



Capacity building for urban resilience

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Large cities are critical economic hubs, supporting diverse and growing urban and suburban populations. At the same time, cities are vulnerable to both **acute shocks** and **chronic stresses**.





Resilience



Resilience is a *boundary object* (Star and Griesmer, 1989), or a concept/object that can be adapted to fit the needs of different groups but still retain a core identity.

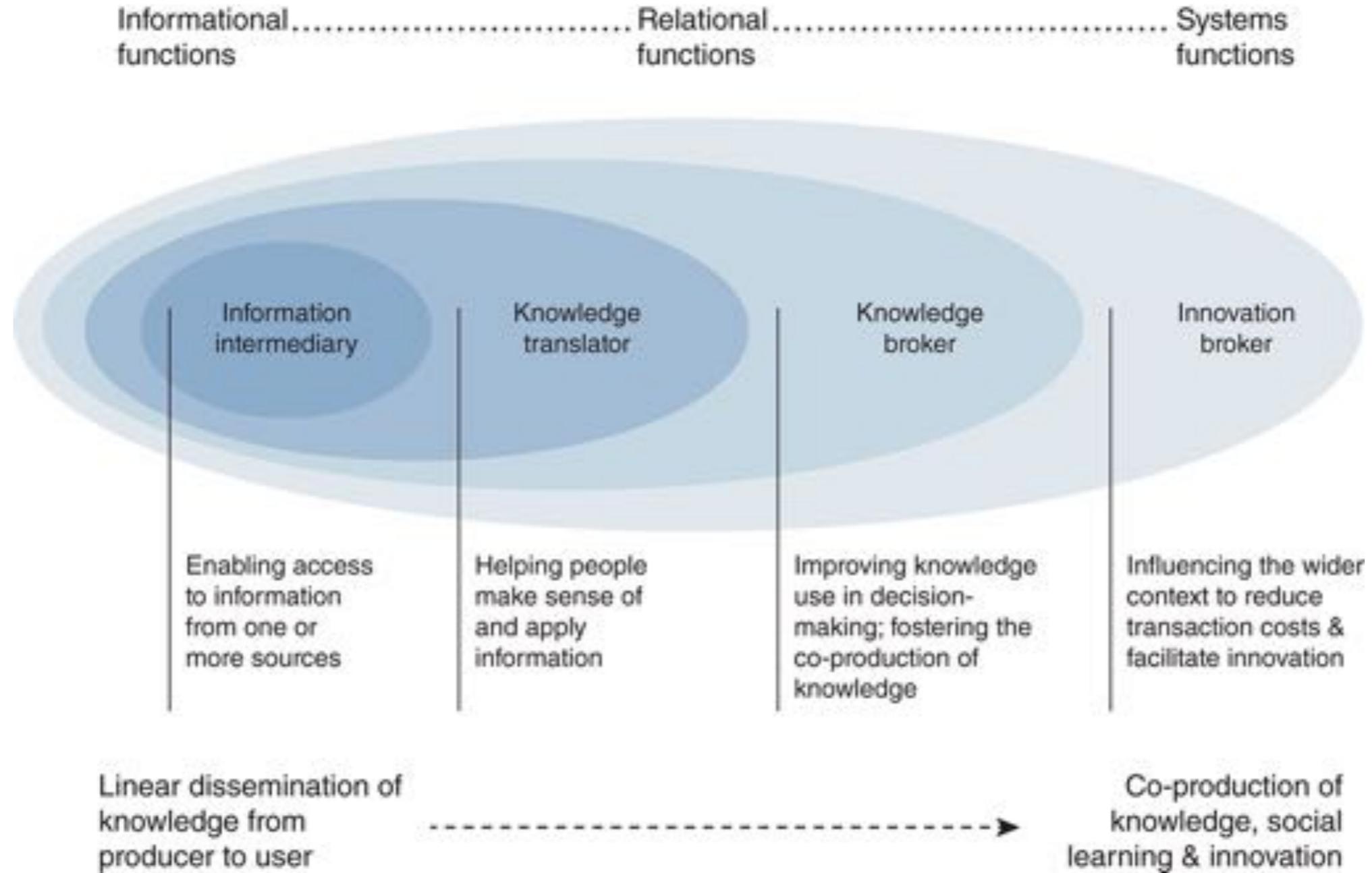


<http://www.mesopotamian.org/?p=23>

Collaborative urban planning

“governance capacity” can emerge to challenge the status quo and transform places (Healy, 1992; 2003)

The spectrum of knowledge sharing practices

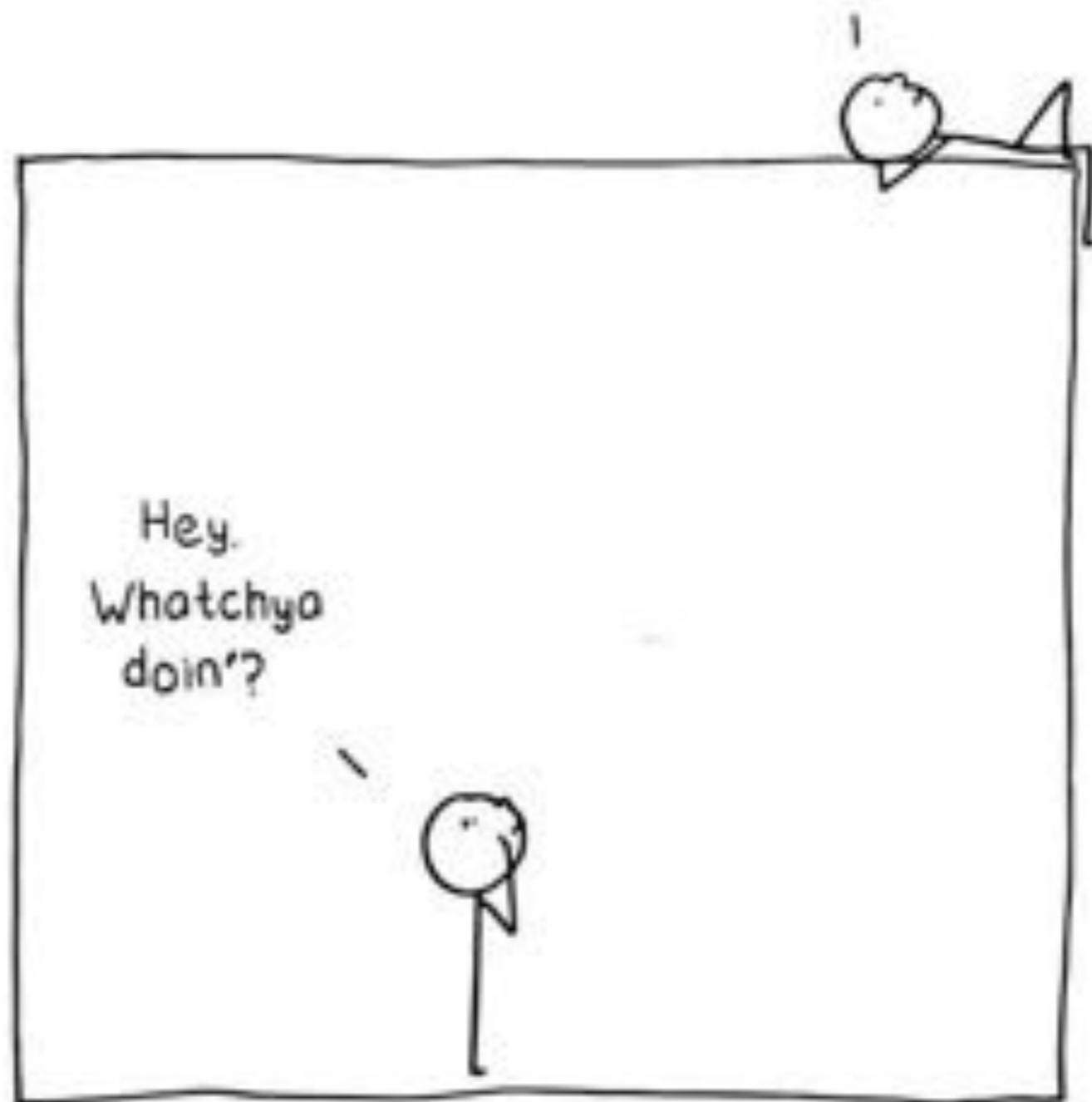




Resilience



I think better out here.

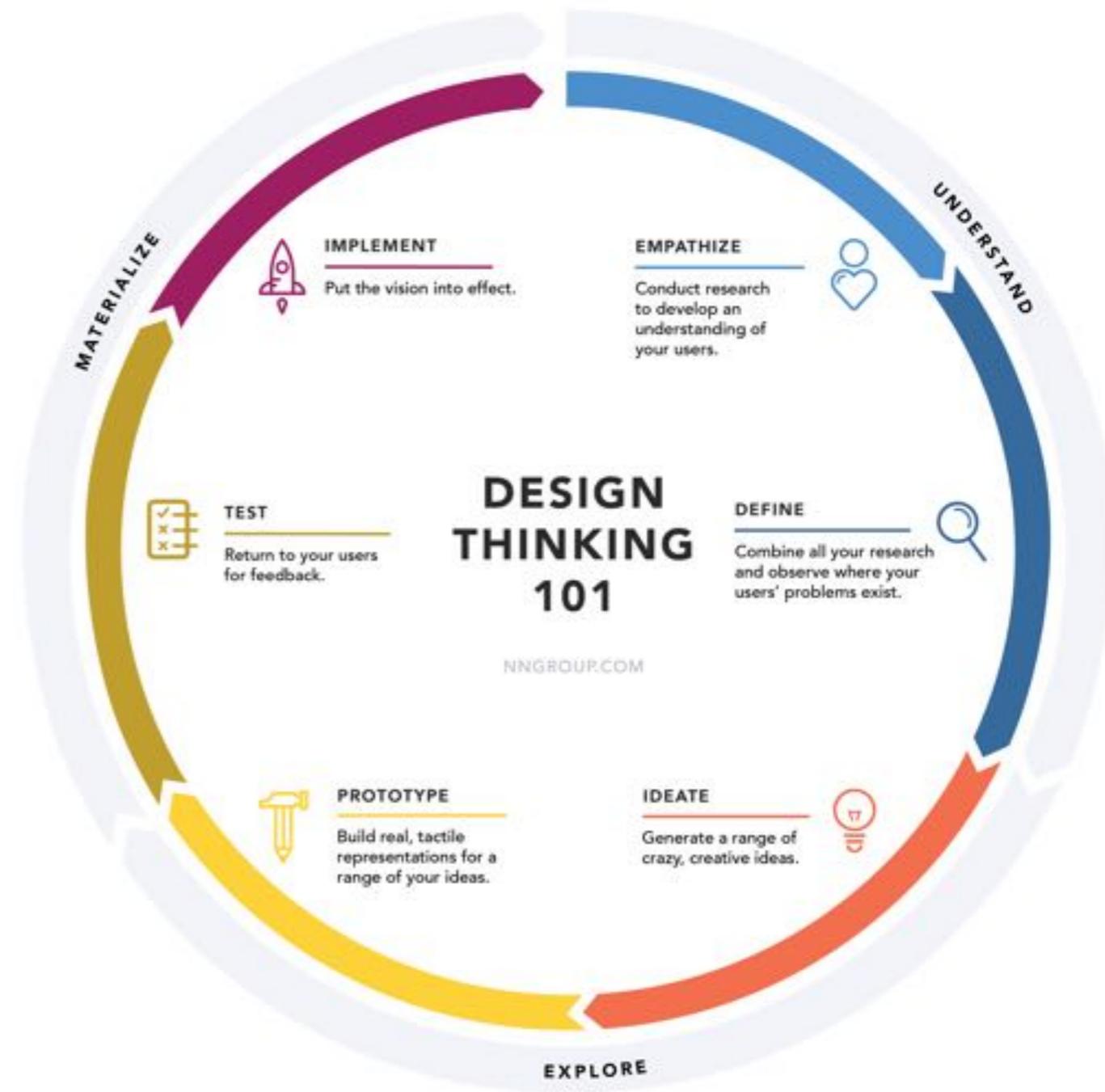


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How do we do that?

What is design thinking?

- Design thinking is not a new concept
- Design thinking is both a theory and a process
 - A user-centric approach to problem solving can lead to innovation
 - Design thinking comprises six distinct iterative phases





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Ajay Kumar, Dinesh Lodha, Ashwin Mahalingam , Vishnu Prasad & Anand Sahasranaman

Pages 135-143 | Received 04 Aug 2015, Accepted 15 Feb 2016, Published online 13 Mar 2016

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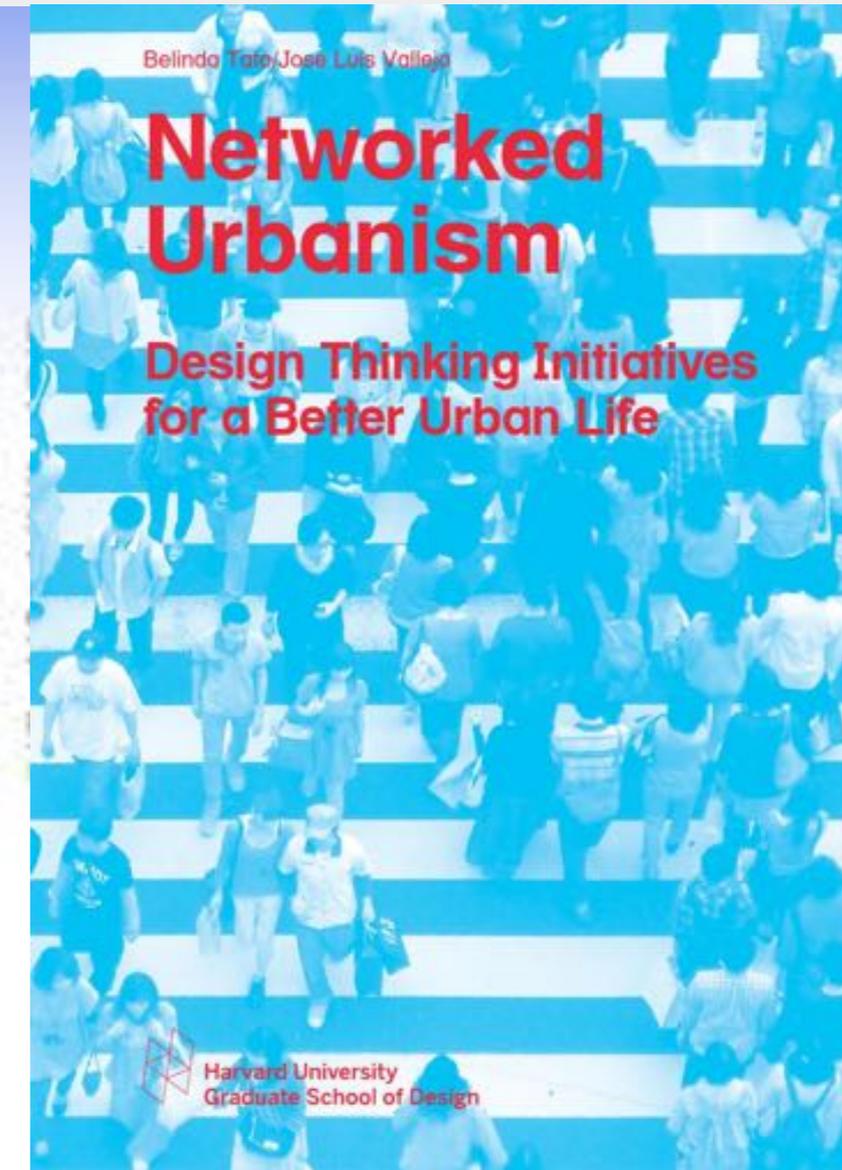
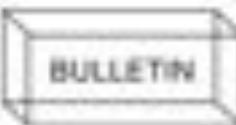
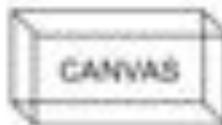
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Belinda Tate/José Luis Vallejo

Networked Urbanism

Design Thinking Initiatives
 for a Better Urban Life

Harvard University
 Graduate School of Design

Why should we consider design thinking for resilience capacity building?

- It is a user-centred process
- It leverages collective expertise and establishes a shared language and buy-in amongst stakeholders involved in the process
- It encourages innovation, and may facilitate the development of disruptive ideas and discourse



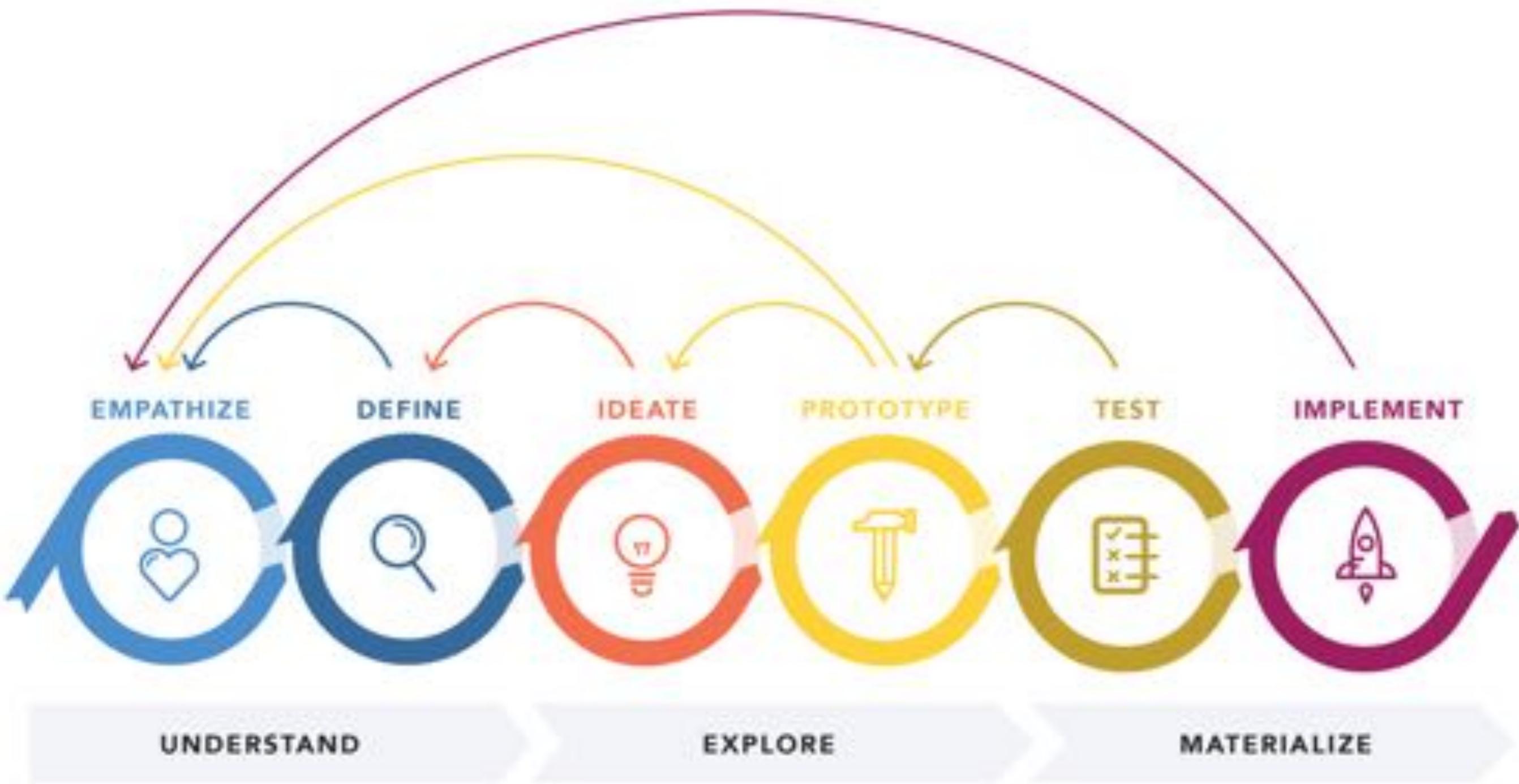


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PLAN 102

Professional Communication



How could we use design thinking in city governments to build resilience capacity?

- Understanding employees' conceptualizations of resilience *within* departments
- Understanding how staff conceptualize and operationalize resilience concepts *across* departments
- Understanding city councillors' needs/insights with respect to resilience planning



How could we use design thinking with urban 'actors' to build urban resilience capacity?

- Map private and civil society actors engaged in resilience-oriented activities (i.e. social network analysis)
- Action-oriented focus groups to better understand stakeholders' diverse needs and insights
- Utilize social media to run virtual ideate sessions (i.e. resilient city design competitions)



Next steps

- Test design thinking for urban resilience *in situ*; can it catalyze planning innovation and organization change?
- Examine how public, private and community actors involved in resilience planning processes interpret resilience and envision operationalizing the concept
- Analyze how resilience, as an idea and a discourse, potentially disrupts cities' existing urban planning and governance processes



NEW PROJECT!

The process and politics of politics of planning for resilience in Canadian cities

PI: Prof. Carrie L. Mitchell (Waterloo, Planning); co-applicant: Prof. Greg Oulahen (Ryerson, Geography); collaborators: Prof. Zack Taylor (Western, Political Science); Prof. Sarah Burch, Geography)

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