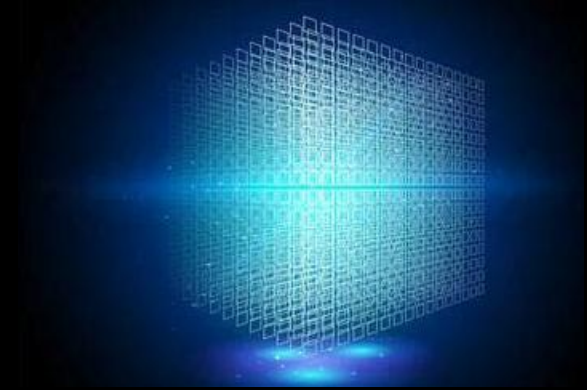


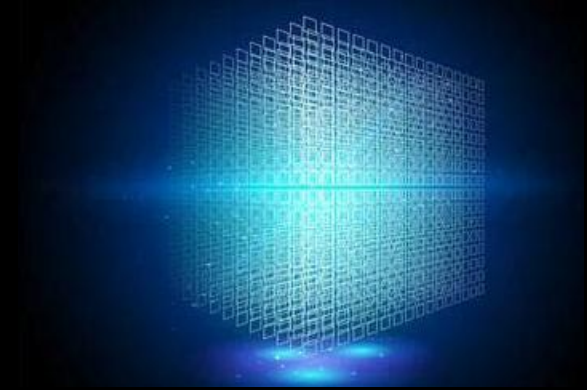
OBSERVATION: A WORLD OF CONTRADICTIONS



- Climate pressures deepen
- Housing becomes less affordable
- Burnout becomes normal
- Knowledge and capability continue to expand

What if these are not separate

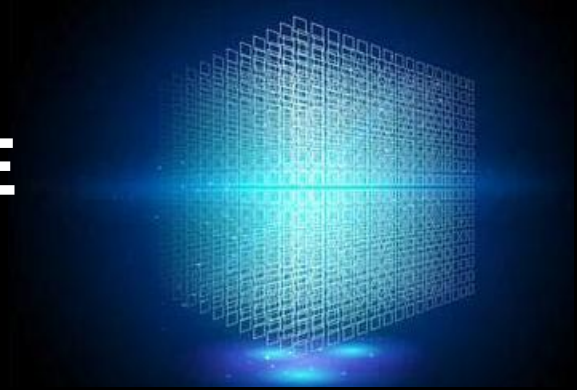
THE QUESTION



Why do contemporary systems remain resistant to transformation despite unprecedented knowledge and diagnostic capacity?

The question that started the investigation

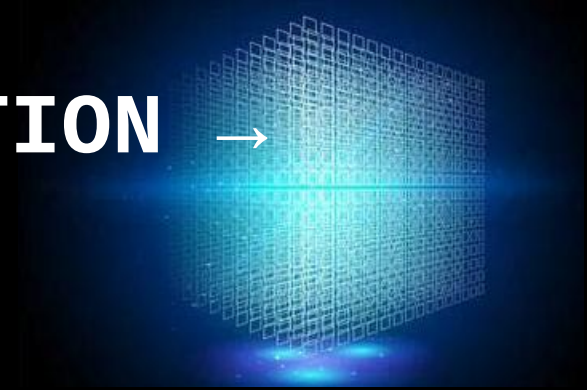
RATIONALITY: THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE PRESENT



- Shapes what becomes visible
- Shapes what becomes legitimate
- Shapes what becomes actionable

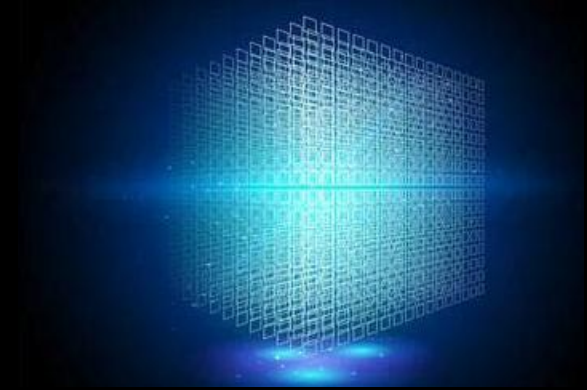
Rationality formats reality before action begins

RATIONALITY → ASYMMETRY → CONTRADICTION → RESISTANCE



- Boundaries create asymmetries
- Asymmetries create contradictions
- Contradictions generate resistance

Transformation is difficult when the logic remains unchanged



CONQUERING KNOWLEDGE: HOW RATIONALITY BUILT THE PRESENT AND HOW WE CAN LOOSEN IT

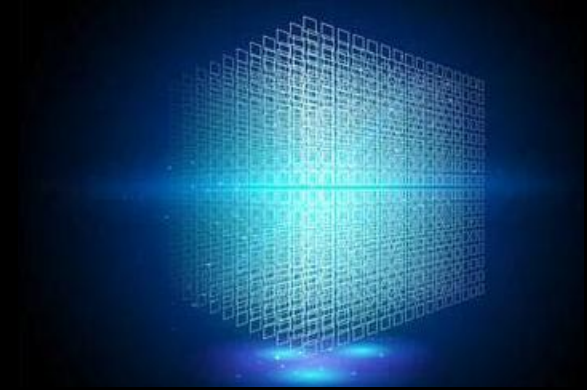
David E. Flores Durán

ALARA Seminar 2026

RATIONALITY & SEDIMENTATION

- Historical ideas leave traces
- Traces become institutions
- Institutions influence present realities

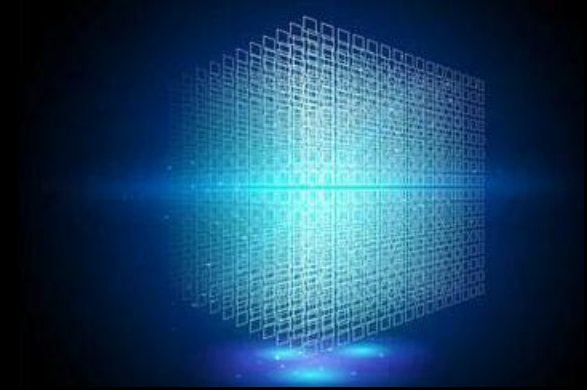
The present is an accumulation

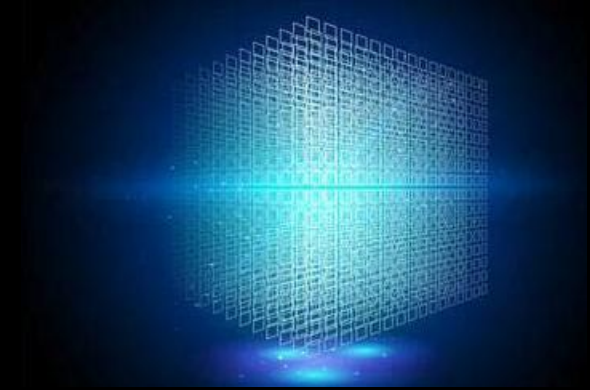


HISTORICAL EVOLUTION

- Historical turning points
- Inherited assumptions
- Contemporary pressures

***The past remains active in
the present***





FROM HISTORY TO EXPERIENCE

A conceptual model for understanding how inherited assumptions continue to shape contemporary realities.

How inherited assumptions become lived realities

HOW THE SYSTEM IS BUILT

History



Institutions



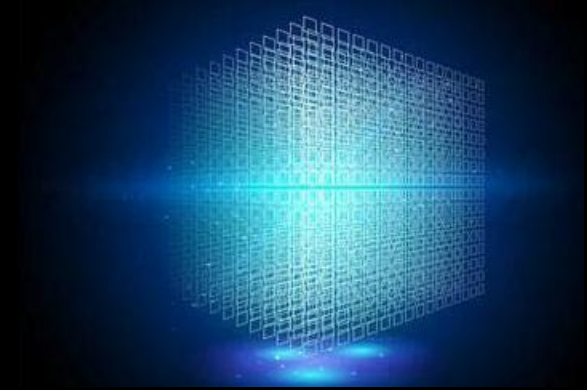
Pressures



Behaviour



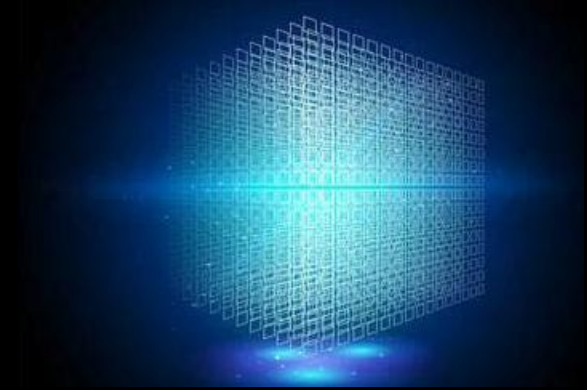
Lived Reality



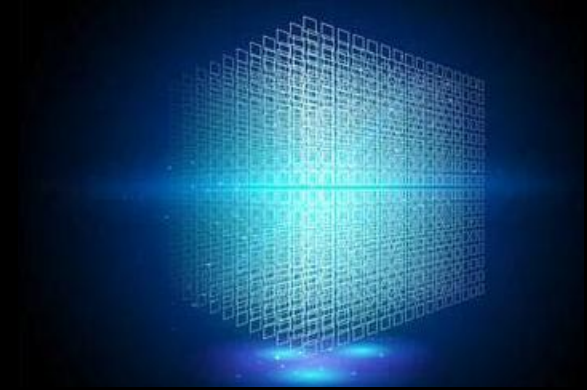
HOW THE SYSTEM IS EXPERIENCED

- Pressure
- Atmosphere
- Experience

People experience systems through everyday realities



INTRODUCING THE ONION

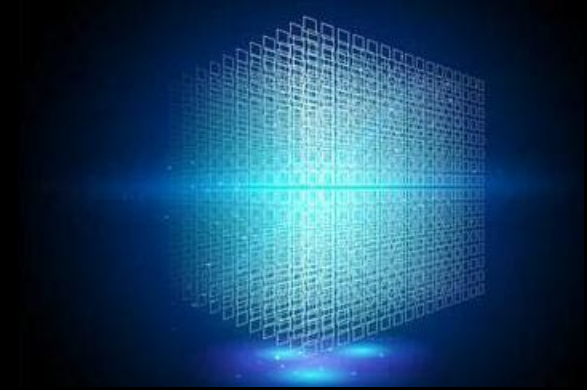


A framework for exploring the
relationship between lived
experience and systemic
conditions.

FROM THEORY TO DIAGNOSIS

Reflection

- What pressure feels normal?
- What behaviour does it produce?
- What contradiction keeps returning?



EXPLORING SYSTEMIC CONDITIONS

Experience

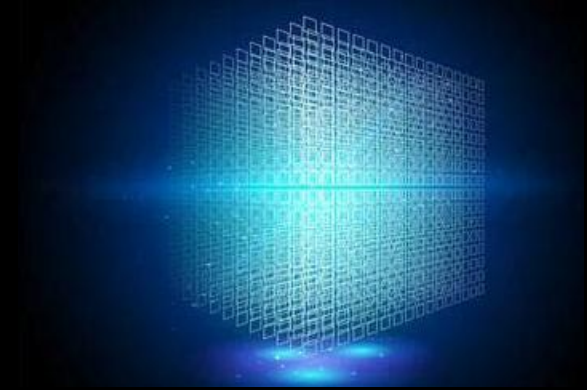


Conditions

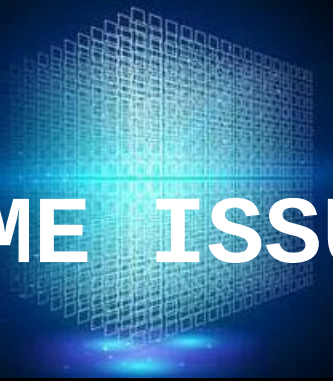


Possibilities

Moving beyond symptoms

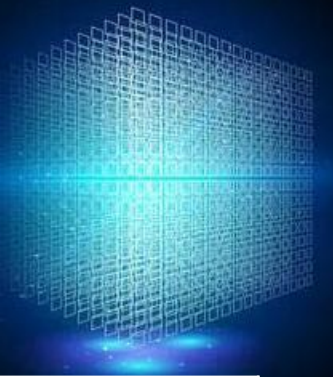


HOW ALARA AND THE ONION SEE THE SAME ISSUE

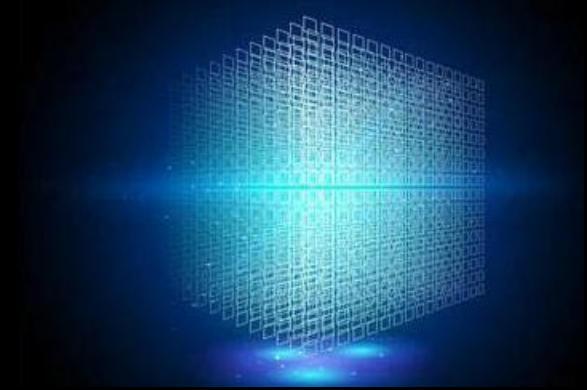


ALARA Sees	The Onion Explores
Burnout	Conditions shaping burnout
Urgency	Conditions shaping urgency
Exhaustion	Conditions shaping exhaustion

DIAGNOSTIC APPLICATION



Issue	Surface Pressure	Deeper Conditions
Housing	Cost stress	Structural conditions
Climate	Reform failure	Structural conditions
Institutions	Burnout	Structural conditions



APPLICATION

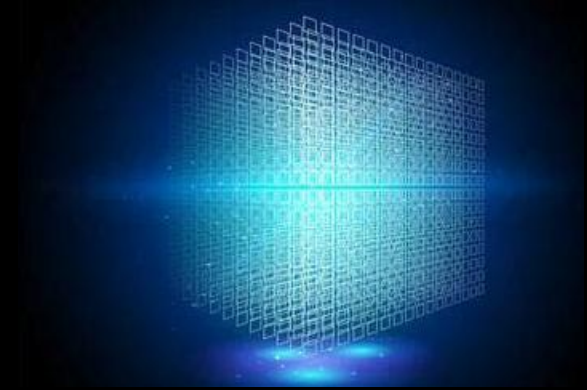
HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

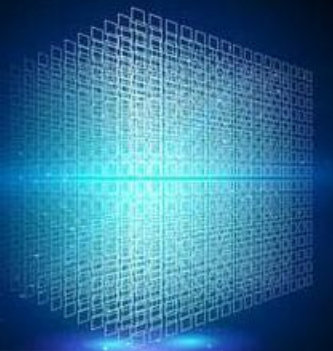
Housing Challenges

- Cost Pressure
- Instability
- Insecurity

Housing as both a lived experience and a systemic challenge



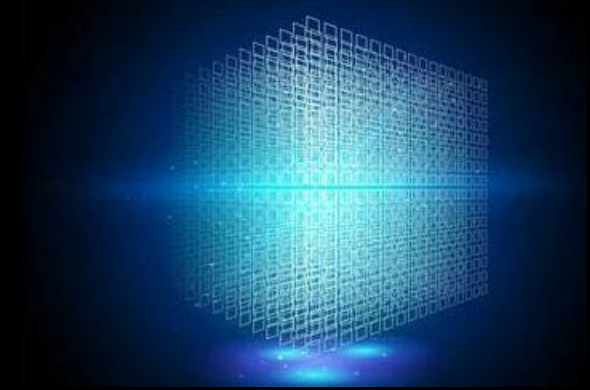
HOUSING SOLUTIONS



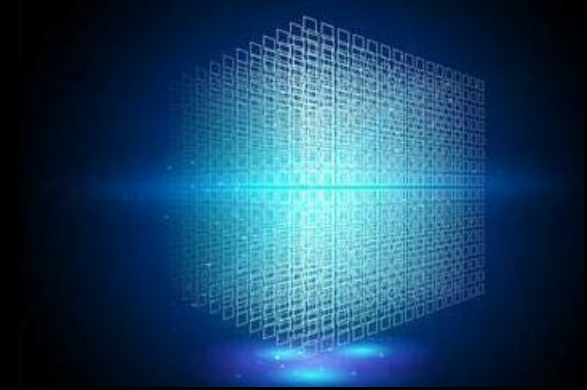
ALARA	THE ONION
Addresses pressures	Addresses conditions
Supports people	Supports transformation

Both are needed

THE CORE INSIGHT

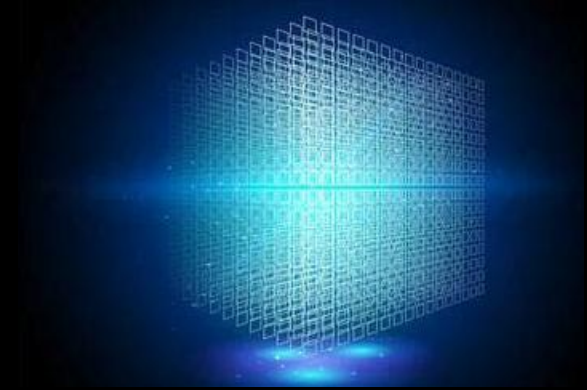


ALARA makes experience visible.
The Onion helps connect experience to
broader systemic conditions.



CONTRADICTION & RUPTURE

CONTRADICTION & RUPTURE



Rationality brought us here



Contradictions reveal its limits



Reality begins to exceed inherited logics



New possibilities become visible

***Contradictions are rationality's boundary
made visible***

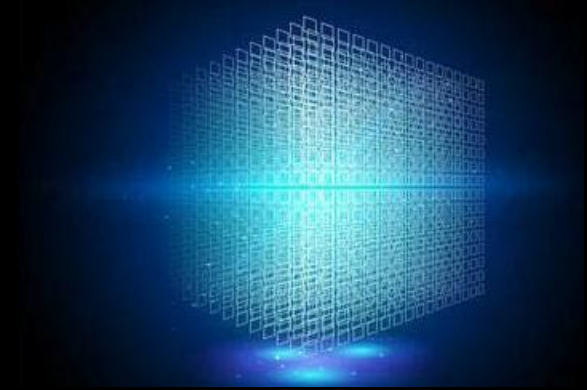
THE LIMITS OF THE PRESENT



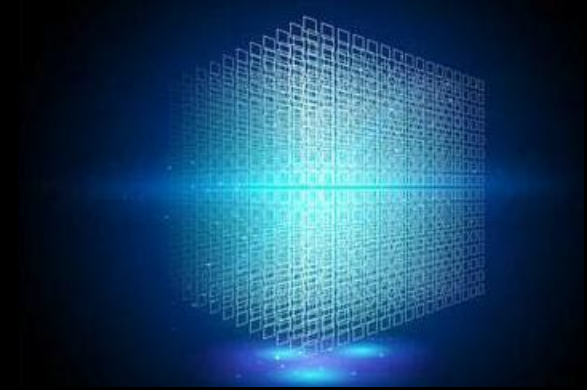
THEN	NOW
Myth reached its limits	Rationality is reaching its limits
Reality exceeded myth	Reality exceeds inherited logics
New forms emerged	New possibilities emerge

Every organising logic eventually encounters realities it cannot fully contain

CLOSING REFLECTION



If the contradictions of the present are the limits of our inherited rationality, then the task ahead is not simply to solve problems. It is to recognise what those contradictions are trying to tell



**WE ARE NOT IN A POLICY
CRISIS WE ARE IN A LOGIC
TRANSITION**