

Unruly Complexity

Ecology, Interpretation, Engagement

Three readings:

1. sequence of case studies
2. autobiographical story
3. conceptual argument

What if everything is already
unruly complexity?

What if everything is already
unruly complexity?

= ?

What if everything is already
unruly complexity?

= **situations**

1. consisting of heterogeneous components
2. built up over time & subject to ongoing restructuring
3. embedded in wider dynamics

What if everything is already
unruly complexity?

= **situations**

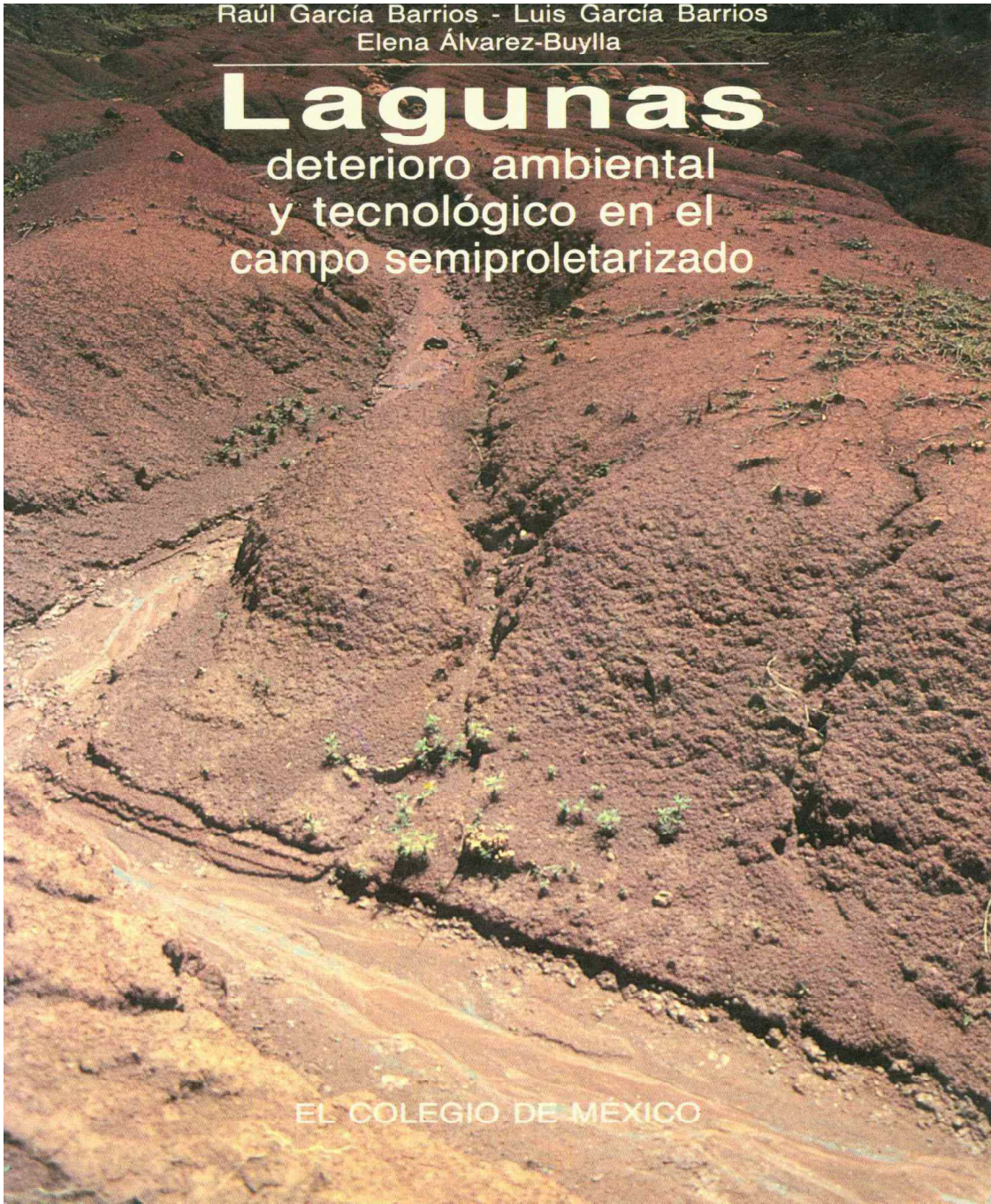
1. lack definite boundaries
2. what goes on “outside” continually
restructures what is “inside”
3. diverse processes come together to
produce change

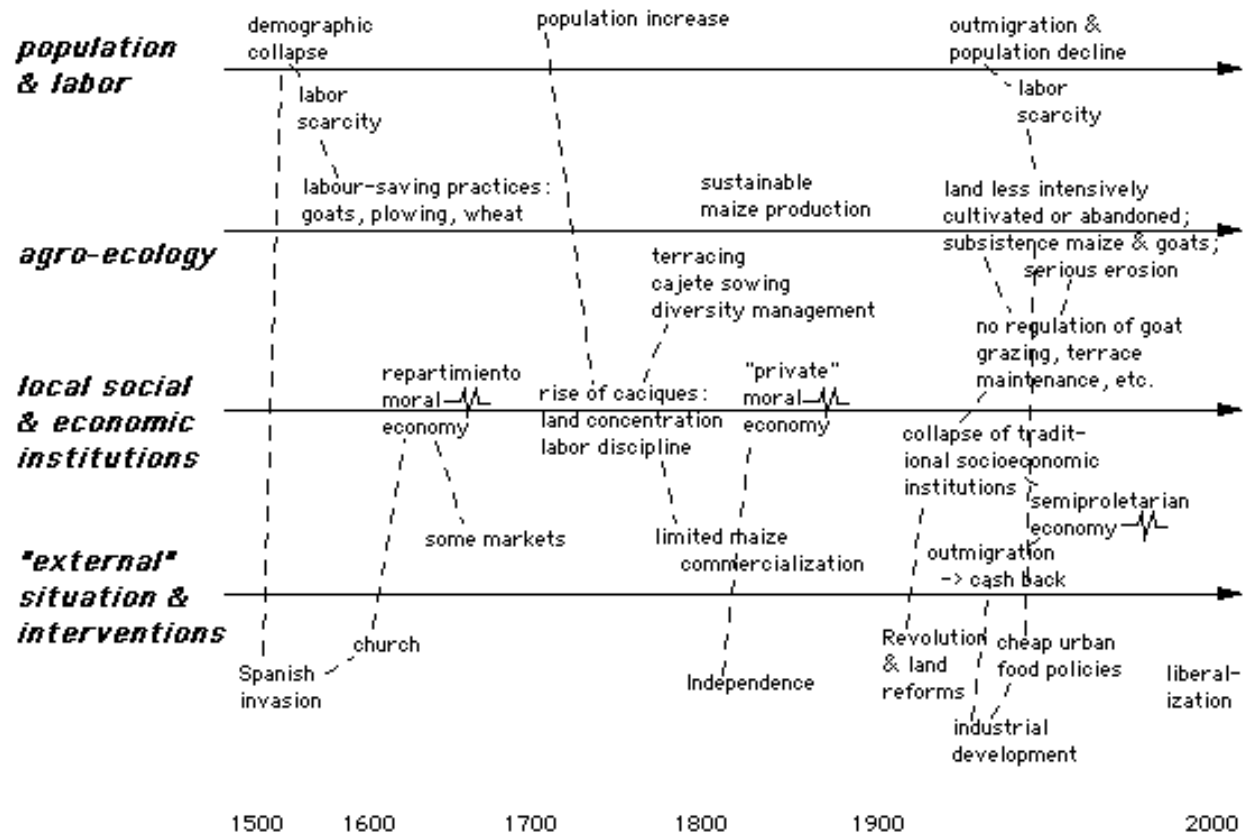
Raúl García Barrios - Luis García Barrios
Elena Álvarez-Buylla

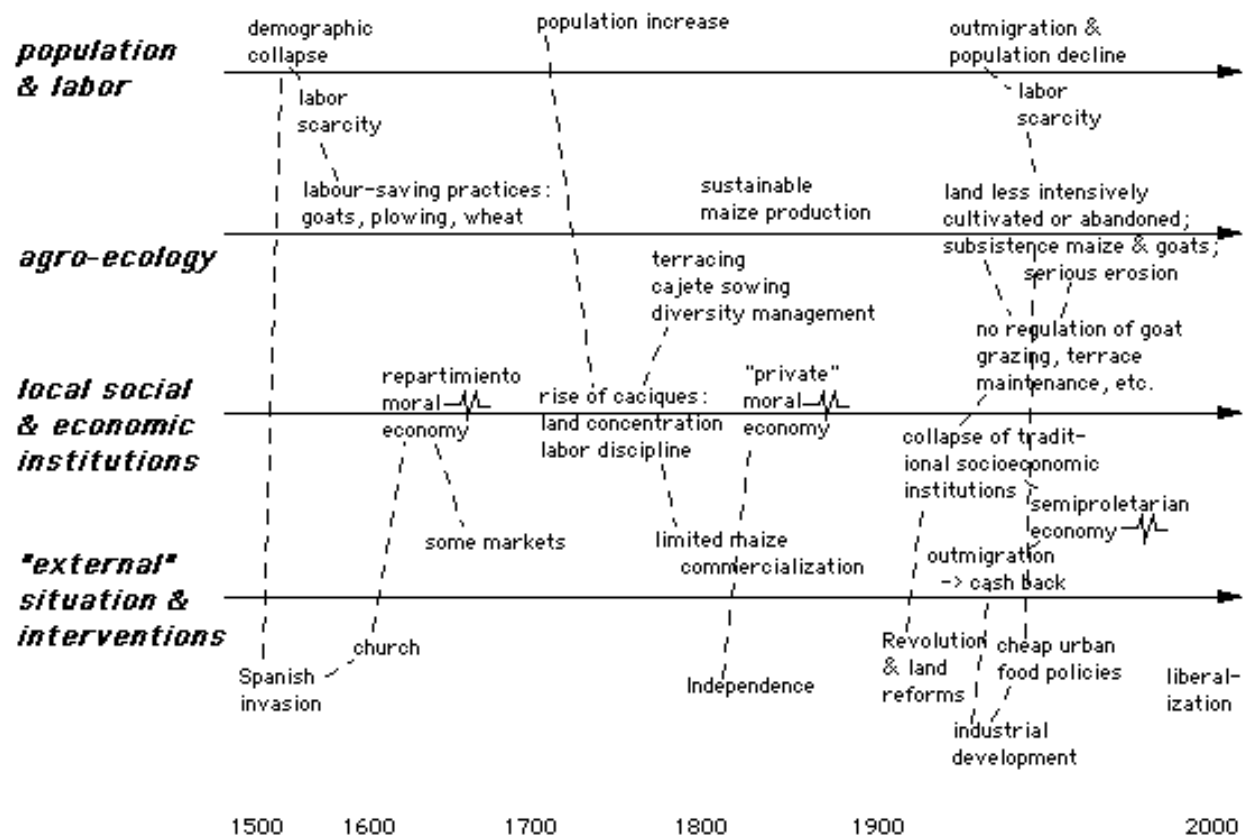
Lagunas

deterioro ambiental
y tecnológico en el
campo semiproletarizado

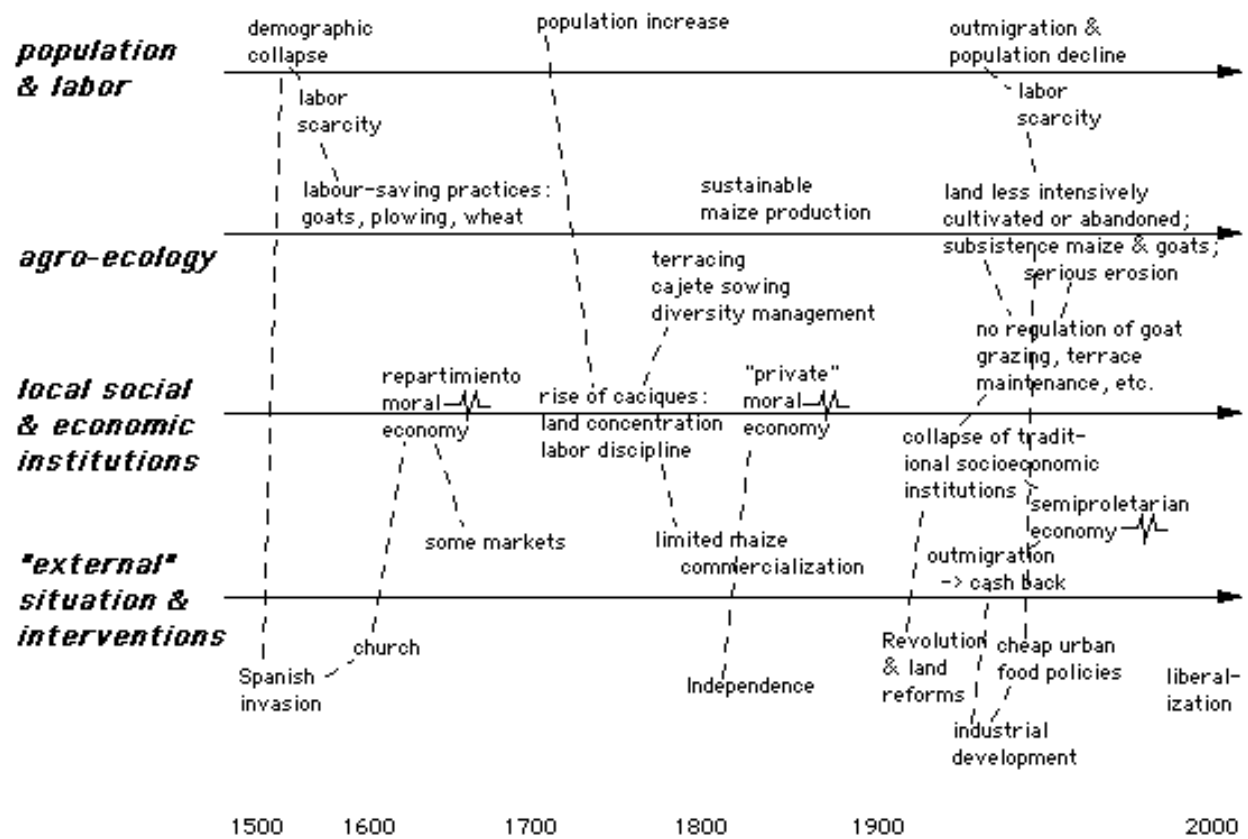
EL COLEGIO DE MÉXICO



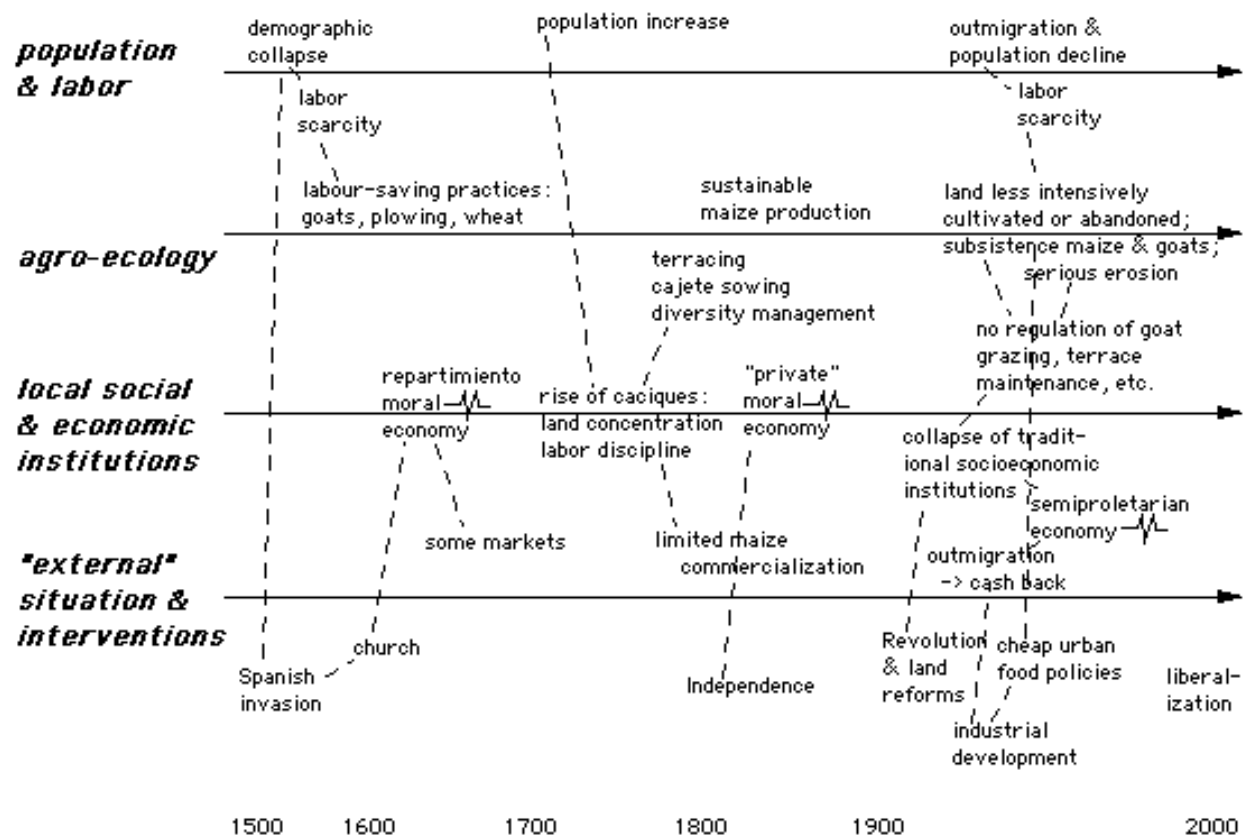




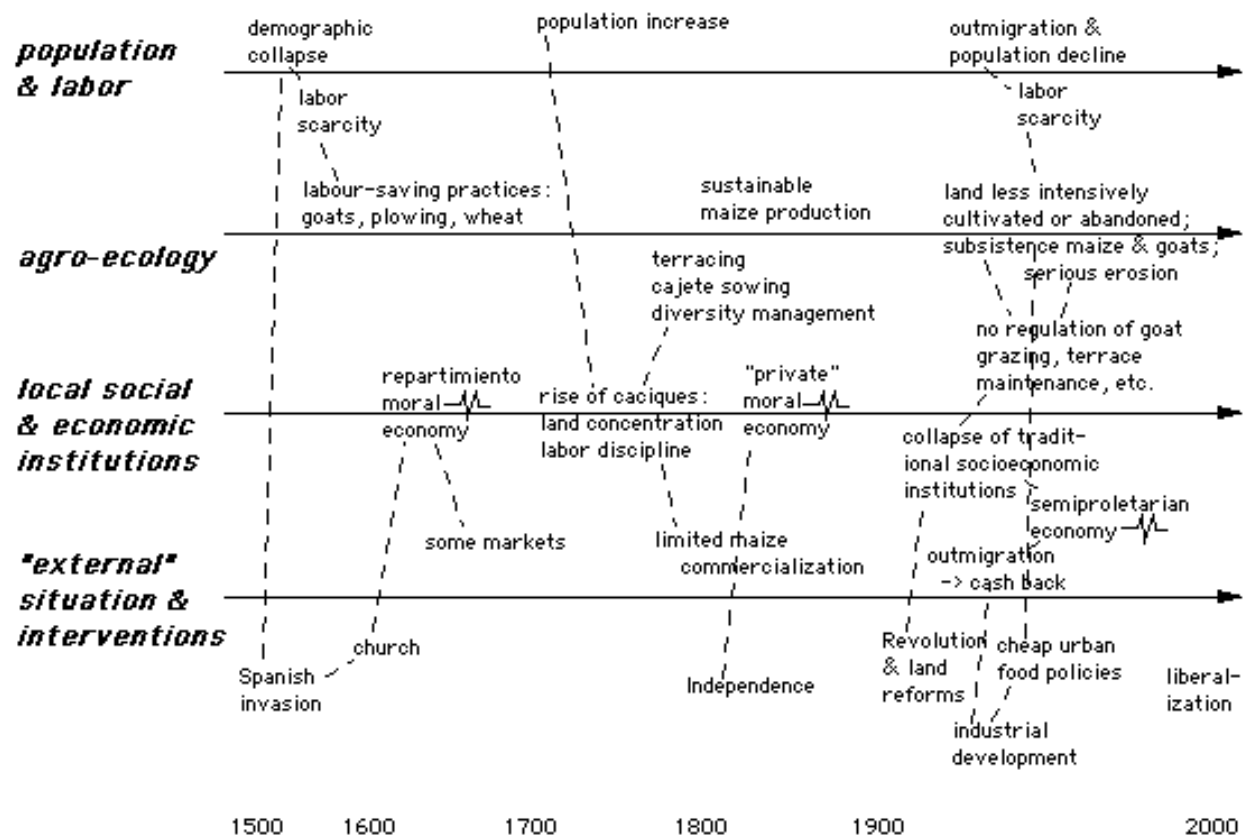
heterogeneous components



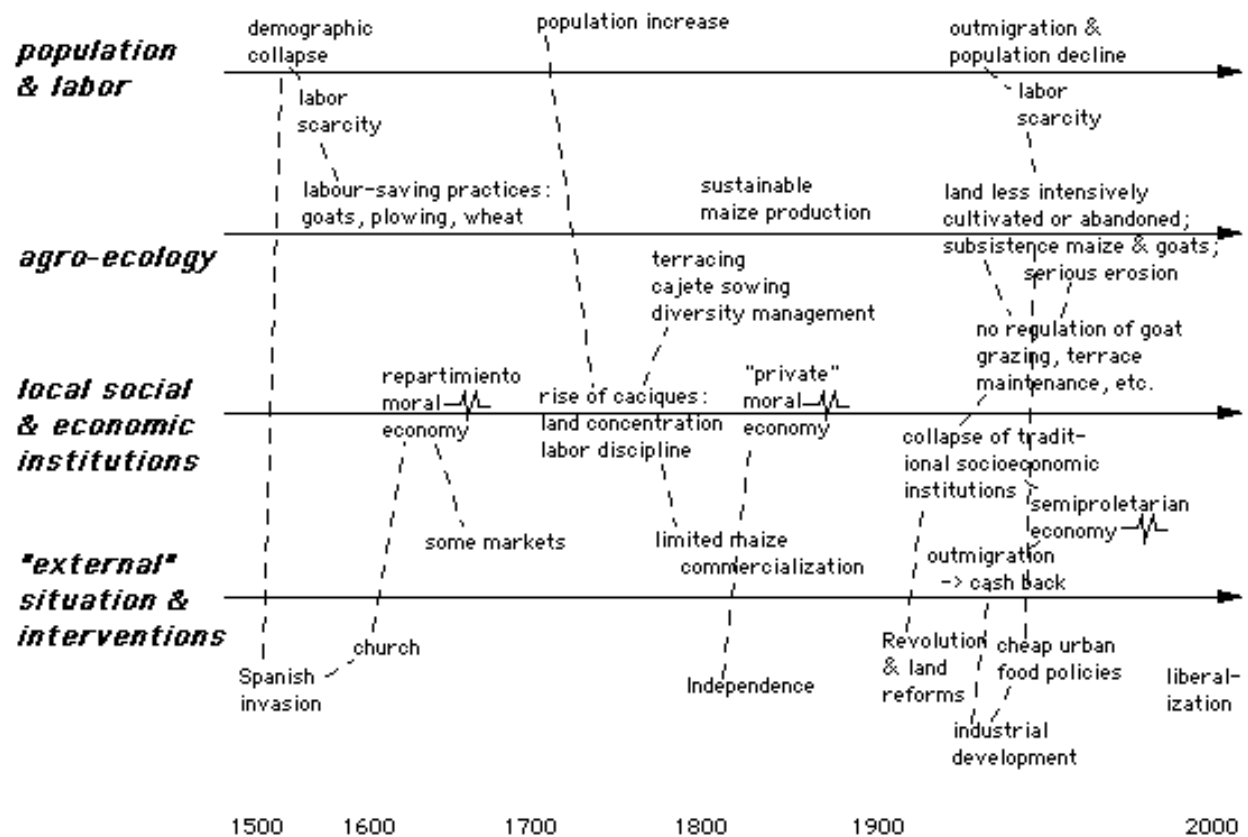
built up over time



subject to ongoing restructuring



embedded in wider dynamics



lack definite boundaries

what goes on "outside" continually restructures

what is "inside"

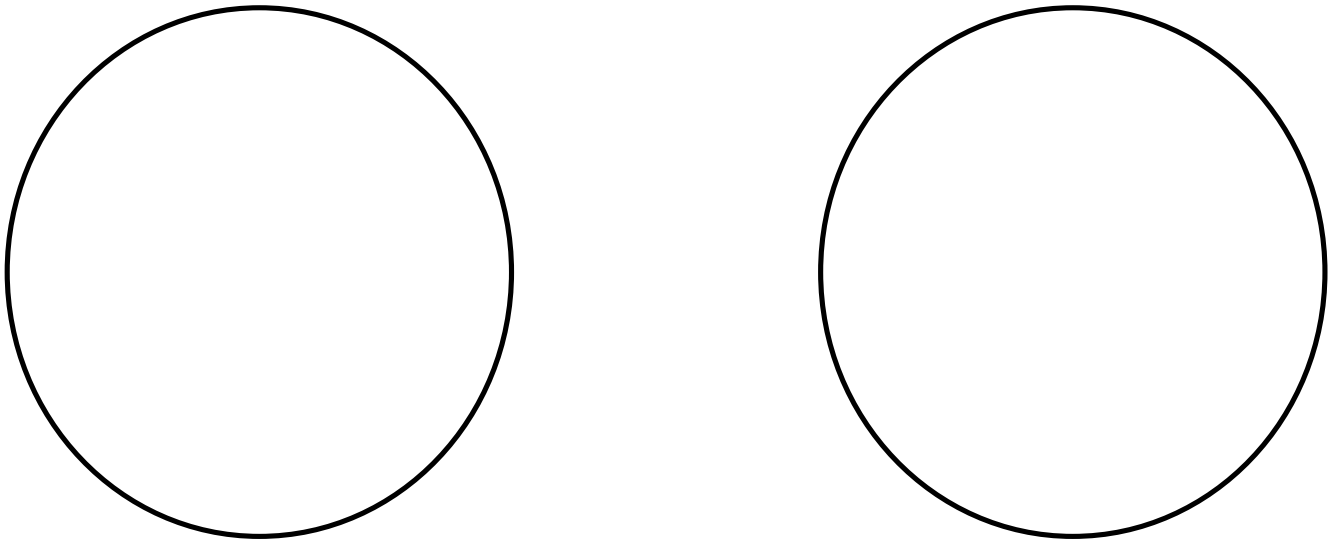
diverse processes come together

What if everything is already
unruly complexity?

1st Answer: Qualitative

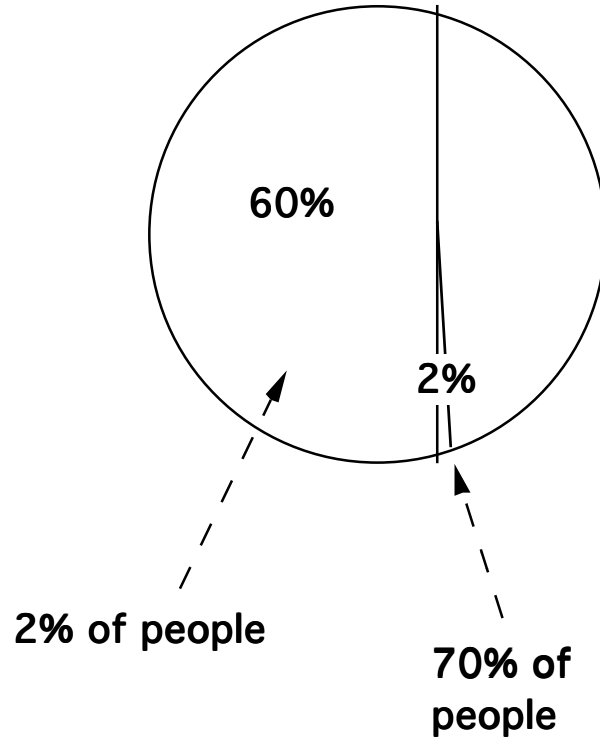
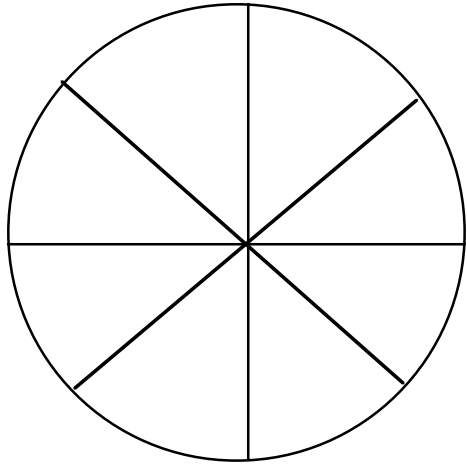
**difference in analysis
of causes &
implications**

Two islands

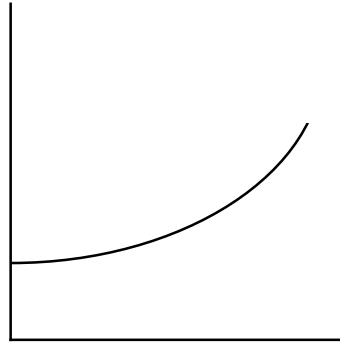


same land area & quality
same initial population & growth rate
(3% per year)
same technical capacity

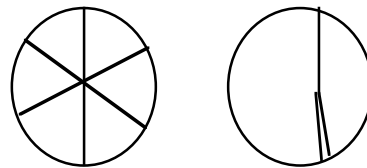
Two islands



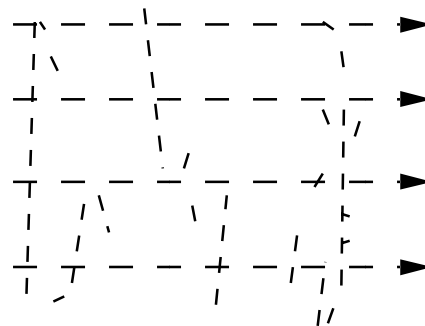
1.
simple well-
bounded system



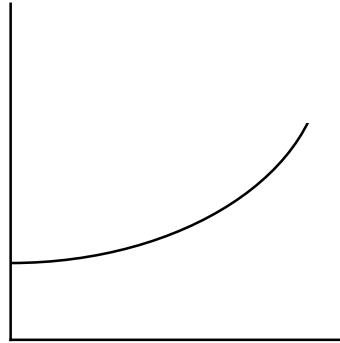
2.
simple themes,
opening things up



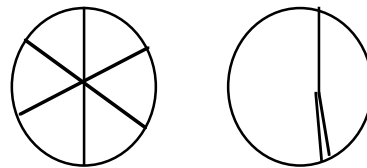
3.
differentiated,
locally particular
accounts



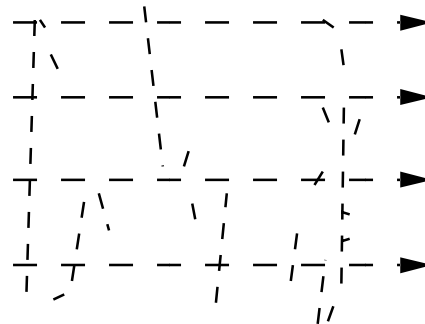
1.
simple well-
bounded system



2.
simple themes,
opening things up



3.
differentiated,
locally particular
accounts



What if everything is already
unruly complexity?

1st Answer: Qualitative

**difference in analysis
of causes &
implications**

Q2: ...for whom?

Ans. Q2: Researcher in
dialogue
between models &
phenomena

Ans. Q2: Researcher in

dialogue

between models &

phenomena

but this is **embedded** in dialogue

Ans. Q2: Researcher in

dialogue

between models &

phenomena

but this is **embedded** in dialogue

w/ **diverse** social agents

to establish significant knowledge

Ans. Q2: Researcher in

dialogue

between models &

phenomena

but this is **embedded** in dialogue

w/ **diverse** social agents

to establish significant knowledge

& subject to **ongoing restructuring**

practice of researchers

**A.
dialogue
with the
situation
studied**

**B. social
interactions
to establish
what
counts as
knowledge**

practice of researchers

Q3:
**Researcher's
role?**

A.
**dialogue
with the
situation
studied**

**B. social
interactions
to establish
what
counts as
knowledge**

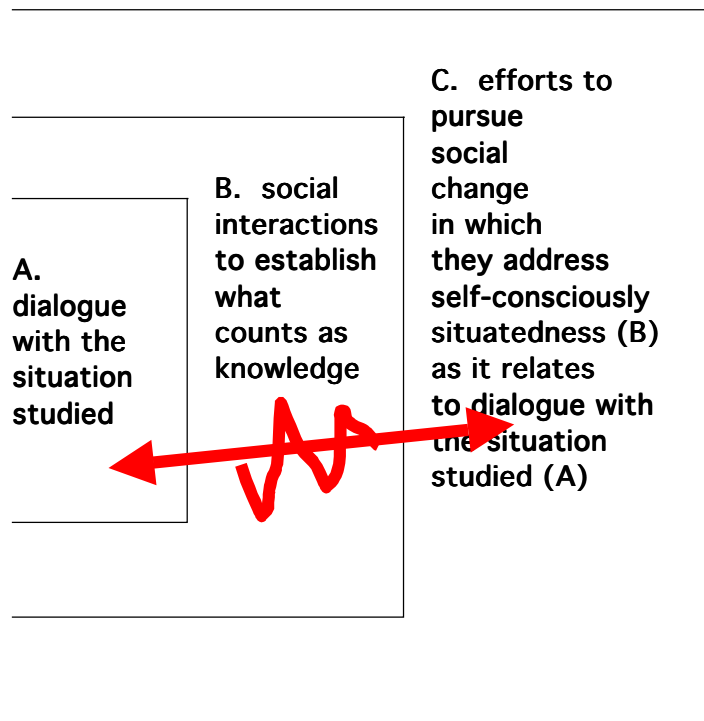
practice of researchers

A.
dialogue
with the
situation
studied

B. social
interactions
to establish
what
counts as
knowledge

C. efforts to
pursue
social
change
in which
they address
self-consciously
situatedness (B)
as it relates
to dialogue with
the situation
studied (A)

practice of researchers

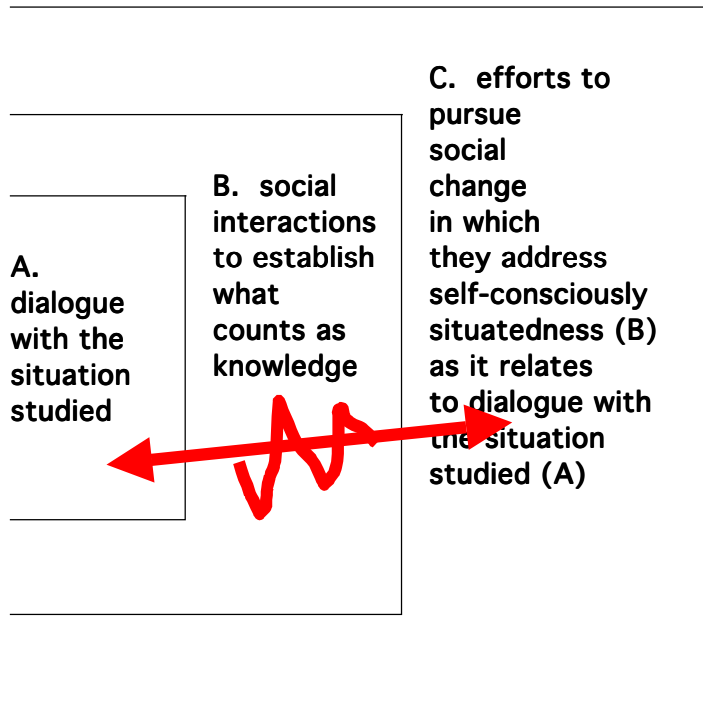


1. simple well-bounded system

2. simple themes, opening things up

3. differentiated, locally particular accounts

practice of researchers



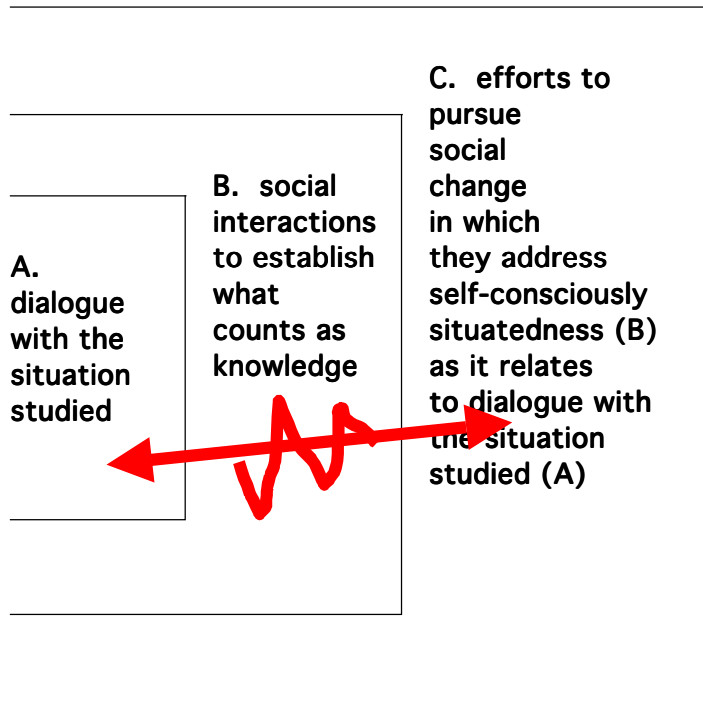
C3 = ?

1. simple well-bounded system

2. simple themes, opening things up

3. differentiated, locally particular accounts

practice of researchers



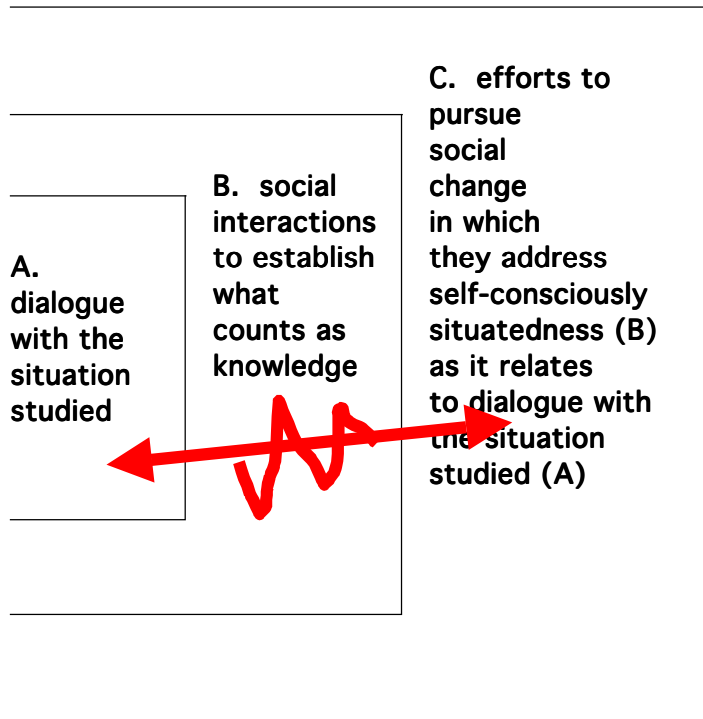
1. simple well-bounded system

2. simple themes, opening things up

3. differentiated, locally particular accounts

diverse set of researchers and other social agents

practice of researchers



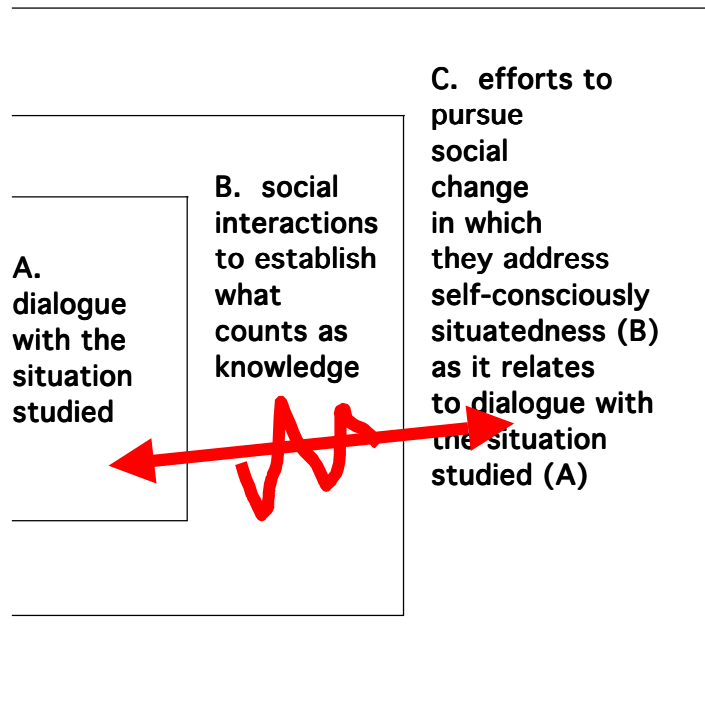
coming/brought together

1. simple well-bounded system

2. simple themes, opening things up

3. differentiated, locally particular accounts

practice of researchers



1. simple well-bounded system

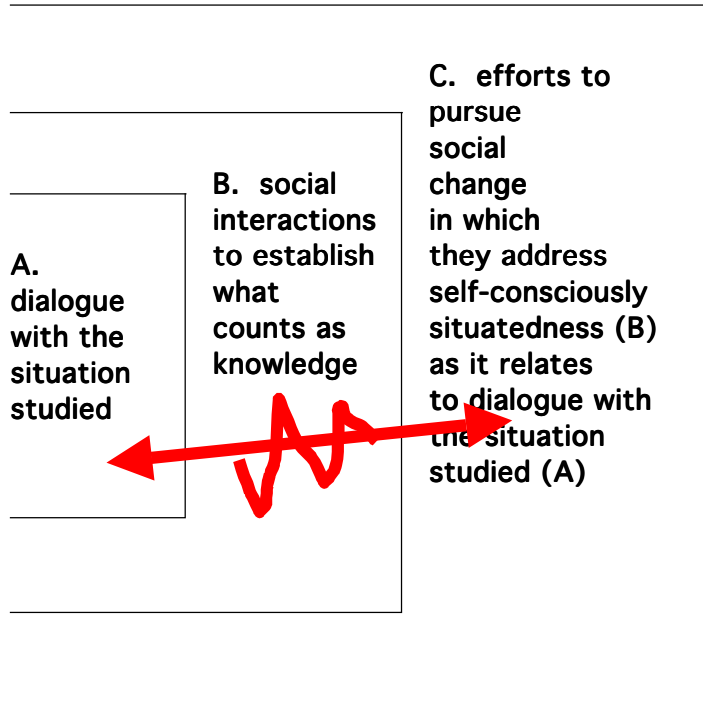
2. simple themes, opening things up

3. differentiated, locally particular accounts

acknowledging heterogeneity, ongoing restructuring, embeddedness

re: situations & situatedness

practice of researchers



1. simple well-bounded system

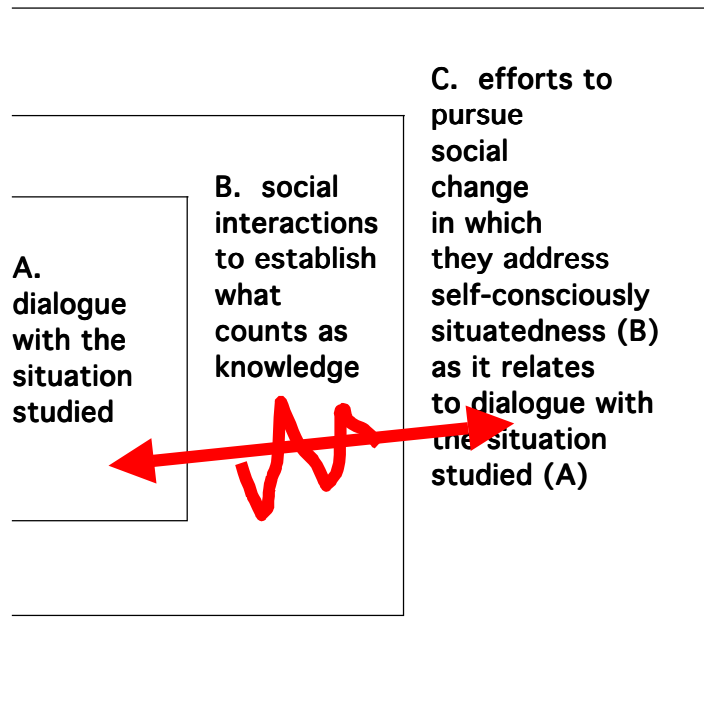
2. simple themes, opening things up

3. differentiated, locally particular accounts

mobilizing simple themes

about complexity of situations & situatedness

practice of researchers



1. simple well-bounded system

2. simple themes, opening things up

3. differentiated, locally particular accounts

interaction sustained until new complexity-addressing collaborations emerge

C3=

“the challenge for researchers

**of using their knowledge, themes, and other
awareness of**

complex situations and situatedness

**to contribute to a culture of participatory
restructuring**

**of the distributed conditions of knowledge-
making and social change.”**

C3=

“the challenge for researchers

of using their knowledge, themes, and other

awareness of

complex situations and situatedness

to contribute to a culture of participatory

restructuring

of the distributed conditions of knowledge-

making and social change.”

**cannot be addressed alone,
nor primarily through our accounts
of the world**

**e.g., New England Workshop on
Science & Social Change**

www.stv.umb.edu/newssc.html