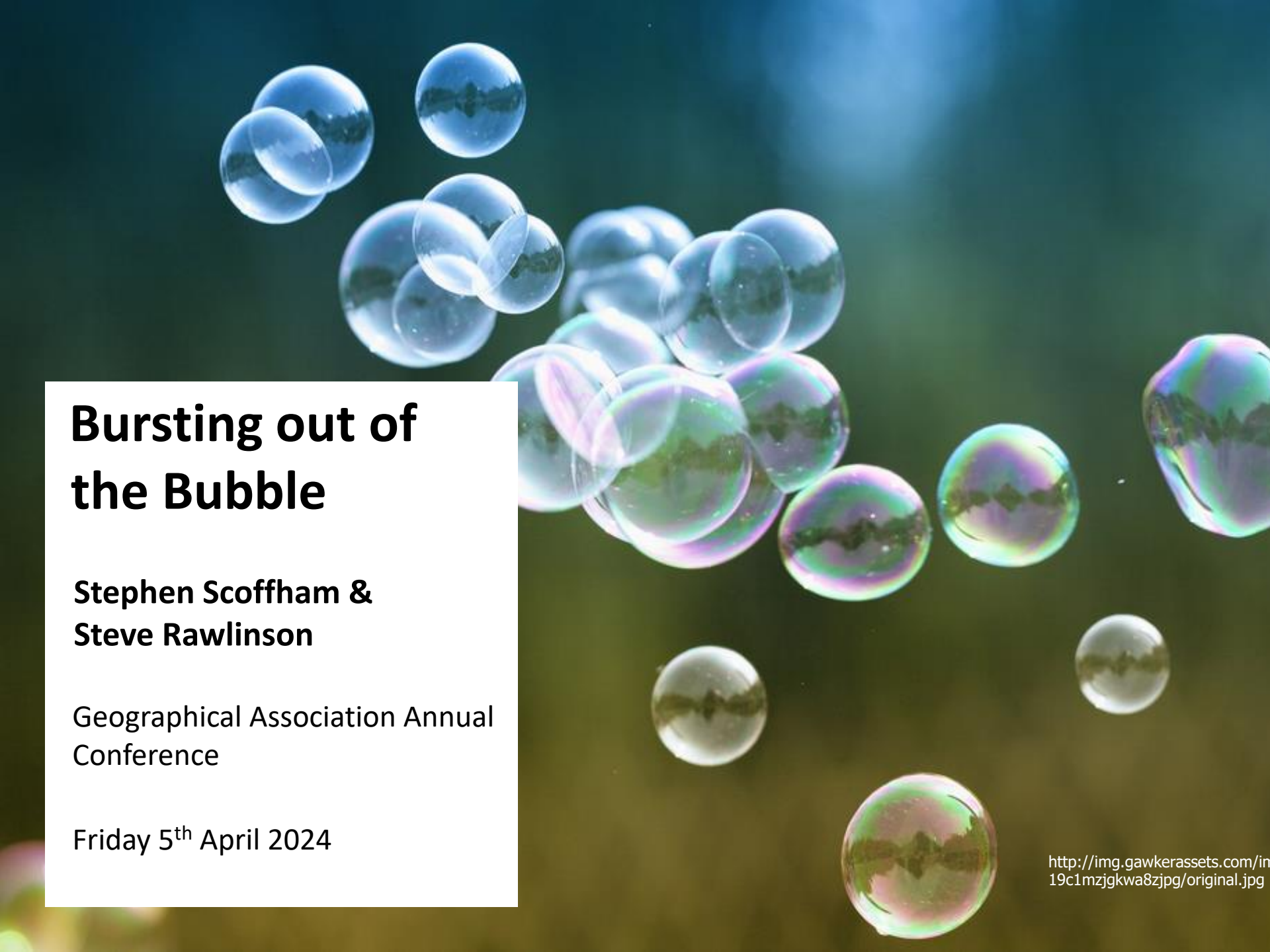




# Bursting out of the Bubble

**Stephen Scoffham &  
Steve Rawlinson**

Geographical Association Annual  
Conference

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024

<http://img.gawkerassets.com/in/19c1mzjgkwa8zjpg/original.jpg>

# Introducing ourselves



**Dr Stephen Scoffham** is a Visiting Reader in Sustainability and Education at Canterbury Christ University, UK and has written widely for schools and teachers.

**Steve Rawlinson** was Principal Lecturer in Geography Education at Northumbria University and chair of the Editorial Board of the journal *Primary Geography*.

## **Part1**

**In what ways might we start to see and think differently about the world?**

## **Part 2**

How does this apply to  
(a) our teaching and  
(b) the curriculum?

## **Part 3**

Where does this take us? Can we burst out of the bubble?



# Geographical positioning

We need to be aware of location in space and its significance.





Source: WikiCommons

## Historical positioning

We need to be aware of our historical and cultural context and the assumptions which underpin our thinking.



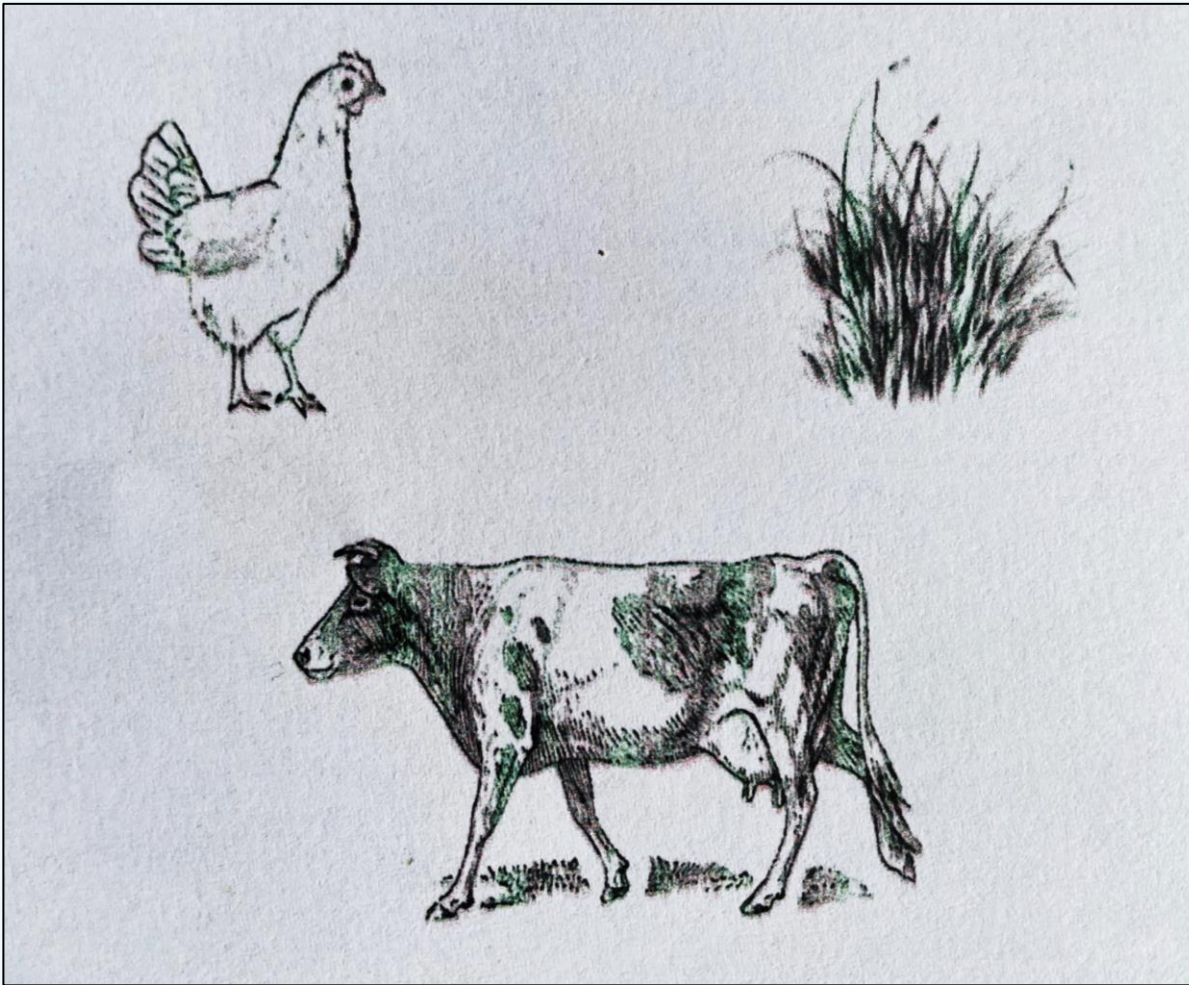
# The Outside View

We came all the way to the Moon and the most important thing is that we discovered the Earth. Bill Anders

The Earth was small, light blue and so touchingly alone, our home that must be defended like a holy relic.

Alexei Leonov





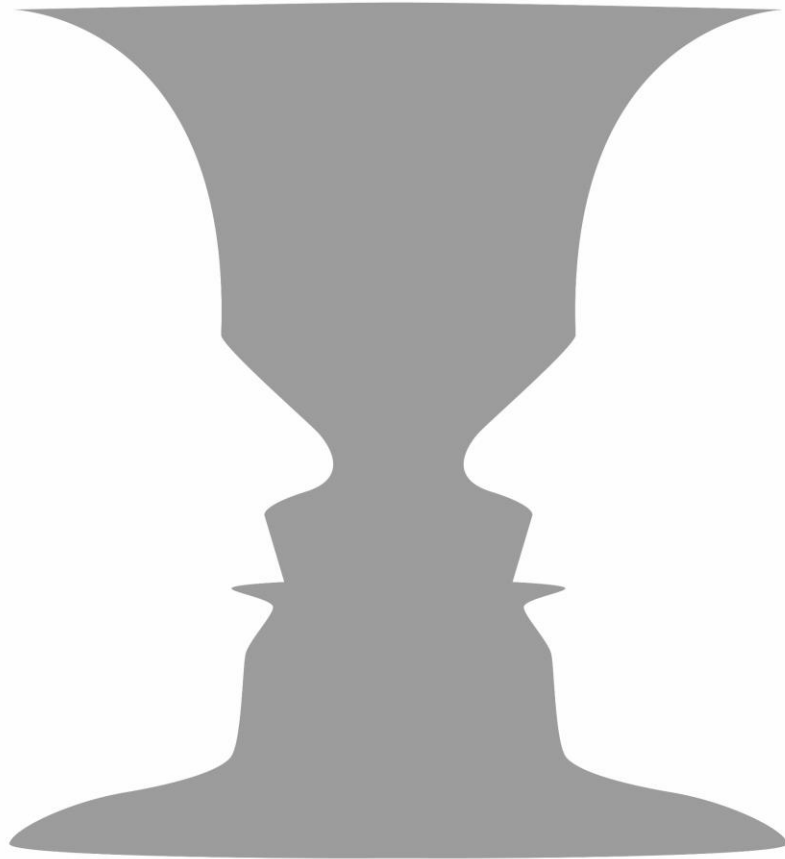
Yin and yang  
postulates  
different energy  
sources in  
harmonious  
opposites

## Categories and relationships

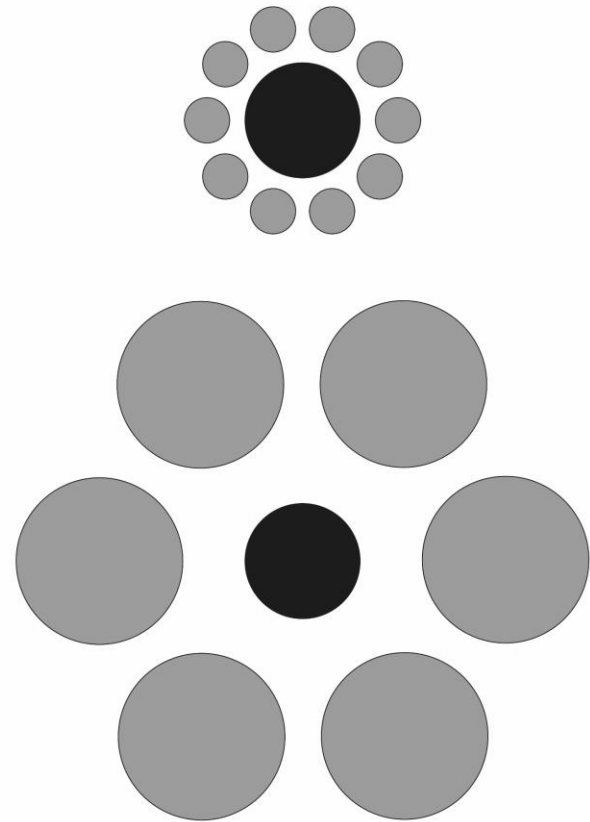
How we organise and group our ideas?

# Frames of reference

What we see is heavily influenced by context and assumptions



**Gestalt Image**



**Ebbinghaus Illusion**

# Wayfinding, routes and directions



How do we find our way and know where we are?

# Navigating without seeing...



# The natural world

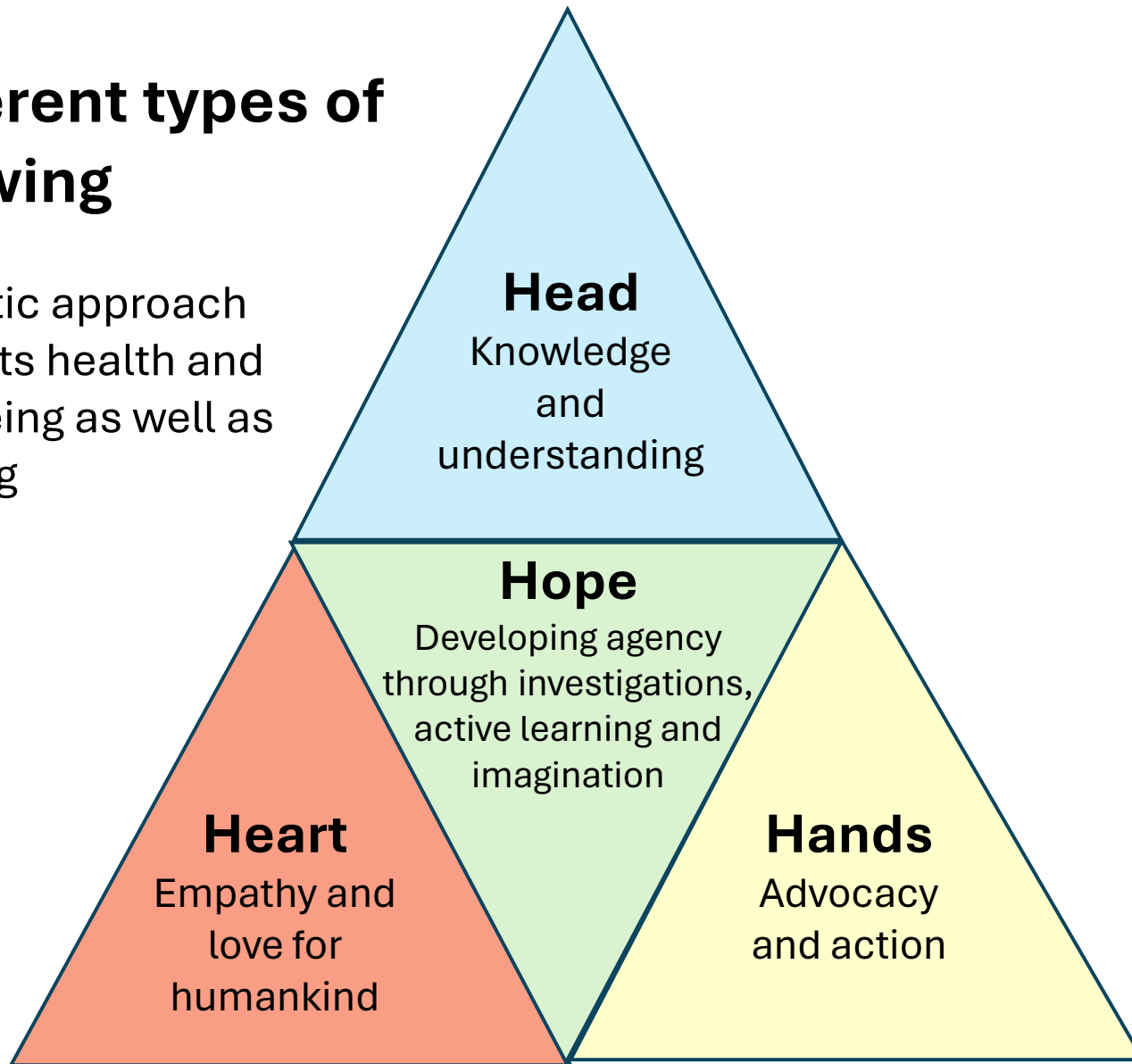
Who speaks for plants and animals?



Photo: Cntraveler.com

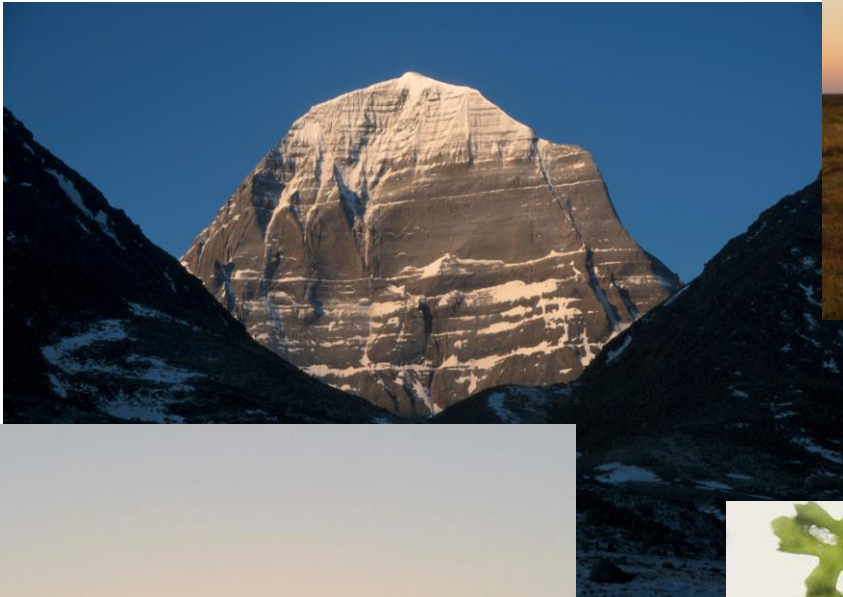
# Different types of knowing

A holistic approach supports health and well-being as well as learning



# Sacred places

Do some places have special significance?



## **Part1**

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Where does this take us? Can we burst out of the bubble?



# Forest School and Outdoor learning

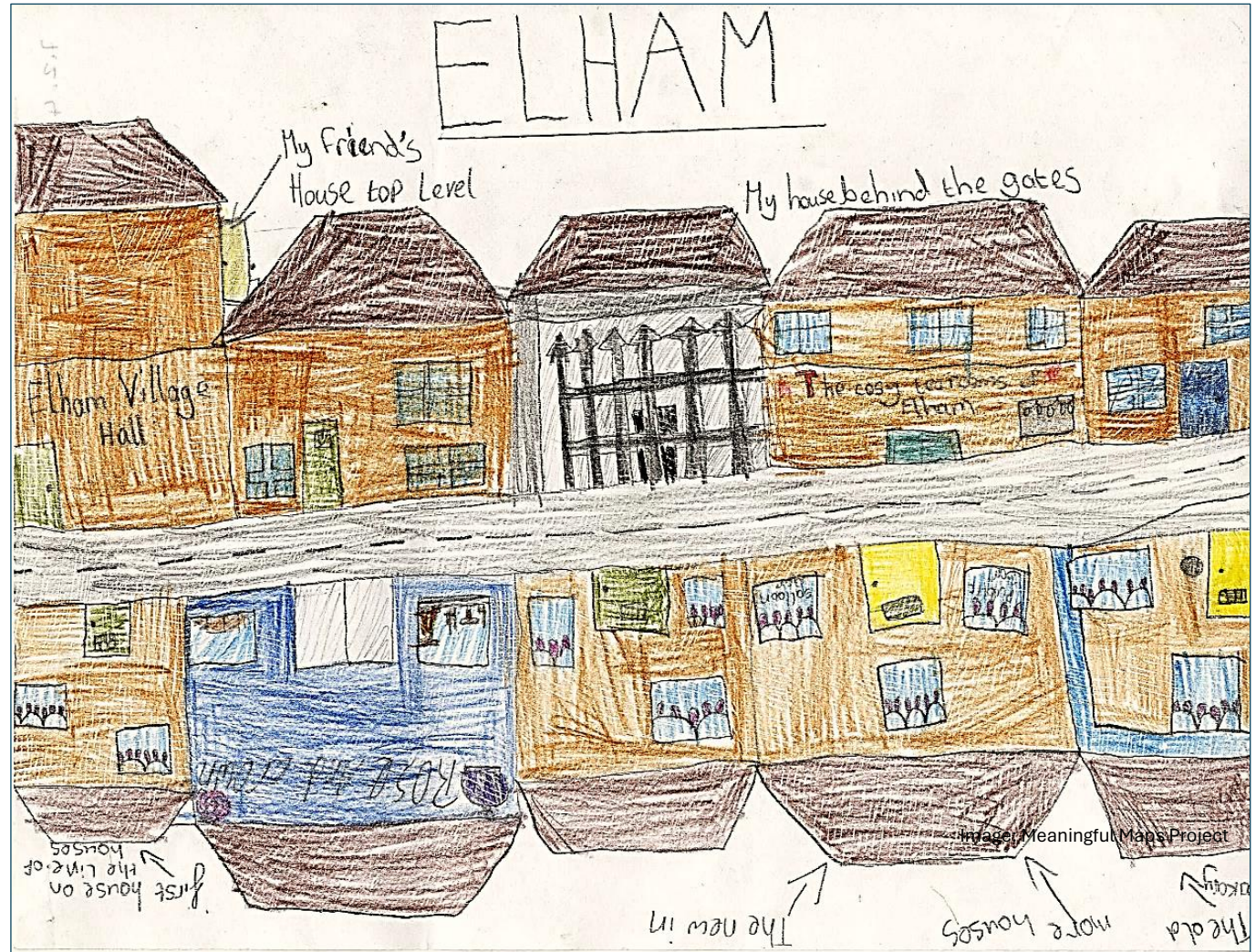


Photo: Karen Rogers

# Celebrating special places

My map shows the street where I live and I chose this place because it is my favourite place in the world.

Daisy Aged 9



# Communication and co-operation



**Confidence & understanding**

Photos: Paula Owens

# Motivation and Engagement



Photo: Wiki Commons



Photo: Geographical Association



Photo: Wikki Commons



Photo: Paula Owens

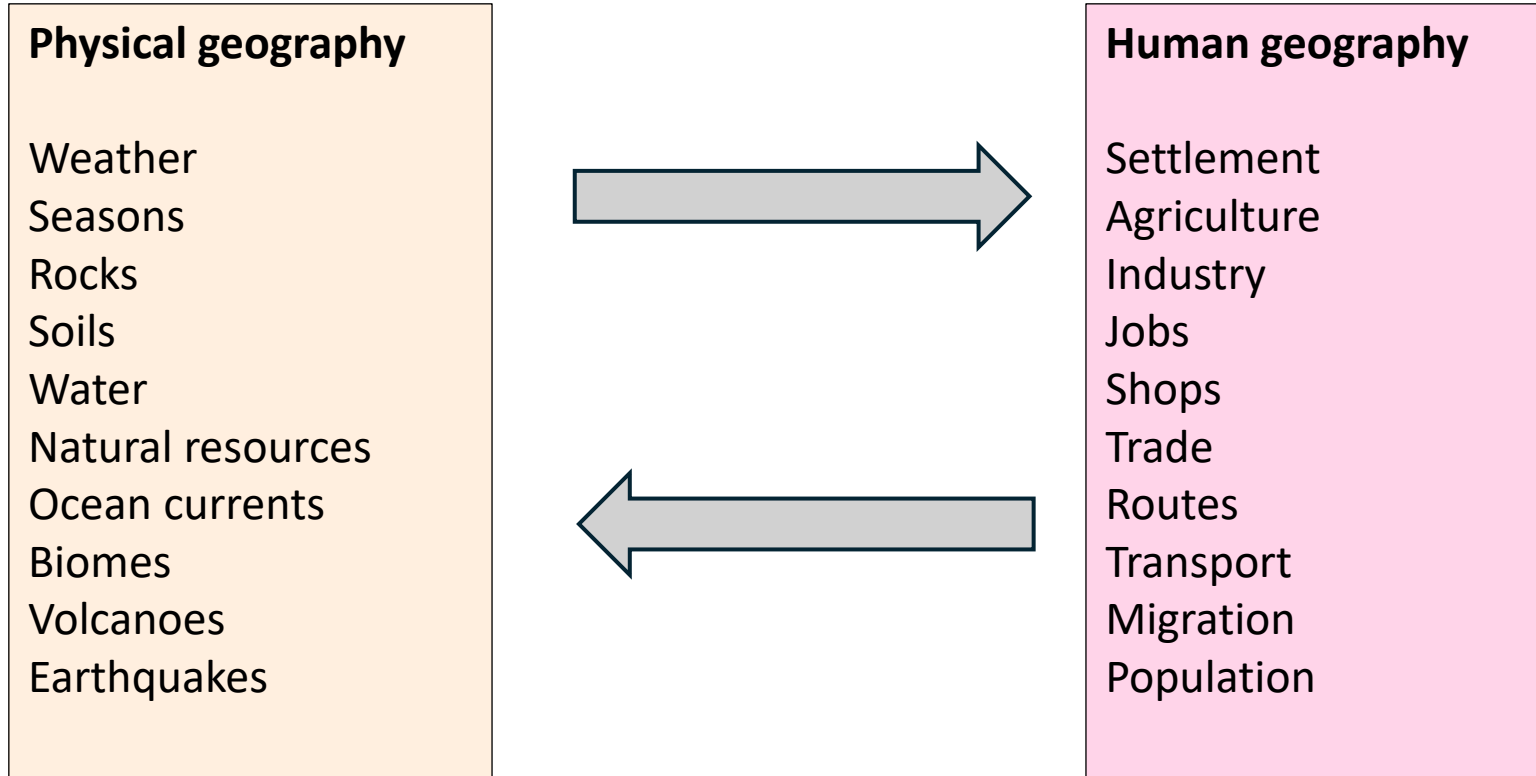


Photo: Elena Lengthorn

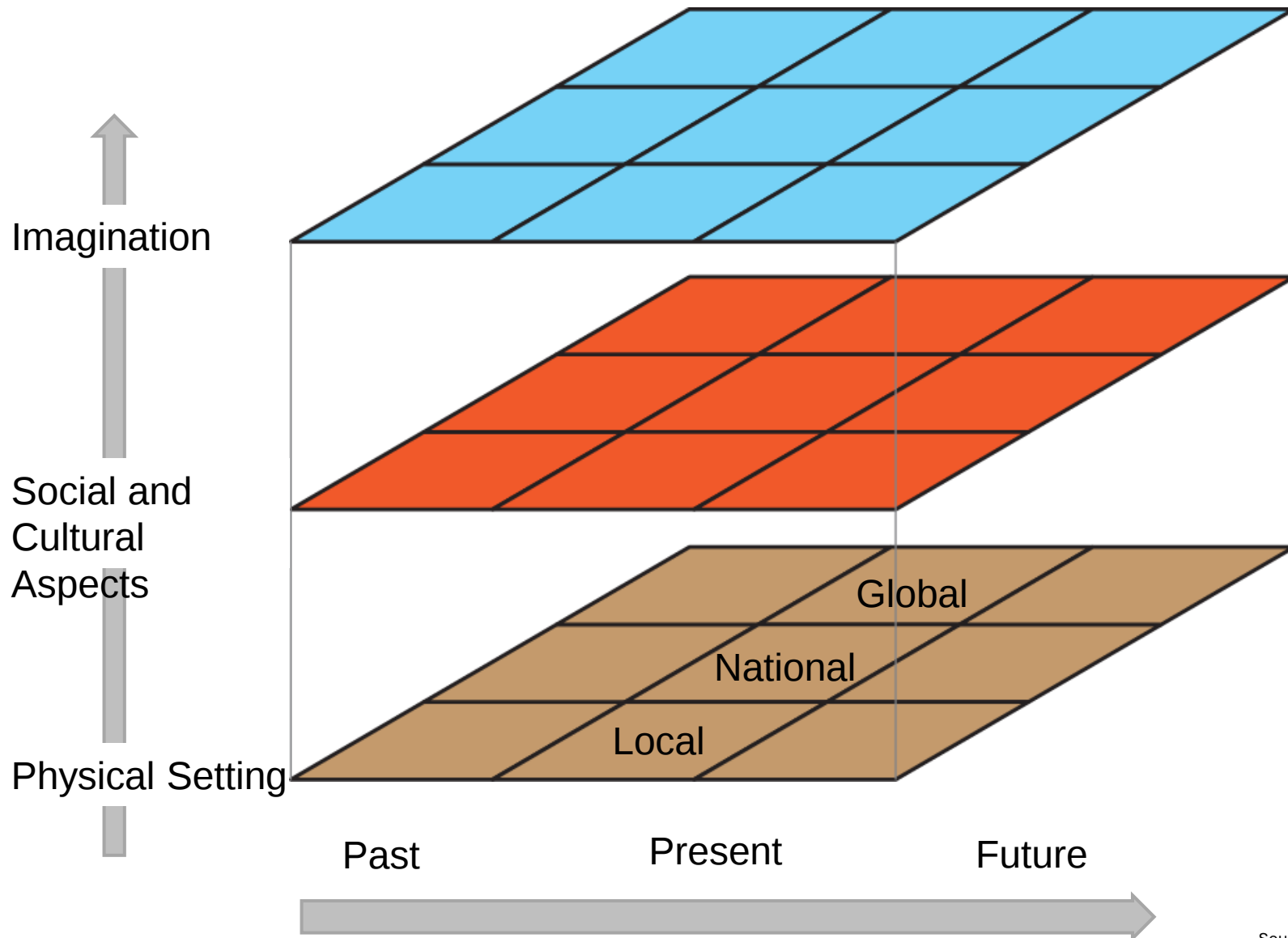


**Making links and connections**

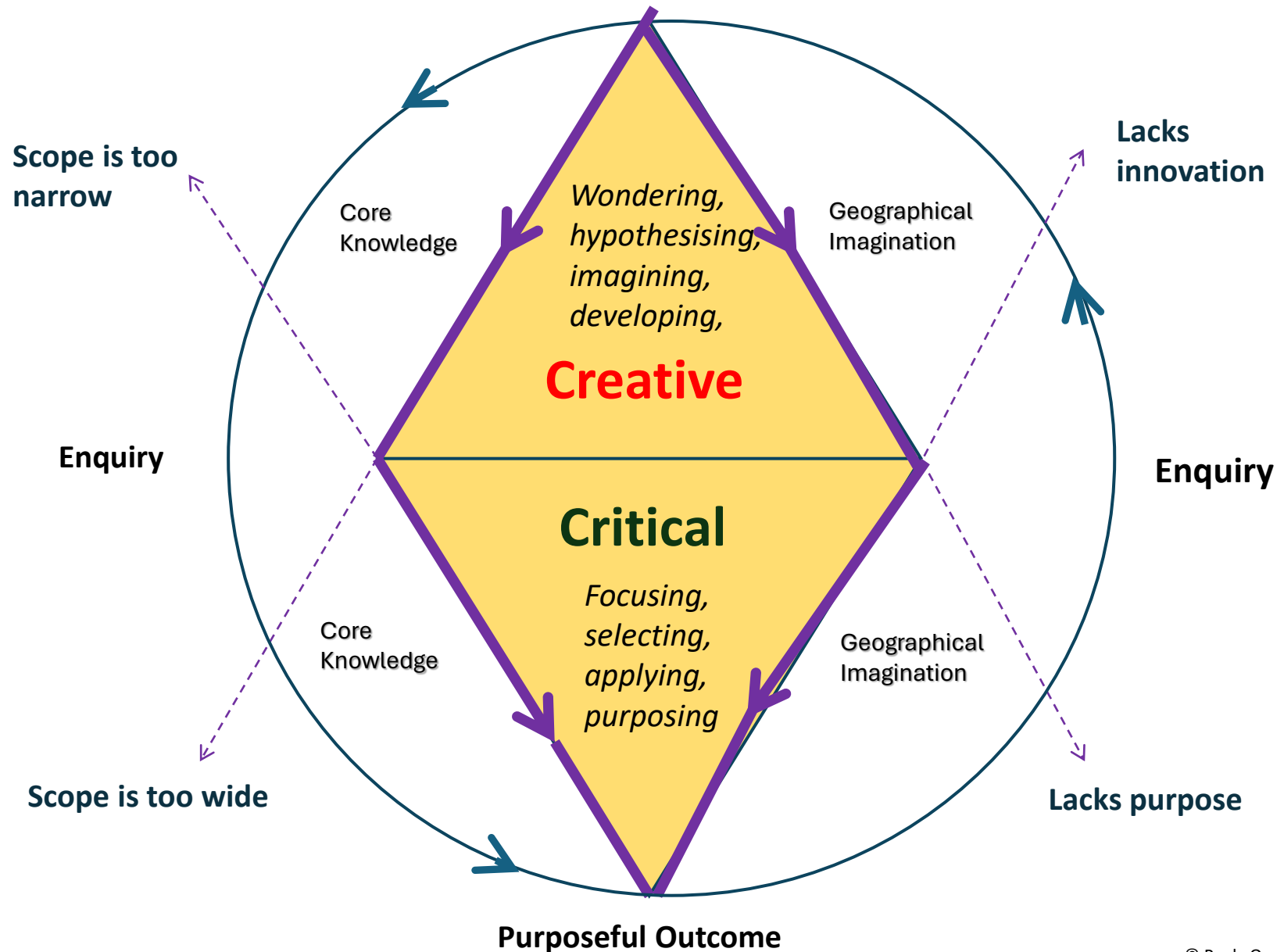
# Bringing physical and human geography together

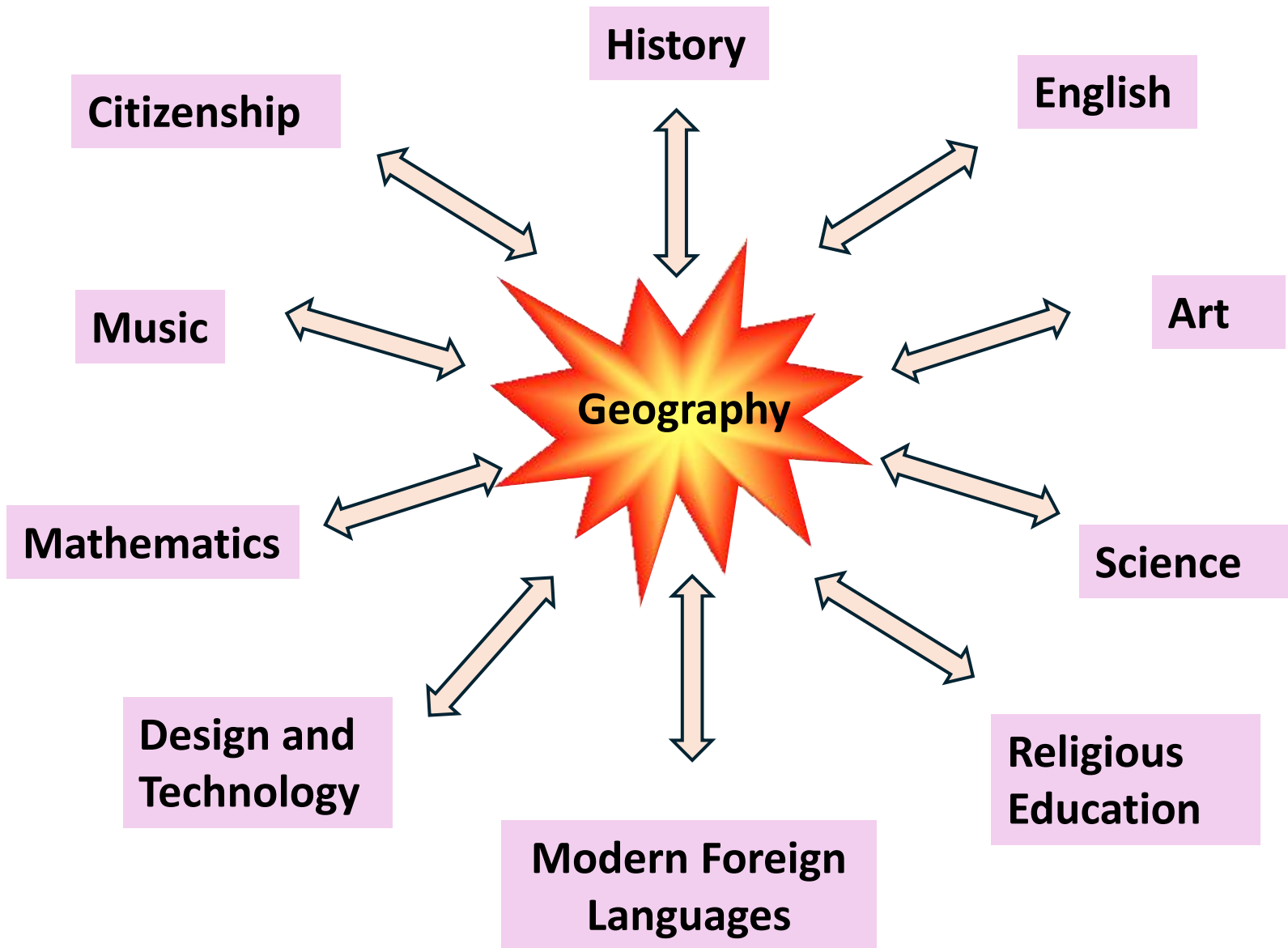


# Different Dimensions of Geography



# Balancing creative and critical thinking





## **Part1**

In what ways might we start to see and think differently about the world?

## **Part 2**

How does this apply to  
(a) geography teaching and  
(b) the geography curriculum?

## **Part 3**

## **Concluding thoughts**



## Light bulb moments for us...

We need to value different ways of thinking, knowing and being

Geography can help us to understand the world in multiple ways

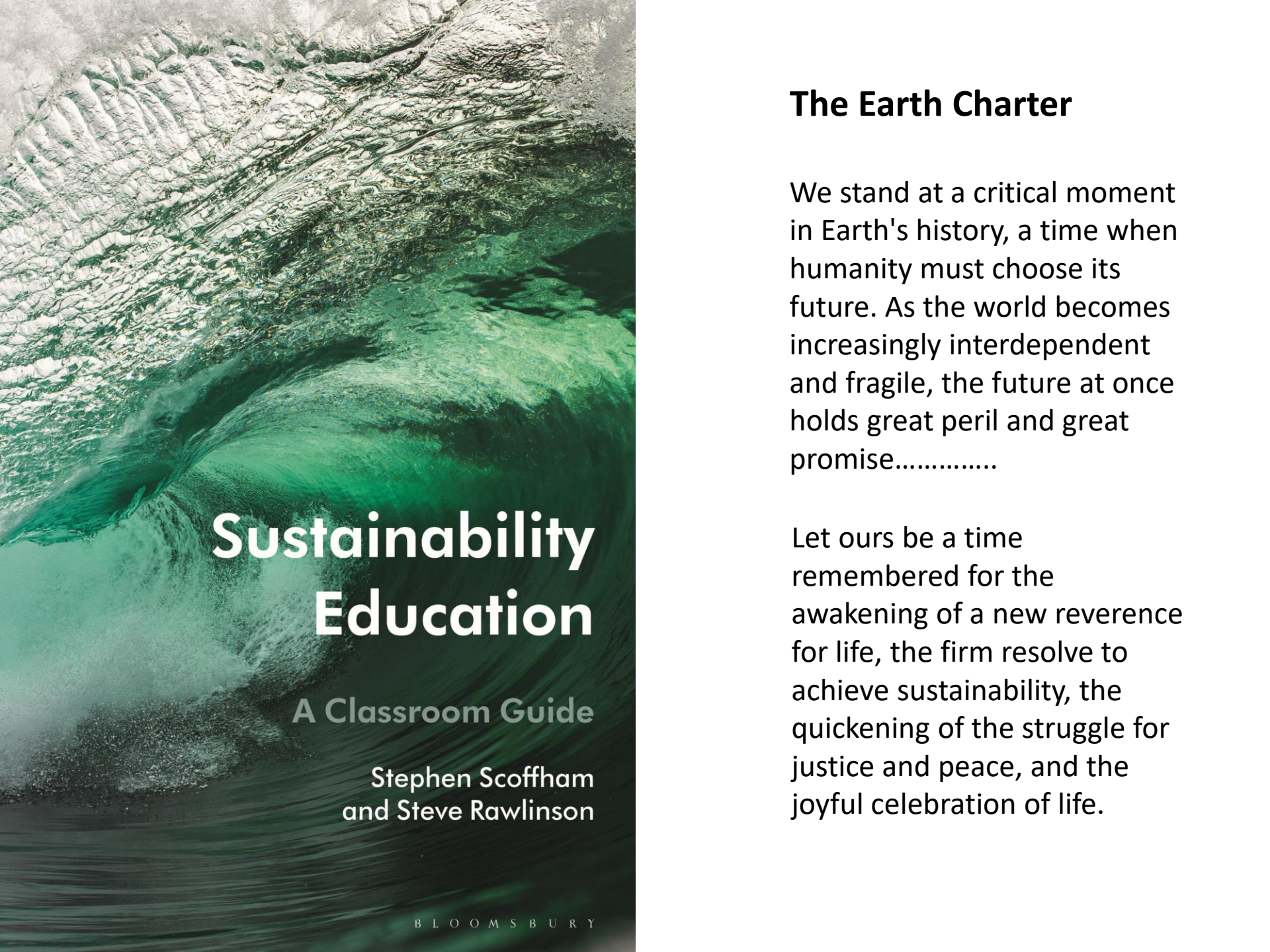
The knowledge, enthusiasm and confidence of the teacher is crucial

The geography curriculum needs to balance indepth study with a broader more integrated approach



# Some thoughts and questions

- Is it time to break out of silos both within and beyond geography?
- Is it time to recognise that the curriculum needs to be better attuned to current issues?
- Is it time for teacher education to embrace controversy, creativity and imagination to enable children to be better equipped to understand and cope with their future?
- Is it time to reimagine the geography curriculum and to consider a new curriculum model based on place, citizenship, social justice and moral purpose?
- Activism and political campaigning is a potential hot potato so how we do we help both teachers and pupils to negotiate it?
- Is it time we had a geography curriculum which really equips pupils for the 'troubled times' which lie ahead?



# Sustainability Education

A Classroom Guide

Stephen Scoffham  
and Steve Rawlinson

BLOOMSBURY

## The Earth Charter

We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise.....

Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life.

## Contacts

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Steve Rawlinson [geosteve7@live.co.uk](mailto:geosteve7@live.co.uk)

## Further reading

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