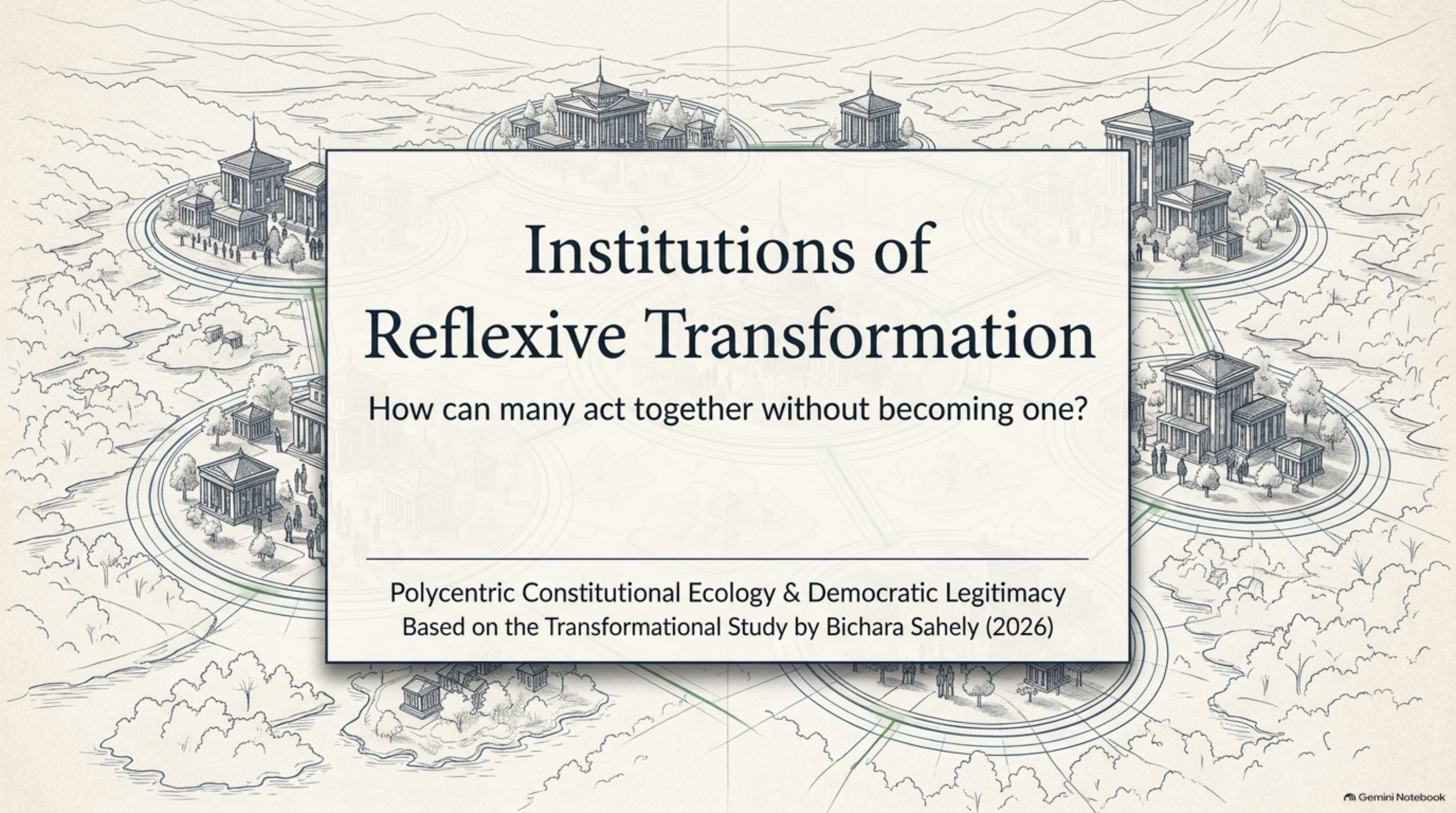


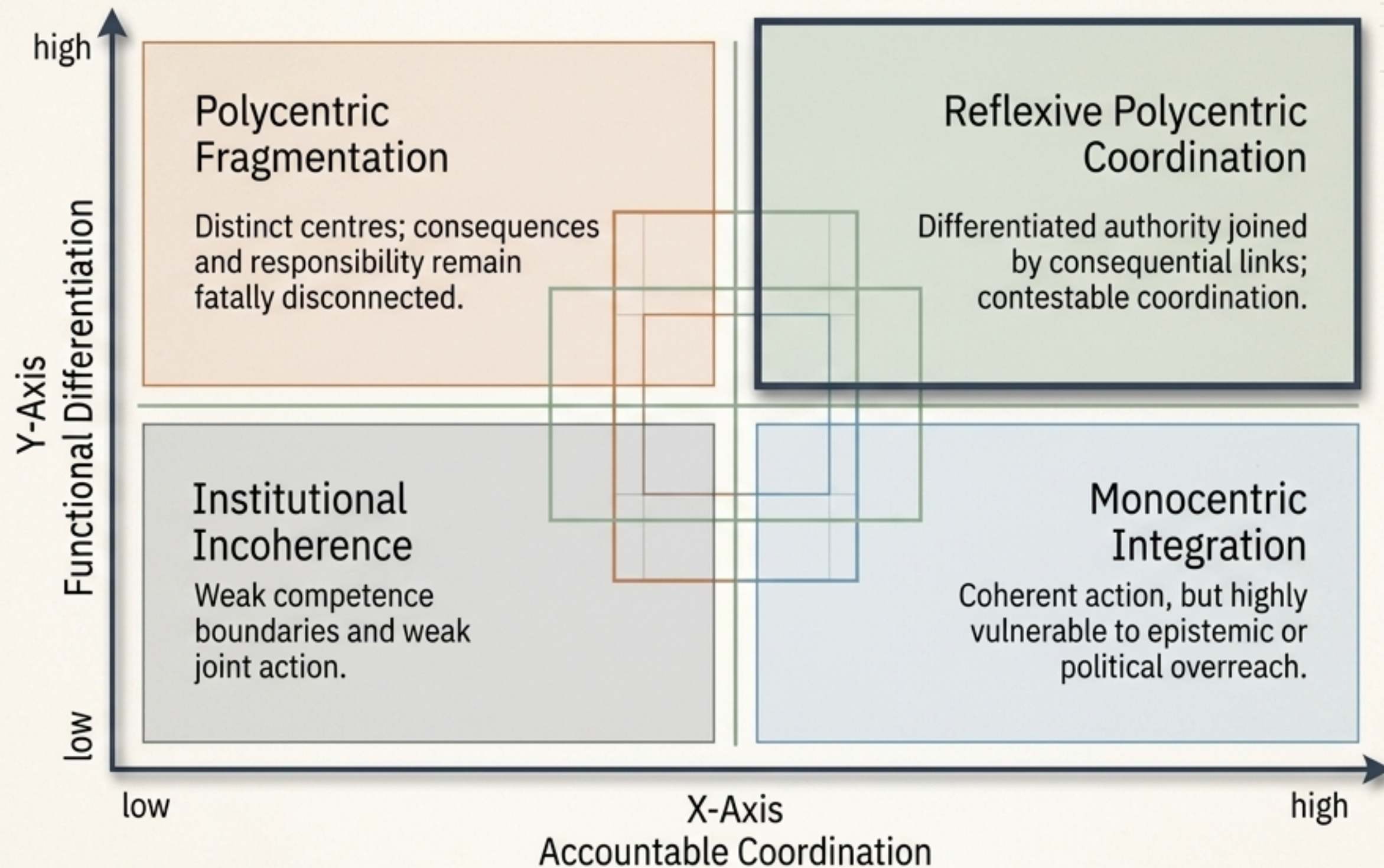


Institutions of Reflexive Transformation

How can many act together without becoming one?

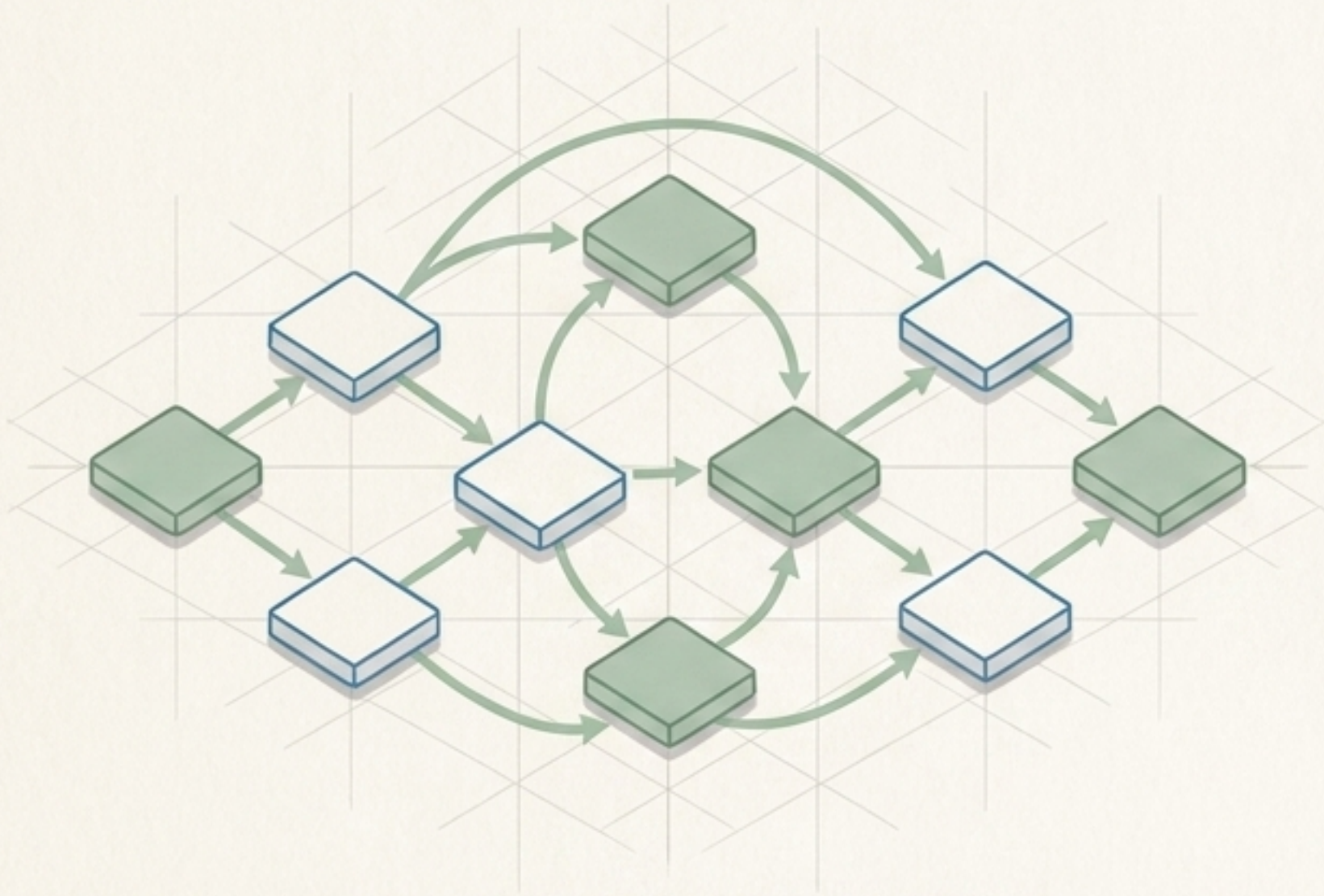
Polycentric Constitutional Ecology & Democratic Legitimacy
Based on the Transformational Study by Bichara Sahely (2026)

The Coordination-Domination Dilemma



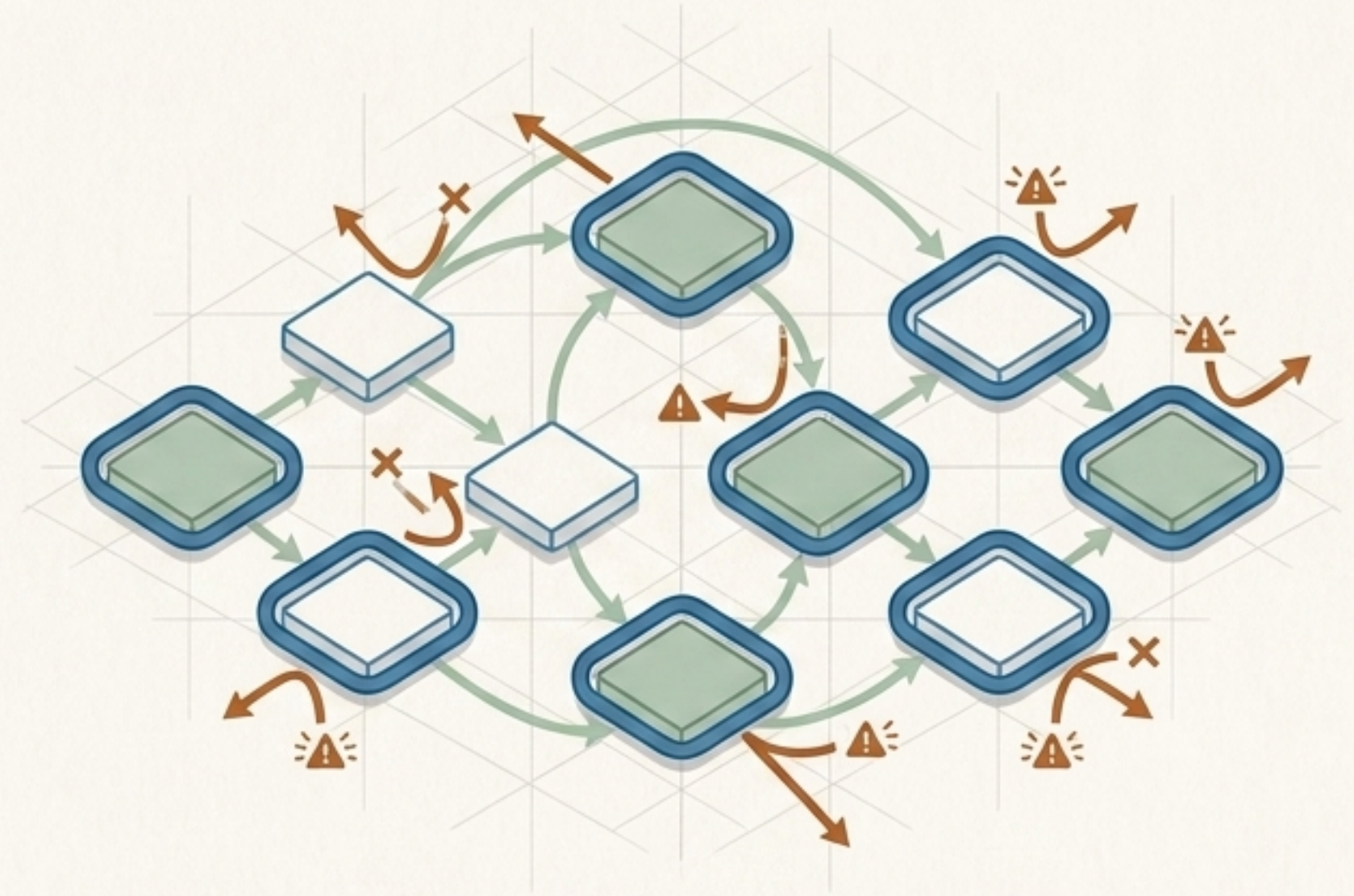
Institutional quality depends on accountable coordination among differentiated centres—not merely the number of centres.

The Design Grammar of Civilizational Governance



Integrate consequences.

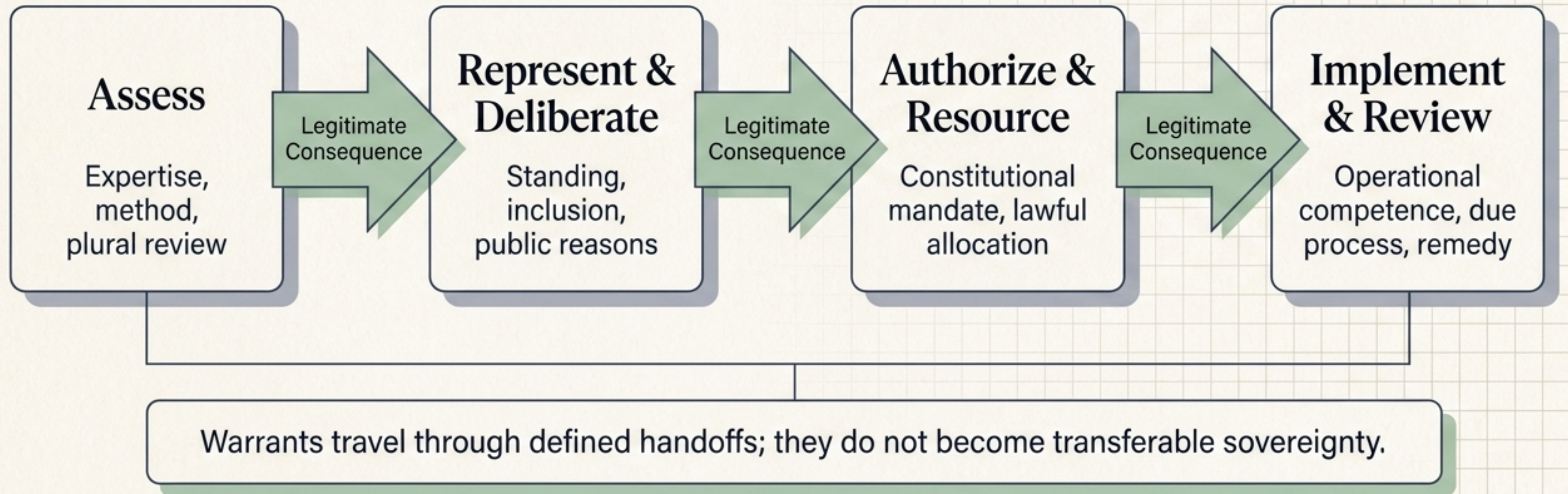
Relevant knowledge and claims must cross boundaries to trigger actionable responses.



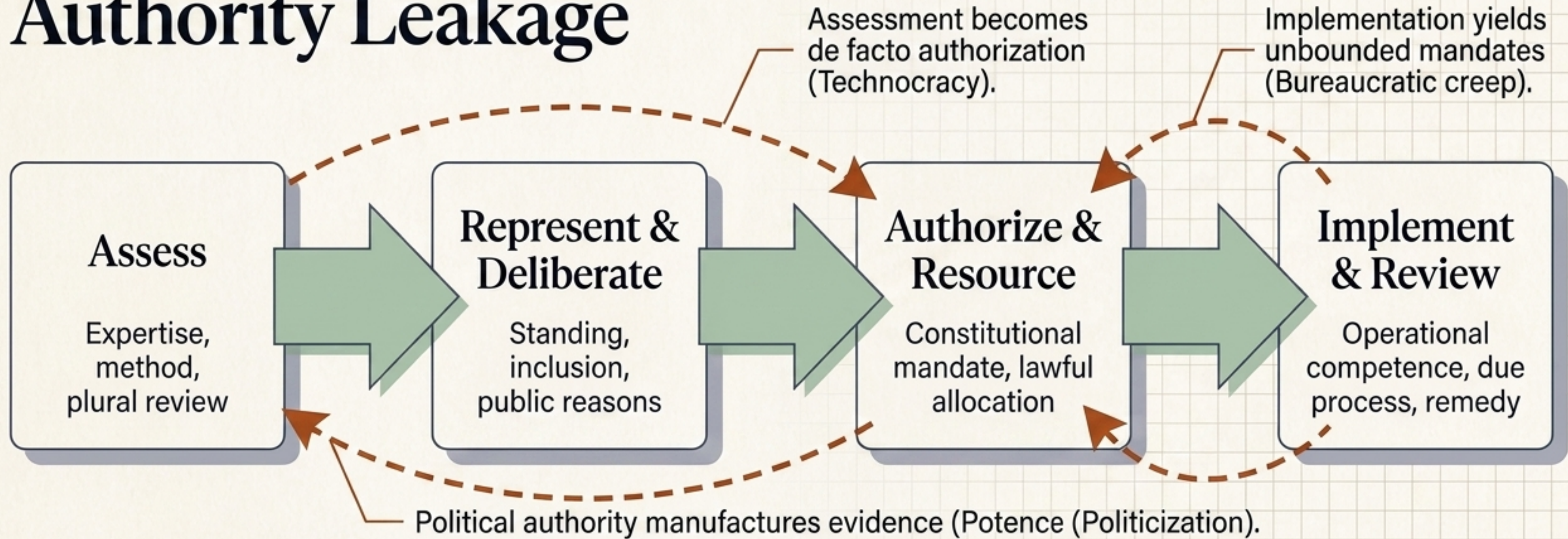
Differentiate authority.

Competence in one area (e.g., science) does not equal sovereignty over another (e.g., funding).

The Architecture of Legitimate Consequence



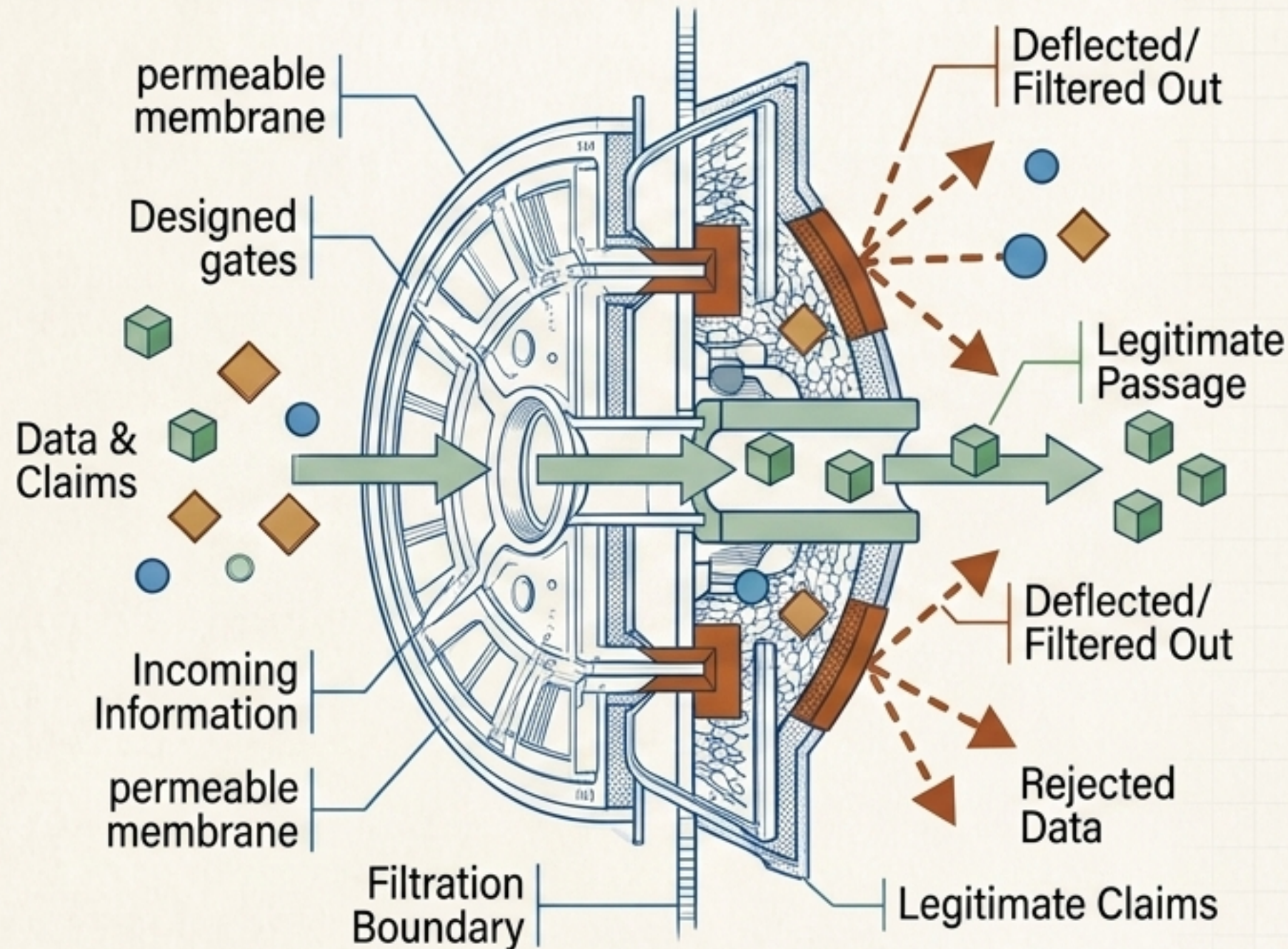
The Danger of Authority Leakage



Warrants travel through defined handoffs; they do not become transferable sovereignty.

The Leakage Test: Is the influence traceable, proportionate, contestable, and formally warranted?

Reflexive Boundary Institutions



1. Epistemic

Connecting science to policy
(requires plural review).

2. Jurisdictional

Connecting local to global
(requires escalation rules).

3. Democratic

Connecting affected publics to
administration (requires response duties).

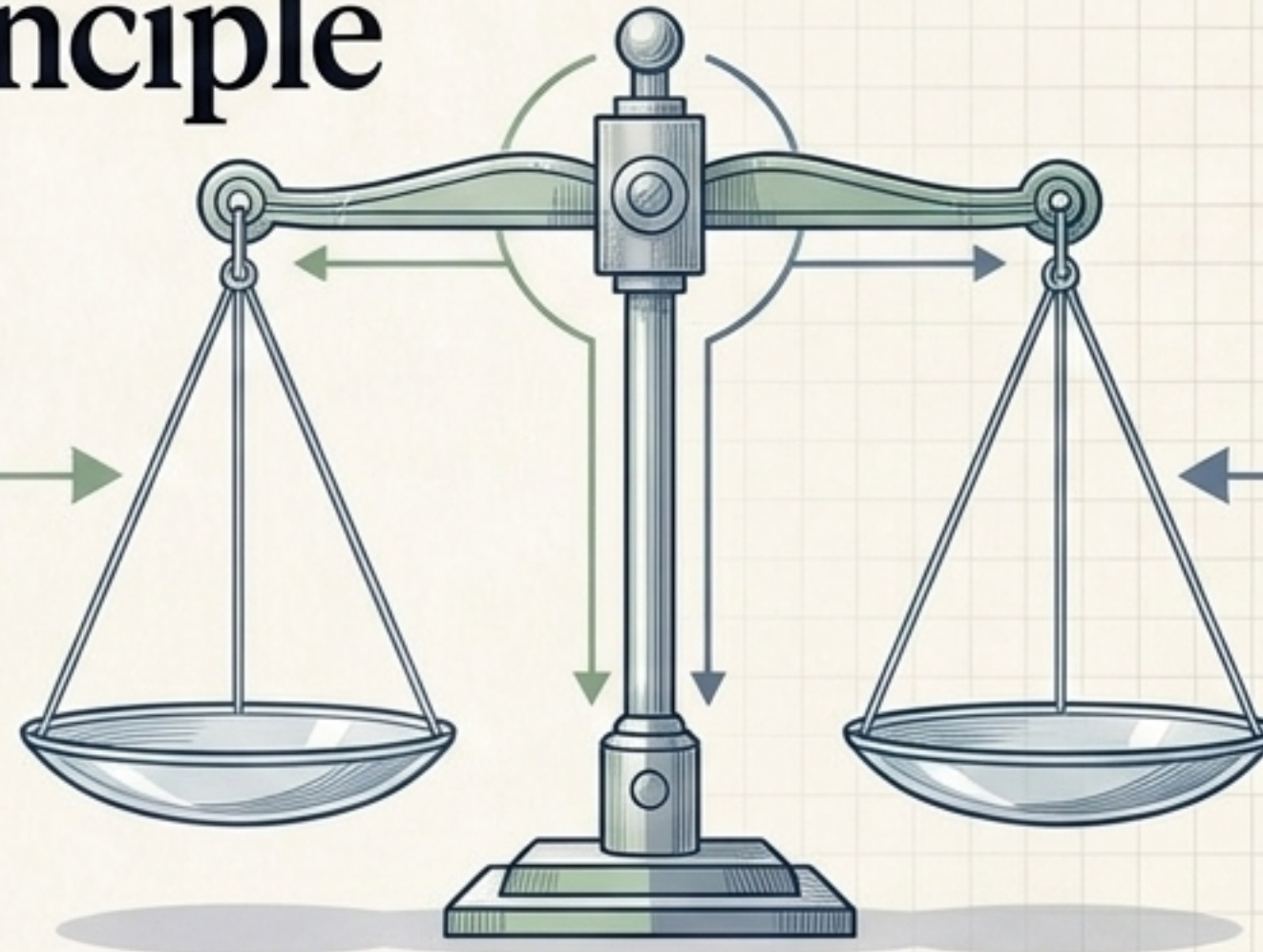
Managed Permeability: Translation is always selective. Boundary institutions must actively manage permeability—making their framing, exclusions, and power explicitly visible and contestable.

The Boundary Authority Principle

Rule 1:

Authority to synthesize evidence $\neq$ Authority to determine collective ends.

(Anti-technocracy safeguard)



Rule 2:

Authority to determine collective ends $\neq$ Authority to determine what evidence says.

(Anti-politicization safeguard)

Real-World Case: The IPCC / UNFCCC Architecture



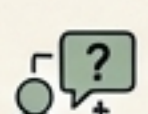
IPCC: Scopes, reviews, and assesses confidence levels (without policy prescription).

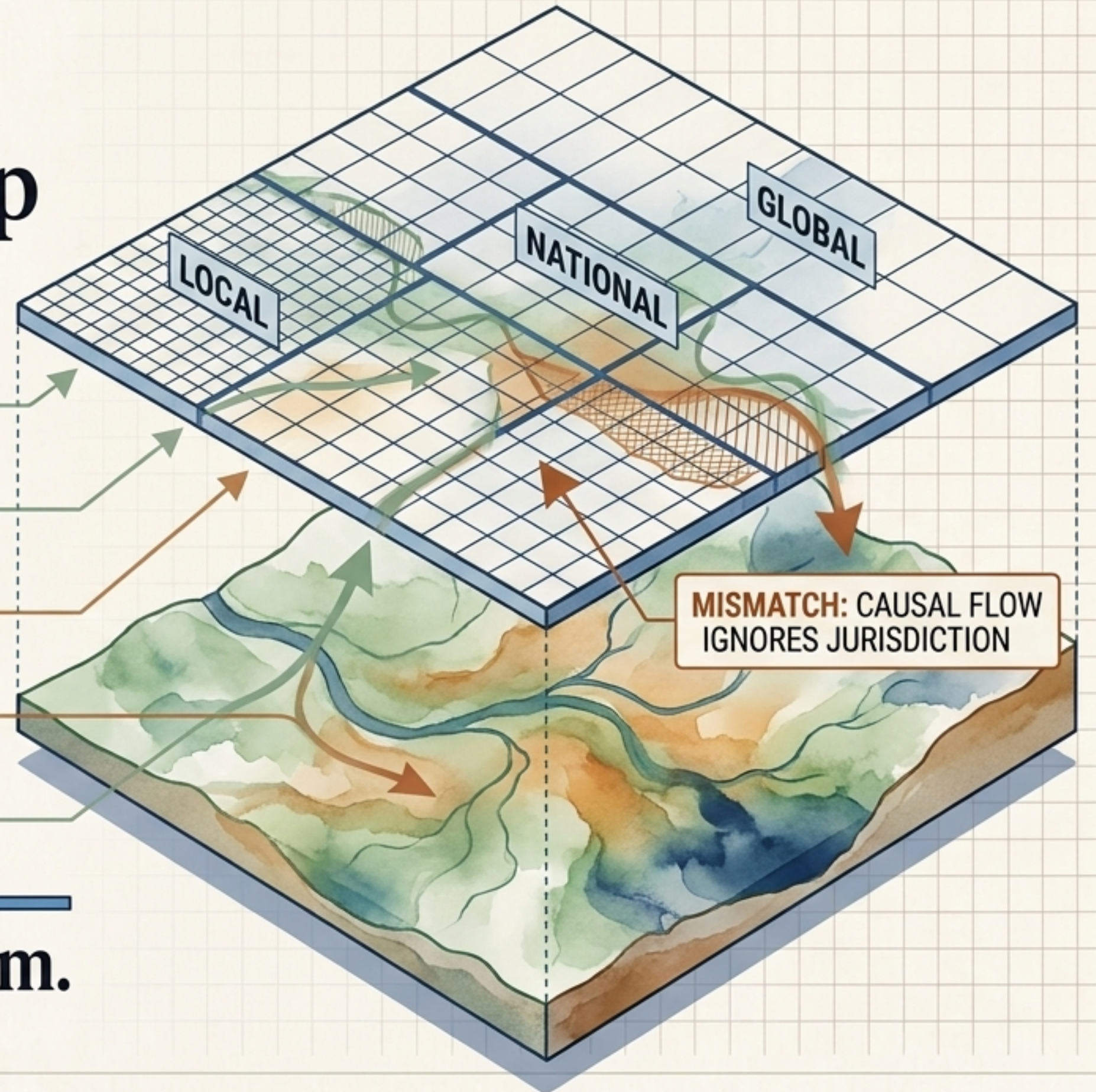


UNFCCC: Negotiates commitments, sets targets, and authorizes national finance.

Scaling Authority to Causation, Not the Map

5 Triggers to Escalate Authority:

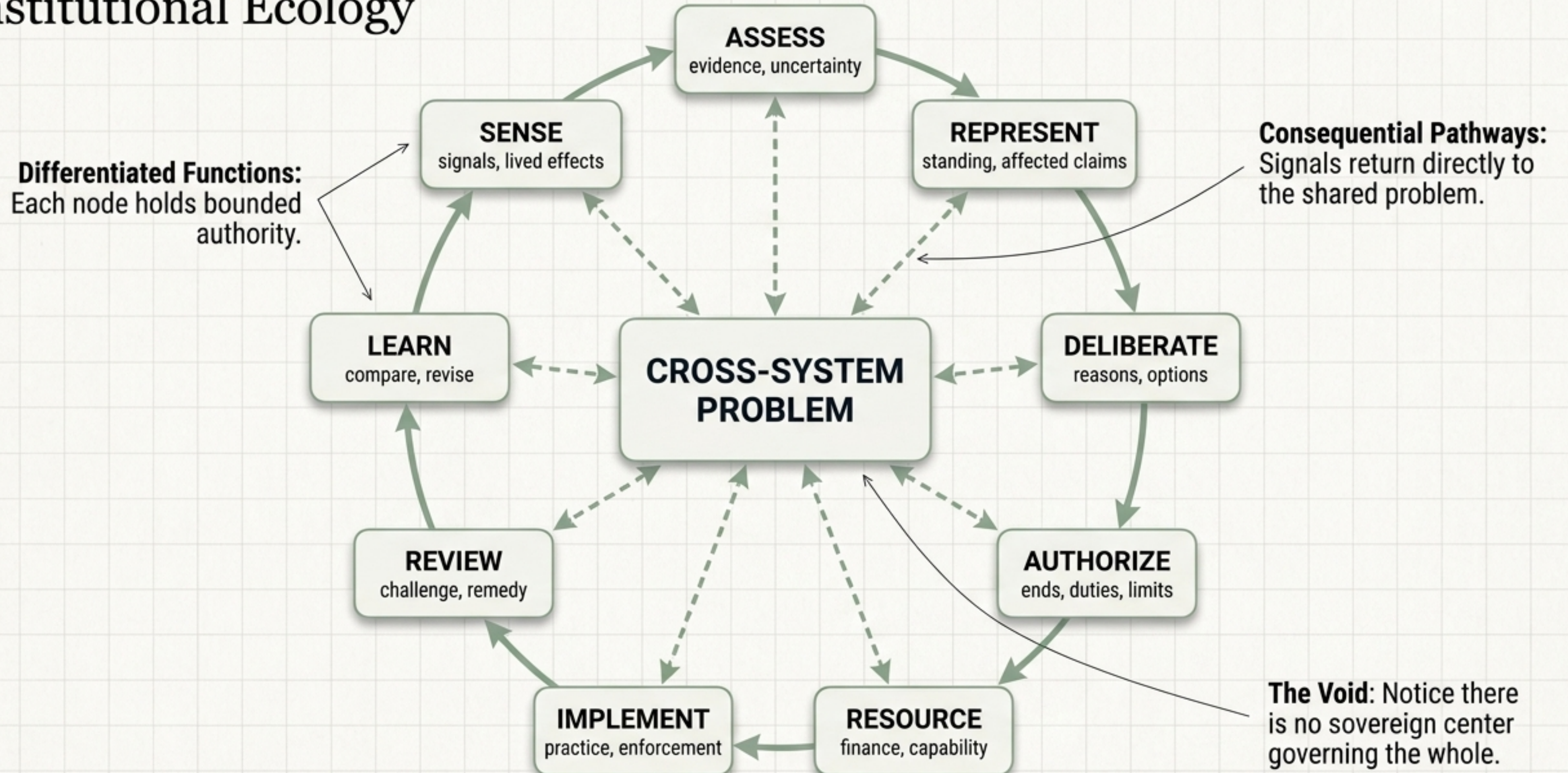
1.  **Externalities:** Local action displaces burdens downstream.
2.  **Rights:** Common floors are needed against local domination.
3.  **Unequal Capacity:** Implementation requires higher-level finance.
4.  **Displaced Burdens:** Cross-border representation is missing.
5.  **Cross-Scale Causes:** Harm originates in untouchable global infrastructure.



Standing must travel with harm.

(Reflexive Boundary Institution Imperative)

Anatomy of a Reflexive Institutional Ecology



Diagnostic Dashboard: Institutional Pathologies

Pathology	Observable Trace	Provisional Safeguard
Silo Fragmentation	Competent action, but evidence fails to change adjacent practice.	Institute cross-domain response duties.
Jurisdictional Void	Harm is acknowledged universally, but no single actor owns the duty.	Name lead duties and escalation routes.
Interface Capture	Powerful incumbents dominate the evidence gateways.	Mandate plural access and independent audit.
Reflexive Paralysis	Endless consultation deferring warranted action.	Set risk-proportionate timing and stopping rules.

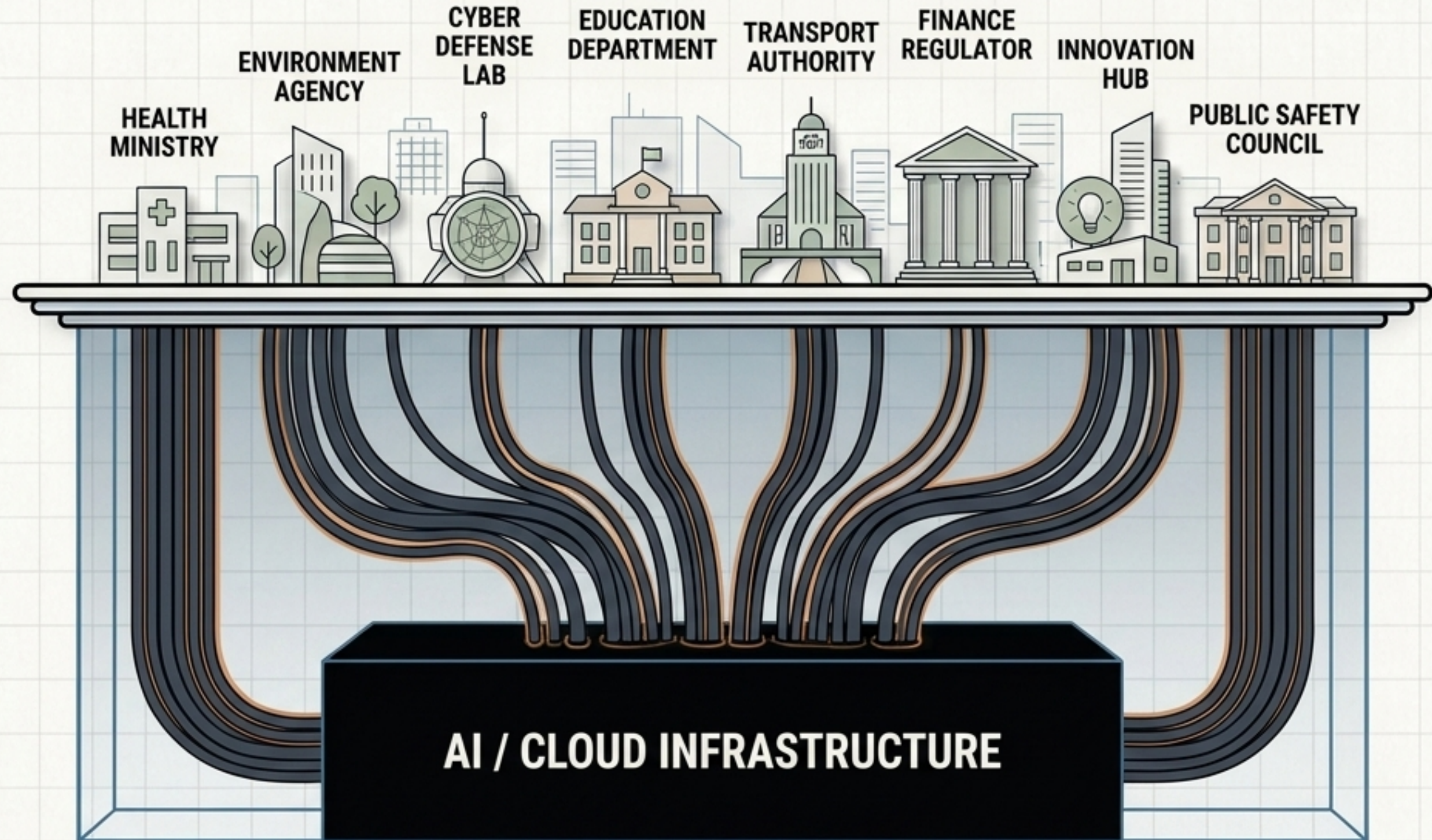
The Hidden Monocentre & The Metagovernance Paradox

The Paradox

The institutions required to coordinate distributed governance inevitably become the most consequential centers of structural power.

The AI Threat

Formal political plurality means nothing if all agencies share a single, unchallengeable epistemic and infrastructural dependency.



The 5-Case Stress Test: Topology Matters More Than Centre Count

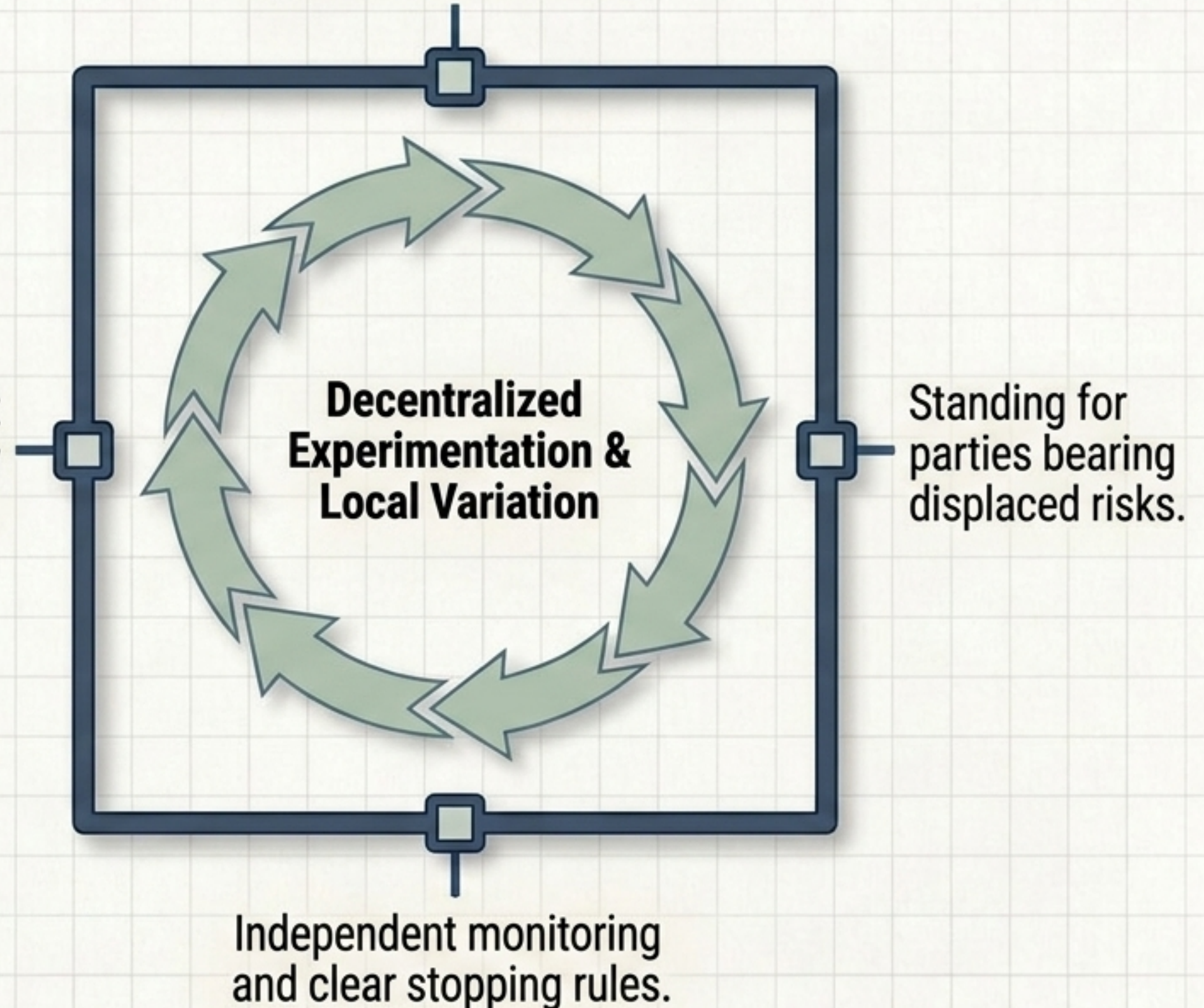
Configuration	Strongest Architectural	Binding Limitation	Rival Explanation
Montreal Protocol	Differentiated functions, enabled implementation	Unequal capacity	Favorable substitution, industrial strategy
IPCC-UNFCCC	Boundary restraint under managed permeability	No automatic implementation pathway	Political economy dominates
EU Water	Dense monitoring, recurring planning	Feedback lacks budgetary consequence	Ecological lag, inherited burdens
Ostbelgien	Permanent coupling of citizen deliberation	Advice remains discretionary	Process renews elite legitimacy
Great Barrier Reef	Specialized centres and integrated assessment	Causal-scale mismatch	Global climate forcing overwhelms local management

Institutional abundance alone cannot overcome structural power.

Constitutionally Bounded Experimentalism

Populations are not experimental material.
Decentralized learning is vital, but must operate within strict bounds.

Material support
for lower-capacity
implementers.



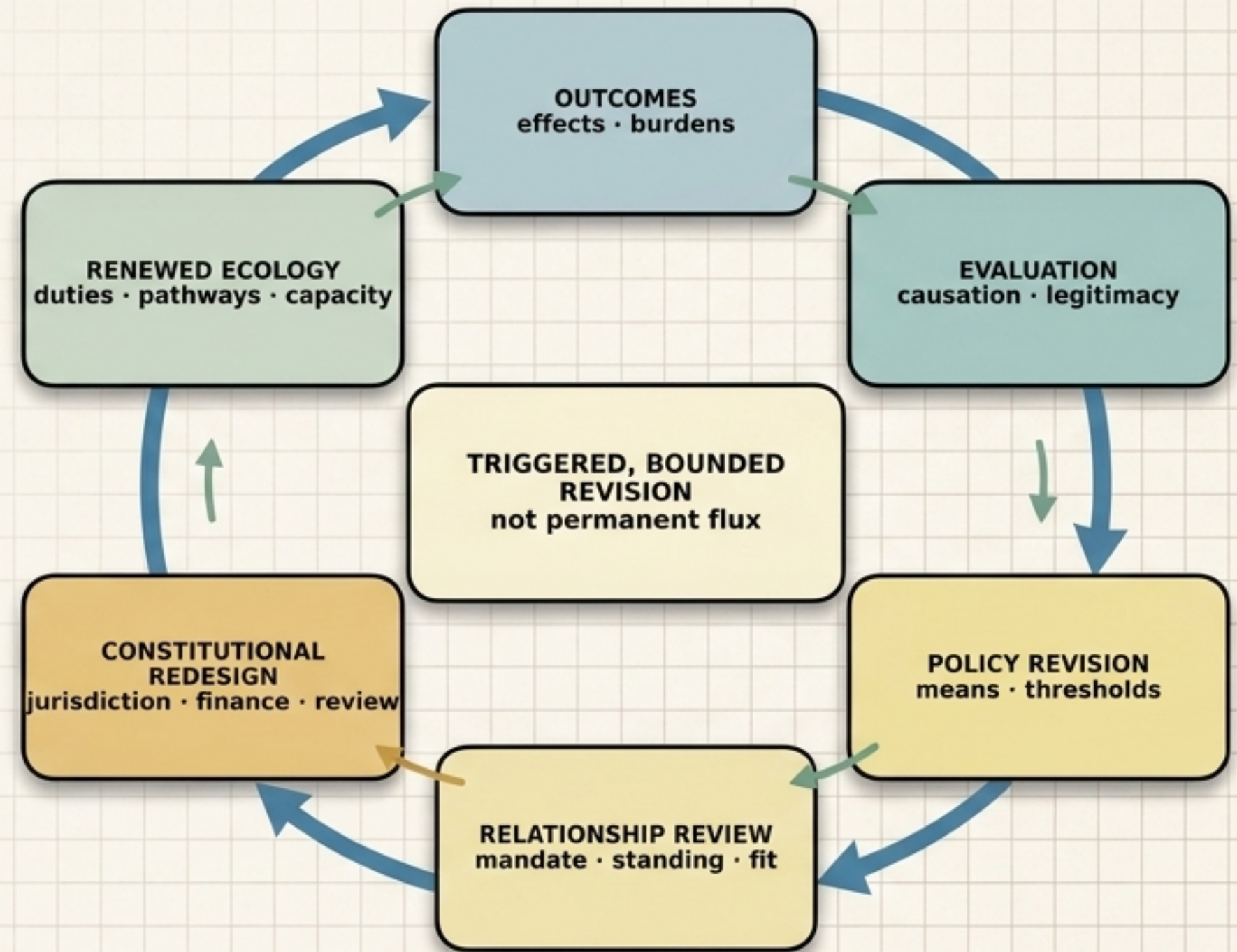
The Synthesis: Constitutional Reflexivity

The Insight

Ordinary policy learning changes the instruments within an accepted allocation of authority. True constitutional reflexivity changes the mandates, jurisdictions, and relationships themselves when persistent failure occurs.

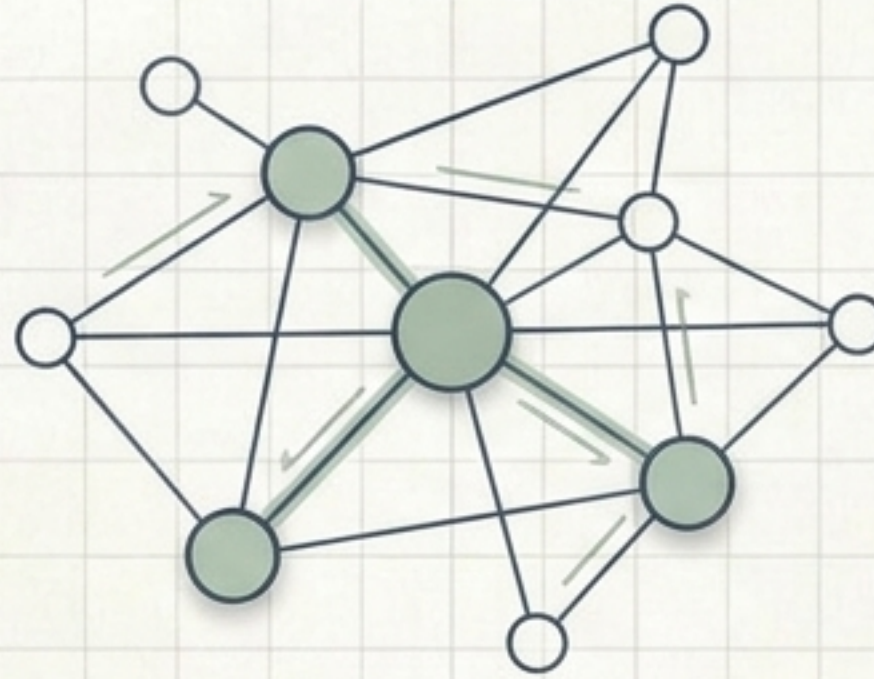
Trigger Conditions

Repeated target failure, displaced burdens, unowned duties, interface capture.



Capacity to act + capacity to correct

The Governing Maxims



1. Integrate consequences; differentiate authority.
2. Capacity to act plus capacity to correct.
3. Coordinators must remain inside the system of correction, not above it.