

Redefining Temporal Advantage Post-Covid

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COVID-19: Second- and Third-Order Effects—System Shocks, Disruption, and Emergence



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¹ Covid-19 was not a failure of foresight but of temporal conceptualisation.



 **Discuss the Different Temporal Realities** and how they conceive of future.

 **Bring in the Subjective Experience** through sensory and cognitive phenomenology

¹  **Put forward a redefinition** and 'operational application' of Temporal Advantage





Different Temporal Realities

- **Physicalist** e.g., Geophysical Cycles, Circadian/Biological; event-time (i.e., epochal time - 'is it lunchtime?')
- **Directional** e.g., Linear, Non-Linear, Sequential, Pathways; absolute-time (i.e., Fungible time - 'is it time for lunch?')
- **Decisional** e.g., Legalistic Decisionism, Narrative and Myth (i.e., agentic time - 'I will have lunch later')

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Ref. Bluedorn (2002); Lampert (2018); Deroo ([2013](#)) Cook & Cuervo ([2019](#))



1 '[there is a danger in arguing] that one or the other type of time is the *real* time, or at least the preferred time, and to thereafter see all phenomena as representatives of the preferred type or as a distortion of it.'

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Adapted from Bluedorn (2002, p.23) on
temporal realities



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Abstracted

Temporal Sensing

Directional e.g.,
Linear, Non-Linear,
Sequential, Pathways

Decisional e.g., Legalistic
Decisionism, Narrative and Myth

Physicalist e.g.,
Geophysical Cycles,
Circadian/Biological

Embodied

Immediate

Deep

Future Depth





The Subjective Experience. Sensory and Cognitive Phenomenology

- **Sensory Phenomenology.** The ‘what-it-is-likeness’ of experiencing the senses such as sight, sounds, touch and taste. Includes internal senses such as proprioception, vestibular, digestive and somatic systems and emotions such as angry or love.





The Subjective Experience. Sensory and Cognitive Phenomenology

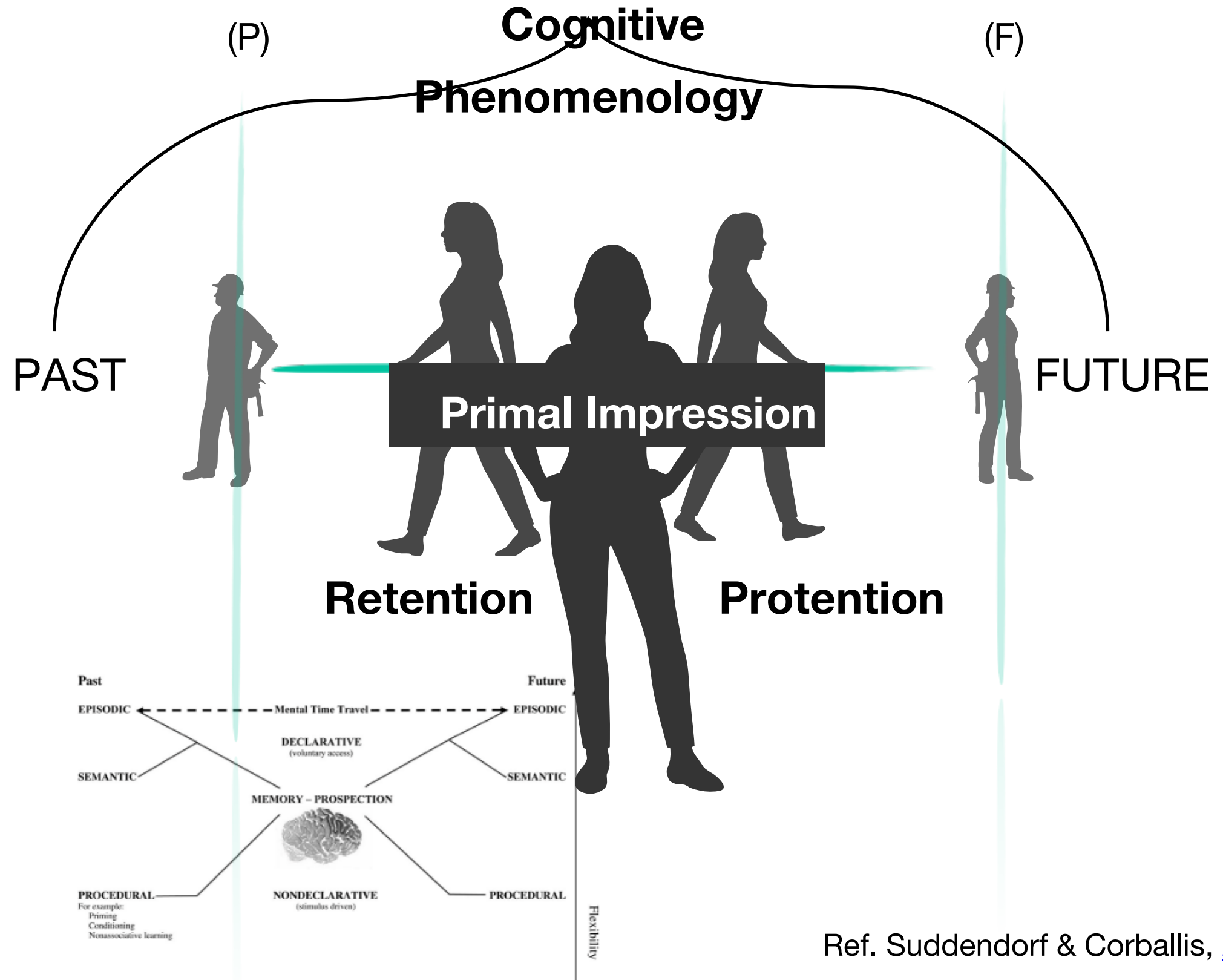
- **Cognitive Phenomenology.** the ‘what-it-is-likeness’ of conscious thought other and above, and/or independent of sensory phenomenology. (Montague, [2016](#)). Examples include the ‘aha moment’ of seeing a way through a tricky problem or ‘puzzlement’ when observing seemingly contradictory behaviours. The mental states of ‘understanding, evaluating or concentrating’ are further examples of Cognitive phenomenology.

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The Tripartite of Consciousness





¹ 'Mental time travel allows us to imagine events at different points along this continuum, even at points prior to birth or after death. This means that mental time travel is a generative process, incorporating known elements but arranged in particular ways to **create the experience of events** that are actually occurring'

Suddendorf & Corballis, [2007](#)



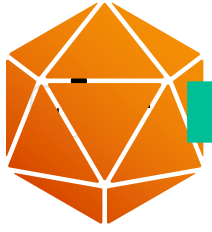
Temporal Advantage (Redefined). the advantage gained through a decisional act that surpasses the immediate perceived threat or opportunity impact horizon.

- Generates 'gross agility' through decisional reframing (Ramirez & Cuthbertson, [2020](#)), whereby one can create *transitions*, not just adjustments
- (*Using Cognitive Phenomenology*) Extends the legitimate operations beyond what constitutes the organisms (from Rifleman, Division to Nation-State) perceptual bounds.

oesn't 'trigger' or get caught in a negative response cycle.

n't based on 'futures reportage' (i.e., is not informational)





Impact Horizon. The immediate - i.e., first order - effects of an event, phenomena or an accumulation point that causes a visceral change to the organisms existence.

- Being attacked by a tiger. Or a marauding terrorist
- Being proposed to. Or having the last bite of cake when offered.



Immediate Action (IA):
Conduct the 'Life Saver Drill'
Remove yourself from the immediate
danger in order to preserve life and
mount an effective response.

¹ 'If an alien species wanted to destroy us, they wouldn't blast us into oblivion - **that would trigger our well-honed defence mechanisms.** Instead, they would invent something like Global Warning and slip under ¹our radar'

Adapted from Krznaric (2020, p.25) taking
from Gillbert



Without a redefined approach to Temporal Advantage, we will miss the 'biggest of threats'

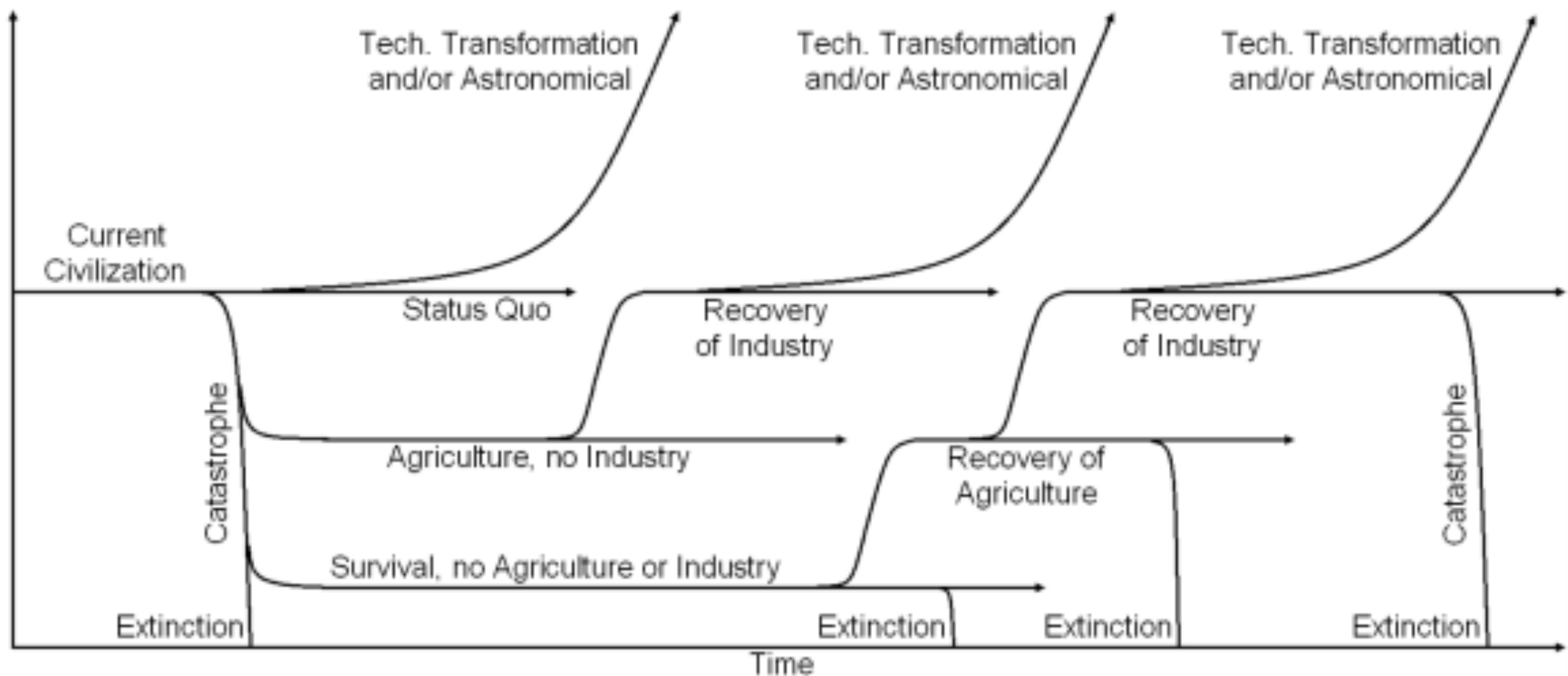


Figure 3. Illustrative catastrophe trajectories.





Gaining Temporal Advantage Post Covid -

- We need to transition from ‘reporting culture’ of the future to a **‘deep embodiment of futuring’**.
- To do that, we should **adopt a modern-physicalist temporal reality**
- Capitalise on our excellent mammalian capacity to response (i.e., conduct the ‘life-saver drill’ - you can’t future if you’re dead) but **operate our sensory and cognitive phenomenology with parity** (deep future is cognitive but accessible)
- Temporal Advantage is gained by decisional formalisations that **surpasses the perceived immediate threat or opportunity impact horizon**

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