

# **‘A safe operating space for humanity’: do people’s beliefs have to change?**

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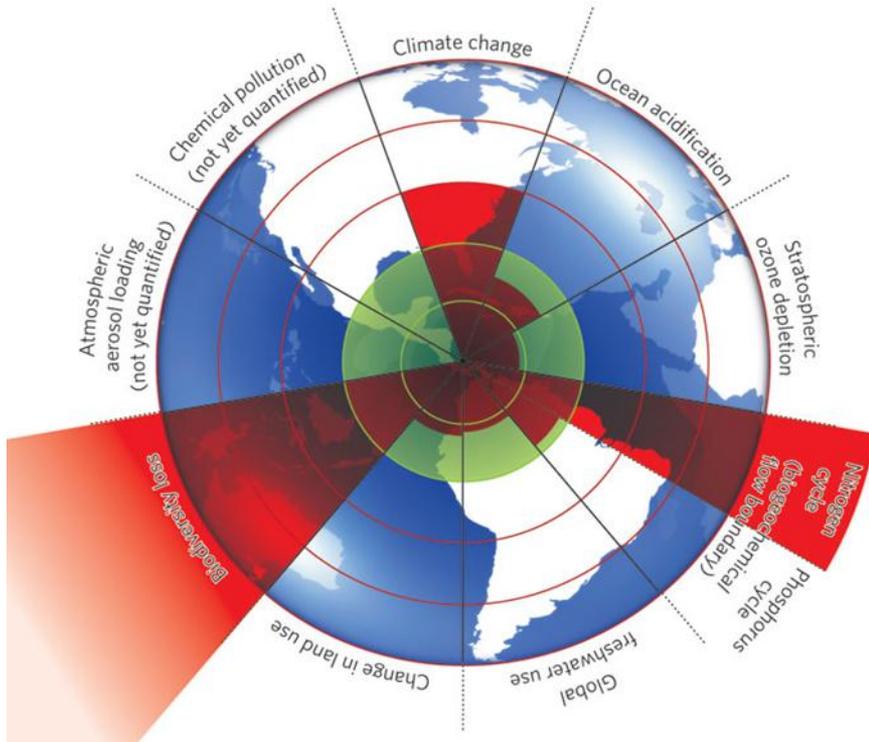
# 'Domain of the gods'



Donner, S.E. (2007) 'Domain of the Gods: an editorial essay' *Climatic Change* 85, 231-236

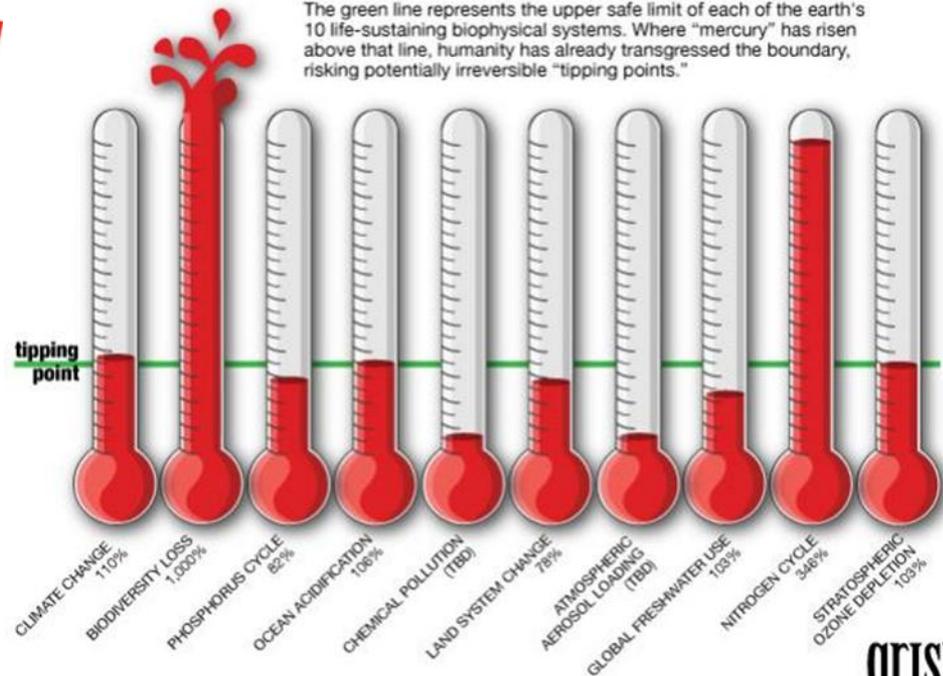
Donner, S.D. (2011) 'Making the climate a part of the human world' *BAMS* 92(10), 1297-1302

# Boundary transgressions



## The planet has a fever

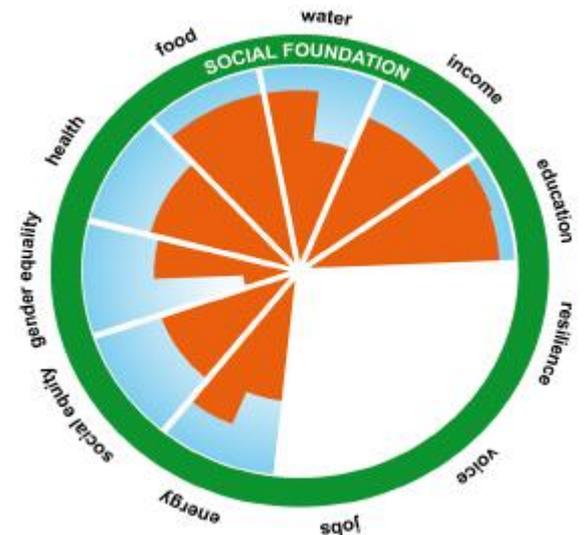
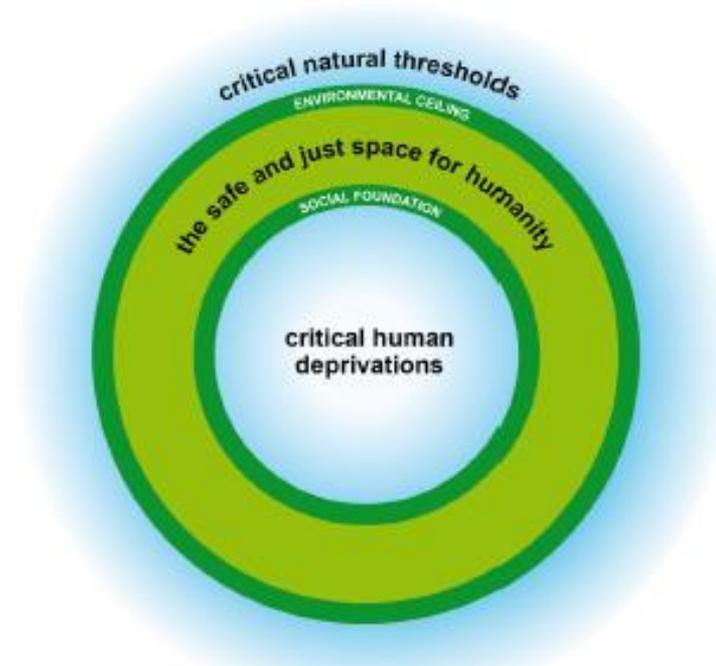
The green line represents the upper safe limit of each of the earth's 10 life-sustaining biophysical systems. Where "mercury" has risen above that line, humanity has already transgressed the boundary, risking potentially irreversible "tipping points."



Source: *Nature*, "Planetary Boundaries: A Safe Operating Space for Humanity," 24 Sept. 2009

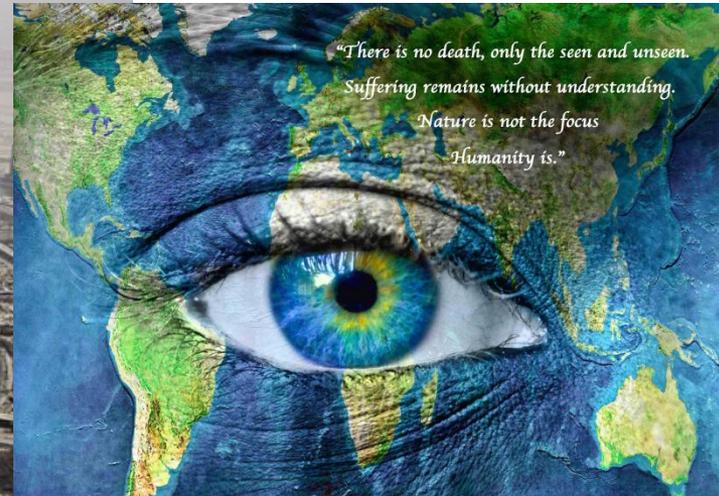
# Critique – social justice

- the idea of critical human deprivations
- a 'safe' and 'just' operating space
- 11 social concerns derived from Rio+20 submissions
- none of the 8 concerns which are measurable have been satisfied

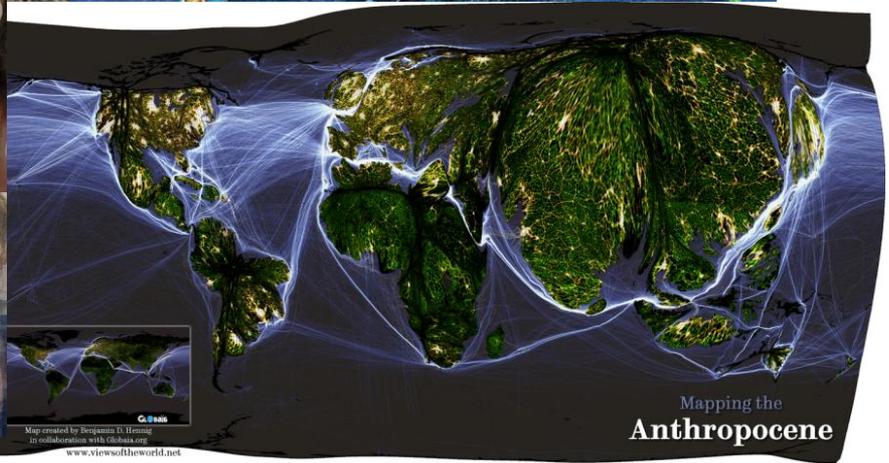


Raworth, K. (2012) *A safe and just space for humanity: can we live within the doughnut?* Oxfam Discussion Paper, Oxford, 26pp

# Anthropos in the Anthropocene



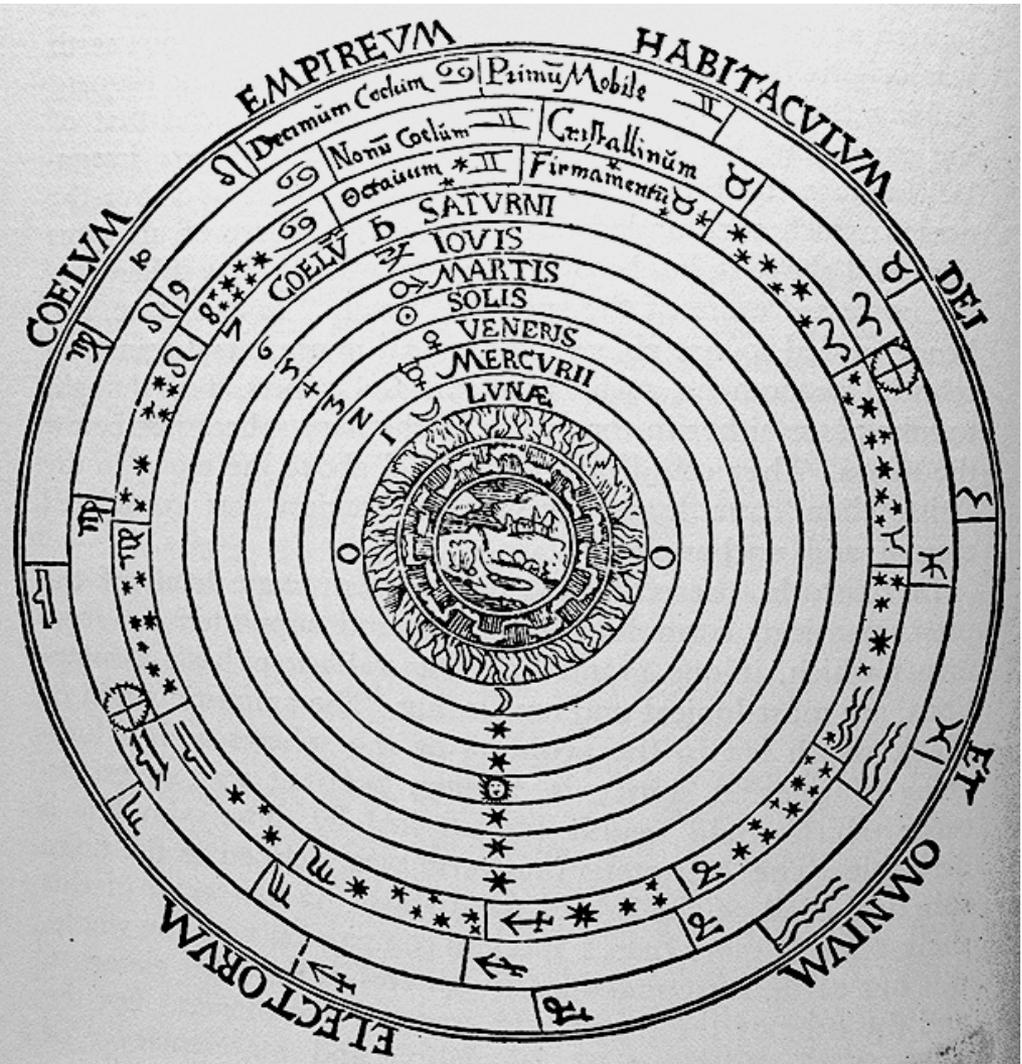
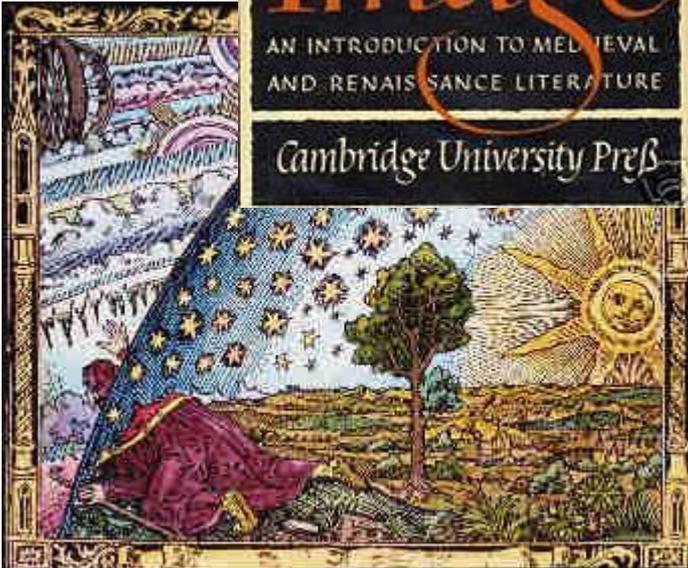
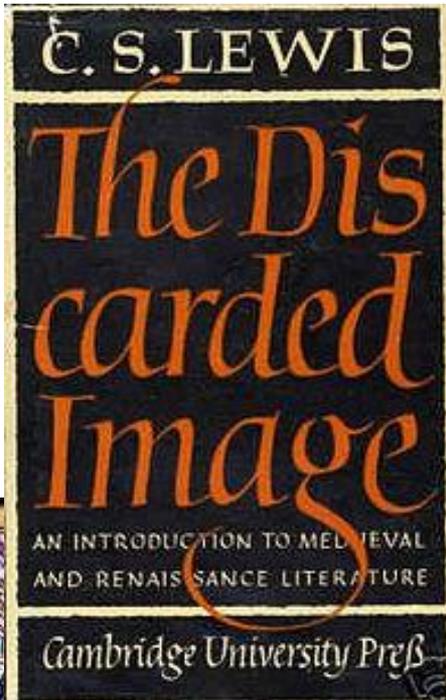
*"There is no death, only the seen and unseen.  
Suffering remains without understanding.  
Nature is not the focus  
Humanity is."*



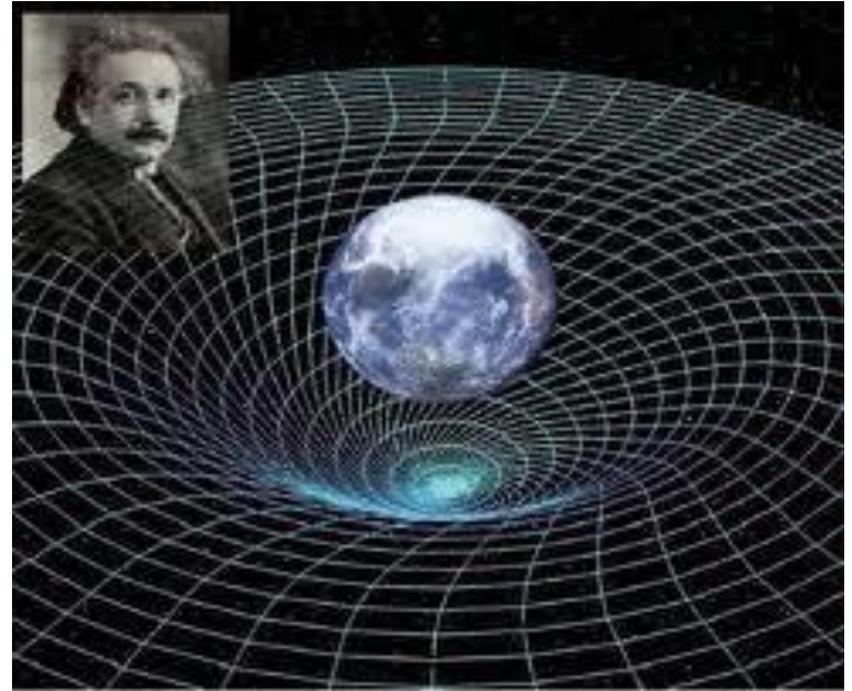
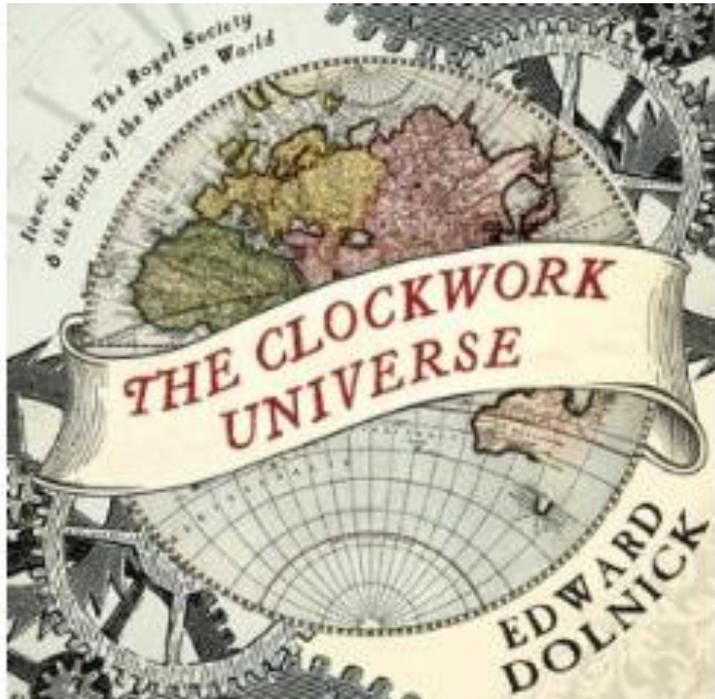
Map created by Benjamin D. Hering  
in collaboration with the artist  
[www.viewsoftheworld.net](http://www.viewsoftheworld.net)

Mapping the  
**Anthropocene**

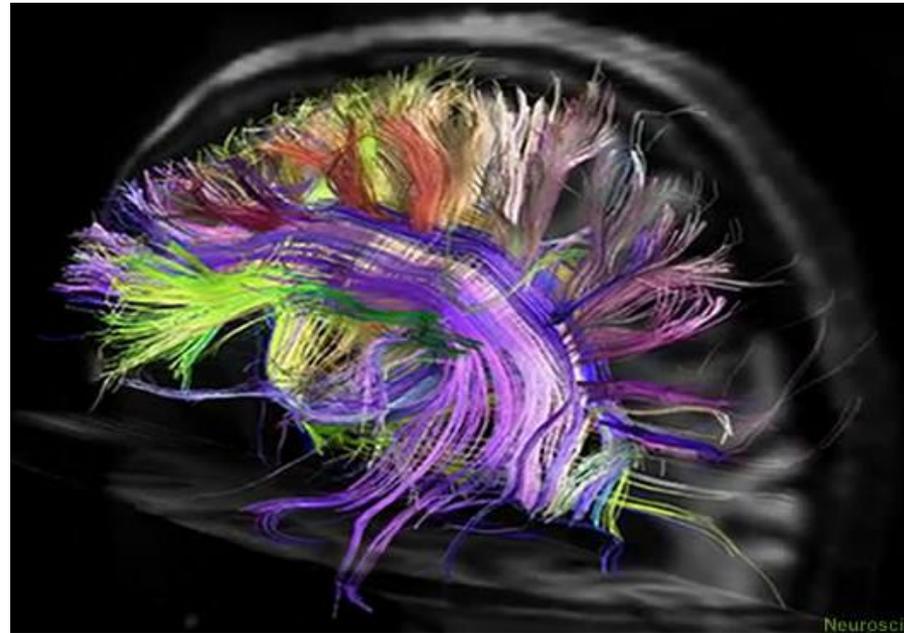
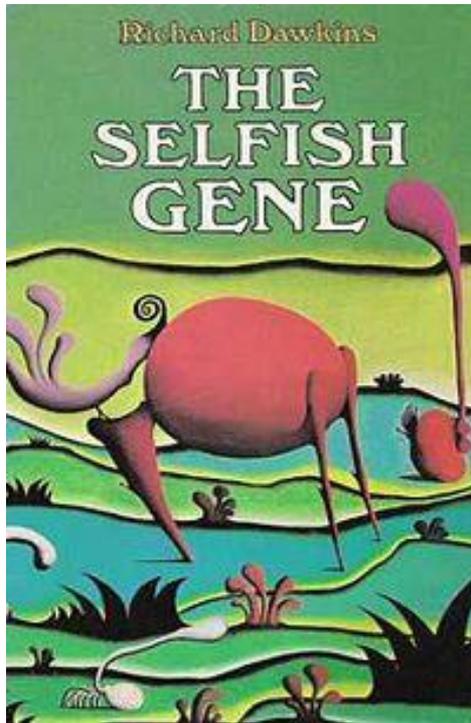
# Medieval cosmologies



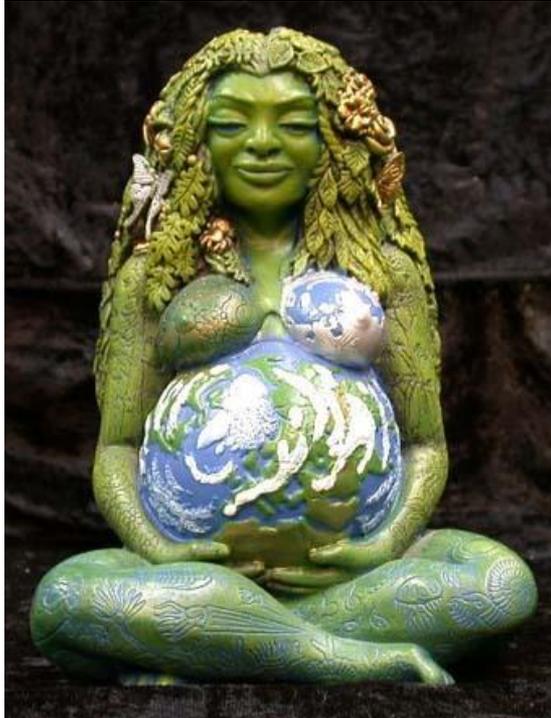
# Modern cosmologies



# The modernist self-image



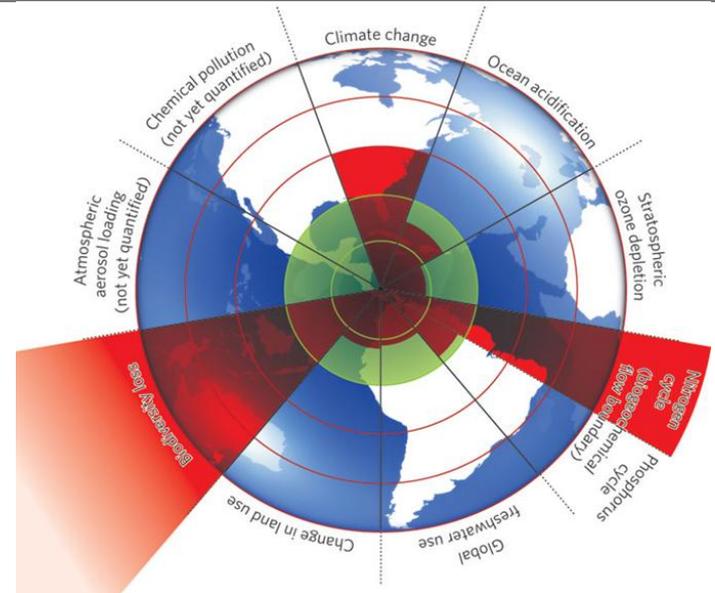
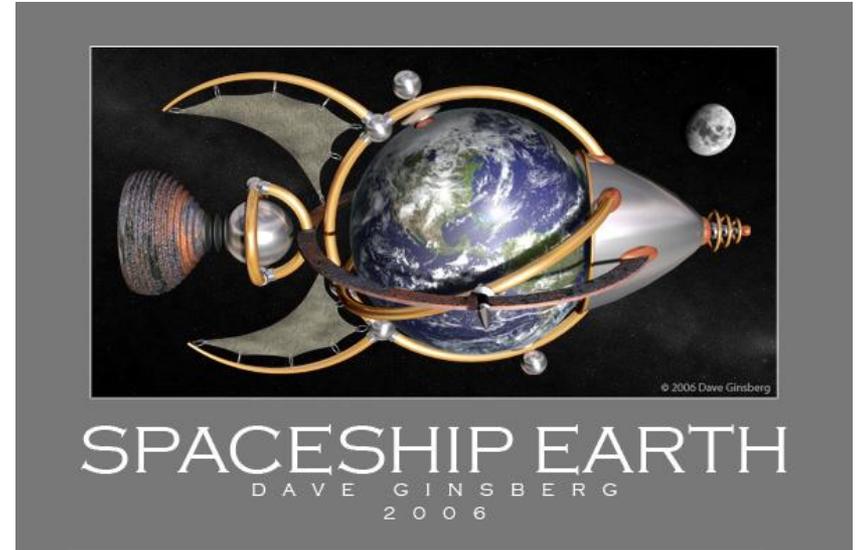
# Metaphor



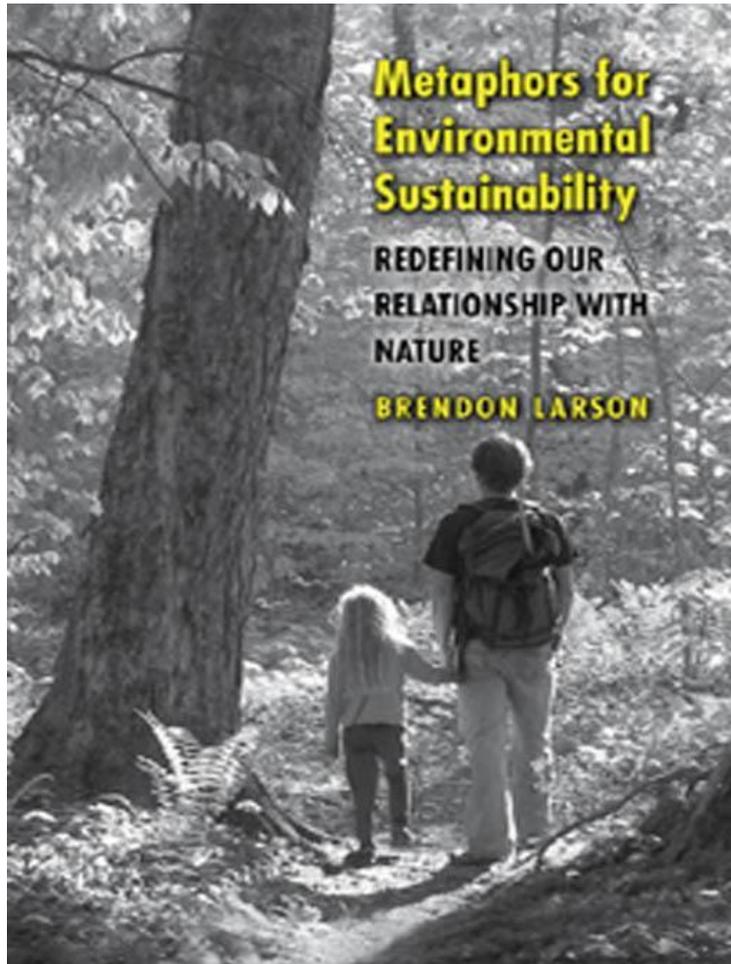
**Mother  
Earth ...**

**or ...**

**Spaceship  
Earth?**

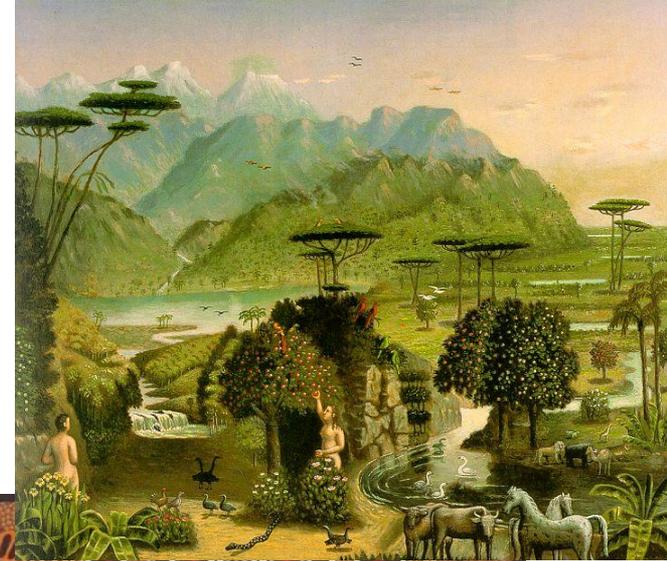


# Metaphors perform



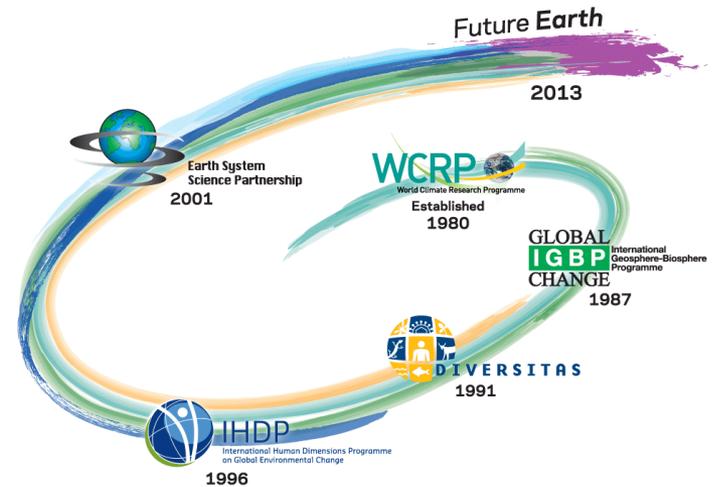
# Mythos, logos and narrative

*“The emphasis on [science], consumption, economics and policy usually fails to engage people at any deep level because it does not address the narrative, the mythological, the metaphorical ... The faiths are the holders of these areas and without them, policies will have very few real roots ...”*



# What needs to change?

New knowledge systems?



New governance systems?



# Institutional programmes



***“ ... will transform the way of doing research, bringing together different fields of science, linking global environmental change research to development concerns and delivering knowledge to support solutions”***



***“... challenges the social sciences to take the lead in developing a new integrated, transformative science of global change”***



***“Transdisciplinary collaboration to address the coupled environmental and socio-economic solutions to environmental change”***

# Transformations



**Transformation .. “.. involves the recognition and integration of subjective and objective realities and multiple types of knowledge, *which depends on insights from the social sciences, humanities and natural sciences*”**

**[Karen O’Brien, 2012]**



# 'The world we want'?



**THE  
WORLD  
WE WANT**



***“Gathering priorities of people from every corner of the world, this project will build a collective vision that will be used directly by the UN and World Leaders to plan a new development agenda launching in 2015, one that is based on the aspirations of all citizens!”***

# Reason and imagination



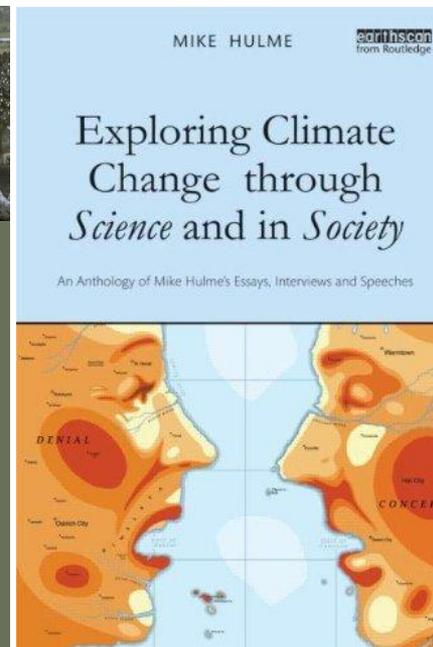
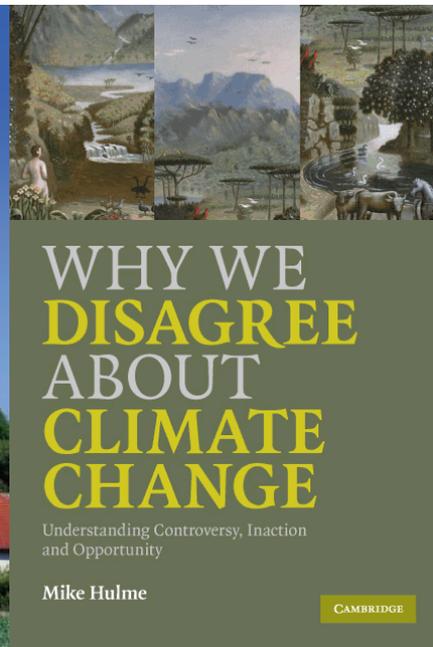
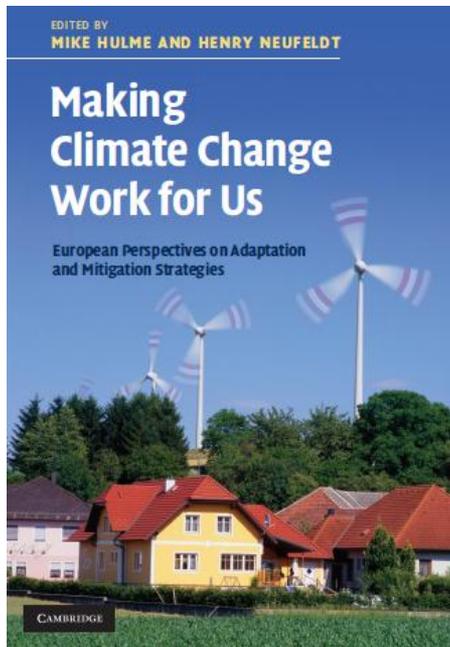
***“For me, reason is the natural organ of truth; but imagination is the organ of meaning. Imagination, producing new metaphors or revivifying old, is not the cause of truth, but its condition.”***

[C S Lewis, 1969]

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