

Dissecting the urban(ized) binoculars

From deconstructing to reconstructing and realizing urban futures
An optimistic story using the case of Rotterdam

Robbert van Driessche

Peter Ache

Arnoud Lagendijk

Radboud University Nijmegen (NL)

Institute for Management Research

RSA Winter Conference, November 2018







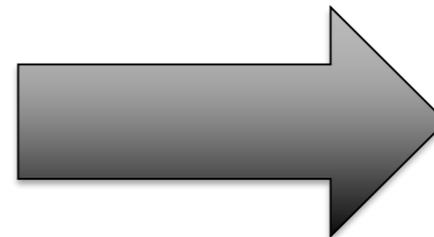
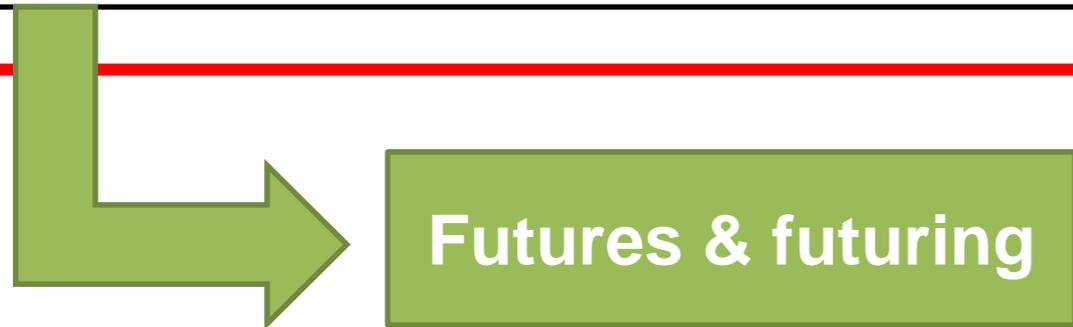
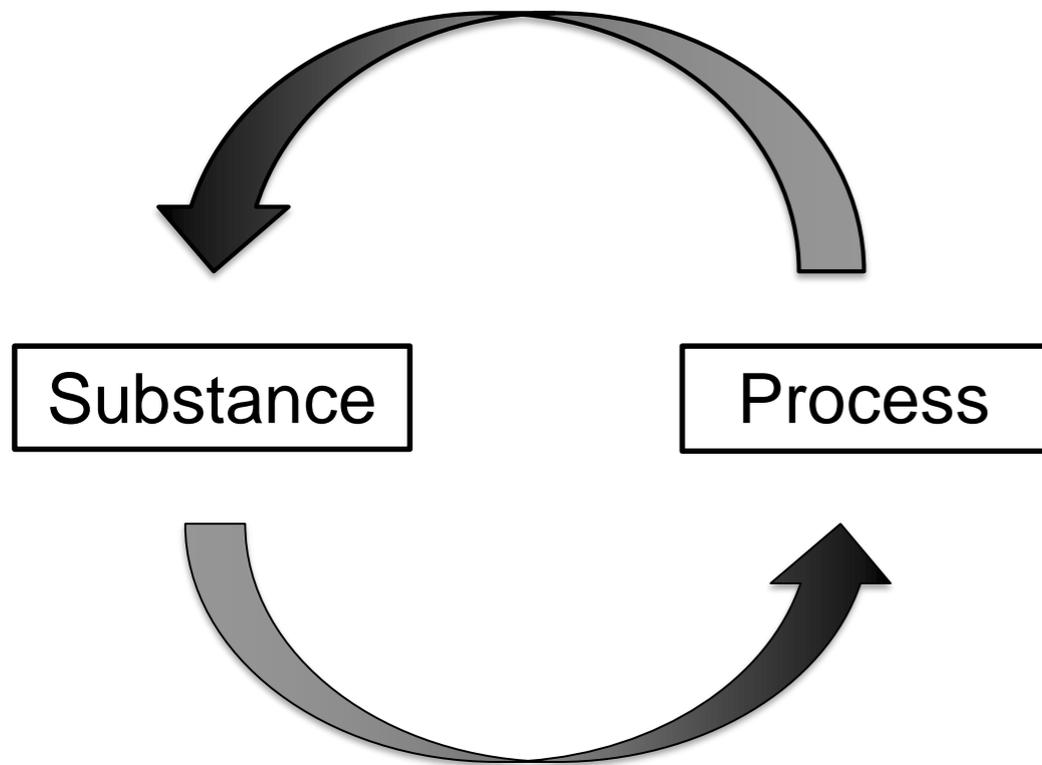
...being moved by the past begins with being stuck in the present...

...being stuck in the present begins with having lost the future...

...losing the future begins with estrangement from the past.

Eelco Runia, 2014, *Moved by the Past: Discontinuity and Historical Mutation*

Urban planning, vision- & strategy-making

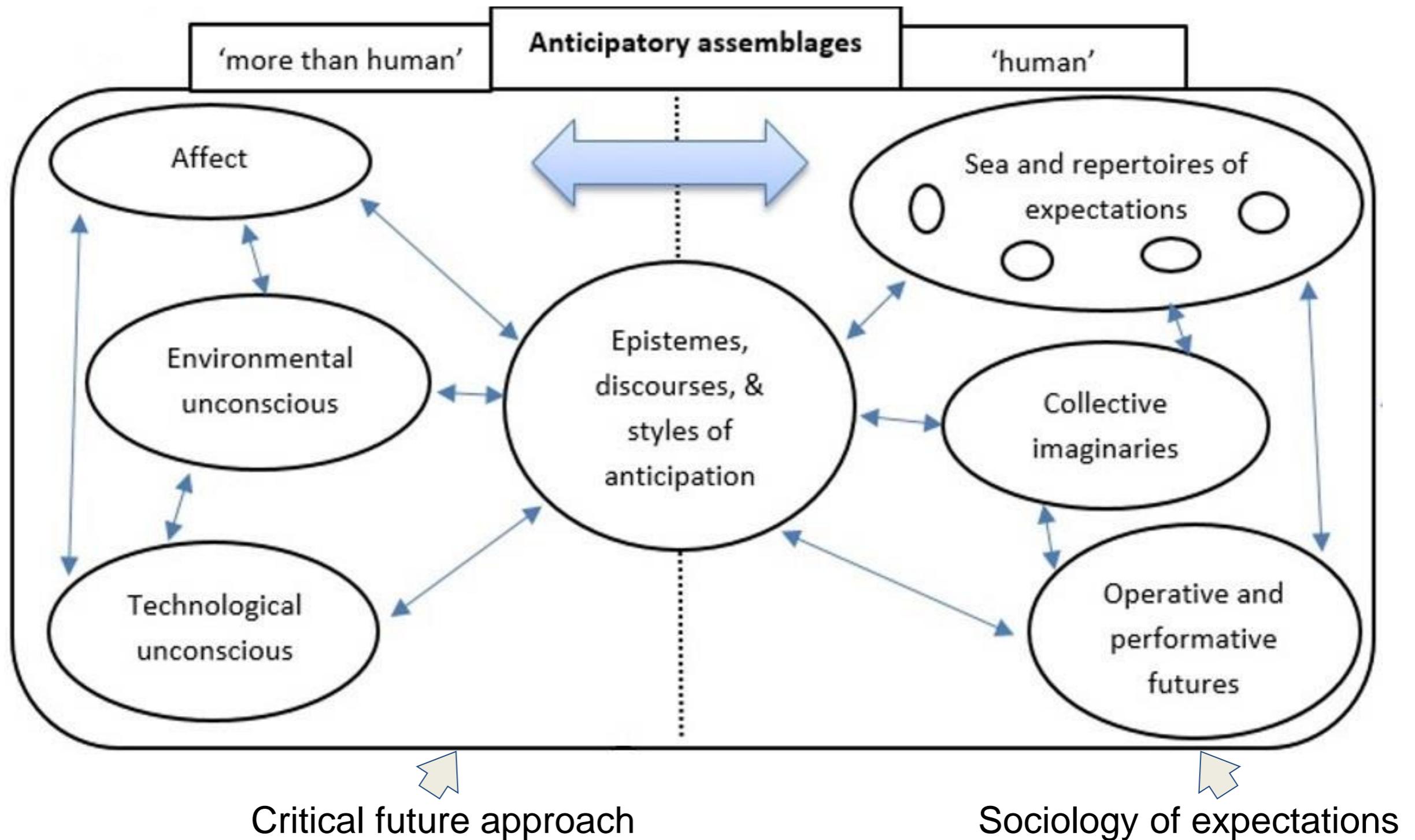


Results and effects

Focus 2: performative, constitutive, generative effects on planning

Focus 1: construction, articulation, and circulation of futures and futuring

Framework



I. Expectations about the urban future: *repertoires, imaginaries, operative futures*



Future expectations (general)

- Expectations = “statements about the future – uttered or inscribed in texts or materials – that circulate” (van Lente, 2012, p. 772)
- Expectations are drawn from repertoires, are *enacted* in the present, and thus become *performative*
- interacting with *affects* and *operative futures*, turning into ‘collective imaginaries’



Kaart van de stad, 2016



Rotterdam

Kaart van de Stad

Verkenning ontwikkelkansen lange termijn



NEXT ECONOMY



Versterken binnenstedelijk interactiemilieu en verbinden drie economische motoren Erasmus MC, RCD, EUR



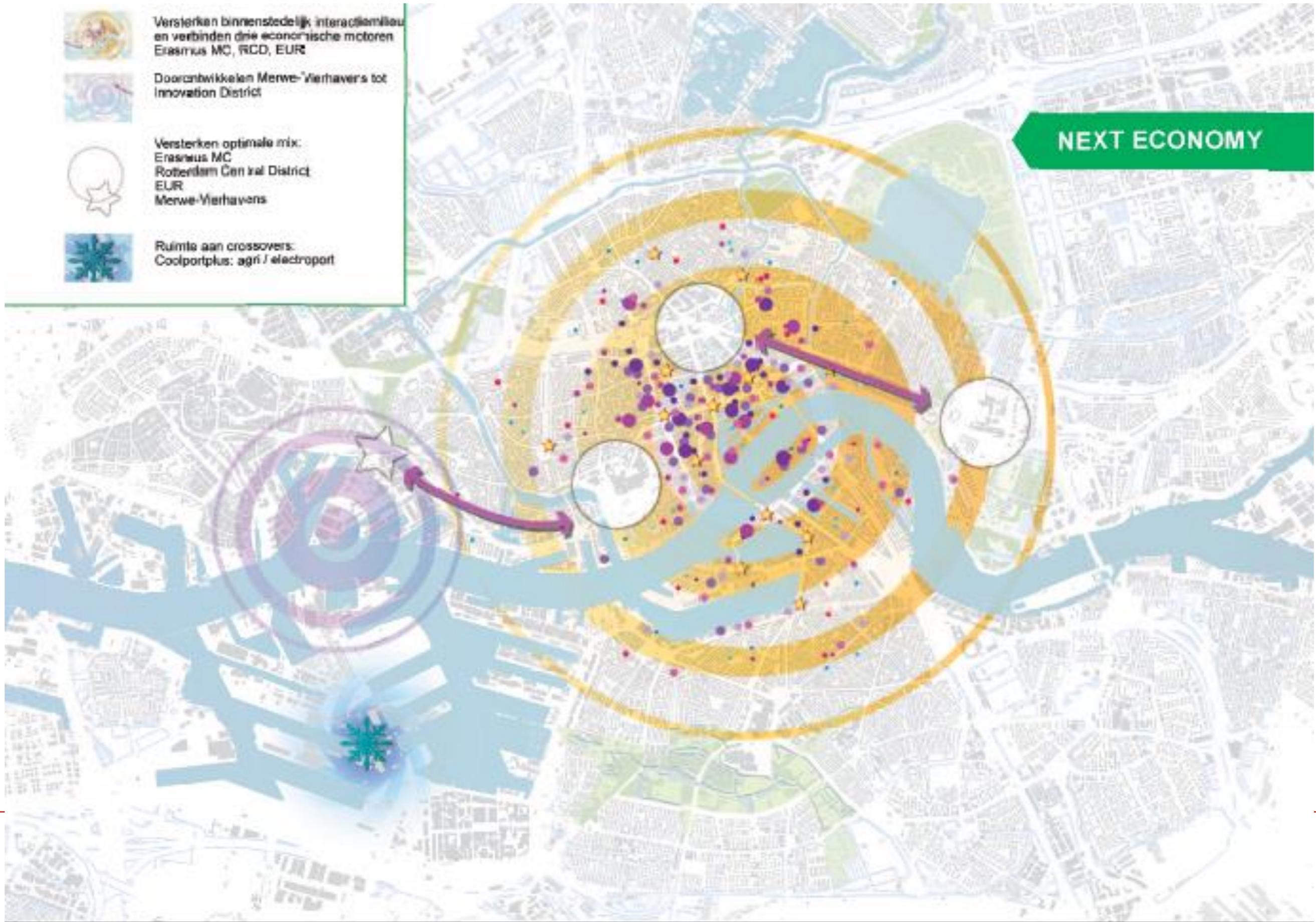
Doorontwikkelen Merwe-Vierhavens tot Innovation District



Versterken optimale mix: Erasmus MC
Rotterdam Central District
EUR
Merwe-Vierhavens

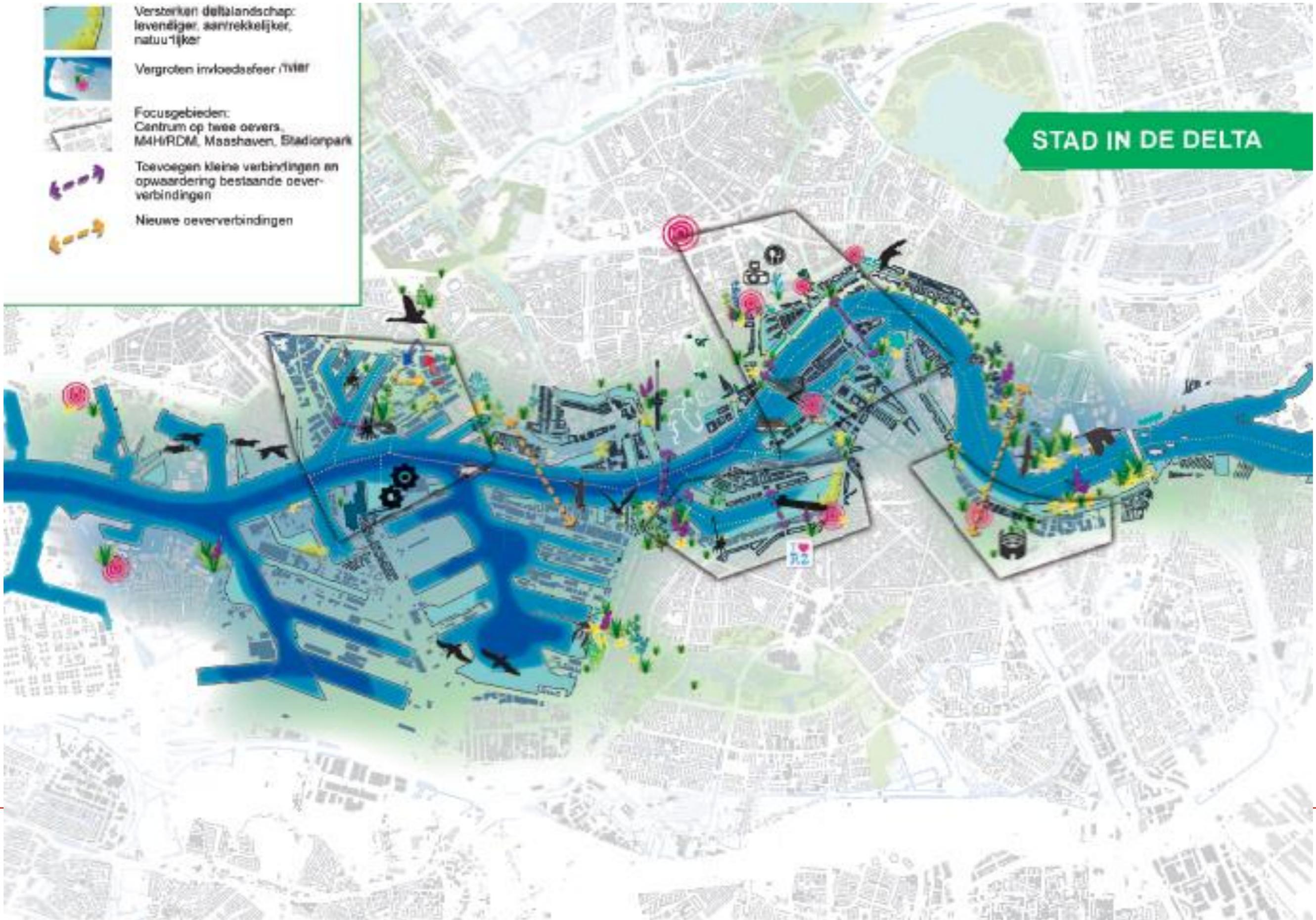


Ruimte aan crossovers:
Coolportplus: agri / electroport



STAD IN DE DELTA

-  Versterken deltalandschap: levendiger, aantrekkelijker, natuurlijker
-  Vergroten invloedssfeer /VIBB
-  Focusgebieden: Centrum op twee oevers, M4HRDM, Maashaven, Stadionpark
-  Toevoegen kleine verbindingen en opwaardering bestaande oeververbindingen
-  Nieuwe oeververbindingen



ROTTERDAM RESILIENCE STRATEGY.

READY FOR THE
21ST CENTURY



1. ROTTERDAM: A BALANCED SOCIETY



2. WORLD PORT CITY BUILT ON CLEAN AND RELIABLE ENERGY



3. ROTTERDAM CYBER PORT CITY



4. CLIMATE ADAPTIVE CITY TO A NEW LEVEL



5. INFRASTRUCTURE READY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY



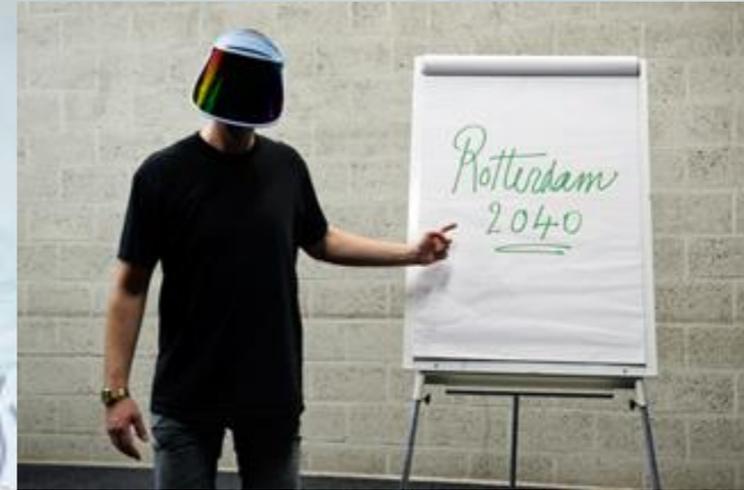
6. ROTTERDAM NETWORK – TRULY OUR CITY



7. ANCHORING RESILIENCE IN THE CITY

Sociology of expectations (Rotterdam)

- 'core' agents (municipality/ port): ('next') economy and spatial-functional integration/ resilience
- limited regional focus
- 'city-makers': design and architectural qualities
- active citizens: 'affordability'
- minority groups: 'home'
- silent 'majority': 'the past', represented by populist local interest party (Leefbaar)



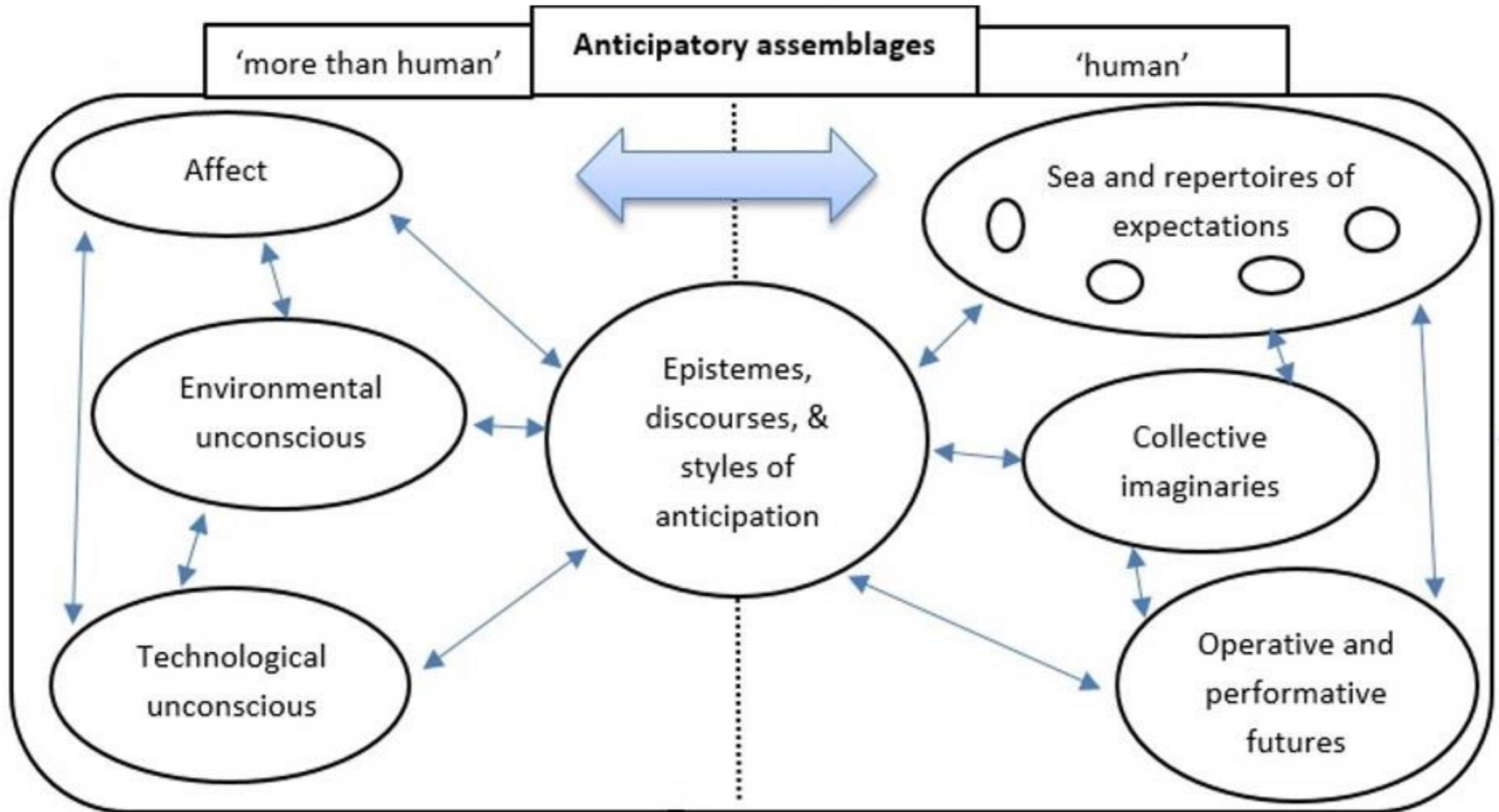
Sociology of expectations

- Rotterdam social fabric
 - 'superminority', vocal
 - 'makeable', business focus
 - open, communicative political culture



II. Manifestations of affect, and the environmental and technological 'unconsciousness'





Affective/ selective urban 'futures-in-the-making'

- Genealogical perspective ('history of the present')
- The effort = (de)construct future imaginaries, images, narratives, metaphors, discourses, frames
- probing 'presences', (silenced) 'absences' and 'unconsciousness'
- *environmental and technological*



PRAAT MEE OVER DE TOEKOMST VAN ROTTERDAM



Institute for Management Research
Radboud University





WAARIN WILLEN
ROTTERDAMMERS INVESTEREN?

TOP 10

MEEST GENOEMDE ONDERWERPEN.

Wat is belangrijk en wat is minder belangrijk voor een mooie toekomst van de stad? De Rotterdammers spraken klare taal. Onderwijs staat op nummer één.

ROTTERDAM: DE NIEUW DEEL
ROTTERDAM: BEHOEVEN EN DOEL

1 ONDERWIJS

Ontwikkelt talent bij jongeren. De jeugd heeft de toekomst, daar moet energie naartoe.

2 GROEN

Meer groen: meer parken en bossen. Groen betekent rust en veiligheid. En de mogelijkheid elkaar te ontmoeten.

3 DUURZAAMHEID

Meer bergbruiken. Sluven aan de circulaire economie. Investeren op groene energie en lokale voedselproductie. De lucht-waarde verbeteren: een cultuurtje of live binnenstad.

4 VEILIGHEID

Veilig gaat samen met schoon en heel. Meer camera's en meer blauw op straat. Bewaakte fietsstallingen.

5 WONINGEN

Er is behoefte aan meer goede, duurzame en betaalbare woningen. Koester de mix van mensen en houd dus een goede balans tussen huizen voor hoge en lage inkomers. Pak verduurzaming aan.

6 OPENBAAR VERVOER EN FIETSEN

DV moet er 24/7 zijn, met goede verbindingen en comfort. Stimuleer het fietsen met veilige fietspaden. Rotterdam moet de fietsstad van de wereld worden. Goed gedrag belonen.

7 INNOVATIE

Rotterdam moet koploper zijn als schone haven. Zal in op innovatie in duurzaamheid en zal in op kennis-economie.

8 WERKGELEGENHEID

Zal in op het pakken van de kansen in de economie; dat creëert werkgelegenheid. Zal op bomen voor lager opgeleid.

9 SCHONE STAD

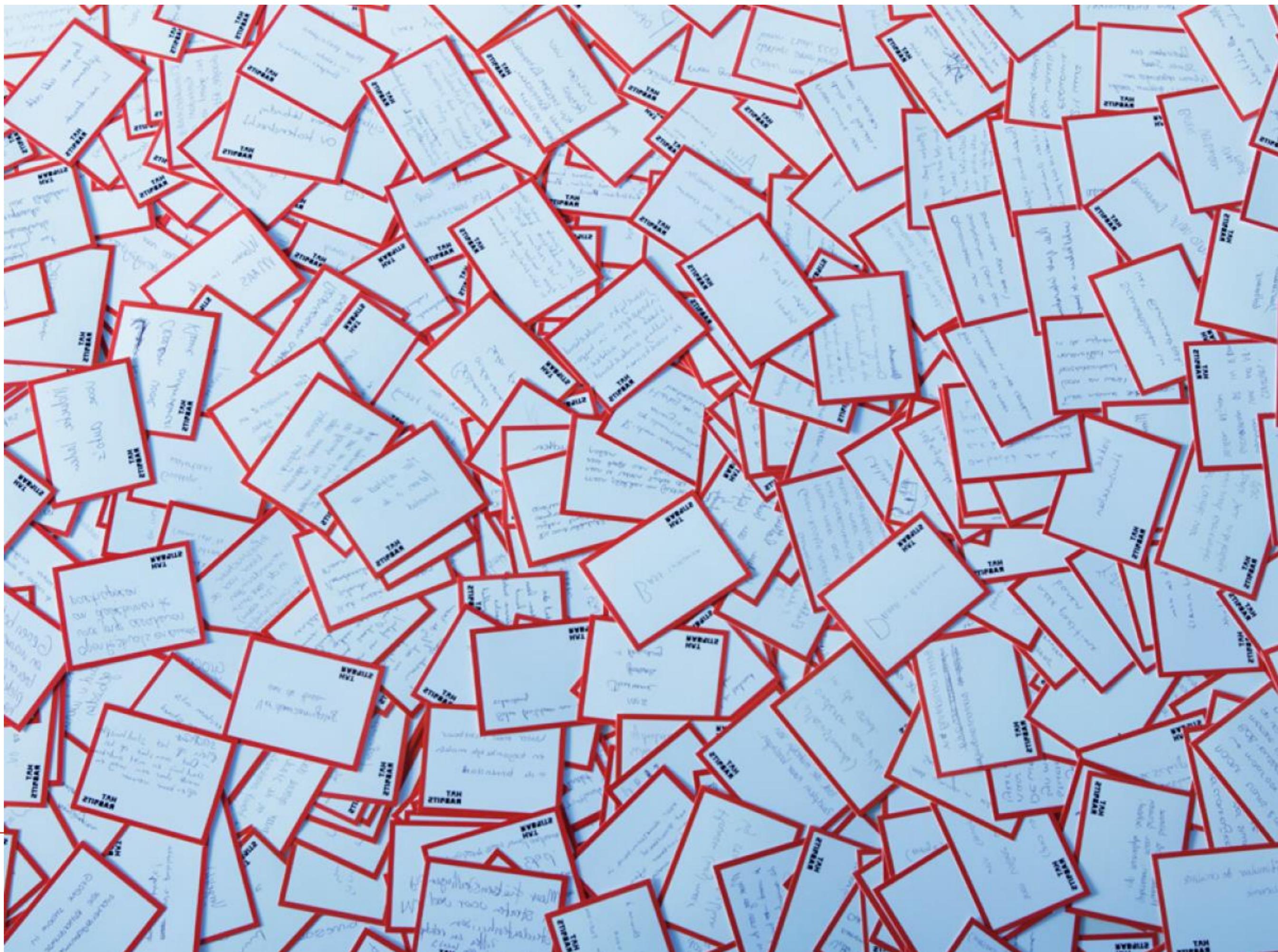
Schoon vaak veilig en leefbaar. Geen troep en overvol. Zorg voor openbare toiletten. Schone straten en parken zijn ook een verantwoordelijkheid van mensen zelf. Meer toezicht en 'opvoeding'.

10 VERBINDING TUSSEN MENSEN

Bagijn hebben voor elkaar, elkaar accepteren en vertrouwen hebben in de ander. Dit bereiken door mensen bijeen te brengen. Faciliteer ontmoeting en dialoog. Zal in op buurthuizen. Wees vriendelijk en gaaf elkaar.

City as sandpit: experimenting, limited regulation, innovative





Critical voices
'open letters to the
Mayor'

Rotterdam januari 2018

Beste meneer

ABOUTALEB,

Ik kan u zoveel dingen vragen:

Niet meer gantificeren,
OV, fiets en wandelen stimuleren,
Nooit meer zoo mensen vanwege hun meningsuiting in de publieke ruimte arresteren,
Of anti-racisme criminaliseren,
De woonvraag van arme mensen blijven faciliteren.

SLUIT

de

KOLEN

HAVEN

Dankuwel,
Met vriendelijke groet,
Charlotte Ros



Critical voices 'open letters to the Mayor'



“It seems to us that Rotterdam is falling into the same trap that many cities already have: focusing too much on appealing to tourists and investors and forgetting the people that already live here. We would really like to urge you to learn from these cities and not repeat their mistakes” (Amateur Cities)

“What is happening to Rotterdam is a conflict over ever changing image of the city. Imposing an image of competitive global metropolis over one’s right to settle in a self-created surrounding is globally present process that shapes not only urban matrices and skylines but everyday life, politics, personal and collective struggles. ” (Jere Kuzmanic)

Critical voices
'open letters to the
Mayor'



“Our wish is to see more government and municipality funding allocated to the development of a cultural institutional landscape in the South of Rotterdam that isn't mainly profit oriented [to] aid the development of intellectual and creative work as a viable option for socio-economically deprived communities... Füsün Türetken featuring Sami Hammana”

*By considering the heart Rotterdam as a Cabinet of Curiosities, I would like to propose a radical and sensitive reordering of the historical city ...
Donna van Milligen Bielke*

We need contemporary visions for housing, affordable to all citizens, and therefor new ways of getting homes realized. Let us start by asking the really relevant questions.

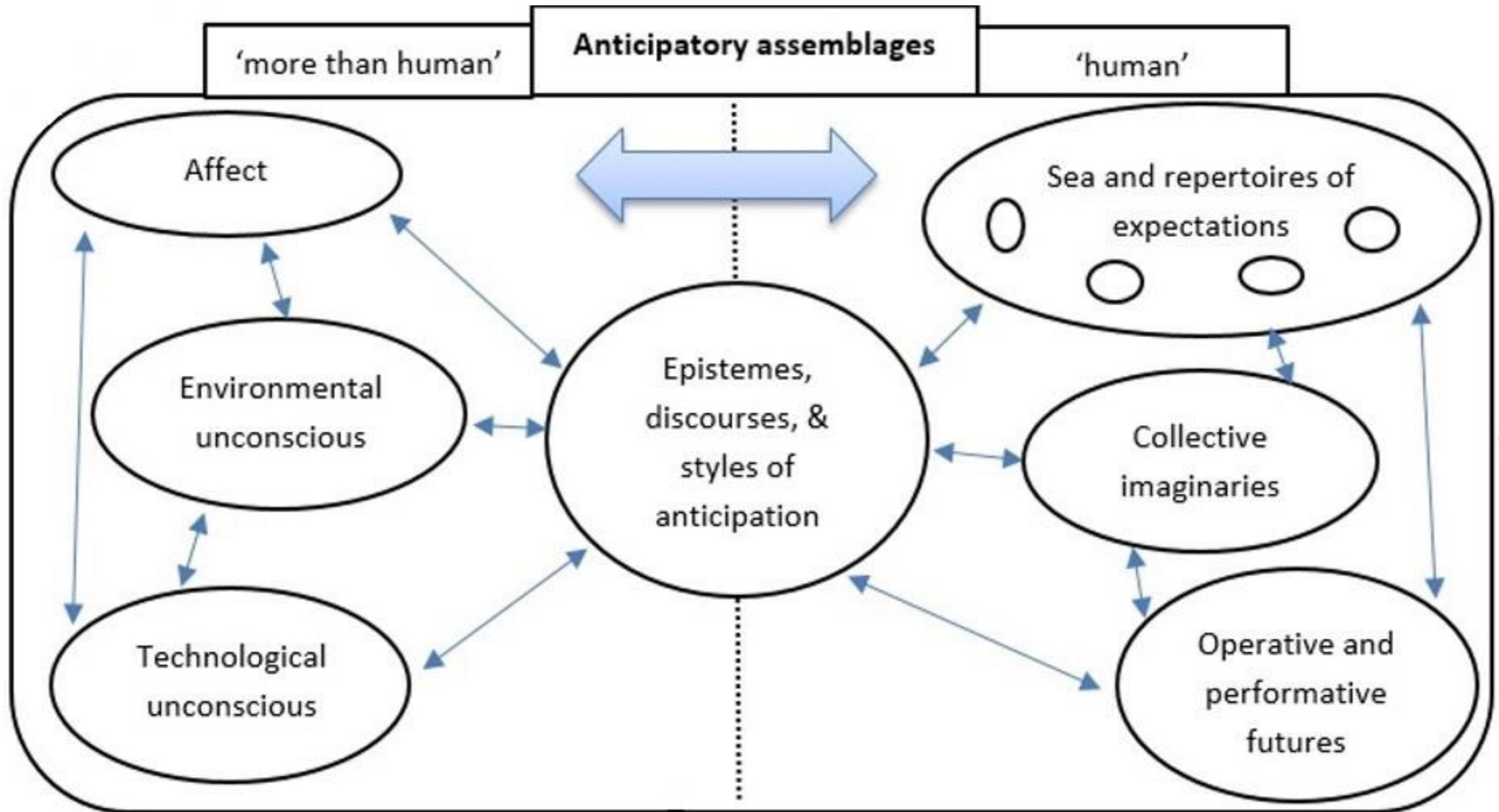
Yours sincerely,
No Plus

Critical voices 'open letters to the Mayor'



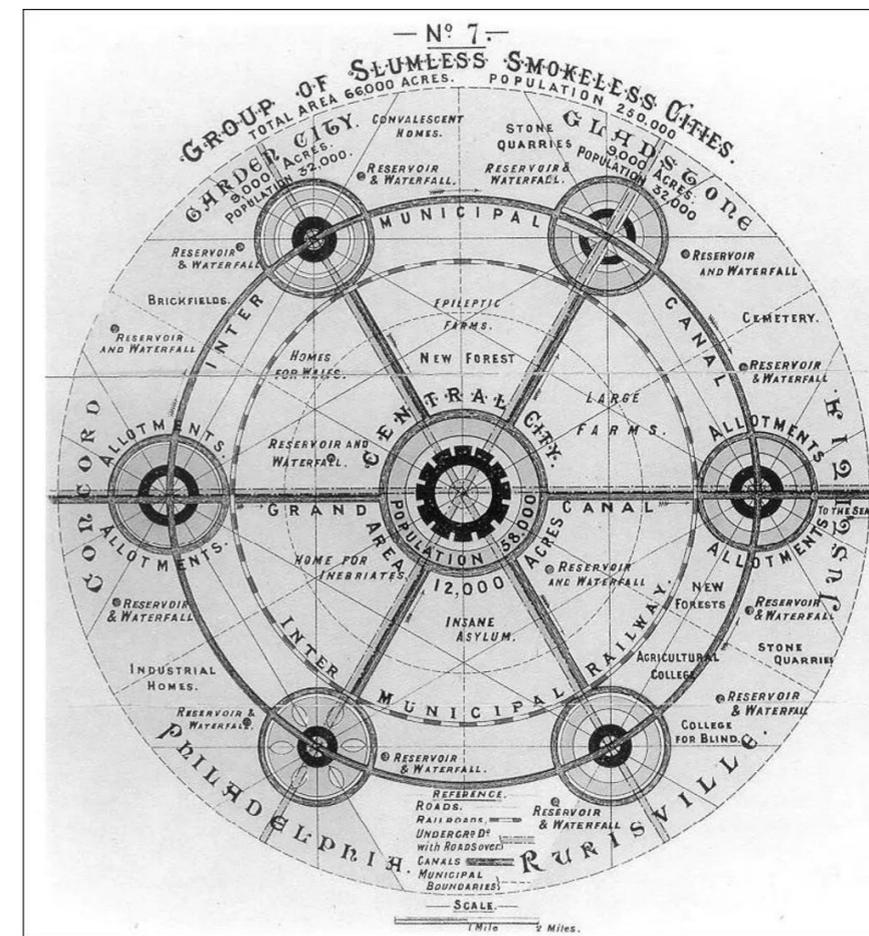
III. Epistemes, discourses and styles of anticipation





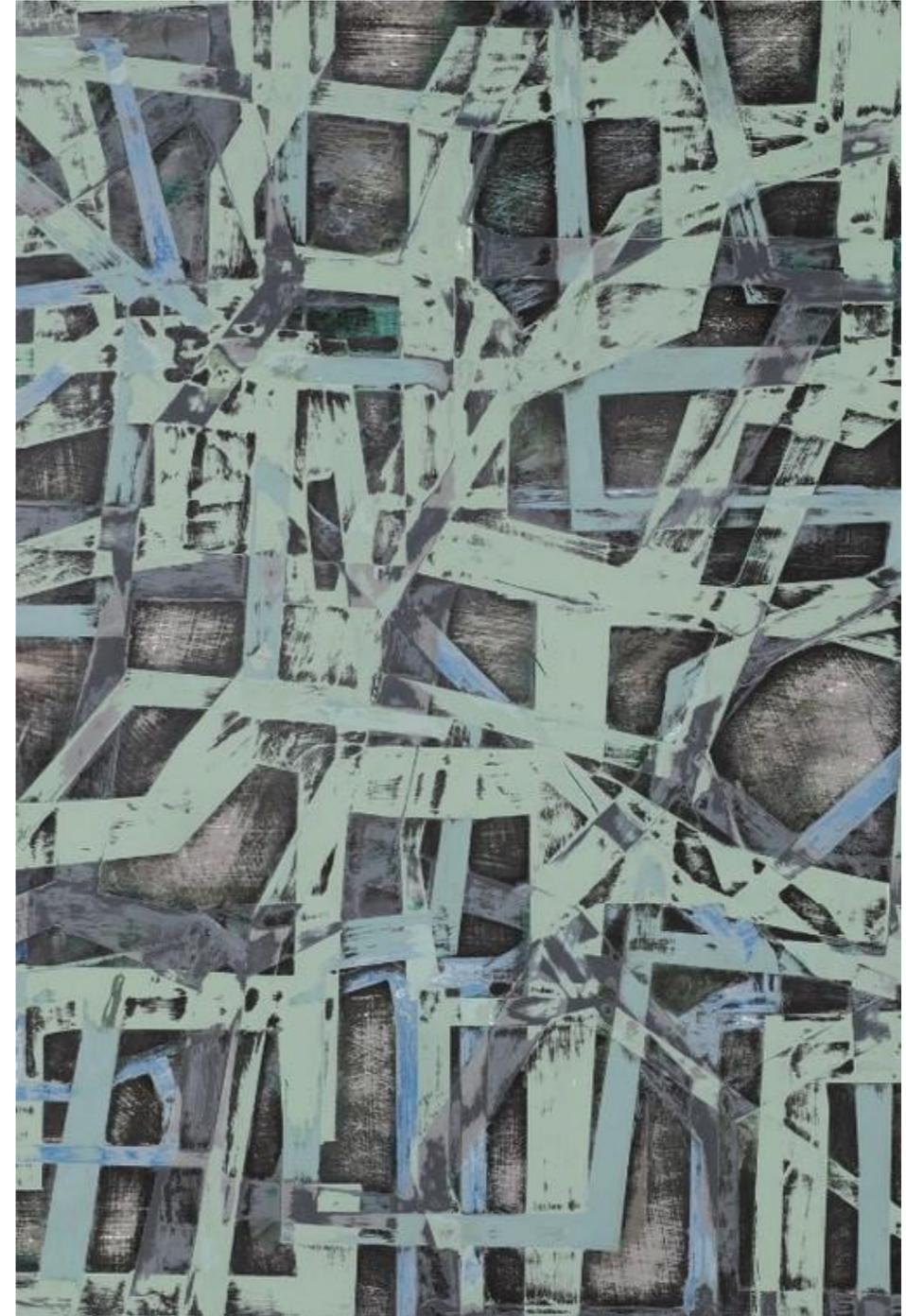
Epistemes, discourses and styles of anticipation (general)

- How do we know/sense reality, and its becoming in *time* and *place*?
- Which discourses fuel futuring stories and repertoires of expectations, what do they feature/hide/keep unconscious?
- How do ways of knowing, narrating and acting congeal into *styles of anticipation*, shaping which future horizons and modes of planning?

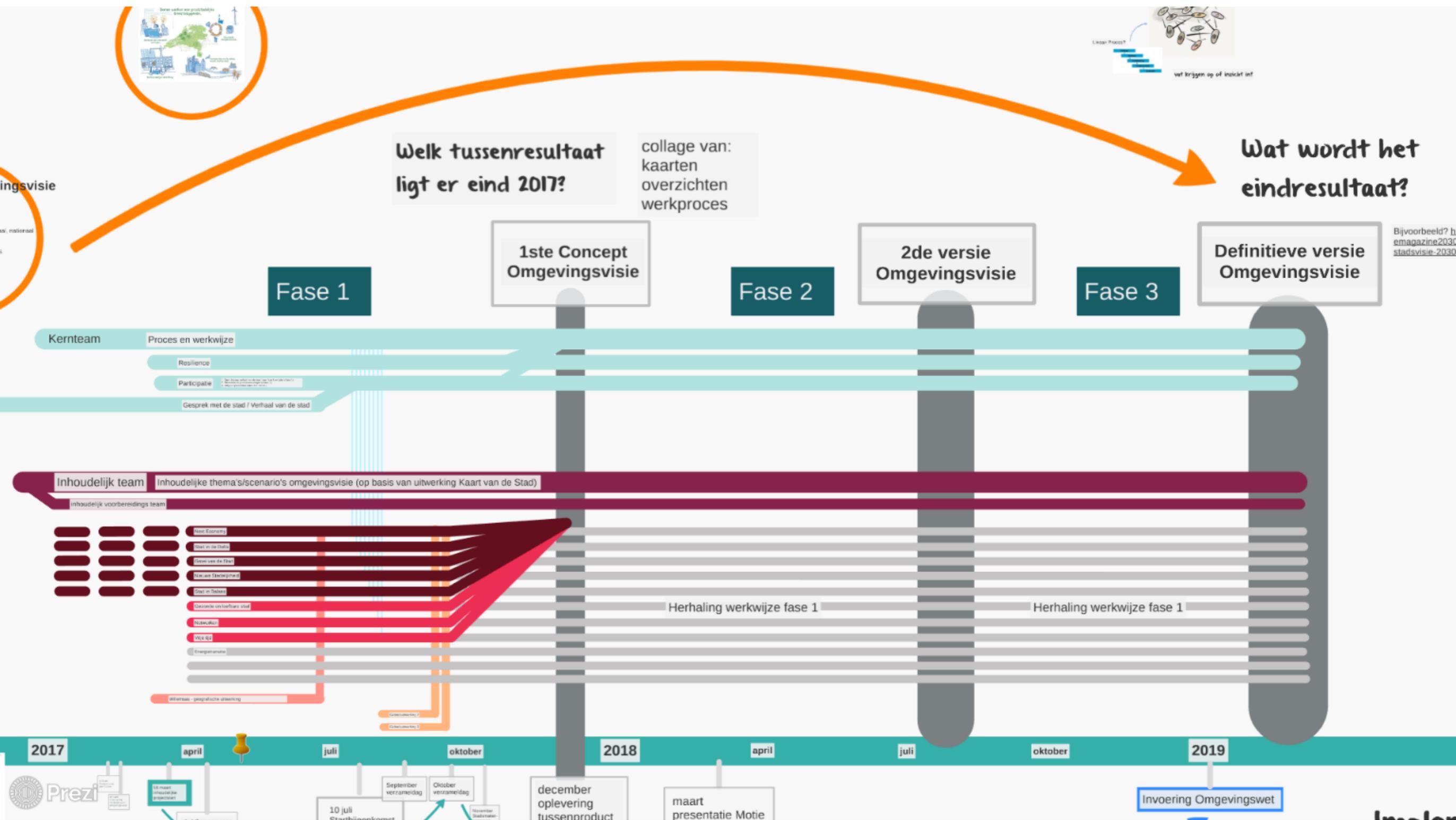


Return of Visioning

- Bouncing back from *spatial management* to *visioning*, notably at urban-regional level
- Focus on ‘grand stories’ in view of grand challenges, rather than grand design > *affective* and *effective*
- **Rotterdam:** Maps and talks to inform the *Omgevingsvisie* (Municipal Environmental Planning Strategy)



Municipal Environmental Planning Strategy:

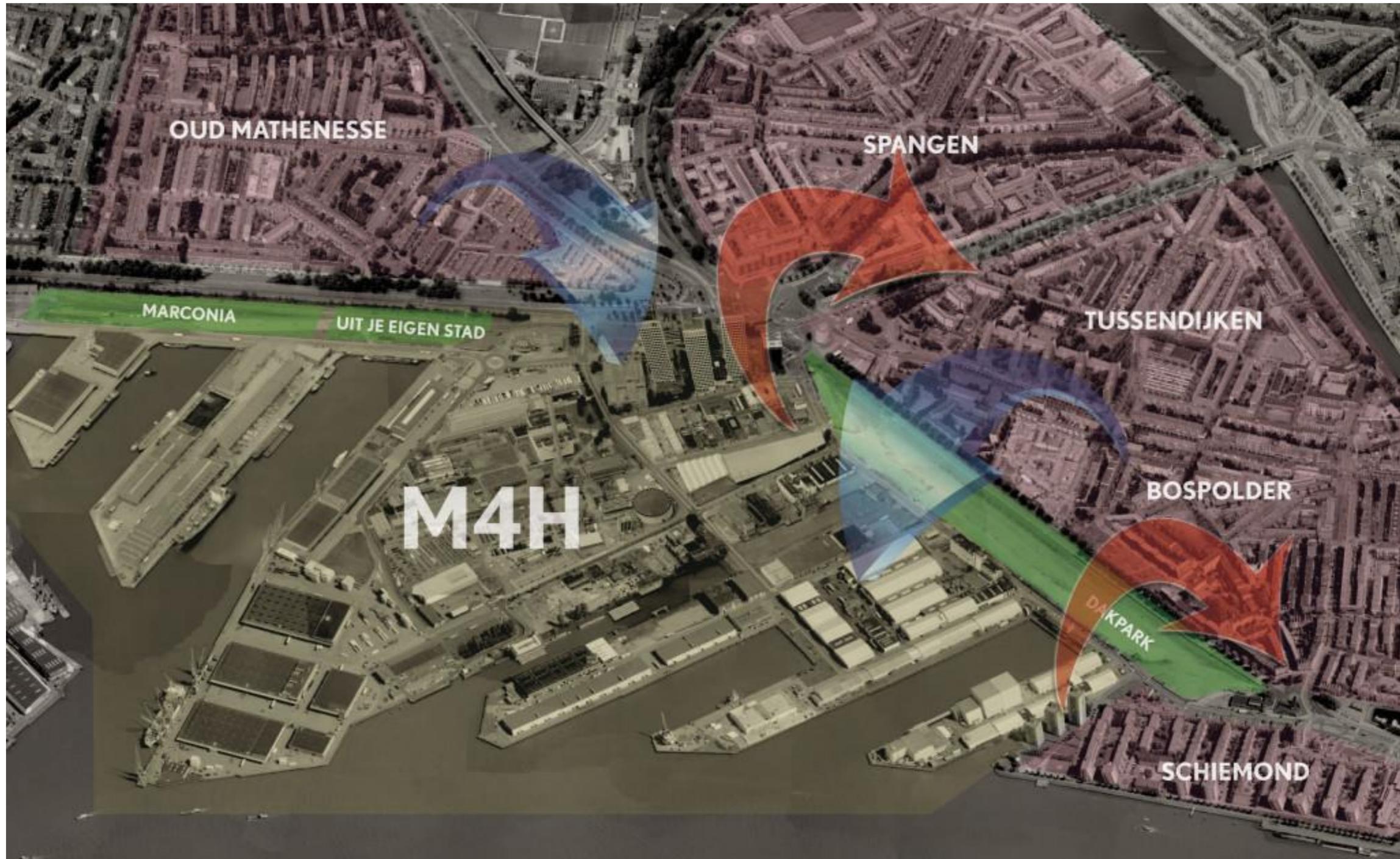


Future horizons (Rotterdam)

- Futuring style of *integration* and *innovation*: spatial, organisational, participatory, governance
- More emphasis on operative futures in detail - elaboration of collective imaginaries shifts from *design* to *action in the presence*
- 'bricolage' of small- to large-scale area (re)development and connections (eg makers district, greenport, Feyenoord...)



Innovative makers district between port and neighbourhood



Green city 'lounge' and roofs



Still design: Area development Feyenoord City



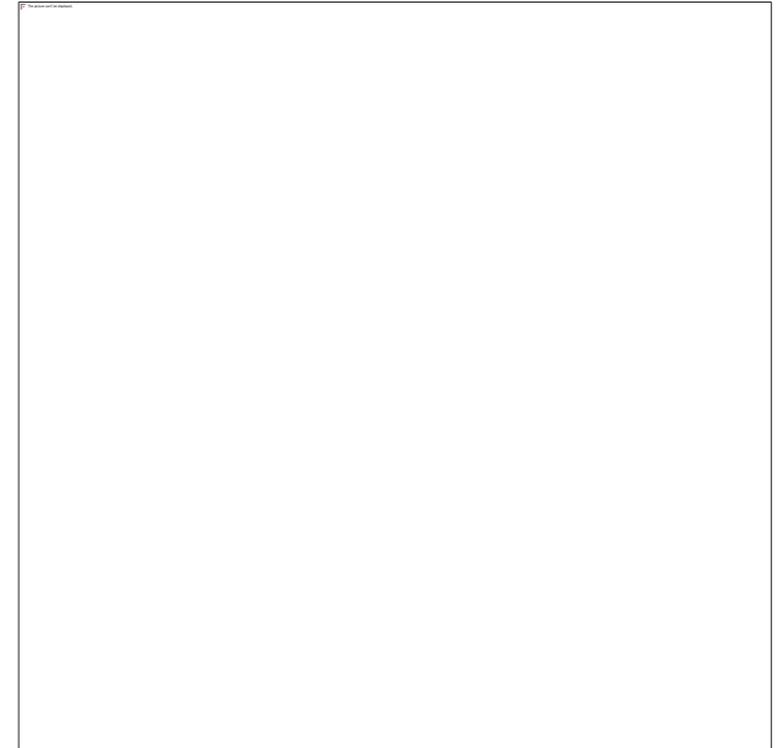
Environmental and technical unconscious (Rotterdam)

- Dovetailing the new with the old: strong emphasis on continuity and stepwise change. Green, smart and liveable, not radical.
- Substantive future remain superficial and unimaginative, not capacitating full transitions
- Strong semantics of complexity, uncertainty, diversity, indeterminacy
- Yet Rotterdam is rather proactive, somewhat visionary, strong vested interests, transition orientation



Looking forward

- How (why, with whom) we are looking AT the future sets how we deal with the city in the present
- Intending to reinvigorate and refashioning an effective and affective utopianism of hope, possibility, and transformative potential
- Rotterdam
 - bricolage style of anticipation, interviewing old/new interests/manners
 - future horizons somewhat minute, despite manifold operative futures
 - emergent combination of different practices, from technocratic to highly affective



Discussion / Q & A

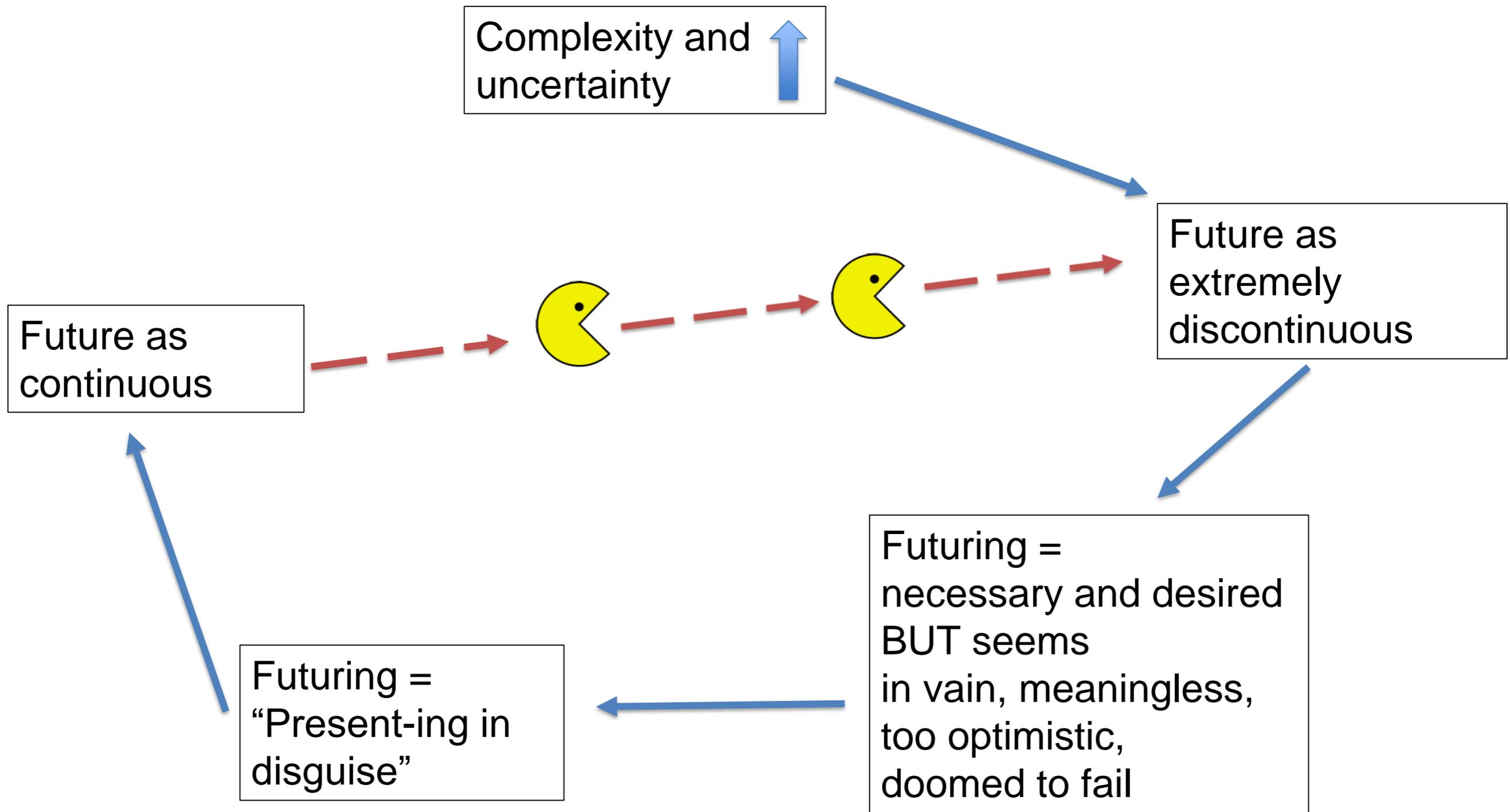
Thank you for listening!



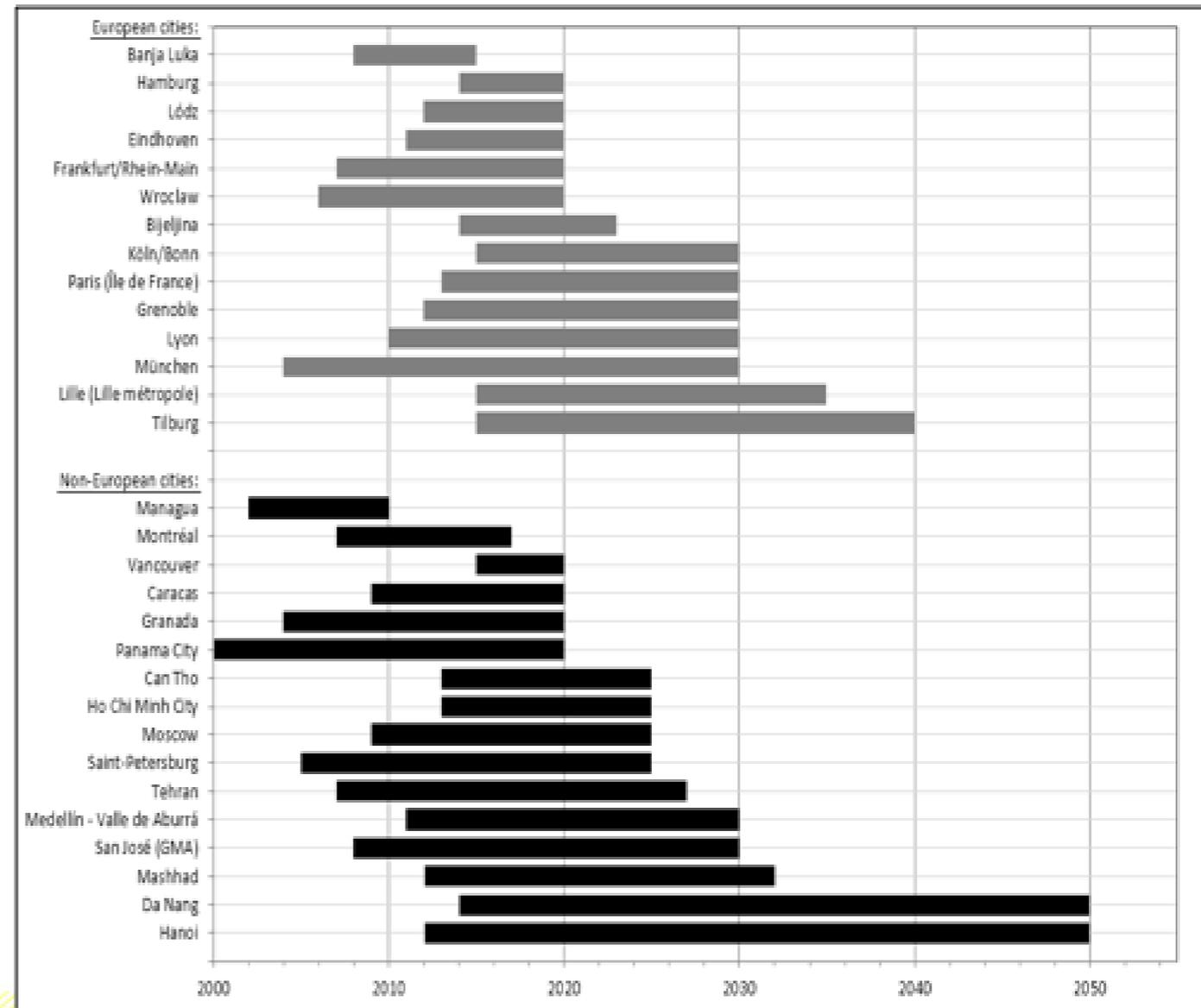
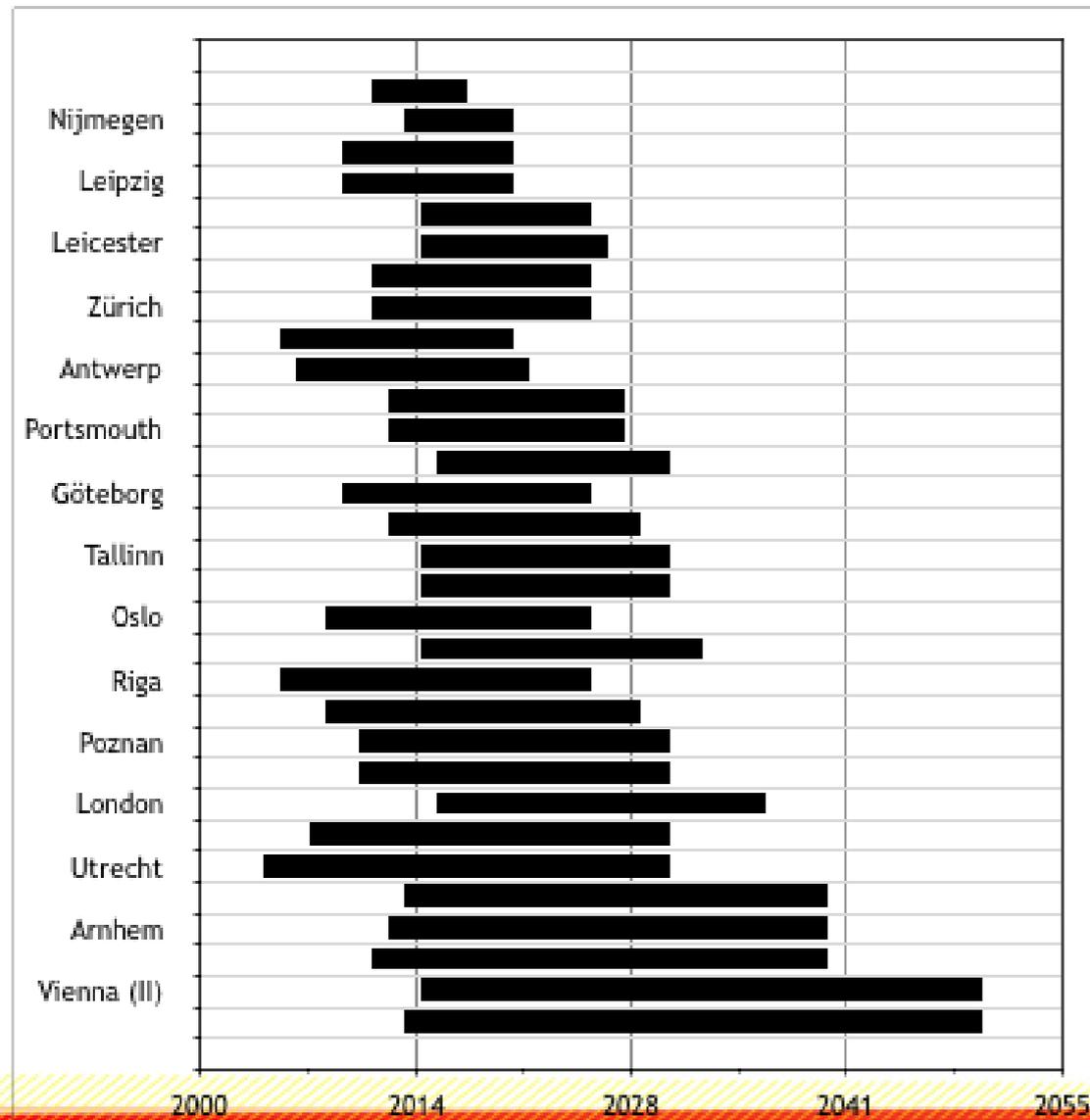
BACK-UP SLIDES



Rupture of discontinuity



time horizons

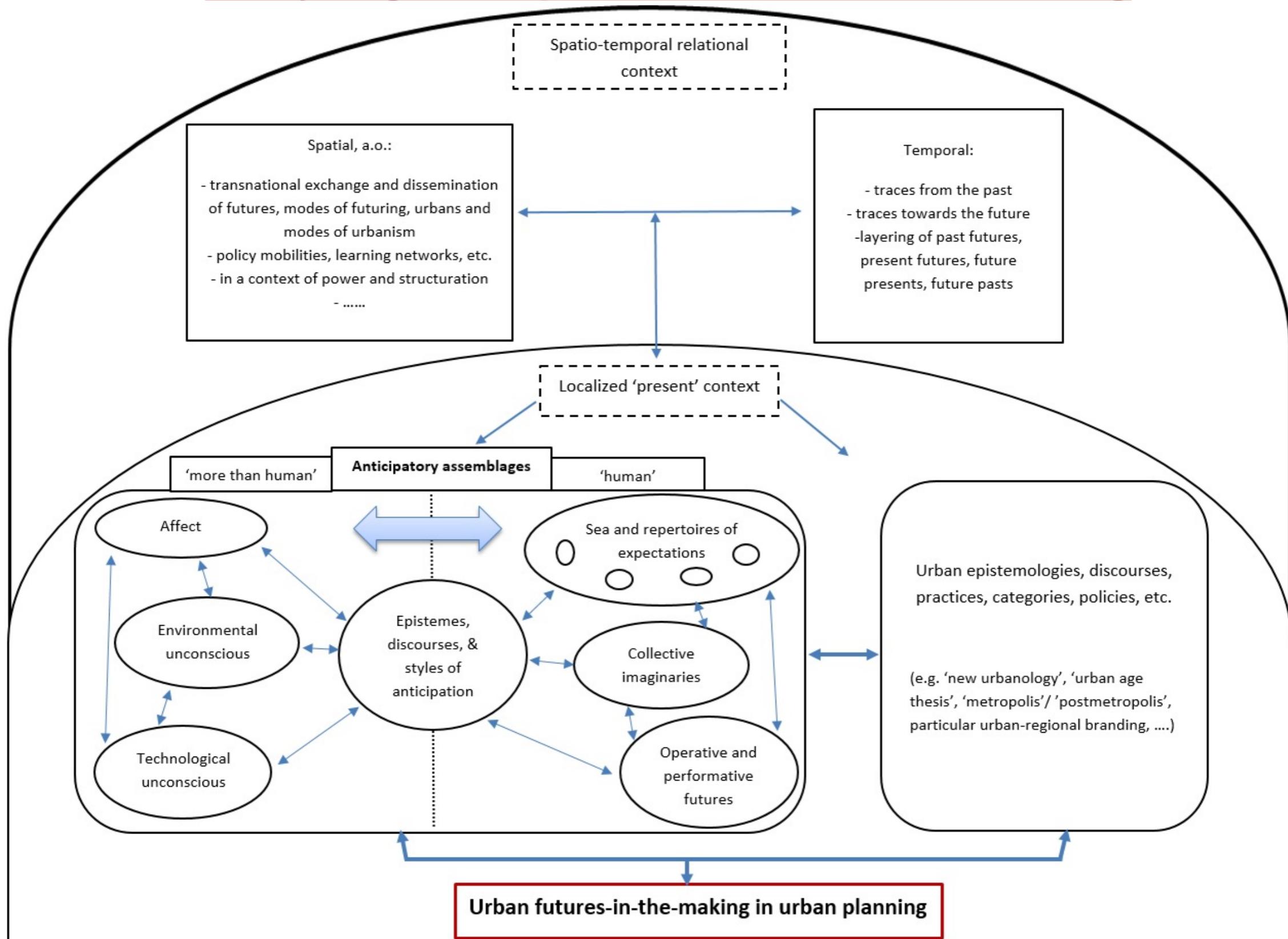


change perspective

Radboud University



Analyzing metropolitan futures-in-the-making



	Rupture of continuity	Rupture of discontinuity
Construct of time	Traditional → modern experience of time	Modern → ‘post modern’
Construct of the future	Future= open & discontinuous	Future= less and less knowable & more continuous
Implications for future understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Control and active construction of future possible * Belief in progress * Collective futures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Knowledge, control, and construction of future not possible * Loss of confidence in progress * Belief in complexity, uncertainty, diversity, indeterminacy * Personal futures
Future engagement society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Society strongly future-oriented * Constructive and diverse future engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Society increasingly present-focused * Future engagement superficial, negligent, unimaginative

