

# « How to conceptualize the public actor in the strategic niche management and multi-level perspective analysis ? »

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# Summary.

- Introduction.
- 1. Literature : Conceptualization of public actor in the SMN and in the MLP.
- 2. No differentiation of the public actor/  
differentiation?

# Introduction.

- In the 90's socio political context the emergence of awareness of the urgency of environmental problems leads to a development of new theoretical frameworks amongst which: strategic niche management (Kemp & alii, 1998) and multi-level perspective analysis (Geels, 2002, 2011).

# 1. Literature : conceptualization of public actor in the SMN and MLP.

Increasing structuration  
of activities in local practices

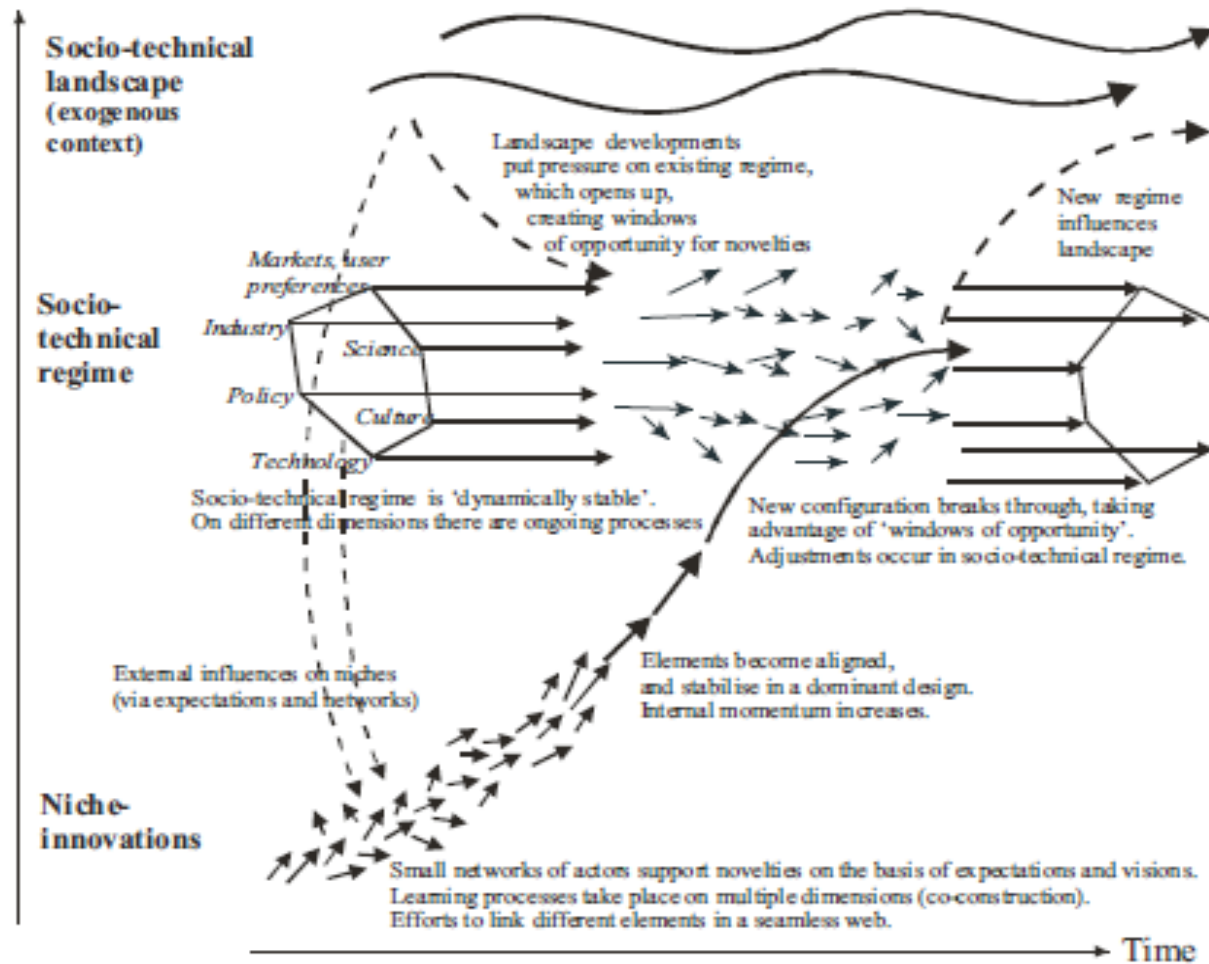
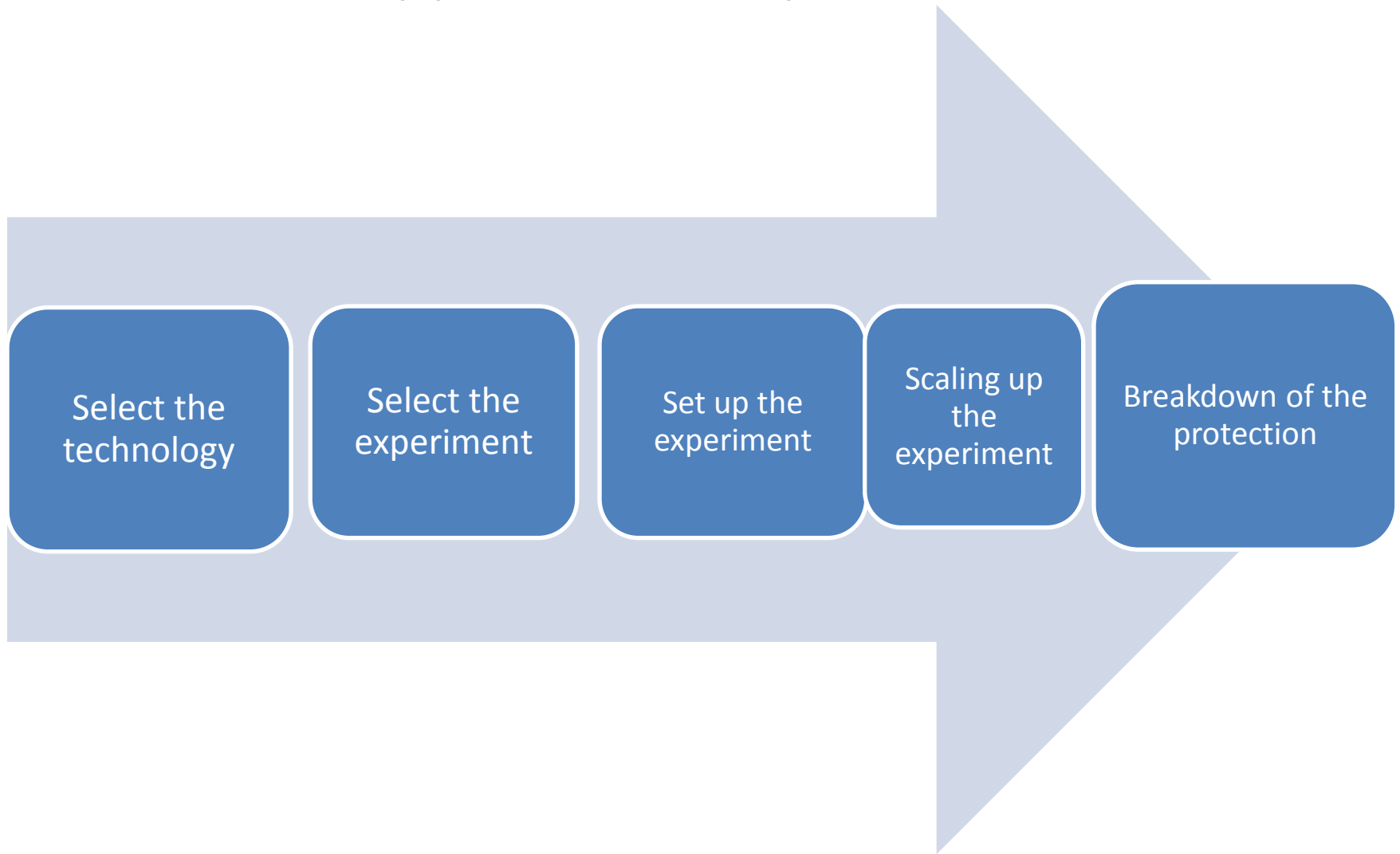


Fig. 2. Multi-level perspective on transitions.

# The central role of the niche manager in the SMN approach (Kemp & alii, 1998).



Who should do the niche management ? Public actor / other actors

- Kemp & alii (1998) postulate that public actor should do the management of the niche. But then, they open the way to other actors (firms, NGO, societal groups).
- The manager is the most skilled actor so it can differ from phase to phase.
- However, there is no means of choice when 2 or more actors are equally qualified.
- Besides, public actor has not the same goal than private actors.

# The niche manager in the MLP : reflexivity about policy dilemmas

Increasing structuration of activities in local practices

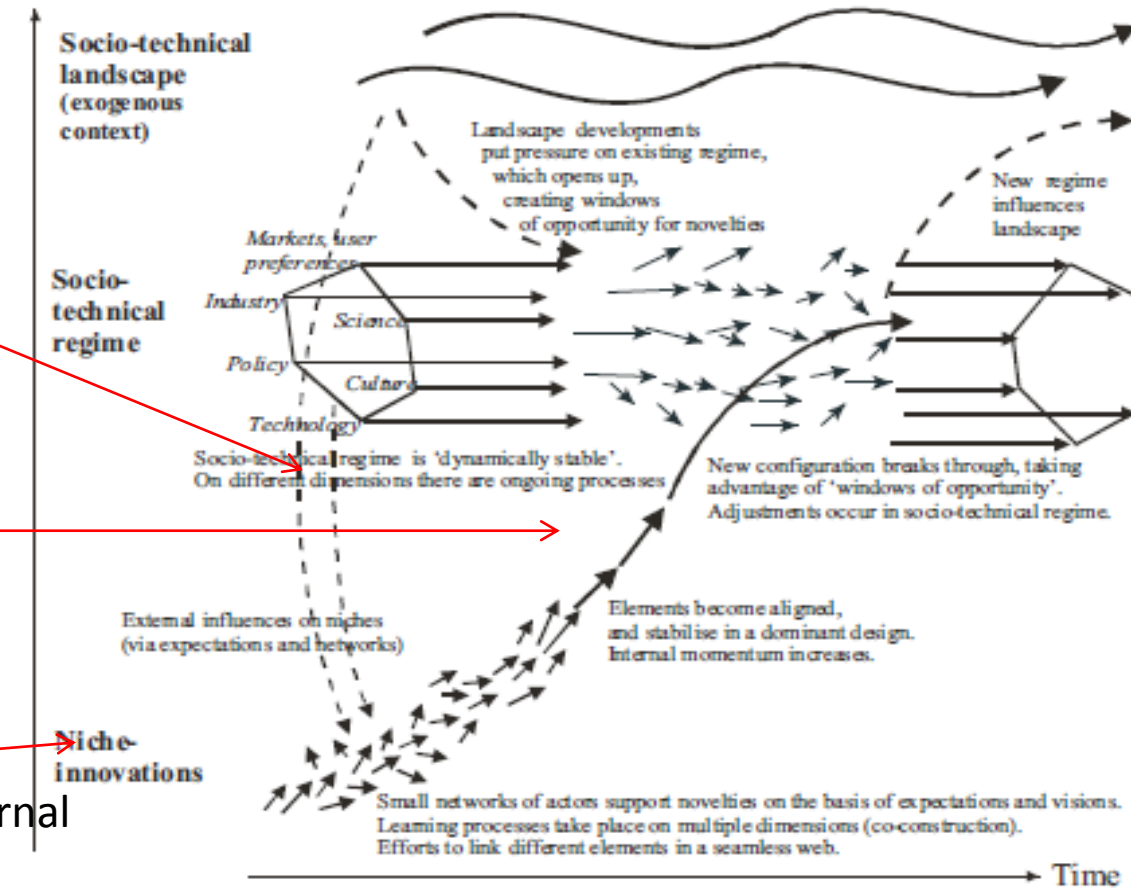


Fig. 2. Multi-level perspective on transitions.

Geels, 2011, Schot & Geels 2008

Dilemmas about niche /regime interactions

Dilemmas about level of protection

Dilemmas about the internal niche process :

- Expectations
- Learning
- Network

## 2. No differentiation of the public actor/ differentiation.

No differentiation : detection of radical innovation and learning

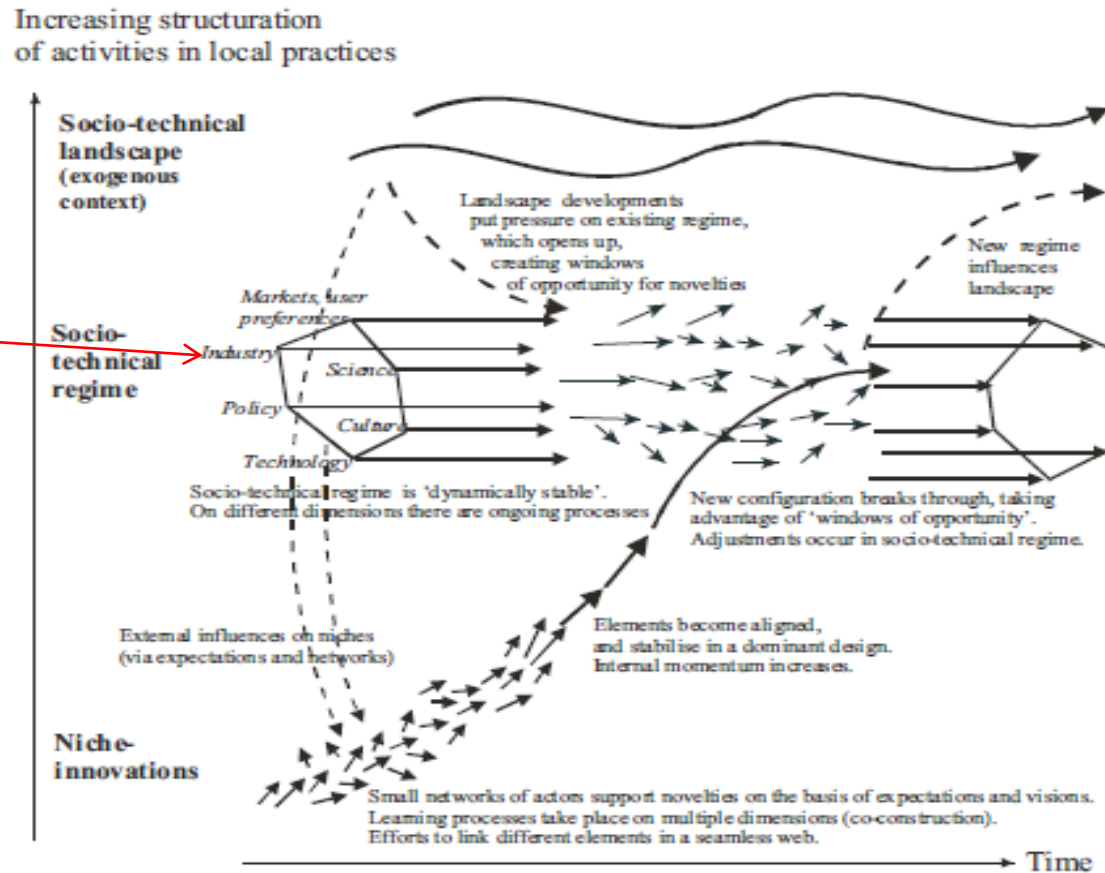


Fig. 2. Multi-level perspective on transitions.

Private  
actors



Should we question the no differentiation hypothesis ?

Goals and behaviour of the public actor.

### 1. Goals

- SMN as MLP posit that public actor serves collective and long term goals.
- Public actors can have proper goals (be re elected, Smith & al, 2010). Besides, these goals imply to think with short term visioning and not long term.
- A more realistic behaviour of public actor should be introduced into the theoretical framework. Public actor's behaviour is too « monolithic ». Should public actor be conceptualized as one actor or as a coalition of actors ?

# Should we question the non differentiation hypothesis ?

## 2. Behaviour.

### Regulation and institutional change vs technological change.

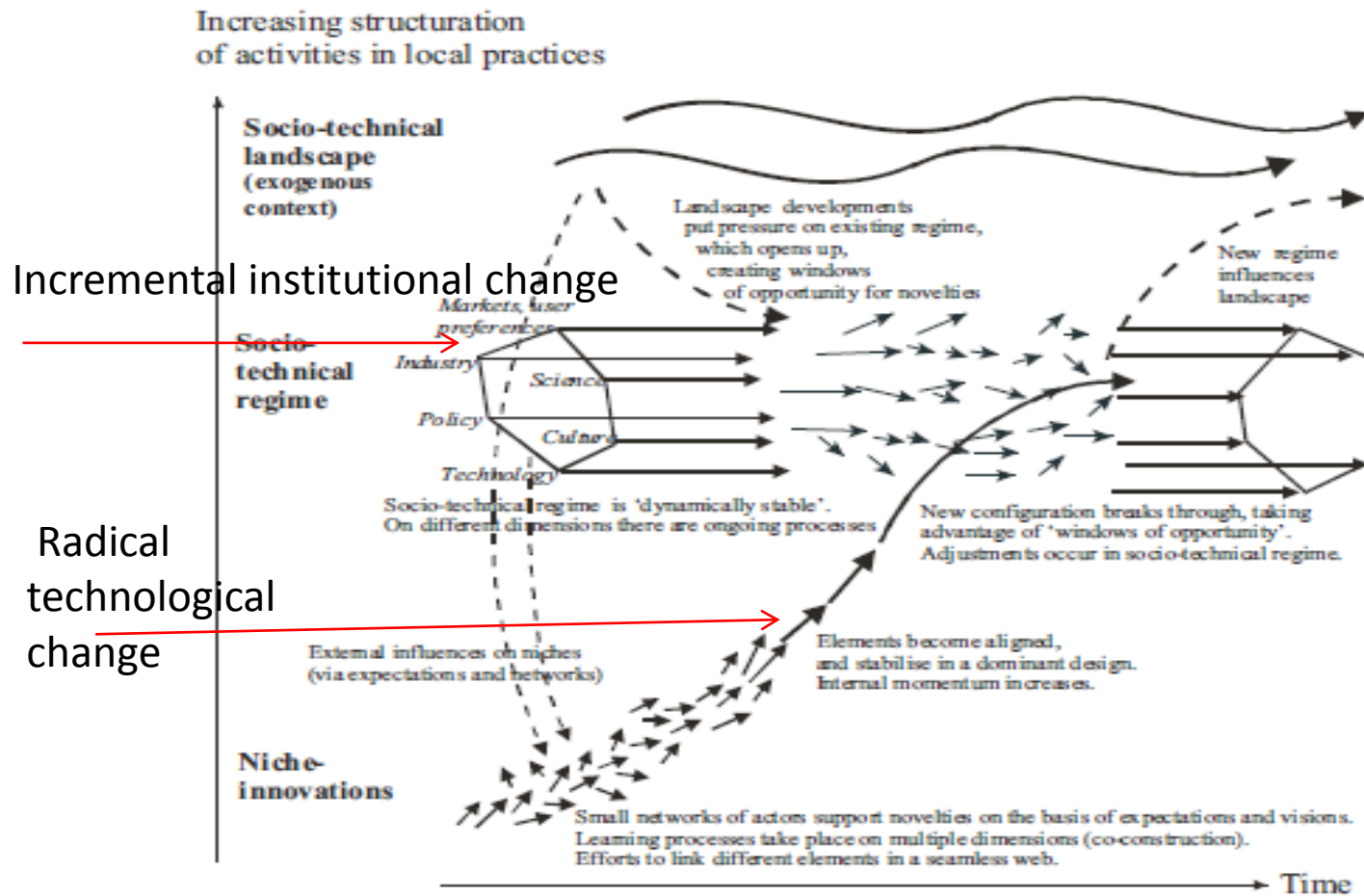


Fig. 2. Multi-level perspective on transitions.

# Conclusion.

- The conceptualization of the public actor with the postulate of no differentiation, opens the way to some critical points and should be questioned.