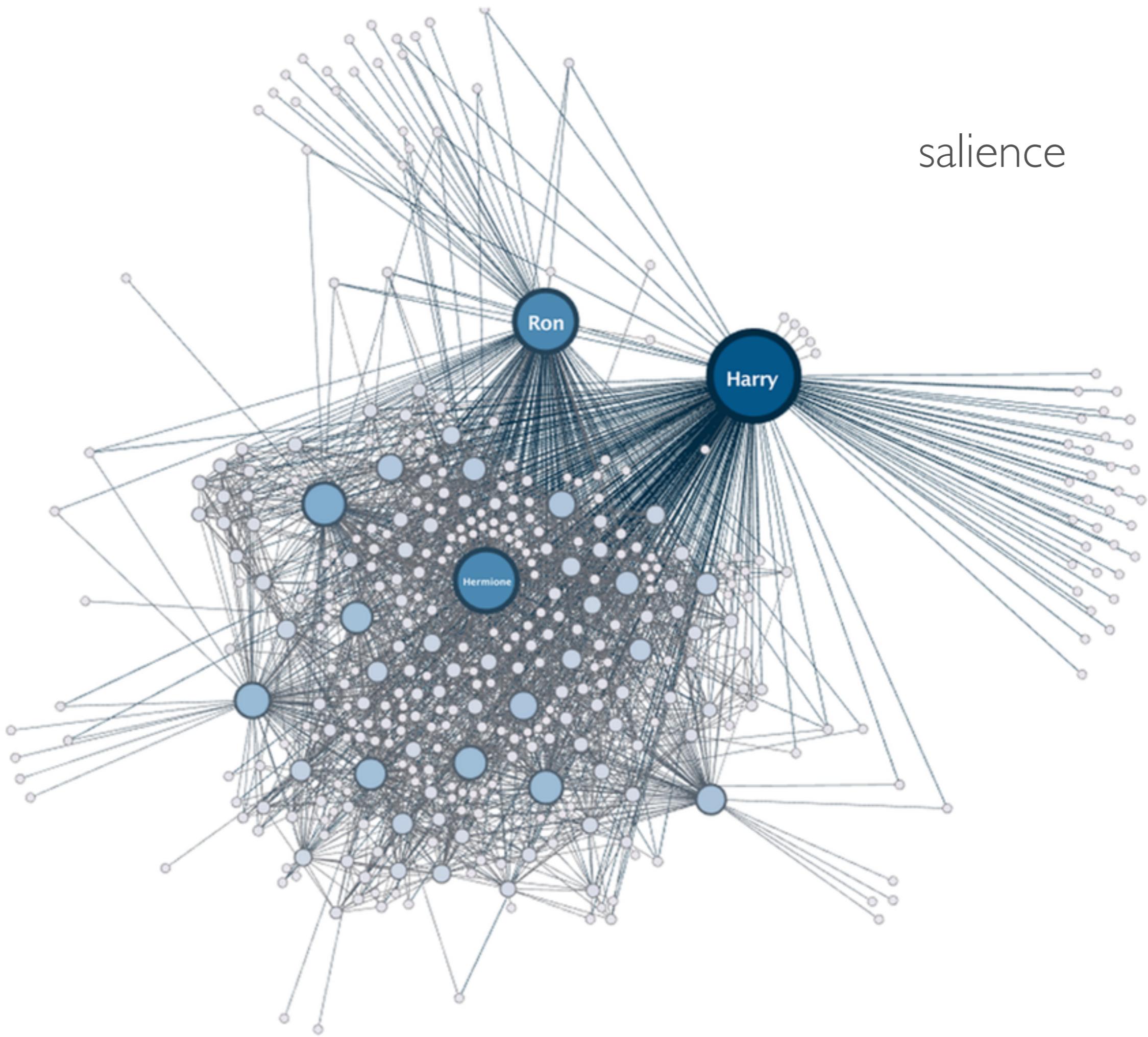


short synthesis contributions



@cjlortie

snap, the goal is some synthesis science
that magically aggregates evidence to
make a key finding pop



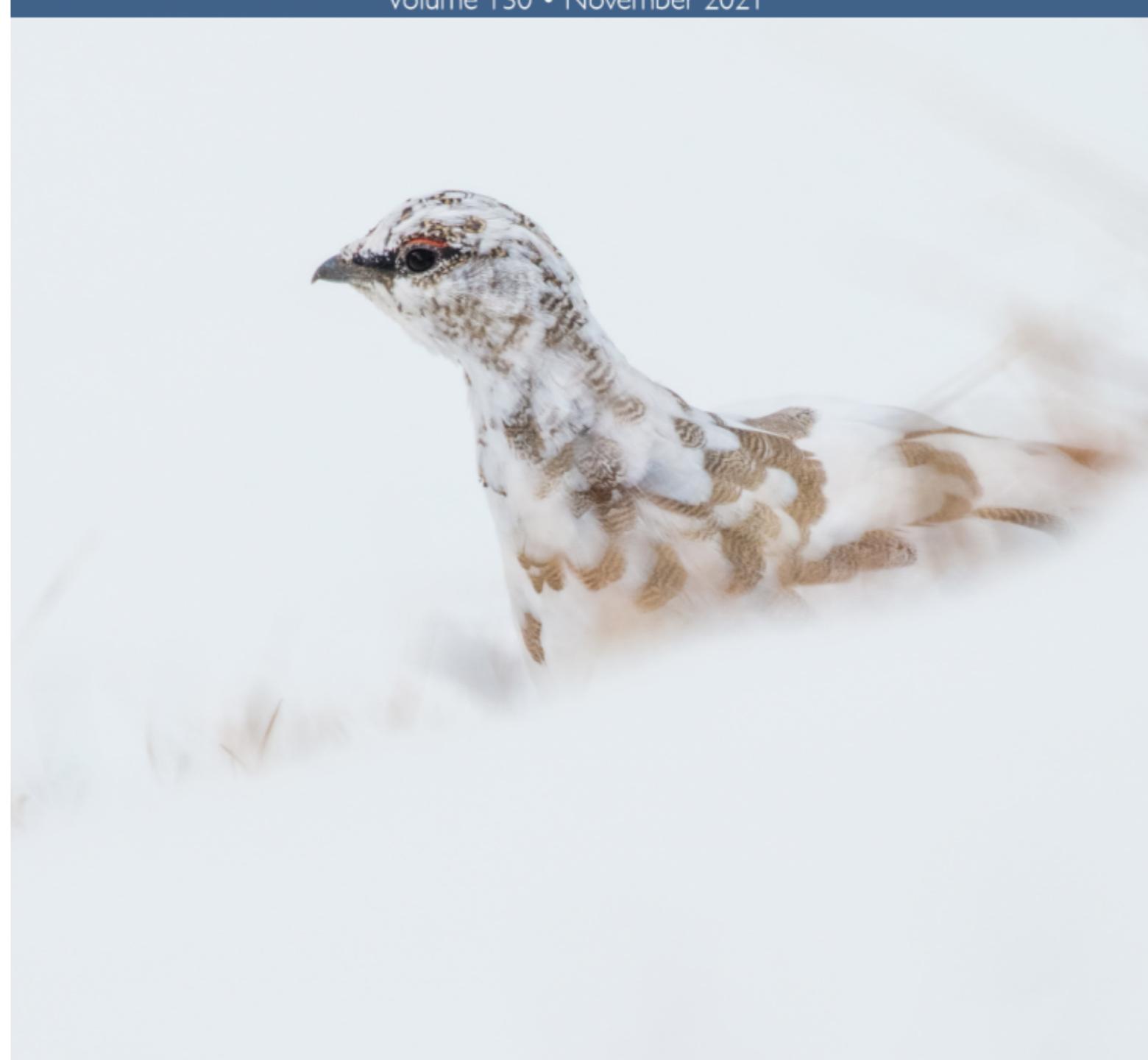
salience

OIKOS

ADVANCING ECOLOGY

Volume 130 • November 2021

one of the only
& first to advance
'novel synthesis'



many journals with similar implicit goals of
big picture synthesis through evidence aggregation
such as perspectives, reviews in..., frontiers type journals

many choices

synthesis	elements	benefits	limitations
narrative review	summary, insights, next steps	more opinion, can be shorter, less detailed processing the research literature	can be less compelling without some specific evidence listed and is difficult to repeat
systematic review	summary, insights, next steps, explanation of how studies were selected in the review, can have counts of ideas tested	more specific, can be repeated, and can be more compelling	need to keep track of how you selected papers, need to sort through papers in more detail in addition to capturing main ideas
meta-analyses	all of above possible but must also include an assessment of the strength of evidence of each study included in the synthesis	gold standard, reader can get a sense of how effective a treatment or intervention is relative to another	need to extract means or measures of efficacy with sample sizes or variance from each study

rubric or criteria

item	concept	description	value
1	title	clear and relevant	2
2	introduction	one paragraph, short and direct, states the environmental challenge, why we should care, how to potentially solve it	8
3	main text	one paragraph, state main findings for whatever format you selected	10
4	implications	final & single paragraph as well, state the meaning of what you found, how it can be used, who will benefit, how to use knowledge or gaps thereof	10
5	literature cited	10-15 references depending on type of paper, relevant, useful evidence, mostly recent i.e. last 5 years, clear choices	5
6	transparency	clear writing, results, counts, plot or data clear if included, transparency in how evidence was used, balanced yet critical thinking review and synthesis	5
11	total	sum of above	40

bring ideas together

FORUM PAPERS are the home for synthesis and review. The format can be short notes or more substantial reviews to bring fields together, to transgress existing boundaries by synthesizing larger fields or seemingly disparate areas, and to offer new ways of interpreting existing data. Forum articles must strive for conceptual unification and serve as a point of departure for future work rather than just summarizing existing bodies of theory and data. It is an arena for challenging current thinking on ecological issues by revising established concepts and insights from critical experiments or for developing new theory to promote novel research. Purely speculative pieces are discouraged. Where uncertainties, problems, or debates in current theory are identified, authors are strongly encouraged to, wherever possible, highlight productive and positive lines of research that may resolve the issue. In particular, we encourage collaboration in debates to promote more effective synthesis and balance.

A successful Forum paper includes novelty, an appeal to our general readership and is a topic that stands to generate synthesis in the field. Prospective authors are strongly encouraged to read the [editorial](#) on why many Forum manuscripts are unsuccessful.



synthesis = next gen science word for review



at least three kinds of synthesis potions in science

methods synthesis

theory synthesis

data synthesis

decision on potion type



available ingredients

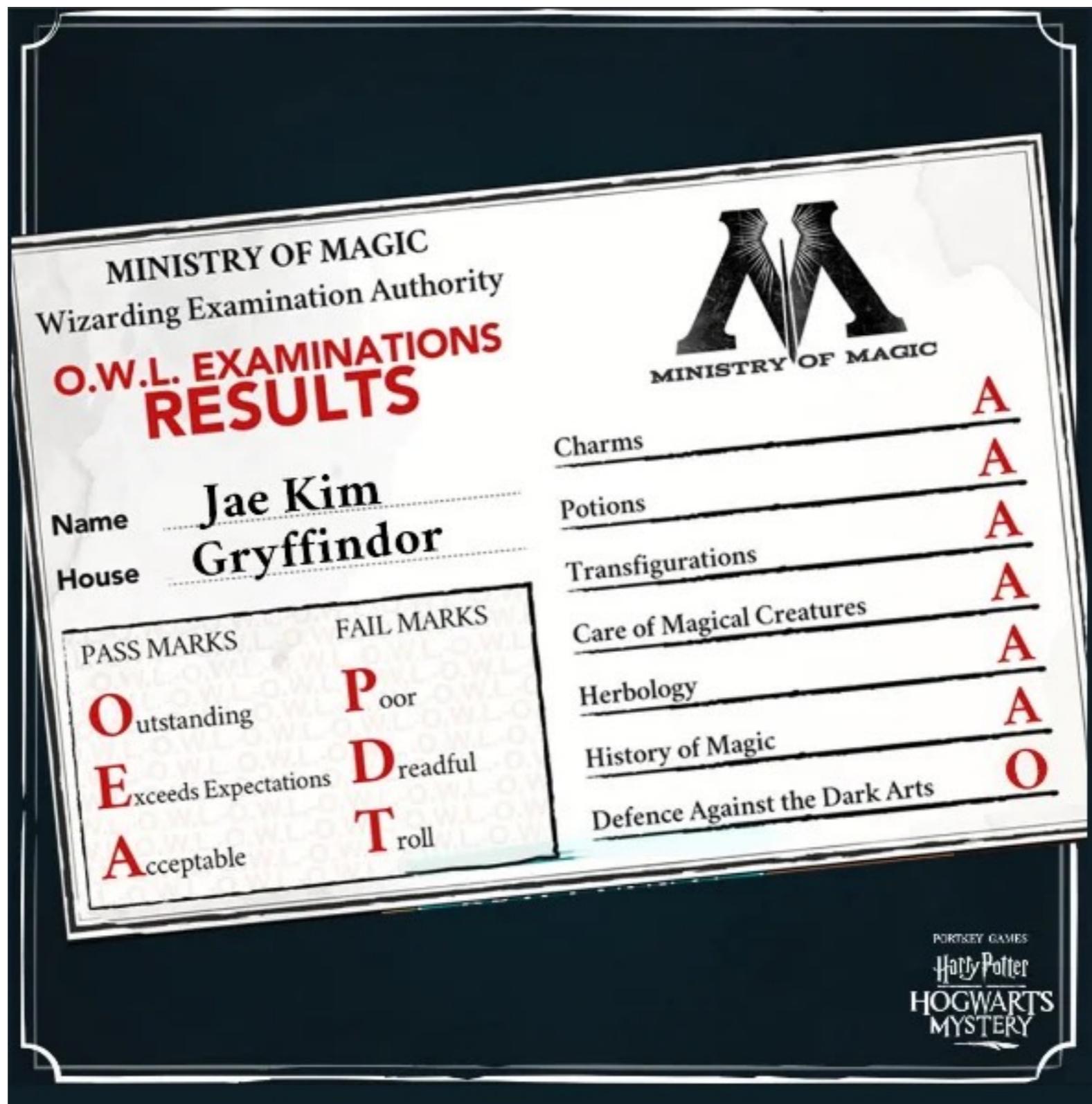


many outcomes

synthesis

next steps
insights
gaps
connections
how to
what we know about the world
what we know about the science of the world
what theories are most likely to explain a system





scientific synthesis can be used by many stakeholders

synthesis science must also better
incorporate diversity

