

Ethics for a Global Sustainable Information Society

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3.1 Information Ethics at the Great Bifurcation

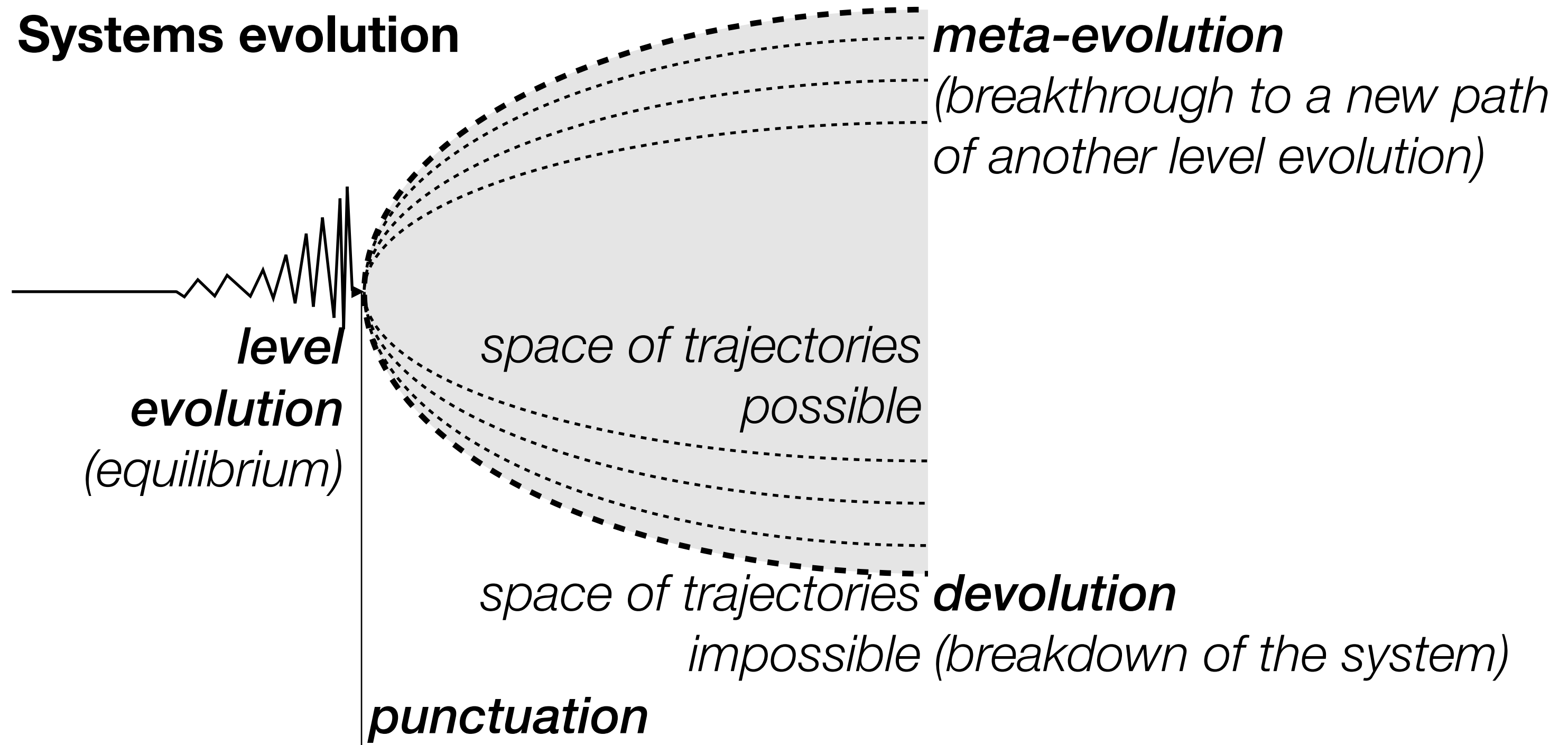


A Lady-Keeper of Bowels
(Cycle: Putting out of Paradise)
Miroslav Paral
stoneware clay, 1998

1 Ethics in the Information Age

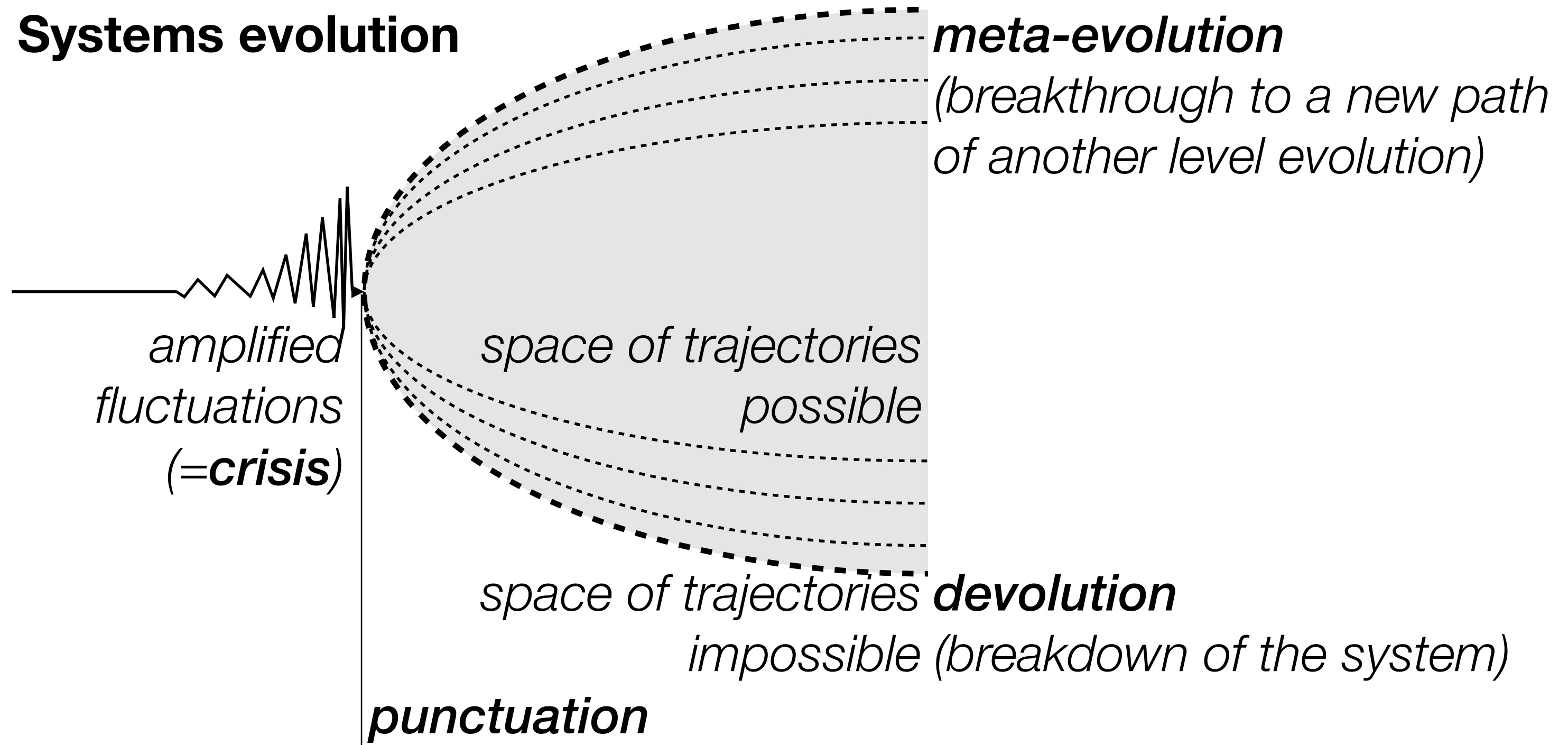
1.1 The Great Bifurcation

Systems evolution



1.1 The Great Bifurcation

Systems evolution

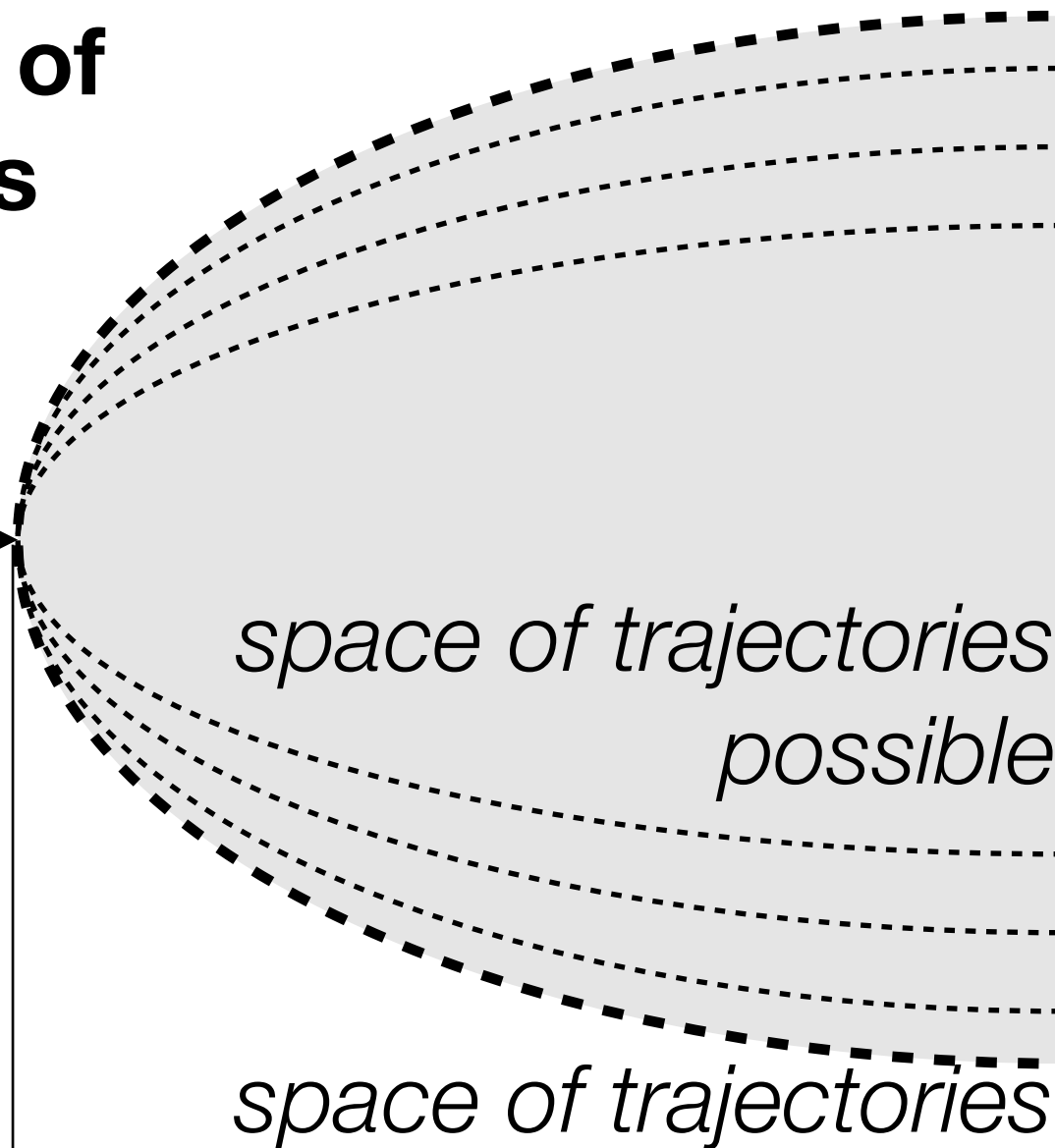


1.1 The Great Bifurcation

**Current stage of
social systems
evolution**

global
challenges in
social,
eco-social and
techno-social
relations
(crises)

**tipping
point**



integration of differentiated
interdependent social systems:
a **Global Sustainable
Information Society (GSIS)**

disintegration of differentiated
interdependent social systems:
break-up of civilisation

1.2 Three properties of the Great Bifurcation

Bifurcation property 1	metasystem transition/ supra-system hierarchy	breakthrough to GSIS
wholeness	a supra-system can emerge from formerly independent systems that have become interdependent: level evolution is superseded by a meta-system transition to a new whole at a higher level of organisation	globality: the partitions of humanity cannot survive and thrive without all becoming parts of a society of societies (world society)

1.2 Three properties of the Great Bifurcation

Bifurcation property 2	metasystem transition/ supra-system hierarchy	breakthrough to GSIS
integration	the new structure can enable and constrain the interaction of the new co-systems for the sake of both the supra-system and the co-systems' maintenance and performance: unity through diversity is being approached	sustainability: world society cannot be governed without rectifying existent, and preventing new, anthropogenic dysfunctions (emerging from inside the social systems)

1.2 Three properties of the Great Bifurcation

Bifurcation property 3	metasystem transition/ supra-system hierarchy	breakthrough to GSIS
information	the supra-system's collective intelligence (emerging from the co-systems' individual intelligences) can catch up with increased complexity that threatens systems maintenance and performance: complexification	informationality: governance cannot be achieved without creating requisite information (data, knowledge, wisdom) by the help of I(C)T(s)

1.3 Requisite information at the Great Bifurcation

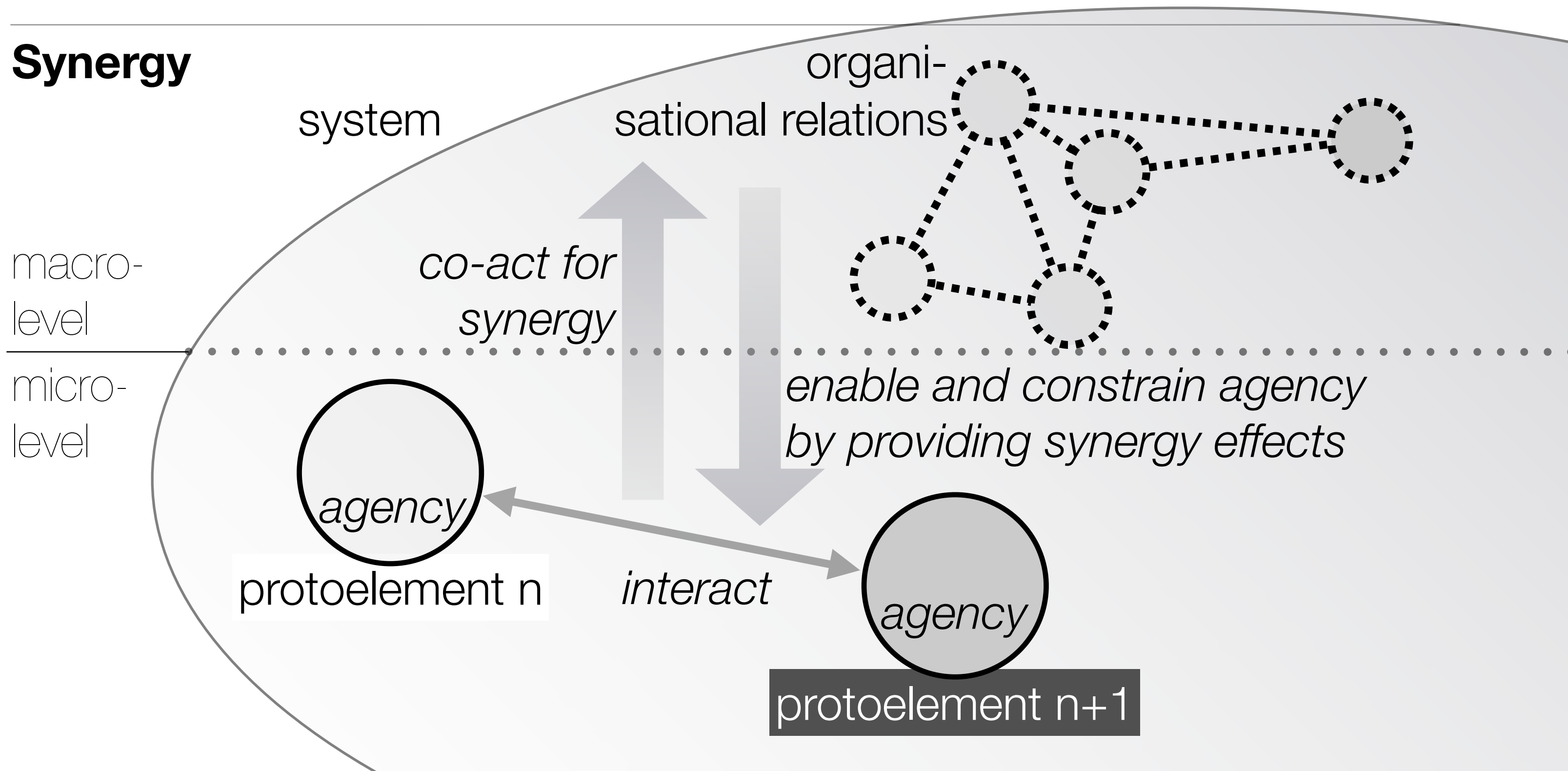
Information	anthropological features		new features required for GSIS
co-operative information	collectively intentional	consensual about the goal, the here and now and the way to the goal	globally conscientious and conscious: commons-oriented
communicative information	collaborative	consilient (help-, truthful, perspectivist)	globally conversational: all-humanity inclusive
cognitive information	co-ordinative	conceptual (reflexive)	globally concerned: meta-reflexive

1.3.1 A commons-oriented co-operative information

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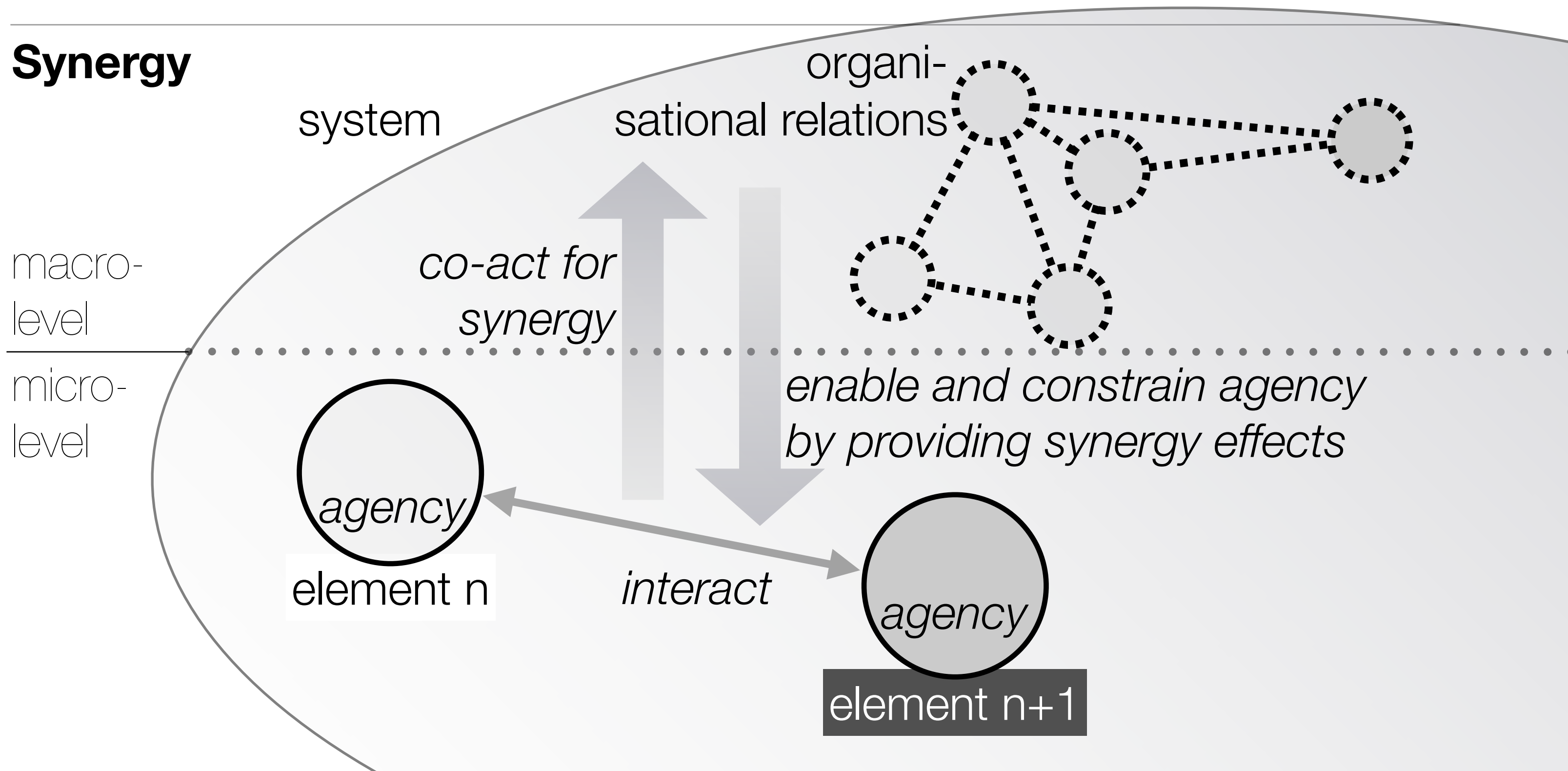
1.3.1 A commons-oriented co-operative information

Synergy

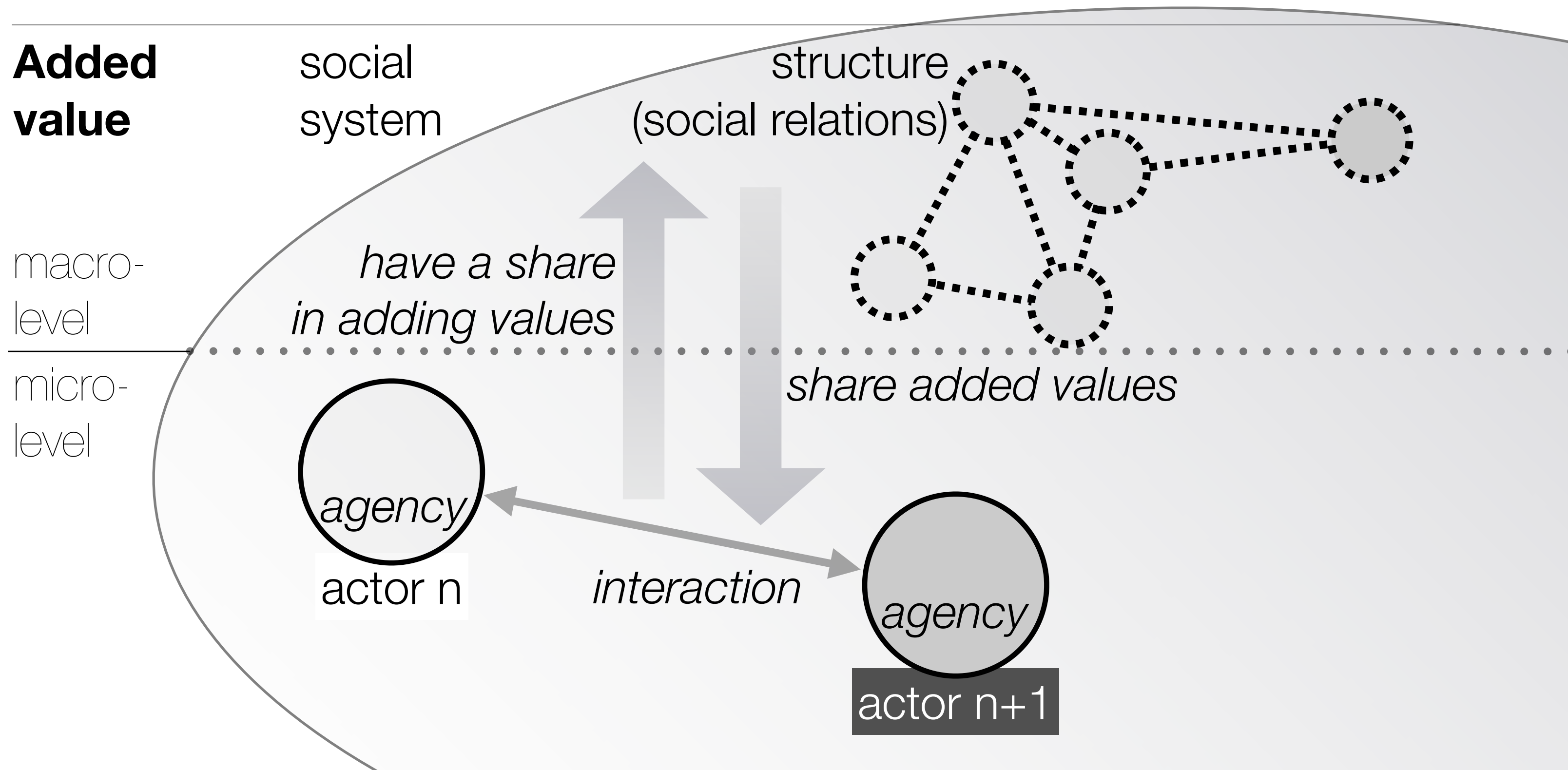


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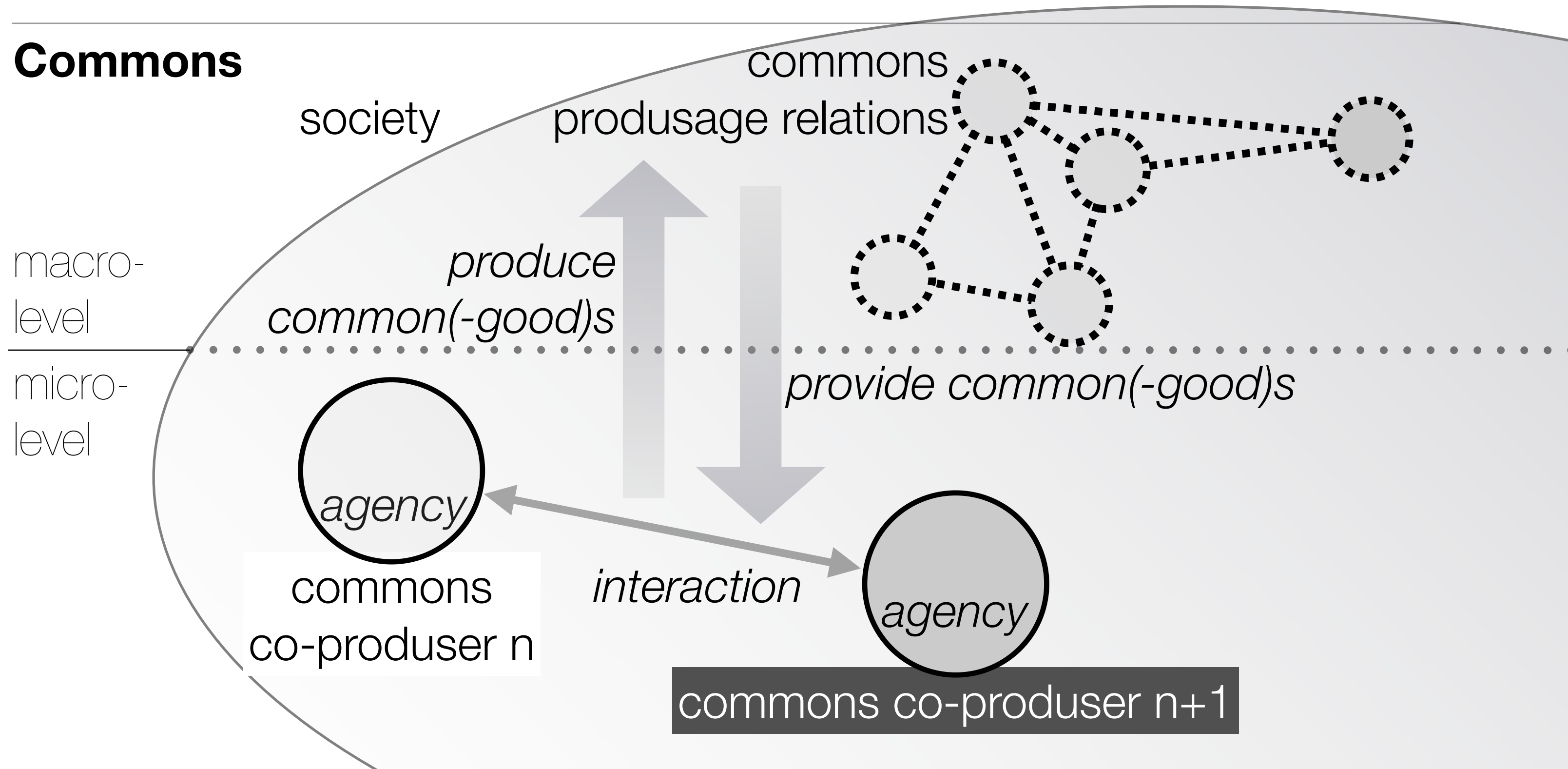


1.3.1 A commons-oriented co-operative information



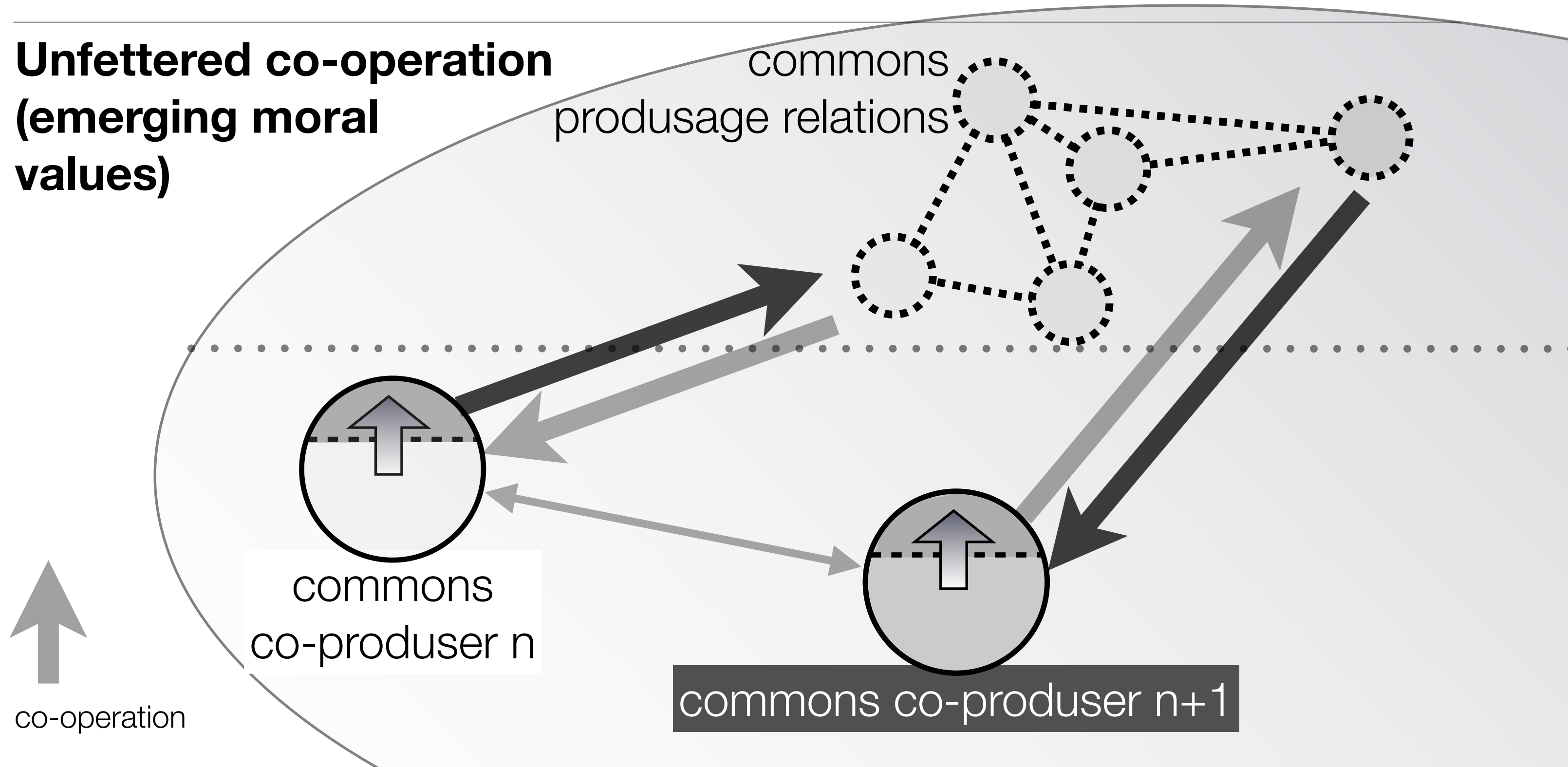
1.3.1 A commons-oriented co-operative information

Commons



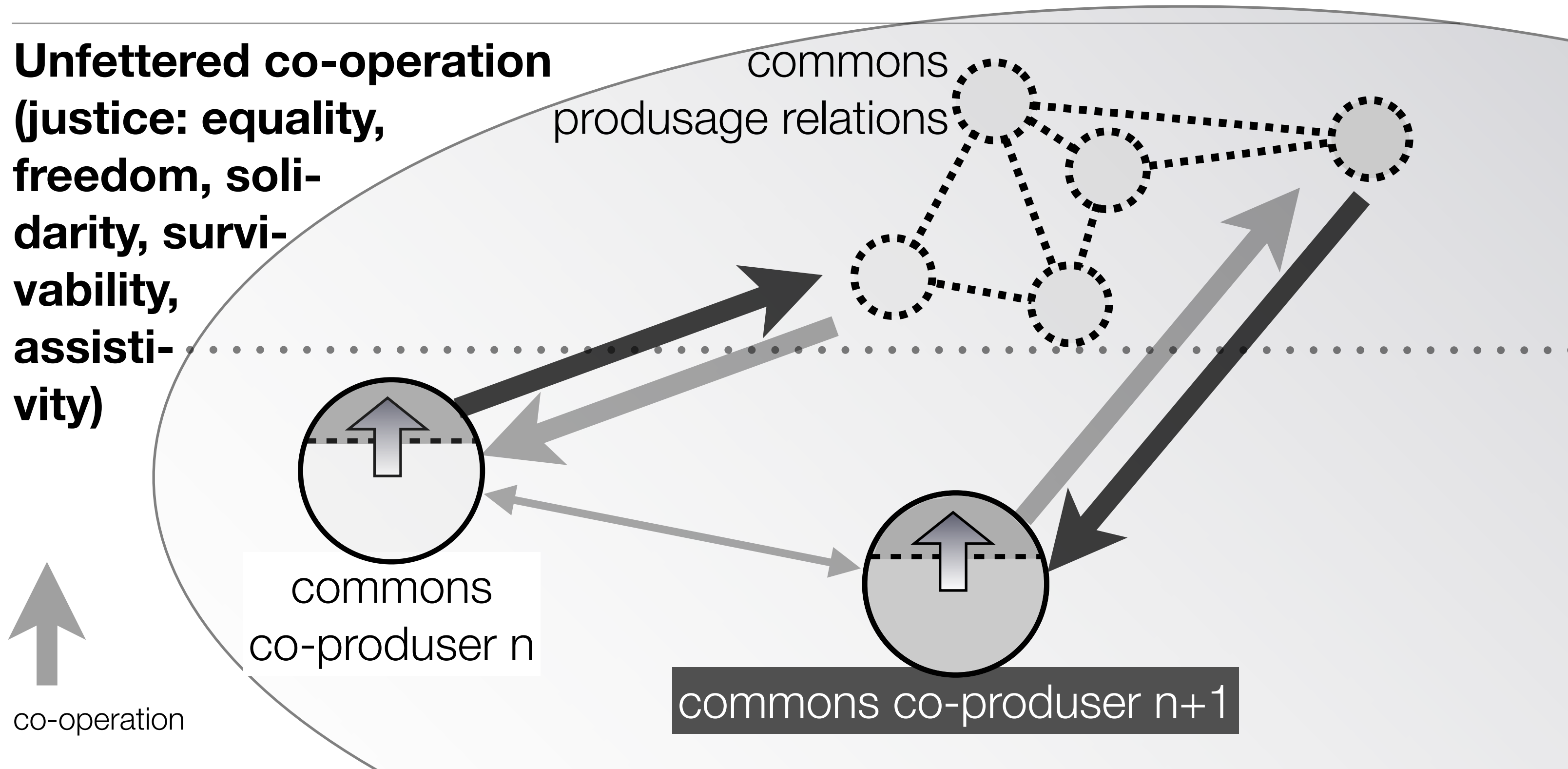
1.3.1 A commons-oriented co-operative information

Unfettered co-operation (emerging moral values)



1.3.1 A commons-oriented co-operative information

Unfettered co-operation
(justice: equality,
freedom, soli-
darity, survi-
vability, assi-
stivity)

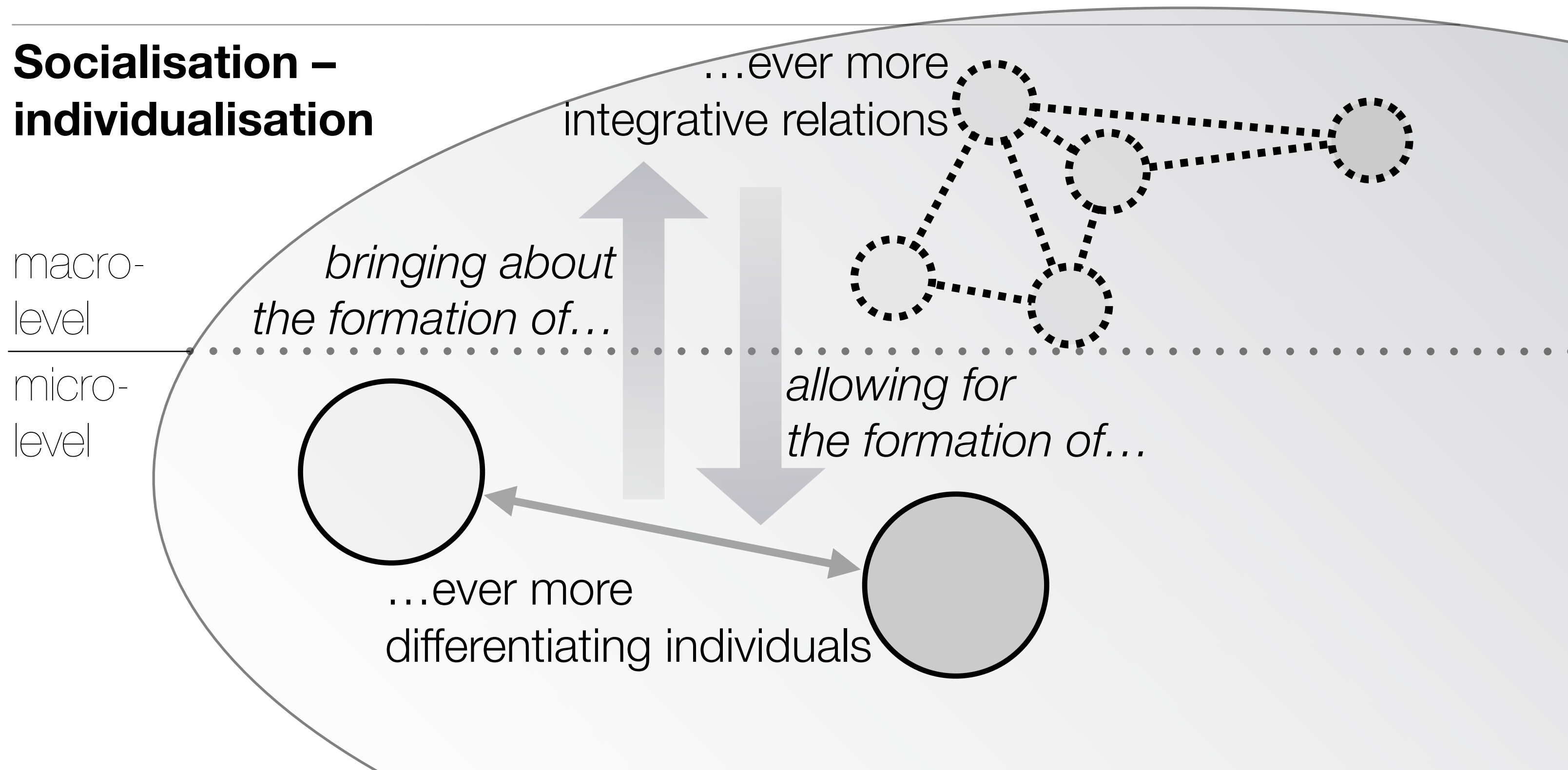


1.3.2 An all-humanity inclusive communicative information

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1.3.2 An all-humanity inclusive communicative information

Socialisation – individualisation



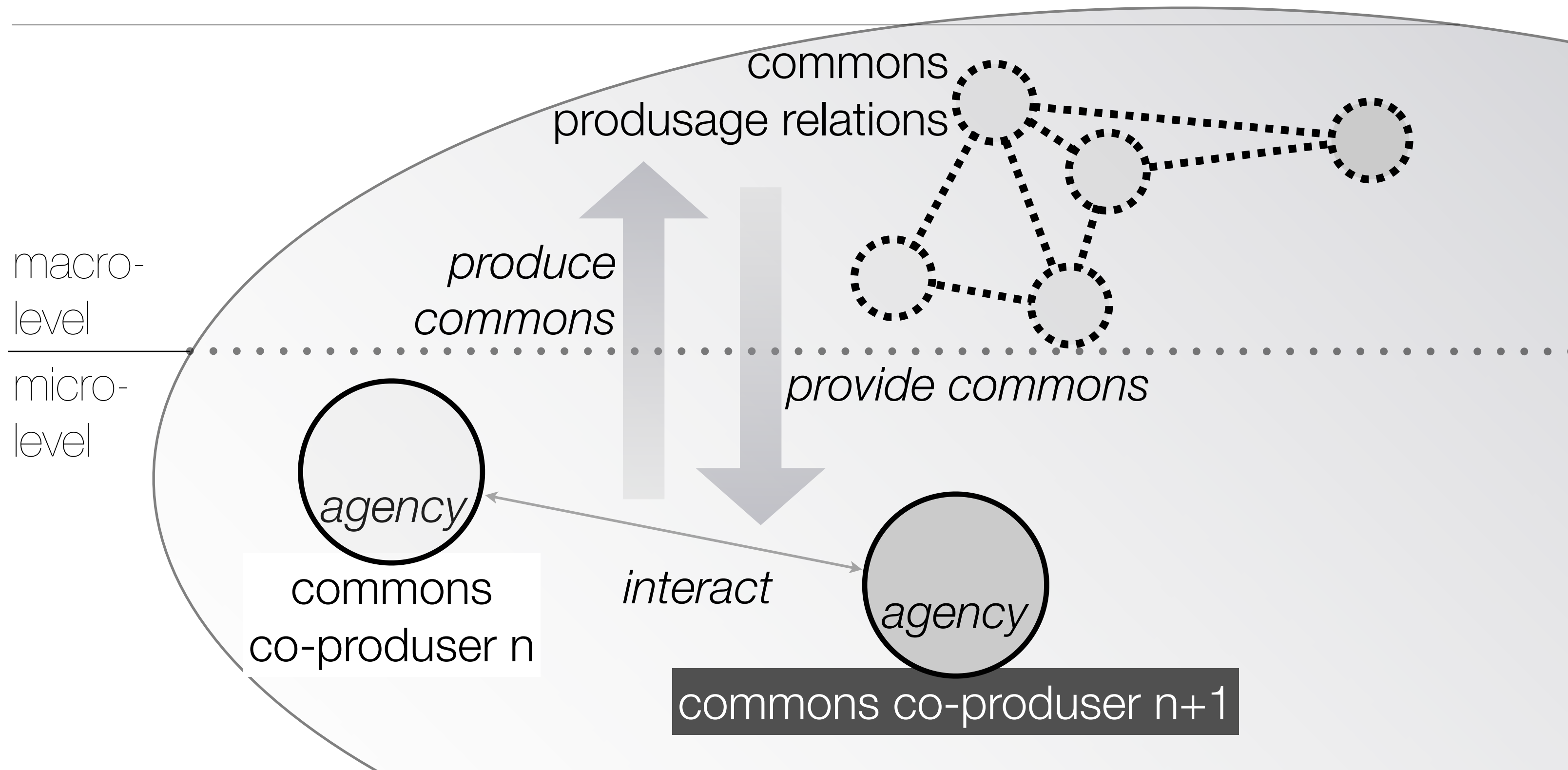
Unfettered communication for unfettered co-operation



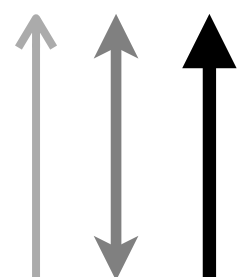
1.3.3 A meta-reflexive cognitive information

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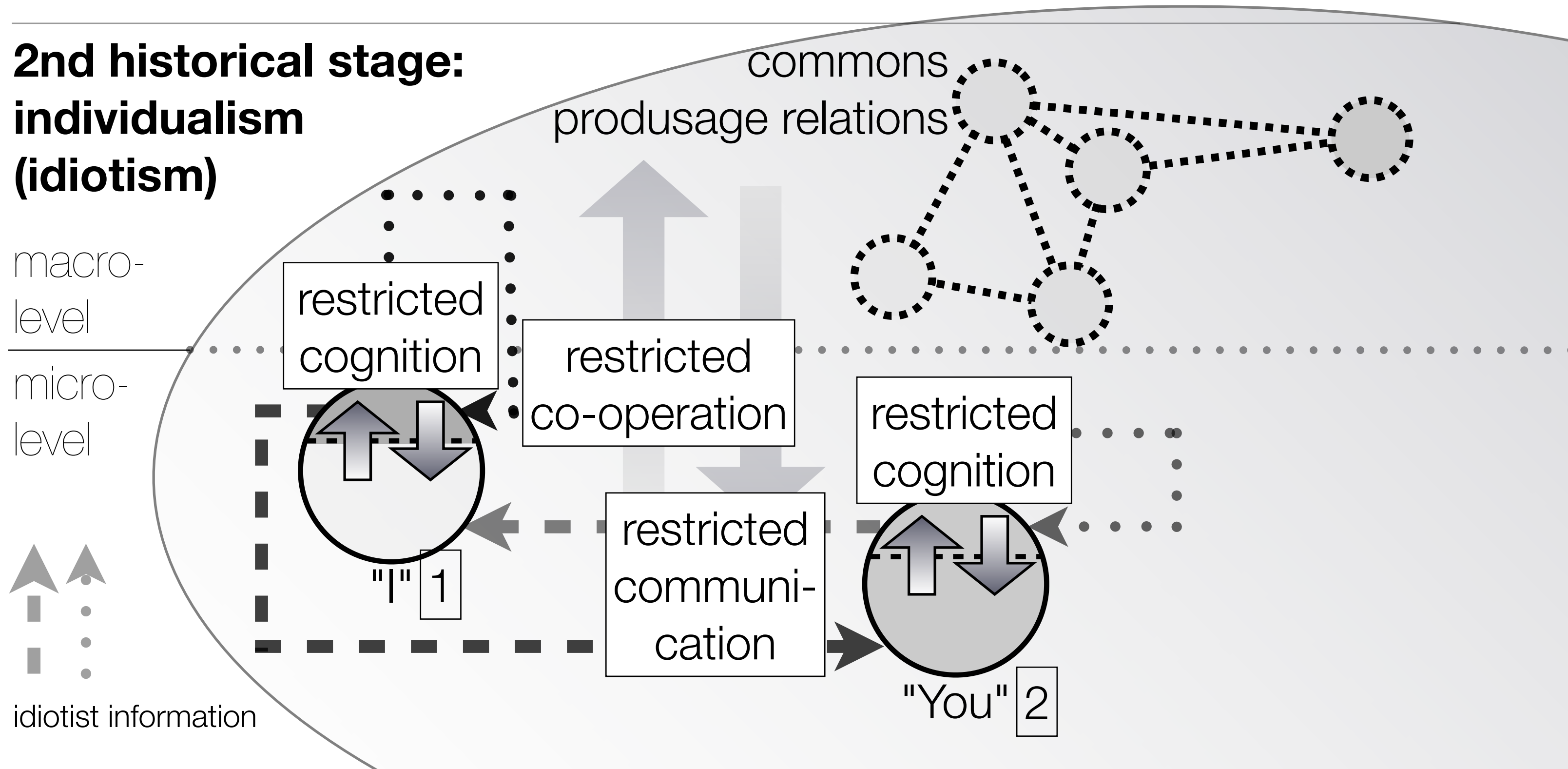


1st historical stage: collectivism (tribalism)



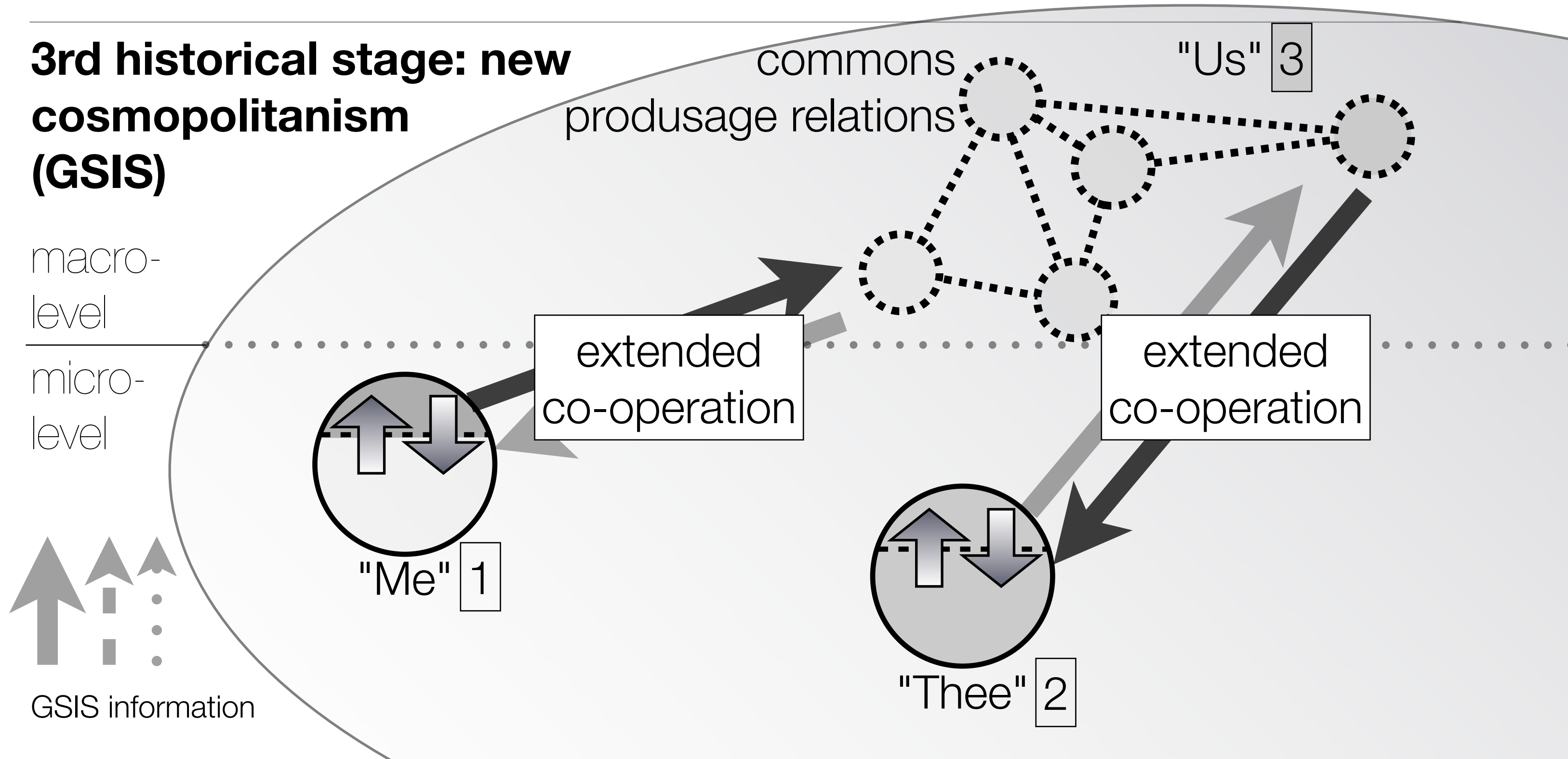
1.3.3 A meta-reflexive cognitive information

2nd historical stage: individualism (idiotism)



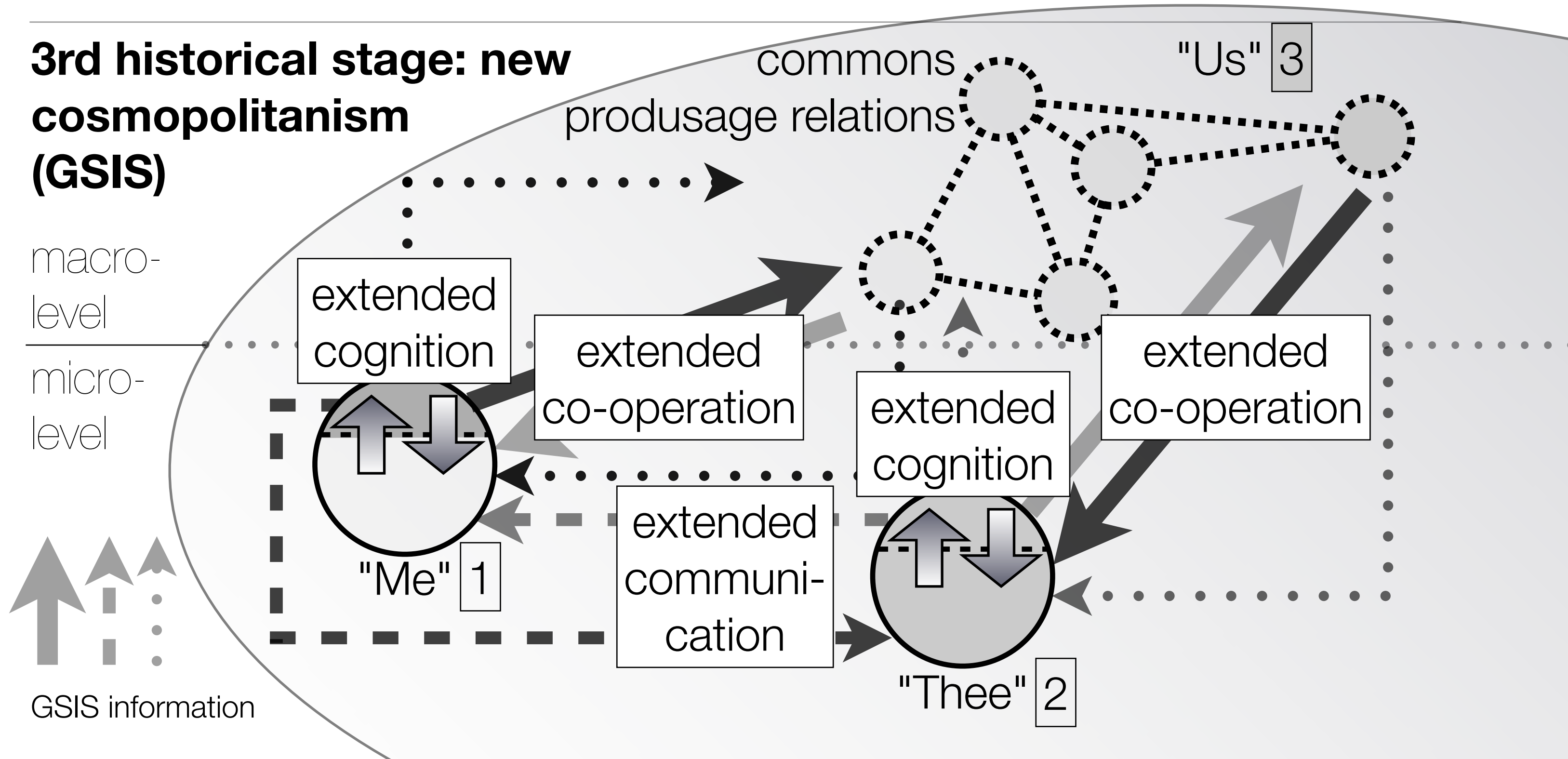
1.3.3 A meta-reflexive cognitive information

3rd historical stage: new cosmopolitanism (GSIS)



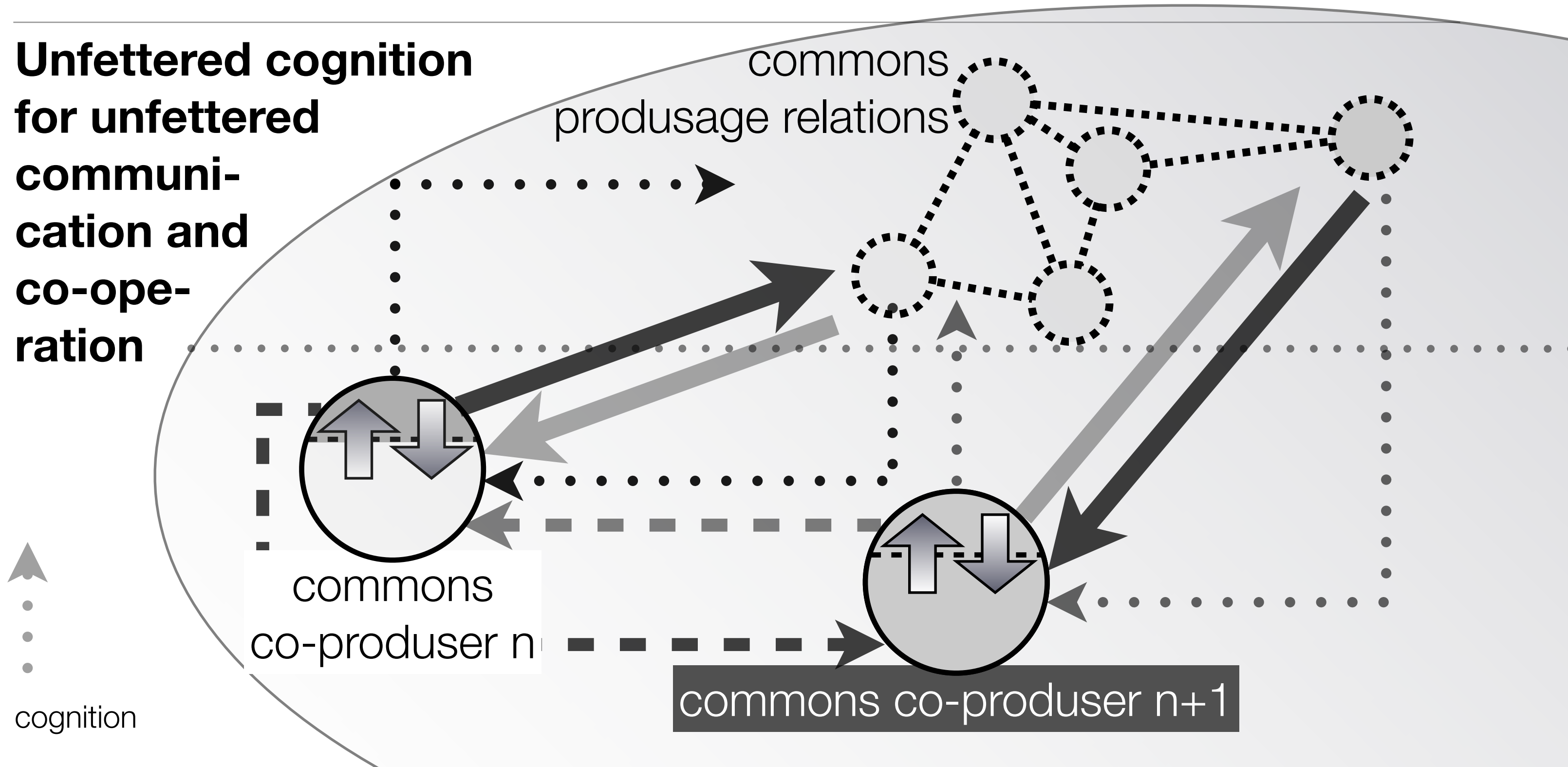
1.3.3 A meta-reflexive cognitive information

3rd historical stage: new cosmopolitanism (GSIS)



1.3.3 A meta-reflexive cognitive information

**Unfettered cognition
for unfettered
communi-
cation and
co-ope-
ration**



2 Ethics accounts

Is-Ought-Relationship	Is	Ought
naturalistic fallacy	facts: sufficient conditions for norms	norms: results of facts
spiritualistic fallacy	facts: results of norms	norms: sufficient conditions for facts
postmodern fallacy	facts	norms
	independent existents	
emergentist ethics	facts: necessary conditions for norms	norms: emergents of facts

3 Morality in crisis

Moral trends	means-ends relationship	interests	reflexivity
amoralisation (pragmatism)	the means shall yield the end	partial positions as to means or ends made into an absolute	restriction: myopia (self- concern only)
hyper-moralisation (fundamentalism)	the end justifies the means		
moral disconnect (indifferentism)	means and ends are independent	relative claims of uniqueness	
new cosmo- politanism (convergentism)	means and ends are balanced by a step by step formation of global conscience	unity through diversity	extension: self- and community- concern

3.1 Information Ethics at the Great Bifurcation

- Ethics =def. reflexion of morals
- Ethics for a Global Sustainable Information Society includes Information Ethics
- Information Ethics shall help design I(C)T(s) as Meaningful Technology
- Meaningful I(C)T(s): informatisation needs to serve informationalisation

3.1.1 Informatisation

Informatisation =def. process of spreading technology that makes society more and more responsive to information;

but informatisation is ambiguous!

3.1.1 Informatisation

Society	informatisation ambiguities between...	
culture	informed world netizenship and divide between information rich and poor	enabling wisdom and information blackout (information overflow and brainwash)
polity		empowering people and violation of privacy (surveillance and information warfare)
economy		unfettering information and intellectual proprietarisation (commodification and commercialisation)
ecology		optimising material and energy flows and ICT-aided over-exploitation
technology		lowering frictions and ICT-aided destructivity

3.1.1 Informatisation

- I(C)T(s) have **ambiguous impacts** on the social system they support:
- on the one hand, a **potential for reducing frictions** in the functioning of the produsage of any commons inheres in them so as to sustain the continuation of the social systems;
- on the other hand, they can be functionalised for purposes detrimental to reclaiming the commons; they can,
 - quantitatively, **reinforce existing disparities**, or,
 - qualitatively, **spawn new disparities**;
- thus they **need to be designed** deliberately!

3.1.2 Informationalisation

Informatisation has to be tamed so as to be harnessed for
informationalisation:

Informationalisation =def. process of raising the problem-solving capacity
of (world) society to a level of intelligence that allows for successfully
tackling the problems that arise from society's own development

3.1.3 Meaningful Technology

Meaningful Technology

=def. technology endowed with meaning by

(1) the reflection (through **Integrated Technology Assessment and Design**) of its expected/actual usage: **social usefulness**

– reflection of both

- the **fitness for the purpose** (utility) and
- the **purpose itself** (the function the technology serves)

(2) the inclusion in the design process of those who are affected by its usage: **participatoriness** (transdisciplinarity, mode-2 science)

3.1.3 Meaningful Technology

Meaningful Technology **in the age of global challenges**

=def. technology that contributes to the capability of societies to safeguard their development and rule out a self-inflicted breakdown

=def. technology **for a Global Sustainable Information Society (GSIS)**

3.1.3 Meaningful Technology

Meaningful **I(C)T(s)** in the age of global challenges

=def. **I(C)T(s)** that contribute to the capability of societies to safeguard their development and rule out a self-inflicted breakdown,
that is, to support the creation of wisdom–knowledge–data for lowering frictions in the build-up of ((techno)eco)social systems in order to break up the enclosure of the commons

=def. **I(C)T(s)** for a Global Sustainable Information Society (GSIS)



summit.is4is.org



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