

A Systems Theory of Marginalization and its Implications for Systemic Intervention

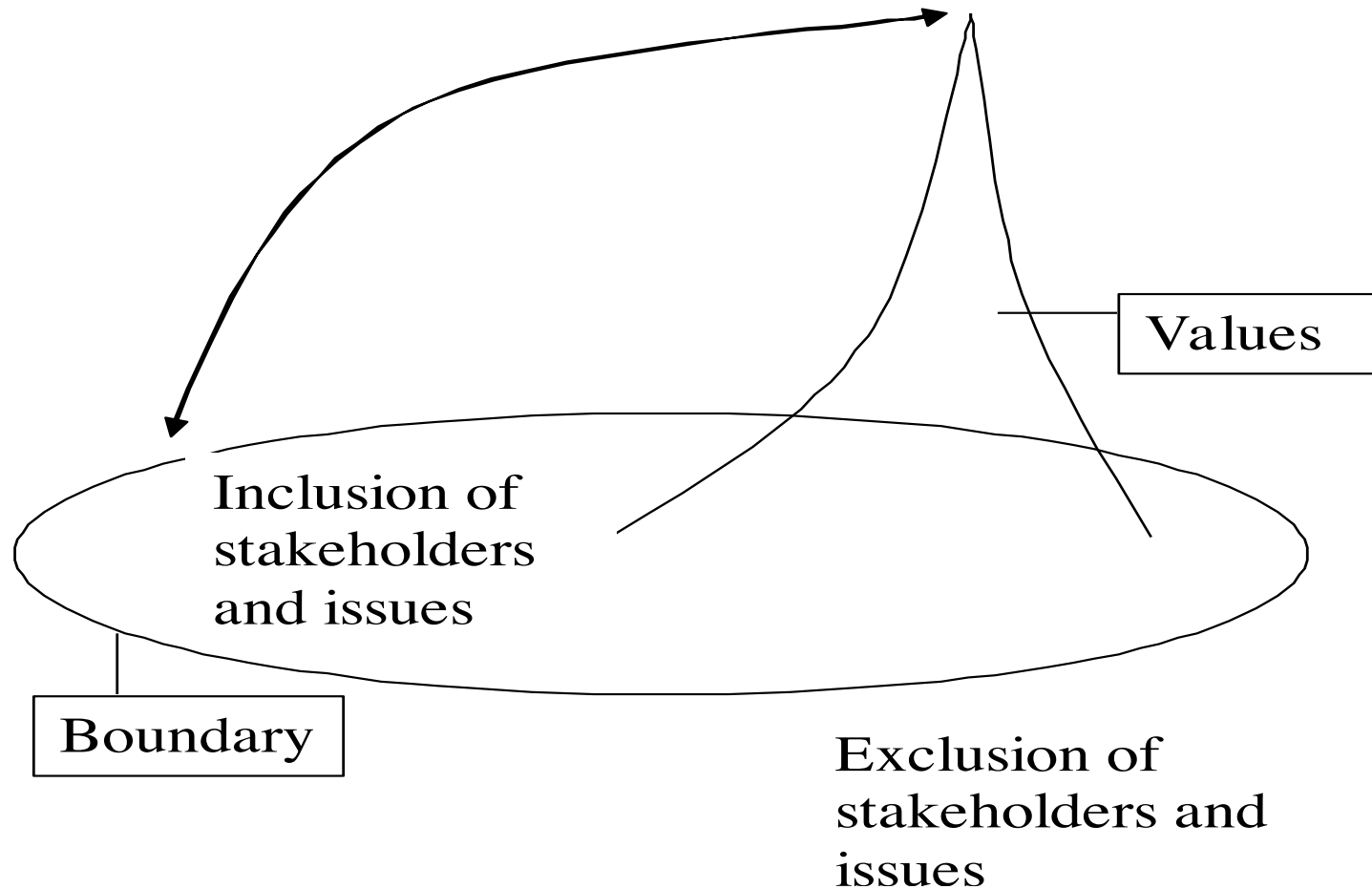
Gerald Midgley



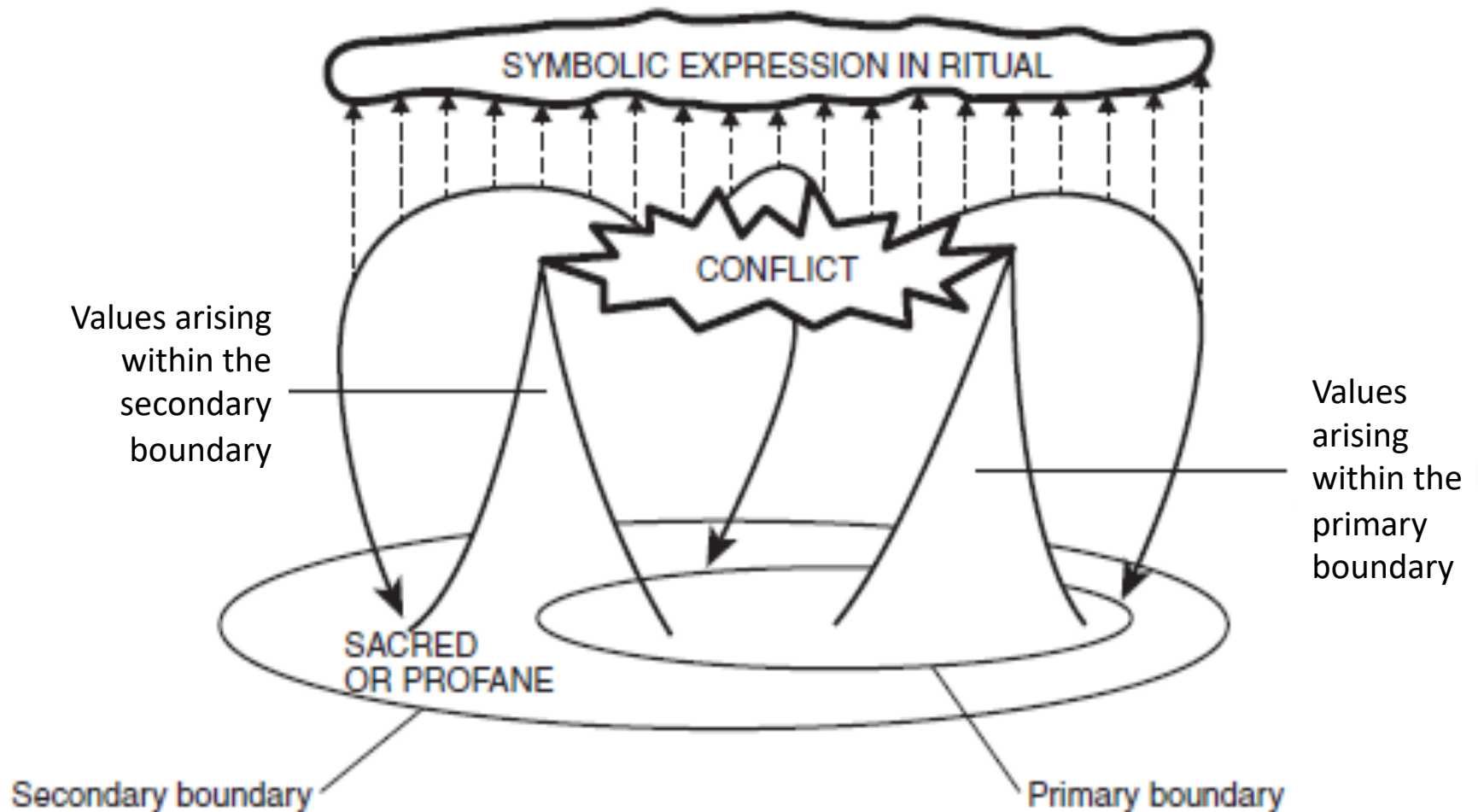
This talk will cover:

- The systems theory of marginalization that I have been developing and applying over a 29-year period.
 - Strategies to challenge marginalization, illustrated with examples from my past systemic interventions – but beware the dark sides of some of these strategies!
 - Conclusions
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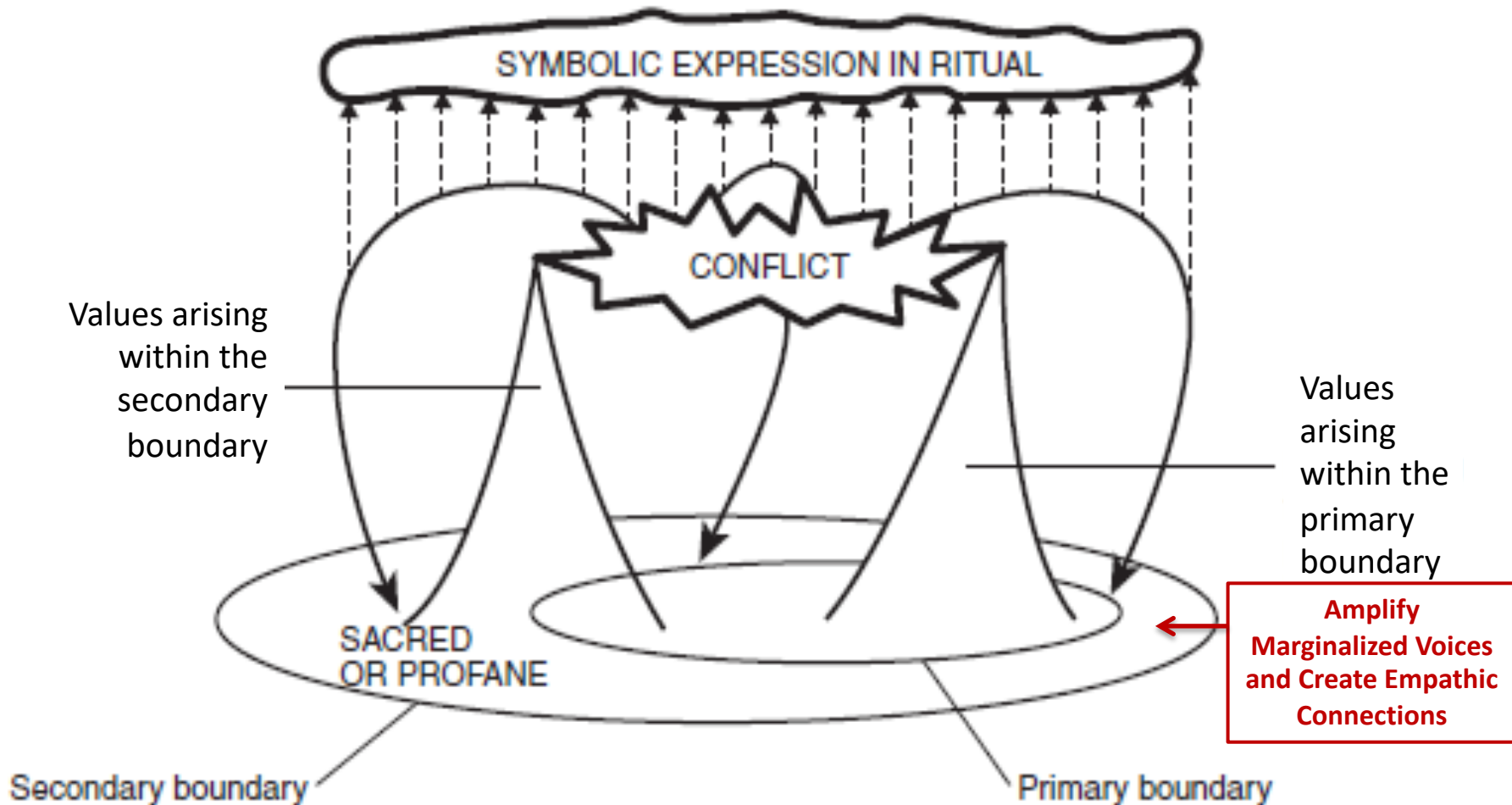
The Boundary Idea (Churchman, 1970; Ulrich, 1983)



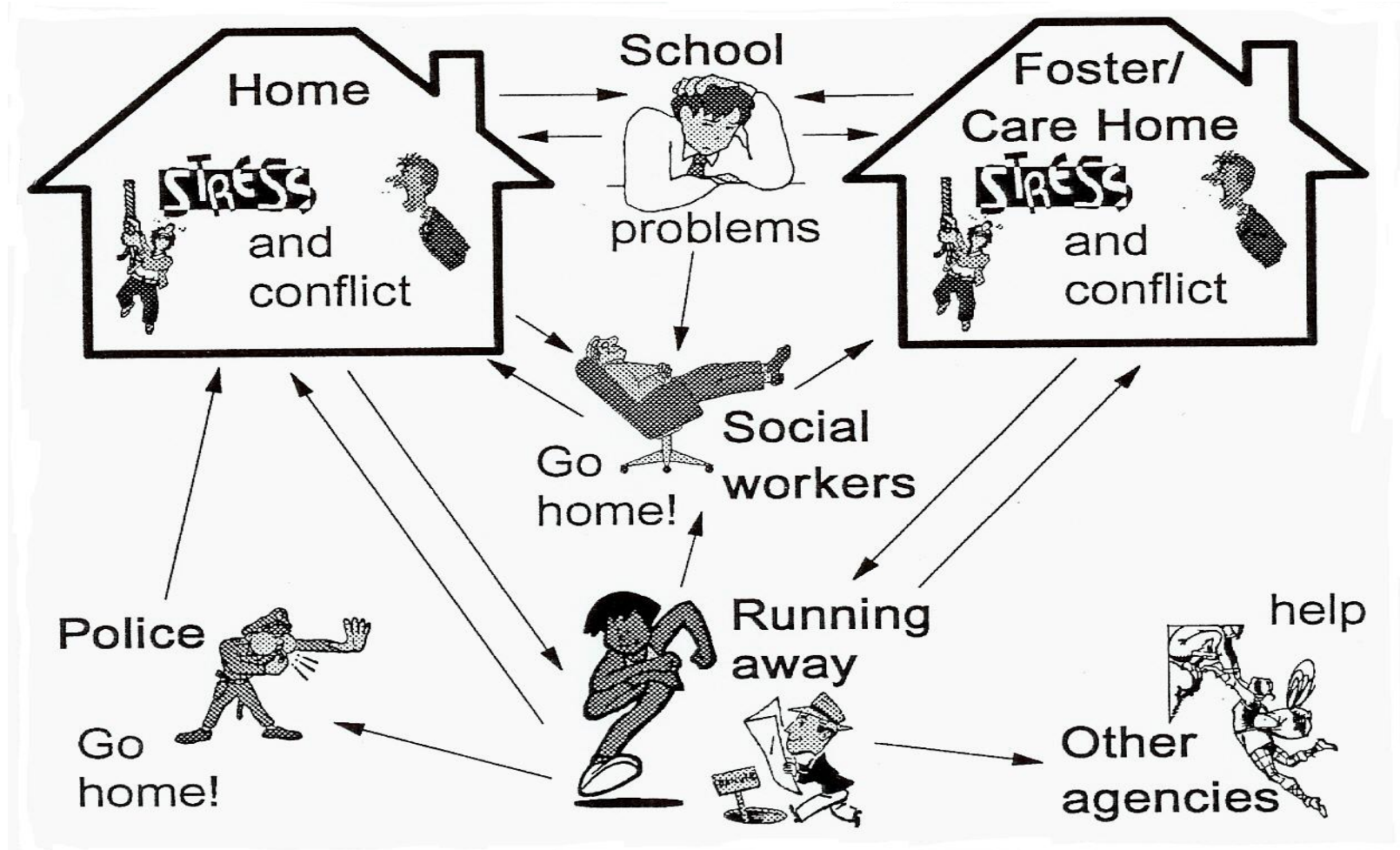
Process of Marginalization



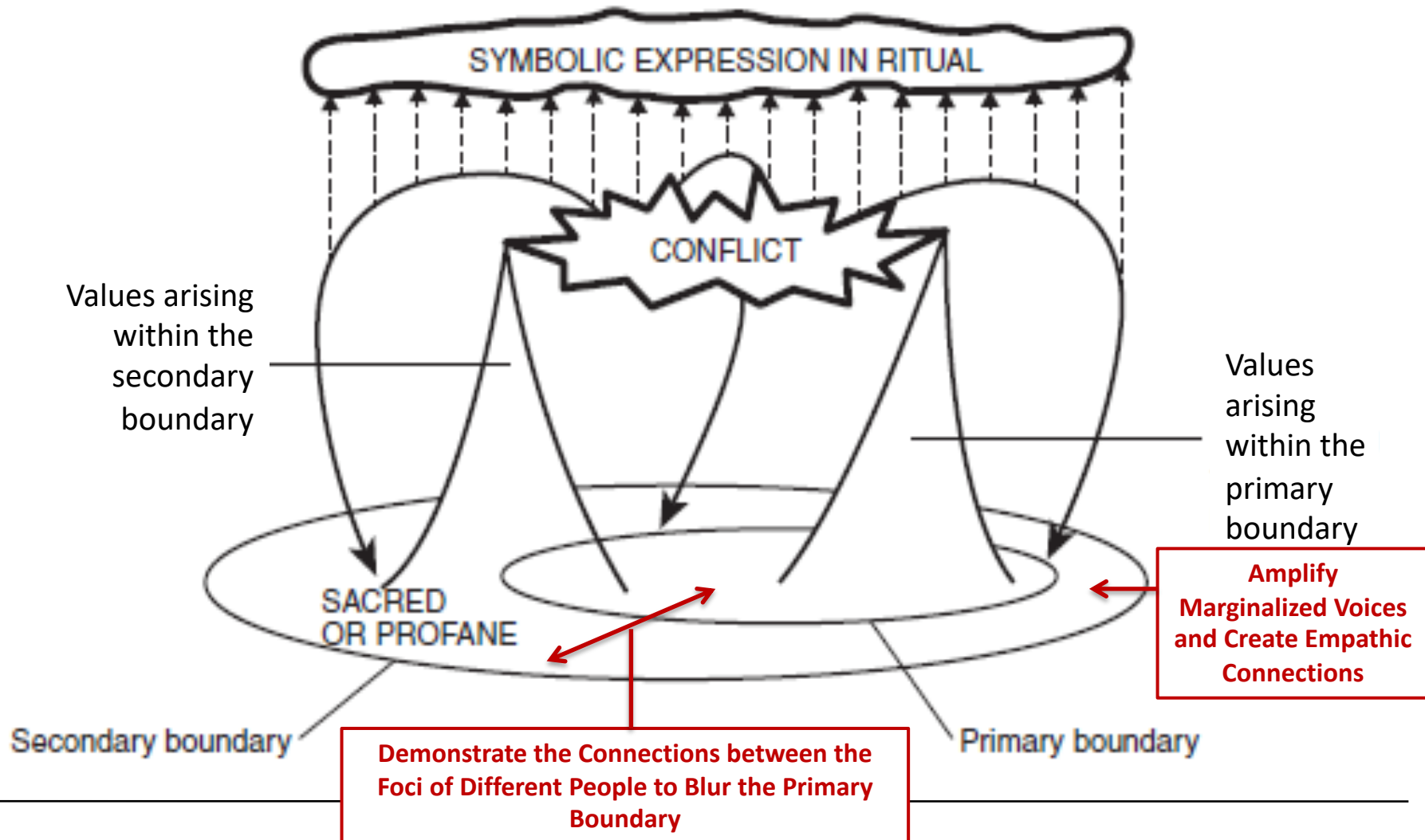
Addressing Marginalization



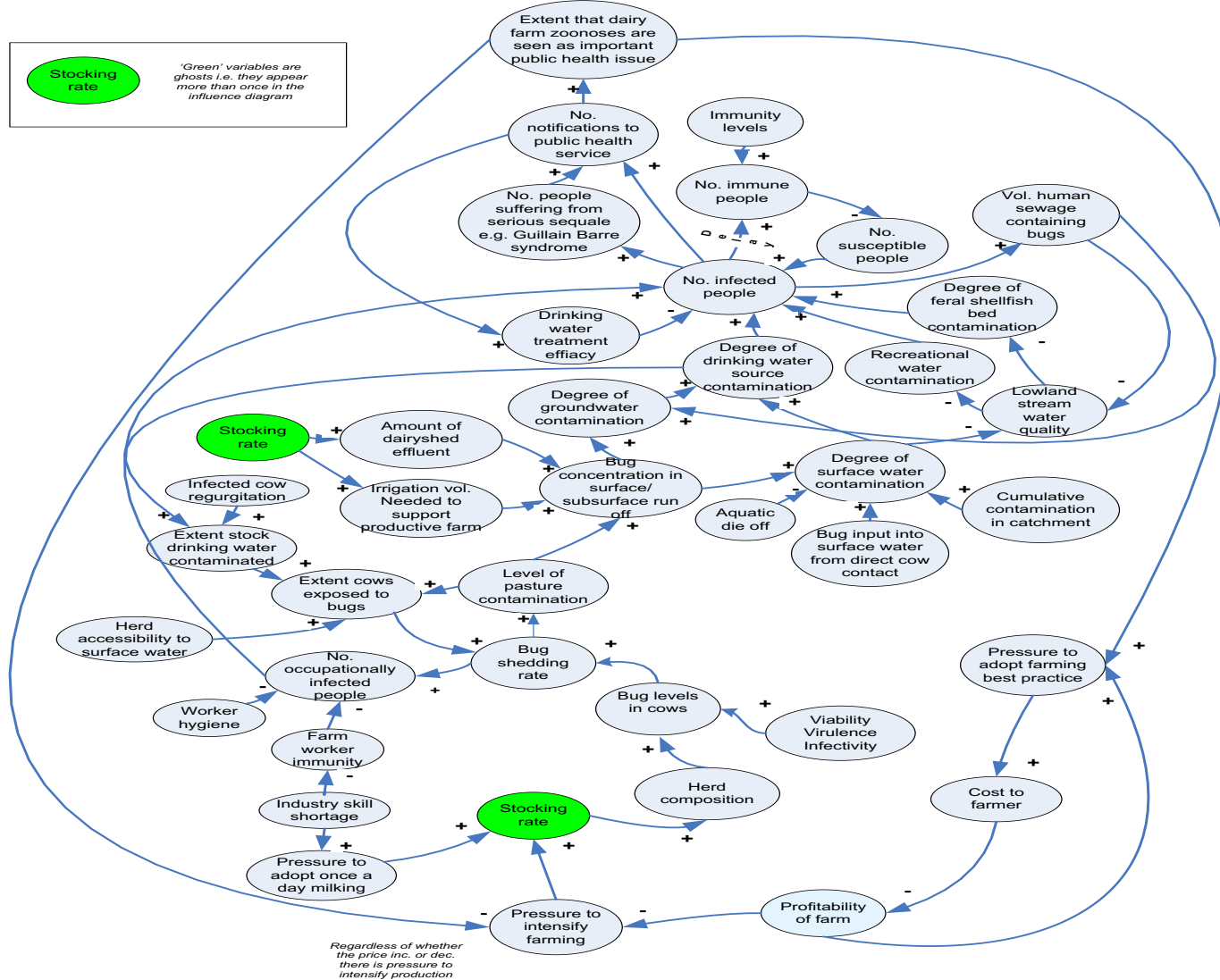
Amplifying Marginalized Voices and Creating Empathic Connection: Homeless Children on the Streets



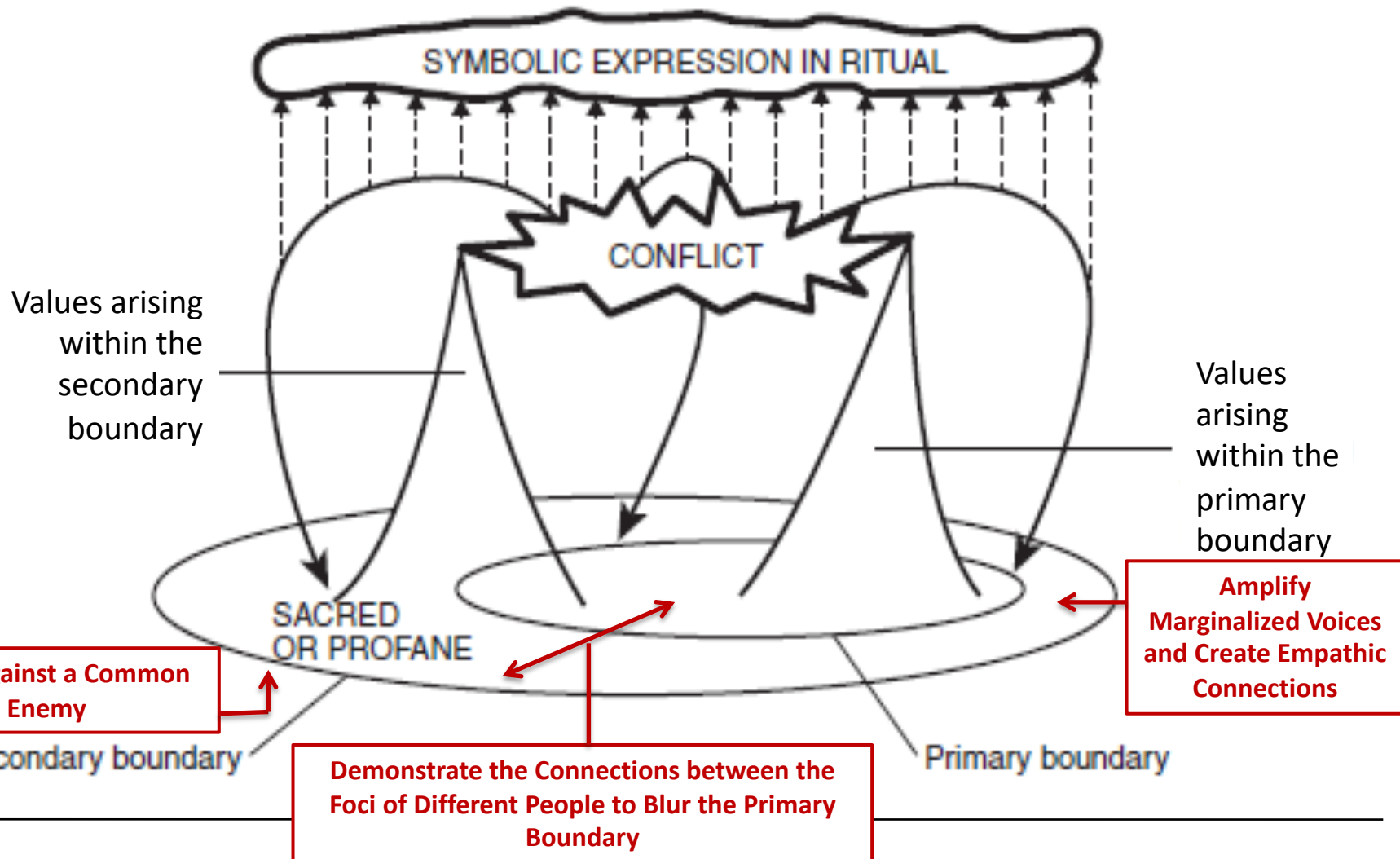
Addressing Marginalization



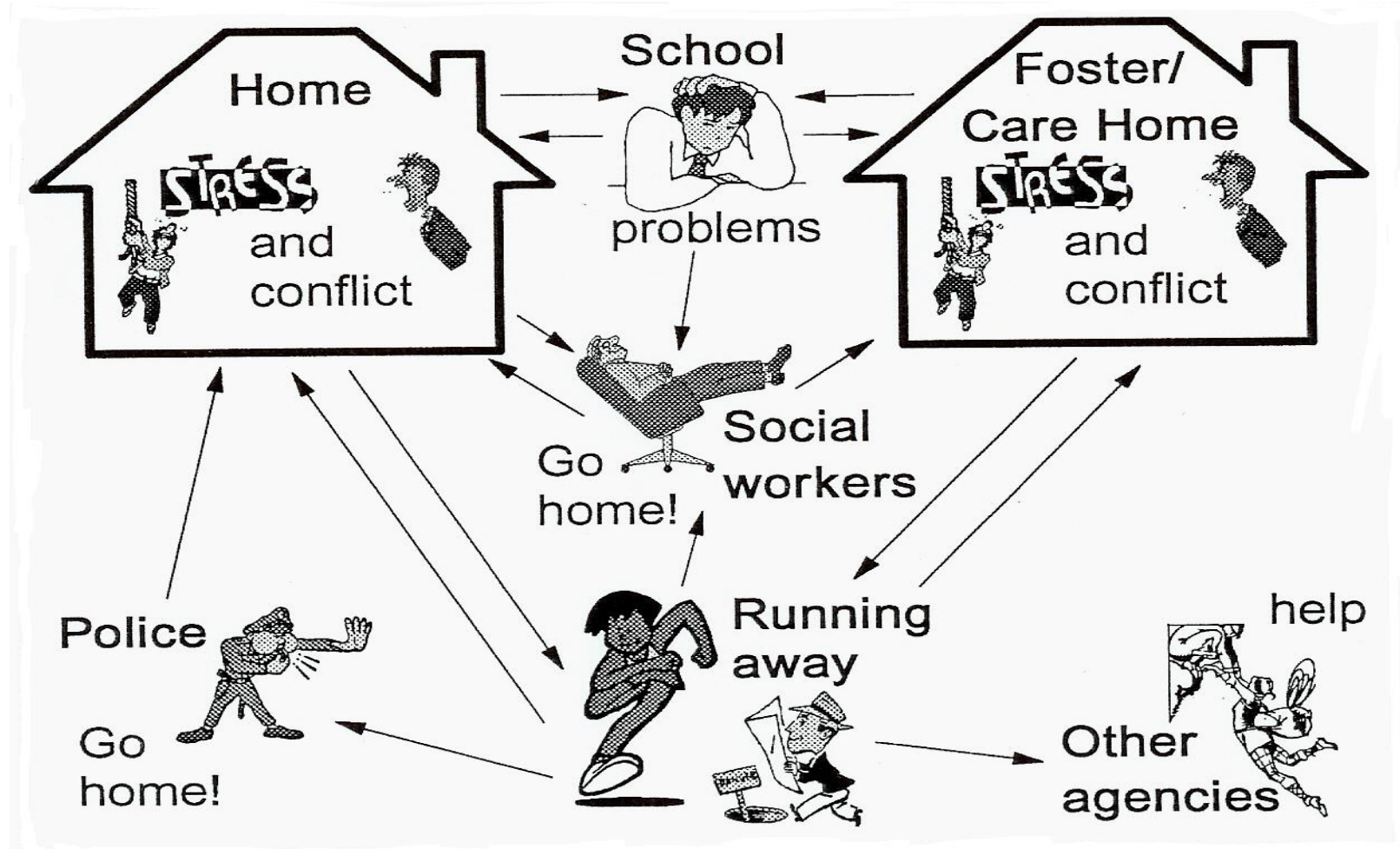
Demonstrating the Connections between the Central and Peripheral: Bugs in Water



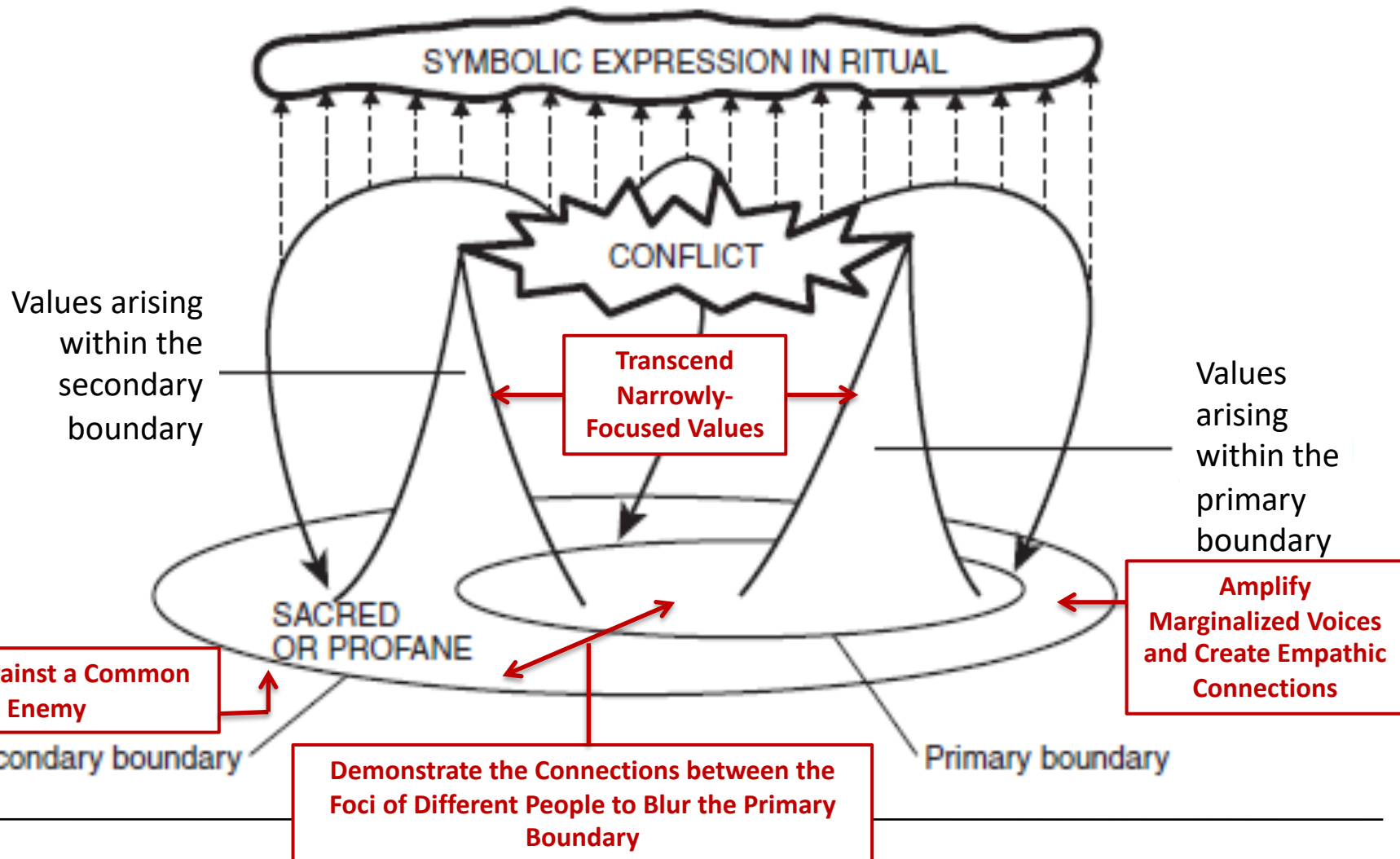
Addressing Marginalization



Unite against a Common Enemy: Designing Services for Homeless Children on the Streets



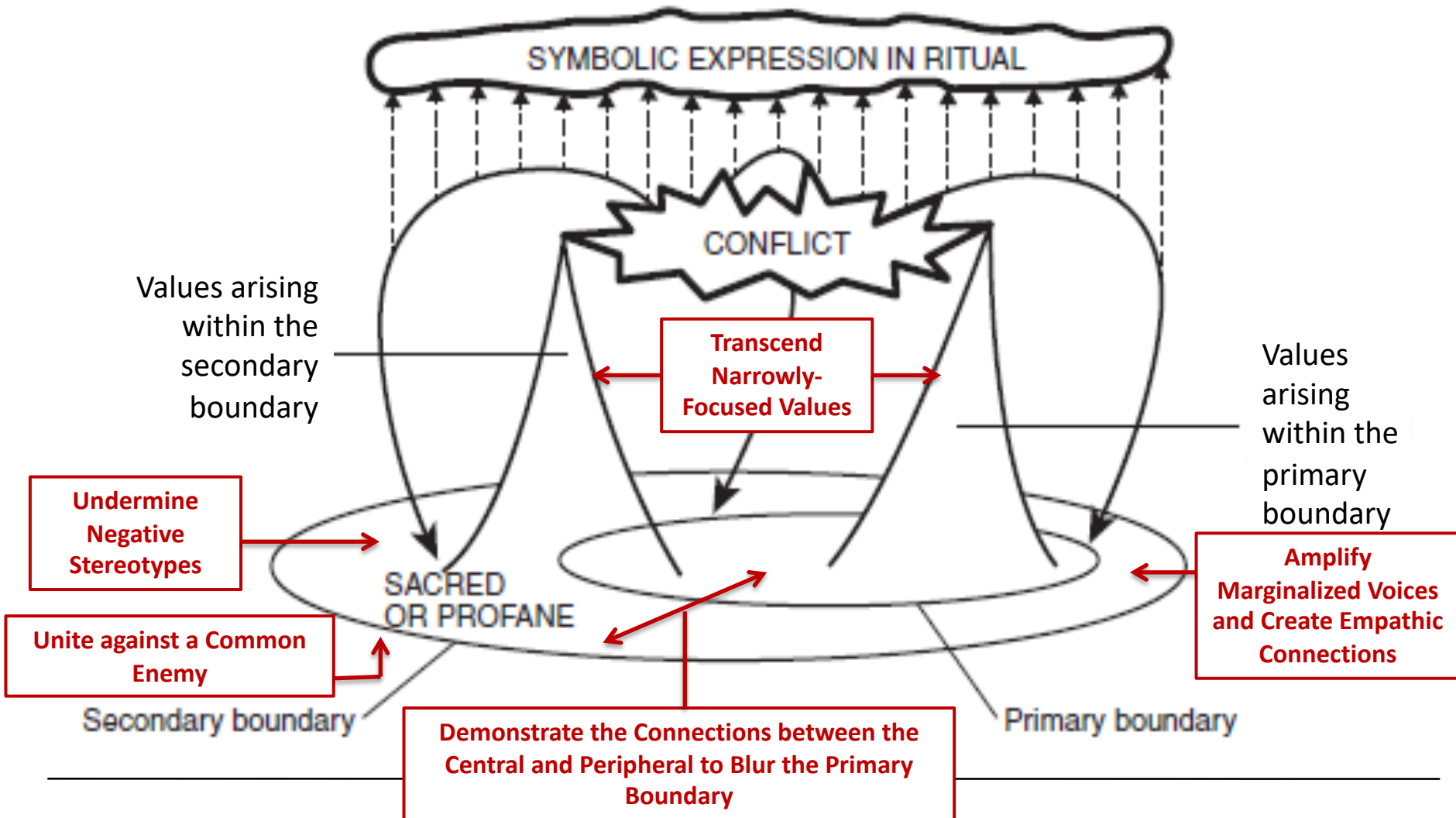
Addressing Marginalization



Transcending Narrowly Focused Values: Public Engagement on Sustainable Water Management:

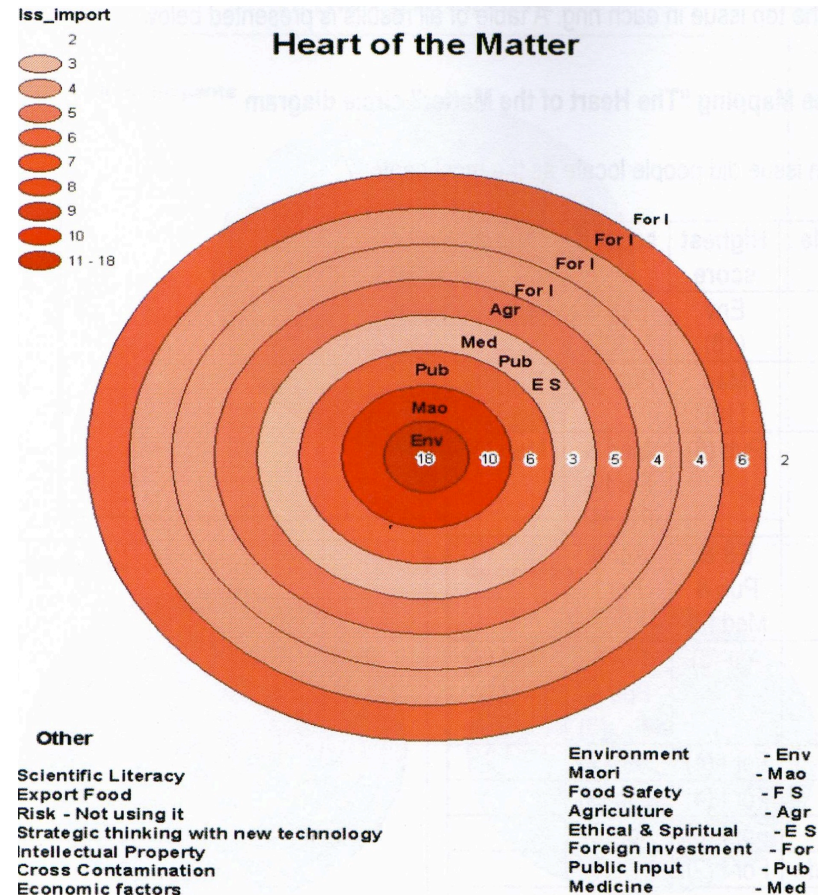
- A new systemic dialogue method for a 2½ hour public meeting:
 - Presented key facts about water systems
 - Explored meanings of drought to different stakeholders
 - Identified relevant values
 - Identified options for water management
 - Evaluated options against the full range of core values
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Addressing Marginalization

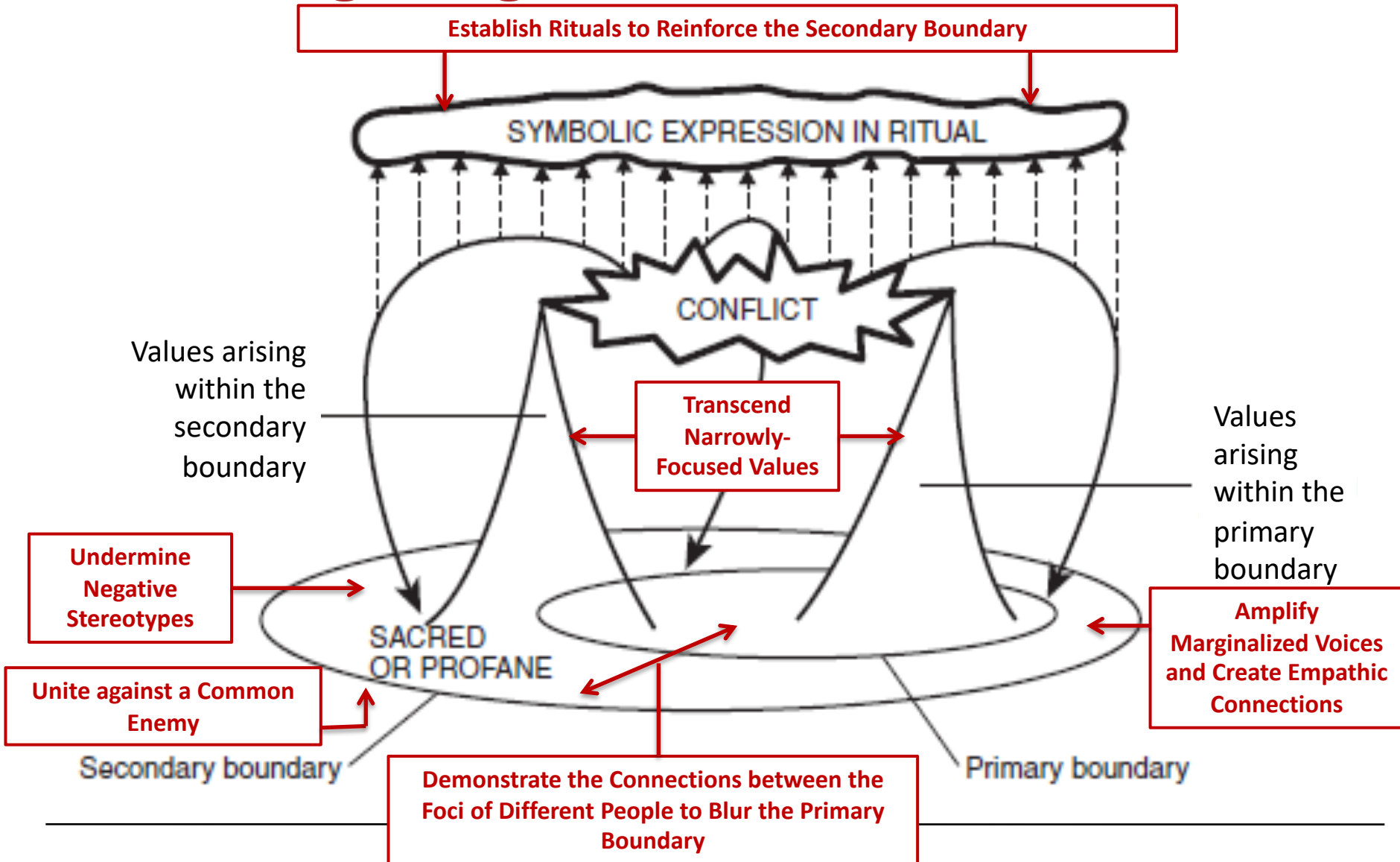


Undermining Negative Stereotypes: Genetic Modification in New Zealand

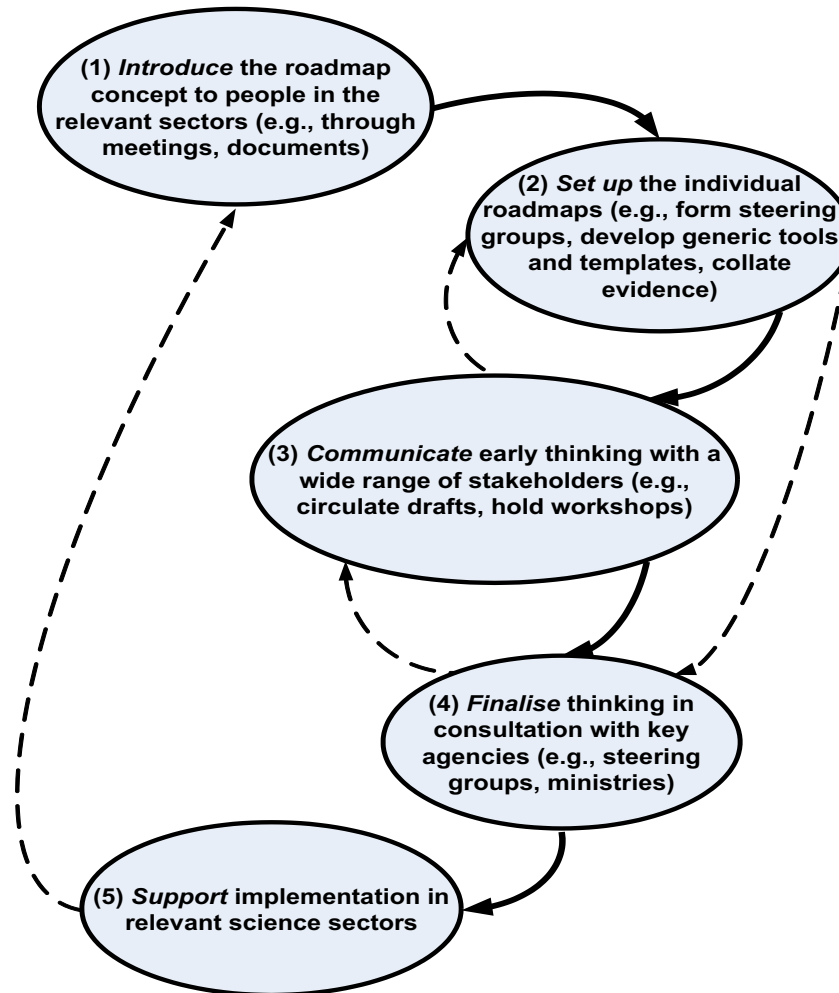
1. Diverse stakeholders are interviewed to determine values that matter
2. In a workshop, individuals order the issues from 'core' to 'peripheral'
3. People discuss their orderings
4. Analysis reveals the importance of particular values to different stakeholder groups
5. People discuss the implications



Addressing Marginalization



Establish Rituals to Reinforce the Secondary Boundary: Stakeholder Consultation on 30-Year Roadmaps for Investing in Controversial Science and Technology



Conclusions

- This systems theory is useful for generating insights into marginalization processes.
 - It is particularly useful for informing systemic interventions.
 - *Systemic intervention processes and problem structuring methods can themselves offer ritual processes to challenge marginalization and move beyond conflict.*
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