

# STRICT PECHA KUCHA

20 IMAGES

X

20 SECONDS

- Japanese: ペチャクチャ
- IPA: [petɕa kutɕa]
- English: chit-chat

# HEALTH SYSTEM REFORM: SHOULD WE EVEN BELIEVE IT MAKES SENSE?

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CHAIRE DE RECHERCHE  
–  
POLITIQUES  
CONNAISSANCES  
SANTÉ

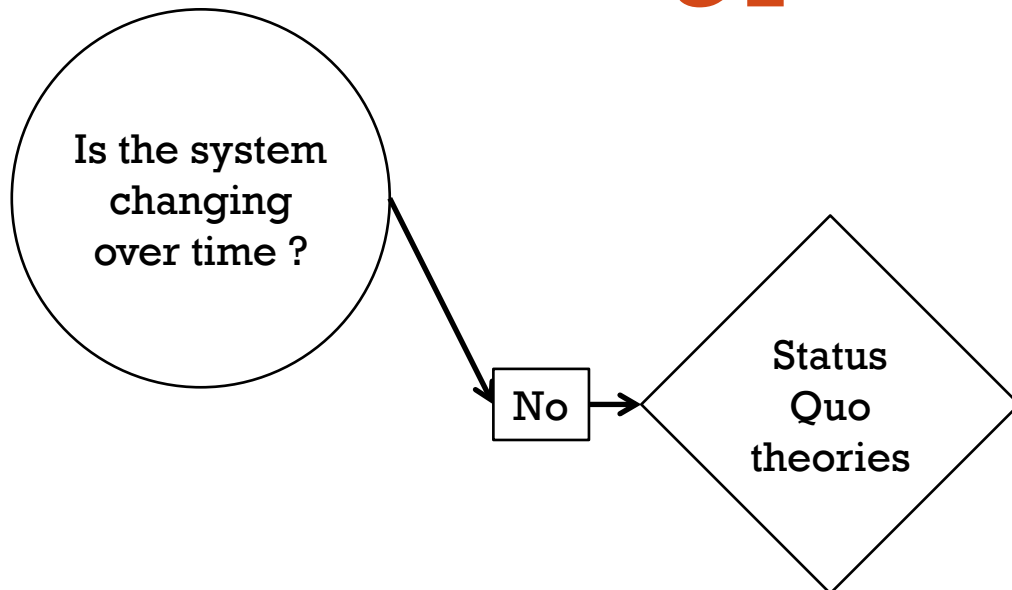
# SIX MINUTES AND FORTY SECONDS WITHOUT THE ROSY GLASSES



- As researchers we are so busy producing so much wonderfully robust and actionable evidence and collaborating with so many so powerful and so benevolent decision-makers that sometimes we forget to wonder...
- **How come the health systems haven't turned to earthly paradises yet?**

# STATUS QUO

- Healthcare systems as **homeostatic systems**: When disrupted they will naturally revert back to their initial state.
- Well aligned with **post-Marxist policy-networks theories** and with some interest groups' theories anchored in ideology and power.



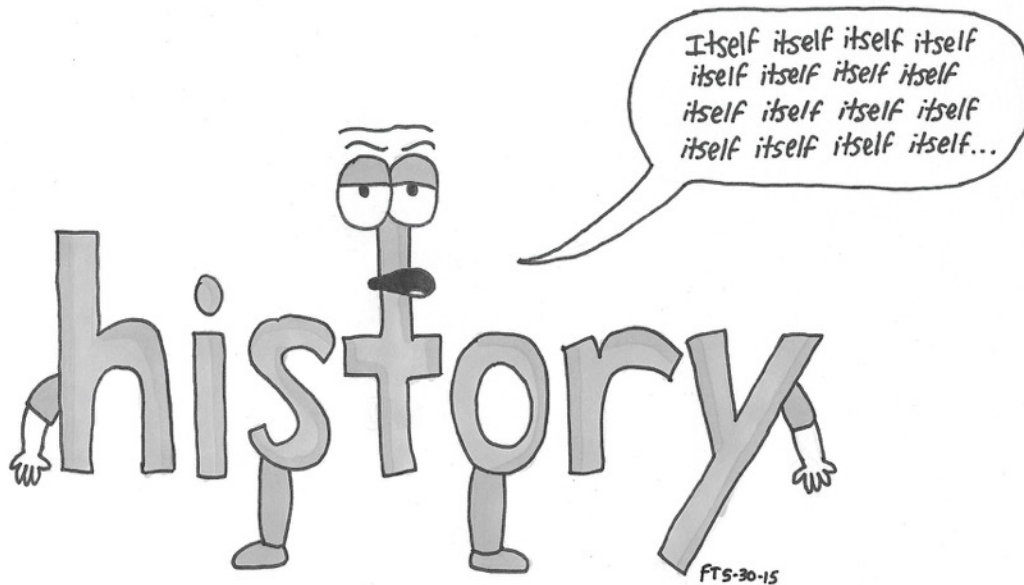
# THE TOUGH QUESTION ON STATUS QUO

Change vs persistence



- How can we measure change and persistence in complex systems?

# STATUS QUO RESEARCH

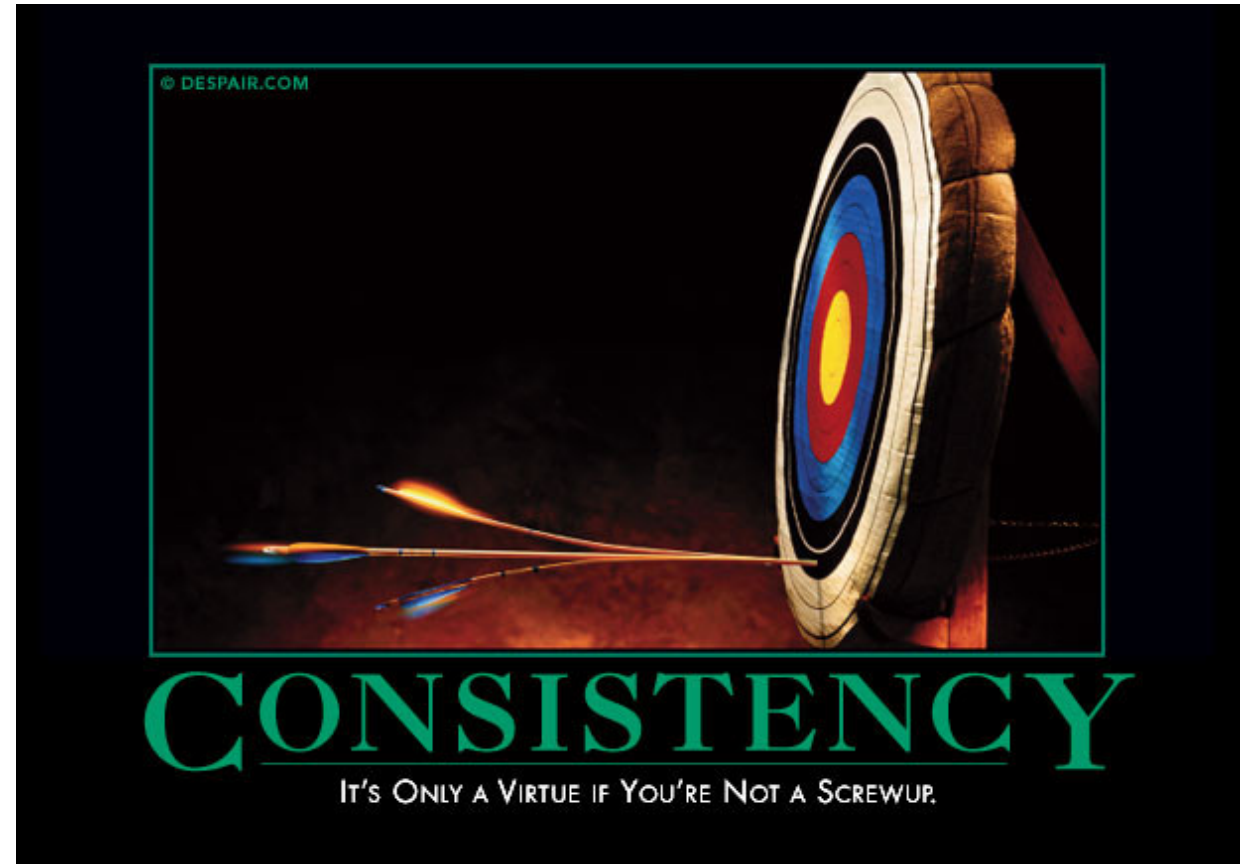


Researcher role is **historian-like:**  
document and  
lament (in vain) the  
status quo

# CHANGE AND APPLIED RESEARCH.

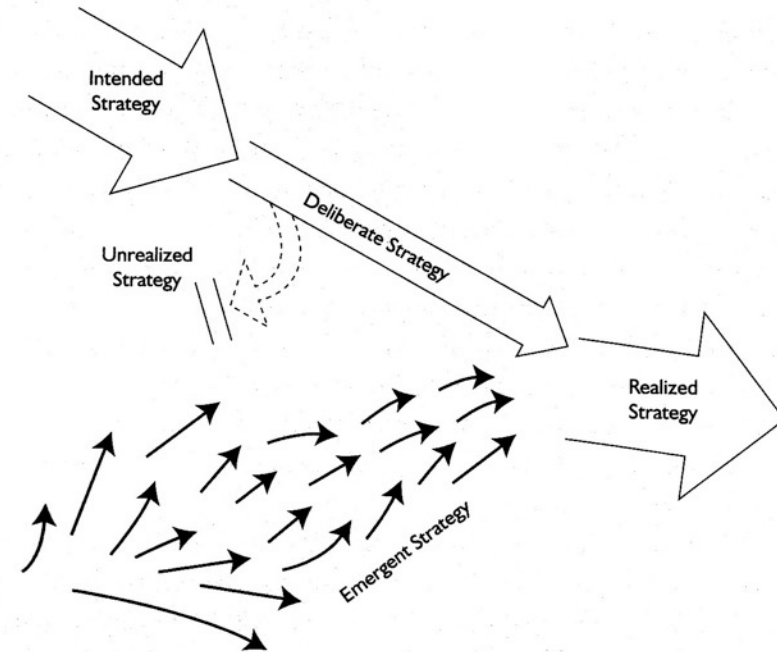
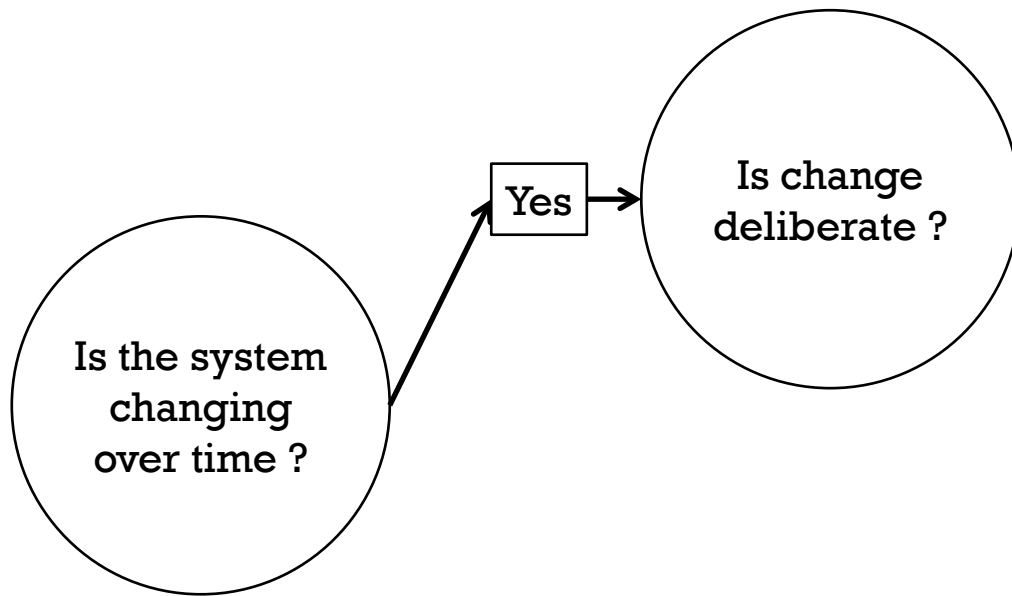
« There is a truism about applied research that an inadequate concept of change leads to diminished or misguided applied research »

Golembiewski, Billingsley & Yeager 1976  
Measuring Change and Persistence in Human  
Affairs: Types of Change Generated by OD  
Designs *J of Applied Behav Sci* 12: 2 - 133-157



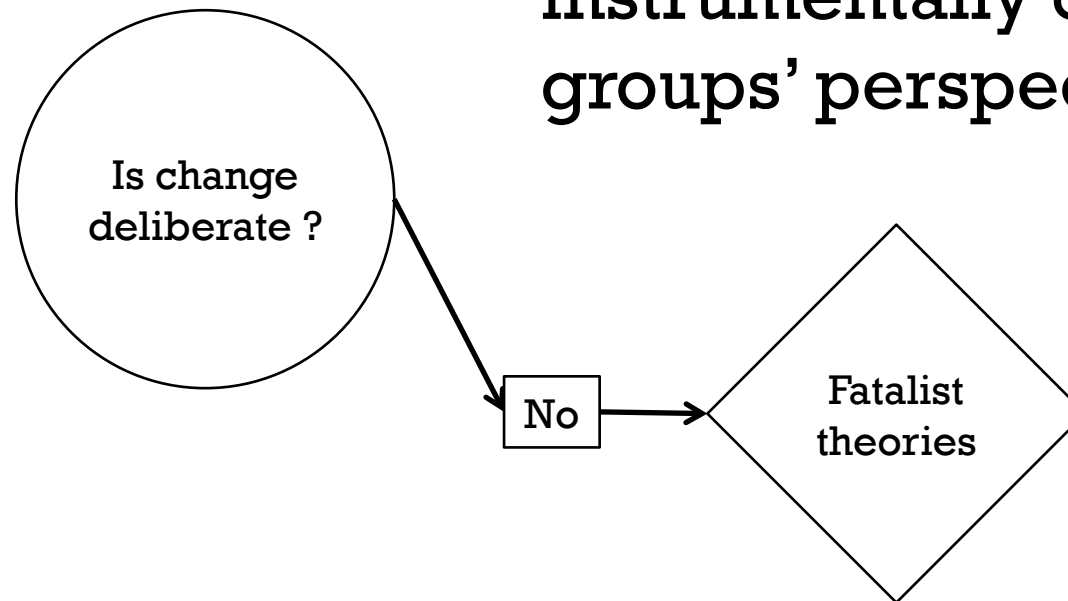
# DELIBERATE CHANGE ?

- How can we distinguish between deliberate and emerging changes in complex systems?



# FATALIST

- Healthcare systems evolve rapidly and profoundly, albeit **outside of any deliberate intervention**.
- Well aligned with **neo-institutional theories** and some instrumentally oriented interest groups' perspectives.

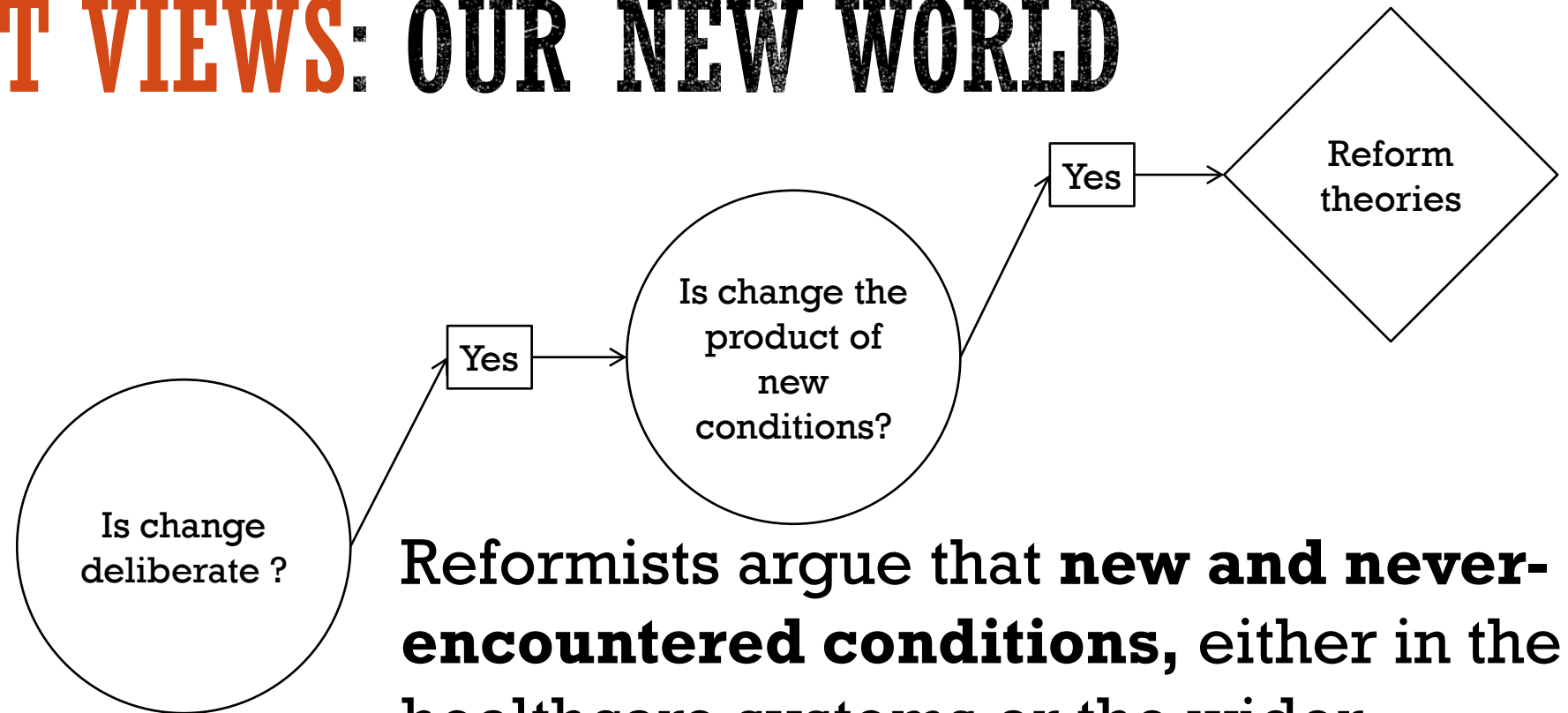


# FATALIST RESEARCH?

- **Researchers role** is weatherman-like: analyze trends, forecast short and long-term future, warn (in vain) about consequences.



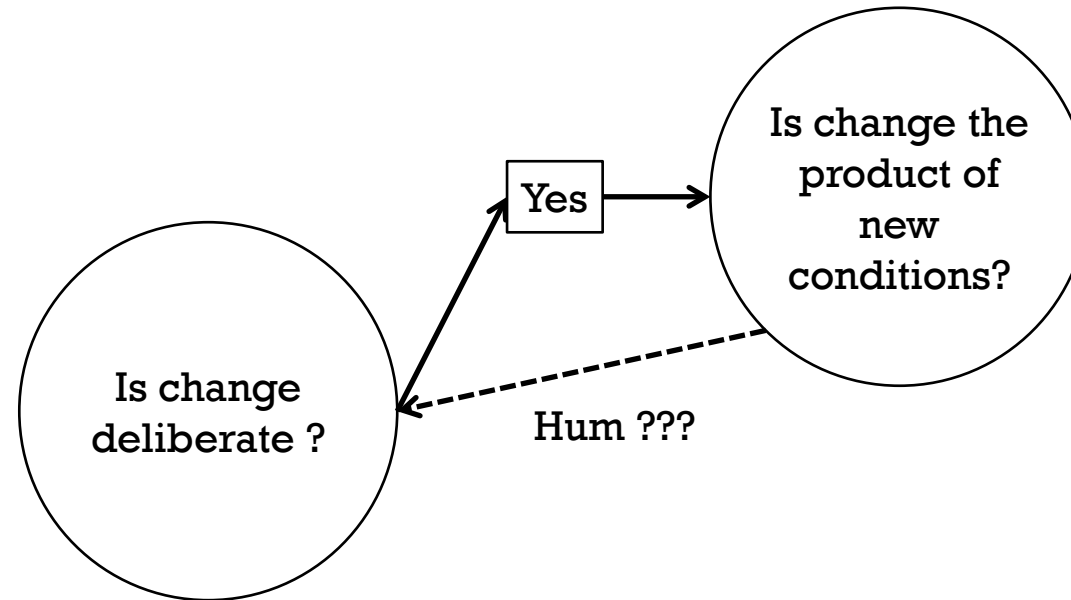
# REFORMIST VIEWS: OUR NEW WORLD



Reformists argue that **new and never-encountered conditions**, either in the healthcare systems or the wider environment, now render deliberate reform possible – to some extent.

# NEW CONDITIONS?

- Do they exist?



- How can we identify when such “game-changing” contextual change happens?

# RESEARCHERS' ROLE

Researchers may have a vested interest in suggesting either

- *I just published that study which will change the face of earth forever*
- *That project of mine, whoa, it will just make about everything possible*

The amount of energy necessary to refute bullshit is an order of magnitude bigger than to produce it.



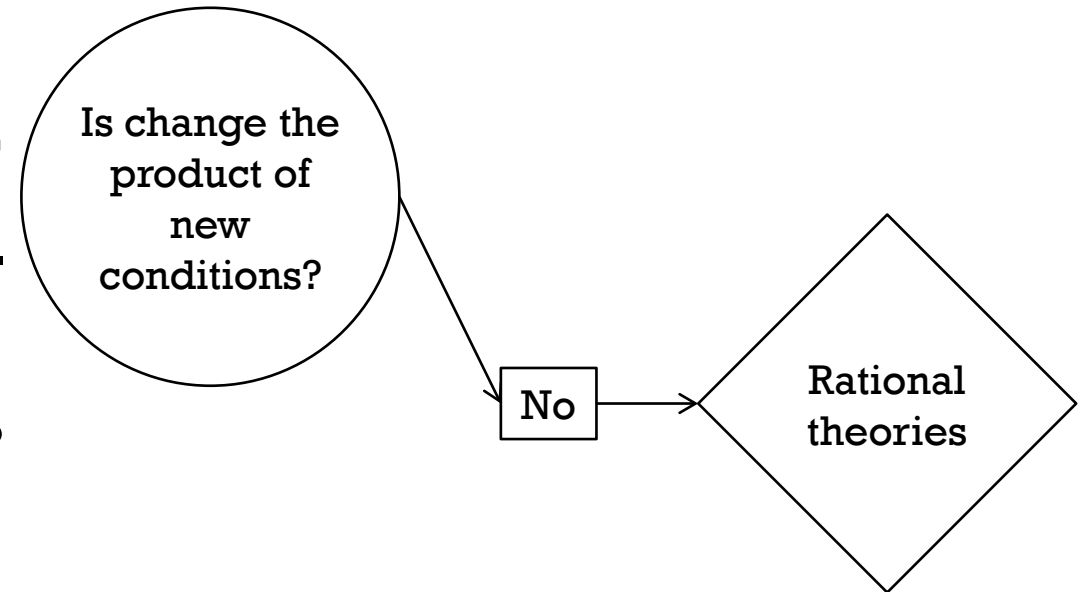
# REFORM RESEARCH?



- Researcher role is **preacher-like**: identify desirable pathways for action, inform and support reform, assess system transformation.
- Knowledge translation perspectives and, to a lesser extent, implementation research from the '80s can be used to support this view.

# RATIONAL

- "Rational" theories argues healthcare systems are largely **driven by deliberate interventions that successfully shape their evolution** and adaptation.
- Serious conceptual frameworks to defend this view are hard to find. I would suggest a **first-level understanding of Voltaire's Candide** as a starting point.

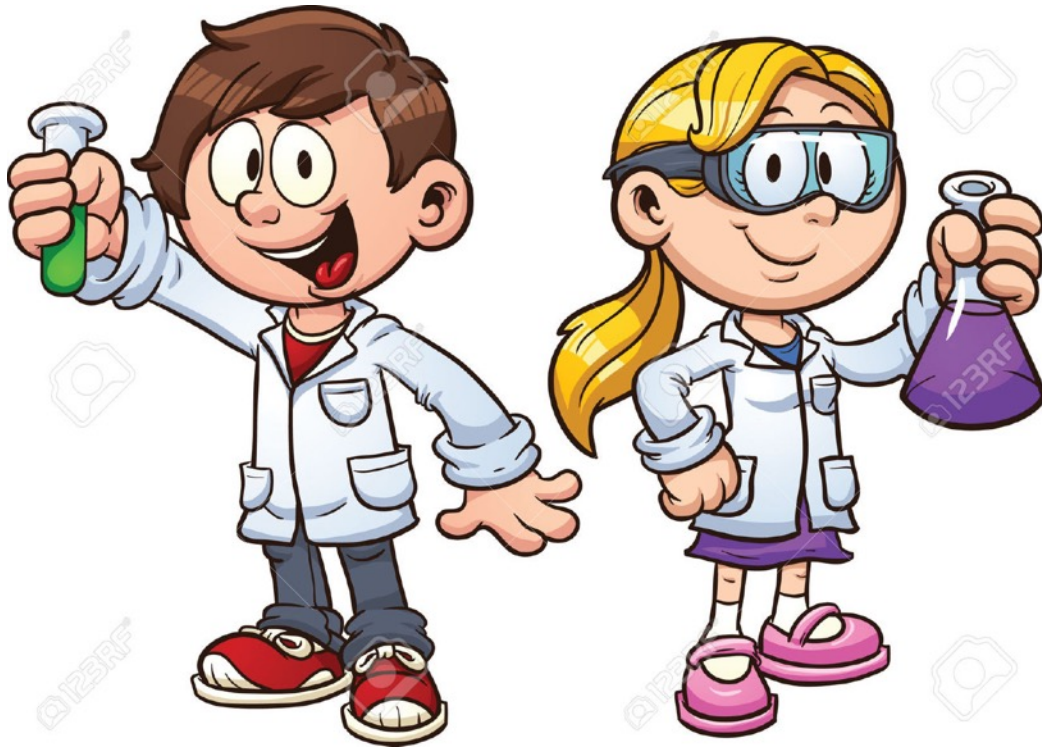


# ARE WE THERE YET?

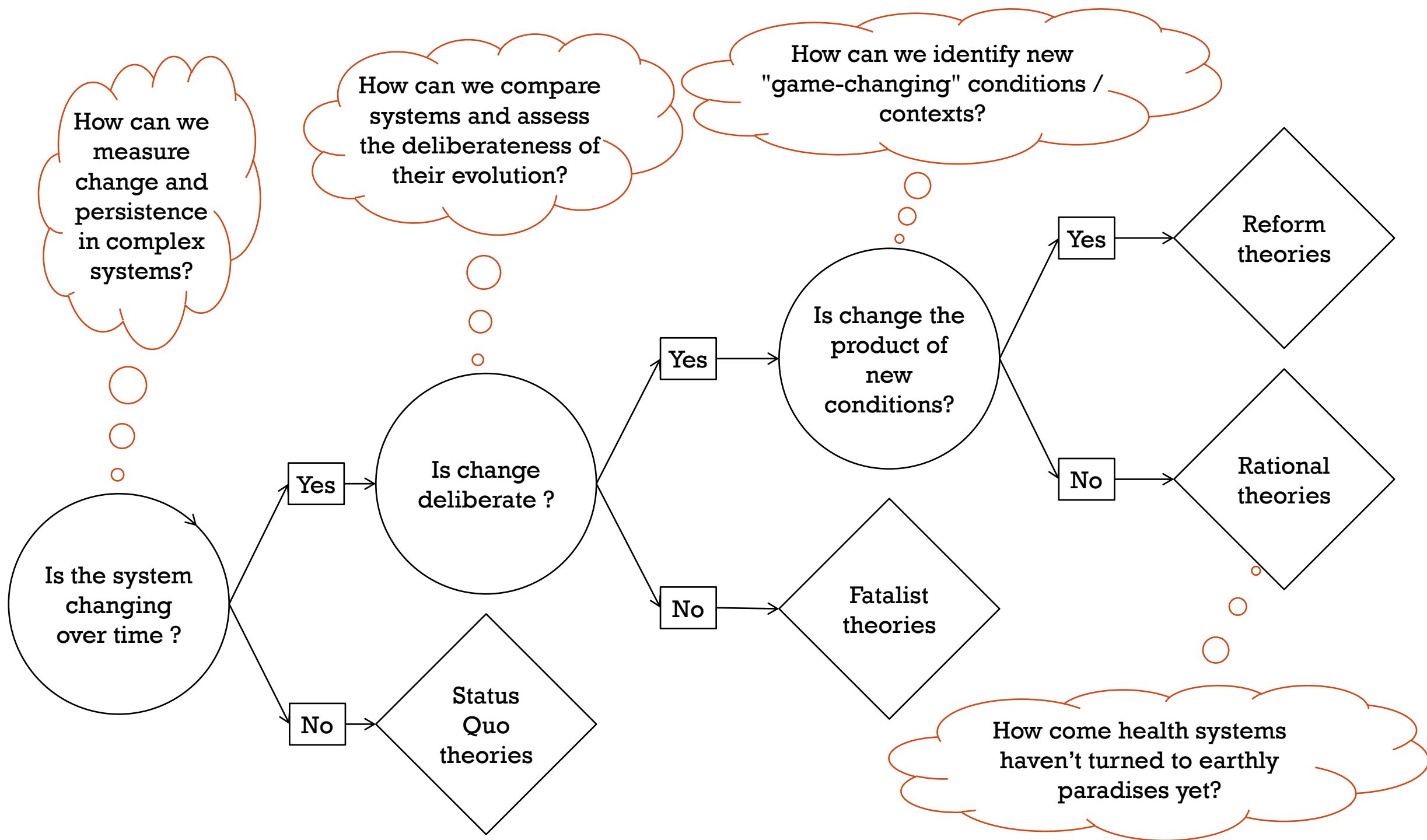
- If we can – and have always been able to – deliberately drive health system reform, how come health systems haven't turned to earthly paradises yet?



# RATIONAL RESEARCH?



- Researchers role description can be found in cartoons for five years old and in CIHR Vulgate.



# SO WHAT...



- It is not THAT obvious that health care systems are **deliberately modifiable**
- If they are, we still don't know how much influence **scientific results** wield
- And then we know even less on the best **strategies and conditions** to foster that influence

# SELF-SERVING JOVIALISM?

- Shouldn't we be a bit more careful in our reliance on self-serving jovialist perspectives
- If this discourse were performative it could be fine... but is it ?



# BONUS SLIDE: CONTACT



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Slides are available at:  
[www.pocosa.ca](http://www.pocosa.ca)