



Organising Together for Transformation

Ali Taherzadeh

Resisting, Learning, Growing
Facilitator and PhD researcher
Cardiff University

CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY
PRIFYSGOL
CAERDYDD





Why we need food system transformation



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What or who is the movement?

01

Do you identify as part of a movement?

What do you call that movement?

Who is in it?

Who would not be in it?



Divisions and Culture Clashes

02

Where are there divisions or tensions within the movement?

Where are there divisions or tensions with those outside the movement?

Farmer vs. Landworker

“it's just weird that you have these two very polarising camps of sort of white middle class landowner and then dirty fingernails grower” - new entrant farmer

Farmer

- Traditional/Established Farmer
- Conventional (could be organic)
- Older and male
- Motivated by practical and financial concerns
- Medium and large-scale, livestock or arable
- Proper farmer, producing for larger commercial markets

Landworker

- New entrant/beginner farmer
- Agroecological and/or organic
- Young and higher representation of women (and other marginalised identities)
- Motivated by political ideals
- Small-scale, horticultural
- Hobby farmer, small contribution to local food production

A spectrum of positions

Different factors:



Context
(scale, sector,
geography)



**Market
approaches**



**Agricultural
approaches**



Culture
(values, political
ideology, identity,
aesthetics, food etc.)

Instead of a binary, in fact we
have:

- Complexity
- Multi-dimensional
spectrums

“the banner of the group, looks suspiciously like a political group, it looks like the.....well it says, the sickle, isn't it?”

- small-scale farmer on LWA's logo



Culture Clashes

“it's got a fairly sort of corporate vibe, but I think that's coming from my background where I'd be more at home somewhere like the Land Skills Fair. So probably to somebody who comes from a more corporate background it probably seems like a right old hippie fest”

- LWA coordinator on Groundswell



Home vs. Coalition

“Coalition work is not work done in your home. Coalition work has to be done in the streets [...] Some people will come to a coalition and they rate the success of the coalition on whether or not they feel good when they get there. They’re not looking for a coalition; they’re looking for a home!”

“If you’re in a coalition and you’re comfortable, you know it’s not a broad enough coalition.”

- **Bernice Johnson Reagon**

Building Bridges

“Whether they're spraying everything with glyphosate or refusing to use a tractor, I think it's about trying to give people the space to see that we all just want to produce great food for our communities. So hopefully - yeah, bridges is what we need, isn't it.”

- Grower and Activist

Common Ground

“I think just organising social events where people who've got a common interest are brought together in an area so that they realise that we're actually all farmers, or all growers who are dealing with the weather, and with climate change, and with weeds, and with market pressures, rather than the sort of us and them.”

- LWA staff member

Mutual Learning

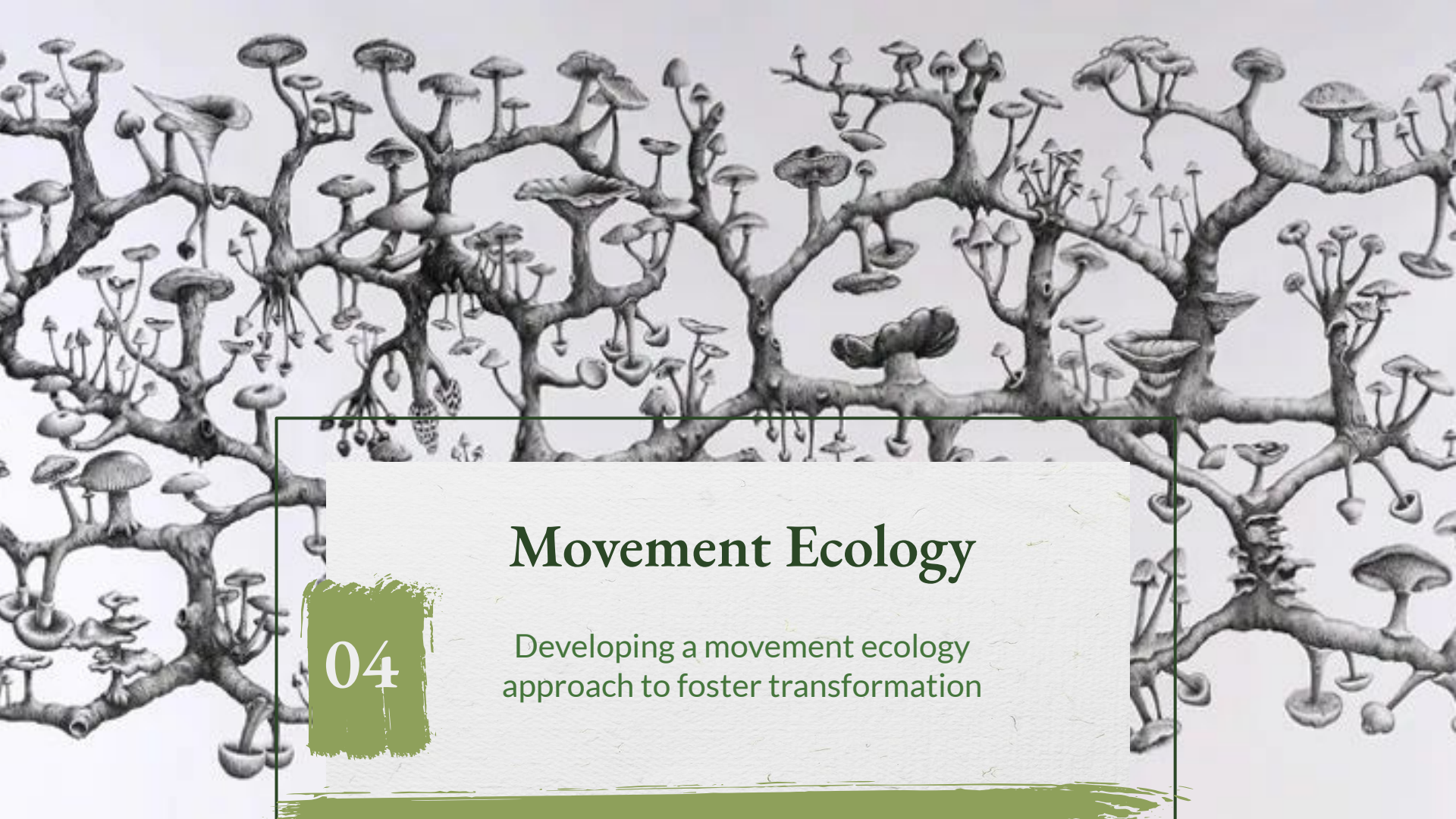
"I've always thought that actually it's really foolish not to listen to and learn from conventional farmers and growers, because they have, obviously, often lots and lots of experience and knowledge [...] How do you pick up that sort of experience? [...] I mean, if you can have spaces, which both people come to in a respectful and friendly way." - Farm Hack organiser

Appreciating Diversity

“It may be quite messy with all the talk of agroecology and regenerative agriculture and organics and permaculture and so forth, but that's part of the messiness of nature and diversity and, if anything, sums up to me what I've learned about sustainability through my life, it's that diversity is absolutely central to it. So, I think that that messiness is, it might be uncomfortable, but it's also quite healthy.”

- LWA staff





04

Movement Ecology

Developing a movement ecology approach to foster transformation

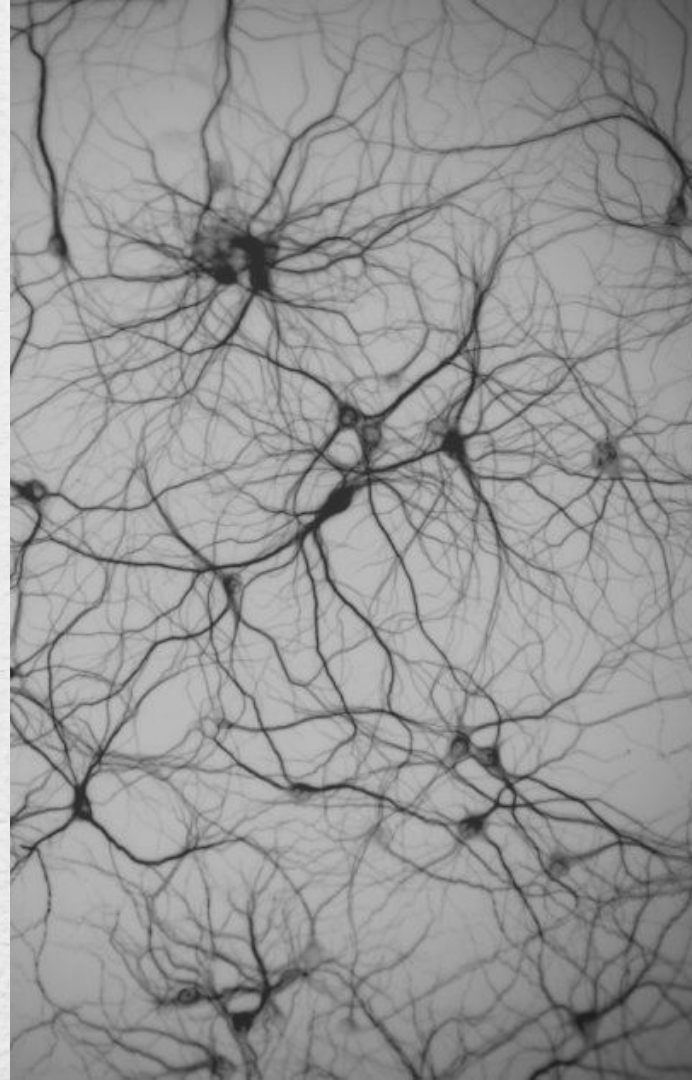
Social Movement Ecology

“Beyond our organizations, there are many campaigns, movements, cultures, communities, and institutions that are trying to make change in their own ways.

The dominant culture of isolation and individualism can confuse us into thinking that we are alone at the center, rather than integrally connected to a network of changemakers with diverse theories of change.

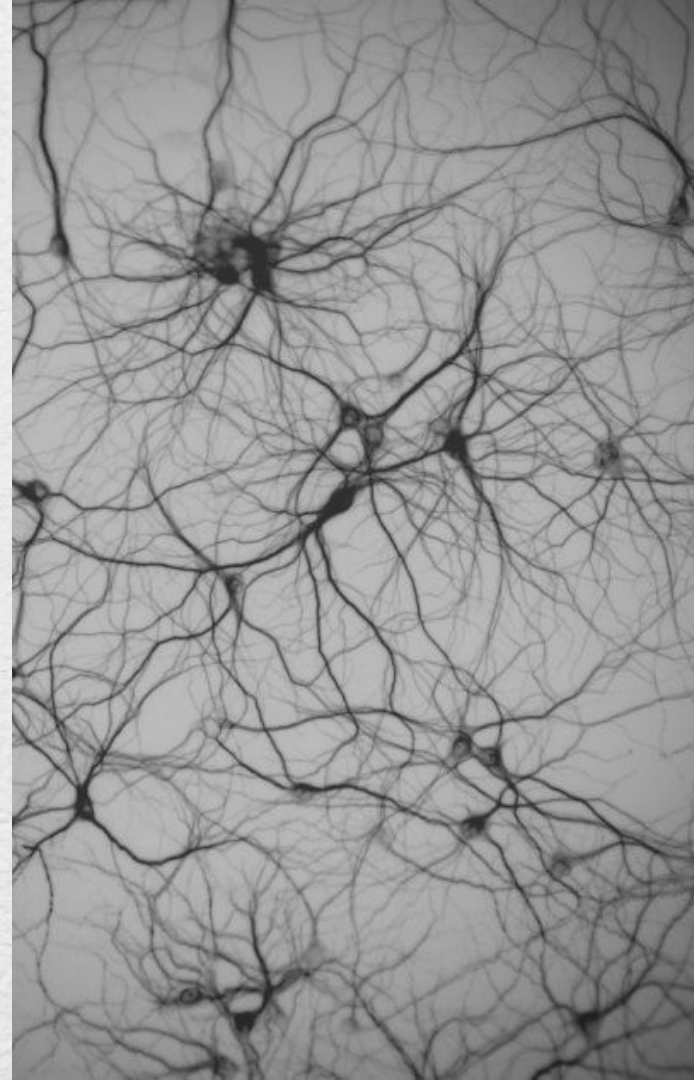
Ecology shows that diversity and mutualism – rather than monoculture and antagonism – are the conditions for strength and survival.”

- (Ayni Institute



Social Movement Ecology

- Transitions happen in steps
- There are many different transition pathways
- Connected we support these
- Coalition allows us to build collective power
- Appreciating diversity allows us to maintain our sense of home



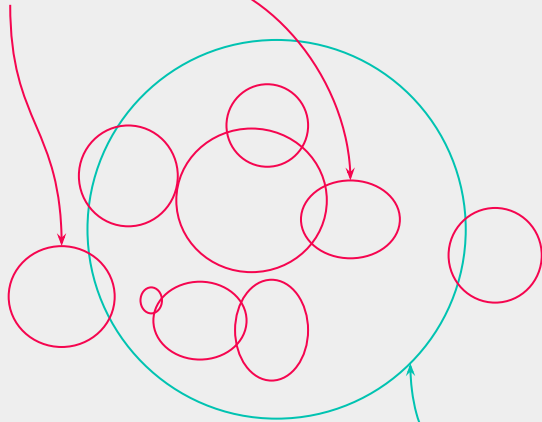
03

Farmer to Farmer Learning for Transformation



Farmer to Farmer Learning Dynamics

Learning groups



Organisational reach or bubble

What is the purpose in terms of transition?

Entry	Deepening	Transformative
Introduction to practices and ideas	Developing practices and ideas	Transforming underlying perspectives and approach
Periphery	Internal	Internal and Periphery
Awareness of existing cultural norms, social networks and language. Support and connection.	Commonality in underlying values, approach, and context.	Sufficient common context. Diversity of views. Relationship building

Farmer to Farmer Learning Dynamics

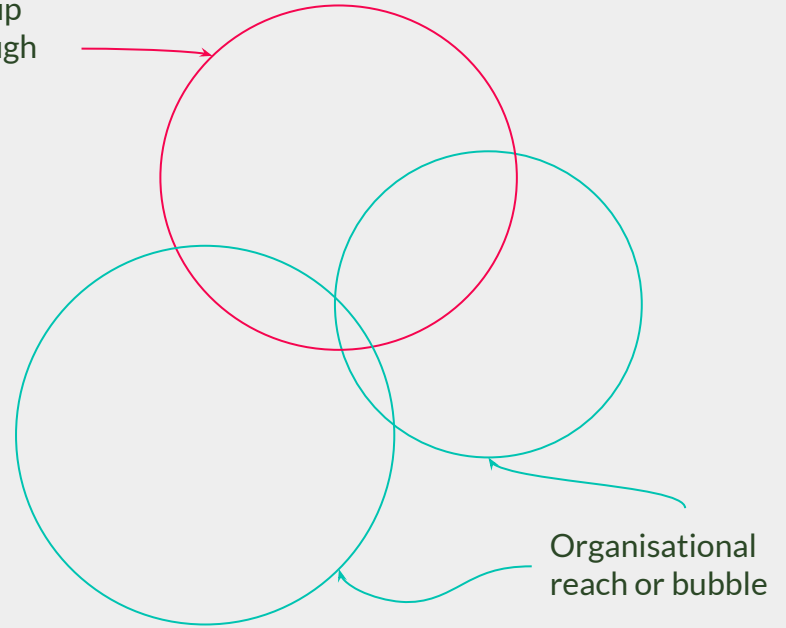
- How is the group composed?
- How is the space facilitated (incl. culture)?
- How are people recruited?



Using collaboration to reach further beyond our bubbles



Learning group
created through
collaboration



"I said to her, you're going to hate the way I farm [laughs]. But it's just that's the way we do it and that's the way she did it and we found that common ground where we could build and exchange knowledge from each other which I think is really important. So I hope that she took something from me, and I definitely took a lot of what she said back." - peer to peer group member



National Articulation of Agroecology (ANA) - Brazil

- 23 state and regional networks, 15 social movements. Formed in 2002.
- **Functions:** Coordinating activities and promoting exchange, advocacy, communication with society
- Areas of work:
 - Biodiversity
 - Food Sovereignty and Security
 - Construction of Agroecological Knowledge
 - Financing
 - Women and agroecology
 - Public Policies with an agroecological approach
 - Agroenergy and Agroecology
 - Financing Legal Framework
 - Public to Civil Society Organizations



05

How can we organise
together for
transformation?

What collaboration exists already?

Which partnerships, networks, collaborative projects are you involved with?

What has been the benefit of these?



What role do other organisations play?

- 1 organisation you are fairly aligned with
- 1 organisation one step further from your work

Appreciating Diverse Ecologies



What scares you
about building
broader coalition?

Do we currently have
spaces to explore this?

What challenges do you
think there could be?



**What is needed
practically to build a
healthy movement
ecology?**

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"We are trying to build a certain kind of world and that's the world we want to invite people into, to build together with them. And that might mean changing our culture, that might mean addressing some of that kind of subculture, sort of like cliqueness, or like class markers or like racial markers and things like that. And I think it's going to be hard, right, because we want to bring in conventional farmers, but we also want to bring in folks who are excluded from conventional farming because of our oppressive social systems. So how do we do both those things and not put them in tension with each other, but actually see them as things that can both strengthen how we work."

- LWA staff member

Thanks!

Ali Taherzadeh

TaherzadehA@cardiff.ac.uk

