Dynamics and Trajectories
For the decade ahead post Covid-19
Coronavirus has made the mighty kneel and brought the world to a halt like nothing else could. Our minds are still racing back and forth, longing for a return to “normality”, trying to stitch our future to our past and refusing to acknowledge the rupture. But the rupture exists.

Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next.

[Arundhati Roy]
COVID-19 has caused a major, unprecedented, global discontinuity

As we are now all aware, covid-19 is a major discontinuity, has exposed many aspects of the global system to the light, is having a strong and unpredictable effect on many dynamics in almost all human systems including energy, manufacturing, agriculture and food supply, finance, technology, social and political values simultaneously while also threatening a global depression in the near term.

Uncertainty is extremely high both short term and long term. We are currently still right in the middle of the discontinuity, to the extent that we don’t even know yet how long this shock will last and what the critical uncertainties will be once we emerge.
This is affecting everything, at all levels

- **surface events**
- **flows** - information, energy, finance, food, resources
- **physical structures** - supply chains, manufacturing, energy production
- **societal structures** - jobs, economies, education
- **relationships** - family dynamics, social dynamics
- **power dynamics** - state-citizen, business-state, state-state, global economy
- **mindsets** - overton window, collective assumptions, mental models, values
- **feelings** - collective experience - isolation, support, trauma, grief, fear, hope, confusion etc
Mindsets as emerging trajectories?

Planetary health is human health. We can’t go back to before

There is not enough to share, we must retreat to protection of our own kind

Greater tech-enabled control is required
Underlying dynamics

- Feedbacks
- Thresholds & Tipping points - both as boundaries and cascades to new system states
- Shocks
- Catalysts/Openings
- Intensifiers / Lock-ins
- “Black Elephants, Green Swans”
- Unknowns
Covid in the context of the coming decade
Emerging Trajectories... plus ‘Unknown’
So now what?

→ Embodying the future we want today
→ A framework for collective sensemaking
→ Creating the emerging trajectories together
→ Use and develop the trajectories with your organisation, industry, region or sector

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