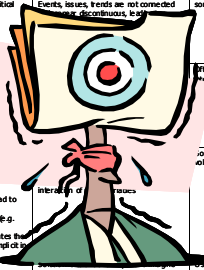## "Causal Layered Analysis" – Sohail Inayatullah Futures, v30 n8, pp815-29 1998

Context
- How one frames the problem or issue changes the policy solution and the actors responsible for creating transformation
- Language is not neutral but part of the analysis
- Wisest form of inquiry goes up and down levels of analysis and across constitutive discourses (ie. moves around within a horizontal level seeking alternatives)

Horizontal Levels

Vertical Levels / Layers	Identification of the problem (what is the problem?)	Associated solutions (What is the solution?)	Associated Problem-Solver (Who can solve it?)	Source of Information of problem (Where is the problem / solution textualised?)
Litany – Official public description of issue trends, problems, issues, news events, ad nauseum	Problem seems unsolvable or it is up to government or Power to solve it often exaggerated often used for political purposes	Little personal responsibility: powerlessness; apathy; projected action Events, issues, trends are not connected and appear discontinuous, leading to: Helplessness - what can I do? Apathy – nothing can be done! Projected action – why don't they (usually gov. or corp.) do something about it?	Government solves the problem Solver of the problem is always someone else, usually Govt. or Corpn	Often appears as News. Mediated by inter-state system and conventional accounts of reality. Short term approaches Usually presented uncritically by popular mainstream news media
Social Causes social, economic, cultural, political & historical factors, quantitative interpretations, technical explanations & academic analysis usually short term factors	Short term historical factors uncovered Attempts to articulate causal variables (correlation, causation, theory and critique of other theories) Interpretations are given to the quantitative trends or data Technical explanations & academic analyses abound Usually articulated by policy institutes	Solution often in Civil society in interaction with other institutions (values with structures) – partnerships	Often The State or other monopolistic interest group has ownership Solution usually comes from partnership b/w different groups	Often appears as op-ed piece or in a conservative journal Often published as editorial pieces in newspapers, or in not-quite-academic or conservative journals
Structure / Worldview deep social, economic, cultural & linguistics structures, unquestioned deep assumptions, the type of 'discourse', worldview Concerned with structures and the world view which legitimates it	Problem constituted by frame of analysis Strong focus on the genealogy of a problem Many frames: paradigms, mindscapes, discourses Discerning the unquestioned deep assumptions behind the issue; can lead to re-visioning the problem Explore how the type of "discourse" (e.g. economics, religious, cultural, etc) or worldview actually creates or constitutes the problem; the discourse we use is complicit in framing the issue	Solution often in consciousness transformation, in changing worldview, in rethinking politics of reality Solution long term action based on the interaction of many variables	Solutions come from people and/or voluntary associations	Often appearing in fringe / peripheral journals
Metaphor / myth collective archetypes, deep stories, images, symbols, gut feeling level, "touches the heart not head", the unconscious dimensions of the problem	Problem constituted by core myth (unconscious structures of difference, basic binary patterns) Gut feeling & emotional-level response to worldview under inquiry "touches the heart" rather than "reading the head"	Solution is to uncover myth and imagine alternative metaphors Solution can rarely be rationally designed	Usually comes from visionary leaders or artists	Often appearing in the work of artists and the visions of mystics Language use is less specific and more concerned with evoking visual images or symbols

1. Oh Lucky Facilitator!

2. Define the problem

3. Let the Litany begin!

4. Shepherd down towards myth / metaphor

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5. Help find a problem metaphor

6. Help find a solution metaphor

7. Facilitate realisation discussion of the solution

8. Finished!

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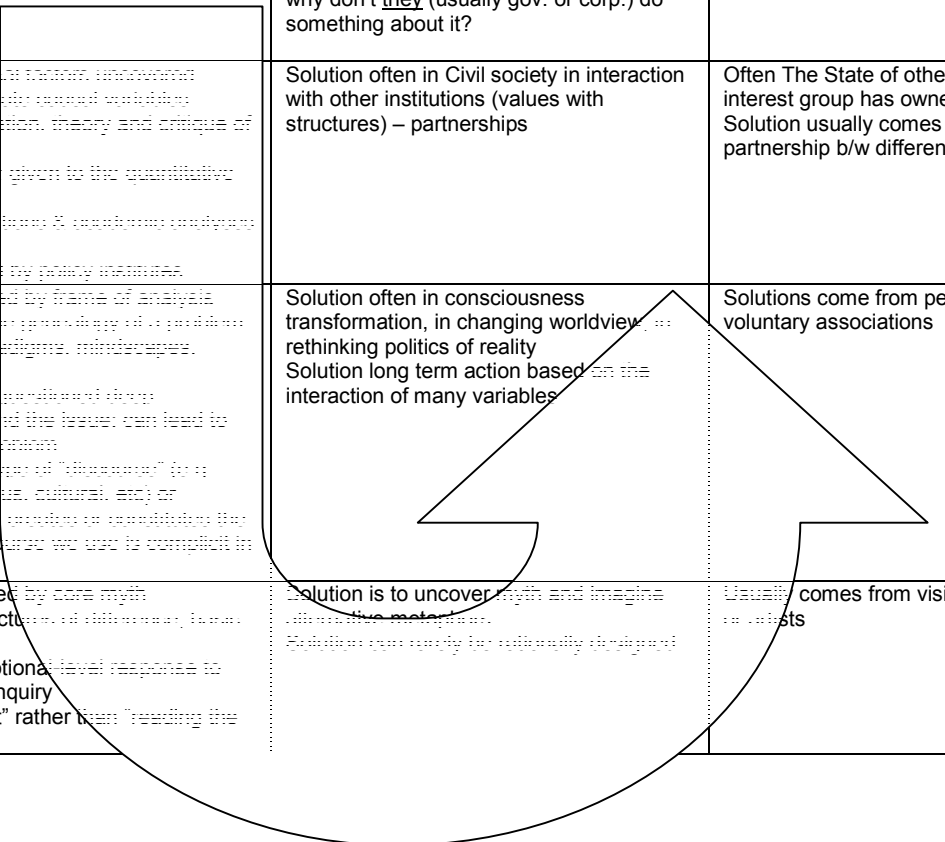
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Social Causes				
Structure / Worldview				
Metaphor / myth				

Vertical Levels / Layers

Use breaks and lunch to change mindset between 'levels'. Note that the 'borders' between levels are blurry

Artefacts of Thinking

Actual Thinking

Metaphor is usually negative

Move to positive metaphor

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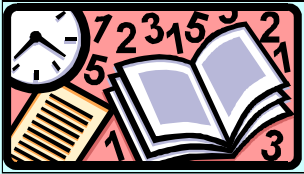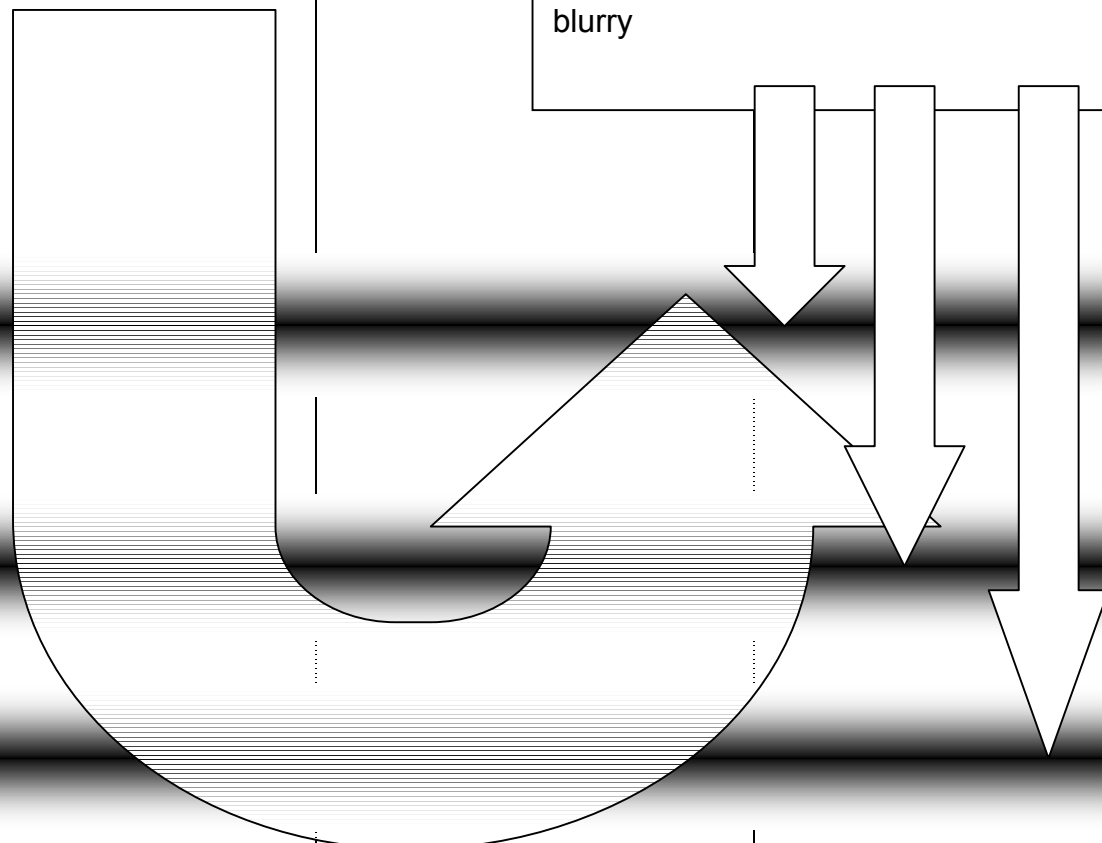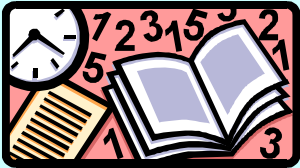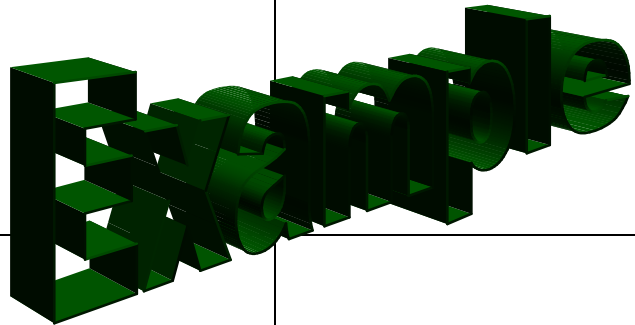
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Social Causes		Low population, young country, critical mass required, parochialism, participation, drain on social welfare	Always have diversity to avoid parochialism		
Structure / Worldview					
Metaphor / myth		Surrounded by threatening strangers Uninvited Under siege	Outback with bit of wire Aussie battler She'll be right A fair go		

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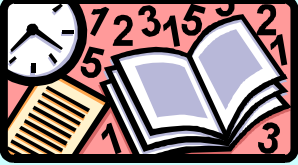
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