



**National Federated
Compute Services**
NetworkPlus

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Inclusive Futures: User Cultural Narratives and Mapping Pathways for NFCS

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Advisory Board

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Representatives from the case studies (academia, industry, public sector) – TBC

Representative from the DRI ecosystem – Dr Louise Chisholm, UCL/ UKDRI ecosystem



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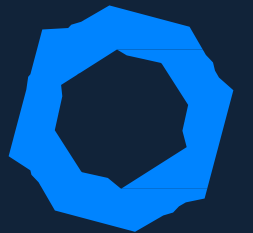
CONTEXT

Challenges that arise from the federation of DRIs

- Institutional diversity and unequal capacities
- Power, governance and decision-making
- User experience & usability
- Privacy, data sovereignty, and trust
- Standardisation vs local needs
- Equity and inclusion
- Interoperability and communication
- Legal systems
- Scalability
- Commercial relations and marketplace dynamics
- Etc...



**However, a critical
challenge lies in bringing
together communities
with *distinctive epistemic
cultures***





Epistemic cultures *are the unique, localised practices, tools, social structures, and ways of reasoning and communicating within different research fields that shape how they produce, validate, and understand knowledge (Knorr-cetina, 1999)*



CONTEXT

DRI as a site of epistemic transformation

- The federation of DRIs extends beyond technical issues
- It will transform how researchers/professionals work
- It may create new forms of **meta-work** and **boundary work**
- It contributes to the transformation of **epistemic cultures**, which in turn influence the scope of change



CONTEXT

DRI and Culture

- **Culture** is usually described as the shared norms, values, and customs of a group, expressed and reinforced through everyday practices
- But “**culture**” is far beyond customs and involves *objects* like digital technologies and infrastructures
- DRI is part of the **Culture**; they are not separate: **federated DRI as a Culture**

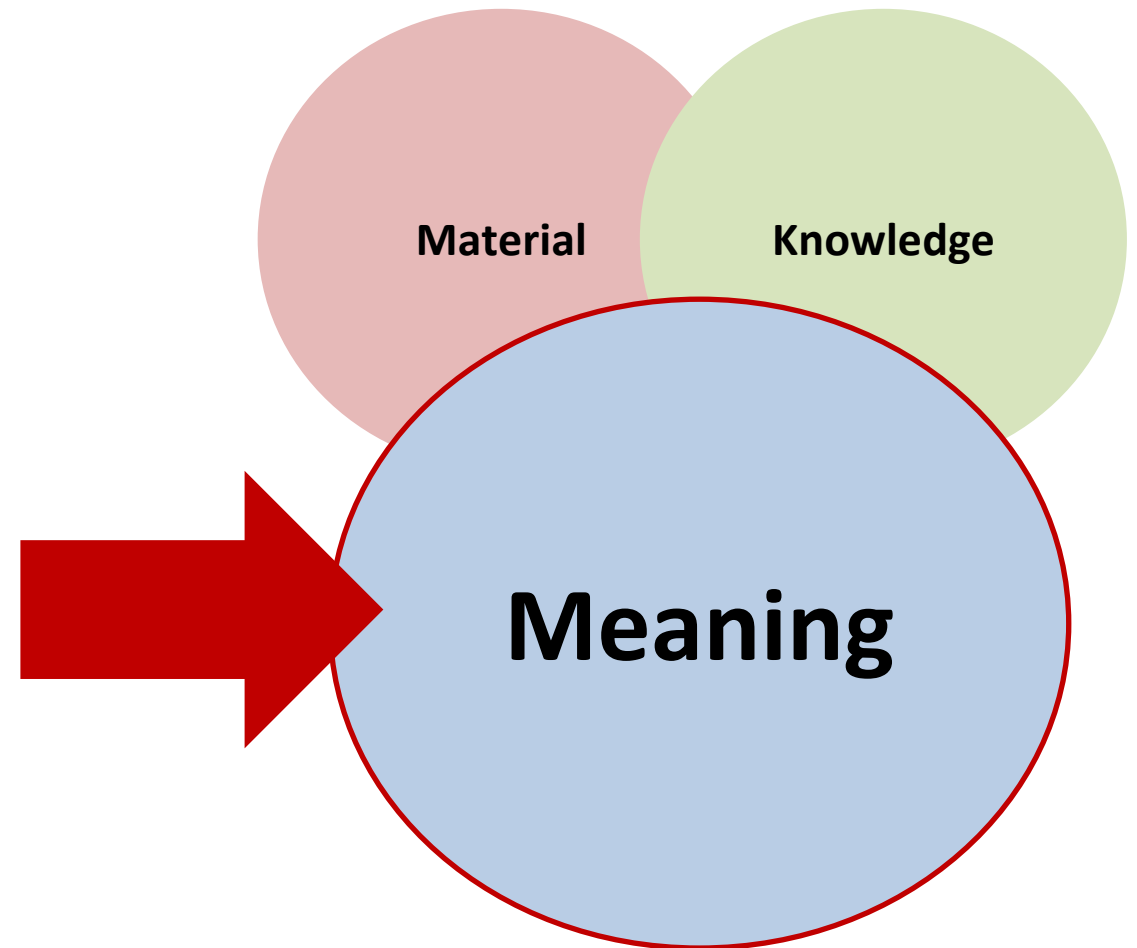




CONTEXT

DRI and Culture

- Federation as a “**Cultural Practice**” that involves ***material*** (standards, protocols and infrastructures), ***knowledge*** (how to integrate/share data) and ***meaning*** (how federation is valued/framed)
- **Federation** entails new forms of collaboration, communication, negotiation (standards, protocols), and knowledge sharing

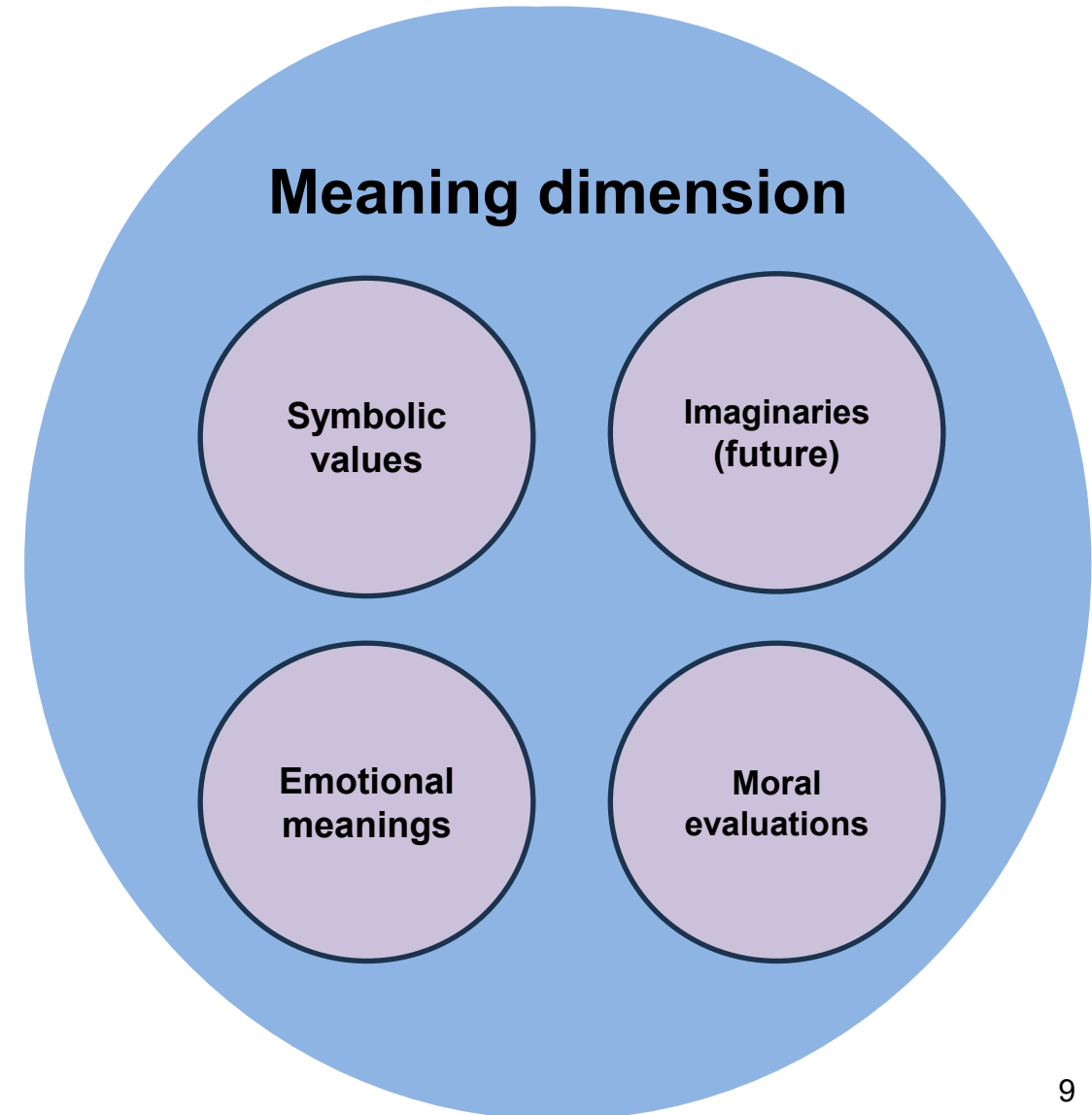




CONTEXT

DRI and Culture

- The “**meaning dimension**” involves how federation is valued and framed: it can be seen as a practical tool, a security requirement, a sign of being up-to-date, a marker of institutional modernity, or even as a burden or imposition.
- Federation can also carry ***symbolic significance***: it may represent trust, credibility, and a sense of belonging to a broader academic/professional and technological community



What *values* should we embed in “federated digital research infrastructures” for the future? What are the *cultural conditions* for this?



Objectives

Contributing to community building and governance through making cultural challenges visible



Objective 1: identify cultural challenges that hinder collaboration within federated DRIs.

- **Method:** Interviews and survey
- **Outputs:** User Cultural Narratives / Emerging Work Practices

Objective 2: Explore inclusive futures and collaboratively develop pathways for community building.

- **Method:** Speculative Transformation Workshops
- **Outputs:** Future Scenarios / Practical Strategies

Objective 3: Shape Policy and Practice.

- **Method:** Stakeholder roundtable
- **Outputs:** Policy Brief with recommendation for NFCS Roadmaps



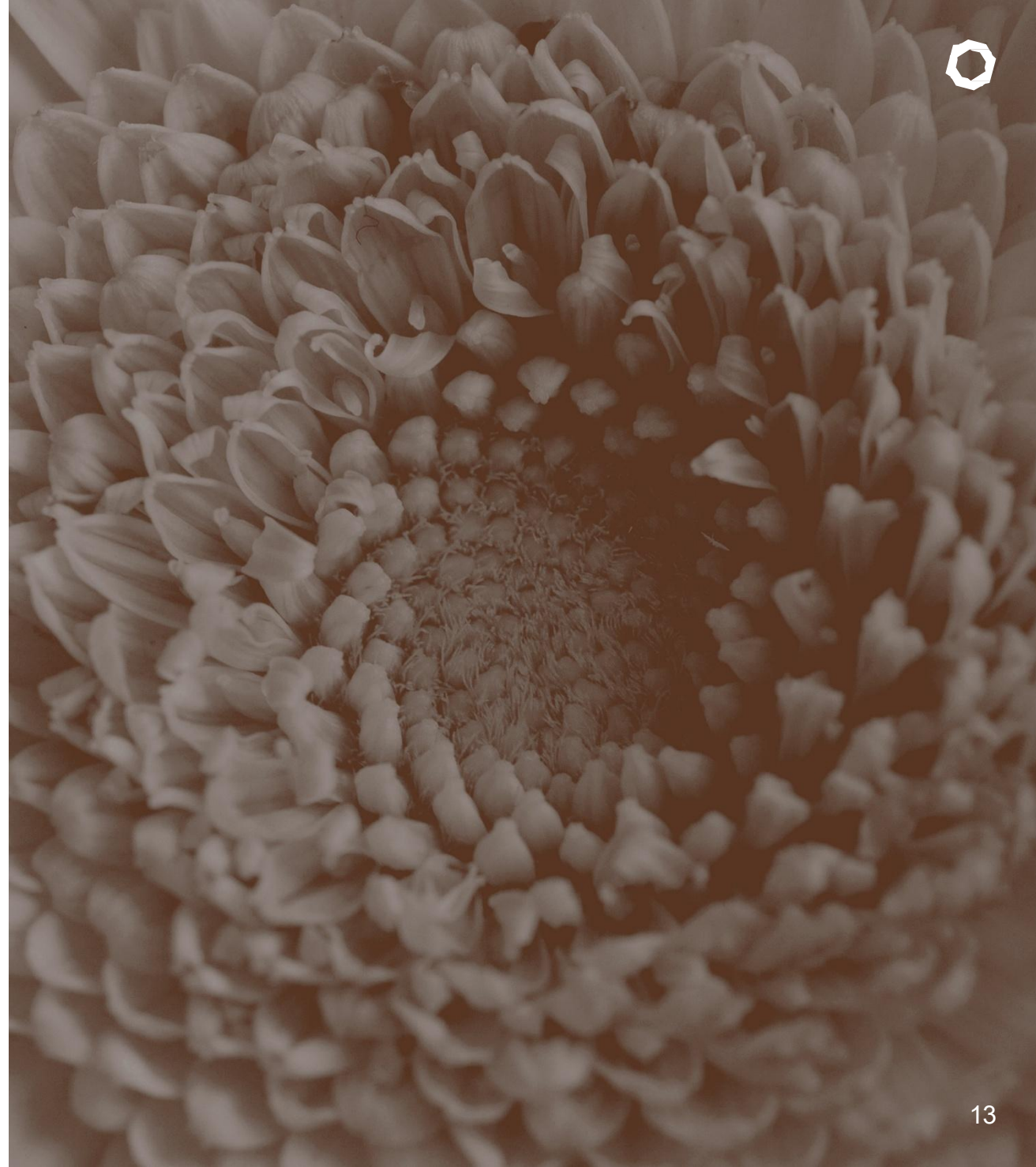
Cases

Contributing to community building and governance through making cultural challenges visible

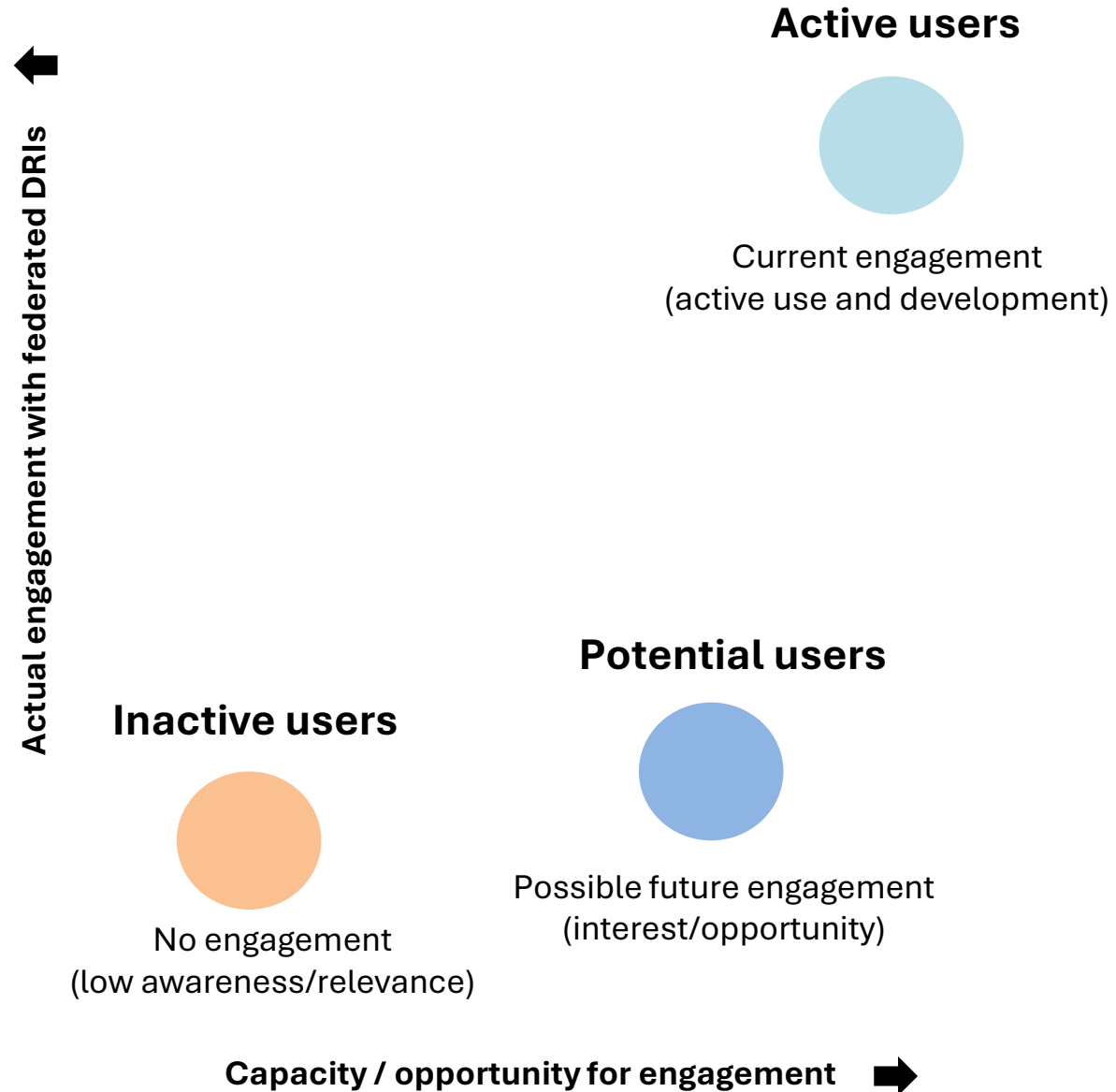
- **Academia** (Conservation and Heritage Science)
- **The public sector** (NHS England and UK Atomic Energy Authority)
- **Industry** (STFC clusters)

A cultural approach

- This approach seeks to understand the “**Constellations of Meaning**” that orient users’ thoughts and practices
- It refers to *people’s daily emotions* (fears, concerns, beliefs) *moral evaluations* (ambivalences, ambiguities) *and imaginaries* that shape how they respond to changes and value certain practices
- These meanings need to be located within **dense cultural configurations** and **power relations**



User groups in relation to federated DRIs





A Survey of Imaginaries, Values and Practices

Are you a researcher, data professional, or practitioner working (or willing to) with data within or across communities and sectors using **Federated Digital Research Infrastructures** (e.g., HPC, IoT, TREs)?

This survey is for you!



Thank you!

Contact details

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