

The Cobra Effect

FOR EVERY COMPLEX
PROBLEM THERE IS
AN ANSWER THAT IS
CLEAR, SIMPLE, AND
WRONG

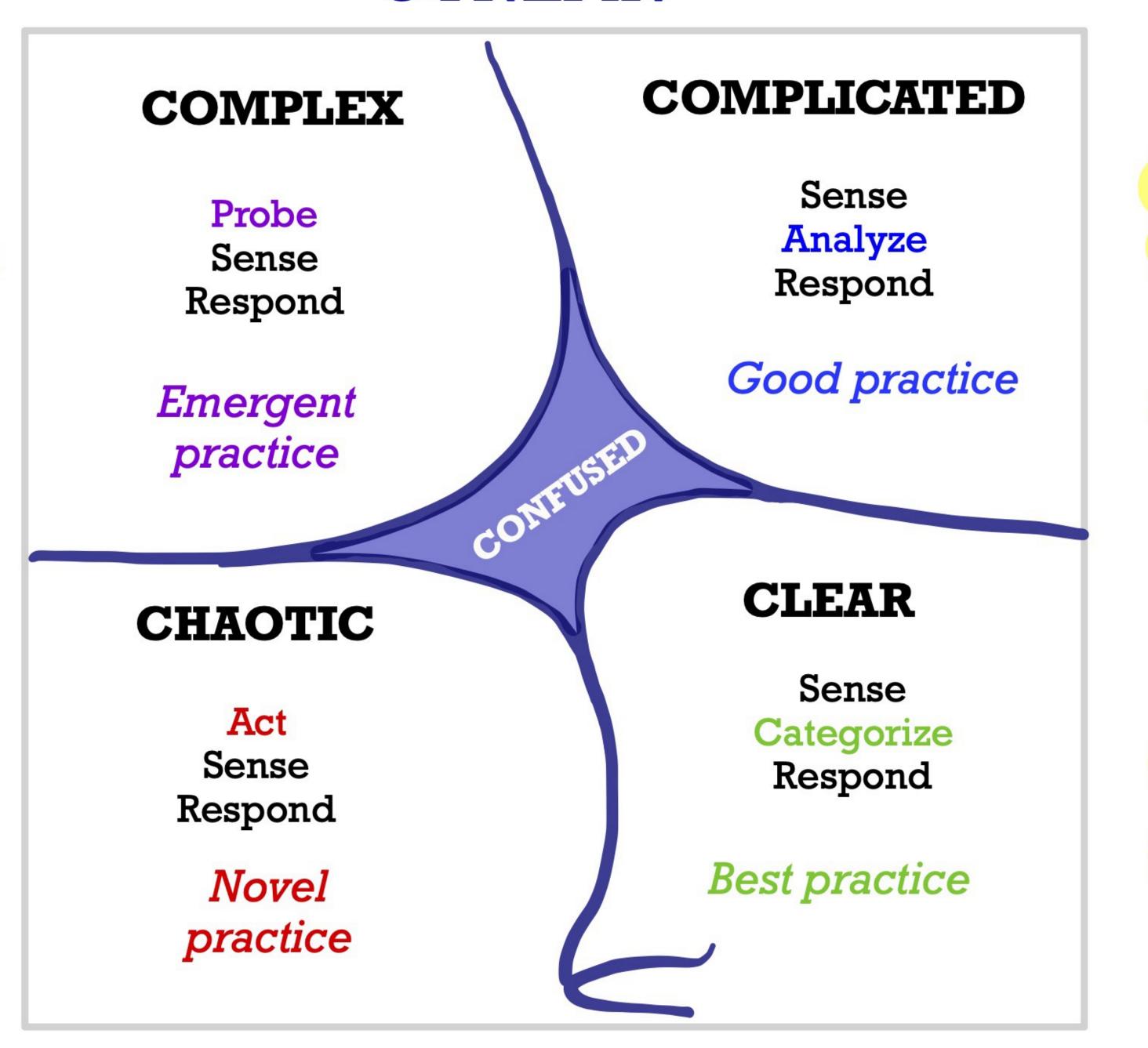
- H.L. MENCKEN-

CYNEFIN

Unknows

UNORDERED

Unpredictable



Known
Unknows

ORDERED

Cause and Effect Are Predictable

Knowns

Agile

belongs

here

UNORDERED

Unpredictable

CYNEFIN

CONFUSED

COMPLEX

Probe Sense Respond

Emergent practice

COMPLICATED

Sense
Analyze
Respond

Good practice

CHAOTIC

Act Sense Respond

Novel practice

CLEAR

Sense

Categorize

Respond

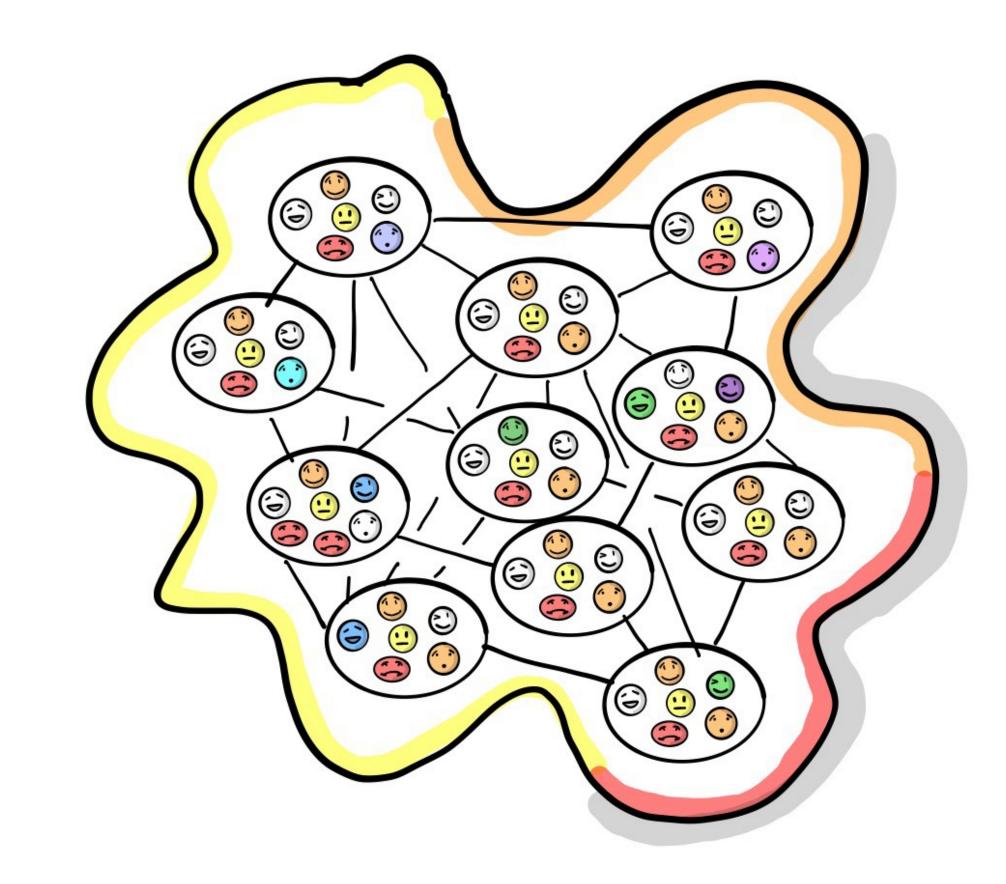
Best practice

ORDERED

Cause and Effect Are Predictable

Metaphor of Organisation





Mechanical system

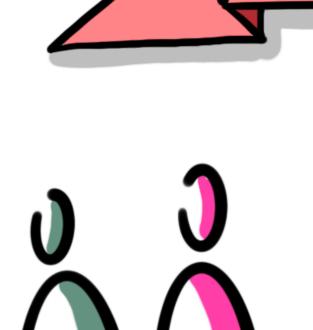
VS.

(or Social Network)



Leadership Styles in a Complex World

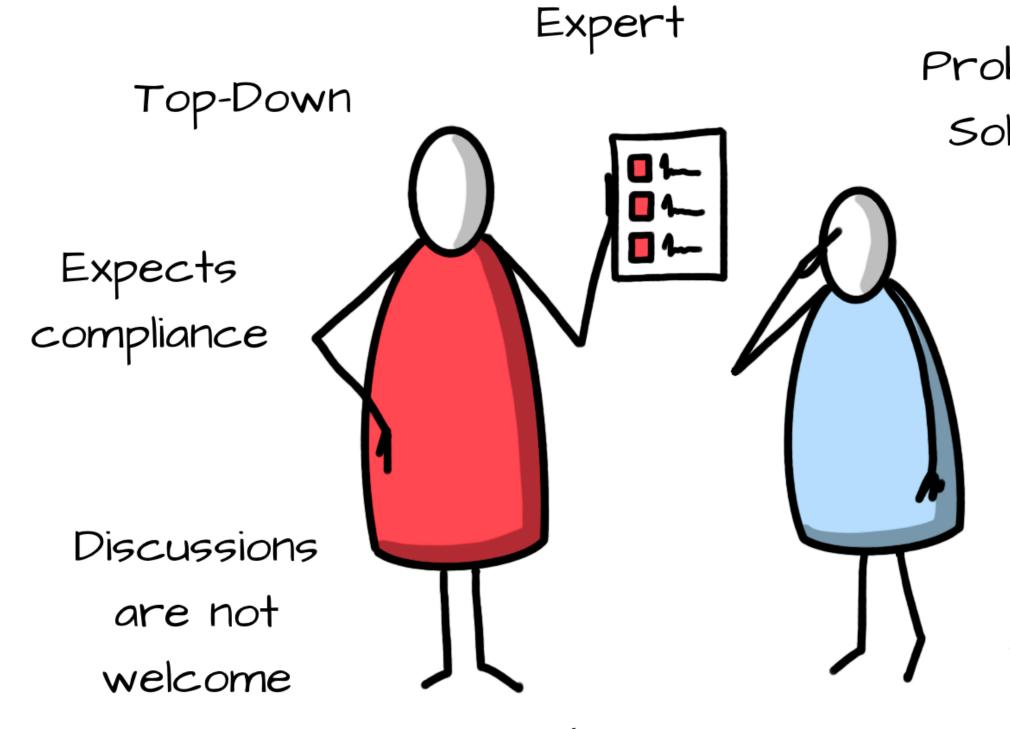
DIRECTING LEADERSHIP STYLE



"PEOPLE ARE SOLDERS"

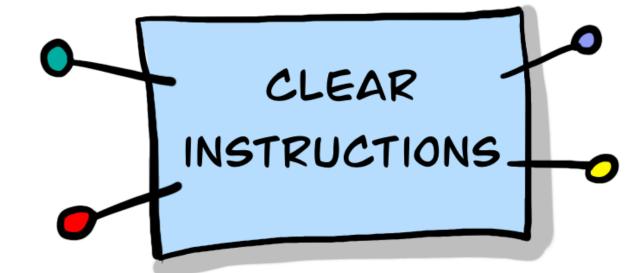


RESOLVES
OBSTACLES ON
THEIR OWN



Problem-

Solver



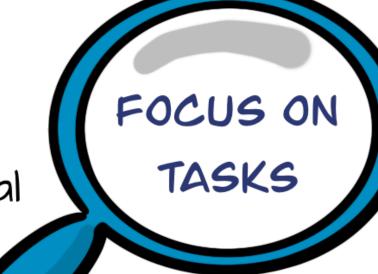
PROVIDES:

Fast decision-

making

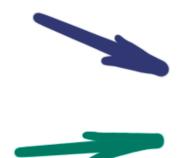
Tactical

Always busy

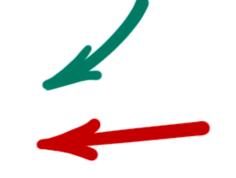




High control



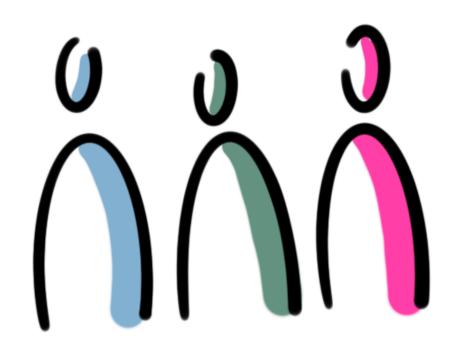
CLOSED TO FEEDBACK



PACESETTING LEADERSHIP STYLE

ACCEPTS FEEDBACK IF IT

HELPS TO WIN



"PEOPLE ARE RACEHORSES"



EXPECTS QUICK RESOLUTION OF OBSTACLES



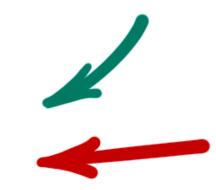
Competitive

Sets a personal example

High

Short-term

pressure





PROVIDES:

TARGETS

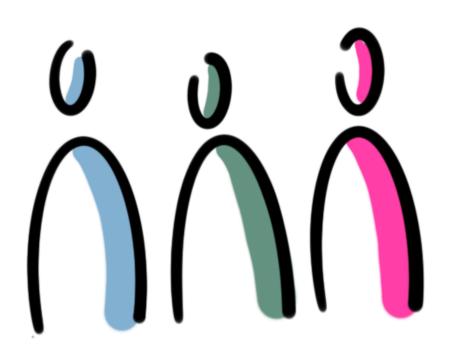
FOCUS ON

RESULTS

PERFORMANC



COORDINATING LEADERSHIP STYLE



"PEOPLE ARE

GEARS"

Coordinates collaboration Defines

rules and procedures

Gate-Keeper

Protects team from the external world

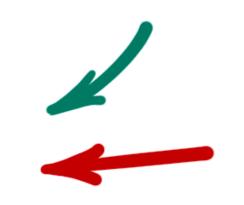
Synchronizes efforts

Ensures that everyone knows their responsibilities

Controls all the workflows

MOSTLY RESOLVES OBSTACLES ALONE

USES FEEDBACK TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY





STRUCTURE AND ORDER



TELLS
WHEN AND IN
WHAT ORDER
TO DO

ENABLING LEADERSHIP STYLE



"PEOPLE ARE ASSETS"

ENSURES THAT THE
OBSTACLES ARE
REMOVED



Instills sense of shared responsibility





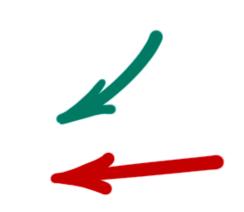
Encorages experimentation

Fosters

psychological safety

"It is ok to fail"

Creates conditions for the team to succeed



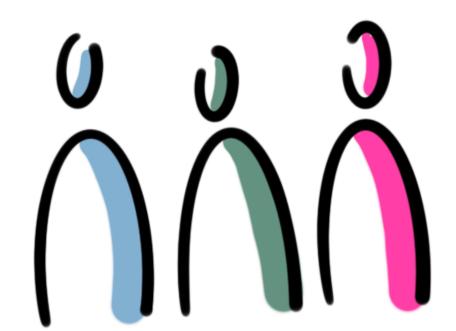
PROVIDES:

INTENT AND





COACHING LEADERSHIP STYLE

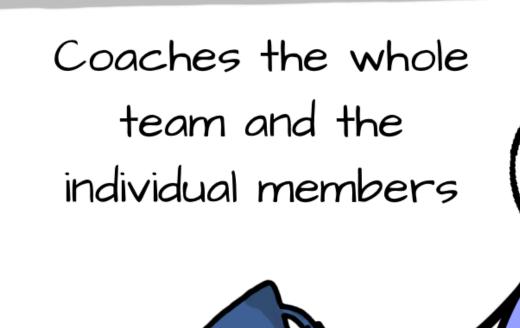


"PEOPLE ARE POTENTIAL"

"Failure is a learning

opportunity"

ENCOURAGES THE TEAM TO REMOVE OBSTACLES THEMSELVES



Lets the team fail

Listens

deeply

Supports team members with their growth

FEEDBACK AS A TOOL FOR GROWTH



Poses challenging and forwardthinking questions

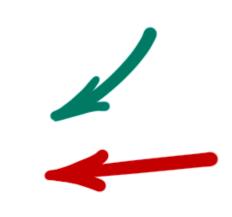
Enables the team effectiveness through coaching



PROVIDES:







CATALYZING LEADERSHIP STYLE PROVIDES: Inspirational Encourages innovation COMPELLING High purpose VISION Transformative "PEOPLE ARE Challenges FOCUS ON SPARKS" the team Fosters cross-team IMPACT collaboration Boosts their success Energizes the team towards breakthrough Enables synergies results TELLS WHAT COULD BE REFRAMES INSPIRES FEEDBACK FOR OBSTACLES AS INNOVATION OPPORTUNITIES

CYNEFIN

COMPLICATED COMPLEX Enabling Coordinating Coaching Coaching Enabling Catalyzing Good practice CONFUSED Emergent practice **CLEAR CHAOTIC** Coordinating Directing Pacesetting Pacesetting Directing Coordinating Best practice Novel practice

UNORDERED

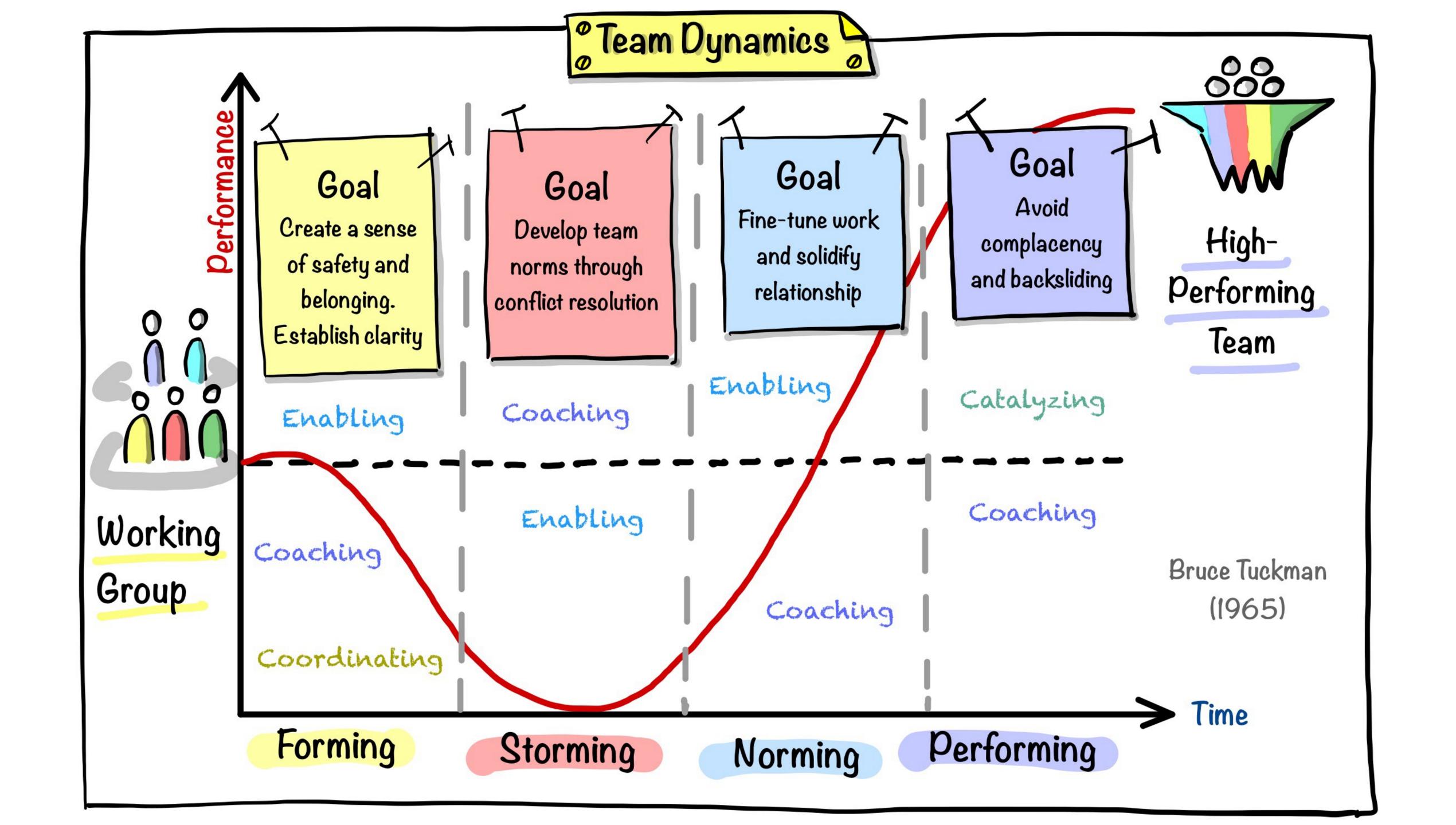
Unpredictable

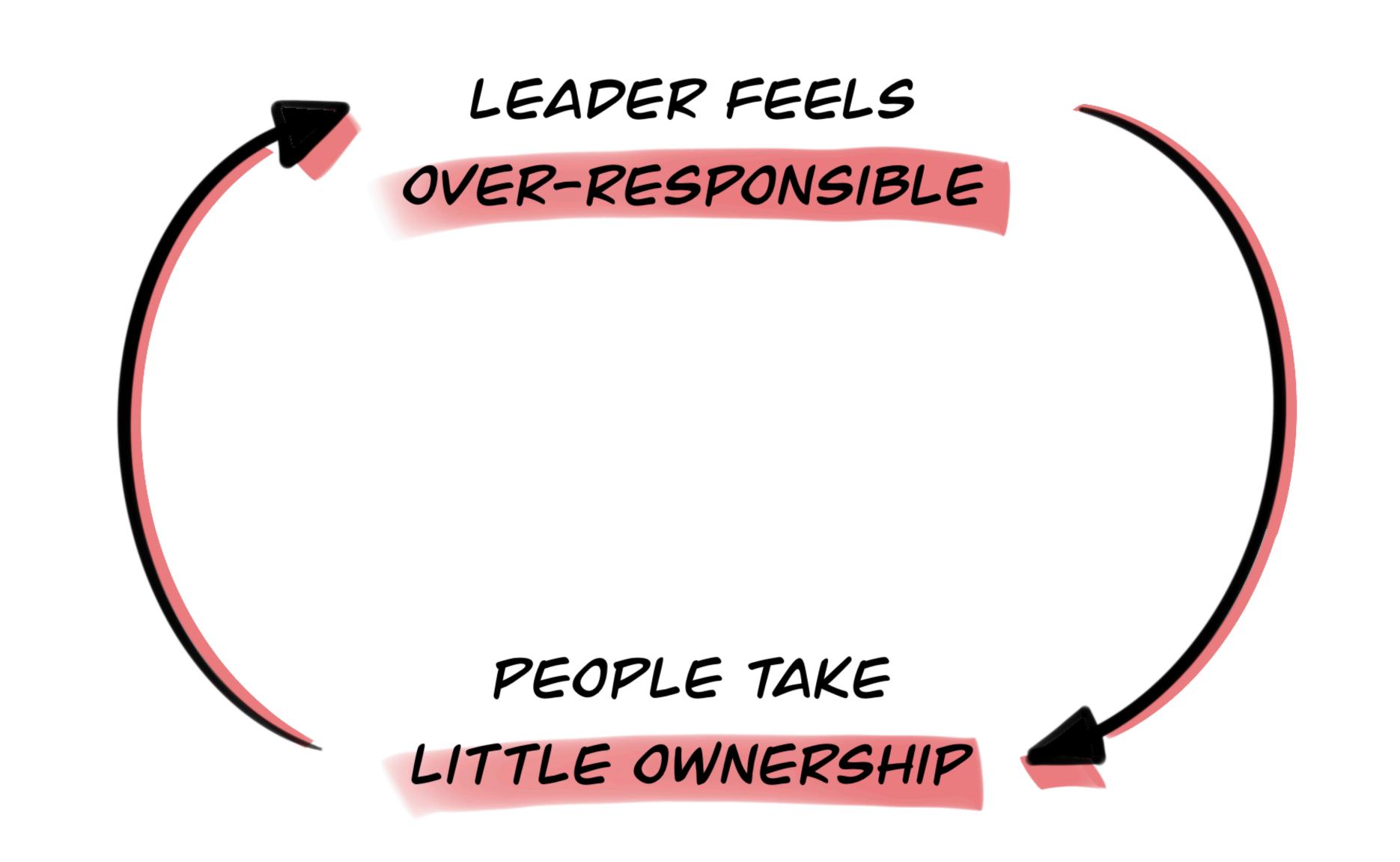
ORDERED

Cause and

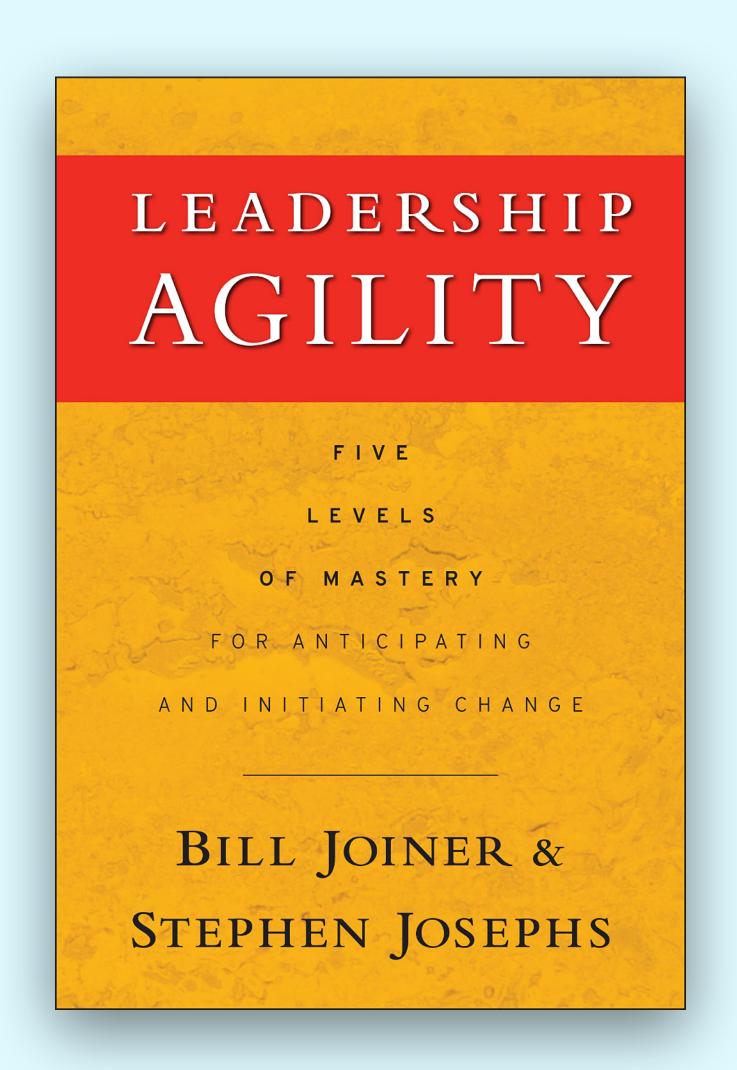
Effect Are

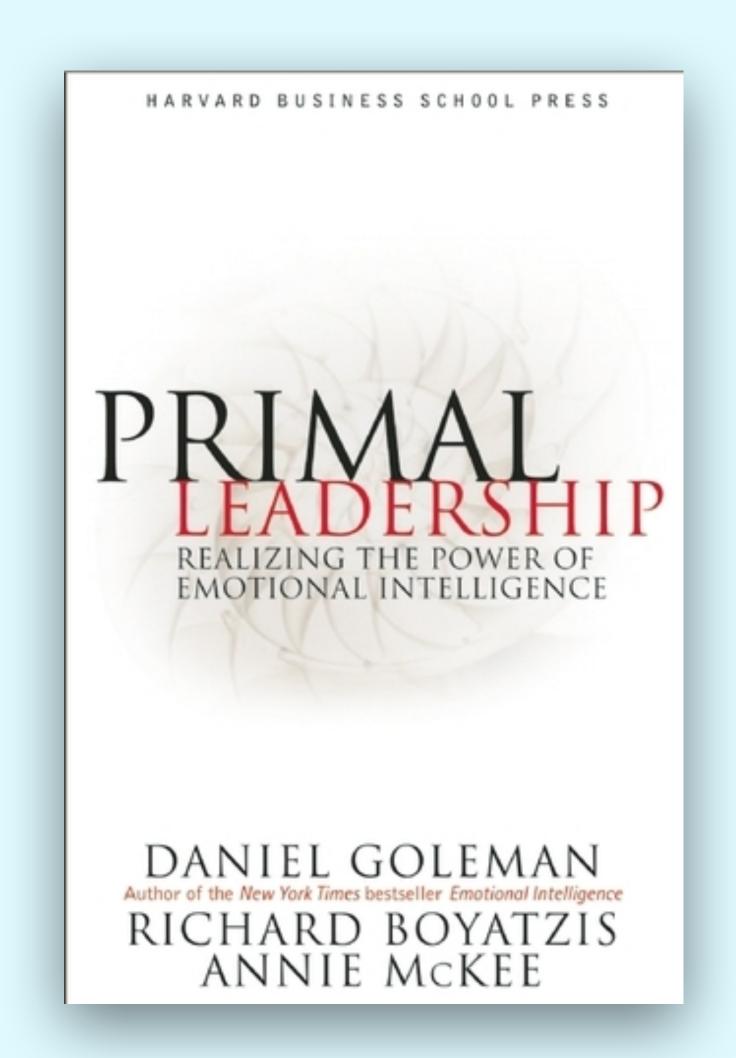
Predictable

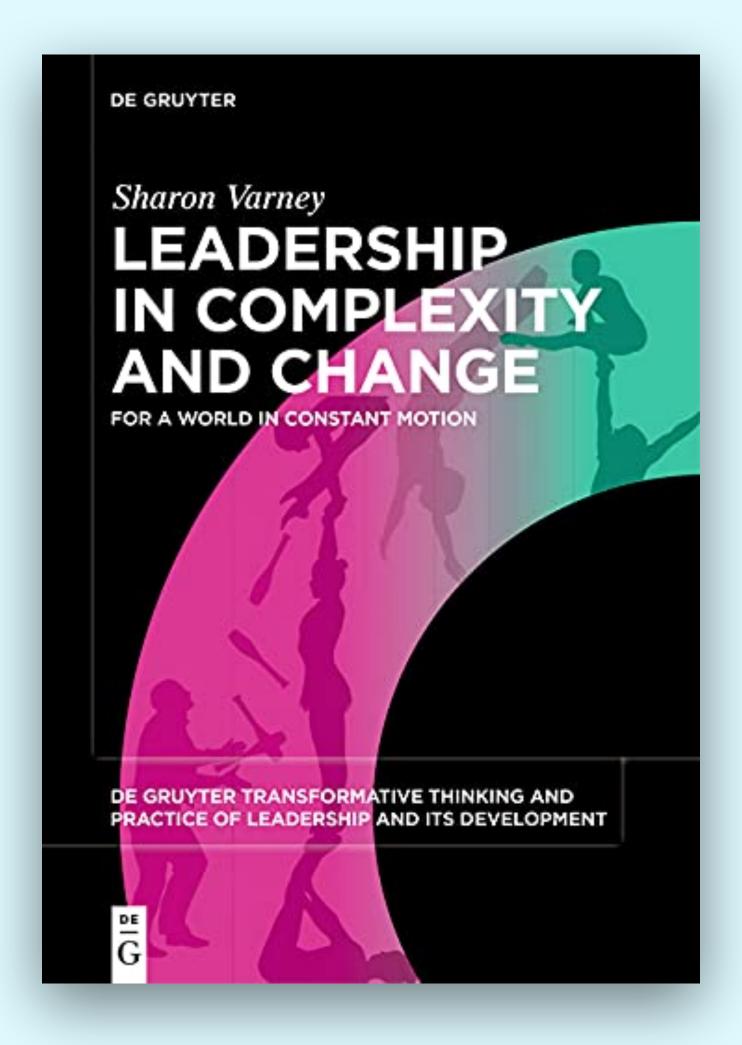




Further Reading







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Julia Vastrik.com



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