

Criticality and Action Research for Transformation in a Citizen Initiative

IPA 2021. P10 Transformative Space

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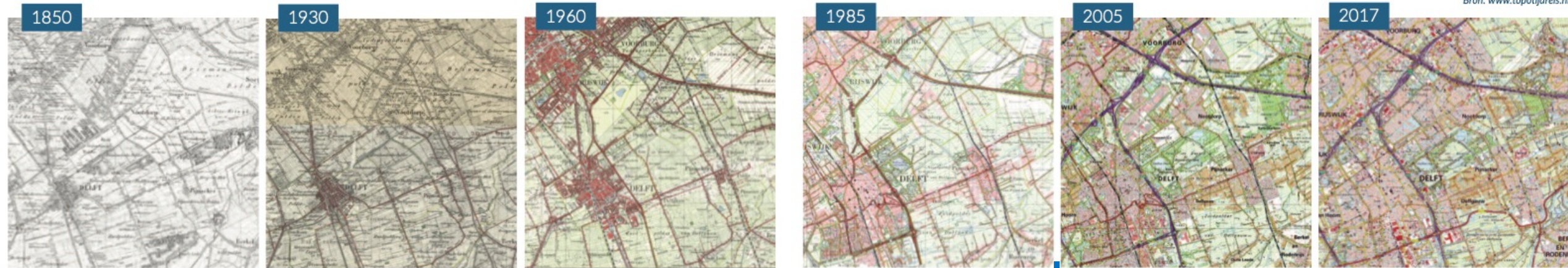
Wageningen University

This presentation:

- Background, Buytenhout
- Activities: experiential, ongoing, on the go
- Action Research for Transformation
- Questioning Transformative Space
- Reflection: transformative space?



One snapshot of the case - area

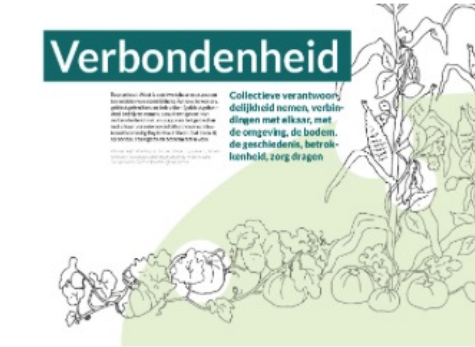


Early 2000s: I became involved in Buytenhout as a researcher

1. Friends group established (early 2000s), focus on realising 'farming for nature';
2. Friends group broadens focus to organising 'tables', formulating 'core values', and a vision for a larger area.

Transformative Space?

- Becoming an EU approved pilot for FfN
- The making of a Table: whose topics?
- The formulation of 'Core Values'
- Launch of the Vision – Magazine
- Linking to policies – who are 'we'?
- The Corona proof Interactive Map and meetings to work with values
- Entrepreneurs' and themed tables
- What is next



table

- Questions of identity: who are we as the citizen initiative?
 - What can we do as volunteers?
 - What is our relationship to professionals?
 - What is our 'core business'?
 - What is our role (in local democracy)

What kind of Action Research?
What kind of Transformative space?

Research with practice – Action Research for Transformations

- Finding solutions together with practitioners
- Iterative cycles of action/knowledge and reflection
- Knowledge is not translated or 'applied'
- Knowledges in plural and as a verb (action)
- Knowledge/Power → critical component
- Experiential ('on-the-go')

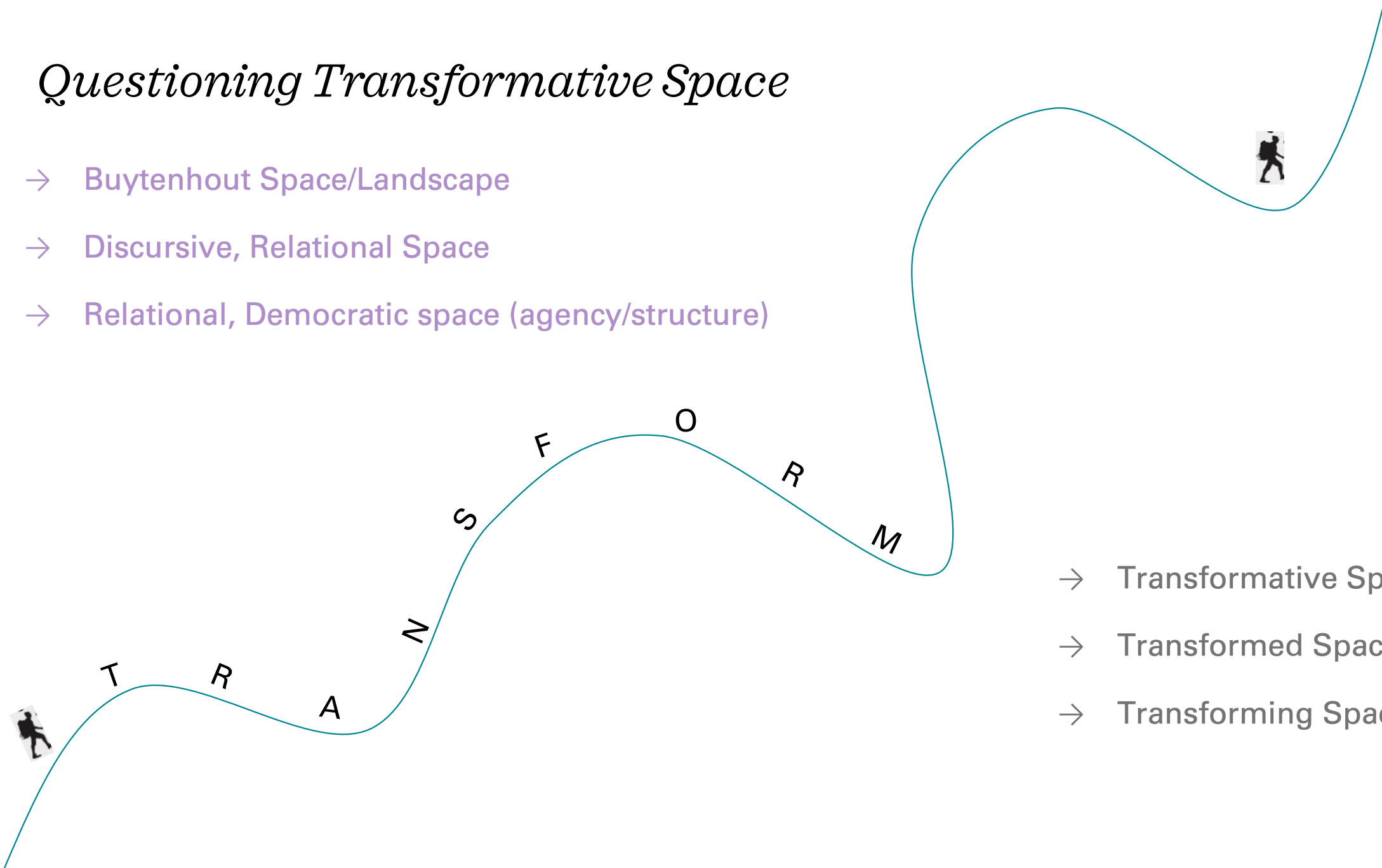
What is action research without some form of transformation?

ACTION RESEARCH FOR TRANSFORMATIONS

“(A)ction researchers are called to contribute to conversations-for-change about ways of knowing, doing and being that invite us to develop shared learning platforms, alongside people with a stake in transforming structural forces that inhibit thriving. In bringing into our work multiple ways of knowing and declaring truth, let us yoke our efforts to a commitment to inquiry that makes a positive difference. Let us determine anew the boundary lines about whose knowledge matters, whose methodology counts, and how these questions are at the root of our survival and potential thriving as a learning species. Let us have courage enough to engage with the power dynamics that hold us on this unsustainable path. Let us practice mutually transforming power in service of a more beautiful world, for all” (Bradbury et al. 2019: 9).

Questioning Transformative Space

- Buytenhout Space/Landscape
- Discursive, Relational Space
- Relational, Democratic space (agency/structure)



- Transformative Space
- Transformed Space
- Transforming Space

What counts as
'transformative'?

Questions?