



HILE GROUP

Safety Leadership Toolkit: Precautionary Principle

WEDA Midwestern Chapter Meeting

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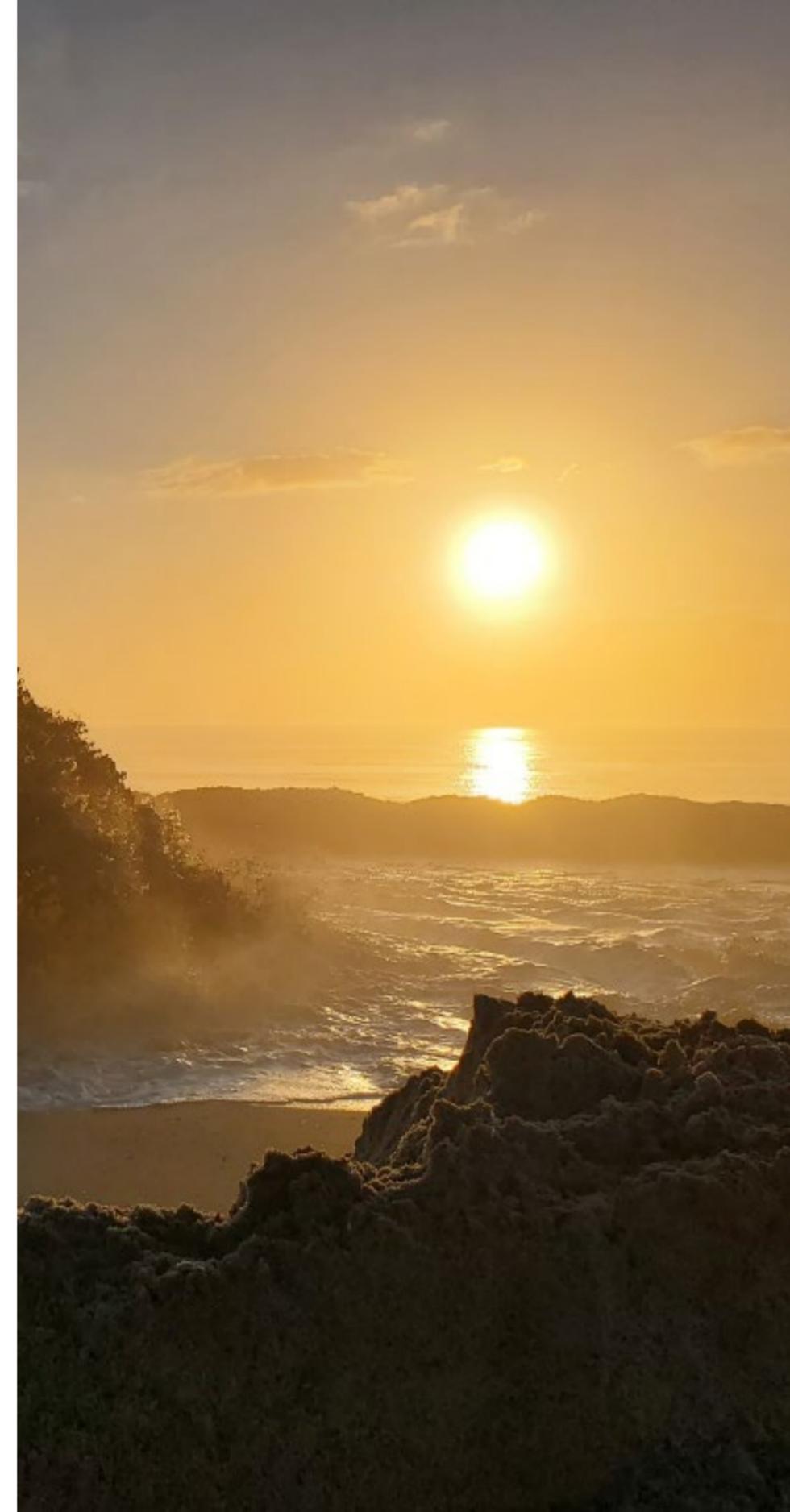
Who We Are

Rachel Hile-Broad

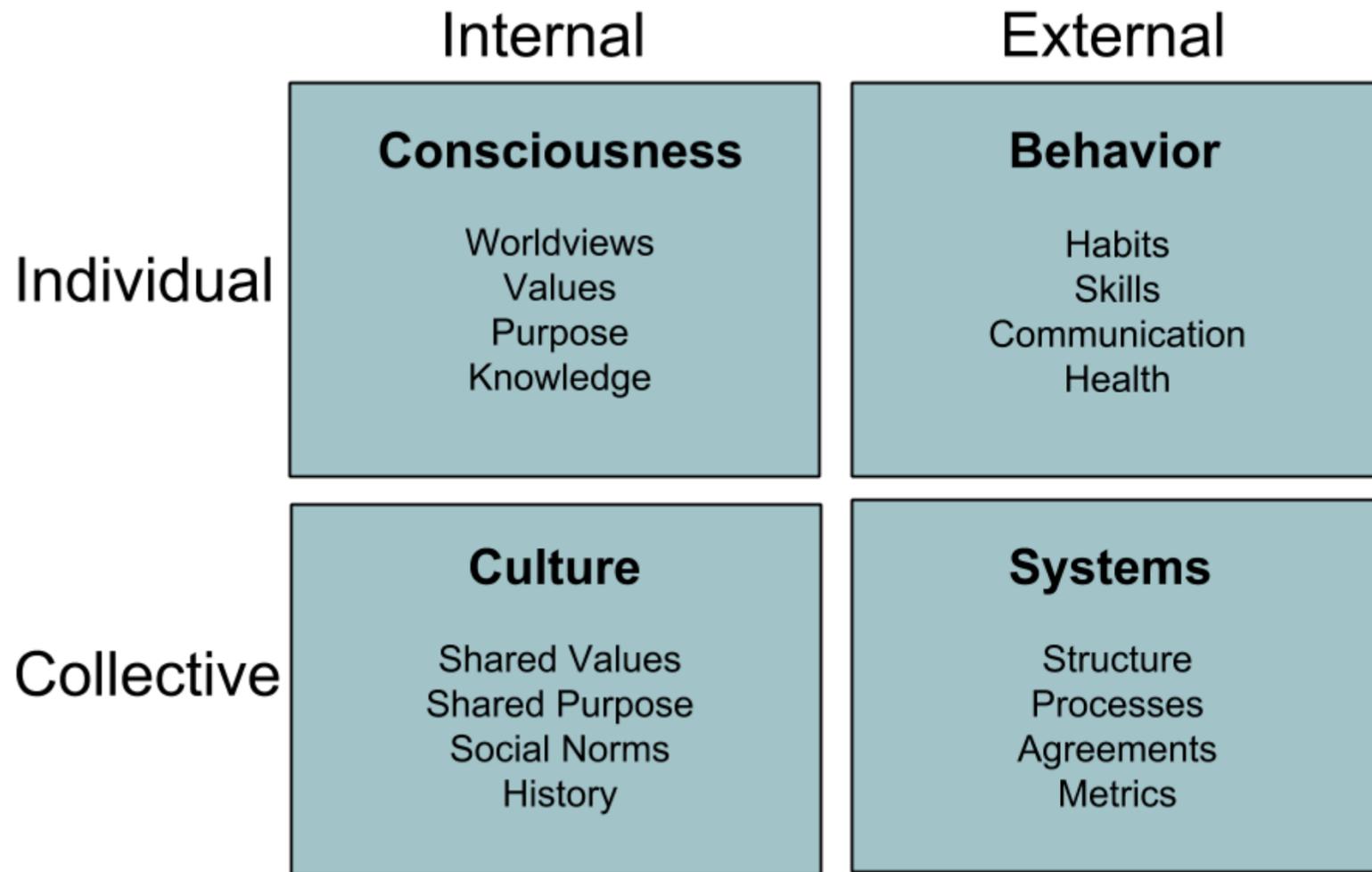
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Integral Model



- Most engineering paradigms emphasize ***exterior*** over ***interior*** models of understanding
- Consider common safety moments...
- ***Mindset leadership*** emphasizes interior to gain leverage on the exterior
- Safety moments as ***memes***



Precautionary Principle

Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

- United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio Conference), 1992

Precautionary Principle

When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. In this context the proponent of an activity, rather than the public, should bear the burden of proof.

- Wingspread Conference on the Precautionary Principle, 1998

Precautionary Principle

A strategy to cope with scientific uncertainties in the assessment and management of risks...

It is about wisdom of action under uncertainty...

Precaution means taking action to protect human health and the environment against possible danger of severe damage.

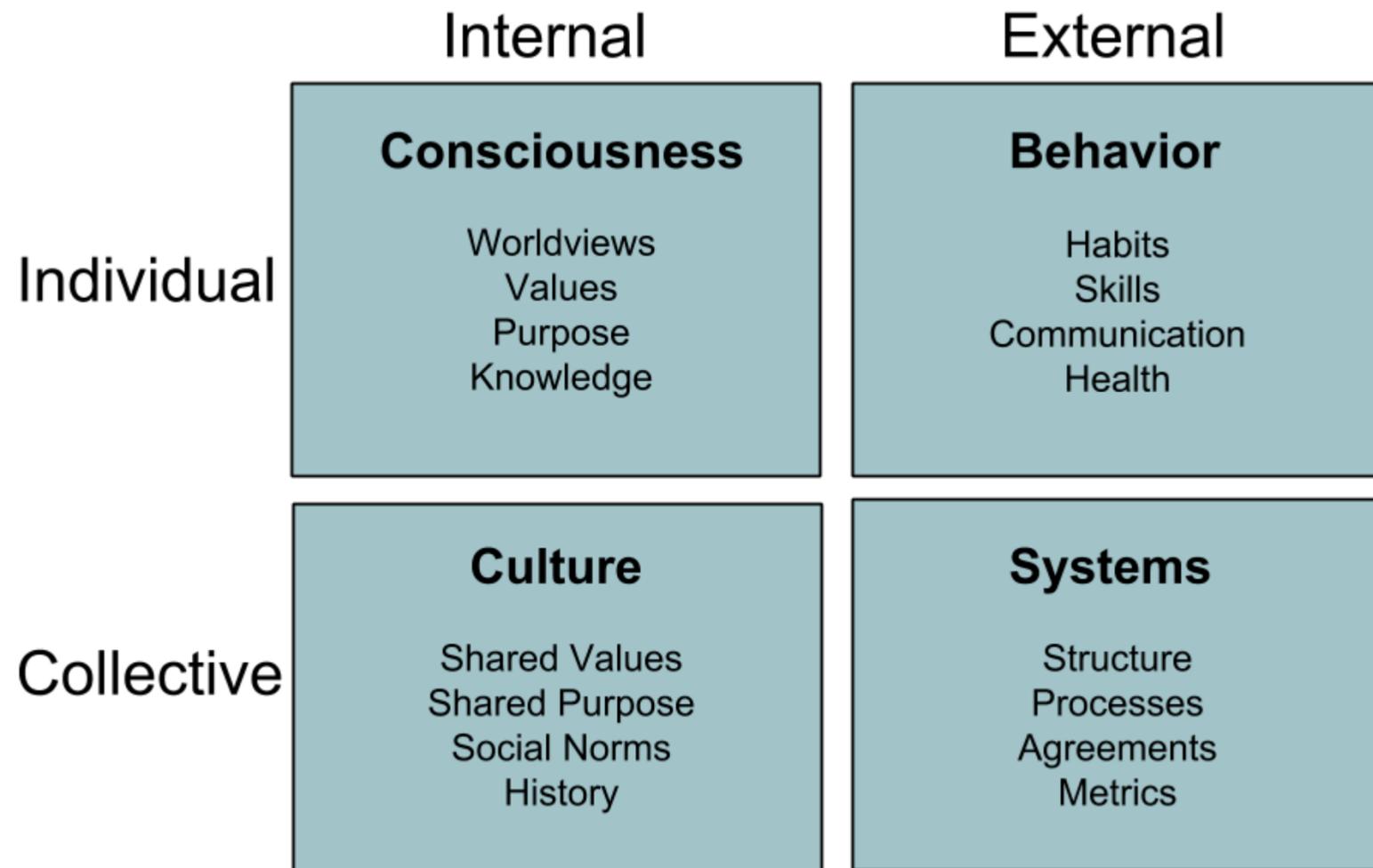
- UNESCO Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), 2005*

Precautionary Principle

- Even remote risk for *irreparable, morally unacceptable harm* outweighs even likely benefits (*safety clause*)
- Burden of proof falls on proponent of activity (*leadership clause*)



Integral Model



- What constitutes *irreparable, morally unacceptable harm*?
- *Of the activities for which I am a proponent*, what is the risk for irreparable, morally unacceptable harm?
- How do I determine and meet the *proper burden of proof* that irreparable, morally unacceptable harm is sufficiently unlikely to act?



Thank You

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