

Natural Hazards and Disaster



Class 1: Introduction to the Course and Basic Concepts

- Practicalities
- Course Contents
- The Earth's Life-Support System and Sustainability
- Hazards, Vulnerabilities, and Disasters
- Concept of Risk
- Thresholds
- Resilience
- Disasters and Sustainability

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Natural Hazards and Disasters

Courses:	OEAS 250N (CRN 17463); class 3 credits; and OEAS 250N (CRN 17470), lab 1 Credit
Course title:	Natural Hazards and Disasters
Instructor:	Dr. Hans-Peter Plag
Term:	Fall 2018, August 28 - December 12, 2018
Time:	Tuesdays, 4:20 PM - 7:00 PM (class) Tuesdays, 7:10 PM - 8:00 PM (lab)
Location:	SRC 1000
Office Hours:	On request.

Course description

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Work Skills and Collaboration

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Class Schedule
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All class and lab descriptions on one page

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For some of the lab exercises, basic knowledge of Excel or a similar software will be necessary. If you have no such knowledge, you will still be able to carry out the exercises if you collaborate with a student who has the knowledge. For some exercises, it will be easier to use a tool like powerpoint or a graphical software. For the study case papers, you will need to use a text processing software such as Word or a similar program.

From time to time you will be asked to research and bring specific content (e.g., published facts, evidence, sources) to the class or lab. Do not assume that this content will be provided to you if you fail to complete the assignment.

Collaboration is expressly permitted, encouraged, and may even be required for team projects, but must follow these guidelines:

- You must actively participate in the collaborative project;
- You must write your own individual report on any team project work;
- All team members' names must be included in any written project work;
- You must understand the material and be able to answer questions on it.

Reading Material

Access to digital text and reading lists will be supplied to students at no cost. All necessary information for the course, including the reading list and assignments are posted at http://www.mari-odu.org/academics/2018f_disasters. Students must bring a laptop, mobile phone, tablet, or other device for internet access to every class.

You are responsible for reading and complying with all information posted.

Grading

The course combines lectures with lab exercises and project work. There are weekly reading assignments, which correspond to the class contents and the lab exercises. In the lab, 10 sets of questions will be discussed and written answers to the questions are due after the lab. Three case study papers will be required and there will be a midterm and final exam.

The class and lab will be graded with one grade for CNR 17463. The course will be graded on an A to F scale. You will be graded on a standard scale:

100.0-93.0% = A; 92.9-90.0% = A-
89.9-87.0% = B+; 86.9-83.0% = B; 82.9-80.0% = B-
79.9-77.0% = C+; 76.9-73.0% = C; 72.9-70.0% = C-
69.9-67.0% = D+; 66.9-63.0% = D; 62.9-60.0% = D-
0-59.9% = F.

The overall grad for the class and lab will be composed of individual grades using:

Class and lab participation 5%
Written Case Study reports (3 of them) 45%
Question sets (10 of them) 25%
Mid term exam 10%
Final exam 15%.

University regulations prohibit communicating test results via email or by phone. If you wish to talk about your grade, please make an appointment. All scores will be placed on BlackBoard as soon as possible after they are graded.



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August 2018

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Aug 6	Aug 7	Aug 8	Aug 9	Aug 10
Aug 13	Aug 14	Aug 15	Aug 16	Aug 17
Aug 20	Aug 21	Aug 22	Aug 23	Aug 24
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September 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sep 3	Sep 4 Class 2: Observing hazards and disaster Slides for class 2 Lab 2: Measuring small changes, getting data, assessing risks and disaster Question Set 2	Sep 5	Sep 6	Sep 7 Question Set 2 due 6:00 PM
Sep 10	Sep 11 Class 3: Global threats	Sep 12	Sep 13	Sep 14 Question Set 3 due 6:00 PM

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Due date and time of assignments

Link to class/lab page gives access to detailed description

Aug 28
[Class 1: Introduction to the Class & Basic Concepts](#)
[Slides for class 1](#)
[Lab 1: Risk concept](#)
[Slides for lab 1](#)
[Question Set 1](#)

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Sep 4 Class 2: Observing hazards and disaster Slides for class 2 Lab 2: Measuring small changes, getting data, assessing risks and disaster Question Set 2	Sep 5	Sep 6	Sep 7 Question Set 2 due 6:00 PM	
Sep 10	Sep 11 Class 3: Global threats	Sep 12	Sep 13	Sep 14 Question Set 3 due 6:00 PM

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Natural Hazards and Disasters

Courses: OEAS 250N (CRN 17463); class 3 credits; and OEAS 250N (CRN 17470), lab 1 Credit
Course title: Natural Hazards and Disasters
Instructor: [Dr. Hans-Peter Plag](#)
Term: Fall 2018, August 28 - December 12, 2018
Time: Tuesdays, 4:20 PM - 7:00 PM (class)
 Tuesdays, 7:10 PM - 8:00 PM (lab)
Location: SRC 1000
Office Hours: On request.

Class Schedule

Note that all deliverables/assignments have to be submitted by email to hpplag@mari-odu.org.

August 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Jul 30	Jul 31	Aug 1	Aug 2	Aug 3
Aug 6	Aug 7	Aug 8	Aug 9	Aug 10
Aug 13	Aug 14	Aug 15	Aug 16	Aug 17
	Aug 21	Aug 22	Aug 23	Aug 24
	Aug 28 Class 1: Introduction to the Class & Basic Concepts Slides for class 1 Lab 1: Risk concept Slides for lab 1 Question Set 1	Aug 29	Aug 30	Aug 31

Aug 28
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Information about class and lab for that day

Due date and time of assignments

Link to class/lab page gives access to detailed description

Slides are normally available before the class/lab

Question sets and case study descriptions are available well ahead of class/lab

Fall 2018: Natural Hazards and Disasters

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Class 1: Introduction to the Course and Basic Concepts

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PRACTICALITIES

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Fall 2018: Natural Hazards and Disasters

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Brief summary of the class

Class 1: Introduction to the Course and Basic Concepts

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Disasters and Sustainability

Disasters affecting human communities constitute often severe disruptions and can reduce the sustainability of the community or render the community totally unsustainable. Therefore, our efforts to make progress towards sustainable development have to address disaster risk.

There are two main programs at global level that focus on DRG. One of them is the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 ([UNISDR, 2015](#)). This framework was adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, on March 18, 2015. It aims to achieve a substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries over the next 15 years. It outlines seven clear targets and four priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks: (i) Understanding disaster risk; (ii) Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk; (iii) Investing in disaster reduction for resilience and; (iv) Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The other program at global level is the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([United Nations, 2015](#)) with the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). An important impediment to sustainability are disasters disrupting communities. The SDG 11 focusses on "Sustainable Cities and Communities" and aims to "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable." Each SDG comes with a number of targets, and several of the SDG 11 Targets directly relate to disaster risk:

- Target 11.5: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
- Target 11.b: By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels
- Target 11.c: Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

Class Reading List

Griggs, D., Stafford-Smith, M., Gaffney, O., Rockström, J., Öhman, M. C., Shyamsundar, P., Steffen, W., Glaser, G., Kanie, N., Noble, I., 2013. Sustainable development goals for people and planet. *Nature*, **495**, 305-307.

Pearce, F., 2010. From ocean to ozone: Earth's nine life-support systems. *New Scientist*, Feature, 24 February 2010. [html](#).

Simonsen, S. H., Biggs, R., Schlüter, M., Schoon, M., Bohensky, E., Cundill, G., Dakos, V., Daw, T., Kotschy, K., Leitch, A., Quinlan, A., Peterson, G., Moberg, F., 2015. Applying resilience thinking: Seven principles for building resilience in social-ecological systems. Stockholm Resilience Center, University of Stockholm, Sweden. [pdf](#).

United Nation, 2015. Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations, A/RES/70/1. [pdf](#), [html](#).

United Nations, 2015. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 — 2030. United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), UNISDR/GE/2015 - ICLUX EN5000 1st edition. [pdf](#), [local pdf](#).

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Reading list for the class; longer than expected to read; make choices.

Class Reading List

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Two parts:
 two things you learned/did not understand (private)
 two things that work/are a challenge (public)



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Normally, you will submit the form towards the end of class/lab. But don't forget ...



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View the open part of the 4+4 Forms submitted in the class each class.
- Pin It
Submit new PinIt items, view PinIts, and comment on them. PinIts define the overall contents of the deliberation and to express the relevance individual state.
- Ask It
Submit new AskIt items, view AskIts, and respond to them. AskIts are questions to all participants, who then can respond to these questions.
- Show It
Submit new ShowIt items, view ShowIts, and comment on them. With ShowIt items, participants can show pictures, diagrams, sketches, vidoes or other visual items. Other participants can comment on ShowIts and add their likes to them.

Submit this form in every class and every lab; this counts as documentation that you were in the class/lab.

Two parts:
two things you learned/did not understand (private)
two things that work/are a challenge (public)

Normally... towards the

I will read all your submissions and comment if you “learned something” that is not fully correct or explain what you did not understand better. You can see the public parts of all forms.

You can pin something for the class that you want to emphasize here. I will use this also to make key points.

You can ask the class something here; we may pick this up in class/lab.



Be Woke: Understand the Functioning of Society

Home
Submit 4+4-Form as doc

GET WOKE – STAY WOKE

You () are logged in.

[Submit 4+4 Form](#) 4+4 Forms to be submitted by students in each class or the lab

[View Open 4+4 Form](#) View the open part of the 4+4 Forms submitted in the class each class.

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In the exceptional case you can't log in, you can submit the 4+4 Form as a word doc by email to me.

Natural Hazards and Disaster

Class 1: Introduction to the Course and Basic Concepts

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Course Contents

Earth's Life-Support System

Humanity is embedded in, and interacts with, the Earth's life-support system (ELSS). The ELSS provides the basis for the welfare of all human and non-human communities, and these communities are adapted to prevailing conditions.



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For humans, reducing disasters caused by hazards is a goal and a necessity to improve sustainability of human communities. Disaster reduction, or better, Disaster Risk Governance (DRG), requires a thorough understanding of the hazards that can occur, the probability of them occurring, and the processes that can lead to disastrous impacts on human and non-human communities.



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Natural or anthropogenic?

Although the class is titled "Natural hazards and disasters," it needs to be emphasized that the distinction between natural and anthropogenic hazards is somewhat arbitrary. It would work if humans were in a spaceship and Earth was free of humans. The fact that humanity is an integral part of the ELSS and is modifying the ELSS at a very significant level leads to many hazards that seem to be "natural" but are actually to some extent caused or amplified by humans.



Hazard definition

In the class, we define a hazard as a change of the system state that can lead to a reduction of the system's capability to function. A hazard can be a short event (e.g., an earthquake), a longer process (e.g., extinction), or a slow trend (e.g., sea level rise).



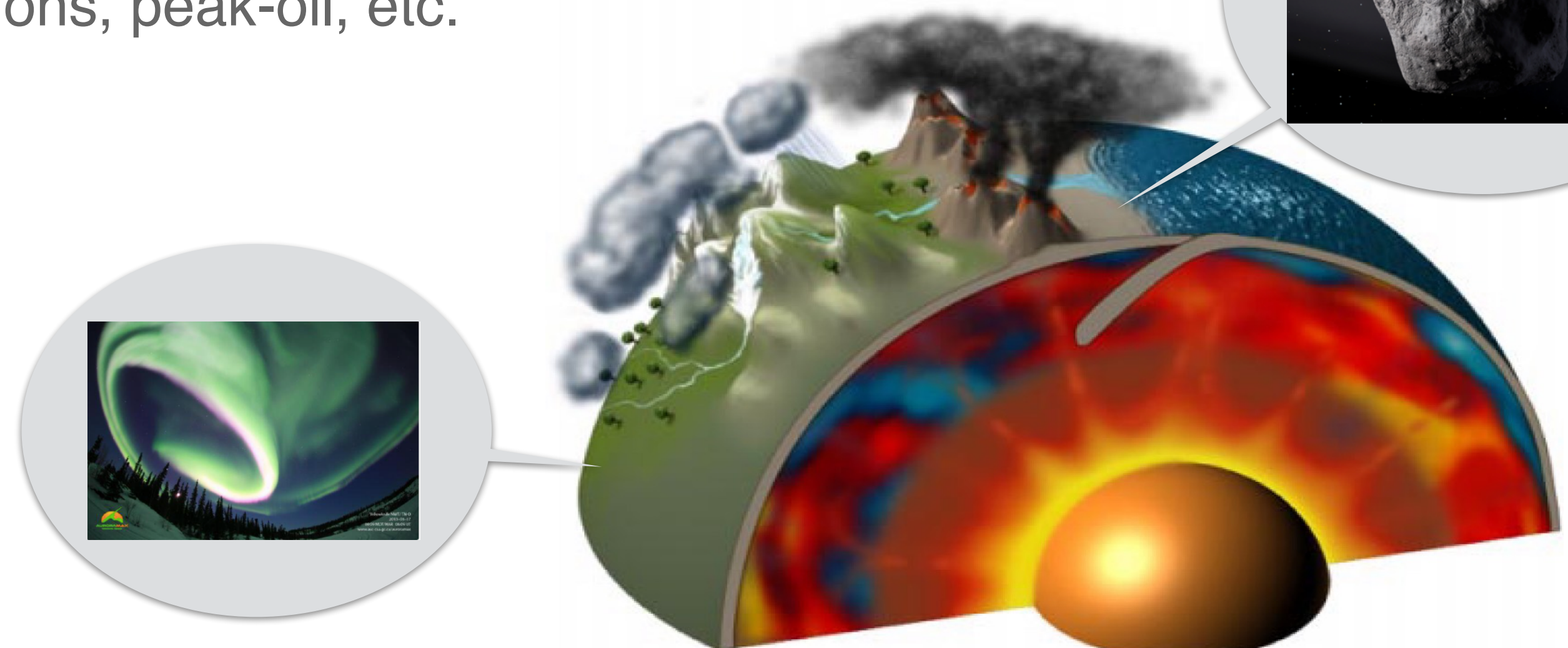
Different origins for hazards



Different origins for hazards

We distinguish:

- extraterrestrial hazards: asteroids, bolides, radiation events, and solar storms
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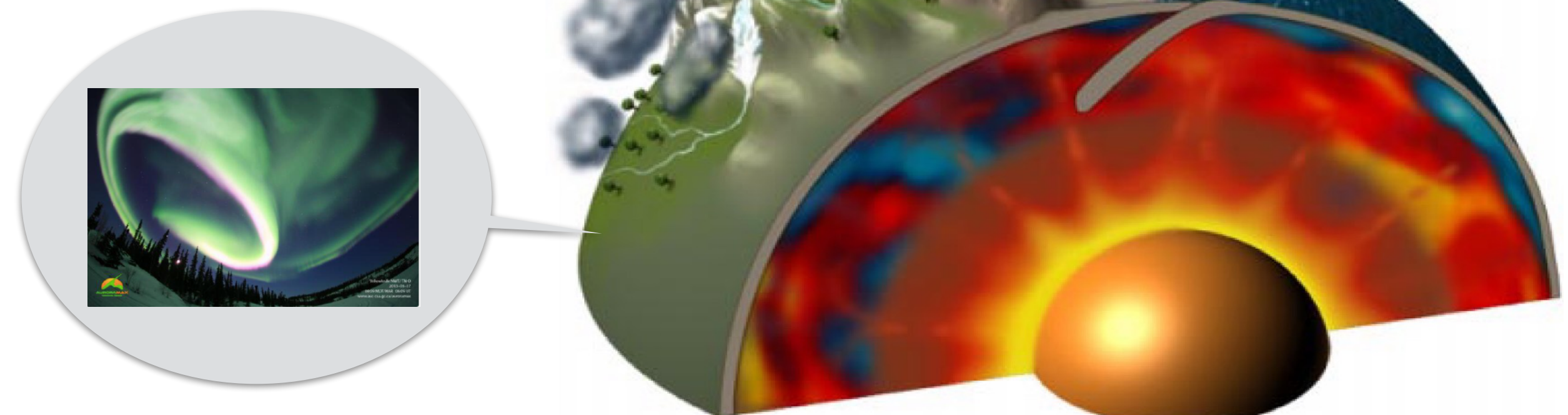


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The class will introduce these hazards and discuss their direct and indirect relevance for human and non-human communities. Main focus will be on hazards with pre-dominantly non-human origin.



Concept of Risk

A useful concept for assessing the relevance is “Risk”, which utilizes the “Probability Density Function” (PDF) of the hazard. Main focus will be on hazards with pre-dominantly non-human origin.

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Humans can modify non-human hazards

The boundary between hazards of non-human and human origin is blurred. Technological hazards can be triggered by non-technological hazards. Human activity can trigger hazards or change the spectrum of hazards in terms of frequency and magnitude. Human activity can also lead to the ELSS crossing thresholds and entering new states with significantly different characteristics and mal-adaptation. The interdependency of human and non-human hazards will be discussed in detail.

Hazards and disasters are linked through processes

Hazards and disasters are linked by processes in the exposed community and its environment that are triggered by a hazardous event. These processes depend on how the community is organized and developed, and the same hazardous event can lead to a wide range of disasters depending on the exposed community's preparedness and adaptation. Understanding the processes that link hazards and disasters is a prerequisite for DRG. The class will analyze these processes based on case studies.

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Human decisions are informed by risk assessments

In the interaction with the ELSS, humans have to make choices about where to settle, how to develop communities and the built environment, how to meet the needs of human communities, and how to prepare for hazardous events. Many of these choices benefit from a risk-based decision-making. For many of the non-human hazards, we cannot change very much the PDF of the hazard, but we can impact vulnerability and exposure of human communities.

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Disaster Risk Governance

The concept of DRG captures this. Risk associated with a specific hazard is defined as the product of hazard probability, vulnerability and value of the assets exposed to the hazard. The class will introduce the concept of DRG and apply to case studies.

Disaster Risk Assessment

Disaster risk assessments are an important tool to guide community actions to reduce or govern the risk. However, public and governmental support for DRG depends on risk awareness, which is determined by individual, community, country and cultural biases. In modern societies, the media play an important role for the development of, as well as the biases in, risk awareness. The class will review a number of risk assessments and relate them to risk awareness. The role of the media in shaping risk awareness will be analyzed.

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What is sustainability?

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Sustainability is a neutral term, neither positive nor negative.

For human communities embedded in a planetary life-support system, it needs to be connected to a **value system**.



Earth: Our Life-Support System



Motivated by Griggs et al., 2013

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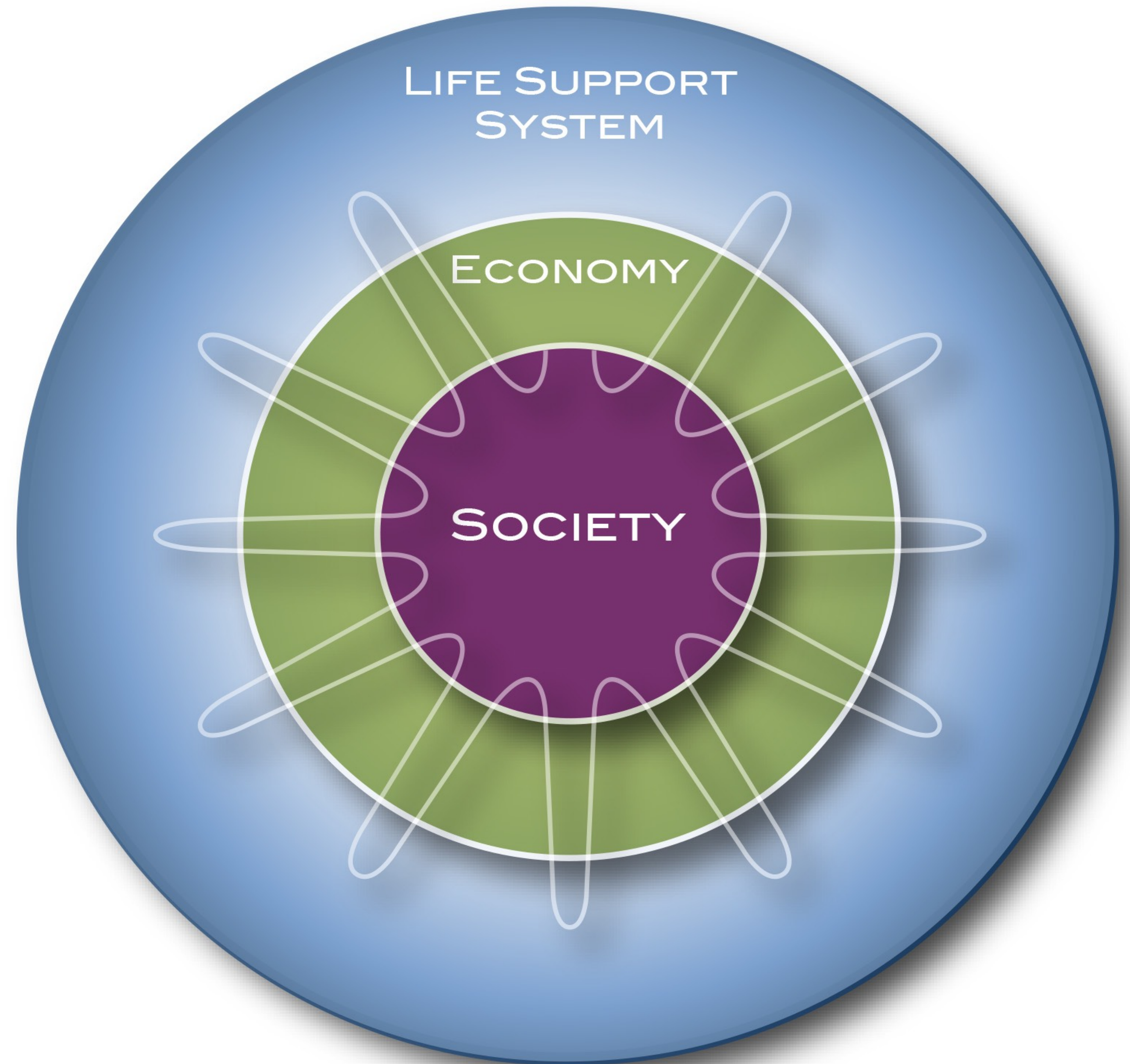
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Earth: Our Life-Support System

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Everything is about Flow

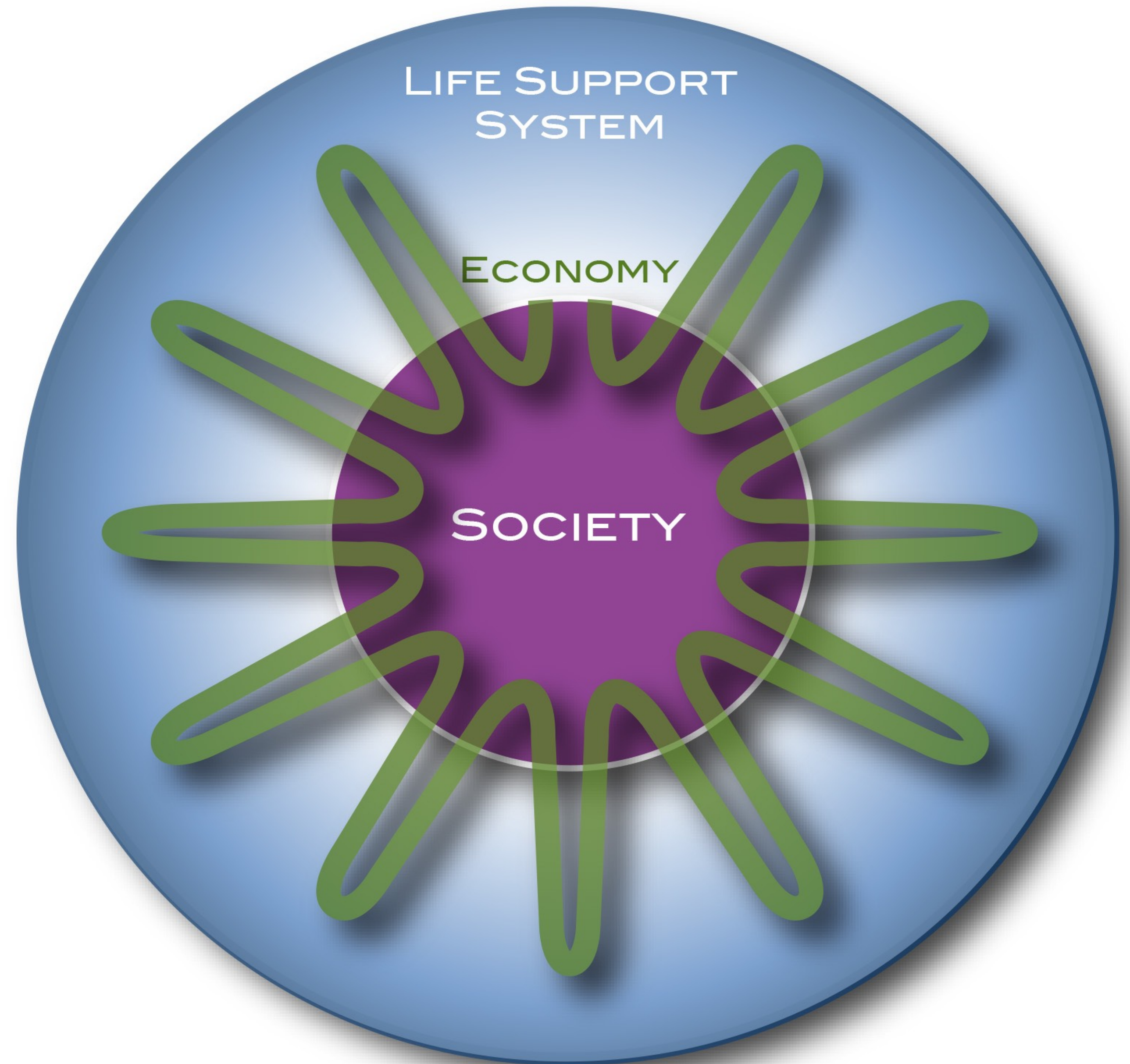


Earth: Our Life-Support System

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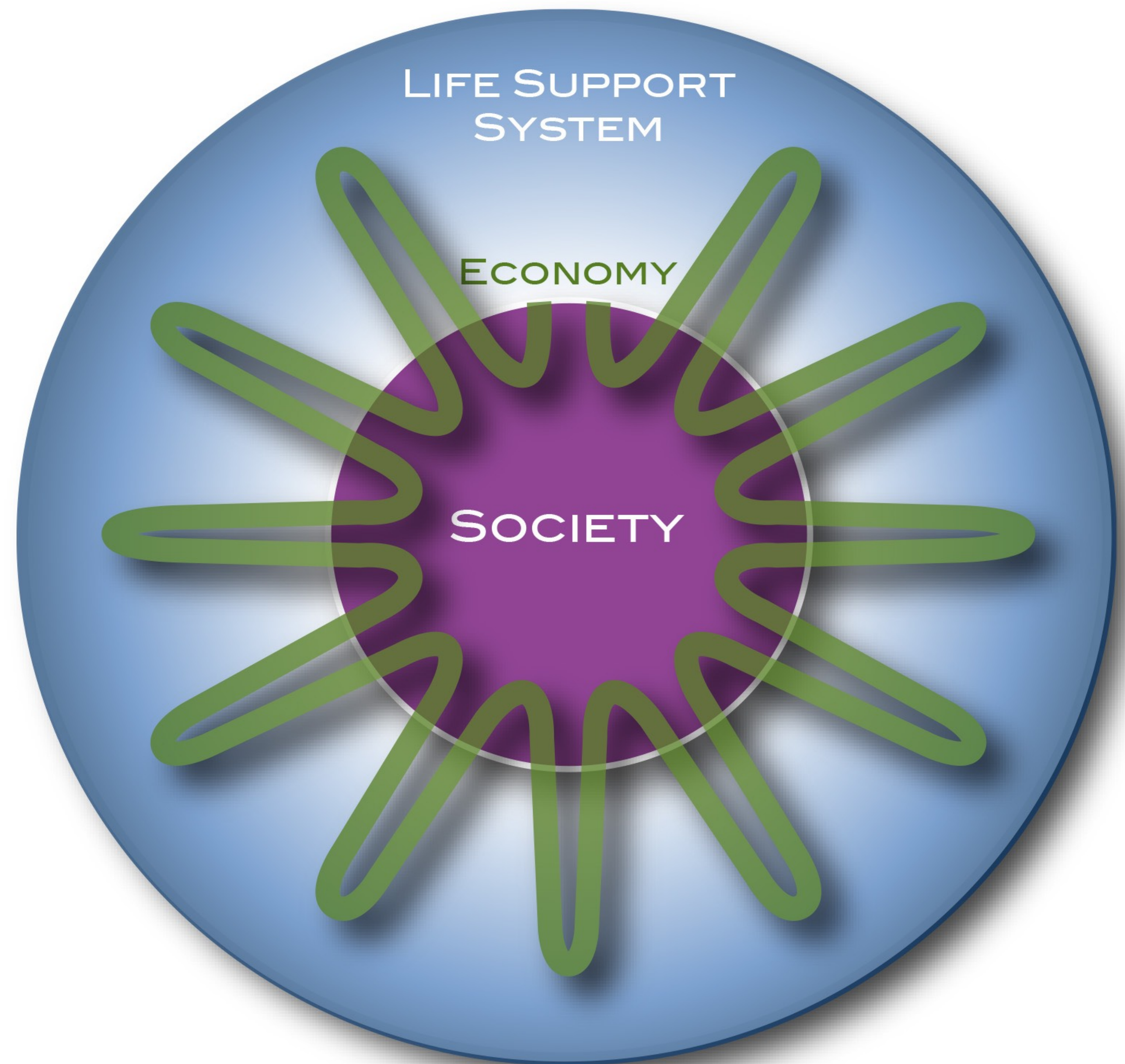
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A sustainable development is a development that “meets the needs of the present, while safe-guarding the Earth’s life-support system, on which the welfare of current and future generations [of human and non-human animals] depends.” *Griggs et al., 2013*



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disaster

DICTIONARY

THESAURUS

disaster

noun | di·sas·ter | \di-'zas-tər, -'sas-\

Popularity: Top 20% of words

Examples: DISASTER in a Sentence 

Editor's Note: Did You Know? 

Definition of DISASTER

- 1 *obsolete, occult* : an unfavorable aspect (see **aspect** 2a) of a planet or star
- 2 : a sudden **calamitous** event bringing great damage, loss, or destruction • natural disasters; broadly : a sudden or great misfortune or failure • The party was a *disaster*.



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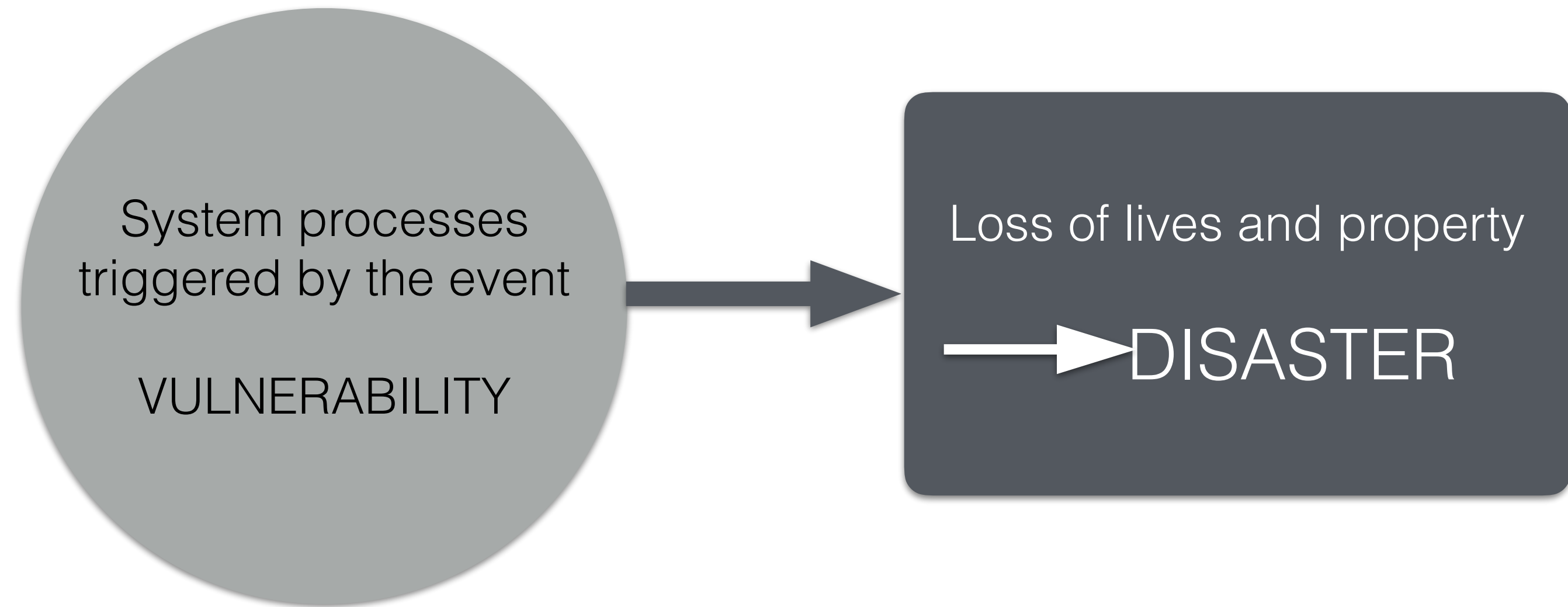
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→ DISASTER

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hazard

DICTIONARY

THESAURUS

1 hazard

noun | haz·ard | \ˈha-zərd\

Popularity: Top 30% of words

Examples: HAZARD in a Sentence ▾

Editor's Note: Did You Know? ▾

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- 1 : a game of chance like craps played with two dice
- 2 : a source of danger • *hazards* on the roadway
- 3 a : the effect of unpredictable and unanalyzable forces in determining events : **CHANCE, RISK**
 - the *hazards* involved in owning your own business
 - men and women danced together, women danced together, men danced together, as *hazard* had brought them together — Charles Dickens
- b : a chance event : **ACCIDENT**
 - looked like a fugitive, who had escaped from something in clothes caught up at *hazard* — Willa Cather
- 4 *obsolete* : **STAKE** 3a
- 5 : a golf-course obstacle (such as a bunker or a pond)

Hazards, Vulnerabilities and Disasters

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DICTIONARY | THESAURUS

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vulnerability

DICTIONARY | **THESAURUS**

vulnerable

adjective | vul·ner·a·ble | \ˈvəl-n(ə)-rə-bəl, ˈvəl-nər-bəl\

Popularity: Top 10% of words | Updated on: 17 Aug 2018


TRENDING NOW: [mistrial](#) [hogwash](#) [probity](#) [sequacious](#) [inadmissible](#) [SEE ALL >](#)


[Examples: VULNERABLE in a Sentence](#) ▾


[Editor's Note: The History of VULNERABLE](#) ▾

Definition of VULNERABLE

- 1 : capable of being physically or emotionally wounded
- 2 : open to attack or damage : [ASSAILABLE](#) • *vulnerable* to criticism
- 3 : liable to increased penalties but entitled to increased bonuses after winning a game in contract bridge

—vulnerability  \ˈvəl-n(ə)-rə-ˈbi-lə-tē\ *noun*

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Vulnerability is the inability of a system to withstand the effects of a hostile environment.

Social vulnerability describes the extent to which a community could be affected by stress, change or a hazard. Social vulnerability depends on the individual and community levels of access to resources to prepare for, cope with and recover from disasters. A large number of factors may contribute to social vulnerability including, but not limited to, gender, race, socioeconomic status, age, language, and access to information.

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Concerning the extent of disaster, we follow Plag et al. (2015) and classify large event as:

- **Extinction Level Events** are so devastating that more than a quarter of all life on Earth is killed and major species extinction takes place.
- **Global Catastrophes** are events in which more than a quarter of the world's human population dies and that place civilisation at serious risk.
- **Global Disasters** are global scale events in which a few percent of the population dies.
- **Major Disasters** are those exceeding \$100 billion in damage and/or causing more than 10,000 fatalities.

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risk

DICTIONARY

THESAURUS

¹ risk 

noun | \ˈrisk\

Popularity: Top 10% of words

Examples: RISK in a Sentence ▾

Definition of RISK

- 1 : possibility of loss or injury : PERIL
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 - a : the chance of loss or the perils to the subject matter of an insurance contract; *also* : the degree of probability of such loss
 - b : a person or thing that is a specified hazard to an insurer
 - c : an insurance hazard from a specified cause or source • war *risk*
- 4 : the chance that an investment (such as a stock or commodity) will lose value

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DICTIONARY | THESAURUS

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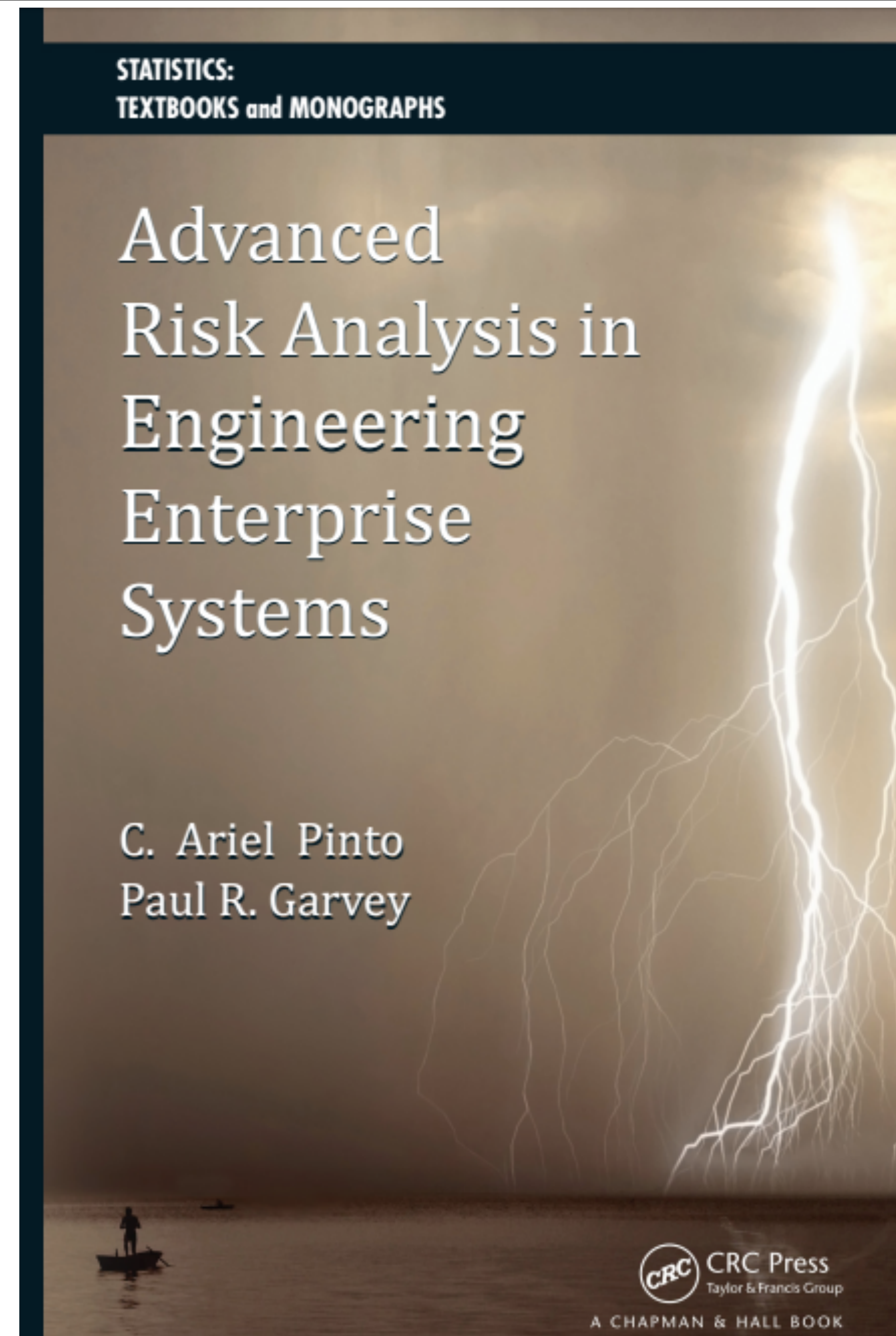
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- 4: the chance that an investment (such as a stock or commodity) will lose value

Risk

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“In general, risk means the possibility of loss or injury. Risk is an event that, if it occurs, has unwanted consequences.”

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Concept of Risk

Risk

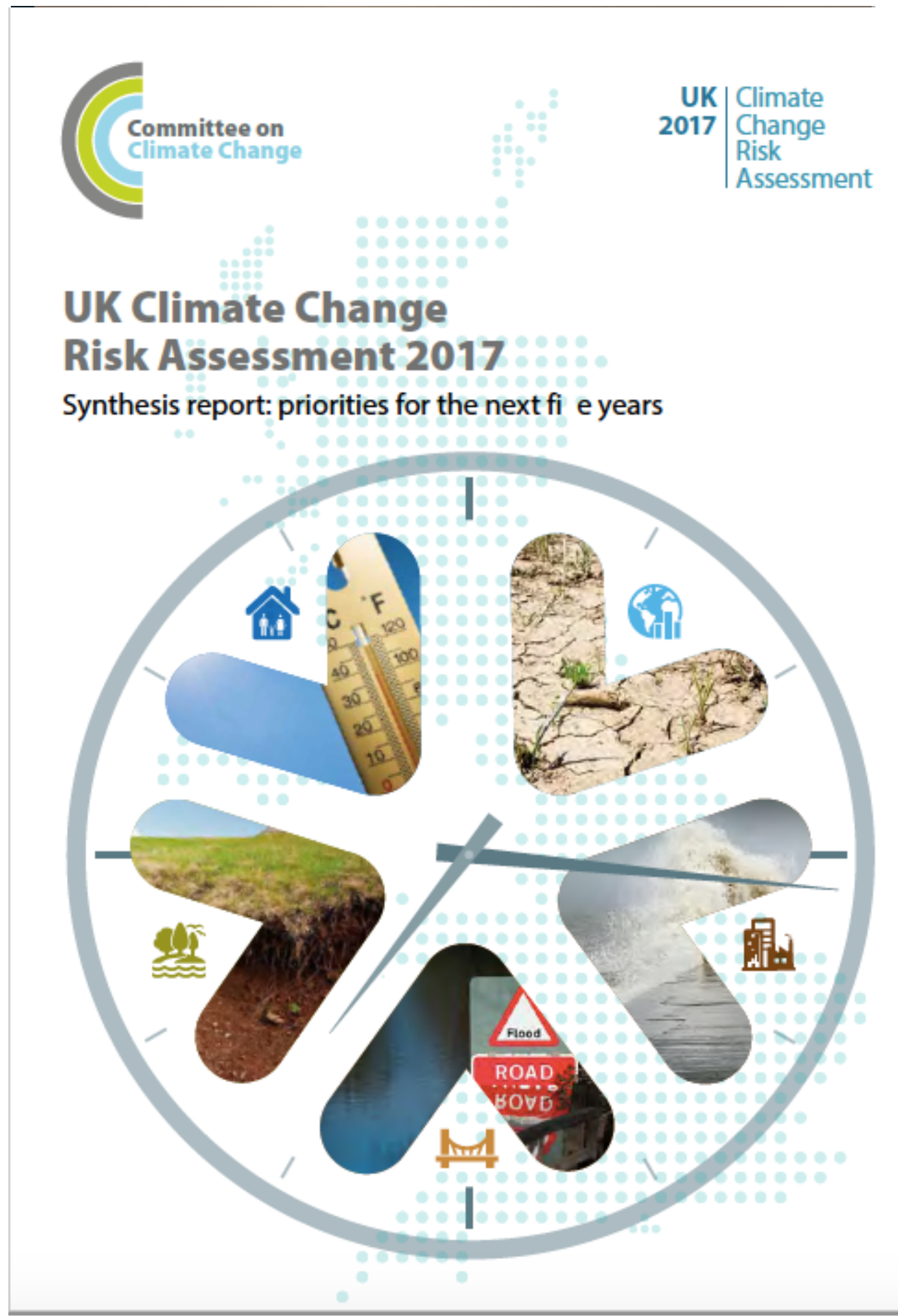
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This is what we use in class: **“Risk is the potential for consequences where something of value is at stake and where the outcome is uncertain”**



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Risk = Event rate * vulnerability * consequences

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Measuring Risk:

Here we take a risk-based approach that is commonly used for natural hazards and particularly geohazards. For a given hazard h , a given recurrence time interval T , and for a prescribed intensity I , the associated risk $r(I)$ expressed in currency is given by

$$r_h^T(I, x, t) = p_h^T(I, t) \cdot V_h^{a(x,t)}(I, t) \cdot a(x, t) \quad [1]$$

where x is the location, t time, p the hazard giving the probability that the hazard with intensity I will occur in the considered recurrence interval, V the vulnerability of an asset a for hazard h at intensity I , and a being the asset exposed at location x . To assess the total risk R associated with a hazard, we can use

$$R_h^T(x, t) = \int_0^{I_{\max}} r_h^T(I, x, t) di. \quad [2]$$

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We need to know the “probability density function” for the hazard.

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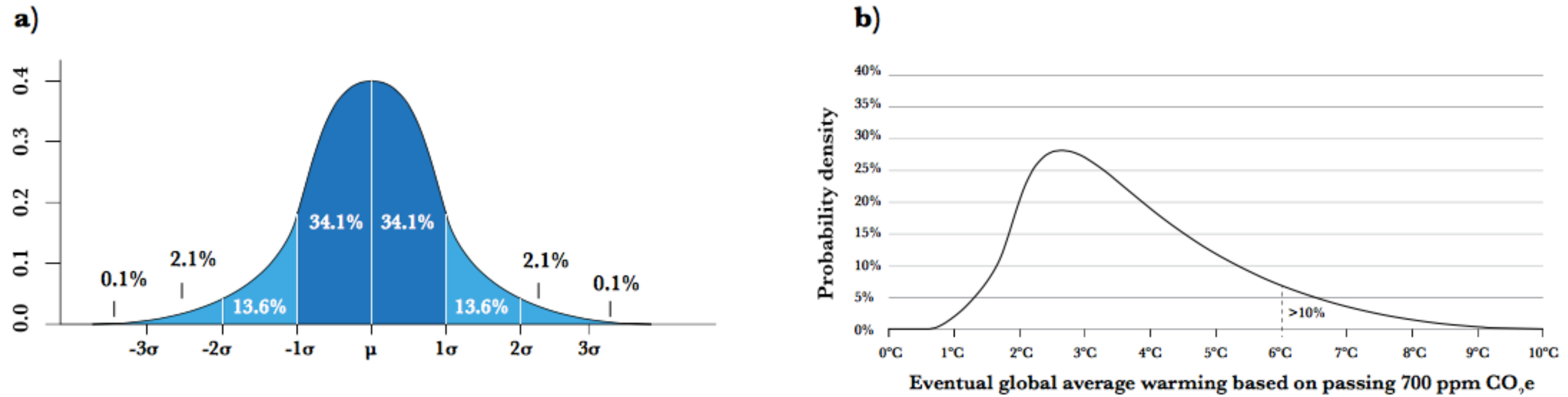


Figure 1: Normal and “fat tail” probability distributions. (a) Normal probability distribution, and (b) an estimate of the likelihood of warming due to a doubling of greenhouse gas concentrations exhibiting a “fat tail” distribution (Credit: Wagner & Weitzman 2015, *Climate Shock: The Economic Consequences of a Hotter Planet*).

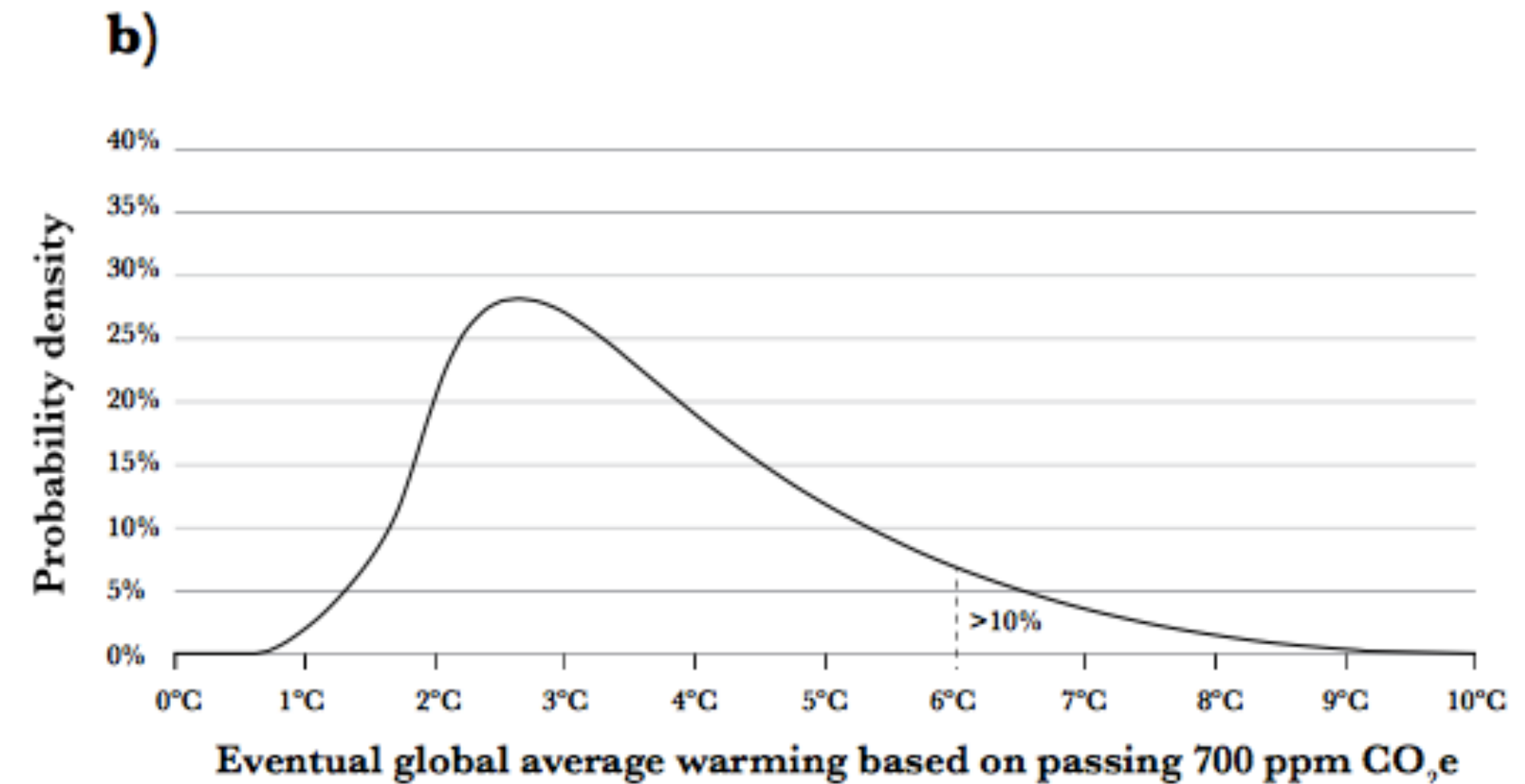
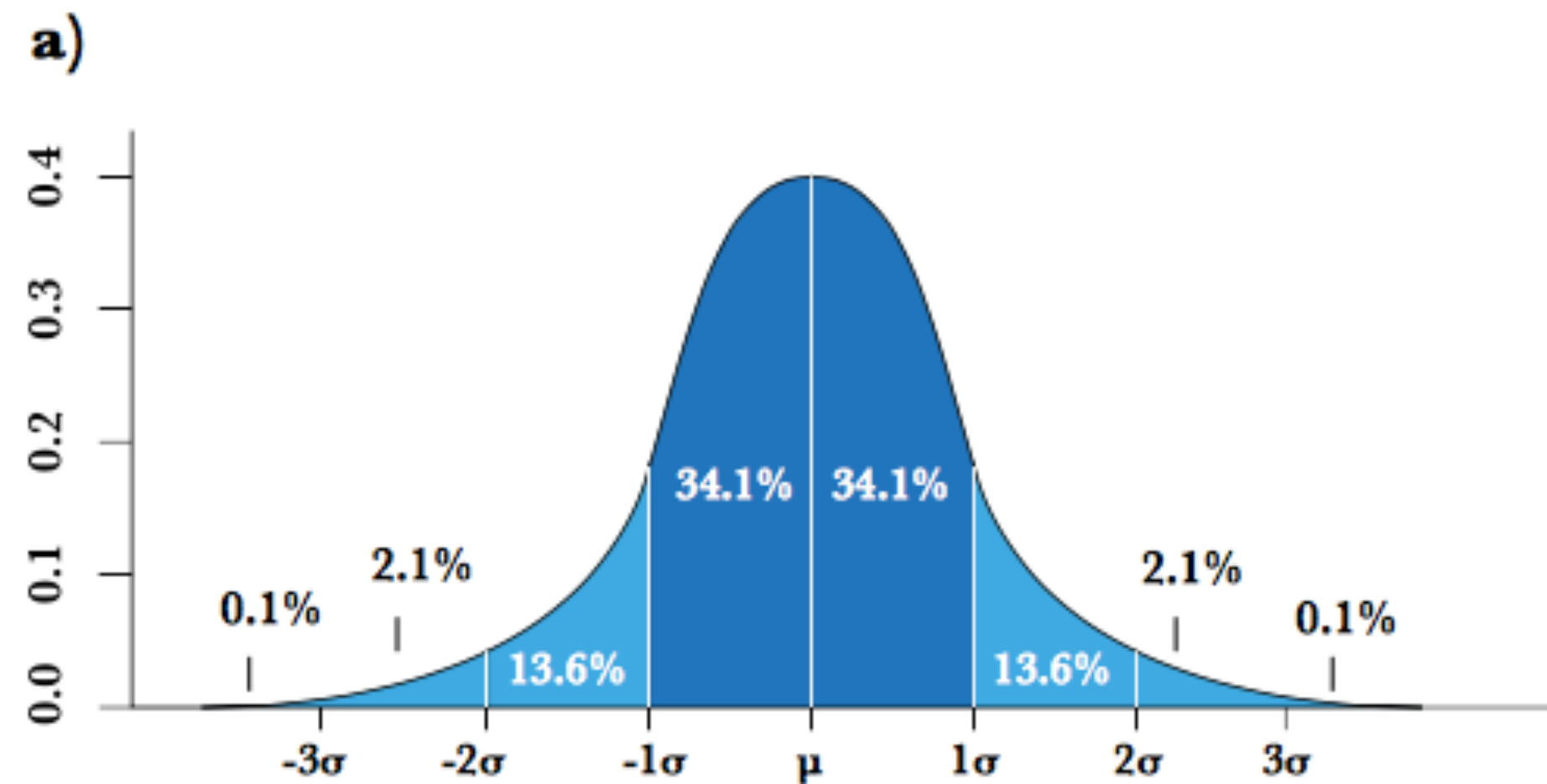


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THINKING THE UNTHINKABLE

Successful risk management requires thinking “outside the box” to avoid a failure of imagination, but this is a skill rarely found at the senior levels of government and global corporations. Spratt and Dunlop (2018)

Concept of Risk

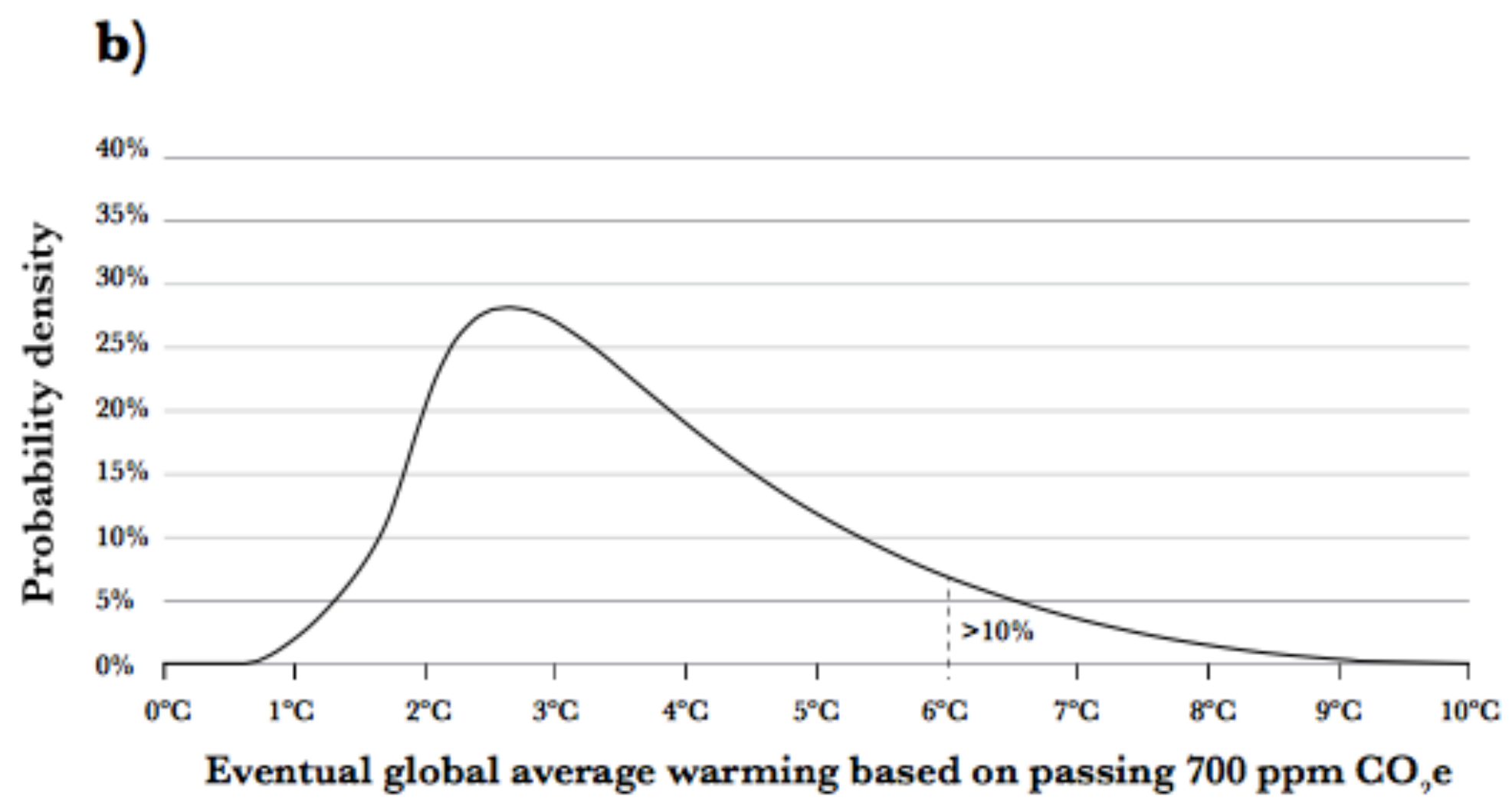
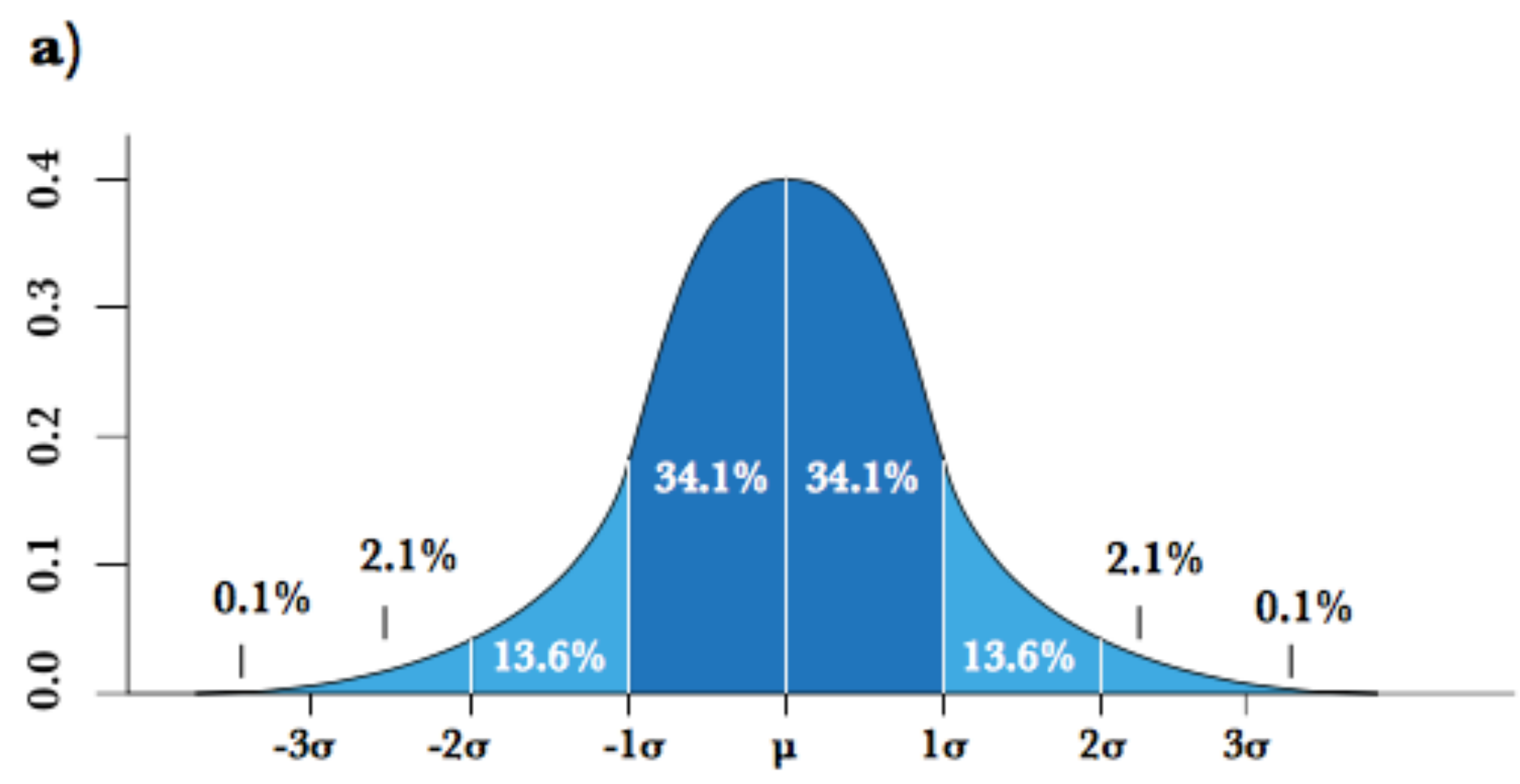


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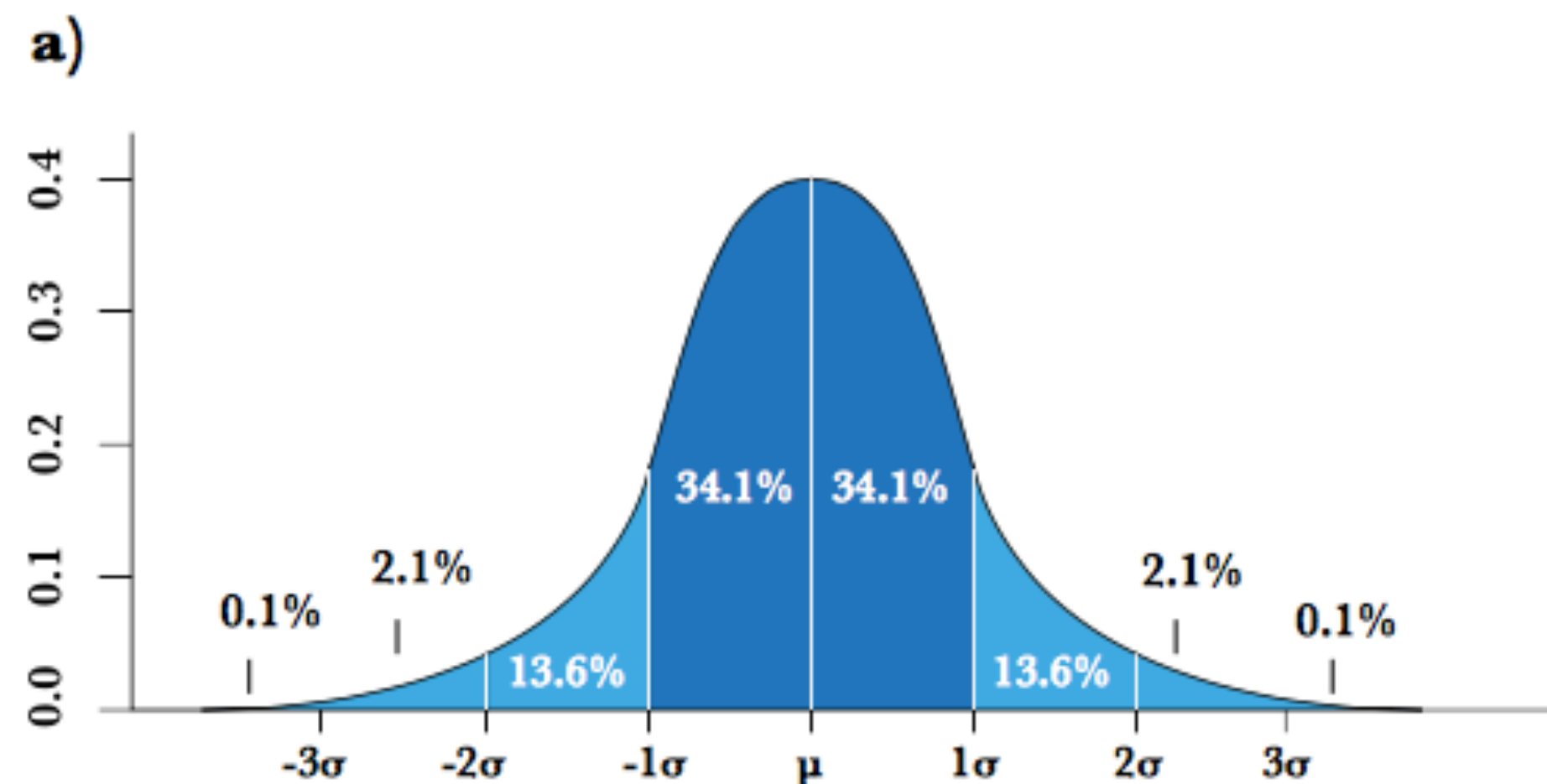


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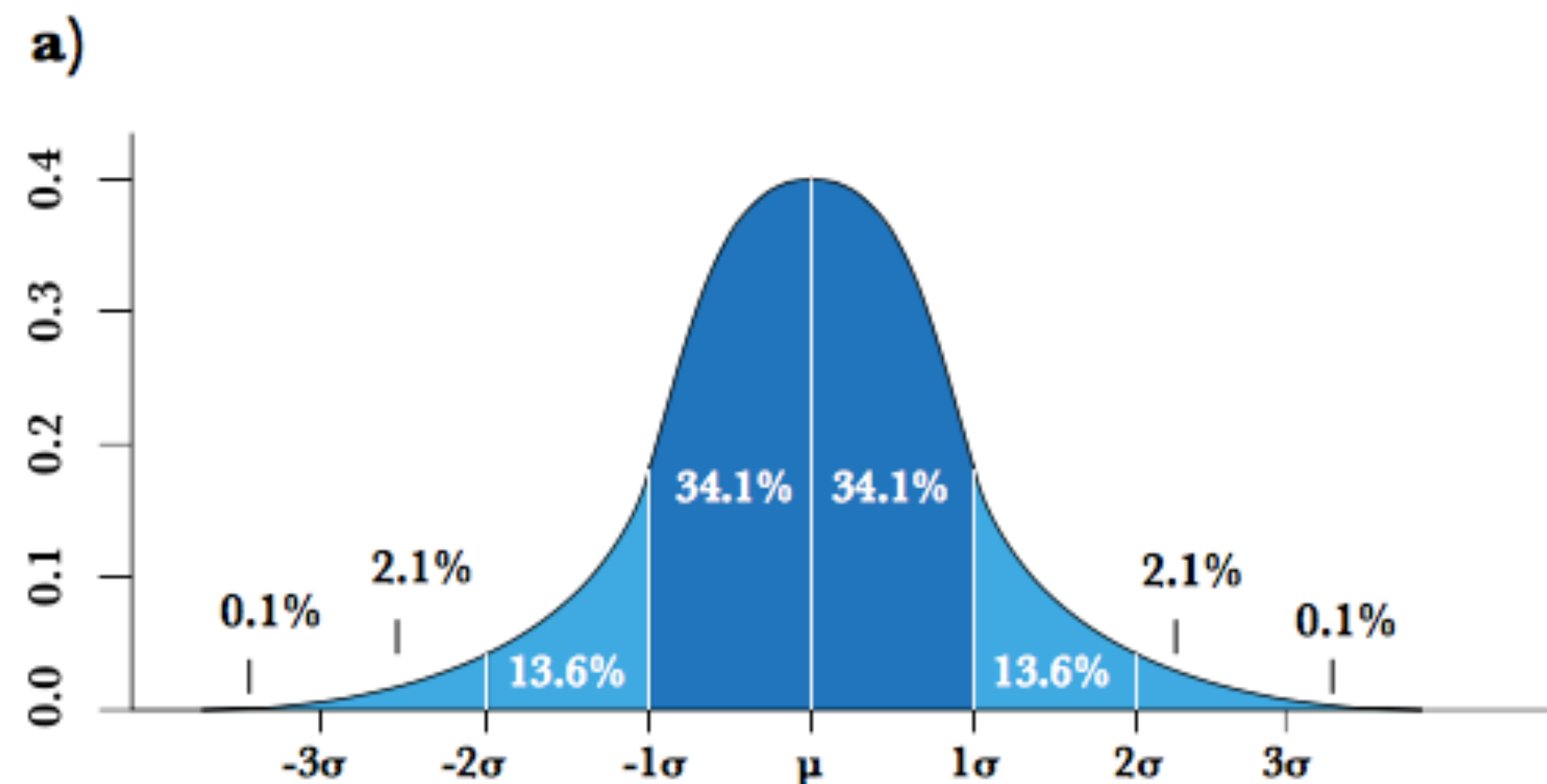


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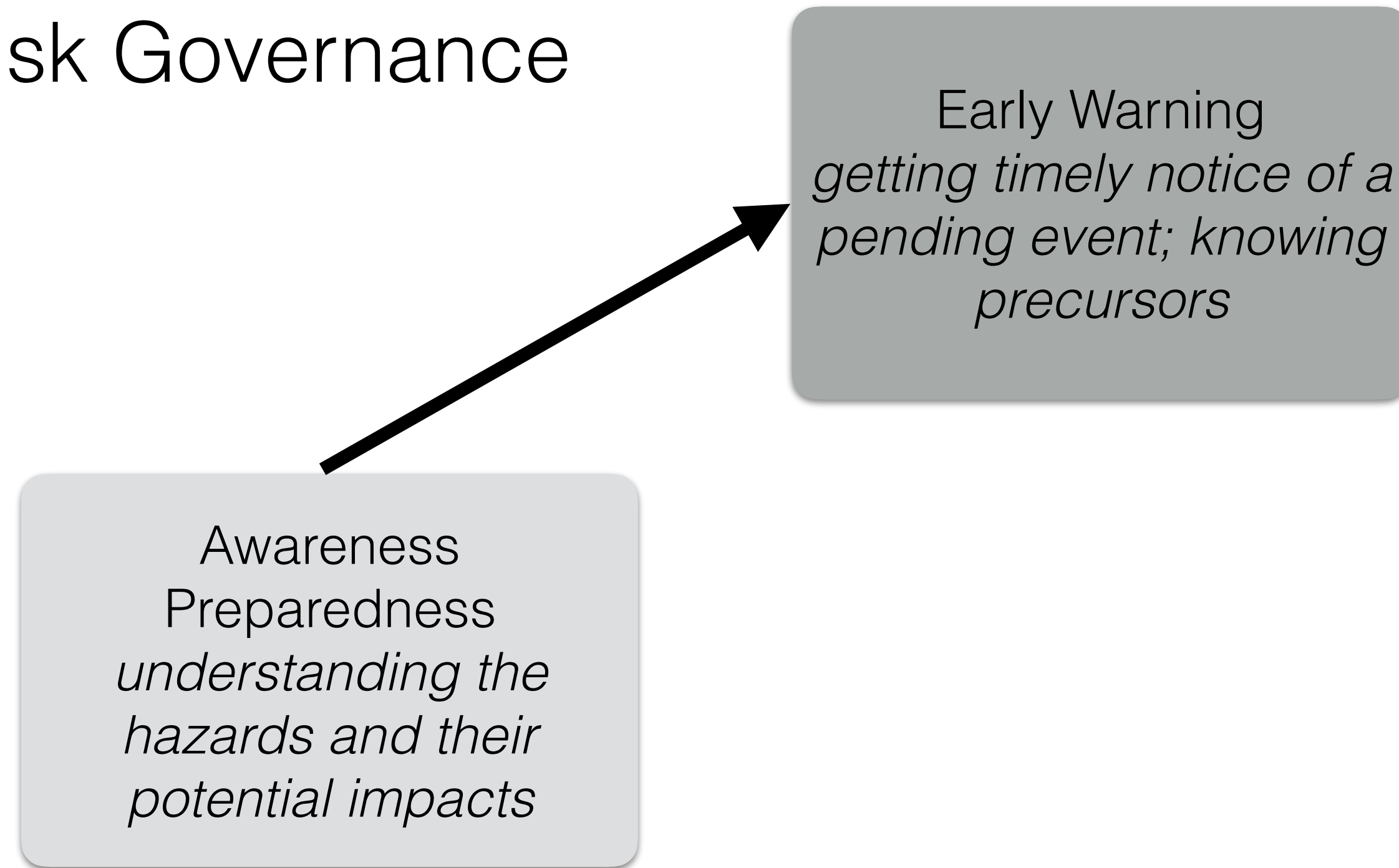
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Disaster Risk Governance

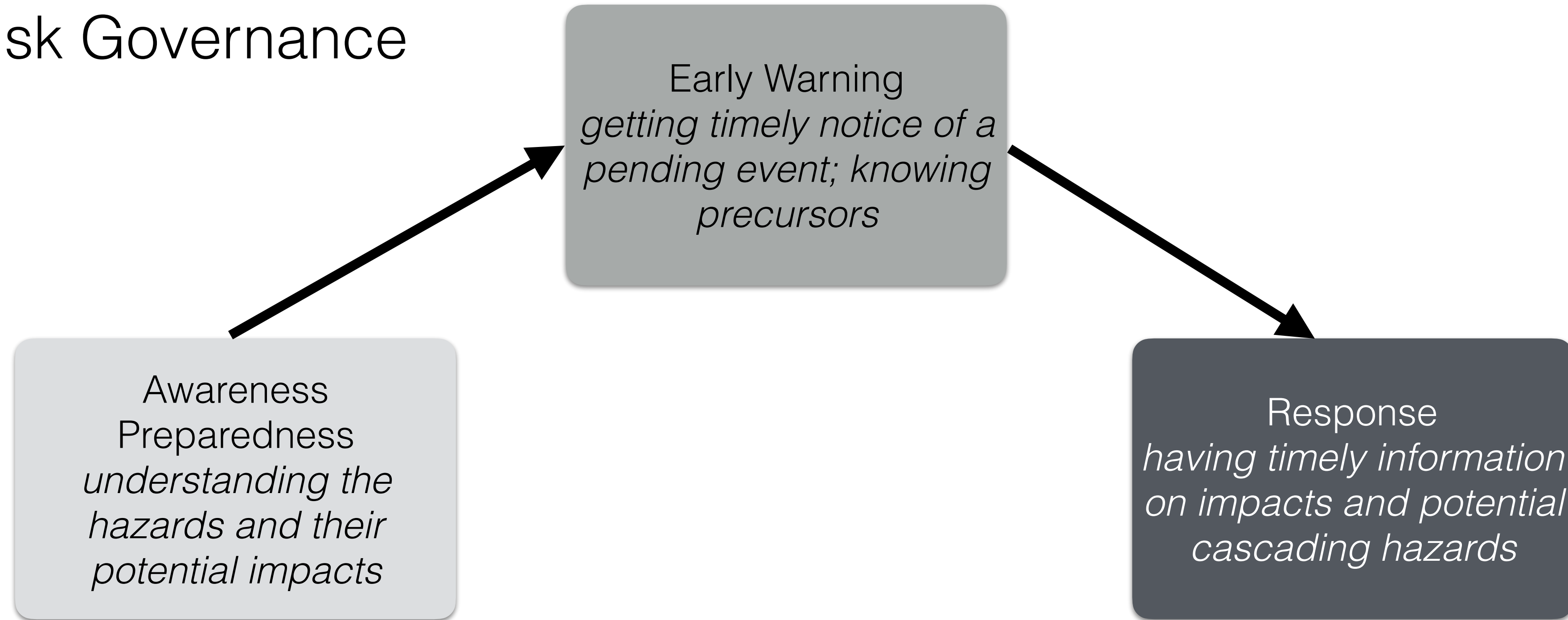
Disaster Risk Governance

Awareness
Preparedness
*understanding the
hazards and their
potential impacts*

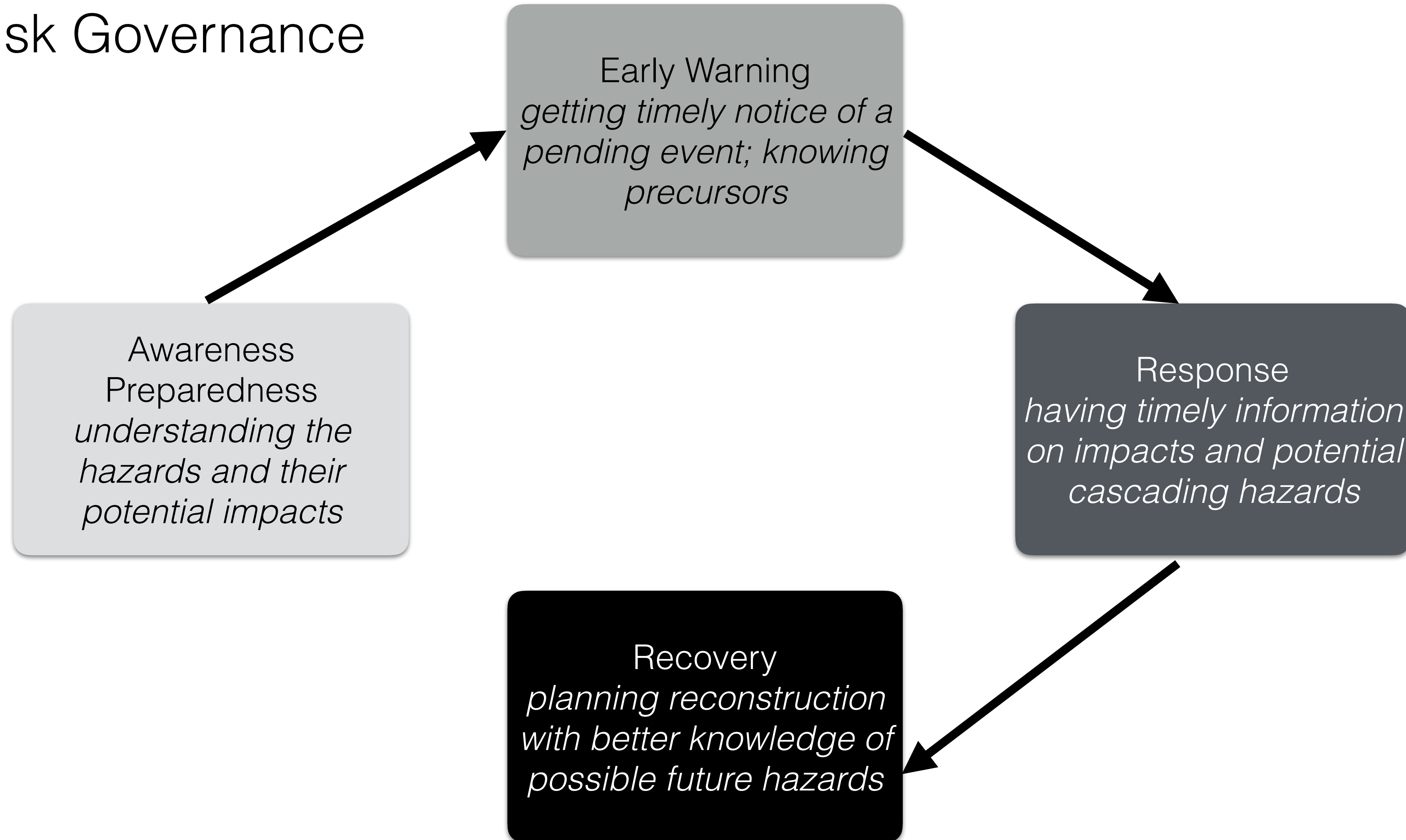
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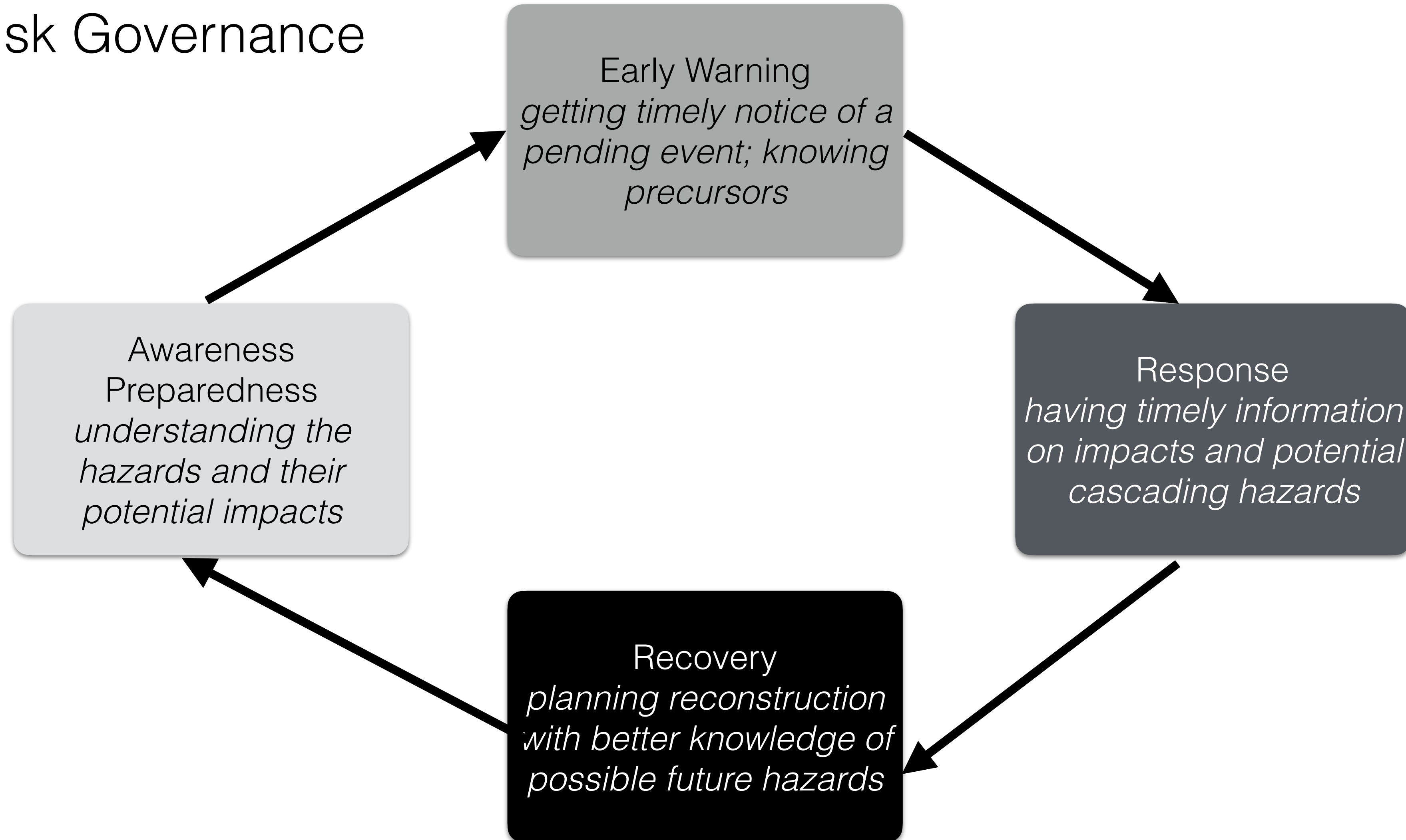
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Disaster Risk Governance



Natural Hazards and Disaster

Class 1: Introduction to the Course and Basic Concepts

- Practicalities
- Course Contents
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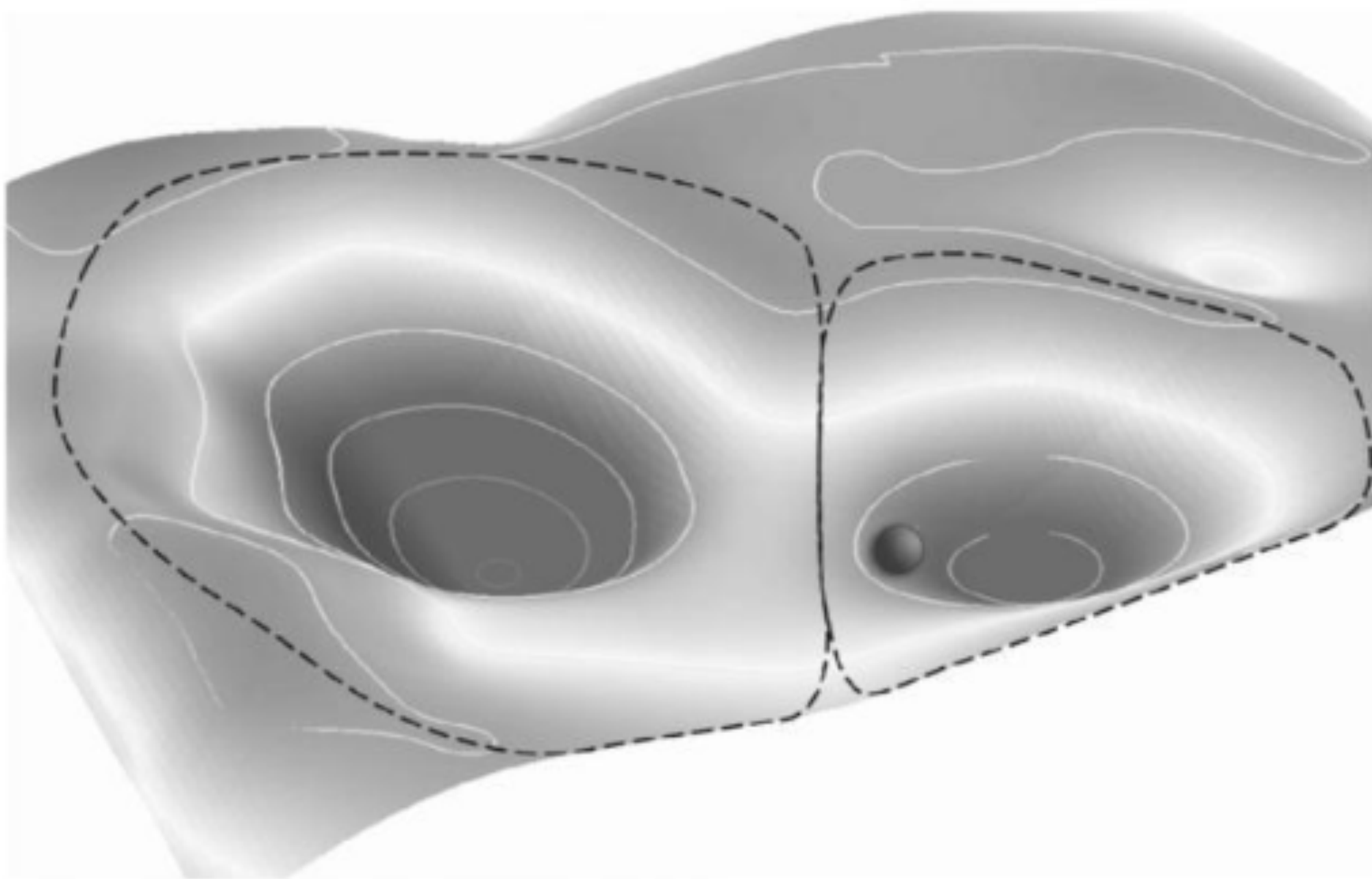


FIGURE 3 The System as a Ball-in-the-Basin Model

The ball is the state of the social-ecological system. The basin in which it is moving is the set of states which have the same kinds of functions and feedbacks, resulting in the ball moving towards the equilibrium. The dotted line is a threshold separating alternate basins. (From Walker et al., 2004)

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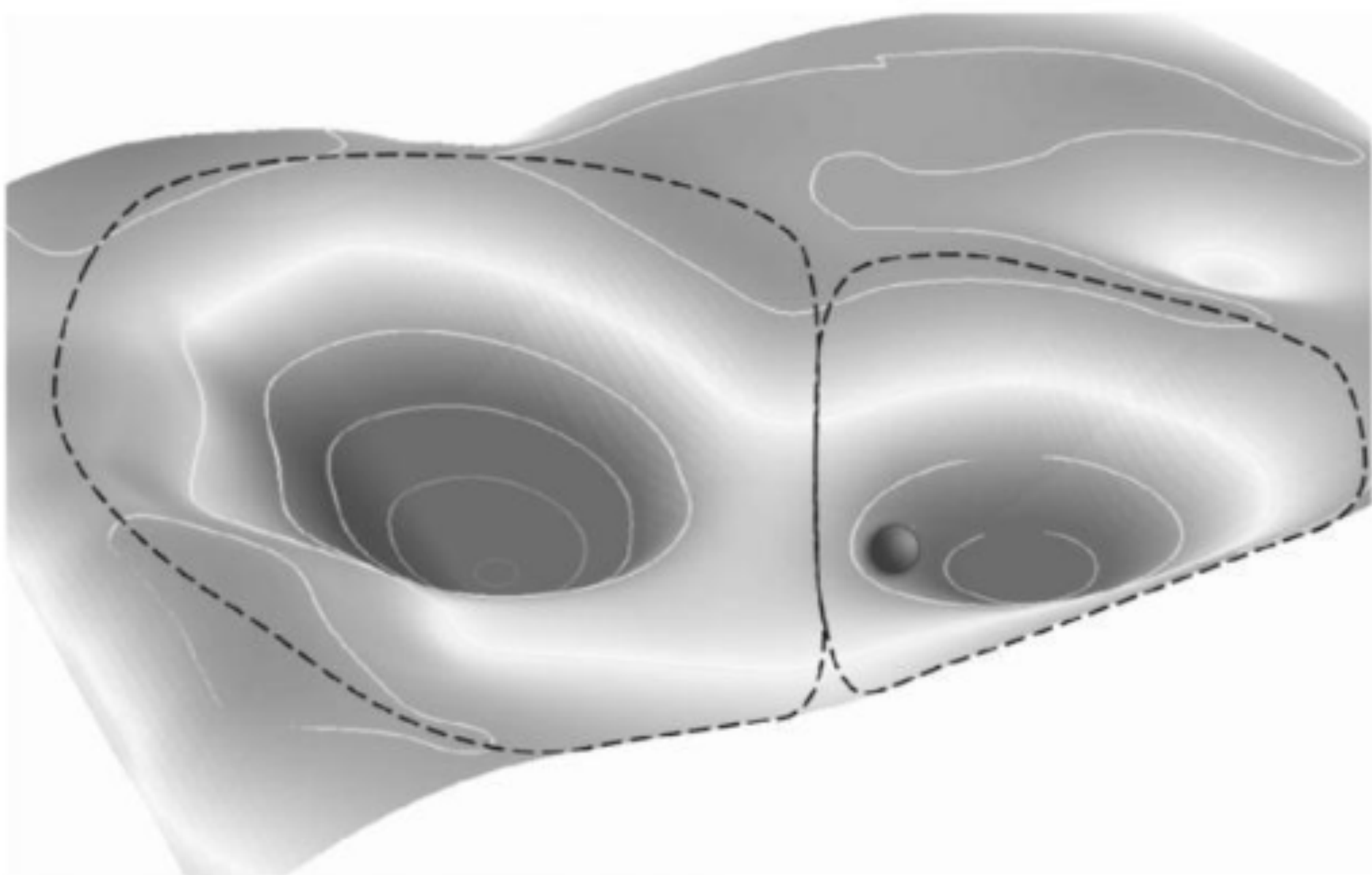


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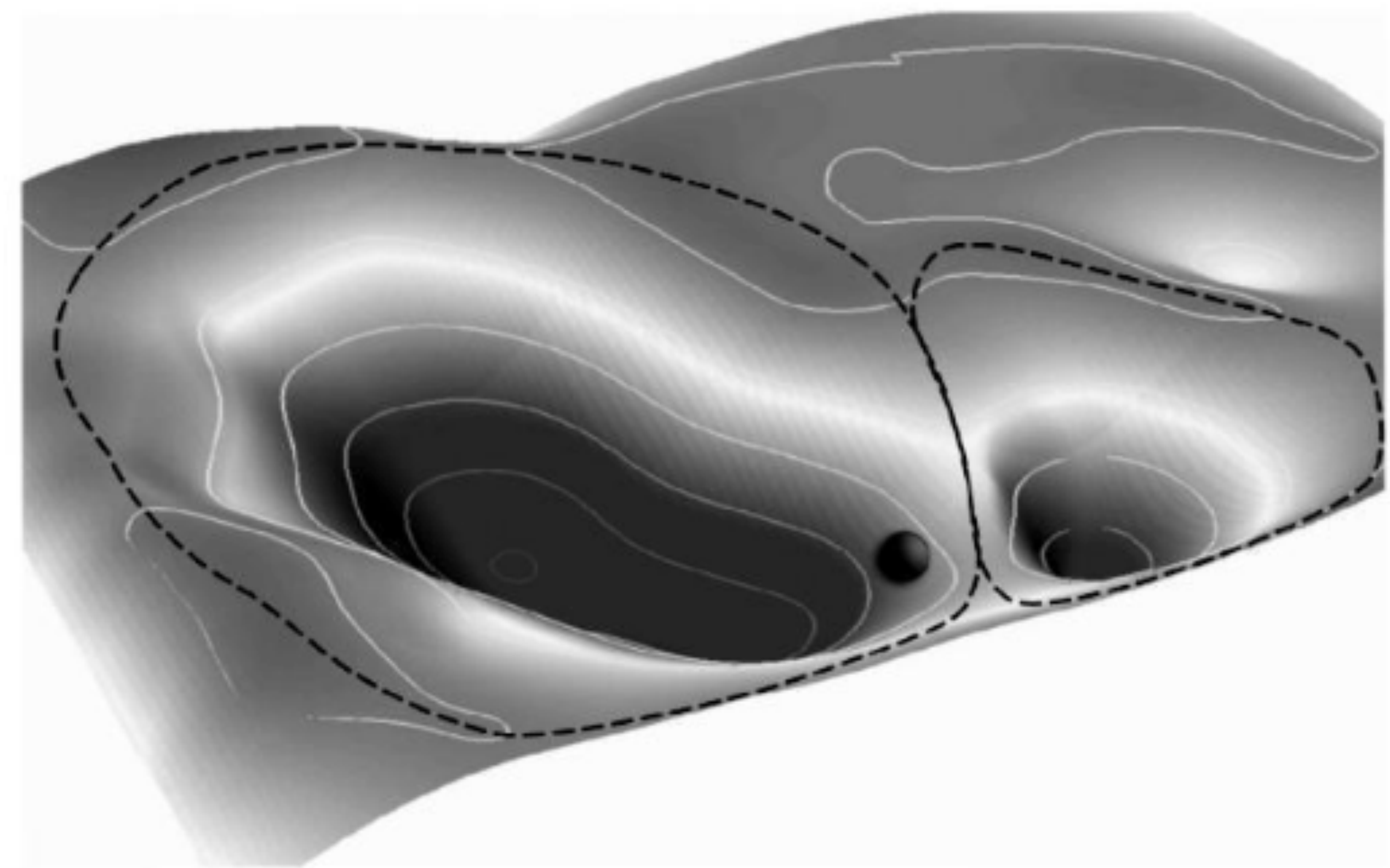
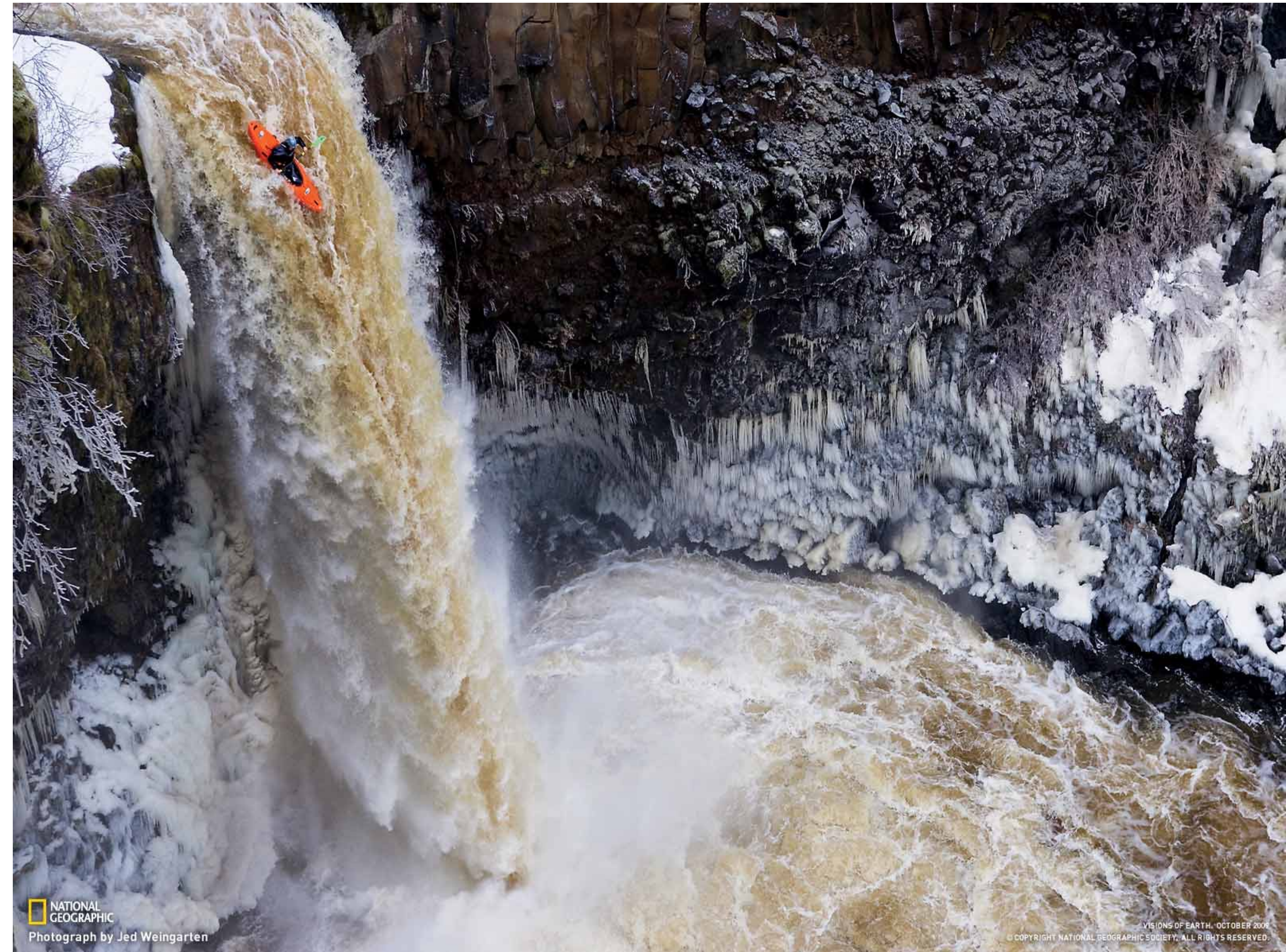


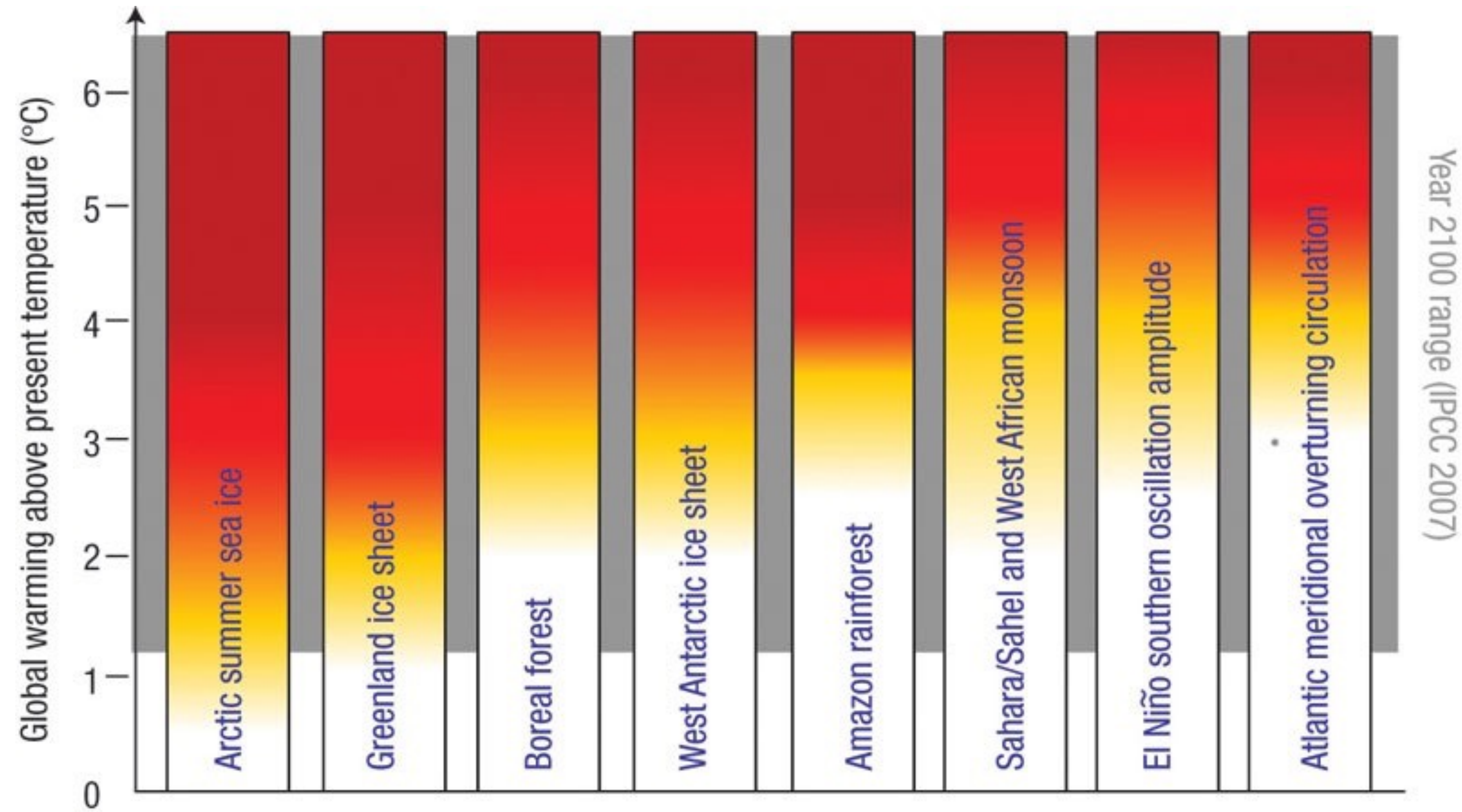
FIGURE 4 The Basin Changes Shape

This this is the same system as in figure 3. The state of the system (position of the ball) has not changed, but as conditions change, so too does the shape of the basin and the behavior of the system. (From Walker et al , 2004.)

The threshold is not where the boat goes over the edge, it is far up the river, when the people in the boat lose the option to get to the shore

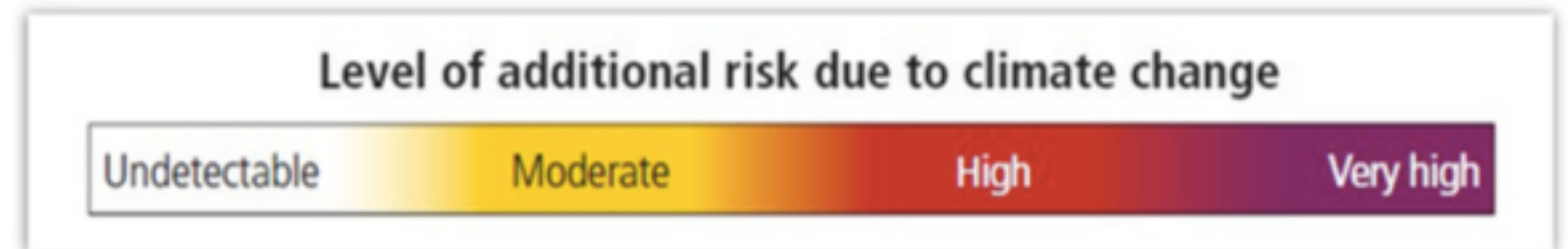
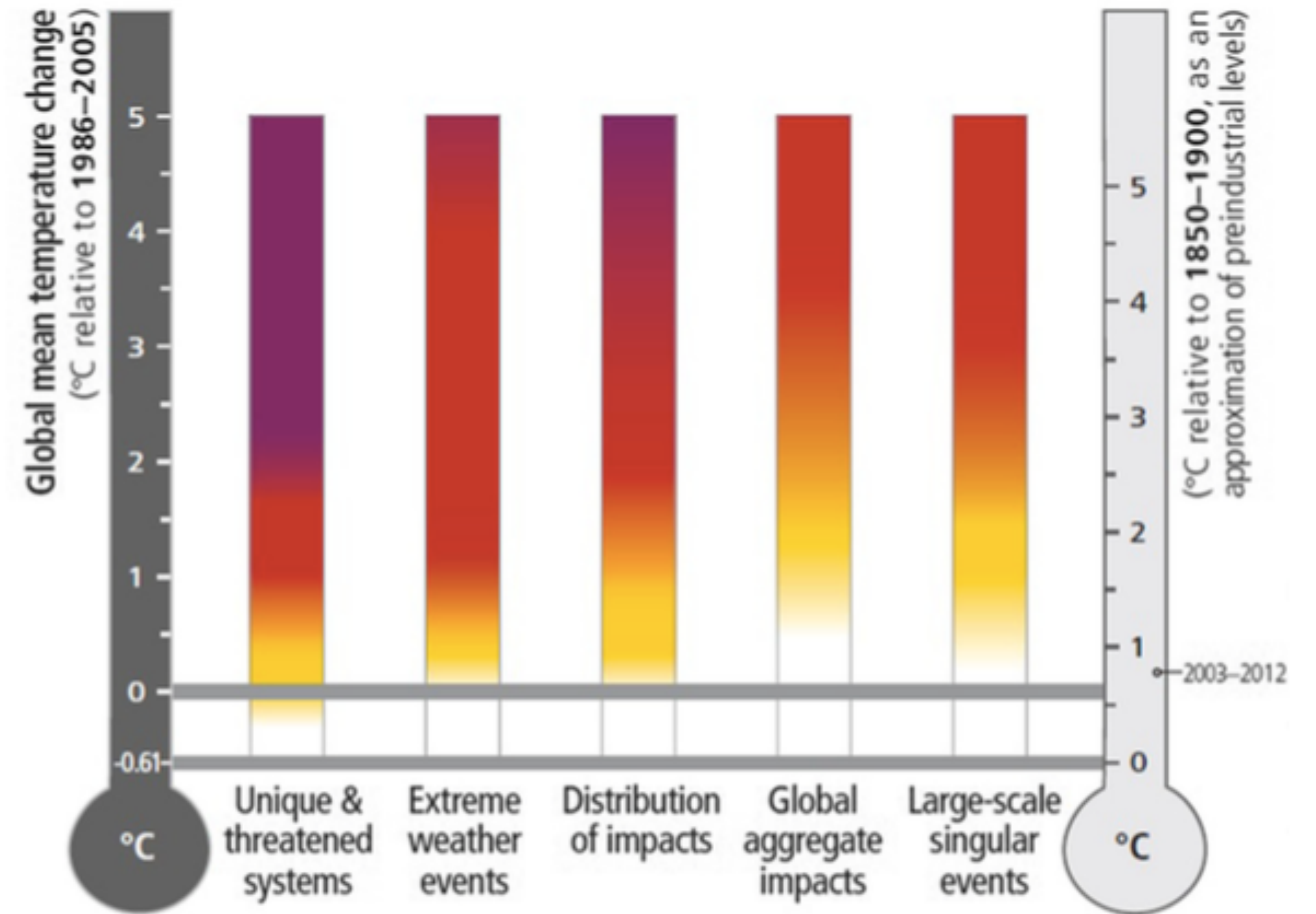


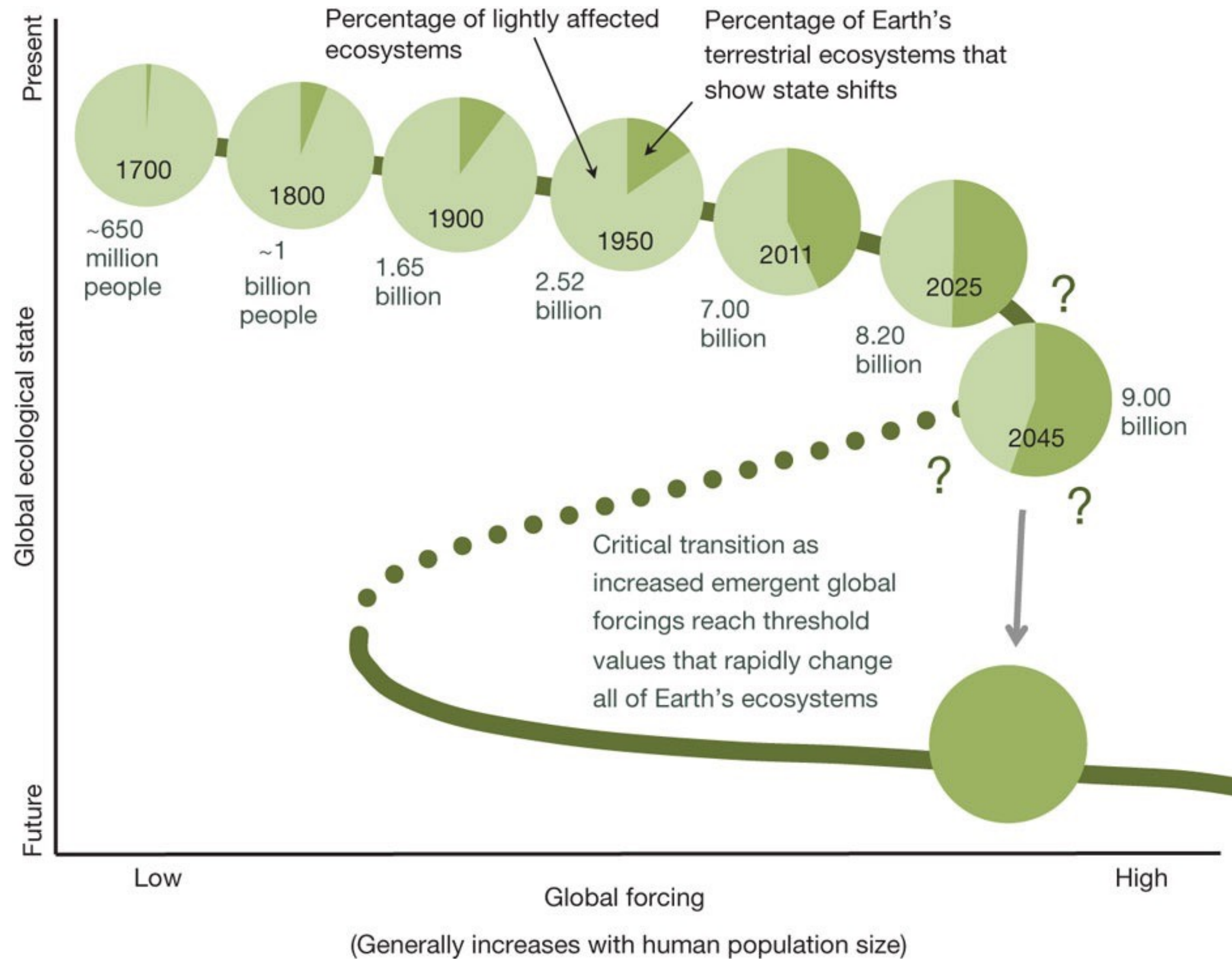
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Lenton & Schellnhuber (2007) *Nature Reports Climate Change*

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Natural Hazards and Disaster



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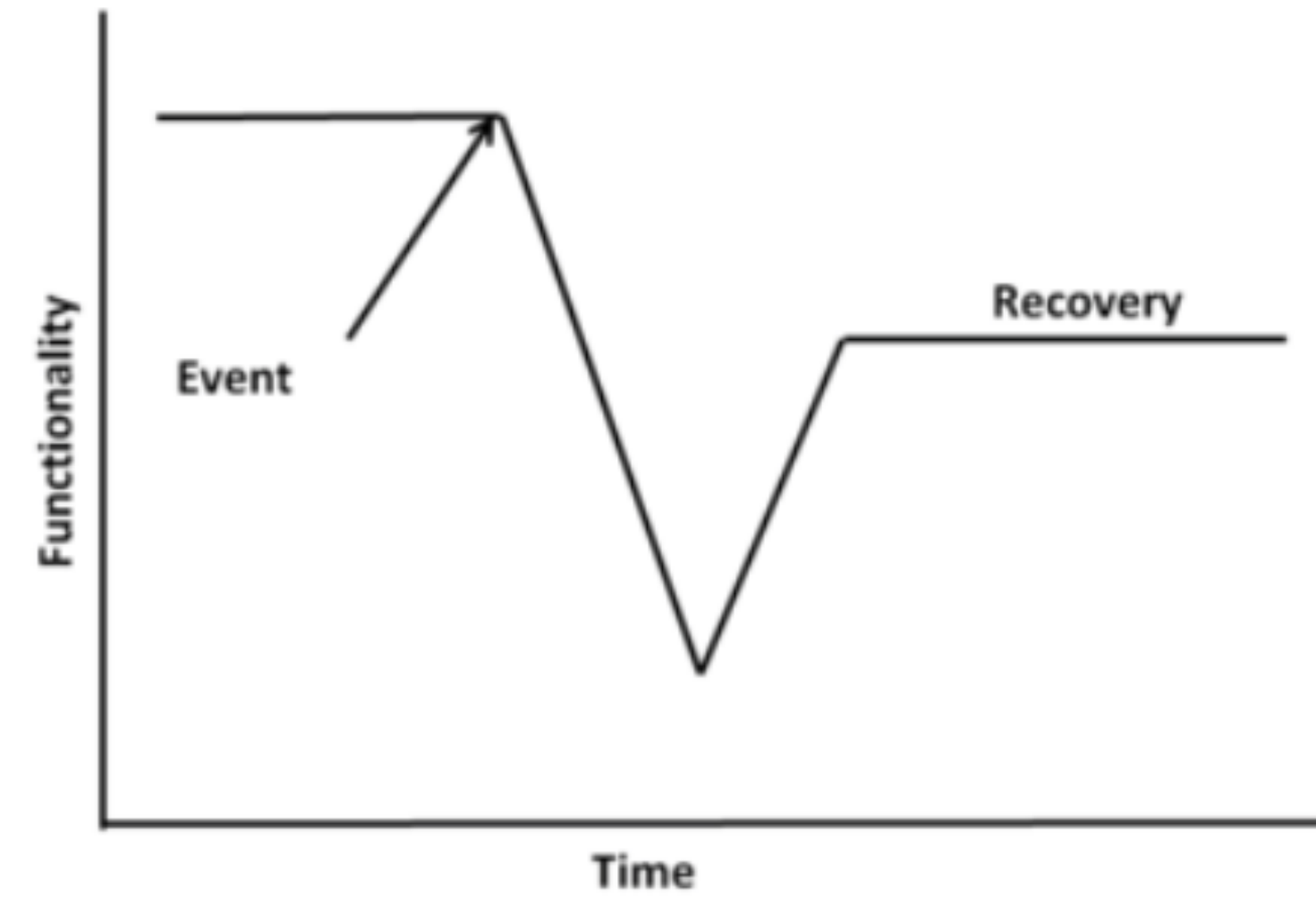
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Natural Hazards and Disaster

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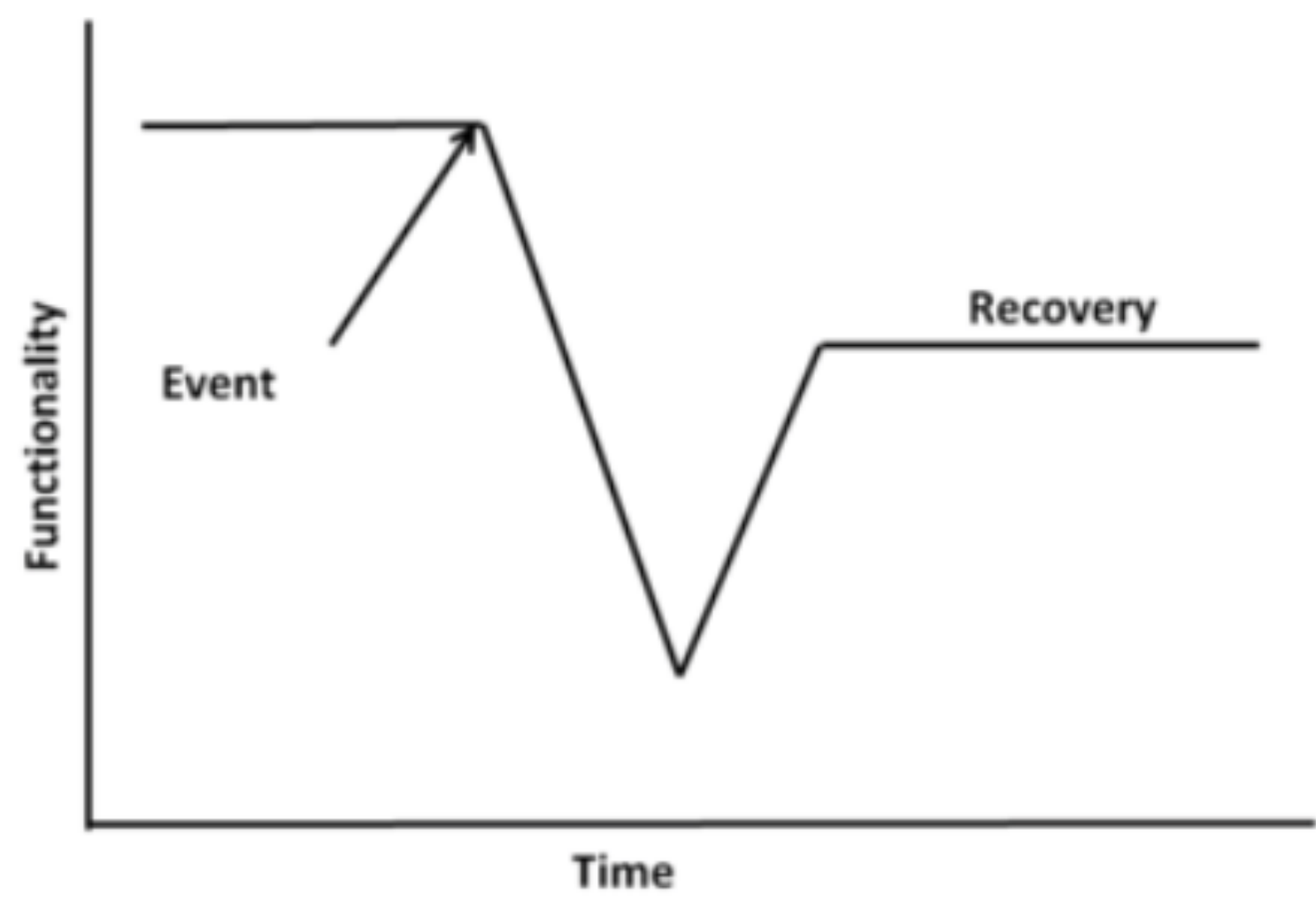
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“Resilience is the act of rebounding or springing back”
(Oxford English Dictionary, 1973)



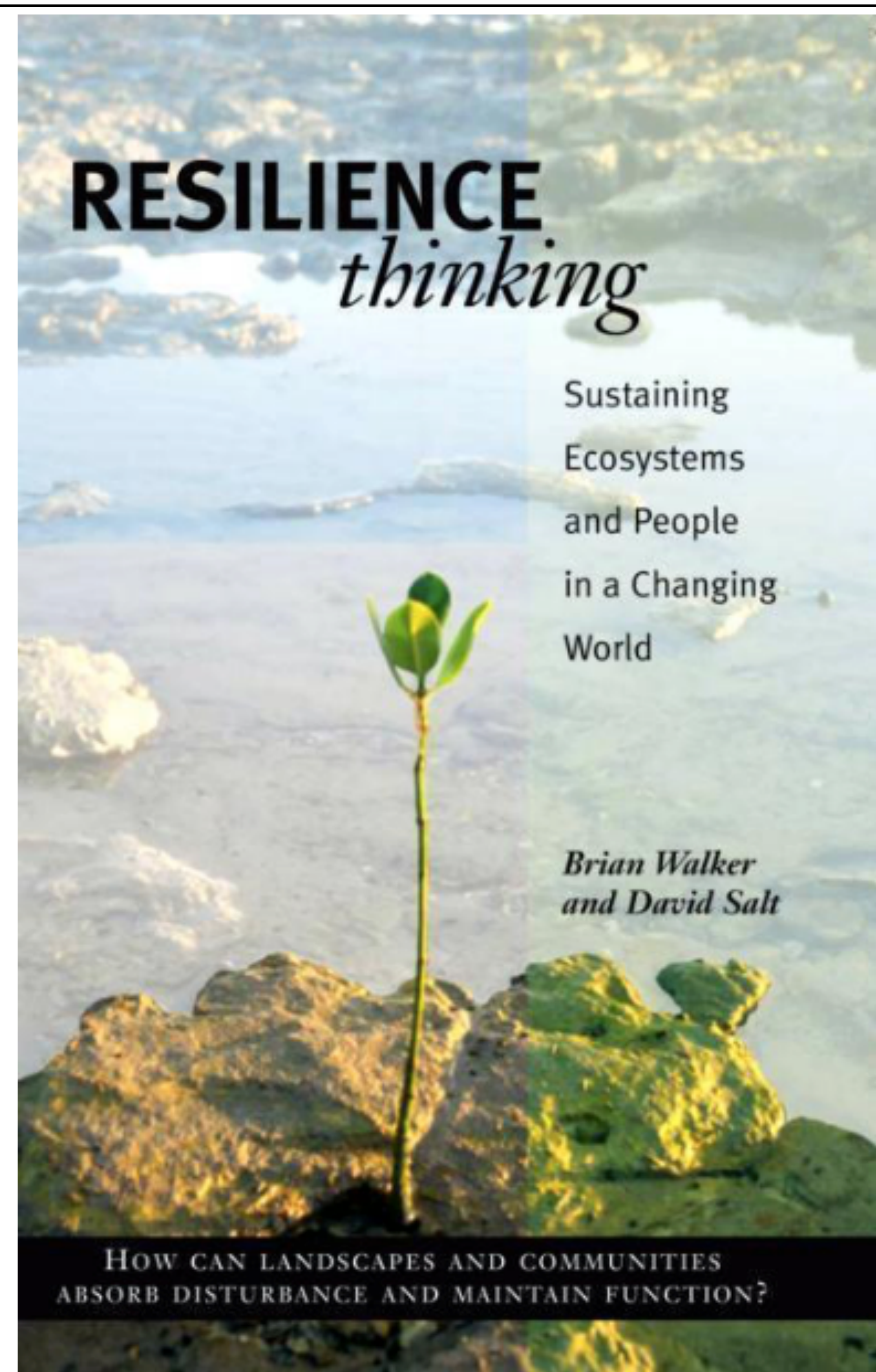
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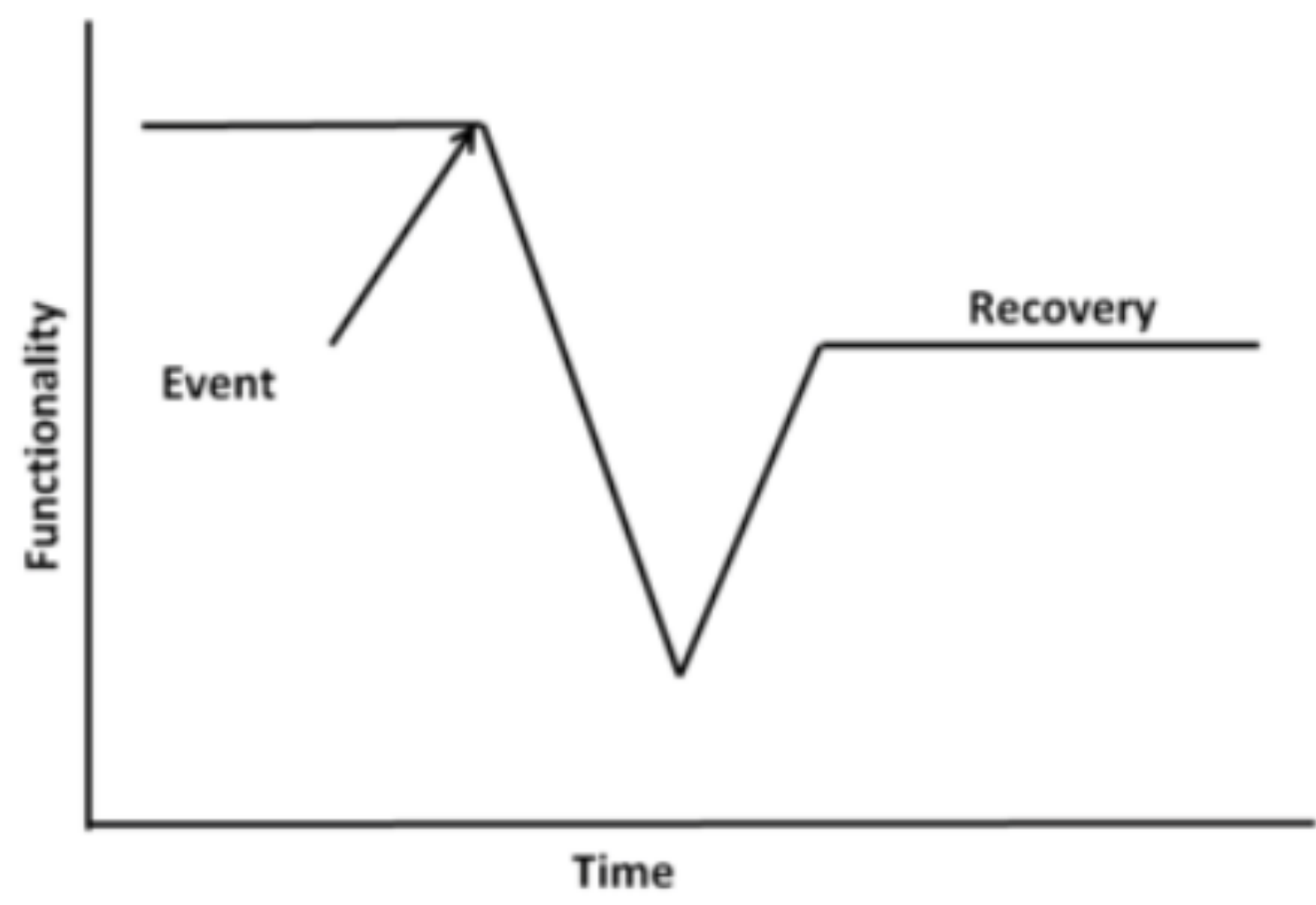
“Resilience is the capacity of a system to absorb disturbance and still retain its basic function and structure.”

Brian Walker PhD. Resilience Thinking: Sustaining Ecosystems and People in a Changing World.



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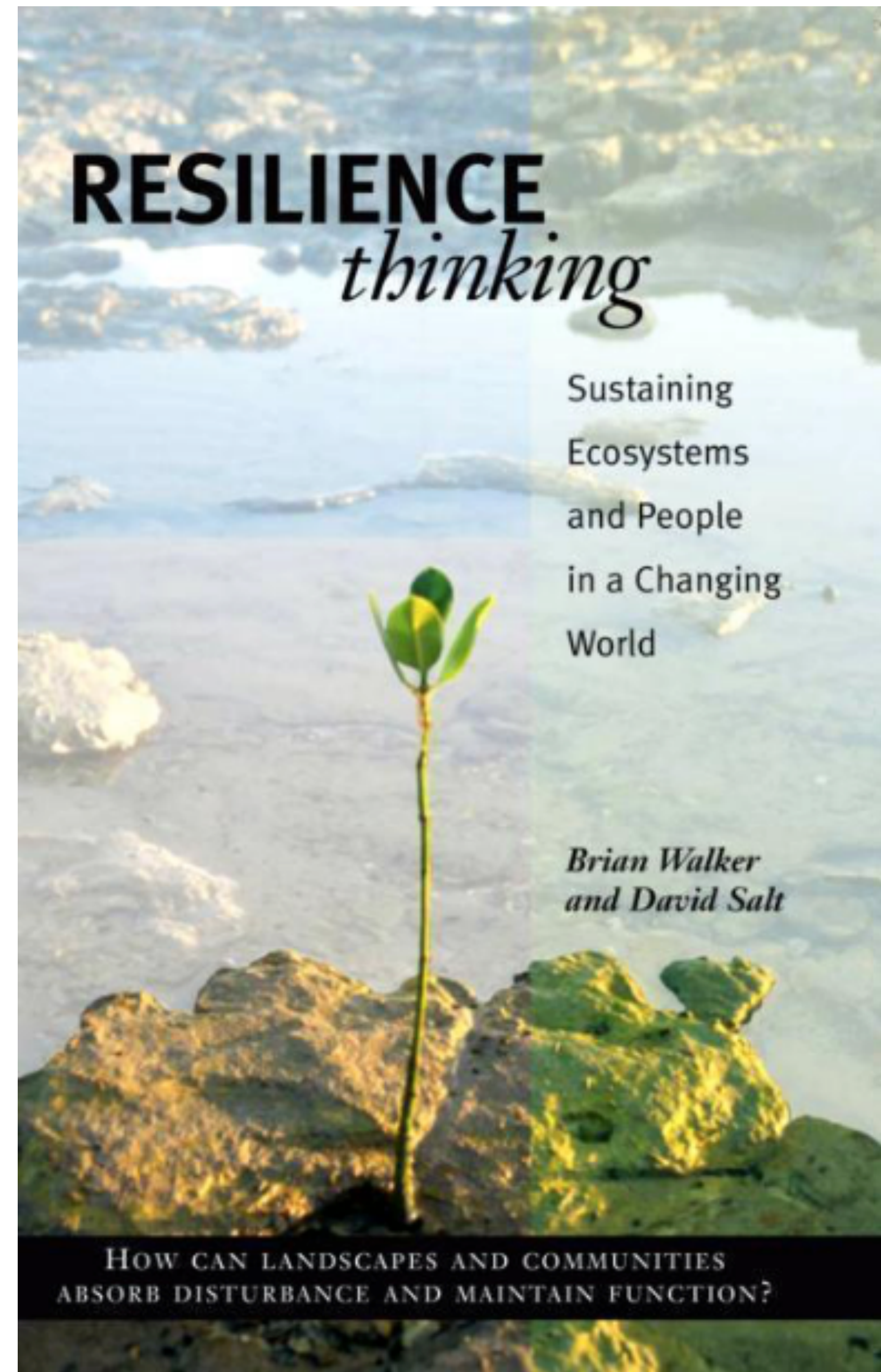
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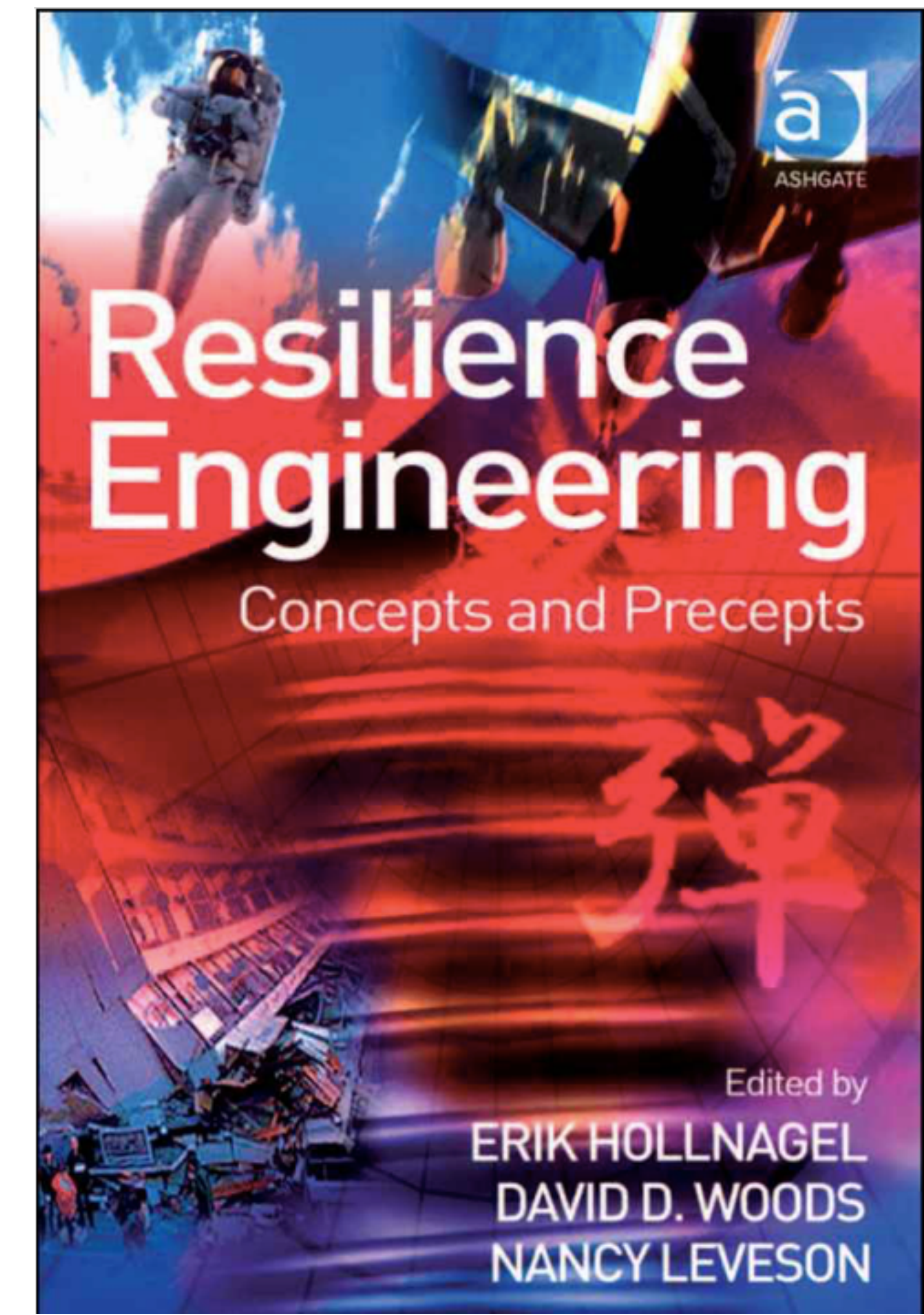
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The Stockholm Resilience Centre (2015) explains that “resilience is the capacity of a system, be it an individual, a forest, a city or an economy, to deal with change and continue to develop. It is about how humans and nature can use shocks and disturbances like a financial crisis or climate change to spur renewal and innovative thinking.”



“I want to reserve resilience to refer to the broader capability – **how well can a system handle disruptions and variations** that fall outside of the base mechanisms/model for being adaptive as defined in that system.”

Hollnagel in Woods, Professor David D. Resilience Engineering: Concepts and Precepts (Kindle Locations 487-488). Ashgate Publishing Ltd. Kindle Edition.



Resilience

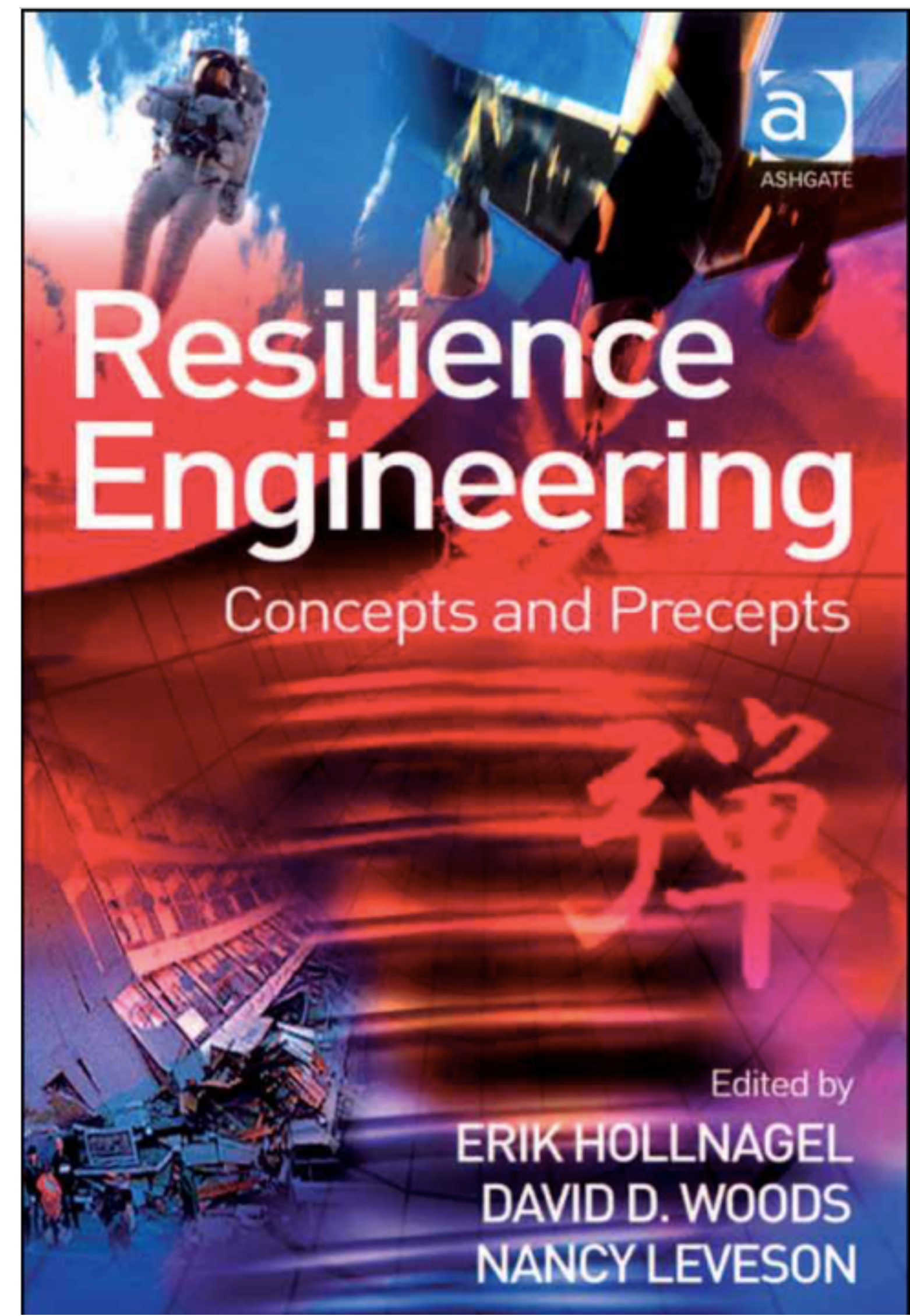
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However, we would argue that we should extend the definition a little more broadly, in order to **encompass also the ability to avert the disaster or major upset**, using these same characteristics.

Resilience then describes also the characteristic of managing the organisation’s activities to anticipate and circumvent threats to its existence and primary goals. This is shown in particular in an ability to manage severe pressures and conflicts between safety and the primary production or performance goals of the organisation.

Hale & Heijer, in Woods, Professor David D. Resilience Engineering: Concepts and Precepts (Kindle Locations 728-732). Ashgate Publishing Ltd. Kindle Edition.



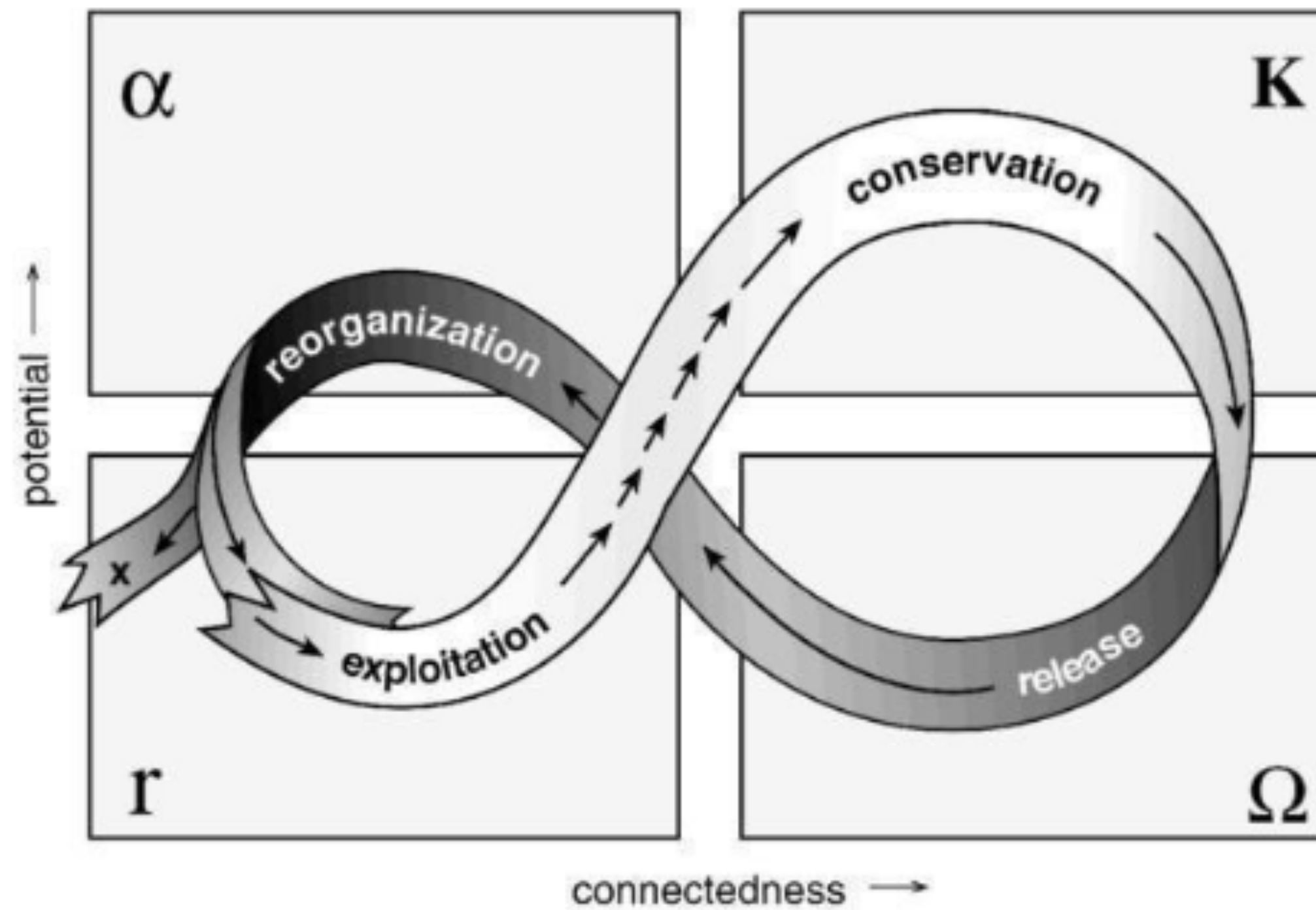
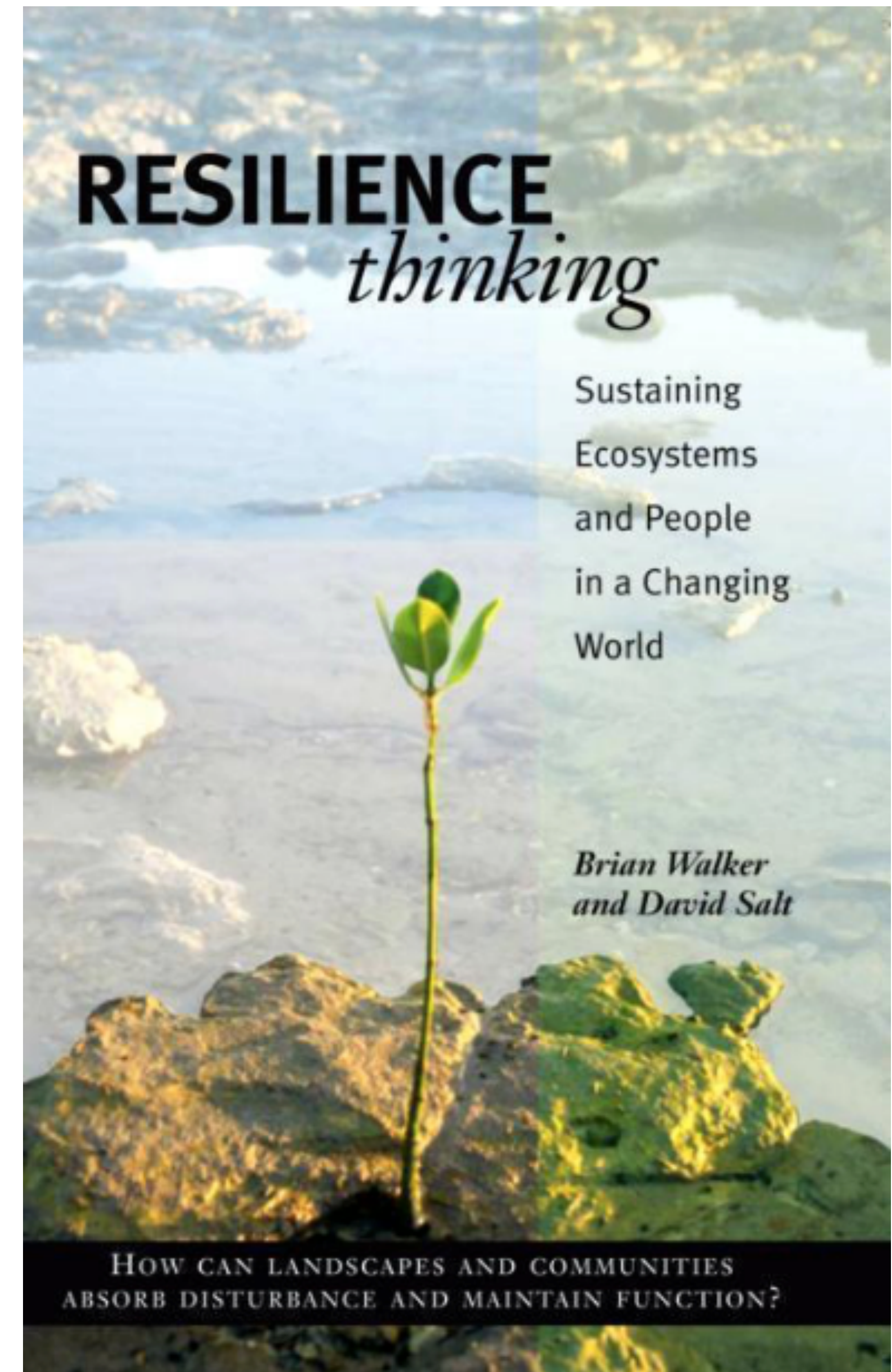


FIGURE 9 The First Version of the Adaptive Cycle

The first versions of the adaptive cycle pictured it as a figure 8 in two dimensions with the axes being connectedness and potential. Potential reflects accumulated growth and storage (biomass that is increasingly inactive like heartwood in trees or leaf litter). The use of the simpler loop, as shown in figure 10, has been adopted because it better reflects the passage from release to reorganization in some systems. However, because the adaptive cycle in the shape of the number 8 (as shown here in figure 9) was the original version it has iconic value, and it is often seen as a symbol of studies on resilience and adaptive cycles. (From Gunderson and Holling, 2002)



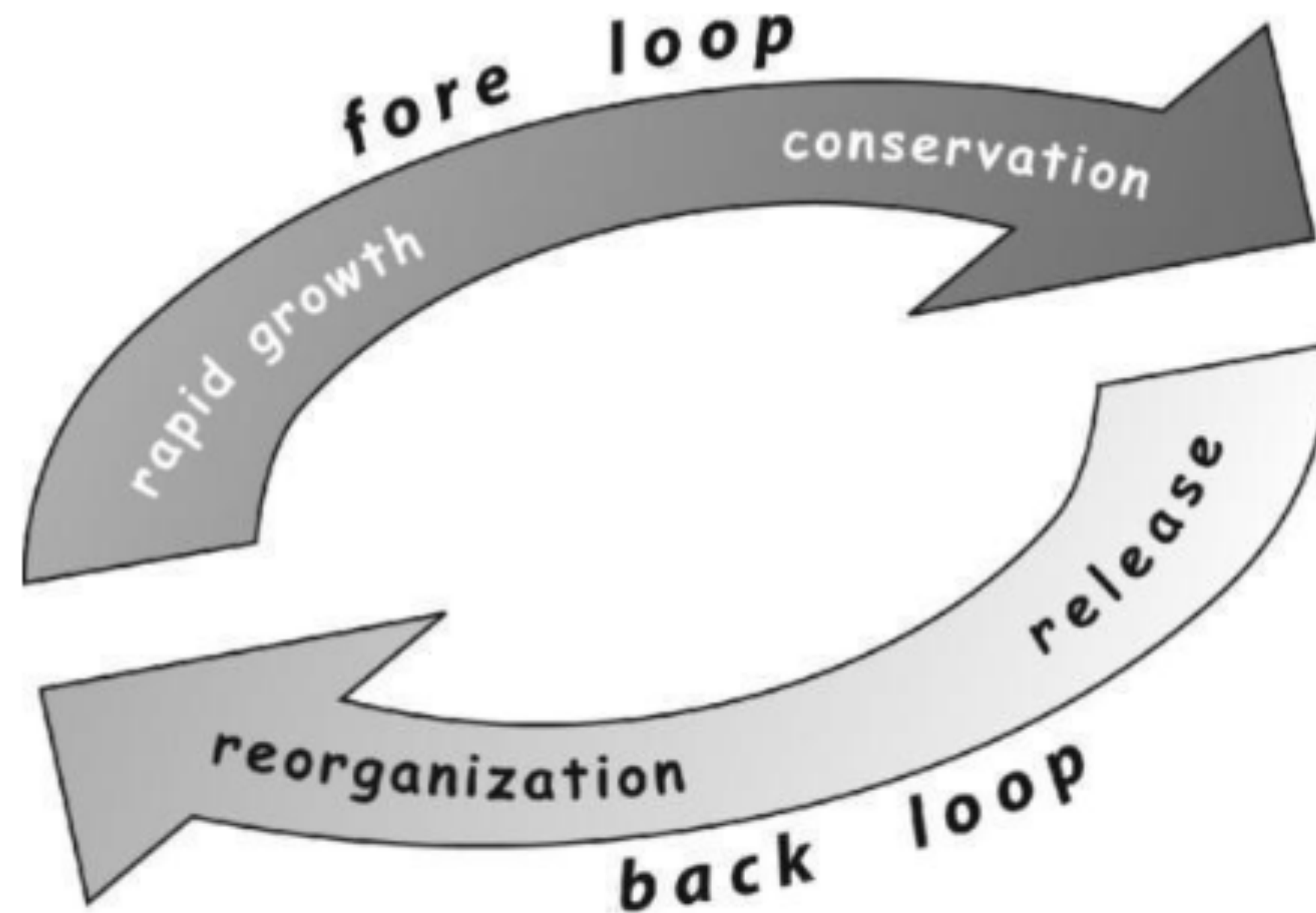
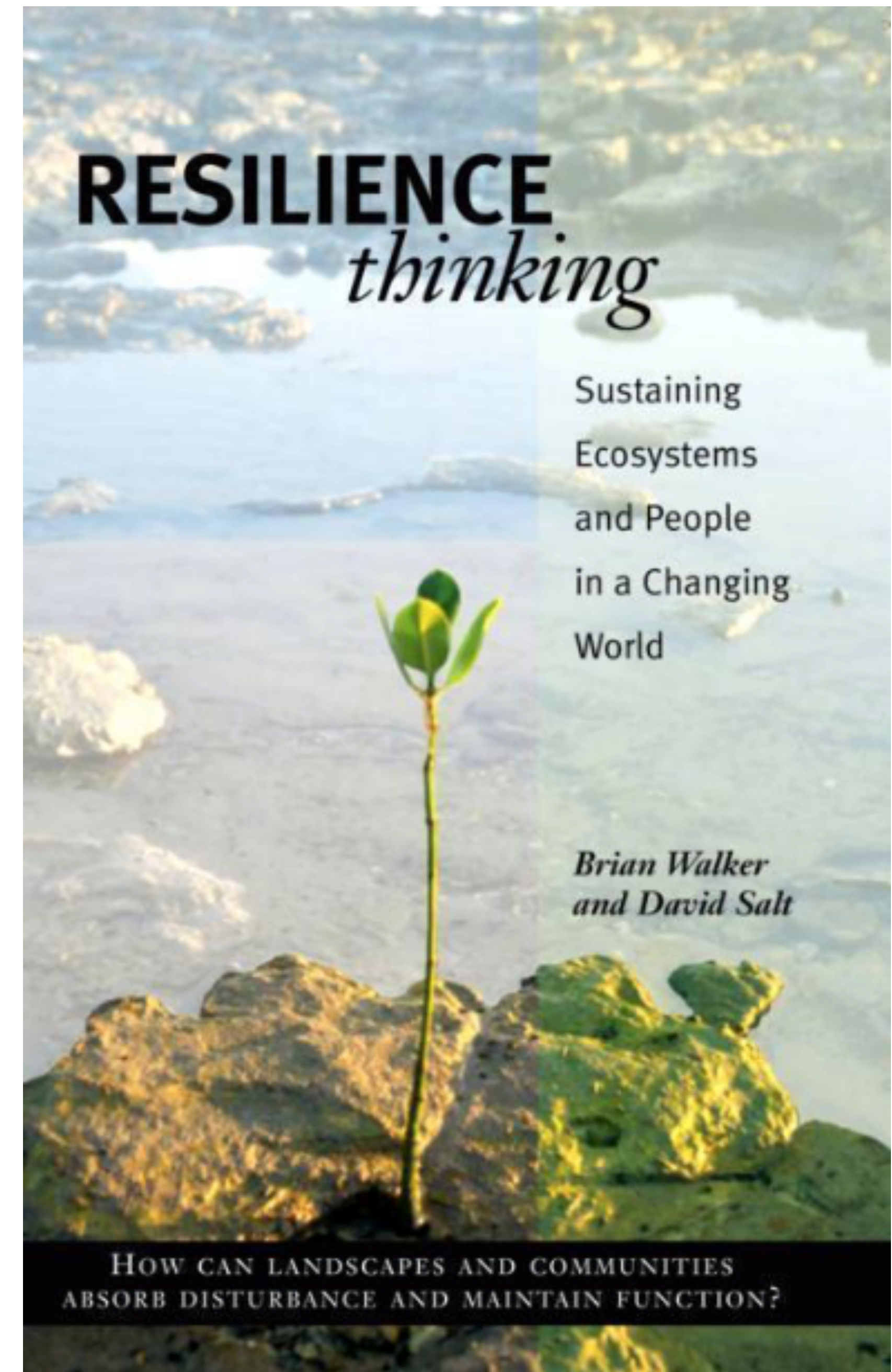


FIGURE 10 A Simple Representation of the Adaptive Cycle

The rapid growth and conservation phases are referred to as the fore loop with relatively predictable dynamics and in which there is a slow accumulation of capital and potential through stability and conservation. The release and reorganization phases are referred to as the back loop, characterized by uncertainty, novelty, and experimentation and during which there is a loss (leakage) of all forms of capital. The back loop is the time of greatest potential for the initiation of either destructive or creative change in the system.



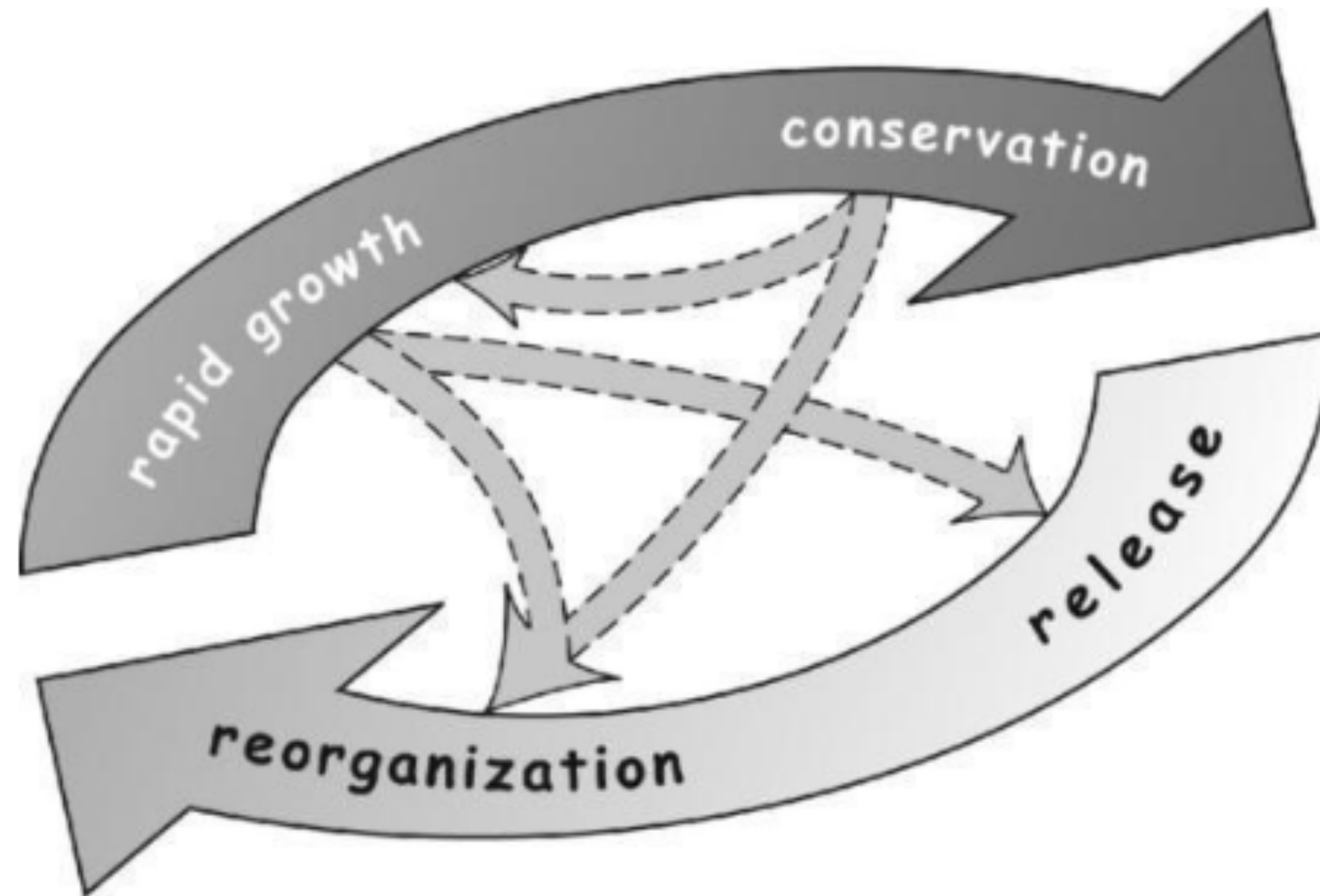
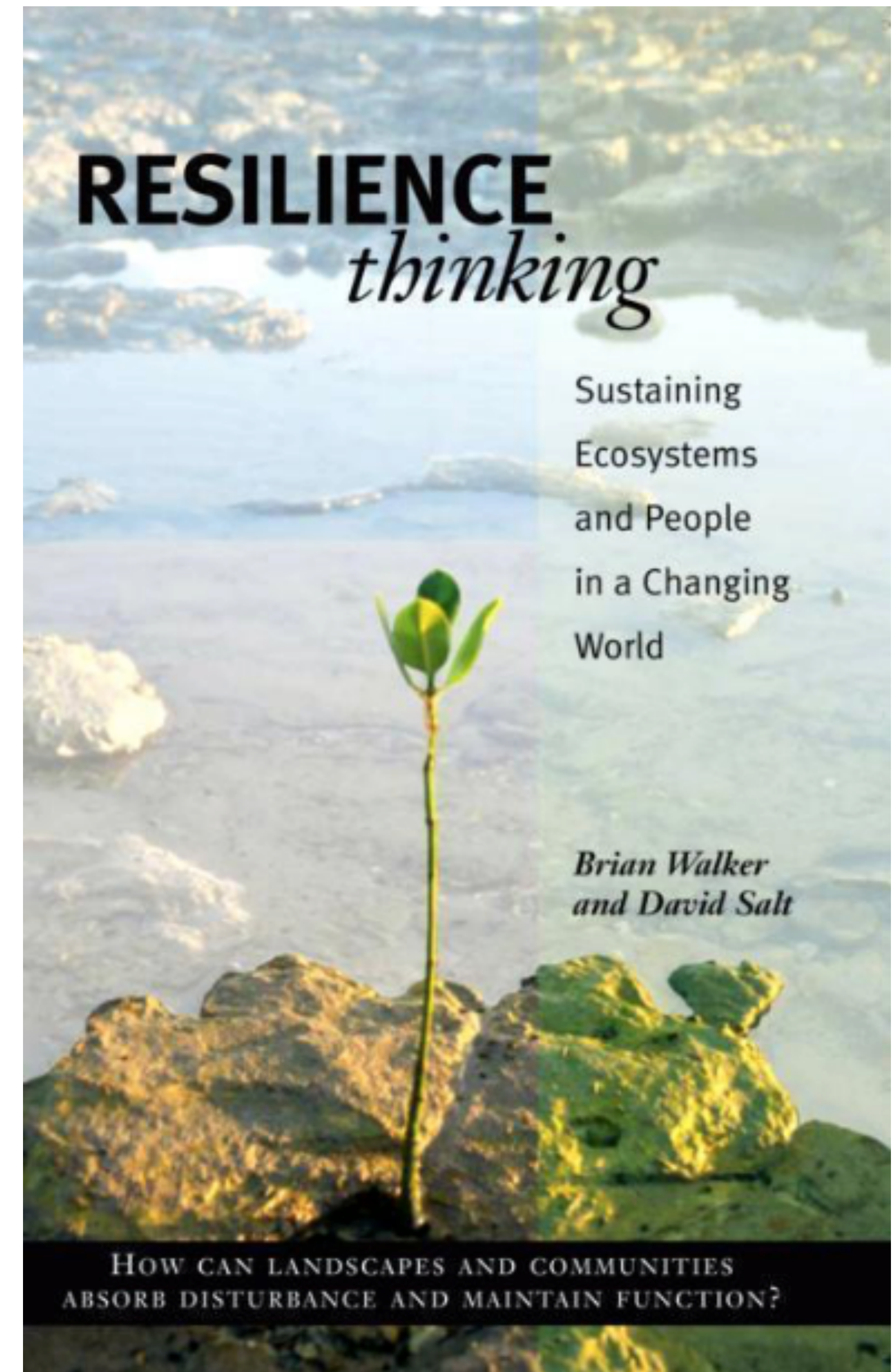


FIGURE 11 Variants of the Adaptive Cycle



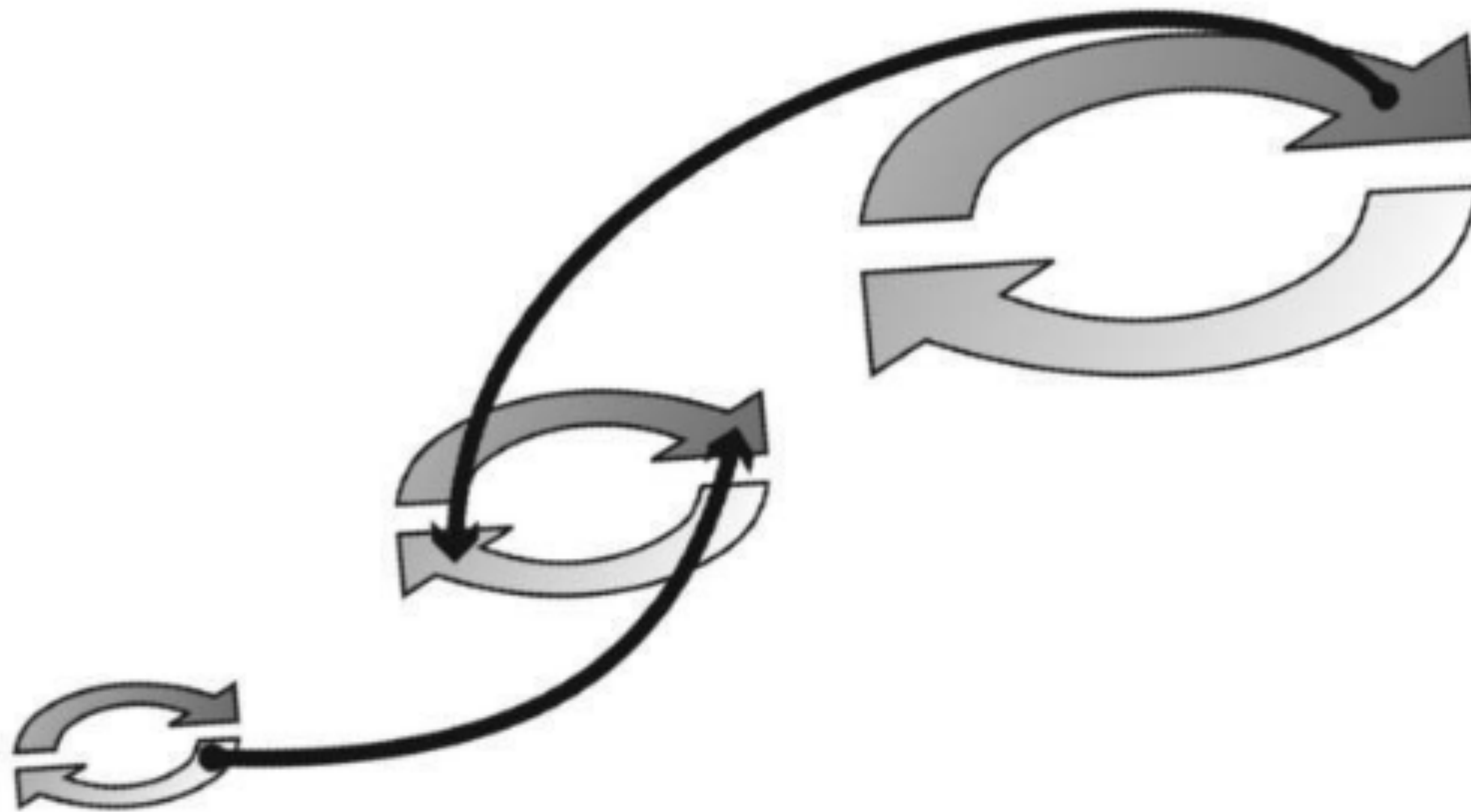
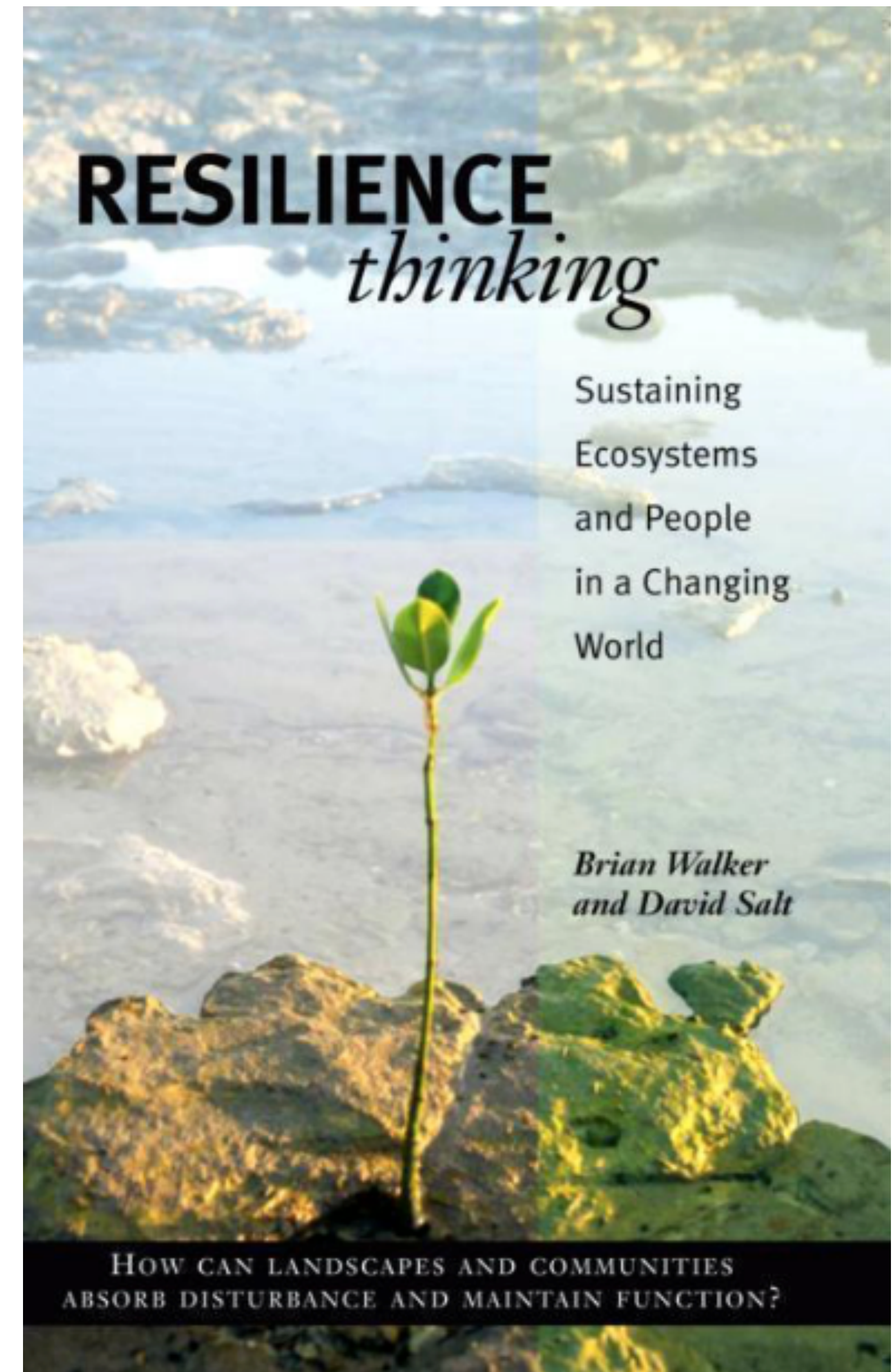


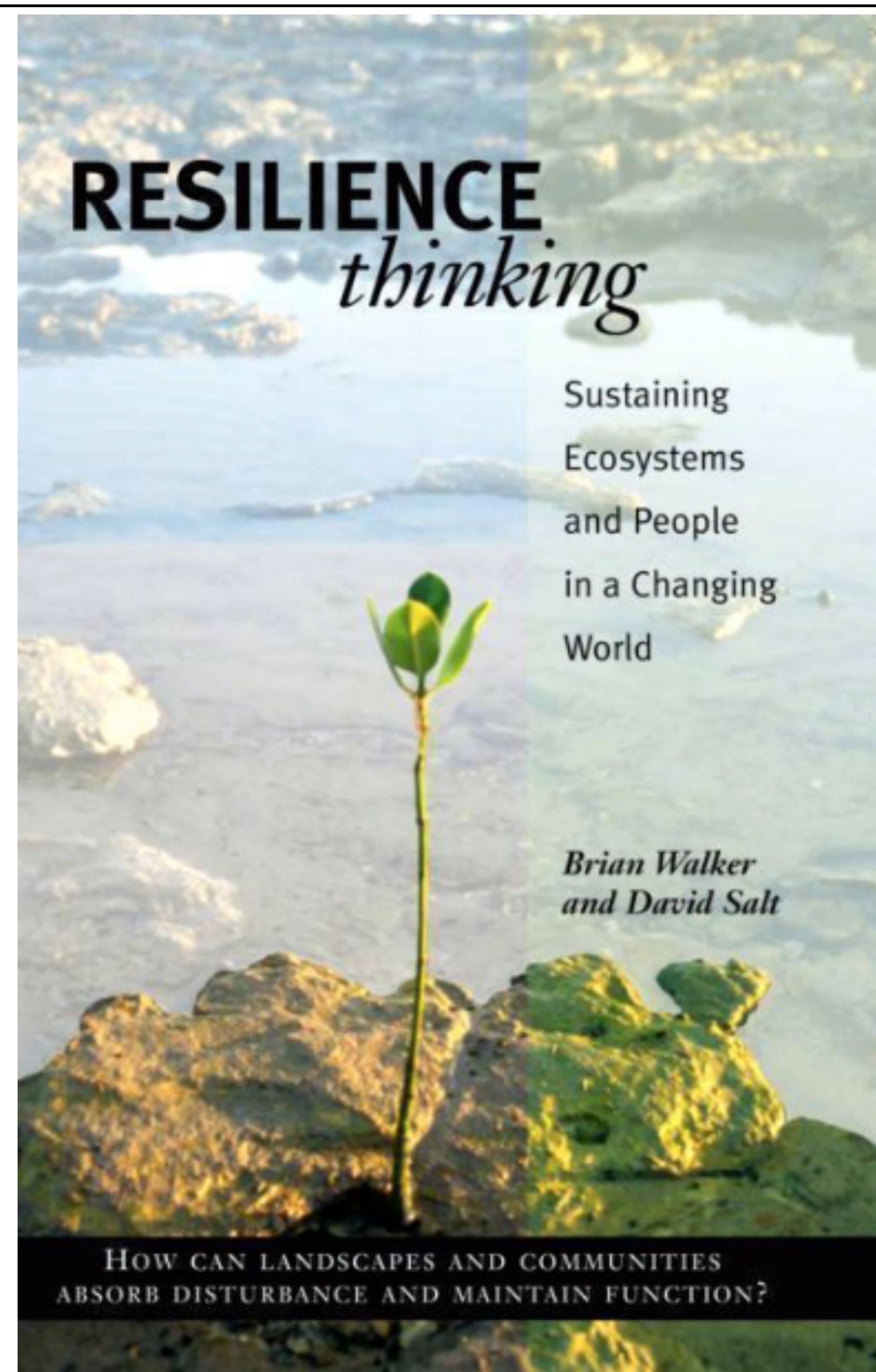
FIGURE 13 Panarchy Refers to Hierarchies of Linked Adaptive Cycles



Thresholds and Resilience Thinking

Thresholds (chapter 3) and the adaptive cycle metaphor are both central to resilience thinking. Adaptive cycles describe how many systems behave over time, and how resilience varies according to the phase where the system lies. Thresholds represent transitions between alternate regimes. While the **two concepts** can sometimes be related in the pattern of a particular system's dynamics, this not always the case. They are **different models used for different purposes**, and it is not always possible to equate the dynamics of a basin of attraction with the dynamics of an adaptive cycle. Where they do coincide, however, alternate regimes generally represent a new adaptive cycle, indicating that the system has new structures and feedbacks.

Brian Walker PhD. Resilience Thinking: Sustaining Ecosystems and People in a Changing World (Kindle Locations 1168-1170). Kindle Edition.



Resilient systems bend under stress but do not break, so they are able to weather storms more effectively and recover more quickly. Adaptive systems are characterized by redundancy, diversity, efficiency, strength, interdependence, adaptability, and collaborativeness (Godschalk 2003). They are designed so that the failure of one part does not cause the whole system to collapse.

Ayyub, Bilal M.. Sea Level Rise and Coastal Infrastructure: Prediction, Risks, and Solutions (Council on Disaster Risk Management (CDRM) Monograph) (Kindle Locations 2359-2361). American Society of Civil Engineers. Kindle Edition.

SEA LEVEL RISE AND COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PREDICTION, RISKS, AND SOLUTIONS

Edited by Bilal M. Ayyub, Ph.D., P.E. and Michael S. Kearney, Ph.D.



ASCE Council on Disaster Risk Management
Monograph No. 8
January 2012

ASCE

Resilience

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