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The unbearable heaviness of humankind

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October 19, 2007



Challenges

- Address complex issues
- Mobilize people
- Start transitions

Phase transitions



- Taming fire
- Agriculture
- Industry

- -> Social-ecological?



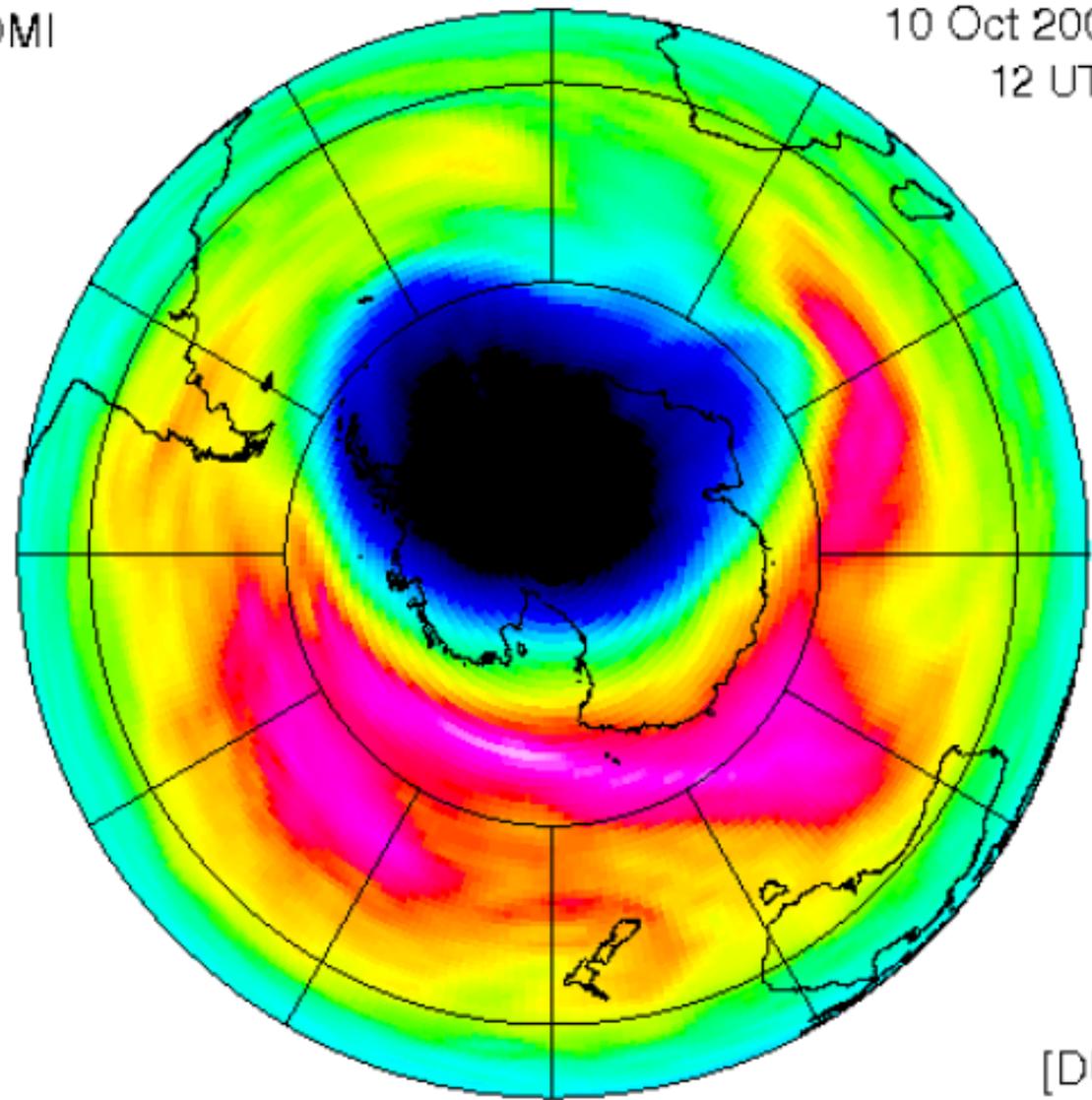
KNMI / NASA

OMI

Forecast total ozone (D+1)

10 Oct 2007

12 UTC



[DU]



Ozon verwachting boven de Zuidpool voor vandaag (12 uur UTC)

Shifting problems



- Larger scale
- Less visible
- From chemicals and technologies to complex issues

→ Science more central



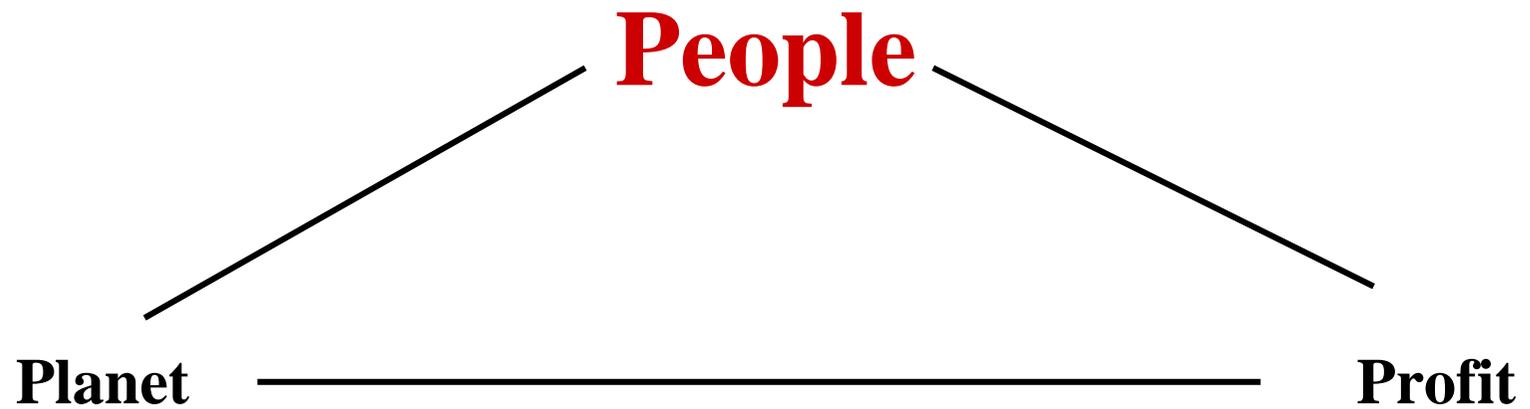
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Towards an action perspective

Sustainable development



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Sustainable development

PEOPLE ACT

- To enhance the quality of their lives
- To realize values important to them
- By creating attractive opportunities
- Also for their children and grandchildren

Creating a Climate for Change



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Communicating Climate Change and Facilitating Social Change

Suzanne Moser and Lisa Dilling (2007), eds.
Cambridge University Press

Climate change necessitates transitions

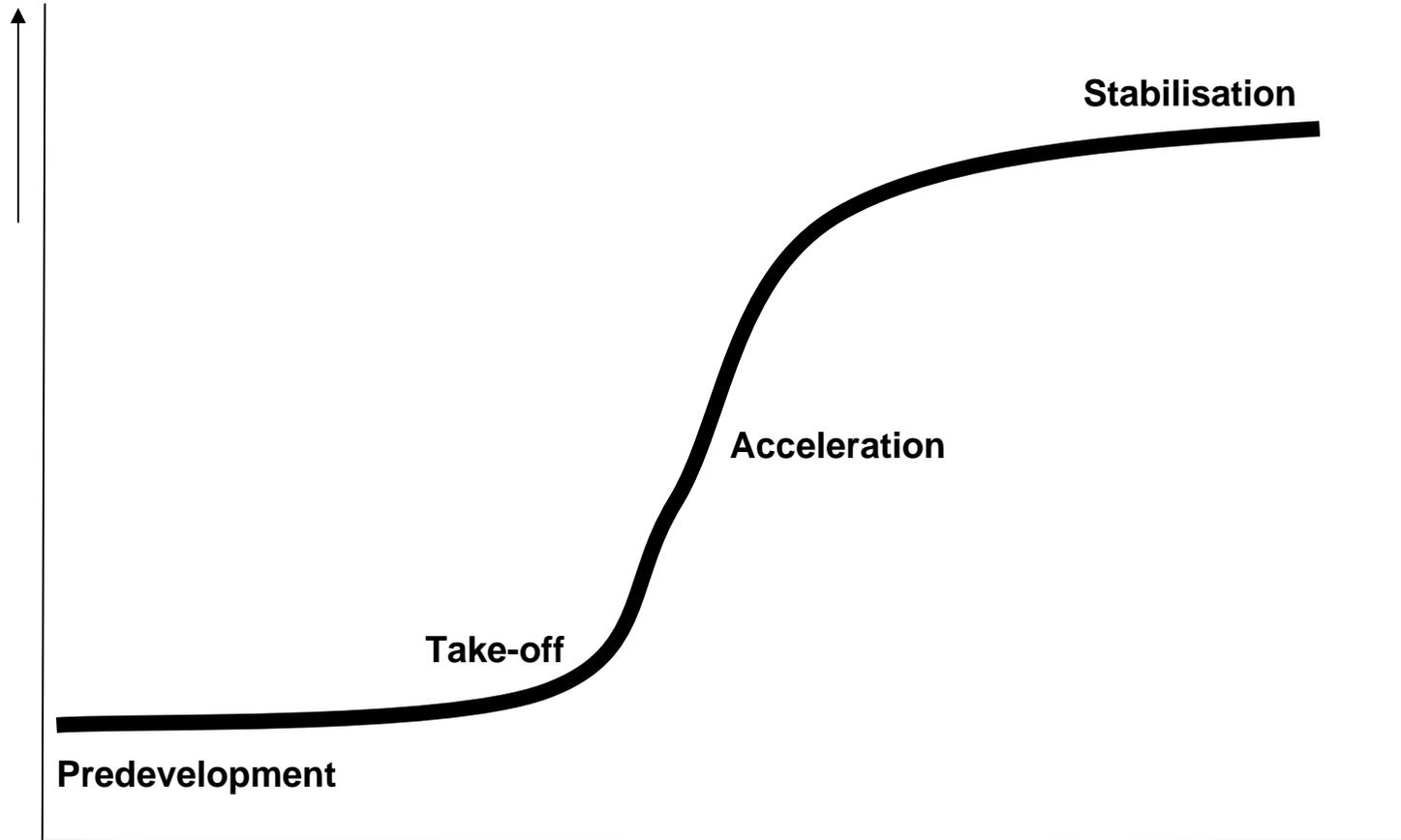


- Cause: emissions → energy
Mitigation
- Effect: → water management
Adaptation

Multi-phase analysis



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Watervision, 2007



- Together we make the Netherlands climate proof
- Living sustainably with water
- Dutch people create a stronger economy with water
- Dutch people assist world wide with water
- Dutch people reinvent living with water

→ But how?



Transition management +

- Locality of assessments
- Reflection on the role of transition researchers
- Towards phase transitions

My role: practice



- Supporting transition trajectories
- Knowledge center innovation and sustainable development
- KISSS (Knowledge in Synergy for a Sustainable South Holland)
- Sustainability:
central issue in university education?

My role: research

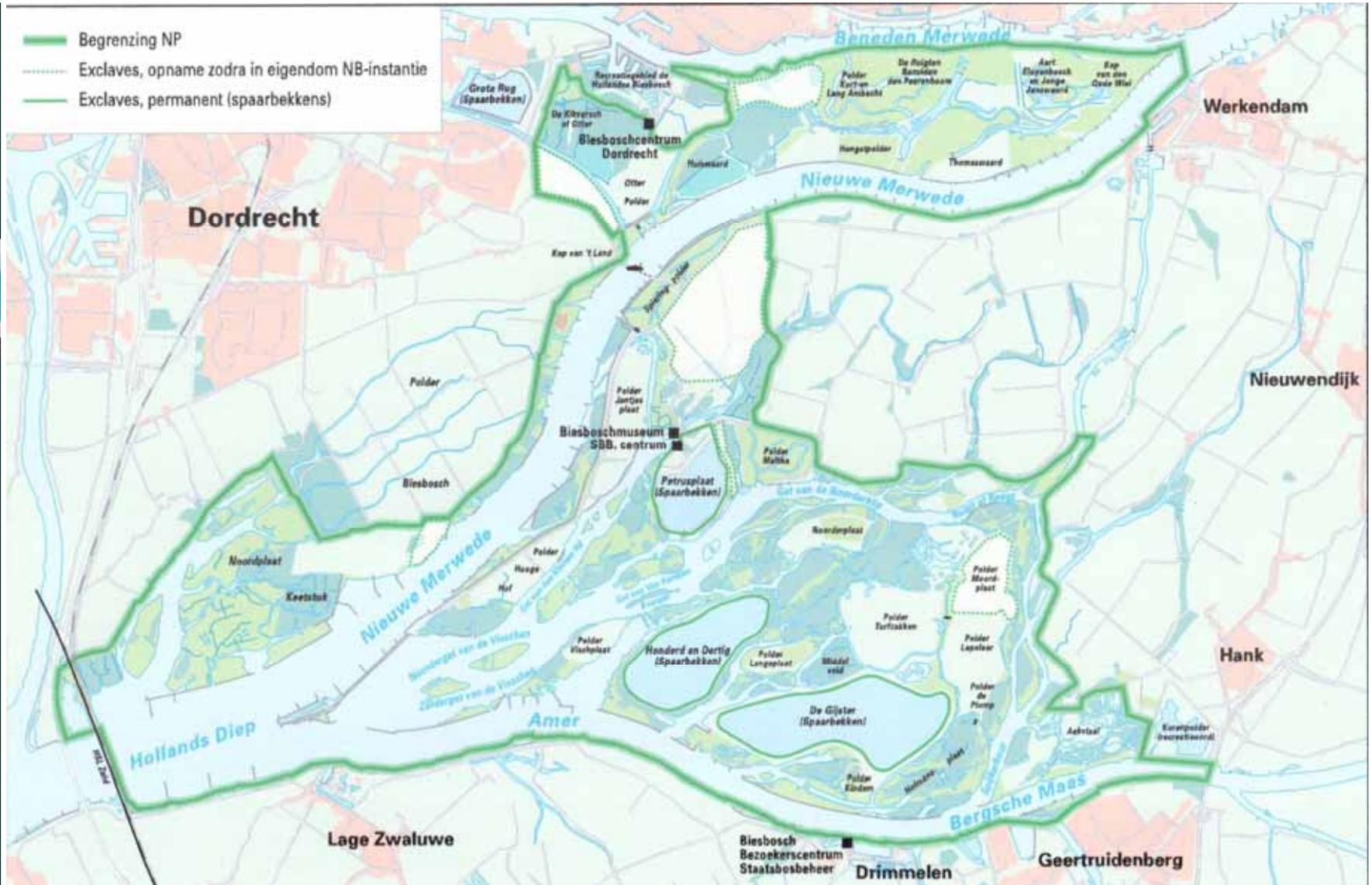


- Reflection on the role of transition researchers
- What kind of science?
- Concurrent sustainability assessment and management
- From frontrunners to broad societal embedding

Conditions for phase transition

- Changes of values/attitudes of public
- Imaginative pictures or happenings
- Institutions that stimulate action
- Practicable solutions



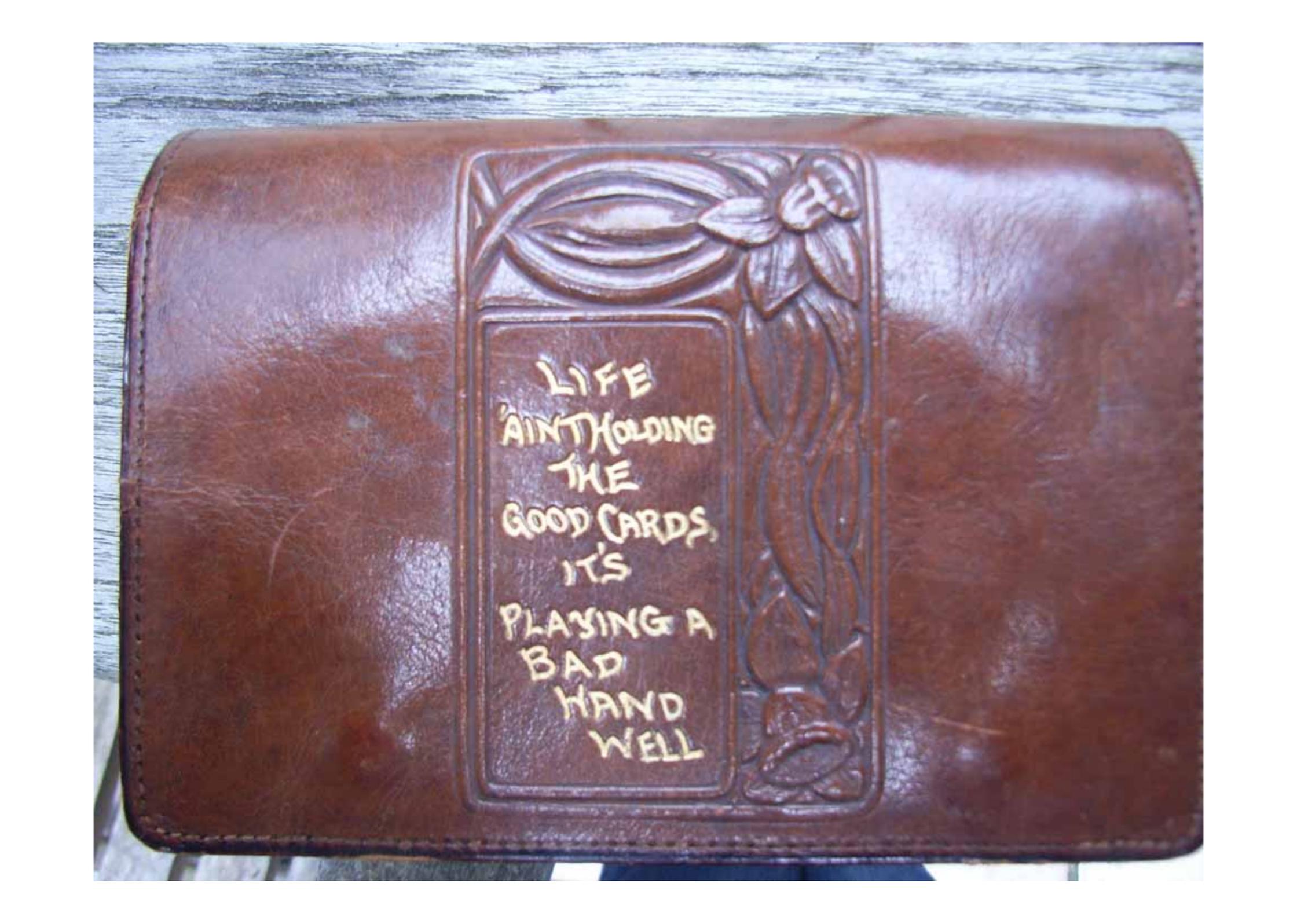






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Back to phase transitions



LIFE
'AINT HOLDING
THE
GOOD CARDS,
IT'S
PLAYING A
BAD
HAND
WELL