Open Recognition Where [Authentic] Open Education Begins

The Potential of Digital Badges to Promote Equitable Learning Opportunities

Japan Open University, Tokyo December 2025

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Digital Badges

Open

Recognition

Learning

The Potential of Digital Badges to Promote Equitable Learning Opportunities







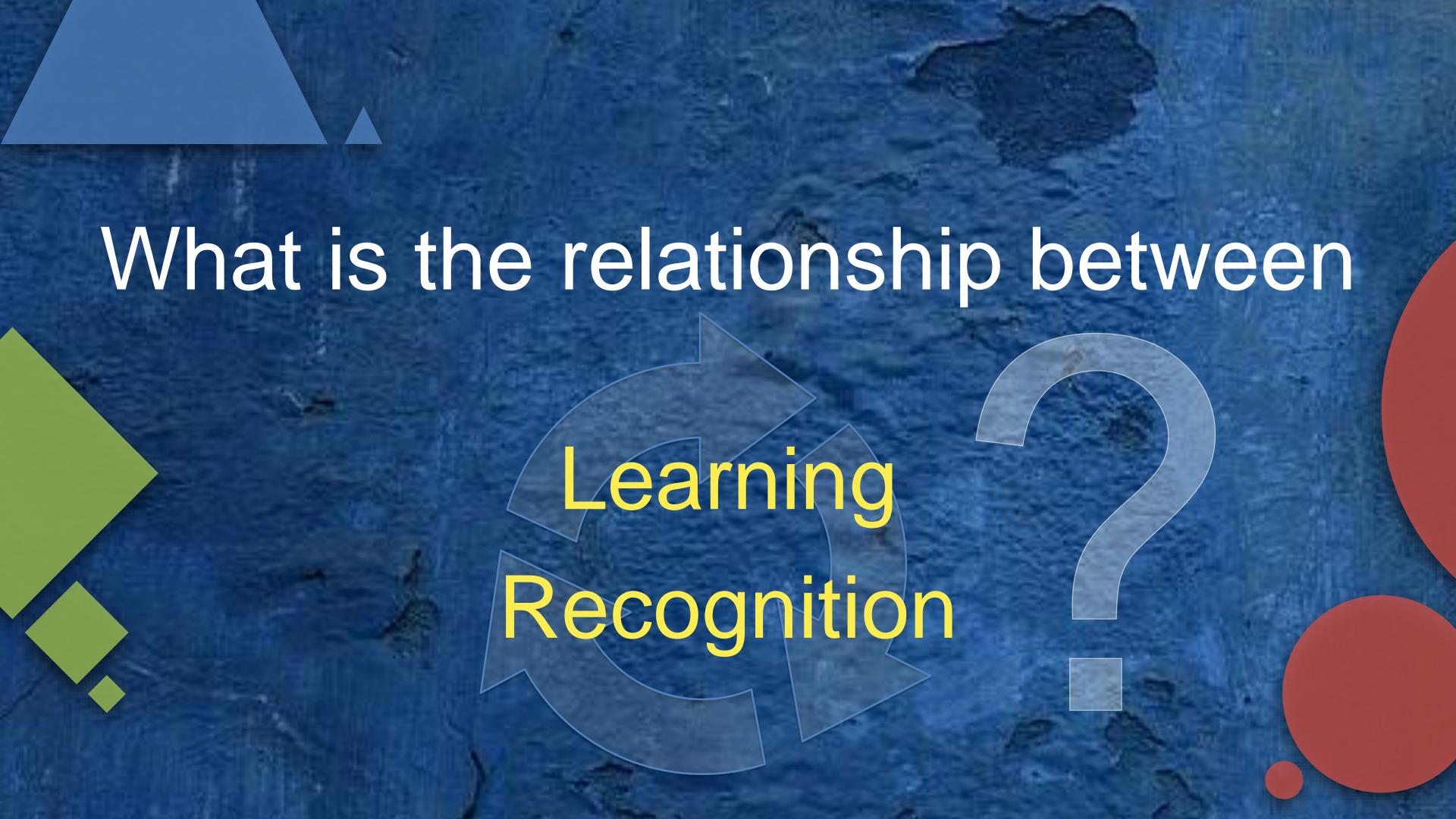


What is the relationship between

Badges

Learning

Recognition









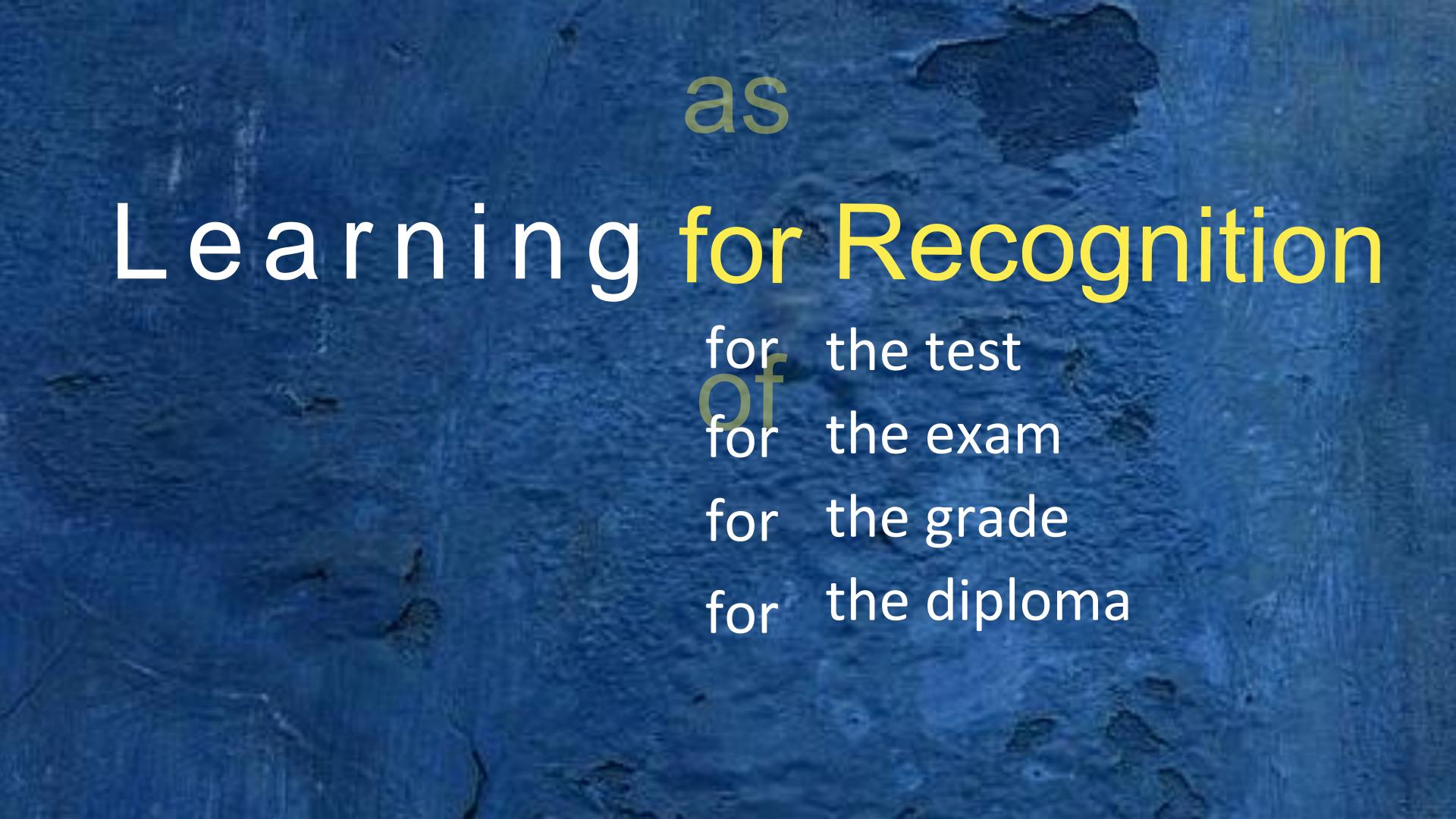


Learning as Recognition

for

of

An active encounter with the world, a process of inquiry, differentiation, and meaning-making



of the test

of the exam

of the grade

of the diploma

Learning of Recognition

"Will today's lesson be included in the test?"

What is the relationship between Badges Learning Recognition

Open Badges

2011 Invented by the Mozilla and MacArthur Foundations

to make Informal Learning Visible

Recognition

to make Informal Learning Visible

Learning needs to be first... recognised,...

therefore Open Badges

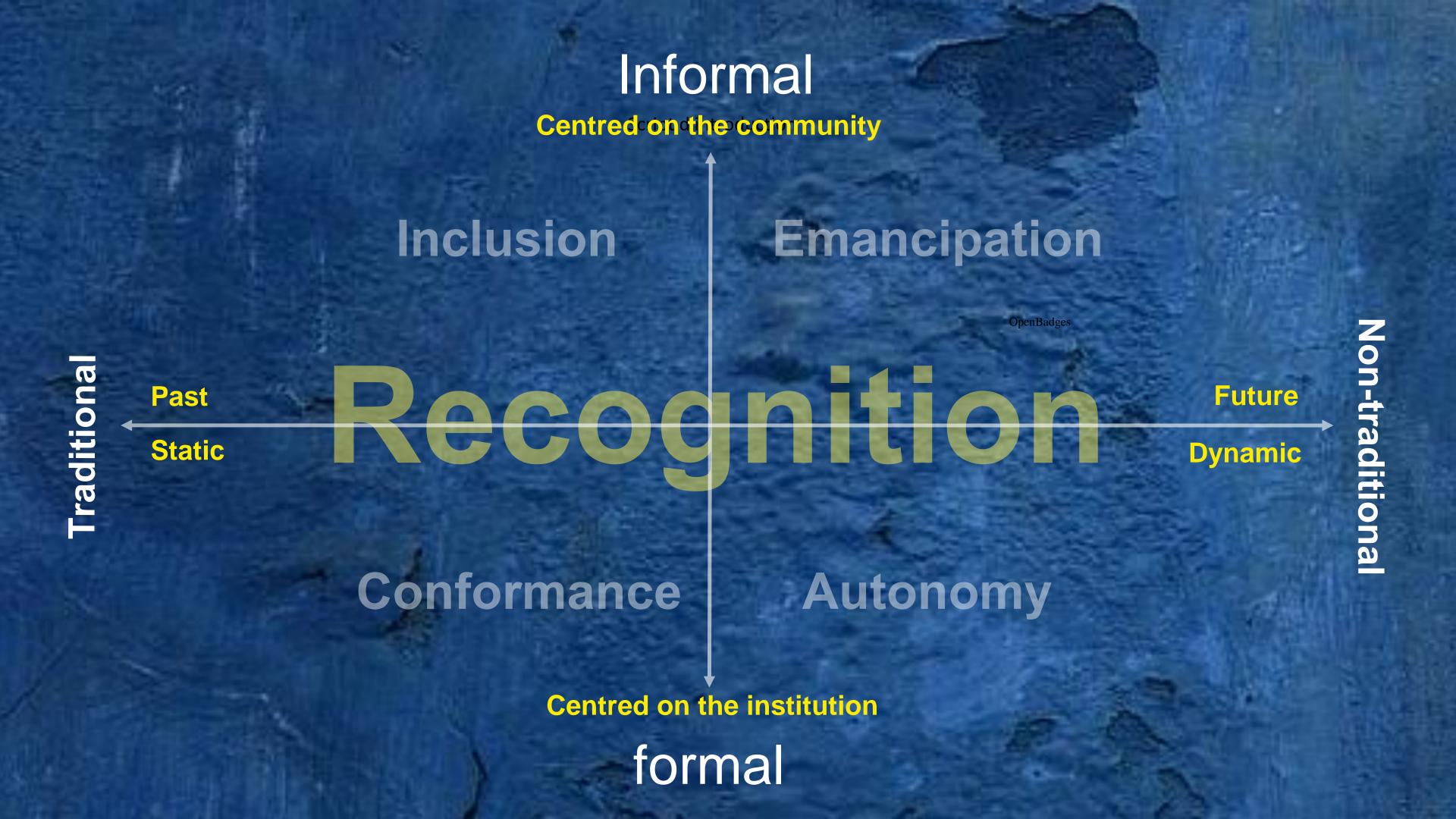
make visible

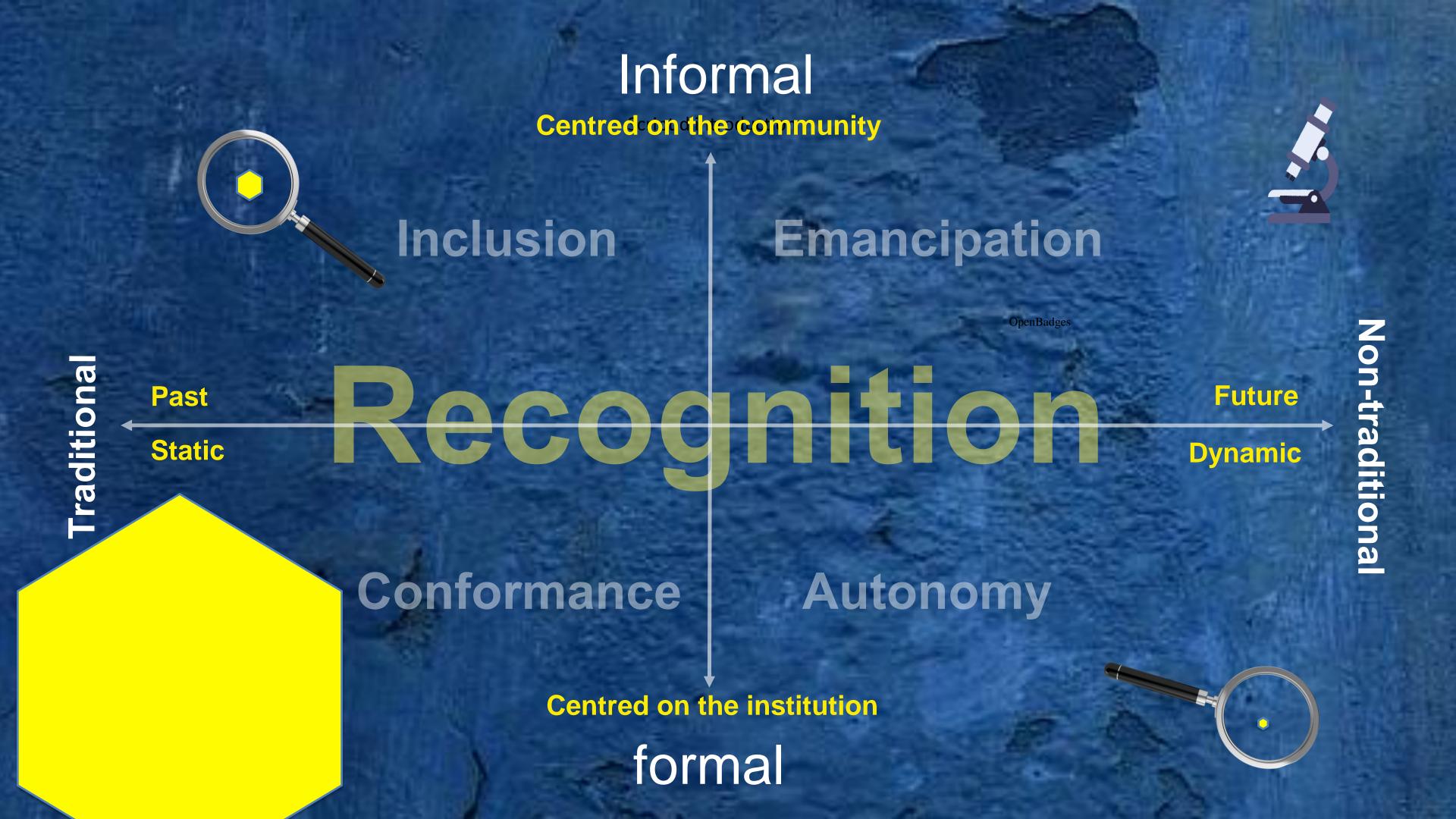
the Recognition of Informal Learning

Open Badges

make Recognition visible

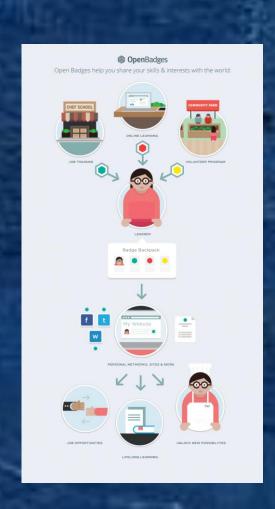
Whether Informal or formal







Why so?



Mozilla didn't include in the Backpack the code to create Open Badges.

One could be recognised, but not recognise.

Recognition practices couldn't be Open



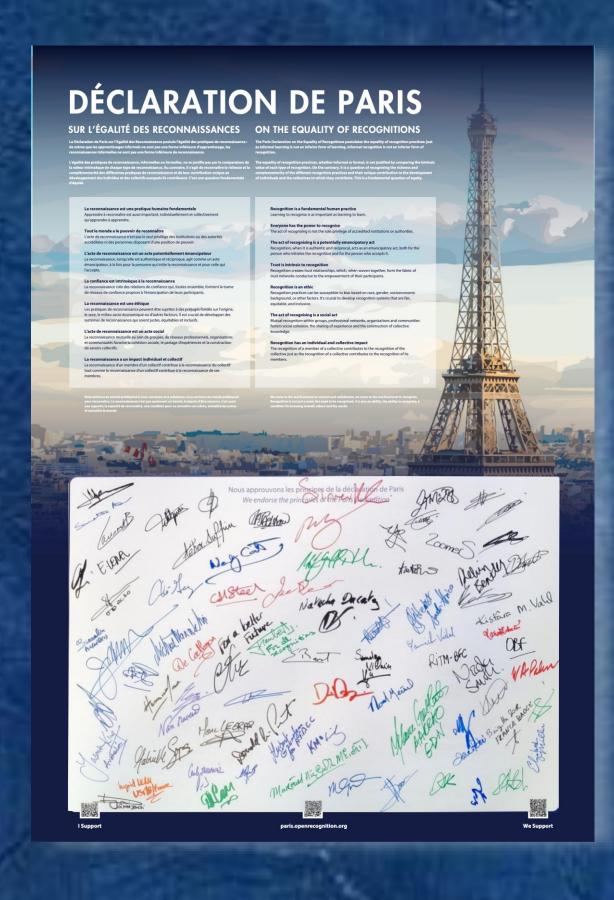
(2016)

Bologna Open Recognition Declaration



"[...]We encourage everyone — learners, educators, citizens and organisations —to actively participate in and take ownership of the emerging open recognition movement.

Participating means: taking personal responsibility in one's own learning, and in the recognition of others' achievements[...]"



Paris Declaration on the Equality of Recognitions

The Paris Declaration postulates the equality of recognition practices: just as informal learning is not an inferior form of learning, informal recognition is not an inferior form of recognition.

(2024)

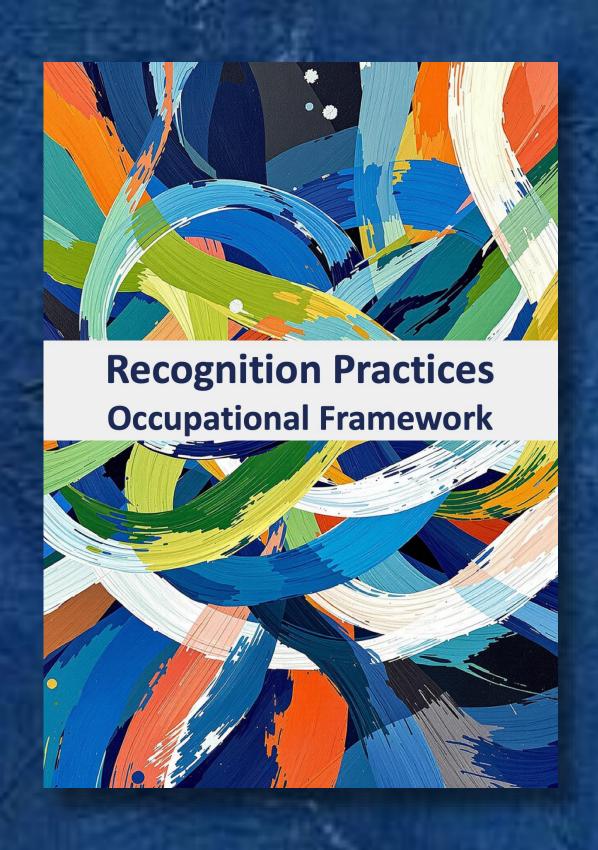


Open Recognition Manifesto

- 1.Recognition Commons
- 2. Recognition Capital
- 3. Recognition Epistemics
- 4. Recognition Policies
- 5. Recognition Pedagogies
- 6. Recognition Technologies
- 7. Recognition Practices

(2025)





Recognition happens everywhere but in a fragmented way

How can we make recognition practices explicit, connected, shareable, and continuously refined?

- => A framework emerging from the recognition of a range of
- Practices informal, semi-formal and formal
- Contexts micro, meso, macro

(2025)

Developing the Recognition Function within organisations

Recognition Practices

Macro

Meso

Micro

Endorsement

citation in a professional publication

Sectoral validation statement of competence

Institutional certification diploma, qualification, accreditation

Endorsement

invitation as expert or speaker

Organisational validation statement of competence

Organisational certification, status, promotion

Endorsement

thank-you note

Peer validation documented testimony

Certification

by a recognized expert

Informal

Semi-formal

Formal

Recognition Practices

Macro

Meso

Micro

Quality

Endorsement

citation in a professional publication

Sectoral or public validation statement of competence

Institutional certification diploma, qualification, accreditation

Endorsement

invitation as expert or speaker

Organisational validation statement of competence

Organisational certification certificate, status, promotion

Endorsement

thank-you note

Peer validation documented testimony

Certification
by a recognized expert

Authenticity

Reliability

Accountability

Informal

Semi-formal

Formal

Quality Assurance

Macro Accountability

Compliance

Meso Reliability

Consistant through shared practices and conventions

Micro Authenticity

Real, embodied, and meaningful for the person and their milieu.

Adaptive Quality Assurance

	Informal	Semi-formal	Formal
Purpose	Ensuring that recognitions remain genuine, contextual, and grounded in mutual trust	Ensuring that recognition systems co-created by communities remain open, actionable and fair	Ensuring reliability, currency, comparability, and compliance with shared frameworks
Features	Authenticity, reciprocity, trustworthiness, agency	Participatory design and operation, transparency, collective validation	Standards, consistency, accountability, updatability, auditability

AQA serves practices, does not control them => Differentiated QA per recognition modality

New functions, new roles...

1. Community-Embedded Practice

- Embedded Recognition Practitioner (generic)
- Recognition Facilitator
- Local Recognition Network Developer
- Local Recognition Network Steward
- Community Recognition Manager
- Recognition Practices Curator
- Recognition Literacy Advocate
- ...

2. Recognition Capital Roles

- Recognition Capital Analyst
- Recognition Capital Developer
- •

3. Recognition of Experience & Practice

- Recognition of Practice Advisor
- Recognition Portfolio Reviewer

- Recognition of Practice Assessor
- Recognition of Practice Validator
- ...

4. Organisational & Strategic Roles

- [Chief] Recognition Officer Recognition Ecosystem Architect
- Adaptive Recognition Quality Advisor
- Recognition Policy Advisor
- Recognition Integrity Officer
- Recognition Quality & Ethics Auditor
- Recognition Transparency Advocate
- •

5. Credential Evaluation & Equivalence Roles

- [international] Credential Evaluator / Analyst
- Credential Authenticity & Integrity

Officer

- Cross-[Sector/Border] Recognition Manager
- Credential Data Curator
- •

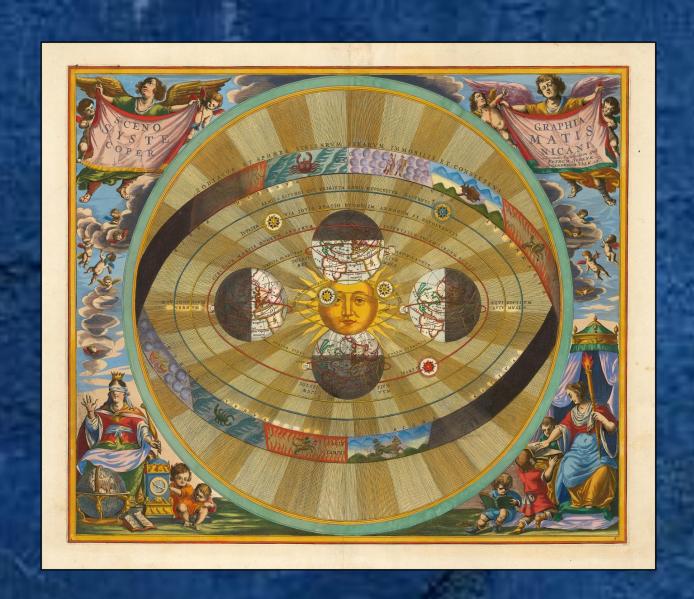
6. Socio-Technical & Data Roles

- Recognition Infrastructure Designer
- Recognition Infrastructure Administrator
- Recognition Data Steward
- •

What is the relationship between Badges Learning Recognition

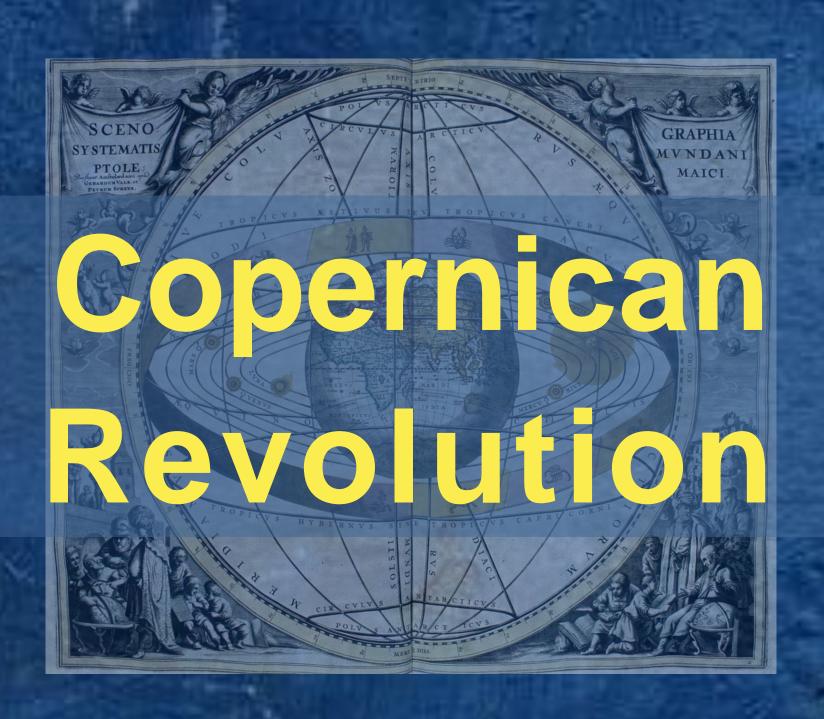


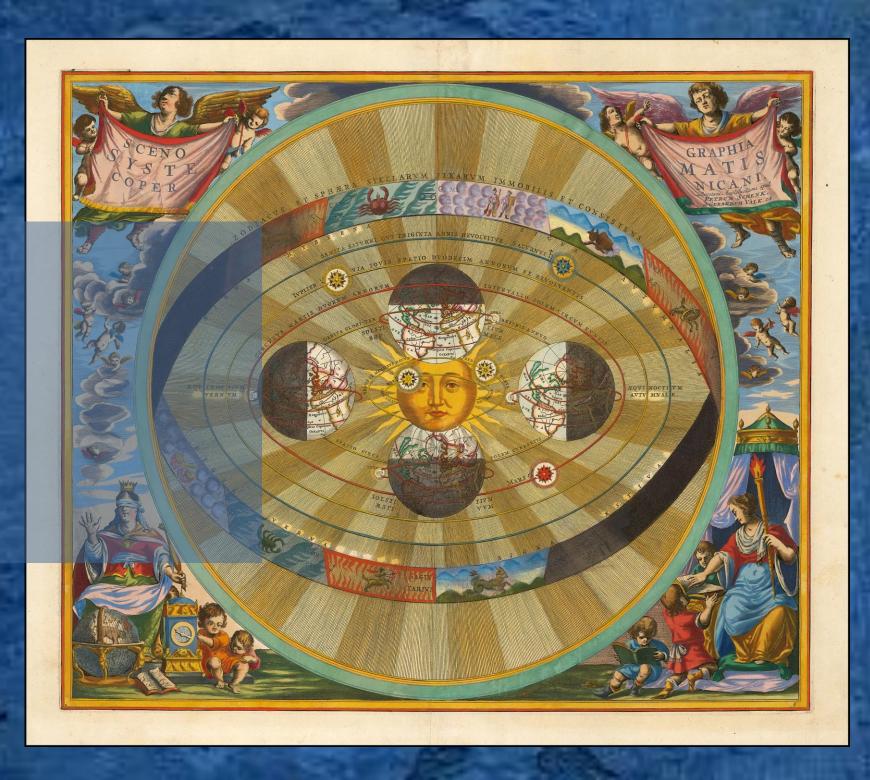
What if recognition was not the outcome of learning but its condition?



What if we moved the centre of gravity of development

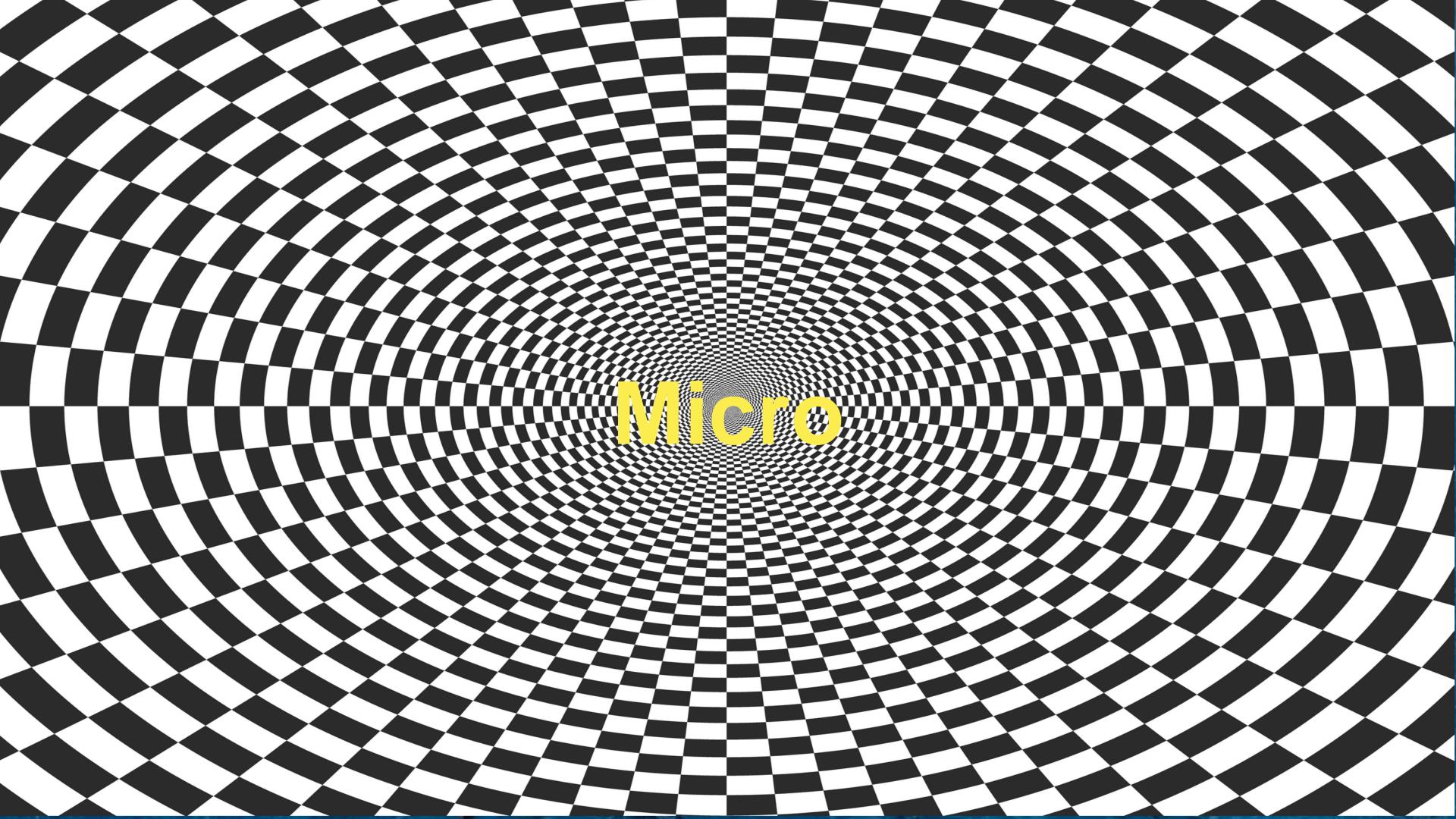
from learning to recognition

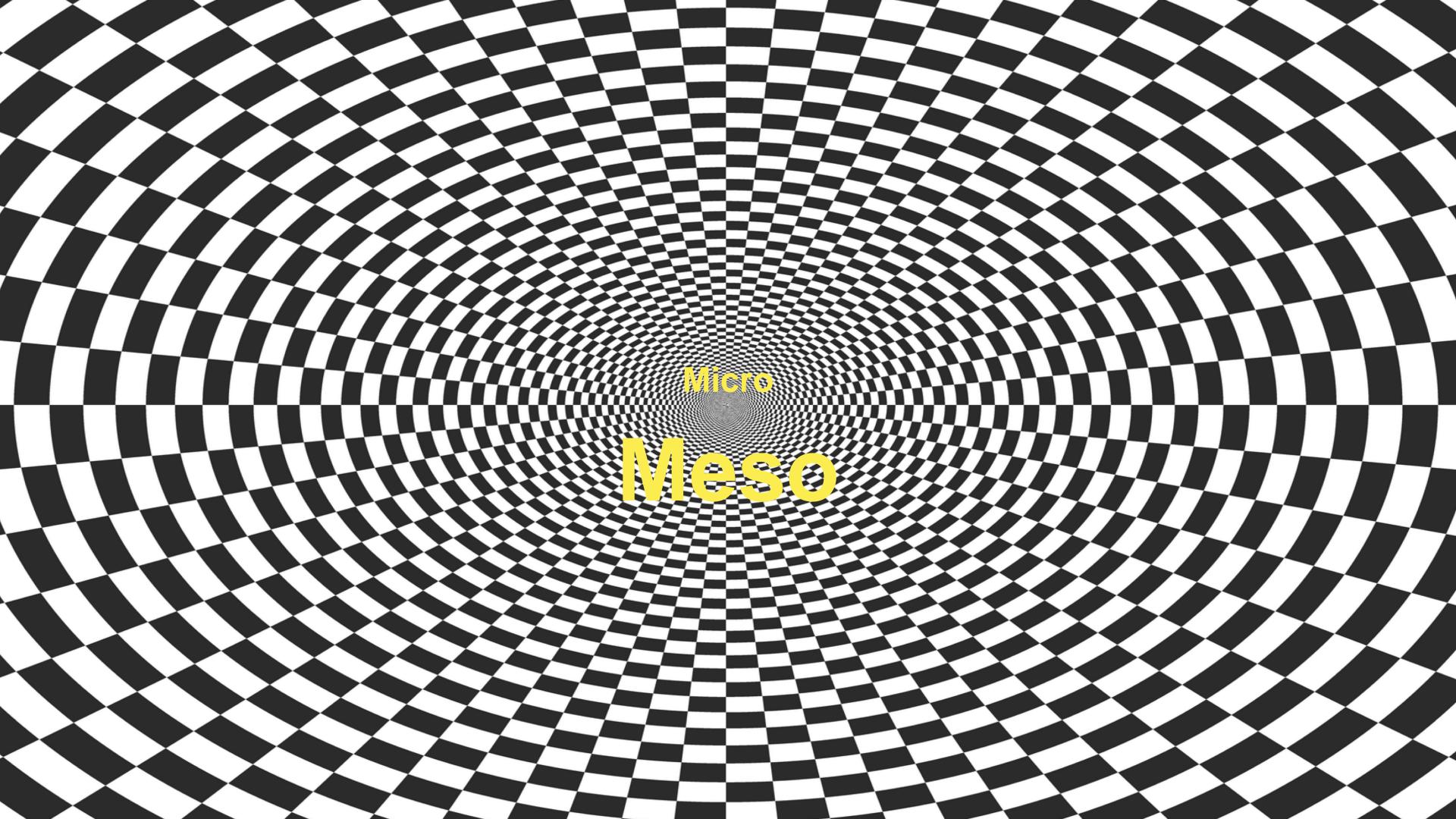






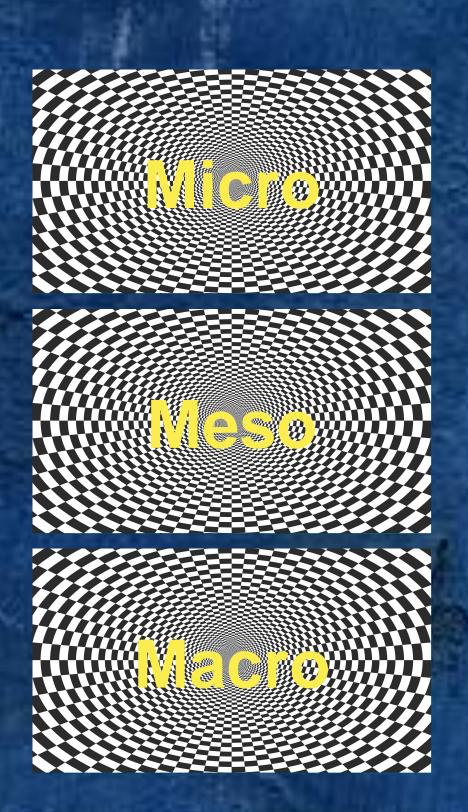








The Fractal Nature of Recognition



A person explores a situation, discerns what matters, enters into dialogue with others, articulates meaning, and is transformed

A community explores shared questions and challenges, recognises contributions and practices, articulates shared values and narratives, and is transformed.

A society explores collective futures, recognises what it wishes to uphold or reform, articulates rights, norms, and institutions, and is transformed.

A learning society is not the sum of individuals who learn, nor the aggregation of learning organisations. It is a fractal ecology of exploration and transformation, where recognition circulates, scales, and regenerates itself continuously across micro, meso, and macro in a shared movement of becoming.



Serge Ravet













