

Complexity
Rules
Everything
Around
Me



Eleanor Saitta

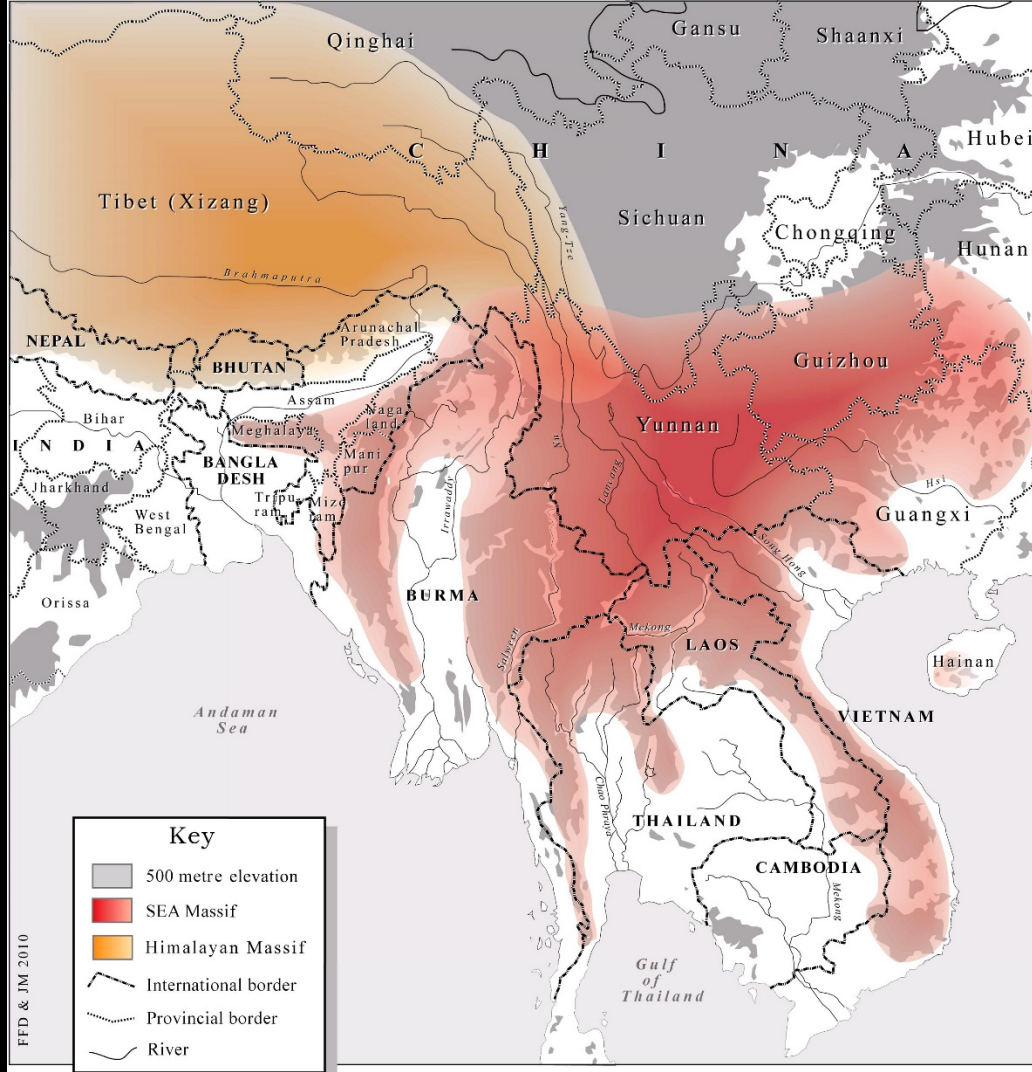


We live in the age of
emergent systems

If we learn to coexist
with them, we get to
keep civilization











WAT.



Complex Systems
display emergent
behavior and are
constructed by
structured, hierarchical
composition of simpler
systems.

Sociotechnical Systems

involve both human behavior and interactions and technical systems. All security problems are sociotechnical systems.





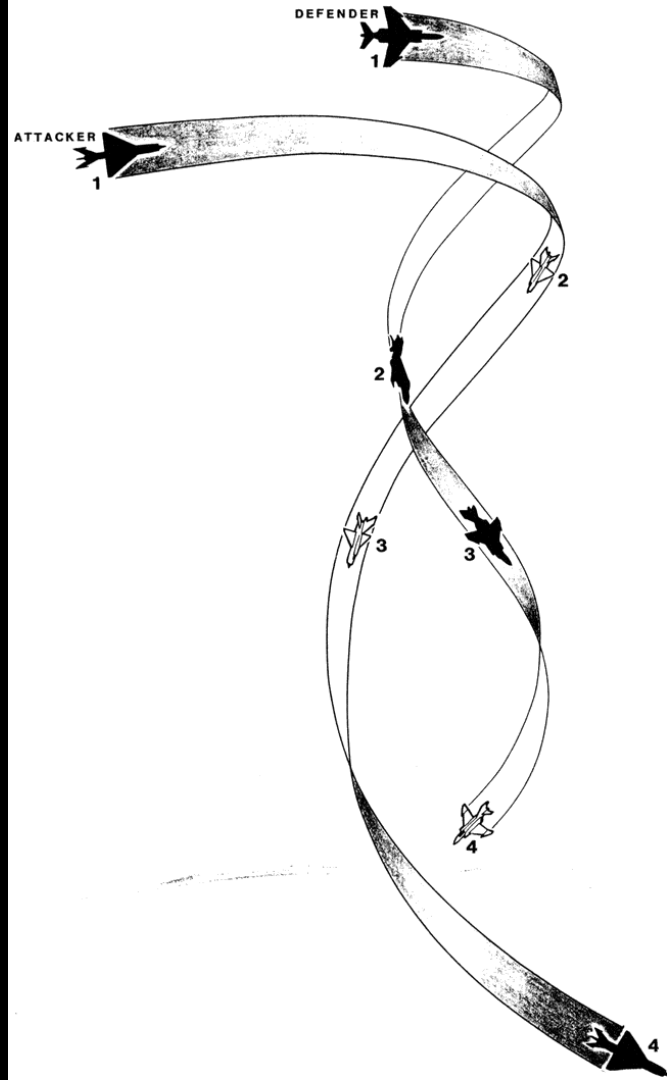
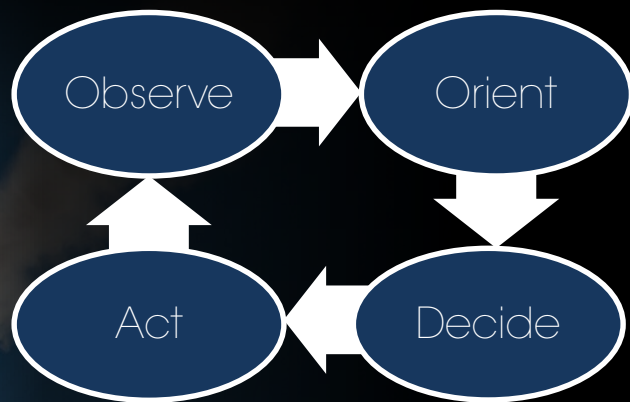


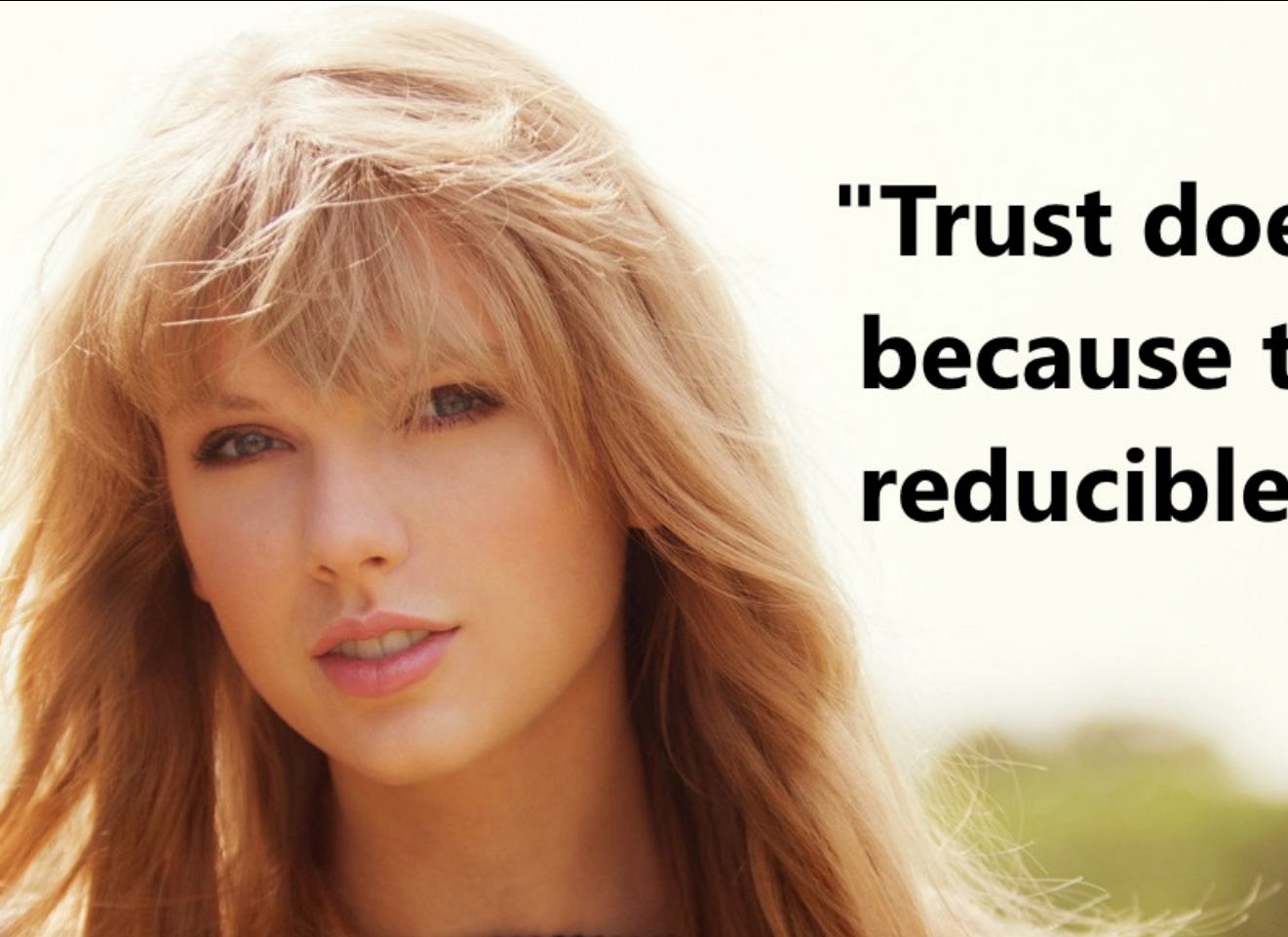
Adversarial Systems are complex systems where human actors have conflicting goals, often including active harm.



All
competitive
situations
have similar
structures:
war, business,
security, &c.

Planning in the Presence of an Adversary





**"Trust does not scale
because trust is not
reducible to math."**

- Taylor Swift



Infrastructure, Structure, and Superstructure





Complex [Adversarial] Sociotechnical
Infrastructural Systems

We live in the
long tail of
unintended
consequences
and externalities







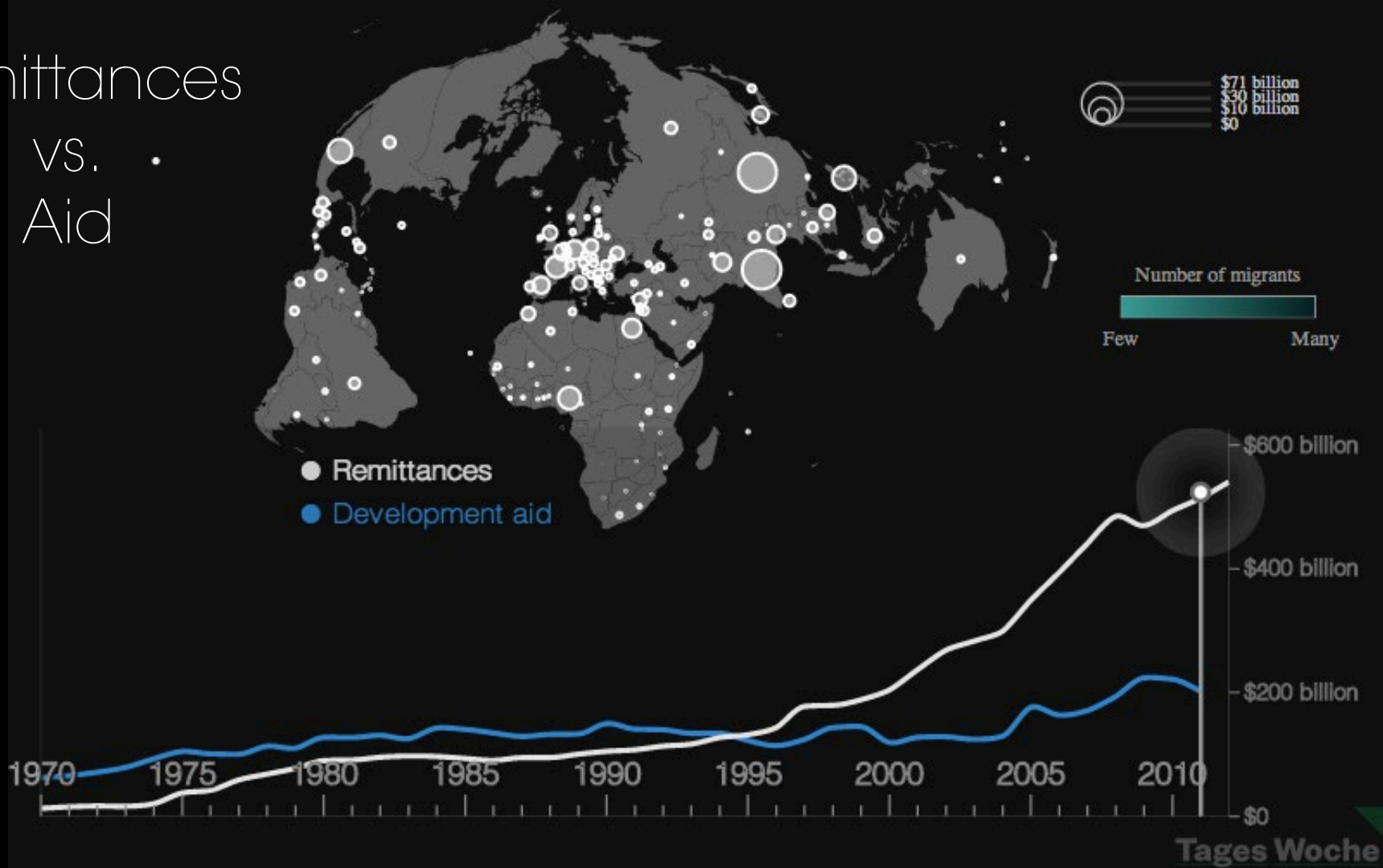
Kranzberg's First Law

Technology is neither good nor bad; nor is it neutral.



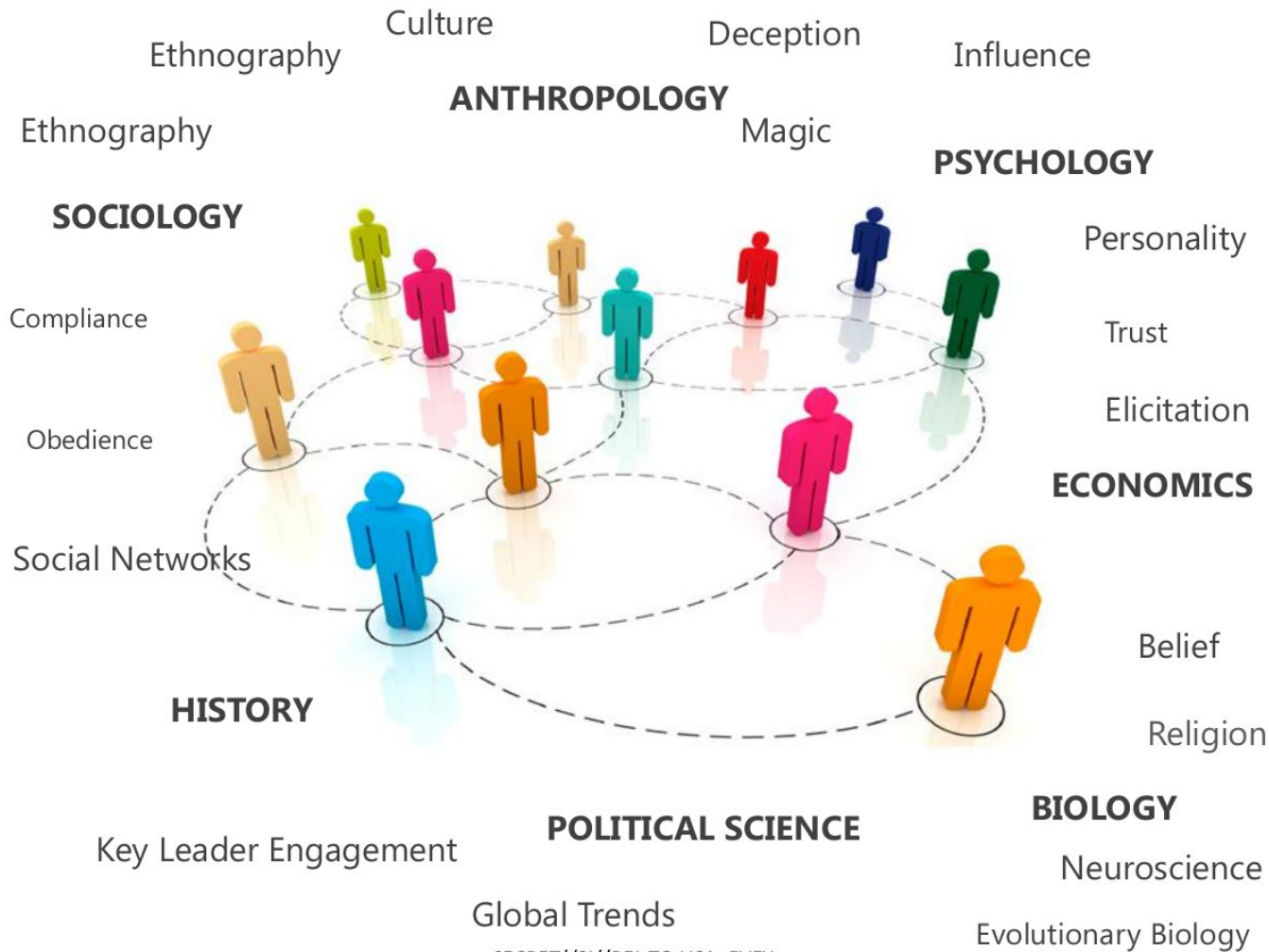


Remittances vs. Aid













But how do we
understand
them?



Disposition

“The architectural theorist Keller Easterling uses the term **disposition** in other contexts, to refer to the propensity or temperament of forms which produce actions. Disposition is found not in activity itself, but in the relationships or relative positions of the objects that produce action.” — Google



Systemic aesthetics is a
human perception from the
point of view of the system



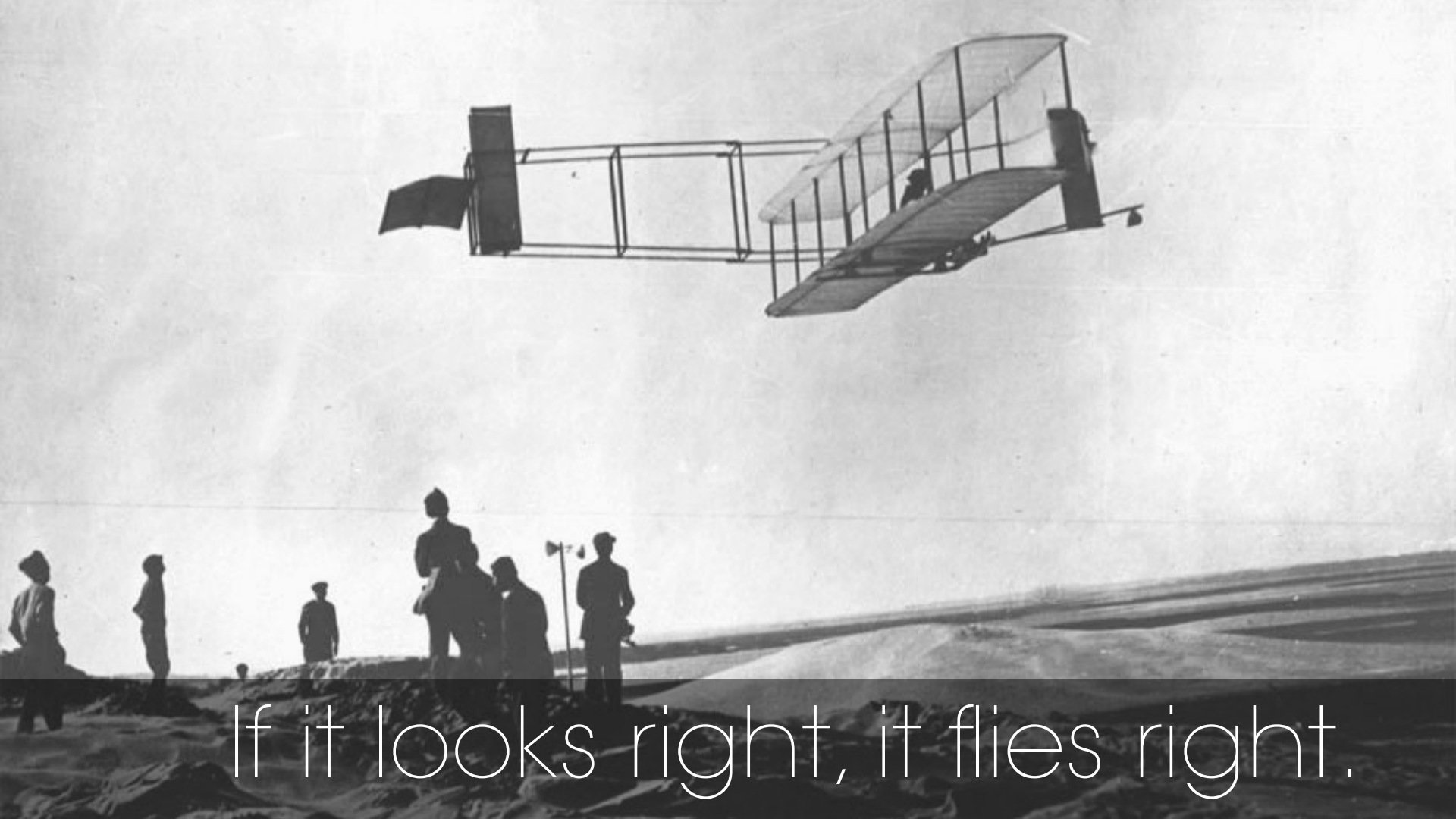
Aesthetics is not the image of the system

Aesthetics is emergent from deep practice

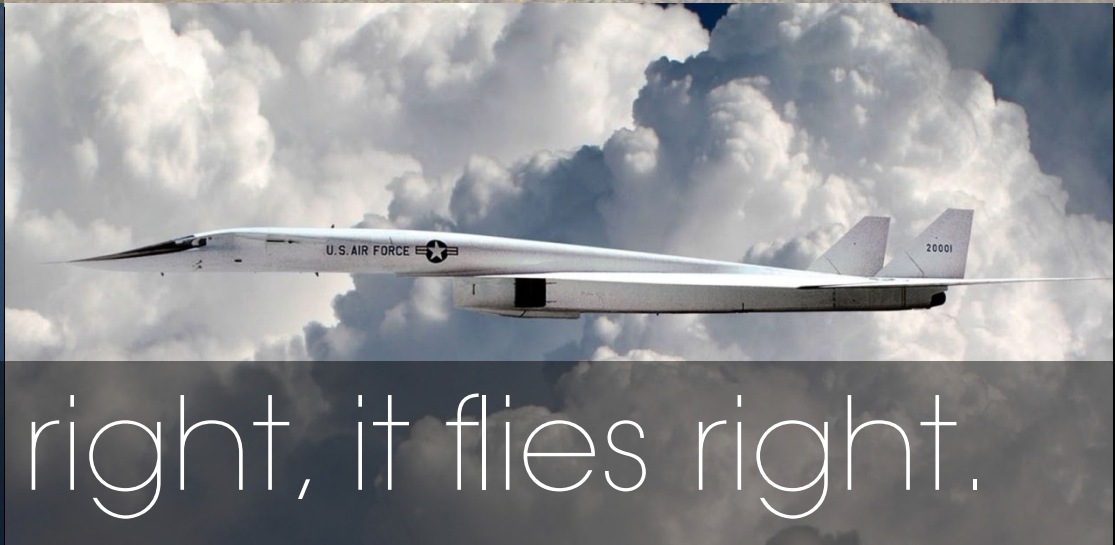
Aesthetics is a fitness function

Aesthetics is can act as a
superset of evaluatory modes

Ethics can be operated as a
subset of aesthetics



If it looks right, it flies right.



If it looks right, it flies right.



If it looks right, it flies right.



Systemic aesthetics are still
a learned, styled, cultural
object

Play and the
tentative
mode of
knowledge



Sensing  Changing

Structure



Affect

Reading

Writing

Immersing

Embodying

Sensing  Changing

Structure



Affect

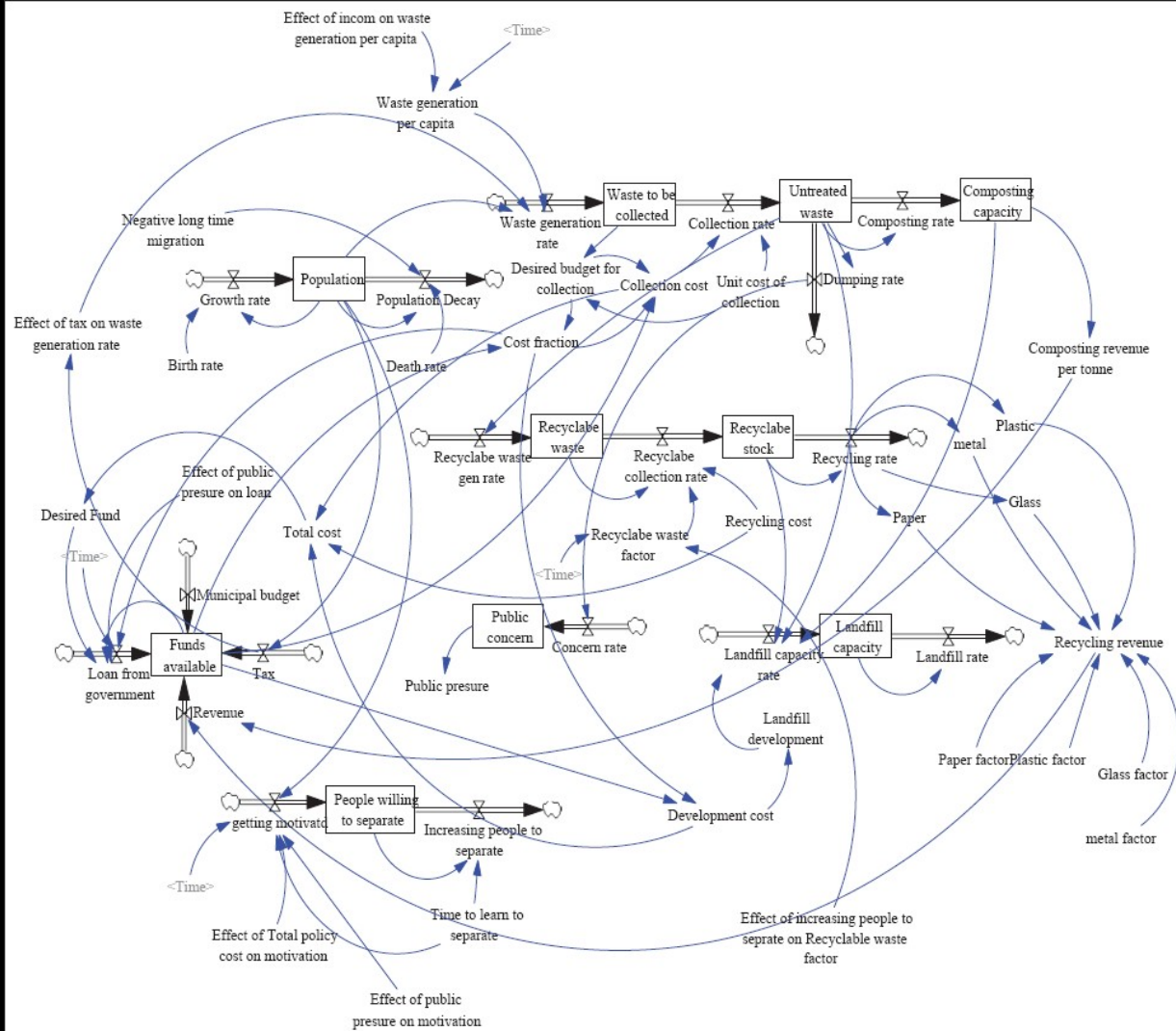
Reading

Writing

Immersing

Embodying

Systems Modeling



Sensing  Changing

Structure



Affect

Reading

Writing

Immersing

Embodying

Structural politics,
regulatory domains,
soft infrastructure,
nudges,
cultural manipulation,
propaganda,
bribery,
grant programs,
censorship,
&c.



Sensing  Changing

Structure



Affect

Reading

Writing

Immersing

Embodying

Refreshing the
long memory of
radical history



Developing
transnational
solidarity



Understanding oppressions

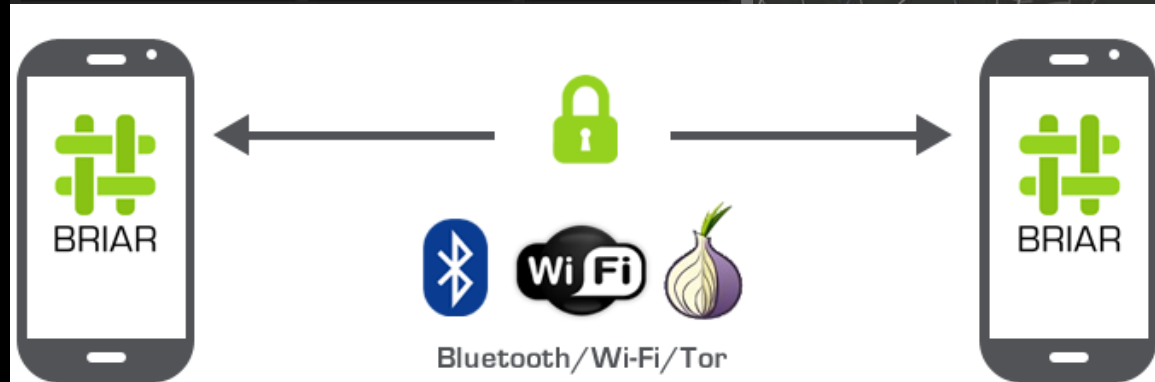
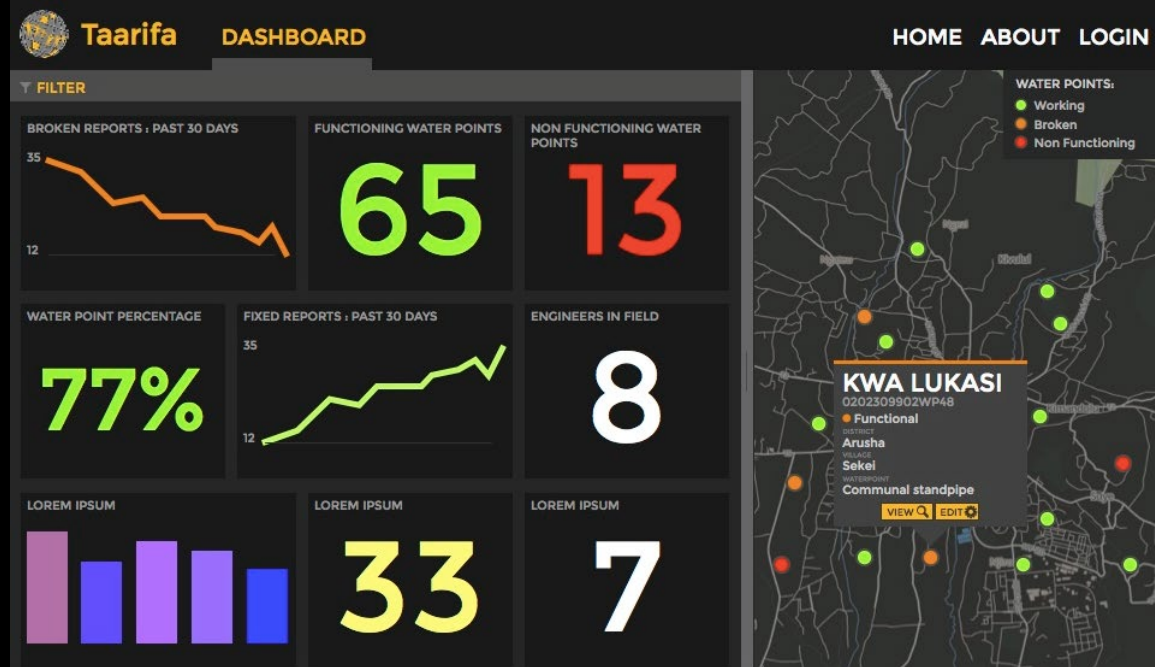


Rewriting the rules of infrastructural maintenance



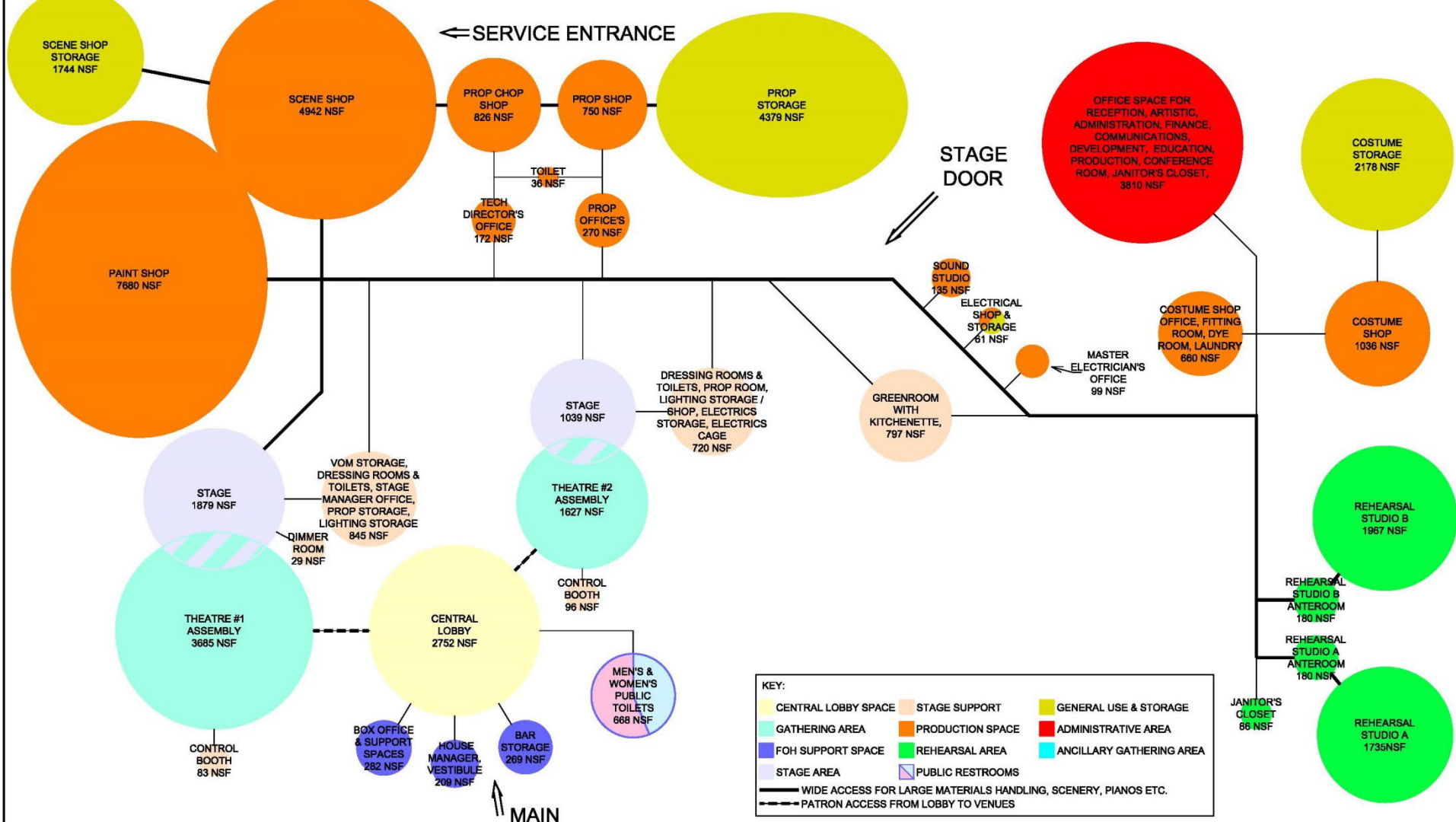


Taarifa and Briar



Architecture and Emotion





Being a good
stranger



The toolkit



Diagnosing



Diagnosing power



Diagnosing affect



Diagnosing viability



Building



Building belief



Building rituals



Building pastness



Live as though
you walk in the
first days of a
healing world



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A Reading List

1. Thinking in Systems
Donella H. Meadows & Diana Wright
2. On the Grid
Scott Huler
3. The Real World of Technology
Ursula M. Franklin
4. Extrastatecraft
Keller Easterling
5. Critical Path
R. Buckminster Fuller
6. Super-Cannes
J. G. Ballard
7. Hot Earth Dreams
Frank Landis
8. The Sheep Look Up
John Brunner
9. Seeing Like a State
James C. Scott
10. From A to X
John Berger
11. Moral Mazes
Robert Jackall
12. Gravity's Rainbow
Thomas Pynchon
13. Designing Freedom
Stafford Beer
14. The History Manifesto
Jo Guldi & David Armitage
15. How Forests Think
Eduardo Kohn
16. Simulacra and Simulation
Jean Baudrillard
17. Dhalgren
Samuel R. Delany
18. The Politics of Large Numbers
Alain Desrosières
19. Debt
David Graeber
20. Hold Everything Dear
John Berger
21. The Player of Games
Iain M. Banks
22. The Coming Insurrection
The Invisible Committee
23. A Paradise Built in Hell
Rebecca Solnit
24. Governing the Commons
Elinor Ostrom
25. Protocol
Alexander R. Galloway
26. New Model Army
Adam Roberts
27. Secret Manoeuvres in the Dark
Eveline Lubbers
28. The Art of Not Being Governed
James C. Scott
29. The Field Guide to Understanding Human Error
Sidney Dekker
30. Always Coming Home
Ursula K. Le Guin