Conference Final Remarks

"La ignorancia es atrevida"   *"Ignorance is to dare"*

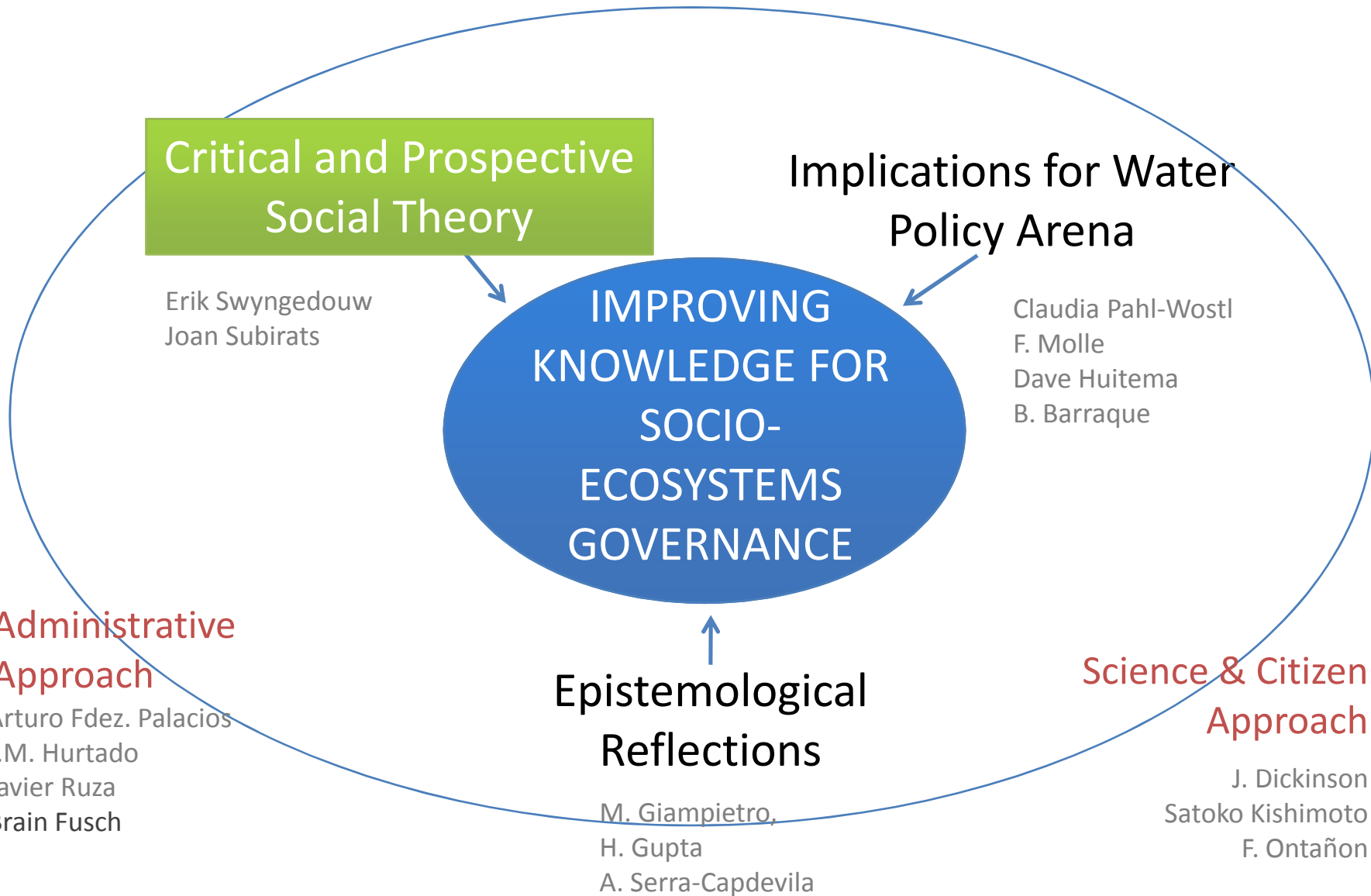] 9-11 JUNE 2014

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DATA, INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE FOR WATER GOVERNANCE IN THE NETWORKED SOCIETY

] UNIVERSITY OF SEVILLE, SPAIN

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

swan
Sustainable Water ActioN

#RepresentativeDemocracy as a #Postdemocratic governance regime is in #crisis

Representative democracy is based in the idea that the interests of those that are absent are represented by those that are present. However, those that are absent do not feel represented and demand to be present. Technology makes that possible.
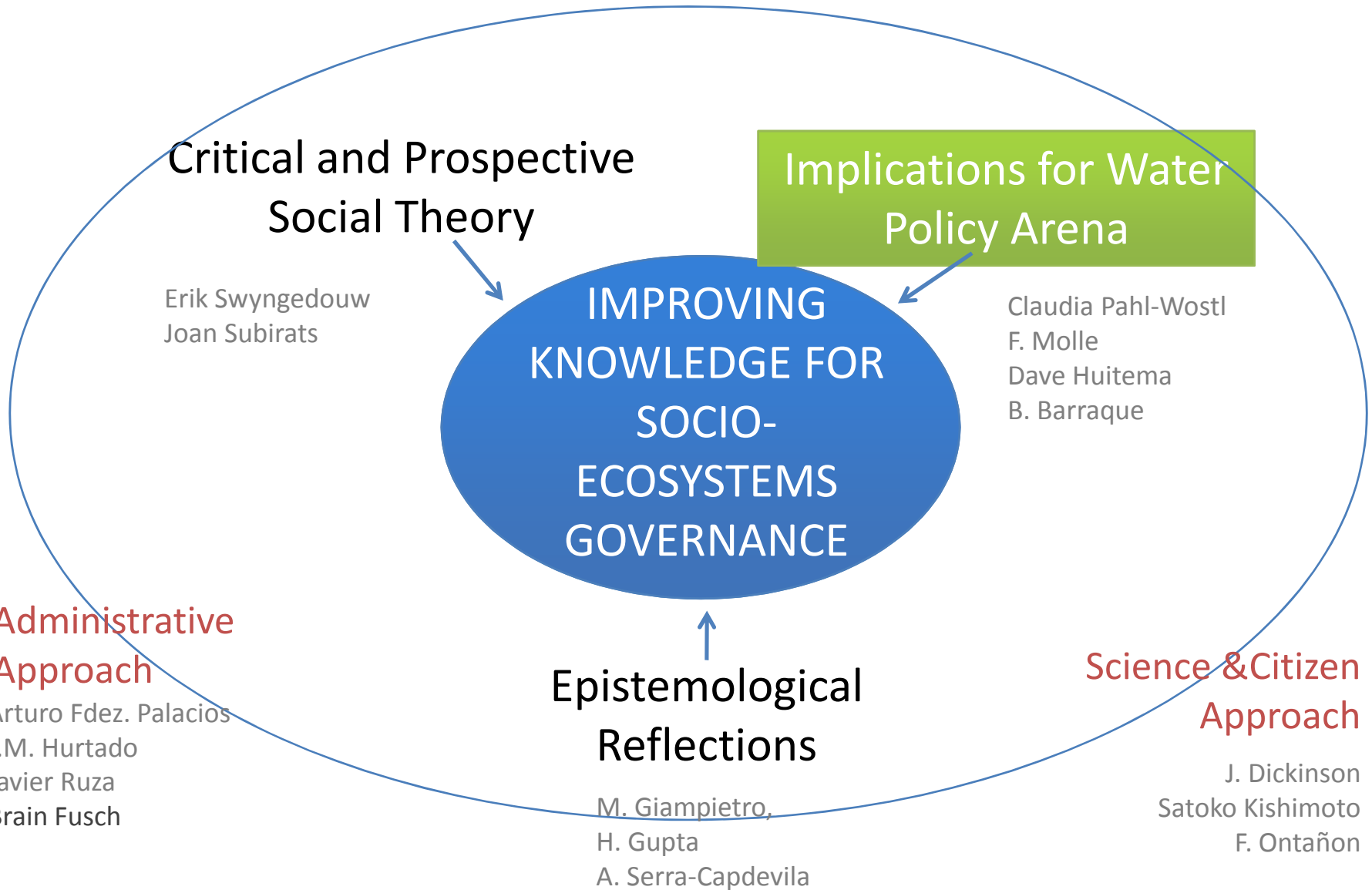
#ICTs catalise innovative democratic practices

ICTs and social networks are catalyzing innovative democratic practices that are challenging post-democratic consensual forms of government and are generating egalitarian political spaces. Citizens can be more effective in their efforts to influence public policies but can also self-organise to generate solutions when they perceive the administration is not responsive.

#Internet is not just a new tool for communication, but neither it is a #panacea

Internet is not just as a new tool for communication, it is triggering structural changes in the way citizens organise and reclaim politics, #technooptimist possitions should also be avoided. There are positive and negatives effects of the internet era and links between offline and online public spaces need to be reinforced to ensure its evolution as a political democratic catalyzer. Attention should be paid to the control over what information is made available, what information is withheld and why, politizicing the #Access to water data and information.

Open/ Collaborative Knowledge: New techno-political-cultural emergent realities

Critical and Prospective
Social Theory

Implications for Water
Policy Arena

Erik Swyngedouw
Joan Subirats

IMPROVING
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Administrative
Approach

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Science &Citizen
Approach

Epistemological
Reflections

J. Dickinson
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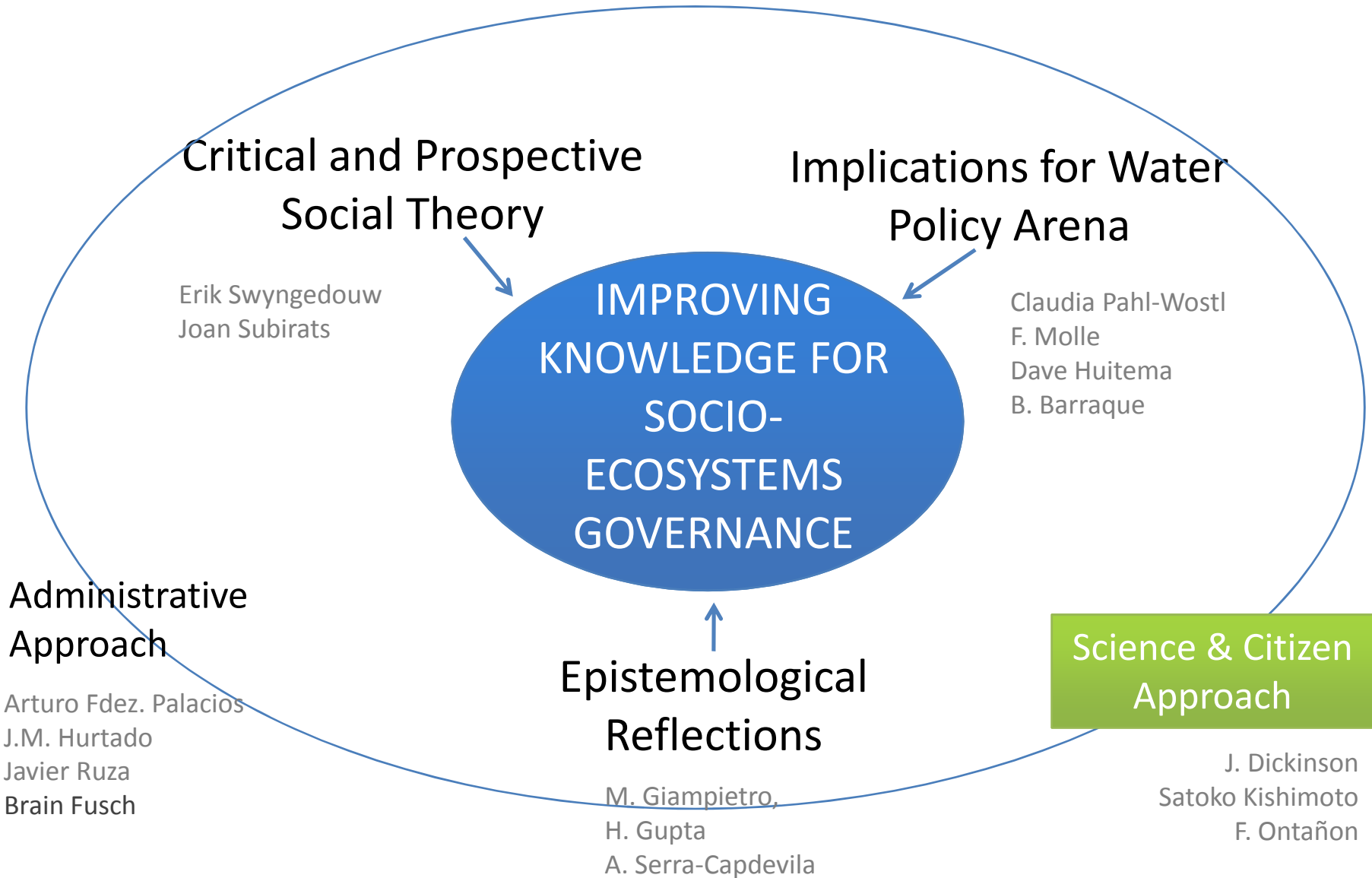M. Giampietro,
H. Gupta
A. Serra-Capdevila

We must be cautious of **global solutions** to socio-geographically specific problems. Standard "panaceas" do not exist. Complex water governance problems require adaptive solutions that rely on social learning processes. These processes are facilitated and enhanced through the possibilities for collaborative knowledge generation offered by the networked global community.

IWRM and its component elements (river basin management, full-cost recovery and participatory governance approaches) are clear examples of prescriptions uncritically offered as panaceas.

Common wisdom is reproduced through the repetition of general statements in largely shallow and self-serving accounts of actual processes. Through intellectual conformism a certain type of depoliticized knowledge is produced in ways that are consistent with the interests and ideologies of the individuals and institutions that have the power to influence the production of knowledge in the water sector.

Sharing information and data implies sharing power, and therefore is an inherently political process. Any transformation in institutional arrangements inevitably has supporters and detractors because it alters the power balance.

ICTs have **changed the geographic scale** at which we can observe nature. The Internet has helped to decentralized collaborations resulting in the flow of large amounts of information laterally through social networks.

Quality control, privacy and trust considerations are ongoing challenges of these collaborative efforts that must be addressed.
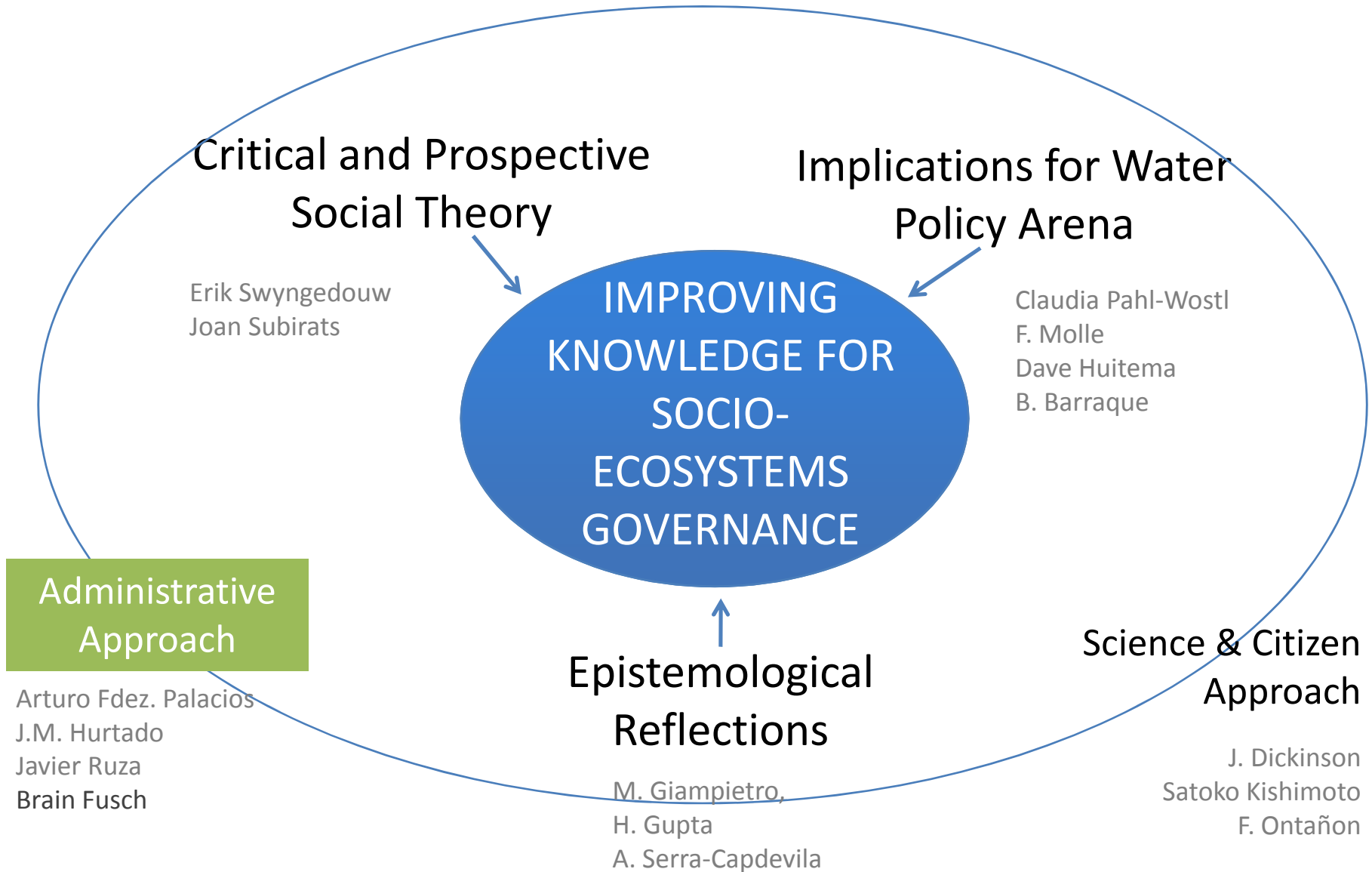
TICs allow the emergence of networks at different scales, **connecting the local to the global**, reinforcing each other through the sharing of information and the production of collaborative knowledge.

Conservation research, when it involves **public engagement is inherently political**, just as most other applied research. It is important to recognize and make existing research biases explicit.

Tools that facilitate collective learning become particularly relevant when resources are limited or power relations are imbalanced.

Open data and transparency provide opportunities to managers (policy coordination and improved data), **companies** (new market opportunities), **citizen organizations** (improved social monitoring of public policies) and the **research and development community** (new inferences, hypothesis validation, new discoveries).

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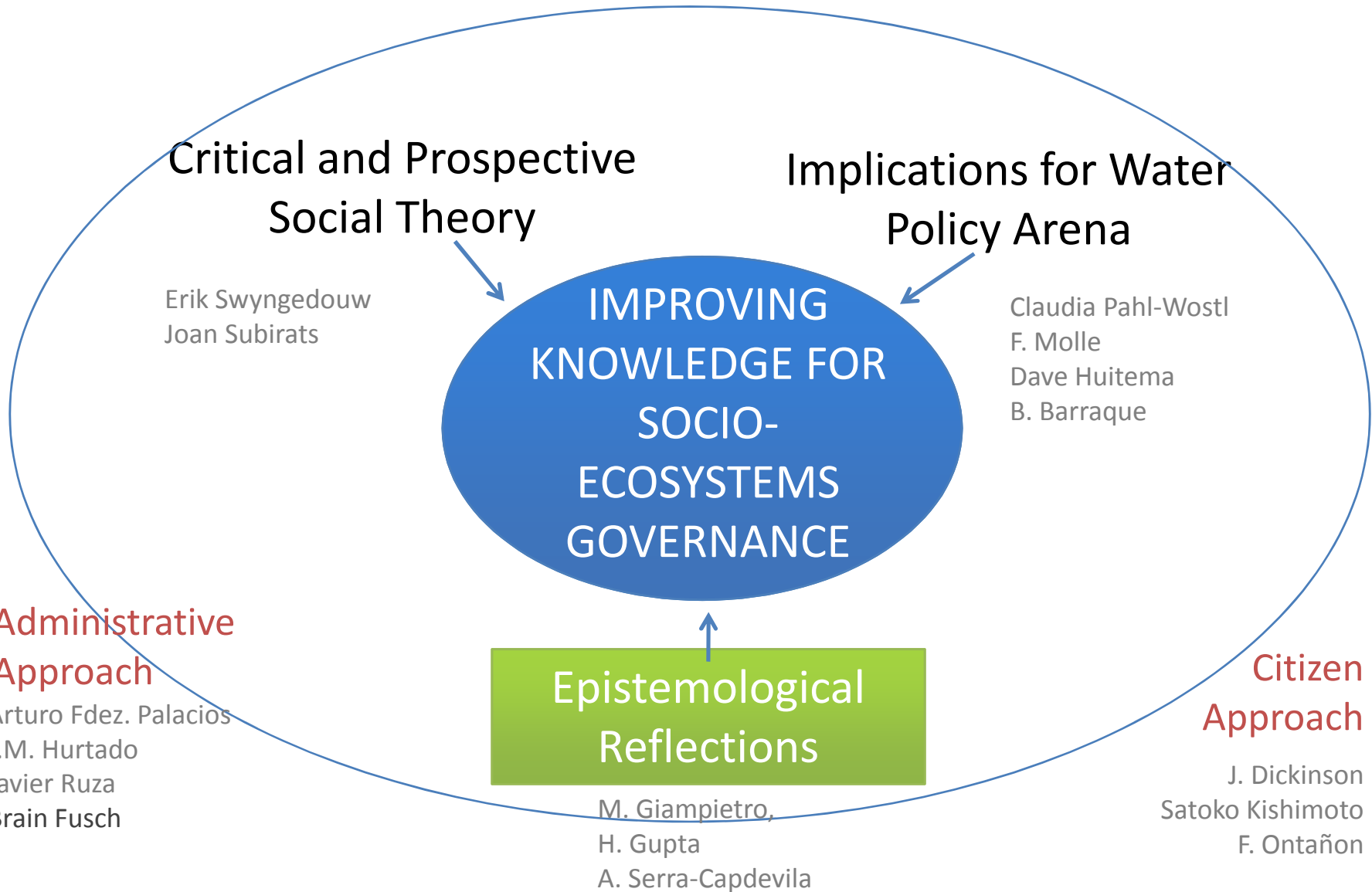Approach

J. Dickinson
Satoko Kishimoto
F. Ontañon

There is no organization/institution at national level devoted **to implement an ICT policy**. Political commitment at the highest level is needed.

Collaboration and data accessibility is not just a question of technology. To make polycentric information available to managers, agencies and the public attention needs to be placed on **standardization, institutional arrangements and organizational aspects** without forgetting that reliable collaboration needs awareness by all parts involved requiring education and loyalty.

Enhancing **public participation in water management requires**:

- Data information systems that take into account the needs of all actors.

- Data collection that **fulfills legal and reporting requirements** and serves to improve **management, planning and policy.**

- Facilitate public access to data / **open data as a means to improve water management**.

- **A commitment** from public administrations and citizens **to collaborate**

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Integrated indicator systems allow handling the large amount of information required to manage complex socio-ecological systems. Natural resources accounting and sustainability indicators should integrate multiple scales and dimensions of analysis connecting the social metabolism to its impact on ecosystems.

Participatory Sustainability Assessment is more policy than science. It is necessary to deal with multiple and conflicting perceptions and, therefore, the definition of the problem structure becomes essential. **Ethical uncertainty** should be considered along with descriptive and normative uncertainty.

Bridging the gap between science, society and management continues to be a basic methodological, epistemological and conceptual challenge. The type of data used, the way it is gathered, processed, reproduced and disseminated becomes essential.

Making inroads toward **open governance** may facilitate this integration and enable collaboration. A lot more work needs to be done**….WATERP2P15???**

An interdisciplinary journal on water, politics and development

Water Alternatives

A flow of creative thinking

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WaA call for papers: Water knowledge and governance

Special issue: Information and Knowledge for Water Governance in the Networked Society

Thank you for your attendance and participation

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