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The bee swarm model of social change: How do institutions and grassroots push for (and against) sustainability

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politicalsociology.org

compon.org



the smoking gun model

A

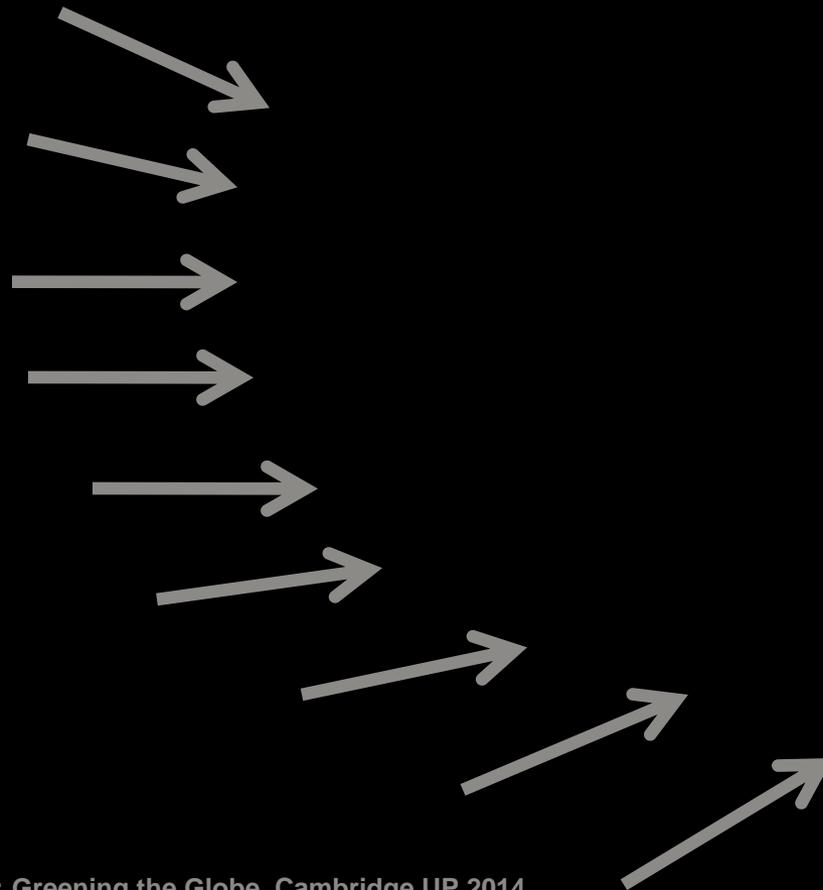


sustainability



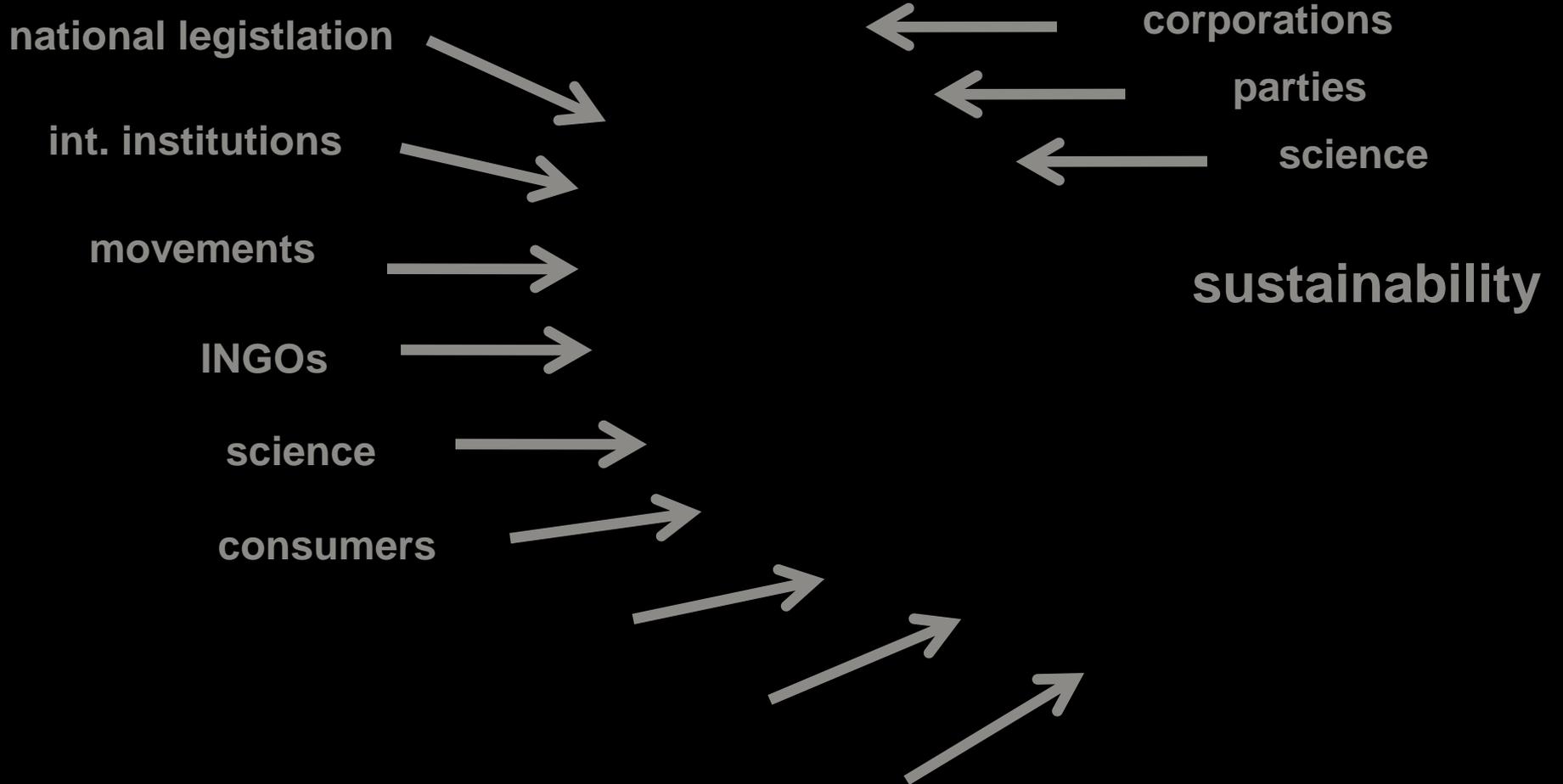


the bee swarm model

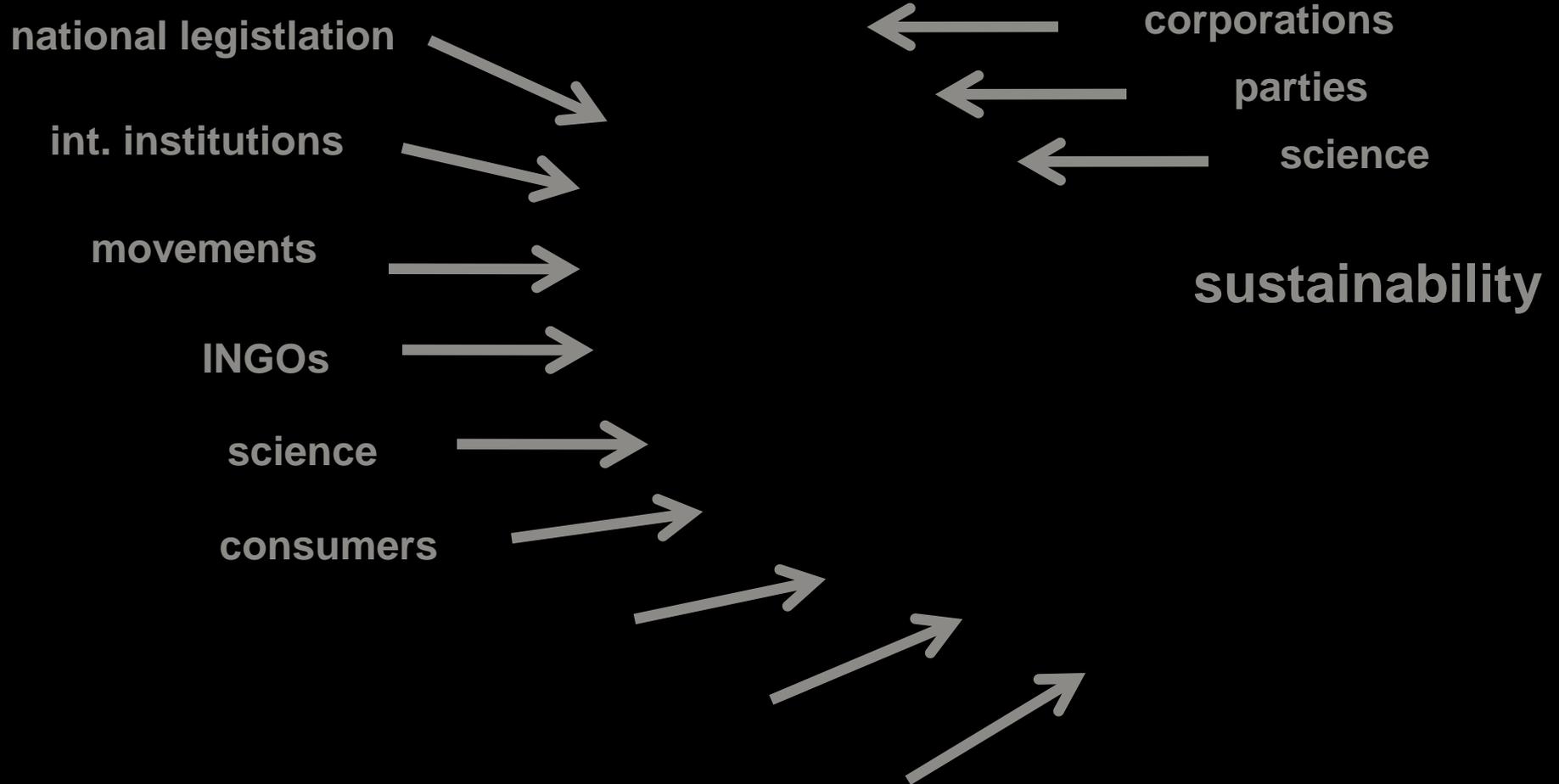


sustainability

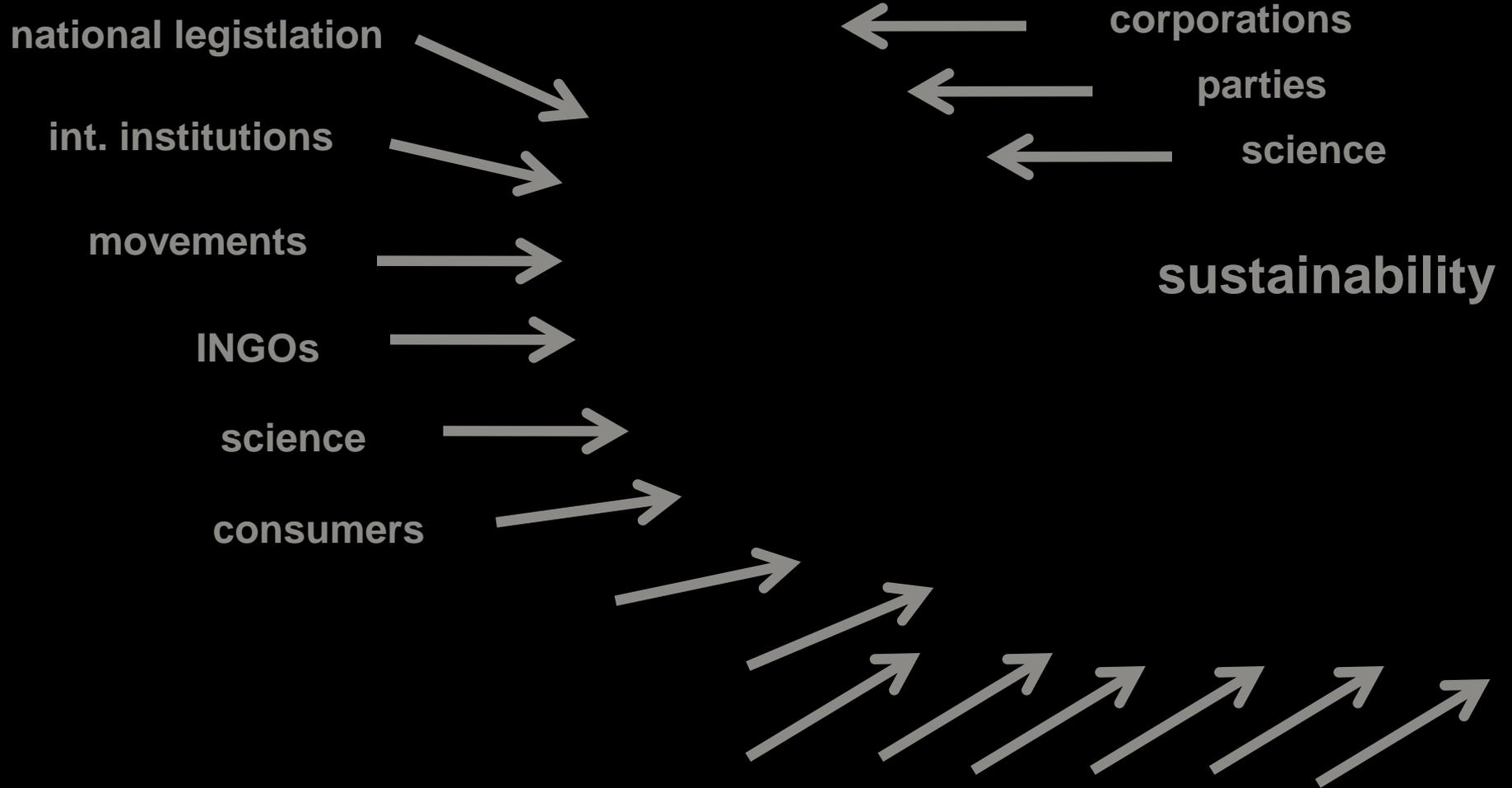
the bee swarm model



how to...?



how to...?



how to...?

national legislation

int. institutions

movements

INGOs

science

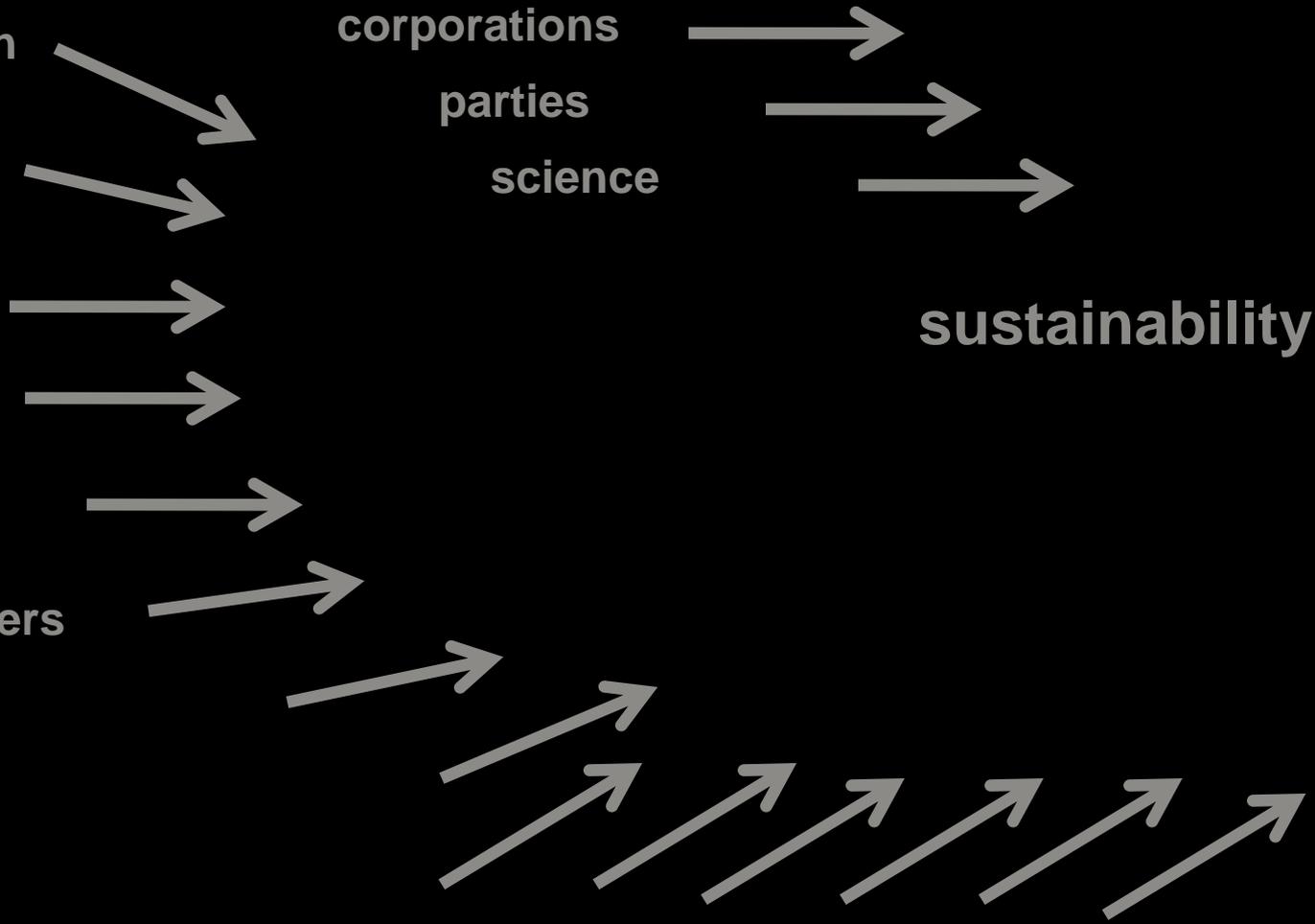
consumers

corporations

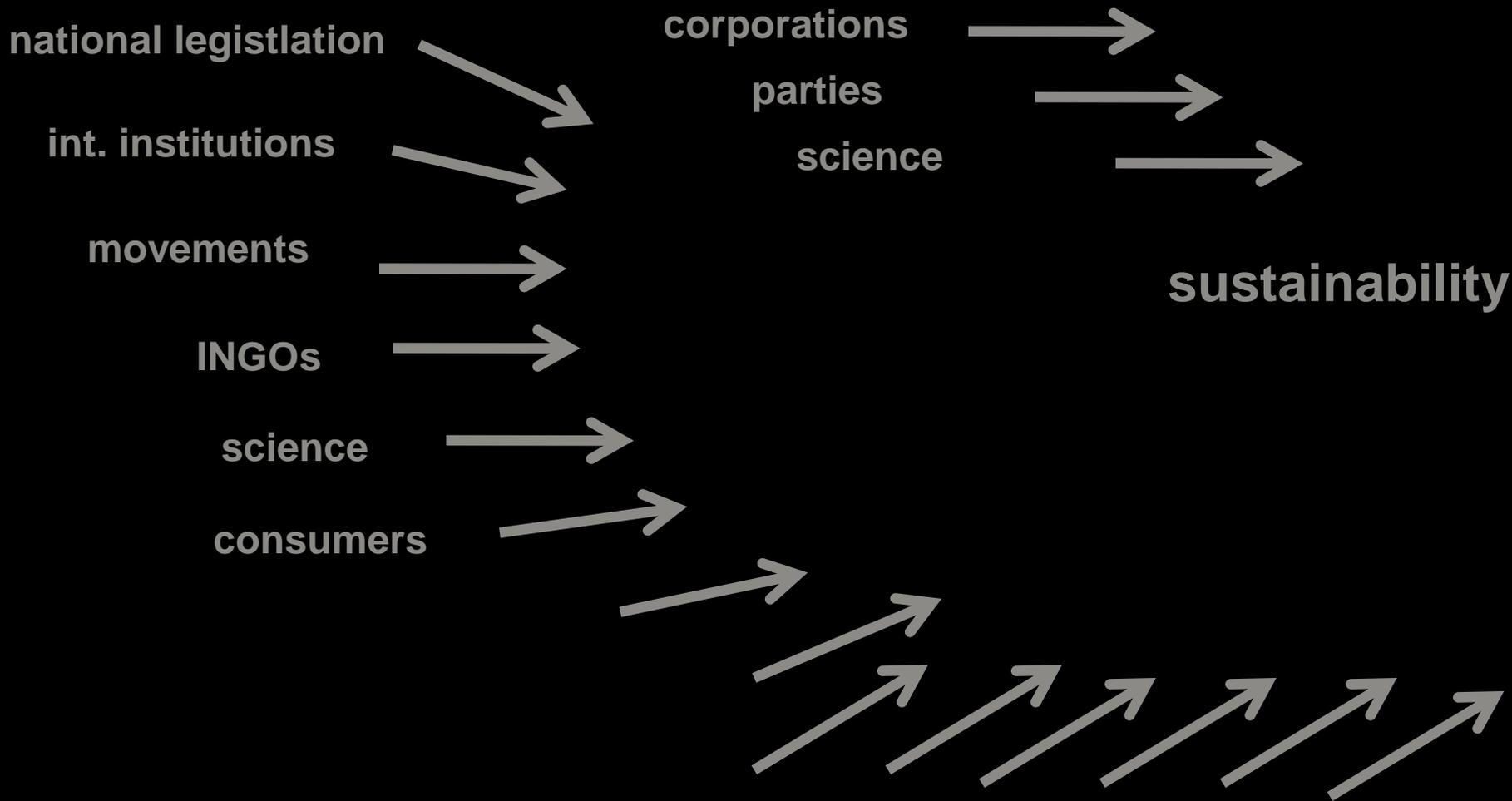
parties

science

sustainability



key: core beliefs vs. instrumental means



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- we (compon) have studied climate change advocacy coalitions in 12 countries
- typical situation : ecology coalition vs economy coalition
- Finland networks : economy coalition much stronger than ecology – no unifying instruments for policy change
- US media : disagreement over if CC even exists, still some signs of consensus on cap and trade

conclusion

- core beliefs rarely change, so coalitions, or bee swarms, for sustainability need to be build around instruments (short run)
- social science trying to identify the smoking gun may not be most helpful in identifying pathways to social change
- experiments that get support from various coalitions with different core beliefs are more likely to succeed

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POLICY NETWORKS

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THE COMPON PROJECT: AN INTRODUCTION

The international research project—Comparing Climate Change Policy Networks (Compon)—is designed to address the causes of variation in societal and governmental responses to the reduction of greenhouse gas (especially carbon dioxide) levels in the global atmosphere. These variations have been a principle cause of the failure of international negotiations to level off or reduce those concentrations. Accordingly, their deeper understanding should contribute to establishment of more widely acceptable conditions of agreement. At the same time, the cross-case variations reveal that some cases (nations or regions like Taiwan) have responded effectively while others have not. Hence, analysis of the causes of these variations can also reveal the basic or structural conditions impinging on societies that promote or hinder effective responses. The Compon project follows the best design principles of cross-national comparative social scientific research. The Compon teams created in collaboration a common set of research protocols and instruments in order to gather more precisely comparable quantitative data. They implemented these protocols across a wide range of cases (currently 19 cases in the Compon project plus 8 in the affiliated CIFOR project) representing the largest CO2 emitters and largest CO2 forest sinks. And beyond single case analyses, they have combined the resultant data into comparative and global analyses. Starting in 2007, the Compon project has progressed through two data collection and analytical phases. Phase One coded major newspaper articles on climate change using a 142 category list of themes. Phase Two administers a policy network survey with respondents being organizations engaged in climate change politics. Network analytical techniques are applied to both types of data.

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