

Coherent Policy-making Beyond the Information Barrier

Circumventing dependence on access, classification, penetration, dissemination, property, surveillance, interpretation, disinformation, and credibility

(<http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/docs/infopol.php>)

Anthony Judge

Director, Communications & Research
Union of International Associations
www.uia.org

Workshop on Information in the Policy Process Project,
organized by the Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainable Development
and the World Affairs Council (San Francisco, December 1999)

UIA - Quick Overview

- Develop and manage large databases
- Non-profit research on international organization
- Largely self-financed -- cost-recovery
- Sale of information services
- Concerned with meaningful use of information
- Operates from Brussels since 1910

Prime UIA Data Sets

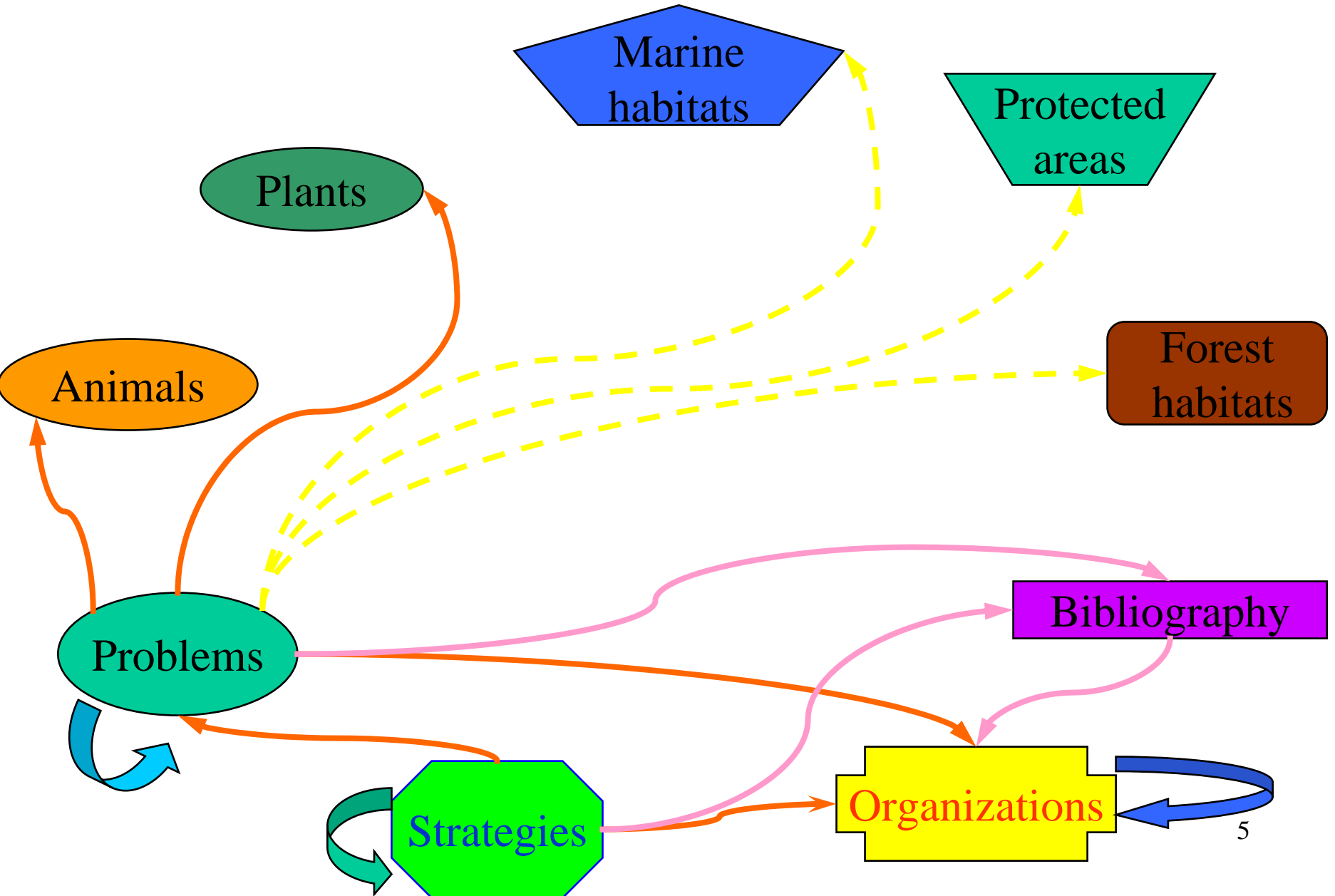
International	Profiles	(Hyper)Links
Organizations	40,000	137,000
Problems	30,000	150,000
Strategies	38,000	110,000
Meetings	150,000	90,000
Human values	2,200	14,500
Doc. Refs.	50,000	

Specific Products (Projects)

- Yearbook of International Organizations
 - vol 1: Profiles
 - vol 2: By country
 - vol 3: By subject
 - vol 4: Bibliographical
- Encyclopedia
 - vol 1: World Problems (also via web)
 - vol 2: Human Potential (also via web)
 - vol 3: Strategies (also via web)
- International Congress Calendar
- Who's Who in International Organizations

[more info via <http://www.uia.org/>]

Hyperlinking datasets between institutions

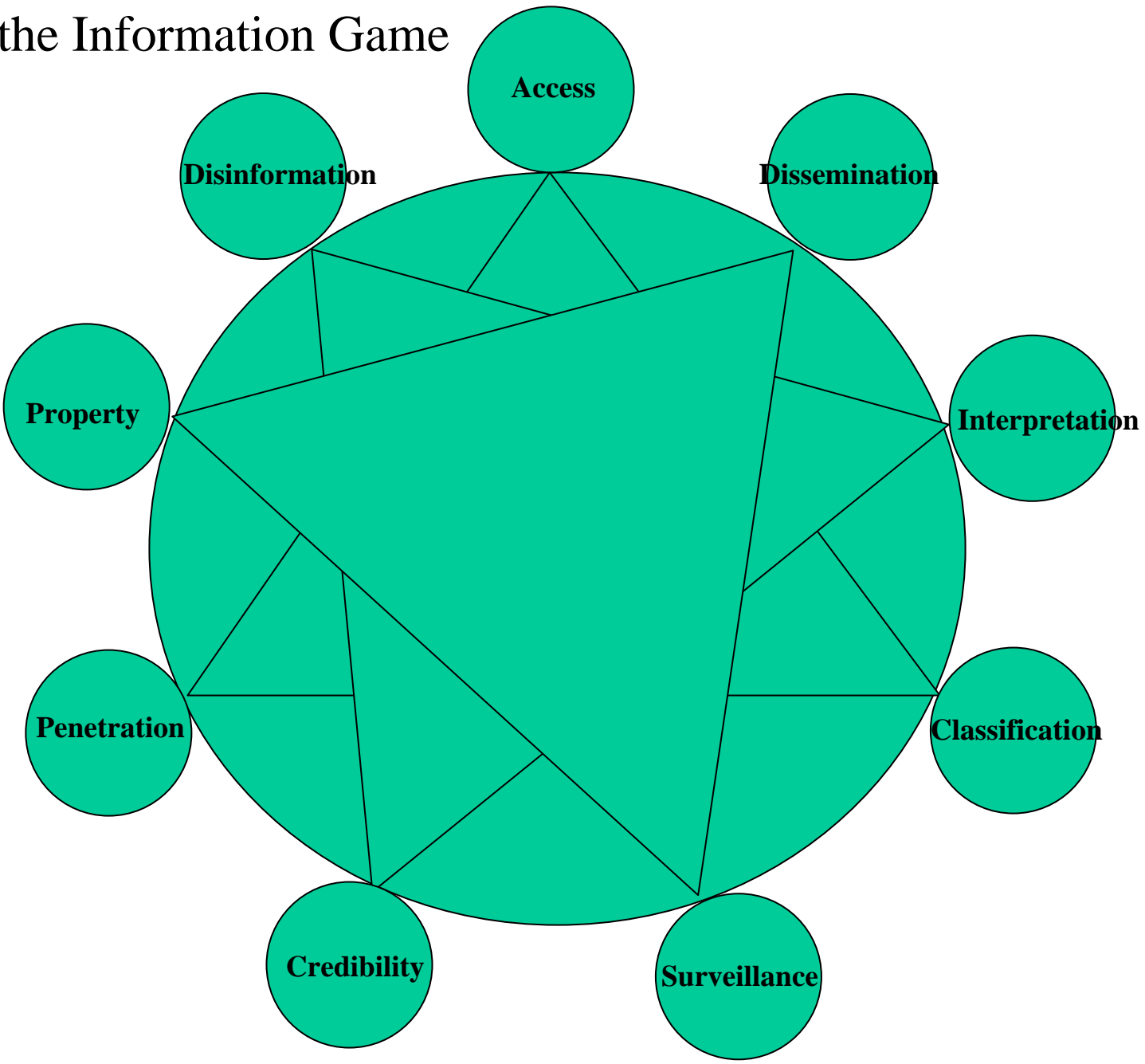


UIA Integrative Focus

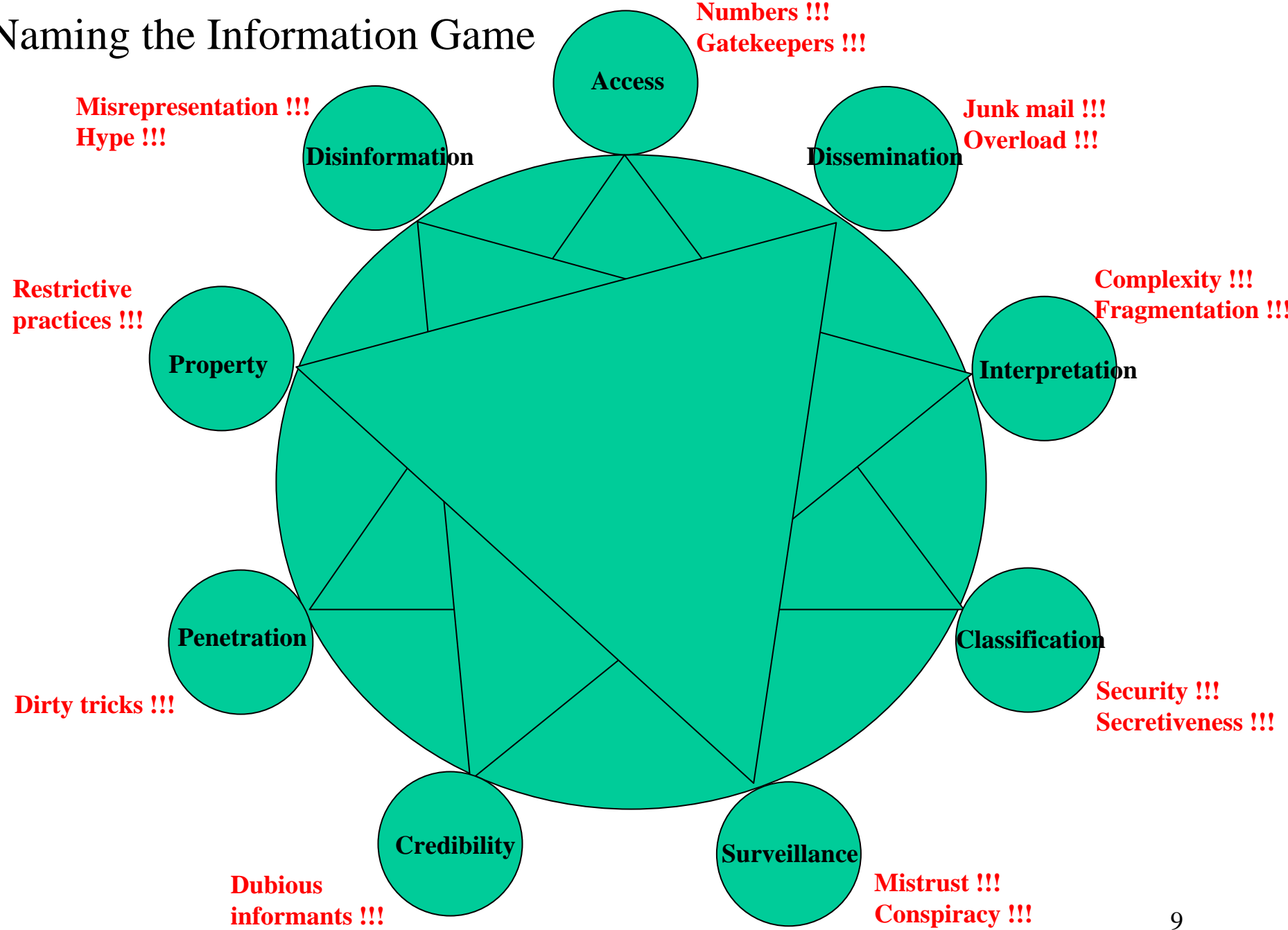
- Problems (world, regional, social, etc)
- Strategies and initiatives in response
- Responsible international organizations
- Values guiding initiatives
- Human development objectives and modes
- Bibliographical and web resources
- Comprehensibility for governance

Identifying the Information Barrier

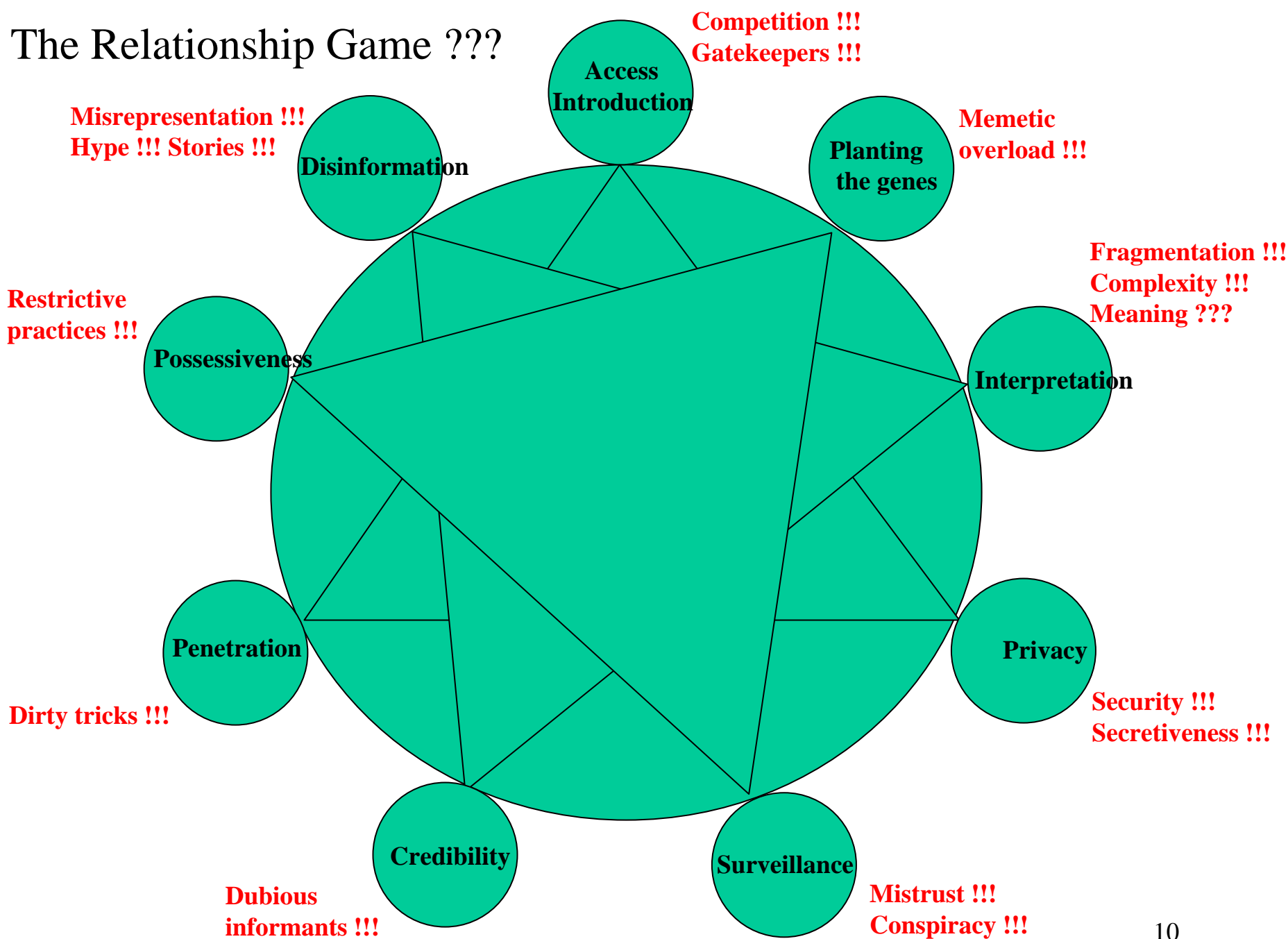
Naming the Information Game



Naming the Information Game



The Relationship Game ???



Information Policy Dilemma !!!??

“User satisfaction”

=

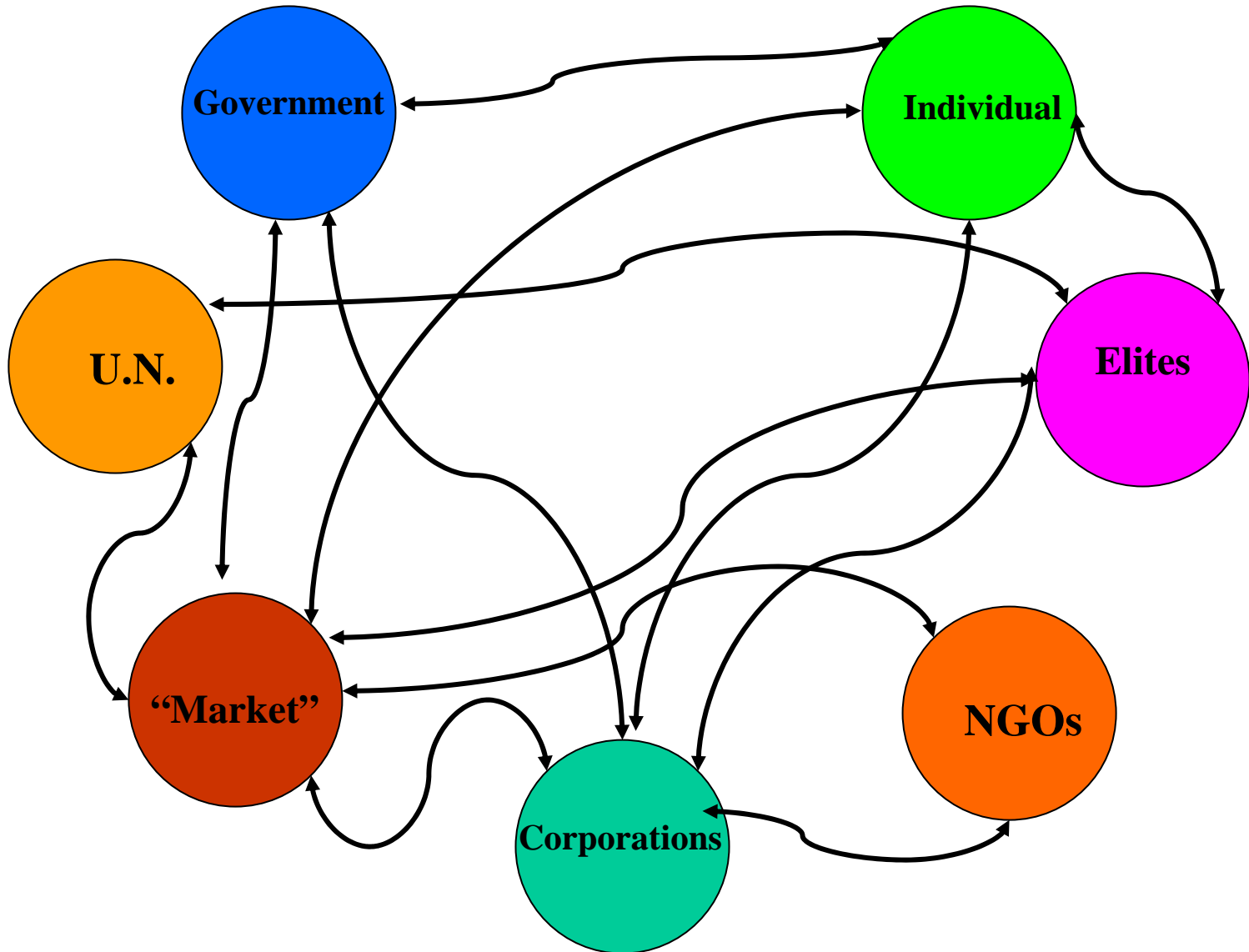
Reinforcing the pattern of denial to
which we are accustomed !

=

Tunnel vision

Who Decides ?

Gang rape or Mutual seduction?



Policy-making vs Architecture

Architects:

- lack of attention to how real people use spaces
- failure to revisit buildings to learn from their use

[Stewart Brand. *How Buildings Learn : what happens after they're built*. Penguin, 1995]

Policy-makers:

- how do real people live with their policies ?
- are policies revisited to learn from their use ?

Possible Ways Forward

- A: More communication technology
 - infrastructure beyond “the last telephone pole”
- B: Better communication metaphors
 - remedying metaphoric impoverishment of policy
- C: Better software configuration of insight
 - patterning structural complexity in new ways
- D: Integrating “B” and “C”
 - marrying “Beauty” and the “Beast”

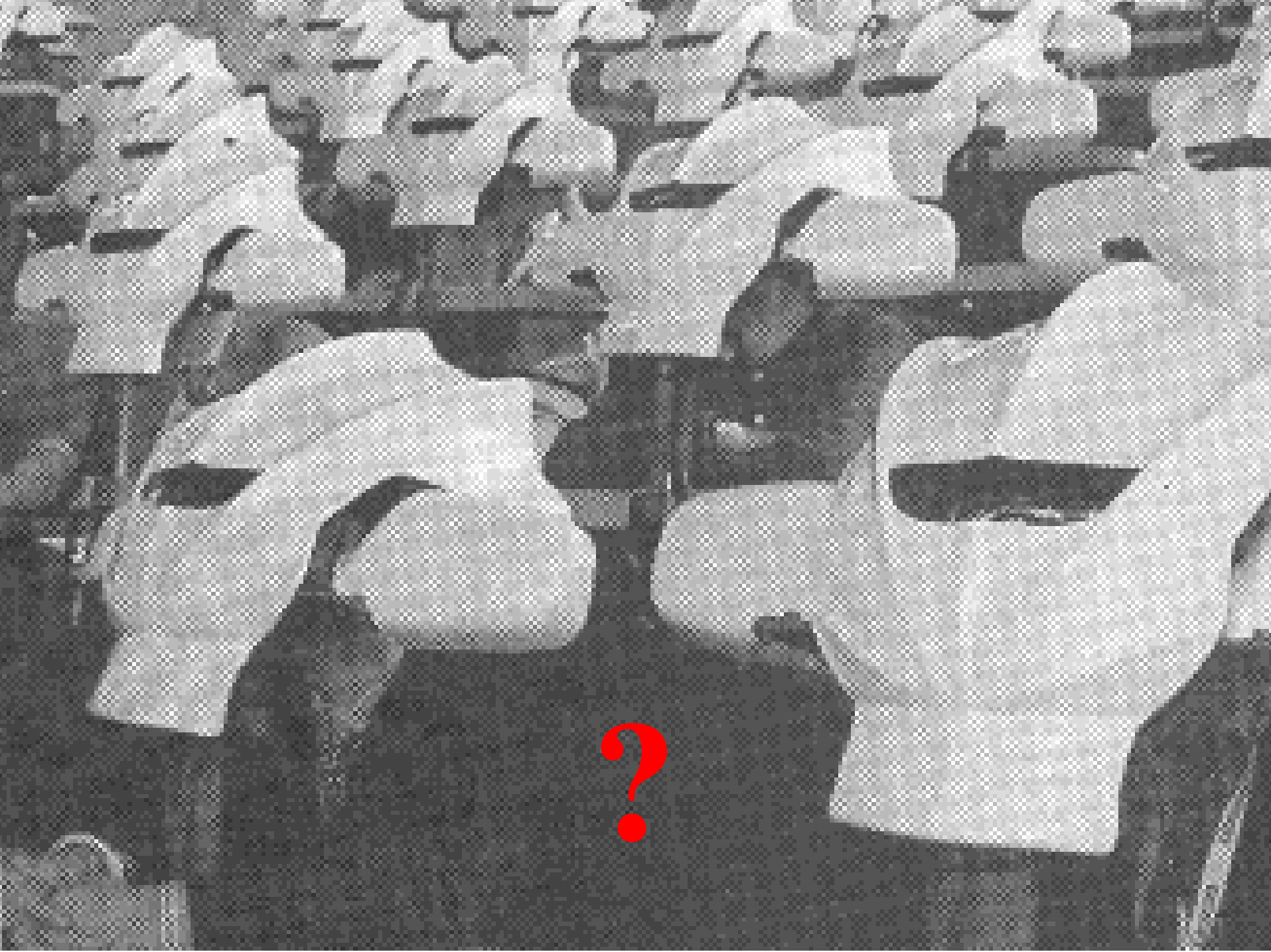
A: More communication technology

infrastructure to beyond

“the last telephone pole”

Example: electronic enhancement of “podium communication”

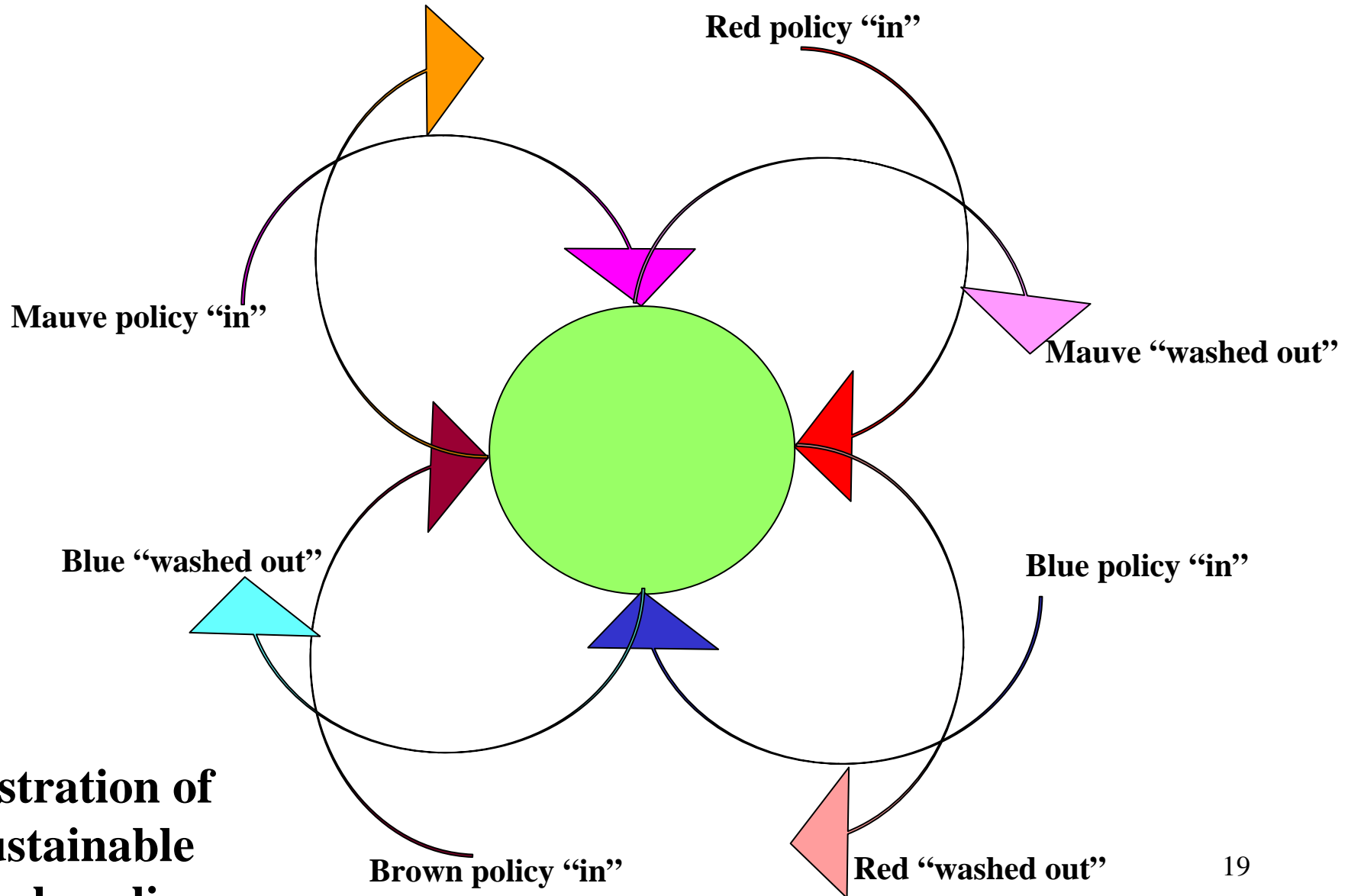
- Beamers
- Control of microphone use
- Restricted microphone movement
- Wall-screen (video conference)
- Controlled voting
- Electronic security



B: Better communication metaphors

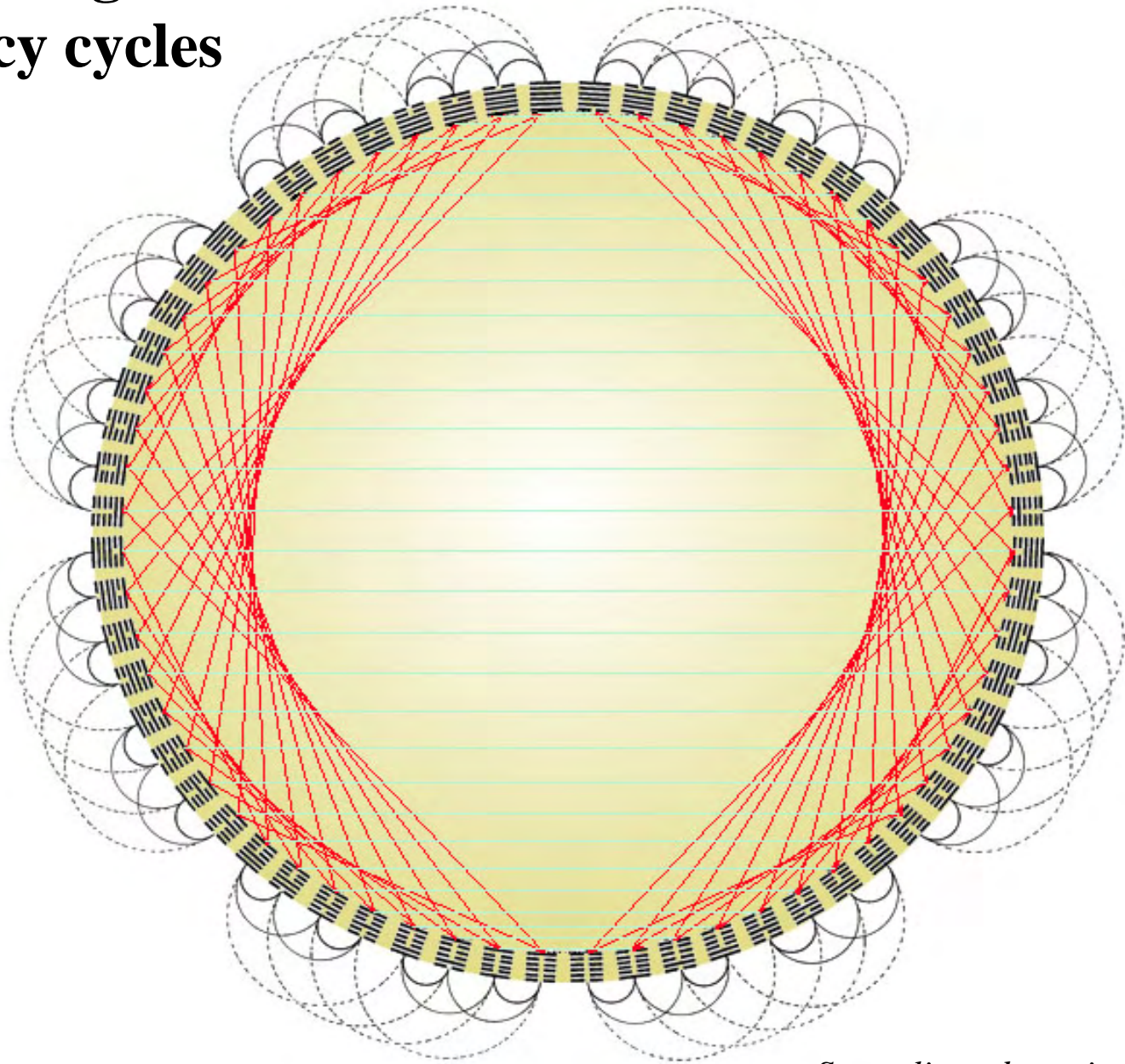
remedying metaphoric
impoverishment of policy in
dealing with intractable differences

Crop rotation as a policy metaphor



**Illustration of
a sustainable
4-cycle policy**

Chinese insights into policy cycles



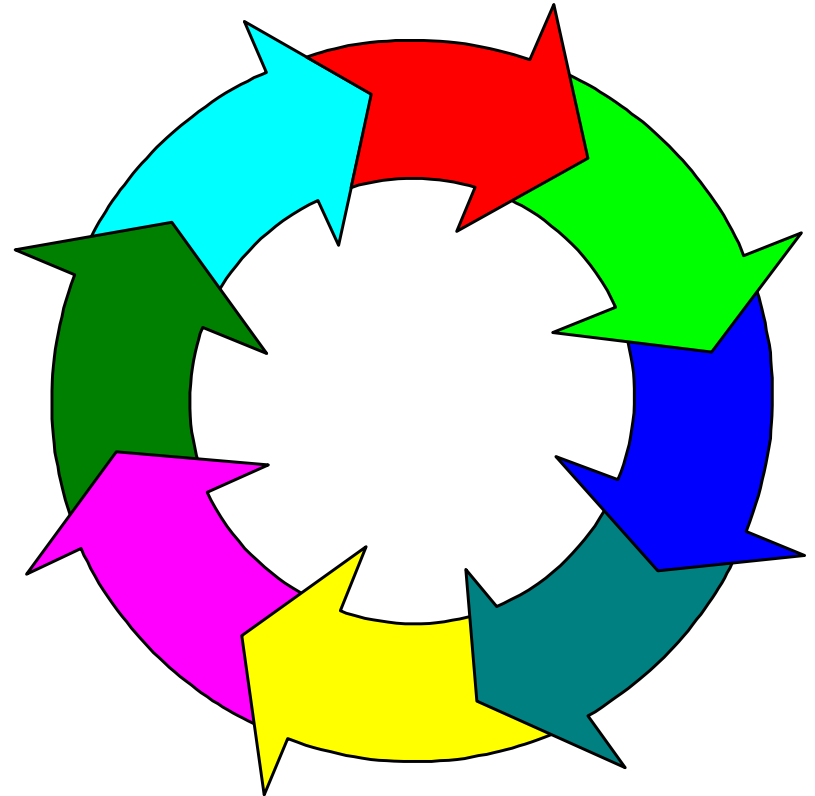
See policy adaptation / demo at:
<http://www.uia.org/met/chingndx.htm>

C: Better software configuration of insight

patterning structural complexity
in new ways

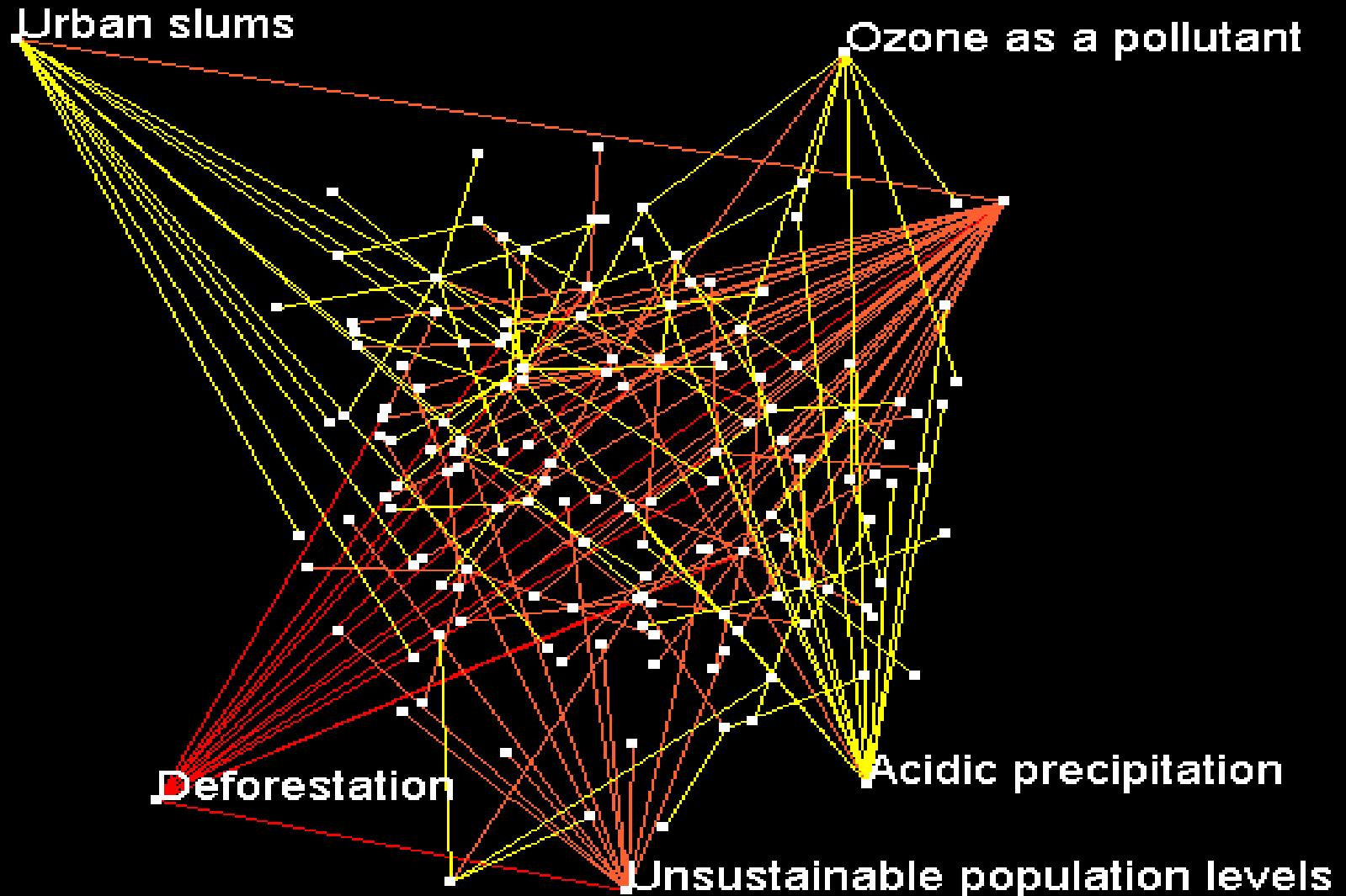
Recognizing feedback loops

- Criminal offences against the environment >>>
- Violence by fanatical environmentalists >>>
- Failure of green politics >>>
- Simplistic images of environmental protection >>>
- Failure to take account of externalities of systems >>>
- Undervaluation of nature in planning and decision-making >>>



UIA Conference mind-mapping

<http://www.uia.org/data.htm>



UIA Conference mind-mapping

<http://www.uia.org/data.htm>

Discrimination against women

Social subjugation of women

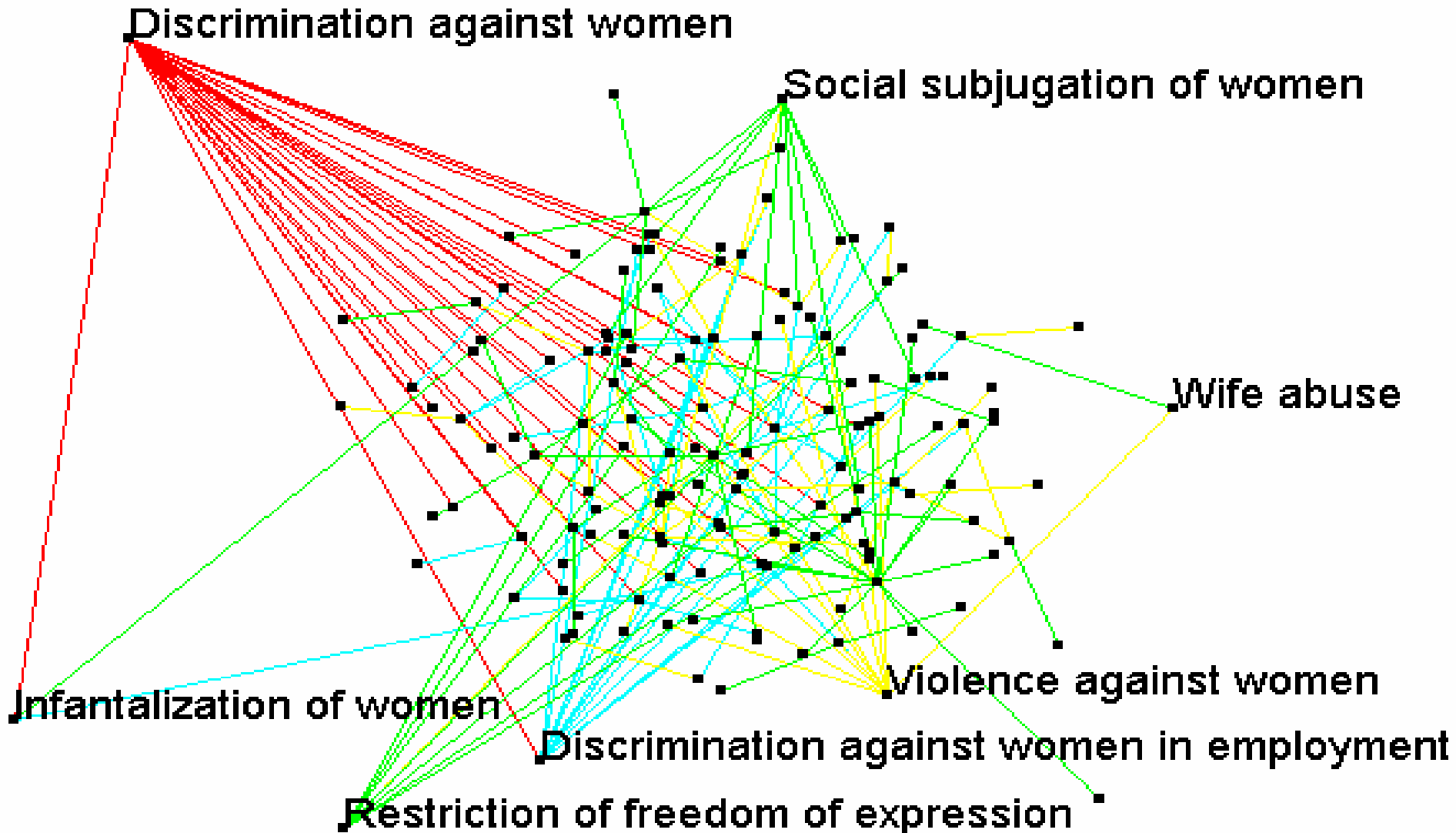
Wife abuse

Violence against women

Discrimination against women in employment

Restriction of freedom of expression

Infantalization of women



Going to an organization website

The image shows a screenshot of a software application named "Folio Bound VIEWS - [International Organizations (English)]". The interface includes a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Search, Layout, Customize, Yearbook Plus, Window, Help) and a toolbar with icons for Save, Query, Clear Query, Previous, Next, Backtrack, Contents, Highlighter, Bookmark, and Infobase. The main content area displays search results for "International Organizations", specifically "Type A: Federations of international organizations" and "International Co-operative Alliance (ICA)".

A large green arrow points from the search results to a preview window titled "The International Co-operative Alliance - Netscape". The preview window shows the ICA website with the URL <http://www.coop.org/>. The website content includes the ICA logo (a rainbow with birds) and the text "The International Co-operative Alliance". Below the logo, it states: "The ICA is an international non-governmental organisation which unites and serves co-operatives worldwide. The ICA International Co-operative Alliance provides information on the International Co-operative Alliance, its aims and a..."

The search results in the main window include the following text:

International Co-operative Alliance (ICA)

Alliance coopérative internationale (France)
Alianza Cooperativa Internacional (Spain)
Internationaler Genossenschaftsbund (Germany)
Mezhdunarodnyj Kooperativnyj Aльянс (Russia)

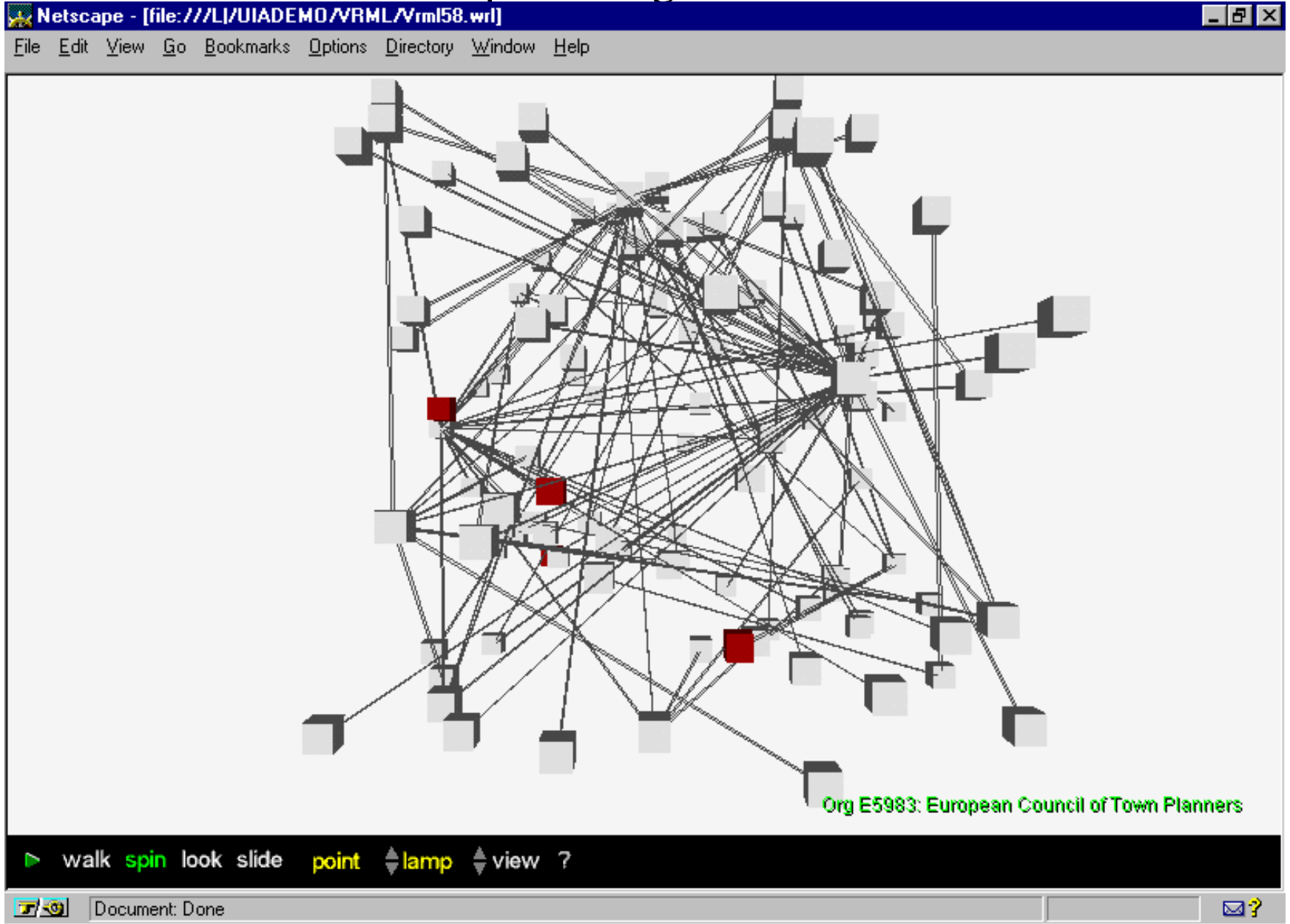
Contact
Dir Gen Bruce Thordarson, Route des Saules 15, Gra...
88 88. Fax 798 41 22. C. Interallia Genève. Tx 415620 ic...
Electronic Services: Website: <http://www.coop.org/>. Go...
Regional Directors and Offices:
Dir, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Robby T...
New Delhi 110 065, India. T. (91 11) 6835123 - 683531...
E-mail: icaroap@giasd101.usnl.net.in.
Dir, Regional Office for East, Central and Southern...
Moshi, Tanzania UR. T. (255 55) 51706 - 51708. Fax 50...
Dir, Regional Office for West Africa [Ada S Kibora](#), C...
Dir, Regional Office for Central America and the Car...
Costa Rica. T. (506) 315069. Fax 315842. E-mail: alianza...

History
19 Aug 1905 London with a mixed membership of indivi...

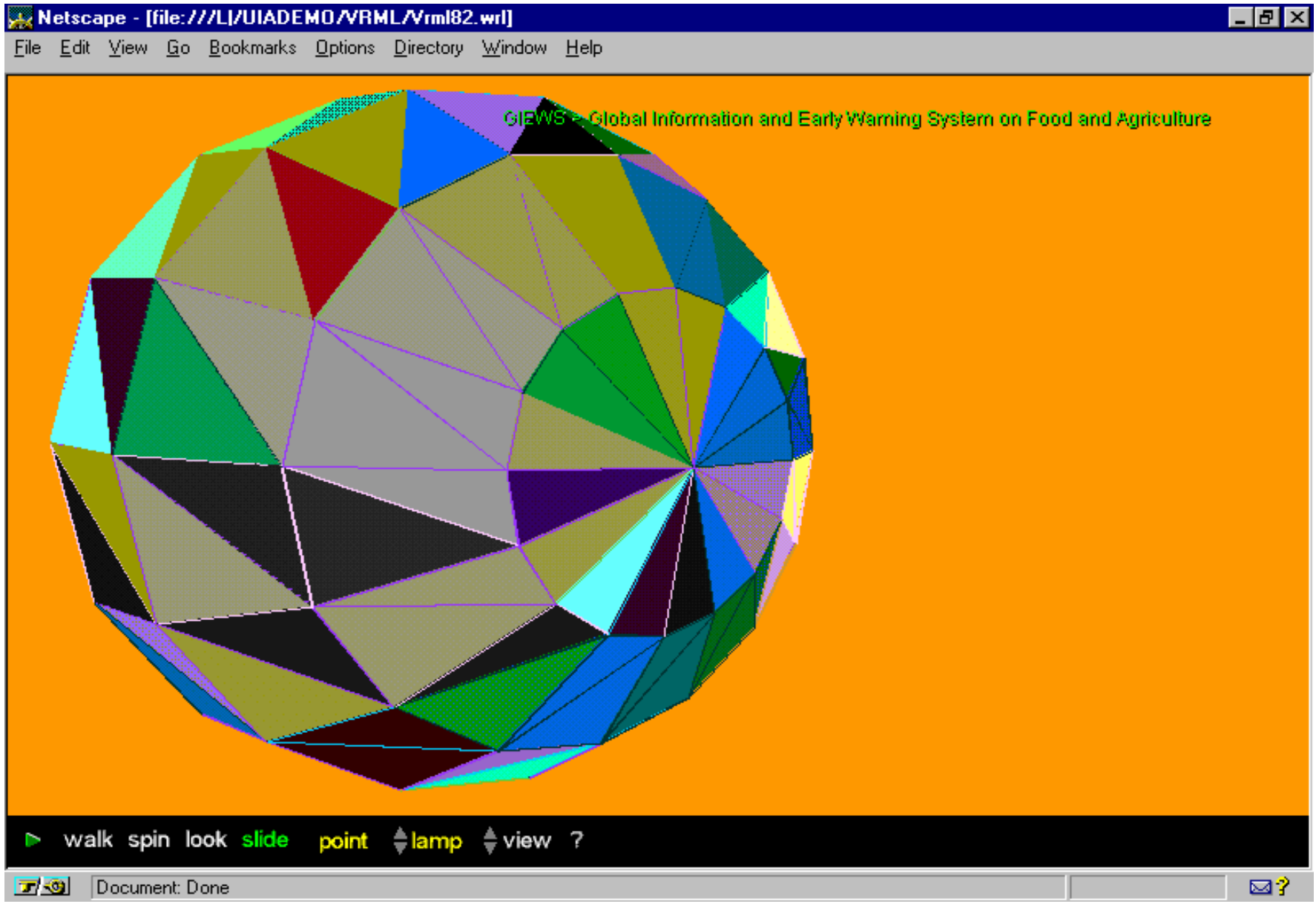
Record: 12/35240 Hit: 0/0 Query:

The taskbar at the bottom shows several open applications: Start, UIA CD-Ro..., Exploring..., Folio Boun..., The Interna..., Microsoft P..., The Interna..., The Inte..., and Fr. The system clock shows 10:38.

VRML Example 2: Organizations - network



VRML Example 5a: Organizations - sphere (EU system)



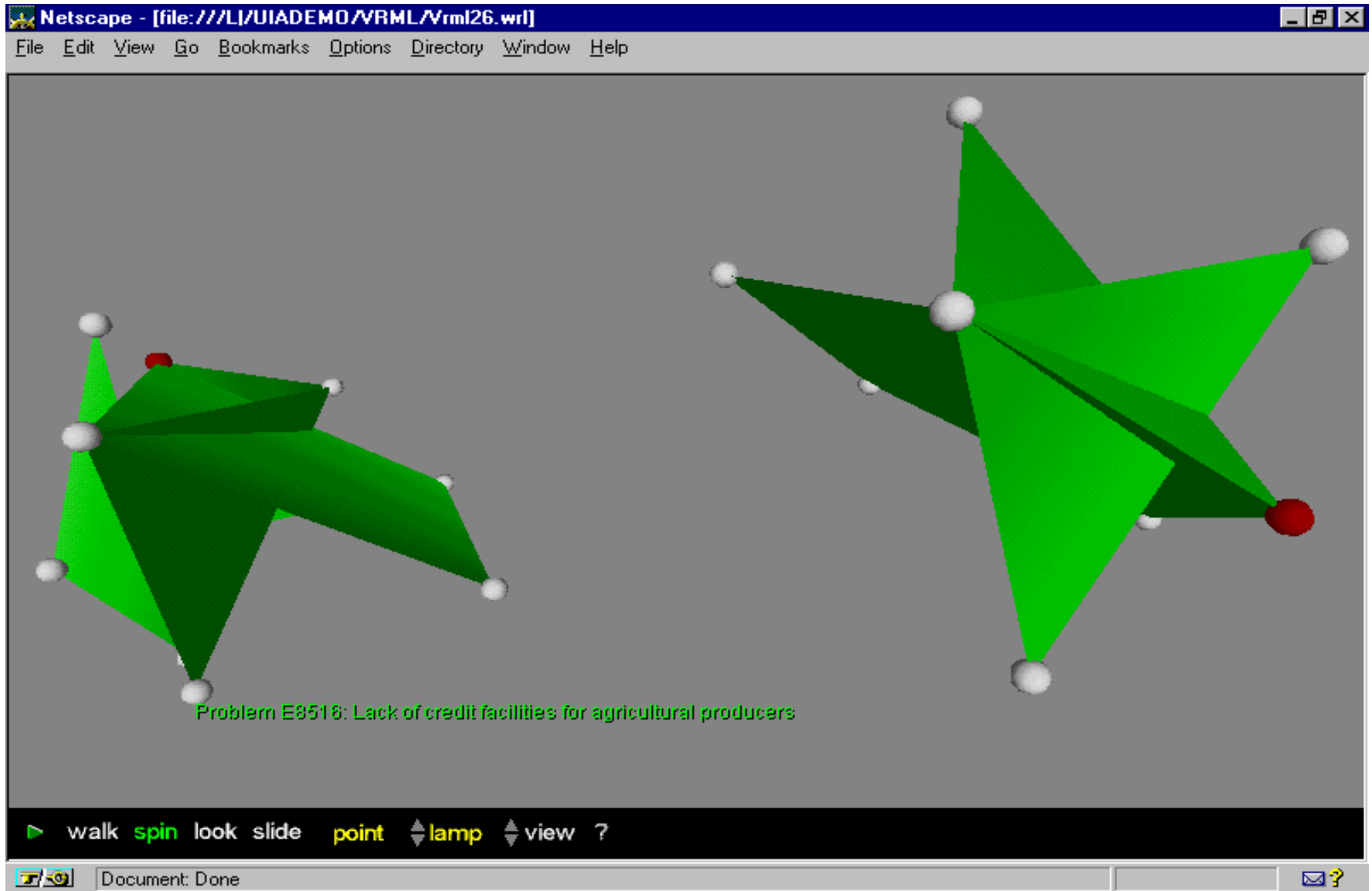
Vulnerability of marriage as an institution 34



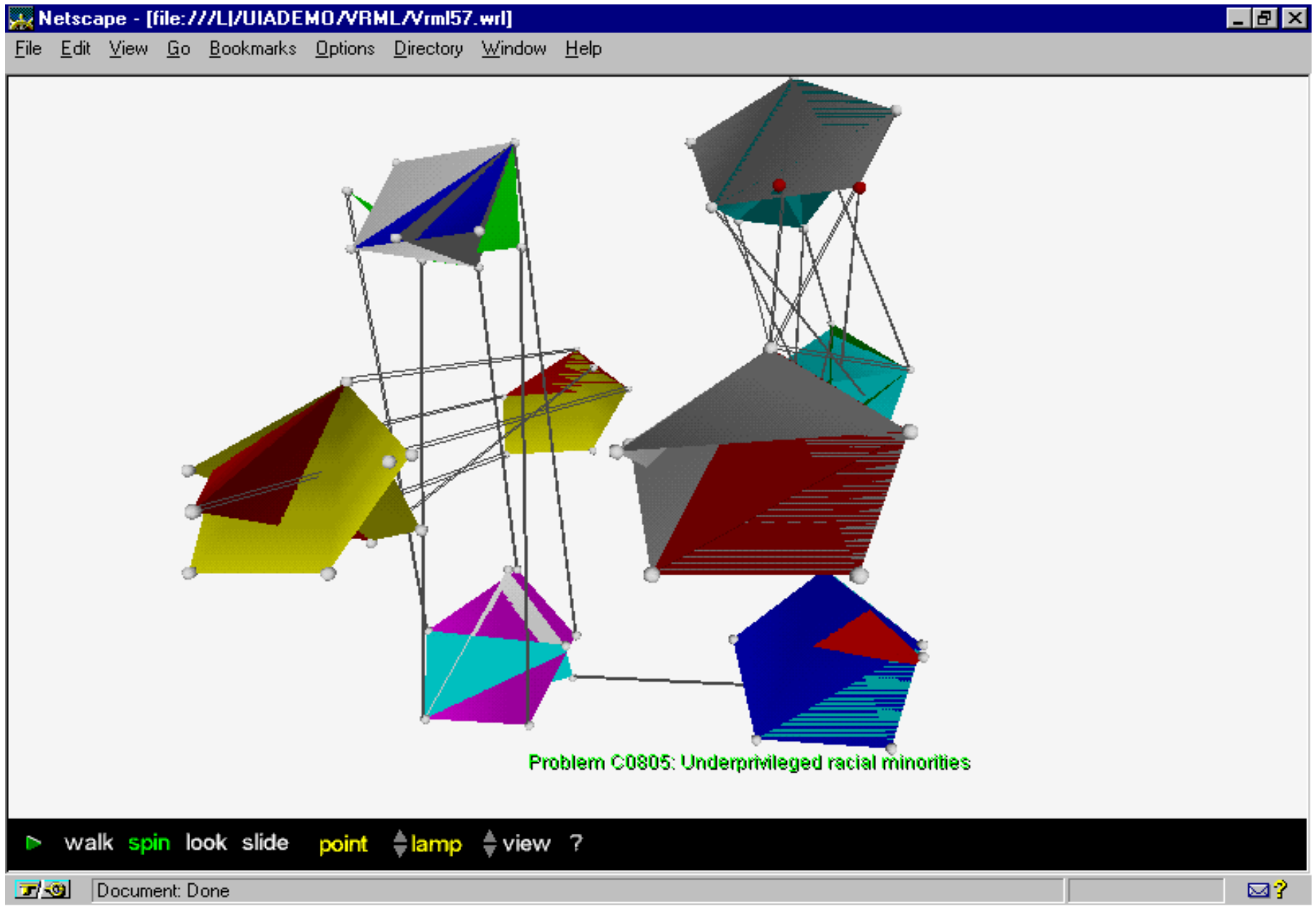
[Discrimination against women](#)

Virtual reality configuration of relationships from [World Problems](#) database (see below)

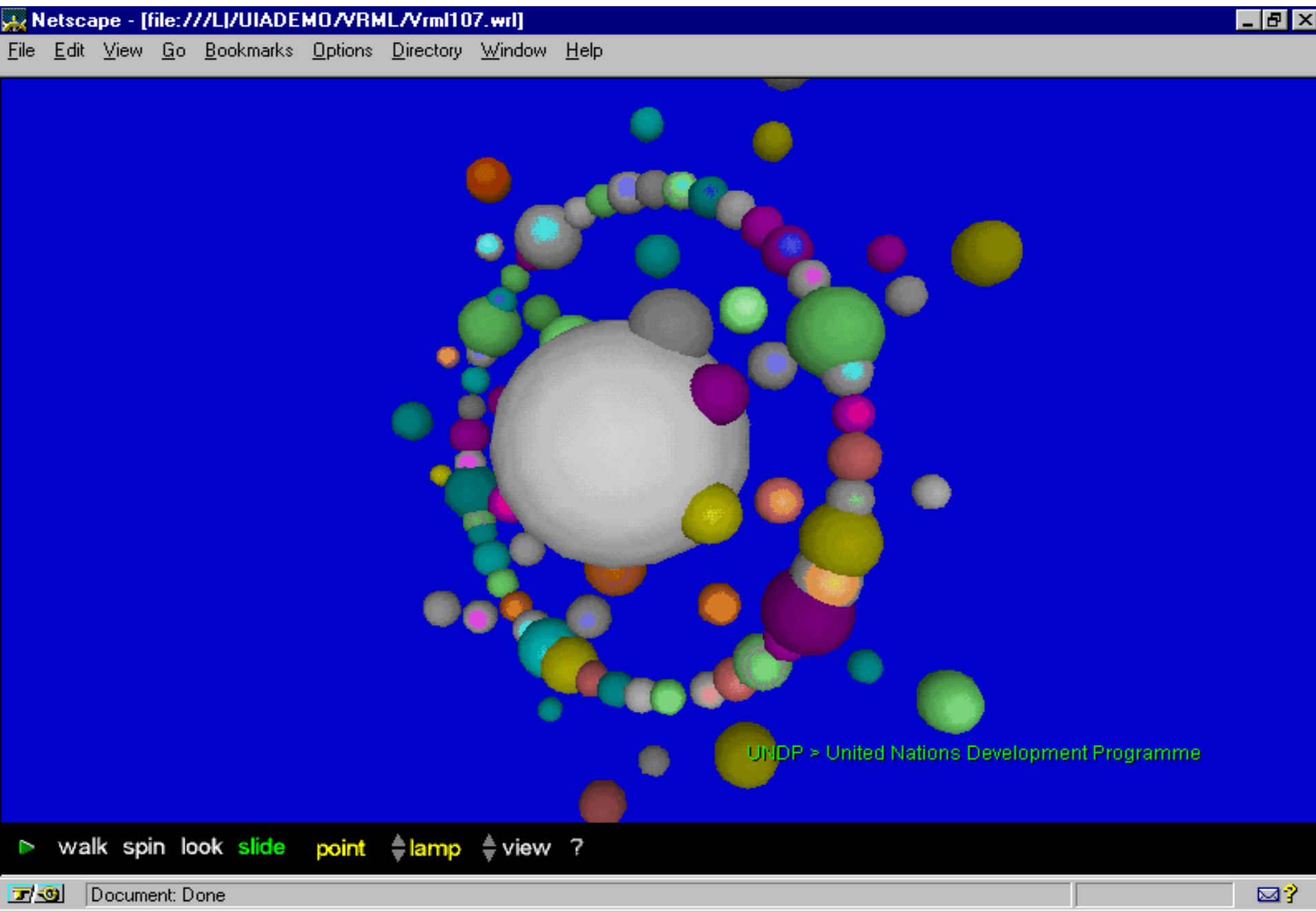
VRML Example 1: World problem loop interlocks



VRML Example 4: World problem loop interlocks



VRML Example 6: Organizations - solar (World Bank system)



Your [Improvements / Comments / Feedback](#) (by paragraph)Database: [International Meetings](#)Meeting: **Annual science conference (990927-1002)**

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Dates | <input type="radio"/> National organization | <input type="radio"/> Countries (eg 25) | <input type="radio"/> Relevant websites |
| <input type="radio"/> Country | <input type="radio"/> Meeting name | <input type="radio"/> Exhibition | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Meeting details |
| <input type="radio"/> Town | <input type="radio"/> Theme | <input type="radio"/> Contact (international) | |
| <input type="radio"/> International organization | <input type="radio"/> Participant (eg 250) | <input type="radio"/> Contact (local) | |

Date changed to 991003-07

Your name: Your e-mail:

See general editorial [commentary](#) for information on criteria, scope and intent of this database
E-mail general queries on the International Meetings database to calendar@uia.be

D: Integrating new metaphor with configurative software

marrying “Beauty” and the “Beast”

towards insight scaffolding &
prosthetics

Beyond: “Active Worlds” ??

<http://www.activeworlds.com/>

- Home to hundreds of thousands of users and millions of kilometers of virtual territory.
- In Active Worlds you can:
 - explore over 1000 unique virtual worlds (3D “conferences” ?)
 - build your own 3D world on the Internet (own conference centre?)
 - make new contacts and chat with people from all over the world
 - play interactive 2D and 3D games
 - choose from a vast range of identities (conference roles?)
 - shop online in a 3D virtual mall
- **Future relevance to policy elaboration ???**

Gardening Knowledge !!!

- Cultivating patterns of knowledge
 - from menus to petals
- Ecologies of policies
 - conserving policy ecosystems
- Working virtually with patterns of hyperlinks
 - towards memetic engineering
- Integrating musical feedback
 - towards resonant knowledgescapes

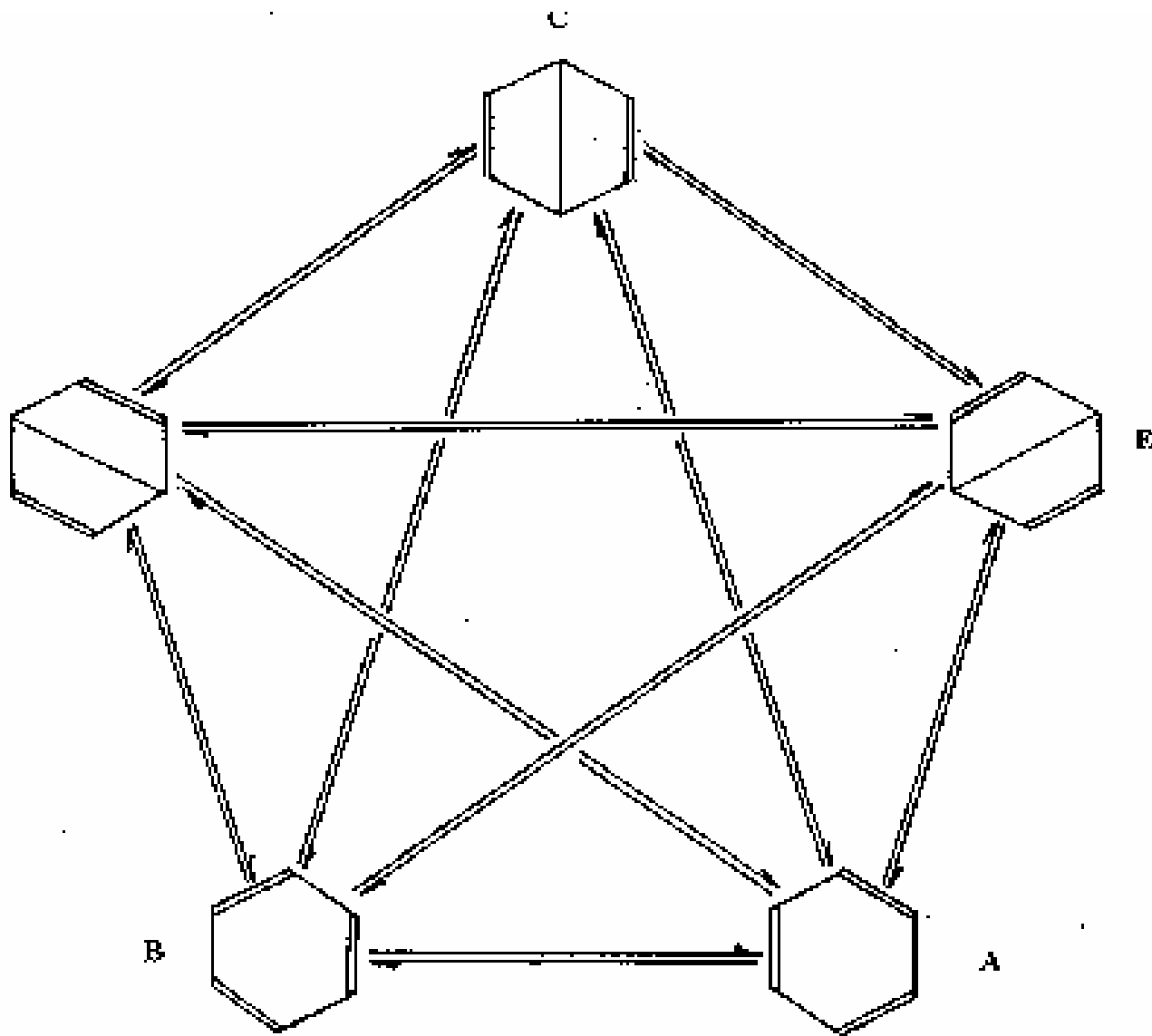
Psycho-technical challenges

- Massaging active (web) information into memorable integrative configurations
- Enabling (web) users to explore their own aesthetic/imaginative preferences in doing so
- Converting such structures into communication templates (patterning/filtering message flow)
- Converting such evolving templates into evolving policy, legal and funding structures

Beyond policy billboards !!!

- Dependence on strategic “vision” metaphor
 - **vision:** myopia, blindness, billboarditis
- Complementary metaphors
 - **sound:** hearing the voice of the people (soundscapes)
 - **touch:** touching the hearts of the people (touchscapes)
 - **smell:** policies that stink !!! (policy smellscapes)
 - **taste:** tasteless policy (policy tastescapes)
- Sound (as opposed to Vision)
 - as the metaphoric key to strategic harmony

Resonance Hybrids: Key to future sustainability ?



Future challenges -- for memorable policies with soul

- *Agenda 21* versus the *Mahabharata* (or *Dynasty* !)
- A singable *Declaration of Human Rights* to make it memorable
- *UN Charter* as a poem integrated by a pattern of resonant associations
- The set of UN Specialized Agencies as an integrated mythological pantheon