Our collective futures

Designing for the last earth

Angelos Arnis · Design Operations Manager at Smartly.io

Preface

- 2 personal paradigm shifts

- Putting everything in context

- The liminal space

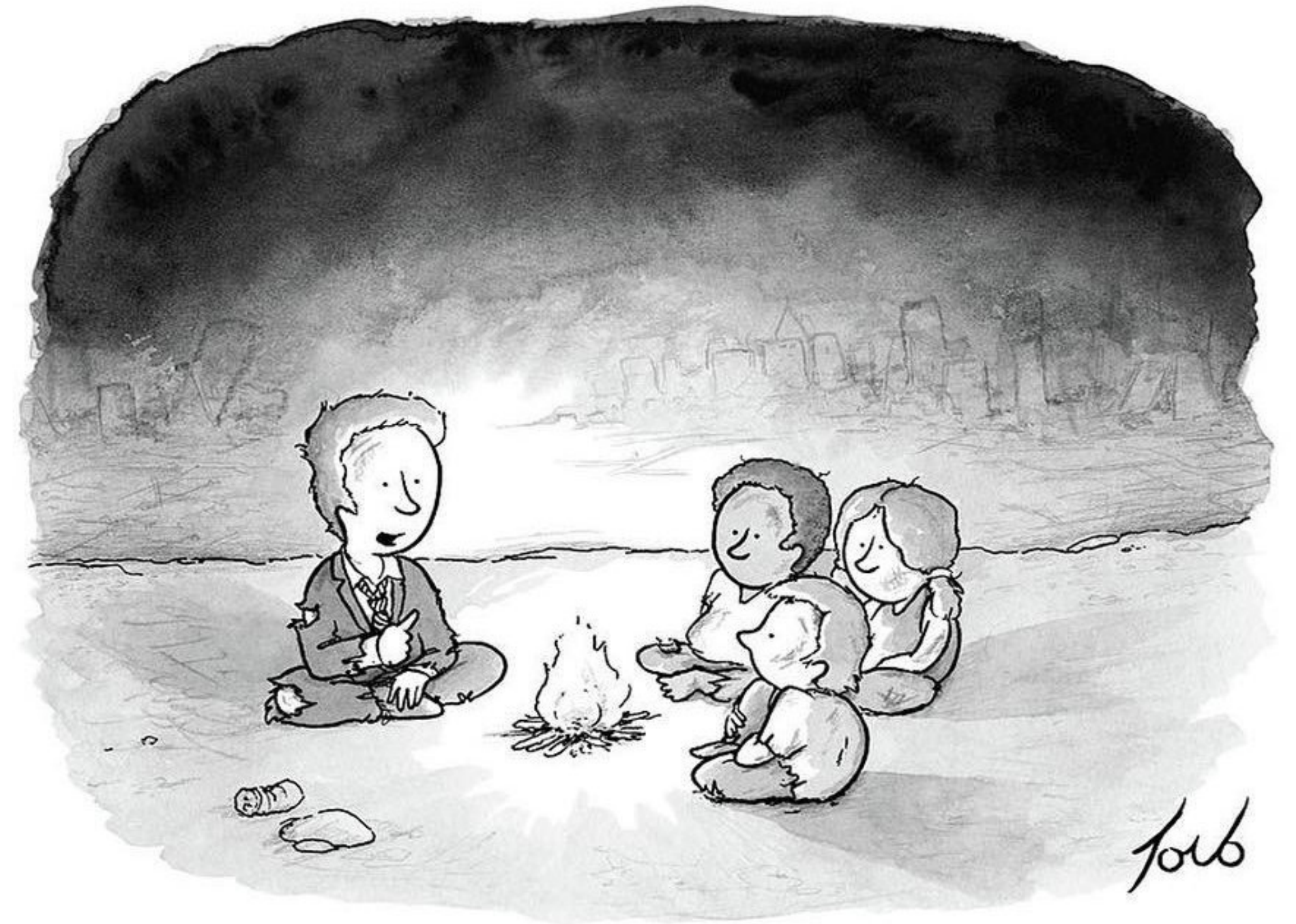- The *holistic* designer

- Where do we go from here?

A paradigm shift

The fundamental job of design is *not* great design

Karl Fast

A (second) paradigm shift

We must abolish the tyranny of business as usual

"Yes, the planet got destroyed. But carbon offset developers and consultancies made a lot of money selling bullshit offsets."

Powering through the Polycrisis...

- which is planetary
- which is social
- which personal

The hardest learning is unlearning!

Gary Hamel ✔
@profhamel

Why is genuine transformation so rare? Because few leaders are capable of: 1) imagining radically different future states; 2) approaching change systemically (vs. looking for a silver bullet); and 3) persevering over the 3-4 years it takes to make deep change irreversible.

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"Is it too late to hire a chief transformation officer?"

garyhamel.com/humor

09:00 PM · Feb 25, 2023

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Politically neutral, never demanding, the popular perception of design threatens to override its criticality and obscure its capacity to engender agency.

We are at risk of losing sight of design's part in enabling us to live well with each other and to live wisely with finite resources.

Susan Yelavich

Quiz time!

We will move now to Mentimeter
so take out your phone!

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We are now in
a liminal space

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The old world

The new world

The old world

Layers

ChatGPT

Designers should code

Man, Ux is not what it used to be

Specialist VS Generalist

Design Job Titles

The seat at the table

Getting a job at FAANG

Here's my new course on UI

That old UX VS UI metaphor

Components

That new [...]morphism

We don't need research

Design Systems

We are here

The new world

Climate emergency

Ethics of AI

Design transforming business

Decolonizing design

Design Justice

Trauma-informed design

The discussions at the table

Burnout

Co-design

Design & critical theory

Consequence Design

New worldviews

Anthropology

Designing in systems

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But we are not alone...

- Hmnty Cntrd
- Sustainable UX
- Design Justice Network
- Joint Frontiers
- ...and so many others

Embrace transdisciplinarity

- Commons movement

- Degrowth movement

- Intersectional feminist movement

- Solidarity economy movement

- P2P movement

- Buen Vivir movement

Our collective futures are complex and the result of choices we make in the *now*

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Build equitable networks

Small
Local
Decentralised

To navigate through indeterminate futures...

On a personal level

Resilience

Rigour

On a social level

Decolonize

Degrowth

On a planetary level

Regenerative

Distributive

Design like an ecologist:

- Ecosystem diversity
- Cyclical consumption
- Resilience
- Human use within constraints

The *holistic* designer

prefigurative
life-centered
transition

A *(working)* definition of *holistic* design

A life-centered design approach that acknowledges the complex interplay of social, economic, political, cultural, and environmental factors in order to create more just and equitable futures. Holistic design entails working in small, local and open groups to ensure that the work results are contextualised and accessible to all.

Inspired by Terry Irwin, Cameron Tonkinwise, Gideon Kossoff

Levels of holistic designers

Contributor
Avoid doing active harm

Practitioner
Facilitate & collaborate

Driver
Practice change

Inspired by Michael Narberhaus and Aryne Sheppard – Reimagining Activism

Concepts & Practices

- Systems ⟶ • Systems thinking
- Sustainability ⟶ • Regenerative design
- Sufficiency ⟶ • Circular design
- Justice ⟶ • Buen Vivir-centric design
- Decolonisation ⟶ • Decolonizing design
- Ethics ⟶ • Inclusive design

Inspired by: Sustainable and Responsible Design Education: Tensions in Transitions
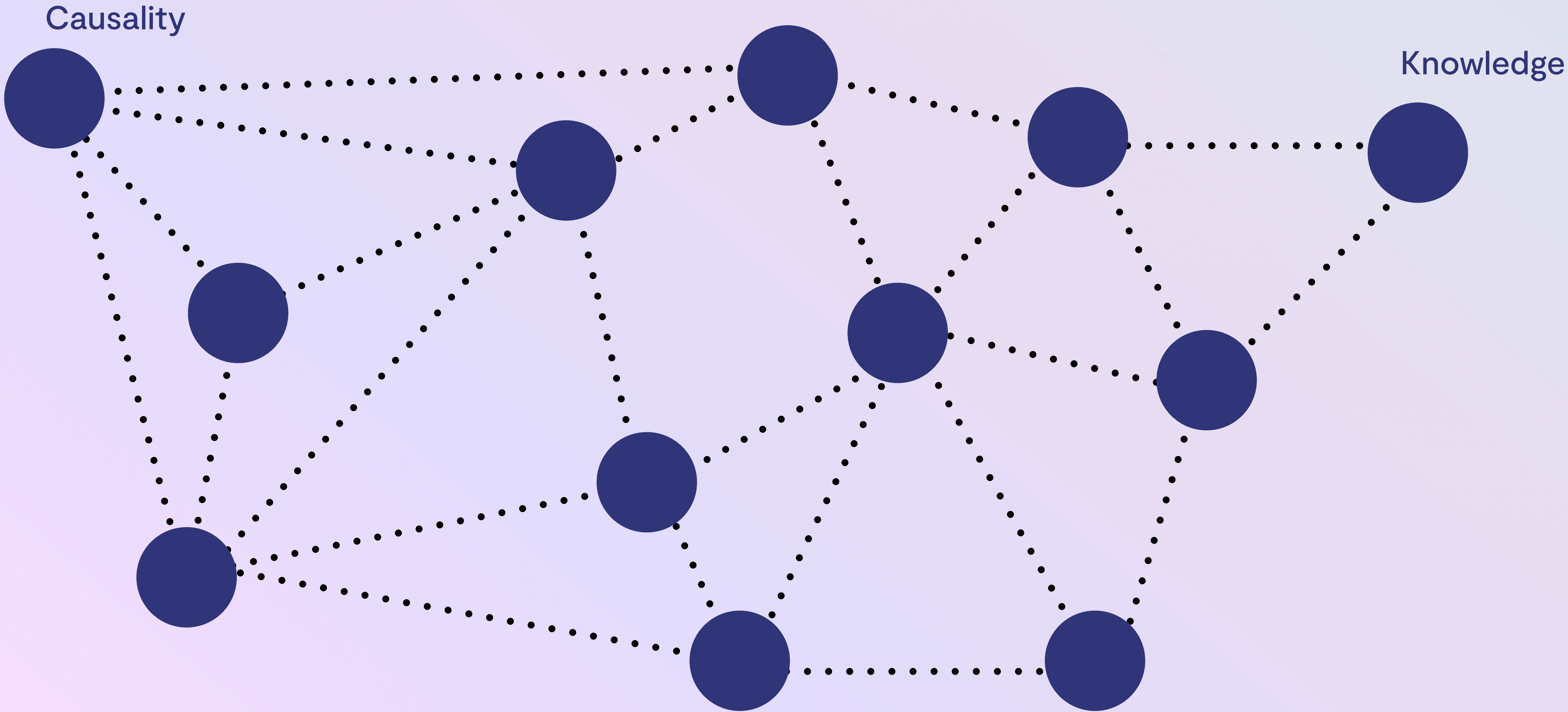**Joanna Boshnert, Matt Sinclair, Emma Dewberry**

Holistic Design Mechanisms

- Researching
- Mapping
- Sensing
- Imagining

- Multi-level perspectives
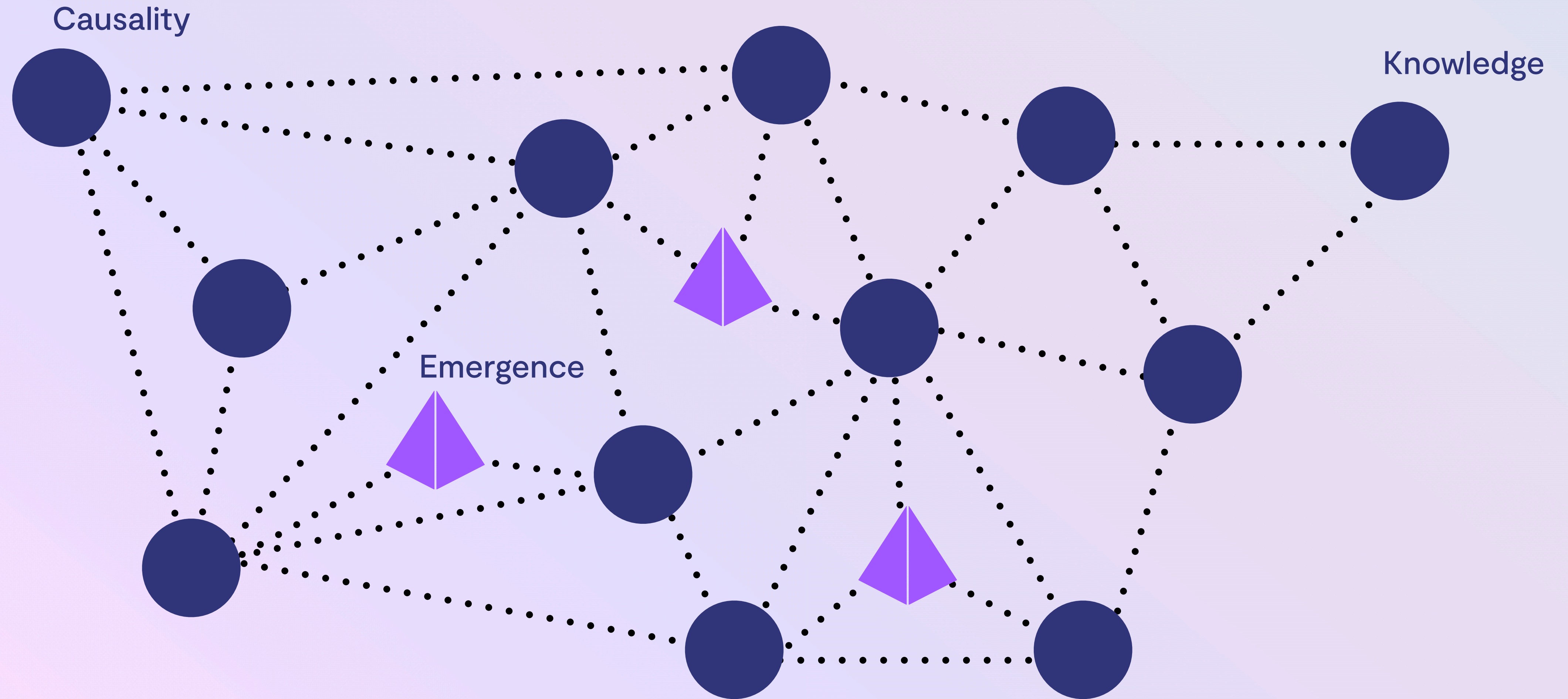- Megatrends
- Scenarios
- Visions

Researching

Knowledge

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Mapping

Causality

Knowledge

Based on David Chandler – Ontopolitics in the Anthropocene

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Sensing

Causality

Knowledge

Emergence

Based on David Chandler – Ontopolitics in the Anthropocene

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Imagining

Causality

Knowledge

Emergence

Agency

Based on David Chandler – Ontopolitics in the Anthropocene

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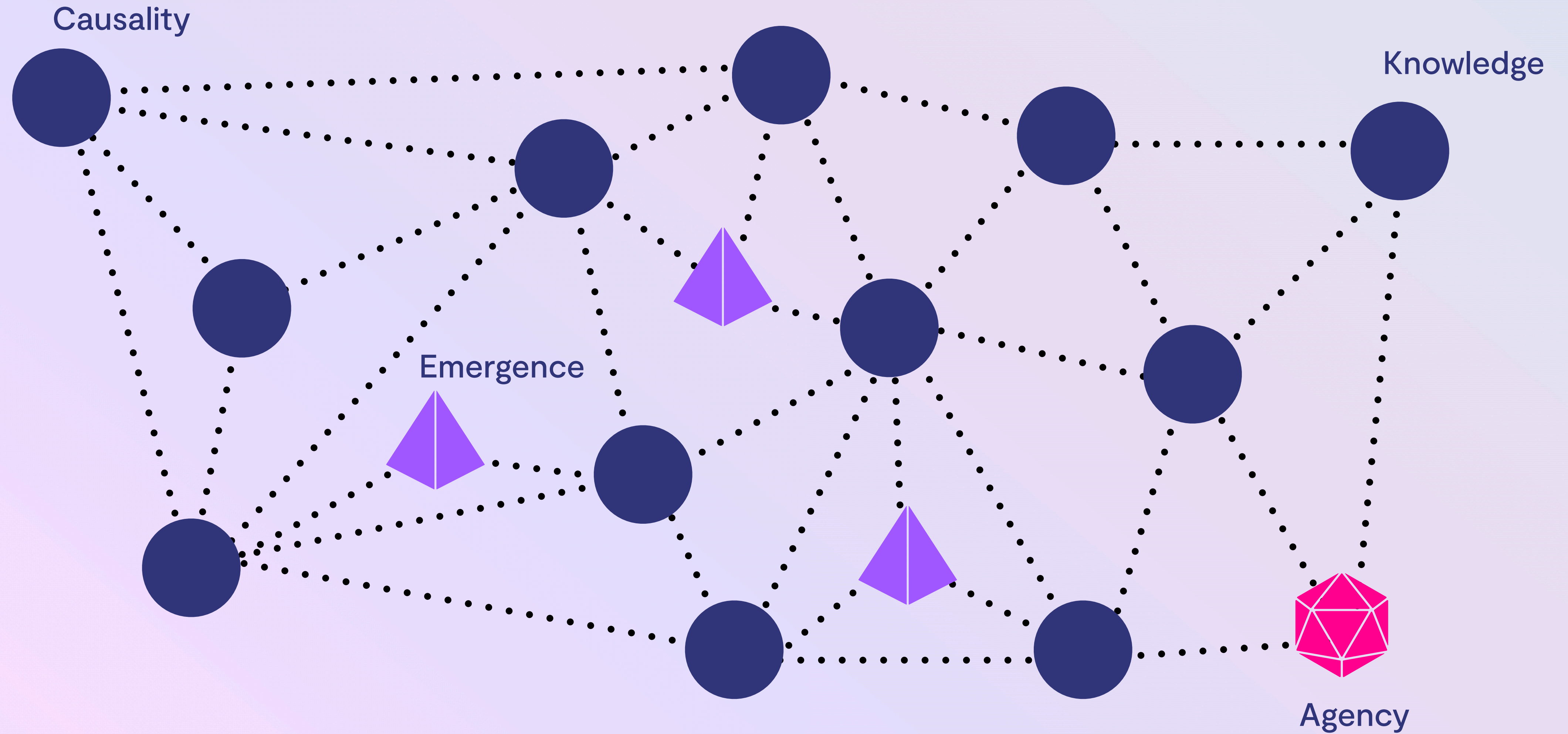
Multi-level perspectives

Landscape   Macro

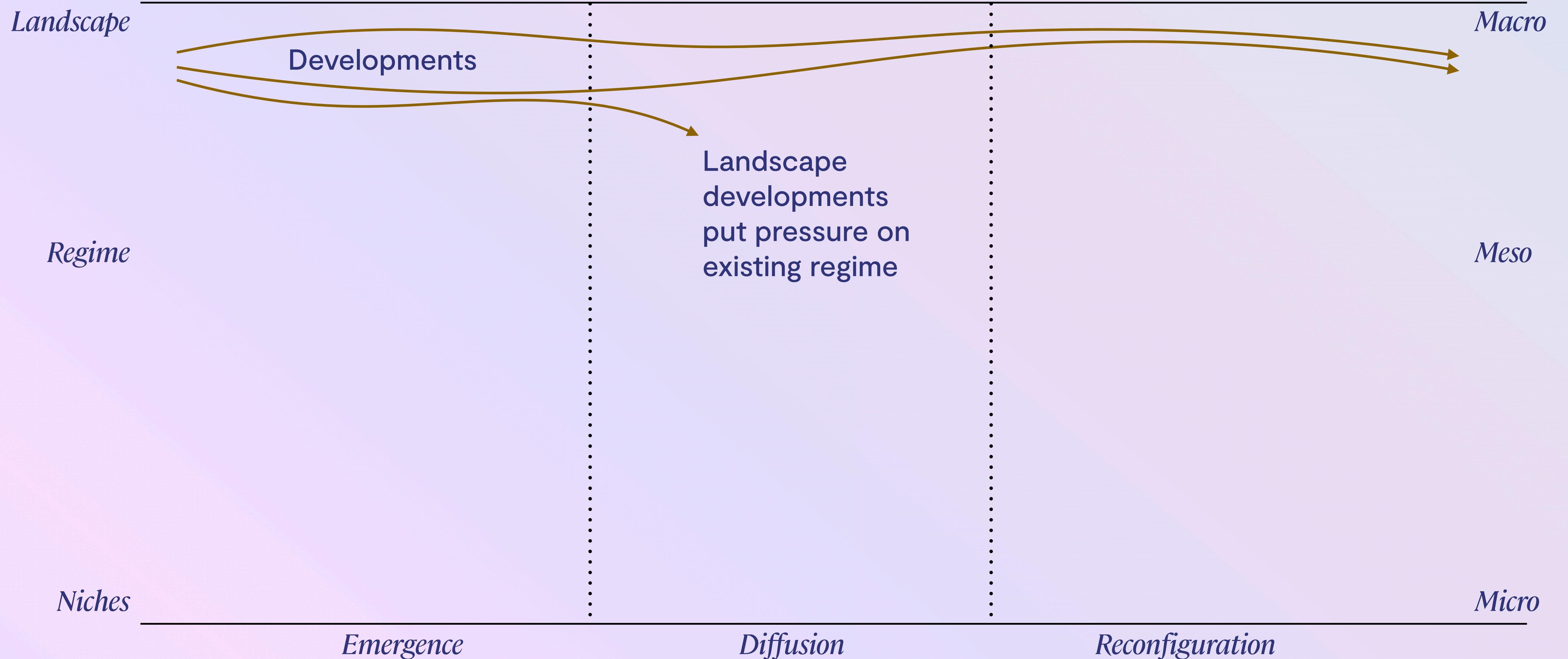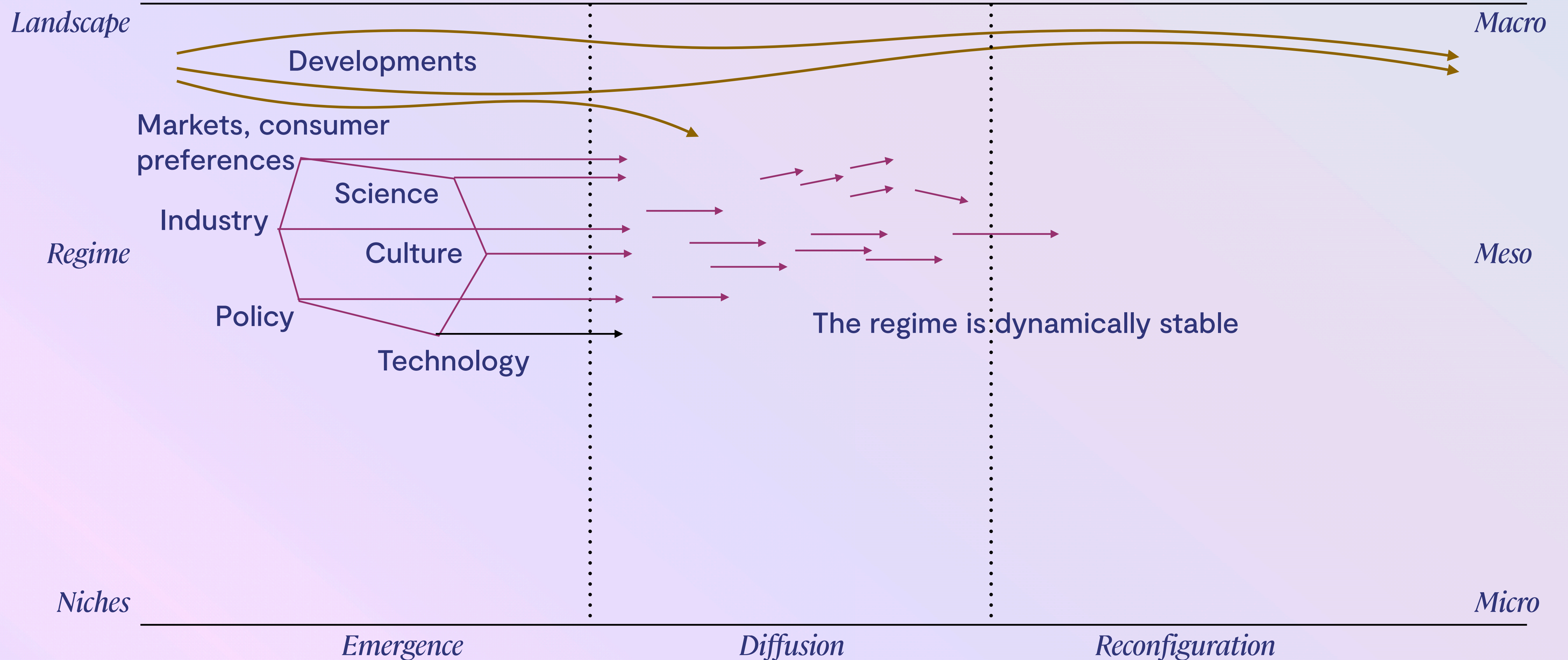Regime   Meso
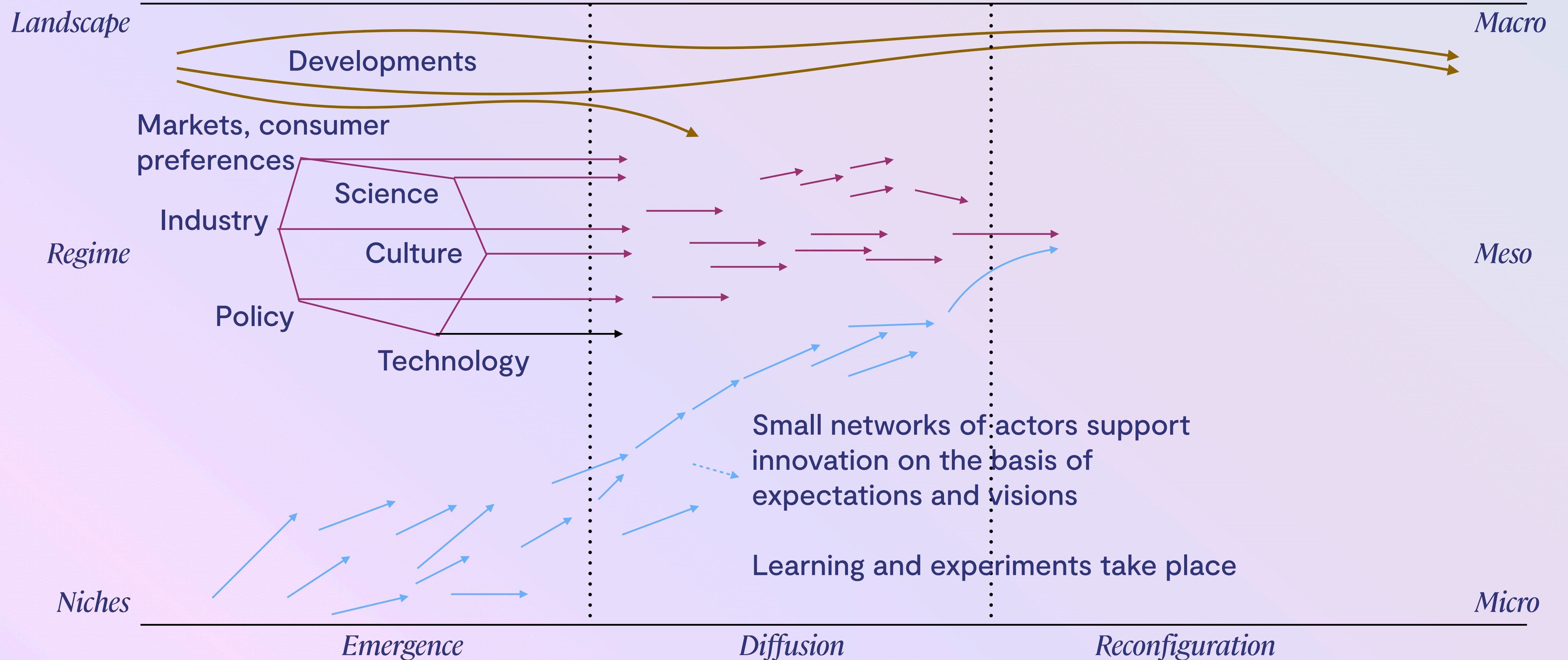
Niches   Micro

Emergence   Diffusion   Reconfiguration

Remixed by the MLP Framework by Frank Geels

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Multi-level perspectives

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Landscape   *Macro*

Developments

Landscape
developments
put pressure on
existing regime

Regime   *Meso*

Niches   *Micro*

Emergence   *Diffusion*   *Reconfiguration*

Remixed by the MLP Framework by Frank Geels

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Multi-level perspectives

Landscape   *Macro*

Developments

Markets, consumer preferences

Science

Industry

Culture

Policy

Technology

Regime   *Meso*

The regime is dynamically stable

Niches   *Micro*

Emergence   *Diffusion*   *Reconfiguration*

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Multi-level perspectives

Landscape — Macro

Developments

Markets, consumer preferences

Industry

Science

Culture

Policy

Technology

Regime — Meso

Small networks of actors support innovation on the basis of expectations and visions

Learning and experiments take place

Niches — Micro

Emergence | Diffusion | Reconfiguration

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Multi-level perspectives

Landscape — Macro

Developments

Markets, consumer preferences

Science

Industry

Culture

Regime — Meso

Policy

Technology

New configuration breaks through, taking advantage of 'windows of opportunity' Adjustments occur in regime

Niches — Micro

Emergence — *Diffusion* — *Reconfiguration*

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Multi-level perspectives

Landscape — **Macro**

Developments

New regime influences landscape

Markets, consumer preferences

Industry

Science

Culture

Policy

Technology

Regime — **Meso**

Niches — **Micro**

Emergence · *Diffusion* · *Reconfiguration*

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Megatrends

CLIMATE CHANGE

INCREASE OF POPULATION

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

URBANIZATION

GLOBALIZATION

INCREASE OF WEALTH AND CONSUMPTION

INEQUITY

ECOCRISES AND RESOURCE DEPLETION

DIGITALIZATION

DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY

Elina Hiltunen – 10 megatrends for 2020's

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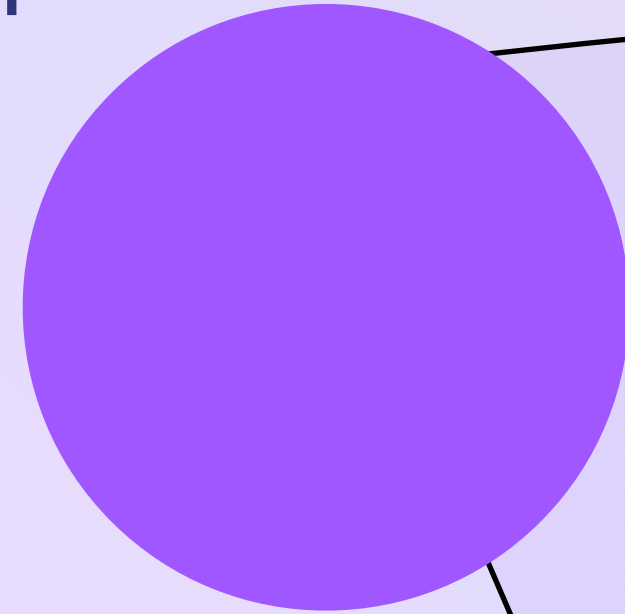
Scenarios
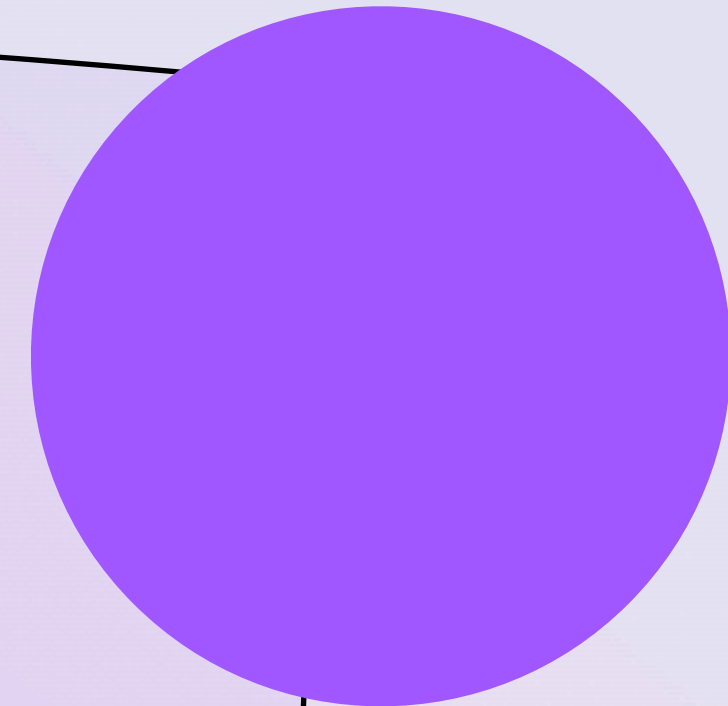
Scenario 1
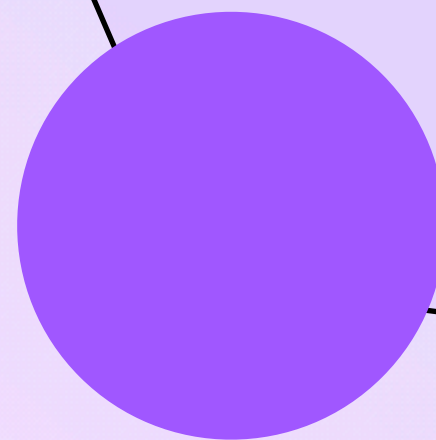
Scenario 3

a possible future

Scenario 2

Steen Svendsen – A futurist's toolbox

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Scenarios

Scenario 1
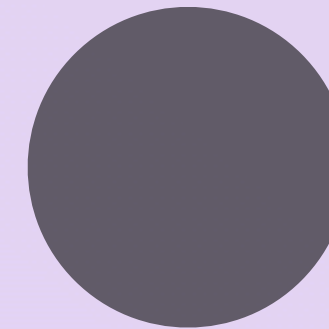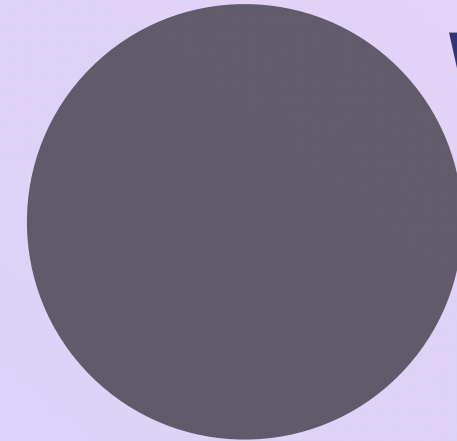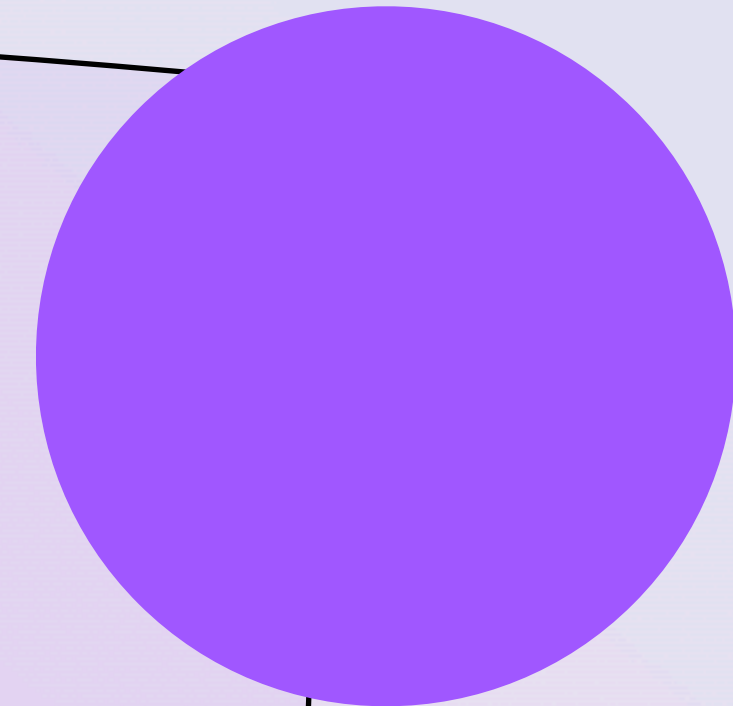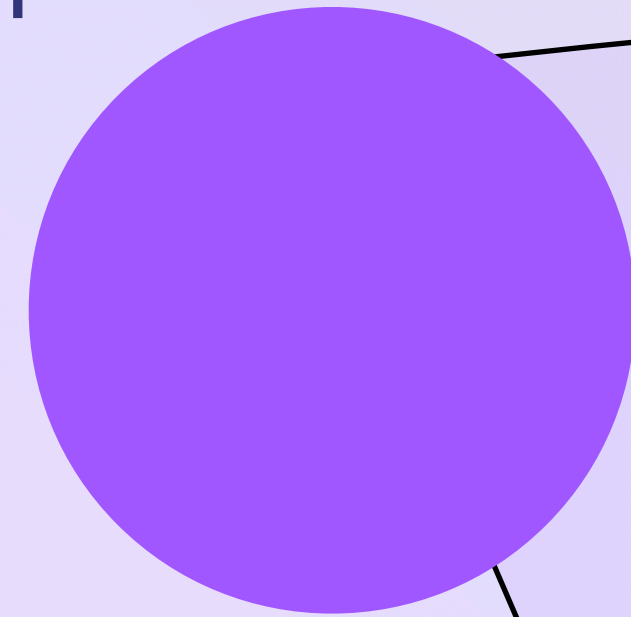
Scenario 3

Wildcard 1

Wildcard 2

a possible future
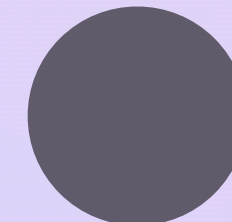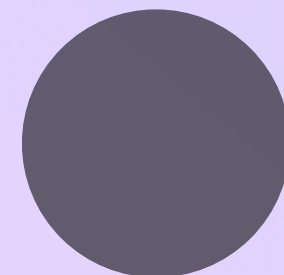
Wildcard 4

Wildcard 3

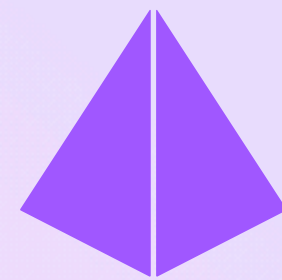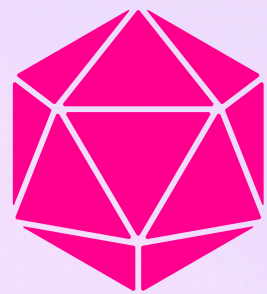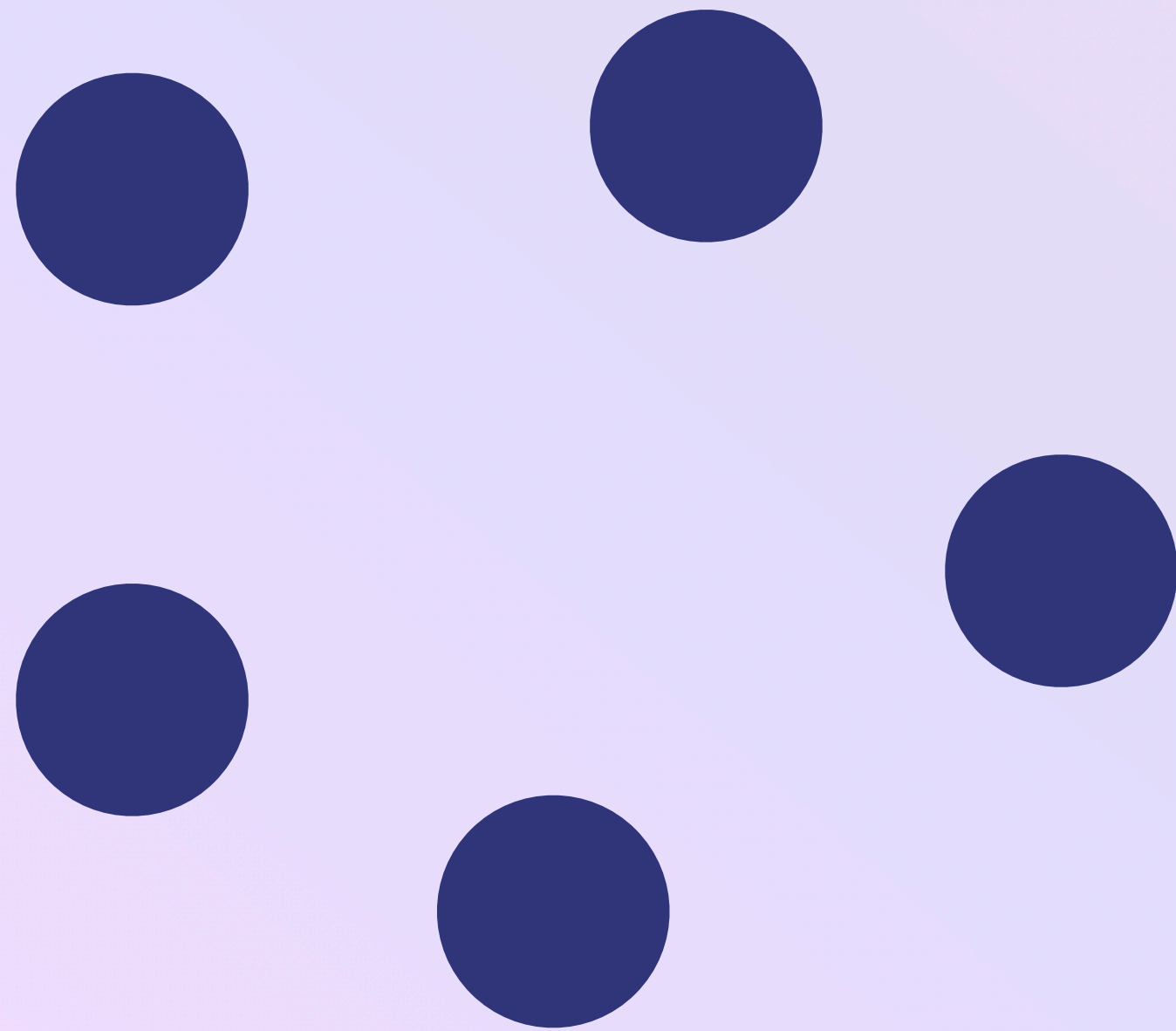Scenario 2

Elina Hiltunen – 10 megatrends for 2020's
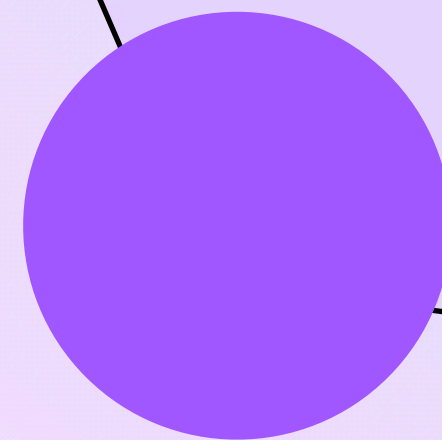
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Visioning

Data points that we have mapped
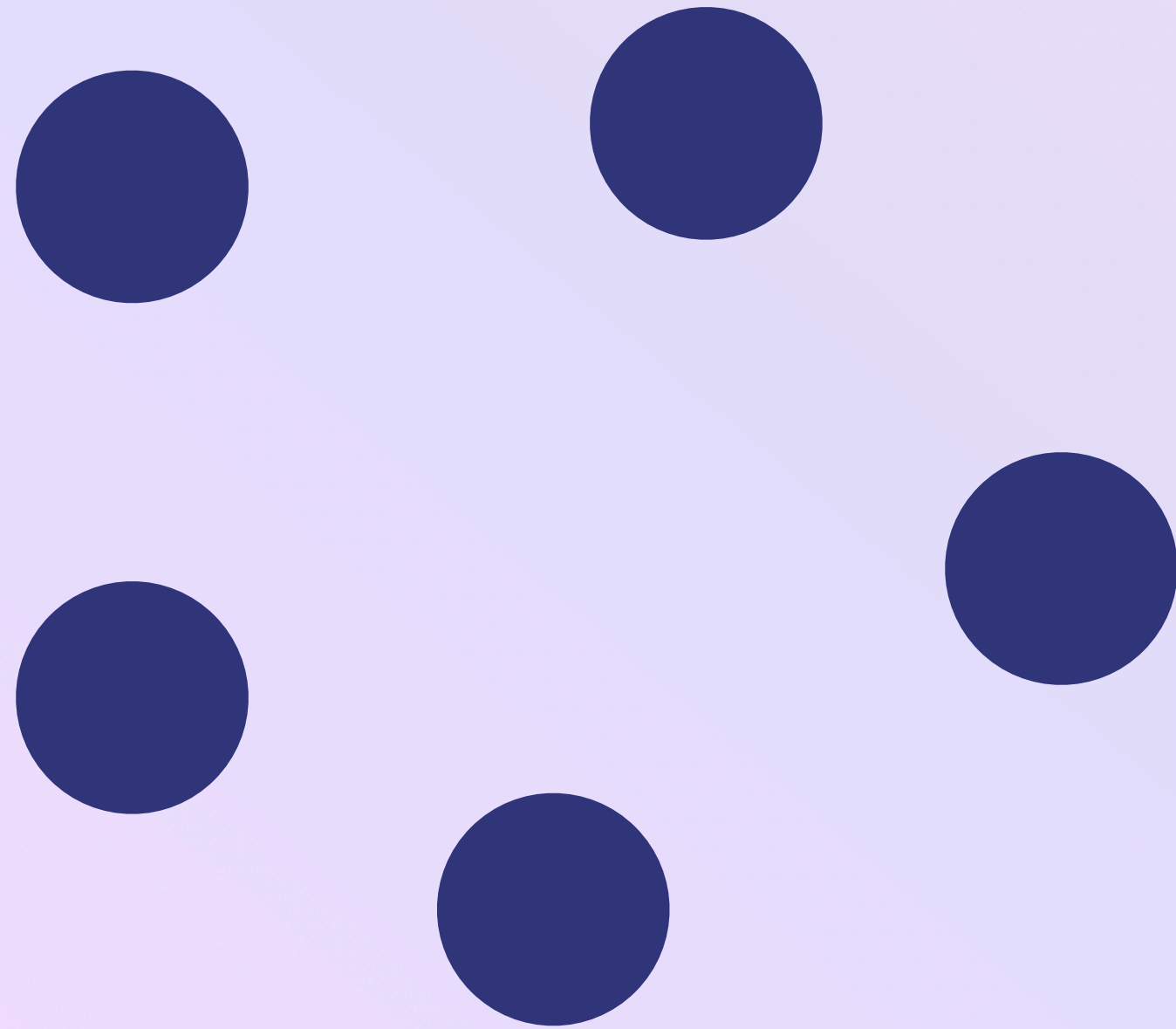
Long-term vision

Visioning

Long-term vision
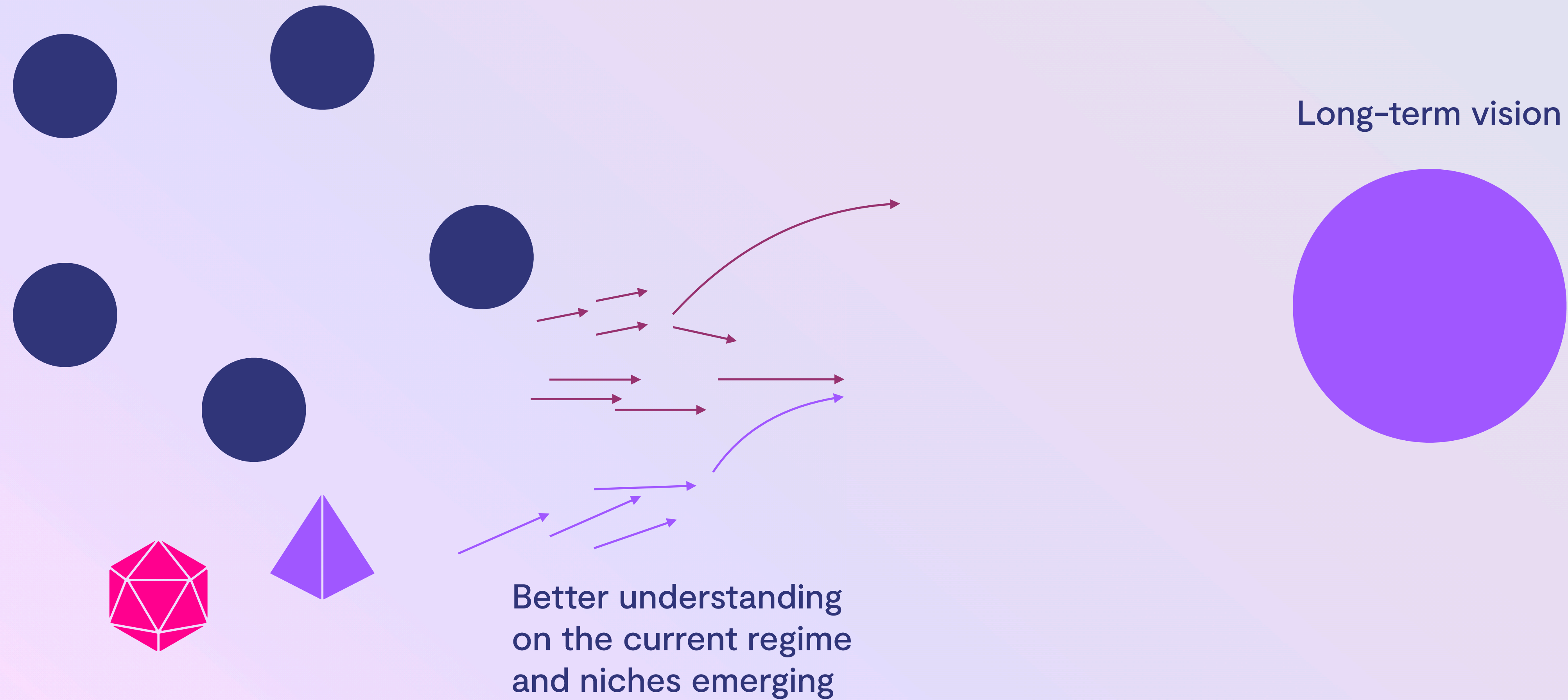
Emerging and imagined data points

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Visioning

Long-term vision

Better understanding on the current regime and niches emerging

Visioning

Long-term vision

Informed by
megatrends that are
shaping our narratives

Visioning

Long-term vision

The vision is defined from wildcards, scenarios, and failures

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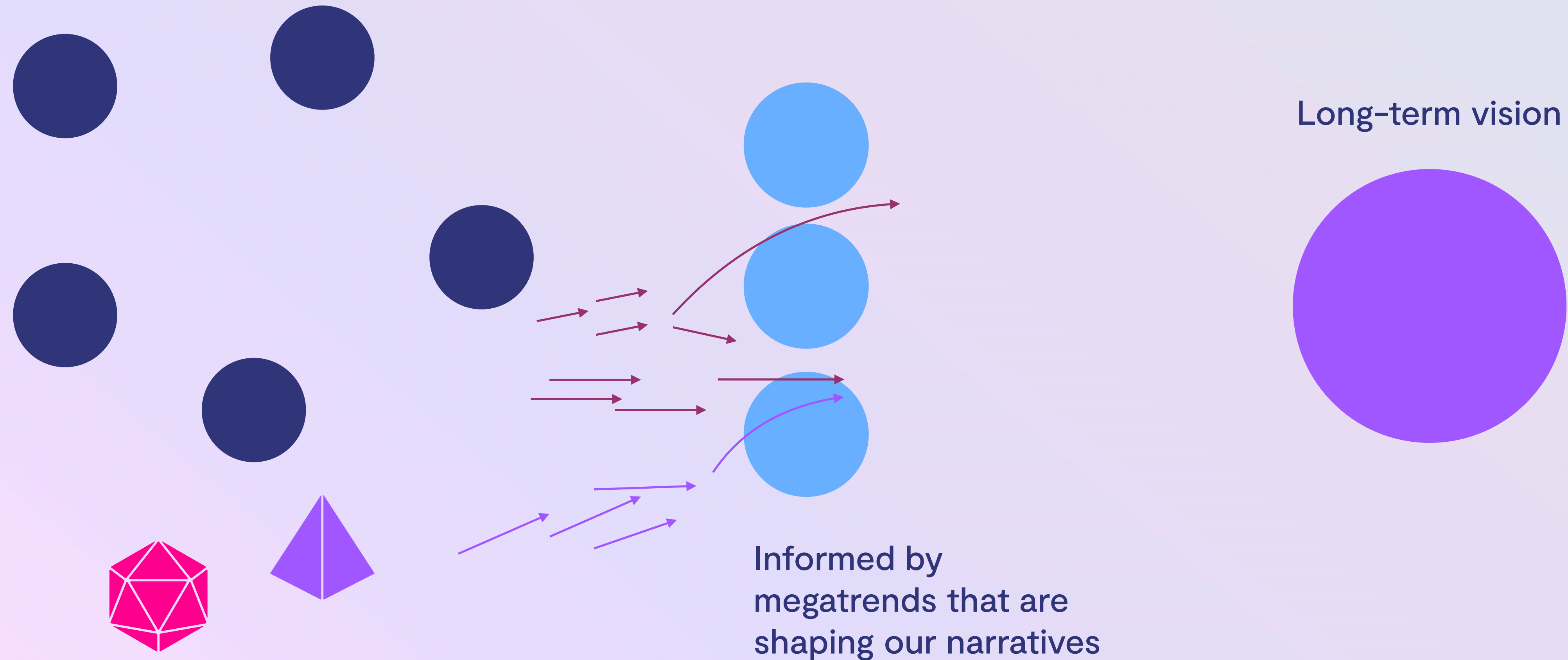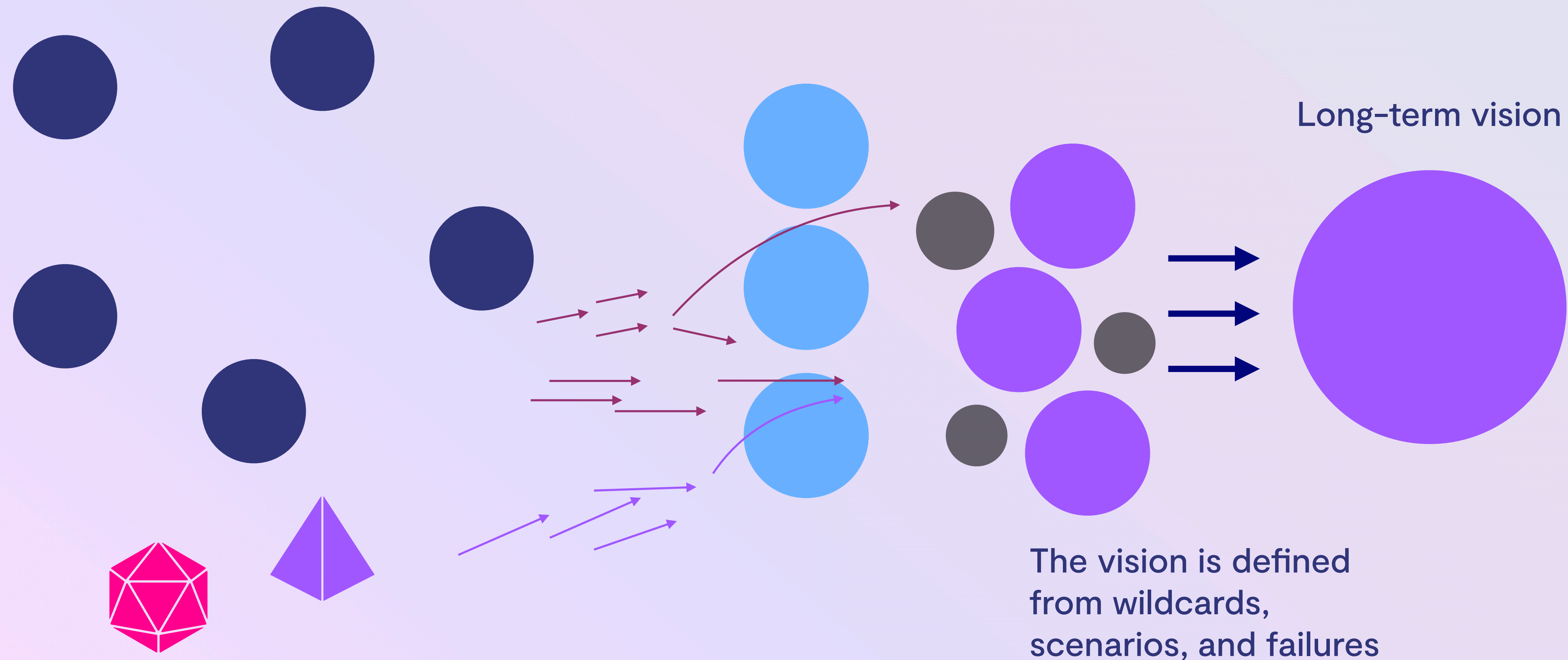
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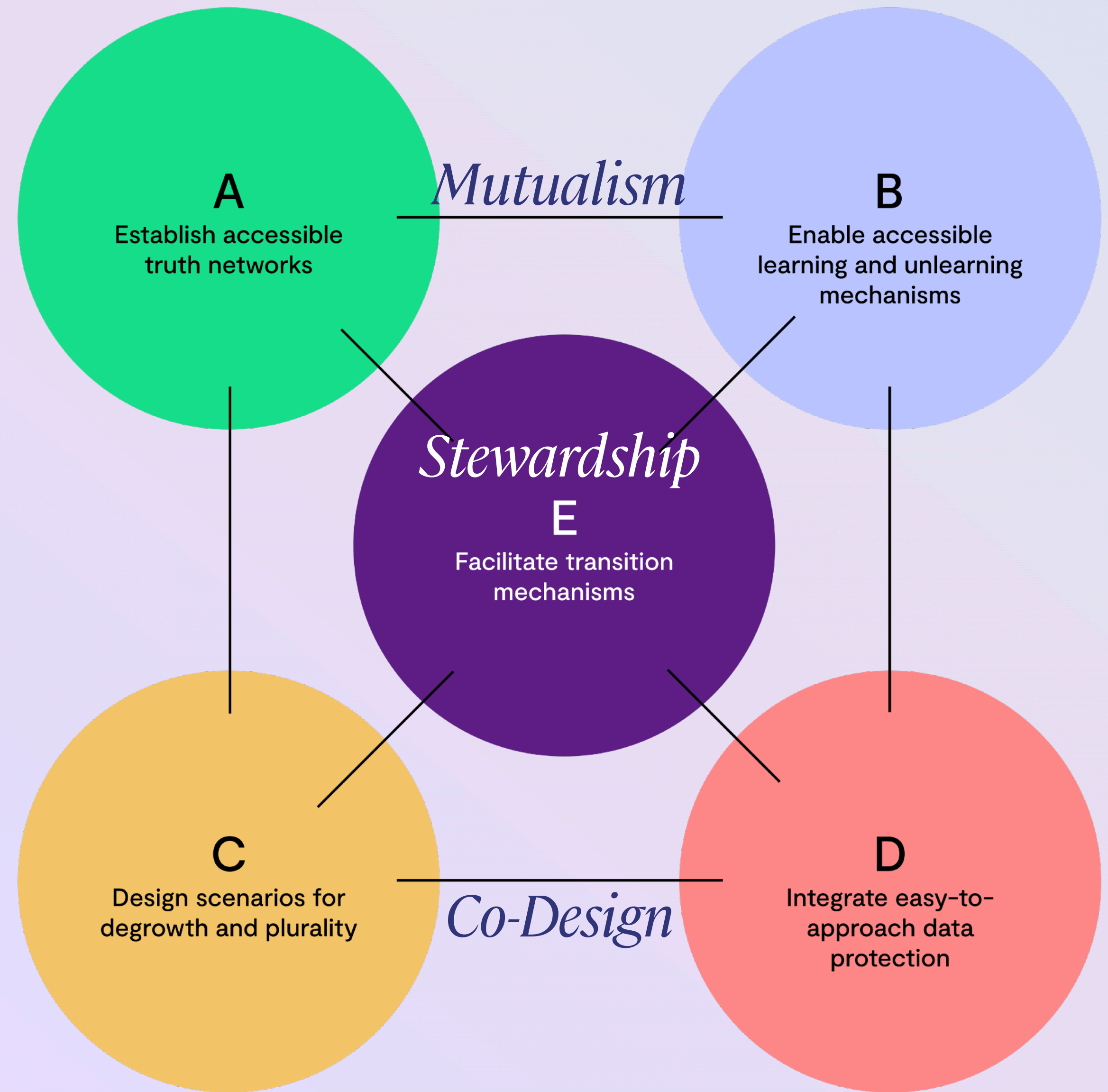
Recap

- We are part of the liminality

- We need to be equipped to adapt

- Holistic designers are emerging

- There are a lot of tools and practices ready for us

- Design local but in the open

As far as we can discern, the sole purpose of human existence is to kindle a light of meaning in the darkness of mere being.

Carl Jung

Thank you!

https://bento.me/angelosarnis