


**RESILIENCE THINKING FOR  
PEACEBUILDERS**

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Otago : University



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**Resilience Thinking for Peacebuilders**

- Conceptualizing the peace-in-between
- Assumptions and implications of resilience
- Two understandings of resilience
  - Engineering resilience
  - Ecological resilience
- General and specified resilience

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## Starting Points

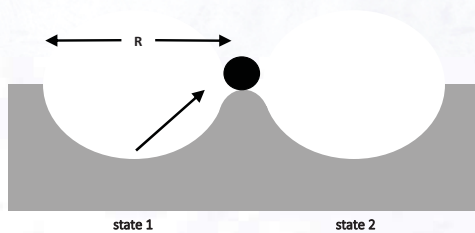
- Positive vs. negative peace
- Success vs. failure of peacebuilding operations
- "No war, no peace", "the peace-in-between"
- "more demanding than the mere absence of war, but more attainable, in the mid term, than positive peace."  
(Themnér & Ohlson, 2014)
- Questioning the standard measure of failure



## Two Types of Resilience



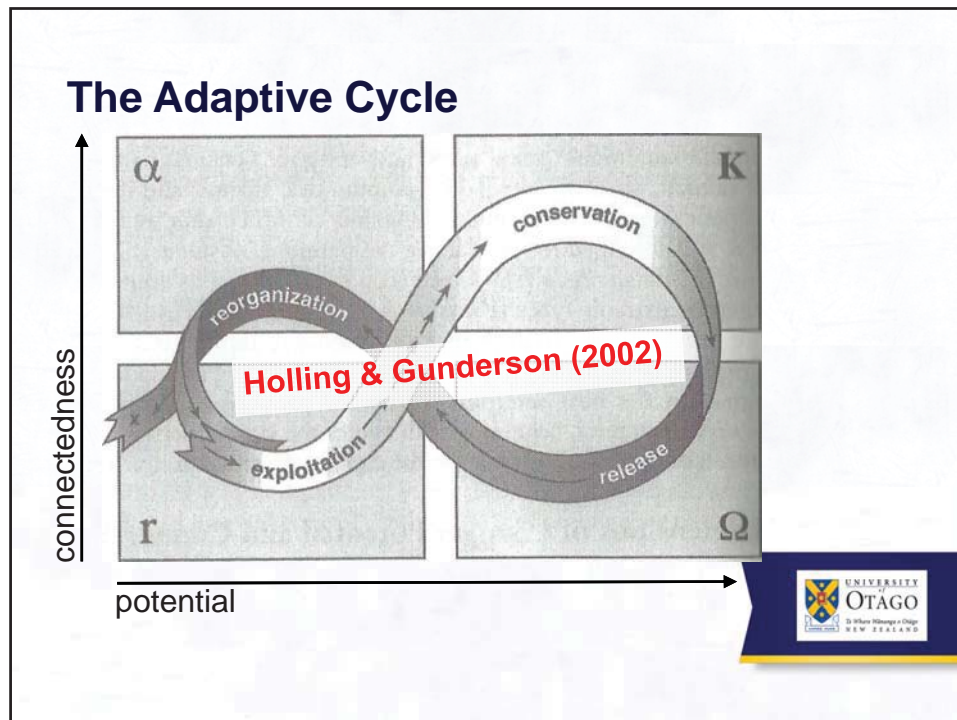
Engineering resilience



Ecological resilience

Gunderson (2003)

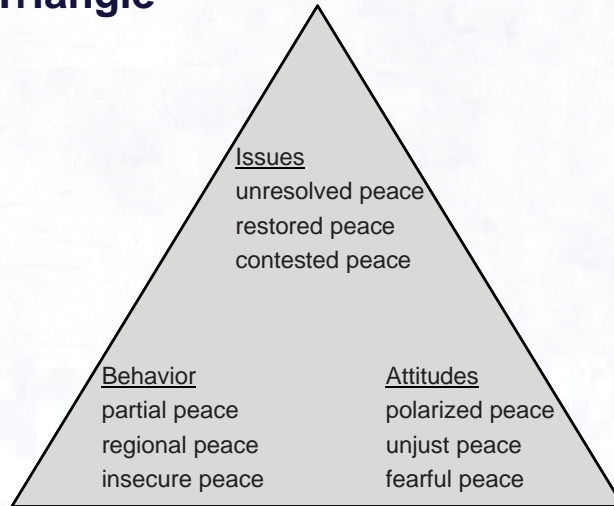




### Specified and General Resilience

- **Specified resilience** relates to **specific threats** to a system, the resilience “of what, to what”
- **General resilience** relates to the capacity of a system to absorb **unforeseen disturbances**

## Specifying Resilience: The Peace Triangle



Höglund & Söderberg Kovacs (2010)



## General Resilience

General resilience relates to the capacity of a system to absorb unforeseen disturbances

- **Diversity:** the ability of several components of the system to carry out the same function
- **Modularity:** subgroups with strong connections, but weak connections between subgroups
- **Tightness of feedbacks:** changes in one part of the system are quickly perceived by other parts of the system



## Resilience Thinking for Peacebuilders

- Liberal peacebuilding: goal & control
- Engineering resilience: function & process
- Ecological resilience: learning & adaptation



THANK YOU

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