Re-commoning forest through bricolage.
A plea for a "turn" in traditional Commons' research

Theoretical gap

Traditional commons research:
- MAIN FOCUS: communities already managing resources collectively or places where top-down co-management approaches are implemented.

- OVERLOOKS how communities' agency can re-build previously enclosed Commons through commoning.

What do we look at?

How actors engaged in **commoning**
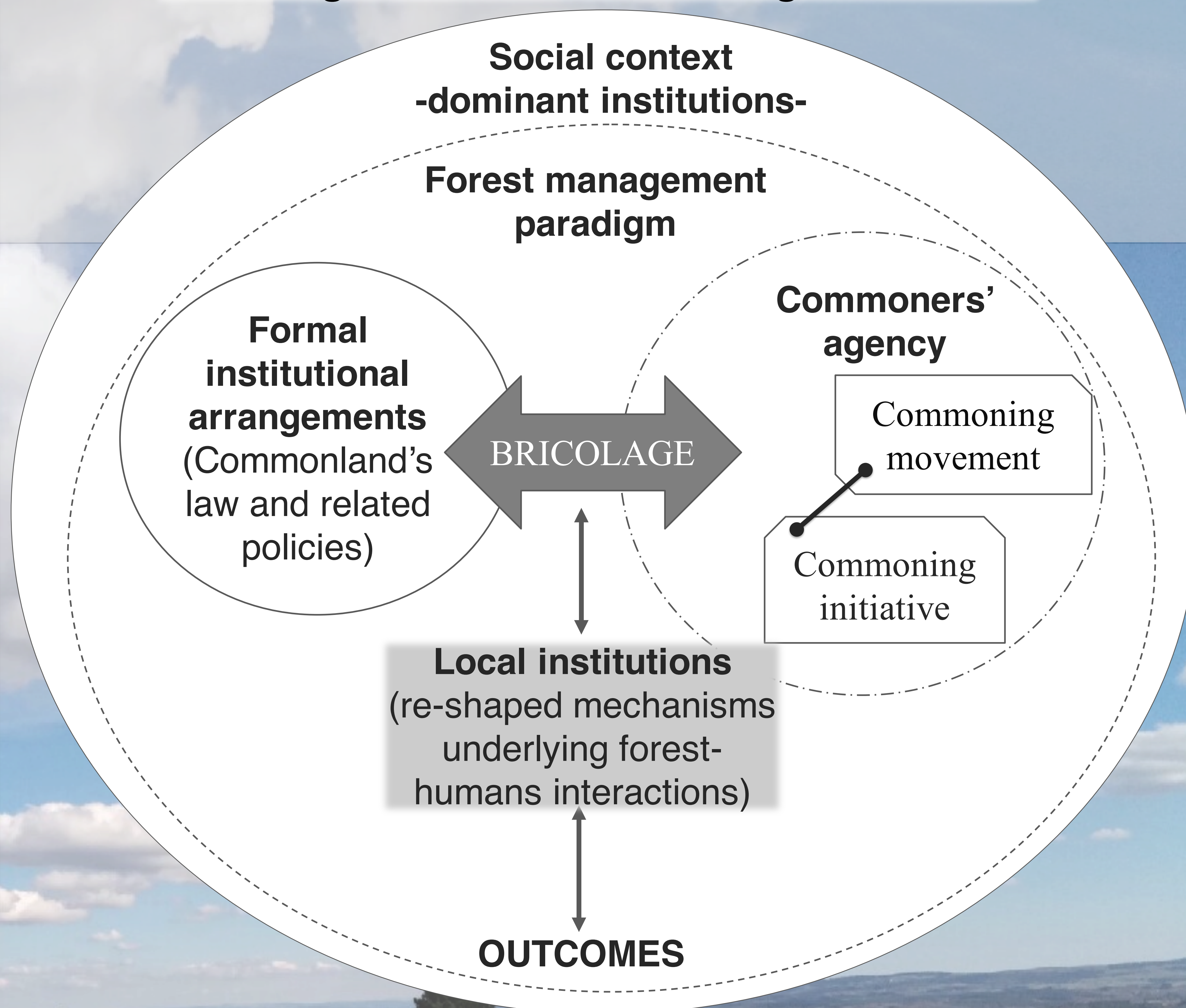
- AGENCY -
NEGOTIATE- AND STRUGGLE

POWER

OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE AND ENVIRONMENT
(at different points in time)

To create **social relations** that maintain the rules or protocols for **access** and **use** of a resource in ways that the community:
- ✓ takes **care** of a resource
- ✓ accept **responsibility** for a resource
- ✓ distributes the **benefits** in ways that take into account the well-being of humans and non-humans

Objective

To contribute to research explaining the institutional dynamics underlying traditional commons for better accounting the agency of commoners and the power dynamics in the community.

Methods

- Two case-studies in Galicia (Spain).
- Mixed qualitative methods (interviews, observation, document analysis).
- Qualitative analysis: every-day practices, discursive frames for negotiation.

Teis (peri-urban)
20.000 inhabitants
Urbanization pressure
Conservation focus

O Carballo (rural):
200 inhabitants
Rural abandonment
Multifunctional use

Re-visiting the Institutional Bricolage Framework

Social context
-dominant institutions-

Forest management paradigm

Formal institutional arrangements
(Commonland's law and related policies)

BRICOLAGE

Commoners' agency

Commoning movement

Commoning initiative

Local institutions
(re-shaped mechanisms underlying forest-humans interactions)

OUTCOMES

Research questions

- What happens when a commoning movement is institutionalised?
- How is it translated in commoning local initiatives, and which barriers are encountered in this process?
- How local commoners re-shape formal regulations, and what are the local effects of local commoning initiatives at different moments in time?

Expected impact

- Within Europe, Galicia is a paradigmatic case of commoning.
- Here, a commoning movement is challenging the dominant unsustainable forest management.
- Studying Galician commoning dynamics, its institutionalisation and its impact on the ground can **help to better understand pathways to re-common traditional commons in ways that enhances sustainability for people and the environment**

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Sustainable Place Shaping