

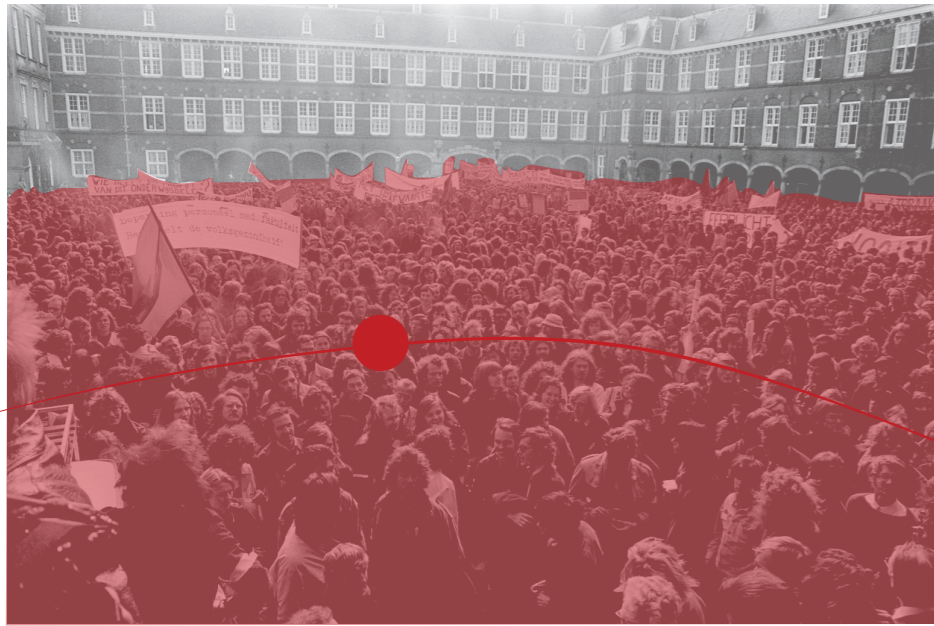
SPACES FOR DEMOCRACY

Spaces for a radical, pluralist democracy

01.

RESEARCH INCENTIVE

01. Research incentive: **What has space to do with democracy?**



Student demonstrations in the 70's in The Hague



Climate demonstrations in Brussels in 2018



Climate demonstrations in The Hague in 2024

01. Research incentive: **What is the role of urban designers in democracy?**



01. Research incentive: **Status Quo of Present-Day Democratic Systems**



Alfredo Jaar: One Million German Passports - Announcements - e-flux. (n.d.). <https://www.e-flux.com/announcements/531130/alfredo-jaar-one-million-german-passports/>

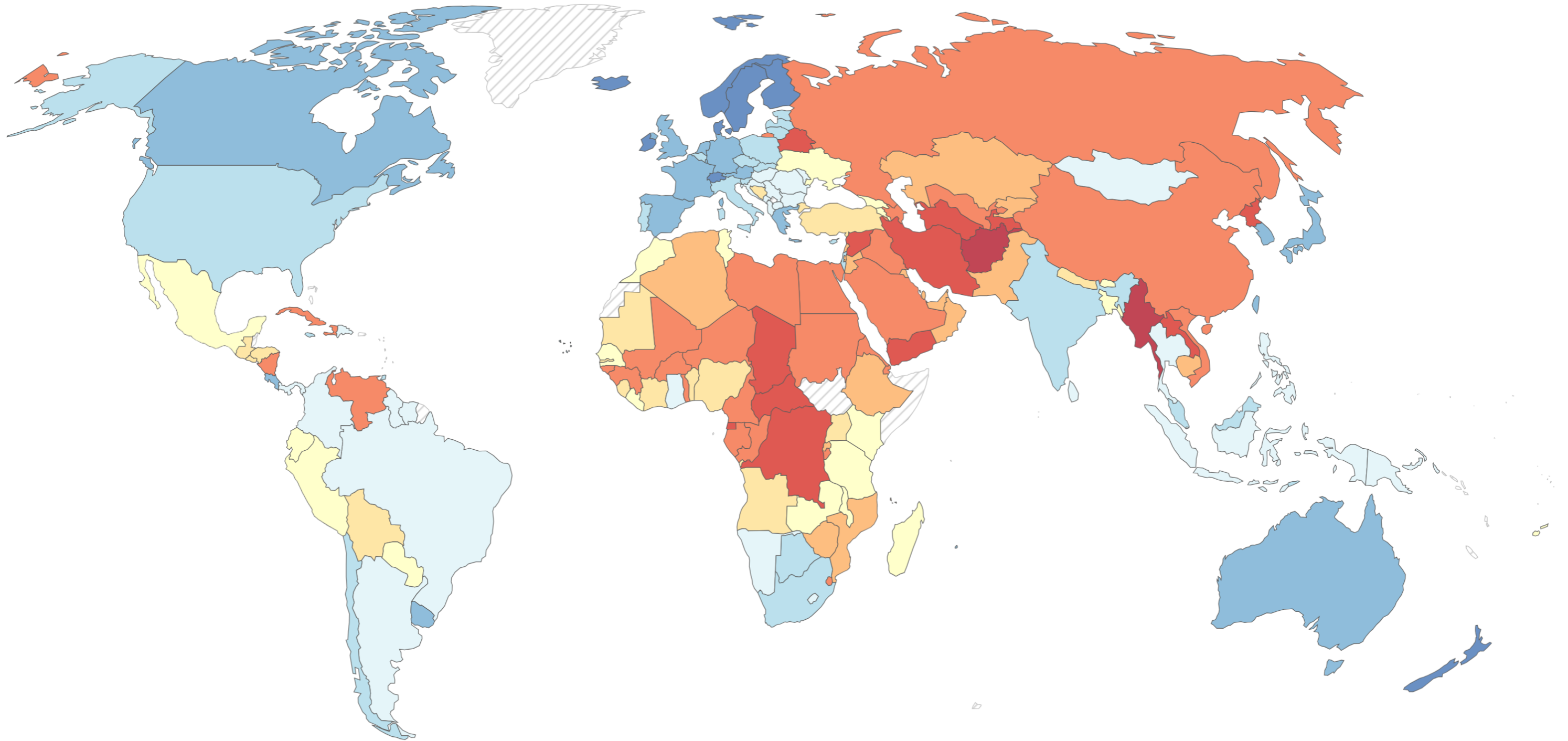
Alfredo Jaar - One Million German Passports behind a Security Wall:

Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, 2023.

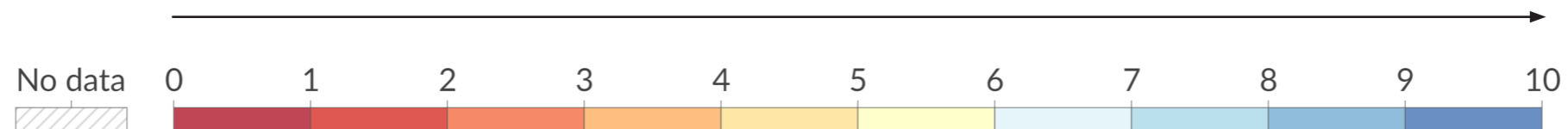
02.

PROBLEMATIZATION

02. Problematization: **Global trend of democratic erosion**



Least to most democratic



02. Problematization: **But why do we see this in the news?**

 **Eurofound**
European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

The tripartite EU agency providing knowledge to assist in the development of better social, employment and work-related policies

[Translate this page](#) [English](#)

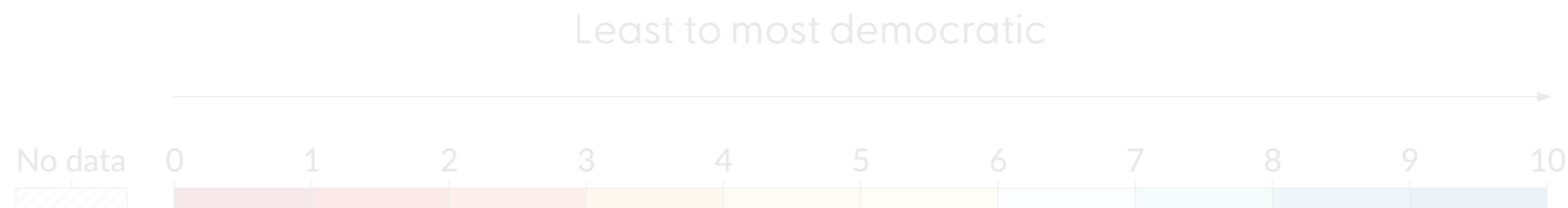
Home About Publications Resources Topics Data Surveys Blog Countries News Events Search

Home / Blog / Trust In Crisis: Europe's Social Contract Under Threat

Trust in crisis: Europe's social contract under threat



“While **on the surface Europe** looks to have weathered the storm well, the strain of the last five years has triggered an insidious undertow: **a deep erosion of trust** both **in the EU and the national institutions** that hold the bloc together.”



02. Problematization: **But why do we see this in the news?**



'Gebrek aan vertrouwen in politiek potentiële splitszwam in de samenleving'



“We see **big differences** in **trust in politics** between people who can get on well in society and those who are left behind. This is cause for concern because it makes trust **a potential divisive factor** in society.”

Least to most democratic



02. Problematization: **But why do we see this in the news?**



Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau

Zes op de tien Nederlanders ontevreden over politiek

Nieuwsbericht | 20-04-2023 | 00:01



“Over **40 per cent of Dutch people** think the government **does not listen** to residents **enough**. And **almost 60** per cent believe that **politicians do not sufficiently stand up** for people like them.”

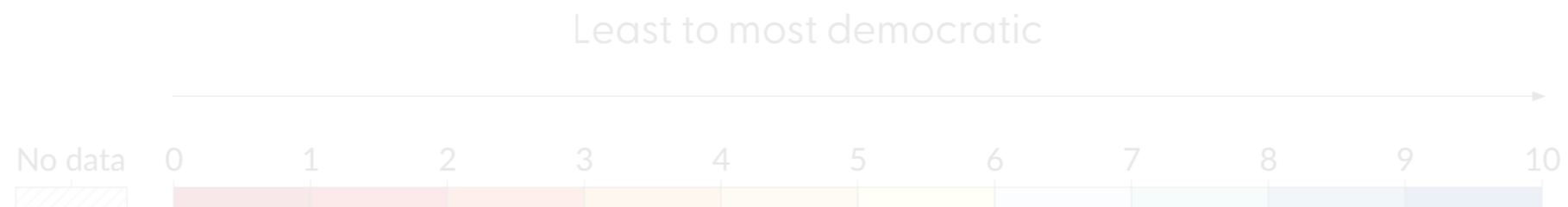
Least to most democratic



02. Problematization: **But why do we see this in the news?**

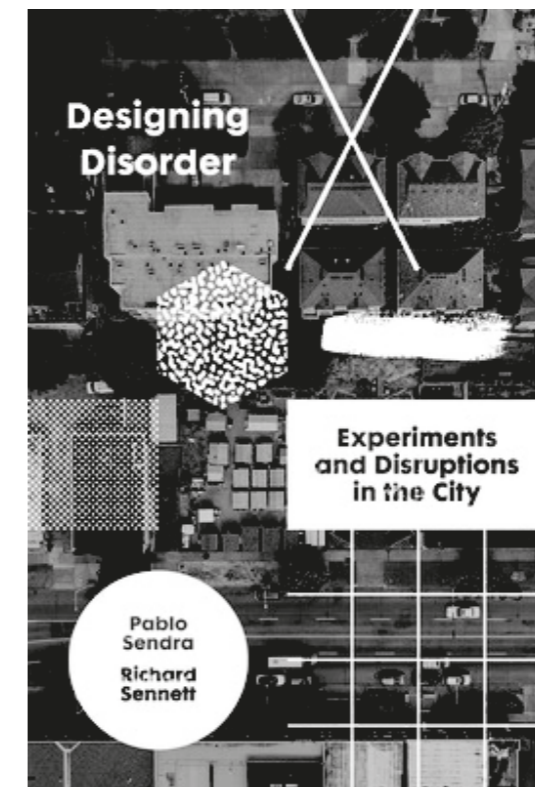
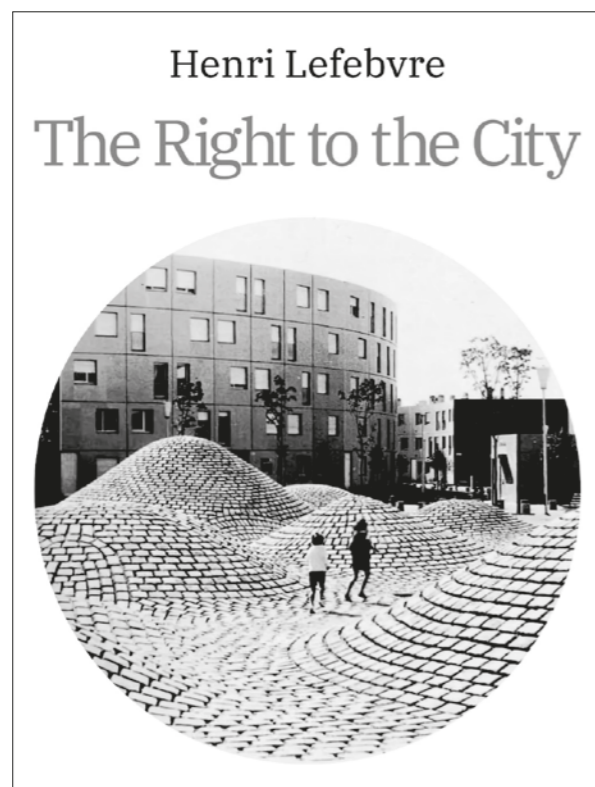


“Citizen participation often has the ambition of making decision-making **more democratic** and convincing opponents. However, research shows that **the level of democracy is often low.**”



02. Problematization: **How does this all relate to urbanism?**

“Let us be contented with the notion that **the democratic character** of a regime is identifiable by its attitude towards **the city, urban 'liberties' and urban reality**, and therefore towards segregation.” - Henri Lefebvre

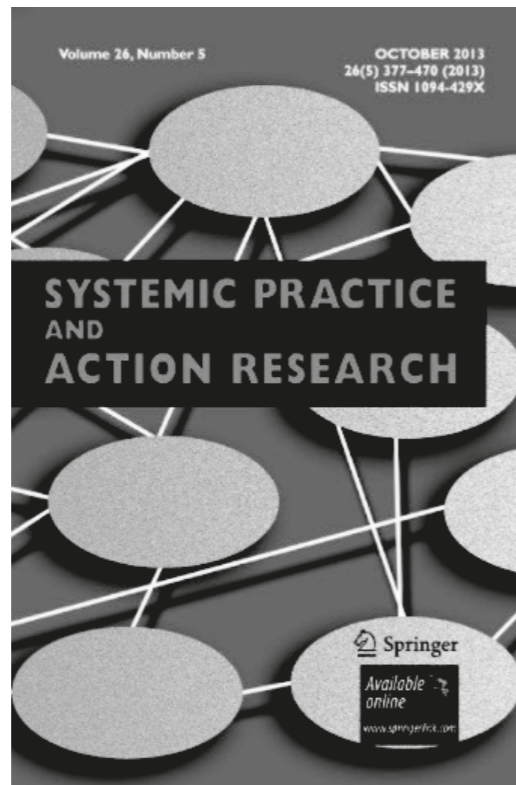


“The **essence of democracy** lies in displacing conflict and difference from the realm of violence to a more **peaceable, deliberative realm.**”

- Richard Sennett

02. Problematization: **How does this all relate to urbanism?**

“If we see like a **city the places we inhabit**, the vulnerabilities of our bodies within them, become a source, stake and setting for **democratic politics**. Politics and the **struggle for democracy** begins in the **socio-materiality** of where we live, work, play and rest. It is from these locations of **everyday life** that urbanisation is understood and felt.” – Ross Beveridge & Philippe Koch



“**Geography is a defining feature of social life just as social relations is a defining feature of geographical space.** Relations between people always occur somewhere: in a place, a location, a domain, an arena, a situation. No description of a social circumstance is complete without **a spatial component.**”

– Patrick M. Jenlink

02. Problematization: **Problem Statement**

IF: DEMOCRATIC EROSION IS ON THE RISE



02. Problematization: **Problem Statement**

IF: DEMOCRATIC EROSION IS ON THE RISE

AND: THIS ALSO APPLIES TO THE DUTCH CONTEXT

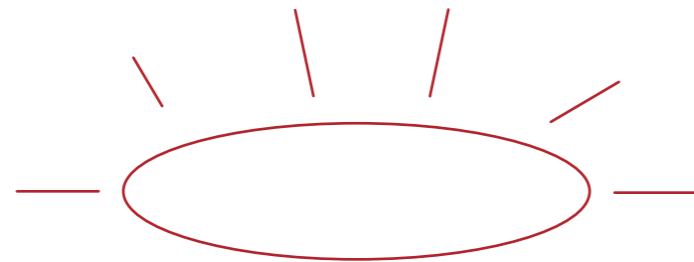


02. Problematization: **Problem Statement**

IF: DEMOCRATIC EROSION IS ON THE RISE

AND: THIS ALSO APPLIES TO THE DUTCH CONTEXT

AND: SPACES INFLUENCE DEMOCRATIC OPPORTUNITIES OR A LACK THEREOF



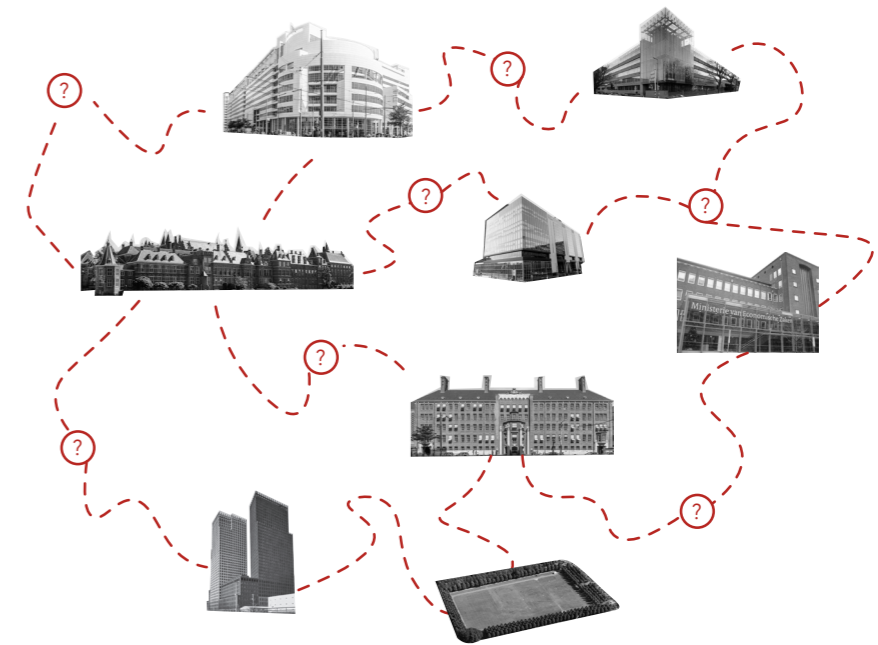
02. Problematization: **Problem Statement**

IF: DEMOCRATIC EROSION IS ON THE RISE

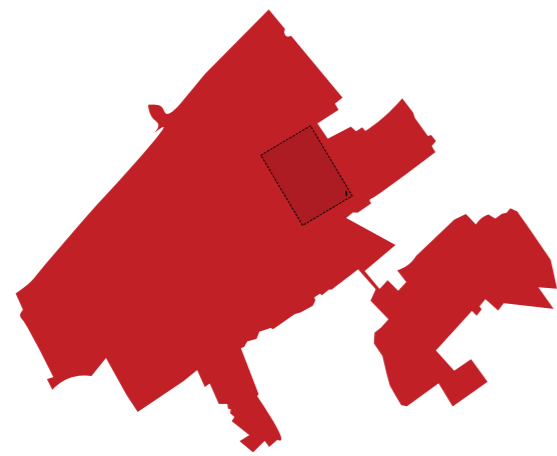
AND: THIS ALSO APPLIES TO THE DUTCH CONTEXT

AND: SPACES INFLUENCE DEMOCRATIC OPPORTUNITIES OR A LACK THEREOF

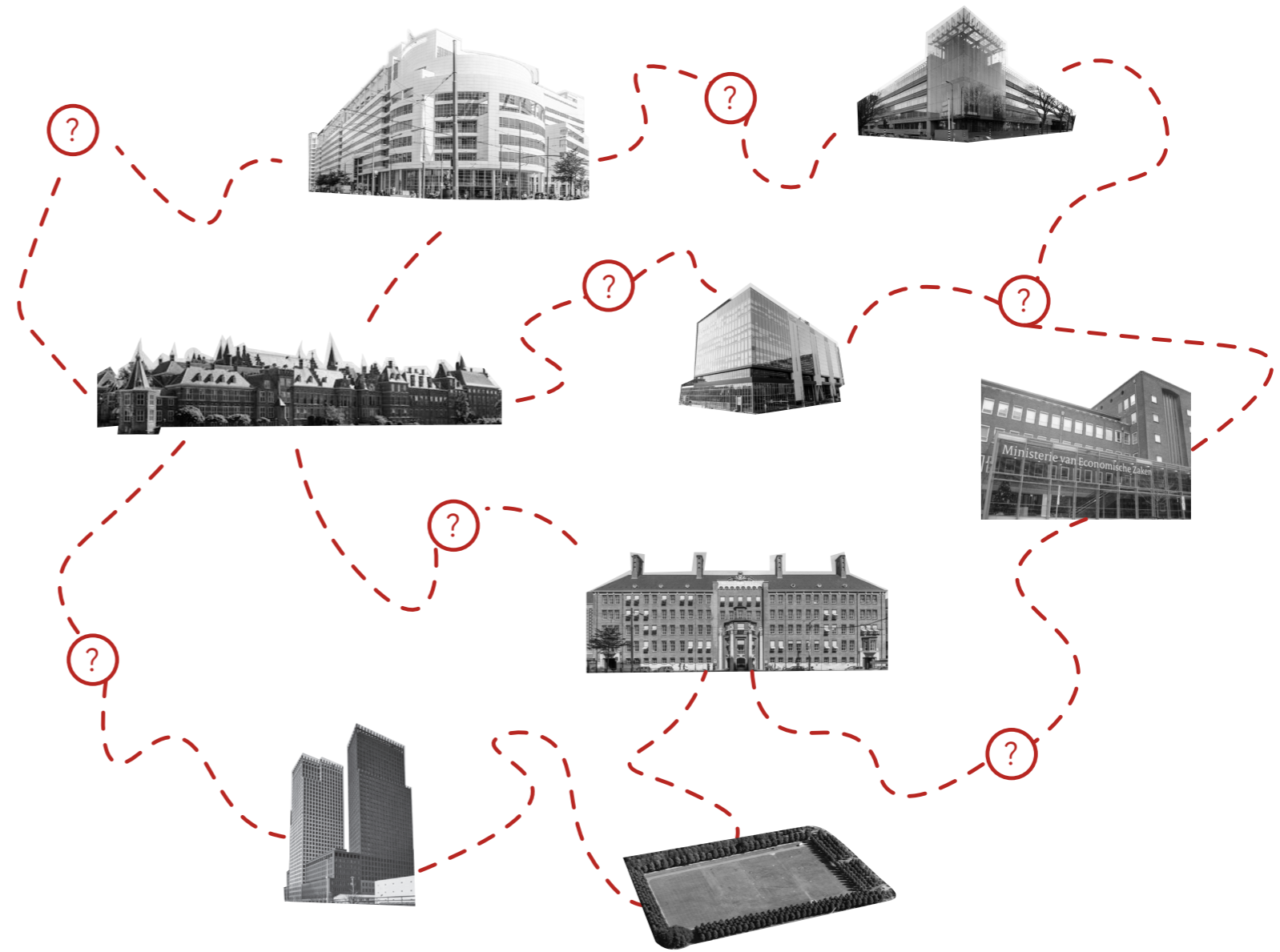
QUESTION: WHAT SPACES? HOW CAN WE IMPLEMENT THESE?



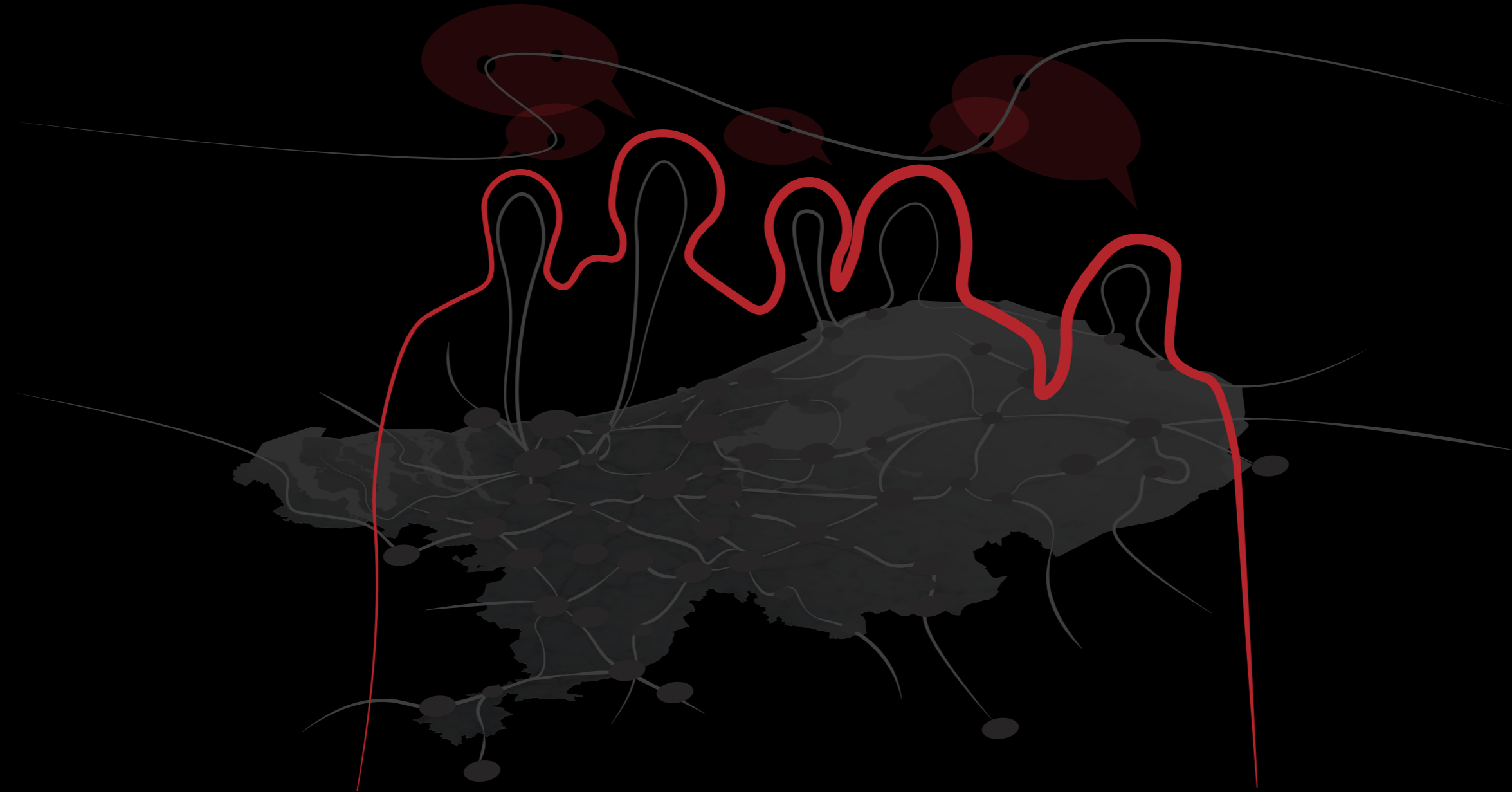
02. Problematization: **Problem Statement: The Hague**



The Hague



02. Problematization: **Deepening present-day democracy: Introducing Radical Pluralist Democracy**

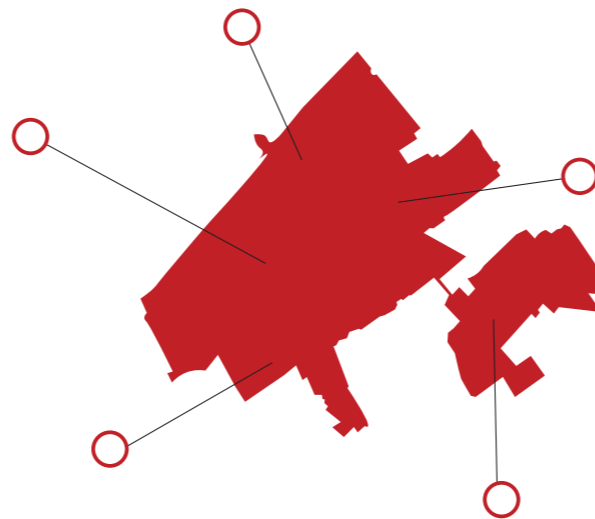


03.

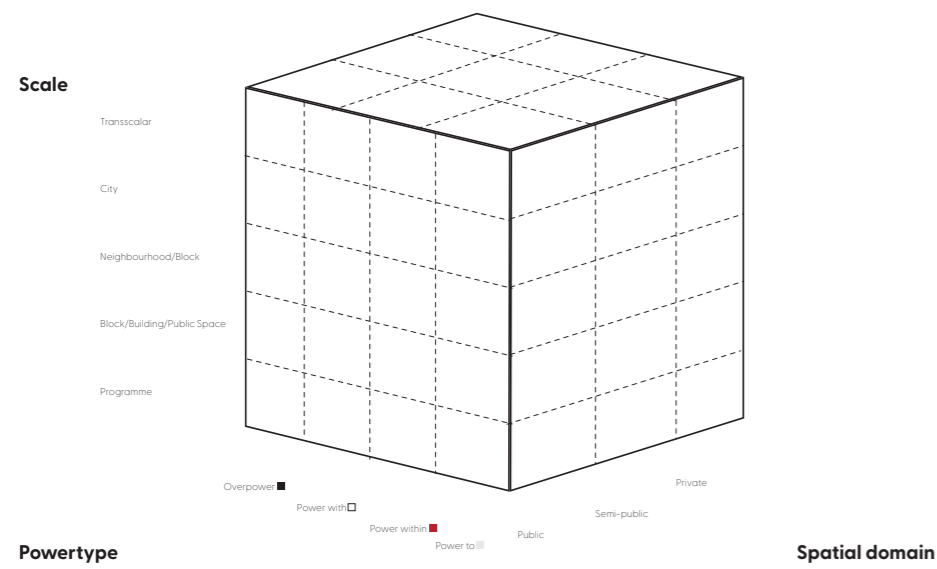
METHODOLOGY

03. Methodology: **Main research question**

‘How can spaces for a radical pluralist democracy be **identified, designed and used**, in the context of The Hague?’



03. Methodology: **Aim of the research**



Framework

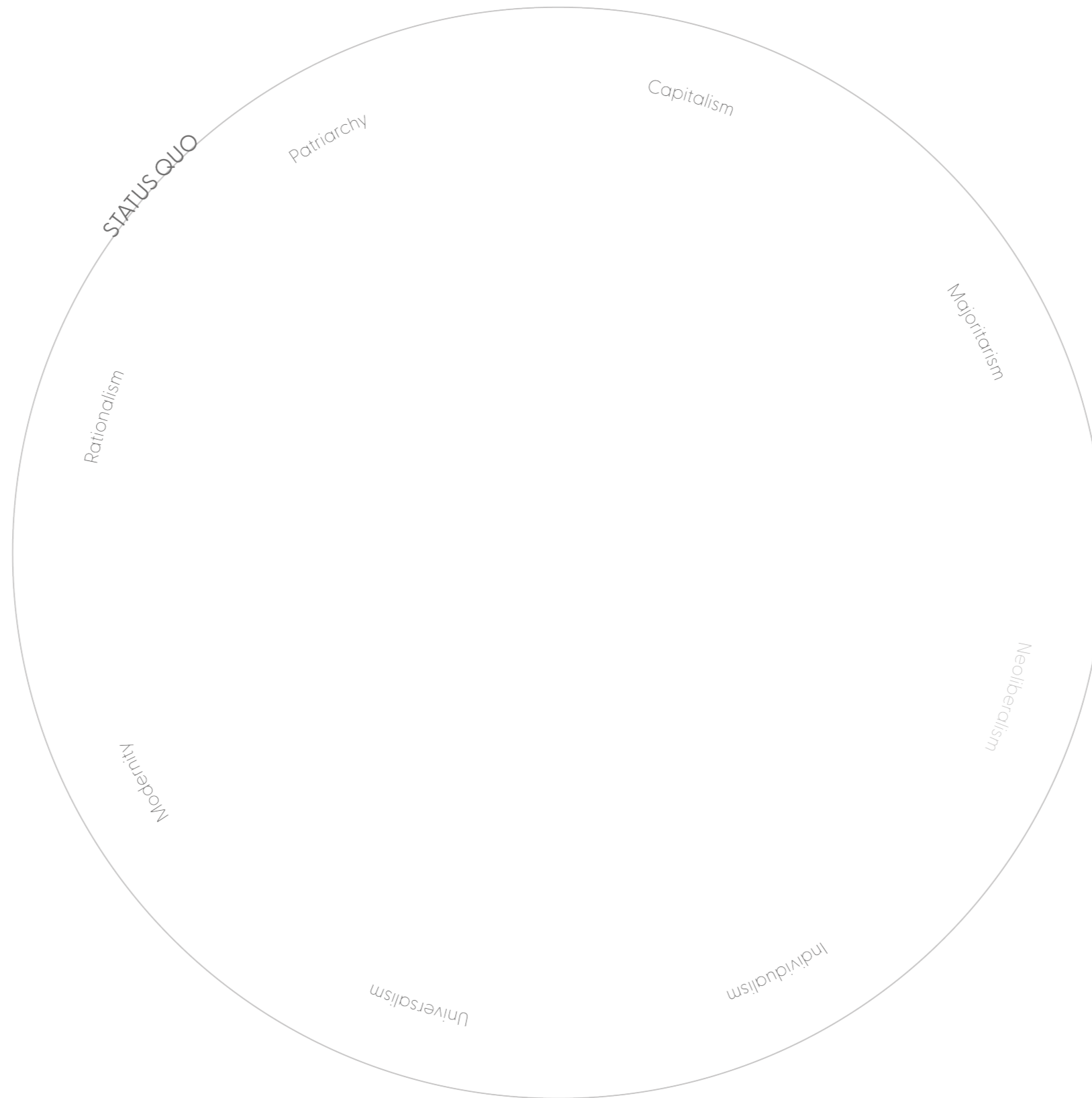


Pattern Language : Methods + Spatial interventions

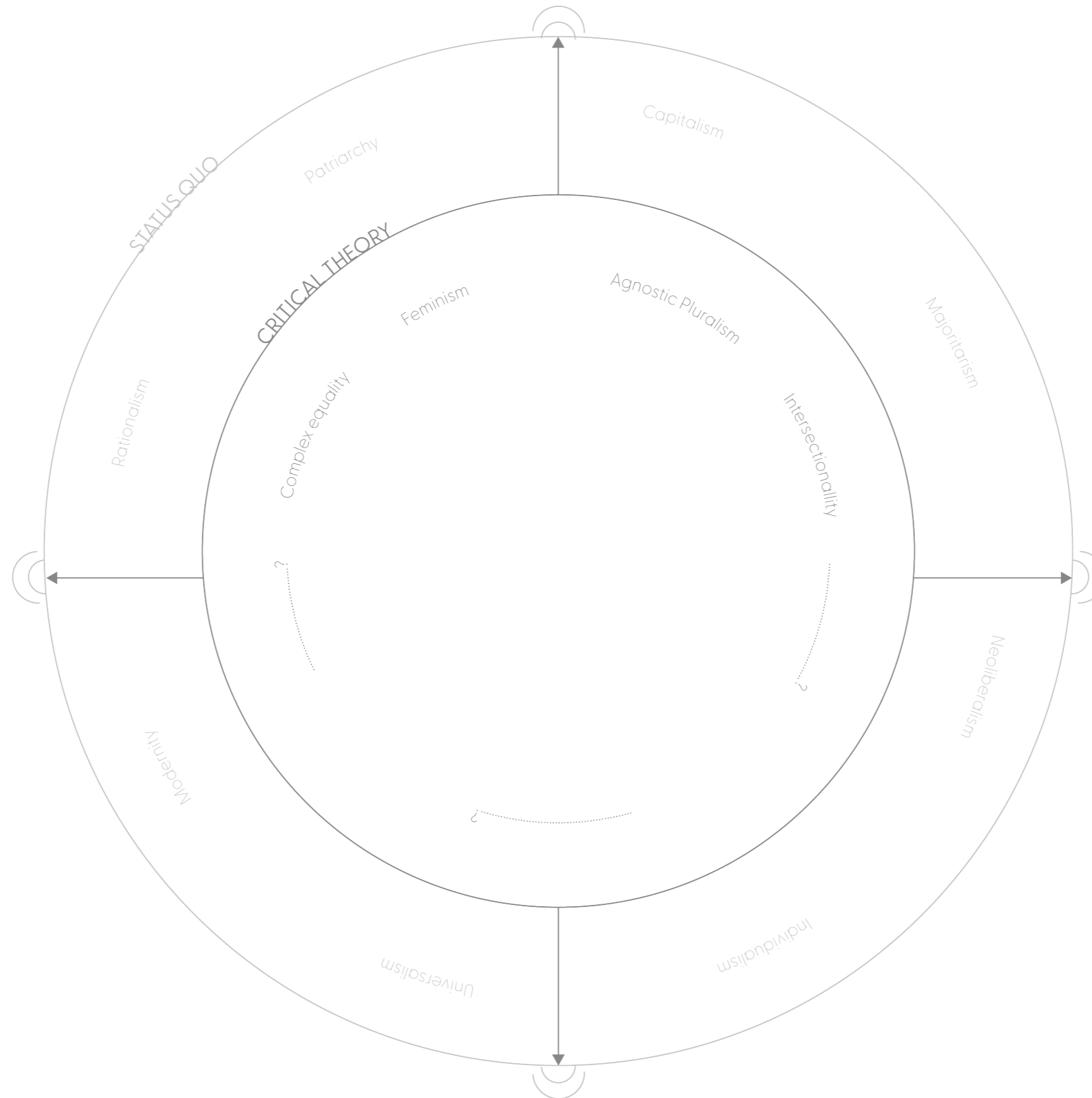


Multi-scalar design implementation, focus on Neighbourhood scale in The Hague

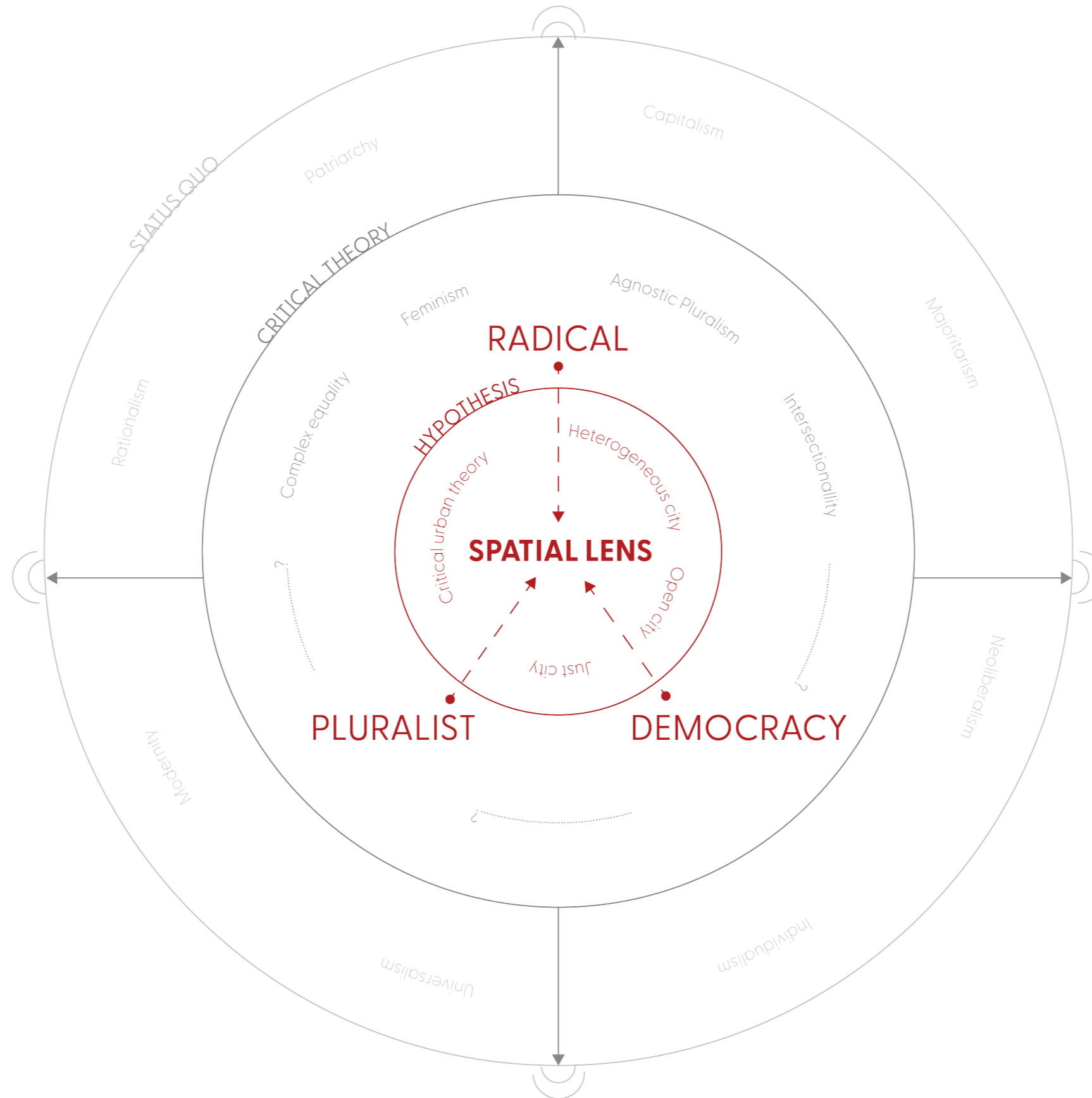
03. Methodology: **Conceptual Framework**



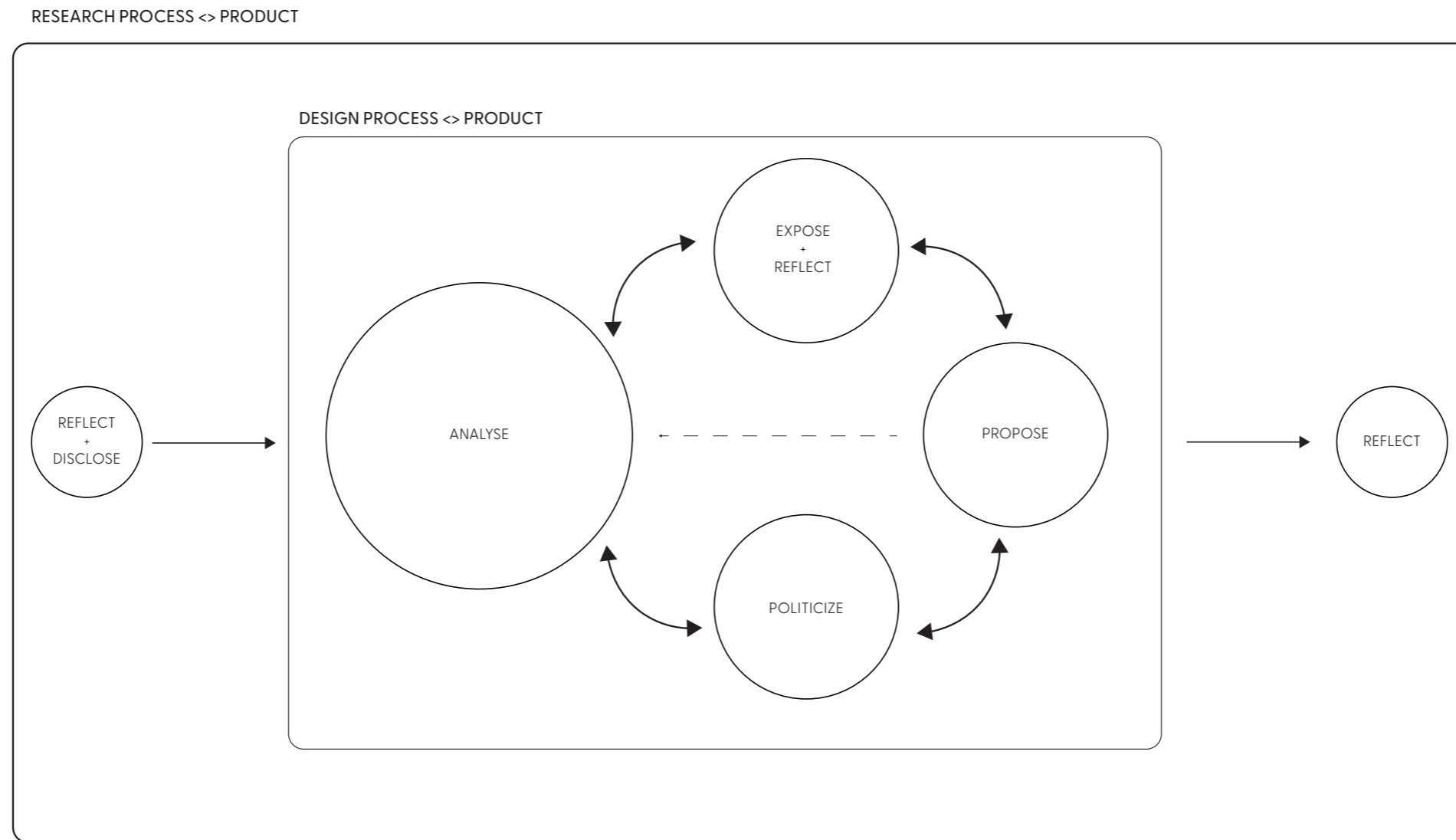
03. Methodology: **Conceptual Framework**



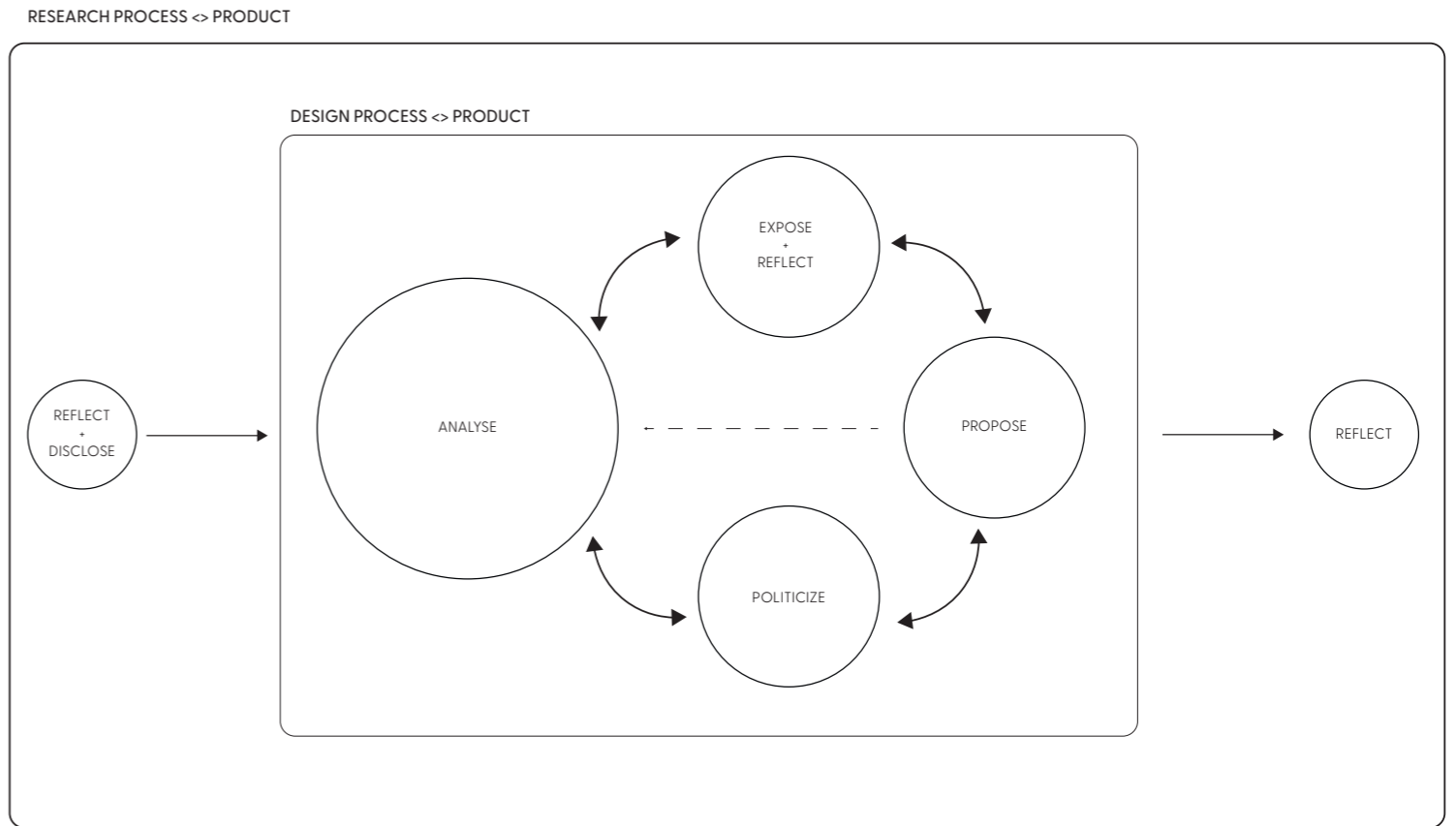
03. Methodology: **Conceptual Framework**



03. Methodology: **Methodological Framework | Critical Urban Theory - Peter Marcuse**



03. Methodology: Phase 01. | Global + National scale



SUB- QUESTIONS

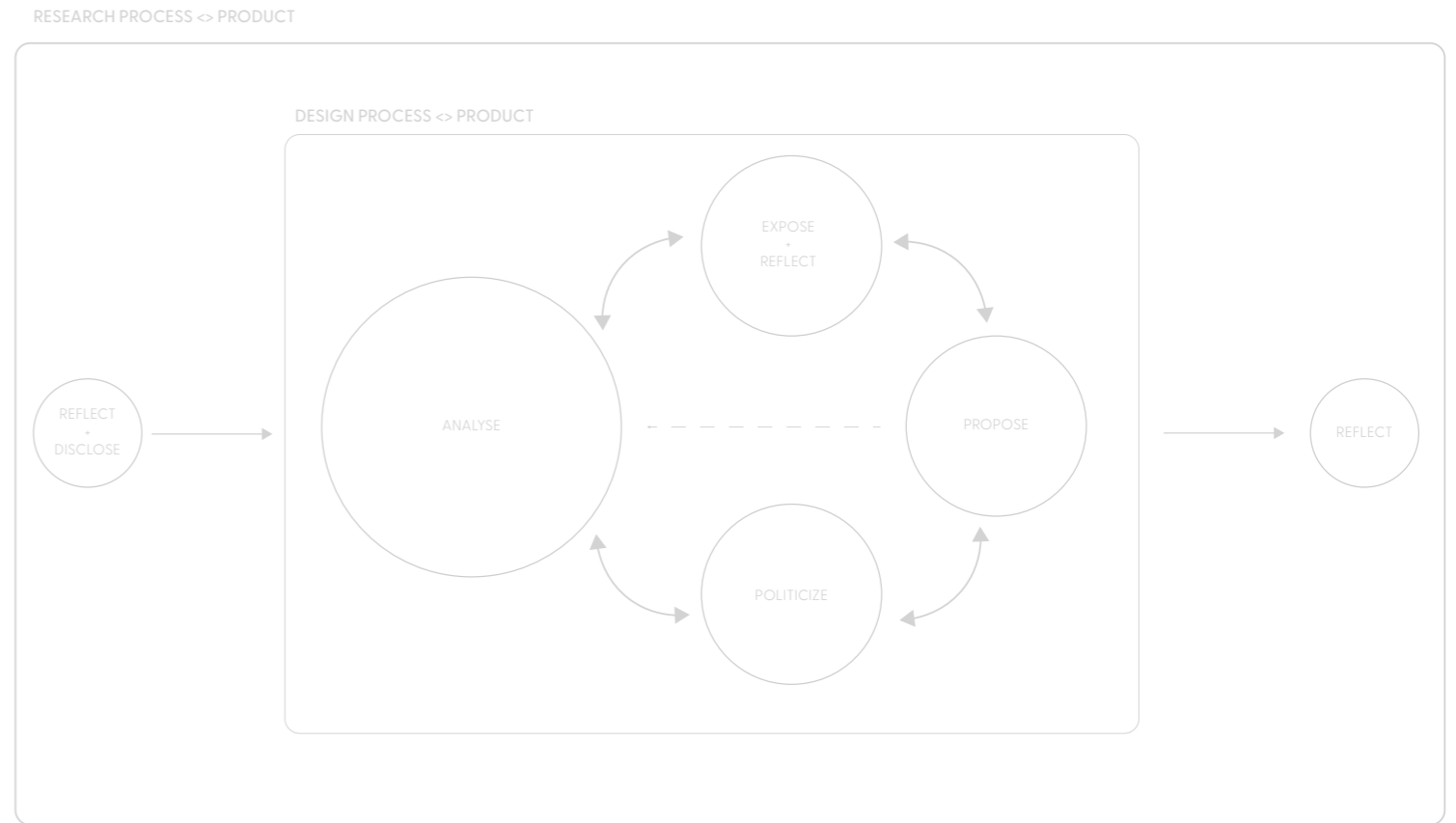
RESEARCH AIMS

METHODS

LEGEND

- Research by Design 
- Literary review 
- Field trip 
- Street interviews 
- Spatial analysis 
- Socio-spatial analysis 
- Expert interviews 
- Subjective mapping 
- Pattern language 
- Stakeholder analysis 

03. Methodology: Phase 01. | Global + National scale: IDENTIFY



SUB- QUESTIONS

REFLECT + DISCLOSE:

- What context, motivation and personal assumptions have to be acknowledged before the research process?
- What are the limitations of this research?

ANALYSE + POLITICIZE:

- What is democracy?
- What are the limitations of present-day democracies?
- What is a radical pluralist democracy?
- How does the democratic system The Netherlands currently function?

RESEARCH AIMS

AIM:

To reflect on the context, motivation and personal assumptions involved in this research. To disclose the limitations of this research.

AIM

To define the definitions of 'democracy' and 'radical pluralist democracy'. Furthermore, the aim is to explain the struggle of present day democracies in general and to explore the possible struggles of the democratic system of The Netherlands

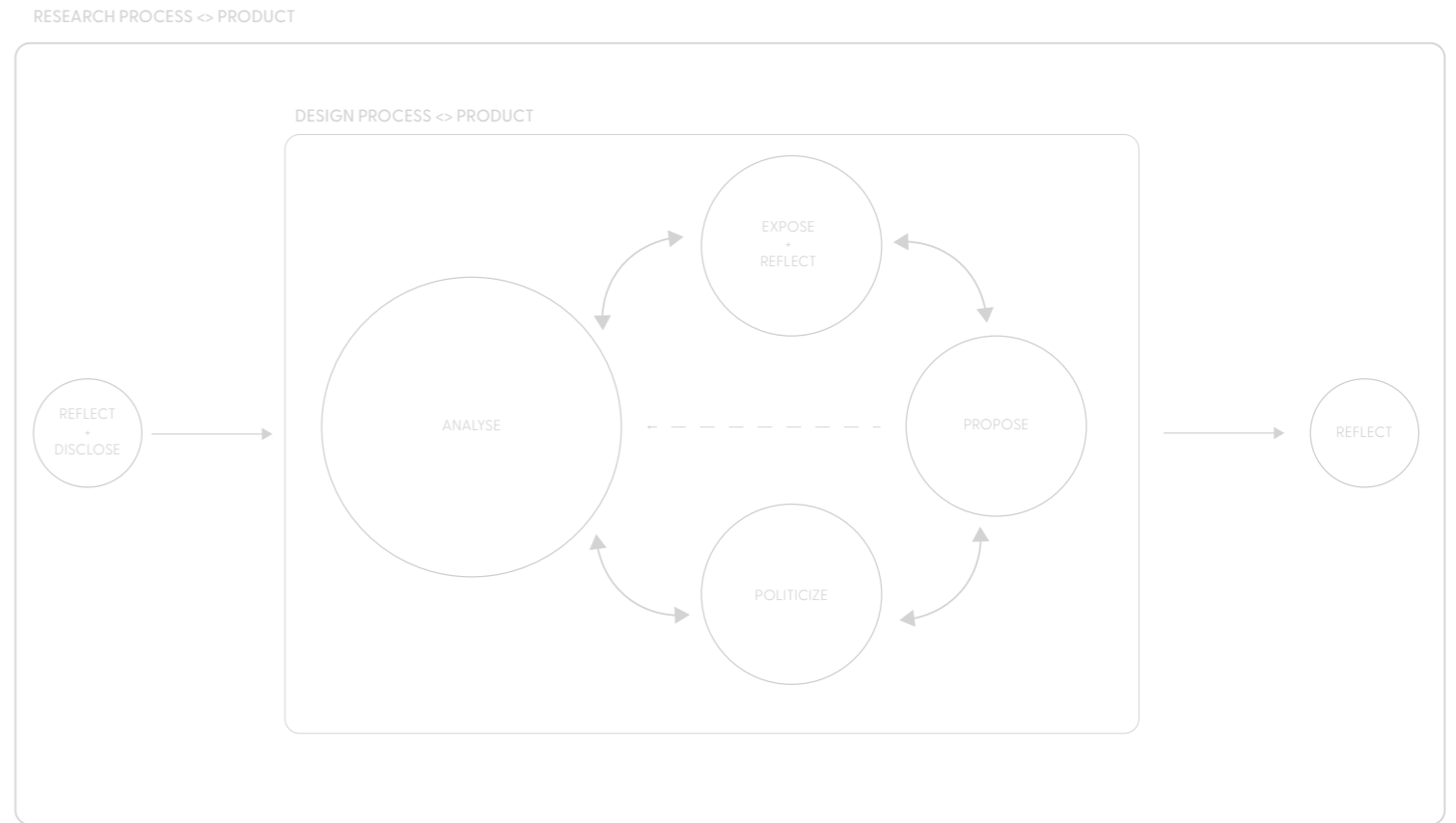


METHODS

LEGEND

- Research by Design
- Literary review
- Field trip
- Street interviews
- Spatial analysis
- Socio-spatial analysis
- Expert interviews
- Subjective mapping
- Pattern language
- Stakeholder analysis

03. Methodology: Phase 01. | Global + National scale: IDENTIFY



SUB- QUESTIONS

REFLECT + DISCLOSE:

- What context, motivation and personal assumptions have to be acknowledged before the research process?
- What are the limitations of this research?

ANALYSE + POLITICIZE:

- What is democracy?
- What are the limitations of present-day democracies?
- What is a radical pluralist democracy?
- How does the democratic system The Netherlands currently function?

EXPOSE:

- What are other works in relation to urban design and democracy?

PROPOSE:

- How can the implementation of the radical pluralist democracy benefit the current system of The Netherlands?

RESEARCH AIMS

AIM:

To reflect on the context, motivation and personal assumptions involved in this research. To disclose the limitations of this research.

AIM

To define the definitions of 'democracy' and 'radical pluralist democracy'. Furthermore, the aim is to explain the struggle of present day democracies in general and to explore the possible struggles of the democratic system of The Netherlands

AIM:

To examine related works in order to gain a broader perspective on the matter. To create a pattern language.

AIM:

To explain why the implementation of a radical pluralist democracy could possibly serve solutions for the democratic system of The Netherlands .

METHODS



LEGEND

Research by Design



Literary review



Field trip



Street interviews



Spatial analysis



Socio-spatial analysis



Expert interviews



Subjective mapping



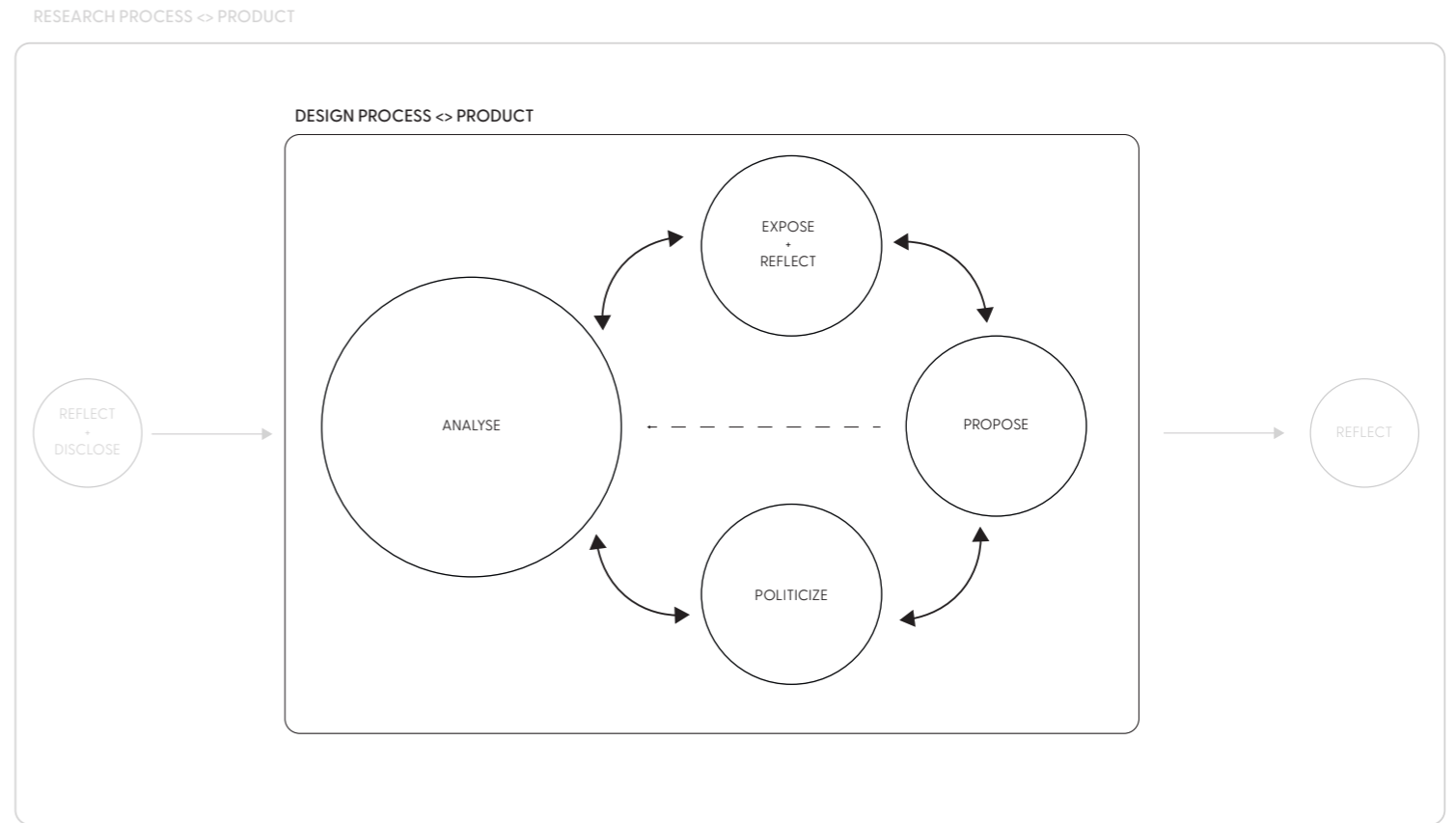
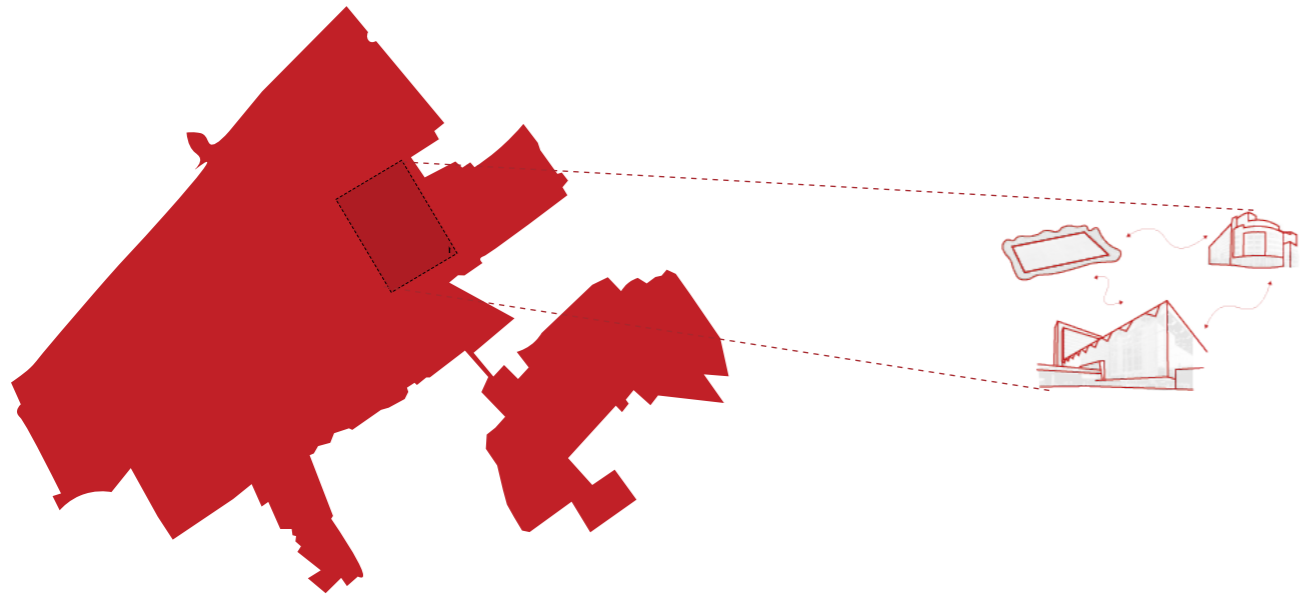
Pattern language



Stakeholder analysis



03. Methodology: **The Hague** + **Central Station area: IDENTIFY**













SUB- QUESTIONS

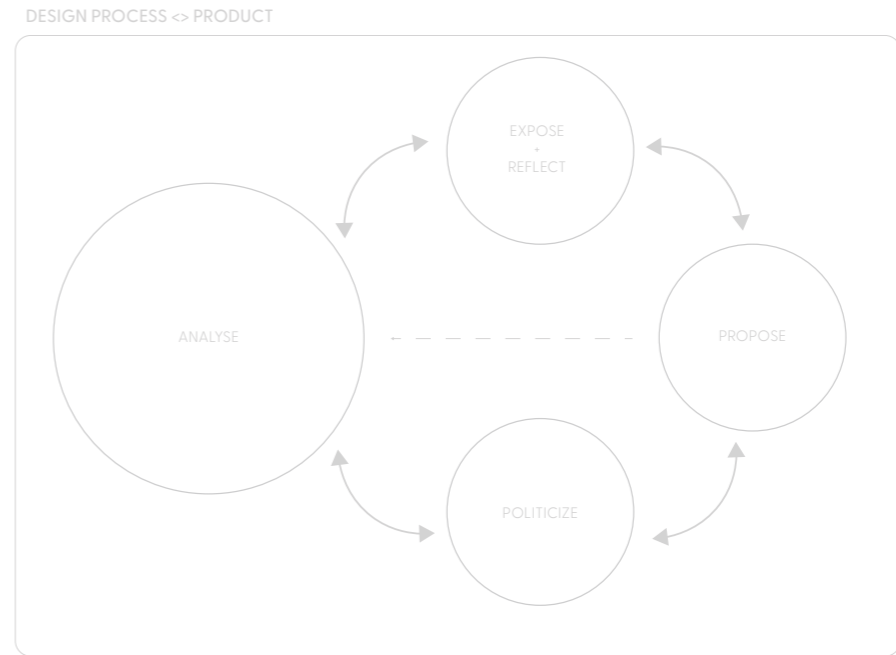
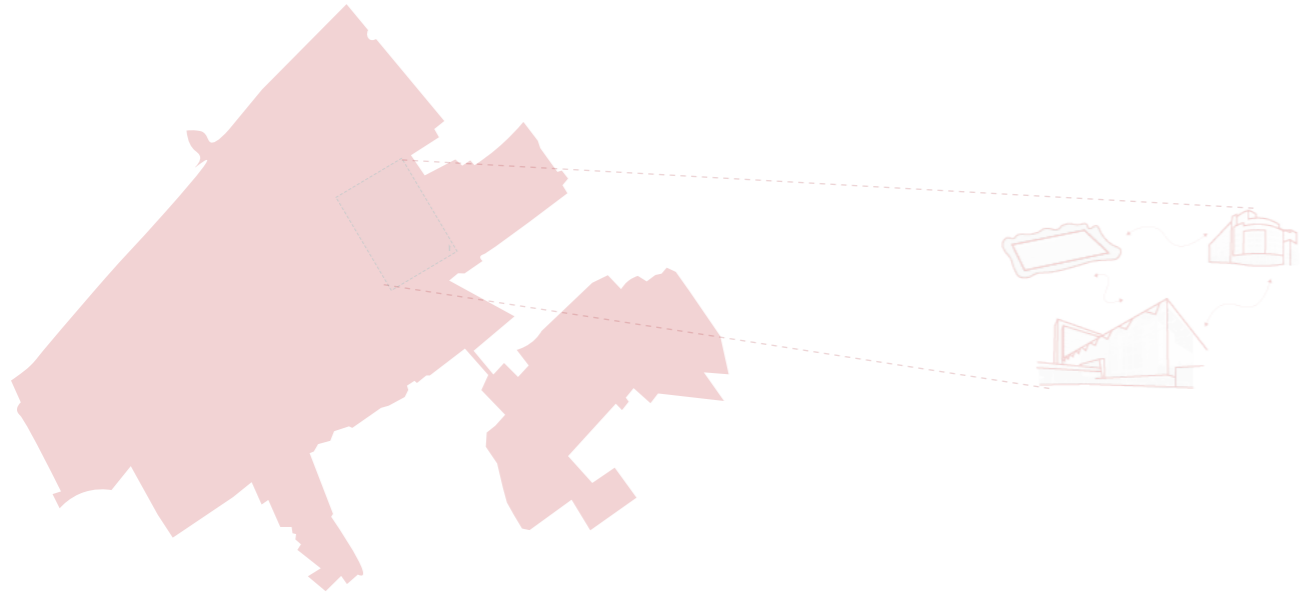
RESEARCH AIMS

METHODS

LEGEND

- Research by Design 
- Literary review 
- Field trip 
- Street interviews 
- Spatial analysis 
- Socio-spatial analysis 
- Expert interviews 
- Subjective mapping 
- Pattern language 
- Stakeholder analysis 

03. Methodology: The Hague + Central Station area: IDENTIFY



SUB- QUESTIONS

ANALYSE + EXPOSE:

- What spaces for a radical pluralist democracy can be identified in The Hague by exploring the historical, spatial and social context?

RESEARCH AIMS

AIM:

To examine the context of the city of The Hague, identifying important areas of focus for the implementation of spaces for a radical pluralist democracy, by exploring the social, historical and spatial context of the city. Furthermore, the goal is to research if, and what kind of spaces for a radical pluralist democracy already exists. To translate conclusions into a pattern language.

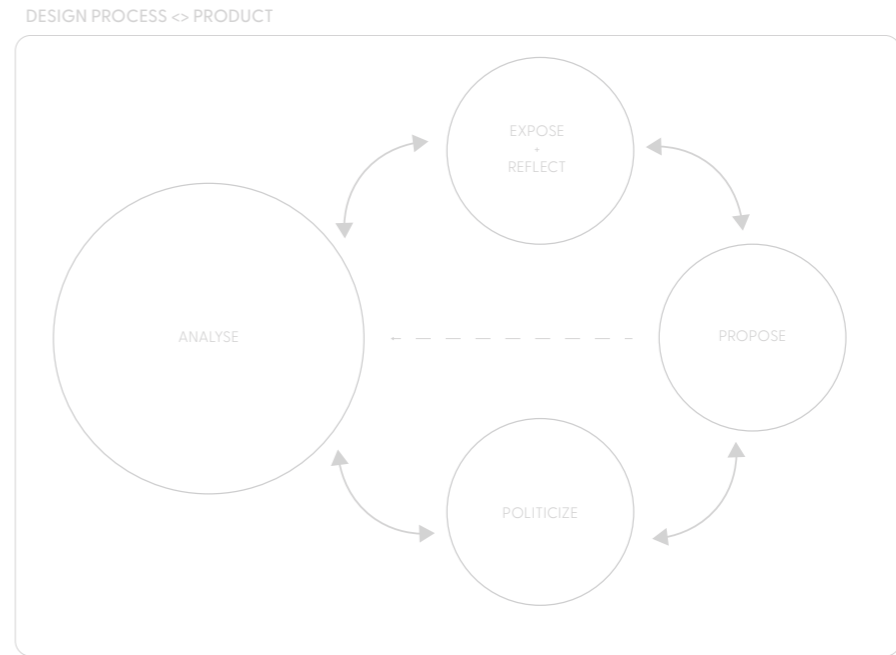
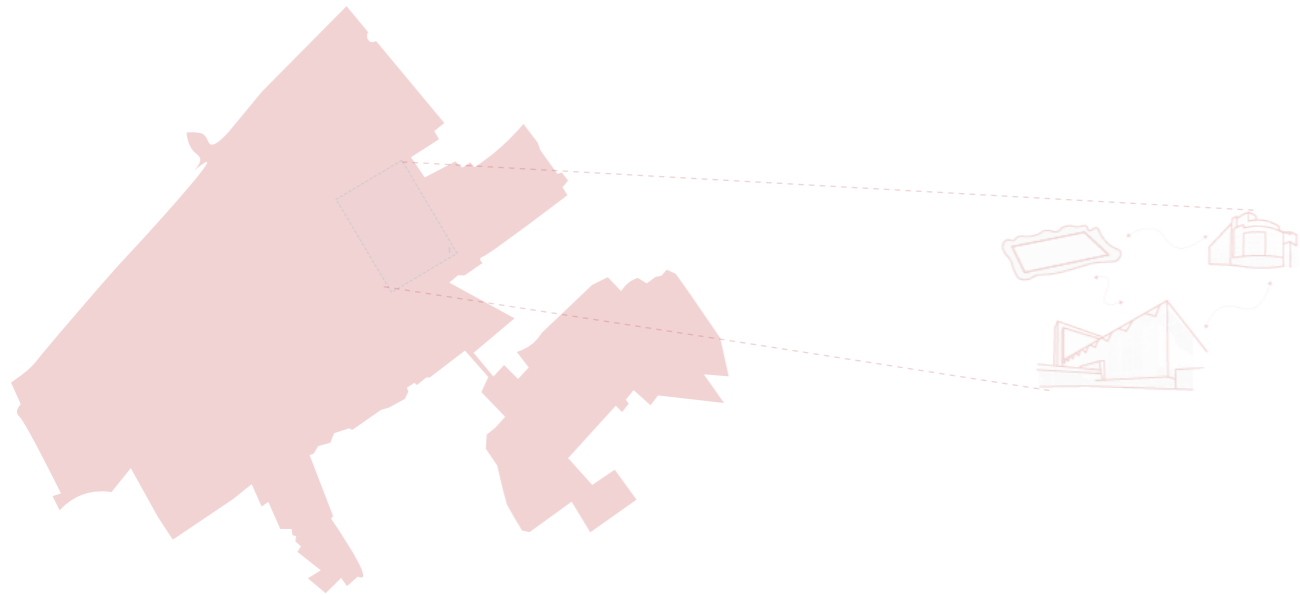
METHODS



LEGEND

Research by Design	
Literary review	
Field trip	
Street interviews	
Spatial analysis	
Socio-spatial analysis	
Expert interviews	
Subjective mapping	
Pattern language	
Stakeholder analysis	

03. Methodology: The Hague + Central Station area: IDENTIFY+DESIGN+USE



SUB- QUESTIONS

ANALYSE + EXPOSE:

- What spaces for a radical pluralist democracy can be identified in The Hague by exploring the historical, spatial and social context?

PROPOSE:

- How can spaces for a radical pluralist democracy can be designed in The Hague? Research by Design
- How can spaces for democracy be implemented by actors in The Hague?

POLITICIZE:

- What are the social and political consequences of the implementation of the design proposal, when implemented into reality?

RESEARCH AIMS

AIM:

To examine the context of the city of The Hague, identifying important areas of focus for the implementation of spaces for a radical pluralist democracy, by exploring the social, historical and spatial context of the city. Furthermore, the goal is to research if, and what kind of spaces for a radical pluralist democracy already exists. To translate conclusions into a pattern language.

AIM

To create a spatial design, exploring the possibilities for implementing the concept of spaces for a radical democracy. To examine the roles of different actors involved in implementing the proposed design.

AIM:

To examine the social and political consequences of the design proposal.

METHODS



LEGEND

Research by Design



Literary review



Field trip



Street interviews



Spatial analysis



Socio-spatial analysis



Expert interviews



Subjective mapping



Pattern language



Stakeholder analysis



04.

ANALYSE

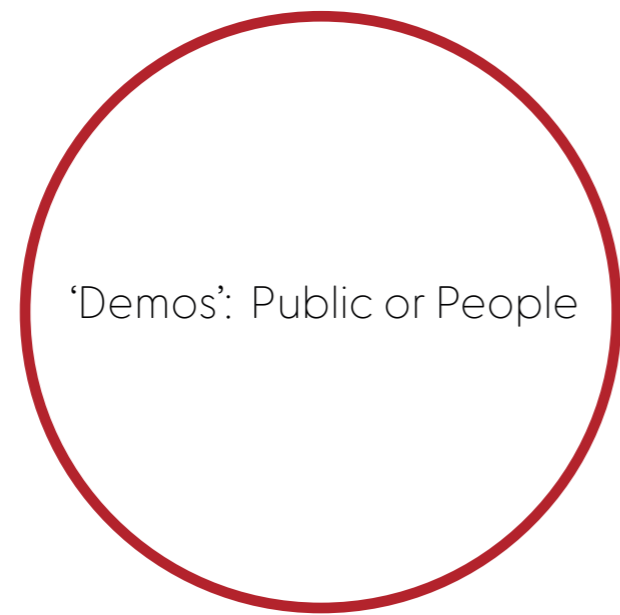
04. Analyse: **What is Democracy?**

'Demos': Public or People

DEMO-CRACY

'Kratia', means power or rule.

04. Analyse: **What is Democracy?**



All people are free and equal

DEMO-CRACY

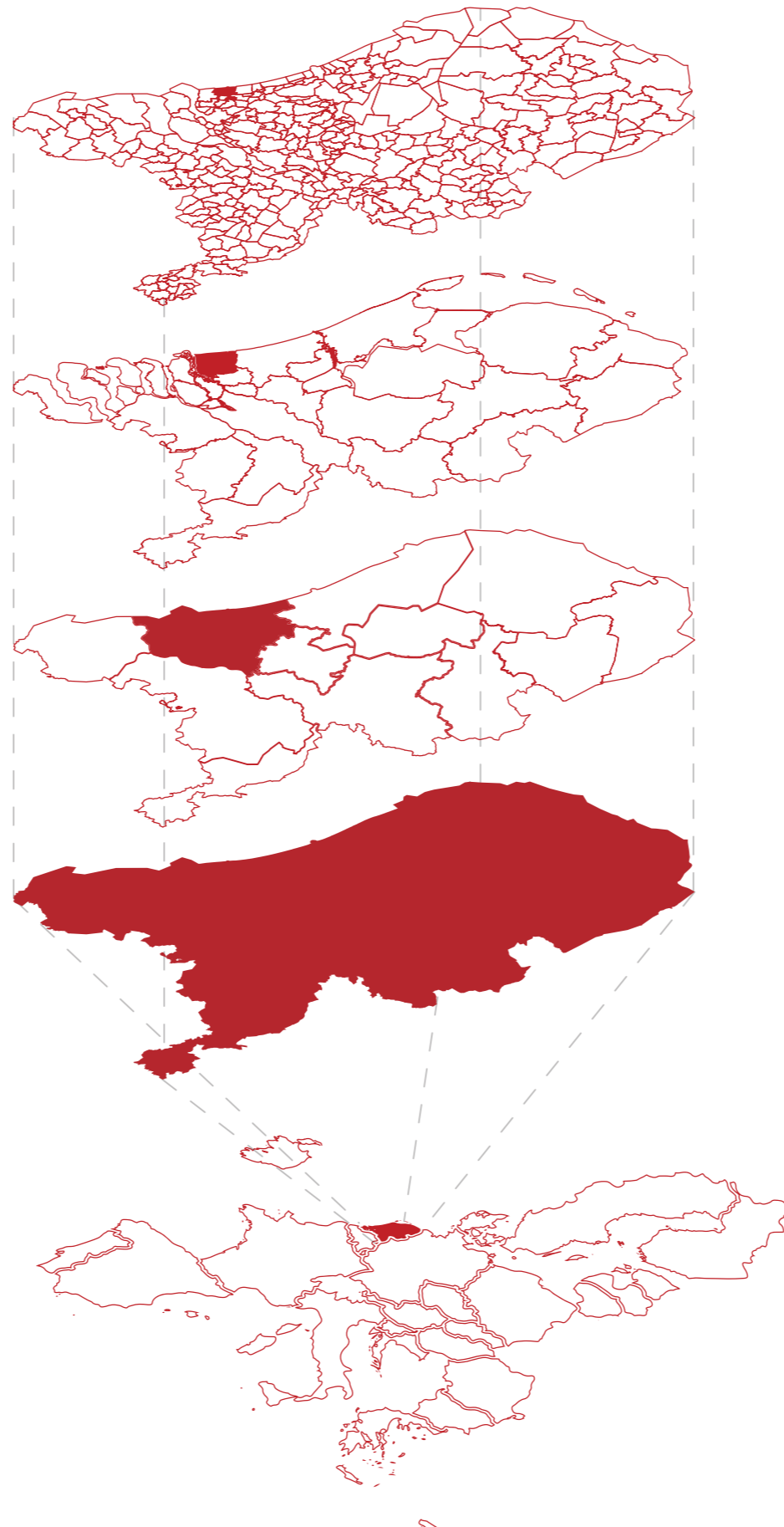
'Kratia', means power or rule.

DEMOCRACY
=
AN IDEAL/CONSTRUCT

04. Analyse: **What is important to actualise this ideal?**

- Free and fair elections
- Multi-Party elections
- People are equal for the law
- Government can be hold accountable
- Exectives are controlled and contained by the law and courts
- Free press
- People have the freedom of speech
- Some add: deliberative and participatory democracys

04. Analyse: **Status Quo of The Dutch Democratic System**



Municipality | The Hague

Dutch or EU passport, or visa for + 5 years

Water Authorities | Delfland

Dutch or EU passport, or visa for + 5 years

Provinces | Zuid-Holland

Only people with Dutch passport can vote

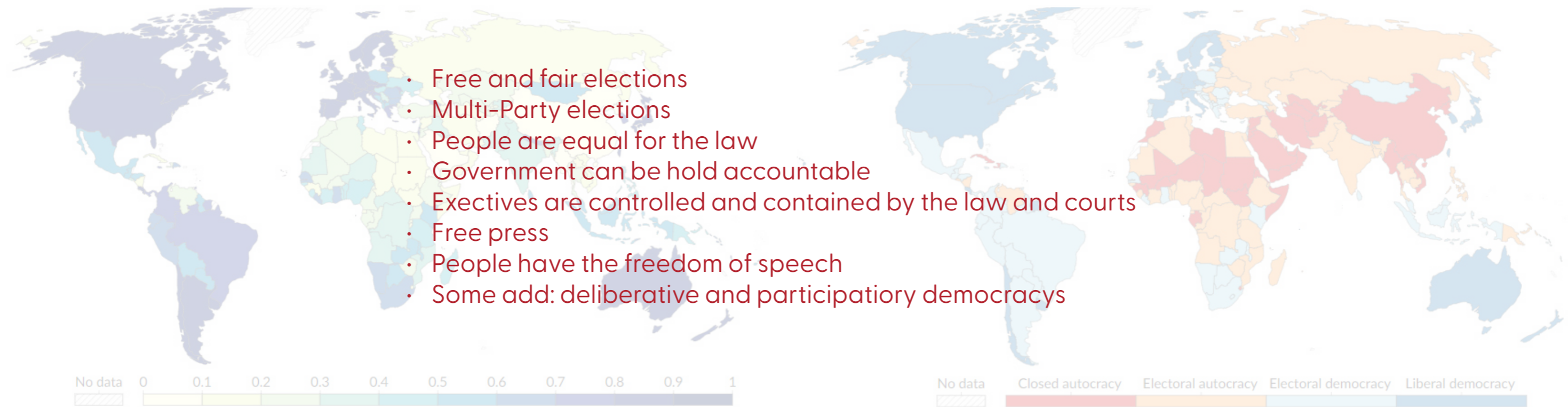
National | Tweede Kamer (House of Representatives)

Only people with Dutch passport can vote

European Union

Only people with European Citizenship can vote

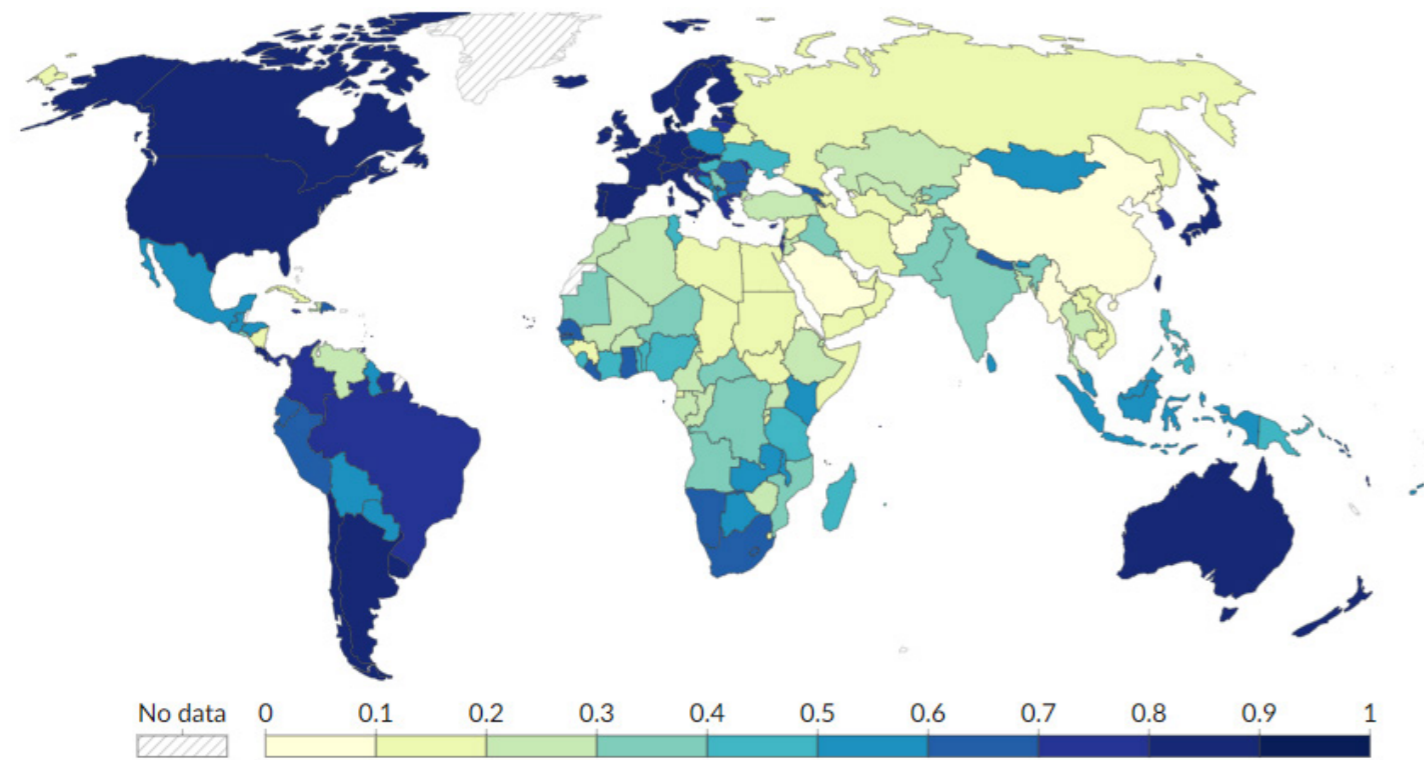
04. Analyse: **How Do Democratic Systems Actualise This Ideal?**



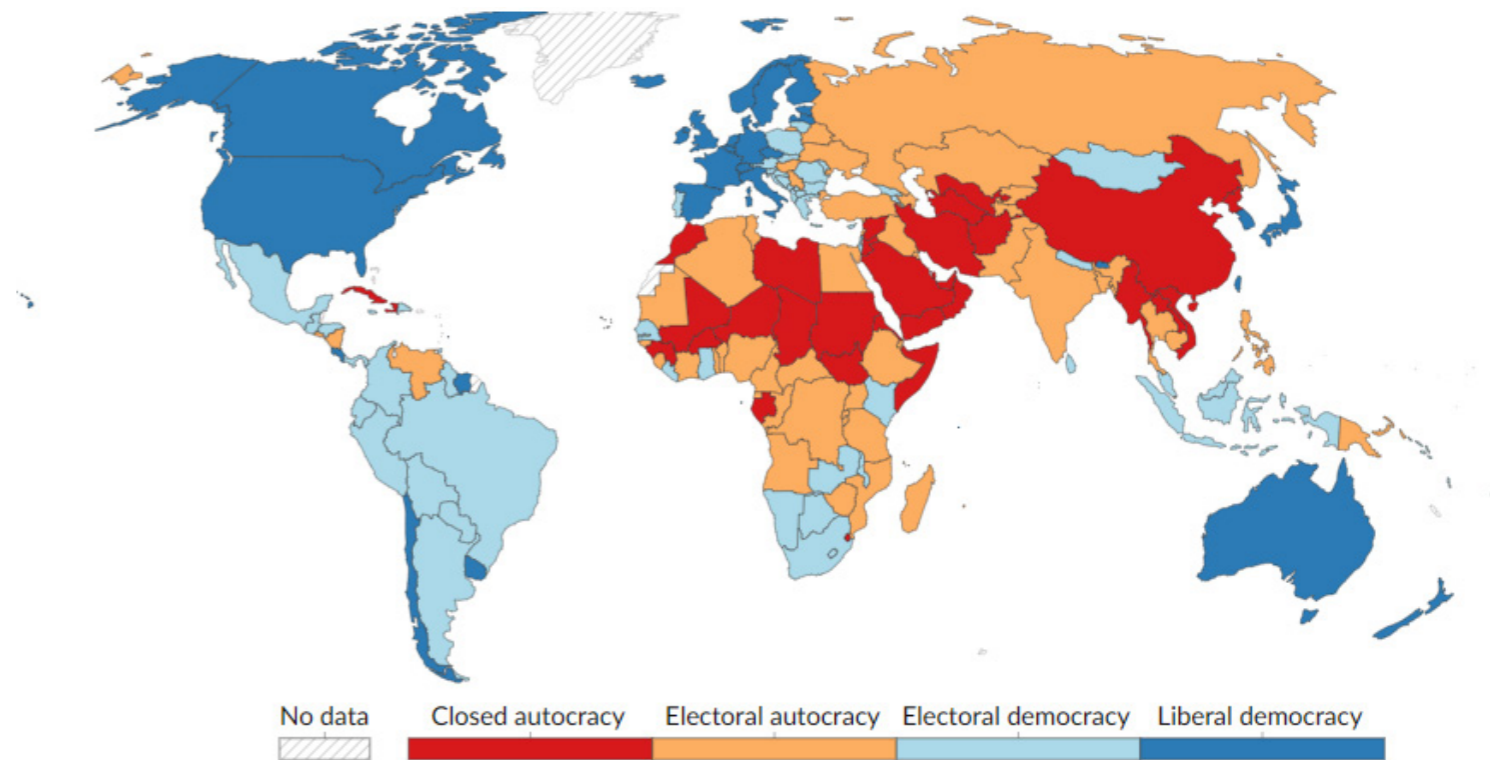
Electoral democracy index, 2023. Based on the expert estimates and index by V-Dem. It captures to which extent political leaders are elected under comprehensive voting rights in free and fair elections, and freedoms of association and expression are guaranteed. It ranges from 0 to 1 (most democratic).

Regimes of the World index, 2023: Based on the classification by Lührmann et al. (2018) and the estimates by V-Dem's experts. Democracy not as a spectrum, but determined over 4 categories.

04. Analyse: **The Highest Functioning Democracies Struggle to Actualise Democratic Ideal**



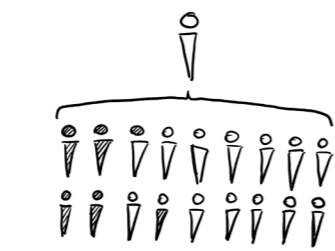
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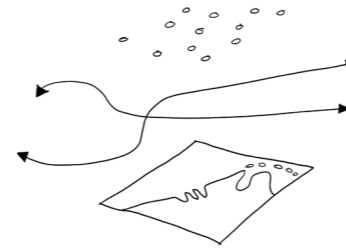
04. Analyse: **Status Quo of Present-Day Democratic Systems**

Limitations of:



Representative
Democracy

+



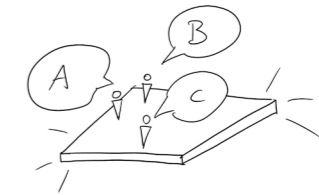
Territorial
Democracy

+



(Neo)liberal
focus on
the individual

+



Struggles in
participation
processes

05.

EXPOSE

05. Expose: **Limitations of the Status-Quo**

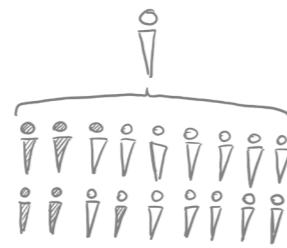
Limitations of:

Representative
Democracy

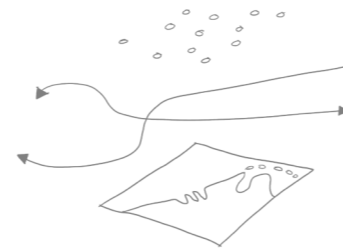
Territorial
Democracy

(Neo)liberal
focus on
the individual

Struggles in
participation
processes



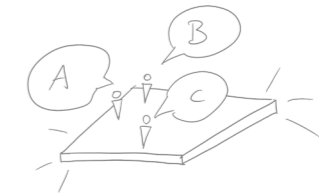
+



+



+



For example:

Systematic
underrepresentation
Passive citizenship

Exclusion is an inherent
part

Focus on the individual
and on universal
consensus

Sustaining the
dominance of certain
social orders that it is
trying to overcome.

Lack of attention to
political conversations

05. Expose: **How can the system be strengthened**

'The less others interfere in our lives, the freer we are. The less politics, the more freedom'

'All of us have critical remarks on that ideal!'

John Stuart Mill

Jürgen Habermas **Hannah Arendt** **Chantal Mouffe** **John Dewey**

05. Expose: **Critiques On The Present-Day System**

'A radical, democratic citizen must be an active citizen, somebody who acts as a citizen, who conceives of herself as a participant in a collective undertaking. The citizen, as Sheldon Wolin rightly emphasizes, requires that we think from a perspective of commonality: this is incompatible with an individualistic framework.'

- Chantal Mouffe

05. Expose: **Report on Democratic Erosion in The Netherlands**

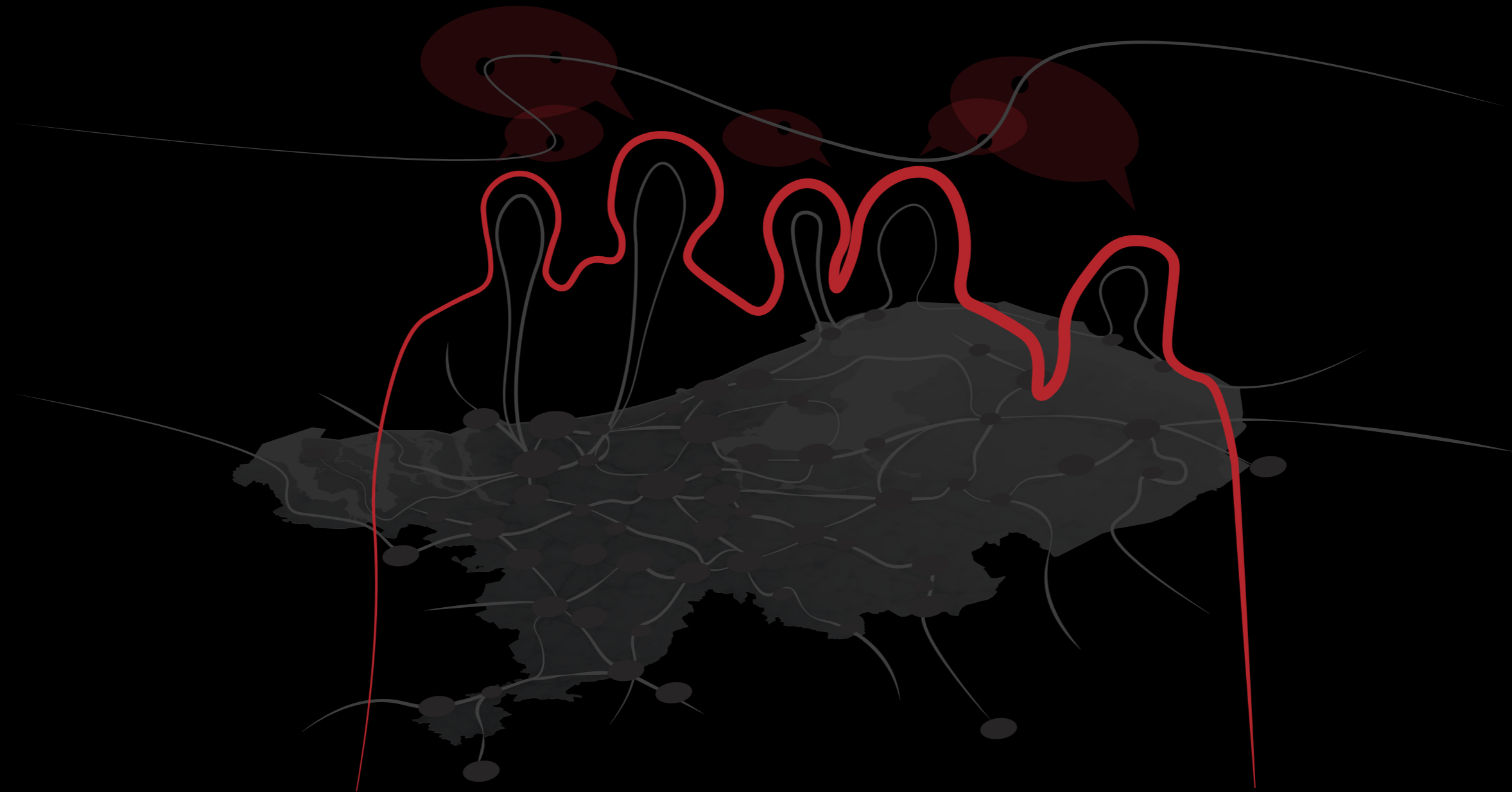
*‘There is a systematic reduction in **the democratic space for citizens** as a result of decentralization, privatization, technocratization and the associated depoliticization of choices in the implementation of numerous semi-public tasks and services.’*

- Honingh et al., 2023

06.

PROPOSE

06. Propose: **Radical Pluralist Democracy**



06. Propose: **Spaces for Radical, Pluralist Democracy**

Based on the definitions of power, The Power Cube, University of Sussex

power over

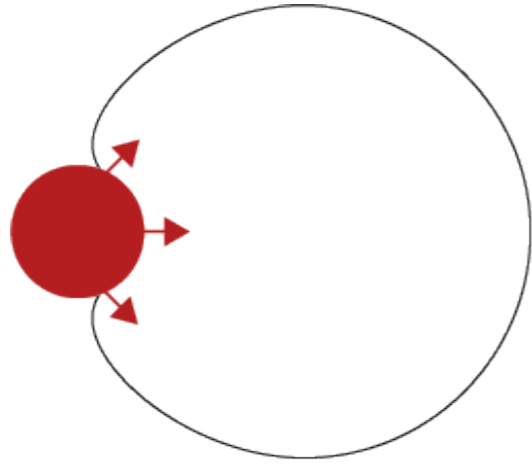
power with

power within

power to

06. Propose: **Spaces for Radical, Pluralist Democracy**

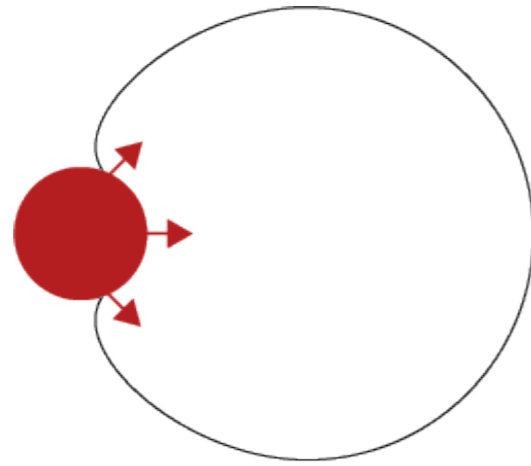
Based on the definitions of power, The Power Cube, University of Sussex



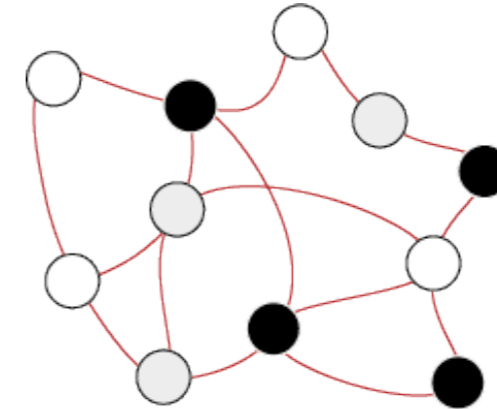
over power : **THE HEGEMONY**

06. Propose: **Spaces for Radical, Pluralist Democracy**

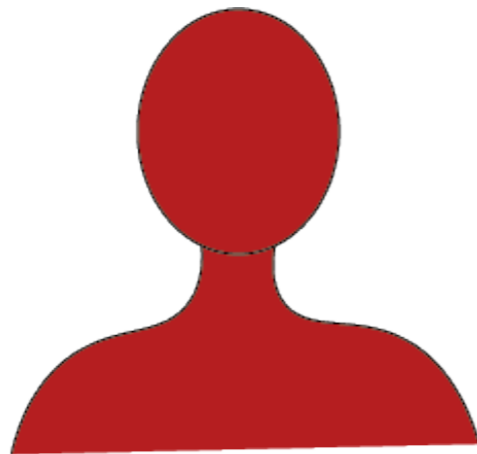
Based on the definitions of power, The Power Cube, University of Sussex



over power : **THE HEGEMONY**



power with : **OTHERS**

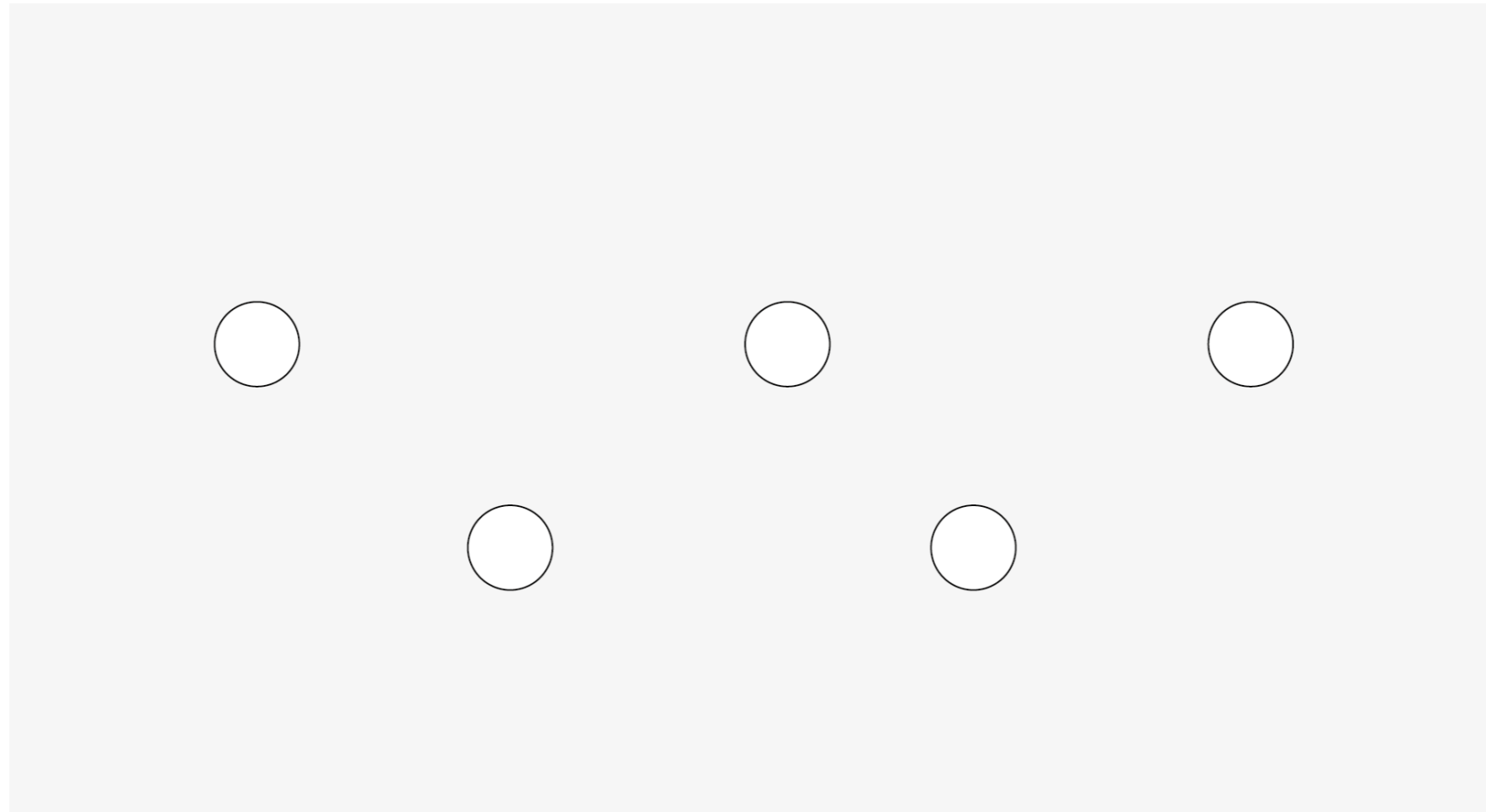


power within: **ONESELF**



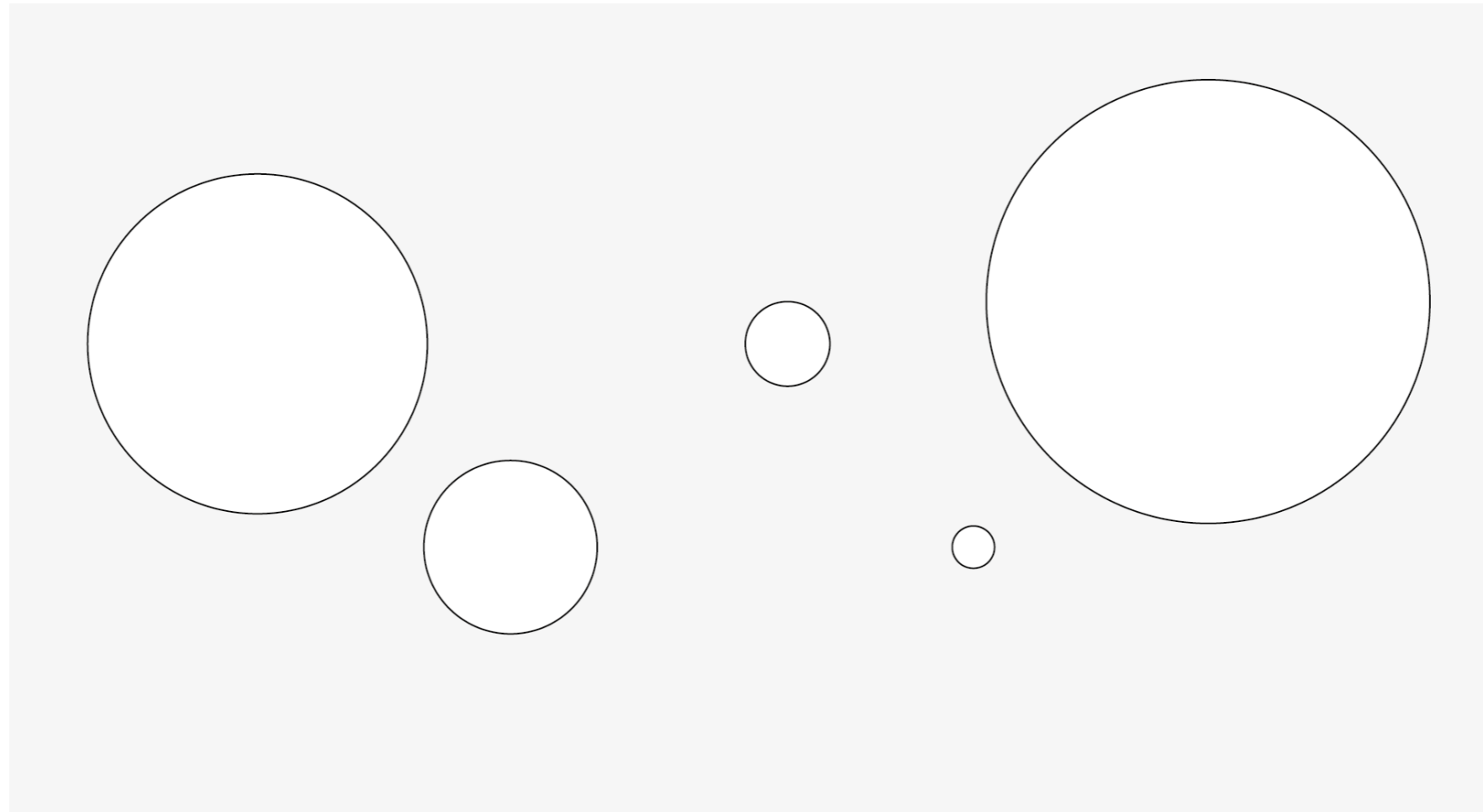
power to: **ACT**

06. Propose: **Spaces for Radical, Pluralist Democracy**



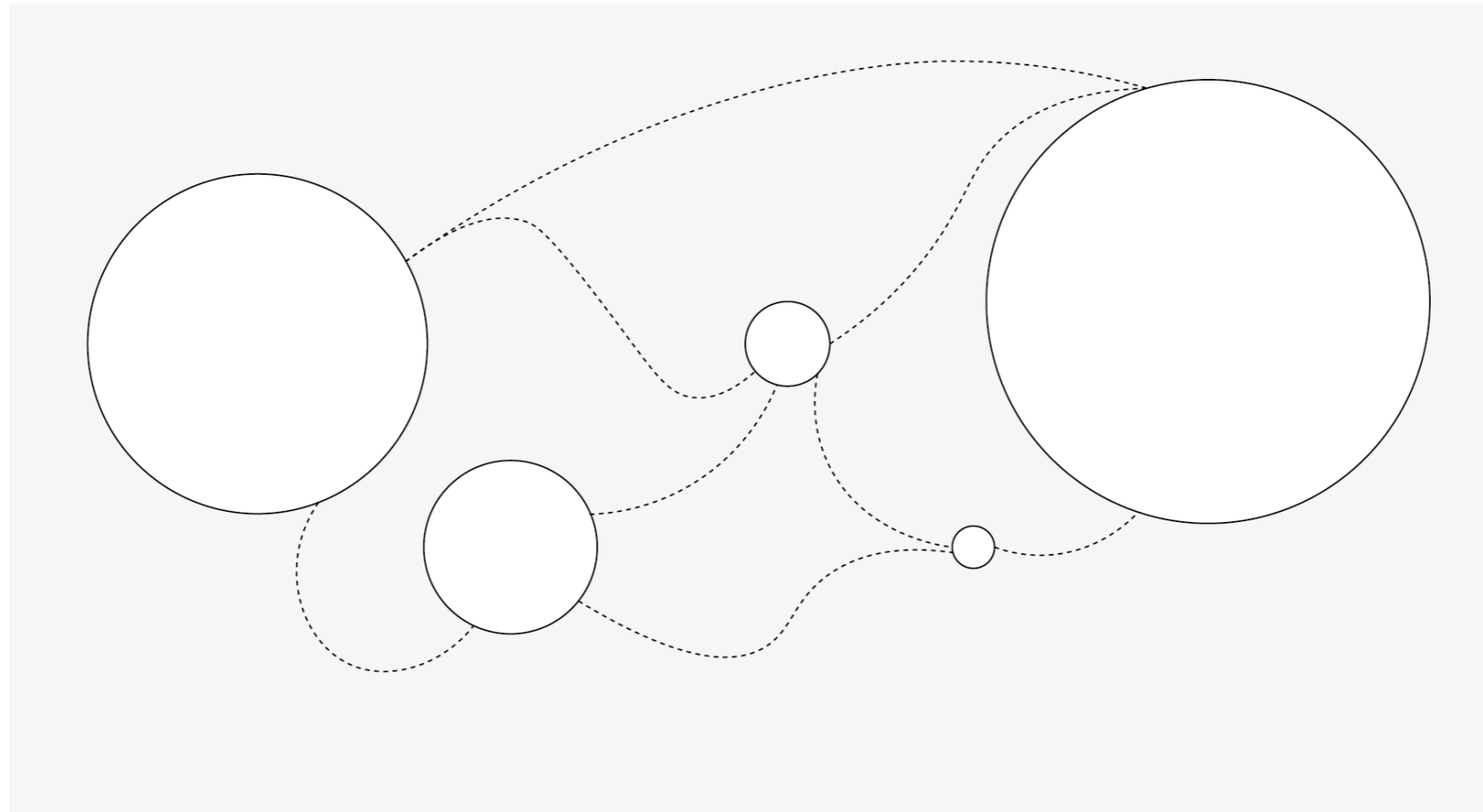
a multitude of spaces

06. Propose: **Spaces for Radical, Pluralist Democracy**



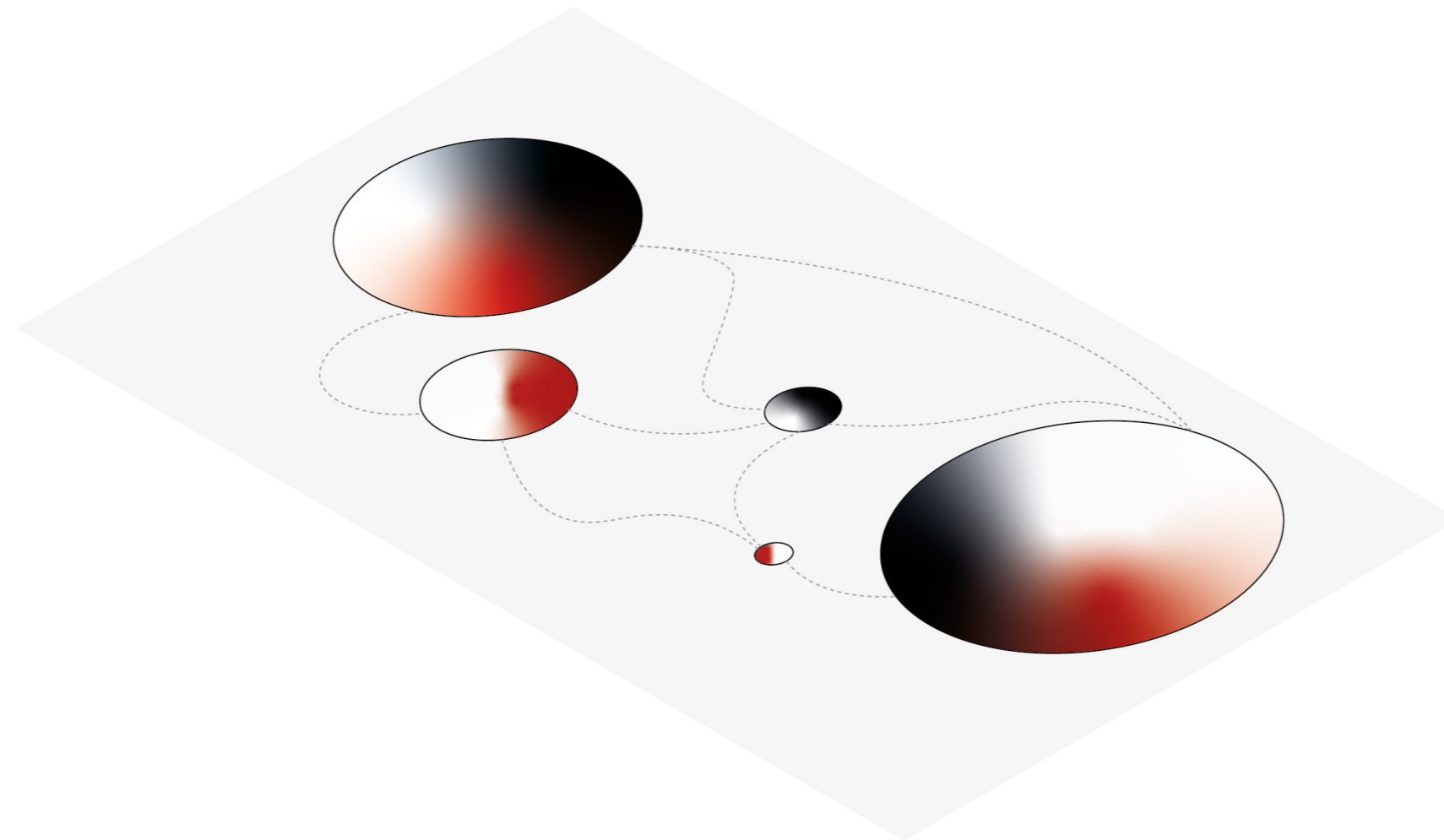
different types and scales

06. Propose: **Spaces for Radical, Pluralist Democracy**



focus on community, creating networks

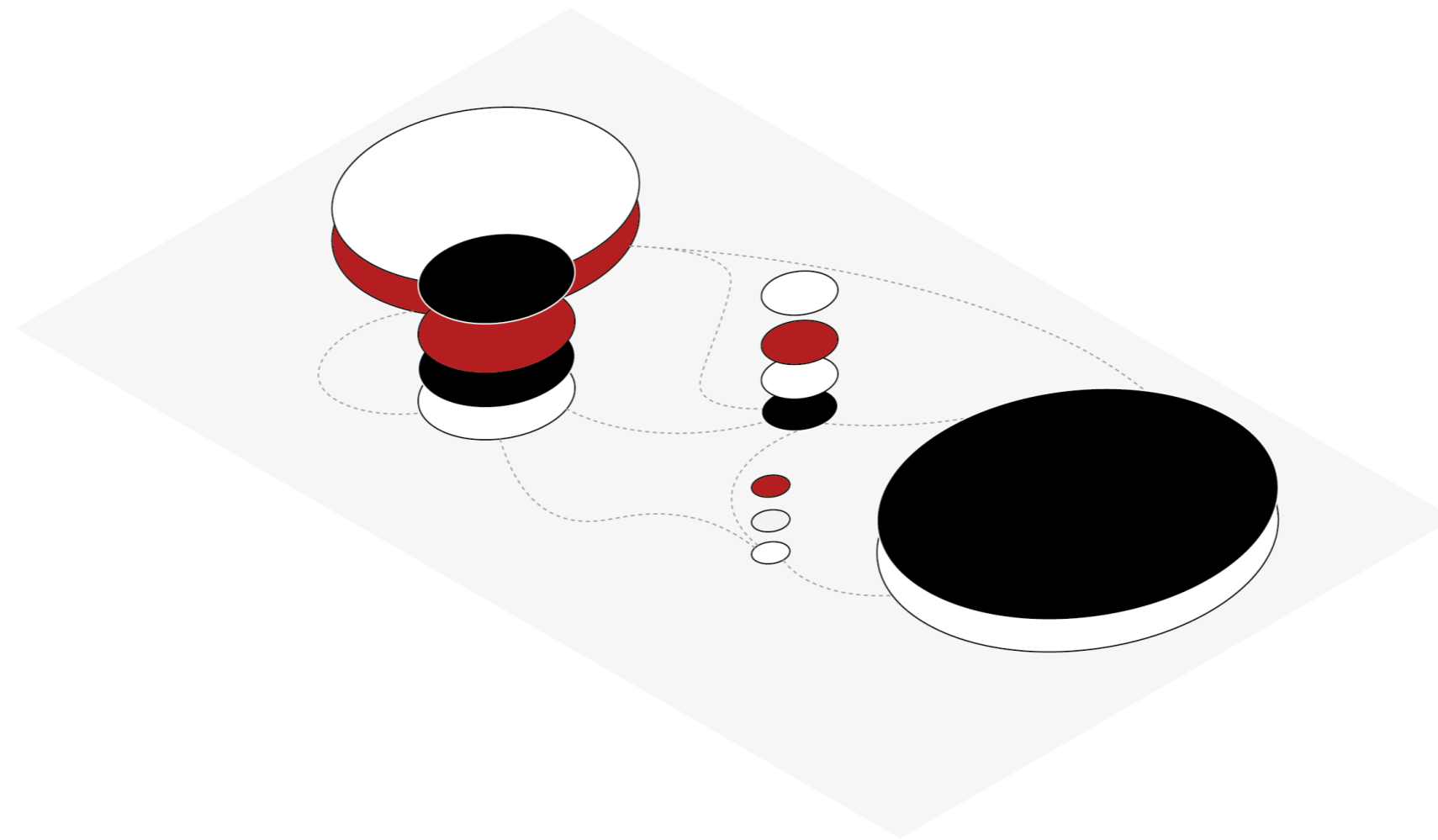
06. Propose: **Spaces for Radical, Pluralist Democracy**



- Space type A
- Space type B
- Space type C
- Network

mixed in function

06. Propose: **Spaces for Radical, Pluralist Democracy**

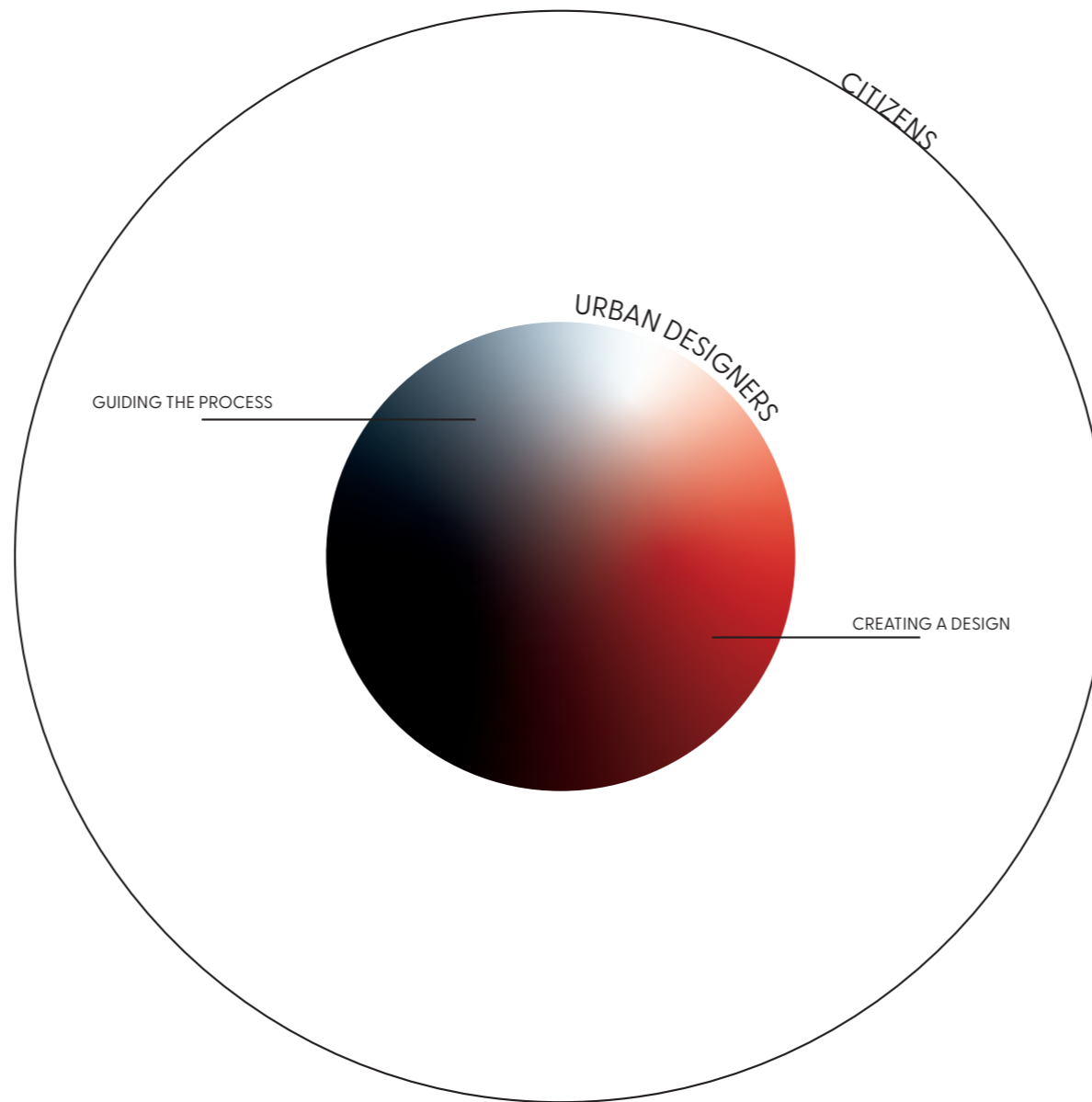


- Space type A
- Space type B
- Space type C
- Network

dynamic and adjustable in time

06. Propose: **Role of Urban Designers**

ACTUALISING THE DEMOCRATIC IDEAL



06. Propose: **Pattern Language Framework**

Based on The Power Cube, University of Sussex and Foundries Hill, Adrian V (ed.). (2020) Foundries of the Future

Scale

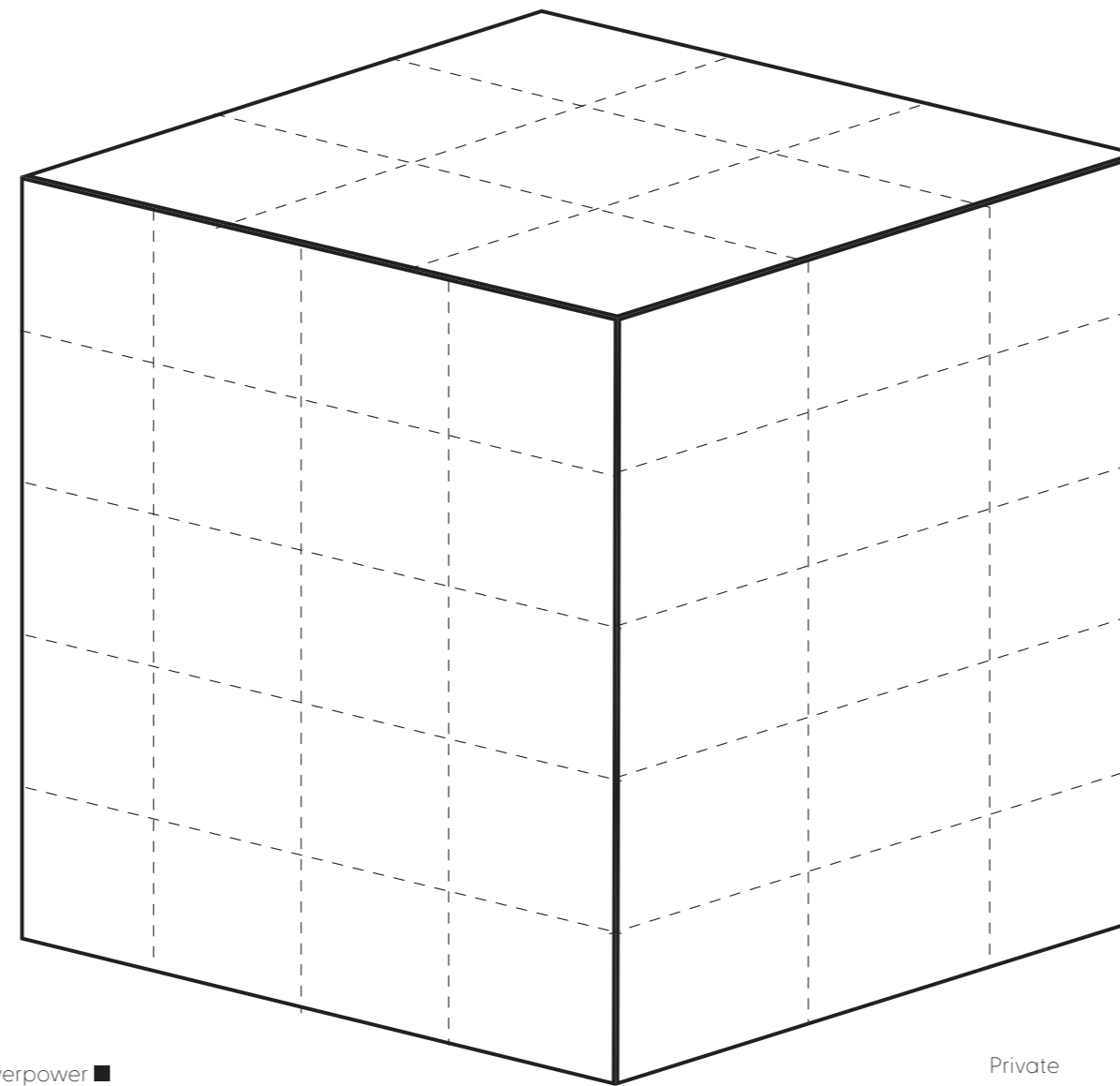
Transscalar

City

Neighbourhood/Block

Block/Building/Public Space

Programme



Overpower ■

Power with □

Power within ■

Power to ■

Public

Semi-public

Private

Powertype

Spatial domain

06. Propose: **Pattern Language Card**

SCALE.CARDNUMBER

?????

TITLE

Hypothesis:

Powertypes: ■ ■ ■ □

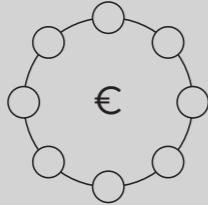
Relation to other patterns:

Scale:

Domain:

06. Propose: **Pattern Language Cards, A Couple of Proposals**

P.1



PATICIPATORY BUDGETTING

Hypothesis: Paticipatory budgetting can create empower a community, activating citizens to think about what they want their surroundings to be and by giving citizens the responsibility to devide money on all the proposals themselves.


Powertypes: □ ■

Relation to other patterns: B.1 + N.1

Scale: Neighbourhood/Block

Domain: Public

T.1



ROOM FOR PROTEST

Hypothesis: Transparant and open policy on where and when people can protest, engage in demonstrations and manifestations, are an important measure in democracy to make sure everyone can have their voice heard and to have agnency in society


Powertypes: ■ ■ □

Relation to other patterns:

Scale: Transscalar

Domain: Public

N.1



COMMUNITY GARDEN

Hypothesis: A community garden can be a way to bring different people in a neighbourhood together and give them the agency over a public space


Powertypes: □ ■ □

Relation to other patterns: P.1

Scale: Block/Building/Public Space

Domain: Public

B.1



GRAFFITY WALL

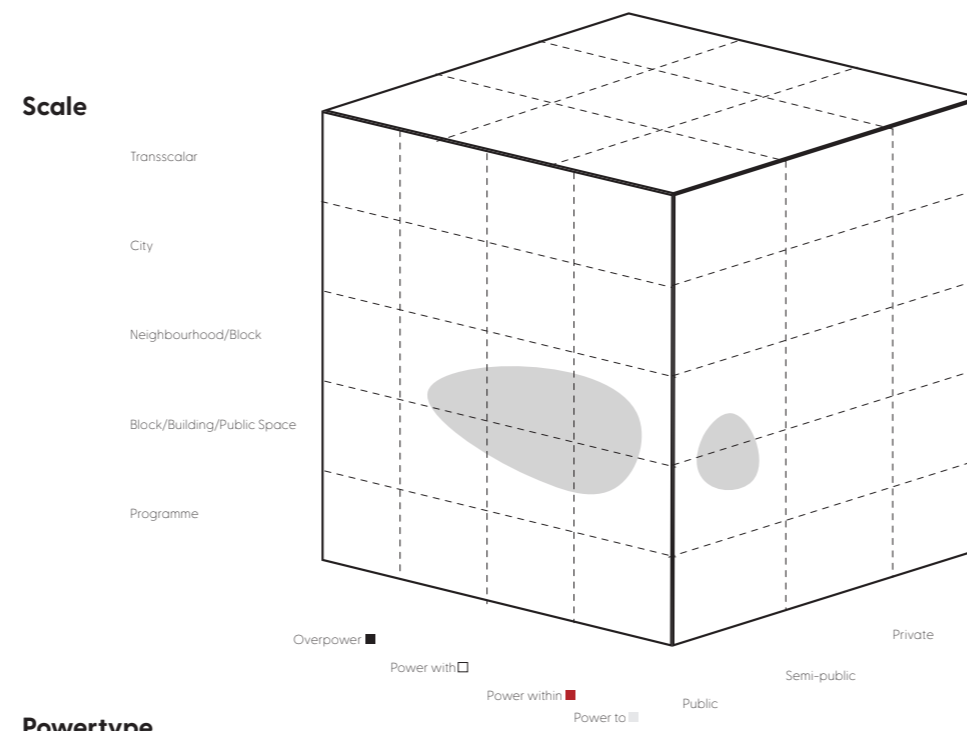
Hypothesis: A wall where everyone is allowed to spraypaint on and to show their art in the public domain, can be a way for people to express their opinion and to spark discussion. It can be a way for people to appropriate their surroundings

Powertypes: ■ ■

Relation to other patterns: P.1

Scale: Block/Building/Public Space

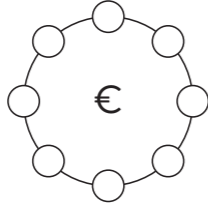
Domain: Public



Spatial domain

06. Propose: **Pattern Language Cards, A Couple of Proposals**

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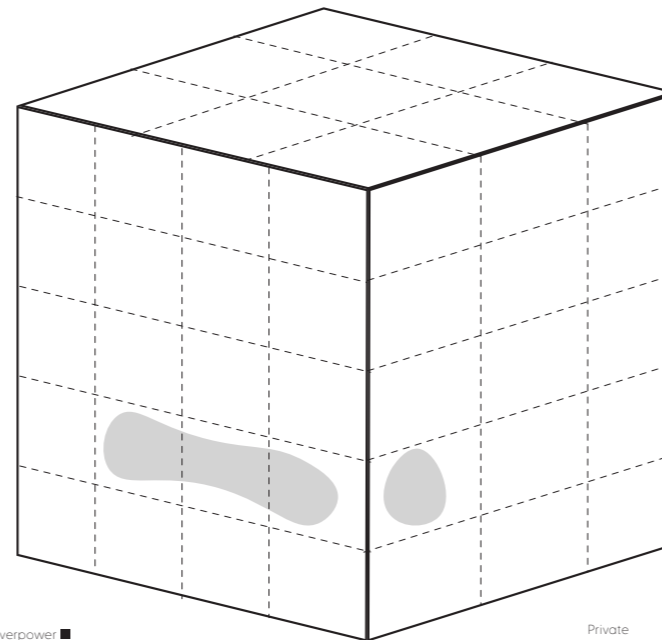
Relation to other patterns: P.1

Scale: Block/Building/Public Space

Domain: Public

Scale

Transscalar
City
Neighbourhood/Block
Block/Building/Public Space
Programme



Overpower
Power with
Power within
Power to

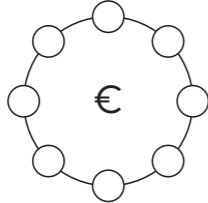
Private
Semi-public
Public

Powertype

Spatial domain

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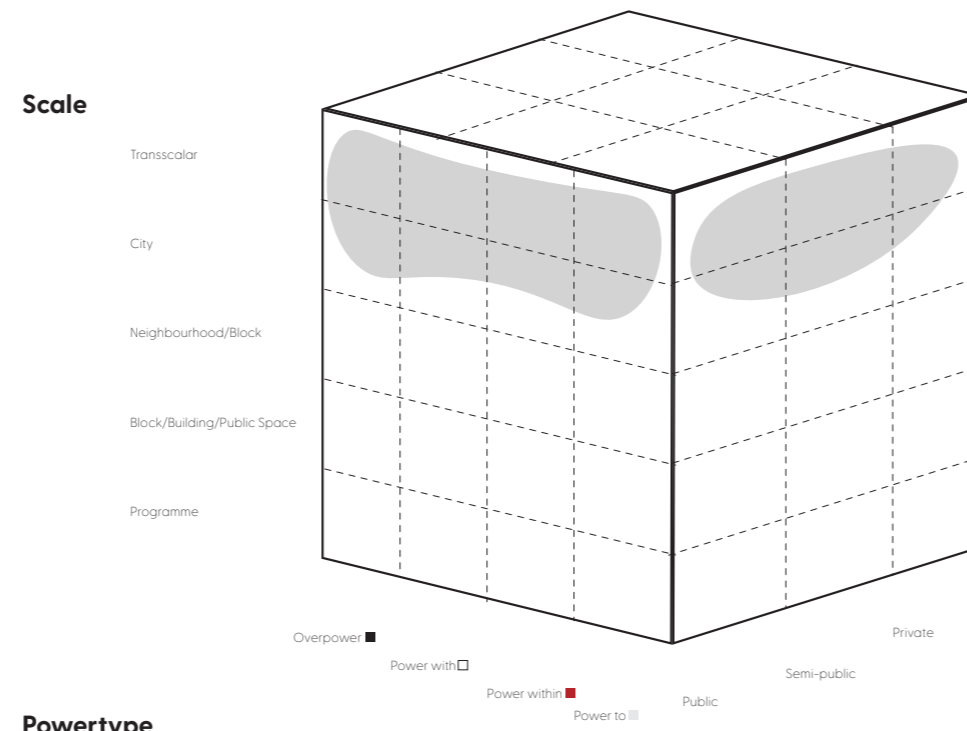
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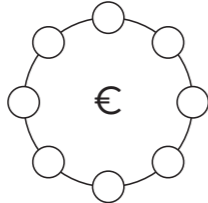
Domain: Public



Spatial domain

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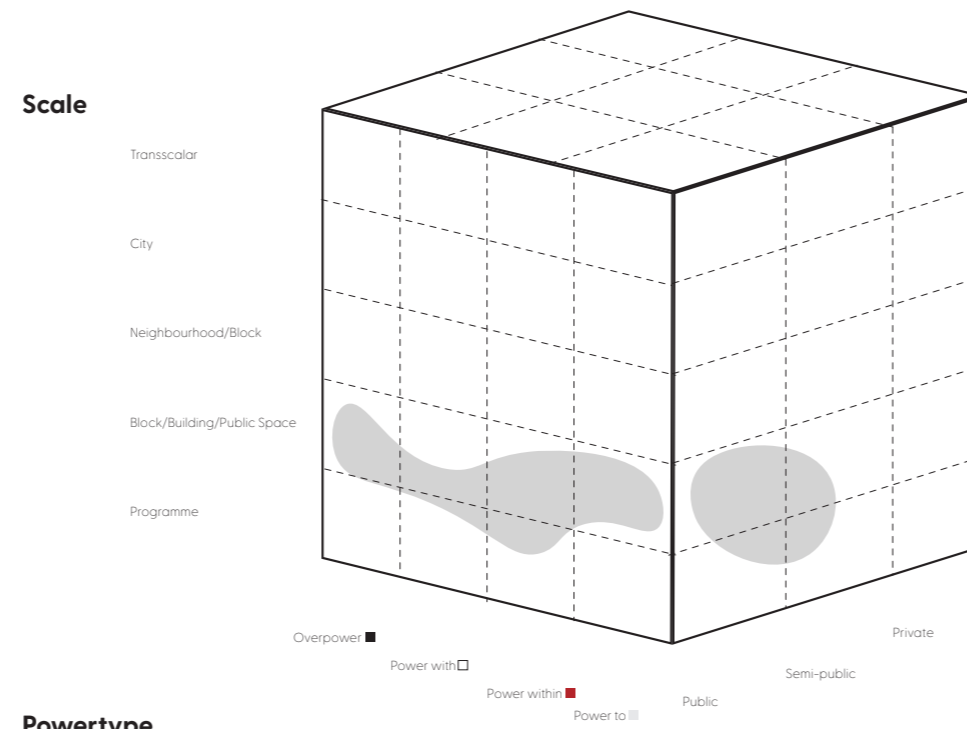
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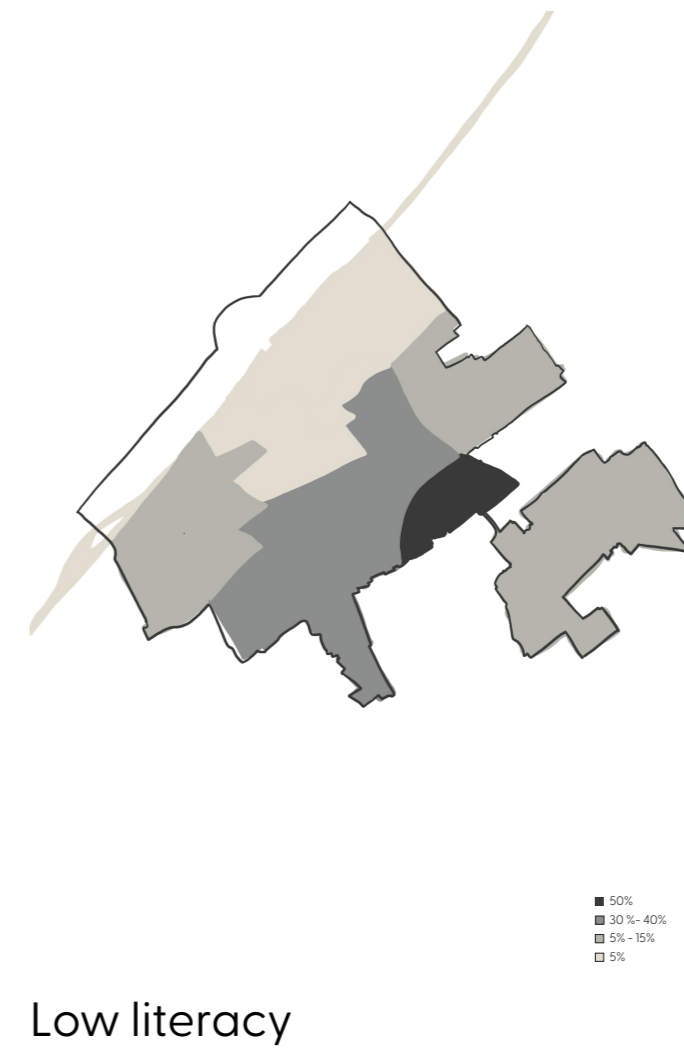
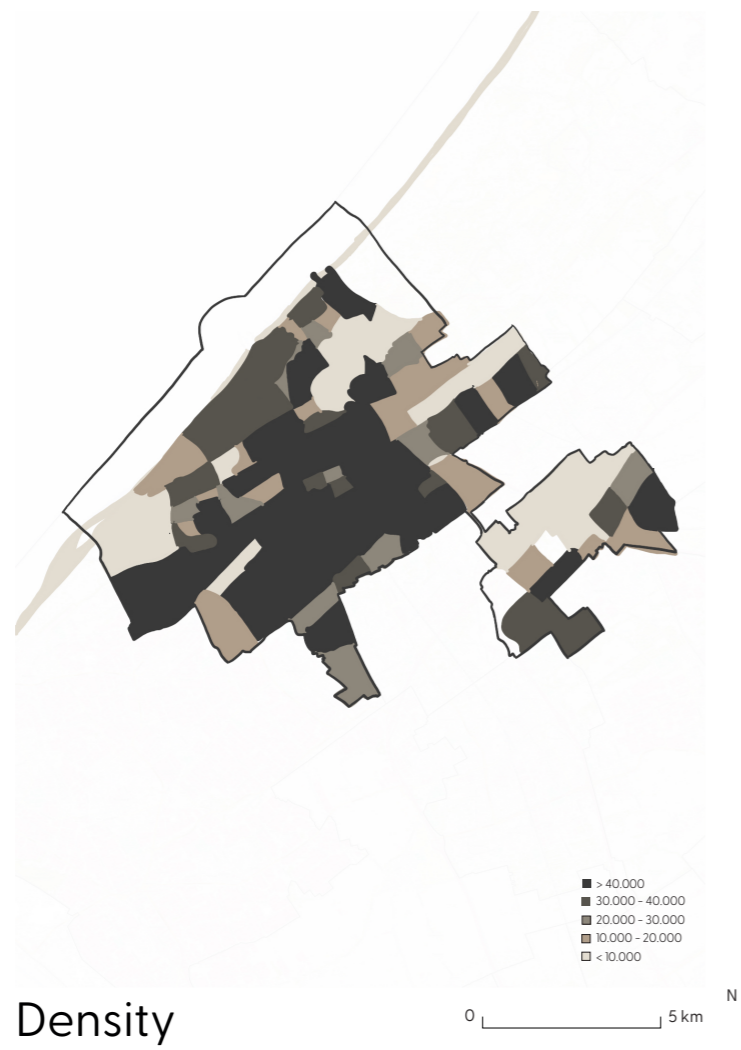


Spatial domain

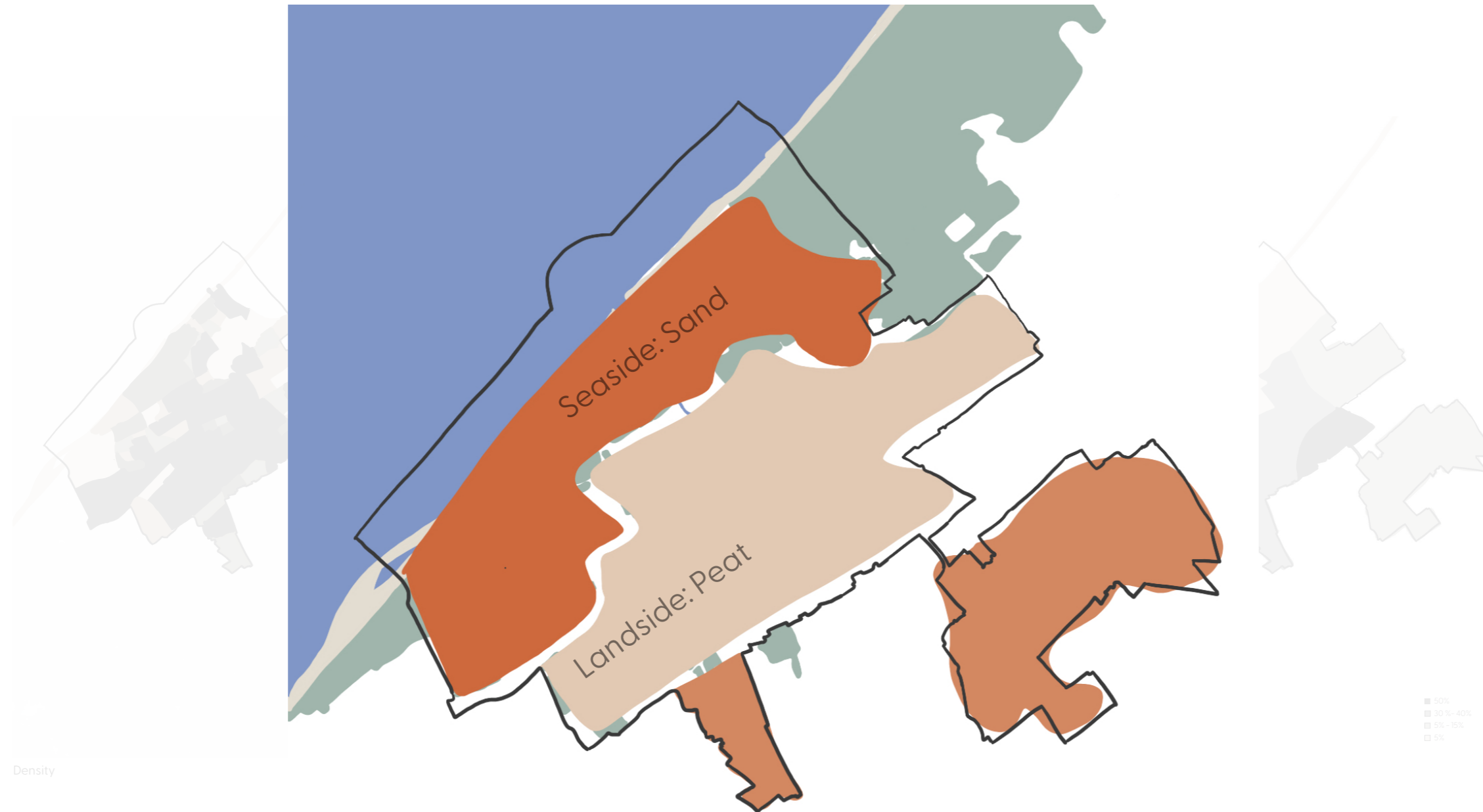
07.

ANALYSE: THE HAGUE

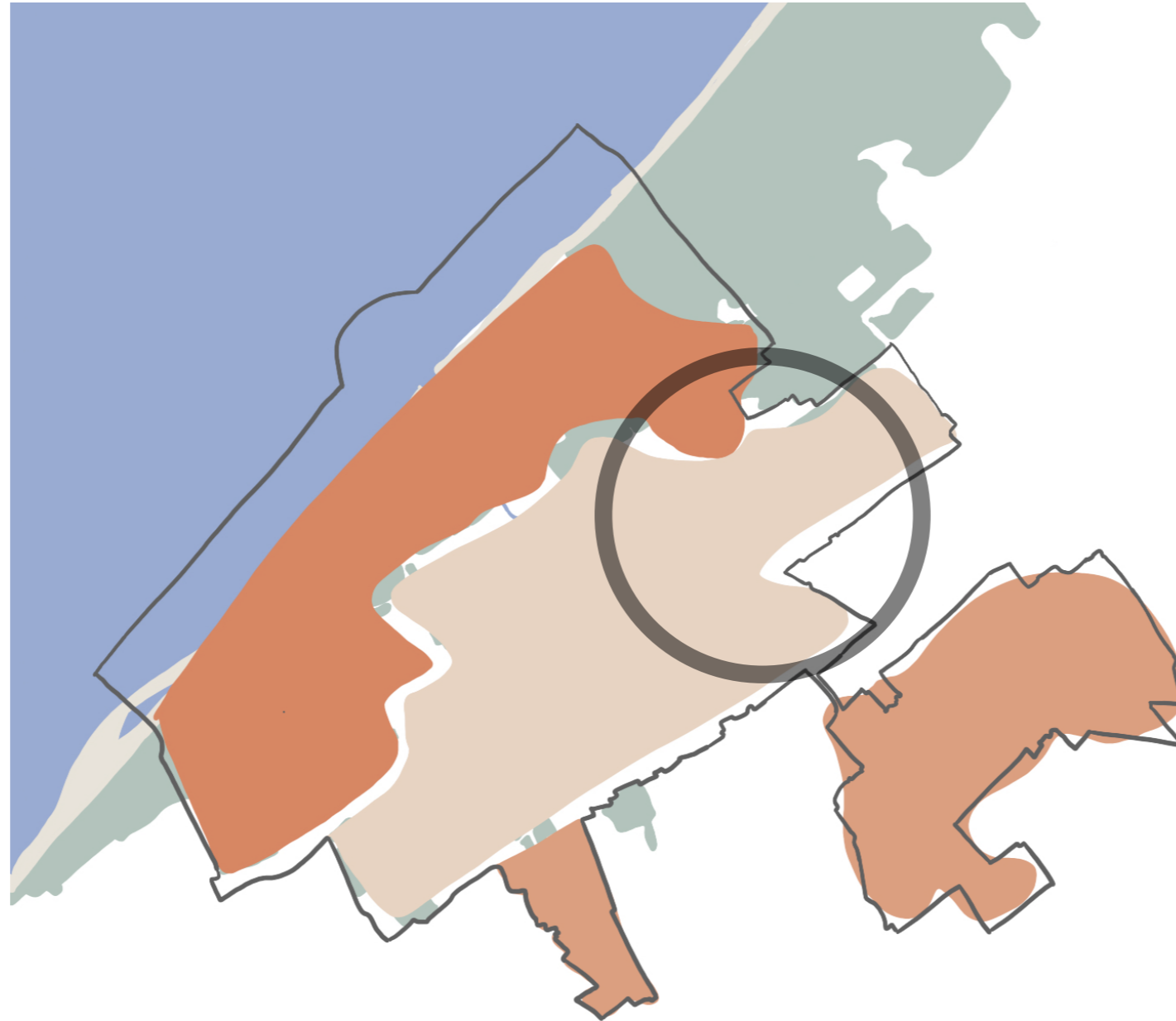
07. Analyse: **City scale: Preliminary conclusions**



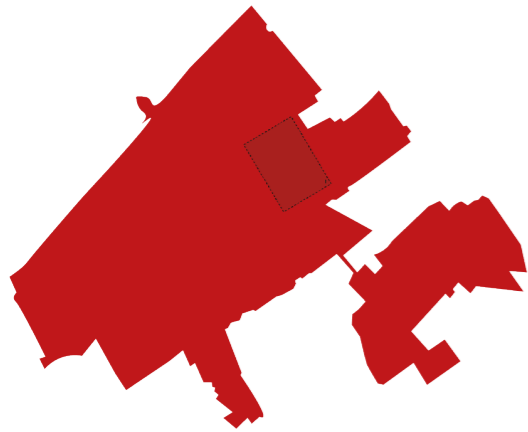
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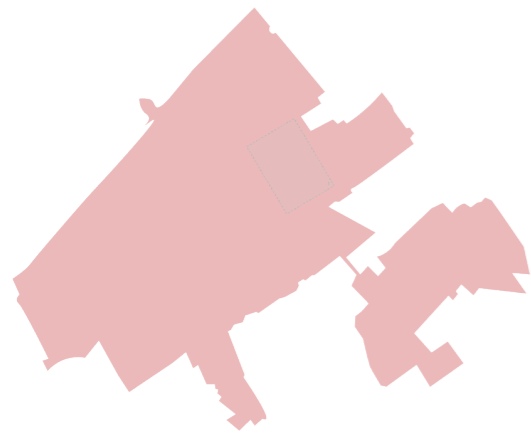
07. Analyse: **City scale: Preliminary conclusions**



07. Analyse: **Field trip: Preliminary conclusions**



07. Analyse: **Field trip: Preliminary conclusions**



07. Analyse: **Field trip: Preliminary conclusions**



07. Analyse: **Field trip: Preliminary conclusions**



Gates only allow people with a train card



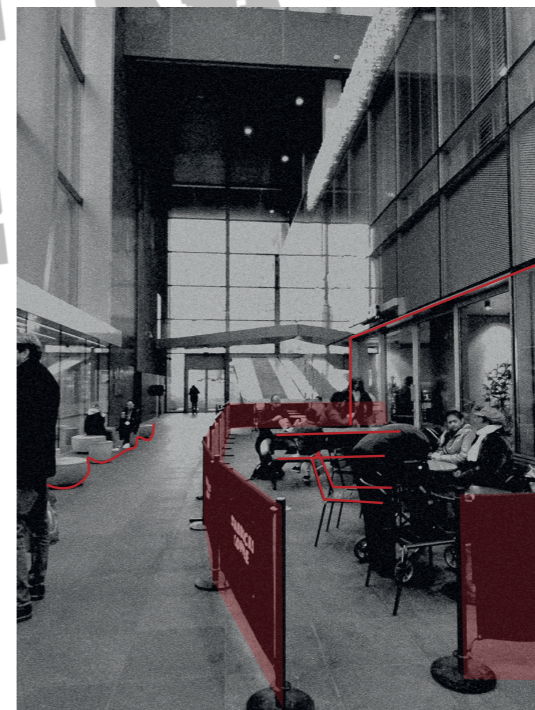
Big difference in urban furniture inside or outside gates



Big screen for commercials & video art

People only walk along the sides

Plinth is active, loads of shops



Starbucks can occupy space and put a fence, people who do not pay, cannot sit there

07. Analyse: **Field trip: Preliminary conclusions**

Beleeg gasten.
Met ruim 9 jaar service op het station moesten wij afscheid van het eind van dit jaar onze deuren permanent sluiten. We hebben met veel liefde en plezier gewerkt in de StationsHuisKamer. Bedankt voor een mooie tijd en uw trouwe bezoek.
Met hartelijke groet,
Team StationsHuisKamer

Loads of cameras in NS housstyle: look a bit like birds

Bookshare stand is actively used

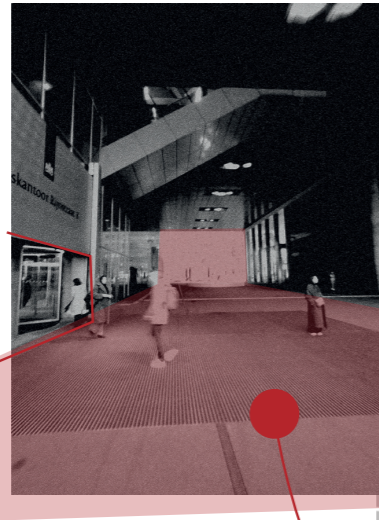
Only space where you did not have to pay is higher up and is now closed

Clear signs for blind people

And also contains conspiracy theory flyers

07. Analyse: **Field trip: Preliminary conclusions**

Migration office has super small entry, with a blank public area in front



Building has two characters



People are in a rush

Public space is covered by roof and static pillars, creates a very 'in between space' atmosphere



Monument has turned into a seating area, lots of people waiting on their own



Pole full of stickers with political statements in front of station



07. Analyse: **Field trip: Preliminary conclusions**

Binnenhof is under renovation

Tower was build so people can have insights in the renovation work

Tall and intimidating buildings

Loads of flags in the area

Ministry of Internal Affairs is protected with a big fence

In front of the Binnenhof area is the office of 'Prodemos', an organization that provides education on the Dutch democracy

Active in fostering community

Libary is the first public meeting area on the way

Municipality does not have clear entrance, but does have very 'transparent facade'

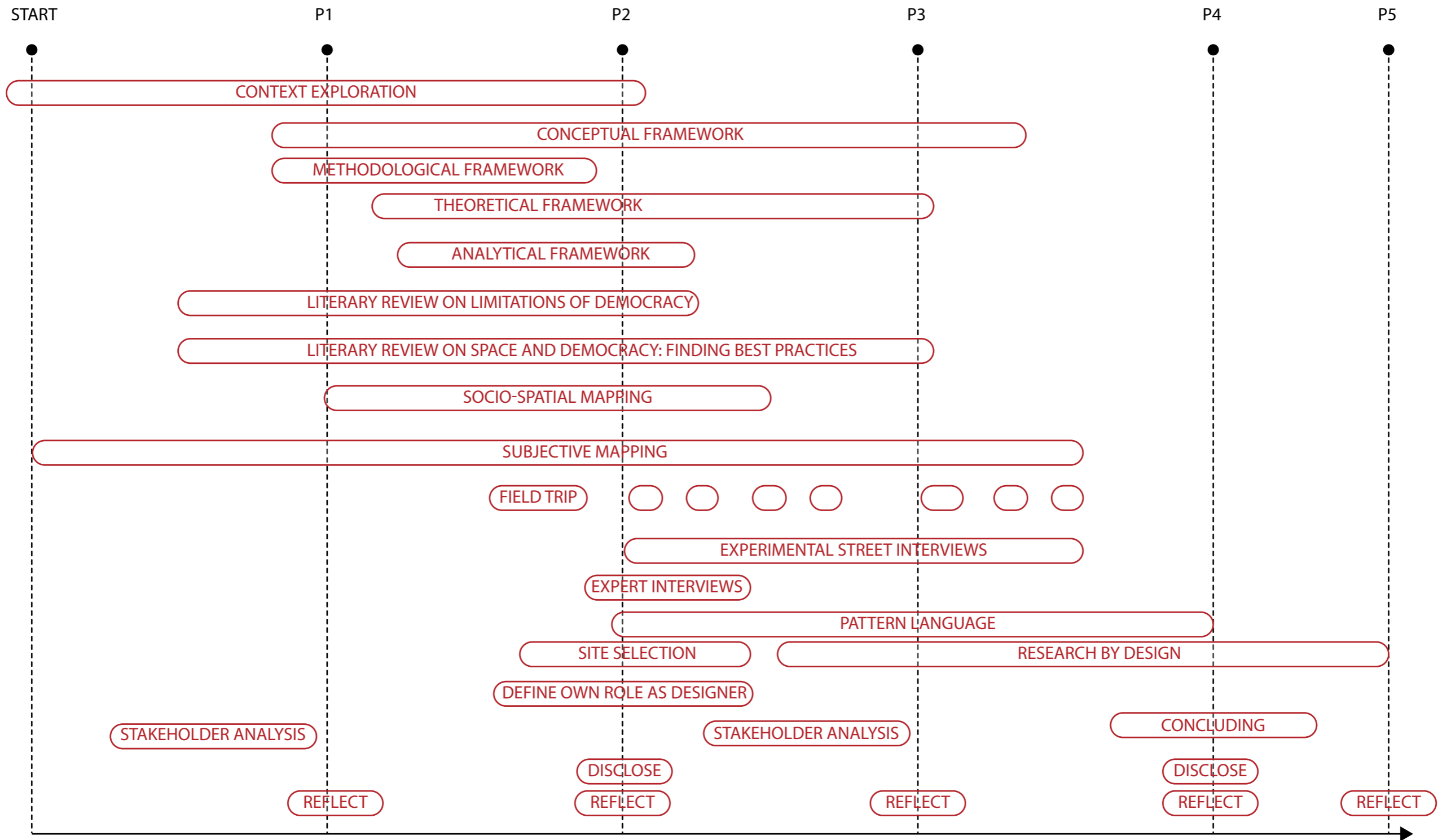
Street and pavement are separated by planters

MC Donalds can use the public streets

08.

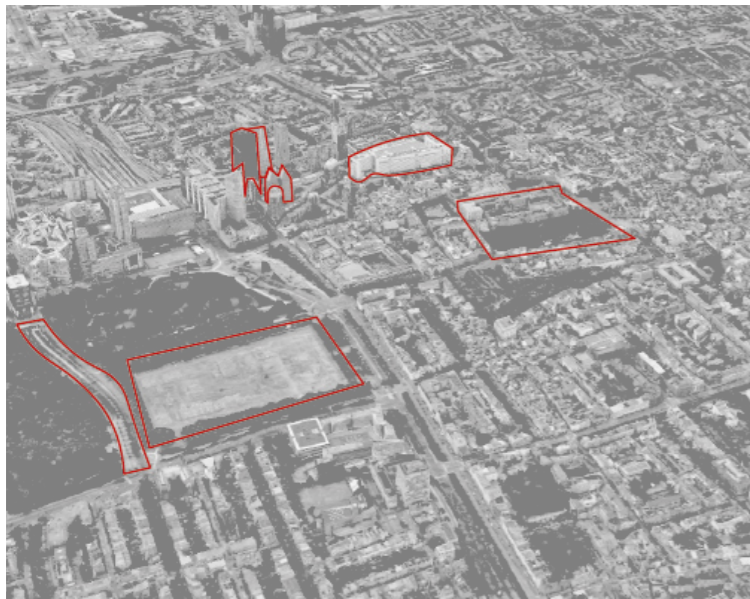
WHAT'S NEXT?

08. What's next?: **Planning**

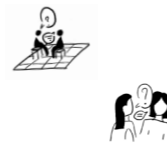
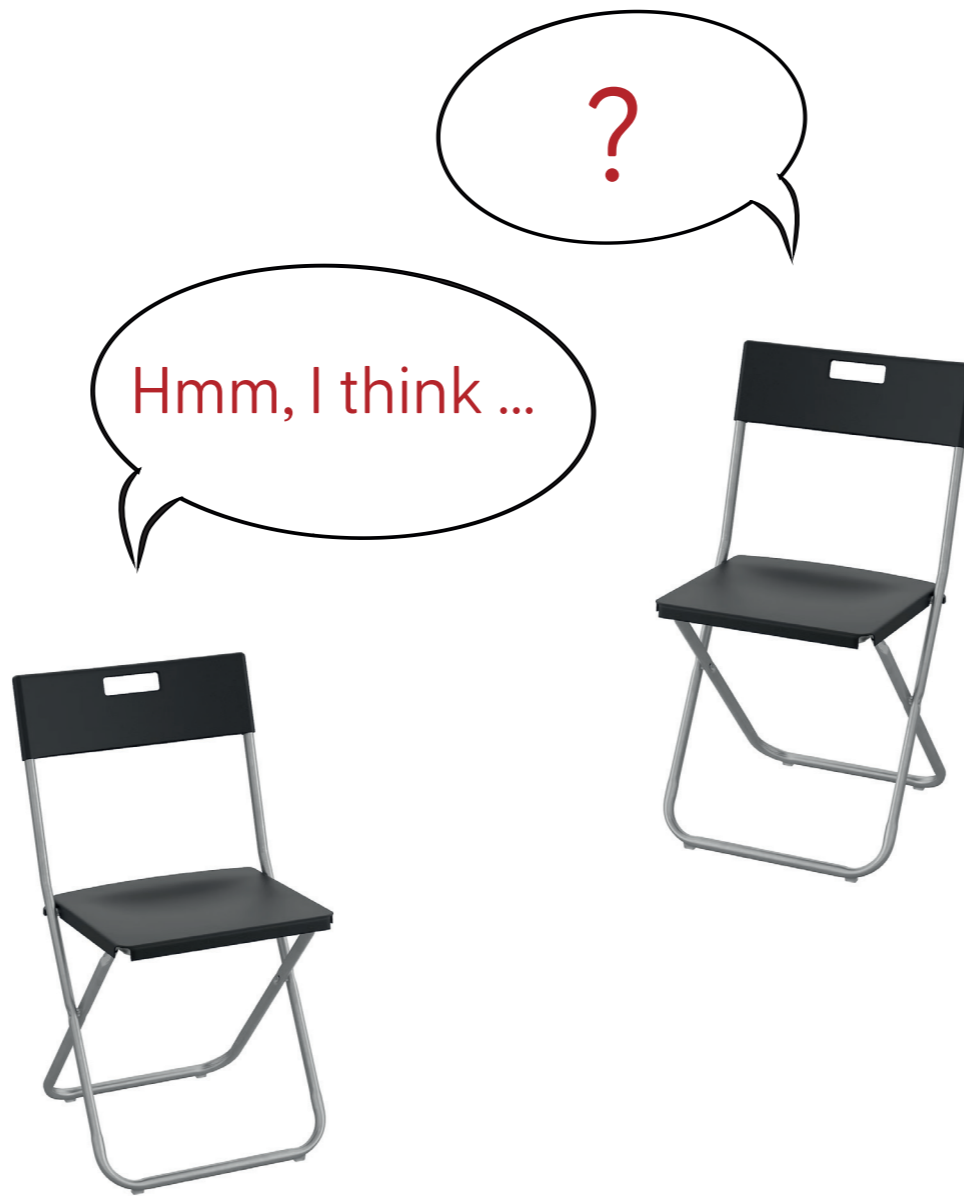


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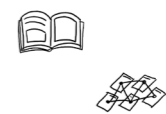
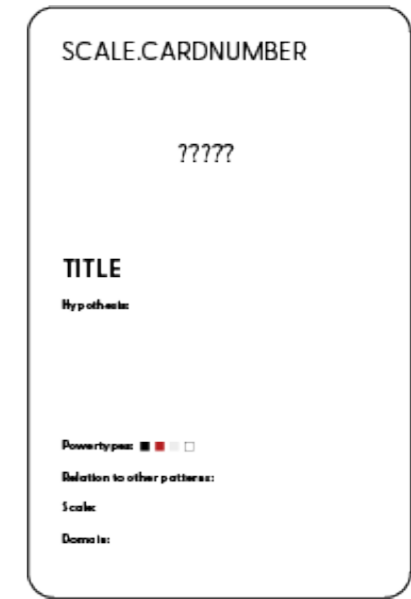
SPATIAL ANALYSIS

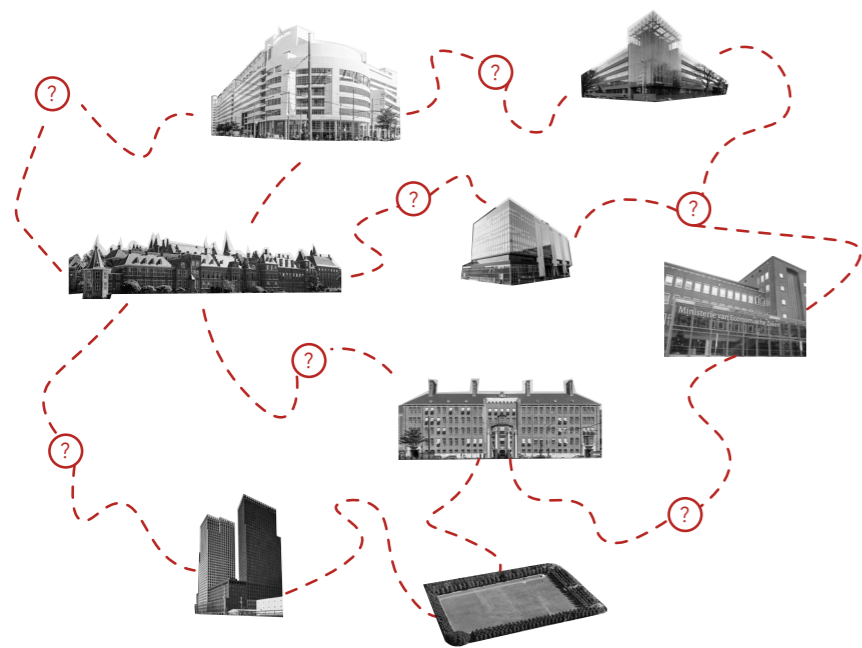


INTERVIEWS



PATTERN LANGUAGE





THE END!

ANY QUESTIONS?