

# Polyperspectivism

John A Challoner

# Definition

Engaging with multiple perspectives.  
For a deeper, more flexible understanding of reality.  
Without reducing them to a single truth.  
Without treating them all as equal.

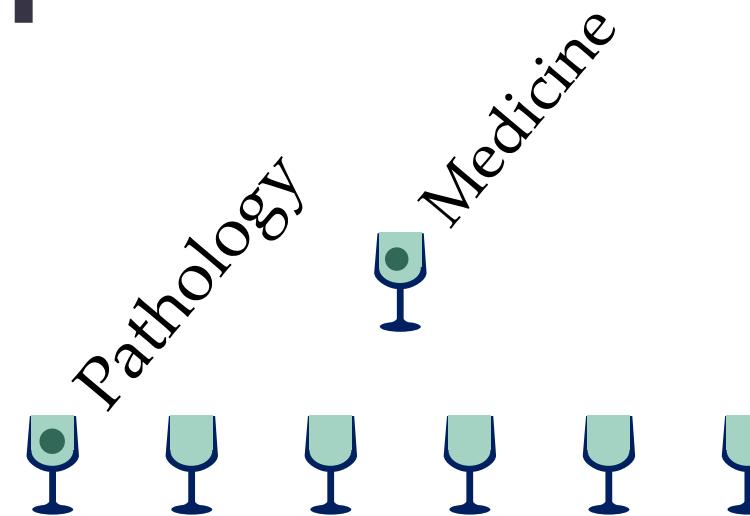
# Why?



# The Problem

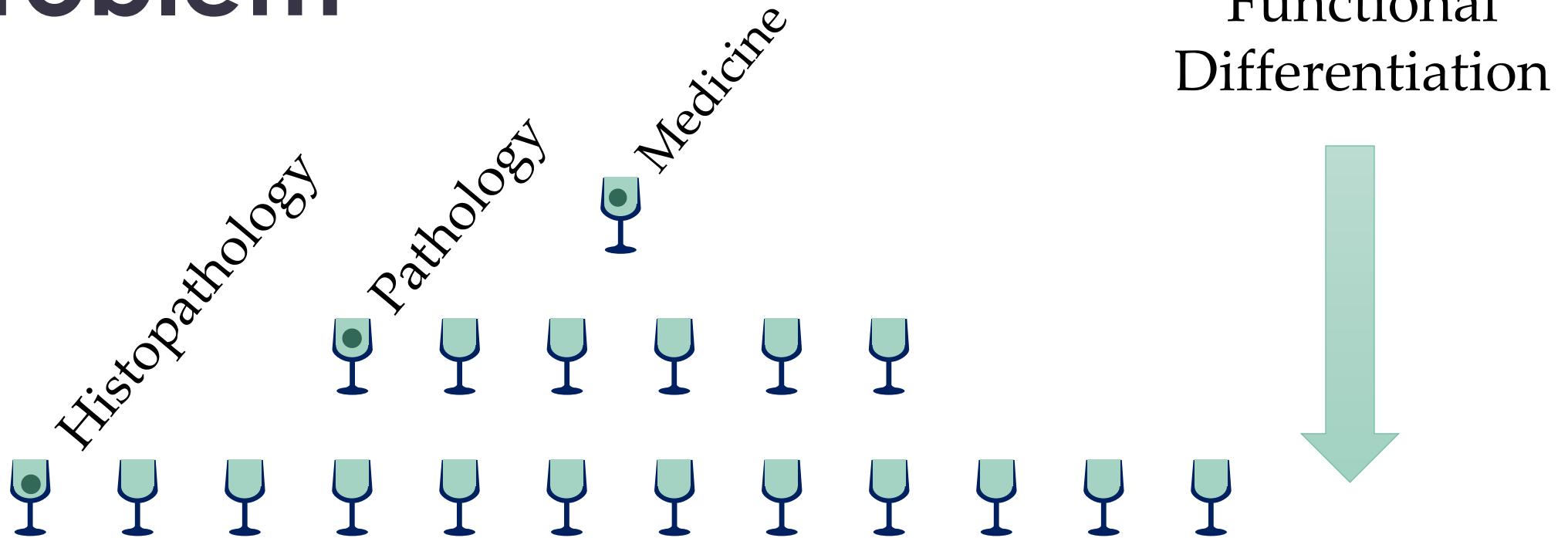


# The Problem



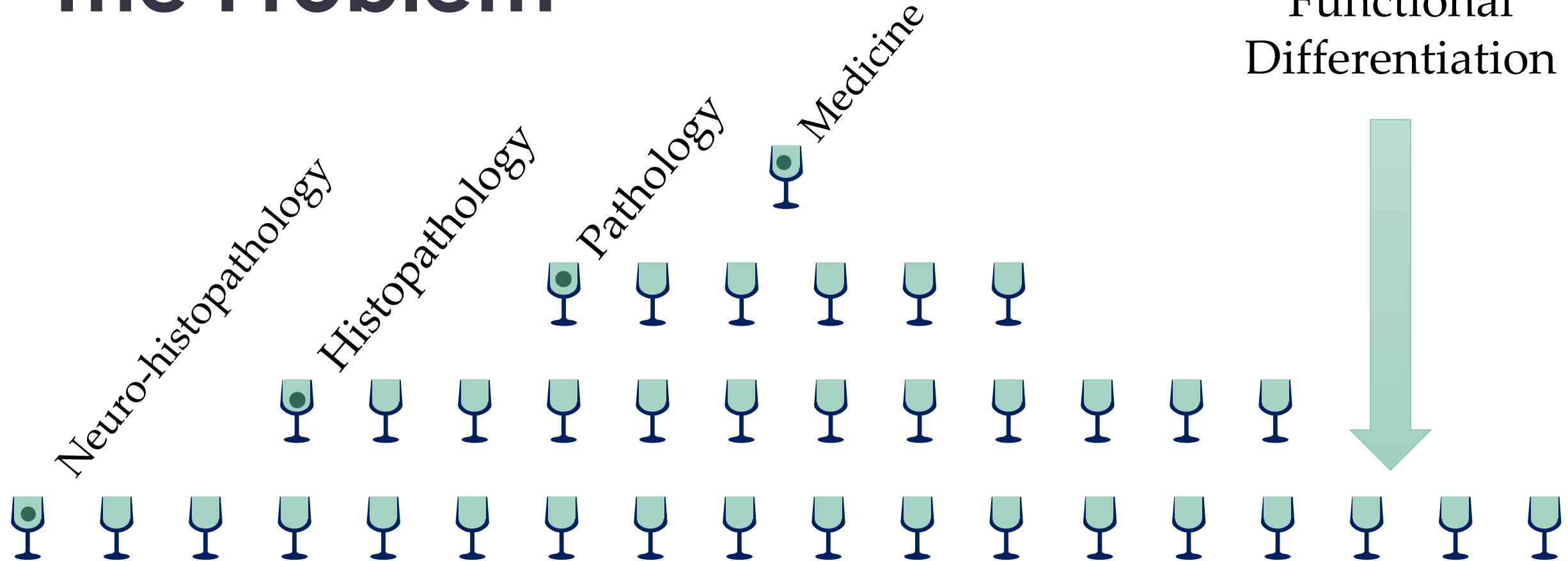
Process of  
Functional  
Differentiation

# The Problem



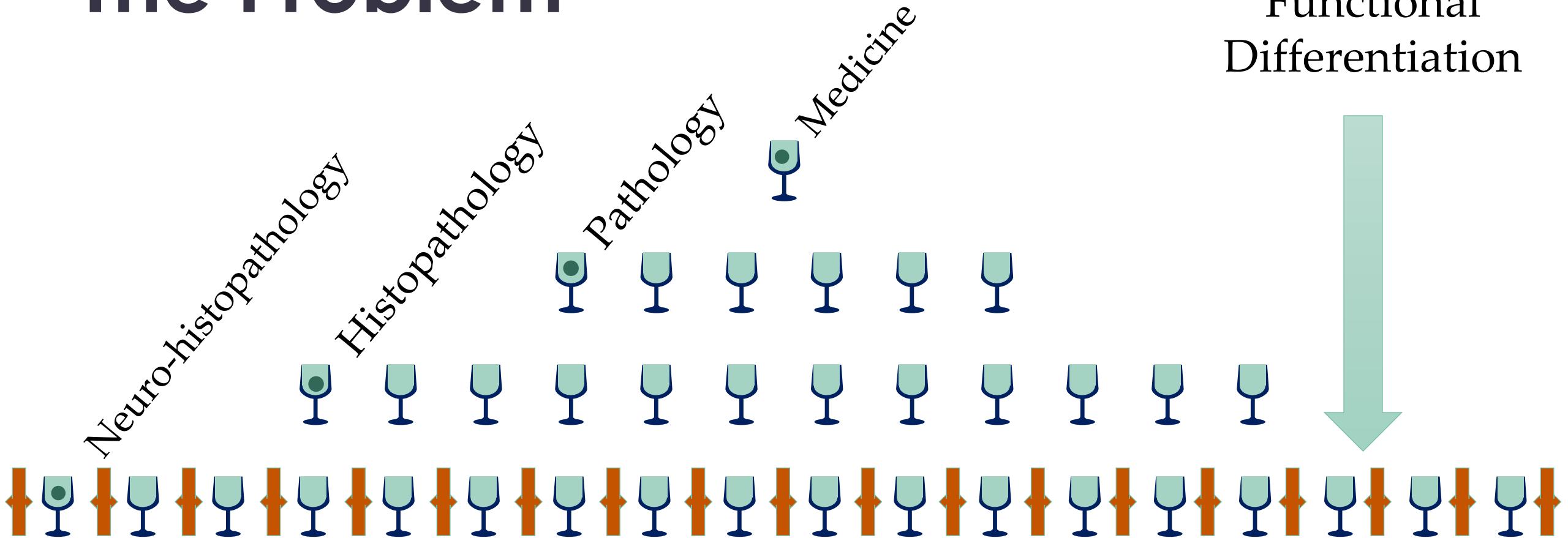
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# Barriers

Cognitive Overload

Enculturation

Cognitive Dissonance Avoidance



Effort After Meaning

Motivated Symbolic Interpretation

Confirmation Bias

Intellectual Inertia

Overconfidence in Familiar Frameworks

Identity Defence

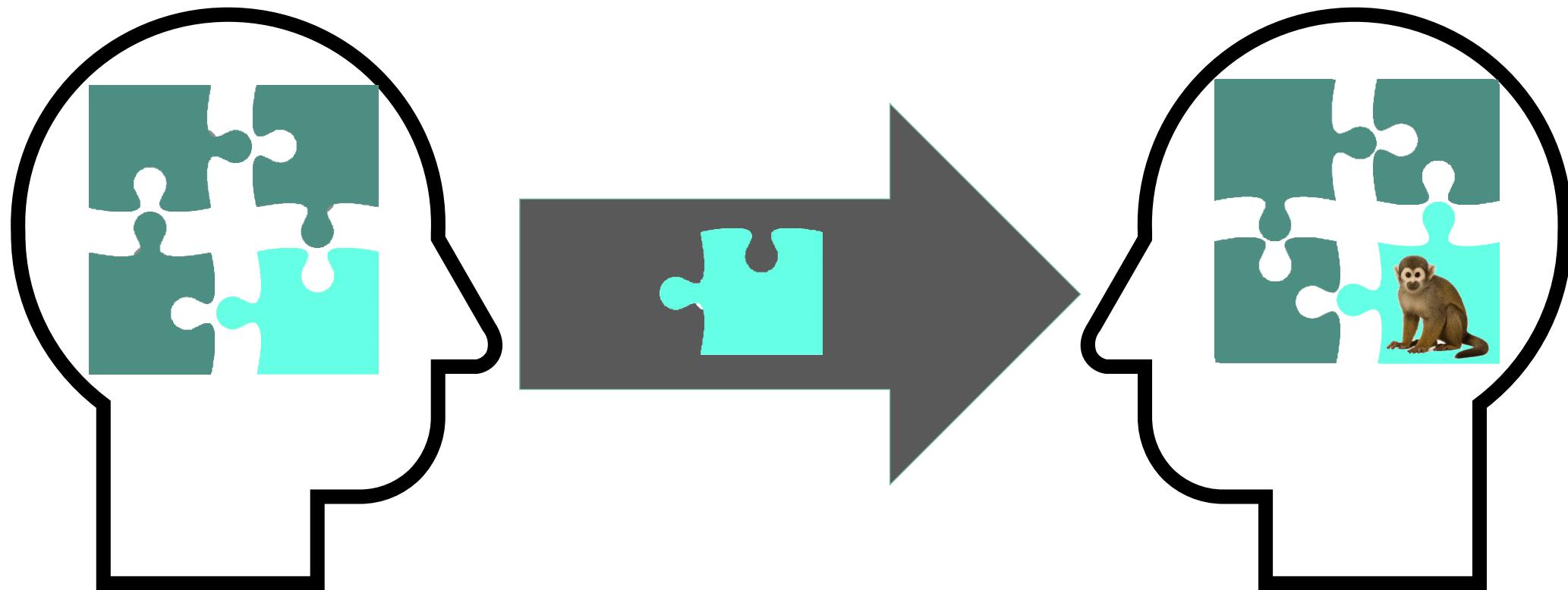


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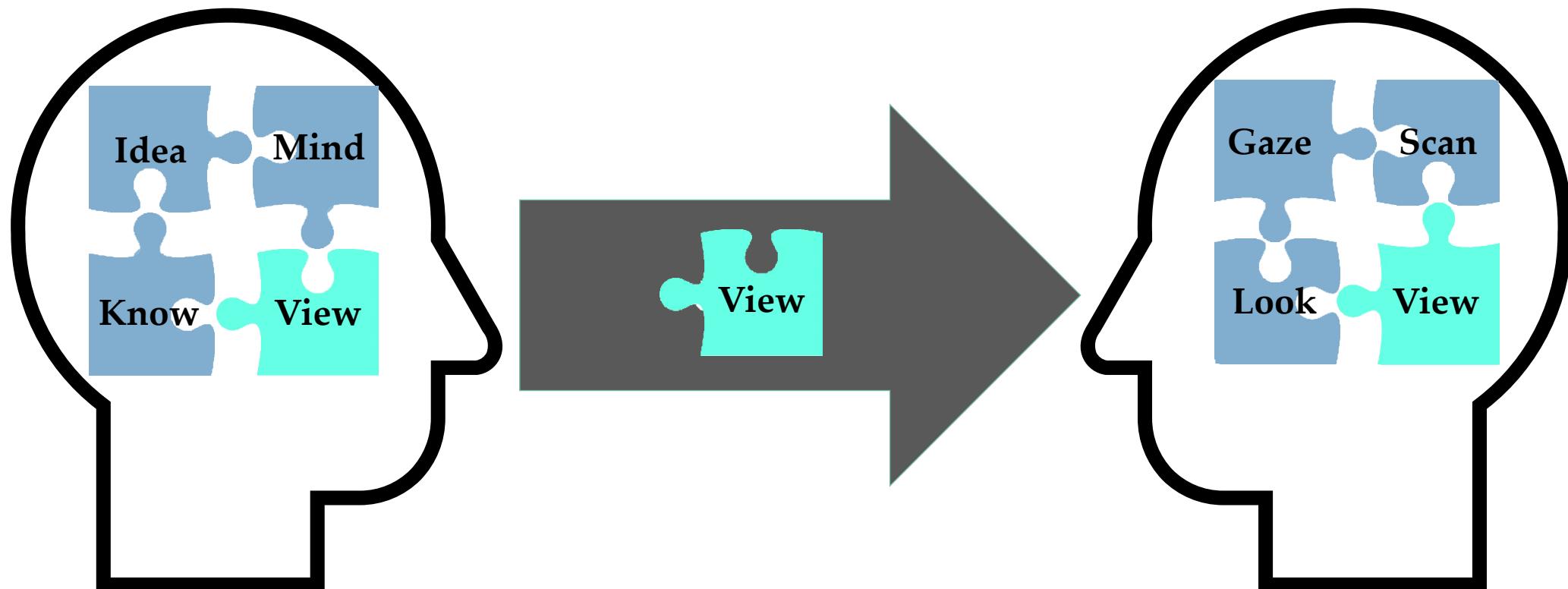


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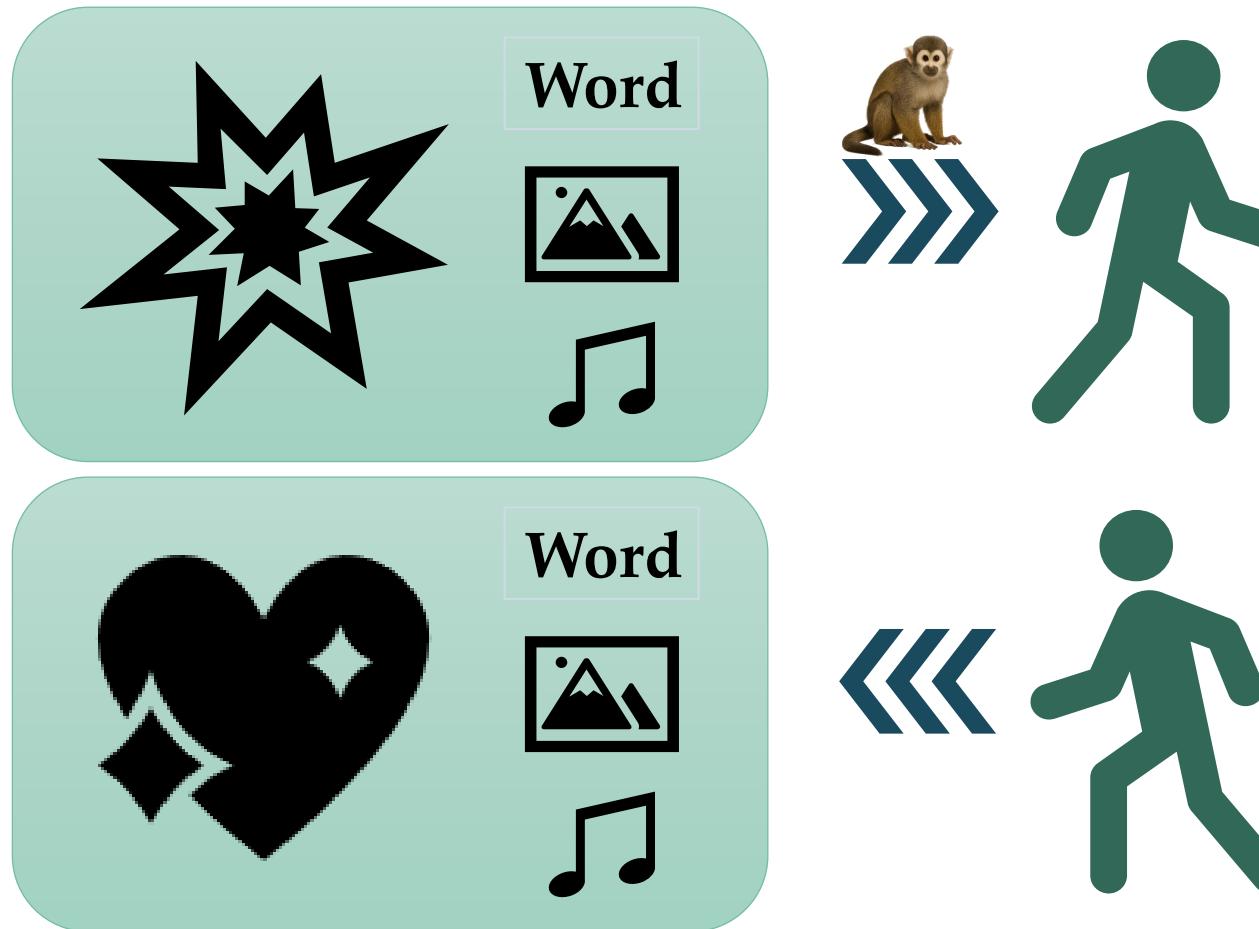
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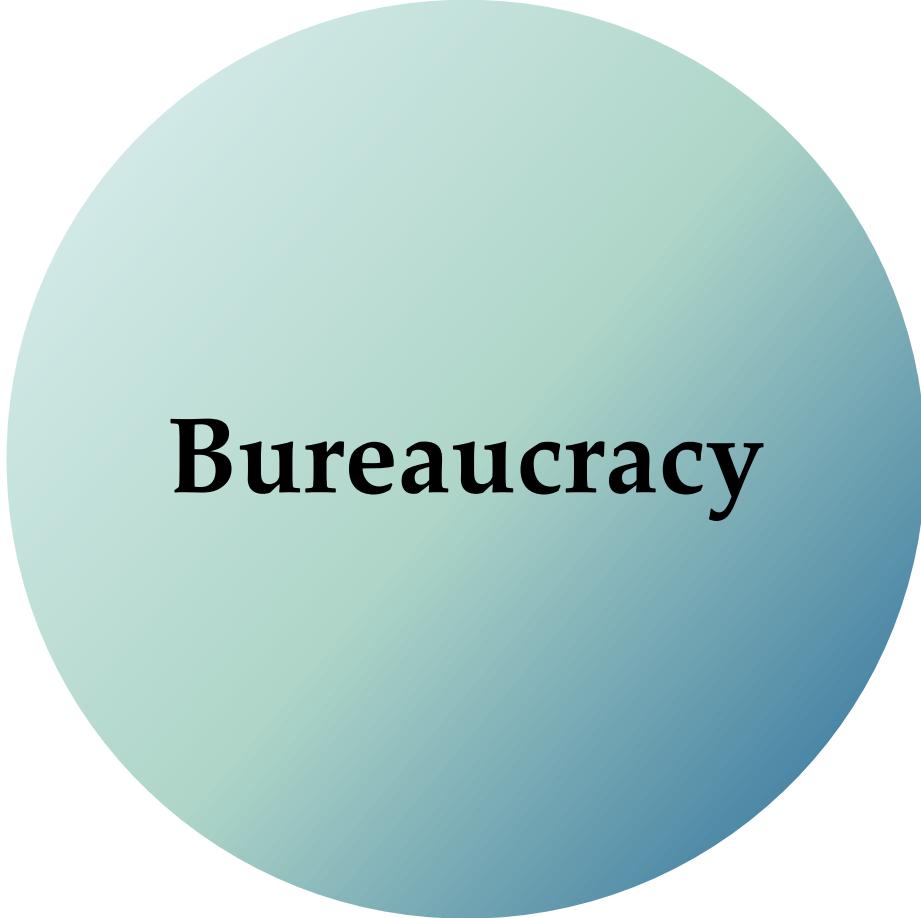
# Effort After Meaning



# Motivated Symbolic Interpretation



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Bureaucracy

# Motivated Symbolic Interpretation



Discovery

# Reflexivity

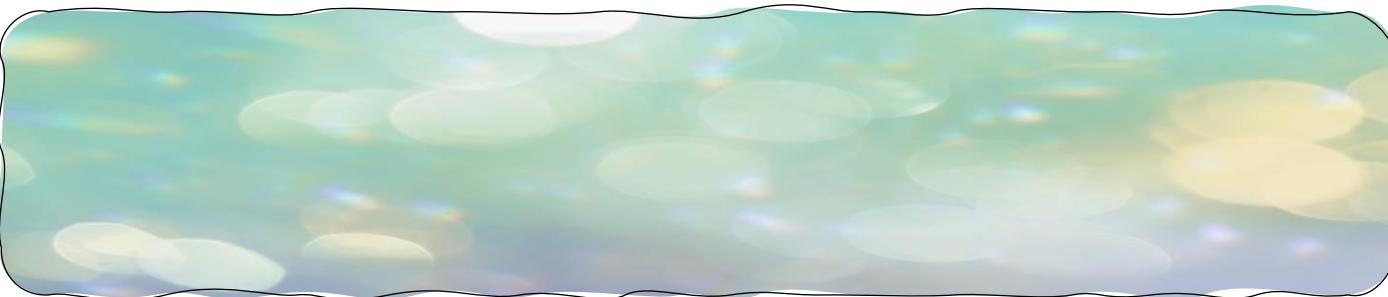


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# Effective Communication



- External Feedback
- Constructive Engagement
  - Socratic Questioning
  - Steelman Technique
- Paul Graham's Hierarchy of Disagreement
  - Meta-Frameworks
- Test Perspectives in Real-World Contexts
  - Dialogue Over Debate



# Steelman Technique



# Reflexive Meta-Framework

## A Human-Centred Complement to Systems Science

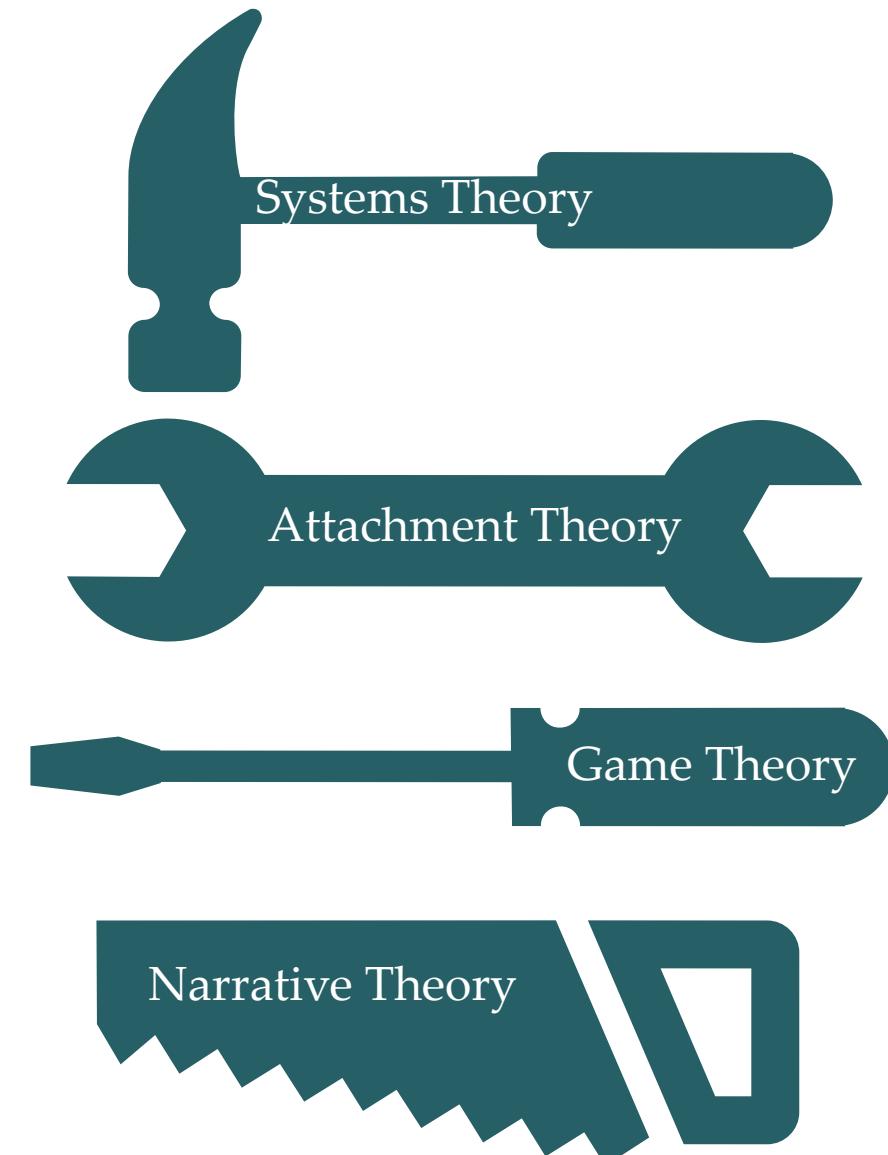
- Focuses on the purpose of knowledge, not what exists
- Evaluates perspectives by the human needs they satisfy or the harms they prevent
- Encourages reflexivity within systems science and other knowledge frameworks
- Supports productive coordination across disciplines, cultures, and paradigms
- Avoids both relativism and reductionism
- Operates at the meta-level; comparing, coordinating, and situating diverse ways of knowing



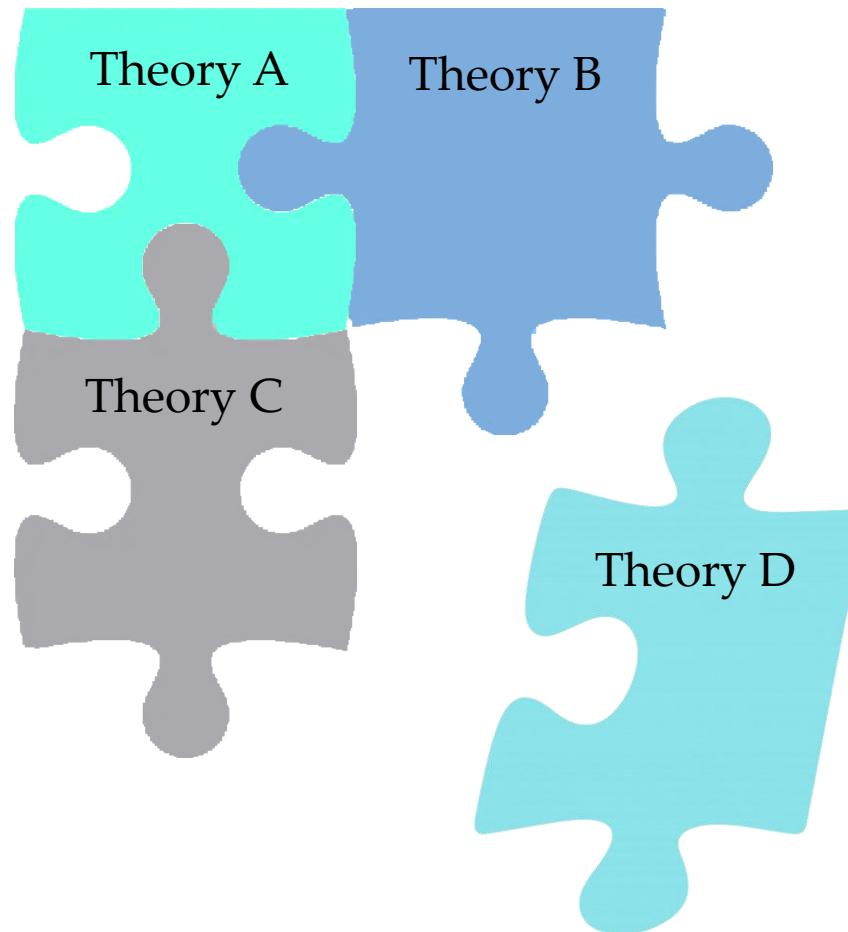
# Not All Perspectives are Equally Valid



# Utility

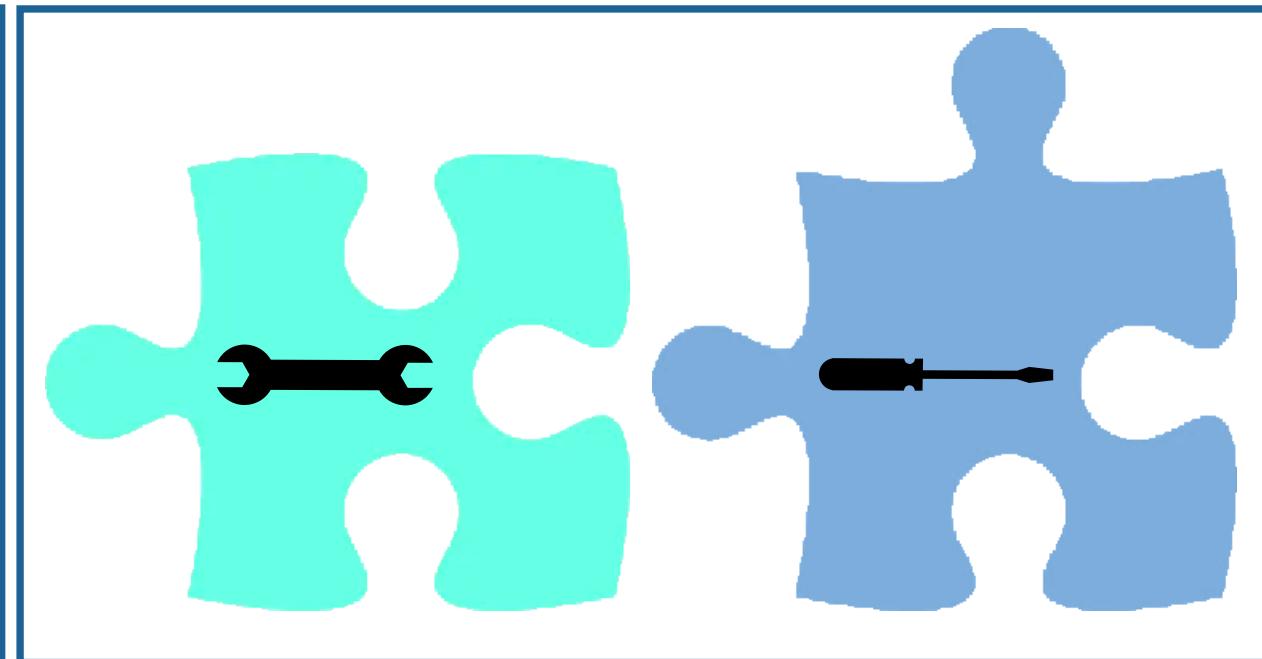
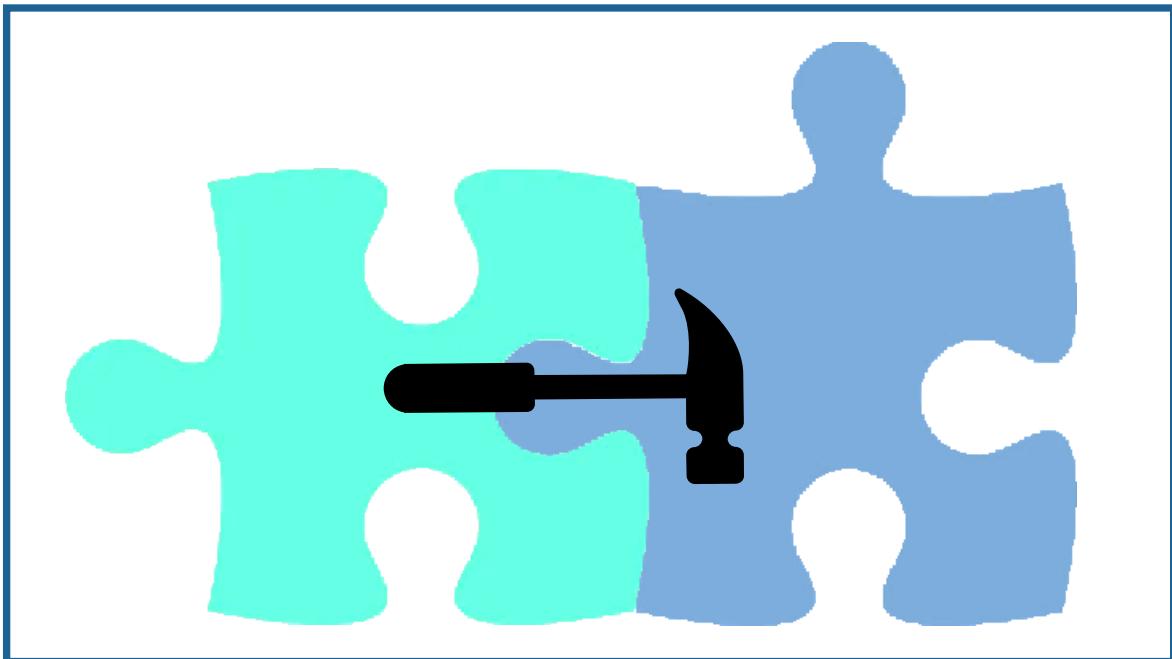


# Coherence



# Productive Co-ordination

“No systems methodology is universally applicable. Critical systems thinking argues for the creative and critical use of multiple methodologies in combination.” — Jackson (2003)



# Organisational & Institutional Relevance

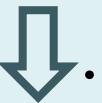


A framework for governments, scientists, and communities to coordinate — not collide.

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- **Method.** Evaluate Perspectives by Function (Needs Met & Harms Avoided).
- **Tool.** Reflexive Meta-framework (Human-centred Complement to Systems Science).
- **Application.** Individuals, Institutions, & Cross-sector Collaboration.
- **Outcome.** Productive Co-ordination. Not Collapse or Conflict.

# Thank You

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