

Thrutopia Masterclass

“The concept of Thrutopia says, ‘Don’t defer your dreams. We need those dreams now.’”

Rupert Read - *Thrutopia paper, 2017*

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WELCOME

Timetable:

18:00 - 19:00 - Rob Hopkins - Spark 1

19:00 - 19:15 - *Break*

19:15 - 20:45 - Masterclass

20:45 - 21:00 - Loose ends and looking forward

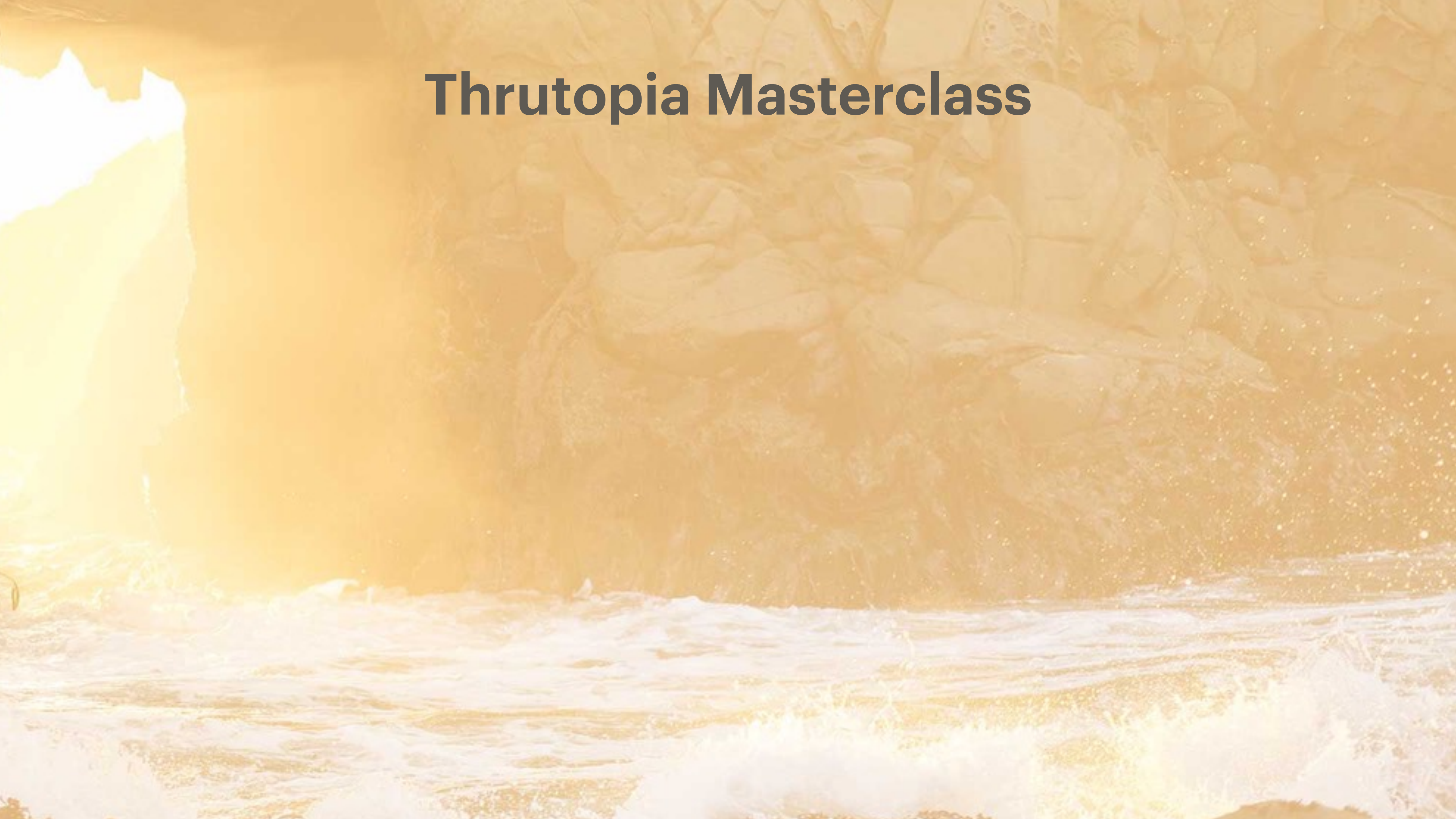


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WELCOME

Over to Rob....

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“When future generations look back upon the Great Derangement, they will certainly blame the leaders and politicians of this time for their failure to address the climate crisis. But they may well hold artists and writers to be equally culpable - for the imagining of possibilities is not, after all, the job of politicians and bureaucrats.”

Amitav Ghosh - *The Great Derangement*

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“It is easier to imagine the total extinction of all life on earth than it is to imagine an end to capitalism.”

Mark Fisher - *Capital Realism*
(paraphrased)

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“It would be best to consider this as a revolution, not of guns, but of consciousness, which will be won by seizing the key images, myths, archetypes, eschatologies, and ecstasies *so that life won't seem worth living unless one is on the transforming energy's side.*”

Gary Snyder - essay *Four Changes* - 1970

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Beliefs, principles and goals:

(or, why are we here and what are we trying to achieve?)

- 1. We are in a moment of transition -
either we plunge into extinction
or
we emerge into a new system**

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Beliefs, principles and goals:

2. To emerge/transform we need to bring about total systemic change.

**The new system is not predictable,
but we can - and must - move ourselves a long way
towards the edges of our current system**

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Beliefs, principles and goals:

3. This will entail total political and economic transformation.

Nothing will remain the same
But we have to start where we are
And build the stories that take us forward
This is our Thrutopian mission...

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Beliefs, principles and goals:

4. To be able to craft the stories that take us forward, we will all have to let go of the things we believe to be true.

We'll need to understand the levers of change and
How frames work. (If we don't know our own frames we can't let go of them.)

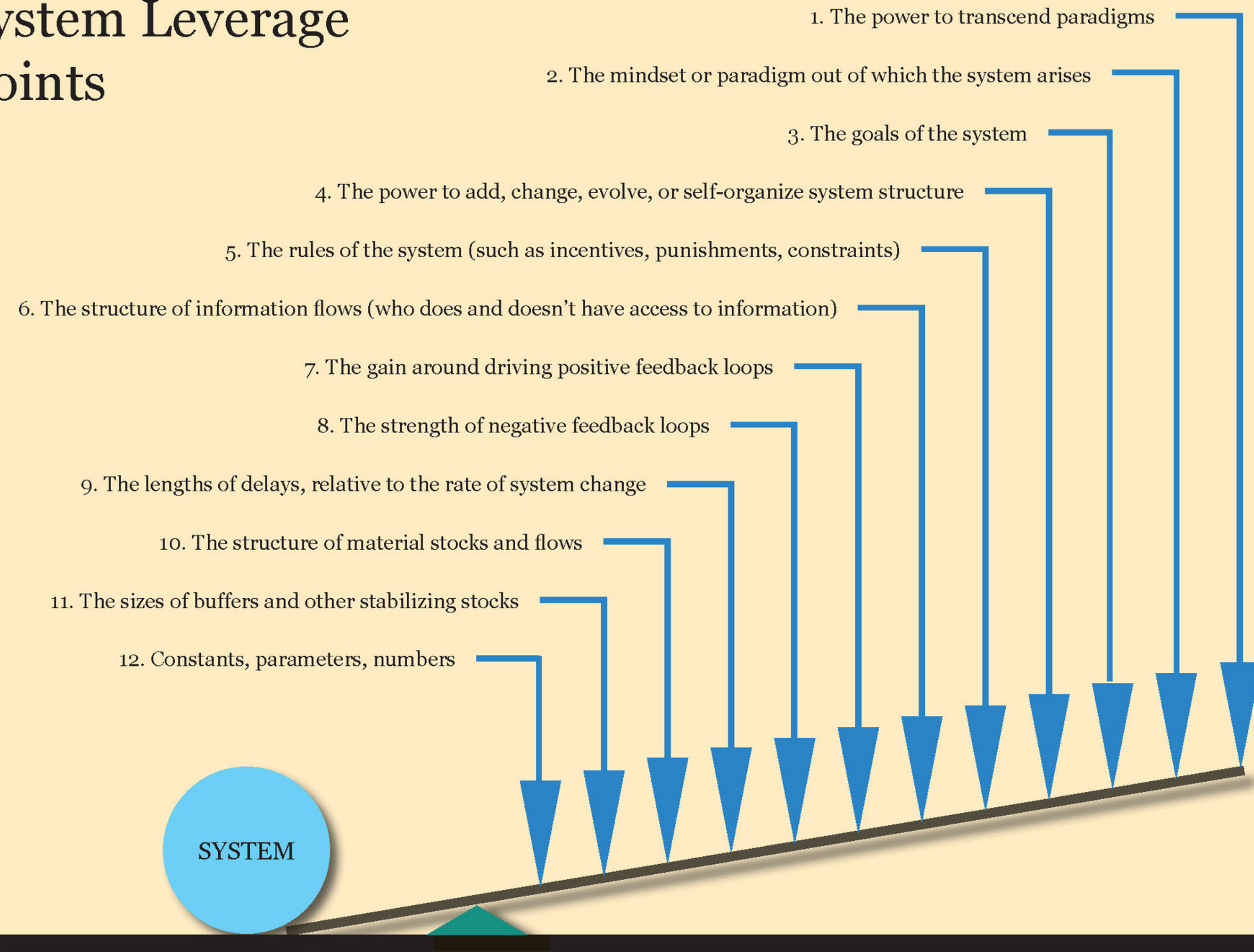
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Leverage points - from least to most effective
in terms of systemic change:

- 12: Constants, parameters, numbers (taxes, subsidies, standards)
- 11: The *sizes* of buffers and other stabilising stocks relative to their flows
- 10: The structure of material stocks/flows (e.g. transport structures, population numbers, ages)
- 9: The length of delays relative to the rate of systems change
- 8: The strength of *negative* feedback loops (relative to the impacts they are trying to correct)
- 7: The gain driving positive feedback loops
- 6: The structure of information flows (who does/not have access to information & what kind?)
- 5: The rules of the system (incentives, punishments, constraints)
- 4: The power to add, change, evolve or self organise the system
- 3: The goals of the system
- 2: The paradigm out of which the system arises (goals, values, structures, rules)
- 1: The power to transcend paradigms

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System Leverage Points



12 Leverage Points

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“We live in capitalism. Its power seems inescapable.
But then so did the divine right of kings.

Any human power can be resisted and changed by human beings. Resistance and change begin in art, very often our art - the art of words.”

Ursula le Guin

Acceptance speech of National Foundation Medal, 2014