
Transforming Systems
Reflections from Taiwan
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10 years ago

g0v, a shining example of decentralized organizations

2023 da0

Supercharge g0v
Supercharge digital democracy

Taiwan DID pilot
Retroactive funding experiments
DAO research
RXCA DID pilot
Rivercare DID pilot
DAO toolbox
g0v RPGF round
Studi0 initiatives
Plurality Taipei
Funding the Commons Taipei
Ars Electronica democracy hackathon
etc……

what has really changed?

How might we change systems?
Positively, sustainably.

Complex Systems & Emergence

Simple explanation

Complex systems are networks of interacting parts that create unpredictable behaviors and patterns. Emergence is when these interactions lead to new, surprising properties or behaviors that can't be understood by looking at individual parts alone.

Simpler explanation

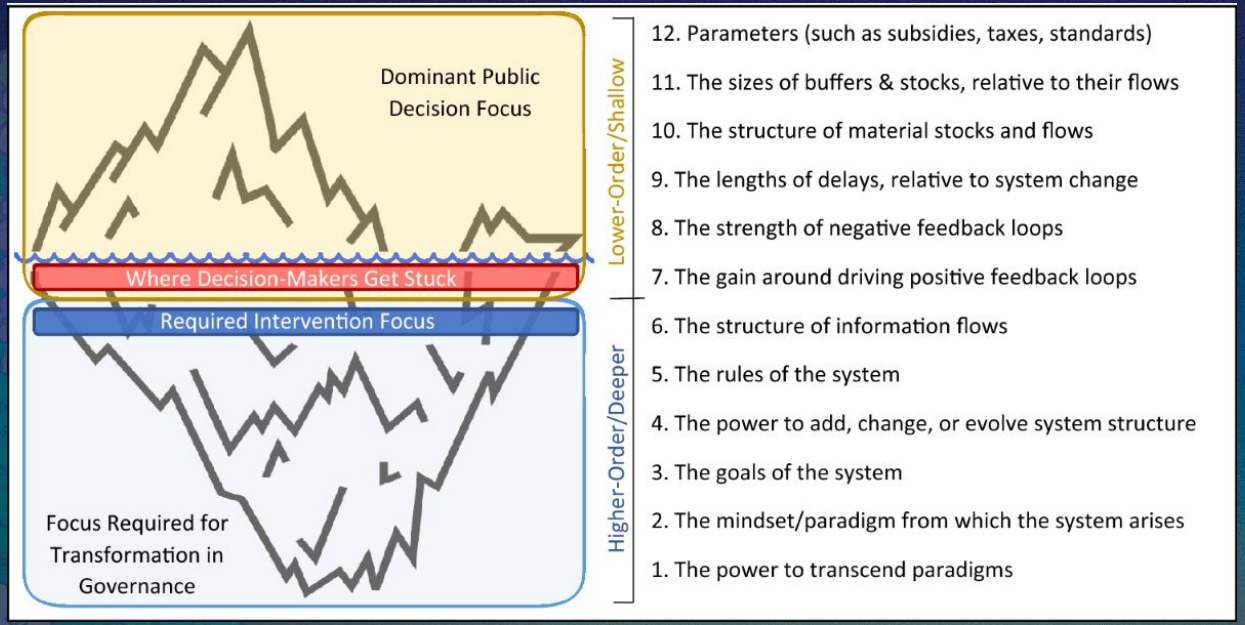
Pile of stones don’t make a house.

If Change = Emergence

a set of simple rules > emergence

New rule > Change

Leverage Points from The Donella Meadows Project



#1. Top-down

Leverage Points : All practical and structural leverage points, including changing the goals of the system, but top down rarely changes the paradigm/intent.

Measure : System output. (Only 16% of global SDG goals are on track)

Potential fail : Corruption, limited control (as should be), incentive problems.

Example : Centralized control, great for mechanism design (Carbon taxes, social impact bonds)

#2. Bottom-up

Leverage Points : Self improvement organizations, changing paradigm, go beyond paradigm

Measure : Inspired initiatives, collective impact.

Potential fail : Not sustainable, lack execution, internal divide

Example : Occupy Wallstreet, the passion of DAOs, the anger of g0v.

#3. Outside in

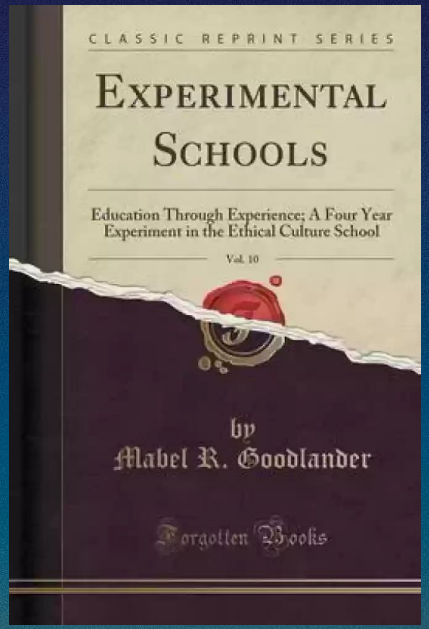
Leverage Points : Indirectly affect top-down or bottom-up influence to leverage the system.

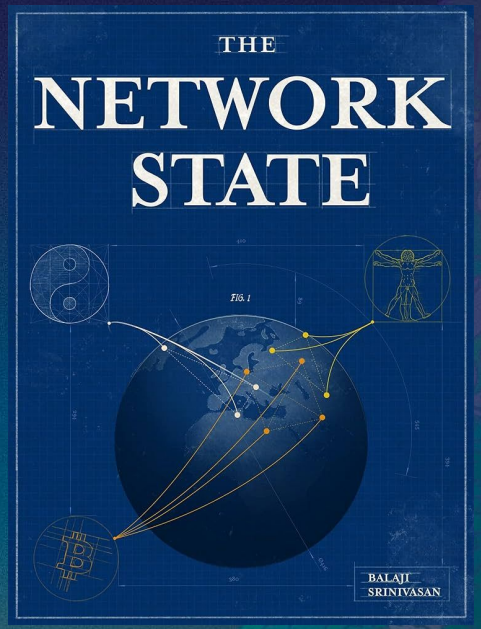
Measure : Influence on top-down or bottom-up approaches.

Potential fail : Inability to influence leverage points. “Code is law, but code is not the only law”

Example : Experimental schools on <No Child Left Behind NCLB> policy, network states

Exceptions : Competition instead of system changing





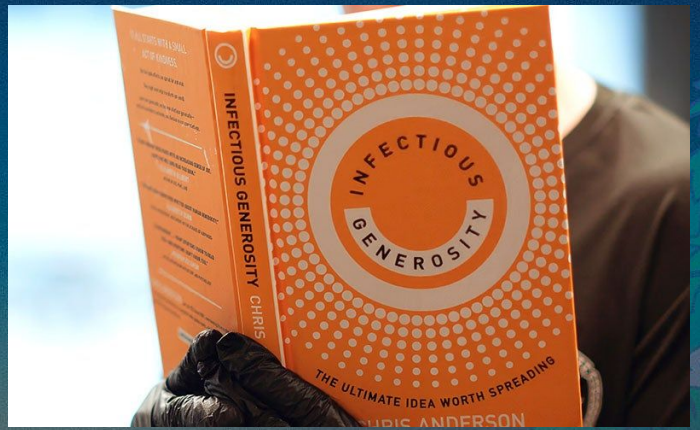
#4. Catalyst

Leverage Points : Multiple entry point to make changes, including feedback systems, shift paradigms or transform to self improving organizations

Measure : System output.

Potential fail : Failure to find the solutions that deliver the right intention and goal alignment

Example : Paris Agreement, Infectious Generosity



How do we know if we are catalyzing positive emergence?

We don’t

Peter Senge’s 11 Laws of Systems Thinking

1. **Today’s problems come from yesterday’s solutions**
2. **The harder you push, the harder the system pushes back**
3. Behavior grows better before it grows worse
4. The easy way out usually leads back in
5. The cure can be worse than the disease
6. Faster is slower.
7. Cause & effect are not closely related in time & space.
8. Small changes can produce big results, but areas of the highest leverage are often least obvious.
9. You can have your cake & eat it too but not all at once. Not either/or. allow time for solutions to work.
10. Dividing an elephant in half does not product two small elephants
11. There is no blame

be **catalysts**,

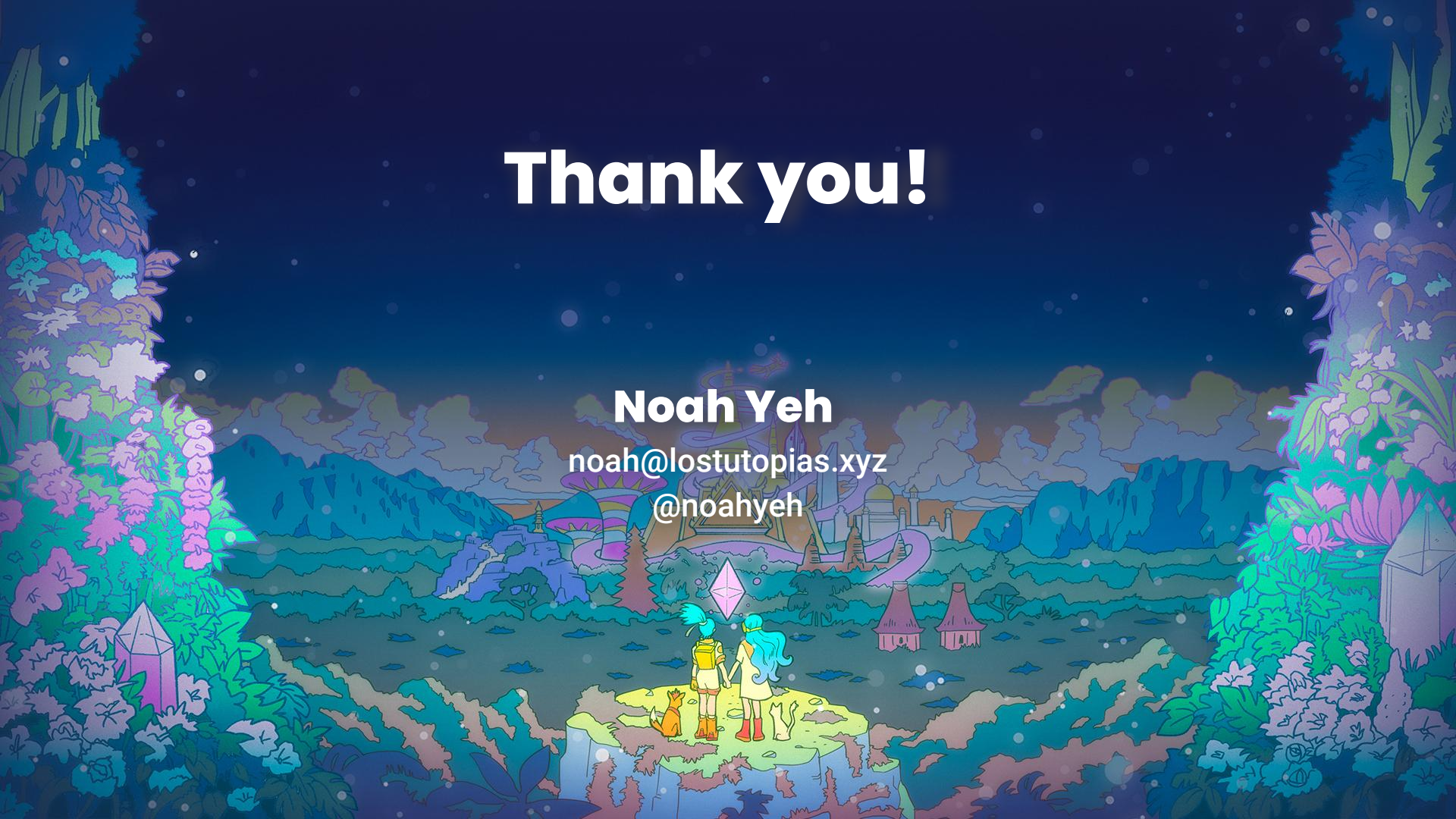
hold onto **stubborn optimism,**

build **value-aligned solutions** that help

system players **exceed existing goals,**

slowly, caringly, and **no blame.**

Thank you!



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