

Context Blindness

– A common thread connecting humanity’s current and ancient crises

– 56 research notes posted to: <https://synapse9.com/signals> on what makes us systemically ***blind*** –

Our Pictures, Full of Natural Holes.

Blinding us to Many of the Important Questions to Ask

The Cheese

What we make tying the threads of our information together, but then... there are the ‘holes.’

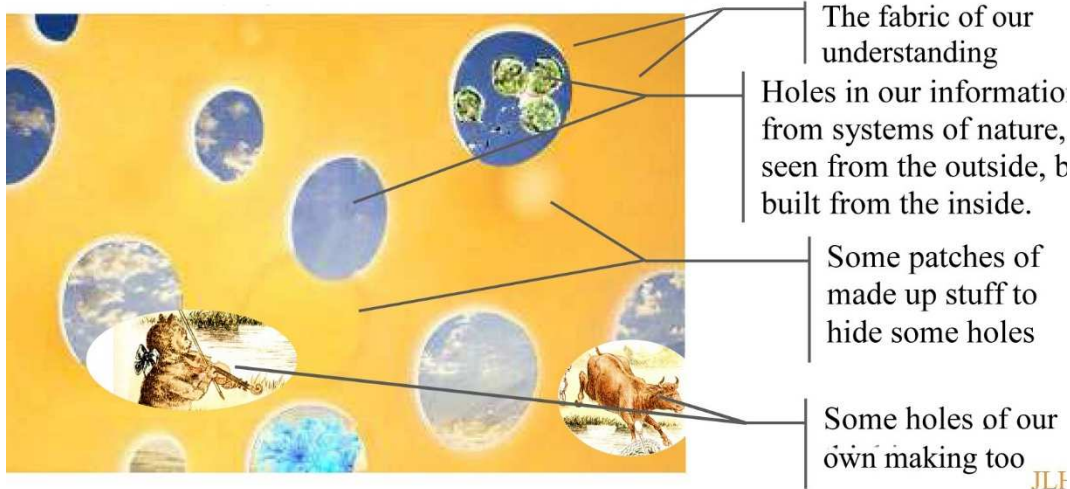


Image notes: “Systems” are nature’s centers of organization, composed of mostly self-referencing relationships as you’d expect to find in an organization, relationships an observer generally doesn’t see either looking from the outside or inside. “The Cheese,” as shown above, represents the fabric our understanding with lots of holes that represent what we don’t see about the systems in our experience, leaving us somewhat blind to the effects of our choices. So for all our views, most of the world is simply ***missing!***

The main reason: Natural systems develop by an internally animated process that captures resources to incorporate into the new system’s working design *from the inside*. So the relationships between the parts are only experienced, not seen. So as a design of self-referencing relationships with external access, we may see some parts but not most of the relationships between them. So we don’t see what makes systems able to capture resources and find their niches in the world.

Visual cognition is then blocked, blinding us to how the world’s systems work, particularly the local contexts of connections and relationships that make our lives work, all made invisible by nature’s very private way of building them. Systems have other senses, though. So, sensing and responding to non-verbal signals and their self-organizing effects as experience is the first common language of life, which allows ecosystems and individuals of all kinds to navigate and self-organize.

We’re also quite familiar with reading them, feeling tired, hungry, nervous, fearful, attracted, warm, familiar, strange, threats, hesitations, etc. Those non-verbal signals and cues elicit the guiding “feelings” we still heavily rely on *when we get the signals*. The most critical are often feeling some of what’s happening in the private interiors of the systems around us, letting us know what’s coming or not.

My research papers (synapse9.com/jlhpub.htm) and the other site links address some of the details.

– Jessie Henshaw

— Excerpts and Links to Fifty Six Research Notes —

1. THE BP BLAME GAME.. BLIND SPOTS

JUNE 11, 2010 PFH LEAVE A COMMENT

There's been a lively exchange on GRIST around "Who's to blame for the Gulf oil gusher?" MimiK on 10 JUN 2010 8:59AM said: EVERYONE: This whole issue, and ALL the comments, are all stuck on the same problem: the gap between what we THINK about what we are doing what we are actually DOING. There is ... [Continue reading The BP blame game.. blind spots→](#)

UNCATEGORIZED

2. KEYS FOR READING THE WORLD SYSTEMS CRISIS

MARCH 31, 2023 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

It seems extraordinary that given 50 years of rapidly rising signs of deep trouble for humanity's assumptions about life, we seem to be reinforcing our efforts to make them work, when they are clearly not. That's absolutely the wrong thing to do. Einstein is often quoted saying, "No problem can be solved from the same ... [Continue reading Keys for reading the world systems crisis→](#)

AMONG BEST, FOR TEACHERS, NATURAL ECONOMY, NATURAL SYSTEMS, POLICY DISCUSSION, SCIENTIFIC THEORY

3. READING THE SIGNALS TO CARE FOR OUR FUTURE – THE BRIDGE FROM GROWTH TO SELF-CONTROL

JANUARY 11, 2023 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

First published as A fatal flaw in the economy's design — Keynes first saw & the world forgot. By J L Henshaw – for the Jan 2023 UN People's Global Futures Forum, Global Finance and Economic Architecture section. Hi, I'm an accomplished senior systems architect, a physicist who, many years ago, found a useful scientific ... [Continue reading Reading the signals to care for our future – The Bridge from Growth to Self-Control→](#)

INVITED COLLABORATION, TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION

AMONG BEST, MAIL & COMMENT, NATURAL ECONOMY, NATURAL SYSTEMS, POLICY DISCUSSION, SCIENTIFIC THEORY, STORIES & EXPERIENCES, SYNAPSE9 WORK & LINKS

4. NOTE TO REGENPOLLINATION

SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

ALERT – ambitious regeneration ... faces rapid global decline! Lauren, I've been active in the movements for decades but have been unsuccessful in pointing out how we should address the symptoms AND the causes of rapid global sustainability decline. That has not been happening at all, though. While trying to heal the world, the UN, ... [Continue reading Note to RegenPollination→](#)

OUR WORLD PREDICAMENT. THE WEAK POINT IN THE SYSTEM AMONG BEST, FOR TEACHERS, NATURAL ECONOMY, NATURAL SYSTEMS

5. NATURE TELLS US HOW AND WHEN TO TURN

SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 MOTHERNATURE 2 COMMENTS

The first recorded talk on it will help show the quandary: – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hb4Ysah2ZzY>
The Updated Slides: – <https://tinyurl.com/2s3skpxw>, The research behind all this: – <https://synapse9.com/signalsAnd>
the early draft proposal to the UN: – <https://tinyurl.com/FreshPlanFor-Steering>
Natural growth is the beginning of life for all systems with life cycles like ours. There are a series of built-in transformation challenges, ... [Continue reading nature tells us how and when to turn→](#)

AMONG BEST, FOR TEACHERS, MAIL & COMMENT, NATURAL ECONOMY, NATURAL SYSTEMS, POLICY DISCUSSION, POPULAR, SCIENTIFIC THEORY, STORIES & EXPERIENCES, TRANSFORMATION, WHAT TO DO

6. WE HAVE MORE THAN ONE PROBLEM

JUNE 30, 2022 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

Thinking about the global crisis, the people who feel it think so differently than those who don't, and the solutions of the latter seem to be at the very root of the problem (problem A). We need solutions that would work in practice. That would take a real understanding of the problem and its origins. ... [Continue reading We have more than one problem](#)

UNCATEGORIZED

7. BRONZE AGE ROLES OF HESTIA AND HERMES

JUNE 14, 2022 MOTHERNATURE 3 COMMENTS

Also part of the path of discovery of where our cultures came from and the foundation we still need to learn from: The apparent Bronze Age roles of Hestia and Hermes In terms of the ancient Greek history of our split consciousness marked by the emergence of modern science, between family order and societal order, ... [Continue reading Bronze Age roles of Hestia and Hermes→](#)

NATURAL PATTERNS, NATURAL SYSTEMS, POLICY DISCUSSION, POPULAR, SCIENTIFIC THEORY, TRANSFORMATION, WHAT TO DO

8. BEHAVIORAL IRONIES FOR OUR MORAL VALUES

APRIL 13, 2022 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

It's wonderful to have so much movement in the movement now, the passion and connections making such awakening waves around facing our global crisis of growing crises. Capitalism isn't amenable to the kinds of change mostly offered, moral suasion, that I hear voiced by the great host of determined voices rising in response. The people ... [Continue reading Behavioral ironies for our moral values→](#)

FOR TEACHERS, NATURAL ECONOMY, NATURAL SYSTEMS, POLICY DISCUSSION, STORIES & EXPERIENCES, TRANSFORMATION, WHAT TO DO

9. BETRAYED BY THE POWER OF OUR MINDS

MARCH 13, 2022 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

The radical separation of humans from nature, our being so self-absorbed and seeing nature as defined in our heads rather than the other way around, has been a deep mystery for a long time. My interest in it came from noticing how mathematics became our standard for representing nature but cannot describe or help us ... [Continue reading Betrayed by the power of our minds→](#)

UNCATEGORIZED

10. HOW WE CAN KNOW FOR SURE

FEBRUARY 25, 2022 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

The imbalance of information about the costs and rewards of money, the intensely felt rewards, and zero information on the environmental costs has

fooled humanity for ages. Even in our effort to stop climate change today, we aim to pay for reorganizing all our energy uses to continue the compound growth of using them that ... [Continue reading How we can know for sure→](#)

SUSTAINABILITY LEARNING, TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION
UNCATEGORIZED

11. HOW SUSTAINABILITY BECAME BAU

FEBRUARY 18, 2022 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

An article was posted to the DeepTransformation.network on "Marketing the planet: The financialization of nature" I added to the comments: The article certainly lives up to its promise, detailing how more and more exceptions are being made to the Brundtland Report's holistic definition of sustainability. Few people noticed where the perversion of the original meaning ... [Continue reading How Sustainability became BAU→](#)

SUSTAINABILITY LEARNING

AMONG BEST, NATURAL SYSTEMS, POLICY DISCUSSION, TRANSFORMATION

12. A LEADING EDGE OF THE RESEARCH

JANUARY 17, 2022 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

Paul Maidowski @_ppmv offered to respond to some of the tough questions about Climate change. On Jan 16 I posted the following image of how climate change has only accelerated parallel to economic growth, with no recent bumps or bends in the curve, starting the short discussion below (w/ minor edits for clarity). Paul, Why ... [Continue reading a leading edge of the research→](#)

OUR WORLD PREDICAMENT,

FOR TEACHERS, NATURAL ECONOMY, PATTERN LANGUAGE, POPULAR, WHAT TO DO

13. WHY NATURAL GROWTH IS OUR NATURAL AND LIKELY ONLY WAY OUT OF OUR WORLD GROWTH CRISIS

AUGUST 31, 2021 MOTHERNATURE 2 COMMENTS

_____ "Natural growth" is nature's way of creating long-lasting new lives, of all kinds. Intro: How system responsiveness shows in natural growth is by taking the opportunity to perfect the design before the limits to growth impinge. To do it, the system's steering needs to switch from multiplying to harmonizing (i.e. maturing) its

design and place ... [Continue reading Why natural growth is our natural and likely only way out of our world growth crisis→](#)

OUR WORLD PREDICAMENT

FOR TEACHERS, NATURAL PATTERNS, NATURAL SYSTEMS, POLICY DISCUSSION, SCIENTIFIC THEORY, SYNAPSE9 WORK & LINKS, WHAT TO DO

14. TRANSFORMATION PATHWAYS

FEBRUARY 25, 2021 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

A. STRUGGLE AND BREAKTHROUGH After inception originates a desire, a long struggle for change follows and then a fast breakout and establishment – To understand these best, think of examples in different circumstances from your experience, personal, business, world, or in nature. For the transformation to an Ecological-Civilization there's the barrier of needing to introduce ...

[Continue reading Transformation pathways→](#)

AMONG BEST, FOR TEACHERS, NATURAL ECONOMY, NATURAL SYSTEMS, POLICY DISCUSSION, POPULAR, TRANSFORMATION, WHAT TO DO

15. FAIR MONEY (PRINCIPLES OF FIDUCIARY ASSET INVESTMENT RESTRAINT)

MAY 26, 2020 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

A concept in development with the r3-0.org Sustainable Finance Blueprint” The FAIR rules act as an overflow valve, to redirect excess savings of passive financial income (normally used by investors to extract exponentially more) back to the free circulation marketplace of the pond to keep from draining the pond and guide investor self-restraint in extracting ...

[Continue reading FAIR Money \(Principles of Fiduciary Asset Investment Restraint\)→](#)

MAIL & COMMENT, NATURAL ECONOMY, NATURAL SYSTEMS, POLICY DISCUSSION, SCIENTIFIC THEORY, STORIES & EXPERIENCES

16. GOOD PEOPLE COOPERATING FOR EVIL*

AUGUST 2, 2019 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

*A recovered Sept 2013 draft somehow never published. Cooperation makes us feel good socially; whatever else we don't control may be done with it. Dwight Eisenhower approached the question from the usual perspective in his 1960 address to the Commonwealth Club of California, quoting the club's statement of purpose saying: “California

suffers greatly because the ... [Continue reading Good people cooperating for evil*→](#)

AMONG BEST, FOR TEACHERS, MAIL & COMMENT, NATURAL ECONOMY, NATURAL SYSTEMS, POLICY DISCUSSION, POPULAR, TRANSFORMATION, WHAT TO DO

17. ONLY HEALTHY CULTURES MAKE HEALTHY ECONOMIES

JUNE 28, 2018 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

Announcing the publication of 6/28/18 Culture, Finance-for-Development & tPPPs Jessie Henshaw* A less technical synopsis, 7/12/18 I've been observing the UN SDGs as a natural systems scientist since 2013 when I saw with some surprise that the one topic both Country delegates and Civil Society groups could agree on was the wording of the ideals ...

[Continue reading Only Healthy Cultures make Healthy Economies→](#)

UNCATEGORIZED

18. SECOND ACTS – BIRTH FIRST THEN SOMETHING ELSE

APRIL 27, 2018 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

from a conversation on FB group Global Challenges Collaboration link to FB post No we shouldn't condemn humankind for being out of control Sam Hahn April 23 at 11:05am We must not condemn man because his inventiveness and patient conquest of the forces of nature are exploited for false and destructive purposes. – Albert Einstein Jessie ...

[Continue reading Second Acts – birth first then something else→](#)

NATURAL ECONOMY, NATURAL PATTERNS, NATURAL SYSTEMS, POLICY DISCUSSION, TRANSFORMATION, WHAT TO DO

19. UN SDG'S AND HLPF – THE WHOLE-SYSTEM THINKING NEEDED

JULY 4, 2017 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

Setting Our Whole system goal, Making the Earth our good home. Much of my effort over the past five years has focused on working with civil society organizations at the UN on the sustainable development goals (SDGs). I'm sitting out this year, needing to take care of other business. It may be ironic, of course, ...

[Continue reading UN SDG's and HLPF – the whole-system thinking needed→](#)

AMONG BEST, FOR TEACHERS, NATURAL PATTERNS, NATURAL SYSTEMS, PATTERN LANGUAGE, RESEARCH & MEASURES, SCIENTIFIC THEORY, TRANSFORMATION

20. IS SCIENCE COMING FULL CIRCLE??

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

A change in natural science is emerging along with “computing” turning away from using theory & equations as a guide to instead using data pattern recognition for naturally occurring systems revealed in the data. Preface Note: About 20 Years ago, algorithms were developed for selectively extracting differentiable continuities from raw data, making a major step beyond “splines” ... [Continue reading Is Science Coming Full Circle??→](#)

NATURAL ECONOMY, NATURAL PATTERNS, NATURAL SYSTEMS, PATTERN LANGUAGE, POLICY DISCUSSION, RESEARCH & MEASURES, TRANSFORMATION, UNCATEGORIZED, WHAT TO DO

21. GUIDING INNOVATIVE CHANGE – HOLISTIC APPLICATIONS OF THE SDGS

AUGUST 30, 2016 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

Re: 18 – 21 Oct 2016 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (research ref’s at the bottom) Fourth meeting of the IAEG-SDGs SD indicators need one more, the World SDG, so innovators can design their goals in relation to the whole My comment is as an expert on both system design and natural science indicators, on how innovative organization ... [Continue reading Guiding Innovative Change – Holistic applications of the SDGs→](#)

AMONG BEST, NATURAL ECONOMY, NATURAL SYSTEMS, POLICY DISCUSSION, POPULAR

22. WAS SHAREHOLDER VALUE WHAT DID IT??

MAY 26, 2016 MOTHERNATURE 1 COMMENT

Preface: The 1964 SEC rules change seems connected, but what happened to so dramatically change the whole economy at the end of the 60s?? Figure 1 below shows that something DID abruptly change the whole future of the US economy, in about 1970, causing a permanent great acceleration in societal inequality. Figure 2 ... [Continue reading Was Shareholder Value What Did It??→](#)

FOR TEACHERS, NATURAL SYSTEMS, PATTERN LANGUAGE, SCIENTIFIC THEORY, SYNAPSE9 WORK & LINKS, UNCATEGORIZED, WHAT TO DO

23. NATURAL PATTERN LANGUAGES

JANUARY 13, 2015 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

key organizational elements for the working relationships of complex systems ideas of complex relationships that fit the reality We care because of the new bridge it creates between human ideas and the working organization of complex working systems we make, use, and need to respond to of all kinds, a broad emerging advance in understanding complex system organization design. The idea of pattern language, invented by Christopher ... [Continue reading Natural Pattern Languages→](#)

NATURAL LANGUAGEORG STAGE MODELPATTERN LANGUAGE AMONG BEST, MAIL & COMMENT, NATURAL SYSTEMS, SCIENTIFIC THEORY, SYNAPSE9 WORK & LINKS

24. BUT HOW CAN PHYSICS STUDY BEHAVIORS, NOT THE THEORY?

NOVEMBER 23, 2014 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

On @SFIScience, David Pines, Co-Founder of the Santa Fe Research Institute, wrote Emergence: A unifying theme for 21st-century science, describing a critical need for physics to develop a way to study “emergence” directly, as a natural phenomenon, not just a theoretical models. This article reposts my reply to him on Medium: But how can physics study behaviors, not the theory? For understanding ... [Continue reading But how can physics study behaviors, not the theory?→](#)

ORG STAGE MODELS

MAIL & COMMENT, NATURAL ECONOMY, NATURAL SYSTEMS, POLICY DISCUSSION, WHAT TO DO

25. UN OWG-5 STATEMENTS – SDG’S MISSING SOME SIGNALS

DECEMBER 5, 2013 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

Last week was unusually successful for me at the UN, or at least it felt that way. The increasing openness of the process and my good luck in finding socially acceptable ways to stay things helped me. So I was able to bring small flashes of light to the deeper kinds of issues about “What to Do ... [Continue reading UN OWG-5 statements – SDG’s missing some signals→](#)

MAIL & COMMENT, NATURAL SYSTEMS, SCIENTIFIC THEORY

26. NATURAL SYSTEMS.. MEET MANY WORLDS OF CULTURAL REALITY

DECEMBER 3, 2013 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

I got a strong “like” from Mark Stahlman to my comment on Real-World Economic Review – issue no. 65. that led to A great longer discussion on the Cultural Anthropology of Knowledge on Open Anthropology. We start a series of excerpts, mostly my writings, with my comment to the economics review journal. J.L. Henshaw (@shoudaknown) ... [Continue reading Natural Systems.. meet many worlds of Cultural Reality→](#)

AMONG BEST, FOR TEACHERS, MAIL & COMMENT, NATURAL ECONOMY, NATURAL SYSTEMS, POLICY DISCUSSION, POPULAR, WHAT TO DO

27. 3STEP PROCESS FOR WORKING WITH NATURE

JULY 3, 2013 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

Now one of the natural systems learning processes under the heading “Contextual Systems Engagement.” Make a proposal. A “Sustainability Learning” Proposal Jessie Henshaw – UN representative of IPS & scientific adviser to the NGO Commons Cluster on natural systems, in response to the UN Major Groups, call for: “Crowd sourcing ideas for thematic areas and modalities ... [Continue reading 3Step process for Working With Nature→](#)

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATIONSUSTAINABILITY LEARNINGTRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION

FOR TEACHERS, NATURAL SYSTEMS, RESEARCH & MEASURES, SCIENTIFIC THEORY, STORIES & EXPERIENCES

28. TRICKY READING – THE INDICATOR & THE CONTEXT

JULY 2, 2013 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

From a conversation on the Commons Abundance Network. Of course, I agree a lot is resolved by clarifying what you use the word “growth” to refer to. But it’s easier to figure out we *should* be clear about what is being referred to than to really do it. It’s so easy ... [Continue reading Tricky Reading – the Indicator & the Context→](#)

AMONG BEST, FOR TEACHERS, NATURAL SYSTEMS, WHAT TO DO

29. THE FALSE DUALITY OF MIND & NATURE

JULY 2, 2013 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

Tweets from Shoudaknown 7/17/13 1 The false duality of mind & nature is clear, in how events for each begin with bursts of self-organization and

JLH

energy use, “eventfully”. ;-) 2 More revealing is how the eventfulness of mind and nature doesn’t occur in theories, relying on defined relationships not discovered ones. ... [Continue reading The false duality of mind & nature→](#)

AMONG BEST, MAIL & COMMENT, NATURAL ECONOMY, NATURAL SYSTEMS, SCIENTIFIC THEORY

30. YOUR ONTOLOGY GETTING LOST IN EPISTEMOLOGY??

MARCH 9, 2013 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

First (V.) is Helene’s response to (IV.) my observations on the dilemma of “defining reality,” that doing so presents “reality” is represented as decided in our brains! Natural reality is precisely the opposite: everything NOT defined in our brains. Yet... the epistemologists keep winning the dumb argument anyway... even though the true answer ... [Continue reading Your Ontology getting lost in Epistemology??→](#)

AMONG BEST, FOR TEACHERS, MAIL & COMMENT, NATURAL SYSTEMS, TRANSFORMATION, UNCATEGORIZED, WHAT TO DO

31. “SPOOKY THEORY” HELPS WITH WICKED PROBLEMS

SEPTEMBER 24, 2012 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

A way to respond to experiences we’re unable to articulate. There are lots of cases when what attracts us to a theory is its sort of “spooky” truth. “Urban myths” often contain them, and science can often be the source of them, as well as cultural sayings and religion too, of course. The value is ... [Continue reading “Spooky theory” helps with wicked problems→](#)

FOR TEACHERS, NATURAL ECONOMY, NATURAL SYSTEMS, POLICY DISCUSSION, WHAT TO DO

32. PRINCIPLES FOR DETECTING AND RESPONDING TO SYSTEM OVERLOAD

SEPTEMBER 4, 2012 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

To recognize the universal indications of system and relationship overload, be alert to strains resulting in loss of resilience and risk of sudden disruption (replying to Helene on Systems Thinking World and her “UN Call for Revolutionary Thinking”). The most general pattern is resilient relationships becoming rigid, like the surface of a

balloon ... [Continue reading Principles for detecting and responding to system overload](#)→

ORG STAGE MODELS

AMONG BEST, FOR TEACHERS, NATURAL ECONOMY, NATURAL SYSTEMS, SCIENTIFIC THEORY, TRANSFORMATION

33. EMOTIONALLY PROOF READING YOUR LOGICAL MODELS...

JUNE 29, 2012 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

Excerpted from intro to JLH website homepage. JLH 6/29/12 I've written several short "what this site is about" essays, which you'll find elsewhere. They all attempt to introduce a way to begin studying the eventful lives of the individually organized and behaving systems of nature, our many kinds of animated companions with which ... [Continue reading Emotionally proof reading your logical models...](#)→

NATURAL ECONOMY, NATURAL SYSTEMS, RESEARCH & MEASURES, SCIENTIFIC THEORY, WHAT TO DO

34. OUR CURIOUS MISSMEASURE OF IMPACTS (AND SILVER LININGS)

JUNE 2, 2012 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

This is a companion article to the proposed commons-based institutions: A new economic paradigm: The next big challenge and Budgeting for "the commons" needs business "ecobalance" sheets. To transform the economy to become self-regulating will require our learning how to make accurate physical measurements of our environmental impacts and associate them with the dollars spent that ... [Continue reading Our curious missmeasure of impacts \(and silver linings\)](#)→

MAIL & COMMENT, NATURAL ECONOMY, NATURAL SYSTEMS

35. CANCERS OR ENDOWMENTS

APRIL 12, 2012 MOTHERNATURE 1 COMMENT

In Continuing the Conversation on Resilience John Fullerton offered a provocative summary and invited more comments on the subject that started with examples found from Bill Reese and Donella Meadows of resilience as "a Double-Edged Sword," like either social or biological diseases that change to become resistant to treatment. My comment on it got to be 1000 ... [Continue reading Cancers or Endowments](#)→

FOR TEACHERS, MAIL & COMMENT, NATURAL SYSTEMS

36. WHAT GOES WRONG WHEN GROWTH ENDS BEFORE ITS LIMITS?

FEBRUARY 16, 2012 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

Gail Tverberg posted a very nice discussion of the question from her view of Human population overshoot—what went wrong? My comment on her blog was: It's wonderful that you're addressing this topic, long overlooked in the "alternative" as well as the mainstream scientific communities. Gratefully there is a long trail of ecologists that bucked even their own ... [Continue reading What goes wrong when growth ends before its limits?](#)→

AMONG BEST, NATURAL SYSTEMS, POPULAR, SCIENTIFIC THEORY

37. ARE THE HOLES IN YOUR MAP HELPING YOU READ THE TERRITORY?

FEBRUARY 5, 2012 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

This is an exchange with Frits Smeets on Azimuth, John Baez's wide-ranging mathematical physics blog. The original topic is the 12/13/11 "What's up with the solar transition, "and why isn't it happening when seeming so "logical" to so many? See Also: SEA Energy Accounting: far more holes than cheese 3/9/12 – Self-organization as "niche ... [Continue reading Are the holes in your map helping you read the territory?](#)→

FOR TEACHERS, NATURAL ECONOMY, SCIENTIFIC THEORY

38. KEYNES SAW THROUGH HIS FEARS... BY FACING THEM.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2011 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

An OP-Ed in today's Sunday Review section of the NY Times by Sylvia Nasar, Keynes: The Sunny Economist missed the real source of Keynes' ability to see silver linings where most others saw failure. Keynes faced economic failures, having studied how nature uses the end of one thing to begin another. He saw sunshine through the ... [Continue reading Keynes saw through his fears... by facing them.](#)→

FOR TEACHERS, MAIL & COMMENT, NATURAL ECONOMY, NATURAL SYSTEMS, WHAT TO DO

39. 2ND GLOBAL HEART ATTACK, ...LIFESTYLE CHANGE NEEDED

AUGUST 5, 2011 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

We're driving an underperforming asset to return ever more excessive demands on ANY relationship naturally produces systemic collapses, like we're now experiencing. I've been pointing to the root causes, in considerable detail, for many years. Ignoring them hasn't made them go away. It's like compelling a runner to run faster when their body needs ... [Continue reading 2nd Global Heart Attack...lifestyle change needed→](#)

FOR TEACHERS, NATURAL ECONOMY, WHAT TO DO

40. RETURN TO A WORLD THAT WORKS? LEARN TO STEER!

AUGUST 2, 2011 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

Jay Hanson's post to EconCritique@yahoogroups.com that "Economics is rotten at the center: The "Math/Logic Paradigm." was passed on to me. He found that economics is a social construct of ideals that cannot be found in nature, prompting this [edited] reply. Jay, I like how you aim to find the conceptual errors. It's ... [Continue reading Return to a world that works? Learn to steer!→](#)

AMONG BEST, FOR TEACHERS, NATURAL SYSTEMS

41. DOGGED BY CONFUSED REALITIES... THE SPIRIT OF THE HUNT?

JULY 31, 2011 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

It's easy to notice that our society is enjoying the great benefits of "an information age".but also suffering from lots of "bad information." I remember the first day I heard what the future internet would be like, I think it was in the summer of 1978. My immediate response was that it would ... [Continue reading Dogged by confused realities... the spirit of the hunt?→](#)

FOR TEACHERS, MAIL & COMMENT

42. WHERE DO YOU FIND THE NATURAL WORLD??

JULY 8, 2011 MOTHERNATURE LEAVE A COMMENT

That's a trick question, as throughout history, the natural world has had a "made-up" appearance, and people have struggled a lot with establishing whether any perception they have is "real" or not. People have created a great variety of ways to say that nature is a projection from "the mind of ...

[Continue reading Where do you find the natural world??→](#)

NATURAL ECONOMY, TRANSFORMATION

43. WHY "GOING TO THE EDGE" MAKES YOU RICH, AND ASSURES FALLING OVER

MAY 19, 2011 PFH LEAVE A COMMENT

The problem with "going to the edge" in nature is she keeps moving the edge back and forth. It's a trap. Having a practice of always maximizing your take and going to the limit leaves you vulnerable to nature's perennial habit of leading you on when she moves it out, unaware that the natural next ...

[Continue reading Why "going to the edge" makes you rich, and assures falling over→](#)

MAIL & COMMENT, NATURAL ECONOMY

44. MISSING INFORMATION – FEELING, REASONING & SLEEPING ON IT

APRIL 7, 2011 PFH LEAVE A COMMENT

We need humility to live in a world that works mostly by missing information. Responding to John McCreery's recent comment on Open Anthropology – Arguing From Limits (also quoted below mine here) discussing the hazard of raising doubt about people's faith in using efficiency to reduce environmental impacts, as I had called it "a mirage." The problem ... [Continue reading Missing information – feeling, reasoning & sleeping on it→](#)

AMONG BEST, NATURAL ECONOMY, NATURAL SYSTEMS

45. NURTURING "CASH COWS" OR "CRASH COWS"?

MARCH 16, 2011 PFH LEAVE A COMMENT

Note: this is a draft concept for the Apr 2011 article on "what to do" aimed at a wider business audience, "A decisive moment for investing in sustainability" For other discussions of "what to do" from an environmental systems science view, see also the 6/10/11 notes for Alex Jakulin's Foo Camp talk on my work and ... [Continue reading Nurturing "cash cows" or "crash cows"??→](#)

NATURAL SYSTEMS, SCIENTIFIC THEORY

46. WHAT GROWS INTO LIFE...?

JANUARY 5, 2011 PFH LEAVE A COMMENT

a little “Evo-Devo” insight into the study of natural systems and ourselves based on the new physics of development in natural systems. In a phrase: Life begins when internal growth approaches an end, revealing your presence in a new environment... where making relationships rather than consuming your partners is more profitable. From a simple mechanical ... [Continue reading What grows into Life...?→](#)

+AMONG BEST, ORG STAGE MODELS, MAIL & COMMENT, NATURAL ECONOMY

47. A NEW YEAR’S WISH, FOR THE TRUE CELEBRATION

DECEMBER 30, 2010 PFH LEAVE A COMMENT

I wish we could talk about it, in the dark somewhere preferably, to avoid being vilified by the bullying that mysteriously appears to enforce the silence,... and prevent our true celebration of life on an interconnected planet... There’s a remarkable pattern of historic scientific breakthroughs concerning how we fit into earth’s energy budget that were ... [Continue reading A New Year’s wish, for the true celebration→](#)

MAIL & COMMENT, NATURAL ECONOMY

48. GREEN PRODUCTS OR BLUE, DOESN’T MATTER IF THEY MULTIPLY...

JANUARY 31, 2010 PFH LEAVE A COMMENT

Jan 25,2010 comment: Re: Alternative Energy Newswire’s We need not make any important sacrifices for a natural lifestyle. I wish I could get the next level of thinking to spread as easily as the old thinking keeps spreading... How we are all “buying better products” is making waves in nature that are indeed simply too big. ... [Continue reading Green products or blue, doesn’t matter if they multiply...→](#)

MAIL & COMMENT, NATURAL ECONOMY, NATURAL SYSTEMS

49. HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL, SEARCHES ITS SOUL

MAY 17, 2009 PFH LEAVE A COMMENT

There’s been a real “soul searching” discussion within Harvard Business School about its responsibility in having trained many of the people whose business practices got the world into our present still worsening economic crisis. It was

reported today on NPR. It seems they have discovered they should teach business leaders to take some responsibility, not just make ... [Continue reading Harvard Business School, searches its soul→](#)

NATURAL ECONOMY, NATURAL SYSTEMS

50. WHAT CAN PEOPLE DO?... TO FIX OUR VIOLATION OF NATURE

APRIL 11, 2009 PFH LEAVE A COMMENT

Post to LinkedIn’s Global Foresight discussion 4/11/09 Tom, I guess the problem is that we’ve been steering the development of the earth as if expanding our vehicle with our windows painted over with out-of-date explanations, having a party and not watching the earth’s responses as we crashed into things. Our blind procedures, then, ... [Continue reading What can people do?... to fix our violation of nature→](#)

FOR TEACHERS, NATURAL ECONOMY

51. COGNITIVE GAPS – NOT LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE

FEBRUARY 9, 2009 PFH LEAVE A COMMENT

Bob, 1/8/09 post to Downslope. People ignoring contexts make it very hard to learn from change, and even learning by hard experience after the fact doesn’t always help. Humans often are so fixated on old ideas in new worlds they only learn by generational succession (with old ideas dying off rather than changing ... [Continue reading Cognitive Gaps – not Learning From Experience→](#)

MAIL & COMMENT

52. (MENTAL) RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

SEPTEMBER 27, 2008 PFH LEAVE A COMMENT

Brian, But thought matters... if the things of the world that matter to us are not machines, why would thinking of resources like a machine be of help? I think it would be better to put our pension for machine-like thinking in its place, drop what makes machine thinking demand total control, rather than drop ... [Continue reading \(mental\) Resource availability→](#)

MAIL & COMMENT

53. HIGHLIGHTING THE CHALLENGES OF 9 BILLION PEOPLE

JUNE 2, 2008 PFH LEAVE A COMMENT

Nick, There's another, maybe better, explanation for the conspiracy of blindness to the concert of diminishing resource problems. We lack a mental model for looking at things as a whole when they have so many seemingly disconnected parts. That's a real physical barrier to conceptual understanding. That's also something my method works very well ... [Continue reading Highlighting the challenges of 9 billion people→](#)

MAIL & COMMENT

54. GOOD IDEAS . . .

SEPTEMBER 13, 2006 PFH LEAVE A COMMENT

Eric & all, Thanks for asking. Let me just attempt to describe the ship and the wave idea. Do you know any great graphic designer types? It could be a good poster and could make good money too! The idea of turning the ship of mankind into the wave of calamities coming at us is so we ... [Continue reading Good ideas . . .→](#)

ALONGSHOT, MAIL & COMMENT, WHAT TO DO

55. PEALING THE ONION

JANUARY 22, 2006 PFH LEAVE A COMMENT

The clear root of terrorism is a major world religious community that has come to look at us with such horror and disgust that they approve of their sons blowing themselves up in protest. That seems more than strange, but no one seems to be trying to explain it. From an evidence point of view, ... [Continue reading Peeling the Onion→](#)

ALONGSHOT, MAIL & COMMENT, WHAT TO DO

56. FAILURE IN RESPONDING TO KATRINA

SEPTEMBER 4, 2005 PFH LEAVE A COMMENT

So soon after the embarrassing failure of emergency response, it's a little risky to venture an explanation. The appearance is that government planning for an emergency response to "the big one" failed to include providing food and shelter for those stranded by it. My opinion is that the problem was that FEMA kept following the ... [Continue reading Failure in responding to Katrina→](#)

End