

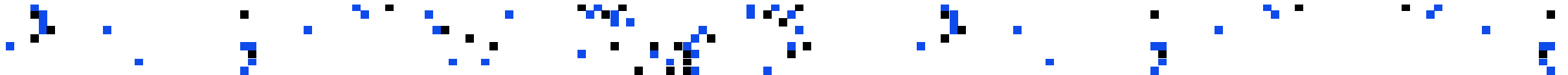
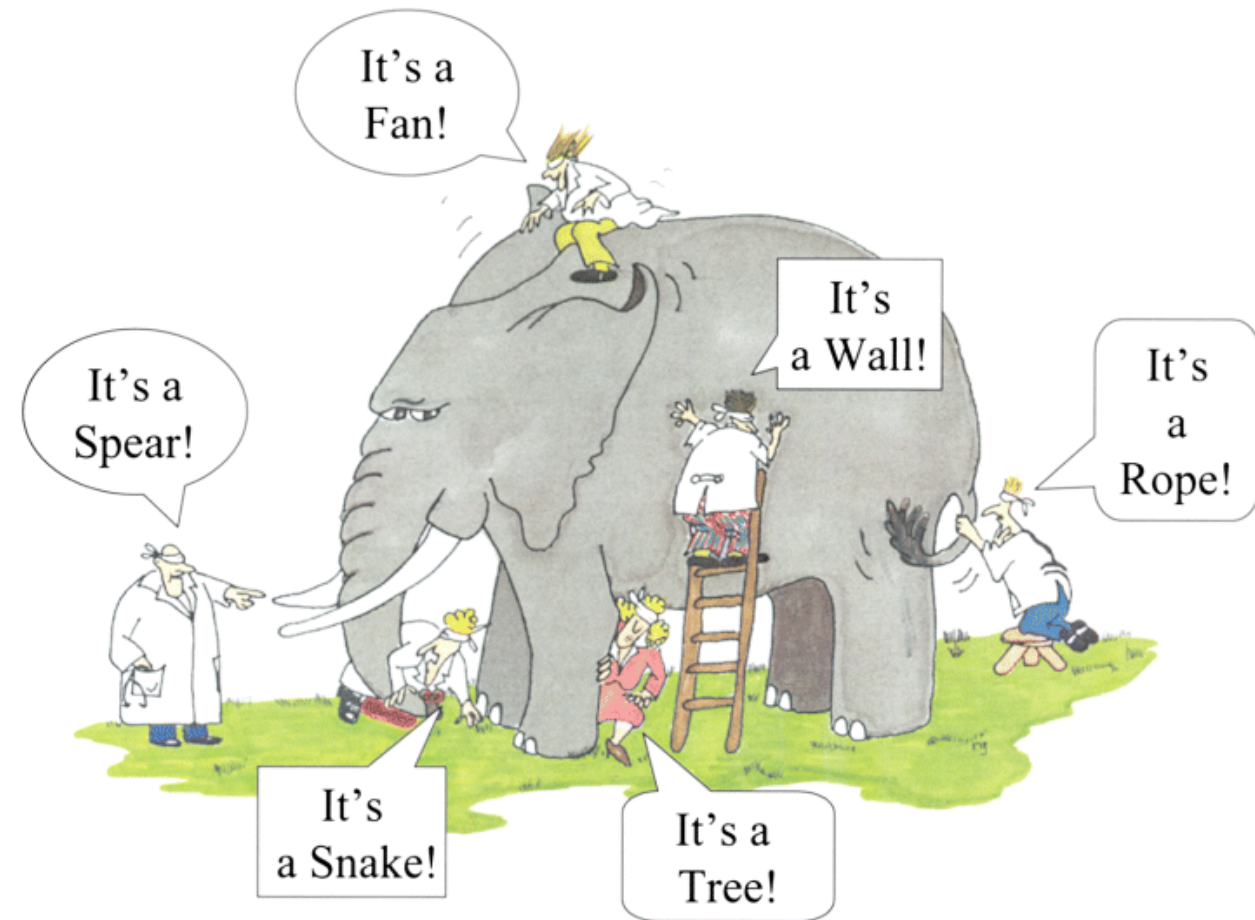


Transformation at the crossroads

Creating spaces for transformations in research and practice

Trans-disciplinary research

- **Purposive** – positive change within a wicked situation is an explicit goal
- **Holistic** – engages with past, present and future of whole systems, transgresses disciplinary and governance boundaries
- **Participatory**, multi-stakeholder – integrates diverse perspectives (beyond academia), sees more of the whole picture, encourages ownership of and equitable benefit from responses
- **Innovative and experimental** – tests ideas through real-world interventions and action
- **Dynamic** – the research plan adapts to the changing context and new knowledge



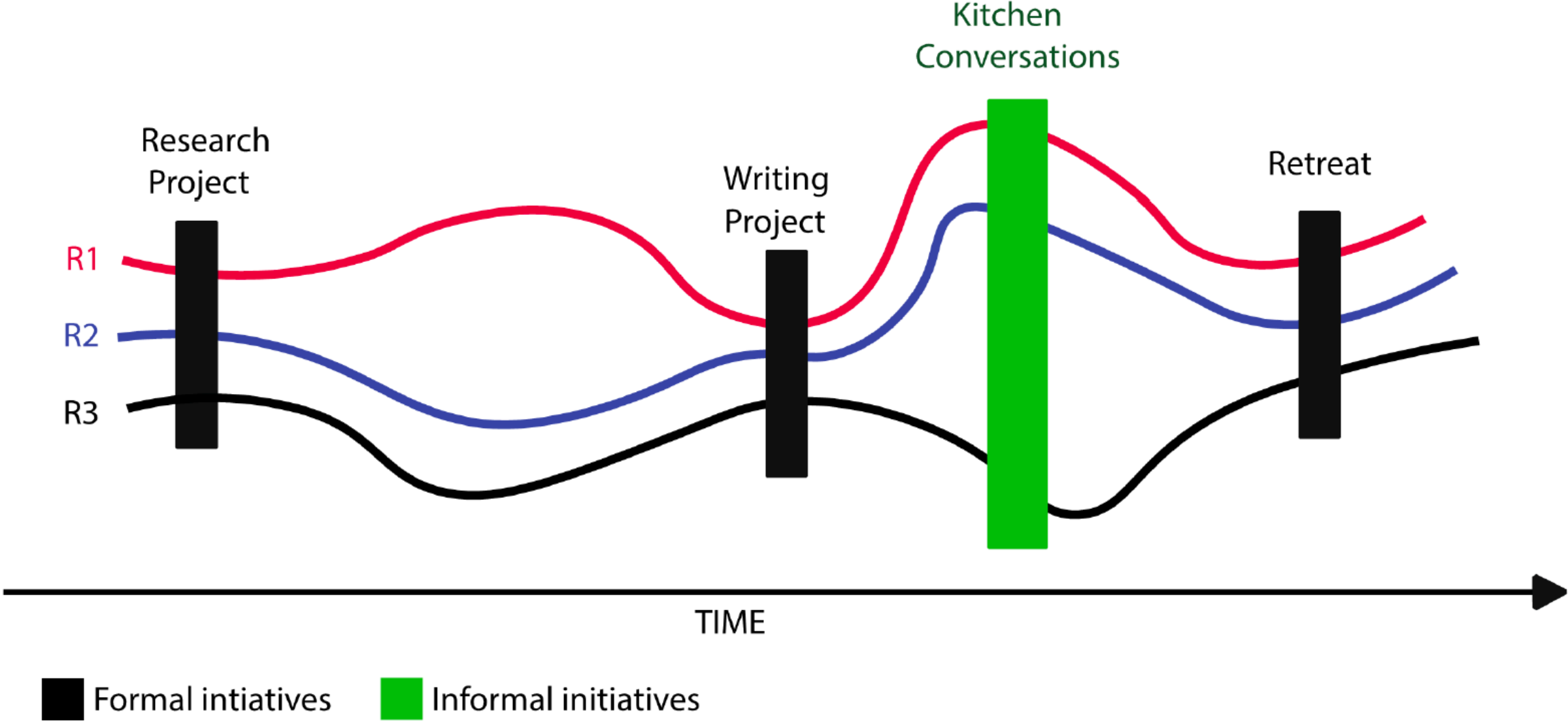


Key points

- Crossing disciplinary and sectoral boundaries is crucial for transformative research and practice but can be challenging and disorienting for those involved
- We have found that the conscious design of “crossroads” where scholars and practitioners can come together is crucial for transformative practice
- A crossroads is a space where individual learning journeys intersect and there is an opportunity for collective learning to take place



Learning journeys and crossroads





Example: Annual retreat

- Annual off-campus event to build our community of scholars and pursue collective learning
- Community of practice
- Cultivates ‘Aha! Moments’ – new insights or conceptual innovations that land through dialogue and being in community
- Source of energy for returning to individual learning journeys





Example: Collaborative housing

- Shaping crossroads that invite participation to an extent that participants are comfortable with
- While full collaboration of all stakeholders in research is an ideal, the practice is often limited by willingness to commit time
- A nested participation structure can accommodate different degrees of willingness to commit time
- Expanding crossroads





Discussion

Does the 'crossroads' metaphor help you to think about design of transformative research spaces?
What are your own crossroads?