Future-wise Mind-Lab

'Collaboratorium' / 'Laboratory for collective intelligence'

V0.4 – 14-10-21

The *Future-wise **Mind-Lab*** is a global online *Collaboratorium* or *'Laboratory for collective intelligence'*.

We aim to develop and test new kinds of systems based on *collective intelligence*: and pathways for transformation towards such systems.

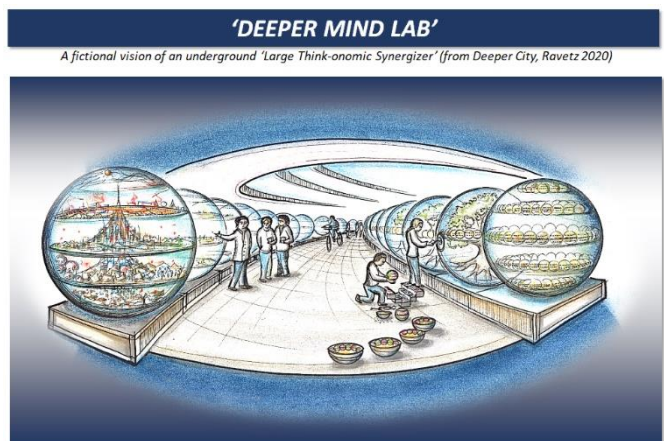In 2021 we are working on three main themes, each with several topics:

- ***Eco-wise***: bio-regional, peri-eco-urban, green new deal, and the '*collective climatic intelligence'*;
- ***Smart-wise***: cities, platforms, governance and the 'CHAI' (*Collective Human-Artificial Intelligence*);
- ***Fore-wise***: foresight cities, communities, 'pandemonics', and the '*collective policy intelligence'*;

The first cartoon here shows a *'Deeper Mind Lab'* - a future-fiction version. In a similar way we have various pilots going on in a large experimental zone – various people walk around, debate progress & insights, or design the pathways which follow… The second graphic

'DEEPER MIND LAB'
A fictional vision of an underground 'Large Think-onomic Synergizer' (from Deeper City, Ravetz 2020)

'MIND-LAB / COLLABORATORIUM / MULTI-VERSITY'
Concept visual of an evolving space of collaborative learning & thinking

shows a *Mind-Lab* as part of a *'multi-versity'* – a city or community where everyone learns with & from everyone…

For updates and background see the *Future-wise conversations/*

The *Mind-lab* is linked to the *Future-wise Cities* theme at the Manchester Urban Institute (*https://www.mui.manchester.ac.uk/research/themes/future-proof-cities/*).

These are the 3 themes, each with its range of Conversations & topics. Each is open to proposals for pilots / experiments to work on, in the online space.

FORE-WISE THEME

- ***Strategic policy intelligence for cities & regions*** – how to do next generation policy & planning? practical applications in public & corporate sectors (with HSE): April 14th
- ***Foresight from theory to practice:*** capacity building (for the HSE Masters program): April-June
- ***Pandemonics 3.0:*** tools for collective foresight intelligence, turning crisis into opportunity (hosted at ORS63), Sept 15th
- ***Foresight – Going Viral?*** oct 21st– taking FS3.0 upwards & outwards (hosted at the XI Conference on foresight and STI policy, HSE Moscow)**.**
- ***Climate-sight-3.0-*** beyond COP26 – thinking ahead in disruption & opportunity – Dec 3rd

SMART-WISE THEME

- ***Smart-wise cities 3.0*** How to design 'smarter' technology to enable 'wiser' human systems? (with Shanghai SCDI): ***Feb 26th***
- ***Smart-wise-Locality 3.0 -*** how to take smart-wise governance to the streets? practical applications on the urban frontline (with Manchester City Council): ***June 25th***
- ***Smart-Wise CHAI*** (growing the 'Collective Human-Artificial Intelligence'): how to turn tech disruption into social opportunity? ***Oct 22nd***
- ***'Smart-Wise Metro-Scape 3.0'*** mobilizing the digital hinterland for human synergy: (Dec 10th)

ECO-WISE THEME

- '***Green new deal 3.0*** - how to do carbon neutral / net-zero pathways that really work?? (with EC-JRC): **March 26TH**
- ***Bio-regional 3.0*** : how to tame the global tiger? (Univ Granada & UC San Diego): May 27th ;
- (***Peri-cene.net/*** *Policy Lab Workshops*): interactive sessions, also open for special interests (June 8-17th);
- ***Towards a Sustainable Earth*** - ***synthesis:*** with NERC & program partners: July 7th
- ***Food 3.0*** - how to link agro-ecology, super-food & urban livelihood? (with Camley St Community Land Trust): (*TBC)*
- ***Resilience 3.0*** - how to cope with 2, 3 or 4 degrees: Oct 14th
- ***Climate-sight-3.0-*** beyond COP26 - thinking ahead in disruption & opportunity - Dec 3rd

For each theme we set up an online 'experimental zone'. This includes –

- Pilot projects & case studies (from participants & speakers), both 'what-if' and actual;
- Each pilot aims to explore pathways towards a *collective intelligence*;
- In the workshop we start with the presentations and questions raised
- Then we tour around the experimental zone, with questions & critique, ideas & connections.
- We focus on 1-2 case studies for active debate & development (more can be done with subgroups if needed);
- Each pilot project gathers over time a community of interest, for further research, funding and/or publication: for the whole theme we plan a 'white paper' & special issue in 2022.
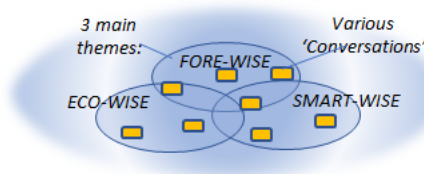
For each theme and its various conversations & experiments, we invite:

- Contributions from speakers;
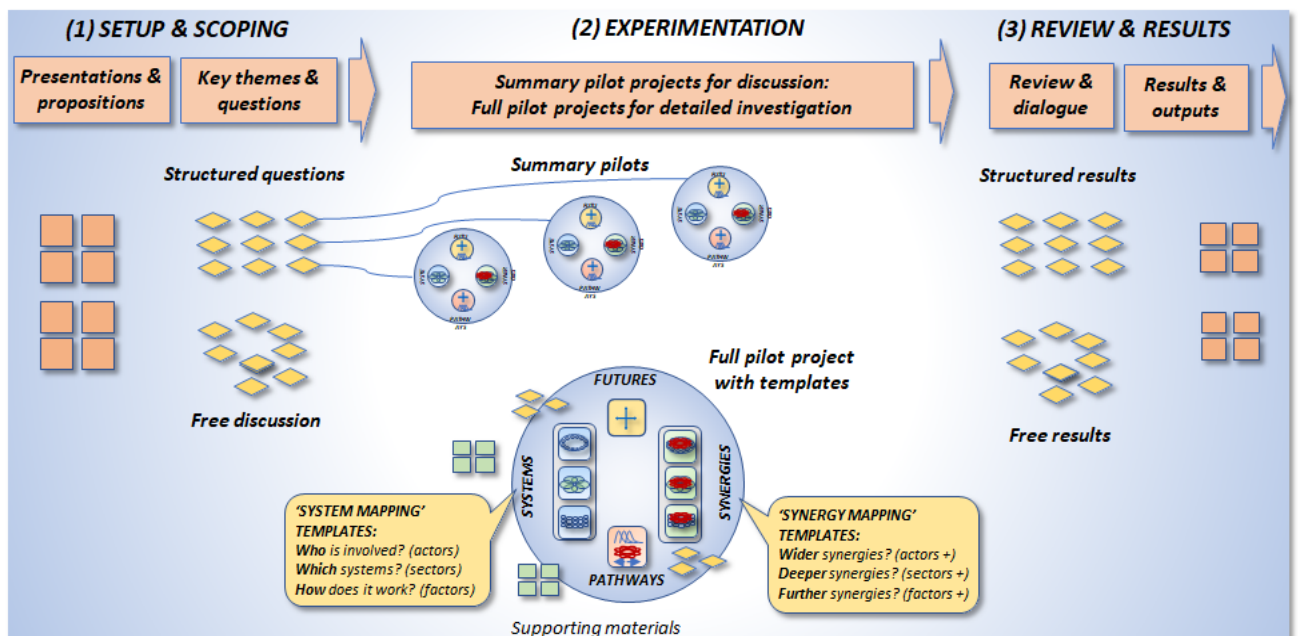- a wider community of interest with potential co-authors

For each pilot / experiment we explore some over-arching questions:

a) What is the scope of the problem / challenge here? *(i.e. 'system mapping')*
b) How would a *collective intelligence* look & work on the ground? *('synergy mapping')*
c) Which pathways could lead towards such *collective intelligence*? *('strategy mapping')*
d) What other pilot experiments could be set up?

For the outputs, we aim towards -

- academic papers in a special issue
- online comment / 'white papers' / co-authored book

The online whiteboard is very useful as an interactive workspace. We use a common set of templates (the so-called *'synergistic model canvas')*, and others can be added when needed. Slides or documents can be loaded and comments made on sticky notes: (these can be colour coded, e.g. yellow=normal comment: green=idea: red=disagreement: purple=question, etc).

In all this visual thinking is a key, essential for the transition to holistic 'whole-system' thinking. So we use multiple channels in a unique '1-2-3' online combination:

- '1D' discussion platform,
- 2D whiteboard, with links to online system dynamics / network apps
- 3D virtual gallery / garden space (shown here), for coffee, viewings and informal chat.

WHO IS INVOLVED

As of mid 2021 the *Mind-Lab* has emerged as a viable concept, with so far around 250 participants, in 15 major meetings, covering 8 main topics. People are invited to join as -

- ***Community:*** an open 'community of interest', including potential co-authors.
- ***Invited speakers*** with special contributions.

The *Mind-Lab* as of 2021 is a self-organized network within the Manchester Urban Institute. When the first round is complete, we aim at further funding to set up (if needed) as a free-standing operation.

(The cartoon here shows a process in 4 stages, in real-time meeting room, as the inspiration for the online version).

Overall each theme, and each pilot / experiment within it, aims for results both practical and transformative:

- R&D on concept models for collective intelligence
- Recommendations for pathways
- Proposals for further research & next steps.

WHAT LIES BEHIND?

The methods and tools used here draw on the new book *Deeper-City : Collective-Intelligence-and-the-Pathways-from-Smart-to-Wise.*

This set out the general scope of a *Mind-Lab / Collaboratorium*:

- *Wider* synergies between actors:
- *Further* synergies between factors:
- *Deeper* synergies of layers / domains:
- *Co-evolutionary* synergies for transformation, towards a *'3.0'* level of *'collective intelligence'*

WHY DO THIS?

We see multiple overlapping global challenges ahead – climate change, artificial intelligence, political extremism, to name a few. In each it's clear we need to look beyond short term problems, towards the potential for transformation – and this calls for an emerging *collective intelligence,* with *deeper* layers of value: social, technical, economic, ecological, political, cultural, and so on.

The book *Deeper-City-Collective-Intelligence-and-the-Pathways-from-Smart-to-Wise* demonstrates the mappings of 40 such pathways.   The *Mind-Lab / Collaboratorium* takes them forward into practice, by development and testing with a wider global community. The pandemic 2020-21 is a huge challenge, but also catalysed a shift to online, in some ways better for low-carbon international collaboration.

Overall the whole *Mind-Lab / Collaboratorium* is itself an experiment, to see how far a global community can work together on challenges of common interest.