



WORLD SCIENCE FORUM

Budapest 2024

*The science and policy interface at
the time of global transformations*



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BUDAPEST

Seeing what everybody sees but thinking what no one has thought

Rana Dajani, PhD

The Hashemite University, Jordan and Chen Yidan Global Fellow, HGSE

World Science Forum

November 22, 2024, Budapest, Hungary



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Dr Khitam Al-Wasifi



110 and counting killed with their families...

An illustration of a group of people, seen from above, holding hands in a large circle. They are wearing dark clothing, and their heads are tilted back, looking towards the center. The background is white.

“The world will not be
destroyed by those who do
evil, but by those who watch
them without doing
anything.”

— **Albert Einstein**

WHAT IS BDS?

GET INVOLVED

CAMPAIGNS

GET UPDATES

DONATE

ACTION ALERT

MILITARY EMBARGO AGAINST ISRAEL – EUROPE CAMPAIGN GUIDE

The complicity of Europe in Israel's genocide against Palestinians is both criminal, immoral and unwise. Various military embargo campaigns in Europe have been successful in exposing, scandalizing and even stopping arms shipments to Israel. The campaigns can learn from each other and build stronger coordination.

READ MORE →

ACTION ALERT

**Military embargo against
Israel – Europe Campaign**

UPDATE

**Illegal arms transiting through
the Mediterranean must stop!**

UPDATE

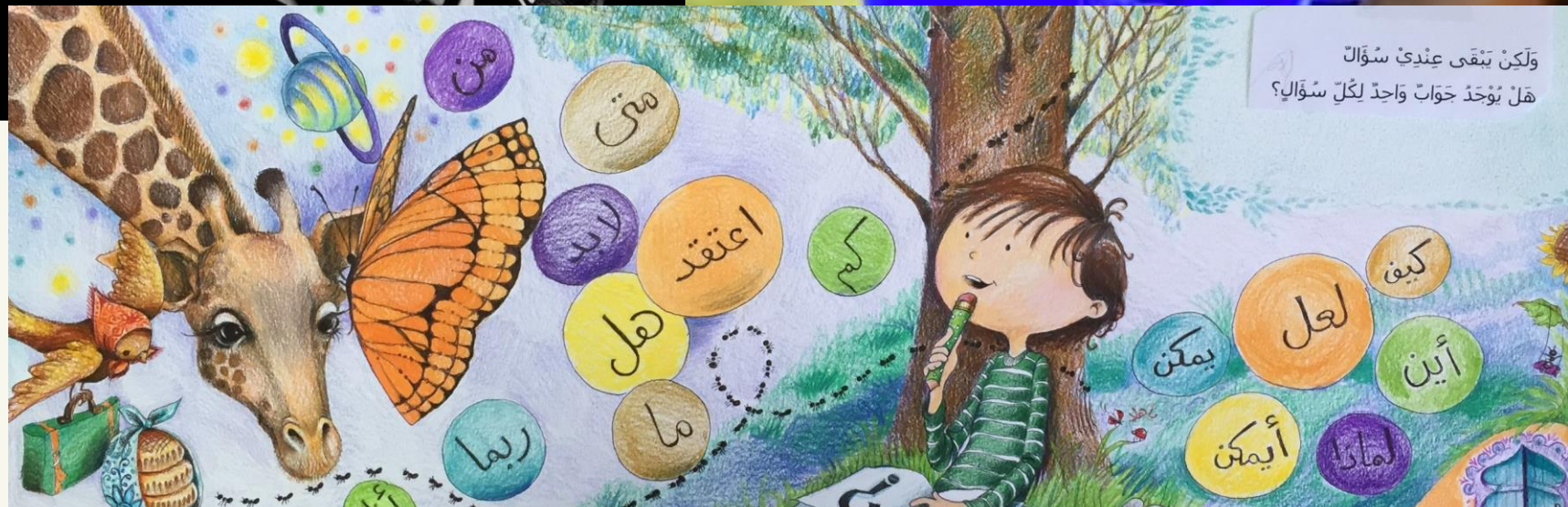
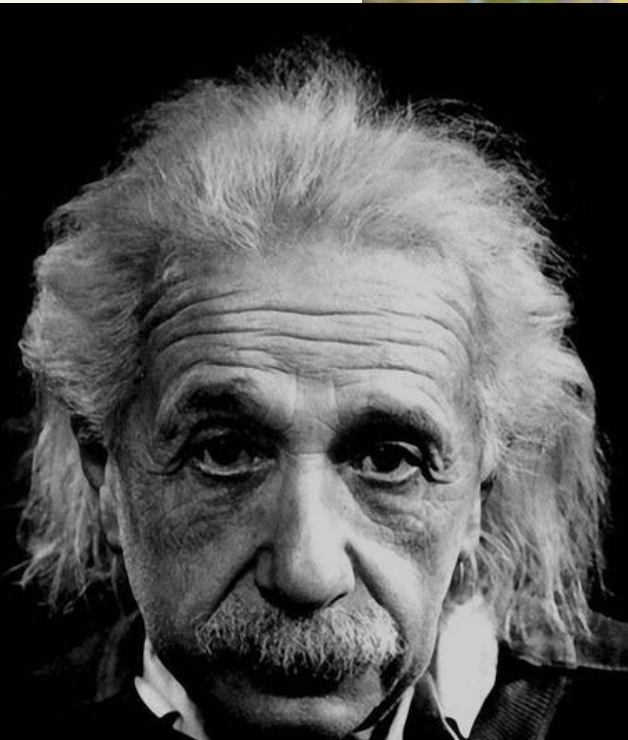
**Intel halts its \$25b
investment in Israel's sinking**

BNC STATEMENT

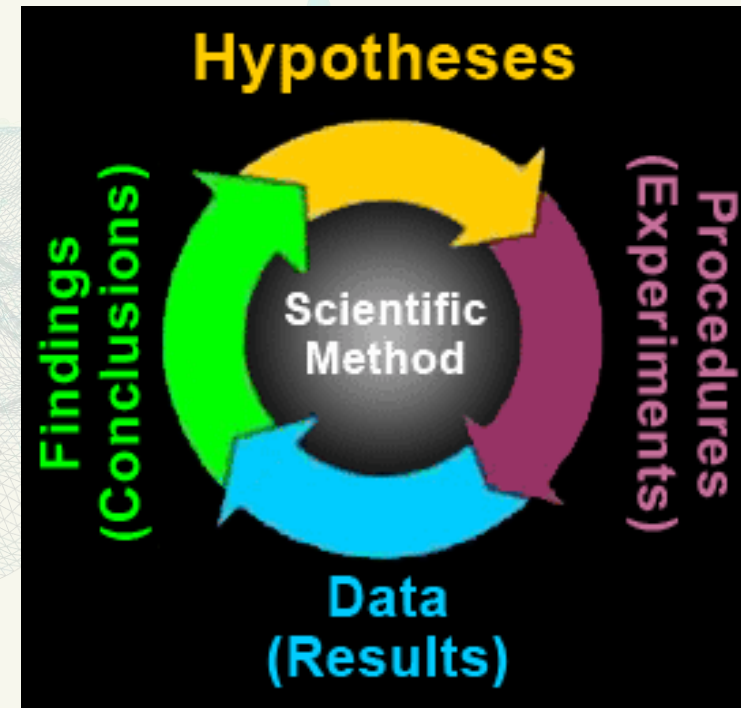
**Block the Boat: End maritime
arms transfer to Israel**

1. Curiosity

“I am neither clever nor especially gifted. I am only very, very curious.”
-Albert Einstein



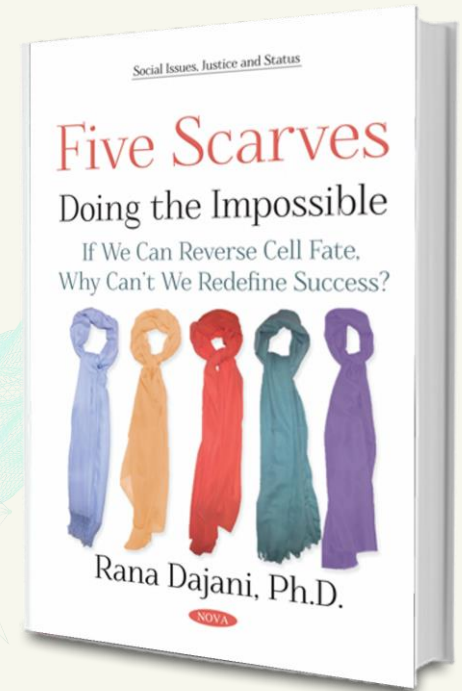
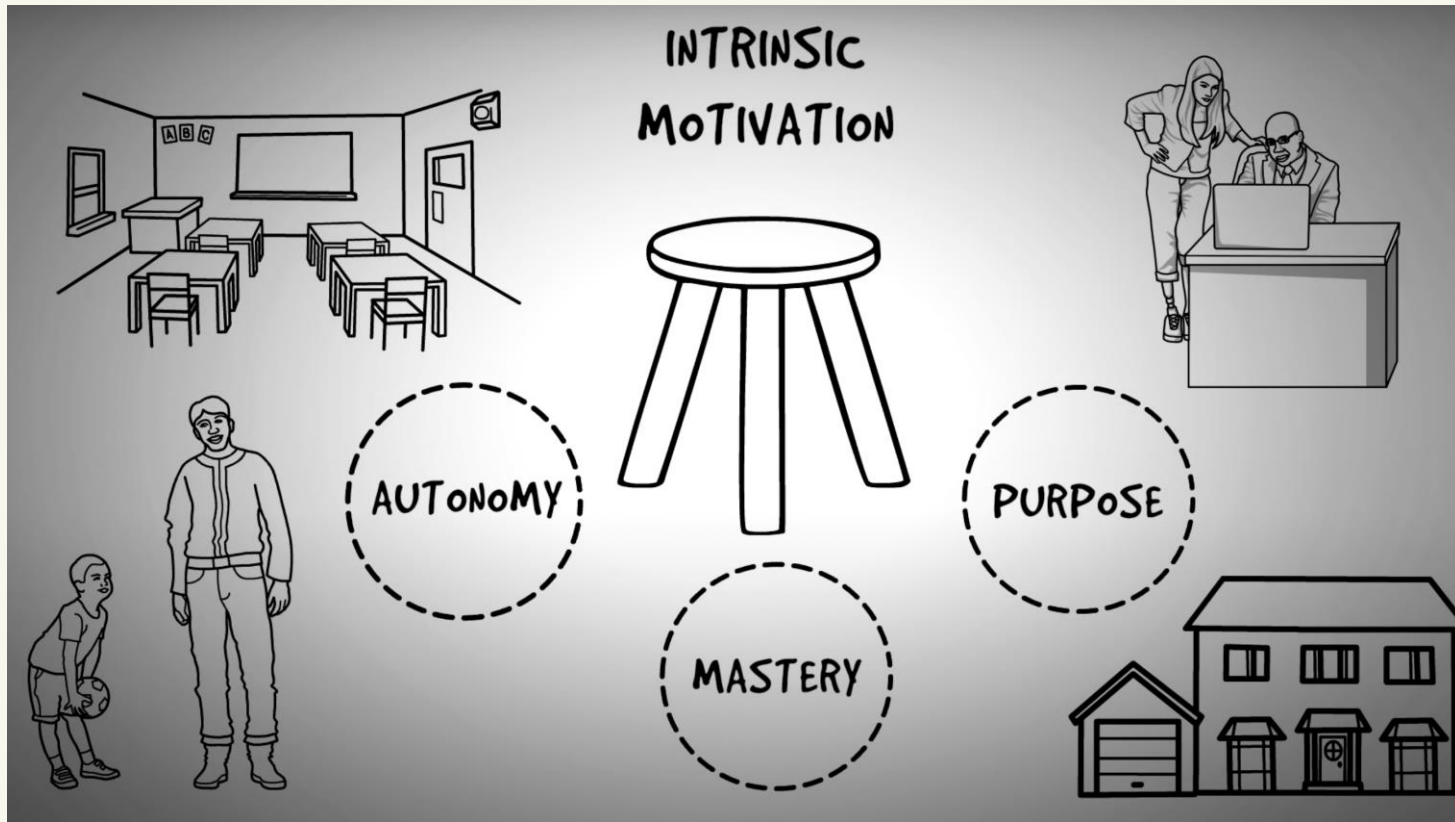
2. Social Innovator: Solving Challenges



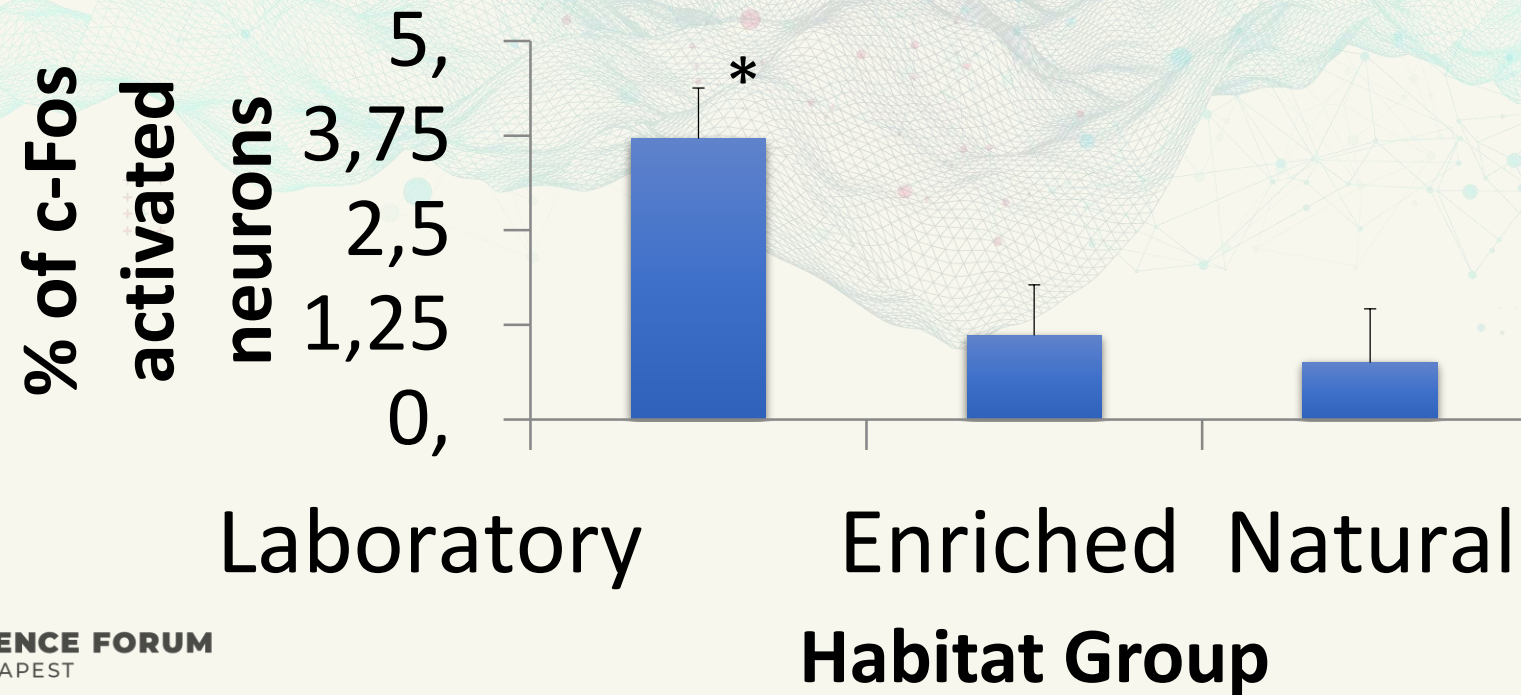
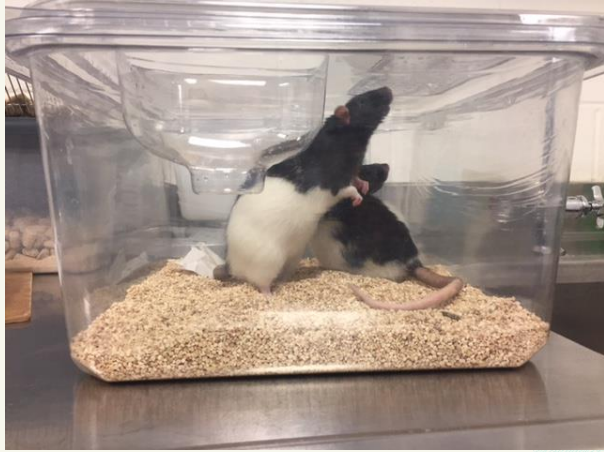
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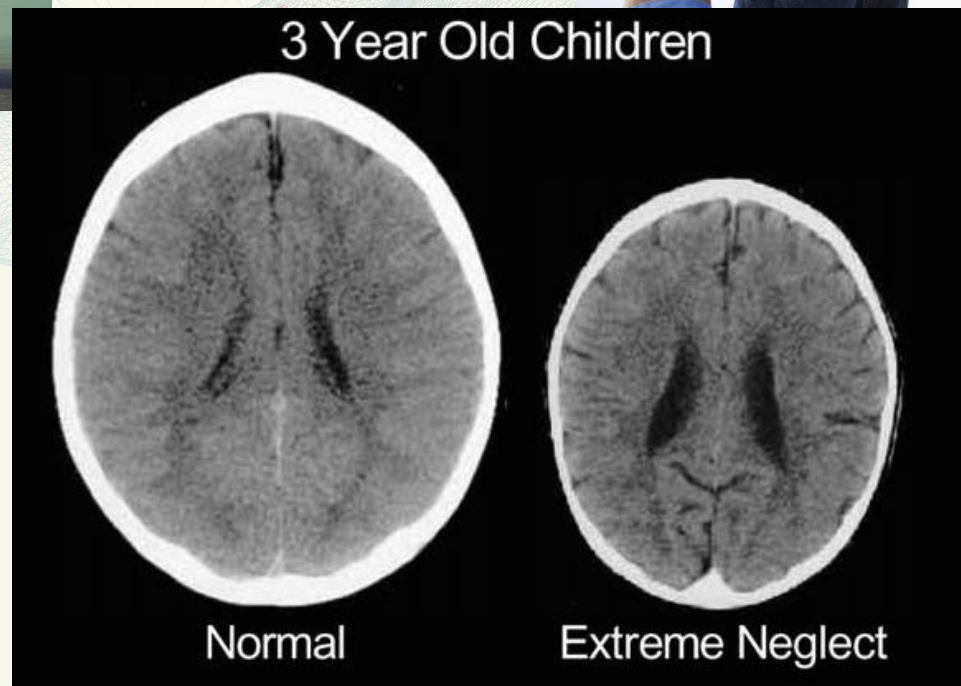
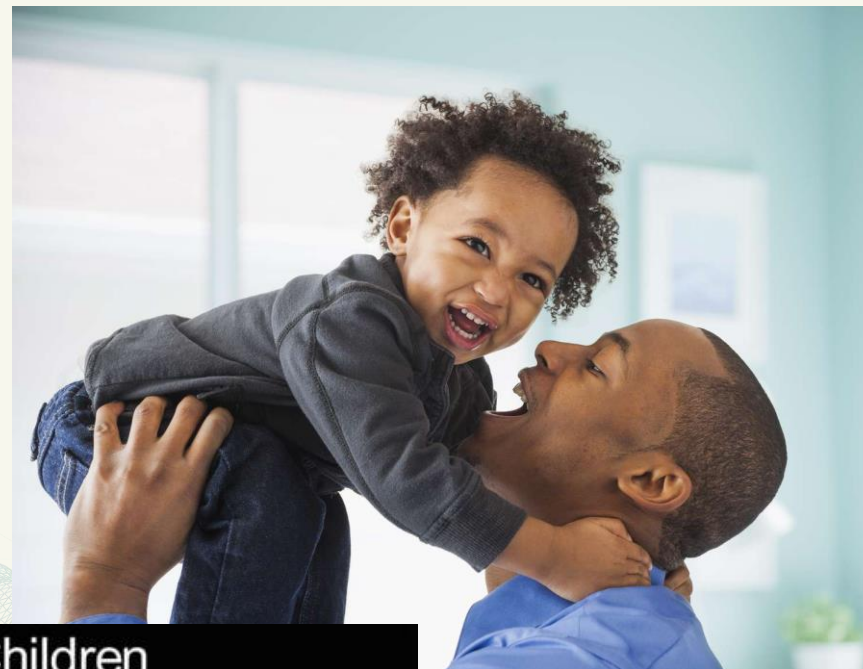
How do we nurture problem solving that is rooted in agency?



Ecosystem



3. Social organisms



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Environment

Genetics



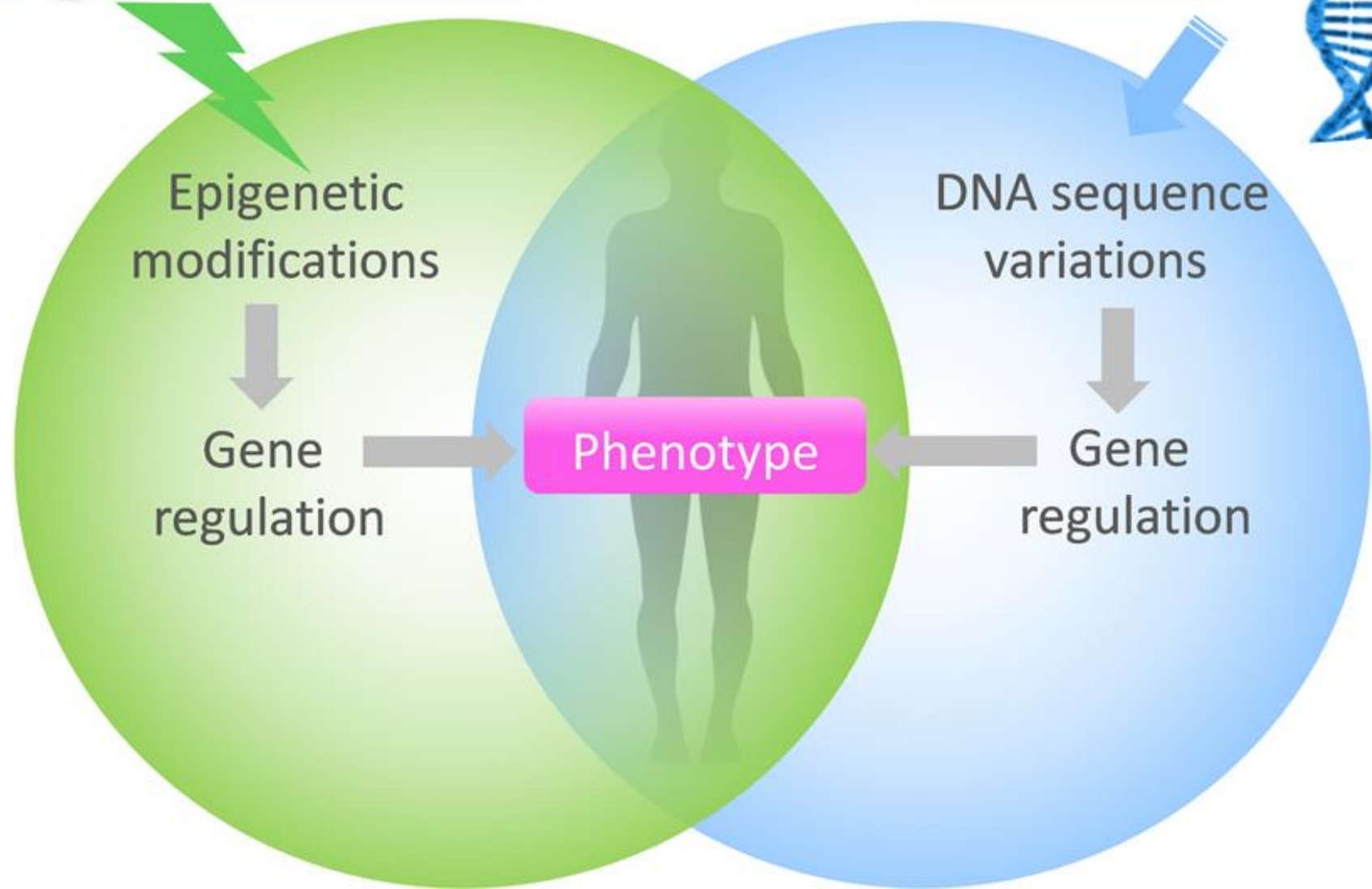
Epigenetic
modifications

DNA sequence
variations

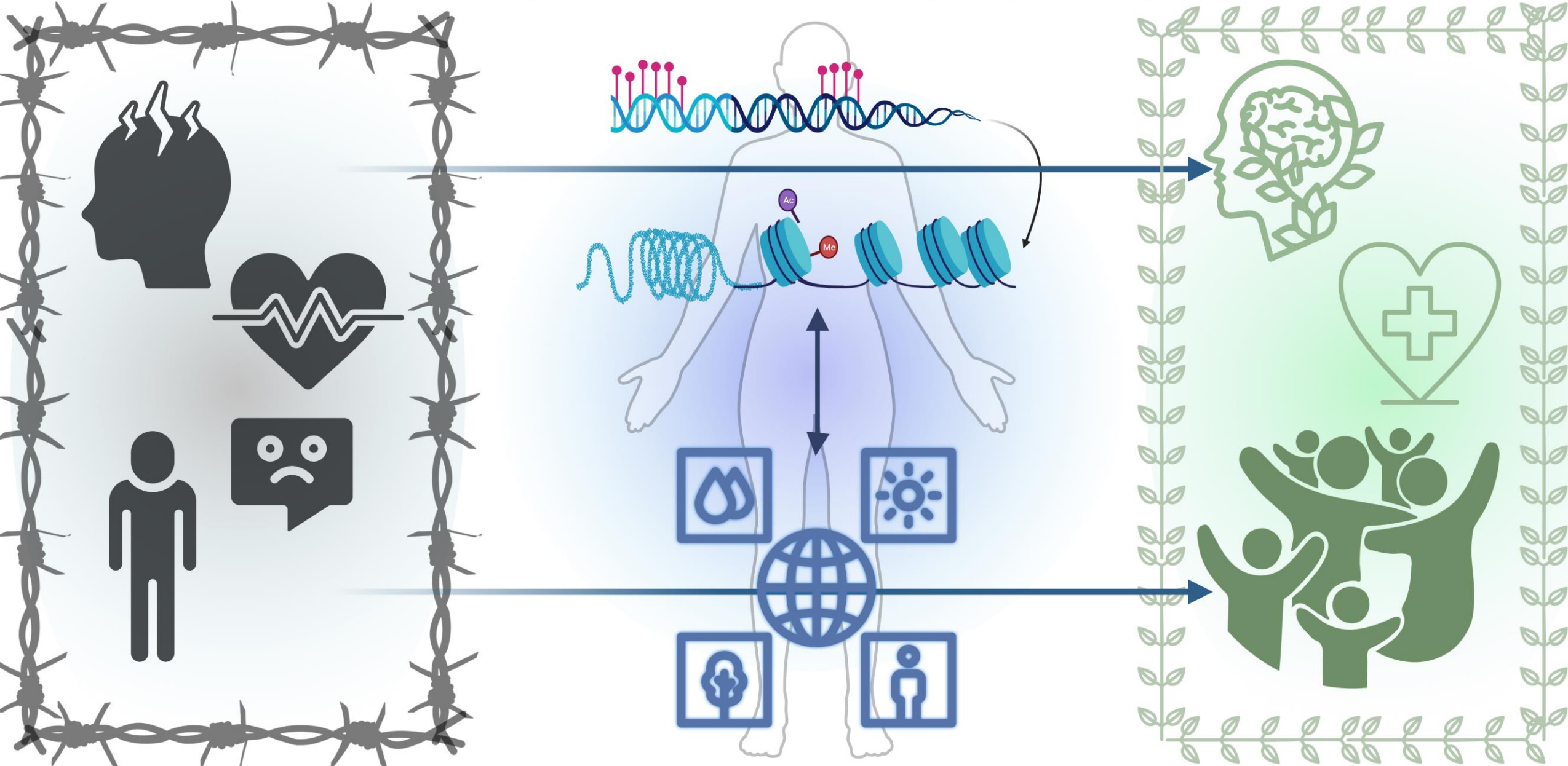
Gene
regulation

Phenotype

Gene
regulation

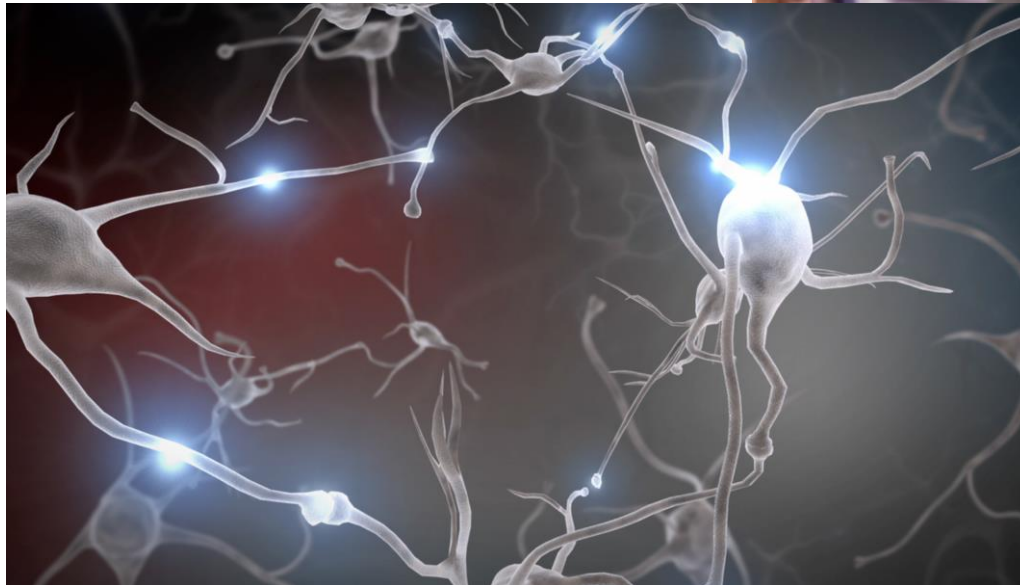
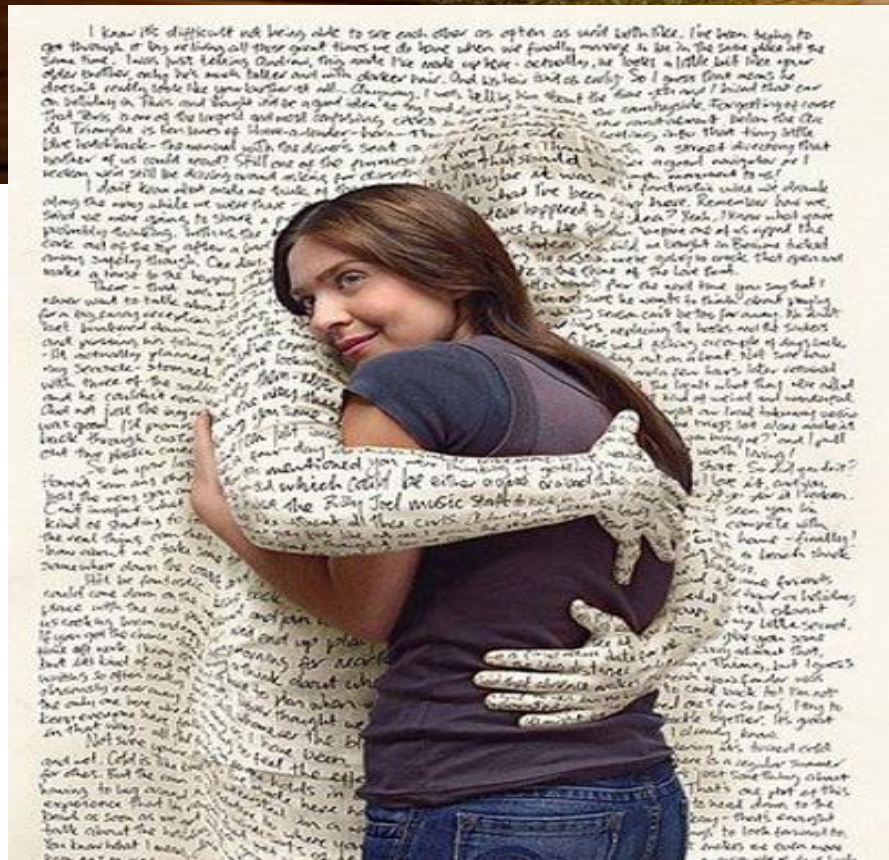
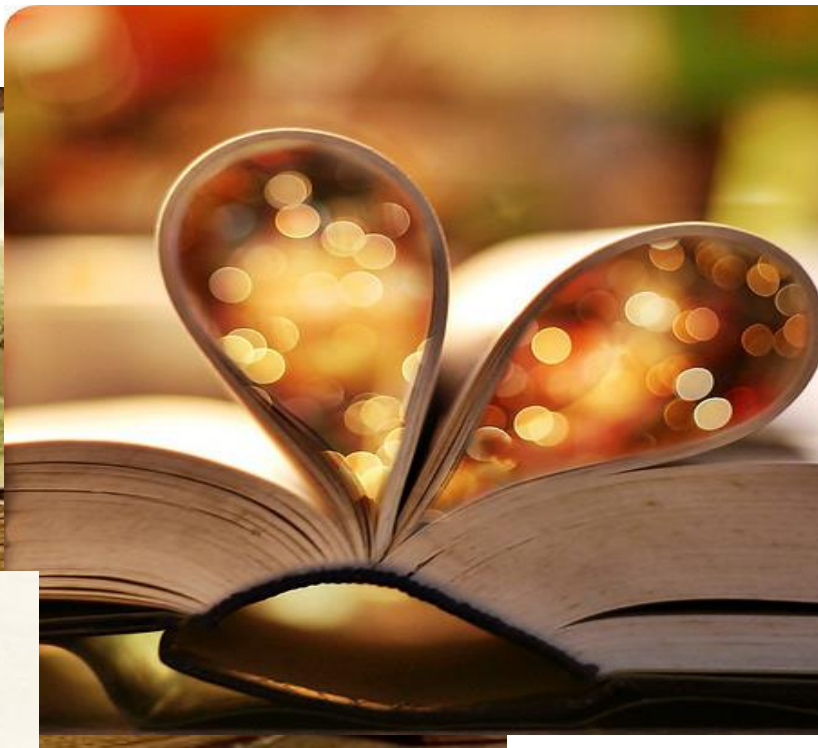


Not Victimhood by Vulnerabilities, but Agency through Adaptations



Changing Mindsets through Reading to Nurture Changemakers

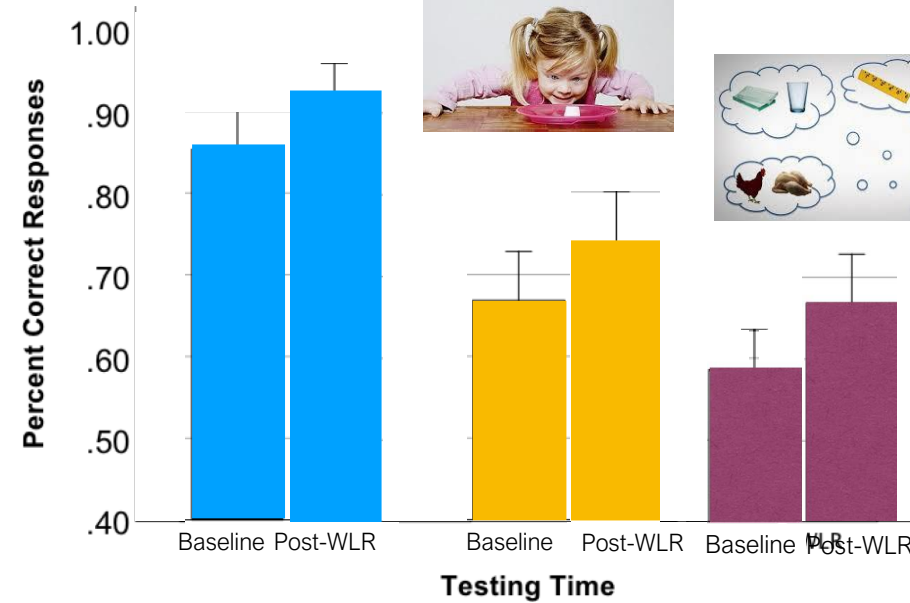








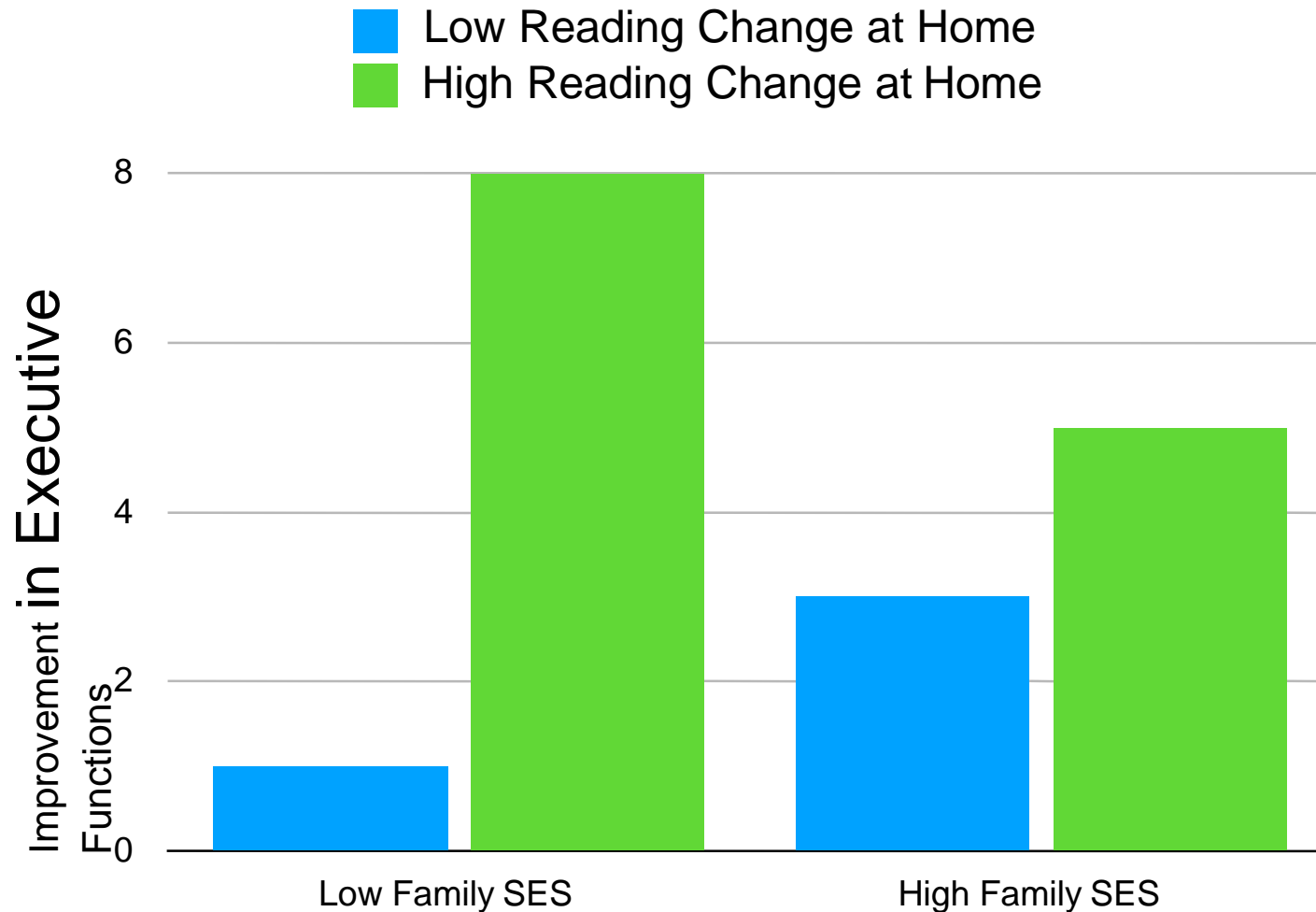
Improvement in all three Executive Function



Dajani, Al Sager, Placido & Amso, 2019, Proceedings of the MIT LINC Conference

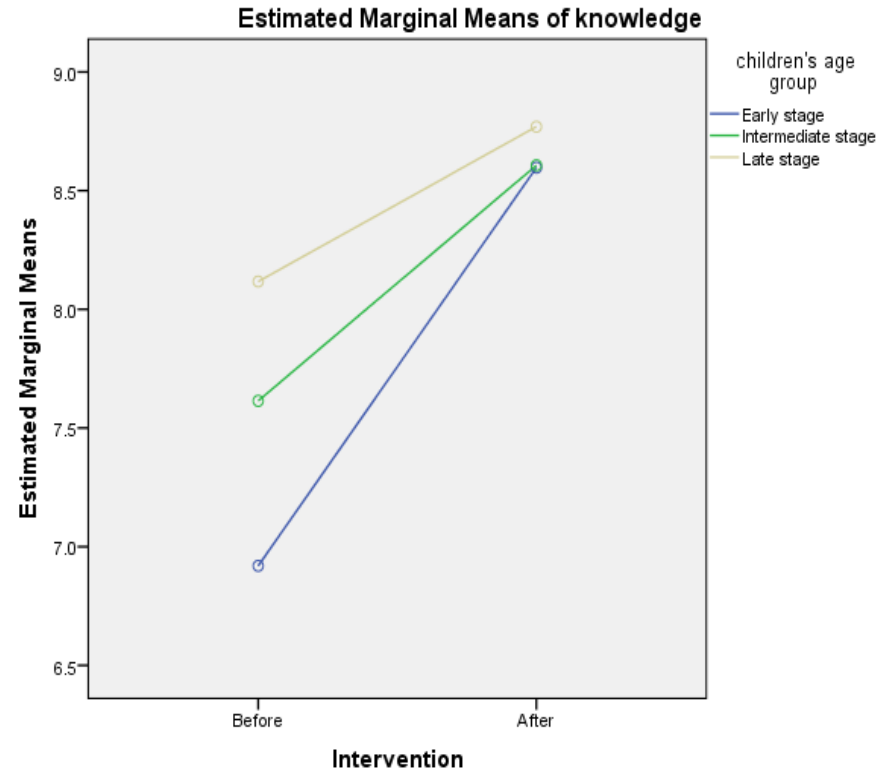
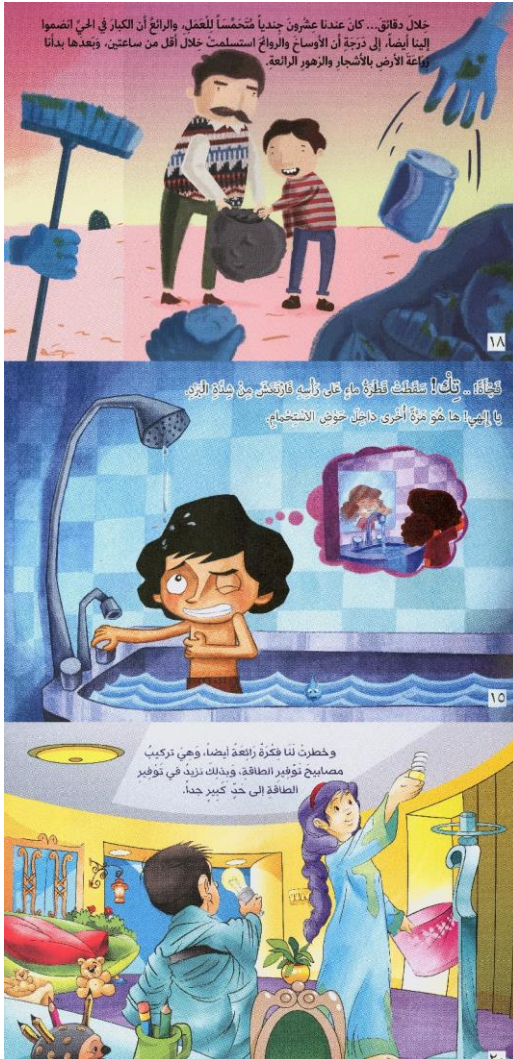


Effects are largest for children with lower family socioeconomic status




Dajani, Al Sager, Placido & Amso, 2019, Proceedings of the MIT LINC Conference

Environment attitudes and practices



The Journal of Environmental Education

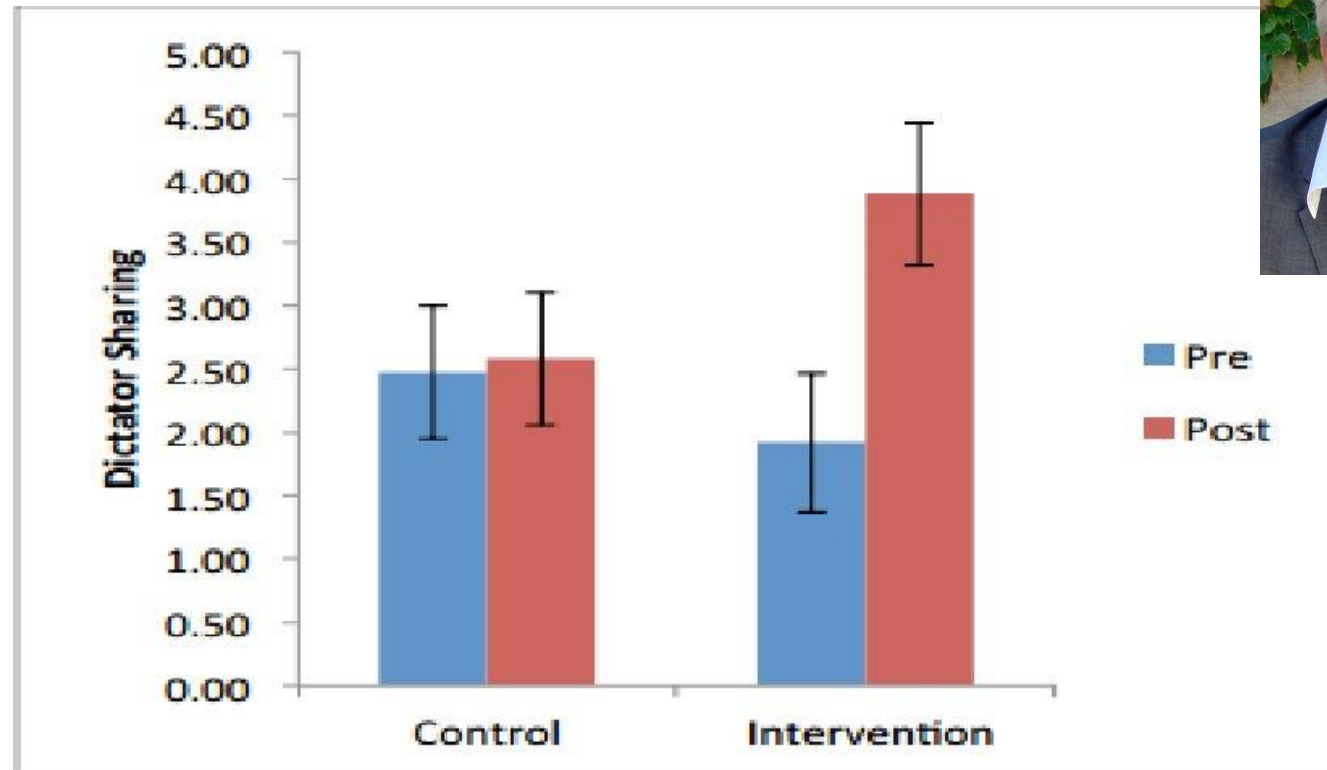
 Publish open access in this journal

2016
Impact

Enter keywords, authors, DOI etc.

This journal

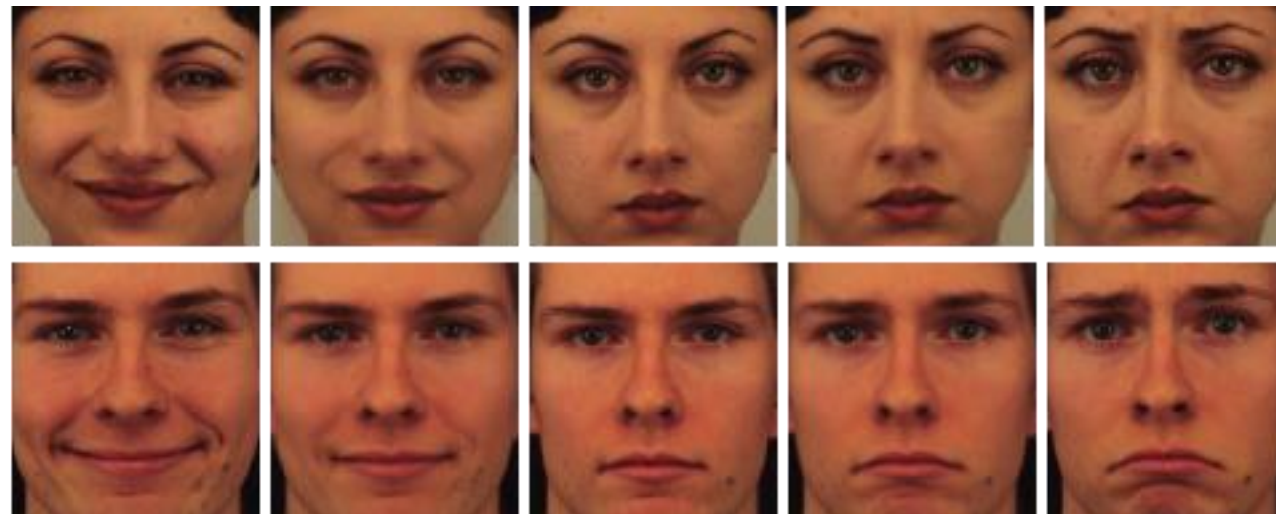
Empathy data



Emotion categorization

-> We used faces morphed between happy and sad (HS) and fear and anger (FA), children had to judge if the face looked happy or sad (or angry or fearful).

-> Children tested were between ages of 8-14, half were taking part in We Love Reading program



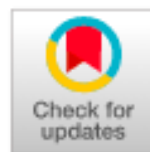
100% happy

**50% happy/
50% neutral**

100% neutral

**50% neutral/
50% happy**

100% sad



The Effects of a Reading-Based Intervention on Emotion Processing in Children Who Have Suffered Early Adversity and War Related Trauma

 **Julia E. Michalek^{1*}**,  **Matteo Lisi²**,  **Deema Awad¹**,  **Kristin Hadfield³**,  **Isabelle Mareschal^{1†}**
and  **Rana Dajani^{4,5†}**

¹Department of Biological and Experimental Psychology, Queen Mary University of London, London, United Kingdom

²Department of Psychology, University of Essex, Colchester, United Kingdom

³School of Psychology, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

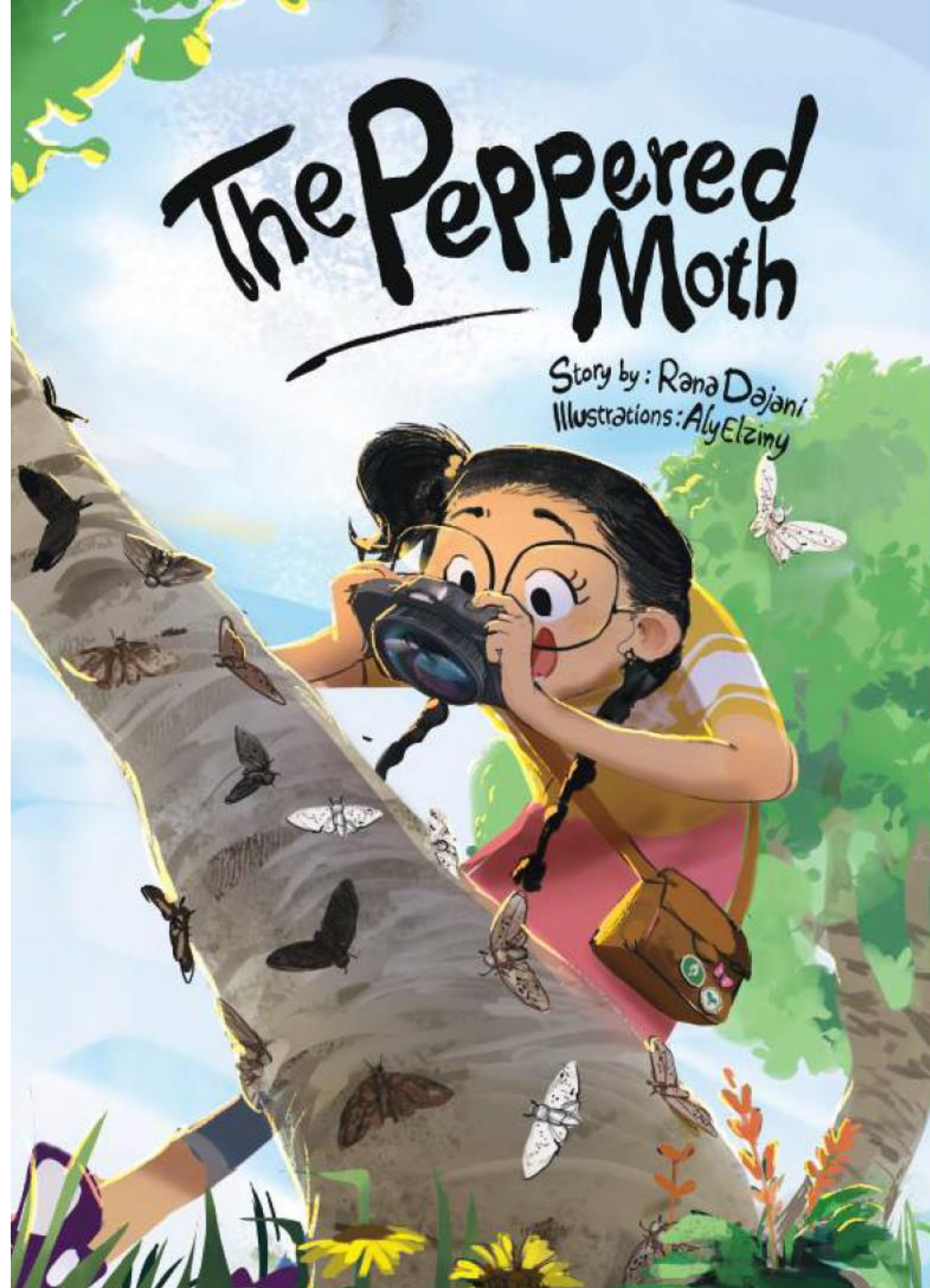
⁴Biology and Biotechnology Department, Hashemite University, Zarqa, Jordan

⁵Jepson School of Leadership Studies, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA, United States

Early adversity and trauma can have profound effects on children's affective development and

The Peppered Moth

Story by: Rana Dajani
Illustrations: Aly Elziny



The Approach



AWARENESS

Participants hear about WLR training or are actively recruited

LEARNING

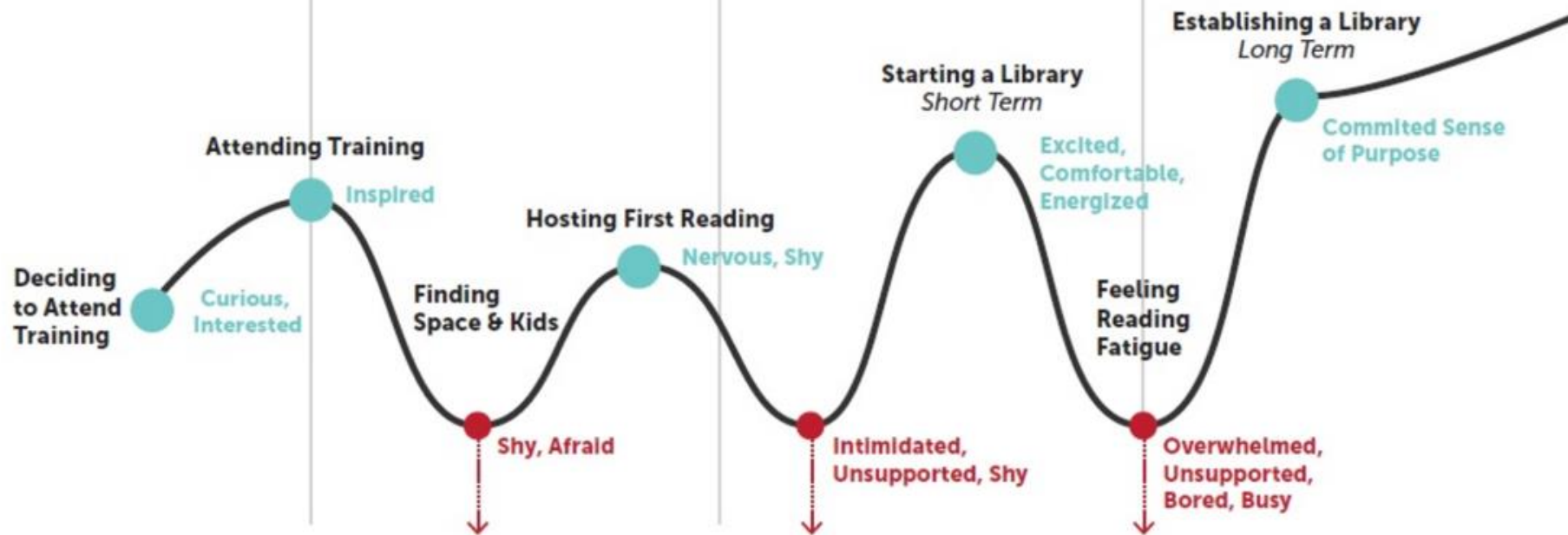
Participants attend 2-day training online

FLUENCY

Participants improve their skills and start their own libraries in the short-term

MASTERY

Participants master their skills and establish libraries for the long-term



The Impact

- Engaged in early childhood reading and learning
- Reduce mental health burden and boost resilience
- Social entrepreneurship (mindset “I can”)
- A global network of people at the street level

Does We Love Reading improve Life Satisfaction and other perceptions among WLR Ambassadors?

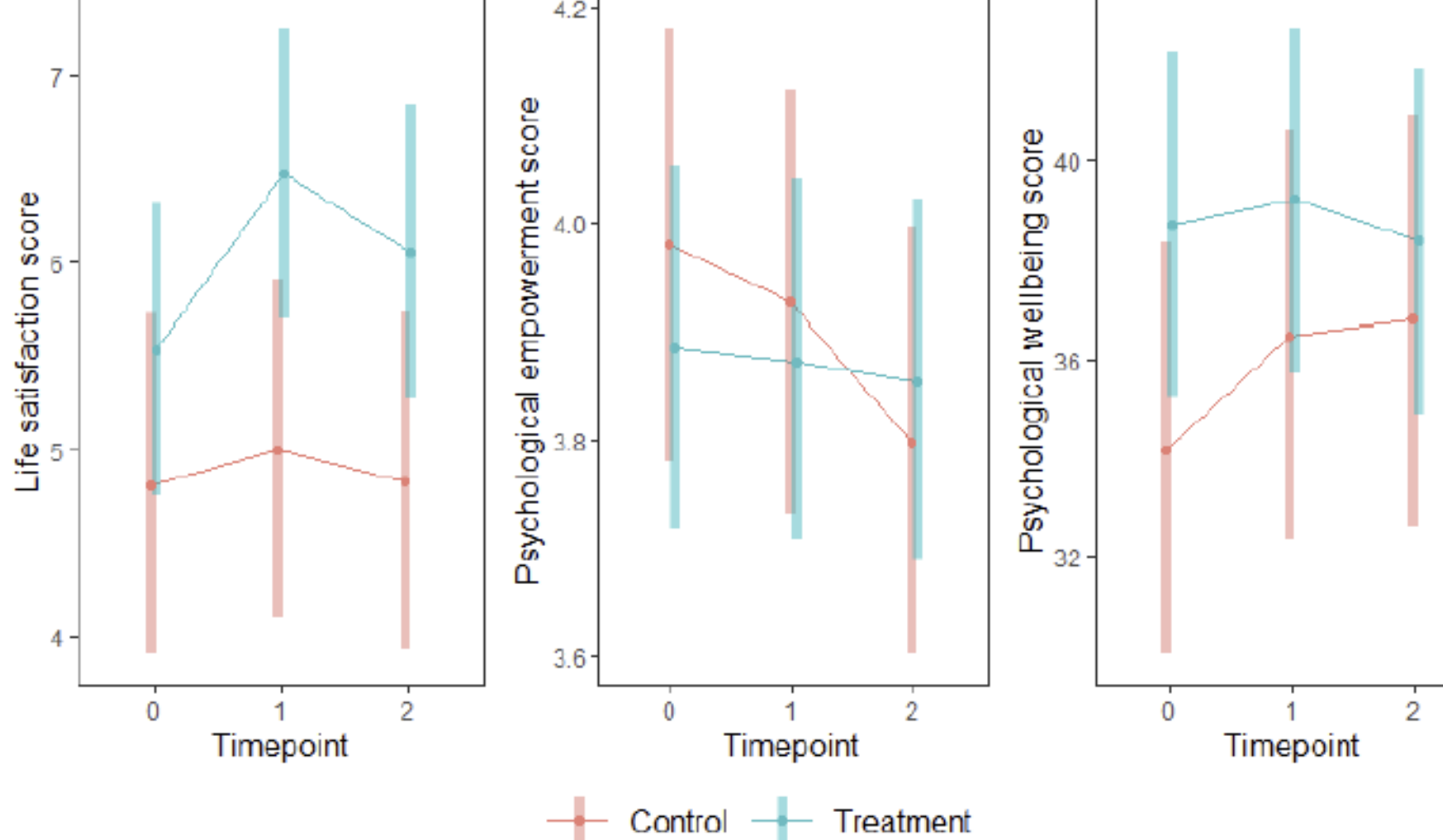



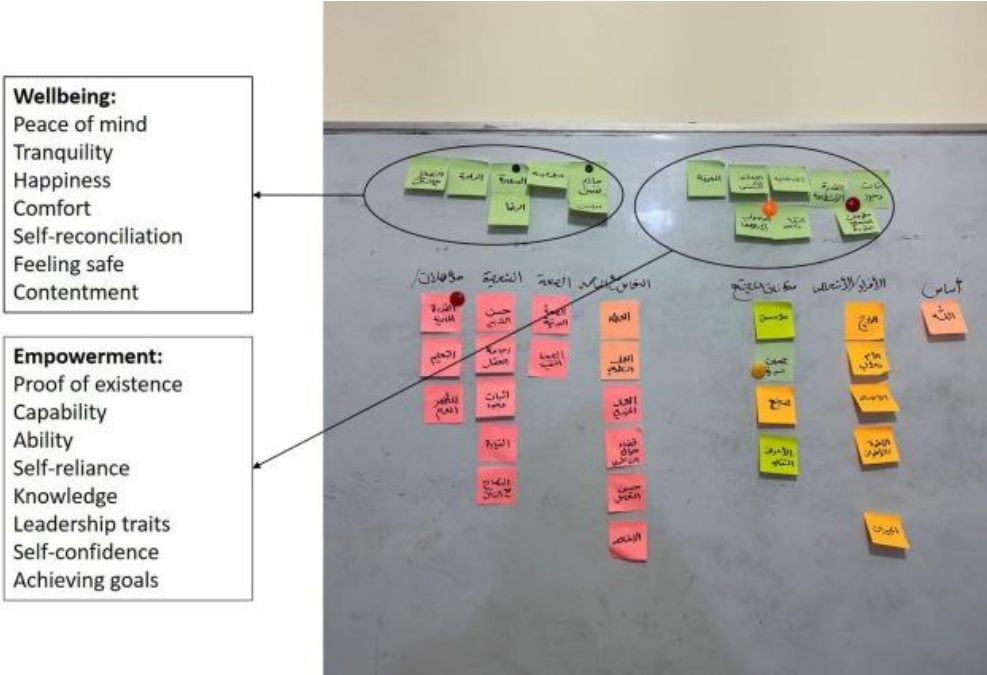
Figure 1: Levels of life satisfaction, psychological empowerment, and psychological wellbeing, at three time-points (baseline, 5-month and 12-month follow-up). Intervention impacts for women in the *We Love Reading* treatment group, relative to the control group, are significant for life satisfaction. The marginal effect curves account for differences in baseline scores.

Does volunteering impact refugee women's life satisfaction, empowerment, and wellbeing? Experimental evidence, local knowledge, and causal reasoning

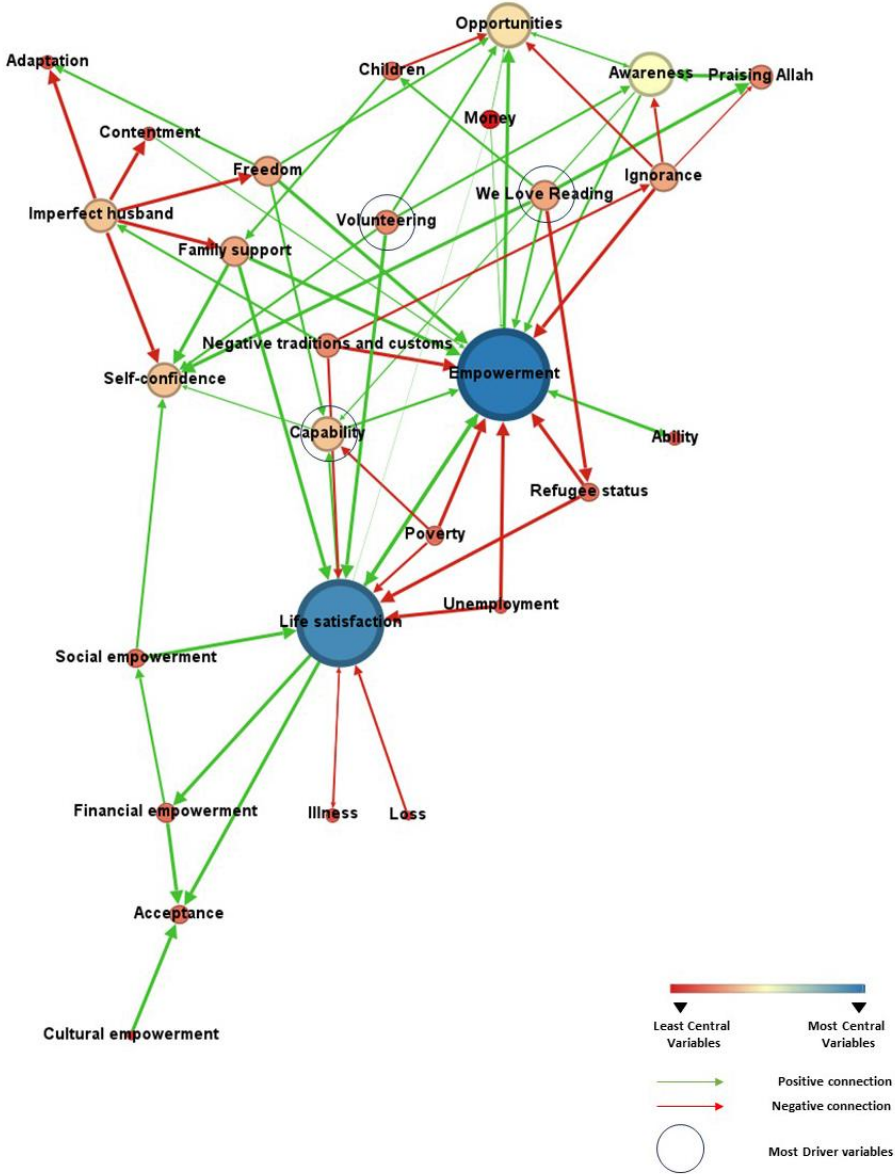
Catherine Panter-Brick^{a b c}  , Jannik J. Eggerman^c, Philip Jefferies^d, Lina Qtaishat^{e c},
Rana Dajani^f, Praveen Kumar^g

Systems thinking new research methods

- Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping



Panter-Brick, Catherine,^{1,2,3} Eggerman, Jannik J.,³ Jefferies, Philip,⁴ Qtaishat, Lina,^{5,3} Dajani, Rana,⁶ Kumar, Praveen⁷



ORIGINAL RESEARCH article

Front. Sociol., 30 May 2024

Sec. Gender, Sex and Sexualities

Volume 9 - 2024 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsoc.2024.1371760>

This article is part of the Research Topic

Science Diplomacy and Neocolonialism: Lessons from the field with a view to the future

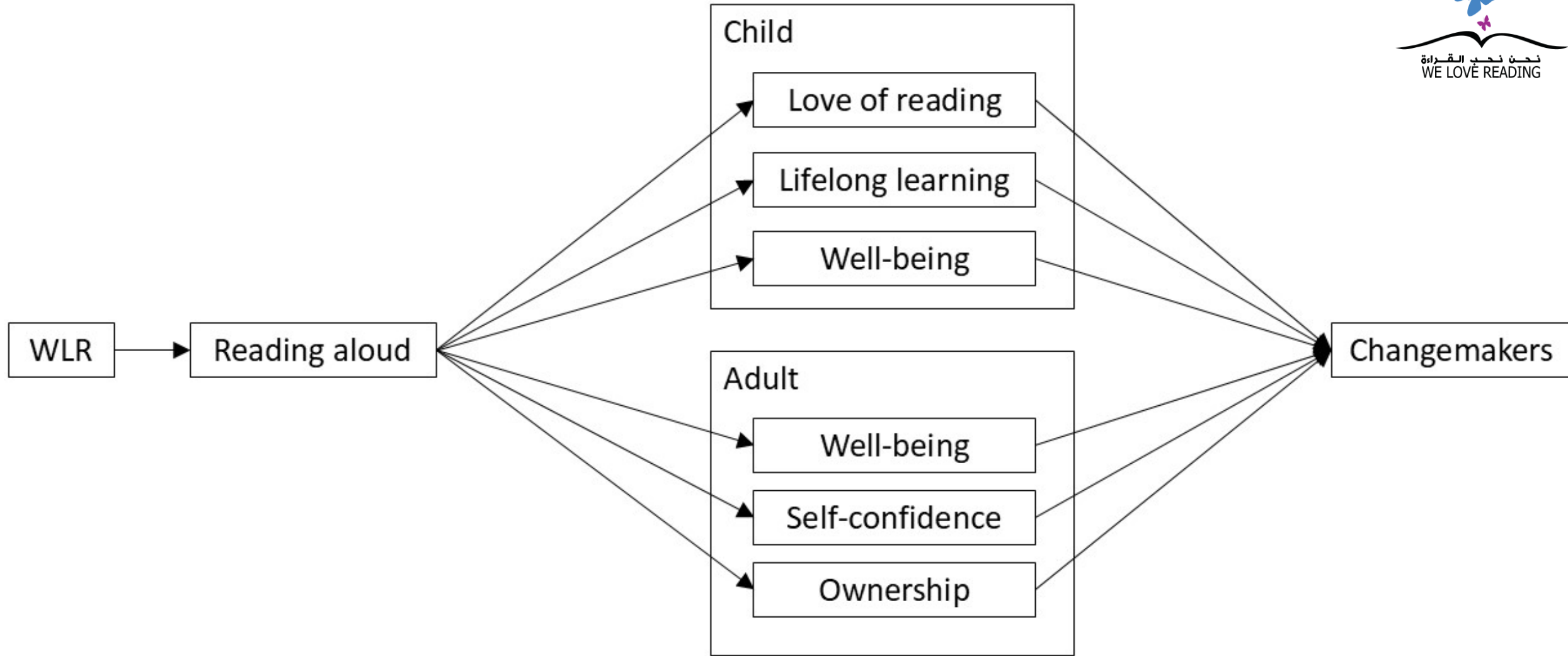
[View all Articles >](#)

Volunteer programs, empowerment, and life satisfaction in Jordan: mapping local knowledge and systems change to inform public policy and science diplomacy

Catherine Panter-Brick^{1,2,3*†}Lina Qtaishat^{3,4†}Jannik Joseph Eggerman³Honey Thomas^{1,3}

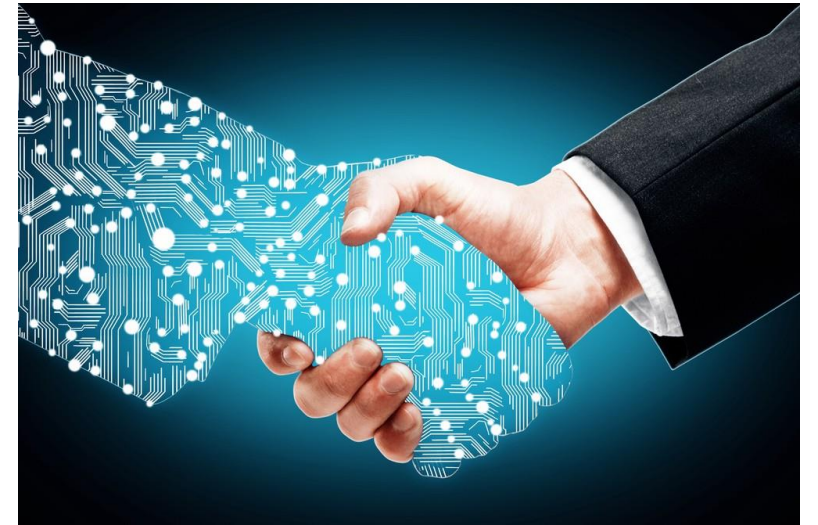
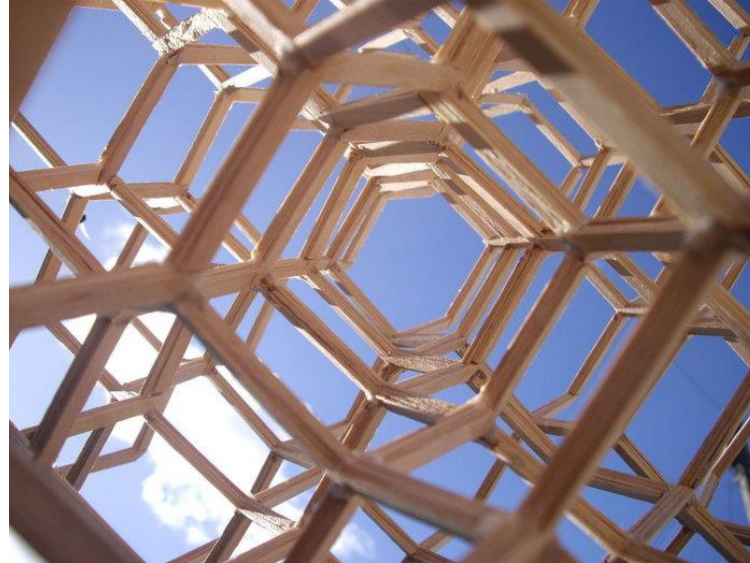
Praveen

Kumar⁵Rana Dajani⁶

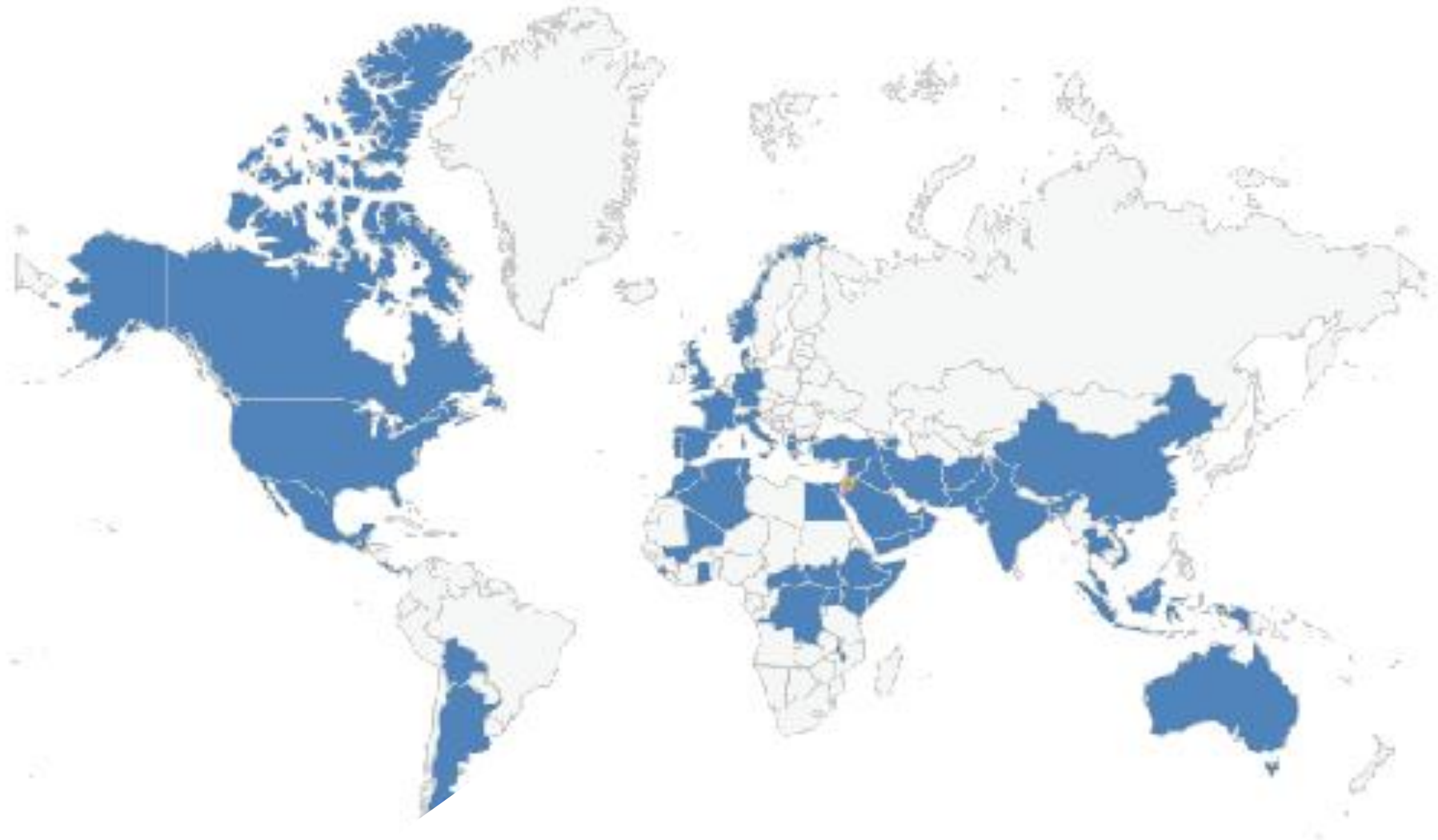


Linear theory of change: Activity – output – outcome – long term goal

How is WLR Innovative?



Scaling Wide



THE NEIGHBORHOOD STORYTELLER

A film by HOME Storytellers



THE BIG HEART FOUNDATION PRESENTS THE NEIGHBORHOOD STORYTELLER A PRODUCTION OF HOME STORYTELLERS
NATASHA NAZI DIRECTED BY ALEJANDRA ALCALA PRODUCED BY FRANCISCO J. ALCALA
ORIGINAL SCORE BY BERNARDO CASTRO
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARIAM AL HAMMADI ABULLA MOHAMMED
WE LOVE READING
GHIUFAN ABUDAYYEH



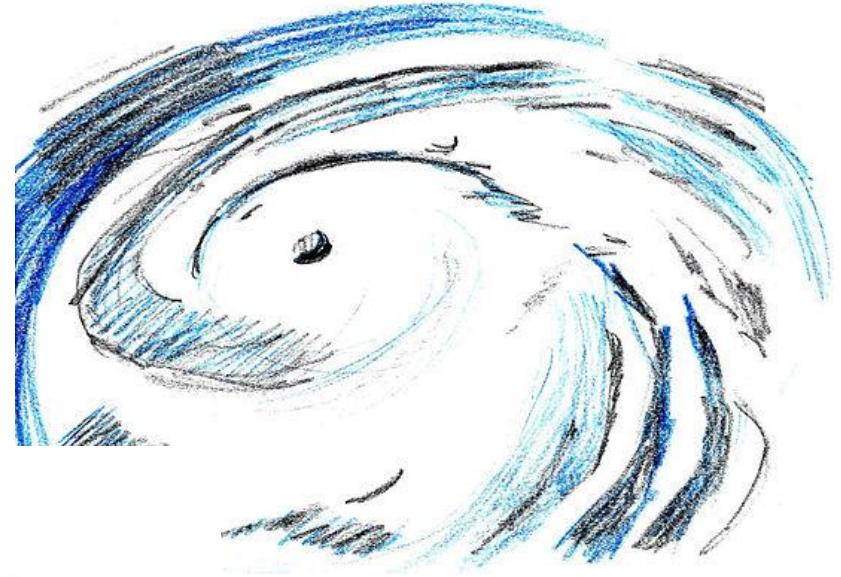
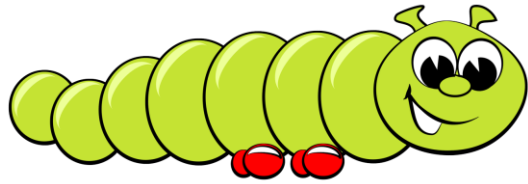
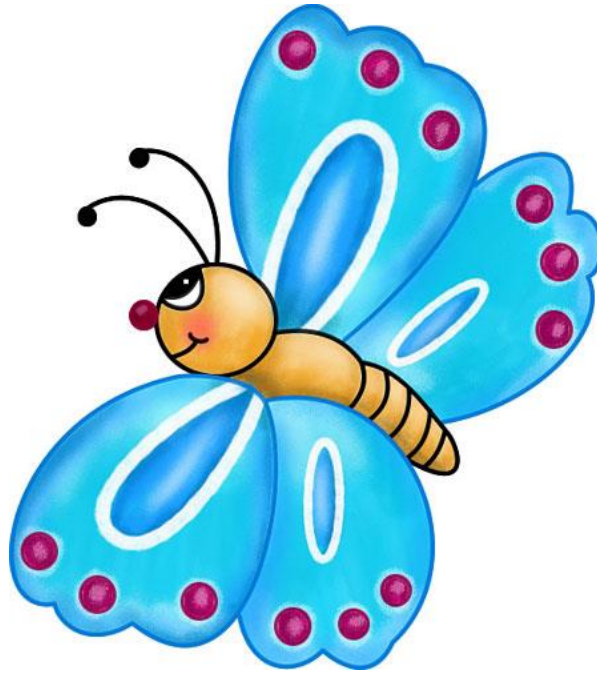
Together we inspire individuals to
become changemakers, like Asmaa!

ONE MILLION ASMAAS



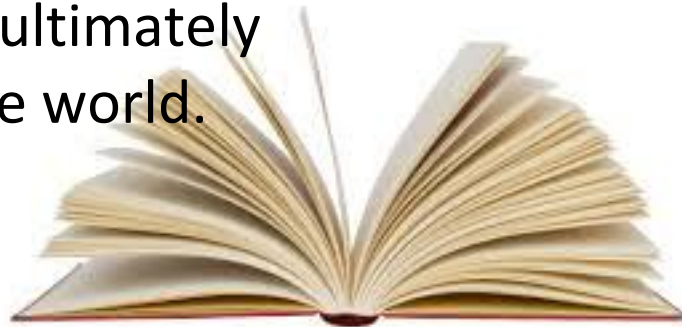
www.1masmaas.org





It has been said that something as small as the flutter of a butterfly's wing can ultimately cause a typhoon halfway around the world.

Chaos Theory



Find out more

Rdajani@hu.edu.jo

www.welovereading.org

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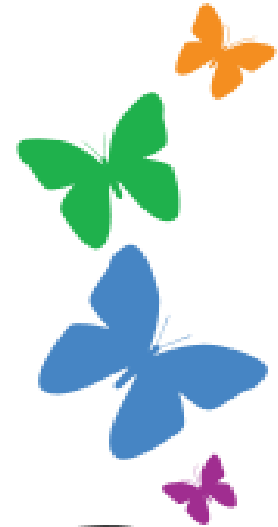
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نحن نحب القراءة
WE LOVE READING