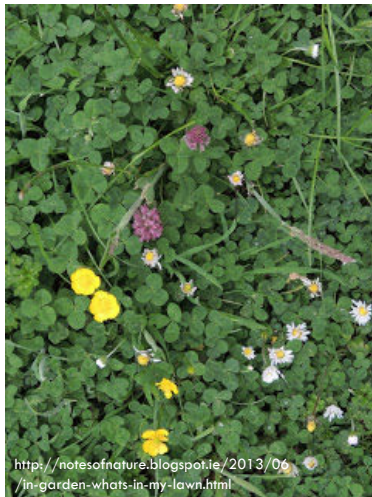


Title	A role for diversity in achieving sustainability through ecological, social and economic domains
Authors	Byrne, Edmond P.
Publication date	2013-09
Original Citation	Byrne, E.P. (2013) "A role for diversity in achieving sustainability through ecological, social and economic domains", Trans-disciplinary conversations on transitions to sustainability, University College Cork, 5-6 September 2013.
Type of publication	Conference item
Link to publisher's version	http://www.ucc.ie/en/media/conferences/sustainabilityinsociety/papers/EC2.pdf
Rights	© 2013, Edmond P. Byrne.
Download date	2026-08-11 03:43:40
Item downloaded from	https://hdl.handle.net/10468/2450



<http://notesofnature.blogspot.ie/2013/06/in-garden-whats-in-my-lawn.html>

A role for **diversity**
in achieving sustainability
through ecological, social
and economic domains

Dr Edmond Byrne
Process & Chemical Engineering, UCC



<http://notesofnature.blogspot.ie/2013/06/in-garden-whats-in-my-lawn.html>

"Anyone that does not want a splash of daisies and clover across their lawn, with frequent visits from the wonderful bees and insects that choose to feed from these, is insane. I curse those with immaculate, carpet-esque lawns, devoid of life"

Tom Young (2013)*

*Beyond the Riverbank blog; 'Mini Garden Survey: Perfect lawns are for prats!', 4 July 2013

<http://tomyoung89.blogspot.co.uk/2013/07/mini-garden-survey-perfect-lawns-are.html>

'Trans-disciplinary conversations on transitions to sustainability'



Modern conceptions of progress, based on the dominant Cartesian reductionist paradigm, are associated with a linear drive towards ever greater **ascendancy, order, organisation, homogeneity, hegemony, performance, efficiency** and **control**. ..and towards extinguishing **disorder, inchoateness, uncertainty, redundancy** and **risk**.



<http://www.thereisbeauty.com/2012/08/grass.html>

By this dualistic framework, **diversity** is conceived as a threat to system **organisation** and **efficiency**.

EC RPA: Sustainability in Society Conference

University College Cork, 5-6 Sept. 2013

'Trans-disciplinary conversations on transitions to sustainability'



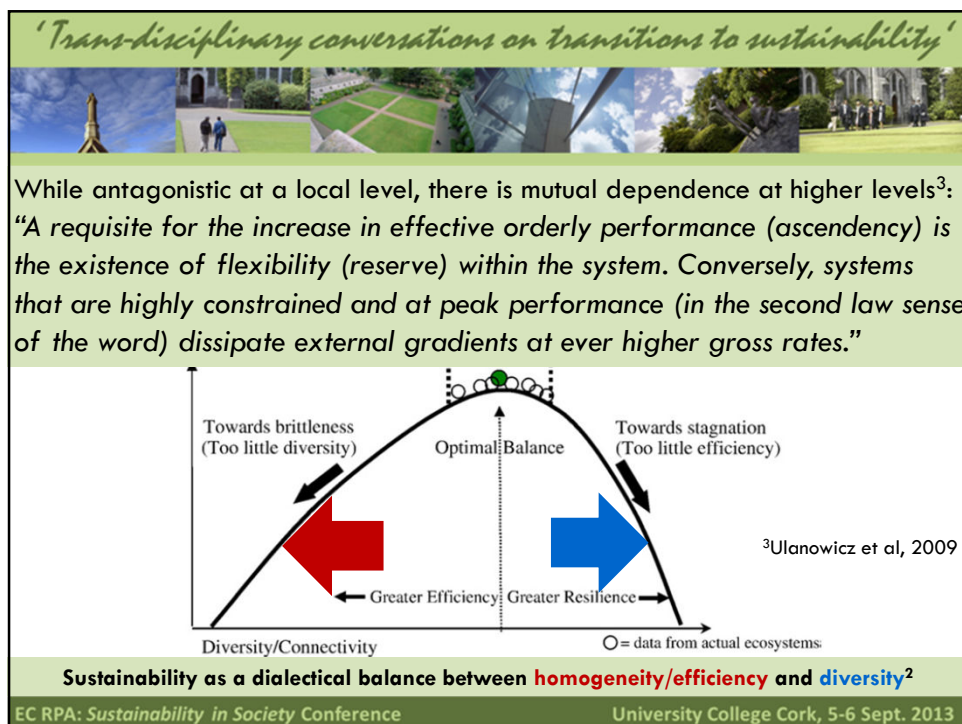
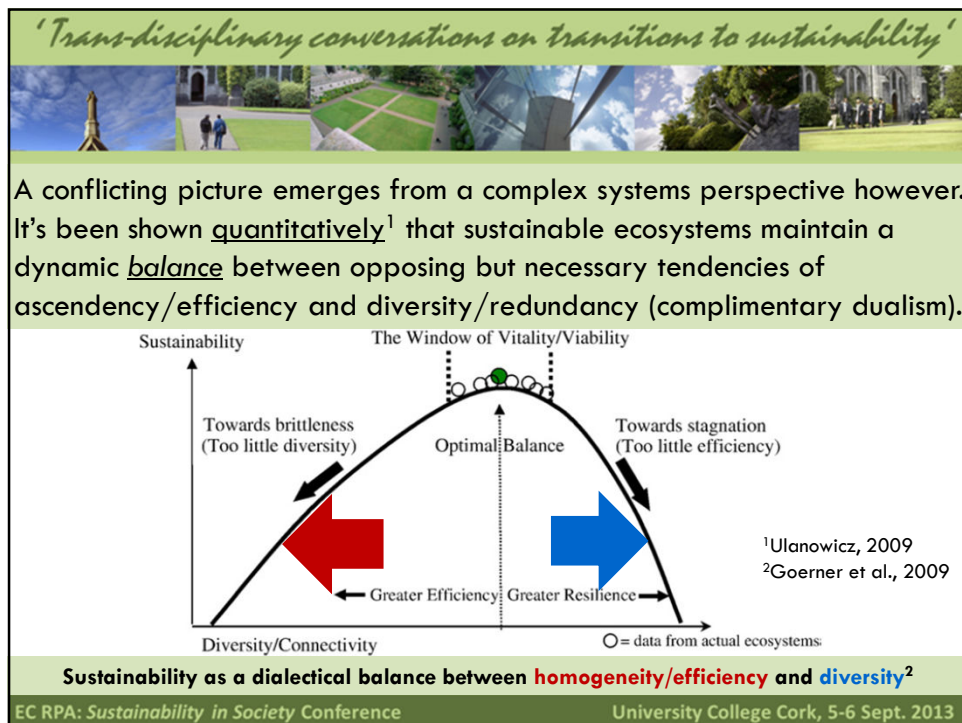
Contemporary conceptions of sustainability & sustainable development, framed within this paradigm, align with such ideas of '**progress**'. Sustainability itself is seen as an unending process characterised by greater **efficiency*** and **control**, realizable for example through **technological prowess, more organisational structure, utilization of 'smart' systems & 'big data'** and **risk extinction**. Such increased ascendancy can, it is envisaged, even build system **resilience**.

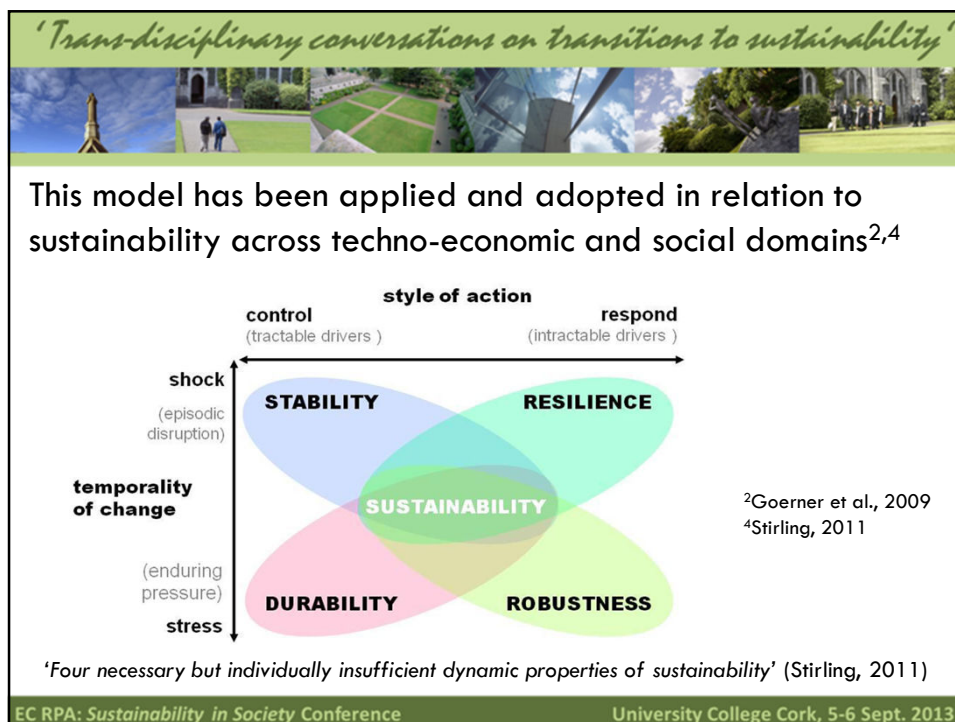
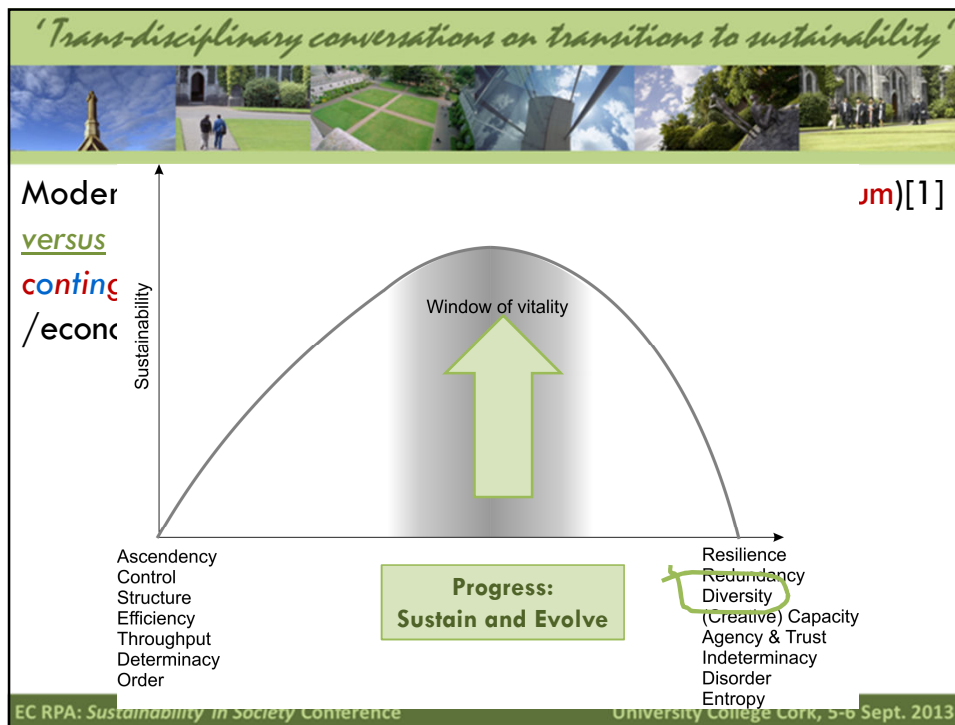


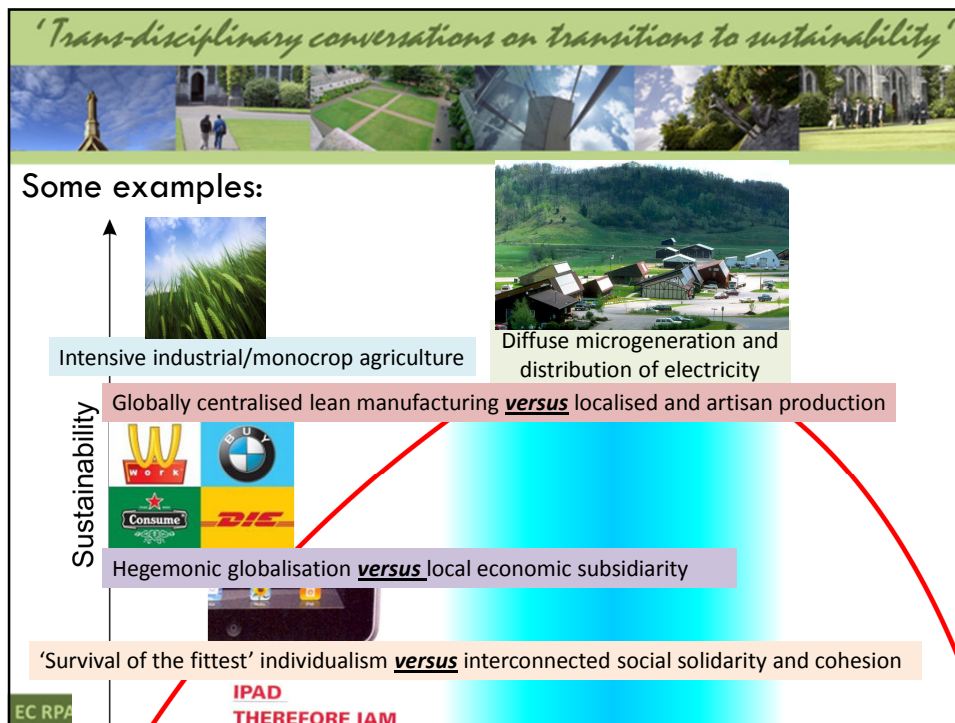
*Jevons' paradox is conveniently overlooked.

EC RPA: Sustainability in Society Conference

University College Cork, 5-6 Sept. 2013







'Trans-disciplinary conversations on transitions to sustainability'

To Conclude..

A vision of progress which seeks to extinguish **uncertainty** to gain ultimate **control** is as delusional as it is potentially dangerous. It is directly analogous to seeking to violate the 2nd law of thermodynamics by conceiving an **isentropic universe** or a **100% efficient machine**; an impossible and unsustainable mirage!

Instead sustainability can only be achieved through recognising progress as a contingent balance between **ascendancy** and **redundancy**, between **homogeneity** and **diversity**.

EC RPA: Sustainability in Society Conference University College Cork, 5-6 Sept. 2013

'Trans-disciplinary conversations on transitions to sustainability'



<http://notesofnature.blogspot.ie/2013/06/in-garden-whats-in-my-lawn.html>

A role for **diversity**
in achieving sustainability
through ecological, social
and economic domains

Dr Edmond Byrne
Process & Chemical Engineering, UCC