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CLIMATE CHANGE:

- ***THE NEED FOR A HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA WITHIN A FRAMEWORK OF SHARED HUMAN SECURITY***

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Paper for panel on
Sustainability and Human
Security

Massive human rights violations are now in the pipeline...

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- ... as product of ongoing anthropogenic climate change which will destroy many people's livelihoods, and from its (non-) treatment and understatement
- The world faces not just a small chance of distant disasters but imminent certain and serious damage, at least for many people, if we do not act
- World Commission on the Ethics of Science and Technology: *'What is already unequivocally known about global climate change is that it poses a risk of ethically unacceptable harm which is uncertain only in terms of magnitude and timing.'* (COMEST 2010 p.29).

Existing systems—versus the changes needed

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1. **Capitalist market economy:** often effective for raising commoditized production, but not for...
2. **Nation-state system:** unreliable (esp. now-oriented democracies?) for dealing with global webs of interconnection
3. The vision of salvation through **techno-wizardry**
 - **1 & 2 (& 3) screen out the distant poor & vulnerable**

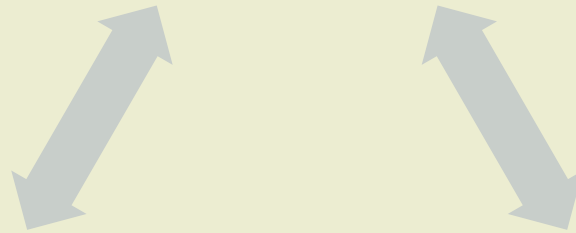
Needed:

- **ethical/policy language** that helps motivate and coordinate diverse efforts worldwide & across generations. Human rights is such a language.
- *But also needed*, since moral change is slow
- **Sense of interconnection**
 - – moral/ontological
 - - **and** causal

Moral indifference reflects lack of **sympathy** AND lack of **attention**, which reflect & reinforce the structuring of **identity**

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Narrow focus and
field of **attention**



Narrow **awareness**
of interconnection,
fragility,
vulnerability



Narrow
sympathies and
commitment

Remarks

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1. *Vulnerability / insecurity is produced by the intersection of many factors*
2. *Narrow frameworks of analysis miss these intersections and marginalize many of the real insecurities of vulnerable people*
3. *['The world has problems, universities have disciplines']*
4. *'Human security analysis' of the impacts of global environmental change on real people counters this*
5. *Human security analysis needs partnerships*
6. *We need ethical analysis to focus scientific analyses, in order to duly remember and respect people*

First remark

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Vulnerability / insecurity is produced by the *intersection* of many factors

So the language of 'social dimensions' needs to be used carefully: there are no separate corners

NOVEMBER 2007

The Age of Consequences:
The Foreign Policy and National Security Implications of Global Climate Change



LOCATION: The Atlantic Ocean—An aerial view of Hurricane Kate.

Who will suffer most from a hurricane or tsunami ?

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- If we start by looking at particular people and locations, we see that:
- The groups who are most threatened by global environmental changes are often the groups who are also **those most threatened by global economic changes**
- They are more **exposed** (e.g. because they live in more exposed locations)
- They are more **vulnerable** (more damaged by the same exposure and by their actual exposure, because have less resources)
- They are the least **resilient** (because have less resources: economic, social, cultural, political)

New Orleans - Hurricane Katrina: urban vulnerabilities & their increase

(Leichenko & O'Brien) 2008)

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- **Main victims of Katrina (& the resulting flood) were in 3 groups (& especially people at the intersections)**
 - Afro-Americans
 - poorer people, who lived on worse land
 - over 60's: more than 60% of the 1800 deaths
- Economic change: decline of old industries; cutting of many new channels from river to sea; gave storm surges from the ocean new paths to reach the city
- Institutional and political change: privatization & corporatization of services → far weaker coordination
 - Patients in private health care facilities were immediately evacuated; those in public care waited 5 days
 - Rebuilding: for-profit facilities were rebuilt much faster than not-for-profit schools and public housing

Second Remark

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Narrow frameworks of analysis (including those in terms of national units and/or economic aggregates) miss these local intersections of multiple forces and thus marginalize the real insecurities experienced by vulnerable people

We need to see connections & possibilities that often get screened out by conventional mental frames, routines & authority structures

- The Stern Report on Economics of Climate Change (2007) had separate chapters on economic costs of climate change in rich countries and in poor countries, each based on an accumulation across different sectors of quantitative projections concerning impacts.
- ***It underweighted 1. the non-quantified effects such as political instability, 2. the interactions between sectors, such as the impacts of political instability, especially when that variation exceeds routine minor variation, and 3. the cross-over impacts on rich countries of instability in poor countries***, especially outside the range that can be projected by quantitative analysis of past variation.

Awareness of trans-disciplinary interconnections →
Wider scope in **attention** to contributory factors →
Adds to **awareness** of vulnerability & fragility affecting people

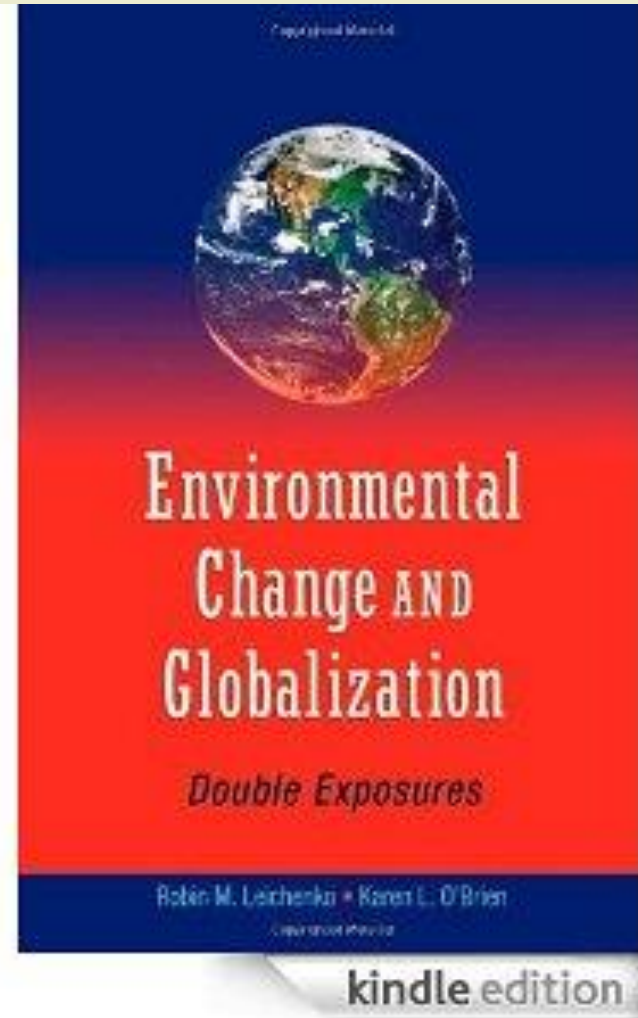
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Leichenko & O'Brien 2008
(Oxford Univ. Press, New York):
Economic globalization & global
environmental change

- have **additive effects**, and
- have **interactive effects**
- (*DG: and thus trigger further rounds of reactions*).

**We see this if we start by
looking at particular
people and locations.**

**We may miss this if we
work in an abstracted
disciplinary discourse** –
whether of social science or of
environmental science – or of
economics or philosophy or....



The (bad-) example of the World Development Report 2010 on climate change

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- Recognition of a climate change as a fundamental problem, but its (mis)formulation as a business problem →
- Use of a methodology that weighs the effects on poor people as far less, and that is ready to allow gains for the rich to outweigh losses for the poor.



Remark Three

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*One contributor to the syndrome of:
narrow attention → narrow awareness → narrow sympathies → ...*

**‘The world has problems,
universities have (still, too often, restricted
themselves in terms of) disciplines’**

Pictures from: R. Land & J. Meyer, 2010, Threshold Concepts & Interdisciplinarity (ppt presentation for 3rd International Threshold Concepts Symposium; Sydney)



PART OF THE PROBLEM:
Only one viewing-method

Angry one-eyed giants



Remark Four

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‘Human security analysis’ of the impacts of global environmental change on real persons helps to counter narrow approaches that marginalize much human vulnerability

HUMAN SECURITY ANALYSIS: A TRANSDISCIPLINARY BRIDGE-FRAMEWORK IN STUDY OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

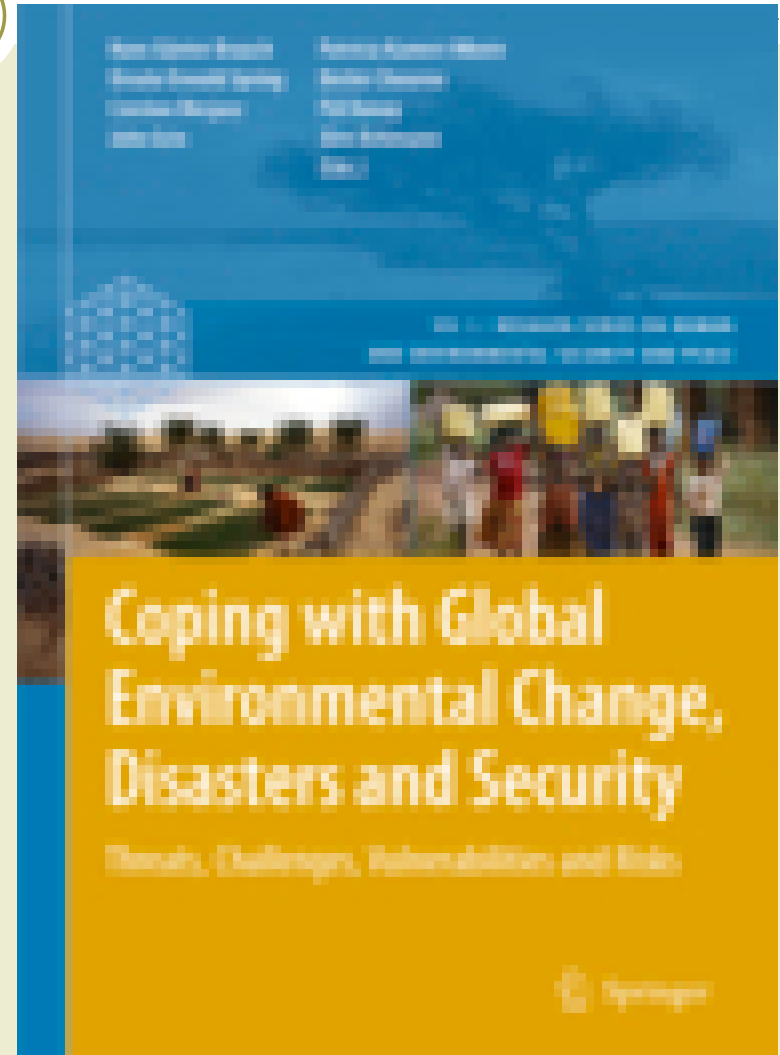
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- An elaboration of human development thinking: Study of (all major) threats to (all) basic human needs; including strong attention to perceptions and perception biases
- A human security approach looks at the particular situation and priority vulnerabilities of particular groups/types of people: **'intersectionality'**
- As in storytelling / scenarios, *we become more aware of "the dynamic **interactions** between processes, responses, and outcomes [and can generate] new insights and research questions beyond those associated with separate framings and discourses"* (Leichenko & O'Brien, 2008: 33)

Work in diverse sectors, and *across* sectors

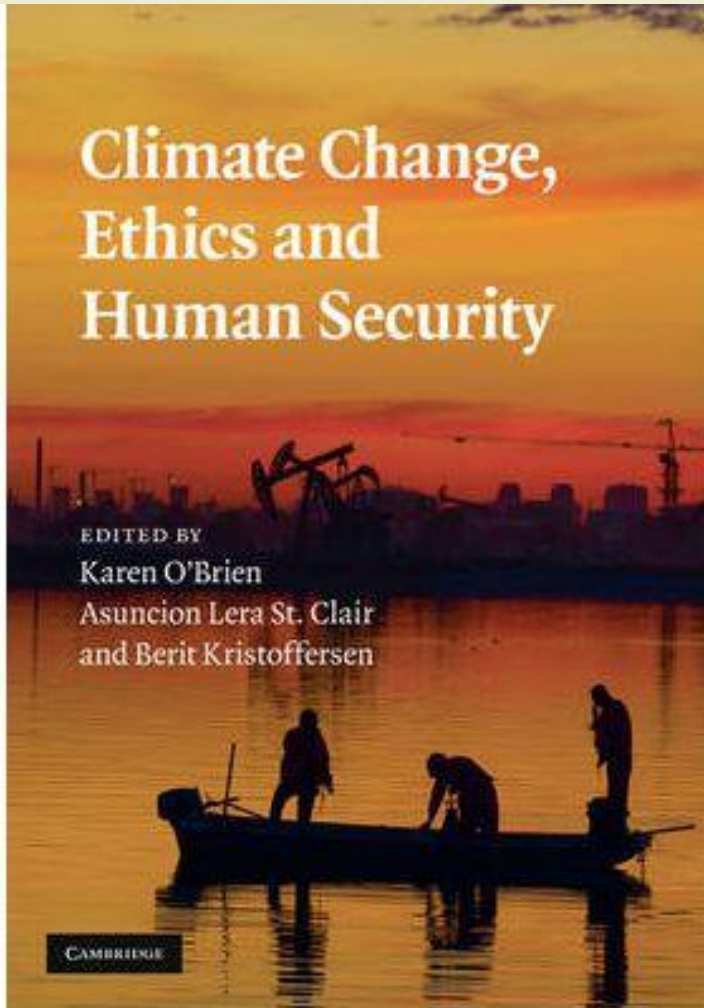
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- Environment – *e.g.*, *UN University Institute for Environment & Human Security*, and an *IPCC AR5 chapter*
- Across sectors – as in the Springer Hexagon book series (see example)
- Migration
- Conflict
- Social cohesion
- Crime
- Gender violence



From the Global Environmental Change & Human Security research program
(Cambridge University Press, 2010 & Routledge 2013, respectively)

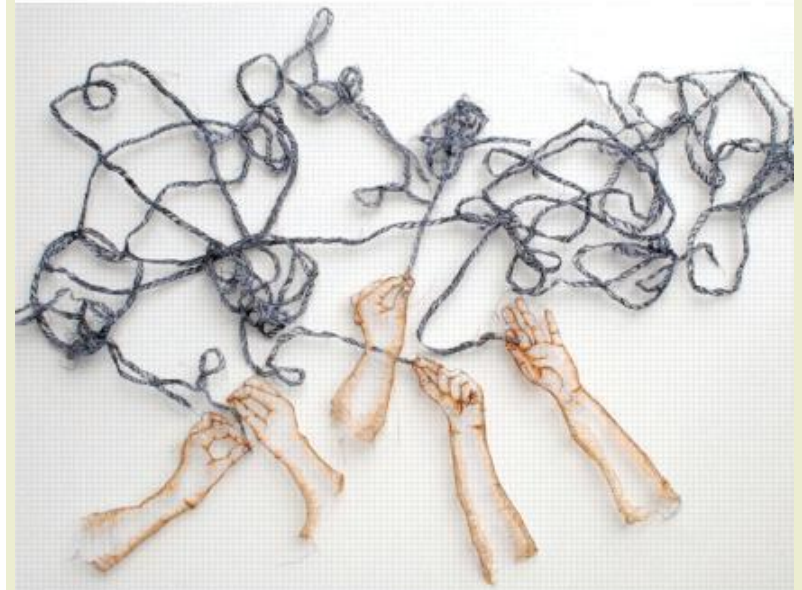
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earthscan
from Routledge

A Changing Environment for Human Security

Transformative Approaches to
Research, Policy and Action



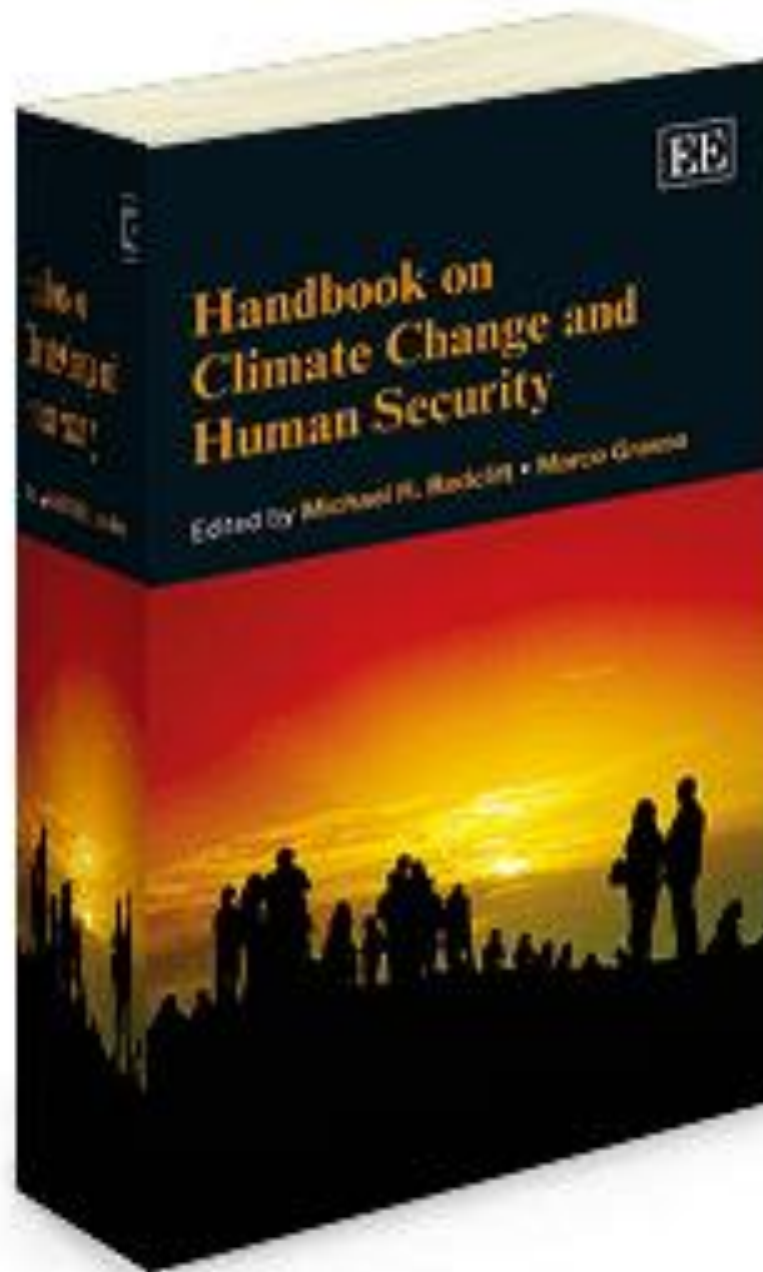
Edited by
LINDA SYGNA KAREN O'BRIEN JOHANNA WOLF



Handbook on Climate Change and Human Security

Edited by
Michael
Redclift and
Marco Grasso

Edward Elgar
Publishers,
2013



Exploring experienced Human Insecurity / Vulnerability

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- Investigating in an exploratory way what is experienced as insecurity, for it is:
 - 1. **contextual** – via **intersections** of many factors, hence varies across persons, classes, localities, times;
 - 2. often **surprising**; threats are partly unpredictable;
 - 3. partly culturally and personally **subjective** – but with objective consequences. Investigating these perceptions is vital for understanding behavior, morale, mental barriers, felt dignity and indignity.
- **Must be studied in each local situation, with a flexible approach.**

Remark 5:

The need for partnerships

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- HS analysis (HSA) as a broad framework (set of connected themes)
- **Needs to be deepened by &/or partner with other approaches that go into more detail in particular respects:**
 - human rights (HSA adds explanatory tools)
 - livelihoods analysis
 - well-being research
 - capability analysis / ‘Human Development’
 - feminist & gender analyses

E.g.: Livelihoods analysis provides an essential dimension in human security analyses. But

HSA is usefully broader:-

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1. Concerned with **the whole of people's lives**—for example with women migrants' sexual and reproductive health needs not only with economic concerns.
2. It gives more attention to **subjectivities** and so helps understanding of individual specifics & societal change.
3. By its **combination of an events focus with structural analysis**, in the manner of a historian, human security analysis is perhaps more dynamic and more open to the complexity and divergences introduced by contingencies and crises.

Capability approach?

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If used only as an evaluation space

- Not much help in conveying urgency, sympathy & moral wrongness, interconnectedness
- Indeed the strong emphasis on individuals and increased freedoms is sometimes used without the concept of 'enough'

If used also as a conception of being human

- Being human in relation to other humans, non-humans and natural environment

Remark Six

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Lesson: We need better integration of ethics with scientific analyses

- So that humane values can actively guide attention and promote reflection in scientific research

Need for ‘embedded ethics’ & philosophy

Tuana, N. 2013. Embedding Philosophers in the Practices of Science: Bringing Humanities to the Sciences, *Synthese*, Vol. 190 (11)

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- It is not enough to add ethics at a final stage, when “thinking about the implications” of scientific findings:-
- Instead **ethics must be involved at all stages** (as eloquently argued earlier also by Denis Goulet), especially in **identifying the areas for attention**:
- “ethical assessment often poses scientific questions that are not typically addressed in natural and [even some] social science assessments”, e.g. “**differences in regional impacts; and potential low-probability/high-impact events**” (Tuana et al, 2012: 141)
- These and similar questions *are* addressed in human security analysis, as part of **checking impacts on needs fulfilment of specific groups of (poor) people.**

Suggested conclusions from a comparative survey of literature on climate change (Gasper 2010, 2014)

- The broader the source of perceptions informing the studies, the more serious is the perceived challenge [of climate change].
- Approaches that ignore the lived experience of poor people, thanks to mechanical disciplinary methodologies, high aggregation (geographically and via a money-focus) and/or a Northern-centred frame, lead to deficient understanding and proposals, including often proposals that do not even match their restricted diagnosis, because the impacts on poor people -- and their possible reactions -- disappear from view.

Integrated ethical-scientific analysis

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- Referring to work over several years of a team of climate change scientists and philosophers, doing integrated ethical-scientific analysis of geo-engineering: Tuana says
- : “our work has become *unbounded* and, indeed, *undisciplined* in the sense of neither trying to bring together different disciplines nor transforming our disciplines, but rather **practicing new ways of thinking together that aim at new knowledges, including rendering transparent what has been overlooked by past practices or made unknowable by [disciplinary] practices**” (Tuana et al. 2013).

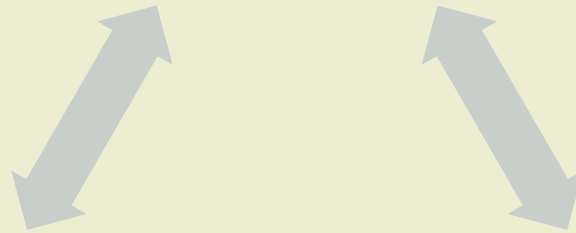
From: Mutually reinforcing mental and emotional narrowness in science, policy and daily life

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Narrow focus and field of attention

Narrow awareness of interconnection, fragility, vulnerability

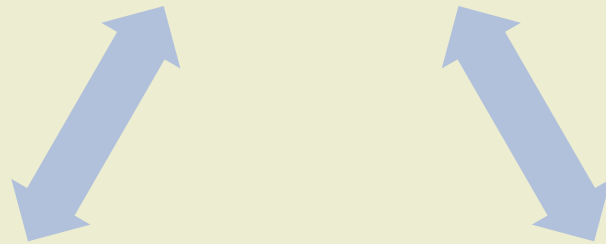
Narrow sympathies and commitment



To: Mutually reinforcing perceptual and emotional breadth/generosity, in science, policy and daily life

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Broad focus and field
of attention



Broad awareness of
interconnection,
fragility, vulnerability

Broad sympathies and
commitment



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