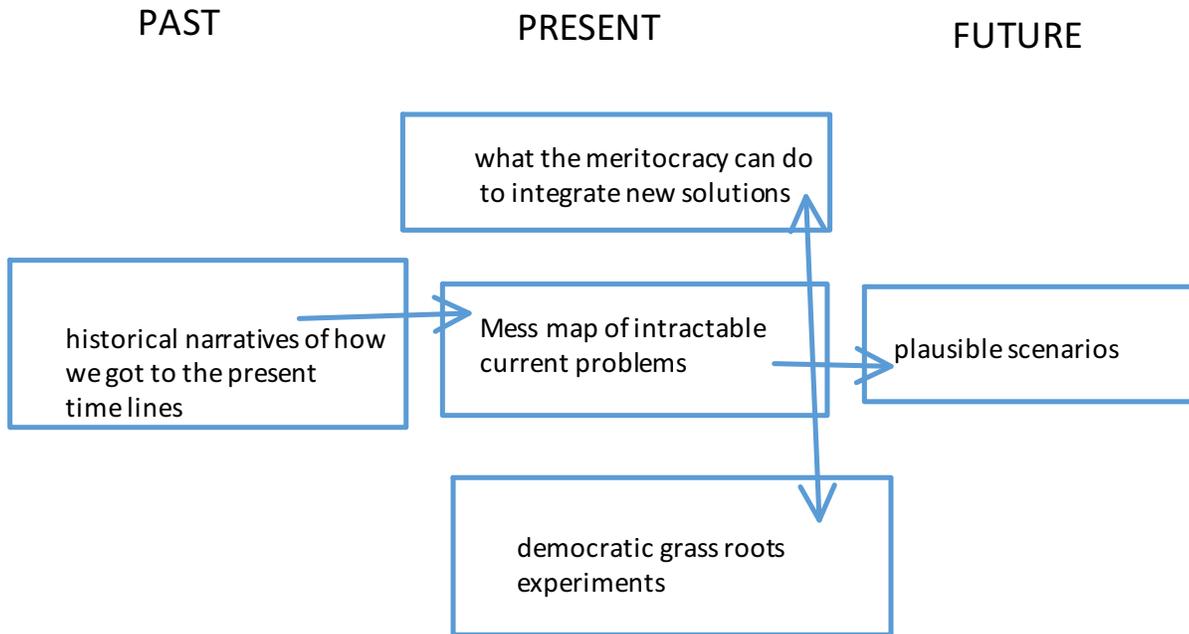


analytic frames

Thursday, August 18, 2016 9:30 AM

Where are we? How did we get here? What can Happen?



the narratives can begin with hunter gatherers, through empires, then feudalism, the nation state, industrialization. these should be left to right time lines, from the deep past toward the present. They are not meant to be comprehensive, but suggestive, and to remind us of the pasts we have had that create the present.

the mess map starts with

- governance
- inequality
- population
- climate heating
- automation

Democratic grass roots are all the experiments world wide that are trying different ways, greening, governance, health, education art to cope

the meritocracy should be highly trained, high morale, like the French high end education and the Chinese .

Their job is to allocate funds among grass roots and intermediate experiments that seem to be working.

plausible scenarios include but are not limited to

- social collapse
- muddling through
- strong decentralization
- strong centralization

imagine high interactivity among the middle three: the meritocracy informed of grass roots experiments and authorizing funding and perspective, taking serious the intractable problems, wicked issues, what cannot be solved but must be lived through.

There are some more frames besides where are we, how did we get here, and what can happen

Especially

1. The human life cycle, built on Erik Erikson's work, esp Childhood and Society. Proposed solutions should be matched to all eight of the stages in the life cycle.
2. Social character. Based on Erich Fromm's idea that different societies require quite different organizations of the habit, values and emotional lives of participants. As our individualist society breaks apart, what can emerge, what kind of people? Obviously organizing for survival, mafia like, would get in the way of deeper cooperation and culture building.
3. Design. Buckminster Fuller said "putting together all the people and

the planet is a design problem." Chris Alexander (The Nature of Order) proposes liveliness as a key human capacity to perceive and create. We have created many products but there is no social system of design that can keep us from destroying the system.

4. Historical Narratives beyond the timelines in the above map. We need much better stories on how we got here. We have standard stories like McNeil's The Rise of the West, divergent stories like Spengler's Decline of the West, Braudel's books on commerce in the Mediterranean, Sahlin 's Stone Age Economics. Serious works like Pitrim Sorokin's" Social and Cultural Dynamics, and the strong statements by Tawney The Acquisitive Society. Better narratives of how we got to private property and capitalism are needed if we are to rethink basics. Better narratives of how we got from the Treaty of Westphalia to the second world war and its amazing economic aftermath are also necessary.

More will be added.