



Jungian Arts-Based Research and “The Nuclear Enchantment of New Mexico”

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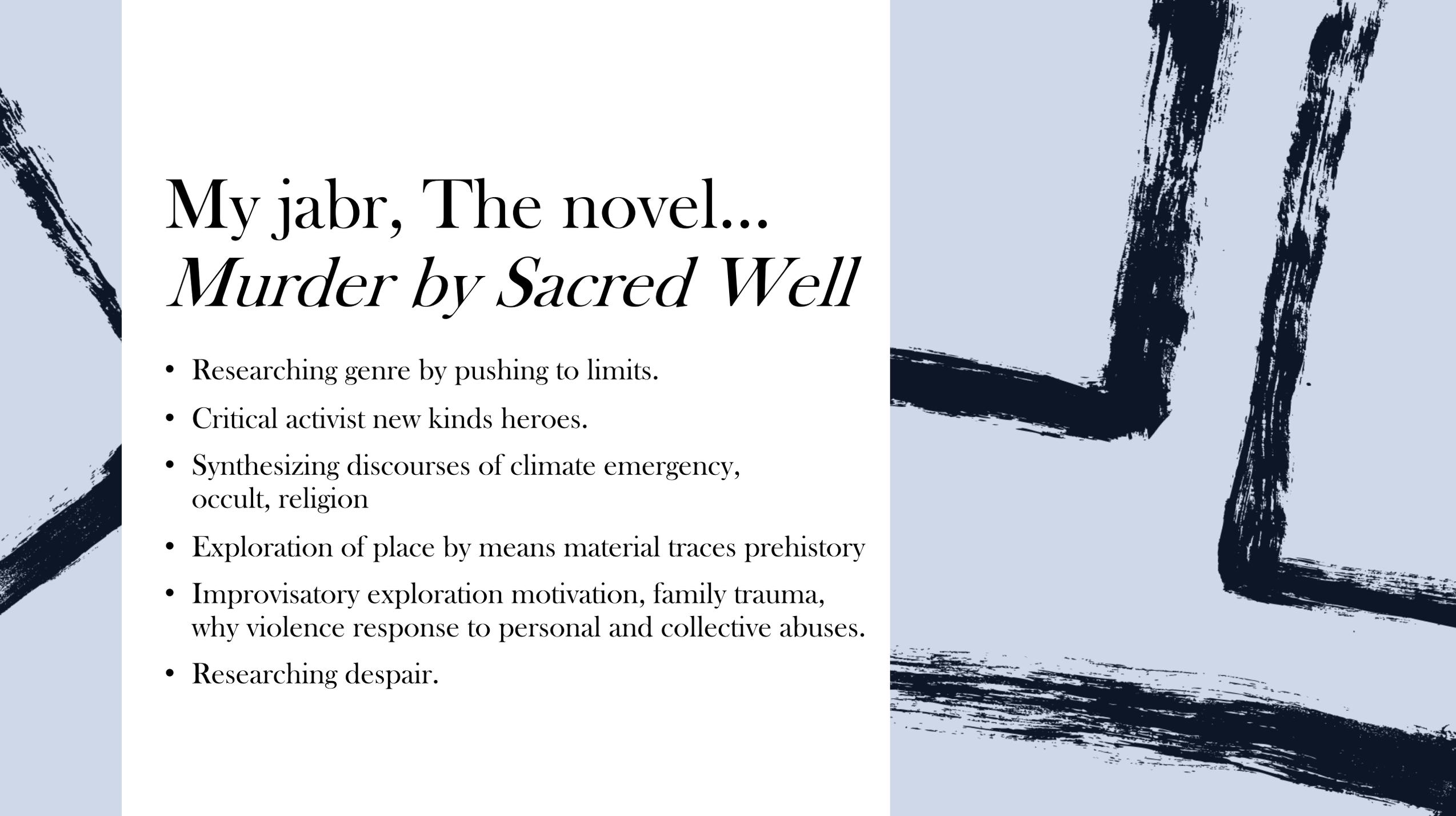
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JUNGIAN ARTS-BASED RESEARCH,
WHAT IT IS, WHY IT MATTERS
AND AN EXAMPLE FROM
NUCLEAR ENCHANTMENT.

- ABR is a new research paradigm
- Goes back to when sciences and arts not separate. (not limited as to field)
- Technology part of arts and sciences (not assimilated to hegemony of subject/object split)
- Role of intuition, unconscious and the body in research
- ABR is Jungian with “the image”
- Creative process intrinsically knowledge generating.
- Can respond to interconnectivity quantum/magical universe.
- Usefully understood as 4 types: analytic or material inquiry, synthetic or synthesizing discourses, critical activist and improvisatory.
- ABR is also an investigation into language via the essential *communicative, rhetorical and transformative* properties of art in any media.



The talk...



My jabr, The novel...

Murder by Sacred Well

- Researching genre by pushing to limits.
- Critical activist new kinds heroes.
- Synthesizing discourses of climate emergency, occult, religion
- Exploration of place by means material traces prehistory
- Improvisatory exploration motivation, family trauma, why violence response to personal and collective abuses.
- Researching despair.

Arts-Based Research and Paradigms

- The paradigm of the scientific method (and the subject/object split)
- The paradigm of quantitative research
- The paradigm of qualitative research
- The paradigm of Arts-Based Research: not simply qualitative because created material object open to potentially limitless re-interpretation by audiences across time and space; not subject/object split because psyche artist deeply involved, hence:
- The paradigm of Jungian Arts-Based Research: a language to examine the subjectivity involved with a “third” that is both subject and object or “Transdisciplinary”.

Arts-Based Research and Jungian Psychology (1)

*Handbook of Arts-
Based Research ed,
Leavy 2018*

- Art forms are expressive, and meaning generating
- Forms are collective heritage connect to social structures
- Forms generate worlds; art has a worldview
- For example, *Hamlet*

- Jung
- Psyche of meaning/form generating archetypes
- Archetypes contribute to social structures, neither determining not being determined by them
- Archetypes have synchronous properties and in individuation continually image world of being.

How Basic Principles of ABR imply the Jungian psyche and Jungian methods...(2)

- *Handbook*

- Art not machine generating answers, new or more empathetically informed questions.
- Art problematizes rather than presupposing fixed or stable reality.
- Art rejects static or absolute truths
- *Hamlet* raises questions gender, revenge, policy etc

- Jung

- Psyche is relational, autonomous, independently creative.
- Role of unconscious to signal incompleteness, problematizing ego assumptions, hence not static or absolute truths.
- Incompleteness refusing fixed answers, open to mystery, change...

Basic Principles of ABR (from *Handbook of Arts-Based Research*, ed. Leavy 2018) and Jung (3)

- *Handbook*

- Art images are meaning rich yet not definitive.
- Art uses diversity in describing, problem solving
- Art holistic – microcosm for macrocosm
- *Hamlet*, many pov...

- Jung

- Art images are materialized archetypal images, never definitive because of unknown psyche
- Psyche immanent and transcendent, so diverse in modes representation
- Individuation making being as knowing and vice versa
- Meaning in process in play...

Basic Principles of ABR (from *Handbook of Arts-Based Research*, ed. Leavy 2018) and Jung (4)

- *Handbook*
- Art evocative, can produce empathy
- Art can be critical, raise awareness, challenge stereotypes
- Art participatory and generates multiple meanings
- *Hamlet*, audience participate in change...
- Jung
- Archetypal images in art evoke in audience
- Jung's psyche critical because incomplete and de-centers ego
- Archetypal images invite multiple psychic participation without end
- Audience individuates with characters and ideas.

The Artist, the Dreamer, the Researcher and the Image

- The "image" in Jungian psychology is *psychic* and can be materialized in any medium.
- It is therefore the starting point for any work of art.
- ABR and Jung provide an overlapping yet not identical epistemology for research starting with the image, for example in creative writing.
- 4 types of ABR
 - 1) Analytic; thinking in materials
 - 2) synthetic; of discourses
 - 3) critical-activist
 - 4) Improvisatory
- *Hamlet*: what play, poetry can do; re-weaving political and social ideas; critiquing monarchy; stimulating independent psyche.

ABR and a/r/tography

- ABR is essentially structuralist since it assumes the validation of the existing traditions of art, even if the artwork contradicts them. This is similar to notions of Jungian archetypes and to Jung on **psychological** art.
- a/r/tography (Rita Irwin) is a form of poststructuralist ABR that assumes nothing and looks for liveliness and spontaneity. It is similar to Jung's idea of **visionary** art when the collective unconscious pours its overwhelming energy through the artist.



The problem with Frankenstein is technology as object

- The novel *Frankenstein* can be read as a feminist critique of the science and technology of the subject/object split.
- The result of this split, the Creature's revenge is nuclear weapons (as well as other 'creatures' such as social media, COVID 19 etc).
- See *The Enchantments of Technology* (2004) by Lee Bailey for technology and the split psyche.



JABR to save Frankenstein: *The Nuclear Enchantment of New Mexico* by Joel Weishaus

- Art is chalice for psyche-body rejuvenation
- The subject/object split enchants us

Necessity to bring science and pre-ABR “research” into living (Jungian) ABR research.

The Nuclear Enchantment of New Mexico (an epic)

- 4 types of ABR
- 1) Analytic; thinking in materials; An epic in a revolution in form and a treatment of language.
- 2) synthetic; of discourses; particularly those divorced in modernity around “objects”
- 3) critical-activist; showing what is at stake in the ultimate split of psyche from matter; splitting the atom does not *matter*?
- 4) Improvisatory; letting the autonomous creative psyche lead the way to humanity.

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ATOMIC MUSE

- **falling out:** "The hair/comes out in patches. Teeth/break off like matchsticks / at the gumline but the loss/is painless...Weeks later...survivors must expel / day by day in little pisses / the membrane lining of their bladders..." (M. Kumin. From, "How to Survive a Nuclear War.")
- **this museum:** The National Atomic Museum was established by the Defense Nuclear Agency in 1969 to exhibit the shapes unclassified nuclear weapons. The exhibits trace the evolution of nuclear weapons from the early 1940s on. Located on Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, the facility was transferred to the Department of Energy in 1976.
- **Urania:** Perhaps the daughter of Zeus and Mnemosyne, Urania is one of the nine muses. Her symbol is the globe and a pair of compasses. She is the muse of astronomy and poetry's measured lines.
- **Kali:** The Hindu goddess who is "Cosmic Power, the totality of the universe, the harmonization of all the pairs of opposites, combining wonderfully the terror of absolute destruction with an impersonal motherly reassurance." (Campbell 2008: 95)
- **clouds of blood:** "It is ghastly now to look around when blood-red clouds are gathering in the sky. The air is being dyed with the blood of men while the maidens of battle are singing." (Onians 1951: 356)
- **BOMARC:** CIM-10 Bo(eing) M(ichigan) A(eronautical) R(earch) C(enter). This was a cruise, or pilotless, fighter, built primarily to intercept bombers. The Bomarc saw service from 1960 until 1972. On 7 June 1960, at McGuire AFB, in New Jersey, a CIM-10 Bomarc nuclear warhead caught fire, scattering weapons grade plutonium. The site was covered with concrete and designated off-limits..
- **separate visions:** "Other rabbis explain that Adam and Eve were created back to back, joined at their shoulders; then God separated them by a blow with a hatchet or by sawing them in half." (Reik 1973: 26)
- **MACE:** The MGM-13 Mace was an improved version of the Matador cruise missile. The Mace was equipped with a Goodyear ATRAN (Automatic Terrain Recognition and Navigation) guidance system, and could deliver either a nuclear or high explosive warhead.
- **salt:** "Here salt, arcane substance (the paradoxical 'lead of the air') the white dove (spiritus sapientiae), wisdom and femininity appear in one figure." (Jung 2003: 245)
- **balloons:** Albuquerque is host to an annual international hot air balloon festival.

A new culture snakes its way through stockpiles of mummified nuclear devices drained of their poisons, delivery systems suited to curating souls and embalming toxic hearts.

- **Sanitized of hair, expelled bladder linings, teeth falling out,**
 - **victims burned alive---**
 - **Who is the muse of a museum that exhibits**
 - **Death as Memory in disguise?**
 - **Tall, slim, Urania is the muse of astronomy and the renaissance of poetry**
 - **programmed to travel a self-correcting course; while Kali wears skulls as**
 - **a necklace, earrings of bodies immutably hung, a girdle of severed hands,**
 - **and blood the color of her stunning eyes.**
- In a vision of militant technology, BOMARC scars the separate visions we**
- **have of each other, with a MACE like a Viking's hatchet, or a spiked ball**
 - **and chain.**
 - **Hidden behind black sunglasses, Urania's Geiger counter heart is clicking.**
 - **Rockets become pillars of salt; backs unfold wings, buttocks bloat into hot**
 - **air balloons.**

KWAHU KACHINA

Kwahu Kachina: An Eagle Kachina .Kachinas occupy the transcendent realm between humans and gods, comparable to Jung the psychoid.

failures: The first known failure of a nuclear bomb was the "P.P. shot" (Puny Plutonium bomb). Of it Enrico Fermi said, "Now you're making progress!"

sounding: The Aerobee is a series of upper atmosphere research "sounding," rockets, retired in 1985. <http://www.astronautix.com/a/aerobee.html> (Accessed 21st May 2018)

the Furies: "...once aroused, the Furies will turn all the ripe earth into a wasteland. In offering them a home, bringing them inside the archetypal cosmos, Athena is skillfully taming the untamable forces of destruction." (Rowland, 2015: 128) Athena was also a solid fuel multi-stage research vehicle used to study atmospheric reentry phenomena.

apehood's fire: Along with other animals, monkeys were used in high altitude experiments, to be recovered by parachute. Thus, to the possibility of a manned flight to Mars, "And gone and flown and landed there in White Whale craft, / Remember Moby here, this dream, this time which does suspire, / This kindling of your tiny apehood's fire." (R. Bradbury. From, "Old Ahab's Friend and Friend to Noah Speaks His Peace.")

hissing: "Athena's aegis bears a snaky fringe around its border and the Medusa's head in its center. In psychoanalytic writings and in Greek literature the aegis is usually called a dreadful weapon. But just what harm does it do? Athena shakes it at her enemies." (Eisner 1987: 61)

mystic flowers: Talos, whose mother was a mystic flower, invented the compass, among many other things. Here Talos *is* long-range surface-to-air missile, the result of the U.S. Navy's *Bumblebee* program.

ropes: These strips of leather represent sacred butterflies, "symbols of temptation and foolishness, so despicable that their behavior, 'acting like a moth,' has come to stand for insanity, the punishment for breaking taboos." (Reichard, 1983: 407). "Rope" is also long strips of electromagnetic reflectors, sometimes attached to parachutes, used to confuse enemy radar.

biodegrades: "Is not the word 'biodegradable' a recent artifact...a modern and unstable graft of Greek and Latin in order to designate primarily that which is opposed to the signature of certain products of modern industry, products that are themselves artificial and synthetic, from plastic bags to nuclear waste." (Derrida 1989: 816)

In how many guises do we fly?

**A man in a bird's integument blesses a would-be deadly
manufactured aviary,
failures of body and mind.**

**When we finally stood up, we were Man yet Bird
dreaming of vertiginous flight.**

**A world of loops sounding the Furies of untamed stars,
harmlessly hissing as their "apehood's fire" parachutes
down to Athena's newest app.**

**Wars begin in testicular mazes: even the gods suffer pains
as metaphors of their illusionary games.**

**Red-beaked, red-eared mystic flowers bloom, petals flying
in all directions; with a belt of ropes, shells, bells, and
earth-
bound agravic shoes.**

**After a feast of recidivist blood, and life biodegrades into
molecular mud, only he will ascend: Kwahu Kachina—**

AFTER THE END

Murder by Sacred Well

A detective novel in which the chief detective is kidnapped, another may have decapitated a teenager, and a third is relying upon dreams, *Murder by Sacred Well*, explores the collision between personal and collective trauma in an era of climate crisis. The *Reborn Celts* are certain they can resurrect the divine powers of nature yet are anxious to conceal the truth of their sacrificial rituals. Are they harmless historians or bloodthirsty murderers? Three eccentric and inexperienced sleuths plunge into the underworlds of insanity and the occult in California, Oxford and London. After two beheadings, only they can save the crone from having her blood pour into one of the legendary lost rivers of the capital.

Research into form, genre, psychology, history, potency of mythical narrative, trauma, climate crisis etc.

- Humor in the cozy/traditional mystery
- What is a hero?
- What about those who have been too severely traumatized to recover?
- The traumatized need the gods yet can be possessed by them.
- Accept marginalization or try against the odds?
- From unbearable personal lives to exciting gods and violence creating lust for life.
- What to do with failure?

Why it matters.

- Jungian arts-based research is doing psychotherapy with the collective.
- Jungian ABR can address political, social, ecological, psychological issues and more.
- It is *Jungian* because it is the epistemology of the image in the Jungian sense of something autonomous and oriented to meaning making. So dreamwork, active imagination, Jung's 4 functions of thinking, feeling, sensation and intuition are equally valued.
- It is Eros-knowing to be reunited with Logos knowing (feminine with masculine).
- It takes Jung into the academy and the world and a new paradigm into Jung.
- (Plus the JABR paradigm nests in the Transdisciplinary one)

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