

Scaling-sensitive teaching for scaling-sensitive professionalism

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Backgrounds and objectives of this talk

> Background

- Ongoing project at IRISS, Uni.lu: Claude Haas and Thomas Marthaler
- Developing social theory as a “Theory of Scales”
- Teaching in BSSE (Bachelor in Social Work), class on “Political, social and legal systems”

> Objectives of this talk

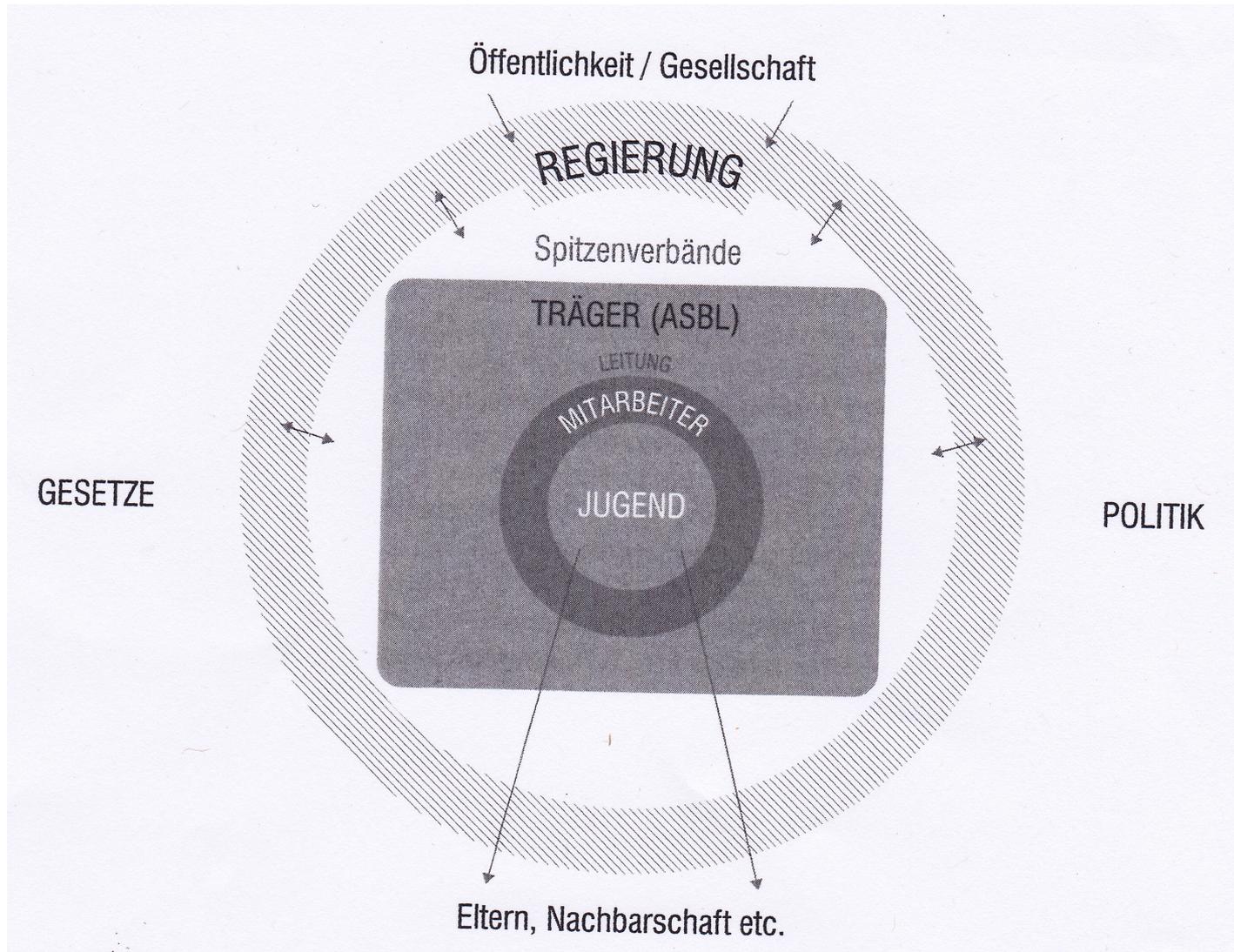
- Basics of our approach
- Assumption: teaching at University and “doing Social Work” follows the same ontological “move”
- Example: the aforementioned class: realizing scaling sensitivity in teaching for practice

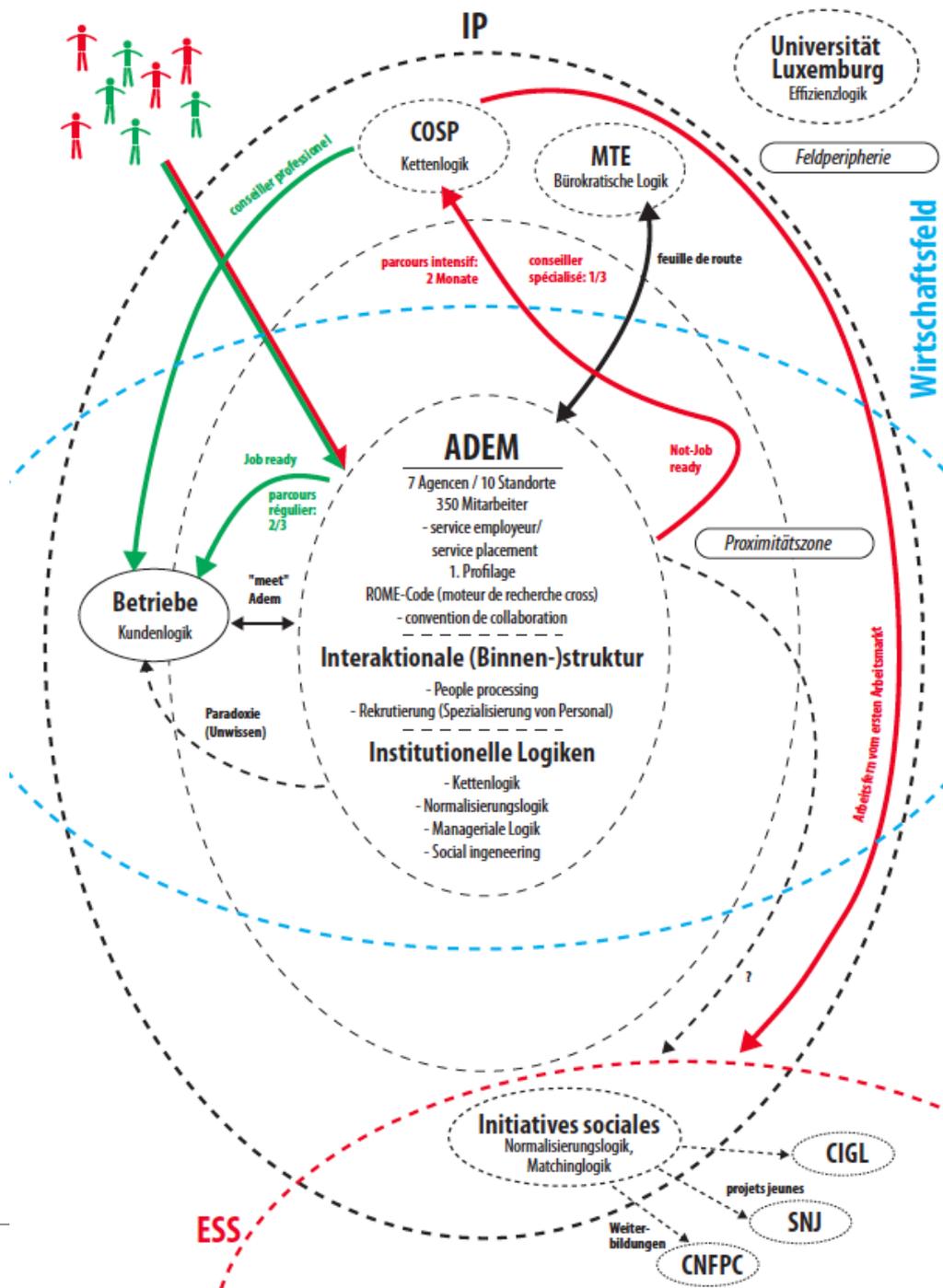
Political, social and legal systems as contexts: conventional imaginations (1)

Abbildung 13: Ambient Assisted Living im institutionellen Kontext



Political, social and legal systems as contexts: Conventional Imaginations (2)





Political, social and legal systems as contexts: Conventional Imaginations (3)

What do these images have in common?

- Each image cuts social reality into different entities, that are juxtaposed and variously micro- or magnified
- Each image being of a specific scale invents a reality of its own
- The relationalities of the authors to other persons and places are important aspects to the scale(s) deployed

More scales and more relationalities



W A T E R



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DEVELOPMENT

Preliminary conclusion and elements of a “Theory of Scales”

- **SCALES:** Our talking about water as well as these “systems” is a deployment of our own scales in relation to a certain materiality: It’s the moment’s singular way to “cut” reality
- **RELATIVITY and RELATIONALITY:** These cuttings are relative and ‘broken’ – they bear emotions, ideas, a certain materiality – and they are deployed uniquely in singular relationalities
- **RELATIONAL PERSONHOOD – LIFE-WORLD-BUBBLES:** persons are relational from the beginning and carry a fractal universe of scalings with them in ever new relations

Preliminary conclusion and elements of a “Theory of Scales”

- Everywhere is “relational scaling-work”: people inventing reality (themselves included) by deploying and adjusting their scales in interaction
- What we can know about reality is by following Persons-in-relational-scaling-work-at places
- We can try to make this visible in its complexity in order to work with it

“Social Work” as “Scaling-Sensitive Practice”?

- “Social Work” (as interactional practise) basically *is* relational scaling work
- “Social Work” therefore is work with and by scalings (may this be cut as learning, support, help, control....) – basically it is about conglutinating, conventing usf. of scales
- Relationalities-at-places trigger the cutting of persons (persons-as-clients, ...-as-professionals,-as-??)

“Social Work” as “Scaling-Sensitive Practice”?

- Scaling-sensitivity towards...
 - ...Clients and professionals as well as managers are relational persons cut in multidimensional manner
 - ...Relations-at-places
 - ...Multiple/broken dimensions and relativity of scales
 - ...Enabling scaling work at the base
- Scaling-sensitive S.W. as cultivated “bricolage-work”?

The course “Political, social and legal systems” scaling-sensibly “reloaded”

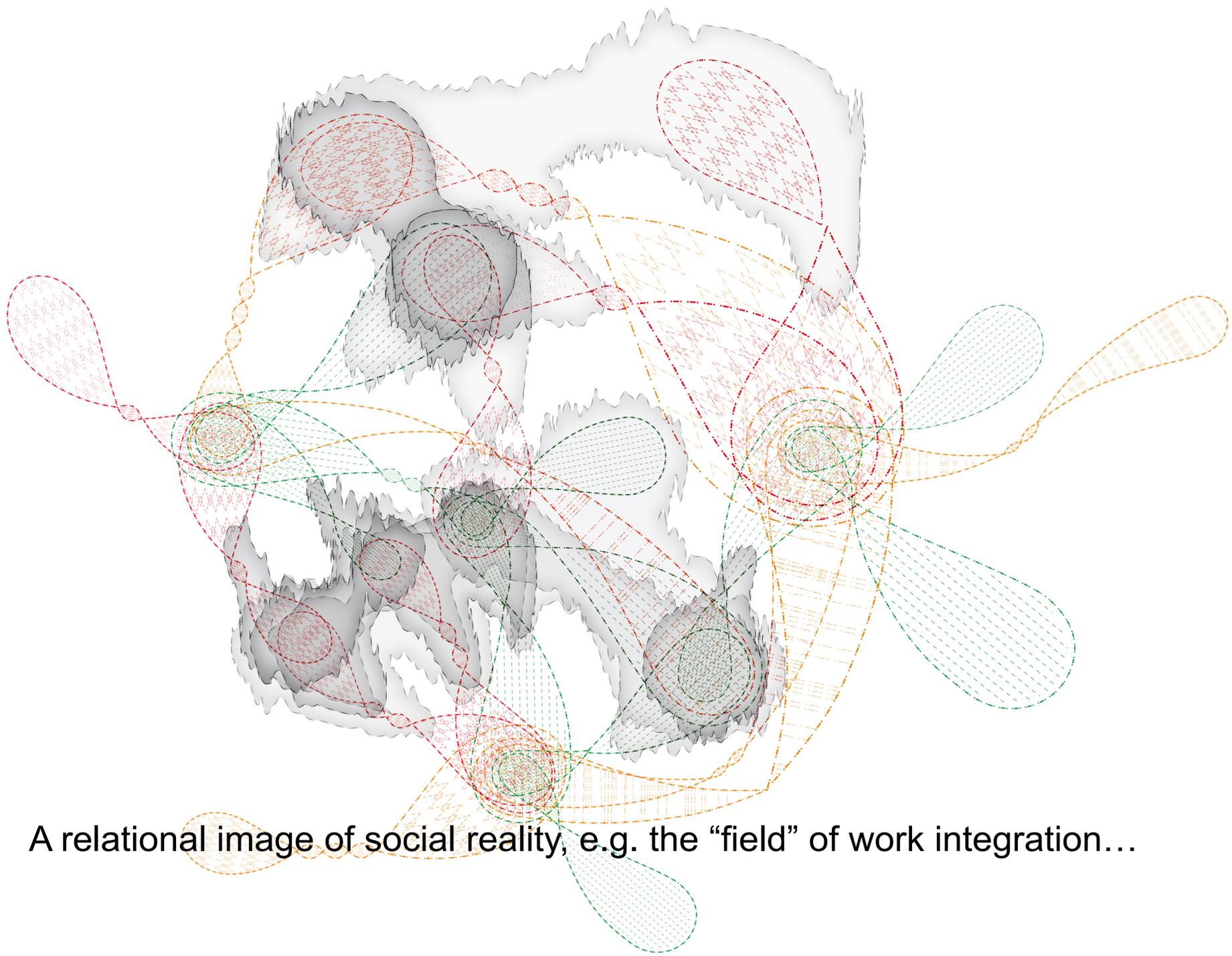
- Basic assumption: Social work “as such” as well as these systems, a certain law, human rights and university itself are like “water”
- We cannot learn about these “things” → questioning the facticity, single-dimensionality and unambiguousness of organisations, laws a.s.f.!
- We only can follow, how people at places cut reality and take into account the underlying relationalities: differences, ambiguity...
- ➔ In a relational reality there is space for creativity and “professional”/“human” considerations

The course “Political, social and legal systems” scaling-sensibly “reloaded”

- 1) Raise awareness for our own scales
- 2) Follow people at places: Interviews with people
- 3) Evaluation of these interviews: how is reality “cut”:
 - What kind of entities
 - Which size?
 - What kind of emotions?
 - In which relationalities?
- 4) Scaling work on these scalings elaborated and put into scene by student groups

Place-as-organisation-ADEM-come-scale...

Through IP at place...	As....	In relation to...
Work integr. org. (social initiative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decision-maker on number of staff• No feedback at all...	budget report
Job agency (ADEM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Differentiated and more objective• Service for enterprises and unemployed....	labour-market clients
Job training center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can always appear for control• As less time for people...	evaluation-tool quotas



A relational image of social reality, e.g. the “field” of work integration...

The background features a complex, abstract graphic. It consists of several overlapping, semi-transparent grey shapes that resemble hand-drawn outlines or contours. Interspersed among these shapes are several sets of concentric circles. Some circles are colored in red and green, while others are black. Thin black lines connect various points across the composition, creating a network-like structure. There are also several small red circles scattered throughout, some of which appear to be at the end of thin, dotted lines extending from the main shapes.

Thank you for your attention!

Looking forward to entering into interactional scaling work with you.

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