



NORADAPT

WESTERN NORWAY RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
**VESTLANDSFORSKING**

# Unlocking potential for transformation in public planning: Introducing the Climate Change Adaptation Ontology Map

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# What is “transformation”?

	<b>Degrowth</b>	<b>Adaptation</b>
<b>Focus</b>	Outcome	Process
<b>Critique of</b>	Modernity (capitalism, extractivism, consumerism, colonialism)	Modernity (technocratic hegemony, managerialism, colonialism)
<b>Basis</b>	Normative	Apolitical–normative (adaptation is often mandatory)
<b>Scale</b>	Community; Global systems	Local government; Urban; Agricultural households
<b>Change what</b>	Lifestyles (behavior); System(s); Paradigms	Beliefs; Worldviews; Systems; Paradigms
<b>Influences</b>	Ecological economics; Political ecology ++	Political ecology; Human geography; Political science

Climate change adaptation is about costs and benefits. It might be hard to communicate, just like downsizing is. But people need to understand.



The economist

There is no right or wrong answer to this. It is all about perspective. I wonder what the world will look like in a 100 years.



The humanist

Listen, adaptation is mathematical exercise. X is the amount of water, Y is dimension of our pipes. We just need to make sure that  $X < Y$ .



The engineer

My intuitive response is "do we have the authority?" Adaptation is often disadvantageous for some. We need good processes.



The lawyer

It is important to be humble, and to listen. But the foundation is the plan and building act. We need follow the rules.

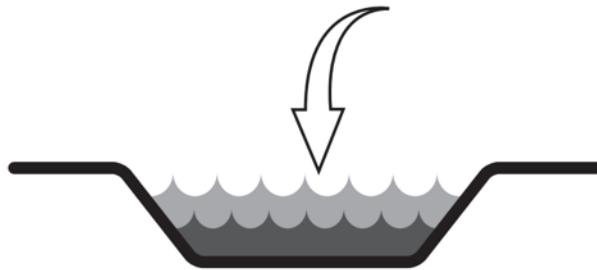


The spatial planner

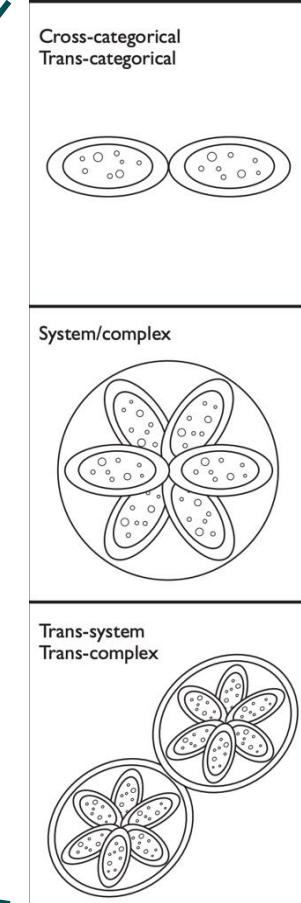


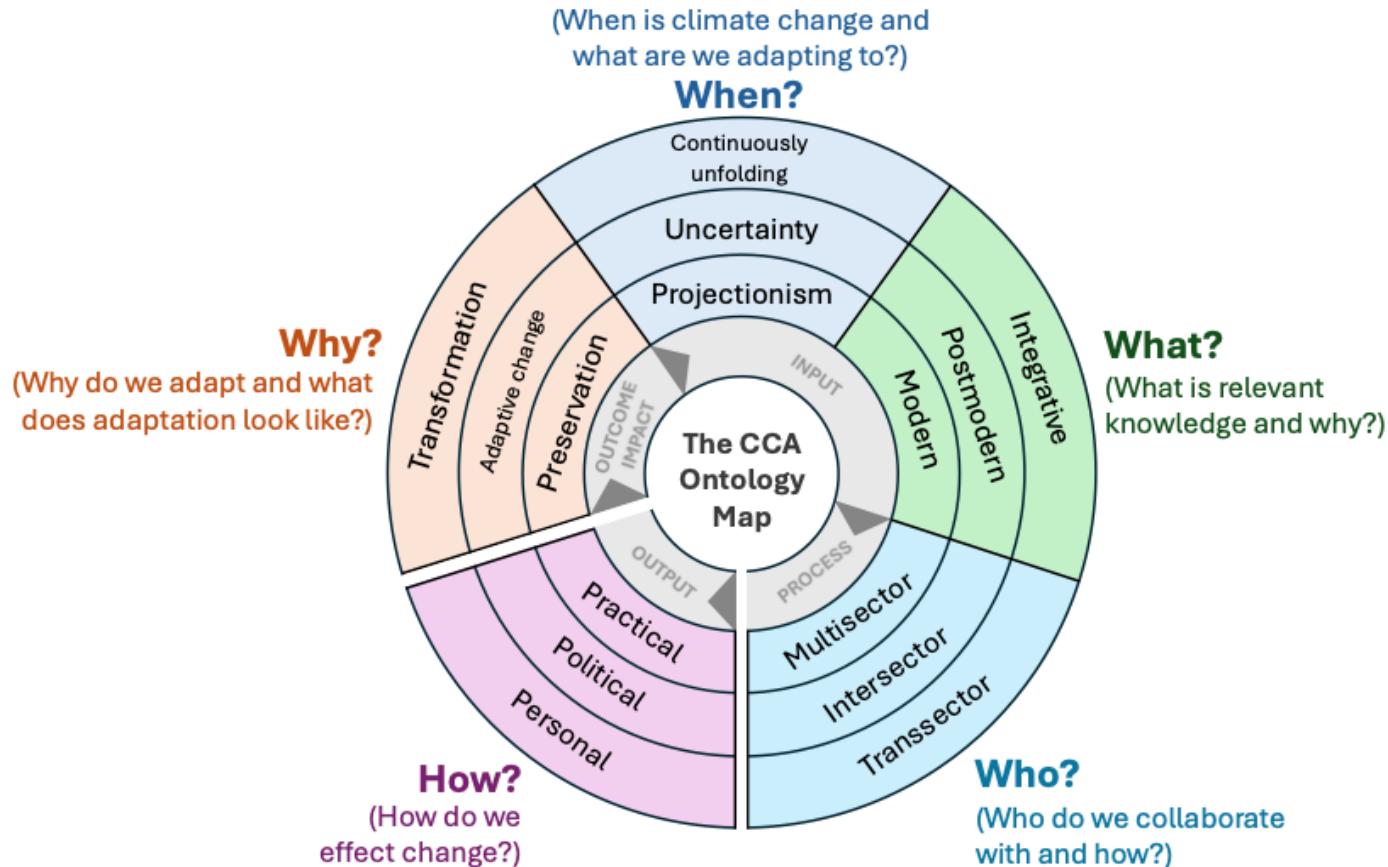
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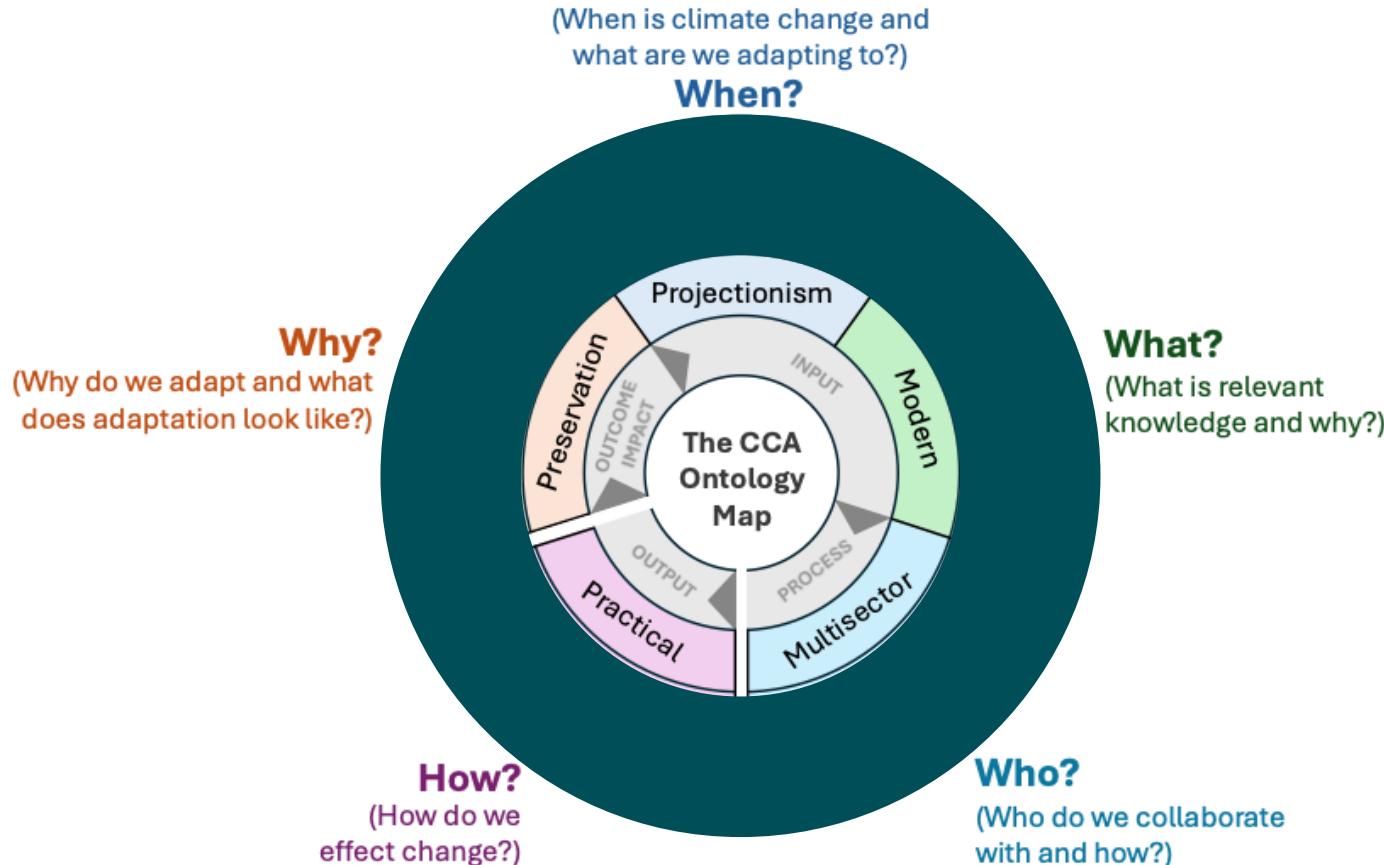
Informative: Changes in *what* we know

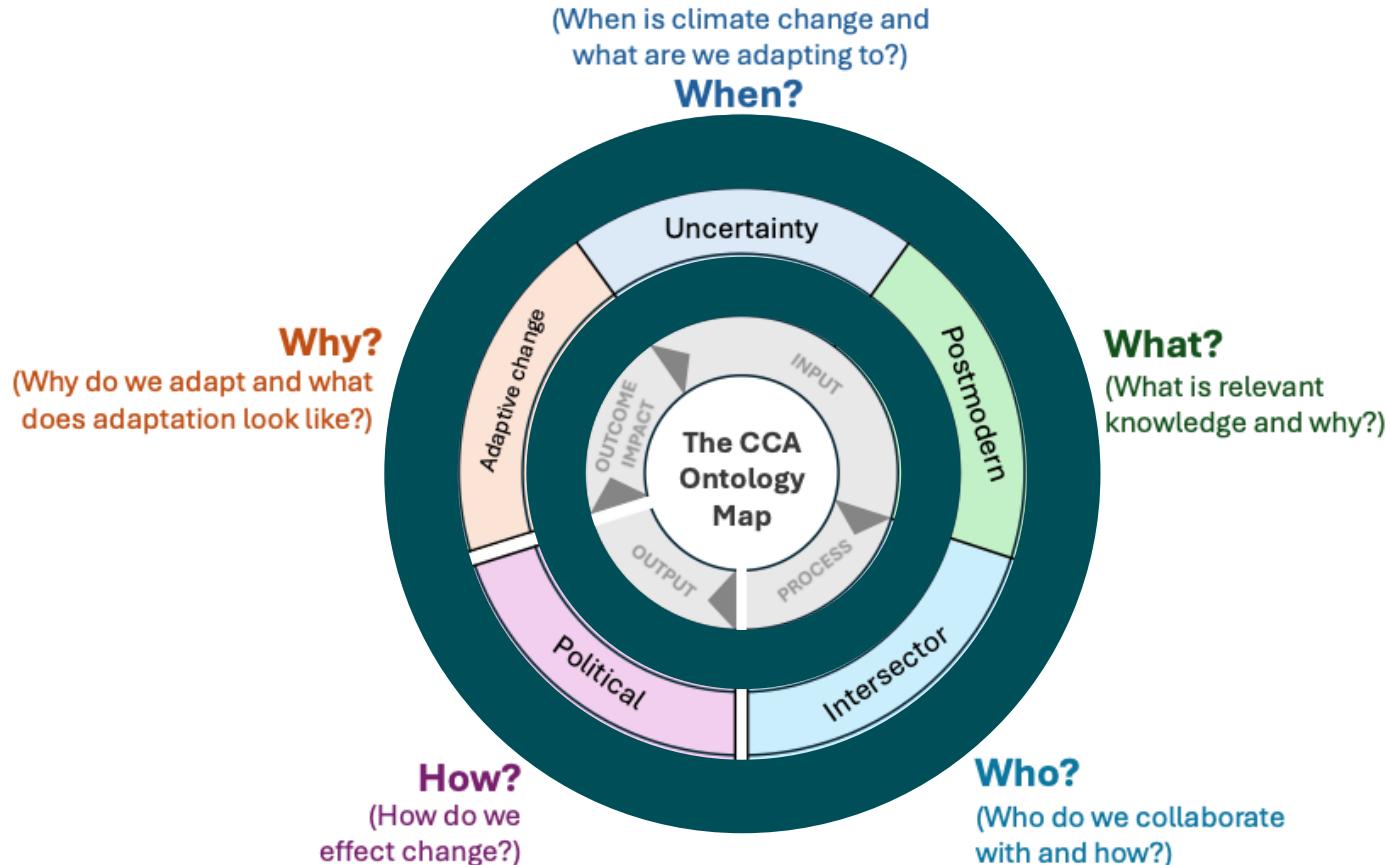


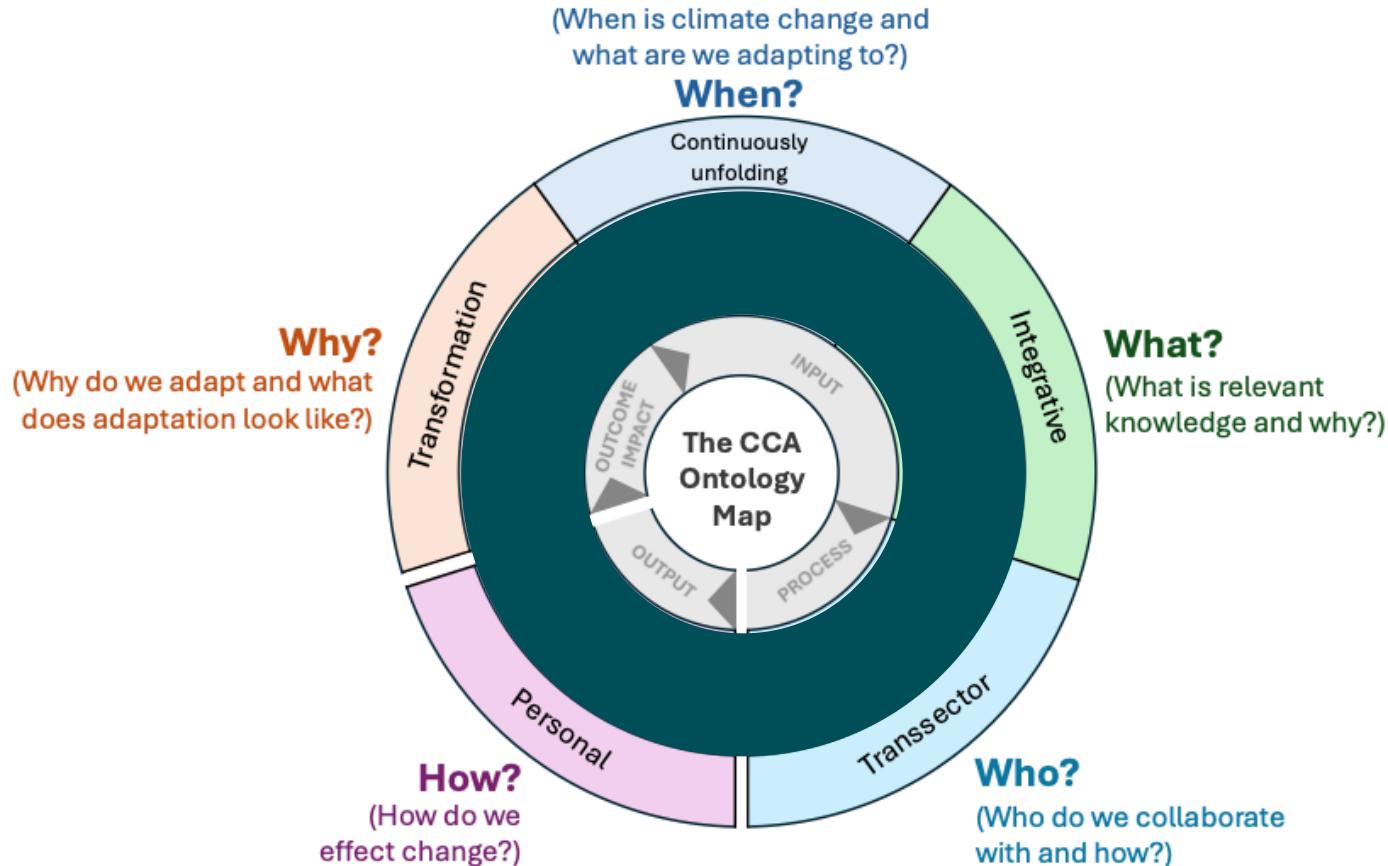
Transformative: Changes in *how* we know

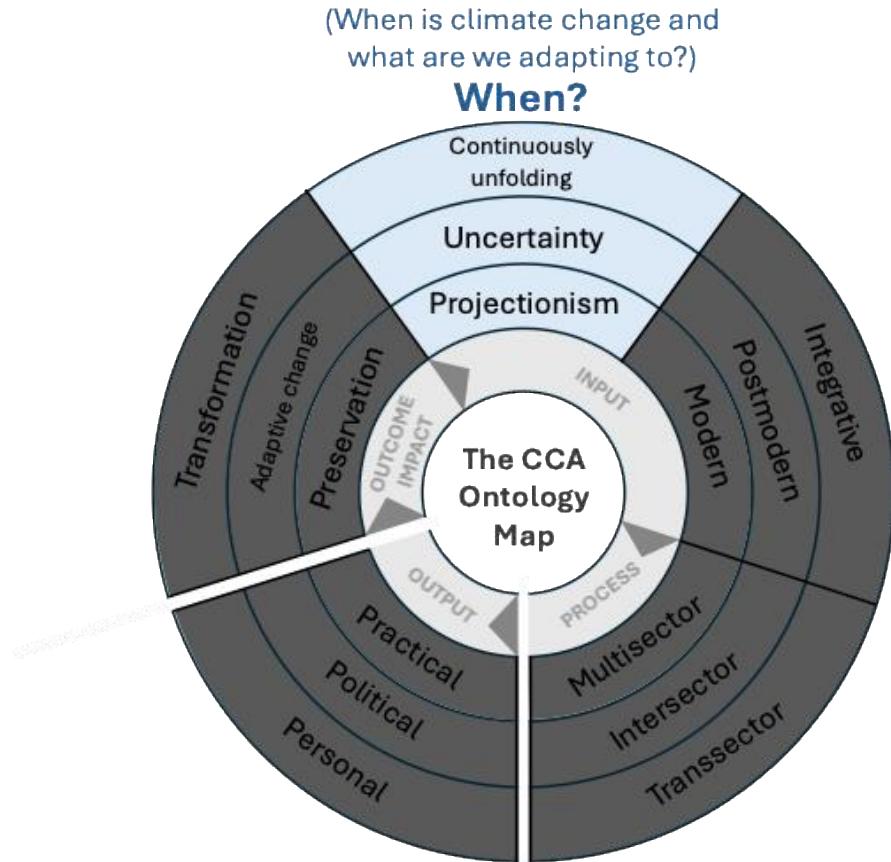




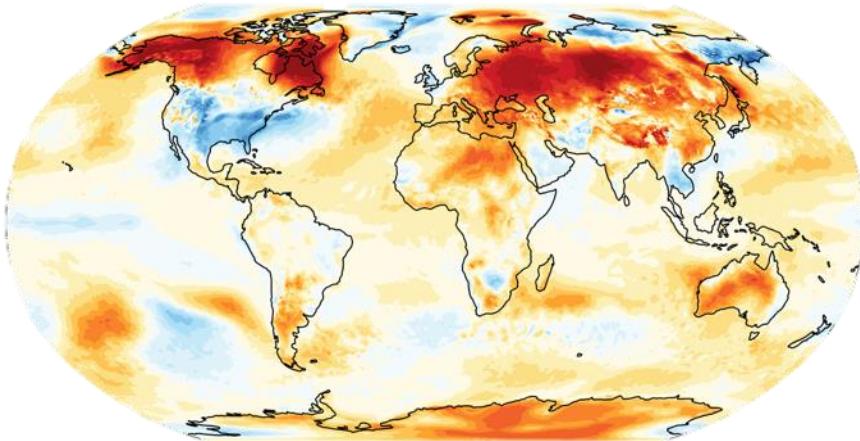




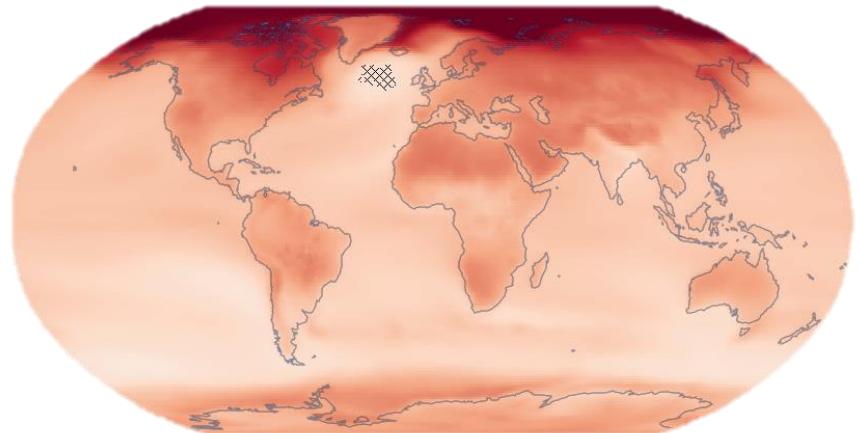




Observed

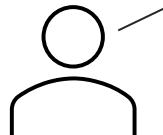


Projected



## Projectionism

- CC is predictable, and forecasts present future risk.
- Uncertainty is epistemic.
- ‘We will know eventually’.



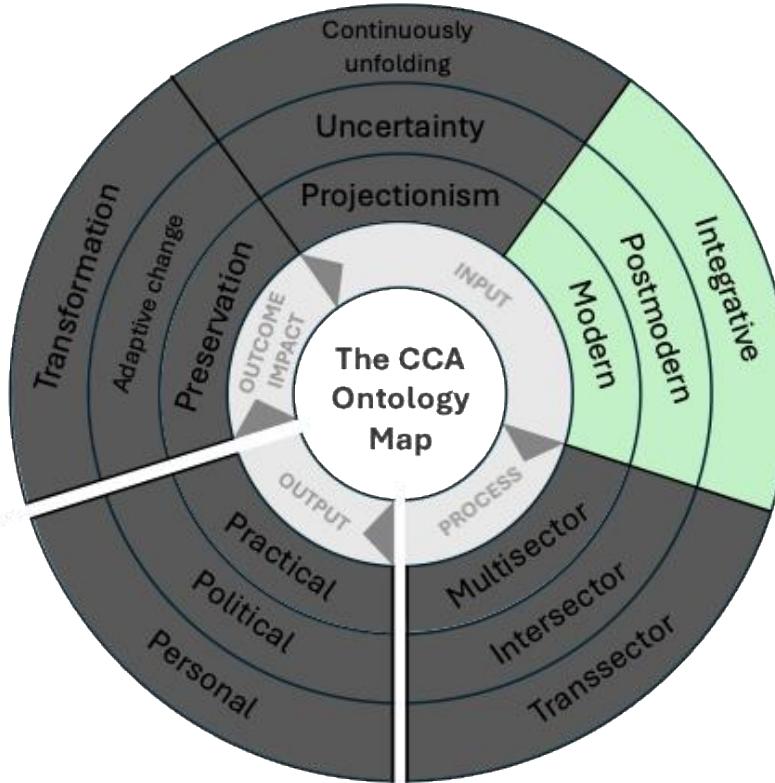
*“It is often very interesting to present figures with definite answers. ‘This much’, ‘that much’. It’s about how high the water can be, and how fast the water can flow”*

## Uncertainty

- Uncertainty is, at best, stochastic.
- ‘We will likely never know what we don’t know’.

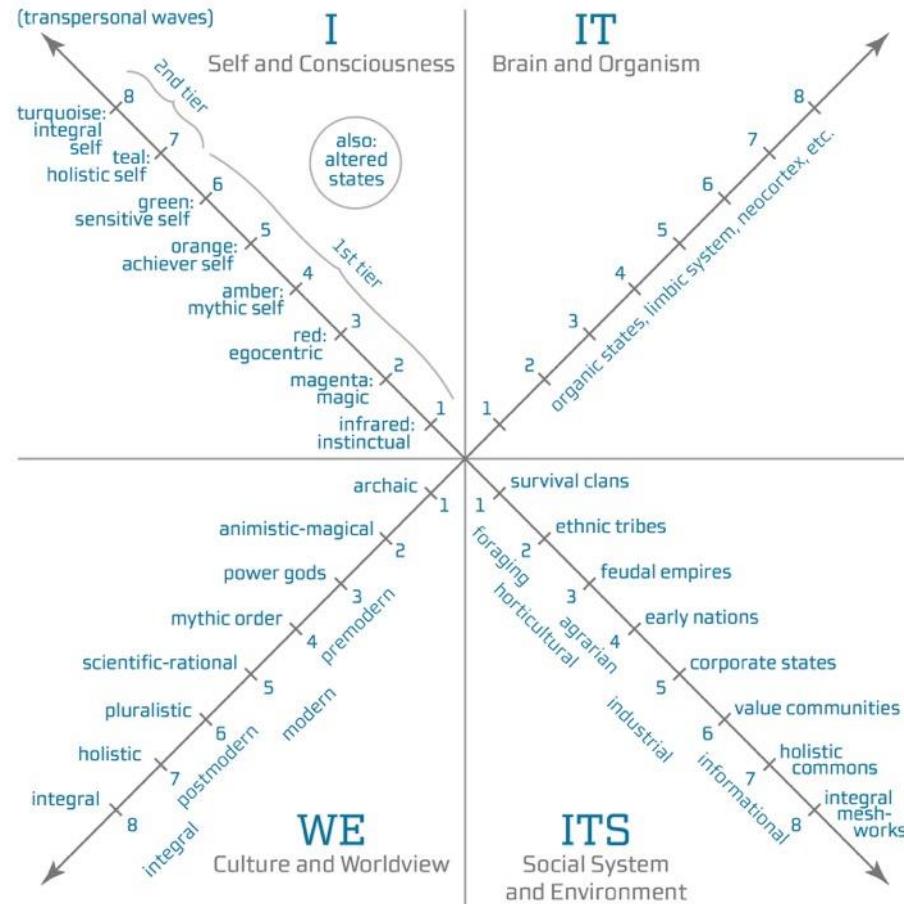
## Continuously unfolding

- CC is an ongoing process of change.
- Uncertainty is subjective, embodied in people and relations.
- ‘We don’t know what we don’t know’.



## What?

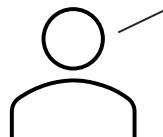
(What is relevant  
knowledge and why?)



## Modern

- Reality as objectively knowable and the universe as mechanistic.

*“We have to try to remain neutral. But again, having the right knowledge is crucial because without it, incorrect decisions can be made quickly.”*



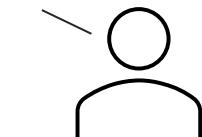
## Postmodern

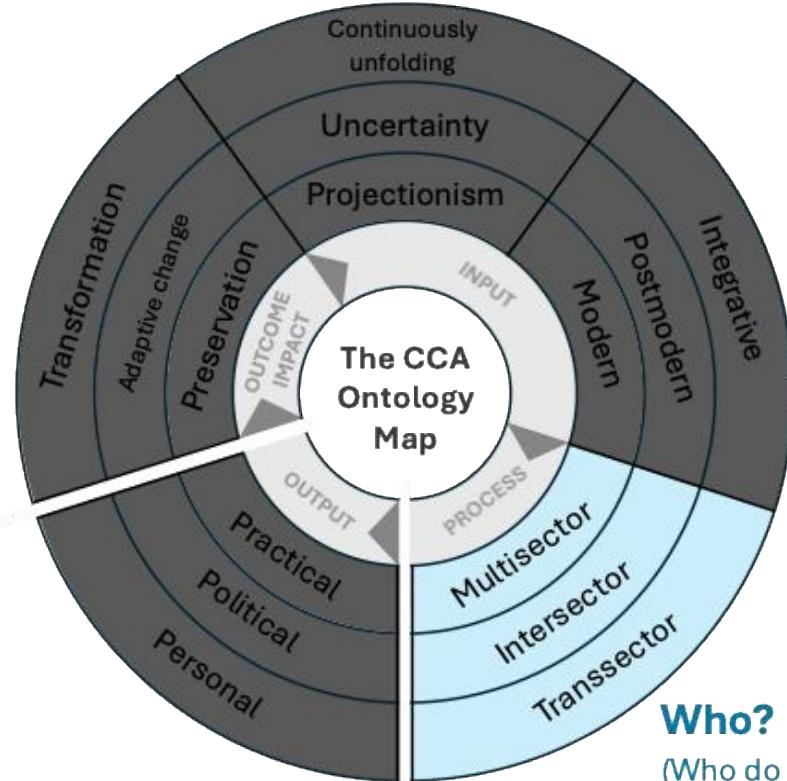
- Knowledge as pluralistic, perspectival, and constructed.

## Integrative

- Reality as approachable through interplay between ordered plurality.

*“We need some old Renaissance men. The fundamental understanding of nature is too poor, so it becomes a battle of pet projects, right? The problem is due to a lack of holistic understanding”*





**Who?**

(Who do we collaborate  
with and how?)



## Multisector

- Each group brings its own specific expertise to the table.
- Process is divided into 'home disciplines'.

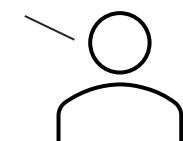
## Intersector

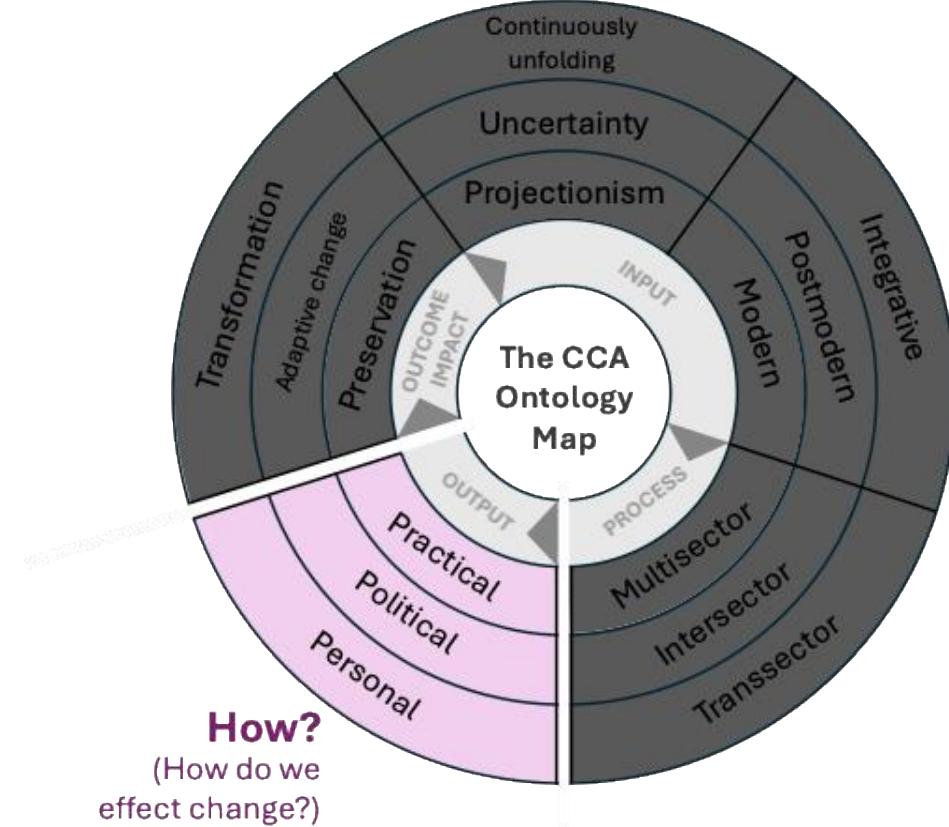
- Collaboration involves integrating knowledge through shared decision-making, shared problem-solving, and joint planning.

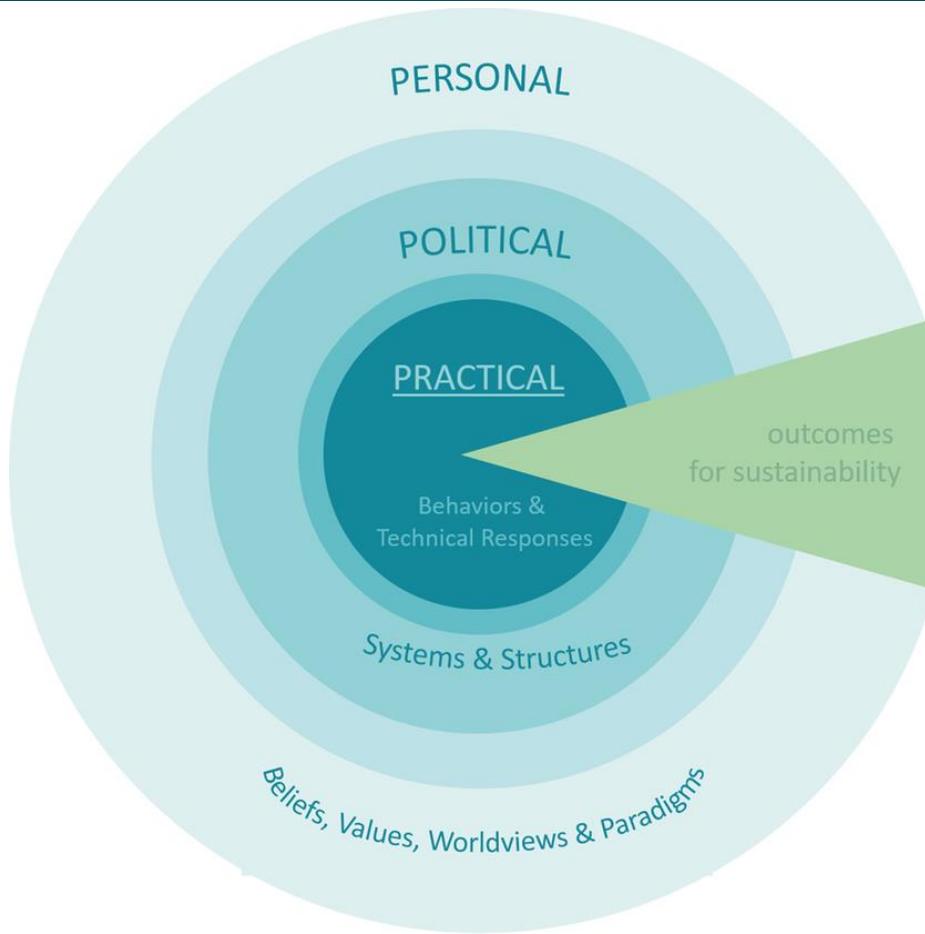
## Transsector

- Collaboration occurs through a shared and co-produced foundation.
- Co-learning and mutual respect.

*“The reality is a bit less complex than the value conflicts, right? But it does require that people meet across silos, or across mindsets and perspectives”*







## Practical

- Actions and interventions directly contribute to measurable outcomes.

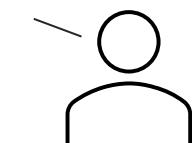
## Political

- Structural change efforts are aimed at culture, norms, and institutions that can support or impede the scaling of practical changes.

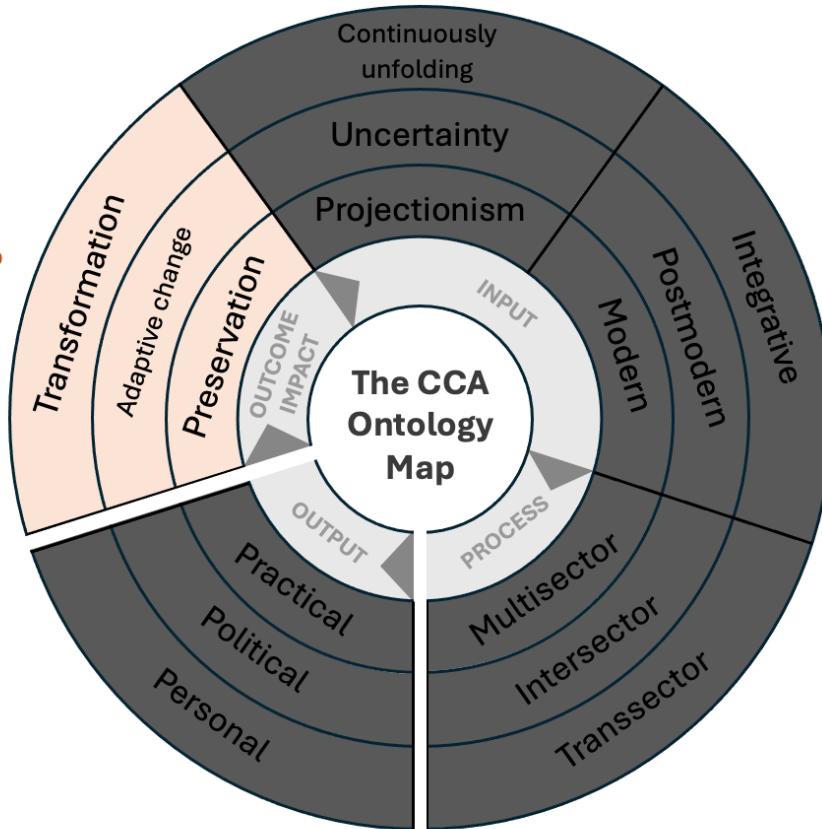
## Personal

- Efforts that aim to speak and listen to personal motivations, experience, mindsets, perceptions, and values.

*“It is incredibly important to get communication at a high level, especially with those who work with water, sewage, and roads, and to translate it into their language. I believe this will make it much easier”*



**Why?**  
(Why do we adapt and what  
does change look like?)



## Preservation

- Concentrated investments are made in existing development pathways.

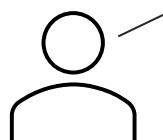
## Adaptive change

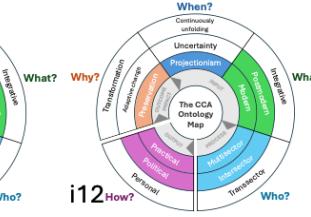
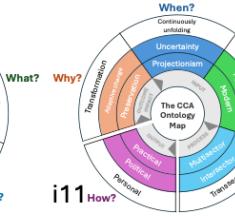
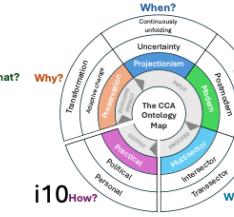
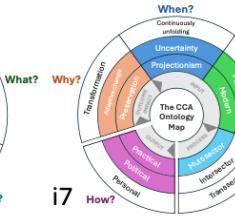
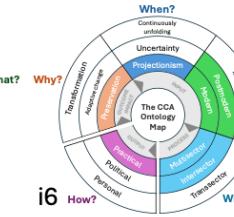
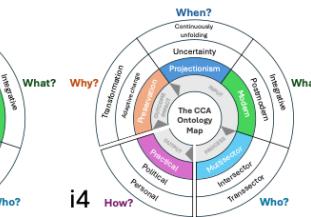
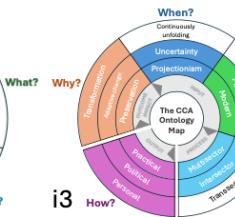
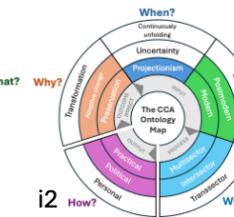
- Adjusting the functioning of systems to handle underlying interconnected vulnerability.

## Transformation

- Aims to 'change how we change'.
- Includes transformation in people in order to change paradigms.

*“We see it as absolutely necessary for us to be able to have growth and development in the center [of town]”*





# Thank you

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