



Applying the concept of 'Societal Relationships with Nature': insights for paludiculture and rewetting projects

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My research in the ValuES project

ValuES - Integrating ecosystem services into policy, planning and practice

- Rethink ecosystem services to better address cultural values
- Develop methods for assessing and integrating multiple values in political decisions

➔ How to deal with different attitudes, world-views, knowledge-systems?



The questions that motivate my talk today:

How do we facilitate the dialog
about the landscape we want to inhabit?

What could a farmer motivate (or hinder)
to change
his actual way of cultivating peatland?

Paludiculture and conflicts

Introducing paludiculture requires technical expertise, incentives, and investments to stimulate transition.

It also stirres conflict:

- Landscapes change
- Economic value of the land changes
- Personal and professional identities are challenged

Words possess a remarkable power to shape our perceptions

Paludiculture

“... a pioneering form of agriculture called ›paludiculture‹ that allows farmers to cultivate rather than degrade peatlands in ways that maintain their enormous carbon stocks while producing crops for sustainable biofuels.”



If I was a farmer, what *could* I understand from such a definition?

- My way of interacting in the world is outdated
- I do something wrong: I degrade, I do not cultivate, I do not work sustainably
- I have a passive role in the debate: somebody talks about me instead of with me
- My knowledge is inferior: others know better
- I am told what to do: produce crops for biofuels
- Somebody else sets the goals and priorities of what I am doing: maintain carbon stock



Societal Relationships with Nature:

It is not only about use versus non use

It is not only about sustainability versus degradation

It is not only about economic use versus conservation

>> Is not only about different interests

➡ The concept of Societal relationships focusses on the **multiple relations** between the individual, society and the environment



The concept of “Societal Relationships with Nature”

(1) “Nature” is not a given but is rather a result of the *relations* that exist among the individual, society, and the physical world

(2) The making of “nature” is a political and historical *process*

(3) Multiple *alternative* relationships exist

Some theoretical considerations

Structuring (perceiving) the world is an *active and subjective* process

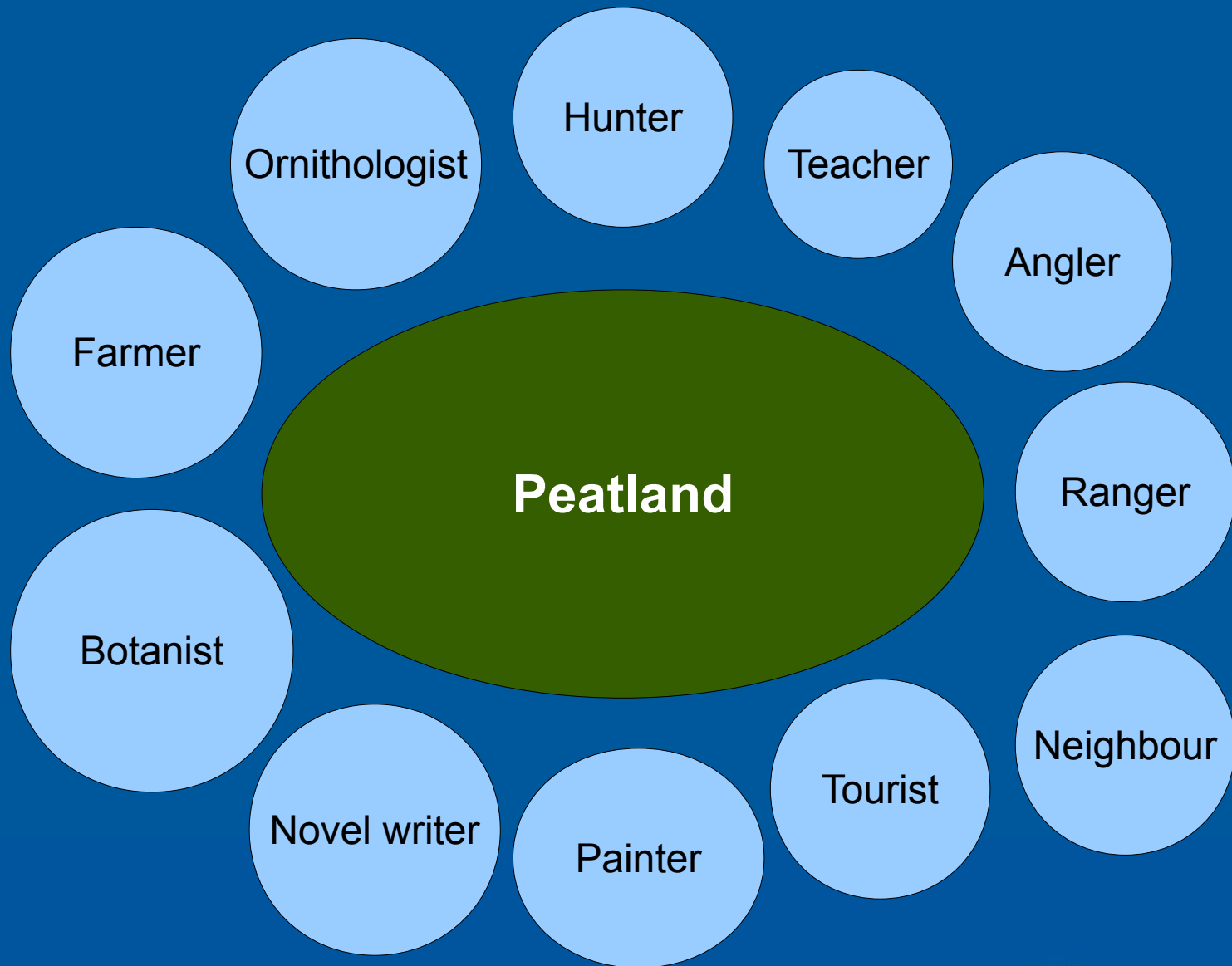
- Our mind is able to acquire and maintain meaningful perceptions in an apparently chaotic world
- Our mind is constantly choosing (consciously **and** unconsciously/automatically) to make sense of the world around us
- How we perceive and interact within our environment is determined by our background (= result of former interactions within our environment)



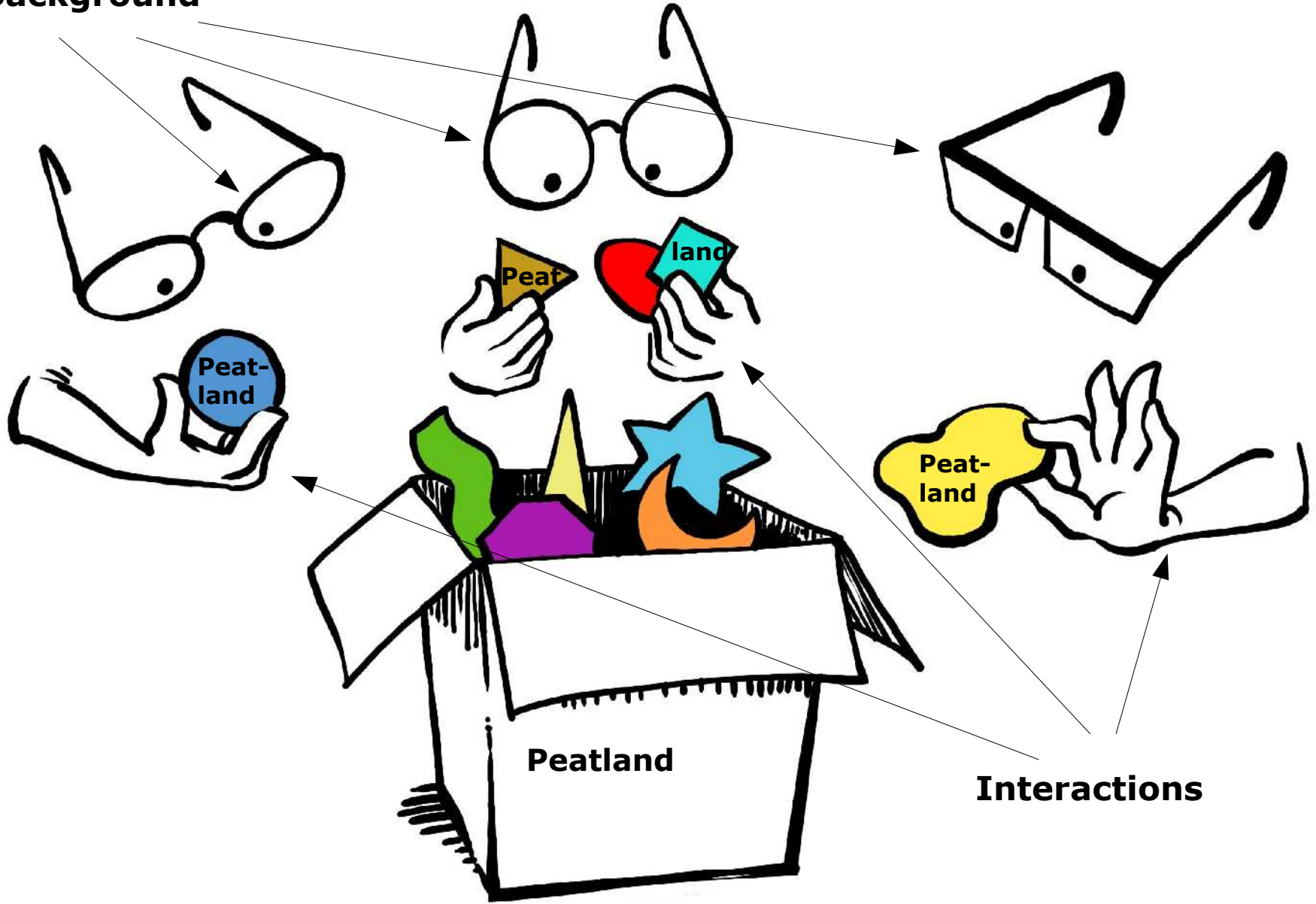
Let's explore

How diversely 'peatland' is configured
by different people
how they think about, relate to, and inhabit it:

**Recognizing these different notions can support the
facilitation of dialogs about peatland use
(away from dichotomies and gridlocked conflicts)**

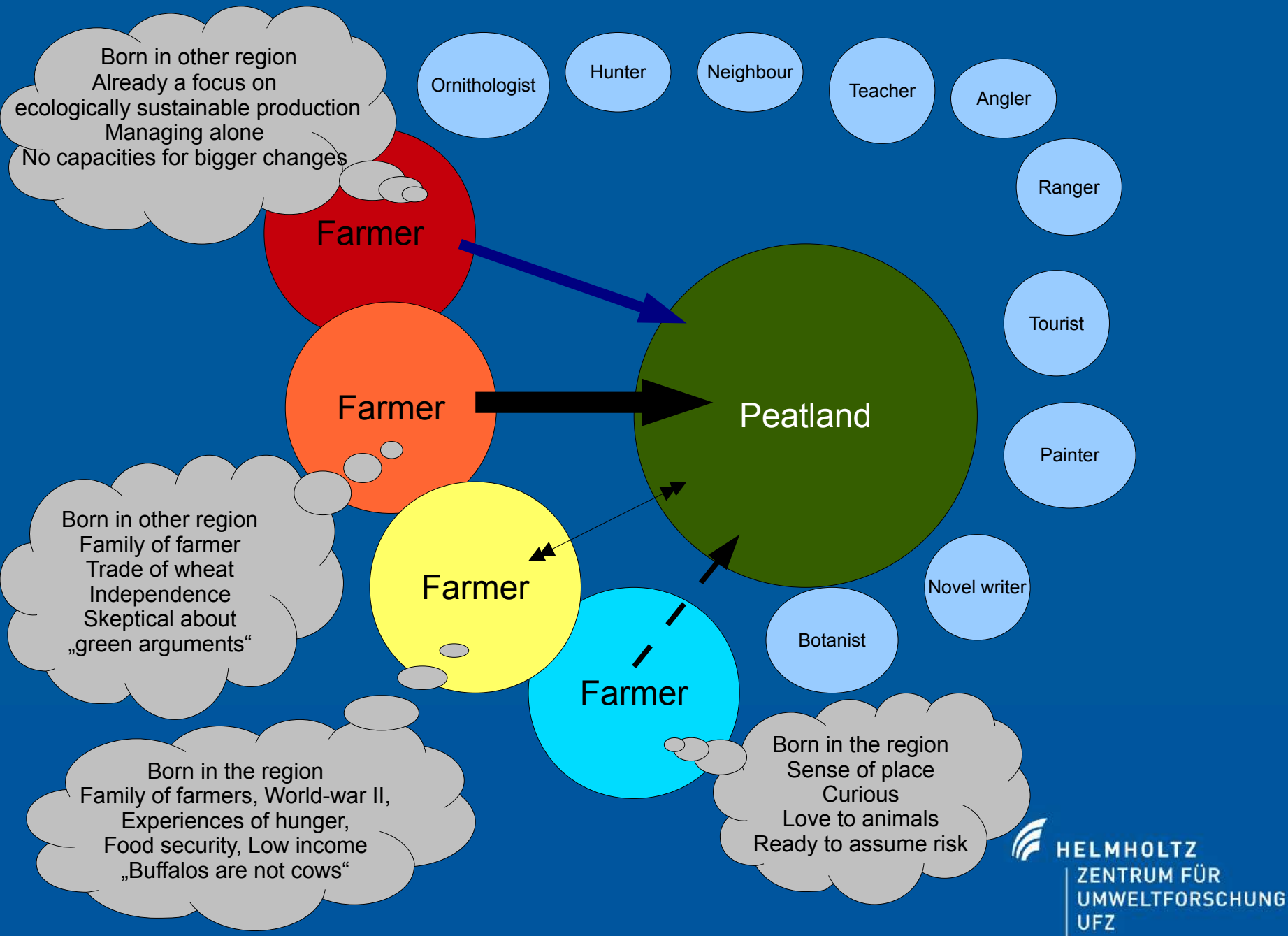


Background

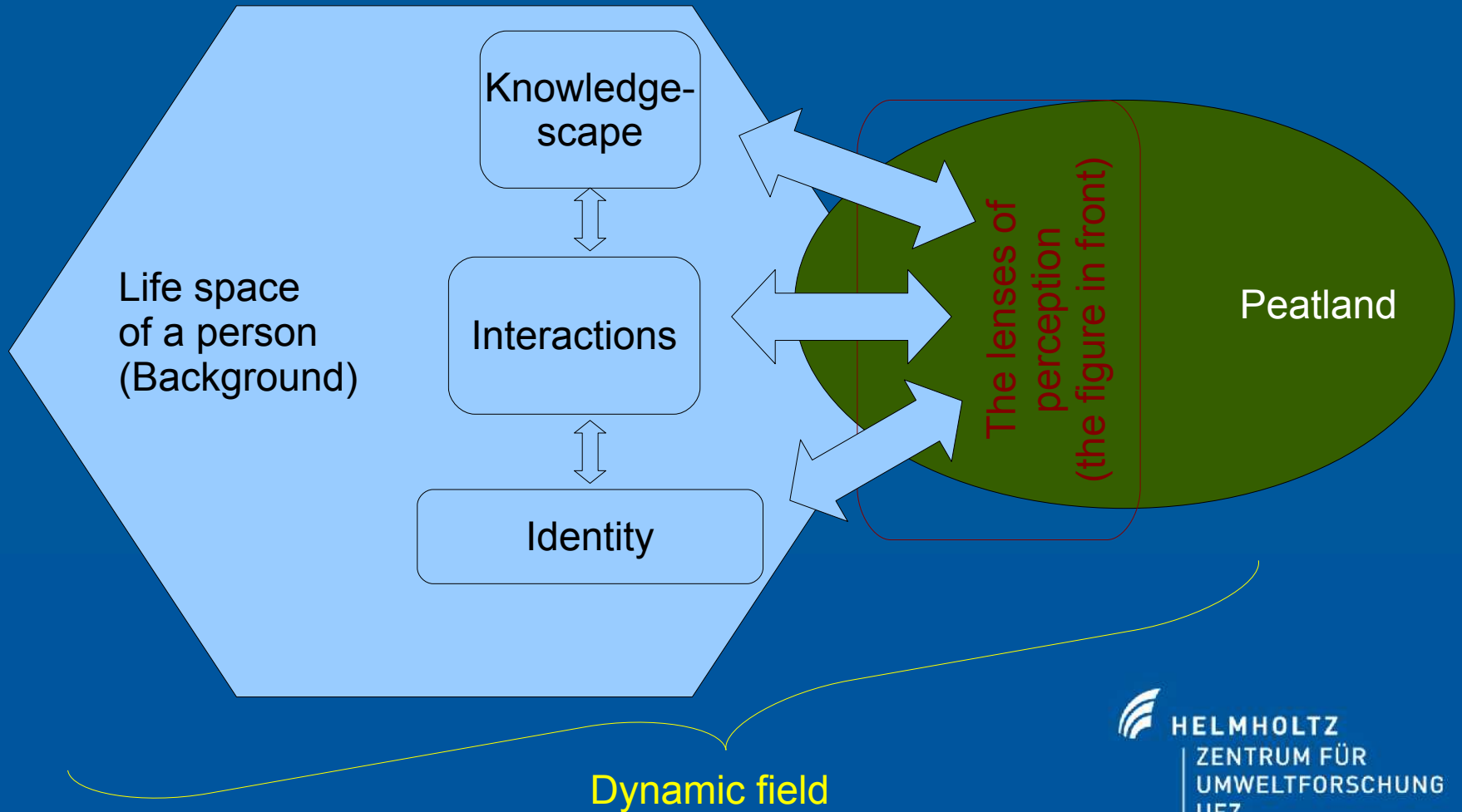


Interactions





How can Societal Relationships be described and analysed?




Moortheater – Theatre of the peatland

- We extend an *invitation* to make new experiences (for pupils and the public)
- We invite to *experiment* with the ways of focusing on/ interacting with the peatlands
- We try to open space for new perspectives
- Art as a way of perceiving and interacting within the natural environment
- Theatre as an option for transformation



Der Verein Freunde Fritz Greve e.V. präsentiert:




Ein weiteres echtes Drama
Moortheater 2017
 im Marstall Basedow
 Regie: Gisela Knappe

Premiere Samstag, 15. Juli 19:00 Uhr Sonntag, 16. Juli 11:00 Uhr & 18:00 Uhr

Kartenverkaufform: Stadthaus Basedow, Brauerweg 3, 17109 Mönch-Lüssow, 039301
 Telefon: 03930 22890

Eintritt für Erwachsene 15 Euro und für Kinder 7 Euro

www.moortheater.de








Sometimes
we have to
turn
ourselves
upside down
in order to
perceive
and
realise...

Thank you!

www.aboutvalues.net

www.moortheater.de

