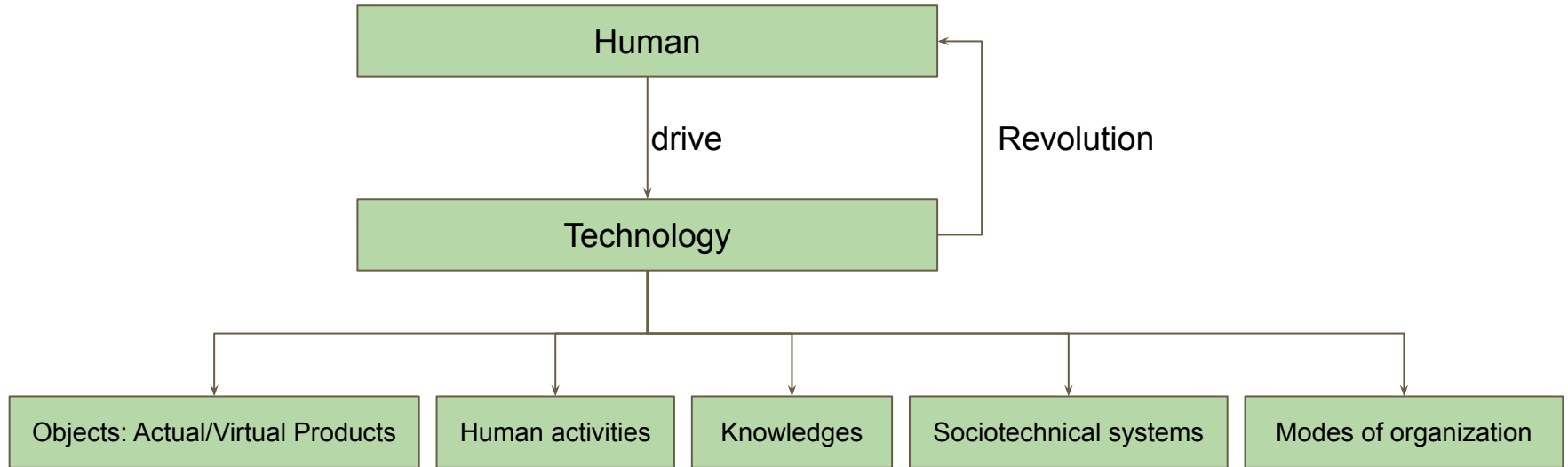

What is theory?

Theorizing Technology & What theory is not?

— Lan Zhang, Jiexiao He, Zhilong Wang —

What Is Technology?



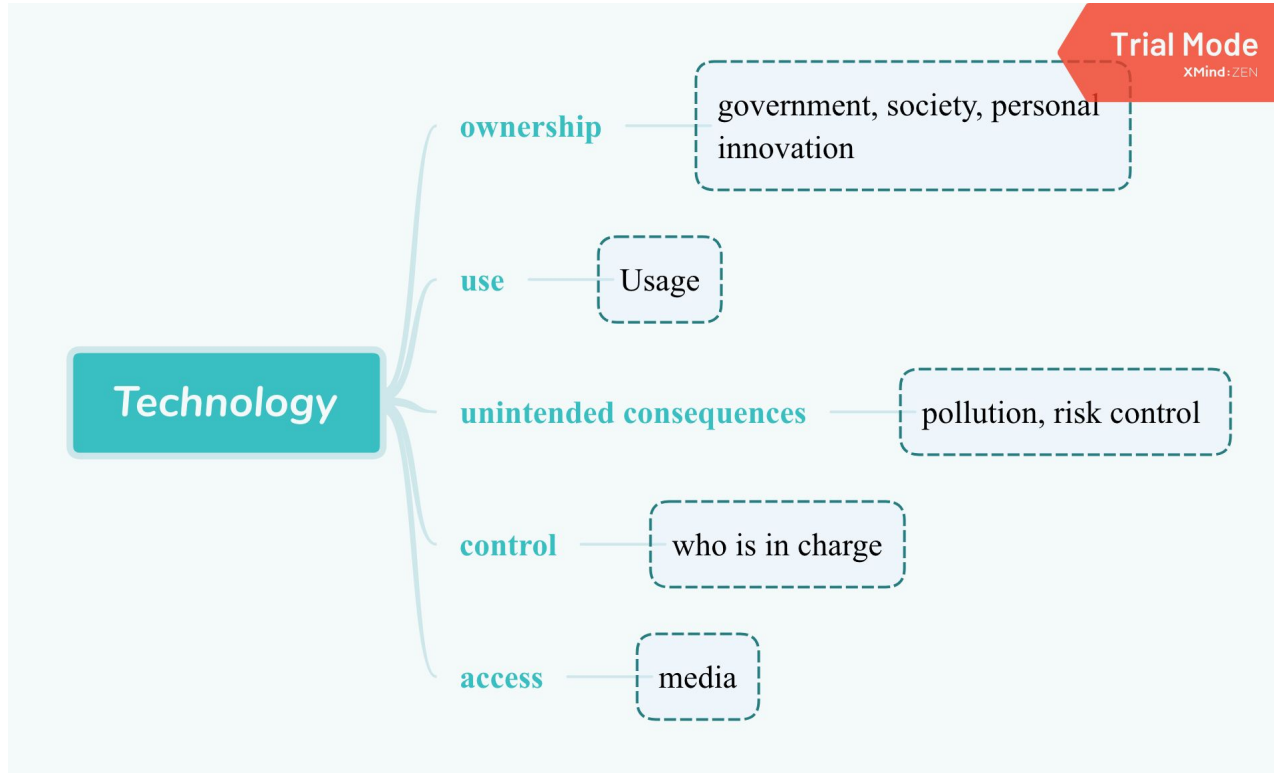
What technology does?

| What technology does | Explain | Examples |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| A solution to problems. | Technology apply the scientific theories to solve the problems in world. | Prediction of the weather. |
| Extensions of our bodies. | Technology enhances ourselves. | Car->quicker movement; printer->quicker writing; |
| Non-human agency | Technologies mediate between the physical world and culture, between matter and meaning. | Glasses gives us additional competencies, experiences, and sensibility. |
| Knowing and disclosing. | Technology, is a form of knowing and is used to disclosing the world. | What is electricity? What is light? |
| Shaping how we are in the world | They frame our relationship to the environment, and to each other. | Society structure:family, religion, economic, political and education institutions. |
| Shaping the world | Modern technologies seek to challenge nature, to unlock, transform and store its energy. | The hydroelectric power station changes the river to deliver energy. |

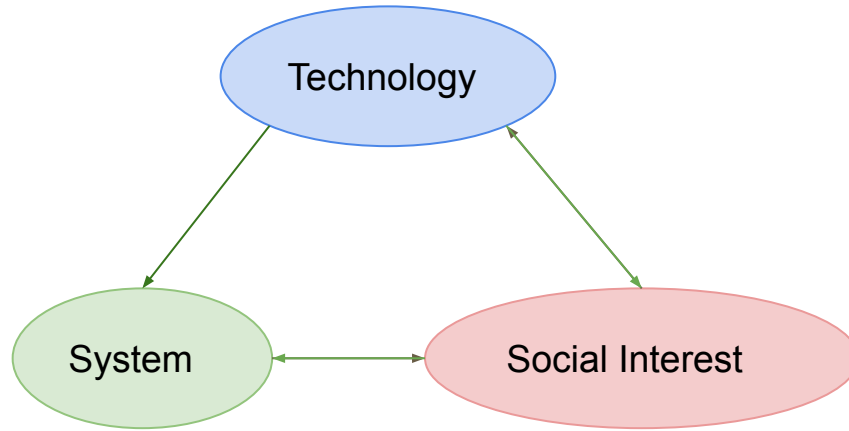
How has technology been Theorized?

| Types of theorists | Main views | Explanation | Theorists who support |
|--------------------|--|---|--|
| Anti-humanist | Privileging technology (Technology determinism) | Humans are a secondary consideration to technology. Technology->society->politics. | Derrida and Stiegler(2002) |
| Humanist | Privileging society | Internal politic of tech construction. Different cultures have different explanations of the same tech. Big Boys Toys(Tech is an effect, not a cause) Tech is the body of social | Bijker & Pinch Thrift(2005) Ruth Schwartz Cowan(1979) Brandel(1985) |
| Posthumanist | Mutual entanglement of technology,society, etc | Couch Potato(Multiple definitions of tech) | Mike Michael(2002) |

Issues that should be mindful of technology



Technology, Systems and Social Interests



-Industrial revolution-> Artifacts don't suffice->tech is included in the sociotechnical system.

-Success of telephone->Du Gay-> Tech can't be abstracted from the environments which they help to create. Success include multiple abilities.

-Printer->Foucault->tech follow the path dependency//previous invent may influence others' path.

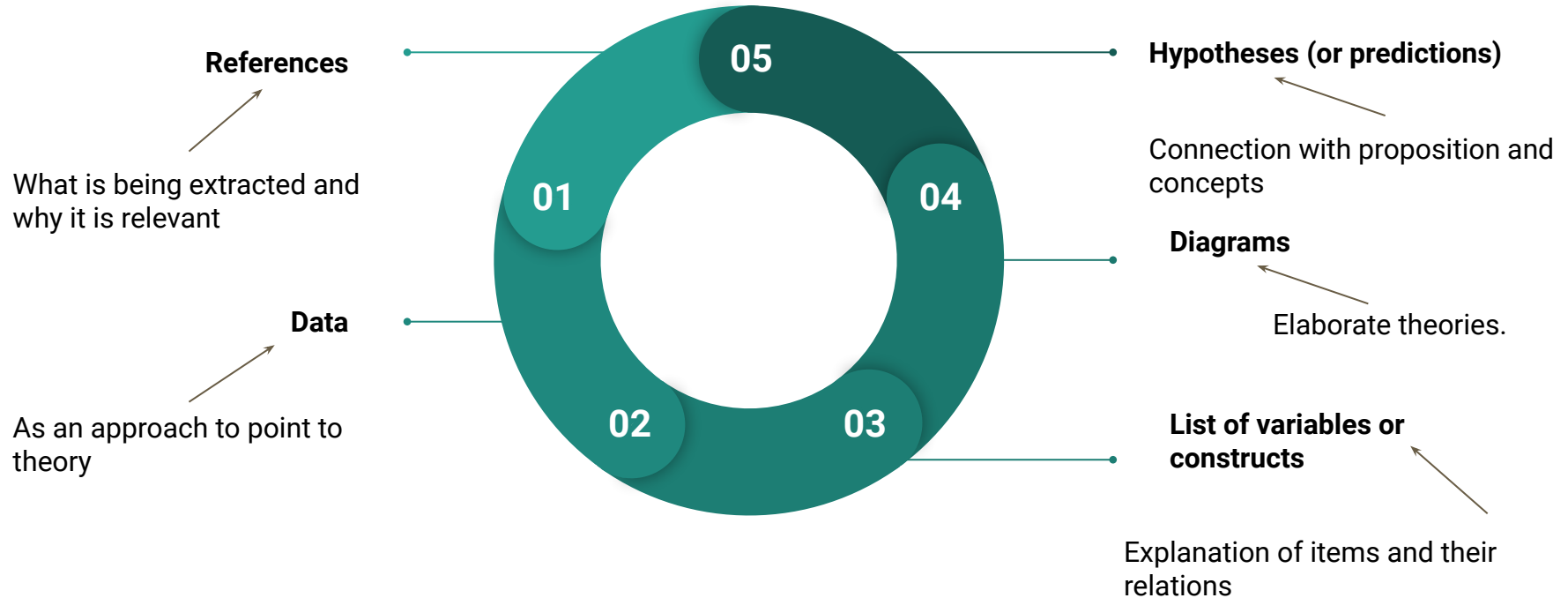
-Collaboration of Napster and David Spitz-> Think beyond genius inventors.

Our Times: Technology, Complexity and Risk

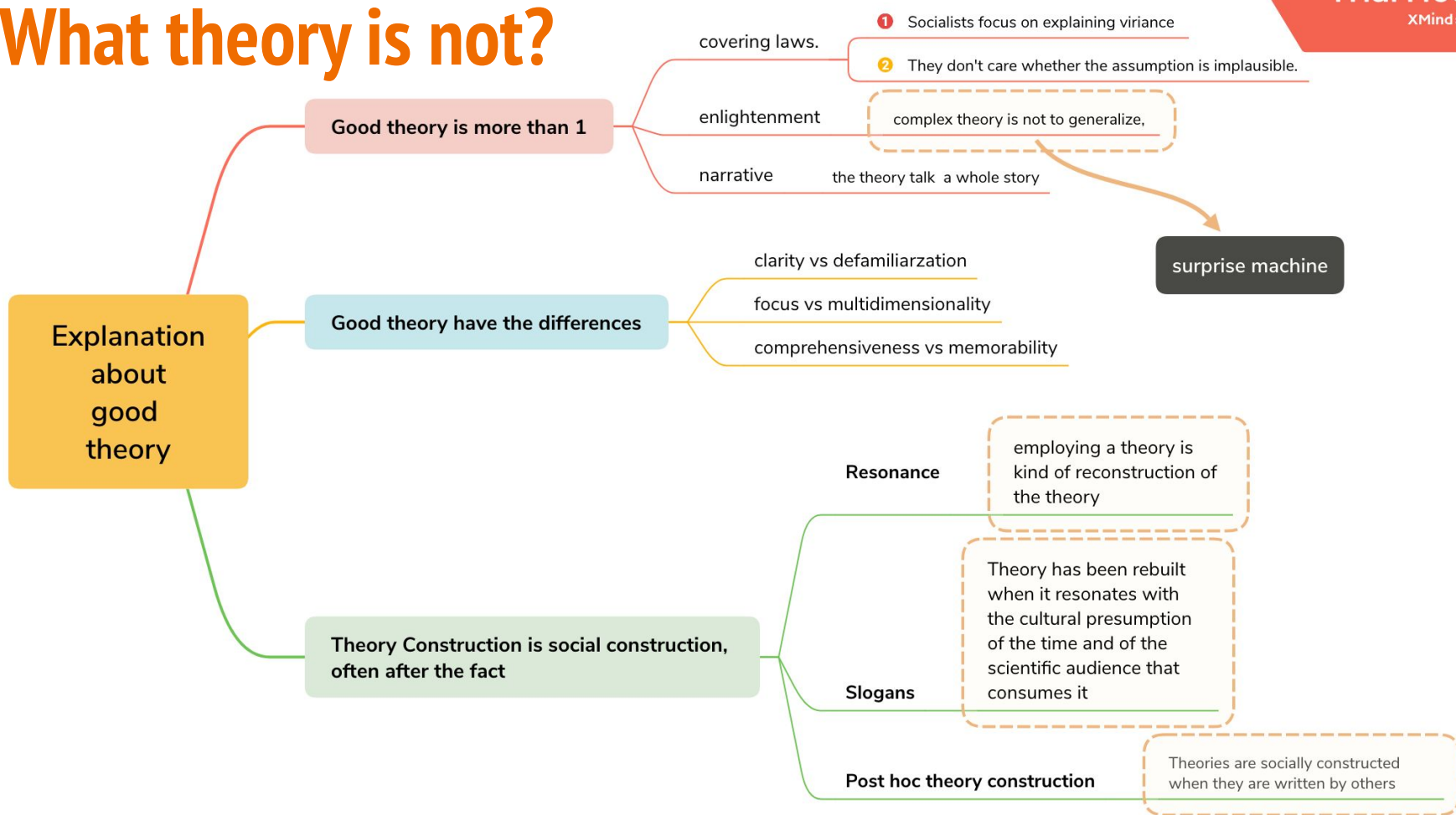
Technology is a major source of social anxiety.

- More open, fluid, and more interdependent, and more complex technologies.
- Disjunctures between intention and outcome
 - unevenly distributed suffering
 - indeterminate consequences of technologically-mediated activity
 - industrial epoch ushers in the time of the mass accident.

What theory is not?



What theory is not?



Reference

1. Matthewman text—Introduction and Chapter 1: Theorizing Technology. Pages 1-28
2. Sutton, Robert and Staw, Barry, (1995) "What Theory is Not." Administrative Science Quarterly, Vol. 40, No. 3, pages 371-384.
3. DiMaggio, P. J. (1995). Comments on "What Theory is Not". Administrative Science Quarterly, 40(3), 391-397.
4. Weick, Karl, (1995) "What Theory is Not, Theorizing Is" Administrative Science Quarterly, 40(3), 385-390.