

Reversing the viewpoint over the land-sea divide: yachting tourism as potential trigger of coastal resilience.



12 December 2023



Palazzo Malvezzi - University of Bologna



Chapeau.



May 2023 Issue



“The only way to make sailing popular [again] is by making it fun” (translated from original) by *Lamberto Cesari*.



June 2023 Issue

Comments from “Sailing schools on trial” (*translated*).

“Thinking of sailing as mere sport activity and competition is to reduce our life to nothing. We inhabit the sea with our boats, we honour our amphibious memory [...]. There is nothing wrong with sea racing or even the FIV initiatives: **what’s wrong is our viewpoint over the sea**. The planet we inhabit is ‘Ocean’: it is a continuous flow. **Reducing it, splitting it** into small segments and equally small **cultural values** is like reducing a 3 masts vessel to a rescue skate”.

Mauro Pandimiglio





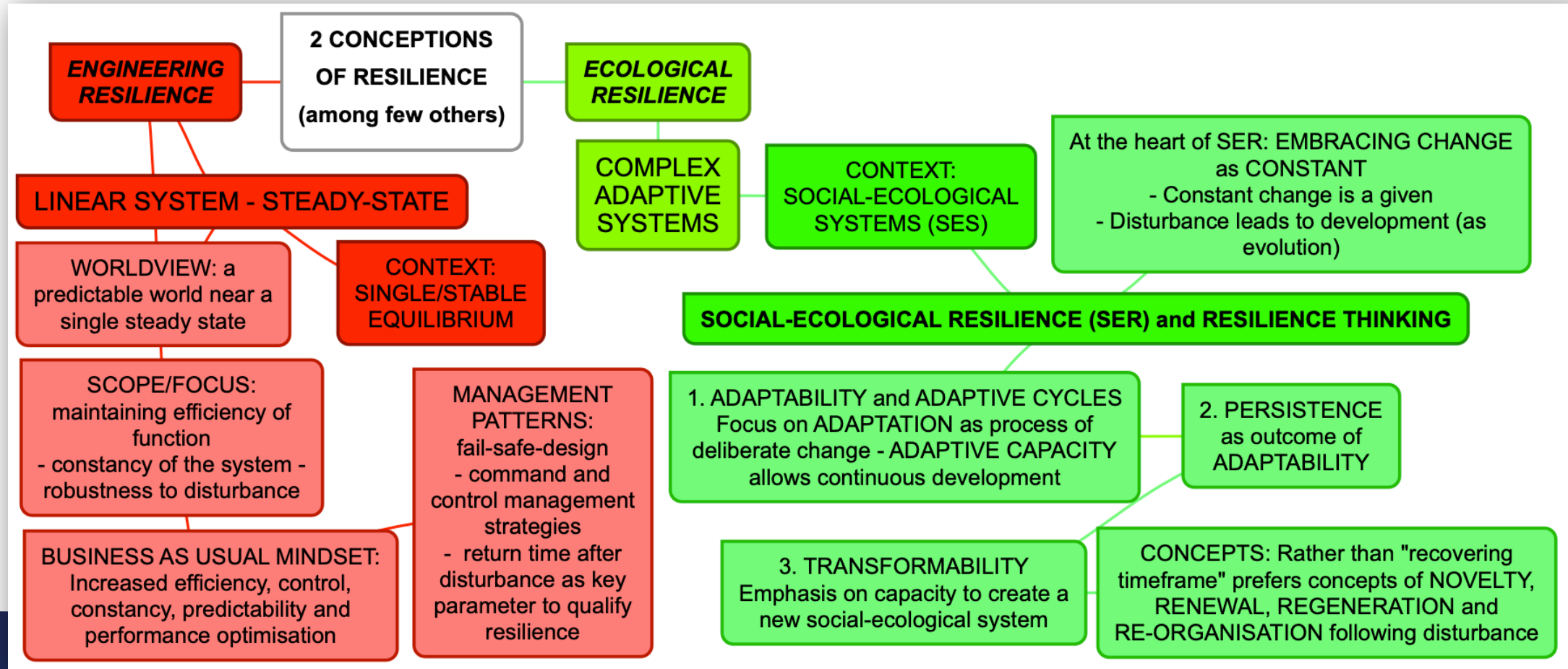
A linchpin from the UN narrative..

“Concentrating the population in such narrow coastal areas requires quick action to make coastal ecosystems and communities worldwide more **resilient to the changes underway**. How can **ocean knowledge** help our current and future coastal communities cope with this massive challenge?” (IOC-UNESCO, 2021).

“Citizens living in coastal towns have to **open their mind and soul** to the ocean. This requires an **increased awareness** of the essential role of the marine environment in our everyday lives and, possibly even more important, **a more intimate and harmonic relation between the city, its citizens and the companion sea**” (Josep Lluís Pelegrí in IOC-UNESCO, 2021).

IOC-UNESCO (2021) Enhancing Coastal resilience during the UN ocean decade. Available at: <https://oceandecade.org/news/enhancing-coastal-resilience-during-the-un-ocean-decade/> (Last accessed: 14/11/2023)

Understanding resilience.



(after Folke, 2006; Folke et al. 2010; du Plessis, 2012; Folke 2016)



Transformability as transformational change

PHASE 1:

Be **prepared** (or even preparing) the social–ecological systems to embrace the opportunity **of changing**

PHASE 2:

Navigating the transition by making use of a crisis as a window of opportunity for change

PHASE 3:

Building resilience of the new social–ecological regime

(Olsson et al. 2004, Chapin et al. 2010, in Folke, 2010).



Building (general) resilience for adaptive capacity: 4 key features

1. Learning to live with change and uncertainty;
2. Nurturing diversity for reorganization and renewal;
3. Combining different types of knowledge for learning;
4. Creating opportunity for self-organization toward social-ecological sustainability.

(Folke, 2016)



Calls for social change.

Social-ecological resilience advocacy

“Social-ecological systems (SES) resilience that contributes to Earth System resilience is needed to remain in the Holocene state”.

But “**social change** is essential for SES resilience”.

“Profound **change in society** is likely to be required for persistence in the Holocene stability domain”.

(Folke et al, 2010)

Ecological worldview advocacy Environmental sociology

- at the core of current environmental problems is the “fractured relationship between people and the living web of nature” (Mang and Reed 2017: 9)
- these problems are first and foremost social problems rather than being purely environmental or even technological and, as such, they are essentially cultural (Latour, 2017).



Social change: Resilience, stewardship and care.

Social-ecological resilience advocacy

“There is a tendency to become mentally disconnected from the biosphere in urban settings”.

(Gómez- Baggethun and Barton 2013)

“How to reconnect people in cities and urban development to the biosphere and essential ecosystem services in relation to resilience”?

Folke 2016

Ecological worldview advocacy

“Reintegrating humans with nature requires not just the integration of human technology into ecological processes, but the **cognitive, emotional and spiritual reconnection of humans to nature** as a vital step to restoring both planetary health and the health of our societies”

(Du Plessis and Brandon: 2015: 57)

“If we have deep ecological awareness, or experience of being part of the web of life, then we will be inclined to care for all living nature”

(Capra, F. 1996, 2014 on the ecological self)

2 generations of seaside towns

FIRST GENERATION – NORTH OF EU



Hastings College



Jerwood Art Gallery



Office space for businesses



ONE Priory sq offices



Marina Parade: conference venue

SECOND GENERATION – MED REGION

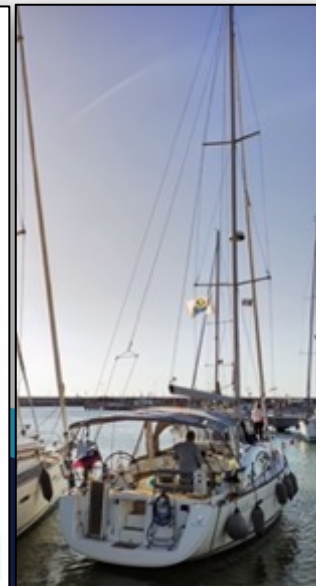


Rimini, Riviera Romagnola e Parco del Mare



YT programmes and initiatives

- Appuntamento in Adriatico (Assonautica)
- Italy Viewed from the Sea – Discover Where I’m Taking You (Enit-Assonautica)
- Velalibre: Il Mare in Movimento for the dissemination of the culture of the sea.
- Sailing for Blue Life
- Sailingfor Blue Lab
- Progetto Mediterranea





Reviving Marine Intelligence (Mauro Pandimiglio, marine pedagogist)

“Marine intelligence is an intelligence [that humans hold inside] and is activated by direct contact with the sea”

“Marine intelligence is close to the variability of nature and lives on prudence, prevention and care for self and others”.

Marine intelligence conveys a “perspective change” that reverses an established land-sea standpoint on life and re-establishes a long-gone sea-land viewpoint to then ‘take’ the view *of the sea*.

Reverting this “relational order” is key to constructing an *oikos*: a relational climate suitable to holding together all living systems”.

“Sailing is about adapting own psychosomatic system to a high level of unpredictability where flexibility and openness to sudden changes is necessary”

Reversing the viewpoint over the land/sea geo-cultural binary



“This form of holiday aims at taking a distance from conventional landed dynamics [...] as an opportunity to get in full contact with nature and the places visited from the sea [...]. Overcoming the idea that the beach is the sea is a challenge [...]. Few know that turtles and cetaceans populate the Adriatic and this is mainly because only few ventures beyond the beachline. Beyond the beachline there is a world that only few know of [...] normally people have no time or even the chance to get in contact with these things and reflect on the encounter” (on board marine biologist, Sailing for Blue Life 2021 edition)

“Spending time at sea allowed me to stop and immerse myself in the marine rhythms, rediscover the sea as much more than just being by the seaside” (Sailing for).

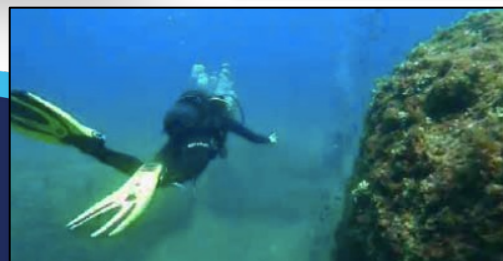
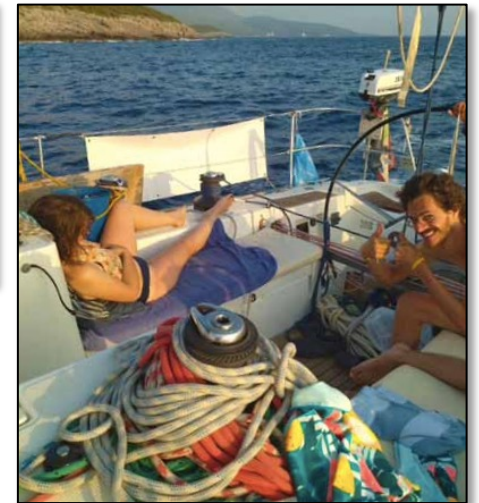
“Distancing from landed dynamics; at sea in navigation there is the space and the time to feel deeply. On land this is inhibited, suppressed, put on the side. On land the priorities shift from those met at sea” (Sailing for).

“The open sea is a space of silence where slow pace and constantly changing sea conditions lead to contemplation and presence” (Velalibre)

Conclusive remarks

Can YT contribute to the social change needed in order to build coastal resilience?

Does YT hold the potential to trigger coastal resilience as the resilience of social-ecological systems?



Pics courtesy of Sailing for blue lab and authors' own collection



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Thank you!

