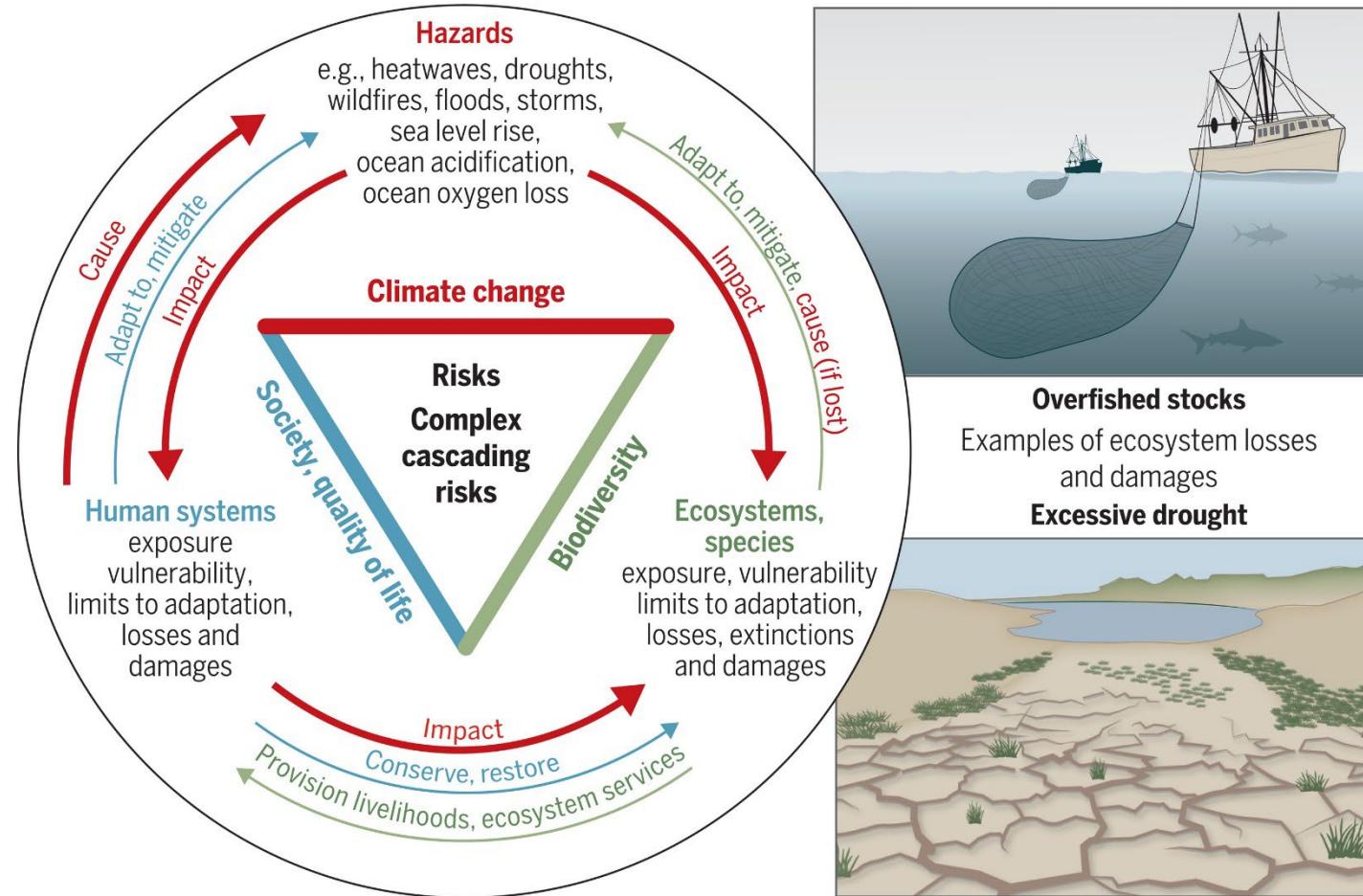
- Agro-Food-Systeme als Treiber von Krisen
- Gefährdung der Funktionalität der Agro-Food-Systeme durch Krisen
- Kumulation von Schocks und Stress
- Critical thresholds und tipping points
- Kaskadeneffekte über Skalen hinweg
- Inkompatibilität interner und externer Zeitskalen

## Lock-In-Perspektive

- Fokus auf materielle, finanzielle und informationelle Ströme
- Selbstverstärkende und selbstreferentielle Feedback-Mechanismen
- Pfadabhängigkeiten
- Blinde Flecken
  - Sachlich: Externe Effekte und inkommensurable Güter
  - Zeitlich: Dominanz der Eigenzeit
  - Sozial: Dominanz von Binnen- über Außenperspektiven

Pfadabhängigkeiten und Lock-Ins erschweren die Transformation zu nachhaltigen, biodiversitätsfreundlichen usw. Agro-Food-Systemen. Die sich dadurch verschärfenden Krisen gefährden dann langfristig auch die Resilienz der Agro-Food-Systeme.

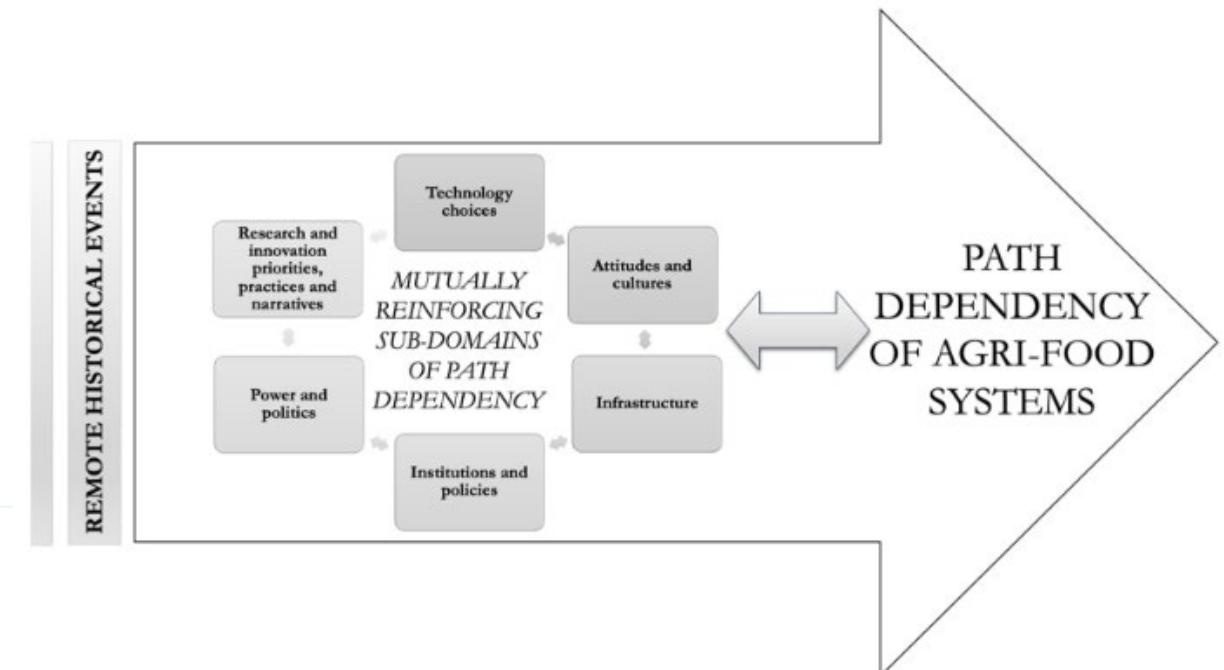
# Krisenperspektive: Coupled Crises



Source: Pörnter et al. 2023, p. 1

# Lock-In-Perspektive: Systemische Ursachen für Widerständigkeit von Agro-Food-Systemen gegen Wandel

- Dominant technologies persist at the expense of better alternatives because they are socially embedded.
- Institutions and policies create incentives misaligned to new change directions
- Attitudes and cultures that cause aversion to change
- Political economy: market power, corporate control
- Infrastructure rigidities (cross-sectoral)
- Agricultural research priorities: Productivist and technology-centered



Source: Conti, C., G. Zanello and A. Hall (2021): Why are agri-food systems resistant to new directions of change? A systematic review, Global Food Security 2021 Vol. 31, pp. 100576, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gfs.2021.100576>

# Transformation von sozio-technologischen Systemen

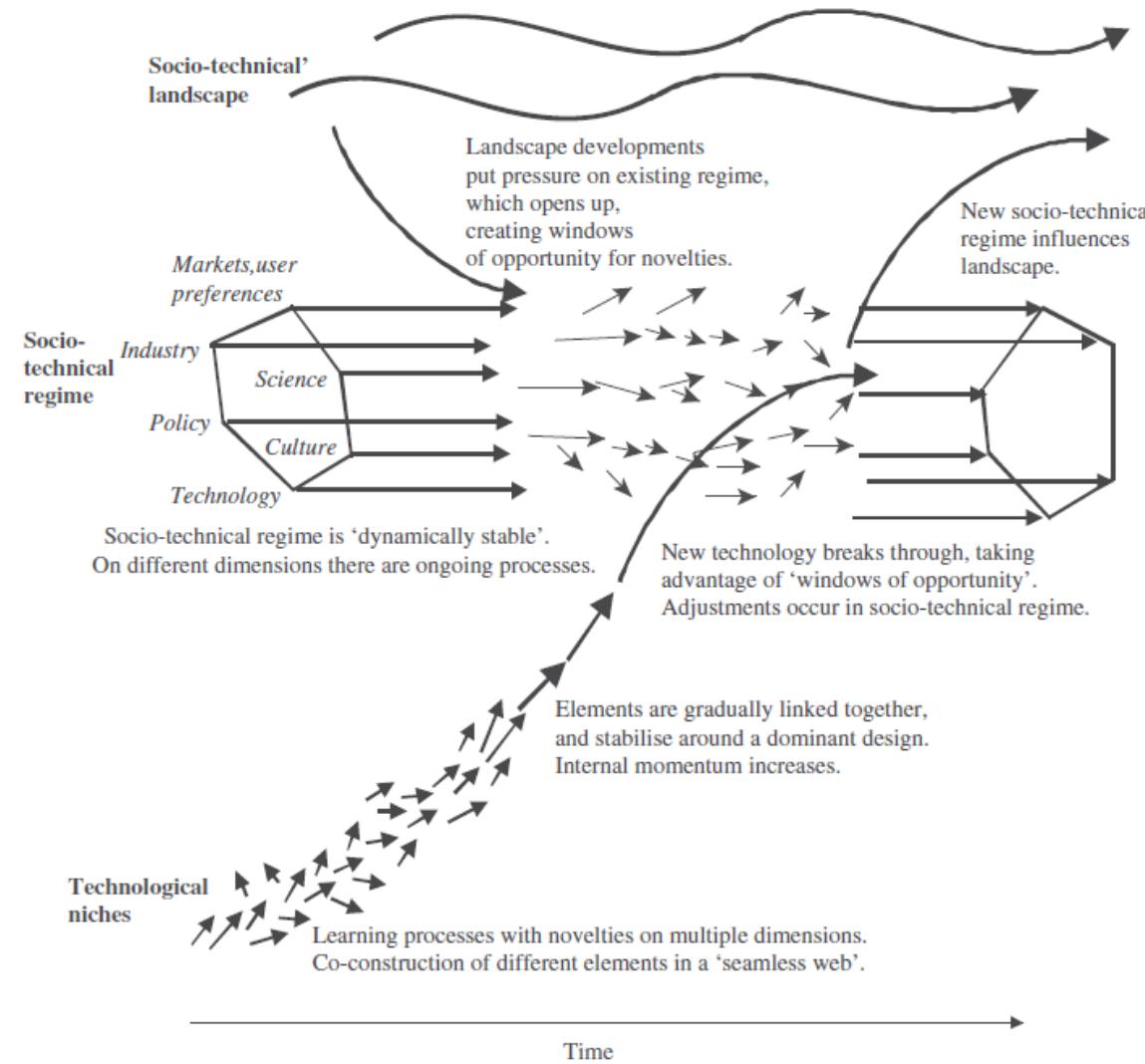
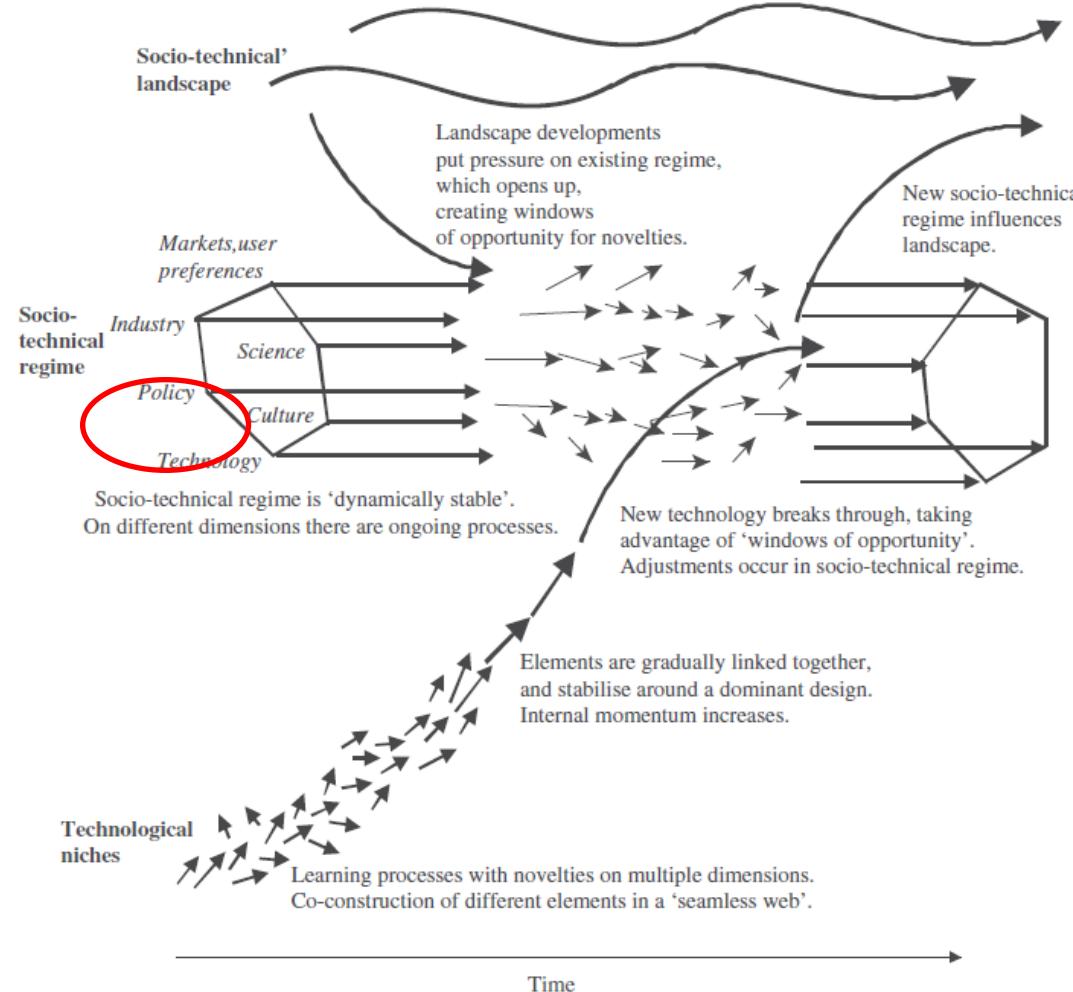


Diagramm: Geels/Kemp (2007):  
Technology in Society 29, p. 444.

# Drei widersprüchliche Aspekte von Politik in Transformationen

**Institutionalisierte  
Politiken sind das  
Ergebnis einer  
Koevolution und Teil des  
dominanten Regimes.**

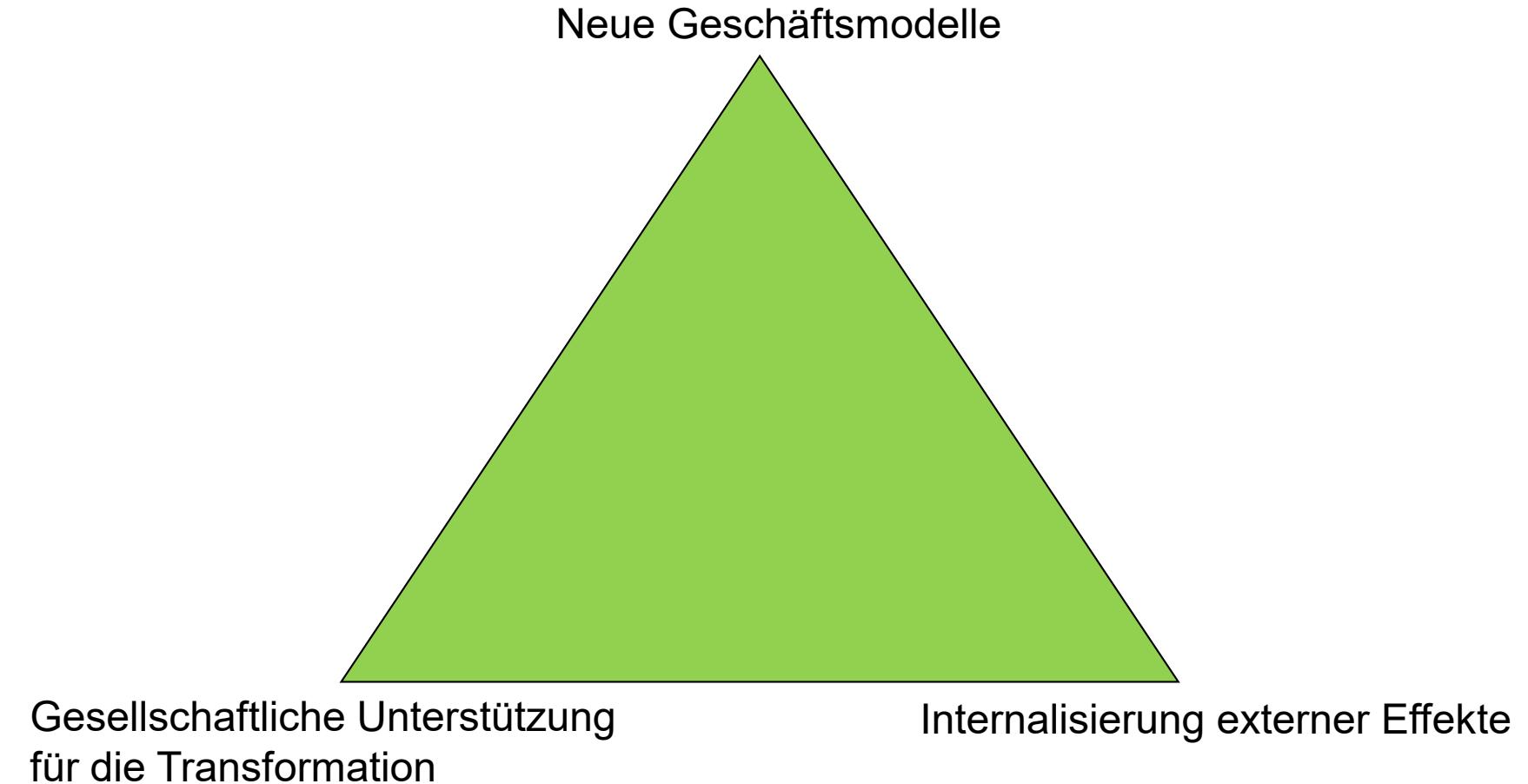
**Politiken ermutigen  
oder behindern  
Nischeninnovationen.**



**Politiken verstärken  
oder dämpfen  
Veränderungsdruck  
aus der „Landschaft“.**

Diagramm: Geels/Kemp (2007):  
Technology in Society 29, p. 444.

# Das magische Dreieck der Transformation

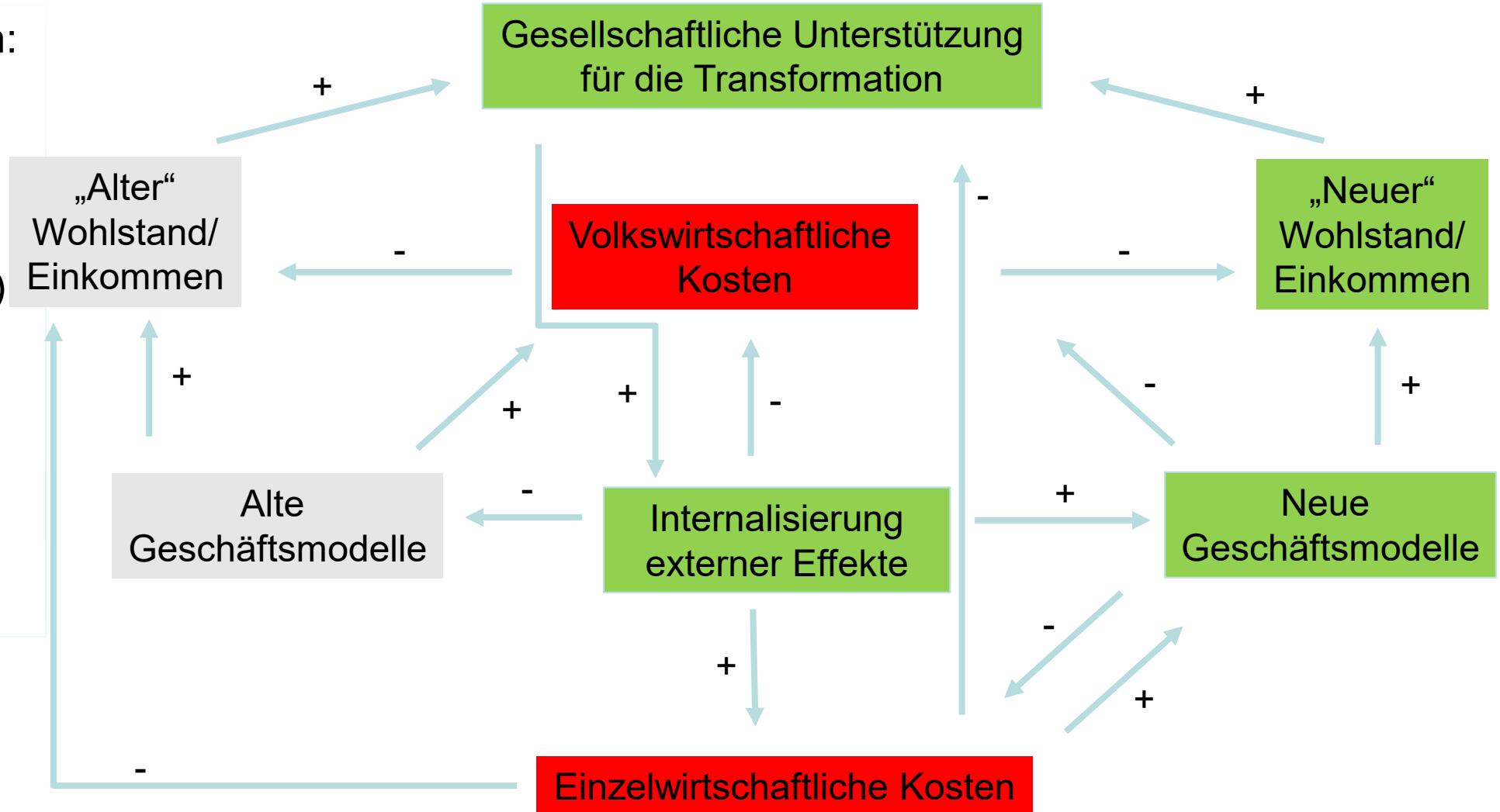


# Verlust von „altem Wohlstand“ vs. Aufbau von „neuem Wohlstand“

Sachliche Dimension:  
Dekarbonisierung,  
Entmaterialisierung,  
Kreislaufwirtschaft  
etc.  
(Innovationsrichtung)

Temporäre  
Dimension: Wettlauf,  
Synchronisierung

Soziale Dimension:  
Verteilung („just  
transition“)



# Transformative governance

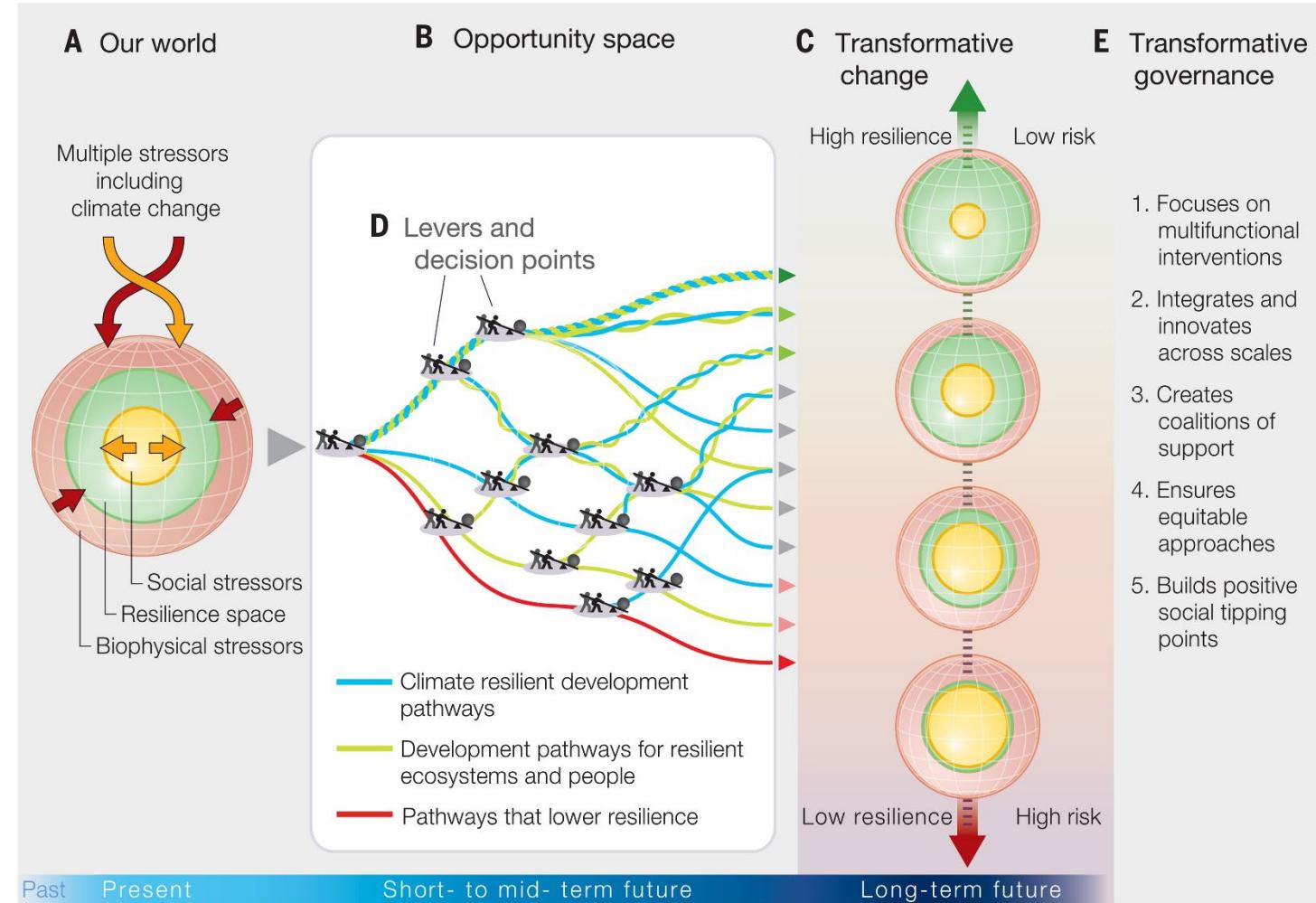
- A thriving academic discourse – 2280 hits on Google Scholar (13.3.2024)
- Core meaning: governance that supports transformative change
- Highly normative/prescriptive concept:
  - Transformative governance “is *integrative*, to ensure local solutions also have sustainable impacts elsewhere (across scales, places, issues and sectors); *inclusive*, to empower those whose interests are currently not being met and represent values embodying transformative change for sustainability; *adaptive*, enabling learning, experimentation, and reflexivity, to cope with the complexity of transformative change; and *pluralist*, recognizing different knowledge systems.” (Visseren-Hamakers et al., 2021, emphasis added)

# Transformative governance as a counter-factual concept

Transformative governance feature	Purpose	Empirical political systems
<i>integrative</i>	“ensure local solutions also have sustainable impacts elsewhere (across scales, places, issues and sectors)”	Division of labour Functional sub-systems Specialised agencies and siloism
<i>inclusive</i>	“empower those whose interests are currently not being met and represent values embodying transformative change for sustainability”	Power imbalances Power struggle Status quo interests
<i>adaptive</i>	“enabling learning, experimentation, and reflexivity, to cope with the complexity of transformative change”	Dominance of instrumental learning Functionally differentiated communication Epistemic communicities
<i>pluralist</i>	“recognizing different knowledge systems”	Ideational struggle Politics of expertise

Left columns: Visseren-Hamakers et al., 2021.

# Transformative Governance as a stepwise strategy with quasi-Utopian perspective



Source: Pörtner et al. 2023, p. 8

# Problem der Anschlussfähigkeit der Steuerungskonzepte

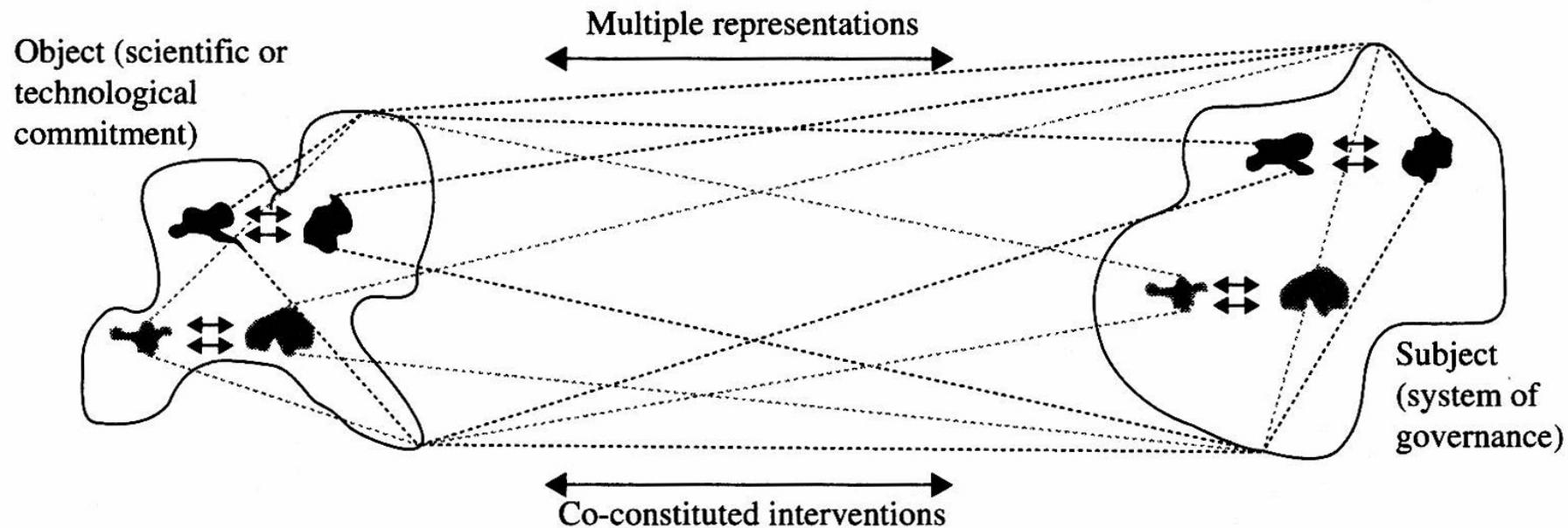
- Überzogene Steuerungserwartungen
- Technokratische Steuerungsphantasien
- Unklare Steuerungssubjekte
- Mangelnde Problematisierung der Steuerungsobjekte

→Reflexive Governance-Perspektive

# Reflexive governance perspective

- Recursive mutual contingency: Interdependence between the subject and the object of representation and political intervention

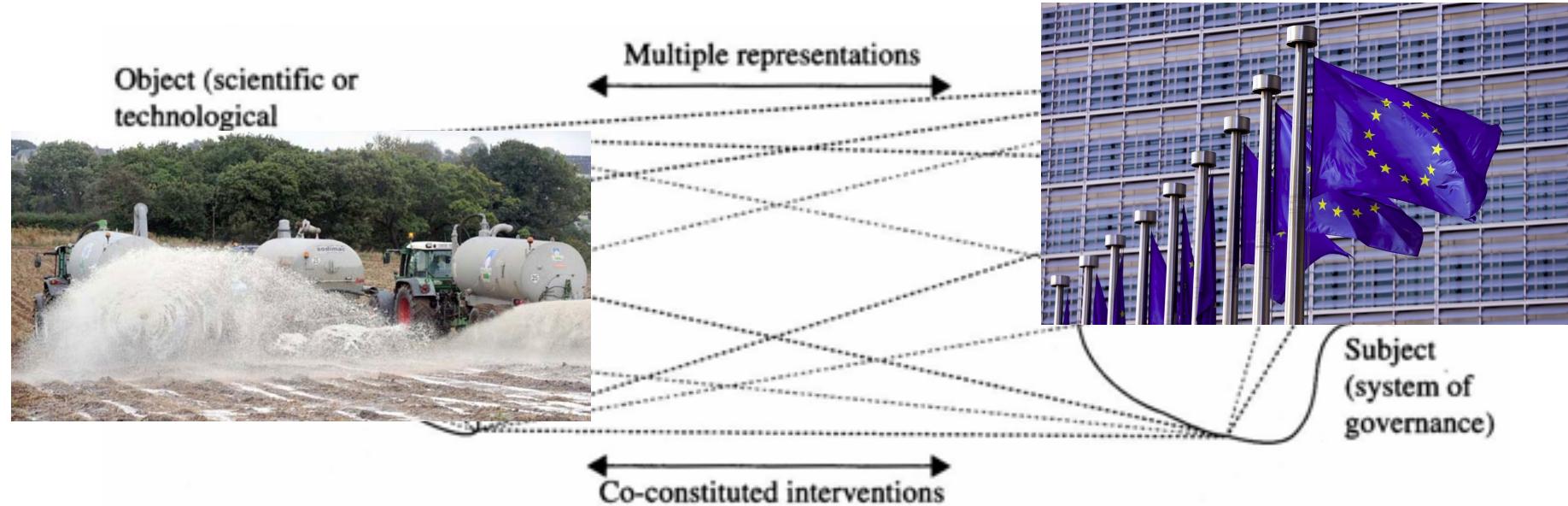
*Reflexivity:* Attention simultaneously encompasses and helps constitute both subject and object (recursive mutual contingency of subjective representations and interventions),  
*e.g. 'the consequences depend on our point of view and our expectations of use'.*



Stirling, A. (2006): "Precaution, foresight and sustainability: reflection and reflexivity in the governance of science and technology", in: Voß, J.-P., Bauknecht, D. and Kemp, R. (Hrsg.): *Reflexive Governance for Sustainable Development*. Edward Elgar: Cheltenham, UK, Northampton, MA, USA, p. 229

# Recursive mutual contingency: Interdependence between the subject and the object of representation and political intervention

Image: dpa,  
<http://www.taz.de/!5155962/>



Photograph: Fran ois Lenoir/Reuters  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jan/05/so-whats-the-big-idea-european-union>

- Ontological dimension: co-constitution of the elements of governance – the potential objects, subjects and instruments
- Epistemological dimension: co-determining how actors can and must “see” the world
- Interventions onto an object of governance reflect the subjectivities implied in the representations of the object upon which the intervention is based.
- Acting upon representations can affect subjectivities and therefore the epistemological and ontological foundations of intervention

# Policy-Evolution ist nicht-linear

- Crowded policy space
  - Zu jedem Zeitpunkt finden sich bereits zahlreiche Politiken vor.
  - Diese reflektieren historische Kompromisse, Machtkämpfe und Identitäten.
- Policy feedback:
  - Bestehende Politiken erzeugen Ressourcen-, Wissen- und Anreizeffekte.
  - Z.B. lernen begünstigte Gruppen, wie eine Politik funktioniert, und wollen sie beibehalten.
- Layering:
  - Neue Politiken werden oft auf alte aufgelagert, dadurch entstehen ...
- ... Policy-Mixe
  - mit vielen Zielen und Instrumenten,
  - die verschiedene, z.T. gegensätzliche Ideen und Ziele verkörpern,
  - und oft mehrere Politik-Ebenen umfassen.
- -> Potenzial für Policy Lock-in and hohe Politik-Komplexität

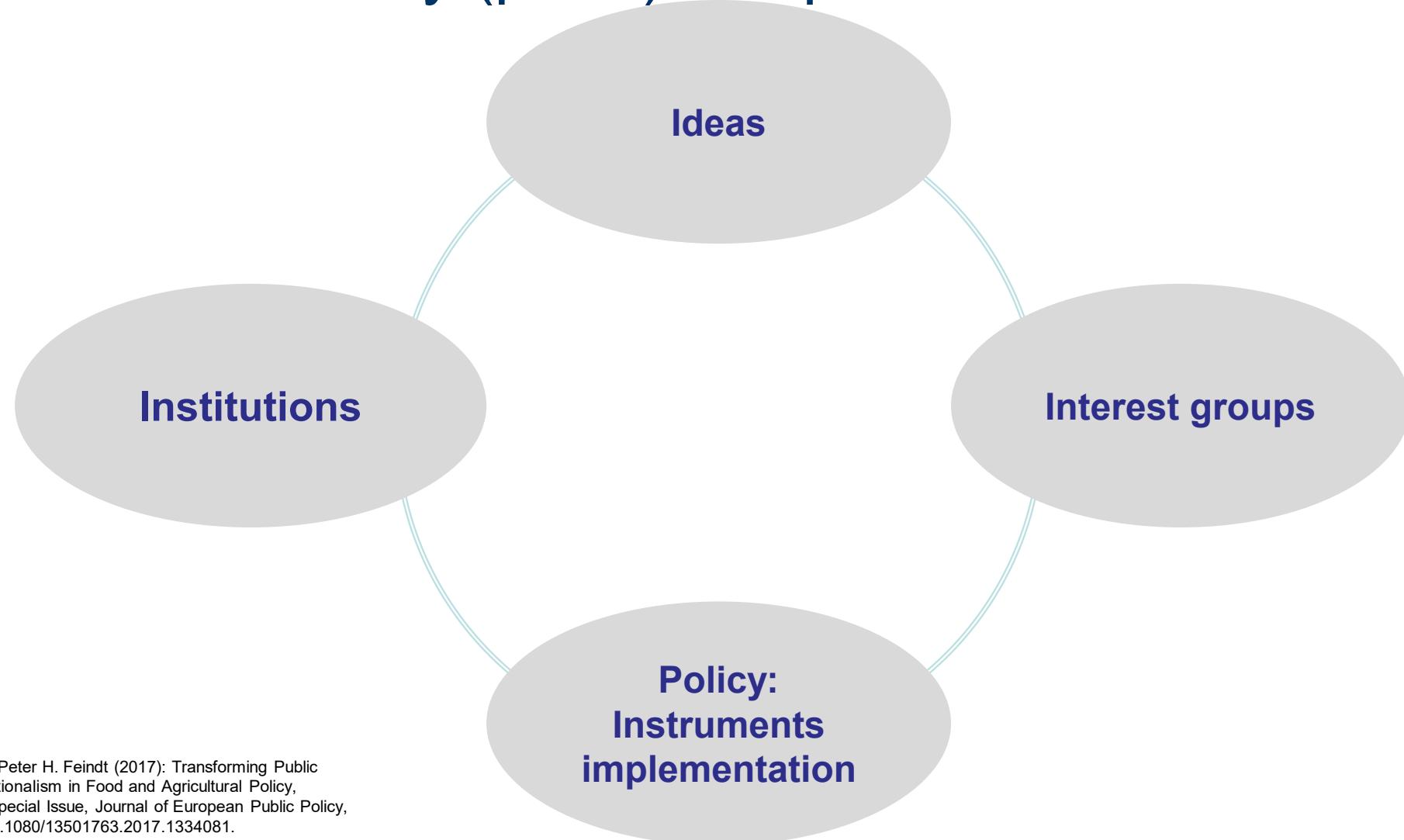
# Herausforderung: Abstimmung alter und neuer Politiken

<b>Policy mix component</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Types and dimensions</b>	
Goals	Manifestations of cognitive assumptions and normative beliefs regarding policy purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-cutting</li> <li>• Sectoral</li> <li>• Operationalised objectives</li> </ul>	Coherence
Instruments	Tools and techniques used by governments to achieve the policy objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulatory</li> <li>• Financial</li> <li>• Informational</li> <li>• Cooperative</li> </ul>	Consistency
Calibration	Concrete adjustments of the policy instruments settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stringency</li> <li>• Specificity</li> <li>• Flexibility</li> <li>• Temporality</li> </ul>	Congruence

Tabelle nach: Grohmann & Feindt (2023)

# Policy legacies and policy feedback

## Policy (post-)exceptionalism



Carsten Daugbjerg, Peter H. Feindt (2017): Transforming Public Policies: Post-exceptionalism in Food and Agricultural Policy, Introduction to the Special Issue, Journal of European Public Policy, 24/11, 1-20, DOI: 10.1080/13501763.2017.1334081.

# Agricultural exceptionalism



# Institutionalization of agricultural exceptionalism in the CAP (1957-1970s)

Institutions:  
CAP, CMOs  
Ag Commissioner  
Closed networks  
Satellites

Ideas:  
Objectives of the CAP  
(Title II Agriculture, art.  
38-47 Treaty of Rome)

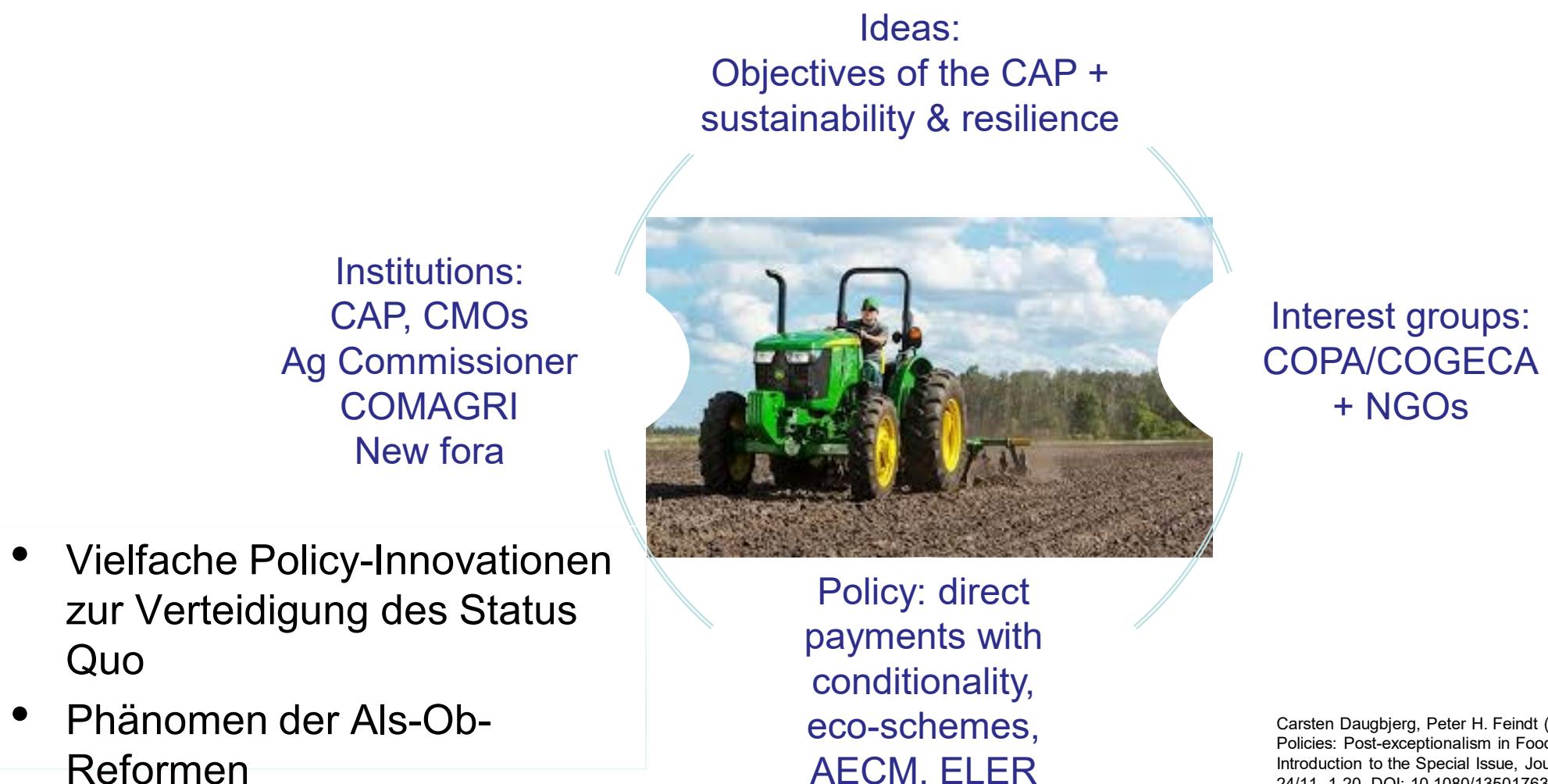
Interest groups:  
COPA/COGECA



Policy: minimum  
prices, import  
levies, export  
subsidies

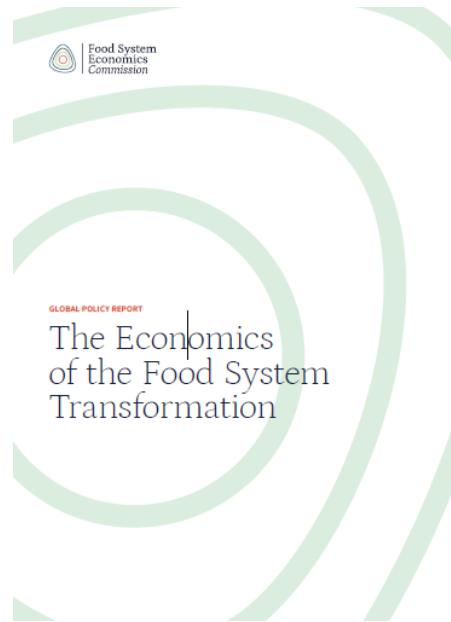
Carsten Daugbjerg, Peter H. Feindt (2017): Transforming Public Policies: Post-exceptionalism in Food and Agricultural Policy, Introduction to the Special Issue, Journal of European Public Policy, 24/11, 1-20, DOI: 10.1080/13501763.2017.1334081.

# Agricultural post-exceptionalism in the CAP



Carsten Daugbjerg, Peter H. Feindt (2017): Transforming Public Policies: Post-exceptionalism in Food and Agricultural Policy, Introduction to the Special Issue, Journal of European Public Policy, 24/11, 1-20, DOI: 10.1080/13501763.2017.1334081.

# Strategies to foster food system transitions



FSEC recommendation	Comment
Building coalitions of stakeholders	Status quo coalitions often deeply entrenched
Establishing new governance arrangements that facilitate balanced stakeholder representation and policy coherence	Propositions often call for expertocratic arrangements
Shaping narratives and providing information	Limits to the creation of win-win narratives
Calibrating policies to gain acceptance from key stakeholders	Strategies: Flexibility and incentives – financial limits -> weak calibration
Holding governments and businesses to account for progress	Limited power of independent agencies and policy targets, limited willingness of executives to prioritise societal targets

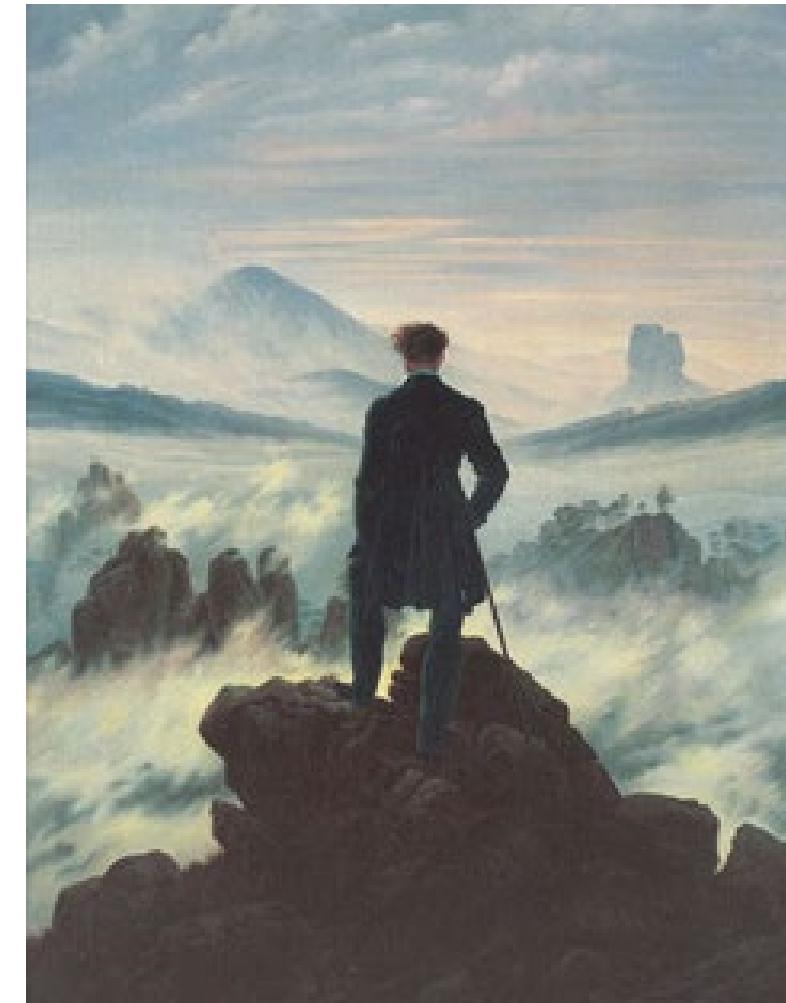
# Fazit

- Transformation der Agro-Food-Systeme erforderlich, um externe Effekte zu vermindern und Krisenfestigkeit zu erhöhen
- Systemische Lock-Ins verhindern Transformation zu nachhaltigeren und resilenteren Agro-Food-Systemen
- Politische Interventionen erforderlich, um Lock-Ins zu überwinden
- Pfadabhängigkeiten des politischen Systems sind Teil der systemischen Lock-Ins
- Empirisches Verständnis von gesellschaftlichen und politischen Prozessen und Institutionen erforderlich
- Konzepte von transformativer Politik und transformativer Governance müssen ...
- ... die rekursive Konstitution von Steuerungssubjekt und -objekt in ihrem Ansatz klären,
- ... breit getragene Zielbilder entwickeln
- ... und diese Zielbilder laufend übersetzen in die multiplen funktionalen Logiken der Institutionen der gesellschaftlichen Arbeitsteilung, also wissenschaftliche Evidenz (z.B. Kippunkte), technologische Machbarkeit, Geschäftsmodelle, Rechtsstaatlichkeit, demokratischer Parteienwettbewerb, usw.
- Transformation erfordert Akzeptanz von Kontingenz und Multiperspektivität

# Vielen Dank für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit!

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