

# Your Unfolding Future: Plan in Uncertainty

#### Nothing is intractable.

Live Virtual Workshop November 2016 Glenda Eoyang geoyang@hsdinstitute.org



#### Today we will explore . . .

- ▶ What conditions shape your unfolding future?
- ▶ **So what** assumptions can work for YOU in uncertainty?
- ▶ **Now what** will be your plan for your future?



# What conditions shape your unfolding future?



# **Traditional** Planning

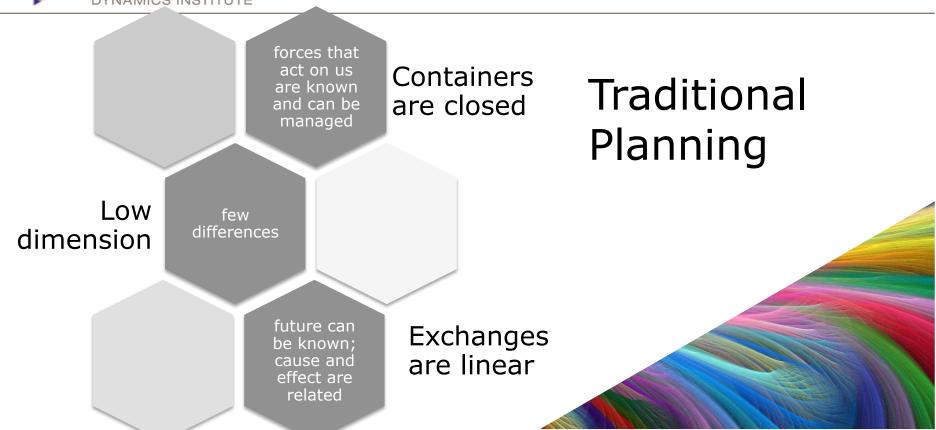








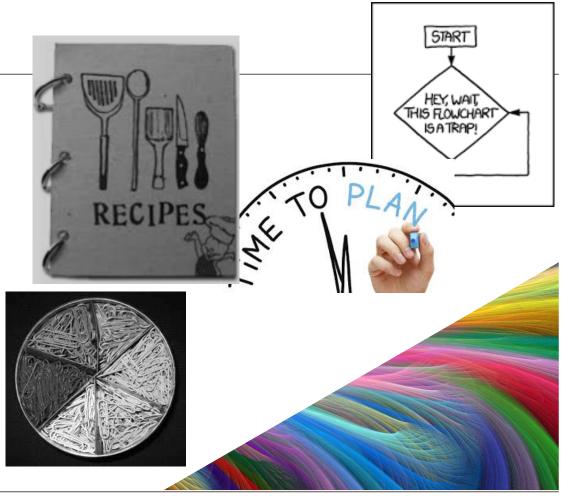






#### That world is

- Predictable
- Controllable
- Dynamic
- Black and white

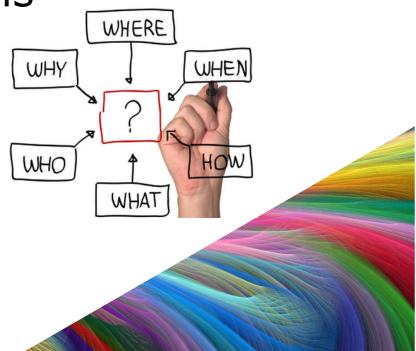




Planning Assumptions

In closed, low dimension, linear systems:

- Clear goals
- Aligned resources
- Great communication
- Frequent monitoring



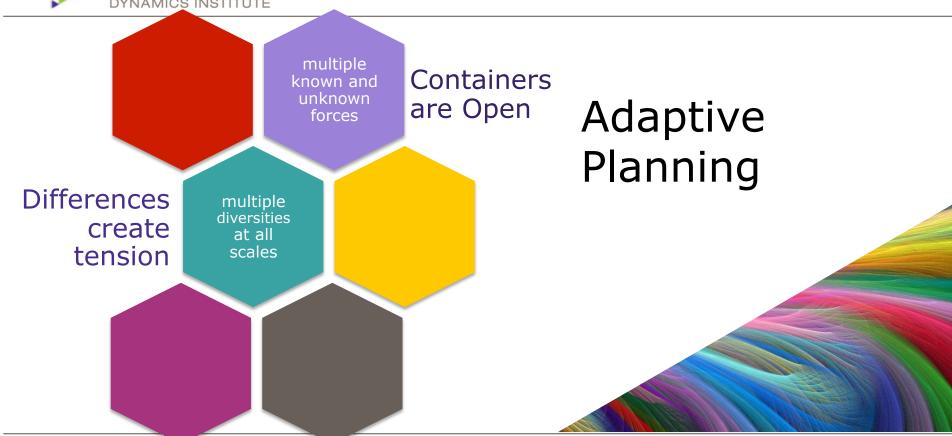




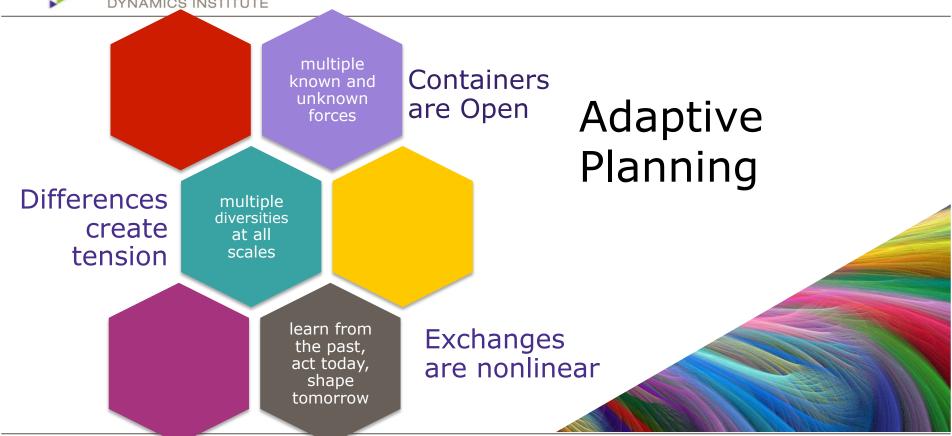














#### That world is

- Unknowable
- Uncontrollable
- Dynamical
- Surprising
- Uncertain



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# So what assumptions can work for YOU in uncertainty?



## Assumption #1 About an Uncertain World

Precision does not always help







If precision is not accuracy, . . . Now what?

- Look for patterns not points
- Think across scales
- Zoom in and zoom out
- Find fit for function
- Excellent enough
- ► And . . .





## Assumption #2 About an Uncertain World

► There is no root cause – cause is a network







#### If cause is a network, . . . Now what?

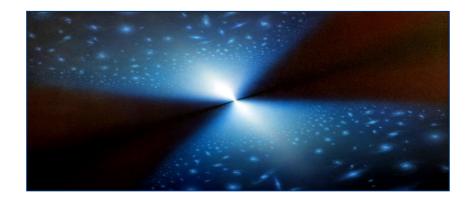
- Think in networks
- Scan multiple horizons
- Make and break connections
- Expect unintended consequences
- Use Adaptive Action What? So what? Now what?
- And . . .





## Assumption #3 About an Uncertain World

▶ This moment is all we have







## If time is all we have. . . Now what?

- Explore alternative futures
- Know history, but . . .
- Know it doesn't predict future
- Stay conscious
- Choose
- Practice mindfulness
- And . . .





## Assumption #4 About an Uncertain World

Difference is generative







If difference is generative, . . . Now what?

- Consider interdependent pairs
- Work across dimensions
- Iterate, iterate, iterate
- Local rules, global patterns
- Distinguish stable from not
- And . . .





## Assumption #5 About an Uncertain World

Experience stretches and folds







If experience stretches and folds, . . . Now what?

- Watch the tension
- Expect and appreciate contraction
- Take no difference as permanent
- Test your assumptions
- Don't get stuck on space and time
- And . . .





## Assumption #6 About an Uncertain World

Patterns are not problems







## If we see patterns not problems, . . . Now what?

- Stay in inquiry
- Integrate theory and practice
- Don't stay stuck
- Work at multiple scales
- ► And . . .





# Now what will be your plan for your future?



#### Assumptions About an Uncertain World

- Precision does not always help
- There is no root cause cause is a network
- This moment is all we have
- Difference is generative
- Experience stretches and folds
- Patterns are not problems



#### Adaptive Planning





#### Learn more . . .

- Online at HSDinstitute.org
- Adaptive Action Labs:
  - HSD Professional Certification— Toronto, Jan 2017
  - Leadership in Medical Education—Online, Feb 2017
  - Coaching—Online
  - ☐ Health and Wellness—Ottawa, Dec 2016



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December 1 <sup>st</sup> , 11 am CST (60 min)	Personal Power to Design the Life You
Live Virtual Workshop	Want: Your Radical Inquiry
December 15 <sup>th</sup> , 11 am CST (90 min) Quarterly Associates Meeting	Hear from several HSD Associates sharing their current HSD praxis