Evidence-based policymaking for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

1. Agenda 2030: a vision for humanity in the Anthropocene?

2. Transformations: capable of embracing emergent phenomena?

3. Knowledge: what knowledge, what science?

Peter Messerli, Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) University of Bern Regional Forum on SD for the UNECE Region, Geneva, 1-2 March 2018
Turning points in globalization

Griggs, 2012, Monash Institute

Reversing globalization?
A decisive decade ahead
Evolution to SD: Three pillars, compromises, emergent in space and time

Transformations to SD: Indivisible, hard choices, intentional, universal, time-bound
Theories of change?

.Maybe we should build a boat instead...
The transformative potentials of the 2030 Agenda
Example Sweden
Evidence-based Policy Making for Sustainable Development

**Theories of change**

- **Simple**
  - Uncontested facts: cause-effect, rational decisions, project planning
- **Complicated**
  - Contested facts: Negotiate, decisions Based on scenarios and majority rule:
- **Wicked**
  - Contested knowledge gaps: Negotiate, decisions Based on scenarios and majority rule:
- **Chaos**
  - Unknowable and non-negotiable: denial, avoidance, populism, violence

**Examples**

- **Simple**
  - Recycling
  - Nature protection
  - Technical innovations
- **Complicated**
  - Exciting nuclear energy
  - Carbon tax
  - Redistribution
- **Wicked**
  - Promoting eco-friendly farming
  - Maintaining social cohesion
  - Ensuring equal opportunities
- **Chaos**
  - Polar ice melt
  - Alternative facts
  - Fundamentalism

Messerli P. and S. Bieri. Forthcoming.
The need for contextualized and balanced perspectives on transformations to SD

Source: Number of Researchers per million inhabitants by country, UNESCO Institute for Statistics, viewed 7th March, 2011
Conclusions

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2. Transformations: capable of embracing emergent phenomena?

3. Knowledge: what knowledge, what science?