

# The Self-Organisation of the Information Society 3: The Self-Organisation of the Information Society

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IN3 Research Seminar  
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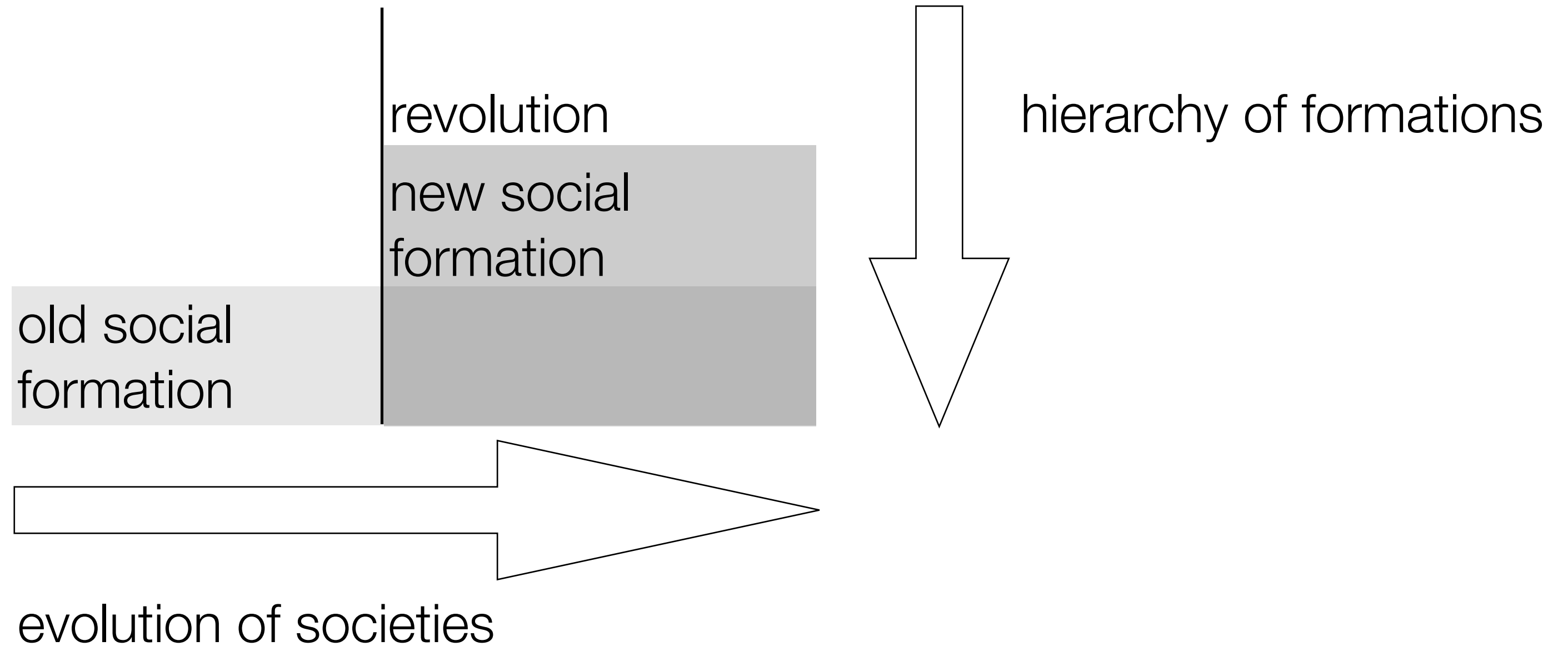
## Definition

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Self-organisation of the information society =def. (build-up of another) social formation mediated by means of ICTs

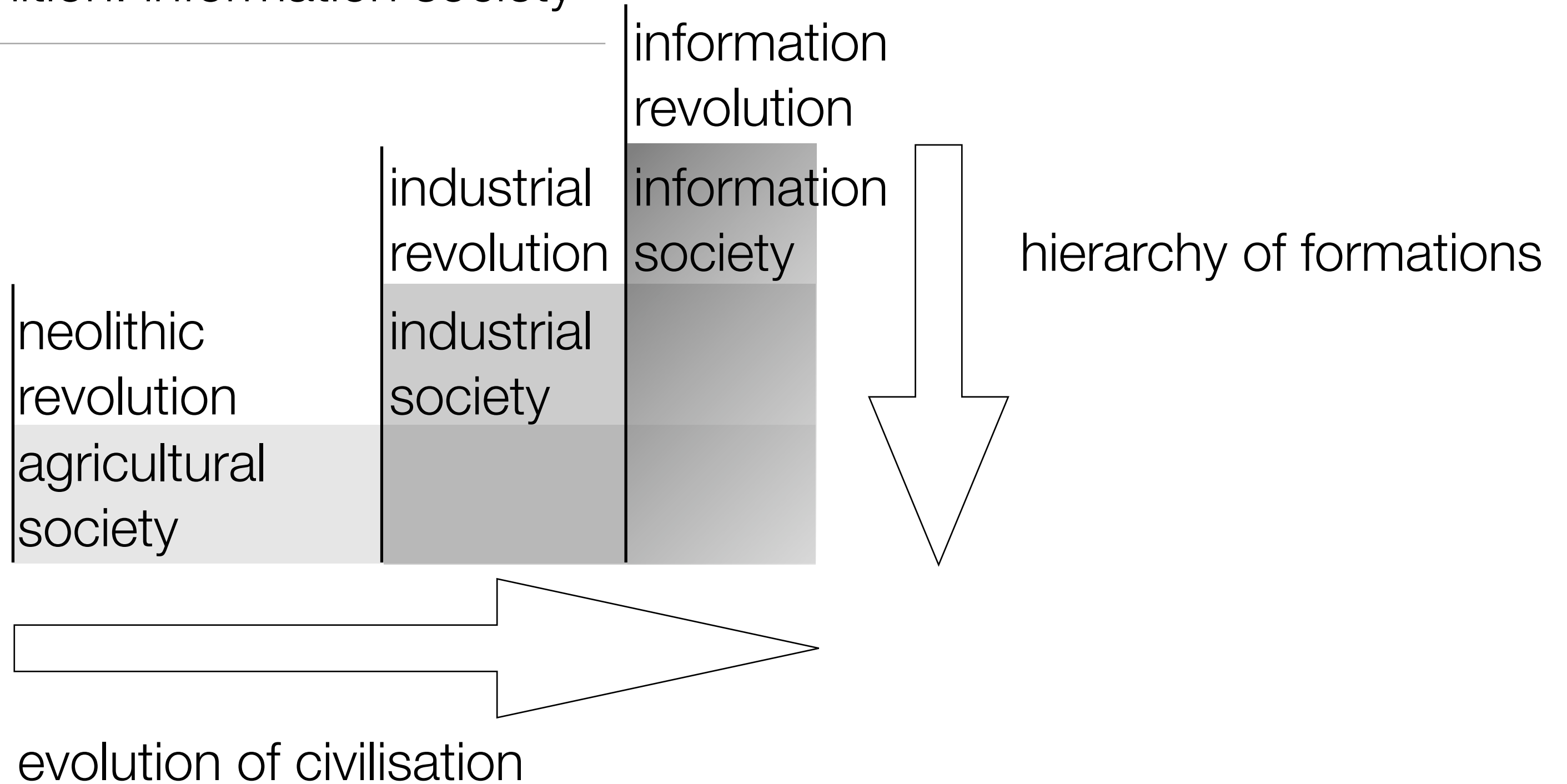
# Definition: social formation

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# Definition: information society

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## Definition: information technology as trigger

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evolution of information society: part of a process that

- oscillates between society and technology
- is cumulative
- spirals upward

# ICTs-and-Society theories

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- How to theorise the relation between information technology and information society is the big question in information society theory:
  - which of both is deemed to be the determinant, if any?
  - which value is attributed to the relation?

# Determinants and values

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	<b>values</b>
<b>determinants</b>	



# Determinants and values

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	<b>values</b>
<b>ways of thinking in determinants</b>	

# Determinants and values

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	<b>values</b>
<b>reductionism</b>	
<b>projectivism</b>	
<b>disjunctivism</b>	
<b>integrativism</b>	

# Determinants and values

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	<b>values</b>
<b>technological determinism</b>	
<b>social constructivism</b>	
<b>techno-social dualism</b>	
<b>techno-social dialectics</b>	

# Determinants and values

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	<b>eutopianism</b>	<b>dystopianism</b>	<b>pro-active-ism</b>
<b>technological determinism</b>			
<b>social constructivism</b>			
<b>techno-social dualism</b>			
<b>techno-social dialectics</b>			

## Determinants and values

	<b>eutopianism</b>	<b>dystopianism</b>	<b>pro-active-ism</b>
<b>technological determinism</b>	technological progress = social progress	technological regress = social regress	
<b>social constructivism</b>	social progress = technological progress	social regress = technological regress	
<b>techno-social dualism</b>	technological $\neq$ social development		-
<b>techno-social dialectics</b>	-		techno-social design

# Determinants and values

		eutopianism	dystopianism	pro-active-ism
<b>technological determinism</b>		technological information society social progress Spaceship Earth	technological Simulacrum regress = social regress Plundering of the Planet	
<b>social constructivism</b>	<b>ecological</b>	Spaceship Earth	Plundering of the Planet	
	<b>economic</b>	Knowledge for all	Knowledge Monopolies	
	<b>political</b>	Participation	Disinformation	
	<b>cultural</b>	Fun/Leisure	Disinfotainment regress	
<b>techno-social dualism</b>		technological ≠ social development		
<b>techno-social dialectics</b>		Baroque		Global Sustainable Information Society techno-social design

**Digitisation**

**Virtualisation**

**Community**

**Orwellisation**

**Building**

**De-coupling**

Global Sustainable Information Society  
techno-social design

# Illustrations

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- Manuel Castells: Network Society
- Derrick de Kerckhove: Connected Intelligence
- Luciano Floridi: The Fourth Revolution

# Illustration: Castells on determinants

	eutopianism	dystopianism	pro-active-ism
<b>technological determinism</b>	technological progress = social progress	technological regress = social regress	
<b>social constructivism</b>	social progress = technological progress	social regress = technological regress	
<b>techno-social dualism</b>	technological ≠ social development		
<b>techno-social dialectics</b>			

**ICTs allow social networks to deploy their supremacy over hierarchical organisation.**

**levers for the transition:**

- needs of economy for management flexibility
- demands for individual freedom
- micro-electronics revolution.

**communication is transformed by the Internet and wireless horizontal networks: "mass self-communication".**



## Illustration: Castells on values

	eutopianism	dystopianism	pro-active-ism
<b>technological determinism</b>	technological progress = social progress	technological regress = social regress	
<b>social constructivism</b>	social progress = technological progress	social regress = technological regress	<b>social systems stall creativity: – rentier capitalism of Microsoft type obstructs new models of intellectual property rights; – the rise of mass self-communication enhances opportunities for social change.</b>
<b>techno-social dualism</b>	technological ≠ social development		<b>– social change.</b>
<b>techno-social dialectics</b>	by unveiling how power relationships are constructed and exercised and how they can be altered powers are challenged.		

## Illustration: de Kerckhove on determinants

	eutopianism	dystopianism	pro-active-ism
<b>technological determinism</b>	technological progress = social progress	technological regress = social regress	
<b>social constructivism</b>	the Internet and the Web grow connections like a brain. connectedness seems to be an inherent goal of a self-organising process.		
<b>techno-social dialectics</b>	technological change faces us with a potential for a watershed in the conditions of humanity: the opportunity for spectatores to become participants.		

# Illustration: de Kerckhove on values

	eutopianism	dystopianism	pro-active-ism
<b>technological determinism</b>	technological progress = social progress	technological regress = social regress	
<b>social constructivism</b>	social progress = technological progress	social regress = technological regress	of the changes. and around the Earth.
<b>techno-social dialectics</b>	we are becoming responsible for our extensions into technological + social development		
<b>techno-social dialectics</b>	an ethical imperative is developing		techno-social design in many guises.

## Illustration: Floridi on determinants

	<b>eutopianism</b>	<b>dystopianism</b>	<b>pro-active-ism</b>
<b>technological determinism</b>	technological progress = social progress	technological regress = social regress	
<b>social constructivism</b>	social progress = technological progress	social regress = technological regress	
<b>an infosphere will emerge as the real and only environment of human beings turning them into human "inforgs" (connected informational organisms) and turning objects into "ITentities" (Internet of things).</b>			

## Illustration: Floridi on values

	eutopianism	dystopianism	pro-active-ism
<b>technological determinism</b>	technological progress = social progress	technological regress = social regress	
<b>social constructivism</b>	<p>ICTs are making humanity increasingly accountable for the way the world is, will and should be.</p> <p>– the infosphere must be preserved as a common space to the advantage of all.</p>		
<b>techno-social dualism</b>	technological ≠ social development		
<b>techno-social dialectics</b>	<p>– we are preparing the ground for tomorrow's digital slums. the digital divide will become a chasm.</p>		

# A Global Sustainable Information Society

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is a vision for an ICTs-and-Society research framework

that is based upon conditions of societal development and is normative

## Definition

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Global Sustainable Information Society =def. a society that is

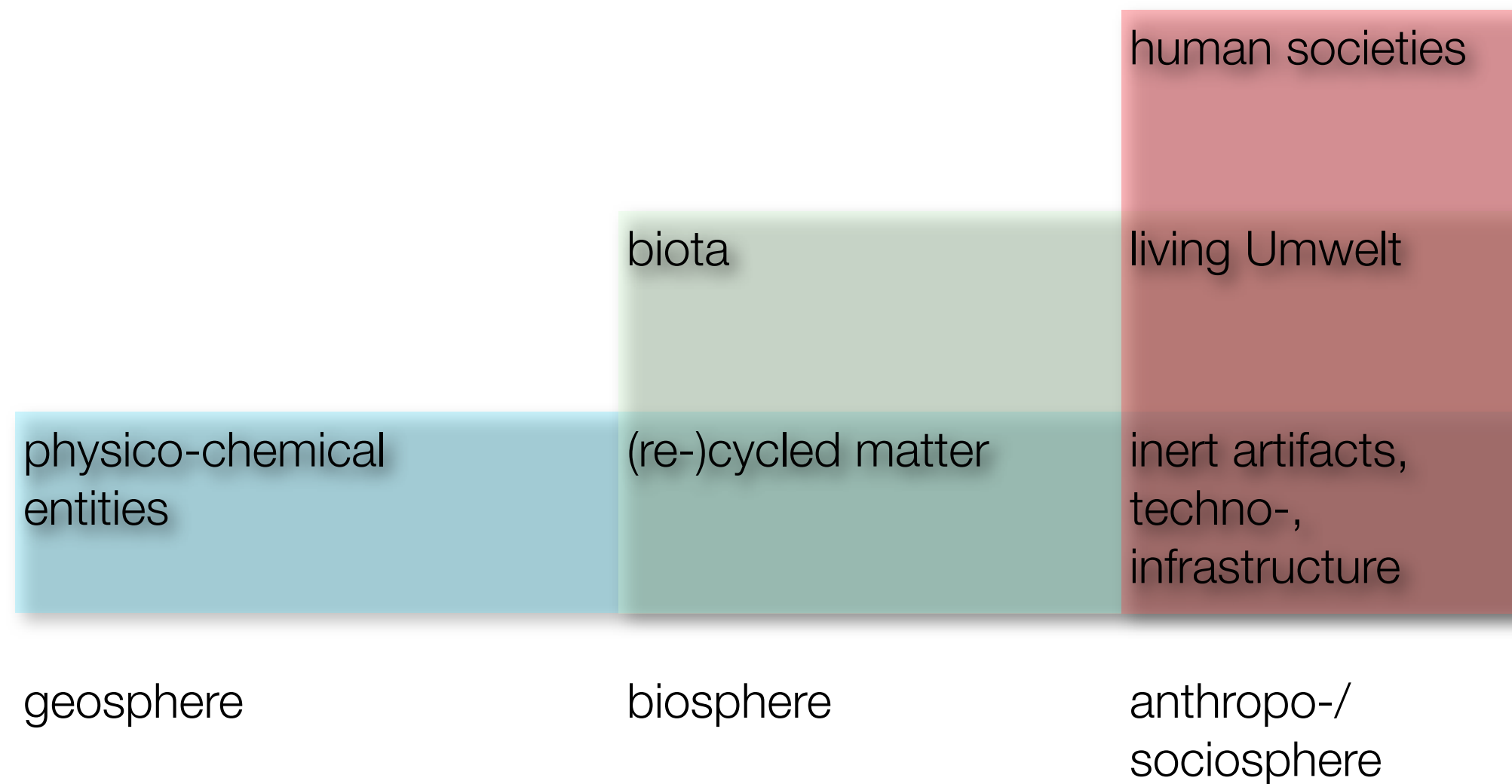
(1) capacitated – by means of ICTs – to make use of knowledge such that it is (hence "information" society)

(2) capable to act upon the dangers of anthropogenic breakdown (hence "sustainable" society)

(3) existent on a planetary scale (hence "global" society).

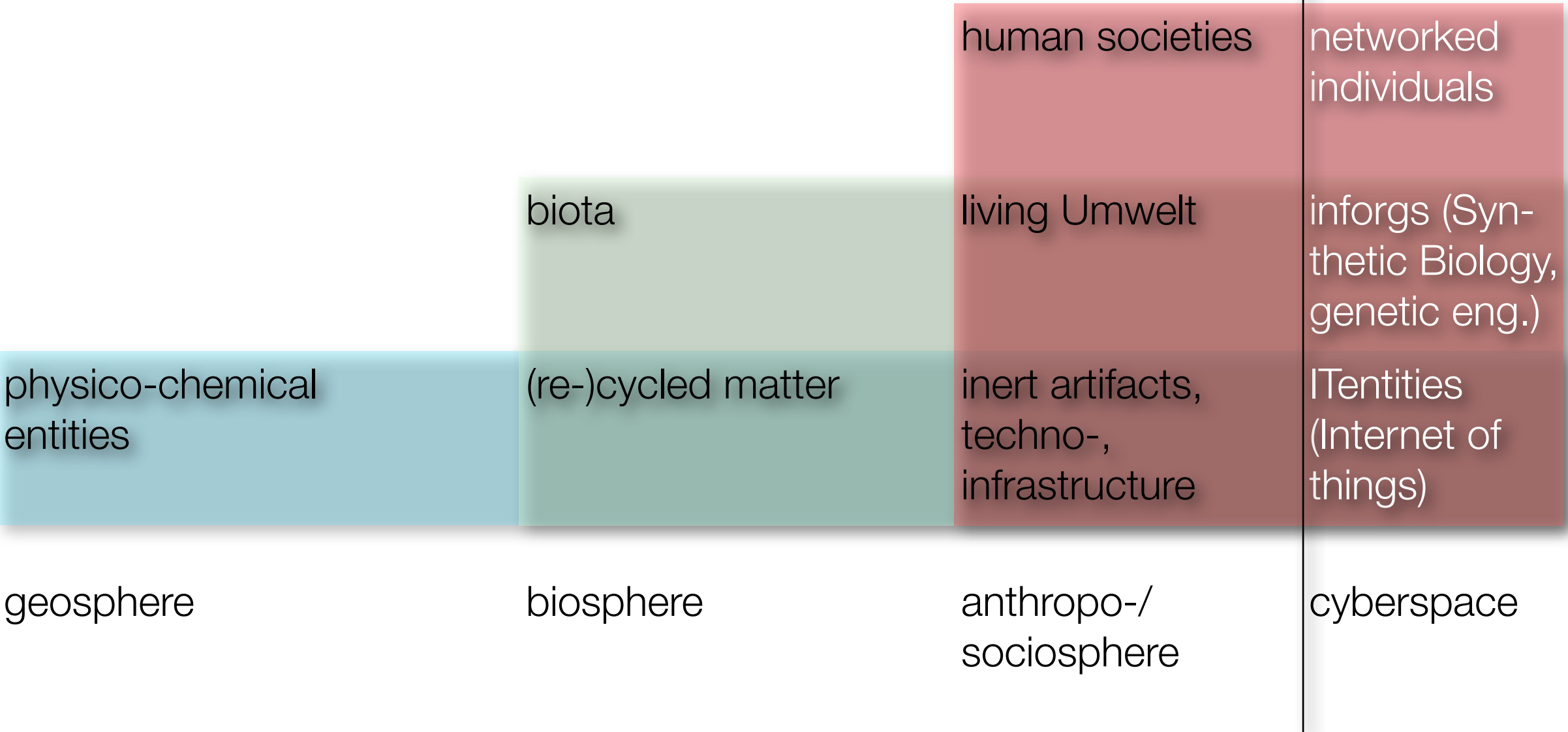
# A stage model

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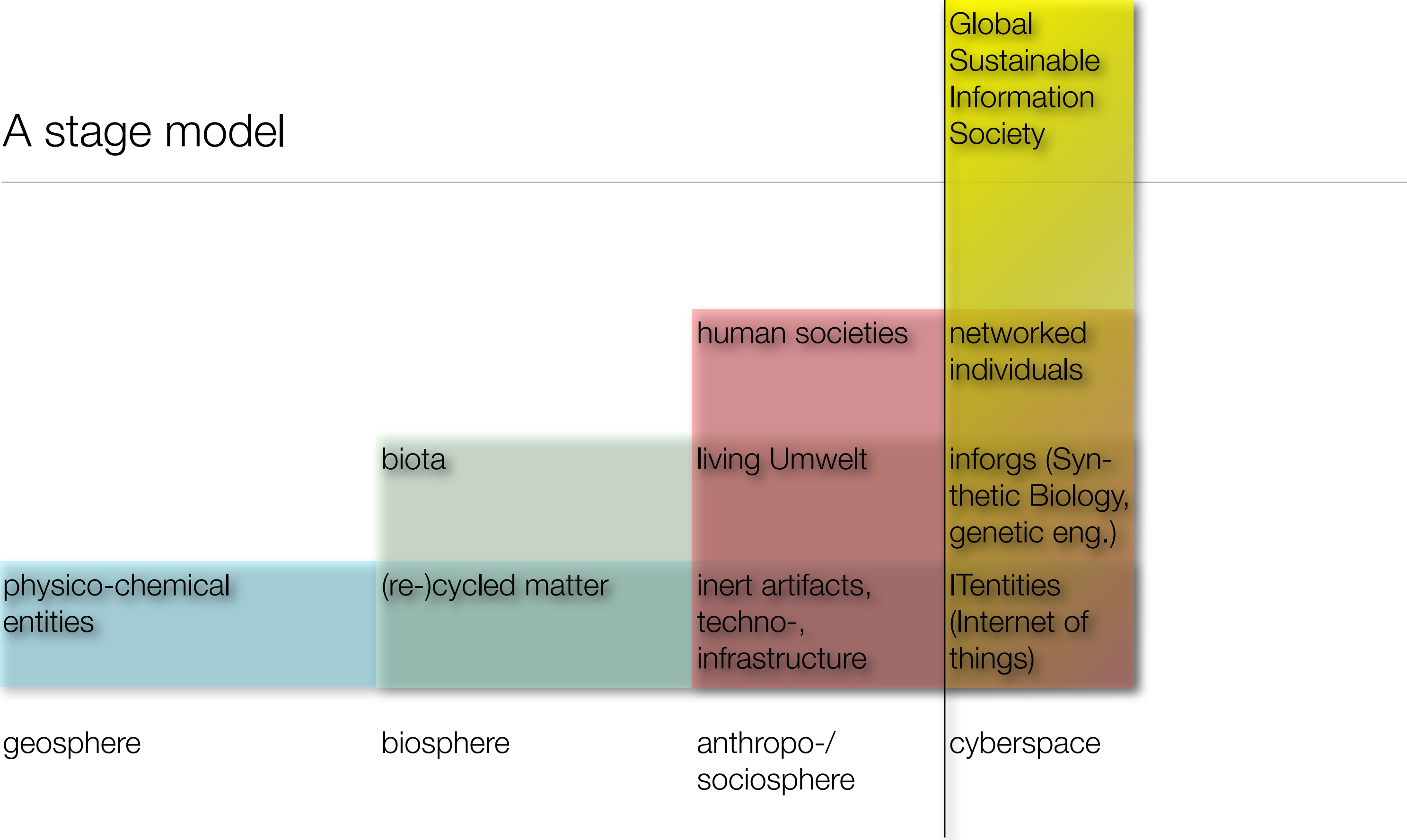




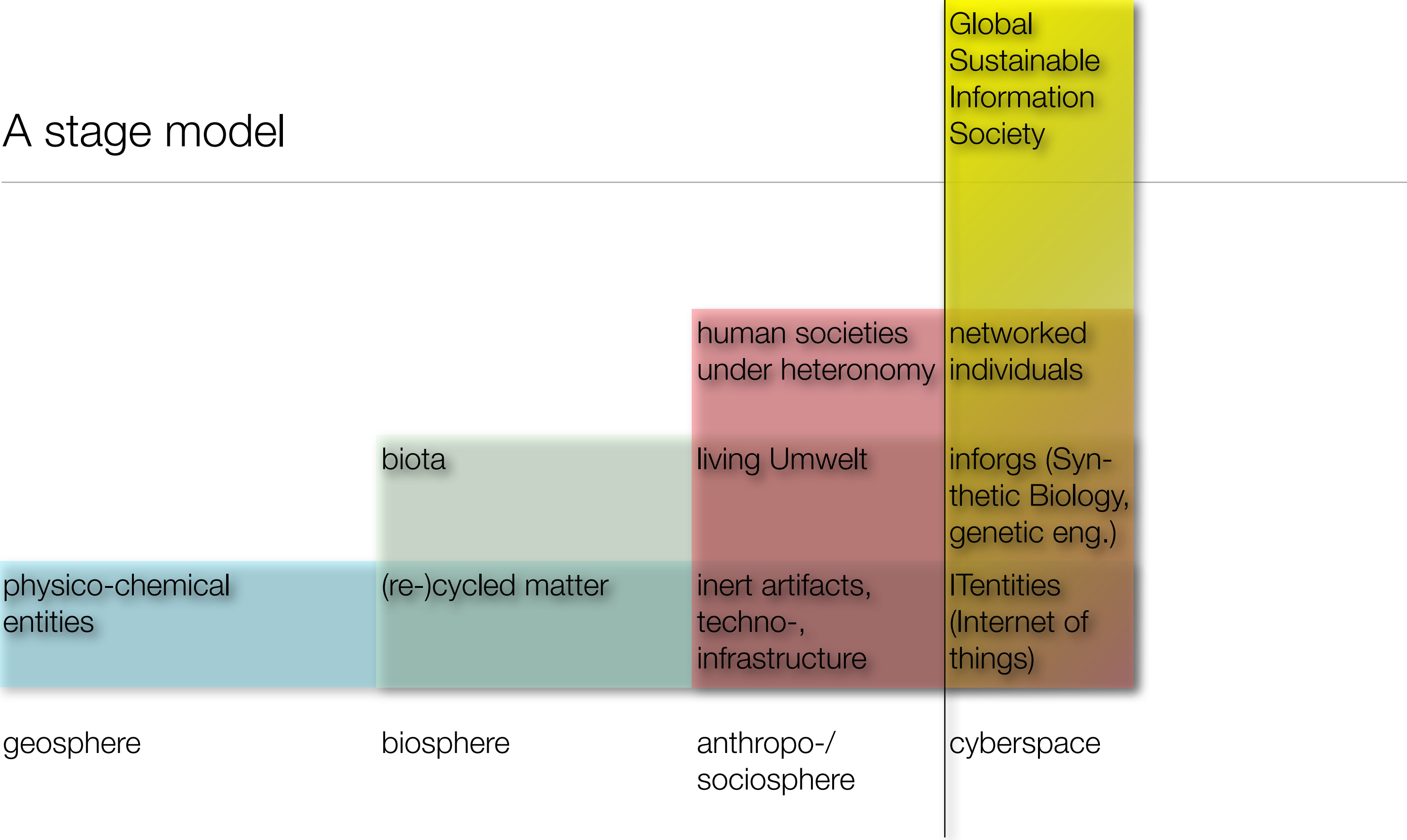
# A stage model



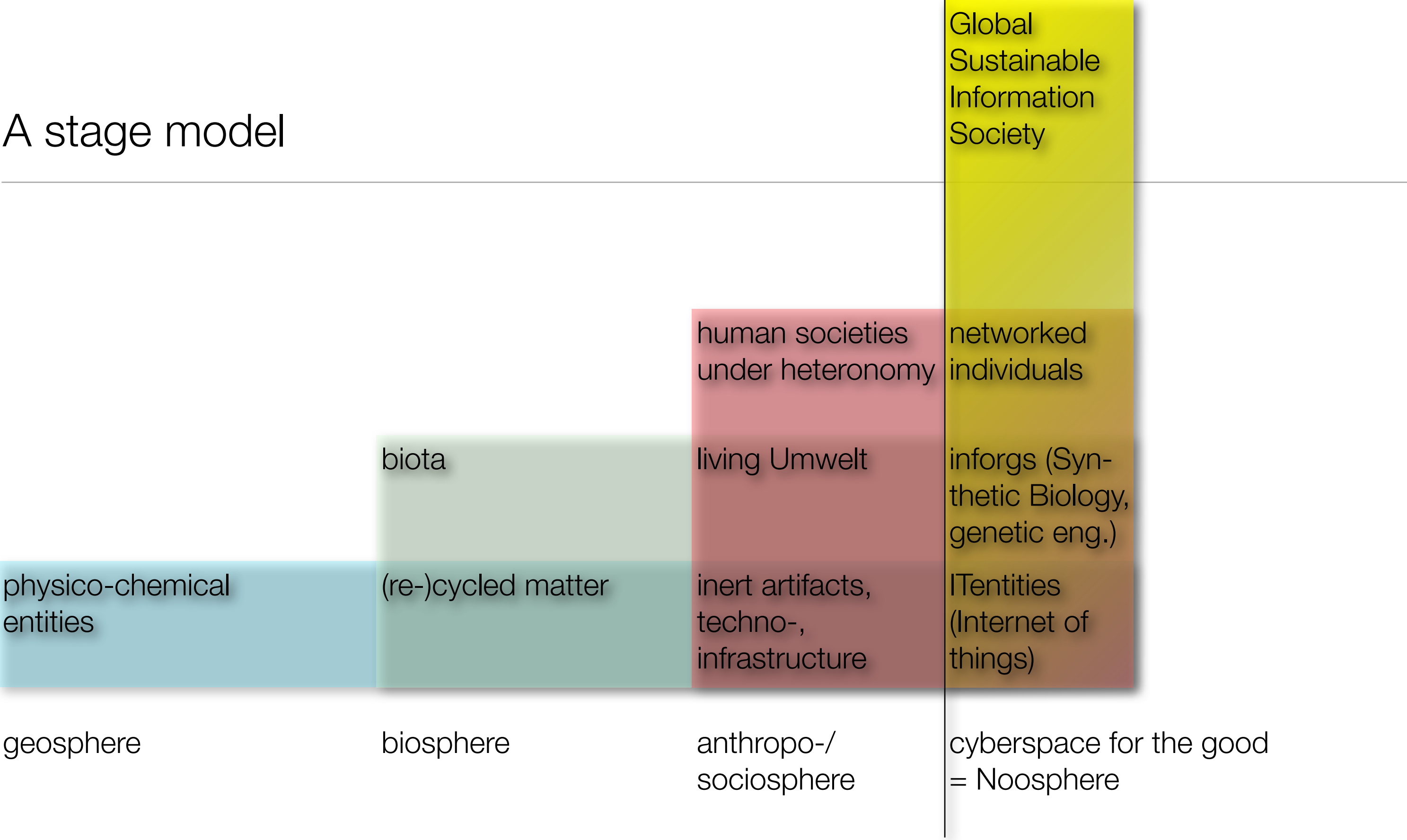
# A stage model



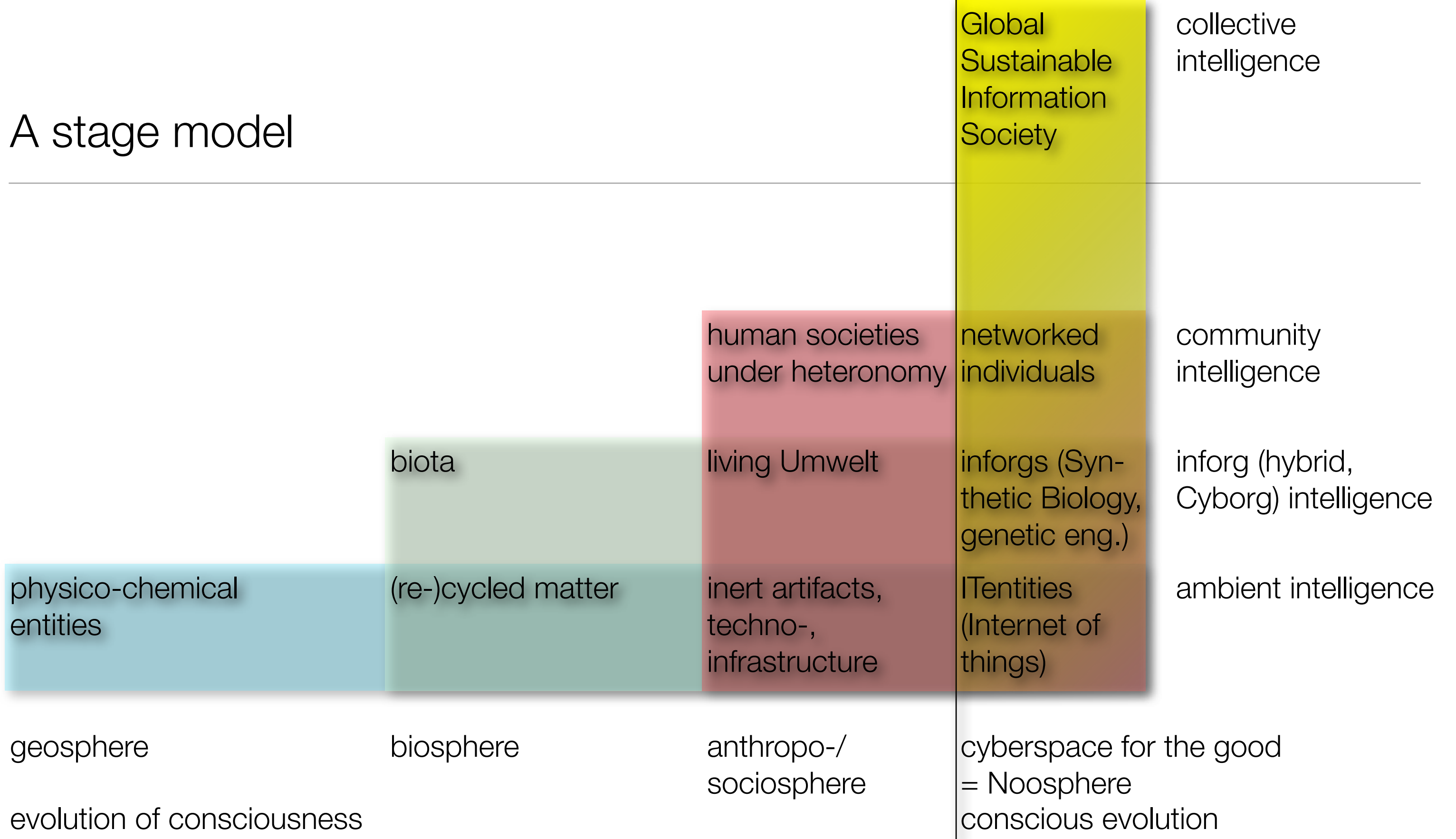
# A stage model



# A stage model



# A stage model



# Readings

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- About information society theories:  
(2010) A Taxonomy of Theories about ICTs and Society. In: triple-c, vol. 8, no. 1, [forthcoming]  
link: <http://www.triple-c.at>
- About Floridi's approach and the GSIS:  
(2010) How to design the infosphere. In: Knowledge, Technology and Policy, June [forthcoming]

¡Muchas gracias por vuestra atención!