

Many thanks to the jury for this award. I am very excited and feel honoured by the appreciation of my Master's thesis.

Ina von Seckendorff and Leo Wanninger have encouraged and inspired me with their writings to think socially critically with and about TCI. I would like to thank them for that.

I would now like to share some thoughts on how TCI and resonance theory together can open up new perspectives on social innovation.

Social innovation originally means a process of change. New social practices challenge established ways of life and contribute to social transformation over time. That is how it is defined.

In reality, however, this is quite difficult. Sociologist and TCI fanboy Hartmut Rosa helps us understand why it is so difficult.

He talks about the dynamic stabilisation of our society: new ideas have to be constantly generated and new products brought to market. But not much actually changes. The innovations are always fitted into the existing capitalist system. Problems are tackled, but never really solved. Instead, old patterns are repeated again and again. According to Rosa, this does not actually lead to any real innovation, but merely to a restoration of the status quo.

I keep picturing Elon Musk, who sells his ideas as social innovation, but in fact simply elevates the conventional to dimensions that were previously unimaginable. Instead of a real change in transportation, there are fast electric cars and rockets. These are basically ideas from the 1950s. This is an example of how we are extending our reach into space in the face of the earth's depleted resources and carry on as before.

So if we consider dynamic stabilisation to be an inhibitor of social innovation, the question is what an alternative might look like. How can we talk about innovation without following the same logic of expansion?

Rosa proposes an alternative to dynamic stabilisation: adaptive stabilisation.

Imagine yourself standing in a strong wind. Normally you would fall over. But if you slightly widen your legs and bend your knees, you can withstand the wind and keep your balance.

A system with adaptive stabilisation works in the same way. If something changes, it adapts flexibly while retaining its basic structure. Here, innovation takes place in response to desired changes or urgent questions and disturbances. Adaptive stabilisation therefore does not follow any necessity for innovation for the purpose of self-preservation, but rather serves the purpose of living change.

I believe this is an idea that is consistent throughout the work of Ruth Cohn. I will try to illustrate this using the systematics of TCI.

The axioms state that people are in a constant transition from being "like this" to being "different", depending on the social and material conditions, in other words on the structures in which they live.

The chairperson listens attentively and responds coherently to the current situation. We are talking about taking action and letting go. Perhaps it can sometimes be innovative and new to let it be and stop doing certain things (how about no private car traffic, for example).

And then TCI addresses disturbances. They are indications of where a response to the situation is needed. This is interesting because disruptions can be a transitional stage, a "learning opportunity" for transformation. Social innovation is always associated with friction and conflict. TCI seems to be aware of this.

Innovation and transformation do not arise when like and like meet. But rather: It requires an encounter with the "differing". Rosa says that transformation takes place where there is mutual touch that moves something in us, that changes something in us.

Matching this, Irene Klein says that her goal as a TCI leader is differentiation: she wants a togetherness in which people can live out their differences. This creates an encouraging climate in which new behavior can be explored.

TCI achieves this through dynamic balance. The leader ensures that the methodology is always a response to the group process. Various working and social forms offer a variety of access options for the participants. TCI aims to create space so that the participants have room to participate and find their individual entry point to the common matter.

The individual participants therefore need a structure that responds to them. And this is precisely the idea behind Rosa's adaptive stabilisation.

On this basis of the adaptive balance of responding structure and open, permeable process, social innovation can unfold through TCI. There is no obligation for growth or innovation behind this, but rather an underlying attitude of listening and responding that is deeply rooted in the TCI systematic.

Thank you very much once again for the award and your attention.