

Rethinking decision making across the policy/action interface

Choosing your reality



FOSTERING COMPLEXITY THINKING IN ACTION

RESEARCH FOR CHANGE IN COMPLEX

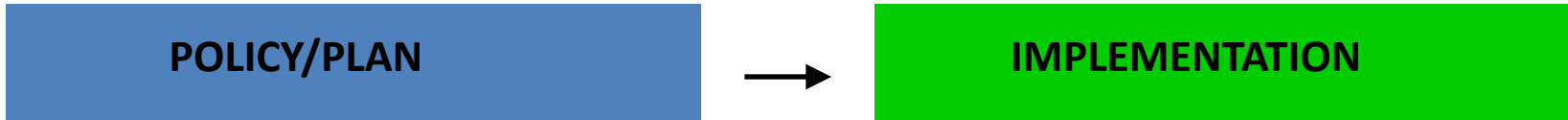
SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

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Sonja Blignaut, Aiden Choles, Carolyn Palmer, Pius Tangwe

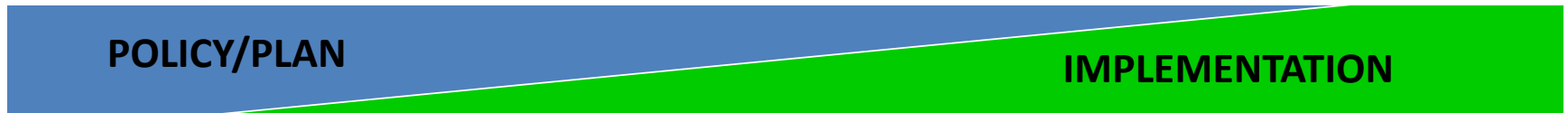
Revised for “Ecology and Society”

Policy / implementation interface

Has too often been seen as separate processes



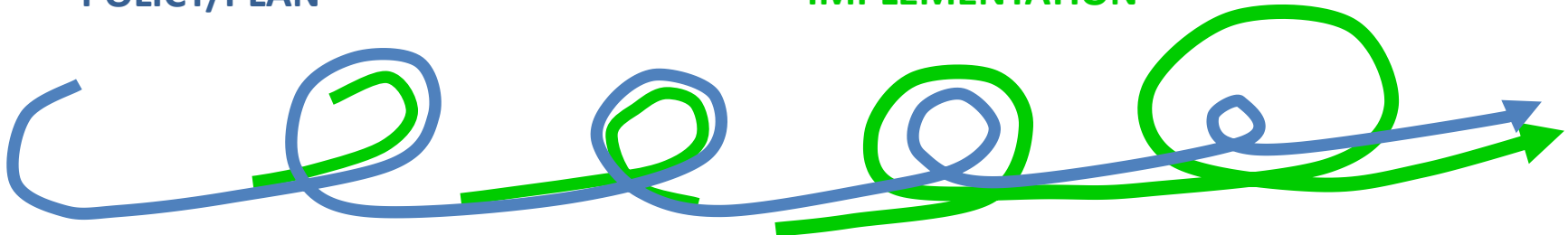
Should at least be treated as overlapping



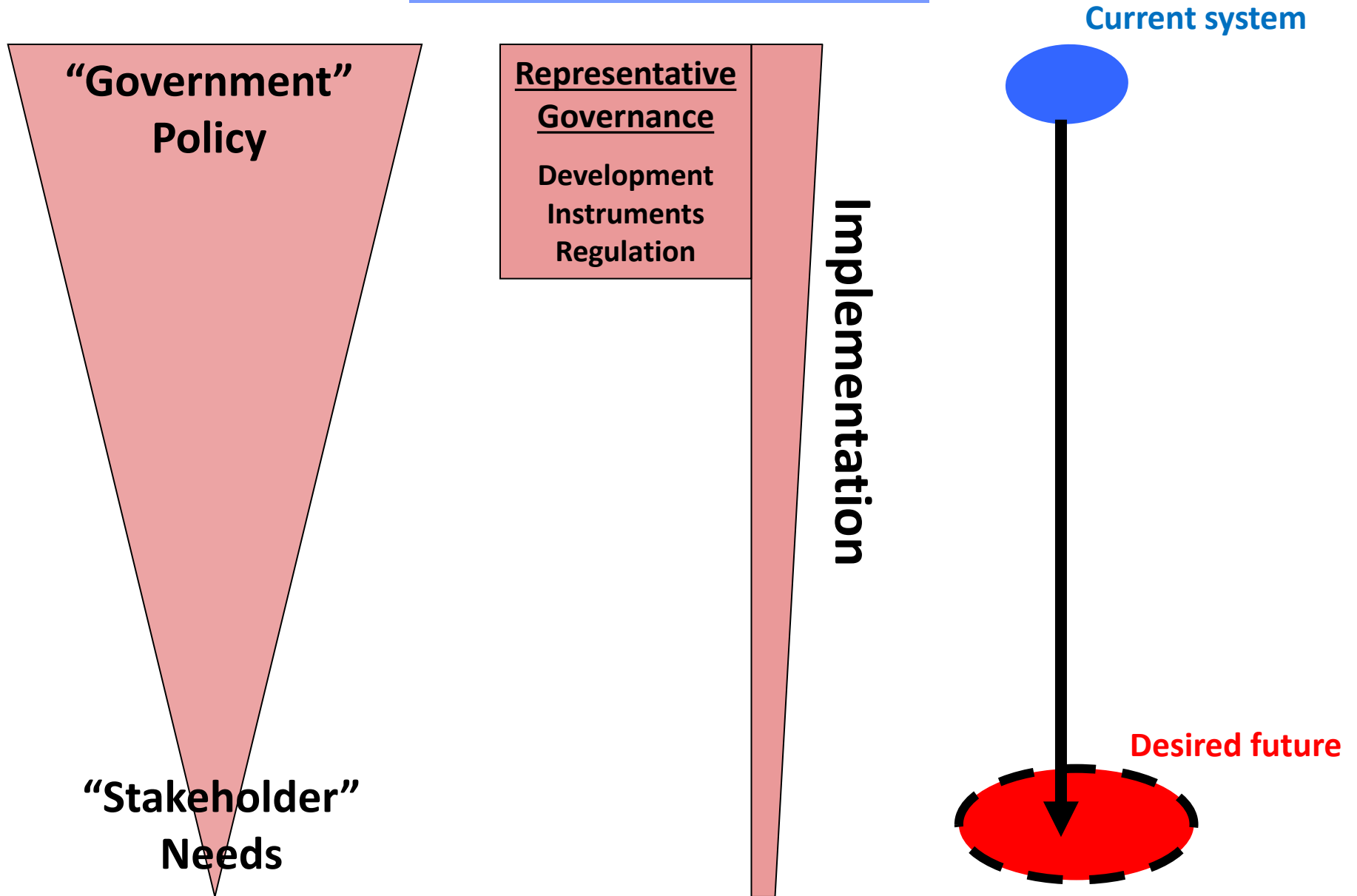
In reality the transition from policy to implementation is more like this

POLICY/PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION

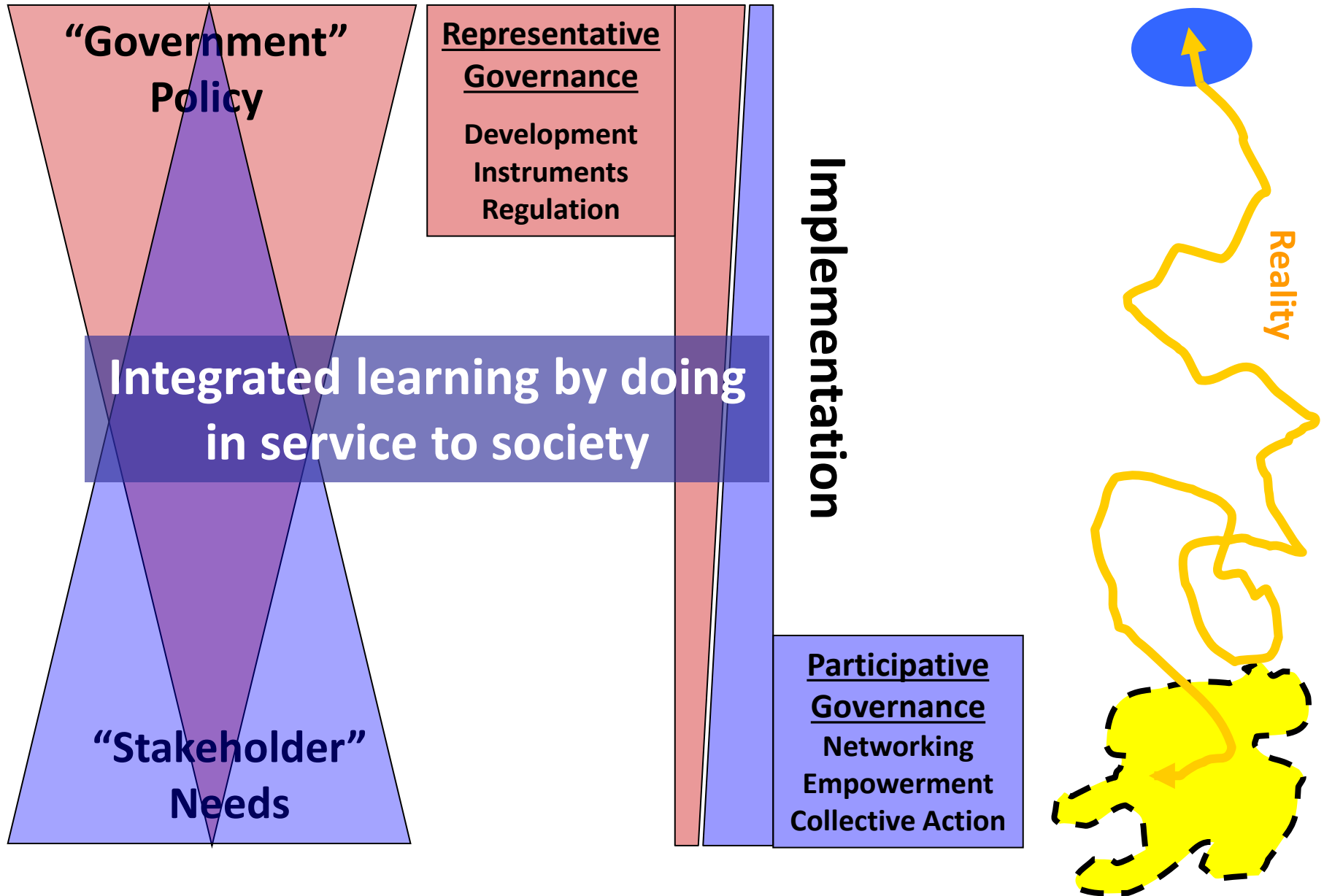


A top down “reality”



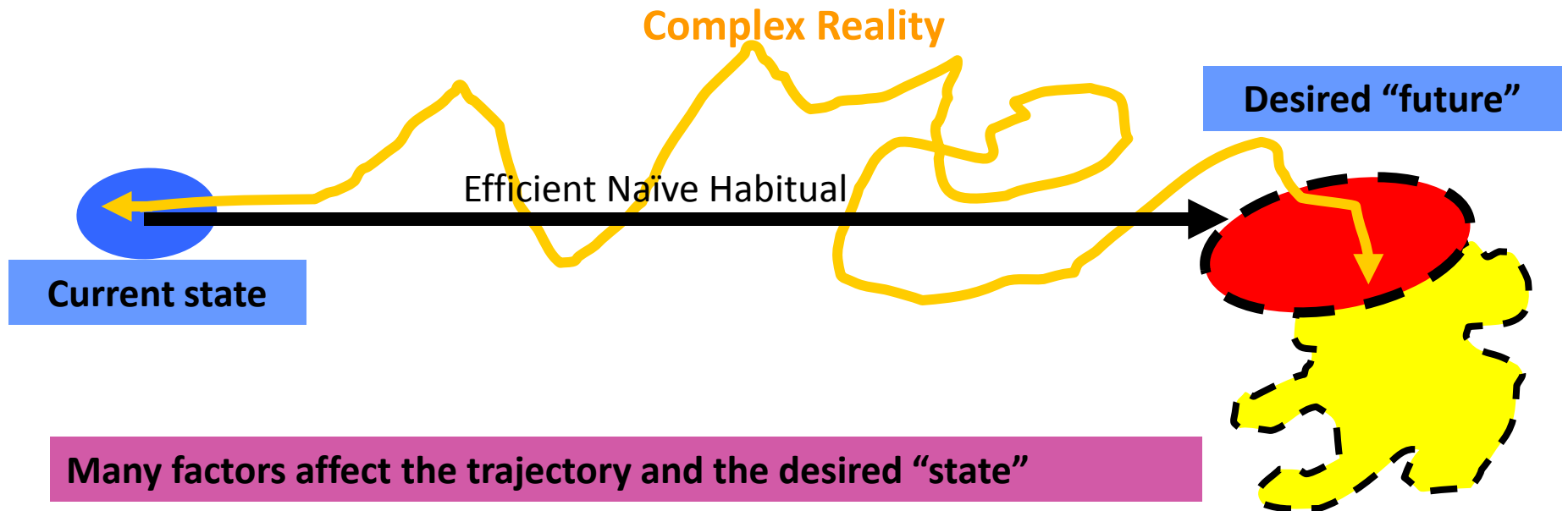


Top down & bottom up reality



Management of Common Pool Resources

Getting to a shared future that “changes”



V – Values
S – Social
T – Technical
E – Economic
E – Environmental
P – Political

Highly
variable
and/or
uncertain

A shared rationality about what is real is
imperative for decision making

Whose reality is real ?

The reductionist habit

Emerging complexity perspective

Cause and effect are linear and traceable

The system is divisible into parts that can be studied or solved independently

The parts can be categorised into like types to reduce complicatedness through generalisation

The parts and system are ultimately knowable if we have right information

We can isolate and complete (finish) individual tasks, decisions, solutions.

Whose reality is real ?

The reductionist habit

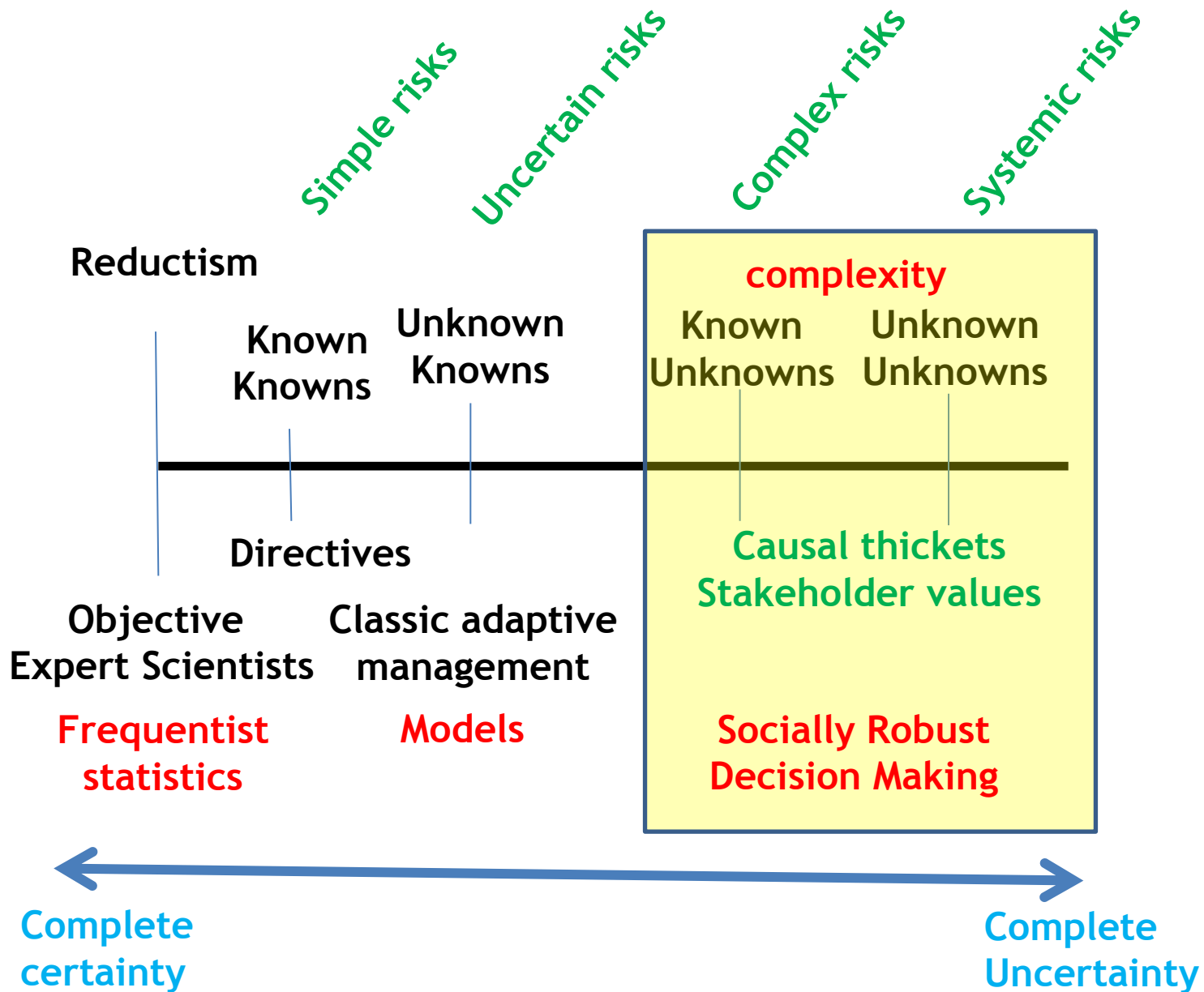
Emerging complexity perspective

Given the “right” information we can “get it right” and tell people what to do.

By same token we can also “reverse” or “correct” it if we get it wrong.

Stakeholders can expect **you** to get to right and solve their individual problems.

It is at least 300 yrs old but no more.
Became a habit with industrial revolution where uniformity of task and outcome were paramount





Actually it's simple