



A glimpse into the TREnD Research Questions

Vincenzo Provenzano, Department of Economics, Business and Statistics

vincenzo.provenzano@unipa

Ferdinando Trapani, Department of Architecture

ferdinando.trapani@unipa.it

UNIPA UNIT

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Transition Management and Resilience in the Evolutionary Economy Perspective

The first phase, indeed, will lead to unfold critical factors, drivers and hindrances, which define Transitions and "Resilience-building" processes. Upon an evolutionary perspective, the analysis will be based on a set of indicators (socio-economical) concerning the past development trajectories (e.g. Path-dependency) and the local degree to shift into a related/unrelated diversification.

Transition Management and Spatial Planning: towards a new territorial dimension of the Cohesion Policy

The second phase will unveil the impacts of the territorial aspects in regard of "resilience-building processes" towards new patterns of territorial development. It will be rewarded much emphasis on governance aspects including: local networks, transition arenas, and role of external actors through US-EU case studies comparison. Spatial analysis built on GIS mapping database, will be conducted to gauge the effect of the "space/place" on related/unrelated diversification indicators.

Responses to external shocks: case study analysis through a resilience perspective

The third phase will sketch out how external shocks can provide latent opportunities to re-orient local development trajectories. The case studies will be assessed according to the "backcasting" approach in order to fully exploit the window of local opportunity disclosed in the aftermath of shocks and to design TM.

Open access Toolkit: a new gateway for regional transition policies

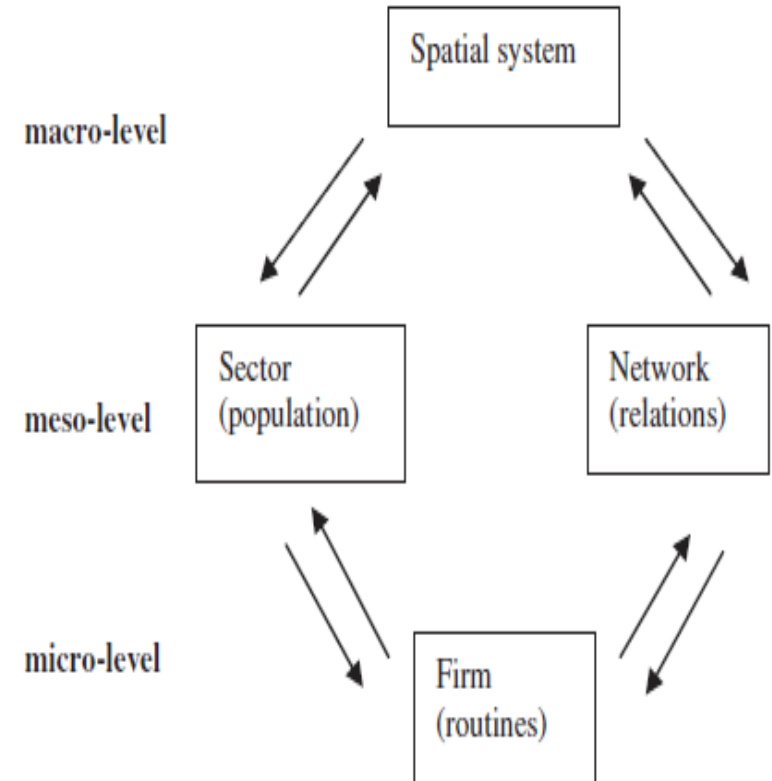
The fourth phase will be incrementally developed over project lifetime to upgrade metrics of TM and Resilience building process to be implemented through the Open Access Toolkit

Evolutionary Economic Geography

- EEG combines appreciative theorizing (inductive) and formal modelling (deductive)
 - EEG takes firms, and their routines, as the basic but not the sole unit of analysis
 - EEG assumes the behaviour and success of firms to be dependent primarily on the routines a firm (or its founder) has built up in the past (path dependence)
 - EEG views the traditional determinants of firm (location) behaviour as being price signals (neoclassical) and place-specific institutions as conditioning the range of possible (location) behaviours and potential locations, but not determining actual (location) behaviour and locational outcomes
 - EEG views institutions as primarily influencing innovation in a generic sense, and as co-evolving with technologies over time and differently so in different regions
 - EEG describes the spatial evolution of sectors and networks as a dynamic co-evolutionary process transforming neutral space into real places
 - EEG explains regional economic development from the dynamics of structural change at the level of sectors, networks and institutions at multiple territorial levels
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Evolutionary economics

- Evolutionary economics predicts most firms to innovate incrementally and to exploit their knowledge build up in the past
- Routines are at the base of growth
- Differential profits lead to differential growth rates
- «Smart» routines vs stupid «routines»
- EEG aims to understand the spatial routines over time and specifically the creation and diffusion of fitter routines
- **Question 1: what kind of space should we consider?**



Neoclassical, Institutional, Evolutionary approach

Table 1. A comparison of the three approaches in economic geography

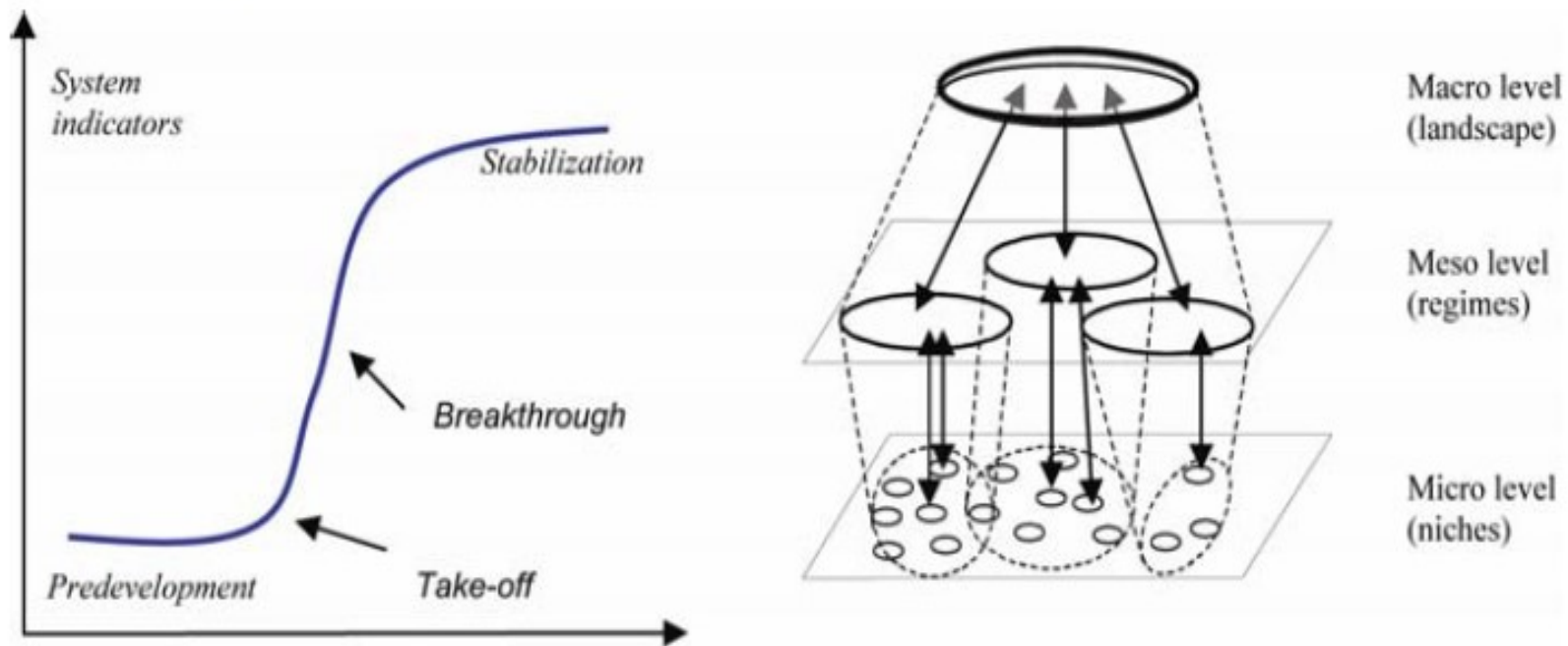
Key issues	Neoclassical	Institutional	Evolutionary
Methodology	Deductive Formal modelling	Inductive Appreciative theorizing	Both Both
Key assumptions	Optimising agent A-contextual	Rule-following agent Contextual (macro)	Satisficing agent Contextual (micro)
Conceptualization of time	Equilibrium analysis Micro-to-macro	Static analysis Macro-to-micro	Out-of-equilibrium analysis Recursive
Geography	Neutral space Transport costs	Real place Place dependence	Neutral space → real place Path dependence

Regional diversification elements

- How regions diversify into new industries
- How regions develop new growth path
- Why regions differ in their evolution
- Diversification as a related process
- Diversification as unrelated process
- The policy diversification approach
- The smart specialization view
- **Question 2: Societal challenge and lagging regions: can we have a policy strategy to fight climate change, ageing, demographic recession, organized crime, unemployment ?**

Transition management and resilience

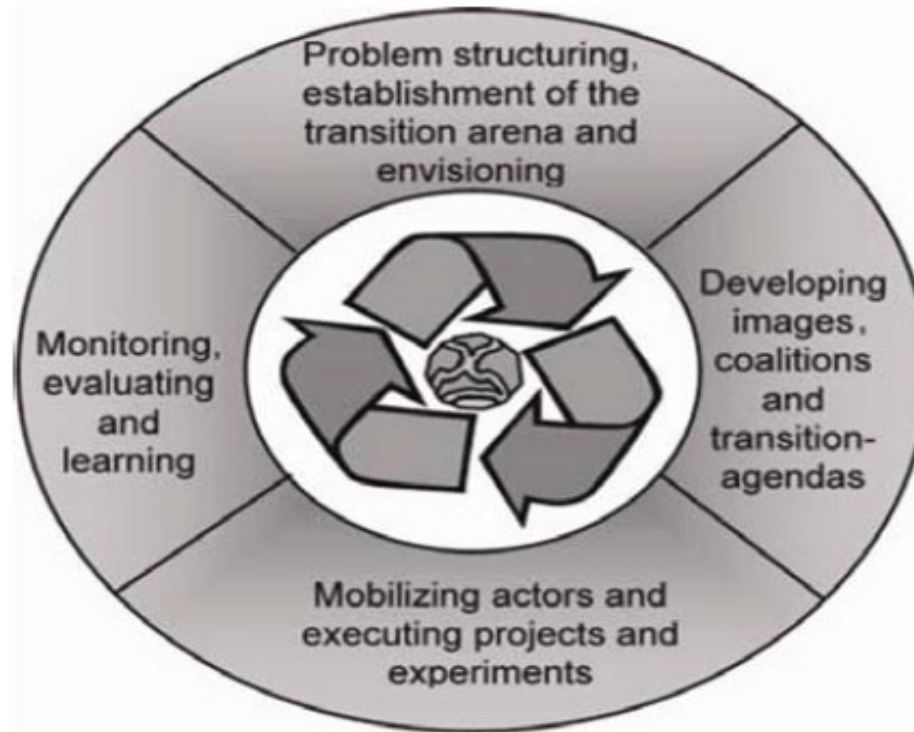
Figure 1 Multi-phase and multi-level models of transition



Source: Rip (1998) and Rotmans (2000).

Transition management: governance framework

Activity clusters in transition management

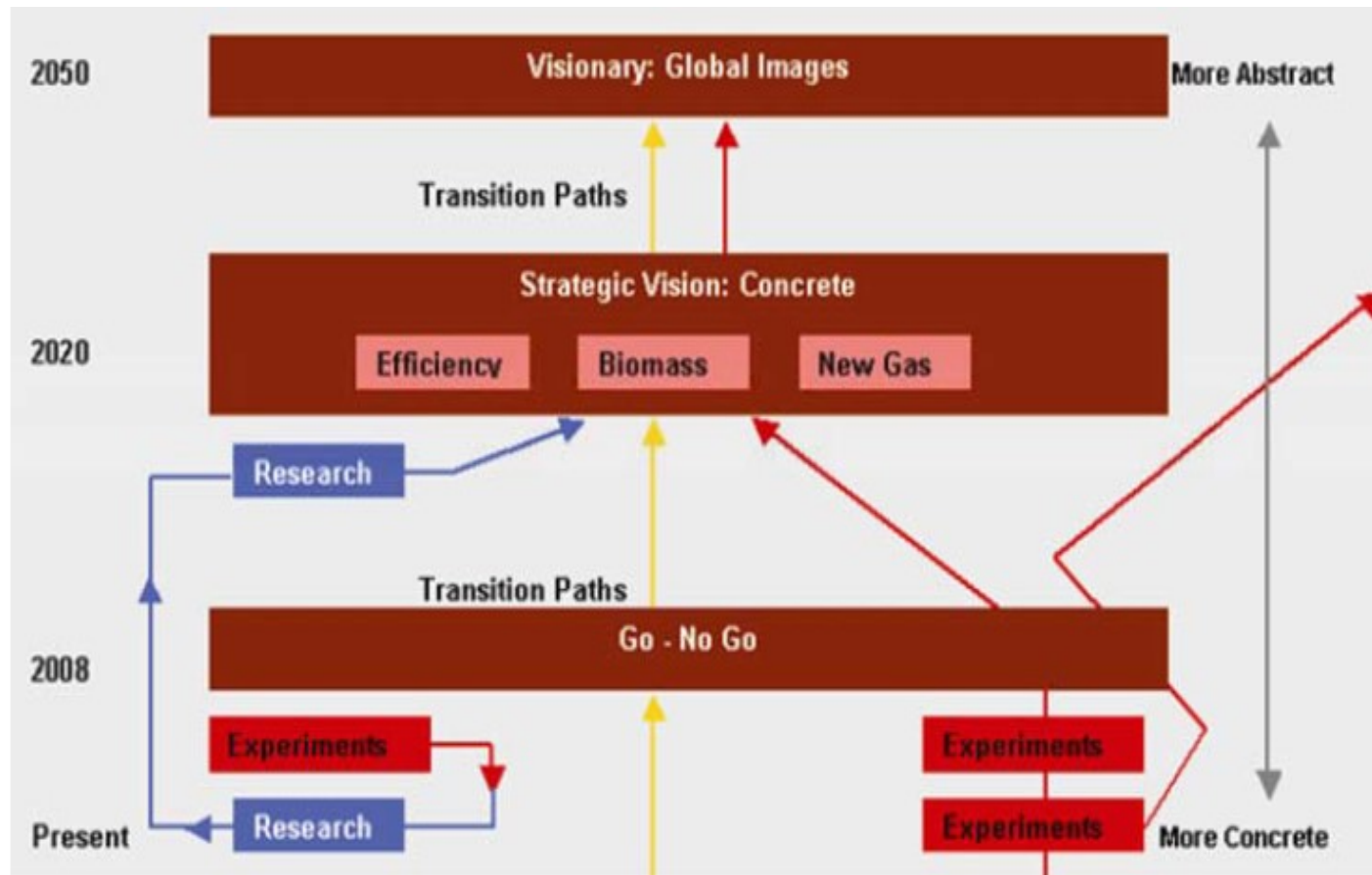


Source: Loorbach and Rotmans (2006).

Responses to external shocks: case studies

- The era of ecosystem management via incremental increases in efficiency is over.
- We are now in an era of transformation, in which ecosystem management must build and maintain ecological resilience as well as the social flexibility needed to cope, innovate, and adapt.
- Question 3: What kind of case studies (management of natural disasters ? European evaluation policies (EU Directive no. 42/2001)
- Question 4: Did we get lost in the transition?

A flexible Government: coordination with unpredictable results



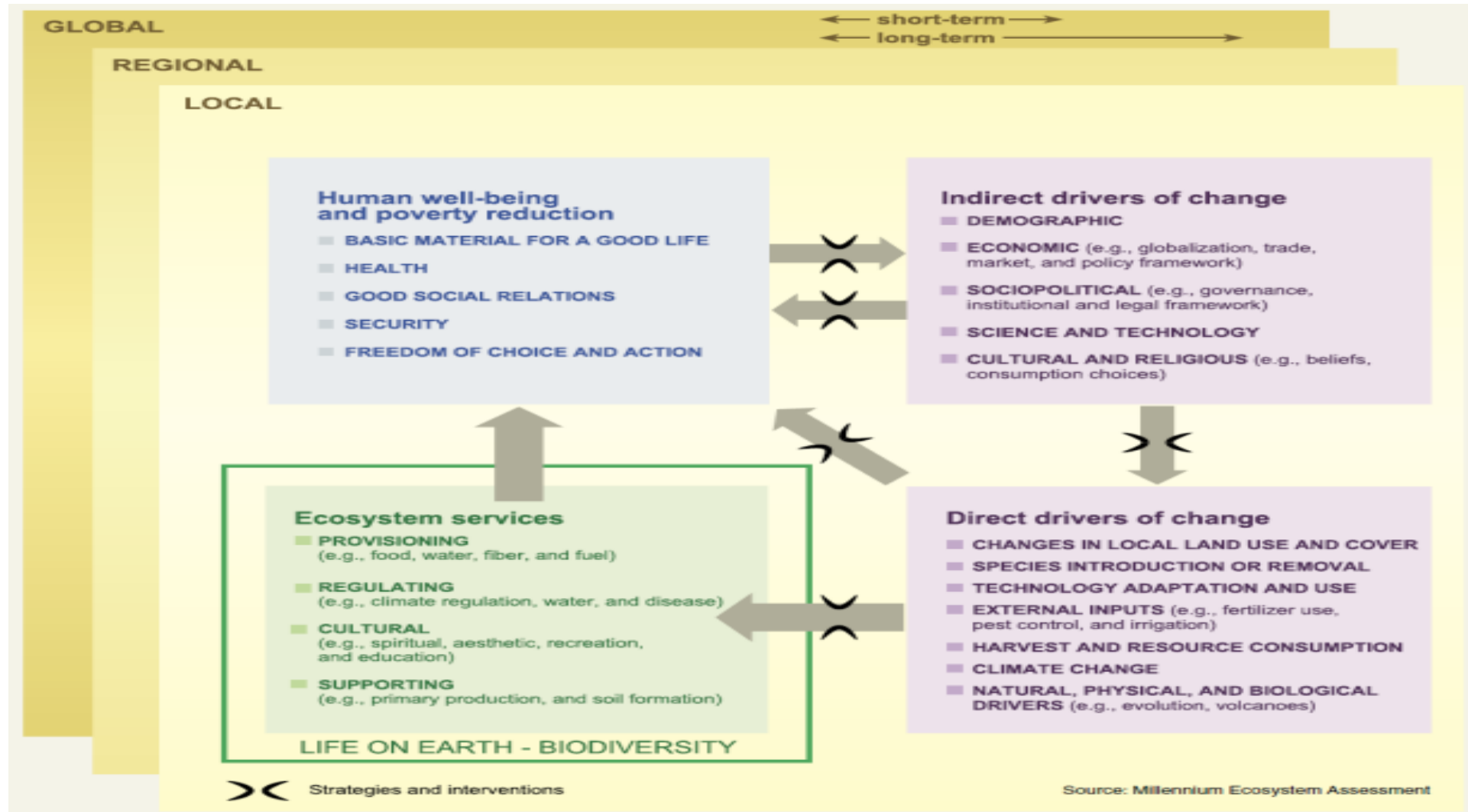
Question 5:
which institutions and at
what spatial level can we
choose?

Question 6:
Is it possible to make a right
comparison ? USA vs.
Europe, developed regions
vs lagging regions

Resilience: crucial aspects

- Latitude: the maximum amount a system can be changed before losing its ability to recover (before crossing a threshold which, if breached, makes recovery difficult or impossible);
- Resistance: the ease or difficulty of changing the system; how “resistant” it is to being changed;
- Precariousness: how close the current state of the system is to a limit or “threshold”
- Panarchy: because of cross-scale interactions, the resilience of a system at a particular focal scale will depend on the influences from states and dynamics at scales above and below. (For example, external oppressive politics, invasions, market shifts, or global climate change can trigger local surprises and regime shifts)

Resilience: Linkages between ecosystems and human well-being



Open access toolkit: several issues

- the scale of indicators (local, regional, global, urban vs. inner areas)
- The logic of smart routines (smart strategies ?)
- Typology of regional diversification
- A User friendly tool and the main users (demand and supply)
- The capacity building and its dynamic over time : flexible, fixed, standardized, self-correcting