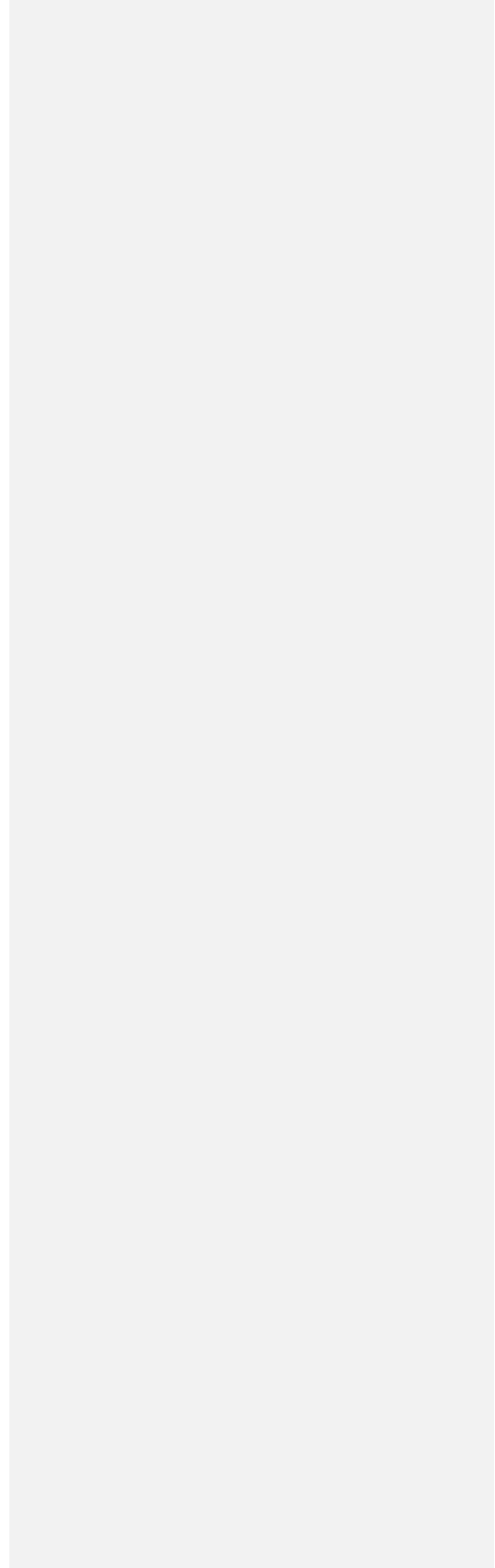


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4



2 Dear referee,

3  
4 Thank you very kindly for your comments on our paper and for your critical and constructive feedback  
5 that will enable us to improve it. You give us seven points of feedback. We have worked with your  
6 feedback in the following way.

7  
8 1. You mention that the first sections (up to the proposed research agenda section) are difficult  
9 to follow for natural scientists and policy-focused scientists. In many ways this is the core of  
10 your feedback that also informs some of the other points of your feedback. We will take this  
11 point of feedback seriously, keeping your advice in mind (given in the points below) and revise  
12 the article – particularly up to the research agenda section. Specifically, we will ensure that the  
13 article’s writing style, formulations, line of argumentation, conceptualization, choice of words  
14 etc. are easy to follow for a broader audience.

15 We have actively rewritten the article (as can be seen in the track and trace version) in line  
16 with this comment. We have done our best to make our article readable and easy to follow.

17  
18 2. The second point of your feedback stresses that the writing style is difficult to follow, which is  
19 linked to your first point. In line with your advice, we will improve the writing style, replacing  
20 complex terms and shortening sentences. We will also ensure that concepts are clearly  
21 defined, and better explained, illustrated and concretized, without introducing too many  
22 concepts. Further, we will have a careful look at the grammar and clarity of sentences. You  
23 give examples of unclear sentences, which we will address with care, and we will go through  
24 each sentence to ensure clarity throughout the paper.

25 In our revision, we have actively worked with this comment. We have improved our writing  
26 style, actively shortened our sentences, and have more clearly defined and explained our  
27 concepts. In our revised manuscript, we have actively worked to improve our clarity.

28  
29 3. Your third comment refers to the framing of the article. You give the useful suggestion that  
30 the article should be framed as resilience research in the social sciences and with the focus on  
31 climate change from the very beginning, in the introduction section (and in the abstract). We  
32 will implement this suggestion by the first author of our paper.

33 In our revision, we have actively worked with this comment. We have rewritten our  
34 introduction section and abstract. We have now stressed from the very beginning that the  
35 paper concerns resilience research in the social sciences and with a focus on climate change.

36  
37 4. Your fourth comment refers to providing more historical background of the SES notion of  
38 resilience. This should include how it was debated in the 1990s and 2000s in the environmental  
39 sustainability field and the growing field of research on global environmental change. And as  
40 you suggest, we will emphasize the debates that occurred in the 2000s, to define resilience as  
41 opposed to vulnerability. Thank you for suggesting relevant references for describing and  
42 acknowledging this background. We take this fourth comment at heart and we will include  
43 the discussion on the historical background, along the lines that you suggest.

44 We have actively worked with this comment, including some of the vulnerability literature that  
45 the reviewer suggested. We have included the resilience as opposed to vulnerability argument  
46 and included it in our line of argumentation.

47  
48 5. You wonder why we do not emphasize adaptive capacity in our discussion, given that adaptive  
49 capacity has provided an analytical framework for much governance research on global  
50 environmental change. You suggest to link that strand of literature in our discussion of adaptive  
51 and transformative change. From our side, there were no principal reasons for omitting that  
52 body-of-literature in our discussion. We take your advice at heart and link up with that body of  
53 literature. In our revised article we will specifically work with the questions that you provided,  
54 namely, 'how is that strand of literature linked to the growing interest in adaptive and  
55 transformative change? In what ways do the later concepts offer fresh and new insights?' In our  
56 revised article we will specifically work with the questions that you provided, namely, 'how is that  
57 strand of literature linked to the growing interest in adaptive and transformative change? In what  
58 ways do the later concepts offer fresh and new insights?' Amongst other things, we will refer to  
59 Ziervogel, G., Cowen, A., & Ziniades, J. (2016). Moving from adaptive to transformative capacity:  
60 Building foundations for inclusive, thriving, and regenerative urban settlements. *Sustainability*  
61 (Switzerland), 8(9). <https://doi.org/10.3390/su8090955>

62 In our revised manuscript we have worked actively with this comment and also included the  
63 Ziervogel, Cowen and Ziniades article, which was indeed very helpful and relevant for us.

65 6. You stress that the particular focus on ABM and AI need to be better justified, and explained  
66 why they are mentioned more than others. And you stress that ‘the discussions on Section 3  
67 could provide more concrete examples of the methodological implications of taking one  
68 approach or another.’ For us this is a comment and advise that we take seriously. We will work  
69 with the comment, doing our best to improve our justification and concretization. The focus  
70 on ABM we will justify more strictly as a typical and frequently used approach that we  
71 encounter in contemporary naturalist resilience research. We will mention other naturalist  
72 approaches that are found in naturalist resilience research. And we will better justify AI in  
73 terms of the so-called ‘AI revolution’ that is currently shaped by governance actors. And this  
74 ‘AI revolution’ has implications for both socio-ecological systems and for resilience research.

75 In our revised manuscript we have worked actively with this comment, working to better embed  
76 ABM and AI in our article.

77  
78 7. You suggest to improve the readability of the article with the use of figures and tables, for  
79 example to present definitions or how the core concepts of the paper relate to each other. In  
80 our revised article we will take this useful suggestion into consideration, as part of the general  
81 effort to improve readability of the article. Our plan is to develop a figure that visualizes how  
82 the core concepts of the paper relate to each other.

83 We have actively thought about this comment. After internal discussions amongst ourselves we  
84 have decided to leave out the visualization as we believe that it does not fit nicely with the style  
85 of our article. If the editor would insist on a visualization, we can of course include it, for instance  
86 in the form of a table.

87  
88  
89  
90 Dear referee,

91  
92 Thank you very kindly for your comments on our paper and for your critical and constructive feedback  
93 that will enable us to improve our paper. You give us six points of feedback. We wish to work with your  
94 feedback in the following way.

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1. You mention that the introduction section is difficult to follow and unclear. You stress that in the introduction section it is difficult to follow whether it is a part of the background review or methodology. We take your comment at heart and revise the introduction section, in line with your comments.

We have actively worked with this comment. We have rewritten the introduction section (as well as the abstract) in line with your comments.

2. You give us the advice to bring the panarchy theory in our discussion on adaptive and transformative resilience, particularly to find out whether “adaptive resilience obstructs transformative resilience” aligns or conflicts with the Panarchy theory of adaptive cycle and resilience building. We find this an interesting and relevant advice that we will follow in our revised manuscript. We will add the discussion on the panarchy theory to the discussion on adaptive and transformative resilience.

We have actively worked with this comment. We have included panarchy theory in our discussion.

3. You stress that we generalize too easily that the application of AI strengthens adaptive resilience and weakens transformative resilience; and that we need more examples and arguments for this. You stress that it cannot be generalized for all cases; and that AI can also help to build transformative resilience, given that the capacity for anticipating future events is an element of transformative resilience. We find your comment very relevant and will work with your comment in our revised manuscript, rethinking our argument. In revising our manuscript, we will include more concrete examples, which we will discuss amongst the co-authors of our article.

We have actively worked with this comment. We have included more concrete examples. And we have emphasized that AI can also help to build transformative resilience.

4. You stress that section 2 needs more direction in the discussion. We take your comment at heart. We will revise this section, to ensure structure and readability and guidance for the reader, being explicit in the point that we seek to make. We will ensure that the article (its

126 writing style, its formulations, its line of argumentation, its conceptualizations, its choice of  
127 words etc.) is easy to follow for a broader audience. In line with your advice, we will revise the  
128 writing style, replacing complex terms and making shorter sentences. And in line with your  
129 feedback, we revise the article to ensure that concepts will be more clearly defined and better  
130 explained and illustrated and concretized, without introducing too many concepts. Also, in  
131 line with your feedback, we will have a careful look at the grammar and clarity of sentences.  
132 And our plan is to develop a figure that visualizes how the core concepts of the paper relate to  
133 each other.

134 We have actively revised section 2 (as can be seen in the track and changes), in line with your  
135 advice. We have actively worked on our writing style, to make our article more readable.

136 5. You mention that in some places we fail to include appropriate references in our discussion;  
137 and you give examples of this. We will revise the paper with your comment in mind, making  
138 sure that we make the appropriate references.

139 We have actively worked with this comment. We have included the examples you have given  
140 us and we have used the references, for which we are thankful.

141  
142 6. You mention that we frequently introduce jargon that we leave undefined, and you give  
143 examples of this. With your comment in mind, we will revise the article, making sure that if we  
144 introduce jargon or concepts, we describe them accurately.

148 **Review article: Towards a context-driven research: a state-of-the-art**  
149 **review of resilience research on climate change**

150

151

152 Ringo Ossewaarde<sup>1</sup>, Tatiana Filatova<sup>2</sup>, Yola Georgiadou<sup>3</sup>, Andreas Hartmann<sup>4</sup>, Gül Özerol<sup>5</sup>, Karin  
153 Pfeffer<sup>6</sup>, Peter Stegmaier<sup>7</sup>, Rene Torenvlied<sup>8</sup>, Mascha van der Voort<sup>9</sup>, Jord Warmink<sup>10</sup>, Bas Borsje<sup>11</sup>

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155

156 **Abstract**

157 Since the 1970s, Holling's socio-ecological systems (SES) approach has been the most predominant  
158 theoretical force in resilience research ~~with regard to in the context of~~ the climate crisis. An overview  
159 of the scholarship in the social sciences during the past five decades reveals two different re-  
160 appropriations of Holling's legacy, which can broadly be classified as naturalist and constructivist,  
161 respectively. Characteristic for naturalist resilience research is its indebtedness to the concepts,  
162 methods and assumptions of the so-called 'life sciences'. This has resulted in the recasting of Holling's  
163 SES into complex systems that are marked by  
164 ~~In the social sciences, From Holling's approach, however, two contrasting scientific approaches to~~  
165 ~~resilience have developed from Holling's approaches, namely, naturalism and constructivism. While~~  
166 ~~naturalist resilience research takes SES as complex systems marked by non-linearity and evolutionary~~  
167 ~~changes, €Constructivist resilience research, on the other hand, relies on the concepts, methods and~~  
168 ~~assumptions that are common in the 'human sciences'. Accordingly, resilience is studied and critically~~  
169 ~~appraised in its historical, social and political context. –focuses on the embeddedness of SES in~~  
170 ~~heterogenous contexts. In naturalist resilience research resilience is defined as a system property,~~  
171 ~~while in constructivist resilience research resilience is politically loaded and historically contingent. In~~  
172 this paper, recent developments in resilience research in the social sciences are reviewed to the end  
173 of proposing new research questions. The focus is on the different approaches, models and  
174 commitments that underpin these two approaches to resilience in the context of the ecological crisis.  
175 Particular attention is thereby paid to the naturalist emphasis on adaptation and the constructivist  
176 emphasis on transformation.  
177 The aim of this paper is to review and structure current developments in social scientific enquiry into  
178 resilience to climate change, research in the field of climate change studies, in terms of the approaches,  
179 definitions, models and commitments that are typical for naturalism and constructivism; identify the  
180 key tension between naturalist and constructivist resilience research in terms of the widely discussed



181 ~~issue of adaptation and transformation, and discuss its implications for sustainable development; and~~  
182 ~~propose a research agenda of topics distilled from the adaptation-transformation tension between~~  
183 ~~naturalist and constructivist resilience research.~~

184  
185 Keywords: adaptive resilience, climate change, constructivism, naturalism, SES, transformative  
186 resilience, transformational adaptation

## 189 1. Introduction

190 ~~In the social sciences, climate change is increasingly researched as a resilience topic. In the social~~  
191 ~~sciences, Crawford Stanley Holling's ecological notion of resilience (Holling, 1973) is widely used as~~  
192 ~~Since the publication of Crawford Stanley Holling's 'Resilience and Stability of Ecological Systems'~~  
193 ~~(1973), the notion of resilience has become increasingly popular in a wide variety of scientific~~  
194 ~~disciplines. Used as a concept, framework, style of thinking, metaphormetaphor, or discourse. For~~  
195 ~~social scientists, rom a social sciences perspective, Holling's notion of resilience appears attractive as~~  
196 ~~a theme for interdisciplinary research, including the bridging of the social sciences and engineering~~  
197 ~~(Ostrom, 2007; Thorén, 2014).~~

198 ~~Crawford Stanley Holling's ecological notion of resilience (Holling, 1973) has become part and parcel~~  
199 ~~of the social sciences, particularly in the field of social studies of climate change Crawford Stanley~~  
200 ~~Holling's ecological notion of resilience (Holling, 1973) has become part and parcel of the social~~  
201 ~~sciences. Some social scientists have recast and integrated it in their theoretical frameworks. Others~~  
202 ~~accept the terminology and conceptualization of the term while not necessarily endorsing –Holling's~~  
203 ~~theoretical framework. The ecologist's notion of resilience has been presented as interdisciplinary and~~  
204 ~~thus as having the potential of building a bridge between the social sciences and engineering (Ostrom,~~  
205 ~~2007; Thorén, 2014). Holling corrected what he considered to be an unrealistic view of the world and~~

206 of ecosystems, namely, as closed or stable. Against the 'equilibrium-centered' view, he emphasized  
207 the influence of random events (natural or human-caused) on ecological systems (Holling, 1973, 15).  
208 ~~For resilience research, Holling's socio-ecological systems (SES) approach has been widely adopted,~~  
209 ~~and reinterpreted, as a lens that helps elucidate human-nature interactions (Ostrom, 2007). In~~  
210 Holling's socio-ecological systems the (SES) approach appealed to social scientists since it highlighted  
211 the interaction between human societies (political, social, economic and technological environments)  
212 and natural ecosystems. , which emerged in the 1970s, social phenomena eties are thought to exist in  
213 ~~continuous interaction with their surrounding natural, political, social, cultural, economic and~~  
214 ~~technological environments. Consequently, Hence, from a social sciences perspective, resilience to~~  
215 ~~climate change, for the social scientist, requires the is not merely ecological change, but is first of all a~~  
216 social phenomenon that is marked by reformation of established modes of thought (including  
217 conceptualizations of 'nature' and 'society'), of lifestyles and consumer habits, of production patterns,  
218 of health issues, of law, economy, science, technology, governance and politics (the typical research  
219 topics for the social scientists/scies) (cf. Douglas & Wildavsky, 1983; Blühdorn, 2013; Fischer, 2017;  
220 Dryzek & Pickering, 2019).  
221 The SES approach is adopted by the Resilience Alliance, whose flagship journal, *Ecology and Society*  
222 (established in 1995), provides a platform for SES-based resilience research. The SES approach has not  
223 only been popularized but also recast and incorporated in other theoretical approaches. In fact, in  
224 resilience research, SES is typically redefined as complex systems, that is, it is incorporated in the  
225 context of the complexity theory approaches. Since its development in the 1940s, complexity theory  
226 has been a widely adopted theoretical approach in the naturalist social sciences.  
227 Holling's ecological approach has been adopted by the Resilience Alliance, whose flagship  
228 journal, *Ecology and Society* (established in 1995), provides a platform for SES-based resilience  
229 research. In the social sciences, resilience to climate change has become a research topic since the  
230 Tsunami in 2004 and Katrina in 2005 — Since the Tsunami in 2004, Katrina (2005), the global economic  
231 crisis (2007-2008), Fukushima Daiichi (2011) and recent El Niño events, and increased urgencies of the

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232 climate crisis (and calls for climate action), the political, social, cultural, economic, scientific and  
233 technological contexts in which resilience research takes place have changed (Pizzo, 2015). Since then,  
234 social scientists, inspired by Holling's SES approach, emphasize that Such climate disasters and crises  
235 have revealed that the vulnerability that, for instance, Katrina or today's Covid-19 crisis reveal, is not  
236 a function solely of exposure to natural hazards. Katrina and, even more recently, Covid-19, social  
237 scientists point out, reveal a vulnerability that does not only consist in exposure to natural hazards.  
238 Instead, what has been made clear is that ~~For social scientists,~~ but it is a function of multiple  
239 dimensions of social, cultural, ~~political~~political, and economic conditions largely determine the  
240 resilience to these natural calamities ~~disadvantage~~ (Tierney, 2015; Lockie, 2016). In the past decade,  
241 social sciences have increasingly researched resilience to climate change has been addressed primarily  
242 as a policy discourse. Indeed, ~~since 2010, in the wake of the global financial crisis (2007-2008),~~ Since  
243 2010, global governance actors and national and local governments – including the Rockefeller  
244 Foundation's 100 resilient cities program – have had profuse recourse to the language of resilience.  
245 The economic and political interest behind such discourses has gained the critical attention of social  
246 scientists.  
247 developed resilience discourses in which relationships between governments, citizens and denizens  
248 are being ideologically reconfigured. Such policy discourses of bouncing back after crises and  
249 catastrophes have triggered new resilience practices, such 'resilience humanitarianism' based on the  
250 idea of crisis as a new normality (Hilhorst 2018). Such These policy discourses and practices have  
251 ignited new social scientific ~~This has given rise to new~~ resilience research, new outlets (such as the  
252 interdisciplinary journal *Resilience* (established in 2013)), and the establishment of resilience research  
253 programs in universities around the world. This relatively recent development has meant the  
254 diversification of existing resilience research in the social sciences. With the increased social scientific  
255 interest in resilience topics, scientific approaches to resilience to climate change rapidly diversify. In  
256 the social sciences, As a result, ~~many~~ many publications of the past decade address the development of  
257 different definitions and understandings of resilience, marked by different scientific approaches. Such

258 ~~diversity corresponds to the diversification of approaches in the social sciences. While resilience~~  
259 ~~research in the social sciences had been predominantly primarily naturalist. Today, social scientists~~  
260 ~~are increasingly addressing climate change and resilience to climate change widely research resilience~~  
261 ~~to climate change from constructivist angles.~~

262 ~~Resilience research is no longer primarily naturalist. The naturalist approach to resilience is now~~  
263 ~~balanced by constructivist scientific approaches that enrich resilience research. This is particularly so~~  
264 ~~in the field of anthropogenic climate change, where fundamental changes in the governance of the~~  
265 ~~earth system are urgently required, if extreme catastrophes and associated suffering and oppression~~  
266 ~~are to be avoided (Redman, 2014; Yanarella & Levine, 2014; Lockie, 2016; Dryzek & Pickering, 2019).~~

267 The aim of this paper is to provide an overview of the current state of resilience research with  
268 regard to climate change in the social sciences and propose a research agenda. Current research can  
269 broadly be classified into two main schools of thought, namely, naturalist and constructivist. The latter  
270 is a more recent development in resilience research where the natural sciences and mathematics have  
271 tended to be authoritative. The diversification of resilience research in the social sciences is thus  
272 addressed in the first section of this paper. ~~retrace the current directions of naturalist and~~  
273 ~~constructivist resilience research in the social sciences. Thereby, we seek to~~ and thereby order  
274 contemporary debates in a diversified and rapidly changing field of social scientific resilience research;  
275 ultimately, we seek to do so to identify upcoming research themes for the coming years. First,  
276 current scientific approaches in resilience research are reconstructed in terms of the differences  
277 between naturalist and constructivist resilience research in the social sciences. While naturalist  
278 resilience research typically defines resilience to climate change as a physical property (like atoms,  
279 mass, molecules, cells, DNA, etc.) of complex systems, constructivist resilience research defines  
280 resilience as a political phenomenon that is historically embedded in a changing social, cultural,  
281 political, economic, scientific, technological environment. Naturalism and constructivism are  
282 presented as two (social) scientific approaches underpinned by with different epistemological and  
283 ontological commitmentsassumptions. It is suggested that, that, I to advance social scientific inquiry

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284 ~~into resilience in the context of climate change resilience research could be raised to a next level if~~  
285 ~~these two different approaches meet and interact, we argue, these two approaches need to be~~  
286 ~~bridged. To this end, we reconstruct contemporary debates in that particular field of studies and distil~~  
287 ~~recurrent research topics that divide social scientists. The issues of adaption and transformation in the~~  
288 ~~context of severe disturbances or shocks that come with climate change (such as hurricanes, floods,~~  
289 ~~drought, and heatwaves) appear to be such divisive topics. Second, contemporary key issues of debate~~  
290 ~~in naturalist and constructivist approaches to resilience to climate change research are identified.~~  
291 ~~Ultimately, in the social sciences, naturalist and constructivist resilience research clashes on the issue~~  
292 ~~of system adaptation and transformation in a context of severe disturbances or shocks that come with~~  
293 ~~climate change (, such as hurricanes, floods, drought and heatwaves). The tension between adaptation~~  
294 ~~and transformation has, amongst other things, implications for social scientific enquiry into the~~  
295 ~~sustainable energy transformation, the relationship of resilience research to sustainability discourses,~~  
296 ~~and the response of resilience research to new political and technological circumstances. Third~~  
297 ~~naturalist and constructivist directions, as well as possible cross-fertilizations of these two currents,~~  
298 ~~for future resilience research are identified, including the bridging of naturalist and constructivist~~  
299 ~~resilience research. We point out that future resilience research in the social sciences – that is, the~~  
300 ~~types of questions raised, theoretical frameworks and modes of analysis – will also be determined by~~  
301 ~~changing conditions (ecological, political and socioeconomic). We emphasize, with an emphasis on~~  
302 ~~the likely impact of changing conditions — particularly in ecological, political and technological~~  
303 ~~dimensions — on the questioning, theorizing, and modes of analysis in resilience research.~~

## 306 2. The diversification of resilience research

307 ~~One of the earliest appearances of the term resilience – in European literature at least – seems to have~~  
308 ~~been in one of Aesop's fables, namely, that of The Oak Tree and the Reeds. According to one of the~~

309 versions of that story, the Oak Tree becomes uprooted during a storm while its fellow reeds survive it.  
310 In a conversation, the Oak Tree expresses its bewilderment that the fragile reeds were able to resist  
311 such a mighty storm while it succumbed. The reeds reply that it is precisely their non-resistance that  
312 saved them. Through their capacity to bend, they moved with the direction of the wind (which thus  
313 did not break them) and rose again when the storm was gone. They were flexible enough. The reeds  
314 'bounce' back and are thus 'resilient'. Indeed, the English word resilience derives from Latin (*resilire*),  
315 which generally means rebounding. This Latin word can be found in the writings of Seneca the Elder,  
316 Pliny the Elder, Ovid, Cicero, and Livy; Lucretius' to rebound is also the sense in which *resilire* is used  
317 by Cicero in his *Orations-On the Nature of Things* and *Cicero's Orations* (Alexander, 2013; Pizzo, 2015).  
318 The term also appears in Lucretius' *On the Nature of Things*, where it denotes 'being forced back by a  
319 resisting surface [...] with reference to the action on Nature' (Pizzo, 2015). Along this line, nature  
320 compels all things to 'spring off'. Despite the various meanings attributed to the term, the connotation  
321 attached to *resilire* was commonly that of rebounding. Up to the early nineteenth century, this was  
322 the predominant understanding of resilience in common language and imagination. A slight shift  
323 appeared when engineers started to use the term to refer to ~~until engineers come to employ the~~  
324 ~~term. In engineering, resilience refers to ~~until engineers come to employ the term to describe the~~~~  
325 properties and capacities of materials and the capacity of materials to absorb stresses tensions and  
326 release energy, and recover their original forms, without breaking or disfiguring, after undergoing  
327 some external shock or disturbance (such as an extreme weather ~~condition~~event) (Estêvão, Calado  
328 & Capucha, 2017; Bergström, 2018; Davoudi, 2018). In the 1950s, psychologists re-adapted the  
329 common sense of the term to mental health and used it to ~~turn to resilience to analyze~~study the coping  
330 mechanisms of concentration camp survivors. Later, the concept is used to study all sorts of trauma,  
331 misfortune, adversity, ~~stress~~stress, and mental recovery (Bourbeau, 2015; Estêvão, Calado & Capucha,  
332 2017; Bergström, 2018; Schwartz, 2018). In the 1970s, the ecologist C.S. Holling (1973: 14) redefines  
333 resilience as 'a measure of the persistence of systems and their ability to absorb change and  
334 disturbance.' Thus understood, resilience is widely conceived as the opposite of vulnerability, which is

335 ~~defined as the inability to absorb change and disturbance (Gallopín, 2006; Miller et al, 2010) - (for~~  
336 ~~instance, a coastal system that is vulnerable to 's incapability to cope with the consequences of climate~~  
337 ~~change and accelerated sea-level rise is not resilient enough (Smit, Goosen & Hulsbergen, 1998). In~~  
338 ~~such discourses, greater -Strengthening resilience means -implies becoming less vulnerable to change~~  
339 ~~and shocks. -reducing vulnerability to not being able to absorb change and disturbance. That said, Aa~~  
340 ~~system can still be vulnerable to other changes while being resilient in other respects -be vulnerable to~~  
341 ~~certain changes and disturbances and not to others (Gallopín, 2006).~~

342 Holling incorporates resilience in a socio-ecological systems (SES) approach to analyze the stability  
343 ~~and, the strength, of ecological systems, which are constituted by the interaction between natural~~  
344 ~~ecosystems and human societies -assemblages as conditioned by, and conditioning, societies. Holling~~  
345 ~~emphasizes the relationship and interaction between ecological systems and social systems - Hence,~~  
346 ~~in Holling's work, resilience has a relational and systemic focus in scientific enquiries into how nature~~  
347 ~~and society interact - a line of enquiry that brings the social sciences, the natural sciences and~~  
348 ~~engineering together in an overarching SES framework (Alexander, 2013; Bergström, 2018; Béné et al,~~  
349 ~~2018; Hoekstra, Bredenhoff-Bijlsma & Krol, 2018). Ecosystems, as noted earlier, are rarely closed~~  
350 ~~systems, but are instead subjected to natural and human influences. One could say today that a~~  
351 ~~ubiquitous concept like resilience expresses a 'governmental philosophy of nature and society' (Walker~~  
352 ~~& Cooper, 2011: 145), the ability par excellence to survive conflict and crisis.~~

353 In the social sciences, resilience research that has emerged from Holling's SES approach has  
354 developed ~~along two different lines in two contrasting directions, which can be called naturalist and~~  
355 ~~constructivist, respectively: -naturalism and constructivism (Miller et al, 2010). Each of these~~  
356 ~~approaches incorporate their own definitions of resilience. In resilience research, resilience to climate~~  
357 ~~change can mean many different things - including a concept, metaphor, ideology, governing~~  
358 ~~rationality, policy, etc. (Anderson, 2015) -, yet, the particular meaning of resilience that is enacted in~~  
359 ~~resilience research is typically either naturalist or constructivist. These two currents of research have~~  
360 ~~different focuses, raise different questions and have recourse to different methods. The naturalist line~~

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361 of research is indebted to the accepted methods and assumptions of the natural sciences. It has a  
362 predilection for mathematical and simulation models. Social scientists dealing with resilience to  
363 climate change research questions consider resilience as a property of a system, which can be (made)  
364 weak or strong. ~~Naturalism can be defined as a scientific approach that assumes that phenomena~~  
365 ~~(including ecological and social phenomena) can be researched as objects and therefore be objectively~~  
366 ~~defined and measured. In the social sciences, naturalists seek to explain social phenomena in the~~  
367 ~~is a type of science that seeks to explain the world in the manner of the natural sciences. In~~  
368 ~~resilience research, naturalist scientists they typically model~~ Society is modelled as a social system  
369 ~~that consists of parts and , with the world being modelled as consisting of physical properties that can~~  
370 ~~be objectively studied irrespective of the historical and cultural context , resembling atoms, mass,~~  
371 ~~molecules, cells, DNA, etc. (Aiken, 2006; Floridi, 2017). Resilience to climate change is likewise defined~~  
372 ~~as one of the system properties . Moreover, history and culture (in the sociological sense of the term)~~  
373 ~~cannot be integrated in the various models. Resilience as a system property is an objective measure of~~  
374 ~~the dynamic equilibrium, stability, strength, or survivability of a socio-ecological system, ,~~  
375 ~~including coastal systems, urban systems, forest systems, etc. (Hoekstra, Bredenhoff-Bijlsma & Krol,~~  
376 ~~2018). In naturalist research, resilience is defined as a system property: resilience is an essential~~  
377 ~~measure of the dynamic equilibrium or survivability of a socio-ecological system.~~  
378 The naturalist approach to problems that arise through climate change can be very useful,  
379 especially when both the problem and the solution are quite uncomplicated (and hence are primarily  
380 of a technical nature, such as water purification, for instance). The story becomes more complicated  
381 when, for instance, attempts to make communities more resilient to climate change overlook the  
382 political and cultural reasons why particular groups are more vulnerable to the effects of climate  
383 change. Since a model cannot include these reasons, the naturalist social scientist necessarily leaves  
384 out factors that are part of the problem and the solution. In so doing, naturalist social scientists may  
385 well become unwitting allies of political powers and help to perpetuate status quos. Constructivist

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386 social scientists have shown increased interest for resilience research precisely because resilience is a  
387 term profusely used by global and national powers during the last two decades.

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391 While naturalist resilience research typically defines resilience to climate change as a physical  
392 property (like atoms, mass, molecules, cells, DNA, etc.) of complex systems, constructivist resilience  
393 research defines resilience as a political phenomenon that is historically embedded in a changing  
394 social, cultural, political, economic, scientific, technological environment.

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397

398 ~~is a type of science that seeks to explain the world in the manner of the natural sciences, with the~~  
399 ~~world being modelled as consisting of physical properties (Aiken, 2006; Floridi, 2017). Resilience is~~  
400 ~~likewise defined as one of the system properties (Hoekstra, Bredenhoff-Bijlsma & Krol, 2018). In~~  
401 ~~naturalist research, resilience is defined as a system property: resilience is an essential measure of the~~  
402 ~~dynamic equilibrium or survivability of a socio-ecological system. By contrast, Historically,~~

403 constructivism in the social sciences has arisen in reaction to what was experienced as the narrowness  
404 of the naturalist approach. The constructivist does not believe that reality is so objective that it can be

405 fully grasped and (s)he does not try to objectify it. Instead, natural and social phenomena can only  
406 understood by taking into account In the social sciences, coconstructivism is an anti-naturalist scientific

407 approach that researches phenomena as subjects invested with diverse human perceptions,  
408 experiences, meanings, interests, values, identities, patterns of domination, etc. Constructivist social

409 scientists thus think that it is mistake to compress the social sciences into the mold of the natural  
410 sciences. In the social sciences, constructivists emphasize that social sciences are fundamentally

411 different from the natural sciences, because social phenomena are fundamentally different from  
412 physical properties. In resilience research, they typically model society as a historically embedded

413 construct that is the result of invested with a is a type of science that denaturalizes and historicizes, in

414 ~~the sense that it defines phenomena like resilience as a historically contingent social construct. It is~~  
415 ~~focused on heterogenous contexts of natural and social science itself – contexts marked by diversity~~  
416 ~~of (contested) knowledges, particular understandings of nature, society and the person, of values,~~  
417 ~~symbols and historical practices (which may not be very rational or just), and power relations. values,~~  
418 ~~power relations, practices and meanings. Precisely because constructivists theorize phenomena as~~  
419 ~~constructs – and ultimately all constructs involve the exercise of power – , they Constructivists tend to~~  
420 ~~be more critical and politically sensitive. They are generally Constructivists are more aware of the~~  
421 ~~potential and actual abuse of power. When addressing resilience issues in the context of climate~~  
422 ~~change, they Therefore, in their researches of the phenomenon of resilience to climate change,~~  
423 ~~constructivists typically express concern for vulnerable communities, environmental and climate~~  
424 ~~justice. In its resilience research, it therefore incorporates justice issues of , that is, to Research topics~~  
425 ~~thus include the~~

426  
427 ~~Constructivist scientists are~~It is more critical and politically sensitive. It typically expresses concern for  
428 ~~issues of equity, domination, ‘climate change gentrification’ and ‘climate apartheid’ in resilience~~  
429 ~~research. Its key concern and research focus is typically environmental and climate justice, which refer~~  
430 ~~to (un)equal distribution of environmental burdens, struggles for recognition, claims to participation,~~  
431 ~~and unequal impacts of anthropogenic climate change (Braun, 2014; Yanarella & Levine, 2014;~~  
432 ~~Skillington, 2015; Sjöstedt, 2015; Weichselgartner & Kelman, 2015; Pizzo, 2015; Lockie, 2016;~~  
433 ~~Derickson, 2016; Lyster, 2017; Schlosberg, Collins & Niemeyer, 2017; Mummery & Mummery, 2019).~~

434 ~~Duffield (2016), for instance, refers to digital humanitarianism as a ‘resilience of ruins’.~~Davoudi (2018:  
435 ~~5), for instance, introduces the notion of ‘unjust resilience’.~~Unjust resilience refers to absorption of  
436 ~~changes or disturbance through a systematic neglect of vulnerable groups and marginalized people.~~  
437 ~~Katrina and the Covid-19 crisis reveal such systematic injustice. defined as (marked by the systematic~~  
438 ~~neglect of vulnerable groups and marginalized people (a systematic neglect that, for instance, Katrina~~  
439 ~~and the Covid-19 crisis reveal).~~And Glaser et al (2018: 3) refer to ‘undesirable resilience’, ‘bad

440 resilience' and 'wicked resilience'. These are notions that emphasize how resilience may go hand in  
441 hand with the enforcement of an undesirable or unjust condition. The resilience of oppressive systems  
442 (like tyrannical regimes) that systematically marginalize, discriminate or persecute certain groups are  
443 an example of this to show how, as a construct, the making of resilience to climate change comes with  
444 power abuse, domination and injustice. In other words, for the constructivist social scientist, resilience  
445 is far from being a neutral property of a neutral system (neutral in the sense of being 'value free').  
446 Therewith, the theme of anthropogenic climate change in general and the constructivist notion of  
447 resilience in particular is placed within wider problematic contexts marked by unequal power  
448 relationships.

## 449

### 450 2.1. The naturalist view on resilience

## 451

452 In the social sciences, n~~Naturalist social scientific~~ research as such, which has its origins in the  
453 logical positivism of the Vienna Circle of the 1920s and 1930s, mainly developed arose in the context  
454 of the ~~Cold War, with the~~ development of cybernetics, computational power and automation (and  
455 automated decision making) (Simbirski, 2006; Floridi, 2017; 2018; Davoudi, 2018). Naturalist social  
456 studies are based on the cybernetic idea that machines, ~~organisms~~organisms, and societies show  
457 considerable similarity in structure and function; and can be described in terms of ~~(the metaphor of)~~  
458 systems. Since the 1940s, such studies have typically adopted cybernetic complexity theory as their  
459 distinctive overarching theoretical outlook, within which other theories (for instance, on behavior~~a~~  
460 change, on decision making under risk, or on social institutions) are incorporated. In complexity theory,  
461 ~~machines, organisms~~organisms, and societies ecology and society are modelled as complex, non-  
462 linear, evolutionary systems. ~~Complex~~Such systems are composed of many components, including  
463 ~~{~~properties, agents, resources, and governance systems~~}. All~~And these components interact with each  
464 other, in response to ever-changing environments and disturbance (Walsh-Dilley & Wolford, 2015;  
465 Juncos, 2017; 2018). From this naturalist point of view, Hence, resilience to climate change is a matter

466 of evolution: ~~resilience is in naturalist social science resilience is presented as~~ 'evolutionary resilience'  
467 (Pizzo, 2015: 137; Davoudi, 2018: 4). ~~In the 1970s, naturalist social scientists come to~~ When this type  
468 of science comes to embrace Holling's SES approach, ~~They in the 1970s, it incorporateds~~ Holling's SES  
469 ~~the~~ notion of resilience within their own ~~context of of cybernetic complexity theory and cybernetic~~  
470 ~~methodologys its complexity theoretic orientation~~ (Wiese, 2016; Bergström, 2018). ~~That is, socio-~~  
471 ~~ecological systems are cybernetically conceptualized as~~ ~~treated as~~ adaptive complex systems. The  
472 ability to cope with uncertainty and complexity ~~and to limit vulnerability in not being able to absorb~~  
473 ~~changes and disturbances~~ is one of the capacities of individual agents and interacting agents. The  
474 ~~latter found in the capacities and relations between multiple agents. Such agents~~ that are able to  
475 interact and self-organize, learn and adapt (in an incremental or transformative way), making the  
476 system flexible in absorbing shocks and developing in face of changes (Jesse, Heinrichs &  
477 Kuchshinrichs, 2019).

478 ~~The notion of panarchy. Given the complexity of systems, nN~~ Naturalist social scientists tend to  
479 emphasize a type of laissez-faireism, pointing out that adaptive complex systems have their own self-  
480 ~~organizational structures that should not be interfered with. governance structure beyond simple~~  
481 ~~notions of hierarchy. Bureaucratic interventions that are designed for to address limiting vulnerability~~  
482 ~~and increase for strengthening~~ resilience to climate change typically generate unintended  
483 ~~consequences that actually may well reduce a system's ability to absorb changes and disturbances~~  
484 ~~resilience (Adger et al, 2011). Hence the danger of politicizing and top down organizing socio-~~  
485 ~~ecological systems, which may increase a system's vulnerability.~~

486 ~~In 2001, Holling introduced the notion of 'panarchy' (as an alternative to hierarchy, to safeguard the~~  
487 ~~self-organization of complex systems against the threat of bureaucratic intervention ) to characterize~~  
488 ~~socio-ecological systems as complex systems that are dynamically organized and structured within and~~  
489 ~~across scales (Holling, 2001). Derived from the ancient Greek god of the woods, Pan, panarchy refers~~  
490 ~~to the structure in which complex (ecological and social) systems are interlinked in an evolutionary~~  
491 ~~process of adaptive cycles of growth, accumulation, restructuring, and renewal (Berkes & Ross, 2016).~~

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492 Accordingly, ~~Adaptive cycles describe how, when confronted with shocks (like extreme weather~~  
493 ~~events), adaptive socio-ecological systems stabilize with supporting self-organizing structures until~~  
494 ~~those structures are overstretched and reduce resilience and lose their capacity to can no longer~~  
495 ~~absorb changes and disturbances; this is when when systems become vulnerable, then there is a~~  
496 ~~transformation of the system the adaptive mechanisms and properties lead the system to a new phase~~  
497 ~~(Allen et al, 2014). In other words, in naturalist research, the notion of panarchy (as an evolutionary~~  
498 ~~mode of system self-organization) complements Holling's earlier notions of socio-ecological systems~~  
499 ~~and resilience (as a system property). In Holling's naturalist theory of panarchy, resilience is a primary~~  
500 ~~system property that controls the adaptive cycling, is measured by the magnitude of shocks that can~~  
501 ~~be absorbed before the structures of system changes its structure (Boyer, 2020).~~

502 Methodologically, naturalist social scientists have typically embraced agent-based modelling  
503 (ABM) as their favorite mode of analysis in resilience research. They focus

504 ~~Point is that this becomes a predominant methodological approach. Why?~~

505 ~~Cybernetics. In the social sciences, naturalism typically focusses on the constant refinement of~~  
506 ~~simulation tools (that can cope with radical complexity, uncertainty and multiplicity of agents) and~~  
507 ~~techniques of regulation in favour of adaptation (cf. Cote & Nightingale, 2012; Patriarca et al, 2018).~~

508 Since the 1970s, when it emerged from mathematical sociology, agent-based modelling (ABM) ~~is has~~  
509 ~~been~~ a much endorsed tool used in complexity-theoretic research ~~for analyzing complex systems. for~~

510 ~~analyzing complex, non-linear interactions of autonomous yet interconnected (social and ecological)~~  
511 ~~properties (Conte & Paolucci, 2014). ABM is a computational mode of analysis that simulates complex~~

512 ~~(non-linear) systems that include an artificial society of diverse interacting agents —households,~~  
513 ~~farmers, organizations, governments that make —making. decisions, interact and learn or adapt in their~~

514 ever-changing environment, according to programmable rules (Farmer & Foley, 2009). ~~In naturalist~~  
515 ~~resilience research, ABM is widely used for analyzing the interdependencies between agents, the~~

516 ~~nonlinear interactions between agents, and the emergent adaptive behavior that arises from these~~  
517 ~~interactions (Hawes & Reed, 2006; Farmer & Foley, 2009; Van Duinen et al, 2015; Martin & Schlüter,~~

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518 2015; Sun, Stojadinovic & Sansavini, 2019). ABM computes, in probabilistic terms, the recovery process  
519 of complex (non-linear) systems under stress and tracks the emergence of new stages, phases or  
520 entries into new adaptive cycles states (Filatova, Polhill & Van Ewijk, 2016). In the social sciences,  
521 naturalist scholars calculate resilience to climate change ~~Resilience could be calculated~~ at the system  
522 level as a system property ~~using standard the resilience metrics~~ (Pumpuni-Lenss, Blackburn &  
523 Garstenauer, 2017). Since ABM traces feedbacks between micro-macro scale explicitly, ABM also  
524 enables naturalist scholars to one could also estimate the resilience of a system's individual agents,  
525 communities or (sub)groups of agents.

526

527

## 528 **2.2 The constructivist view on resilience**

529

530 In the social sciences, constructivist resilience research is also inspired by Holling's SES  
531 approach. But Yet, for constructivists, resilience to climate change is not a system property. It is instead  
532 ~~but, instead, a socio-political construct that is created by diverse a variety of stakeholders~~ ~~in~~  
533 ~~constructivist social science, also inspired by Holling's approach, resilience to climate change presents~~  
534 ~~itself as an object of scientific inquiry or guiding concept rather than as a system property~~ (Walsh-Dilley  
535 & Wolford, 2015; Weichselgartner & Kelman, 2015; Kythreotis & Bristow, 2017). ~~In contrast with~~  
536 ~~naturalists, constructivists do not research resilience within~~ ~~In constructivist resilience research,~~  
537 ~~resilience is not researched within the framework of complexity theory. Instead, they study resilience~~  
538 ~~, defined as a social construct, is studied from a variety of theoretical angles. Constructivist research~~  
539 ~~includes~~ ~~involving~~ a variety of (typically phenomenological and discursive) ~~scientific ideational~~  
540 ~~orientations perspectives~~. Constructivist resilience research primarily focuses on the political context  
541 and socio-political implications of resilience discourses. As a construct, resilience ~~emphasizing that~~  
542 ~~resilience~~ to climate change is not so much technical as political and administrative in nature  
543 (Alexander, 2013; Bourbeau, 2015; Boas & Rothe, 2016; Juncos, 2018; Wessel, 2019). And given its

544 political and administrative nature, resilience is invested with ideology and myth. Constructivist  
545 scholars typically stress that resilience is a neoliberal construct. That neoliberal ideologyism manifests  
546 itself in the belief in adaptive cycles governed by invisible laws and the non-interventionist stance. It is  
547 thereby overlooked that the so-called self-organizing system is itself the result of political decisions  
548 over a long period of time. Constructivists thus point out that ~~In policy discourses~~ resilience has  
549 becomes a buzzword for governments that seek to shift the responsibility. Resilience is typically  
550 presented as a neoliberal construct of governments that fail to address the challenges that come with  
551 anthropogenic climate change and seek to shift responsibility (for vulnerable systems, floods,  
552 pollution, safety, welfare, health, etc.) to 'resilient' individuals. ~~Such~~ Governments, in these cases,  
553 have recourse to use the concept of resilience to make ~~limit~~ legal entitlements (including human  
554 rights), and make individuals ~~less vulnerable and~~ more self-reliant (or less dependent on the  
555 government); when it comes to ~~in~~ coping with their own struggles in dealing with the challenges of  
556 climate change a market dominated world (Braun, 2014; Pizzo, 2015; Tierney, 2015; Howell, 2015;  
557 Anderson, 2015; Ksenia et al, 2016; Schwartz, 2018; Davoudi, 2018). For instance, governments that  
558 fail to provide basic access to water to millions of rural citizens advocate ~~for~~ community-based water  
559 management schemes, the leading paradigm for rural water access in East Africa (Katomera &  
560 Georgiadou, 2018):- Such schemes 'work' for the state (and donors) as a means of shifting (or  
561 offloading) responsibility for public service provision to the most vulnerable citizens for whom  
562 community management may not be a preferred option (Katomero & Georgiadou, 2018).

563 Constructivist scholars tend to critically analyze resilience as an ideological construct. ~~in a~~  
564 critical way. Such critical studies are typically inspired by the works of Michel Foucault, in the sense  
565 that resilience is analyzed as a discursive construct or ~~a~~ ideological discourse. For Foucault, a discourse  
566 refers to systems of thoughts and beliefs, expressed through language and practices that  
567 systematically construct subjects and societies of which they speak. In other words, both language and  
568 practices are creative acts. Language is not a neutral tool of communication. Through resilience  
569 discourses, a particular type of subject (like resilient or self-reliant rather than vulnerable or dependent

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570 citizens) and a particular type of society (like a market-based 'society' world) are discursively  
571 constructed and reinforced, as an act of domination that reproduces power imbalances (Miller et al,  
572 2010). Evans and Reid (2013) argue that as a discursive construct created by power holders, ~~cause the~~  
573 ~~perspective of resilience has~~ of the character of a doctrine, according to which the resilient subject  
574 must constantly adapt to a dangerous and changing world, and is willing to accept this. Given this  
575 doctrine, vulnerability is rejected as weakness, ~~or even as~~ a moral flaw (like a lack of character or a  
576 lack of will power) or simply illegitimate (the ability to absorb shocks ~~is~~ being the new norm). Many  
577 critical constructivist scholars see the political ~~point at~~ reactions to -events like ~~Ecological and societal~~  
578 ~~catastrophes like Katrina (2005), and Fukushima (2011), and Covid-19 (2020) as manifestations of such~~  
579 ~~ideology. manifest~~ A problematic new normativity is brought into existence when citizens are told that  
580 ~~they such neo-liberalized resilience through which it is normalized that resilient subjects must adapt~~  
581 ~~to ecological and societal catastrophes, and when while~~ vulnerable citizens are left abandoned by their  
582 ~~government as they are expected to be self-reliant that is divorced from concerns of justice (Fainstein,~~  
583 ~~2014; Tierney, 2015; Ribault, 2019).~~ Constructivist scientists also stress that such catastrophes present  
584 ~~themselves~~ Such costly catastrophes present themselves as 'anthropological shocks' (Beck (2015: 80).  
585 ~~Such shocks that may open up counter-discourses in the sense that they open up a new~~  
586 ~~consciousness that contest domination- (Fazey et al, 2018). Katrina, for instance, proved to be such is~~  
587 ~~an anthropological shock because it that opened up a counter-discourse that not only an ecological,~~  
588 ~~economic and deadly disaster, but it is also a 'racial flood' that brought up the issues ings back of~~  
589 ~~colonial patterns of racism, slavery, vulnerability, and abandonment (Beck, 2015). As an~~  
590 ~~anthropological shock and, it is a potential a-initiator of policy transformations beyond the resilience~~  
591 ~~discourse.~~



595 ~~From a critical constructivist viewpoint (typically inspired by the works of Michel Foucault), resilience~~  
596 ~~as neoliberal discourse is analyzed as a phenomenon that reproduces power imbalances, domination,~~  
597 ~~lawlessness, inadequate public services, and injustice. Evans and Reid (2013) accuse the perspective of~~  
598 ~~resilience of the character of a doctrine, according to which the resilient subject must constantly adapt~~  
599 ~~to a dangerous and changing world and is willing to accept this. Ecological and societal catastrophes~~  
600 ~~like Katrina (2005) and Fukushima (2011) manifest such neo-liberalized resilience that is divorced from~~  
601 ~~concerns of justice (Fainstein, 2014; Tierney, 2015; Ribault, 2019). Such costly catastrophes present~~  
602 ~~themselves as ‘anthropological shocks’ (Beck (2015: 80), in the sense that they open up a new~~  
603 ~~consciousness (Fazey et al., 2018). Katrina, for instance, is not only an ecological, economic and deadly~~  
604 ~~disaster, but it is also a ‘racial flood’ that brings back colonial patterns of racism, slavery, vulnerability~~  
605 ~~and abandonment; and it is an initiator of policy transformations.~~

606 Constructivist scholars not only emphasize the role of neoliberal ideology that legitimizes  
607 established power relationships and patterns of domination in resilience discourses. They also point at  
608 the role of myth and myth-making in the discursive construction of resilience. Constructed as a myth,  
609 resilience is understood as a widely embraced narrative. Resilience is a story that connects diverging  
610 ideologies, values, interests, worldviews and power relations. The ‘myth of resilience’ (Kuhlicke, 2013)  
611 refers to the stories that stakeholders enact to make sense of the radically surprising discovery of  
612 something entirely unknown (like Katrina or the Covid-19 crisis). As narrators, stakeholders interpret  
613 their own capacities to deal with stresses and shocks, such as extreme weather events (like floods,  
614 droughts, and heatwaves). In this context of making sense of an unknown phenomenon, stakeholders  
615 develop the capacity to adapt and transform through myth-making. For instance, the increasing  
616 attention on ‘urban climate resilience’ (Tyler and Moensch, 2012) resonates with the myth that cities,  
617 or ‘local governments’, are to lead and shape climate change adaptation as a form of bottom-up self-  
618 organization for absorbing changes and disturbances (O’Hare et al., 2016; Klein et al., 2017). Resilience  
619 to climate change is addressed in constructivist research as a problematic of governing (policy-making,  
620 regulating, administering, etc.) in a complex world that is marked by unequal power relationships and

621 ~~their neoliberal repercussions. In the past few years, various constructivist scholars have moved~~  
622 ~~beyond the idea that resilience to climate change is a neoliberal construct marked. Chandler (2014),~~  
623 ~~for instance, argues that resilience can be understood as a post neoliberal construct. In resilience~~  
624 ~~discourses, Chandler argues, the art of governing is fundamentally reframed in recognition of the self-~~  
625 ~~organization of systems — capacities of everyday democracy that are embedded in the relational,~~  
626 ~~creative, reflexive and transformative capacities of stakeholders (Chandler, 2014; Boas & Rothe, 2016).~~  
627 ~~In such self organization, myth making is key in constructing resilience. Constructed as a~~  
628 ~~myth, resilience is understood as, in the sense that a widely embraced narrative that connects~~  
629 ~~diverging ideologies, values, interests, worldviews and power relations — and provides research~~  
630 ~~opportunities for scientists. Resilience is one of those myths. The ‘myth of resilience’ (Kuhlicke, 2013)~~  
631 ~~refers to the stories that stakeholders enact to make sense of the radically surprising discovery of~~  
632 ~~something entirely unknown (like Katrina or the Covid 19 crisis). As narrators, stakeholders interpret~~  
633 ~~their own capacities to deal with stresses and shocks, such as extreme weather events (like in the form~~  
634 ~~of floods, droughts, and heatwaves). In many regions, these events occur with increasing~~  
635 ~~frequency and intensity, exposing the stakeholders to unprecedented risks and uncertainties. In this~~  
636 ~~context it is in this context of making sense of an unknown phenomenon, of sense-making process that~~  
637 ~~stakeholders develop the capacity to adapt and transform. In other words, constructing resilience to~~  
638 ~~climate change, as a form of self organization, comes with myth making, storytelling and narratives~~  
639 ~~that unify diverse stakeholders. For instance, the increasing attention on “urban climate resilience”~~  
640 ~~(Tyler and Moensch, 2012) resonates with the narrative that cities, or ‘local governments’, are to lead~~  
641 ~~and shape climate change adaptation as a form of bottom up self organization for absorbing changes~~  
642 ~~and disturbances. This narrative and the associated process is conceptualized as ‘responsibilization’,~~  
643 ~~the increasing legal and financial responsibility of local government, private companies and individual~~  
644 ~~citizens in climate change adaptation (O’Hare et al., 2016; Klein et al., 2017).~~

### 3. Bridging the naturalist and constructivist view on resilience

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647

648 In the social sciences, naturalist and constructivist resilience research are based on contrasted  
649 premises, each having their own theoretical and methodological outlooks. Given such scientific  
650 contrasts, it ~~Given the two scientific approaches in resilience research, each based on contrasting~~  
651 ~~premises, it~~ has been widely questioned whether resilience can possibly operate as a theoretical model  
652 or unifying paradigm – and whether such a unifying paradigm would be desirable in the first place  
653 (Alexander, 2013; Thorén, 2014; Bourbeau, 2015; Fainstein, 2015; Pizzo, 2015). ~~A~~ ~~Although~~ a unifying  
654 paradigm is neither possible nor desirable. ~~Yet, –yet–~~ naturalist and constructivist research can be  
655 brought together to ~~approaches must be bridged to~~ enrich and renew ~~our~~ understandings of resilience  
656 to climate change. ~~– an enrichment and renewal of resilience research that is much needed for~~  
657 ~~responding to the ecological and societal challenges of anthropogenic climate change.~~ Naturalist  
658 resilience research has the great merit that it may help to increase complex systems' robustness to  
659 system failure when faced with shocks and disturbances. ABM – a mode of analysis that complexity  
660 theorists tend to prefer – may be a valuable tool for developing procedural stability, environmental  
661 risk management under conditions of uncertainty, provision of planning security, and prevention of  
662 adverse consequences from disruptive shocks (Schilling, Wyss & Binder, 2018). Constructivist resilience  
663 research provides ~~has the great merit of providing~~ a critical and most penetrating understanding of  
664 resilience as a construct (first of all, a discursive construct, myth or narrative) ~~political phenomenon~~  
665 that contains political intention and direction. Its interpretation of resilience to climate change ~~as a~~  
666 ~~social (political, ideological, mythical, discursive) construct~~ is useful for generating understanding of  
667 how resilience is mobilized, taken up in climate governance, and resisted by social movements'  
668 counter-discourses, such as the Fridays for Future, Black Lives Matter and Extinction Rebellion, that  
669 push for less unsustainable trajectories and for more protection of vulnerable citizens ~~subjects and~~  
670 communities.

671

672

673 **3.1 The debate on adaptive and transformative resilience**

674

675 In recent years, the ~~contrast dialectic~~ between naturalism and constructivism in resilience research has  
676 come to revolve around the issue of adaptation and transformation (Chandler, 2014; Redman, 2014;  
677 Fainstein, 2014; Dahlberg et al, 2015; Sjöstedt, 2015; Boas & Rothe, 2016; Duit, 2016; ~~Ziervogel, Cowen~~  
678 ~~& Ziniades, 2016~~; Clément & Rivera, 2017; Lyster, 2017; Schlosberg, Collins & Niemeyer, 2017; Fazey  
679 et al, 2018; Glaser et al, 2018; Hoekstra, Bredenhoff-Bijlsma & Krol, 2018; Jesse, Heinrichs &  
680 Kuchshinrichs, 2019; Dryzek & Pickering, 2019). It is an urgent issue that emerges from an ambiguity  
681 in Holling's SES approach (Redman, 2014). In the 1970s, Holling (1973) reinterpreted~~ed~~ resilience as  
682 bouncing back ~~or forward~~ in terms of SES adaptation. ~~SES a~~Adaptation refers, on the one hand, to the  
683 capacity of agents to influence the ~~systemSES. socio-ecological system~~ (and influence or strengthen  
684 resilience as a system property). And on the other hand, it alludes to ~~panarchical~~ adaptation to new  
685 (ecological and social) environments, as an evolutionary process ~~towards a new stage, phase or~~  
686 ~~adaptation cycle~~ (Boyd et al, 2015). ~~Naturalist social science typically focusses on the constant~~  
687 ~~refinement of simulation tools like ABM (that can cope with radical complexity, uncertainty and~~  
688 ~~multiplicity of agents) and techniques of administrative regulation in favour of adaptation as~~  
689 ~~evolutionary resilience (cf. Cote & Nightingale, 2012; Patriarca et al, 2018).~~ Yet, ~~as Holling emphasizes,~~  
690 the bouncing back ~~and bouncing forward~~ of ~~a systemSES~~ not only refers to a return to some previous  
691 (dynamic) equilibrium or to the persistence and endurance of systems. It also refers to socio-ecological  
692 transformation in an ongoing process of non-equilibrium and instability and reinvention ~~of systems~~ in  
693 changing environments ~~marked by different adaptive cycles (growth, accumulation, restructuring, and~~  
694 ~~renewal)~~ (Folke, 2006). Transformation refers to the capacity of agents to create a new system ~~and a~~  
695 ~~new discourse~~, particularly when conditions make the existing system untenable or illegitimate.  
696 Constructivist resilience research is primarily focused on transformation. Such research unsettles  
697 taken-for-granted assumptions and definitions of the situation ~~expressed in established discourses;~~  
698 ~~and it and~~ ignites new imaginations ~~and counter-discourses~~ needed for realizing less unsustainable

699 futures (Fazey et al, 2018). Recently, a middle ground between adaptation and transformation has  
700 been developed, in the form of 'transformational adaptations' (Pelling, O'Brien  
701 & Matyas, 2015; Mummery & Mummery, 2019: 920; Pelling, O'Brien & Matyas, 2015), ~~adaptation~~  
702 ~~and transformation are bridged/reconciled.~~ Transformational adaptations, such as green growth or the  
703 greening of the capitalist established economy refer to changes that are aligned to the scale of  
704 projected, possible and desirable changes within systems that are informed by (ultimately  
705 constructivist) considerations of environmental and climate justice.

706 The naturalist emphasis on resilience ~~to climate change~~ as system adaptation to climate  
707 change means that resilience research focusses on the degree to which complex systems can build  
708 capacity for learning, as a way to respond to shocks or disturbances, embrace evolutionary change,  
709 and live with complexity and uncertainty (Thorén, 2014; Juncos, 2017; Warmink et al, 2017; Béné et  
710 al, 2018). ~~Warmink et al (2017) point out that in Dutch river management, uncertainty analysis typically~~  
711 ~~complicates decision making, with typical adaptation responses being conservative and within safety~~  
712 ~~margins. This leads to over dimensioning and high costs of water engineering works (like flood~~  
713 ~~defences).~~ Given unpredictability and uncontrollability, adaptive resilience comes with short-term  
714 planning, uncertainty reductions, incremental and path-dependent changes (Borsje et al, 2011;  
715 Haasnoot et al, 2013). Adaptive resilience – the system's re-stabilizer – is taken as inherently positive,  
716 while disturbances and shocks (de-stabilizers) are taken as negative (Duit, 2016; Lockie, 2016).  
717 ~~Warmink et al (2017) point out that in Dutch river management, uncertainty analysis typically~~  
718 ~~complicates decision making, with typical adaptation responses being conservative and within safety~~  
719 ~~margins. This leads to over dimensioning and high costs of water engineering works (like flood~~  
720 ~~defences).~~ As a consequence of the near flood events of 1993 and 1995 along the river Rhine in the  
721 Netherlands, the Dutch government responded by increasing the flood conveyance capacity of the  
722 large rivers, thereby decreasing flood water levels (Hamers et al, 2015). Since its completion in 2015,  
723 the Room for the River project is considered effective thus far, particularly as its secondary objective  
724 to increase ecosystem values in the river appears successful.

725 It is on the basis of the premise that adaptive resilience is good that naturalist resilience  
726 research ties up with climate risk management, as a way of managing ecosystem services (critical for  
727 survival), under conditions of ecological and societal shocks and disturbances (Boyd et al, 2015; Berbés-  
728 Blázquez et al, 2017). For instance, when confronted with the near flood events of 1993 and 1995 along  
729 the river Rhine in the Netherlands, the Dutch government responded by increasing the flood  
730 conveyance capacity of the large rivers, thereby decreasing flood water levels (Hamers et al, 2015).  
731 Since its completion in 2015, the Room for the River project is considered effective thus far, particularly  
732 as its secondary objective to increase ecosystem values in the river appears successful. -Warmink et al  
733 (2017) point out that in Dutch river management, such adaptation responses are typically conservative  
734 and within safety margins. This leads to over-dimensioning and high costs of water engineering works  
735 (like flood defenses).

736 The constructivist emphasis on resilience to climate change as system transformation refers to  
737 the emergent transformation of systems into something new beyond the status quo (Ziervogel, Cowen  
738 & Ziniades, 2016; Rothe, 2017; Béné et al, 2018). Transformative resilience is is typically defined as the  
739 system's internal capacities, capabilities and relations that enables it to create a new condition marked  
740 by a new discourse (and accordingly, new or different power relationships), in which responsibilities  
741 may be shifted. Flood protection, for instance, is typically a governmental responsibility, but with a  
742 new myth new storytelling stakeholders can transform an established situation and realize alternative  
743 scenario's in which responsibilities may be distributed among different stakeholders (Warmink et al.,  
744 2017). Adaptive resilience comes with evolutionary change (the definition of change that naturalist  
745 research typically endorses). By contrast, —whereas—transformative resilience comes with  
746 'metamorphosis'. This type of change refers to, that is, a transformation/figuration of systems culture  
747 that is triggered by anthropological the shocks that open up new horizons, and disturbances that come  
748 with radical newness and reinventions, reassessments (including of past ideas, beliefs and practices)  
749 and rediscoveries (Beck, 2015; Fazey et al, 2018). The middle ground of tTransformational adaptation  
750 bridges evolutionary change and metamorphosis, in the sense that such adaptation attends to broader

751 socio-political processes of transformation. ~~The argument for transformational adaptation is that the~~  
752 ~~ecological and societal challenges of climate change are unprecedented in scale and intensity and~~  
753 ~~come with new risks and locations of activities~~ (Kates, Travis & Wilbanks, 2012; [Ziervogel, Cowen &](#)  
754 [Ziniades, 2016](#)). The notion of transformational adaptation picks up on and challenges the  
755 transformative logic of system trans~~formation~~~~figuration~~ with simultaneous system adaptation, based  
756 on uncertainty regarding how fast and how far disruptions will go – or whether sustainable  
757 transformations will thrive as political projects at all.

758 ~~Constructivist social scientists criticize the notion of adaptive resilience for not sufficiently~~  
759 ~~addressing issues of environmental and climate justice. To address issues of power abuse and~~  
760 ~~domination, the constructivist argument goes, system reconfiguration is needed: injustice inheres in~~  
761 ~~the established systems. Naturalist resilience research, however, does not exclude considerations of~~  
762 ~~justice from scientific analysis. Yet, it identifies justice, like resilience, as a system property. Thus,~~  
763 ~~Although constructivist social science manifests a higher degree of sensitivity to issues of~~  
764 ~~environmental and climate justice in a current oppressive situation that is marked by high degrees of~~  
765 ~~injustice, naturalist resilience research does not exclude considerations of justice. On the contrary,~~  
766 enhancing adaptive resilience to climate change may entail liberal principles of equity, fairness and  
767 access to resources and services, so as not to privilege or marginalize certain stakeholders (Redman,  
768 2014; Thorén, 2014; Ksenia et al, 2016; Schlosberg, Collins & Niemeyer, 2017; Bergström, 2018). Yet,  
769 naturalist enquiry into adaptive resilience ~~tends to~~ leaves the status quo of systems, including the  
770 problematic Global North-Global South relationship (marked by massive power inequality), ~~typically~~  
771 ~~unquestioned. It tends to treat adaptive resilience as a technical property that is devoid of political and~~  
772 ~~moral substance~~ (Swyngedouw, 2011; Pizzo, 2015; Clément & Rivera, 2017; Davoudi, 2018; Glaser et  
773 al, 2018; Dryzek & Pickering, 2019). In constructivist resilience research, ~~by contrast,~~ the justice  
774 question is placed in a context of broader socio-political processes of [system](#) transformation: adaptive  
775 systems can be unjust and oppressive (Fainstein, 2014; Weichselgartner and Kelman, 2015; Huang,  
776 Boranbay-Akan and Huang, 2016; McGreavy, 2016; Ribault, 2019). ~~Short term, incremental, a~~ adaptive

777 responses to shocks and disturbances may blur long term sustainability visions, while dominant (or  
778 dominating) stakeholders typically reify existing climate policy efforts in their (standardized) adaptive  
779 responses (Lockie, 2016; Derickson, 2016; Rothe, 2017; Estêvão, Calado and Capucha, 2017; Ribault,  
780 2019). Kythreotis & Bristow (2017) call this phenomenon the ‘resilience trap’ – the reinforcement of  
781 established power relations (legitimized by dominant ideologies such as neoliberalism) and  
782 contemporary resilience discourses (Blühdorn, 2013; Redman, 2014; Yanarella & Levine, 2014; Lockie,  
783 2016; VanderPlaat, 2016; Ziervogel, Cowen & Ziniades, 2016; Schilling, Wyss & Binder, 2018; Glaser et  
784 al, 2018; Ribault, 2019). Hence, constructivist scholars tend to reject Holling’s the-panarchy concept,  
785 emphasizing that transformation towards more sustainable worlds is not an evolutionary process of  
786 adaptive cycles but a political-administrative phenomenon. The middle ground of tTransformational  
787 adaptation, accordingly, must include a process of filtering out resilience traps that come with adaptive  
788 resilience. Transformational adaptation includes an the-constructivist understanding that adaptive  
789 resilience to climate change may well enforce a governance of unsustainability (cf. Van de Ven, 2017).  
790 yet, it offers no radical vision of metamorphosis. Its vision of change is one of change within rather  
791 than of established systems.

792  
793

### 794 3.2 Transformative resilience and sustainability

795

796 For constructivist scholars, transformative resilience is a post-neoliberal construct that is intertwined  
797 with the notion of sustainability. For constructivist scholars, –In constructivist resilience research, the  
798 notion of sustainability is transformative.–Sustainability is based on the idea that existing systems can  
799 be transformed – with respect to social, cultural, political, administrative, economic, technological and  
800 environmental factors –, with the right governance interventions and reconfigurations of the  
801 ecological and social underpinnings of SES (Pizzo, 2015; Weichselgartner & Kelman, 2015; VanderPlaat,  
802 2016; Ziervogel, Cowen & Ziniades, 2016; Hughes, 2017; Jesse, Heinrichs & Kuchshinrichs, 2019).



803 Currently, the sustainable energy transformation is no doubt the best example of such a  
804 reconfiguration (Park et al, 2012; De Haan & Rotmans, 2018). Fossil energy sources like coal, oil and  
805 gas are largely responsible for carbon dioxide emissions, which generate global warming. The  
806 sustainable energy transformation, accordingly, is, amongst other things, a response to climate change  
807 that is potentially transformative in negating and transcending established (climate unfriendly) energy  
808 systems.—From the (typically naturalist) perspective of strengthening adaptive ‘energy resilience’  
809 (Béné et al, 2018: 120; Jesse, Heinrichs & Kuchshinrichs, 2019: 21) – energy systems must adapt to  
810 changing environments in which high levels of greenhouse gas emissions comes from burning fossil  
811 fuels for electricity, heat and transportation. Energy resilience means that established energy systems  
812 can limit the risk of power outage and continue providing reliable energy supplies at stable costs, even  
813 in a turbulent ecological and political environment (Wiese, 2016). The notion of energy resilience, as a  
814 form of adaptive resilience to climate change, implies that the energy transition, including the use of  
815 renewables, can only go via incremental changes and greening of the established economy, to avoid  
816 system collapse (Berbés-Blázquez et al, 2017; Schilling, Wyss & Binder, 2018). The middle ground of  
817 transformational adaptation includes this adaptationist notion of energy resilience, but resilience but  
818 aligns it to the scale of desirable ecological and societal changes that are informed by justice  
819 considerations and political direction towards less unsustainable futures. Given that established  
820 energy systems insufficiently respond to ecological and societal challenges of climate change,  
821 transformational adaptation may imply the metamorphosis of energy systems.

822 From the (typically constructivist) perspective of strengthening transformative resilience,  
823 energy resilience comes with the enactment of the energy system’s status quo. This is a status quo  
824 that includes powerful agents that have a vested interest in promoting fossil energy. Such agents use  
825 —and it uses—all sorts of tactics (including sponsoring the climate change denial movement) —to secure  
826 their its established power position (Stegemann & Ossewaarde, 2018; Szablowski & Campbell, 2019).  
827 It is an energy political constellation that enacts a condition of ‘energy injustice’, particularly in the  
828 Global South. The notion of energy injustice refers to current energy systems that distribute the

829 ecological and economic benefits and burdens of established energy systems in unfair ways; dominate,  
830 degrade and devalue certain stakeholders; and exclude certain agents from processes that govern the  
831 benefits, burdens and recognitions (Jenkins et al, 2016; Heffron & McCauley, 2017). The  
832 transformative resilience of energy systems, which is tied up with the notion of 'energy justice', refers  
833 to the agents' resistance to and negation of a fossil-based energy system and its oligarchical power  
834 structure (increasing the vulnerability of such a climate-unfriendly energy system); and the creation of  
835 a renewable-based system, energy commons and collaboratives beyond the energy establishment  
836 (VanderPlaat, 2016; Bourbeau & Ryan, 2018; Juncos, 2018; Schwartz, 2018; Acosta et al, 2018; Jesse,  
837 Heinrichs & Kuchshinrichs, 2019). ~~In other words, the sustainable energy transformation comes with  
838 transformative resilience and energy justice that typically assumes the form of resistance to the most  
839 hegemonic powers (VanderPlaat, 2016; Bourbeau & Ryan, 2018; Juncos, 2018; Schwartz, 2018). The  
840 middle ground of t~~Transformational adaptation includes the long-term vision of energy governance  
841 (for instance, towards 2050), but it searches for realizing such transformation through adaptations by  
842 the status quo. Transformational adaptation means that the sustainable energy transformation comes  
843 with the change of the energy establishment into agents of sustainability – a change that comes from  
844 within the power complex, for instance, via stakeholder participation (like shareholder activism).

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### 847 **3.3 AI for resilience and sustainability**

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848  
849 Adaptive resilience to climate change comes with short-term systematic adjustments to a  
850 changing technological environment that is currently increasingly dominated by smart urbanism and  
851 artificial intelligence (AI) technologies. Governance actors like the UN, EU and national governments  
852 have all drafted their AI strategies for the making of an 'AI Revolution'. Such actors present AI as a  
853 leading technology that contributes to resolving resilience and sustainability challenges (cf. Taddeo &  
854 Florida, 2018). Such technologies are shaped by and reshape systems and their ecological and societal

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855 environments (cf. Taddeo & Floridi, 2018). Particularly in naturalist resilience research, AI is identified  
856 as a new systems property that permeates systems to generate productivity gains, improve efficiency,  
857 lower costs, predict climate change stress, track carbon emissions, monitor flood risks, etc. (Rajan &  
858 Saffiotti, 2017; Khakurel et al, 2018; Vahedifard, et al, 2019; Miller, 2019; Saravi et al, 2019).  
859 Strengthening adaptive resilience to climate change through AI primarily means that an integrated  
860 data system for circulating information (near) real time among agents needs to be developed. In an AI  
861 technological environment, resilience implies close collaboration between agents (tool/model  
862 developers, data stakeholders, community-level stakeholders, state-level institutions, etc.)  
863 (Vahedifard, et al, 2019). AI comes in both for combining datasets into usable information, as a  
864 monitoring method (like change detection algorithms) as well as a tool for forecasting (for instance  
865 likely occurrence of a natural hazard due to extreme events). Identifying, harnessing, synthesizing, and  
866 communicating pertinent yet structured and unstructured data (weather data, cell phone GPS data,  
867 social media feeds, traffic cameras, smart city sensors, images, videos, audio data, etc.) enables agents  
868 to better forecast, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disturbances and shocks (Rajan &  
869 Saffiotti, 2017; Vahedifard et al, 2019). In urban systems, so-called ‘city dashboards’ rely on big data  
870 and AI when it comes to ordering and visualizing data through interactive maps and graphs (Kitchen,  
871 2018). Such dashboards are typically a collaboration between those who have big data and algorithmic  
872 tools with those who have local knowledge. By being able to predict (estimate or forecast) more  
873 accurately and learn from past disturbances and shocks, lessons can be learned and applied in building  
874 adaptive resilience against disturbances (Saravi et al, 2019). AI, as for instance used in city dashboards,  
875 quantifies the probabilities of occurrence of extreme events, essential in predicting and preparing for  
876 future natural hazards, such as floods or landslides. For instance, with advances in machine learning,  
877 water availability, ice surfaces and melting rates, saturated soils, pollution, deforestation, etc. can be  
878 more precisely or smartly monitored in space and time so that changes over time can be tracked. Yet,  
879 with monitoring also learning of agents and organizations is needed.

880 In the social sciences, constructivist scientists tend to have a critical view of AI. They do  
881 recognize that AI may help building transformative resilience, given AI's capacity for anticipating future  
882 events. AI may also play a positive role in phasing out of unsustainable yet adaptive systems.  
883 Governance actors, such as the UN in its AI for good program (2017-), the EU in its AI strategy (2018),  
884 and various national governments in their AI programs emphasize the transformative potentials of AI.  
885 They do recognize that AI may help building transformative resilience, for instance, when it comes to  
886 realizing the sustainable energy transformation or for phasing out of unsustainable yet adaptive  
887 systems. Also governance actors, such as the UN in its AI for good program (2017 ), the EU in its AI  
888 strategy (2018), and various national governments in their AI programs emphasize the transformative  
889 potentials of AI.–Yet, strengthened adaptive resilience can also weaken the transformative resilience  
890 that is needed for materializing sustainable transformations (Khakurel et al, 2018). From a critical  
891 constructivist angle, to make AI serve transformative resilience requires that the domination of giant  
892 AI firms (like Google, Amazon, Microsoft, Facebook, Alibaba, Tencent, etc.) is kept in check. It requires  
893 high levels of transparency and stakeholder involvement in how algorithms are designed, built and  
894 applied. In constructivist researches, it is frequently argued that although big data can be openly  
895 accessible (like satellite imagery for geospatial and data scientists), big data and AI are often in the  
896 hands of giant tech oligarchs (Miller, 2019; Ossewaarde, 2019) that have a vested interest in the further  
897 acceleration and consumption of technological devices (Khakurel et al, 2018). Because of such an  
898 oligarchical power structure, AI tends to obstruct transformative resilience, exerting power beyond  
899 rule of law and democratic will and understanding. Such power abuse is found in the many recent  
900 privacy rights violations and scandals (like the Facebook-Cambridge Analytica data scandal (2018) and  
901 the many Google scandals) (cf. Taddeo & Floridi, 2018).

902 More specifically, strengthened adaptive resilience typically (but not necessarily) may weaken  
903 the transformative resilience that is needed for materializing sustainable transformations (Khakurel et  
904 al, 2018). In the social sciences, constructivist scientists tend to have a critical view of AI. They do  
905 recognize that AI may help building transformative resilience, for instance, when it comes to the

906 phasing out of systems. Yet, from their critical angle, they stress that to make AI serve transformative  
907 resilience requires that the domination of giant AI firms is kept in check. And it requires high levels of  
908 transparency and stakeholder involvement in how algorithms are designed, built and applied.

909  
910 In constructivist researches, it is frequently argued that although big data can be openly  
911 accessible (like satellite imagery for geospatial and data scientists), big data and AI are often in the  
912 hands of giant tech oligarchs like Google, Amazon, Apple, Microsoft, Facebook and Chinese forces  
913 (Miller, 2019), that, like the oil barons, are established powers that have a vested interest in the further  
914 acceleration and consumption of technological devices (Khakurel et al, 2018). Because of such an  
915 oligarchical power structure, AI tends to obstruct transformative resilience, exerting power beyond  
916 rule of law and democratic will and understanding (as found in the many recent privacy rights  
917 violations, scandals (like the Facebook Cambridge Analytica data scandal (2018), the many Google  
918 scandals, etc.), and mistrust of new technologies) (cf. Taddeo & Floridi, 2018; Ossewaarde, 2019).  
919 Moreover, constructivist scholars mention that AI can weaken transformative resilience because we  
920 trust too much on the possibility to adapt, and then do not want to change things structurally in a  
921 democratic and sustainable way.

922  
923  
924 Adaptive resilience to climate change comes with short term systematic adjustments to a  
925 changing technological environment that is currently increasingly dominated by smart urbanism and  
926 artificial intelligence (AI) technologies. Such technologies reshape systems and their ecological and  
927 societal environments (cf. Taddeo & Floridi, 2018). Particularly in naturalist resilience research, AI is  
928 identified as a new systems property that permeates systems to generate productivity gains, improve  
929 efficiency, lower costs, predict climate change stress, track carbon emissions, monitor flood risks, etc.  
930 (Rajan & Saffiotti, 2017; Khakurel et al, 2018; Vahedifard, et al, 2019; Miller, 2019; Saravi et al, 2019).  
931 Strengthening adaptive resilience to climate change through AI primarily means that an integrated

932 data system for circulating information among agents needs to be developed. In an AI technological  
933 environment, resilience implies close collaboration between agents (data stakeholders, community-  
934 level stakeholders, state level institutions, etc.) (Vahedifard, et al, 2019). AI comes in both for  
935 converting datasets into usable information and as a monitoring method (like change detection  
936 algorithms). Identifying, harnessing, synthesizing, and communicating pertinent yet unstructured data  
937 (weather data, cell phone GPS data, social media feeds, traffic cameras, smart city sensors, images,  
938 videos, audio data, etc.) enables agents to better forecast, prepare for, respond to, and recover from  
939 disturbances and shocks (Rajan & Saffiotti, 2017; Vahedifard et al, 2019). By being able to predict  
940 (estimate or forecast) more accurately and learn from past disturbances and shocks, lessons can be  
941 learned and applied in building adaptive resilience against disturbances (Saravi et al, 2019). AI  
942 quantifies the probabilities of occurrence of extreme events, essential in predicting and preparing for  
943 future natural hazards, such as floods. For instance, with advances in machine learning, water  
944 availability, ice surfaces and melting rates, pollution, deforestation, etc. can be more precisely or  
945 smartly monitored so that changes over time can be tracked. Yet, with monitoring also learning of  
946 agents and organizations is needed.

947 More specifically, strengthened adaptive resilience typically weakens the transformative  
948 resilience that is needed for materializing sustainable transformations (Khakurel et al, 2018). In  
949 constructivist resilience research, it is typically emphasized that AI, like resilience, not only has a  
950 positive impact on sustainable trajectories, but also enacts resilience traps (typically via adapting and  
951 rebadging existing short term strategies) and enforces injustice and unsustainability (for instance, via  
952 massive energy usage and the production of electronic waste). Big data and AI are typically in the hands  
953 of giant tech oligarchs like Google, Amazon, Apple, Microsoft, Facebook and Chinese forces (Miller,  
954 2019), that, like the oil barons, are established powers that have a vested interest in the further  
955 acceleration and consumption of technological devices (Khakurel et al, 2018). Given such an  
956 oligarchical power structure, AI typically tends to obstruct transformative resilience, exerting power  
957 beyond rule of law and democratic will and understanding (as found in the many recent privacy rights

958 ~~violations, scandals (like the Facebook-Cambridge Analytica data scandal (2018), the many Google~~  
959 ~~scandals, etc.), and mistrust of new technologies). Given such problematic power structures, AI~~  
960 ~~thereby weakens transformative resilience (cf. Taddeo & Floridi, 2018). In other words, from the critical~~  
961 ~~angle of constructivist resilience research, AI typically comes with unjust resilience and tends to close~~  
962 ~~down alternative futures. Transformative resilience to climate change, accordingly, comes with~~  
963 ~~resistance to big tech firms and their handling of data and digital surveillance and domination of~~  
964 ~~vulnerable people. Reconciling adaptive and transformative resilience — in the form transformational~~  
965 ~~adaptation — comes with the change of big tech firms from within the oligarchical complex, with AI~~  
966 ~~redesigned and politically (democratically or technocratically) controlled for the making of less~~  
967 ~~unsustainable futures.~~

#### 970 4. Six upcoming themes in diversified resilience research

971  
972 In the social sciences, the bridging of naturalist and constructivist scientific approaches in The  
973 diversification of resilience research and the tension between, and the reconciliation of, naturalism  
974 and construction in theorizing (and, in their practical implications, pushing for) change as system  
975 adaptation, transformation or transformational adaptation triggers new research themes for the study  
976 of resilience to anthropogenic climate change. Theorizing change within and of systems has become  
977 the key issue in resilience research, in the wake of changing societal~~political~~, ecological and  
978 technological environments. In naturalist research, resilience to climate change is presented as  
979 ‘evolutionary resilience’ and as ‘adaptive resilience’. ~~From this angle, with~~ the key issue of changing  
980 environments is being the survivability of established complex systems under stress. Change is,  
981 accordingly, evolutionary change. In constructivist research, resilience to climate change is presented  
982 as discursive, ideological, mythical (the ‘myth of resilience’) and as transformative resilience. ~~with~~  
983 The key issue of change is being the overcoming of ‘resilience to change’, ‘resilience traps’ and ‘unjust

984 resilience' or 'bad resilience' ~~that the status quo that rule-organize established systems produce~~. Such  
985 overcoming ~~of the establishment~~ is presented as an indispensable condition for enhancing change.  
986 Such change refers to metamorphosis ~~of systems~~ and comes with transformative politics and ~~climate~~  
987 governance. The reconciliation of naturalism and constructivism in terms of change can be found in  
988 the ~~middle ground notion~~ of transformational adaptation, which ties incrementalism to long term  
989 sustainability visions. It is a notion that comes with the search for the conditions and tempo of  
990 transformations in different ecological and societal contexts ~~and adaptative cycles~~. Ultimately, the  
991 overarching challenge for future research is to ensure that resilience to climate change does not  
992 compromise sustainability and considerations of justice (~~including, environmental, climate and energy~~  
993 ~~justice~~).

994 A first promising direction for future resilience research ~~that emerges from the diversification~~  
995 ~~of resilience research~~ concerns the reconciliation of naturalism and constructivism ~~scientific~~  
996 ~~approaches to resilience~~. ~~Given the diversification of scientific approaches, r~~Resilience cannot operate  
997 as a theoretical model or unifying paradigm, ~~given that naturalism and constructivism are grounded in~~  
998 ~~contrasting epistemological and ontological assumptions; and reflect contrasting scientific universes~~  
999 ~~and manifest different scientific and political commitments~~ (Mummary & Mummary, 2019). Yet, as a  
1000 metaphor resilience provides a sound basis for reconciling ~~contrasting scientific approaches~~ ~~types of~~  
1001 ~~science~~, mainly because of its heterogeneity and high level of abstraction (Thorén, 2014). Intellectually,  
1002 the reconciling of naturalism and constructivism implies an appreciation of diverse scientific  
1003 vocabularies, many visions of what counts as scientific knowledge, other ~~approaches~~ ~~sciences'~~ scientific  
1004 worlds, a certain embracing (which includes making manifest) of the tensions between the contrasting  
1005 types of science, and creating spaces for constructive contestation (Pfeffer & Georgiadou, 2019).  
1006 Thereby, new resilience perspectives may develop. New questions may be posed (or new answers to  
1007 long-standing questions may be provided). The resilience trap – typically marked by the promotion of  
1008 adaptive strategies that reify responses and corresponding power structures in the short-term – may  
1009 be avoided (via challenging current assumptions underpinning resilience research). Current adaptation



1010 and transformation and transformational adaptation approaches may be further refined. And much-  
1011 needed new ways of scientific thinking and possibilities may be ~~opened-up~~opened in resilience  
1012 research, beyond old conceptualizations and modes of analyses (cf. Fazey et al, 2018). These  
1013 developments ask for new collaboration frameworks and platforms that empower ~~all types of~~  
1014 stakeholders to bring both their resilience research questions and their assets to the table to  
1015 collectively explore and define potential futures from the perspective of all present world-views.

1016 A second theme for future resilience research comes with a change in political environment,  
1017 in which the legitimacy of adaptive, ~~transformative~~transformative, and transformational adaptive  
1018 responses to climate change is constantly contested. Anthropogenic climate change comes with a  
1019 political-administrative crisis, which manifests itself in the form of a legitimacy crisis, authority crisis  
1020 (including the crisis of scientific authority), crisis of democracy, a crisis of human rights, a crisis of  
1021 modernity (Swyngedouw, 2011; Blühdorn, 2013; Fischer, 2017; Ossewaarde, 2018; Stegemann &  
1022 Ossewaarde, 2018; Dryzek & Pickering, 2019). Crisis and the ability to absorb changes and shocks has  
1023 been widely constructed as the new normal (Hilhorst, 2018). In an increasingly toxic political  
1024 environment (~~—~~marked by climate change denial, anti-immigration policies, and nationalist  
1025 protectionism) ~~—~~adaptive and transformative resilience and transformational adaptation may be  
1026 expressed and contested in manifold ways. For instance, on the one hand, environmental protest  
1027 movements are stakeholders that develop a leverage required to transform~~change~~ established  
1028 systems (such as energy systems) and their governance arrangements. ~~On, while on~~ the other hand  
1029 agents who hold~~gain~~ power thanks to ~~by~~ such arrangements typically use tactics of repression and  
1030 criminalization, particularly in the extractive sectors of the Global South (Szablowski & Campbell,  
1031 2019). New research questions emerge on the one hand from polarization and the exercise of  
1032 (il)legitimate power in the governing of and for resilience to climate change. This is the question of  
1033 how the adaptation and metamorphosis reconfiguration of systems under pressures of climate change  
1034 comes with power inequalities, polarization, injustice, battle for resources, democratic deficits and  
1035 post-democratic tendencies, climate change denial tactics, attacks on legal rights, climate injustice,

1036 and the resilient governance of unsustainability. To put it in more positive terms, urgent questions  
1037 concern the meanings of transformation, the theorization of transformation in terms of just resilience,  
1038 the linkage of resilience to sustainable desirable-futures, the development of a transformation agenda  
1039 in participative, proactive and deliberative ways, and the comparison of different administrative  
1040 capacities and new governance arrangements that explain differences in system adaptation and  
1041 reconfiguration (cf. Blühdorn, 2013; Fischer, 2017; Davoudi, 2018; Köhler et al, 2019; Mummery &  
1042 Mummery, 2019).

1043 A third promising topic for future resilience research concerns the relationship between  
1044 adaptive resilience and transformative resilience and transformational adaptation in the reactive and  
1045 proactive governance responses to anthropogenic climate change (Clément & Rivera, 2017). In the  
1046 coming decade, questions like how adaptive and transformative resilience to climate change is  
1047 strengthened or weakened; how the current performance of systems when it comes to responding to  
1048 possible disturbance (for instance, through the use of monitoring systems) can be better understood;  
1049 how unjust resilience can be disabled (and therewith 'positive vulnerability' can be increased to  
1050 generate beneficial transformation (cf. Gallopin, 2006); and how transformational adaptation  
1051 manifests itself (how multiple adaptations may lead to transformational adaptation and what are the  
1052 tipping points for igniting transformation), become urgent ones for resilience research (Grove &  
1053 Chandler, 2017; Glaser et al, 2018). The notion of 'tentative governance' appears particularly relevant  
1054 in the context of transformational politics, when it comes to phasing out systems and weakening  
1055 adaptive resilience. Tentative governance is marked by interventions that are designed as preliminary  
1056 rather than as persistent, for purposes of probing and learning rather than for stipulating definite  
1057 targets or fixating existing systems and their underlying assumptions (Kuhlmann, Stegmaier & Konrad,  
1058 2019). It is likely that stakeholder engagement (including resistance) in transformational politics and  
1059 tentative governance varies, and manifests itself differently, across different policy fields. For instance,  
1060 the sustainable energy transformation may include multi-layer governance challenges, many pro-  
1061 active stakeholders, new investment opportunities and job opportunities. Given that multiple public

1062 and private actors are responsible for the performance of different parts of a system, tentative  
1063 governance comes with transformational adaptations that must be arranged. Hence arises the  
1064 question which adaptations allow for transformation? In contrast with the sustainable energy  
1065 transformation, sSea level rise and the disruption and relocation of coastal cities ~~, by contrast,~~ may  
1066 trigger a more limited transformative politics, despite inevitable trans~~formation~~figuration of systems  
1067 due to shocks and disturbances (metamorphosis). Yet, in the coming decade, transformational politics  
1068 and tentative governance – including anthropogenic topics like population displacement, privatization  
1069 of climate adaptation, conflict organized around scarce resources (like water resources),  
1070 intergenerational environmental conflict, and the closing of old infrastructures that are too costly to  
1071 maintain – becomes a more urgent research topic.

1072 A fourth topic for future resilience research concerns the relationship between phasing out of  
1073 unsustainable systems and societal transformations. The sustainable energy transformation is a most  
1074 obvious phasing out of old systems (like coal energy systems) and change of worldviews, middle class  
1075 consumerism~~values~~, lifestyles, etc. towards new energy systems, given that burning fossil fuels has  
1076 such a major impact on climate change. Adaptive and transformational responses to climate change  
1077 are intermingled with responses to ~~many other~~ societal and ecological developments. ~~A Hence, a~~  
1078 response like investment in transportation systems that aims to address increasing transportation  
1079 demand must accordingly include possible climate change impacts. In the Anthropocene epoch,  
1080 systems typically face pressures to change, to establish new (less unsustainable) interactions between  
1081 society and ecology. Pressures on existing systems ~~—typically those that are marked by unjust~~  
1082 ~~resilience and resilience traps (like established energy systems)—~~not only emerge from ecological  
1083 adversity, over-exploitation, resource depletion, etc., but particularly from counter-discourses and  
1084 new ways of thinking, new lifestyles, and new contestations (like the Fridays for Future, the Anti-  
1085 Mining, the Transition Towns, Black Lives Matter, and Degrowth movements) that increase the positive  
1086 vulnerability of undesirable systems—ete (Bergmann & Ossewaarde, 2020). At the same time,  
1087 anthropogenic climate change comes with the development of a multi-trillion market of the emerging

1088 ~~climate-green~~ economy, which proves new climate investment opportunities. Given such societal  
1089 pressures and opportunities, new research topics include the governing and accelerating of the decline  
1090 of existing systems and their adaptive cycles (Stegmaier, Visser & Kuhlmann, 2014; Hoffmann, Weyer  
1091 & Longen, 2017; Stegmaier, Visser & Kuhlmann, 2020); the particular circumstances in which  
1092 accelerations can manifest themselves; the identification of, and coping with, uncertainties in  
1093 processes of adaptation and ~~transformation~~figuration and transformational adaptation; and the  
1094 construction of new incentive structures, for accelerating sustainable transformation (cf. Clément &  
1095 Rivera, 2017; Warmink et al, 2017; Köhler et al, 2019). This branch of discontinuation research assumes  
1096 ~~that socio-technical systems~~that technologies influence socio-ecological systems. ~~S, so that some~~  
1097 technologies threaten resilience to climate change, while others enhance it (Smith & Stirling 2010).  
1098 Such research informs that political objectives like drastic reduction of CO2 emissions (as can be found  
1099 in the European Green Deal (2019)) will hardly be achieved by using single cleaner (green) technologies  
1100 alone, but structural ~~system metamorphosis is~~SES transformations are needed to qualitatively alter  
1101 established systems (Vögele, Kunz, Rübhelke & Stahlke 2018; Rogge & Johnston, 2017; Stegmaier  
1102 2019). One of the challenges for the coming decade is to reverse the negative, alarmist, -or  
1103 catastrophic, -or-apocalyptic or paralyzing image of climate change: transformational adaptation  
1104 comes with stakeholders taking a pro-active and positive view on climate change and on positive  
1105 vulnerability, with new opportunities emerging from responses to climate change. How can climate  
1106 change and vulnerability of established (and typically unsustainable) systems be regarded as an  
1107 opportunity rather than as a risk in the governance of transformational adaptation to climate change?

1108 A fifth theme for future resilience research concerns the role of environmental, energy and  
1109 climate justice in theorizing, modeling, ~~interpreting~~interpreting, and explaining resilience to climate  
1110 change (cf. Skillington, 2015; Fazey et al, 2018; Mummery & Mummery, 2019). For future research,  
1111 theories of environmental justice, energy justice and climate justice, ~~that is, theoretical insights on~~  
1112 ~~(un)equal distribution of environmental and social burdens, struggles for recognition, claims to~~  
1113 ~~participation, and unequal impacts of climate change,~~ can be conducive to helping furthering

1114 comprehension of adaptive and transformative resilience and transformational adaptation. How can  
1115 justice claims be made more responsive to newly unfolding ecological and societal circumstances and  
1116 uncertainties? How can principles of equity, fairness and access to resources and services be secured  
1117 in a toxic political environment? And how can – in the problematic context of climate-induced  
1118 migration and a political environment marked by anti-immigration policies – the wellbeing of migrants  
1119 be ensured? Theories of environmental, energy and climate justice are also highly relevant for  
1120 developing understanding of how adaptive and transformative resilience and transformational  
1121 adaptation are perceived and experienced in everyday life by different stakeholders that face  
1122 anthropogenic challenges. Constructivist enquiry into perceptions, experiences and prioritizations of  
1123 resilience constructs is a promising topic for future resilience research. In this regard, insurance  
1124 decisions of citizens against the risks associated with climate extremes can gain further research  
1125 attention. As addressed by O’Hare et al. (2016), citizens are faced with an increasing responsibility to  
1126 make decisions to ‘insure’ themselves and their assets against the possible damages of climate change.  
1127 Such decisions can have diverse justice implications in different political and economic contexts that  
1128 influence how citizens perceive, ~~experience and~~ experience and prioritize climate risks. Similarly, the  
1129 cross-sectional dimensions of justice, particularly gender and racial relations, is becoming increasingly  
1130 relevant and yet challenging to understand and integrate into climate justice (Terry, 2009), and energy  
1131 justice (Feenstra and Özerol, 2018) frameworks. And in the Global South, addressing issues of  
1132 corruption, violence, poverty and lack of access to resources (and violent battles for resources) and  
1133 services (like education and sanitation), ~~and treatment of nature as a sacred entity (rather than as an~~  
1134 ~~economic resource)~~, may have a higher priority than global environmental considerations (Köhler et  
1135 al, 2019).

1136 ~~A sixth theme for future resilience research comes with a changing (geo)technological~~  
1137 ~~environment, that is, the so-called ‘AI revolution’ in the making. Given worldwide investments and top-~~  
1138 ~~down AI strategies that global governance actors and national governments have recently published,~~  
1139 ~~AI will most plausibly become a major force that shapes adaptive and transformative resilience to~~

1140 climate change by means of monitoring and learning. A relevant example of big data is the G-Earth  
1141 Engine, which opens up an unprecedented dataset of satellite images for scientific research. Such  
1142 extensive datasets, marked by high temporal resolution, are essential for monitoring a changing earth  
1143 system. In the past decade, resilience discourses have increasingly incorporated phenomena like big  
1144 data, AI, cybersecurity and smart city; in the coming decade, resilience discourses may increasingly  
1145 become technology or AI discourses. New interplays between automation, (un)sustainability, and  
1146 adapting and transforming systems trigger new questions for future resilience research (cf. Köhler et  
1147 al, 2019). For instance, in the near future, not only the number of climate disasters is expected to rise  
1148 but also the data — satellite data, drone data, sensor data, social media data, volunteer geographic  
1149 information (VGI) data, Internet of Things data, etc. — available on such disasters is expected to increase  
1150 in size, amounting to vast volumes of climate disaster data. However, AI, due to the unstructured  
1151 nature of input data, may omit those phenomena, places and social groups that are not present in the  
1152 data (Hoefsloot et al. 2019). Alternative ways of knowing can refine or contribute complementary  
1153 insights to the precise measurements and data gaps (Pfeffer and Georgiadou 2019). New research  
1154 questions for naturalist and constructivist research emerge from challenges of organizing big data and  
1155 how to make it available and usable, given the variety of public and private stakeholders, workflows  
1156 and incentive structures involved in the (social) construction of big data (Wright, 2016). How can AI be  
1157 augmented with alternative ways of knowing to strengthen adaptive/transformational resilience? How  
1158 to incorporate the socio-spatial dimension in resilience research, in order to pronounce the different  
1159 capabilities of different groups and places? And what role can AI play in creating a dialogue between  
1160 the naturalist and constructivist resilience research? In the coming years, AI tools — mainly tracking (for  
1161 instance, tracking of deforestation tracking or energy/water consumption) and machine learning  
1162 techniques — are expected to be widely used, among other things, for detecting and predicting how  
1163 climate disasters probably develop, for locating areas or communities at risk, for analyzing the  
1164 consequences of climate disasters, and for assisting in climate disaster responses. Working with AI for  
1165 purposes of learning from data — for instance, via the use of data mining or deep learning techniques

1166 for dissecting patterns in satellite images — comes with the design of procedures for data analytics,  
1167 forecasting and intervention (Rodríguez-González, Zanin & Menasalvas-Ruiz, 2019) and requires  
1168 domain and local knowledge as well as a dialogue between naturalist and constructivist researchers.  
1169 In contrast to the official national statistics of the past, which diffused societal controversies, big data  
1170 analytics create a myriad parallel realitiesmyriad parallel reality, stand in the way of achieving a  
1171 minimal consensus about basic facts and amplify controversies. In sum, next to technologization of  
1172 resilience discourses, social processes of big data construction, the inclusion and exclusion of diverse  
1173 stakeholders, the embeddedness of AI in everyday practices, the various uses of AI in the exploitation  
1174 of data as well as the integration and inclusion of alternative knowledges are promising fields of  
1175 resilience research. —A sixth theme for future resilience research comes with a changing  
1176 (geo)technological environment, that is, the so-called ‘AI revolution’ in the making. Given worldwide  
1177 investments and top-down AI strategies that global governance actors and national governments have  
1178 recently published, AI will most plausibly become a major force that shapes resilience to climate  
1179 change by means of monitoring, forecasting and learning. A relevant example of big data is the G-Earth  
1180 Engine and the vast amount of satellite imagery made available by space agencies, which opens up an  
1181 unprecedented dataset of satellite images for scientific research. Such extensive datasets, marked by  
1182 high spatial and temporal resolution, are essential for monitoring a changing earth system. In the past  
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1186 adapting and transforming systems trigger new questions for future resilience research (cf. Köhler et  
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1191 unstructured nature or coverage of input data, may omit those phenomena, places and social groups

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1201 years, AI tools – mainly tracking (for instance, tracking of deforestation tracking or energy/water  
1202 consumption) and machine learning techniques – are expected to be widely used. Among other things,  
1203 for detecting and predicting how climate disasters probably develop, for locating areas or communities  
1204 at risk, for analyzing the consequences of climate disasters, and for assisting in climate disaster  
1205 responses. Working with AI for purposes of learning from data – for instance, via the use of data mining  
1206 or deep learning techniques for dissecting patterns in satellite images – comes with the design of  
1207 procedures for data analytics, forecasting and intervention (Rodríguez-González, Zanin & Menasalvas-  
1208 Ruiz, 2019) and requires domain and local knowledge as well as a dialogue between naturalist and  
1209 constructivist researchers. In contrast to the official national statistics of the past, which diffused  
1210 societal controversies, big data analytics create myriad parallel realities, stand in the way of achieving  
1211 a minimal consensus about basic facts and amplify controversies. A recent example where AI and  
1212 alternative ways of knowledge came together is the resilient settlement program led by UN HABITAT  
1213 which brought together a multitude of actors (policy, private, academic, community organizations) and  
1214 data and algorithms and local knowledges to identify settlements at risks. In sum, next to  
1215 technologization of resilience discourses, social processes of big data construction, the inclusion and  
1216 exclusion of diverse stakeholders, the embeddedness of AI in everyday practices, the various uses of



1217 AI in the exploitation of data, fair, transparent and accountable (FAT) AI, as well as the integration and  
1218 inclusion of alternative knowledges are promising fields of resilience research.

1219  
1220 In the coming decade, several AI challenges are most likely to increasingly come to the fore in  
1221 resilience research. First, monitoring systems (for instance, monitoring the status and behavior of  
1222 infrastructure or human settlement dynamics) that incorporate machine learning make that systems  
1223 are automatically checked rather than regularly inspected by experts. When AI is integrated with  
1224 knowledge of how systems work, expertise is outsourced to AI, which implies that expert knowledge  
1225 may get lost or become obsolete. Moreover, AI classifications may have unintended consequences for  
1226 certain places or communities. For example, by labelling areas at risks, property prices may go down  
1227 or insurance agencies are not willing to provide an insurance certificate. Second, the digitalization of  
1228 SES makes systems vulnerable to, for instance, breakdowns, power outages and cyberattacks – hence  
1229 resilience strategies and digital strategies are intertwined (Wessel, 2019). ‘Digital resilience’ has  
1230 recently become a key concept in resilience research that refers to strengthening resilience of digital  
1231 systems to potential cyberattacks, including the adaptive capacity to respond to such attacks (Wright,  
1232 2016). The making of digital resilience typically implies bringing in tech firms for the protection of SES,  
1233 whose algorithms are typically opaque. Third, because of the reliance on AI and associated data, other  
1234 realities are neglected, excluding certain places or communities from digital resilience strategies.  
1235 Fourth, AI systems facilitate governing at a distance, with governing becoming more invisible and  
1236 possibly unaccountable. For instance, when disaster management (for instance, in the context of an  
1237 extreme weather event) becomes ‘digital humanitarianism’, the distance between the saviors and  
1238 survivors becomes big, with survivors becoming reified abstract entities that inspire limited empathy.  
1239 In fact, survivors are confronted with the risks of AI systems, in terms of privacy breaches and identity  
1240 frauds. In other words, while AI is expected to become a key theme in resilience research, a promising  
1241 topic for future resilience research concerns the challenge of uncovering resilience traps and  
1242 neutralizing the ecological and societal damage and injustice done through the reinforcement of AI

1243 technologies in governance processes like digitally-based service provision or humanitarian  
1244 interventions in the Global South.

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## 1248 5. Conclusion

1249

1250 In the social sciences, resilience to climate change is a concept that is incorporated in different  
1251 theoretical approaches that are linked to contrasting ~~scientific approaches~~types of science. Holling  
1252 originally reinterpreted and incorporated the good old notion of resilience in his SES approach, which  
1253 was then picked up by naturalist scientists who incorporated Holling's reinterpretation of resilience in  
1254 their own cybernetic complexity theory. The naturalist complexity theoretic approach to resilience as  
1255 system adaption to climate change was dominant in the social sciences, until the ecological and  
1256 political (and increasingly also the technological) context of resilience research changed. When a  
1257 decade ago actors at global, national and local governance levels drafted their resilience policies in the  
1258 wake of socio-ecological catastrophes, financial crises, climate crises, pandemics, governance failures  
1259 and the breakdown of infrastructures, constructivist approaches developed to take resilience research  
1260 far beyond complexity theory and associated methods. And it introduced a variety of new concepts for  
1261 resilience research, such as the resilience discourse, myth of resilience, just resilience, resilience trap,  
1262 transformative ~~resilience~~resilience, and transformational adaptation. Resilience cannot operate as a  
1263 unifying paradigm, ~~given that naturalism and constructivism are grounded in different epistemological~~  
1264 ~~and ontological assumptions, definitions of what counts as scientific knowledge, and definitions of~~  
1265 ~~change (evolutionary change and metamorphosis). But resilience~~but it can facilitate the reconciliation  
1266 of naturalism and constructivism. Thereby, the two contrasting scientific approaches ,~~so that the two~~  
1267 ~~types of science~~ can provide a liberating perspective on each other (without the one repressing the  
1268 other) and brought into a theory-energizing tension with each other. ~~The urgent challenges that come~~

1269 ~~with anthropogenic climate change — which may potentially cause extreme degrees of human misery~~  
1270 ~~in the coming decades —, necessitate the reconciliation of naturalist and constructivist resilience~~  
1271 ~~research.~~ Such reconciling – igniting theory-energizing tension – is needed for reimagining resilience  
1272 to climate change ~~and which is needed~~ for specifying how new political-administrative institutions  
1273 ~~(including panarchical self-organization)~~ and practices can respond in legitimate ways (taken justice  
1274 ~~and vulnerability~~ considerations into account) to the challenges of climate change, in different  
1275 ecological, political and technological contexts (cf. Johnsson et al., 2018).

1276 Given ~~recent developments the development inof resilience research in the social sciences~~  
1277 ~~past decade, with the rise of constructivist resilience research and its reconciliation with naturalism,~~  
1278 the key resilience issue ~~in resilience research~~ concerns the political response in the form of adaptation,  
1279 transformation and transformational adaptation in newly unfolding political, ecological and  
1280 technological environments. The six resilience themes for the coming decade that this paper has  
1281 identified are all connected to the issue of the political-administrative response ~~in problematic~~  
1282 ~~contexts~~ to the challenges that come with anthropogenic climate change. A first theme concerns the  
1283 reconciliation of naturalism and constructivism, to be able to move beyond established assumptions,  
1284 theories, ~~concepts~~concepts, and modes of analysis; and to trigger new imaginations to be able to  
1285 create new, theory-rich, resilience perspectives. A second theme is the legitimacy of the political  
1286 response in a toxic political environment, in which top-down and bottom up responses, including new  
1287 governance arrangements and system reconfigurations, may suffer from legitimacy deficits. –A third  
1288 theme is how, in a toxic political environment, adaptation, transformation and transformational  
1289 adaptation can be materialized; and under which conditions ~~are~~ such governance responses are  
1290 sufficient enough for addressing climate change challenges. A fourth theme is how systems are under  
1291 pressure due to climate change, ultimately igniting a phasing out of systems and a departure from  
1292 environment-unfriendly consumerist lifestyles, ~~values~~values, and assumptions. A fifth theme is how  
1293 governance responses can be made legitimate, by incorporating considerations of environmental and  
1294 climate and energy justice, —thereby strictly connecting resilience to justice considerations. A sixth

1295 theme is how [new technologies \(mainly AI\)](#) comes to intermingle with resilience: what is [the role of](#)  
1296 [such technologies and giant tech oligarchies like Google and Amazon](#) ~~its role~~ in political-administrative  
1297 responses to challenges that come with climate change? And, correspondingly, what are the undesired  
1298 consequences that come with AI [and giant tech firms](#), when it comes to responding to climate change.  
1299 How does AI enact existing power structures, thereby reinforcing resilience traps?

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