



Erasmus

Social Enterprises

From a Multi-Actor Power Perspective

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13th of January 2021

#EURwebinar

#SocialEnterprise



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Problematic power relations:
inequality, oppression, exclusion, exploitation, extraction, injustice

How & to what extent are social enterprises (+ other social innovations) challenging and/or reproducing power relations?

What are (un)intended power implications of social innovations such as social enterprises?



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drift
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STRN Sustainability Transitions Research Network



transformative
social innovation
theory



Prosumers
for energy
transitions

PROSEU



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and Citizens**



**SOCIAL
INNOVATION
COMMUNITY**



**Social
INNOVation
in Energy
Transitions**



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URBAN ARENAS
FOR SUSTAINABLE AND JUST CITIES



Routledge Studies in Social Enterprise & Social Innovation

THEORY OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND PLURALISM

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, SOLIDARITY ECONOMY,
AND THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Edited by

Philippe Eynaud, Jean-Louis Laville,
Luciane Lucas dos Santos, Swati Banerjee,
Flor Avelino and Lars Hulgård

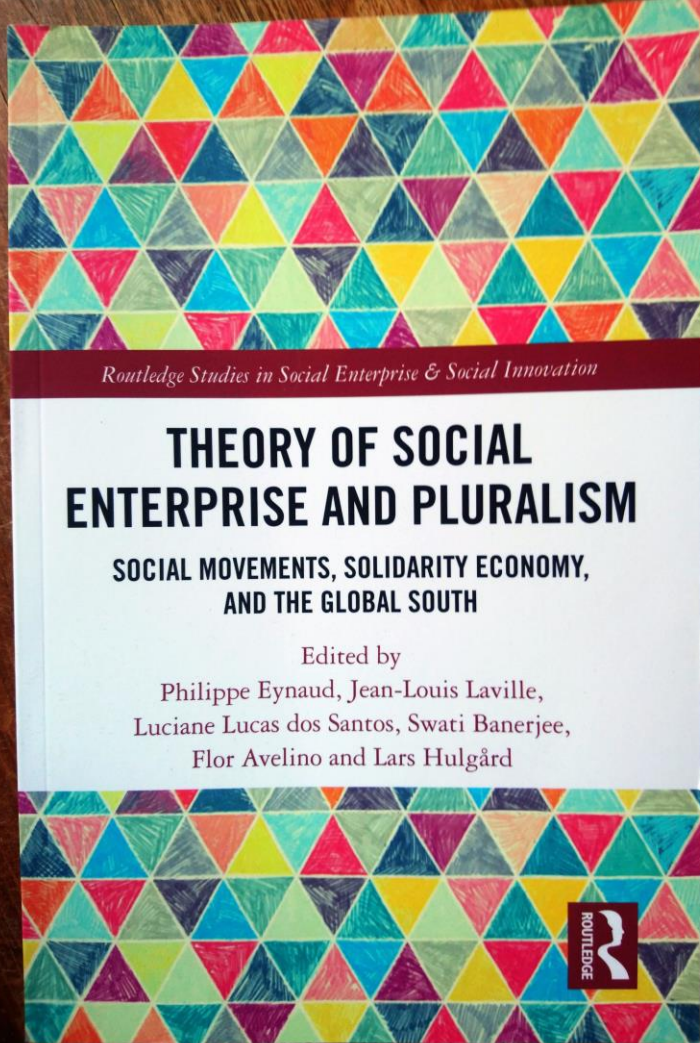


60 *Jean-Louis Laville and Philippe Eynaud*

Table 3.1 The Three Conceptual Versions of Social Enterprise

	<i>Third Sector and Social Business</i>	<i>Social Economy</i>	<i>Solidarity Economy</i>
Objective	Reduce poverty	Promote equality in status (one person, one vote)	Promote equality in action and in living well
Form	Social entrepreneurship	Collective entrepreneurship	Institutional entrepreneurship
Argument	Answers to social challenges according to entrepreneurial feasibility	Combining association of persons with economic activities	Articulating protection and emancipation through deliberation
Means	Solving the social problem through private initiative	Organising collective ownership	Developing autonomous and intermediary public spaces
Type of solidarity	Dominance of philanthropic solidarity	Democratic solidarity	Democratic solidarity

Eynaud P., Laville J.L., Dos Santos L.L., Banerjee S., Hulgard, H., Avelino F. (2019), *Theory of social enterprise and pluralism: Social Movements, Solidarity Economy, and Global South*, Routledge Publisher: Oxfordshire.



Unpacking the transformative potential of social enterprise

10 The Transformative Potential of Plural Social Enterprise

A Multi-Actor Perspective

Flor Avelino and Julia M. Wittmayer

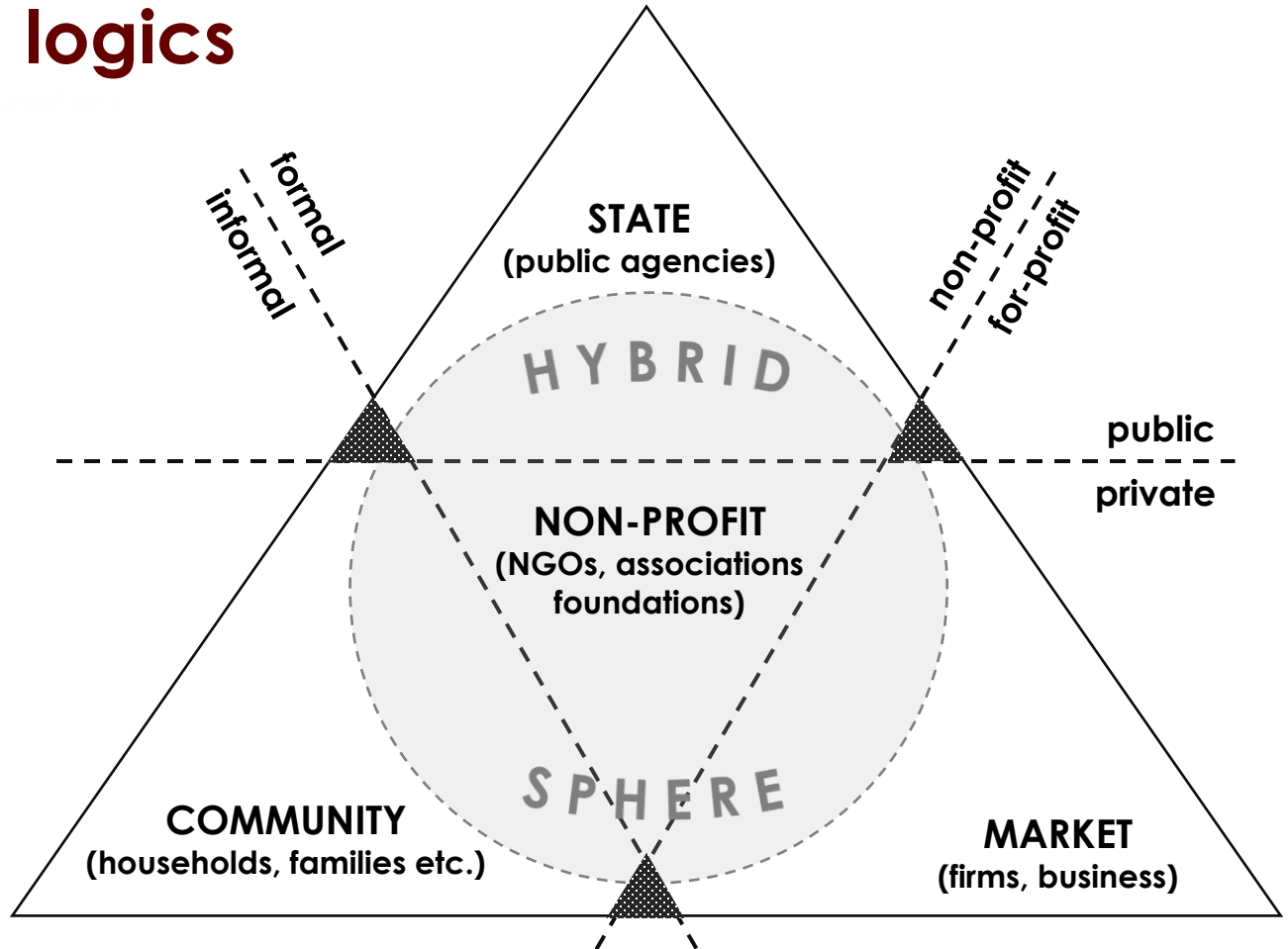
Introduction

What is the transformative potential of social enterprise to challenge, alter or replace existing power relations? This is the question that we ponder in this chapter, by taking a multi-actor perspective to unpack concepts and empirical manifestations of social enterprise.

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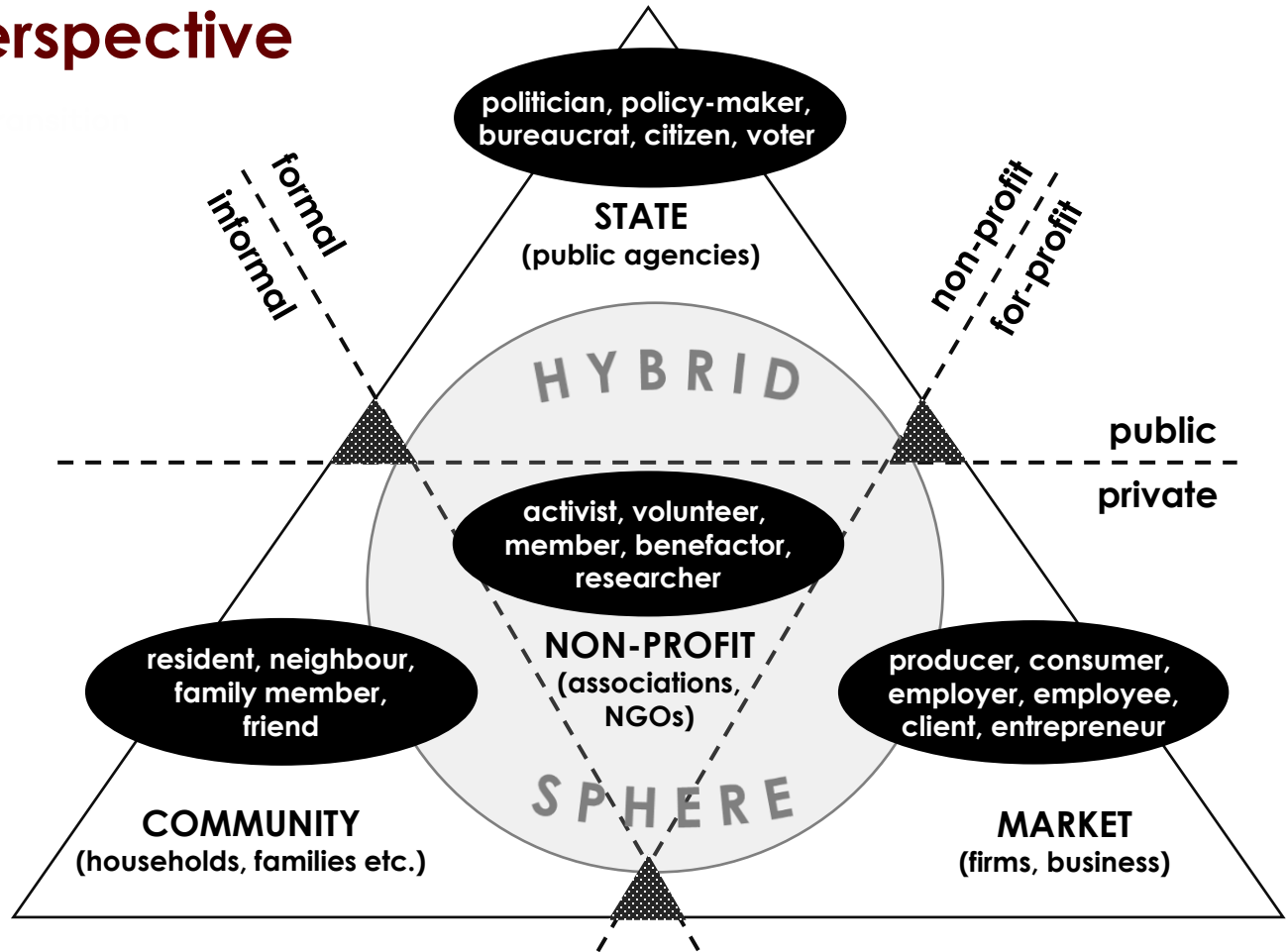
Avelino & Wittmayer 2019

Institutional logics



Multi-Actor Perspective

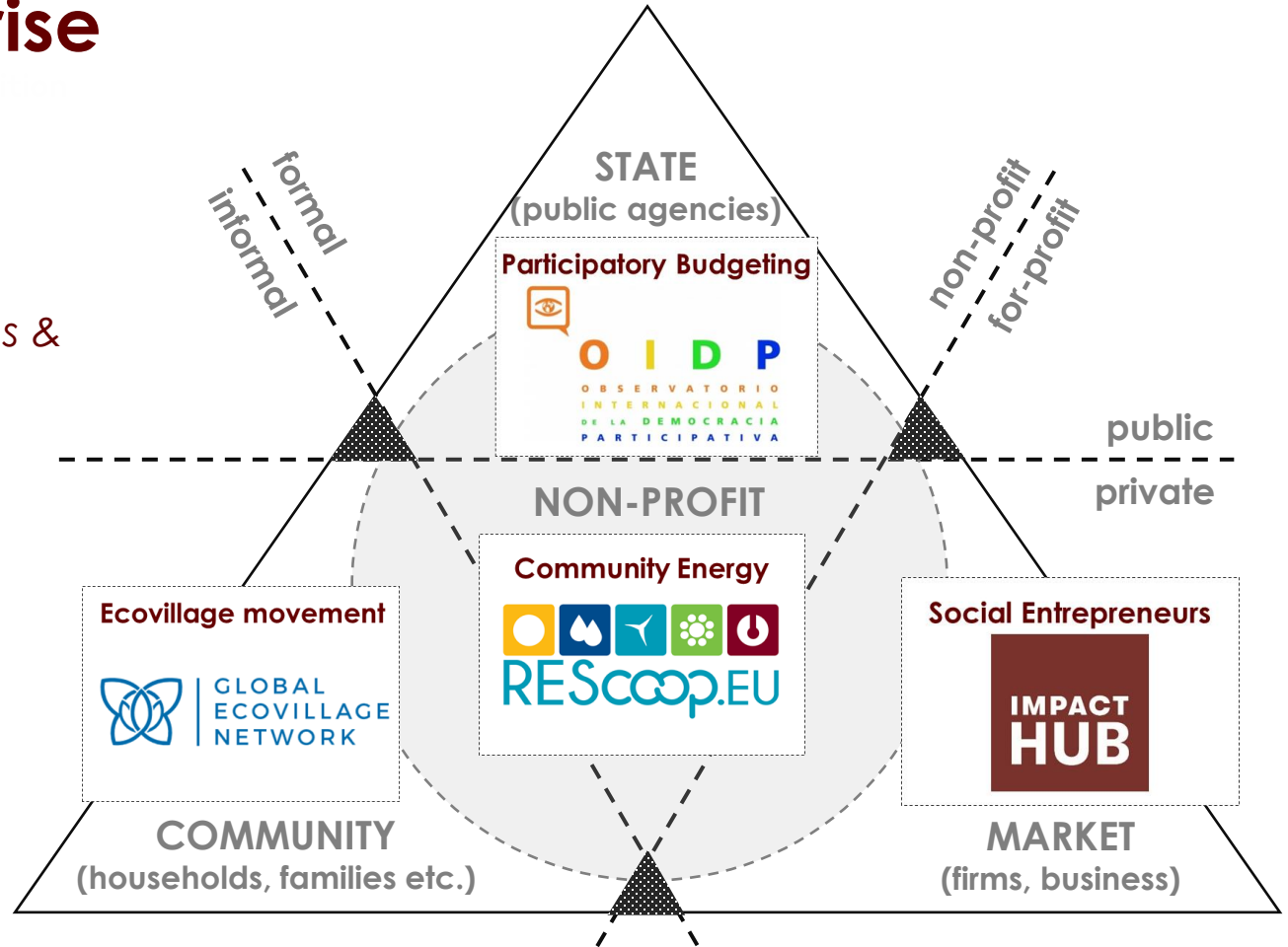
Multiple institutional logics & actor roles



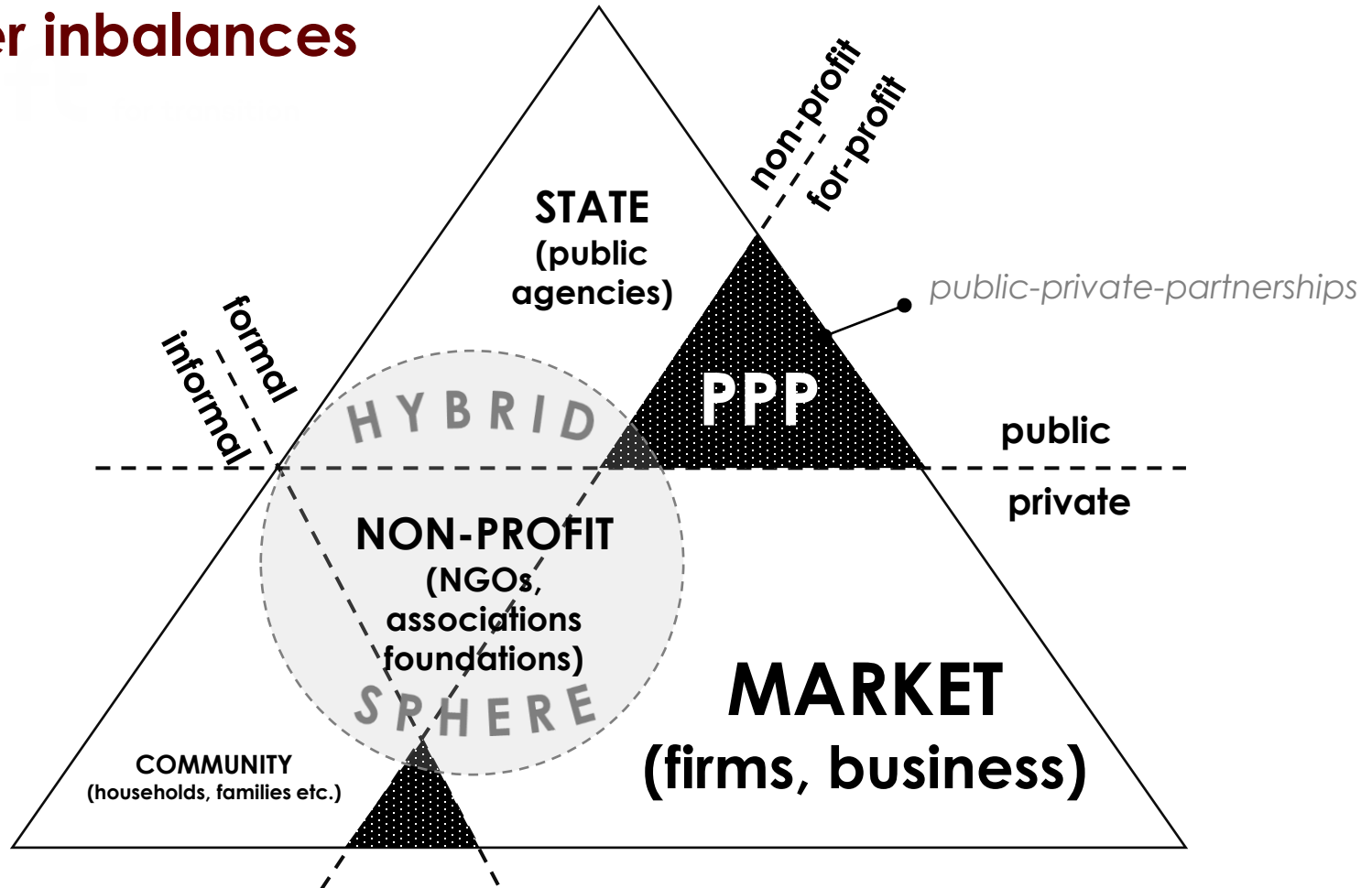
Social Enterprise

Emerges across diverse institutional logics

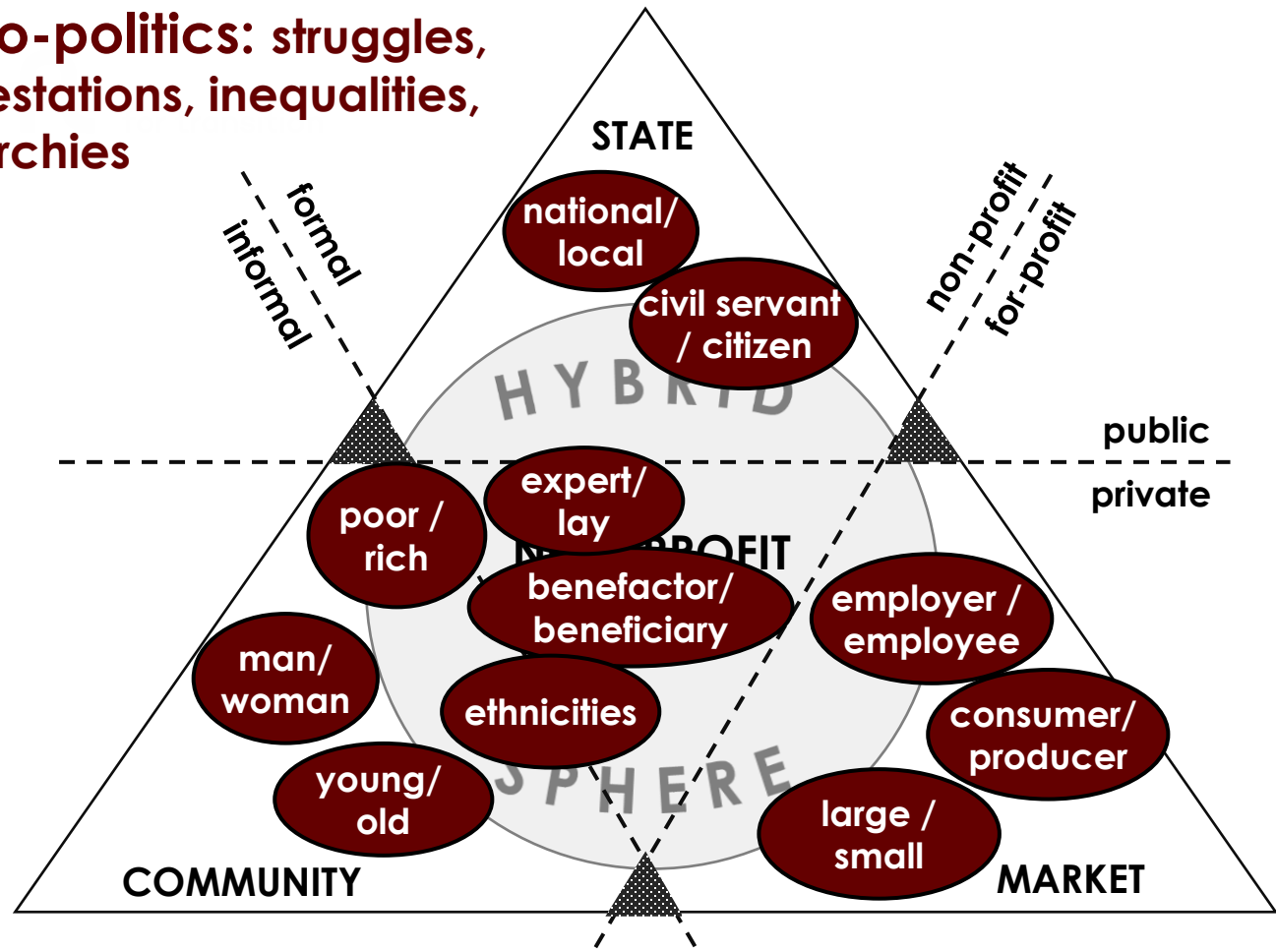
Shifting (power) relations & boundaries between institutional logics is inherent to SE.



Power imbalances



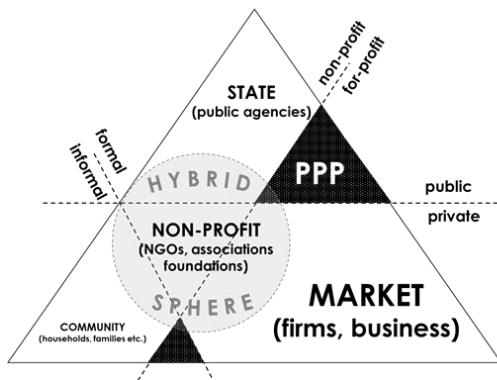
Micro-politics: struggles, contestations, inequalities, hierarchies



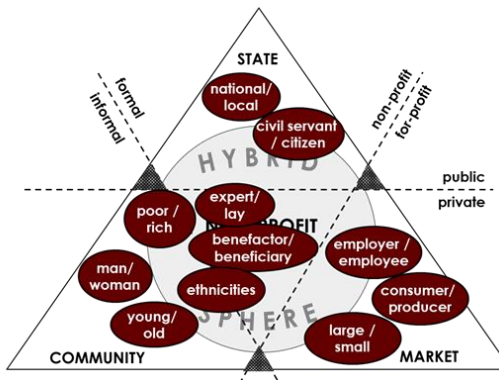
Evaluating transformative potential of Social Enterprise

How/to what extent is Social Enterprise challenging/reproducing power relations in which (institutional context) and at what level?

macro-level
power relations



micro-level
power relations



Power (de)/(re)centralization

Decentralisation in one place can lead to (re)centralisation elsewhere (and visa versa).



The 1st booking platform that donates 50% of its revenues to **Community Projects**



ENERGY DEMOCRACY:

Redistributing Power to the People Through Renewable Transformation

by
Jennie C. Stephens

As the expansion of renewable energy accelerates, the transformative potential of moving away from fossil fuel reliance is becoming increasingly clear. Around the world, individuals, communities, organizations, cities, states, and countries are recognizing that renewable energy offers much more than just reliable clean electricity, pollution reductions, and climate mitigation. In addition to these environmental benefits, the renewable energy revolution also provides potential to transform society by redistributing jobs, wealth, health, and political power more equitably.

Energy democracy is a growing social movement that prioritizes this potential for redistributing power to the people through renewable transformation. Energy democracy acknowledges how fossil-fuel-based energy systems and the associated massive corporate profits of large multinational energy companies have perpetuated inequities, exacerbated disparate vulnerabilities, and promoted widespread injustices among and within communities around the world. By highlighting the negative societal impacts of fossil-fuel-based concentration of power and wealth, the principles of energy democracy connect energy system change with an associ-

ated transformation toward a more socially just and equal society.¹

Energy democracy recognizes that replacing fossil-fuel-based infrastructure with renewables is much more than a technological substitution; the social changes associated with this transition could be transformative. Energy democracy focuses on harnessing this progressive social change potential by embracing a vision of more distributed, locally based energy systems with a regionally appropriate mix of different renewable sources satisfying 100% of society's energy needs.

Whether the renewable energy transition delivers on this potential of re-



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Renewable energy

Power to the people: how Spanish cities took control of energy

The 'sunshine tax' is dead, and Barcelona and Cádiz are mounting a renewables revival

Stephen Burgen in Cádiz and Barcelona

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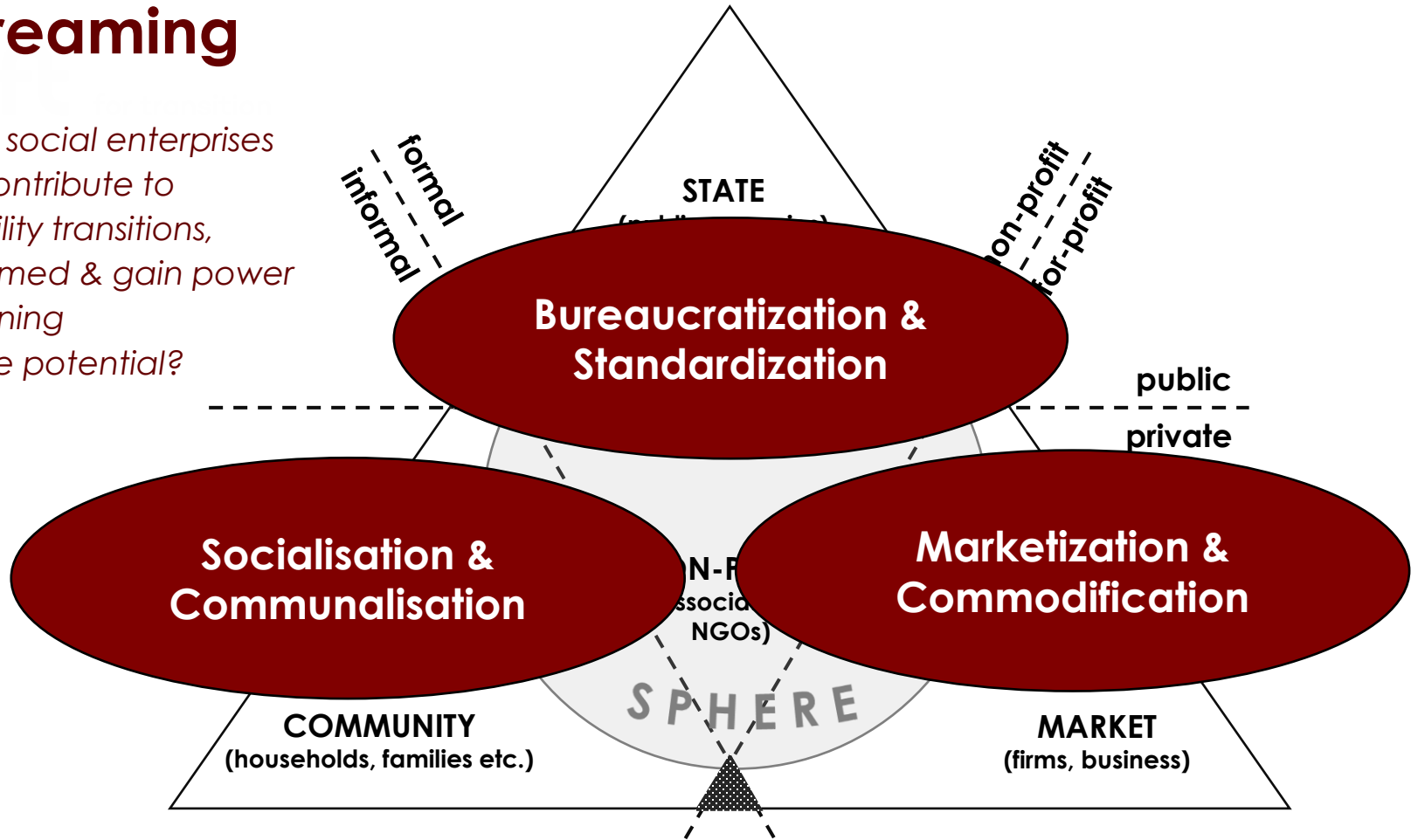
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Boris Johnson to seek election after rebel Tories

Mainstreaming

How can/are social enterprises that aim to contribute to just sustainability transitions, be mainstreamed & gain power while maintaining transformative potential?



Question to discuss

In your studies, research and/or experience,

**how & to what extent are social enterprises
challenging and/or reproducing power relations?**

(and/or: what are (or may be)
(un)intended power implications of
social enterprises?)

Thank you!

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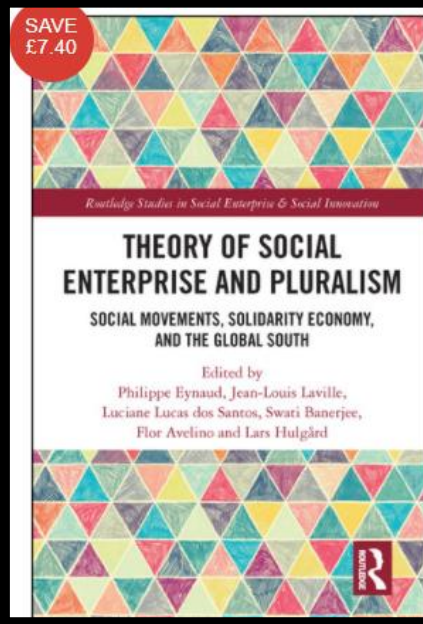
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Top 10 background reading

1. Avelino F. & Wittmayer J.M. (2019) "[The transformative potential of plural social enterprise: A multi-actor perspective](#)", chapter 10 in Eynaud P., Laville J.L., Dos Santos L.L., Banerjee S., Hulgard H., Avelino F. (2019), *Theory of social enterprise and pluralism: Social Movements, Solidarity Economy, and Global South*, Oxfordshire: Routledge Publisher, pp. 193-222.
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