Exploring the 'Homo Semioticus Paradigm' for Sense-making in the Human Niche

(1) The 'homo semioticus paradigm' is about 'affective sense-making'. The underpinning 'Semiotic Cultural Psychological Theory' [*] (SCPT) describes: (i) how 'affective sense-making' functions at the group-level and (ii) how it causes people to perceive evidence, insights or concepts in accordance with their 'world views' [1]; or in language of the SCPT in accordance with their 'symbolic universe' [2].

The 'homo semioticus paradigm' can be applied in geosciences [3].

[*] The SCPT did reveal structures of the 'affective sense-making' of the cultural-political features of the European societies. People are found to identify with and apply various 'symbolic universes', such as 'ordered universe', 'interpersonal bound', 'caring society', 'niche of belongingness', and 'others' world'.

[1] Stewart, I. S., & Lewis, D. 2017. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.earscirev.2017.09.003; **[2]** Salvatore, S., et al. 2018. https://doi.org/10.1177/1354067X18779056; **[3]** Bohle, M. (in print). Homo Semioticus Migrating out of Area? In: S. Salvatore et al. (eds.), What future for Europe? Symbolic Universes in the time of (post)crisis, Springer; **[4]** Di Capua et al. 2017. https://doi.org/10.4401/ag-7553; **[**]** EGU2019-1887-2

The metaphorical term 'human niche' labels networked complex-adaptive social-ecological systems of non-separable societal and environmental dynamics. People's sense-making is a part of these systems. It is an feature of the feedback through that people shape Earth system dynamics.

(2) Socio-political features of peoples environments, when they are perceived through different 'symbolic universe', trigger different affective responses (sense-making) of people. Hence, the **hypothesis** that you can conjecture how people perceive their place within the 'human niche' when comparing their 'symbolic universes' with suitable socio-political features, such as norms that describe, for example, ***How to behave in the 'human niche'***.

Complex-adaptive socio-ecological systems are challenging people's rational sense-making capabilities. In such circumstances, people deploy their 'affective sense-making' tools, the 'symbolic universes' as devices 'to perceive and act in a conveniently biased manner'. Subsequently, people's collective value-laden decision-making (including policy-making) will be consistent with their 'symbolic universe'.

(3) A means to explore the sense-making feedback in complex-adaptive social-ecological systems is the mutual mapping of 'symbolic universes' and norms, such as the 'geoethical imperative' [**], which can be designed using geoethical thinking [4].

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