Supporting Resilient Communities

How can we best support the community resilience and creativity necessary to survive the present crisis and thrive independently in the future?
The World is a Very Confusing Place...
The (really) big picture

Globalization and its consequences
THIS LOOKS SIMPLE ENOUGH!
This map is not working!
External world changes

Alignment

Internal world must catch up

Dislocated
Ways to Respond

Turbulence
- Dissolving rules
- Complexity
- Competing Loyalties
- Shifting boundaries
- Cognitive dissonance
- Multiplicity
- Information explosion
- No single authority

Transformation

High Anxiety

Psychosis

Neurosis
Develop a future consciousness to inform the present
This is a world in which:

- Thorough rational analysis followed by programmed action doesn’t work with intractable predicaments.

- We deliver what we know how to do, even when we know this falls short of what needs to be done.

- We can exhibit a neurotic, psychotic or transformational response.
The Challenge of Disruptive Change

• Synchronous Failure
  – “In coming years, our societies won’t face one or two major challenges at once ….they’ll face an alarming variety of problems all at the same time”
    Thomas Homer-Dixon The Upside of Down

• The Canyon
  – “The job of the Transition Generation is to get humanity through the canyon with as little mayhem as possible into what we hope will be smoother water beyond.”
    James Martin The Meaning of the 21st Century

• Beyond Control
  – “The complexity of the world considerably outweighs human response capacity”.
    Professor Raoul Escpeco Address at the UK Systems Society 2009
The Risks of a Brittle Society

• Disruption of highly interconnected infrastructure
• “just in time” becomes “right out of stuff”
• Emergency services become the biggest emergency
• People expect “the authorities” to fix the impossible
• Society rapidly runs out of options
Brittle
Total Productive System of an Industrial Society
(Layer Cake With Icing)

GNP-Monetized
½ of Cake
Top two layers

Non-Monetized
Productive ½ of Cake
Lower two layers

“Private” Sector

“Public” Sector
“underground economy”

“Love Economy”

Mother Nature

GNP “Private” Sector
Rests on

GNP “Public” Sector
Rests on

Social Cooperative
Love Economy
Rests on

Nature’s Layer

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The Problem of Stuckness

- Recover
- Adapt
- Transform

resilience capacity

additional investment to transform to a new level of Resilient Society

barrier

bonus energy of transition

THE ADAPTIVE IMPERATIVE

movement in the fitness landscape