



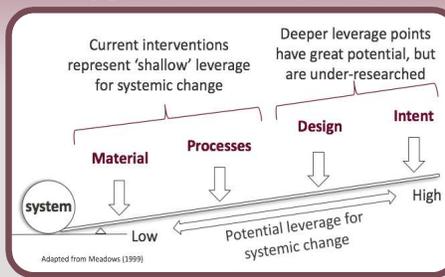
Leverage Points for Sustainability Transformation: Leveraging structures for institutional change

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How can social-ecological systems be purposefully moved onto more sustainable development trajectories through the use of leverage points?

Persistent failure to effectively tackle the global sustainability crisis demands urgent, systematic examination of the root causes of unsustainability. Hence, we study the re-structuring of institutions (this poster), re-connecting people with nature, and re-thinking knowledge for sustainability.

Leverage points for sustainability transformation:



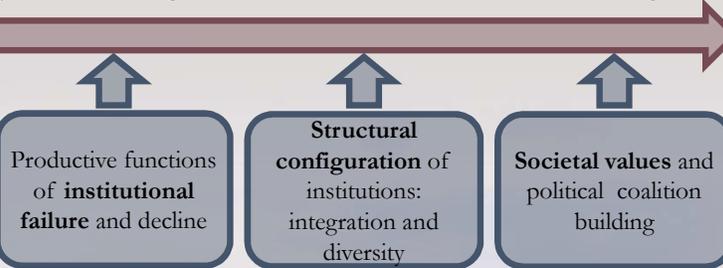
Four levels of leverage:

- 1. Material interventions:** Altering rewards and material flows.
- 2. Process interventions:** Changing feedbacks and system rules.
- 3. Design interventions:** Redefining goals, information flows and self-organization.
- 4. Intent interventions:** Changing mind-sets and paradigms.

Restructure: Leveraging structures for institutional change

Aims to understand processes of institutional change in order to assess how structures can be leveraged for sustainability transformations.

Institutional change is defined here as (fundamental) change in formal and information institutions, which are the rules, norms and structures that guide human behavior towards collective goals

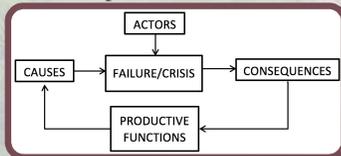


Sustainability Transformations minimise stress on the natural environment and negative social effects, improve equity between social groups and enhance democratic decision making (cf. Raven et al. 2010)

Productive functions of institutional failure and decline (Pim Derwort)

This research focuses on institutional failure and decline (incl. crisis), particularly on the productive functions of failure in advancing the effectiveness and efficacy of public policy in the wider political system.

- A systematic review of the conceptual literature on institutional failure and decline;



- A case study on the main enabling and constraining factors for the success of energy cooperatives in Germany/Niedersachsen
- A perspective on institutional exnovation for sustainability.

Coherence and diversity in the

Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus (Nicolas Jager)

How does the institutional configuration of governance systems, i.e. the accommodation of diversity and fragmentation, contribute to their effectiveness and legitimacy?

WEF nexus: water, energy, and food are interlinked in a web of complex relations where use and availability are interdependent; governance of the nexus must account for synergies, tensions and potential trade-offs at multiple scales

Conceptual synthesis: review and collection of causal mechanisms through which diversity and coherence contribute to systems' performance.

Empirical analysis of the WEF governance regime in two case regions in Germany and Romania, employing institutional and network analysis tools.

Food Policy Councils: Levers for Sustainability Transformation? (Annelie Sieveking)

This research investigates how food policy councils can serve as means for more integrative governance of food systems.

Food policy councils (Ernährungsräte): Advisory councils comprising representatives from different food system sectors aiming at influencing food-related policies. Originating in the US and Canada, the first councils in Germany formed in 2016.

- Institutional change in food governance.
- Integration of a broad spectrum of stakeholders in food governance through food policy councils (FPC).
- Legal framework conditions for FPC in Germany.
- Empirical case study: The emergence of a FPC in Oldenburg, Lower Saxony.

Institutional structures and beliefs in Food and Energy Systems in Romania (Ioana Duse)

How can different institutional structures and beliefs be leveraged for sustainable outcomes in food and energy systems in Romania?

Institutional and behavioral change within the **food and energy systems** in Romania is a particularly interesting realm of leverage because of the strong interactions between the systemic elements. Investigating such elements is important for understanding transformational change.

- Analysing the **policy change processes** in the food production law (through the advocacy coalition framework (ACF), a multi-dimensional policy making environment);
- Assessing the **social acceptability** component – as a multi-actor phenomenon – of renewable energy technologies vs. conventional ones.