

Relational Power Expansion: Boundary, Opacity, and the Sustainability of Generative Relations

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Abstract

A companion paper indexes the appropriation of relational value by the region of a six-part lifecycle at which the appropriation is performed, and by the aspect of that region on which it operates: the form an interaction may take, the conditions under which it becomes possible, or the process by which it occurs. This paper takes up a structure that indexing makes visible. A position holding power within one relation acquires a holding over a second relation formed by one of its parties with someone else, draws value from the second, and converts that value into a wider holding. Five results are offered. The difference between redirecting flows within a relation and determining what a relation can generate is a difference in which aspects a position holds and across how many regions, rather than a difference of degree, and a position supplying a configuration's first grammar constitutes it rather than extending into it. The holding sustains itself where the lifecycle's closure runs through that position, and enlarges itself where captured value is converted into further relational surfaces. The holding alters the composition of what is generated, determines the gap between generated and representable value, and leaves return undefined rather than blocked, so that the question of what share was taken loses the terms in which it could be put. Parties affected may be wronged along several independent directions, of which the one surviving the widest disagreement concerns parties outside the original relation, who commit scarce resources on a judgement about someone else and form no judgement about the position that receives them; these mechanisms are stated as *prima facie*. An arrangement of this kind consumes the generativity on which its own continuation depends, a result about the arrangement's conditions rather than its justice, which holds whether or not the preceding grounds are accepted. Three sources of the power required are distinguished, and relations resting on antecedent power are treated as the hardest case. The analysis is restricted to interpersonal, familial, educational, professional, and organizational relational systems.

Keywords: relational power; boundary overreach; instrumentalization; counter-power; normative revisability; generative sustainability; open future; generative relational theory.

Discussion Paper Note

This paper is a preliminary discussion paper intended to share an evolving idea and invite further dialogue, criticism, revision, and independent development. Its definitions, distinctions, and constructions remain provisional. Circulation across scholarly and practical communities is part of the purpose of releasing the manuscript at this stage.

The author treats the viewpoints, concepts, and lines of reasoning presented here as contributions to a shared field of inquiry. Similar or related ideas have appeared in other intellectual, cultural, and disciplinary traditions, and each section concedes those the author is aware of where it draws on them. The manuscript separates the researcher-origin proposal from later formal reconstruction and leaves historical priority open pending a systematic originality review.

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One caution is specific to this manuscript. A description of how a relation is reconfigured can be read as a specification for reconfiguring one. The purpose here is diagnostic: to give parties inside such arrangements a vocabulary in which their situation becomes sayable, and to give institutions a structure against which their own arrangements can be examined.

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Status. This working draft records an evolving stage of the author’s position and is circulated for discussion. Definitions, section structure, and numbering remain subject to revision. Empirical case work and a systematic originality audit remain future research stages.

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Statement on the use of language models. The exploratory discussions and preparation of this paper involved Anthropic’s Claude and OpenAI’s ChatGPT. These systems supported exploratory dialogue, literature and historical survey with subsequent verification against publisher and journal pages, argumentative criticism, and drafting in L^AT_EX. The author selected the research questions, directed and approved the theoretical commitments and epistemic status of the claims, and bears sole responsibility for the manuscript, including its definitions, arguments, conclusions, and errors. Authorship credit remains with the human author. Every source cited here has been verified against a publisher, journal, or institutional page; sources encountered in survey and not so verified are excluded from the manuscript and recorded separately in the accompanying literature audit.

Companion paper. This paper is a companion to *Relational Value Exploitation: Taxonomy and Mechanisms. What If the More Real a Relation Becomes, the More Exploited It Becomes?*, which supplies the six-region lifecycle, the aspect grammar, the register layer, the admissibility conditions, and the corpus of 225 sites referred to throughout. Section 2 restates what is needed so that the present paper stands alone. Two further companion papers develop a gauge-theoretic account of value circulation: *The Geometry of Value: Loop Deficits as Invariant Measures of Structural Exploitation* and *The Structure of Exploitation on Heterogeneous-Value Loops: Gauge Symmetry, Holonomy, and the Loop Deficit*.

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1 Introduction

A companion paper indexes the appropriation of relational value by the region of a lifecycle at which it occurs and by the aspect of a relation on which it operates. That indexing makes a further structure visible, and the present paper takes it up. A position holding power within one relation acquires access to a second relation formed by one of its parties with someone else, draws value from the second, converts that value into a wider holding, and continues. The parties to the second relation may see nothing irregular at any point, and the position drawing on them is party to their relation in no ordinary sense.

The paper describes the mechanism by which such a holding is acquired, the circuits by which it sustains and enlarges itself, the several independent grounds on which parties affected by it may object, and the consequences the arrangement has for its own continuation. Five results are offered. The difference between redirecting flows within a relation and determining what a relation can generate is a difference in which aspects a position holds and across how many regions of the lifecycle, rather than a difference of degree, and a position supplying a configuration's first grammar constitutes it rather than extending into it, however wide that scope. The holding sustains itself where the lifecycle's closure runs through the holding position, and enlarges itself where captured value is converted into the acquisition of further relational surfaces. The holding alters the composition of what a configuration generates, determines the gap between generated and representable value, and leaves return undefined rather than blocked, so that the question of what share was taken loses the terms in which it could be put. Parties affected by such an arrangement may be wronged along several directions that hold independently of one another, and the paper identifies those mechanisms and states its conclusions as *prima facie* rather than settled. An arrangement of this kind consumes the generativity on which its own continuation depends, which is a result about the arrangement's conditions rather than about its justice, and it holds whether or not the preceding ground is accepted.

The fourth and fifth results warrant a word about what they claim. The fourth identifies mechanisms giving a reason for objection which an arrangement has to answer, and stops there. A judgement that a particular arrangement is unjust on balance requires premises about standing, entitlement, and development that this paper states where it uses them and declines to defend, and Section 19 records the limitation. The fifth requires no theory of justice at all. It concerns whether an arrangement can continue on its own terms, and a reader who rejects every argument of Part III faces it unchanged. The order of presentation runs from the mechanism through the objections to the consequences, and a reader interested only in the last may read Sections 6 and 8 and then Part IV.

Among the objections, one deserves marking here because it survives the widest disagreement. Where a position reaches across into a relation formed by others, the parties to that relation committed scarce and frequently unrecoverable resources on a judgement about a party they knew, and formed no judgement about the position that receives what they committed. Their case can be pressed granting the position whatever claim it asserts against the party it constituted or employed, and granting that the claim is discharged willingly, since those parties are party to neither question. The paper takes that argument first for this reason, at Section 9, ahead of the questions requiring a view about what parties owe one another.

This paper restricts its analysis to interpersonal, familial, educational, professional, and organizational relational systems, and does not extend its claims to territorial or geopolitical relations. The mechanisms described may or may not obtain in relations of other kinds, and nothing here settles that question in either direction. The restriction is a stipulation rather than a finding, and Section 19 records it among the paper's limits.

The sequence is as follows. Part I supplies the framework. Section 2 restates the apparatus carried from the companion paper and adds the quantities this argument requires, among them the heterogeneity of relational value, the distinction between value generated and capacity to generate, and portability. Section 3 states the five ontological commitments the argument presupposes, of which the separability of a relation's grammar from its instances does the decisive work. Section 4 distinguishes three sources of the power a position requires. Section 5 divides the first of those sources according to whether the position supplied the configuration's first grammar, and fixes the time at which that question is assessed.

Part II states the mechanism. Section 6 describes how a position holding power in one relation acquires a holding over another, and defines relational boundary overreach. Section 7 states what distinguishes the two kinds of holding and gives the five conditions under which the second obtains. Section 8 describes the circuit by which such a holding reproduces itself, the further circuit by which it enlarges itself, and what both do to the value a configuration generates.

Part III states the objections. Section 9 treats parties outside the original relation. Section 10 treats conversion between value domains standing under no arrangement that fixes a rate between them. Section 11 treats what the arrangement makes of the three parties and the relation involved in it. Section 12 separates the fairness of a conversion and the legitimacy of a use from the question whether any claim exists. Section 13 presses that question and reaches a bounded conclusion.

Part IV states the consequences for the arrangement itself. Section 14 describes the capacity a party ordinarily acquires by generating and what becomes of it where the arrangement absorbs it. Section 15 describes the foreclosure of the procedure by which the terms of a relation are amended. Section 16 gives the maintenance balance, establishes that a position's power and the generativity it draws on can move in opposite directions, and assembles the part into a single sequence.

Part V applies the account and closes. Section 17 treats relations resting on antecedent power, which are the hardest cases the paper addresses. Section 18 states five respects in which reversal is harder than establishment and identifies where intervention reaches the mechanism. Section 19 records the limits, the obligations the account incurs, and the results.

2 Preliminaries

This section restates the apparatus carried from the companion paper and adds the quantities the present argument requires. It has three objectives. The first is to give the definition of relational value, the lifecycle across which it is generated, and the aspect distinction on which Section 7 turns. The second is to establish the heterogeneity of relational value and to distinguish generated value from the capacity to generate. The third is to restate the quantities used throughout. The method is expository, and nothing in the section is argued again, since the companion paper supplies the arguments and the corpus of sites. Subsections 2.1 and 2.2 carry material a reader of the companion paper will find partly new; the remainder is restatement.

2.1 Relational value and its lifecycle

Definition 2.1 (Relational Value). Relational value is value generated by a relational configuration rather than by any party to it, and is accordingly not decomposable in advance into shares belonging to parties who existed before the configuration did.

Definition 2.1 carries the framework's founding commitment and is load-bearing throughout. Trust, shared language, coordination routines, tacit knowledge, standing, and the capacity to generate again are all generated by a configuration and none of them has a prior decomposition. Any

allocation of such value among the parties is a decision taken under some description rather than a finding about the value.

The generation of relational value is coarse-grained into six regions, given at Equation (1).

$$\mathcal{F}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_2 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_3 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_4 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_5 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_6 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}'_1 \quad (1)$$

The regions are encounter and relation possibility, relation formation, shared experience and co-generation, valuation and recognition, circulation and conversion, and return and relational reproduction. Three properties distinguish this from a value chain and each is used below. Each region is extended in relational time rather than instantaneous. Regions overlap. Each region admits finer resolution into a structure of the same shape, so that a node observed at one scale is a region at the next. The final arrow records that the sixth region resets the space of relations with which the next cycle begins, so Equation (1) is a circuit rather than a chain. That closure is the object of Section 8.

2.2 Heterogeneity of relational value

Relational value arises in several domains, which Equation (2) sets out.

$$V_R = V_{\text{material}} \mid V_{\text{symbolic}} \mid V_{\text{epistemic}} \mid V_{\text{affective}} \mid V_{\text{network}} \mid V_{\text{generative}} \quad (2)$$

The decomposition is analytic. Equation (2) is written with separators rather than with sums, and the notation records that the components are distinguished without being assumed commensurable. Whether two of them stand in a determinate ratio is a question about the normative arrangement under which the parties stand, and Section 10 treats it.

A second distinction concerns what a cycle leaves behind. The value generated in a cycle and the capacity to generate in the next are separate quantities:

$$V_t \neq G_t \quad (3)$$

Equation (3) separates two questions that the vocabulary of extraction runs together. Taking V_t and holding G_t onward are different operations, and Sections 7 and 16 turn on the difference.

Portability is the extent to which a relational value retains its function when moved out of the configuration that generated it, as at Equation (4), where π approaches unity for value that travels intact and falls toward zero for value whose function depends on the configuration.

$$\pi(V_R) \in [0, 1] \quad (4)$$

Trust, standing within a particular network, and the credit a party carries with specific counterparts are low in π . Equation (4) is used at Sections 12 and 13, where what a transfer does to the transferred value is at issue.

2.3 Aspects

Definition 2.2 (Aspects). Within a region, the *form* aspect concerns the structure into which an interaction is organized; the *conditions* aspect concerns what makes an interaction of that kind possible at all; the *process* aspect concerns how the interaction actually proceeds and among whom.

The distinction was found at the encounter region and holds at the remaining five. It is the pivot of this paper, and Section 7 states why. Sites are coded as at Equation (5), with i the region,

$d \in \{F, C, P\}$ the aspect, and n the position within the aspect, so that E4.F.1 is the first form-aspect site of the valuation region.

$$Ei.d.n \tag{5}$$

Of the 225 sites in the companion corpus, 119 are form-aspect or conditions-aspect and 106 are process-aspect.

2.4 Registers

The Lacanian registers supply the layer beneath the aspect grammar. They are treated as knotted rather than as three exclusive categories, since an intervention entering at one propagates to the others. Each action accordingly carries an entry register $r_0 \in \{R, I, S\}$, being the register in which the intervention first operates; a driving form, being the mechanism by which it passes from one register to the next; and a trajectory, being the typical path of propagation.

Two results of the companion paper are used here. The first is that the registers admit unequal enumeration: the Symbolic is a code and the operations upon it are enumerable, the Imaginary admits enumeration up to a set of typical figures, and the Real admits only a short list of ways in which an encounter with it may be staged, being the production of a lack, the production of an excess, the staging of a rupture, and the exposure of a limit. The second is distributional. Across the corpus, entry through the Real holds between a tenth and a fifth of the sites at the first three regions, falls to none at valuation and one in twenty at circulation, and returns to an eighth at reproduction, while entry through the Imaginary does not follow that movement. The companion paper argues the absence at valuation from what that region's operations act upon, and reads the pattern through the formula that what is foreclosed from the Symbolic returns in the Real.

2.5 Admissibility

Gatekeeping, ranking, matching, role assignment, deferral, and succession are how coordination works, so a framework classifying each as appropriation empties the term. The companion paper accordingly governs every site by four joint conditions, applied to a named position rather than to an arrangement in aggregate.

Condition 2.3 (Absorption). A quantity surrendered at one position persistently fails to return, and an identifiable position receives the difference.

Condition 2.4 (Schema Power). The receiving position also determines the description under which the arrangement is accounted for: the categories, the registries, the boundaries of the relevant circuit, or the standards of contribution.

Condition 2.5 (Blocked Return). No act available to the depleted party opens a channel through which value returns to the relation that generated it.

Condition 2.6 (Asymmetric Depth). The relation-specific sedimentation borne by the depleted party, comprising history, identity investment, non-portable capacity, and foregone alternatives, is unmatched by the receiving position.

Condition 2.4 is the local form of a structure this paper generalizes at Section 7 and applies to a conversion rate at Section 10. Condition 2.6 refers to non-portable capacity, which Equation (4) now quantifies.

2.6 Quantities carried forward

Four further quantities from the companion paper are used throughout and are restated here without their derivations.

The space of relations available to a party at a time is written Ω_t . The companion paper records the case in which the formation of a relation contracts that space, as at Equation (6), so that stability and foreclosure advance together.

$$R_t \longrightarrow \Omega_{t+1}, \quad |\Omega_{t+1}| < |\Omega_t| \quad (6)$$

The representation gap is the part of generated value that the available formats of valuation do not admit, as at Equation (7). Value falling in this gap receives no low valuation. It receives no term, and the difference matters, since a low valuation can be argued against while an absent one supplies nothing to argue with.

$$\Delta_V = V_{\text{generated}} - V_{\text{represented}} \quad (7)$$

Conversion capacity is the extent to which a given party can turn a relational value into another form. Equation (8) records the case in which the same value carries materially different capacity for different parties to the relation that generated it, and Section 12 extends the comparison to a position outside that relation.

$$\kappa_A(V_R) \ll \kappa_B(V_R) \quad (8)$$

The return ratio is the proportion of value generated from a relation that reaches the relation again, as at Equation (9).

$$\rho_R = \frac{\text{value returned to the generative relation}}{\text{value generated from the relation}} \quad (9)$$

Two outcomes at the close of a cycle are distinguished by what happens to the relation's capacity to generate, written G . Equation (10) records generative circulation and Equation (11) extractive circulation.

$$R_t \rightarrow V_t \rightarrow R_{t+1}, \quad G(R_{t+1}) > G(R_t) \quad (10)$$

$$R_t \rightarrow V_t \rightarrow X, \quad G(R_{t+1}) < G(R_t) \quad (11)$$

Equations (6), (10) and (11) together carry Sections 8 and 16.

3 The Ontology of Configurations, Grammar, and Constitution

The arrangements this paper examines involve a position operating on the terms under which a relation proceeds. That description presupposes that a relation is the kind of thing which can be entered and rewritten, and the presupposition requires support. This section supplies it. Five commitments are stated. The first concerns the standing of relations, the second their extension, the third the separability of a relation's grammar from its instances, and the fourth the reach of an operation on that grammar into the parties. The third does the decisive work, and Section 7 rests on it. The fifth distinguishes two ways a relation may stand to the ends of those involved in it, and Section 5 reaches the same line from the direction of antecedence. The method is to state each commitment, to concede the positions that support it, and to record where the supporting literature is divided.

3.1 Relations as primitive

The first commitment is that relations are not derived from the parties standing in them. On the received alternative, parties exist with properties and interests, and relations are what they enter into; on the commitment adopted here, transactions and relations are the primitive units of the social, and parties are what those relations produce and continue to reform [10]. The relation is accordingly an object with its own reality and its own emergent properties rather than a summary of the parties' dispositions [8], and actors reform one another through the transactions that compose it [6].

A related formulation treats social wholes as composed of parts joined by relations of exteriority, so that a component may be detached from one whole and function in another [5]. That is the property the present paper requires of a grammar at Section 3.3, and it is noted here because it makes the requirement less peculiar than it might otherwise appear.

The commitment is contested within the literature it draws on, and the paper records the dispute rather than concealing it. On the morphogenetic account, structure and agency are distinct strata whose interplay is analysed across time, and agents mediate structure through a reflexive internal deliberation that is not reducible to the relation [1]. Nothing in this paper requires the stronger transactional position to the exclusion of that account. What it requires is weaker, and both accounts supply it: that a relation possesses structure distinguishable from the parties, and that operations on that structure reach the parties. The reflexive internal conversation, on the morphogenetic account, is what Section 11 needs, since the terminal state described there is one in which an imposed grammar is what the party deliberates with.

3.2 Relations as extended

The second commitment is that a relation occupies an extended region rather than a point. This is already carried by Equation (1): relation formation is an interval containing approach, testing, role confirmation, boundary setting, commitment, conflict, and repair rather than an instant at which a relation begins. Extension has a consequence used throughout. A position may hold one part of a relation's extent and not another, so that questions of who controls what admit answers indexed by region rather than answers about the relation as a whole. Without extension, Claim 7.5 could not be stated, since aspect scope is scope across regions.

The paper writes *relational spacetime* for the extent, in relational time and in local relational structure, over which a configuration exists and generates. The term claims no analogy with physical spacetime beyond extension and the indexing of events within it, and Section 19 records the borrowing as a limit.

3.3 Grammar as separable from instance

The third commitment is the one that makes grammar-level extension available as a phenomenon distinct from the redirection of flows, and it follows from Definition 2.2 rather than being imported.

Within any region, the interactions that actually occur are drawn from the interactions that are available, and what is available is fixed by the form and the conditions. Two parties in a laboratory may or may not co-author; whether co-authorship is a thing that can happen between them is settled elsewhere, by whoever determines the roles, the crediting scheme, and the conditions of access. Write $\mathcal{G}$ for the structure that fixes availability and $\mathcal{A}$ for the interactions realized under it, as at Equation (12).

$$\mathcal{G} \mapsto \mathcal{A} \tag{12}$$

The paper calls $\mathcal{G}$ the grammar of the relation. The term is used in its generative sense: a finite structure from which an open set of admissible instances is produced, such that a competent party can tell an admissible instance from an inadmissible one without having encountered it before. Nothing linguistic is claimed beyond that.

Proposition 3.1 (Separability). *The grammar of a relation and the interactions realized under it are distinct objects. A position may therefore operate on the grammar while performing no interaction, and an operation on the grammar alters the set of admissible interactions without altering any interaction that has occurred.*

Proposition 3.1 is what the aspect distinction of Definition 2.2 asserts, restated so that its consequence is visible. Form-aspect and conditions-aspect sites operate on $\mathcal{G}$; process-aspect sites operate within $\mathcal{A}$. The companion corpus is accordingly a partition of operations by which of the two objects they touch, and 119 of its 225 sites touch the first.

Three consequences follow and are used later.

An operation on $\mathcal{G}$ leaves no trace in the record of interactions, since it alters what could have occurred rather than what did. A party examining the arrangement's conduct finds nothing wrong with it, which is the observation Claim 8.7 develops.

An operation on $\mathcal{G}$ is answerable in terms other than those in which interactions are contested. A dispute about an interaction has an object, being the interaction; a dispute about a grammar has as its object the terms in which disputes are conducted, and Condition 2.4 records why such disputes tend not to terminate.

A grammar can be replaced while the relation continues. This is the possibility the paper's whole argument rests on. The parties, the history, and the interactions may all persist across a replacement of $\mathcal{G}$, so that nothing observable at the level of $\mathcal{A}$ marks the moment, and the relation afterwards generates according to terms it did not author.

3.4 Constitution and the distinction from coercion

The fourth commitment joins the first three. Where parties are produced and reformed by the relations they stand in, and where a relation's grammar is separable and replaceable, replacing the grammar reaches the parties.

Proposition 3.2 (Constitutive Reach). *Where parties are constituted by a relation, an operation on the relation's grammar is an operation on the parties. It reaches what they take themselves to be doing, what they take to be available, and what they take to count.*

Corollary 3.3 (Distinction Between Grammar-Level Extension And Coercion). *Coercion presupposes a party with a formed intention that is then overcome, and is contested by pointing to the pressure applied. An operation on $\mathcal{G}$ under Proposition 3.2 acts on the formation of intention rather than upon a formed one. It is accordingly answered by something other than the removal of pressure, and its absence at the level of interactions is evidence of its completeness rather than of its absence.*

Corollary 3.3 states the paper's sharpest claim about the structure and the one most likely to be resisted. The evidential structure it describes is uncomfortable, since it holds that the absence of visible compulsion is consistent with the structure being present. The paper treats that as a reason for caution rather than as licence. Absence of compulsion is consistent with the structure and is equally consistent with an ordinary well-functioning relation, so the criterion of Section 7 and the feedback condition of Section 8 are required to distinguish them, and they are stated so that a finding requires positive evidence about who holds which aspects at which regions.

Two established positions support Proposition 3.2 and are conceded here rather than derived. Pedagogic action imposes a cultural arbitrary by an arbitrary power, and is effective in proportion as the imposition is misrecognized as natural [3]. Power is at its most effective where it operates on what parties want, so that grievances do not arise and no conflict is observable [21]; the second face of the same account concerns keeping matters off the agenda without any decision being taken [2]. The present contribution lies elsewhere than in the insight that power can operate at this level. It is the statement of that level as the aspect structure of a relation, indexed by region, which makes it a matter of who holds what rather than a matter of degree.

3.5 Instrumental and constitutive relations

The fifth commitment concerns how a relation stands to the ends of those involved in it. Two arrangements are distinguishable.

Definition 3.4 (Instrumental And Constitutive Standing). A relation stands *instrumentally* to a position where the relation serves as a means to ends the position holds independently of it. A relation stands *constitutively* to its participants where participation in the relation forms part of what those participants take their ends to be.

Definition 3.4 bears on the arrangements examined here in a specific way. Where a position outside a configuration comes to hold over it under Definition 6.3, the configuration stands instrumentally to that position, since the position's ends were formed elsewhere and the configuration serves them. The parties within it may at the same time stand constitutively to it. The two standings are compatible, and their coexistence is what Section 11 describes.

Three questions distinguish arrangements along this line and are used where the distinction matters: which parties generate what the configuration produces; which parties are treated as means to ends they do not hold; and whether participation in the relation forms part of the participants' own ends or serves purposes formed outside it.

Remark 3.5 (Convergence With Antecedence). Definition 3.4 and Condition 5.2 reach the same line from opposite directions. The condition asks whether a configuration carried a grammar the position did not supply; the definition asks whether the configuration serves ends formed outside it. A position supplying a configuration's first grammar ordinarily stands within the ends the configuration serves, and a position acquiring a holding over a configuration formed by others ordinarily does not. The two tests are stated separately because the ordinary case admits exceptions, and Corollary 5.8 gives one.

4 Sources of Relational Power

The arrangements examined in this paper require a position to hold power within a relation. This section states where such power comes from. It has three objectives. The first is to distinguish three sources. The second is to describe their co-occurrence and to set out what each implies for remedy. The third is to give two grounds on which a position holding process-level advantage may nonetheless operate at the level of a relation's grammar. The method is classificatory in the first two parts and explanatory in the third, and the grounds offered there describe pressures on a position rather than deliberations within one, as Remark 4.3 records. The distinctions drawn here are presupposed by Section 5, which divides the first source, and by Section 6, which begins from a position holding power of any of the three.

4.1 Three sources

Definition 4.1 (Sources Of Power). The power a position requires in order to hold aspect scope arises from three sources. *Antecedent* power, written P1, precedes the relation and is acquired otherwise than through it. *Emergent* power, written P2, is produced by the relation itself and subsequently turned back upon it. *Imported* power, written P3, originates in a system other than the relation and is exercised inside it.

P1, antecedent power. The power precedes the relation. The party subject to it did not select the relation and in many cases could not have. A child does not select its parents, an entrant to a profession does not select the accreditation regime already in force, and a user in a market with one platform does not select the platform. What distinguishes P1 is that the question of consent to the relation does not arise, since there was no moment at which consent could have been given or withheld.

Relations resting on P1 are the paper’s hardest cases, and Section 17 treats the hardest of them. They are hardest because some of them are necessary. A child has to be constituted by someone, and an account under which every non-selected constitutive relation counts as grammar-level extension would be worthless. Section 5 divides P1 for that reason.

P2, emergent power. The parties begin comparably placed, and the asymmetry is produced by the relation itself before being turned back on it. The mechanisms are those the companion paper enumerates: relation-specific sedimentation that raises the cost of leaving, capability retained on one side and not transmitted, accumulation at a position through which work is routed, and topology that consolidates around a centre. What was symmetrical at the outset is asymmetrical after some cycles, and the asymmetry is then available to be converted into aspect scope.

P2 is the source most amenable to remedy, because the accumulation is observable while it occurs and the arrangement passes through states in which it has yet to complete. It is also the source most likely to be innocent in origin, since the mechanism operates whether or not any party intended the outcome.

P3, imported power. The power originates in a system other than the relation and is brought into it. Legal instruments, accreditation monopolies, capital, and institutional office are the ordinary carriers. The distinguishing feature is that the instrument was constituted for a purpose outside the relation and is exercised inside it.

The companion paper already names this at a single site, in the admissibility note attached to the restriction of mobility, which holds that the site is in use where a party to the relation is also the party controlling the permission, so that an instrument constituted for public purposes is converted into private leverage. The present section generalizes that observation into a source.

4.2 Co-occurrence

The three co-occur, and the ordinary case is a compound.

Parenting is P1 with P3 layered over it, since the antecedent asymmetry of constitution is supplemented by guardianship law, schooling requirements, and control of documents. Employment in a firm is typically P2 with P3, since sedimented non-portable capability is supplemented by contractual instruments. Academic supervision combines all three: an antecedent asymmetry the student had no occasion to consent to, asymmetries the supervisory relation itself produces in the

Table 1: Sources of power and what each implies for remedy

Source	Character	Implication for remedy
P1 antecedent	Power precedes the relation; no moment of consent existed	Reversal is unavailable, since the asymmetry stands beyond retrospective undoing. The available standard concerns the direction the asymmetry moves over time, and Section 17 states it.
P2 emergent	Power produced by the relation and turned back on it	Addressable at the point of accumulation, since the arrangement passes through states in which the asymmetry is incomplete and observable.
P3 imported	Power constituted elsewhere and exercised inside the relation	Addressable at the instrument, and outside the relation. The instrument's own constituting system can restrict its exercise, which is what the separation of institutional office from private interest is for.

form of unshared capability and routed work, and instruments constituted elsewhere in the form of examination authority, funding control, and accreditation.

Table 1 states what each source implies for remedy.

Remark 4.2 (Function Of The Distinction Among Sources). A framework naming only the structure would recommend the same response in every case. The three sources recommend different ones, and in the compound case they recommend acting where the sources differ rather than where the structure is most visible. An arrangement resting on P2 and P3 is best addressed at the imported instrument, since that is exercisable from outside and requires no party inside the relation to act against their accumulated position.

4.3 Grounds for operating on a grammar

A position able to hold form and conditions is ordinarily also able to take more through process sites. The question of why it would do the former merits an answer, and two are available from the framework rather than from supposition.

Contestability of extraction against contestability of grammar. By Condition 2.4, the position controlling the description controls which charges can be brought. A charge concerning an interaction has an object and can be pressed. Rewriting the grammar converts a contestable appropriation into one that lacks a formulation, and by Proposition 3.1 it does so without altering any interaction that has occurred.

This yields a prediction. Grammar-level extension should intensify after disputes rather than before them, since the occasion for moving from process to form is the demonstration that process-level appropriation can be challenged. An arrangement that has recently survived a challenge and responded by revising its categories, its crediting scheme, or its terms of participation is the observable case. Section 19 records what would tell against this.

Extraction has a ceiling and a grammar raises it. The companion paper identifies a mechanism in which extraction is paced against the point at which the arrangement collapses, so that a position drawing on a relation is drawing against a quantity it is consuming. Process-level appropriation therefore approaches a limit set by the relation's capacity to survive. Altering what the relation generates moves the limit instead of approaching it, and Equations (10) and (11) state the difference: a configuration whose grammar directs it toward what the holder requires may show

rising G while returning nothing to the terms in which the configuration would have described its own flourishing.

Section 16 qualifies the second ground. Raising the ceiling defers the limit rather than removing it, since the quantity being consumed remains the one the arrangement depends on.

Remark 4.3 (Neither Ground Requires Intention). Both grounds describe pressures on a position rather than deliberations within one. A position that revises its categories after a dispute need not have reasoned that revision forecloses the dispute, and a position whose grammar raises the ceiling need not have sought the ceiling. The conditions of Section 7 are stated over arrangements for this reason, so that a finding rests on what a position holds rather than on what it intended.

5 Antecedence and the Distinction Between Constitution and Extension

Sections 3 and 7 establish that a relation has a separable grammar and that a position may hold form-aspect and conditions-aspect sites across several regions of the lifecycle. Both leave one question unaddressed: whether the configuration had a grammar before the position arrived. This section supplies the missing condition. It has three objectives. The first is to state antecedence as a requirement on grammar-level extension. The second is to divide antecedent power, as Definition 4.1 introduces it, into a constitutive and a non-constitutive form. The third is to fix the time at which antecedence is assessed. The method is definitional throughout, and the section closes by recording one dependency on an unsolved problem and one consequence for Section 17.

5.1 The antecedence requirement

Write $\mathcal{G}_t(R)$ for the grammar in force in configuration R at time t , in the sense fixed at Equation (12), and write $\sigma(\mathcal{G})$ for the position that supplied a given grammar. Two arrangements are then distinguishable at the moment a position p comes to hold form and conditions in R at time t :

$$\mathcal{G}_s(R) = \emptyset \quad \text{for all } s < t, \quad (13)$$

and

$$\exists s < t : \mathcal{G}_s(R) \neq \emptyset \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma(\mathcal{G}_s(R)) \neq p. \quad (14)$$

Definition 5.1 (Antecedent Grammar). A configuration R has an antecedent grammar relative to a position p at time t where Equation (14) holds, that is, where R operated at some earlier moment under a grammar supplied by a position other than p .

Condition 5.2 (Antecedence). Grammar-level extension by a position p requires that R have an antecedent grammar relative to p in the sense of Definition 5.1.

Definition 5.3 (Constitution). Where Equation (13) holds, the holding by p is constitution. The position supplies the configuration's first grammar.

The consequence is a division of cases that Sections 7 and 8 leave joined. A position supplying a configuration's first grammar constitutes it, whatever the reach of its aspect scope and whatever the persistence of the resulting arrangement. Grammar-level extension requires a grammar to displace. Upbringing, the founding of a firm, and the establishment of an institution fall on the constituting side at origin, and they do so by Definition 5.3 rather than by a judgement made later about their conduct.

Remark 5.4 (Scope Of The Division). Condition 5.2 settles which predicate applies to an arrangement. It settles nothing about whether the arrangement is justified. A constituting position may hold its aspect scope well or badly, and the grounds on which a constitution is assessed are distinct from the grounds on which extension is assessed. Section 17 treats the first; Sections 9 through 13 treat the second.

5.2 Constitutive and non-constitutive antecedent power

Definition 4.1 identifies antecedent power, written P1, as power that precedes the relation and is not acquired through it. That description covers two arrangements which Condition 5.2 now separates.

Definition 5.5 (Forms Of Antecedent Power). Antecedent power divides according to whether the position supplied the configuration's first grammar. *Constitutive* antecedent power, written P1a, is held by a position satisfying Equation (13). *Non-constitutive* antecedent power, written P1b, is held by a position whose power precedes the relation while the configuration operated under a grammar the position did not supply, as at Equation (14).

P1a, constitutive antecedent power. The position precedes the party and supplies the first grammar under which the party's configuration operates. A parent stands in this relation to an infant, a founding body to the institution it establishes, and an accreditation regime to a profession at the point of its formation. The question of consent does not arise here for the reason given at Definition 4.1, and it is joined by a second reason: there was no prior grammar under which consent could have been expressed.

P1b, non-constitutive antecedent power. The position precedes the relation while the configuration carries a grammar from elsewhere. A platform entering a field in which professional relations already operate under their own terms holds power of this kind, as does an employer with respect to relations an employee formed before the employment and maintains outside it. The distinguishing feature is displacement: something was in force, and the holding replaces it.

Remark 5.6 (Function Of The Split). Definition 4.1 groups P1a and P1b because both precede the relation and neither admits a moment of consent. They separate on the question Condition 5.2 asks, and they separate on remedy. Where a constitution is at issue the available responses concern how the constituting position exercises its scope. Where an extension is at issue the available responses concern the boundary that was crossed, which Section 6 treats.

5.3 The time at which antecedence is assessed

Equations (13) and (14) are indexed to the moment of the holding. That indexing carries a result which a reader would otherwise reach as an objection.

A configuration generates a grammar of its own over time. The lifecycle of Equation (1) is a circuit, and each completed cycle leaves the configuration operating under terms shaped by what it has generated, by the parties it has formed, and by the relations it has entered. Write this as

$$\mathcal{G}_{t+1}(R) = \Phi(\mathcal{G}_t(R), H_t(R), \Pi_t(R)), \quad (15)$$

where H_t is the configuration's history to t and Π_t its participants at t . Where Φ is sensitive to its second and third arguments, the grammar in force at a later moment is not the grammar the constituting position supplied.

Proposition 5.7 (Assessment At The Time Of The Holding). *Antecedence is assessed at the time of the holding under examination rather than at the configuration's origin. A position holding $P1a$ at t_0 and holding again at $t_1 > t_0$ faces $\mathcal{G}_{t_1^-}(R)$, which by Equation (15) the configuration generated. The later holding therefore satisfies Equation (14) and falls under Condition 5.2.*

Corollary 5.8 (One Position, Both Predicates). *A single position may constitute a configuration at one moment and extend into it at another. Constitution at origin confers no standing to displace the grammar the configuration subsequently generates.*

Corollary 5.8 is what makes Condition 5.2 a working condition rather than a bar on examining constituting positions. A founding position that later replaces terms its configuration has generated is displacing something, and the fact of having supplied the first grammar leaves that displacement to be assessed on the grounds of Section 6.

5.4 Standing of the condition

Remark 5.9 (Dependency On An Open Problem). Equations (13) and (14) quantify over a configuration R whose extent is presupposed. Determining whether a later arrangement is the same configuration under an evolved grammar or a distinct configuration with a grammar of its own requires a criterion of membership, which the companion problem list records as open and identifies as an exercise of the power it would regulate. The condition stated here inherits that limitation, and arguments in later sections that turn on the identity of a configuration are qualified accordingly.

Two consequences close the section. Upbringing at origin is constitution under Definition 5.3, so Section 17 opens from that result rather than arguing toward it, and the question of whether a family constitutes its child is settled here. The configurations a constituted party later forms with others carry grammars that party's constituting position did not supply, so a holding over those configurations falls under Condition 5.2 by Proposition 5.7. The mechanism by which such a holding is acquired is the subject of Section 6.

6 Boundary Overreach and the Extension of Relational Control

Section 5 establishes that a holding over a configuration operating under a grammar the position did not supply falls to be assessed as extension. This section states the mechanism by which such a holding is acquired. It has four objectives. The first is to describe the ordinary situation from which extension proceeds, which is a position holding power in a configuration it may well have constituted. The second is to state how a newly generated configuration can afford an opportunity for that power to operate beyond its original scope. The third is to locate the boundary the extension crosses, and to concede what existing work has established about boundaries before the paper's own claim is made. The fourth is to define relational boundary overreach. The method is descriptive and definitional, and the modal discipline observed throughout is that the mechanism described is available rather than necessary. The section closes by recording what the definition presupposes.

6.1 Existing relational power as the starting condition

Write $P_p(R)$ for the power a position p holds within configuration R , in the sense fixed by Definition 4.1. The starting condition of this section is the ordinary case

$$P_p(R_1) > 0, \tag{16}$$

in which p holds power within a configuration to which it stands in an established relation. Equation (16) describes parents, employers, supervisors, and platforms alike, and describes them in a condition that calls for no comment. A constituting position holds power in what it constituted, and a party to a relation holds power within it.

The question of this section concerns what such a position may do when a party to R_1 forms a further configuration. Write R_2 for a configuration formed by a party q with a third party r , where q is also a party to R_1 . The question is whether R_2 can serve as a surface on which P_p operates.

6.2 Opportunity-driven extension

A newly formed configuration affords resources that did not previously exist. Write $O(R_2)$ for what R_2 affords, comprising access, trust, reputation, expertise, institutional entry, and the capital these command. The extension at issue runs

$$P_p(R_1) \longrightarrow O(R_2) \longrightarrow P_p(R_2), \quad (17)$$

where the first arrow denotes the use of established power to reach what the new configuration affords, and the second denotes the acquisition of power within R_2 itself.

Remark 6.1 (Modality Of Equation (17)). Equation (17) states an available pathway. Existing relational power can create opportunities for its own extension into newly generated relational space, and the frequency with which it does so is an empirical question this paper leaves open. The claim advanced here concerns the structure of the pathway and the grounds on which a particular instance may be assessed.

The distinguishing feature of Equation (17) is that p acquires power within a configuration it neither constituted nor joined. The route runs through q , whose membership in both configurations is what makes the pathway available.

6.3 The boundary between configurations

Equation (17) presupposes a boundary, since an extension requires something to extend across. Existing work has established a good deal about what that boundary is.

Boundaries between social categories and between the domains of social life have been treated across several disciplines as objects with their own production and maintenance, and the study of them has been directed at relational processes rather than at static demarcations [19]. Closer to the present case, relational work in economic sociology holds that parties use economic activity to create, maintain, and renegotiate ties, and that they attend to the match between a transaction and the relation it belongs to [33, 34]. The boundary between one relation and another is accordingly a social object which parties themselves produce and police. The present paper takes it up in that character rather than introducing it.

What the present section adds concerns a position standing outside the boundary. The literature cited describes the matching work parties perform within and between their own relations, together with the disputes that follow a mismatch. The claim below is asserted against a position that is party to one configuration and not to the other.

Claim 6.2 (Independence Of A Party's Other Relations). A node's membership in one configuration leaves that node's other configurations outside the first. Standing in R_1 gives p no title in R_2 by virtue of q 's membership in both.

Claim 6.2 is a claim about title rather than about influence. A party to R_1 may affect R_2 in many ordinary ways, through advice, through reputation, and through the capacities the earlier relation formed. The claim concerns the further step at which R_2 is treated as available to p .

6.4 Relational boundary overreach

Definition 6.3 (Relational Boundary Overreach). Relational boundary overreach obtains where a position p , holding power in configuration R_1 under Equation (16), acquires access to or control over a configuration R_2 that p neither constituted nor joined, by way of a party q common to R_1 and R_2 , and where the acquisition is not the subject of an agreement to which the remaining parties to R_2 are party.

Definition 6.3 has three components which come apart. The holding in R_1 may be entirely legitimate. The route through q may be uncontested by q . The absence of agreement by the remaining parties to R_2 is what the definition turns on, and Section 9 treats those parties directly.

Employment. An employer holding R_1 with an employee treats the employee’s professional relations as assets of the employment. The configurations at issue were formed by the employee with counterparties who contracted with the employee.

Supervision. A supervisor holding R_1 with a research student treats the student’s collaborations and academic network as available to the supervisor’s programme. The collaborators entered configurations with the student.

Intermediation. A platform holding R_1 with a user treats relations the user forms through the platform as the platform’s own, and extends terms over them accordingly. The counterparties formed configurations with the user.

Remark 6.4 (Generality Of The Mechanism). The three instances differ in the source of P_p , in the domain of the value at stake, and in the presence or absence of an explicit contract at R_1 . They share the structure of Definition 6.3. The mechanism is accordingly available wherever a party belongs to two configurations and a position in one holds power sufficient to reach the other. Its availability holds across kinds of relation.

6.5 Standing of the definition

Remark 6.5 (Presupposition Of Membership). Definition 6.3 presupposes that R_1 and R_2 are distinct configurations and that the parties to each are determinate. Both presuppositions rest on a criterion of membership, which the companion problem list records as open and identifies as an exercise of the power that criterion would regulate. Remark 5.9 records the same dependency for Condition 5.2. Arguments in Sections 9 and 13 that turn on the distinctness of R_2 inherit it, and they are qualified where they do.

Two lines run forward from the definition. Where the extension yields value that returns to p as further power, the arrangement acquires the feedback structure Section 8 describes. Where the remaining parties to R_2 committed resources on a judgement about q , their position is the subject of Section 9, which the paper takes first because it can be argued without settling anything about what q owes p .

7 Flow-Level Extraction and Grammar-Level Extension

Section 6 states how a position acquires a holding over a configuration it neither constituted nor joined. This section states what distinguishes two kinds of holding. It has four objectives. The first is to establish the reach of a position holding process-aspect sites. The second is to establish the reach of a position holding form-aspect and conditions-aspect sites, and to define aspect scope. The third is to state the distinction between the two kinds and to record three properties of it. The fourth is to give the conditions under which the second kind obtains, applied jointly and to a named position. The method is to derive the reach of each holding from Proposition 3.1 and to constrain the resulting classification by conditions calibrated so that ordinary coordination falls outside it.

7.1 Reach of a process-aspect holder

By Proposition 3.1, process-aspect sites operate within the set of realized interactions and form-aspect and conditions-aspect sites operate on the structure that makes interactions available.

Proposition 7.1 (Limits Of Process Holding). *A position holding only process-aspect sites can redirect, block, delay, accelerate, and appropriate flows within a relation, and lacks the capacity to alter which interactions are available to it. The set of admissible interactions is fixed by sites the position does not hold, so the relation retains the capacity to generate what it generated before, and retains the terms in which it describes what it generates.*

The proposition follows from the aspect definition and merits statement because its consequence is easy to miss. A position that takes a great deal through process sites is operating inside a structure it did not author and cannot change. Should it withdraw, the relation continues, and continues in the same terms. What was taken is recoverable in principle, since the description under which it was taken survives the withdrawal and can be used to state the claim.

That is the situation the companion paper analyses throughout, and its four conditions are calibrated to it. Condition 2.3 presupposes that a quantity can be identified as having been surrendered. Condition 2.5 presupposes a channel of return that could exist. Both presuppose a description in which the loss is expressible.

7.2 Reach of form and conditions holding

Proposition 7.2 (Reach Of Form And Conditions). *A position holding form-aspect or conditions-aspect sites at a region determines, for that region, which interactions are available. Where it holds such sites at several regions, it determines the availability of interactions across the span of the relation's generation, and thereby determines what the relation is capable of generating.*

The step from one region to several is where the holding changes character, and the reason is the overlap and sequence recorded at Equation (1). A position holding the form of encounter determines who may meet whom, which fixes the population of relations that can form. A position holding the conditions of co-generation determines what those relations can produce. A position holding the form of valuation determines which of what is produced can appear as value at all. Each of these is defensible alone. Held together, they compose an arrangement in which the relation generates what the holder's grammar admits, describes what it generates in the holder's terms, and retains no route by which either could be otherwise.

Definition 7.3 (Aspect Scope). The aspect scope of a position is the set of regions at which it holds form-aspect or conditions-aspect sites.

7.3 The distinction

Definition 7.4 (Flow-Level Extraction And Grammar-Level Extension). A position of empty aspect scope engages in *flow-level extraction*: it redirects flows within a structure it takes as given. A position whose aspect scope spans several regions engages in *grammar-level extension*: it determines what the configuration is capable of generating. The second is subject to the conditions of Section 7.5.

Claim 7.5 (Aspect Scope Decides The Kind). The difference between the two holdings of Definition 7.4 is a difference in which aspects a position holds, and across how many regions, rather than a difference of degree.

Three properties of Claim 7.5 merit statement.

It is checkable rather than rhetorical. Aspect scope is a set of regions, and determining it requires establishing which sites a named position holds, which is a question about an arrangement rather than a judgement about its character. The companion corpus supplies the sites and their aspect assignments.

It concerns kind rather than magnitude. A position may extract a great deal through process sites and have empty aspect scope, and a position may extract very little and hold form at four regions. The claim says nothing about how much is taken, which is consistent with Claim 8.7, where the quantity taken ceases to be the operative question.

It generalizes an existing condition rather than introducing a new one. Condition 2.4 holds that a position determining the description under which an arrangement is accounted for thereby determines which charges can be brought against it. That condition concerns one region and one description. Aspect scope is the same structure taken across the lifecycle and extended from description to availability.

7.4 Requirement of multi-region scope

A position holding form at a single region is common and is ordinarily legitimate. A journal determines the form in which contributions may be recognized. A licensing body determines the conditions of professional encounter. A landlord determines the conditions under which a household occupies a space. Each of these falls outside Definition 7.4, and a criterion including them would fail for the reason the companion paper’s admissibility notes exist to prevent.

Two features distinguish the multi-region case.

The first is compounding. Where availability is fixed at one region, parties adapt at the others, and the adaptation is theirs. A field that recognizes only certain outputs is a field in which parties choose how to respond, including by building alternative venues. Where availability is fixed at the encounter, formation, valuation, and reproduction regions together, the adaptations themselves run through the holder’s grammar, and the alternative venue is a relation the holder’s form of encounter left unavailable.

The second is that the relation loses the position from which the grammar could be contested. Contesting a grammar requires a relation governed otherwise, in which the contest can be conducted and its terms held. Where aspect scope spans the lifecycle, the relations in which contest might be organized are themselves formed under the grammar in question. This is the structural statement of what Section 11 treats as an outcome for the party, and the order of explanation runs from the structure to the outcome rather than the reverse. Section 15 states the same foreclosure at the level of the terms rather than of the relations.

7.5 Conditions

The companion paper governs every site by four joint conditions, so that ordinary coordination escapes classification as appropriation by construction. The same discipline is required here, and more of it, since the evidence is structural rather than transactional.

Condition 7.6 (Multi-Region Aspect Scope). A named position holds form-aspect or conditions-aspect sites at several regions of the configuration’s lifecycle.

Condition 7.7 (Closure At That Position). The space of relations available to the configuration at the next cycle is determined at that position, as at Equation (18).

Condition 7.8 (Descriptive Authority). The terms in which the configuration’s own value is described are supplied by that position, so that the configuration accounts for what it generates in terms it did not author.

Condition 7.9 (Directional Determination). What the configuration will generate in subsequent cycles is determined at that position rather than within the configuration.

Condition 7.10 (Antecedence). The configuration operated under a grammar that position did not supply, in the sense of Condition 5.2, assessed at the time of the holding under Proposition 5.7.

Condition 7.10 is what distinguishes grammar-level extension from constitution. A position satisfying the first four conditions while supplying the configuration’s first grammar constitutes it, however wide its aspect scope, and Section 17 treats that case.

Remark 7.11 (Joint And Per-Position Application). Conditions 7.6 through 7.10 are applied jointly and to a named position. Severally they are insufficient, and each has ordinary instances. A regulator satisfies Condition 7.6 alone. A funder whose cycle governs a laboratory’s next year satisfies Condition 7.7 alone. An accounting standard satisfies Condition 7.8 alone. A commissioning client satisfies Condition 7.9 alone. Any position arriving after a configuration has formed satisfies Condition 7.10 alone. Each of these falls outside Definition 7.4, and a framework finding otherwise would be useless.

Remark 7.11 carries a further requirement that Section 19 restates as a limit. The conditions concern structure rather than intention, so a finding under them says nothing about whether any party sought the arrangement. Structures of this kind arise from accumulated ordinary decisions at least as often as from design.

Remark 7.12 (Against A Threshold). No number of regions is proposed as the threshold in Condition 7.6. A threshold would suggest a precision the framework lacks, and the available statement is comparative: aspect scope over more regions makes contest harder in the manner described at Section 7.4, and the conditions are used to compare arrangements rather than to classify one in isolation. Section 19 records this as a limit, together with the further thresholds left open at Sections 14 and 15.

8 Power-Value Feedback and Self-Reinforcing Expansion

Section 7 states what a position holds. This section states what the holding does over successive cycles. It has five objectives. The first is to locate the point at which a lifecycle closes and to define closure at a position outside the configuration. The second is to establish that such a holding

reproduces itself. The third is to establish that it can also increase itself, which reproduction alone does not deliver. The fourth is to state four changes in the value the configuration generates. The fifth is to draw those changes together and to relate the whole to the companion paper's conditions. The method is to derive each result from the aspect apparatus of Section 7 rather than to observe it.

8.1 Location of closure

Equation (1) ends with an arrow from the sixth region back to the first. The reproduction region does more than return value or fail to return it. It resets the space of relations with which the next cycle begins: which parties remain, what capacity they carry, what alternatives they have, and therefore which relations are available to be formed.

Write Ω_{t+1} for that space, as at Equation (6), and X for a position external to the configuration.

Definition 8.1 (External Closure). A configuration is externally closed where the space of relations available to it at the next cycle is determined at a position outside it, as at Equation (18).

$$\mathcal{F}_6 \longrightarrow X \longrightarrow \Omega_{t+1} \quad (18)$$

The contrast is with Equation (19), in which the reset runs through the configuration itself.

$$\mathcal{F}_6 \longrightarrow \Omega_{t+1} \quad (19)$$

Figure 1 sets the two out. The circuit closes in both cases. Under Equation (18) the relation continues, generates, and begins each cycle from a space of possibility set elsewhere. That is the formal statement of the difference between an arrangement that is being drained and one whose terms of continuation are held outside it.

8.2 Reproduction of the holding

Proposition 8.2 (Self-Sustaining Structure). *Where a position holds aspect scope across several regions and the configuration is externally closed at that position, the arrangement reproduces the conditions of its own extraction without further intervention. The configuration enters each cycle with the space of relations the position has set, forms relations under the position's grammar, generates what that grammar admits, and arrives again at a reproduction region the position closes.*

The loop of Equation (20) records it, with $\mathcal{G}_X$ the grammar the external position supplies.

$$\mathcal{F}_t \xrightarrow{\mathcal{G}_X} V_t \longrightarrow X \longrightarrow \mathcal{F}_{t+1}^X \quad (20)$$

8.3 Amplification

Equation (20) returns the arrangement to its starting state. A second circuit raises the position's holding rather than restoring it. Value captured from a configuration is convertible into the acquisition of further relational surfaces, and a position operating on more surfaces holds more:

$$P_t \longrightarrow V_{\text{captured}} \longrightarrow \Omega_p^{\text{new}} \longrightarrow P_{t+1} > P_t \quad (21)$$

where Ω_p^{new} denotes configurations newly available to the position, whether by the mechanism of Section 6 or by the ordinary purchase of access.

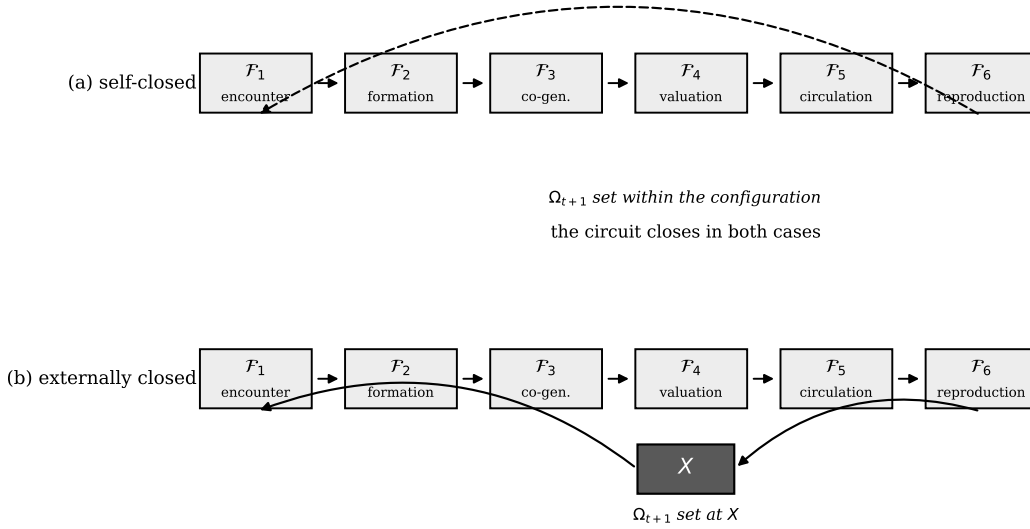


Figure 1: Self-closure and external closure. In both panels the lifecycle circuit of Equation (1) closes and the configuration continues to generate. In panel (b) the reset of the possibility space runs through a position outside the configuration, as at Equation (18), so that each cycle begins from terms set elsewhere. Nothing observable within the six regions distinguishes the two.

Proposition 8.3 (Reproduction Against Amplification). *Equation (20) and Equation (21) are distinct circuits. The first returns a holding to itself across cycles and admits a steady state. The second raises the holding, and a steady state requires some term the arrangement supplies from elsewhere. Section 14 concerns whether such a term is available.*

Proposition 8.3 matters for what a remedy must reach. An arrangement in the first circuit is arrested by interrupting the loop at any point. An arrangement in the second continues to grow while any single interruption holds, since the holding acquired in earlier cycles operates on surfaces the interruption leaves untouched.

8.4 Effects on generated value

Composition. Under flow-level extraction a relation generates and a share is taken. The quantity generated is what it would have been, and the dispute concerns its division. Under grammar-level extension the quantity generated differs. By Proposition 3.1, the grammar fixes which interactions are available, and relational value is generated by interactions.

Proposition 8.4 (Altered Composition). *Where a position holds form and conditions across regions, the value the configuration generates differs in composition from the value it would have generated under a grammar it authored. The difference is other than a share of a fixed quantity, and it survives any redistribution of what was generated.*

Proposition 8.4 has a corollary that merits statement rather than avoidance. Since the counterfactual composition is unobservable, no party can demonstrate what the configuration would have

generated otherwise. This is a limit on the framework's evidential reach, recorded at Section 19, and it also describes the situation the configuration is in, since the loss includes the evidence of the loss.

Authorship of the representation gap. The companion paper defines the representation gap at Equation (7) and treats it as a structural feature of any valuation apparatus, since no set of formats admits everything. Holding form at the valuation region changes its status.

Proposition 8.5 (Authored Gap). *Where a position holds the form-aspect sites of the valuation region, the contents of Δ_V are determined at that position. What the configuration generates outside the admitted formats is foreclosed by construction rather than by the general limits of representation.*

This is the point at which the companion paper's foreclosure result becomes an act rather than a condition. There, the unrepresentable passes through valuation unrecorded because no vocabulary admits everything. Here, a position determines the vocabulary, and thereby determines which of a configuration's generation will be recorded. Assessment categories, crediting schemes, and performance taxonomies operate in this way wherever the position issuing them also draws on what the assessed configuration generates: the categories function as the terms in which contribution is thereafter required to appear.

Status of return. The return ratio at Equation (9) presupposes a denominator, and the companion paper's sites of obstruction, diversion, dilution and delay all presuppose a return that exists and is prevented from arriving.

Proposition 8.6 (Undefined Return). *Where a position holds the form-aspect sites of the reproduction region, the forms in which return may be made are the forms that position issues. A return in any other form is withheld from the class of possible claims, and ρ_R has no denominator the configuration can state in its own terms.*

The distinction between blocked and undefined return is one the paper turns on, and ordinary experience supplies it. A party owed payment and not paid can say what is owed. A party whose contribution has no category can say that something is wrong while lacking the terms to say what would answer it. The first is a grievance. The second is the condition in which grievances form without becoming formulable, and Section 11 treats what becomes of a party held in it.

Direction of conversion. Equation (8) records that the same relational value may carry materially different conversion capacity for different parties, and the companion paper treats this as a circumstance arising from position, access, and the holding of instruments. Under grammar-level extension it is a property of the grammar. A position holding form at the circulation region determines which carriers value may travel on and which conversions are available, so what the configuration generates is convertible by the position and not by the configuration, and the acts available to the configuration are the acts the grammar admits.

8.5 The share question

Claim 8.7 (Loss Of The Operative Question). Under grammar-level extension the operative question ceases to be what share of a relation's generation was taken.

Corollary 8.8 (Loss Of The Share Question). *A configuration under such a holding generates a composition it did not choose, has the unrepresentable part of that composition determined for it, lacks terms in which to state a return, and lacks the capacity to convert what it holds. The question of what share was taken accordingly has no formulation available to the configuration. The share may be small and the answer may be agreed. The question lacks terms.*

Corollary 8.8 explains something the companion paper observes and leaves unexplained. Parties in such arrangements frequently report being unable to say what was taken from them, and the report is ordinarily treated as a failure of articulation on their part. It is accurate. The vocabulary in which the statement would be made is supplied by the position the statement would be made against.

It also explains why remedies aimed at fairer shares leave such arrangements substantially unchanged. A better division presupposes an agreed account of what is to be divided, and that account is the thing at issue. Section 18 takes up what a remedy directed at the grammar would require.

8.6 Relation to the companion paper's conditions

The four conditions of Section 2.5 and the five of Section 7.5 stand in a definite relation, and stating it prevents the two sets from being read as competitors.

The companion paper's conditions decide whether an appropriation has occurred at a site. Their object is a transaction, their evidence is a flow, and their question is whether a quantity surrendered failed to return to an identifiable position that also controlled the description.

The conditions of Section 7.5 decide whether a configuration stands under grammar-level extension. Their object is the configuration, their evidence is the distribution of aspect holding across regions together with the location of closure, and their question is whether the configuration generates on terms it did not author.

The two hold independently. An arrangement may satisfy all four companion conditions at many sites and none of the five, which is heavy extraction within a grammar the parties retain. An arrangement may satisfy all five and few of the companion conditions at any site, which is the case Claim 8.7 concerns, and which is the harder case to see, because at every site the arrangement passes inspection.

Remark 8.9 (Relation To Real Subsumption). Political economy supplies an antecedent for the structure of this section, and the concession can be made precise. Marx distinguishes the subsumption under capital of a mode of labour already developed before the capital-relation emerged, which he calls formal subsumption, from the case in which the labour process is itself transformed [22, appendix]. Two correspondences hold. The antecedence requirement of Condition 7.10 is the condition Marx builds into formal subsumption, namely that something was already in operation before the position arrived. Propositions 8.4 through 8.6 state what the transformation becomes where the process generates recognition, coordination, standing, or care rather than commodities, in that the reorganization runs through the terms of description, since those are what constitute the value in the first place. The paper claims no identity with the analysis cited, and the differences noted at Remark 16.3 apply here as well.

9 The Third-Party Position: Opacity, Non-Operability, and Legibility

Definition 6.3 turns on the absence of agreement by the parties to R_2 other than the common party. This section treats those parties. It has four objectives. The first is to describe what such a party

commits and on what basis. The second is to distinguish two ways in which the structure such a party enters may be inaccessible, namely the destination of what is committed and the identity of the position that effectively governs the relation. The third is to separate a practical failure from both, which survives the removal of either. The fourth is to state the principle these failures offend. The method is analytic, working from the position of a party who has no view about the relation between p and q and needs none. The section is placed first among the injustice arguments for that reason: it can be argued without settling what q owes p .

9.1 What the third party commits

Let r be a party to R_2 other than q , and let V_r be what r commits to R_2 . The resources at issue are frequently scarce and non-reproducible: an introduction, a recommendation, a trusted professional opening, an allocation of attention, or access to a network that admits few. A party commits such resources on a judgement, and the judgement is about q . Trust extended in R_2 rests on what r takes q to be, on the history r and q have, and on what r expects the configuration to become.

Two features of this commitment matter for what follows. Resources of this kind are not recovered on discovering that the judgement was misplaced, since an introduction once made has been made. Resources of this kind also carry the committing party's own standing, since a recommendation stakes the reputation of the party who gives it.

9.2 Allocation opacity

Where p has acquired access to R_2 under Definition 6.3, the value r commits may reach p . Write

$$\text{Allocation}_r(q) \neq \text{Destination}(V_r), \quad (22)$$

where the left side is the party to whom r directed the commitment and the right side is the position at which the value arrives.

Definition 9.1 (Allocation Opacity). Allocation opacity obtains where Equation (22) holds and r lacks the means to establish that it holds.

The operative failure is narrower than a comparison of how well p and q would use what was committed. A party assessing whether to commit scarce resources forms a judgement about a recipient, and r formed no judgement about p at all. The question of whether p merits the commitment was never presented to the party entitled to decide it, and Section 12 takes up the separate question of what the resources are then used for.

9.3 Agency opacity

A second inaccessibility concerns the structure itself. Write R_{qr} for the configuration as r experiences it and R_{pqr} for the configuration in which p effectively holds. The condition at issue is

$$\text{experienced structure } R_{qr} \neq \text{effective structure } R_{pqr}. \quad (23)$$

Definition 9.2 (Agency Opacity). Agency opacity obtains where Equation (23) holds and the divergence is unavailable to r .

Three capacities depend on what Equation (23) withholds. The first is epistemic, concerning the identity of the parties to whom r stands in relation. The second is operational, concerning which party r must reach in order to govern the configuration, given that address to q may leave

the controlling position untouched. The third concerns exit and revision, since whether to remain in a configuration and on what terms is assessed against the structure a party takes themselves to be in.

Definition 9.3 (Relational Opacity). Relational opacity is the composite of Definitions 9.1 and 9.2, comprising opacity of the destination of committed value together with opacity of the effective agency structure.

Remark 9.4 (Relation To Schema Power). Condition 2.4 treats schema power as held against the parties within a configuration. Definition 9.2 describes the same power operating against a party who is inside a configuration and to whom the composition of that configuration is unavailable. The two are the same condition seen from different positions.

9.4 Non-operability

Disclosure answers the definitions above. A third failure survives it.

Definition 9.5 (Relational Non-Operability). Relational non-operability obtains where a participant is unable to govern a configuration effectively because the operative agency structure lies beyond the reach of that participant's action.

Where r learns that p holds in R_2 , the instruments available to r remain those that reach q . Negotiation, renegotiation, conditioning of further commitment, and withdrawal are all addressed to the visible party, while the position that determines the destination of V_r sits outside the range of each. Write

$$\text{Governability}_r(R_2) \downarrow \tag{24}$$

for the resulting reduction, which Equation (24) registers independently of what r knows.

Proposition 9.6 (Independence Of The Two Failures). *A remedy directed at relational opacity leaves non-operability standing. Disclosure supplies r with the effective structure and supplies no instrument that reaches p . The two failures accordingly call for different remedies, and the second is the condition under which the first becomes consequential.*

Remark 9.7 (Dependency On An Open Problem). Proposition 9.6 has the shape of a problem the companion list records as open, in which the effective point of intervention is unavailable at the point where the loss appears. The paper states the structure and leaves the general problem where the companion list leaves it.

9.5 The legibility principle

Definition 9.8 (Legibility Of Effective Agency). A participant committing scarce relational resources to a configuration should, within reasonable limits, have access to the effective agency structure of that configuration.

Definition 9.8 states an obligation owed by a structure to a participant. The direction is worth marking, since the same property appears in the literature running the other way. Administration proceeds by rendering a domain legible, which requires that local arrangements first be simplified into categories the governing position can read, and the simplification is a condition of governing at all [29]. Legibility in that direction is imposed by a governing position upon those it governs and operates as an instrument of rule. Legibility in the sense of Definition 9.8 is owed to a party who commits resources, and its absence operates to that party's cost. The property is one property and the obligation runs in opposite directions in the two cases.

9.6 The third party's claim

Claim 9.9 (Independent Standing Of The Third Party). Entering a configuration with q constitutes no agreement by r to make r 's scarce relational resources available to a position r is unable to identify, assess, negotiate with, or constrain.

Claim 9.9 requires no view about what q owes p . Granting a claim by p upon q in full, and granting that q discharges it willingly, the position of r is unaffected by either grant, since r is party to neither question. The argument of this section is available to a reader who accepts every claim p makes.

Remark 9.10 (What The Section Establishes). The section identifies mechanisms by which a party's position may be wronged and states them as such. Whether a particular arrangement is unjust on balance depends on considerations the paper does not settle, and Section 19 records the limitation. The claim advanced is that the mechanisms described give a reason for objection which the arrangement has to answer.

10 Heterogeneous Value Domains and Asymmetric Conversion

Section 12 separates the fairness of a conversion from the existence of a claim and from the legitimacy of a use. This section treats the first of those questions. It has four objectives. The first is to establish that relational value occupies several domains which need not share a scale. The second is to state what a conversion between domains requires. The third is to describe two features of the conversions at issue here, namely who sets the rate and how the domains differ in scarcity. The fourth is to record what the section needs from a general theory of value and to show that it needs very little. The method is to defeat particular conversions rather than to supply a scale, and Remark 10.5 states why that suffices.

10.1 Domains of relational value

Equation (2) sets out the domains in which relational value arises. The decomposition is analytic, and it carries no commitment that the components share a scale or admit summation. Two values may each be value while standing in no determinate ratio to one another.

Write $V^{(a)}$ and $V^{(b)}$ for values in distinct domains. A conversion between them is a mapping

$$\lambda : V^{(a)} \mapsto V^{(b)}, \quad (25)$$

and the question this section asks concerns what licenses a particular λ .

10.2 What a conversion requires

Proposition 10.1 (Value And Exchangeability). *From the fact that $V^{(a)}$ and $V^{(b)}$ are both values it does not follow that they are exchangeable at any determinate rate. Shared possession of the property of being valuable establishes no ratio between two things, and a rate holds only where some normative arrangement supplies it.*

Definition 10.2 (Unlicensed Conversion). A conversion under Equation (25) is unlicensed where the parties stand under no normative arrangement fixing a rate between the domains, and the rate applied is supplied by one of them.

The arrangements described in this paper present conversions of a particular shape. A contribution is made in one domain, comprising subsistence, care, instruction, time, and material support. A return is claimed in another, comprising access, standing, professional opportunity, reputation, capacity, and future income. The claim arises over the first and is asserted over the second, and the two lie in domains between which Proposition 10.1 finds no antecedent ratio.

10.3 Who sets the rate

Where no arrangement supplies λ , it is supplied by a party. The arrangements at issue place both accounts in the same hands:

$$\lambda = \lambda_p, \quad p \text{ holds the account of what was given and of what is owed.} \quad (26)$$

Proposition 10.3 (Rate Setting As Schema Power). *Equation (26) is Condition 2.4 applied to a conversion rate. The position supplying the terms in which a relation's value is described thereby supplies the ratio at which one kind of value discharges a claim arising over another, and the ratio admits revision upward without encountering any term the arrangement supplies.*

Proposition 10.3 connects this section to the criterion of Section 7. A holding of the conditions aspect at the valuation region is a holding of the terms of description, and the setting of λ is an exercise of that holding rather than a further kind of power.

10.4 Asymmetry of scarcity

The domains at issue differ in a second respect. What was contributed is frequently common, substitutable, and reproducible, while what is claimed is frequently scarce, non-substitutable, and not reproducible:

$$\text{scarcity}(V^{(a)}) \ll \text{scarcity}(V^{(b)}). \quad (27)$$

Proposition 10.4 (Effect Of The Scarcity Difference). *Under Equation (27) a conversion at any rate transfers a resource whose replacement is unavailable in exchange for one whose provision was available from other sources. The vocabulary of return describes the transaction while the scarcity difference determines what each party gives up.*

Proposition 10.4 is independent of Proposition 10.3. A rate set by an impartial third party would leave Equation (27) untouched, since the asymmetry is a feature of the domains rather than of the procedure.

10.5 What the section requires of a theory of value

Remark 10.5 (Extent Of The Requirement). The comparison of value across kinds is recorded as an open problem in the companion problem list, and this section neither solves it nor depends on its solution. Defeating a particular conversion requires establishing that no arrangement licenses the rate applied, which Definition 10.2 states and which is decidable in a given case by examining what the parties stand under. Supplying a rate would require the general theory. The asymmetry of the section's requirements follows from the asymmetry of the tasks: a conversion is defeated by the absence of a licence and is sustained only by the presence of one.

Remark 10.6 (What The Section Leaves Standing). Nothing here denies that a contribution grounds a claim, and Proposition 13.5 states the claim the paper allows. What the section denies is that a claim arising in one domain is dischargeable at a rate of the claimant's own setting in a domain the claimant did not supply. A reader holding that the domains are commensurable after all is answered by Proposition 10.3 and Proposition 10.4, neither of which turns on incommensurability.

11 Instrumentalization of the Subject, the Third Party, and the Relation

Sections 9 and 10 treat the position of a party outside the original relation and the conversion by which value crosses between domains. This section treats what the arrangement makes of those involved in it. It has four objectives. The first is to identify three parties and one relation that are put to use, and to distinguish the manner of each. The second is to state the mechanism as a single sequence. The third is to describe the developed form, in which the arrangement continues without the holding position acting. The fourth is to record what the developed form implies for Section 18. The method is to apply an existing analysis of instrumentalization to the structure established in the preceding sections, and the ground of the objection is conceded at Remark 11.1 rather than derived.

11.1 Three parties and a relation

Let p hold power in R_1 with q , and let R_2 be the configuration q forms with r , as at Definition 6.3. Four things are put to use, and the manner differs in each case.

The relation. R_2 serves ends formed outside it. By Definition 3.4 it stands instrumentally to p , whose ends were settled in R_1 , while standing constitutively to q and r , who are within it. Relational instrumentalization is the reduction of a configuration to a channel for value moving to a position that is no party to it.

The constituted party. q generates within R_2 and transmits what is generated to p . The manner of use here differs from simple appropriation, since q 's generative capacity is what operates and q 's standing with r is what makes the transmission available. Generativity proxying is the use of a party's capacity to generate as an instrument for a position that supplies no part of the conditions of that capacity, in the sense of Definition 16.2.

The third party. r commits scarce relational resources on a judgement about q and supplies, without being asked, the resource that reaches p . Section 9 establishes the opacity under which the commitment is made, and the present point is narrower: r functions within the arrangement as a source, and the function was assigned rather than accepted.

The holding position. p is the point at which the value accumulates. Naming p here records that the arrangement has an accumulating position rather than a diffuse beneficiary, which is what makes the sequence below traceable.

Remark 11.1 (Ground Of The Objection). The objection to treating a party as a means is not this paper's. The tradition that holds human beings to be ends in themselves, never to be used by anyone merely as a means, supplies it [18]. A later analysis separates the elements ordinarily gathered under objectification, among them instrumentality and the denial of autonomy, and treats them as distinct rather than as one thing [25]. That separation is what the present section requires, since the three parties above are used in different manners and a single undifferentiated charge would obscure the differences.

11.2 The sequence

The elements described above compose in a definite order:

$$\begin{aligned}
P_p(R_1) &\rightarrow \text{boundary overreach into } R_2 \\
&\rightarrow \text{capture of } V_{R_2} \rightarrow q \text{ as conduit, } r \text{ as source} \\
&\rightarrow P_p \uparrow \rightarrow \text{further reach}
\end{aligned} \tag{28}$$

Each stage of Equation (28) is established elsewhere in the paper. The first is Equation (16), the second Definition 6.3, the third Definition 13.6, the fifth Equation (21). The fourth is the subject of this section.

Proposition 11.2 (Composite Character). *Under Equation (28) no single party's treatment accounts for the arrangement. The relation is reduced to a channel, one party's generativity operates as an instrument, and another party supplies a resource under a description that was never presented. A remedy addressed to any one of the three leaves the sequence otherwise intact.*

11.3 The developed form

An arrangement of this kind admits a state in which the holding position ceases to act and the arrangement continues.

Definition 11.3 (Developed Form). A configuration under grammar-level extension is in its developed form where the parties within it apply the imposed grammar to themselves and to one another without instruction, enforce it against parties who depart from it, and describe their own value in its terms when no external party is present.

Three features distinguish the developed form from the states preceding it. External enforcement becomes unnecessary rather than merely infrequent, so the holding position may withdraw entirely while the arrangement continues. The parties become enforcers, and correction is experienced by them as maintaining a standard rather than as serving anyone. The grammar becomes the medium of the parties' own deliberation, which is the strongest form: the terms are what the parties think in, so a formulation of the alternative would have to be constructed before it could be considered.

The phenomenon is owned by an established literature and is conceded rather than claimed. The oppressed host the oppressor's frame internally, so that liberation requires the expulsion of that frame rather than the substitution of one party for another within the same structure [13]. The mechanism by which an imposition comes to appear natural is misrecognition [3].

Proposition 11.4 (The Developed Form As Closure). *The developed form is the condition in which Equation (18) obtains with the external position absent from it. The reset of Ω_{t+1} continues to run on the imposed grammar, the operation is performed within the configuration, and the loop of Equation (20) closes without X .*

Proposition 11.4 carries the section's contribution, which lies in the placement rather than in the phenomenon. Read as a property of persons, the developed form indicates a response addressed to persons, through consciousness, education, and recognition of what has occurred. Read as a property of a circuit, it indicates a response addressed to the point at which the circuit closes, which is the reproduction region and the sites determining what the next cycle begins from. The two responses are compatible and they differ, and Section 18 takes up why the second is ordinarily harder to reach.

11.4 The register account

The companion paper's register layer describes the sequence by which the state arrives, and this is the one place in the paper where that apparatus does work rather than supplying vocabulary.

The imposed grammar enters as symbolic material, being categories, names, standards, and the terms in which contribution is recorded. It forms an image of the party and of the relation, since a party told what counts forms a picture of themselves as the kind of party who does or does not produce it. That image is then borne materially, in the actual conduct of work, the actual allocation of time, and the actual accumulation or loss of capacity. It returns to the symbolic when the party states the grammar to others as their own. Equation (29) records the sequence.

$$S \longrightarrow I \longrightarrow R \longrightarrow S' \tag{29}$$

The final term distinguishes this from the trajectories the companion corpus ordinarily records. Most of its sites terminate in the Real, where an intervention issues in conduct. One site terminates in the Symbolic, being the one at which a norm is repeatedly formulated until parties inside the arrangement formulate it to newer parties, and the companion paper assigns that trajectory for this reason: the mechanism completes when the party becomes its author.

Equation (29) is that closure at the scale of a configuration rather than a site. At its final term $\mathcal{G}_X$ and the configuration's own grammar are the same object, and the question of whose grammar it is has no observable answer. Section 15 states the same completion in terms of the authority to revise, since a party who formulates the grammar as their own has ceased to hold grounds on which to contest it.

Remark 11.5 (Absence Of Compulsion In The Developed Case). Corollary 3.3 holds that an operation on a grammar acts on the formation of intention rather than on a formed one. Equation (29) states the path. A configuration in its developed form exhibits no compulsion, no dispute, and no grievance, and exhibits none of them because the grammar in which a grievance would be formed is the one at issue. The caution of Section 3.4 applies with full force here, since the same observable picture is presented by a relation that is working well, and the absence of dispute alone supports no finding. The conditions of Section 7.5 require positive evidence about aspect holding, closure, and antecedence, and this section supplies no shortcut around them.

11.5 Consequences for reversal

Two consequences of the developed form bear on Section 18 and are stated here.

Removing the holding position changes little. Where the configuration performs the operations on itself, the departure of X leaves Equation (18) running with an internal party in the role. A structure of this kind accordingly survives the departure of the position that established it, which is why a remedy directed at the position alone leaves the circuit closing as before.

A prior state is unavailable for return. A configuration that has passed through the sequence of Equation (29) has generated, over the intervening cycles, its history, its capacities, its relationships, and its members' self-understanding under the imposed grammar. What preceded the grammar stands beyond recovery, since the parties who would recover it are the parties the grammar formed. Section 18 treats what remains available in place of return.

12 Use Legitimacy: Misallocation, Degradation, and Normative Misuse

Sections 9 through 11 concern how a position acquires access to a configuration and what the acquisition does to the parties. This section concerns what follows the acquisition. It has three objectives. The first is to separate three questions the argument has so far treated together, and to establish that the later two are answerable independently of the first. The second is to distinguish three ways in which the use of transferred relational value may be assessed. The third is to record what each assessment requires and what it leaves open. The method is to hold the question of entitlement in suspense throughout, so that the section's results are available to a reader who grants the upstream position whatever claim it asserts.

12.1 Three questions held apart

The argument to this point has moved between questions that come apart:

$$\text{claim legitimacy} \neq \text{conversion fairness} \neq \text{use legitimacy}. \quad (30)$$

The first asks whether the upstream position holds any claim over what a party later generates. The second asks whether an early contribution and a later scarce resource are justly convertible, which Section 10 treats. The third asks what the resources are used for once transferred.

Proposition 12.1 (Independence Of The Later Questions). *The second and third questions of Equation (30) are answerable without settling the first. A transfer may be assessed for the fairness of its conversion and for the legitimacy of its use on the assumption that some claim exists, since both assessments concern what happens to the resource rather than whether it was owed.*

Proposition 12.1 governs the sections that follow it. Section 13 presses the first question and reaches a bounded conclusion, that a contribution creates a reason for reciprocity without an unlimited right of conversion. The present section presses the third and reaches its conclusions on a stronger concession still, namely that the claim is granted in full.

12.2 Misallocation

The companion paper records that a given value carries materially different conversion capacity for different parties, as at Equation (8), where the parties compared are parties to the relation that generated the value. The present case compares a party to the generating configuration with a position outside it:

$$\kappa_p(V_{R_2}) \ll \kappa_q(V_{R_2}). \quad (31)$$

Definition 12.2 (Relational Misallocation). Relational misallocation obtains where value generated in a configuration is transferred to a position whose capacity to convert it falls materially below that of the parties who generated it, as at Equation (31).

The ground of Equation (31) is the path and context dependence of relational value. An introduction, a standing, or an access is convertible by a party positioned within the history that produced it, and its conversion by a position outside that history yields less. Removal of relational value from the context of its generation therefore reduces what the value can accomplish, and the reduction is a property of the transfer rather than of the transferee's competence. The companion paper records a site of this kind under the heading of decontextualization, reached there from the direction of the generating party rather than from the destination.

12.3 Generative degradation

A second assessment concerns the configuration the value came from. Where the remaining parties to R_2 observe that what they extend to q is drawn on by p , their basis for extending further is affected:

$$\text{observed diversion} \rightarrow \text{trust} \downarrow \rightarrow \text{further extension} \downarrow \rightarrow G(R_2) \downarrow. \quad (32)$$

Proposition 12.3 (Extraction Against The Generative Condition). *Under Equation (32) the extraction of value from a configuration reduces the condition under which that configuration generates value. The trajectory is that of Equation (11), obtaining here for a position that is not a party to the configuration whose generativity declines.*

Proposition 12.3 distinguishes this case from the extractive circuit the companion paper describes. There the extracting position stands inside the relation whose return ratio falls and bears some part of the consequence. Here the position bears none, since its own configuration is R_1 and the decline registers in R_2 . Section 16 takes up what follows where the position's yield depends on the declining configuration.

12.4 Normative misuse

A third assessment concerns the purposes the transferred value serves. Effective conversion establishes that a position can use a resource and leaves open whether the use is legitimate.

Proposition 12.4 (Effectiveness And Legitimacy). *An increase in a position's generative capacity supplies no assessment of the purposes to which the increase is put. From the observation that a position converts a transferred resource well, nothing follows about whether the conversion is one the arrangement has reason to sustain.*

Definition 12.5 (Normative Misuse). Normative misuse obtains where value transferred under Definition 6.3 funds an extension of the transferring position's holding, as at Equation (33).

The uses at issue are those that return to the mechanism of Section 6:

$$V_{R_2} \rightarrow p \rightarrow \{\text{control, dependence, advantage, entry to further relations, exclusion}\} \rightarrow P_p \uparrow. \quad (33)$$

Where Equation (33) obtains, the transfer has become an input to the circuit Section 8 describes, and the claim under which the transfer was made is functioning as an instrument of expansion.

Remark 12.6 (Relation To The Other Assessments). The three assessments are independent of one another. A transfer may be converted well and still fund expansion, satisfying Definition 12.5 while failing Definition 12.2. A transfer may be converted poorly and fund nothing further. Equation (32) may obtain whatever the destination does with what it receives, since it turns on what the remaining parties observe.

12.5 Standing of the section

Remark 12.7 (What The Section Requires). Each assessment requires a comparison the paper supplies no measure for. Equation (31) compares conversion capacities, Equation (32) posits a response by parties whose reasoning is not modelled, and Definition 12.5 requires the destination of a transferred resource to be traced. What is established is that the three assessments are distinct, that each is available without settling the question of entitlement, and that an arrangement satisfying the first question may fail any of them.

13 Provenance, Standing, and Historical Contribution

Section 9 argues from the position of a party who has no view about what the common party owes the upstream position. This section takes up that owing directly, and does so in a way that leaves its magnitude undetermined. It has four objectives. The first is to establish that a contribution to a party's generative capacity is partial, and to state what follows for claims resting on it. The second is to show that such claims lack a natural terminus, and to concede the existing treatment of the structure that results. The third is to distinguish a claim upon a party from a claim upon value that party generates jointly with others. The fourth is to state what the co-generating party's own claim consists in. The method is to press the second and later questions without settling the first, so that the argument stands for a reader who grants the upstream position a substantial claim.

13.1 The partiality of a contribution to generative capacity

Let G_q be the generative capacity of a party q , and let p have contributed to its formation. That contribution enters alongside others:

$$G_q = f(H_p, q, R_1, R_2, \dots, E, L, \chi, \tau), \quad (34)$$

where H_p is the history of p 's contribution, E is education, L is later encounter, χ is chance, and τ is the party's own practice, reflection, failure, and self-transformation. Each argument of f in Equation (34) rewrites G_q over time, and the capacity operating at any later moment is the joint product of all of them.

Definition 13.1 (Generative Provenance Overclaim). Generative provenance overclaim is the treatment of a partial contribution to the formation of a capacity as an entitlement over the whole capacity and over what it subsequently produces.

Proposition 13.2 (Provenance And Entitlement). *From H_p appearing as one argument of Equation (34) it follows neither that G_q belongs to p nor that the value G_q generates at every later moment is owed to p . Causal contribution to the formation of a capacity leaves the question of continuing entitlement over the capacity's products open, and Equation (34) shows why: the contribution is one condition among several, and the others continue to operate after it has ceased.*

Proposition 13.2 sharpens the result recorded in this programme, that origin confers no claim. The earlier statement denies that being the source of something grounds a continuing claim upon it. The present statement adds that the source was in any case partial.

13.2 Termination

A claim resting on a completed contribution admits no internal limit on what discharges it. Where $V_1, V_2, V_3, \dots$ are the values q generates in successive cycles, the structure at issue is

$$V_1 \rightarrow p, \quad V_2 \rightarrow p, \quad V_3 \rightarrow p, \quad \dots \quad (35)$$

in which each newly formed capacity is absorbed into the existing entitlement as it appears. The contribution is finite and the entitlement claimed from it is open-ended.

Definition 13.3 (Perpetual Relational Rent). Perpetual relational rent is continuing benefit drawn from a party's later generated value by virtue of a relational position formed in the past, in the absence of continuing corresponding contribution. Equation (35) gives its form.

Class analysis has treated a structure of this shape. A concept of class as exploitation has been founded on control over assets that produce economic rents, on a broad conception of property rights [31], and the proposal was contested on publication by commentators who questioned the identification of exploitation with rent [32, 15]. Definition 13.3 names a relational instance of the structure that exchange concerns, and the paper takes no position on the class-theoretic question at issue between the parties to it.

Remark 13.4 (What Distinguishes The Relational Case). In the treatment cited the rent-producing asset is held by the beneficiary. The arrangement described here admits a beneficiary holding no such asset, whose yield depends instead on another party’s continuing generation. Section 16 takes up the consequence, which is that the yield persists only while the generating party’s conditions are maintained.

Proposition 13.5 (Reciprocity And Extraction). *A contribution creates a reason for reciprocity. It creates no unlimited right of conversion across value domains and no standing entitlement to the products of later cycles. Reciprocity so understood is bounded in what it may require, revisable as the relation’s history develops, and constrained by the claims of the parties currently generating.*

Proposition 13.5 concedes what the reciprocity claim contains and denies what the conversion adds. Section 10 treats the conversion itself, and the present section proceeds to a question that arises whatever its outcome.

13.3 Value generated with others

Let q and r generate value in the configuration R_2 they form together. The value in question is

$$V_{R_2} = f(G_q, G_r, R_2, H_{R_2}), \quad (36)$$

where H_{R_2} is the history of that configuration. The generative capacity of q enters Equation (36) as one argument among four, and p enters it only through H_p in Equation (34), which is one argument of one argument.

Definition 13.6 (Co-Creation Appropriation). Co-creation appropriation is a claim by a position upon value generated jointly by several parties, resting on a historical relation with one of them.

Proposition 13.7 (Non-Additivity Of Co-Generated Value). *V_{R_2} resists decomposition into a portion belonging to q and a portion belonging to r . Trust, cooperative opportunity, shared knowledge, joint results, reputation, and access arise from R_2 itself, so a division of them between the parties has no determinate result to report.*

Corollary 13.8 (Claim Upon A Party And Claim Upon Joint Value). *A claim upon one contributor yields no claim upon value that contributor generates jointly with another. Where p takes V_{R_2} , p disposes of what r participated in producing.*

13.4 Standing

The operative concept is standing. A position may hold a claim upon a party while lacking any qualification to participate in decisions internal to a configuration that party forms with others.

Definition 13.9 (Co-Generative Standing). Historical contribution to one participant’s generative conditions confers no automatic standing over value later co-generated in a distinct relational system.

Definition 13.9 carries the argumentative weight of this section, and it does so by relocating the burden. The contested question is what q owes p , and it requires a position on the ethics of the relation between them. The question Definition 13.9 raises is available without one:

Claim 13.10 (Discharge From Joint Value). Granting that q owes p a return, it remains to be shown that q may discharge the obligation unilaterally with relational value generated jointly with r .

Claim 13.10 resembles an intuition about property, that an obligation owed to one party is not dischargeable with an asset held jointly with another. The paper advances it as a claim about relational value and makes no claim about positive law, since the sharing conception of co-ownership on which the intuition rests is a contested position in property theory rather than a description of doctrine [26]. The force of Claim 13.10 rests on Proposition 13.7 and Corollary 13.8, both of which are established above.

13.5 The co-generating party's claim

Claim 13.11 (Participation In The Transfer Decision). The claim available to r extends beyond a share of V_{R_2} to participation in the decision whether V_{R_2} is transferable at all.

Claim 13.11 follows from the character of the value at issue. Access, trust, reputation, standing, and future cooperation are low in portability at Equation (4), since their function depends on the configuration that generated them, so a transfer of any of them out of R_2 alters what is transferred as well as what remains. Where the value admits no clean division under Proposition 13.7, a claim to a portion of it has no determinate object, while a claim to participate in deciding its disposition does.

Remark 13.12 (Relation To The Ownership Incidents). The distinction Claim 13.11 draws is drawn in the analysis of ownership, where the right to manage a thing, meaning the right to decide how and by whom it shall be used, is separated from the right to the income it yields [17]. The claim advanced here is of the first kind. Naming it so identifies what r loses under Definition 13.6, which is a governing capacity rather than a quantity.

Remark 13.13 (Dependency On An Open Problem). Equation (36) and Definition 13.9 treat R_2 as a distinct relational system. Remark 6.5 records the criterion of membership on which that treatment rests, which the companion problem list holds open. The comparison of value across kinds, on which Section 10 turns, is recorded as open there as well.

14 Counter-Power Co-Production and Its Capture

Sections 9 through 13 give reasons for holding an arrangement of the kind described objectionable. The present part proceeds differently. It describes what such an arrangement does to its own conditions, and the results it reaches hold whether or not the reasons already given are accepted.

This section opens that argument. It has four objectives. The first is to state what value production ordinarily produces alongside value. The second is to specify that product in terms admitting assessment. The third is to describe its capture and the inversion capture effects. The fourth is to give the dynamic consequence and to concede the existing treatment of the category the section uses. The method is to state a condition on relational systems and then to describe an arrangement in which the condition fails.

14.1 What value production ordinarily produces

A party generating value acquires more than the value. Generation places the party in a position from which the terms of the relation can be affected, and the acquisition is ordinary rather than exceptional. Write

$$G_q \rightarrow V_q \rightarrow P_q^c, \quad (37)$$

where P_q^c is the capacity the generating party acquires to constrain the power operating upon it.

Definition 14.1 (Counter-Power Co-Production). A relational system satisfies counter-power co-production where value produced within it enlarges the producing party's capacity to constrain the power that the value relation generates, as at Equation (37).

Definition 14.1 concerns constraint rather than the removal of power. What it requires is that power in the relation remain answerable, so that the relation between the parties admits adjustment as their contributions change:

$$P_p \dashv P_q^c, \quad (38)$$

where Equation (38) denotes a standing constraint rather than an equality of holdings.

14.2 The capacities at issue

The capacity written P_q^c decomposes into six, which are listed so that the condition of Definition 14.1 may be assessed in a given arrangement rather than asserted of it.

- *Bargaining capacity*, the party's position in settling the terms on which its generation continues.
- *Exit capacity*, the availability of departure and the cost it carries, which conditions the weight of the party's voice within the relation [16].
- *Interpretive authority*, the party's standing to say what its own contribution and the relation's terms amount to.
- *Resource autonomy*, the party's command of what it generates.
- *Network independence*, the party's access to relations that do not run through the position holding power over it.
- *Agenda-setting capacity*, the party's ability to determine which questions the relation treats as open, the absence of which operates through the exclusion of questions from consideration rather than through their defeat [2].

14.3 Capture and inversion

Where the position holding power in the relation controls the destination of what the party generates, the terminus of Equation (37) changes:

$$G_q \rightarrow V_q \rightarrow P_p, \quad \Delta P_p > 0, \quad \Delta P_q^c < 0. \quad (39)$$

Definition 14.2 (Counter-Power Capture). Counter-power capture obtains where resources, capacities, relations, or standing that a party generates, and which would enlarge that party's capacity to constrain the power operating upon it, are absorbed by that power and reinforce it, as at Equation (39).

Proposition 14.3 (Inversion). *Capture in the sense of Definition 14.2 moves both quantities of Equation (39) at once. What would have constrained the position holding power becomes an addition to it, so the generation that would ordinarily enlarge a party's standing enlarges the capacity exercised over that party instead.*

Proposition 14.3 distinguishes capture from the loss of value. An arrangement taking V_q and leaving P_q^c intact reduces one quantity. Capture reduces the second while raising the first term of the position holding power.

14.4 The dynamic consequence

Section 8 describes a circuit in which captured value returns as increased power. The present section adds what the capture removes from that circuit. Write the change in the position's power as

$$\frac{dP_p}{dt} = \alpha V - \gamma P_q^c, \quad (40)$$

in which the second term operates as a constraint. Under Definition 14.2 that term ceases to constrain and enters with the opposite sign:

$$\frac{dP_p}{dt} = \alpha V + \beta P^{\text{captured}}. \quad (41)$$

Proposition 14.4 (Accumulation Without Endogenous Constraint). *Under the transition from Equation (40) to Equation (41) the arrangement generates no internal limit on the growth of the position's power. Constraint on such an arrangement is therefore available from outside it, and the arrangement supplies none of its own.*

Remark 14.5 (Reading Of The Absent Limit). Proposition 14.4 concerns the absence of an endogenous limit on expansion. It carries no claim of divergence in a mathematical sense, and Equations (40) and (41) are offered as a representation of the direction of the change rather than as an estimated model.

14.5 Standing of the category

Power meeting a counterweight has an established treatment. The concept of countervailing power holds that concentrated economic power calls forth organised power on the opposite side of a market, in strong buyers and in organised labour, and that the resulting constraint operates where competition among sellers has ceased to [14]. The category the present section uses is that category.

Two differences fix what the section adds. Countervailing power in the treatment cited arises on the opposite side of a market and responds to concentration. Definition 14.1 locates the counterweight inside the value relation and derives it from the act of generation, so its production is endogenous to the relation rather than a response mounted against it. Capture in the sense of Definition 14.2 has no counterpart in the treatment cited at all, since a counterweight that fails to organise differs from one that forms and is absorbed. Proposition 14.3 concerns the second.

Remark 14.6 (What This Section Establishes). The section states a condition and describes its failure. Whether Definition 14.1 holds as a general requirement on relational systems is a question the paper raises and leaves for the treatment Section 19 records. What is established here is that the failure described has consequences for the arrangement itself, which Sections 15 and 16 carry forward.

15 Normative Revisability and Its Suppression

Section 14 describes the absorption of a capacity a party generates. This section describes the foreclosure of a second capacity, namely the capacity to revise the terms under which the relation operates. It has four objectives. The first is to state the ordinary cycle by which the terms of a relation are amended. The second is to give the mechanism by which that cycle is arrested. The third is to name what the arrested cycle withholds. The fourth is to concede the existing treatment of contestation and to state what the present account adds. The method is to describe a structure of interpretive authority rather than to assess any particular normative content, which Remark 15.4 records as a constraint on the section.

15.1 The ordinary cycle

The terms governing a relation are amendable in the ordinary case. A party offers an interpretation of what the terms require, the interpretation is open to contest, and contest issues in revision:

$$\text{interpretation} \rightarrow \text{contest} \rightarrow \text{revision}. \quad (42)$$

Equation (42) rests on a commitment this programme carries throughout. The terms governing a relation arise within that relation's history rather than standing outside it, so they develop as the history develops:

$$N_{t+1} = \Phi(N_t, R_t, \Delta H_t, \Pi_t, V_t), \quad (43)$$

where N_t are the terms in force, ΔH_t the increment of the relation's history, Π_t its participants, and V_t the value generated in the cycle. Equation (43) stands to the terms of a relation as Equation (15) stands to its grammar.

Proposition 15.1 (Historicity Of The Terms). *A position holding that the terms settled in the past thereby settle the future denies that Φ in Equation (43) is sensitive to its third, fourth, and fifth arguments. The denial is a denial of the historicity of the terms rather than a substantive claim about what they require.*

15.2 Fixation

Equation (42) is arrested where one party's interpretation is treated as the terms themselves. Write $I_p(N)$ for the interpretation a position p advances. The mechanism at issue is

$$P_p \rightarrow I_p(N), \quad I_p(N) \equiv N, \quad (44)$$

in which the holding of power secures the interpretation and the interpretation is thereafter identified with the terms it interprets.

Definition 15.2 (Normative Fixation). Normative fixation obtains where a position's interpretation of the terms governing a relation is treated as those terms, as at Equation (44), so that the interpretation is withdrawn from the contest of Equation (42).

Definition 15.3 (Revisability Deprivation). Revisability deprivation obtains where an incumbent position prevents participants from using newly generated experience, value, and counter-power as grounds for contesting and revising the terms governing their relation.

Three capacities are withheld under Definition 15.3. Interpretive agency is withheld, which is the standing to say what the terms amount to and which appears among the capacities listed at Section 14.2. Contestability is withheld, which is the availability of the second stage of Equation (42). Participation in the making of the terms is withheld, which is the third stage.

Remark 15.4 (Object Of The Section). The section takes no position on what any obligation between parties requires. An obligation of care, of return, of loyalty, or of deference admits several readings, and the availability of a reading is what Equation (42) concerns. What is described here is the distribution of authority to settle among those readings. The object is accordingly a structure of normative production rather than a normative content, and disagreement about content is what Equation (42) presupposes rather than what it condemns.

15.3 Compounding with capture

Definitions 14.2 and 15.3 describe foreclosures that support one another. Fixed terms supply a justification for the position's holding, the holding secures the capture of what parties generate, and the capture removes the capacity through which the terms might have been contested:

$$P_t \rightarrow N^* \rightarrow \text{justification of } P_t \rightarrow \text{capture of } P^c \rightarrow P_{t+1} \rightarrow \text{enforcement of } N^*, \quad (45)$$

where N^* denotes terms withdrawn from revision under Definition 15.2.

Proposition 15.5 (Joint Foreclosure). *Under Equation (45) newly generated capacity forms no counterweight and newly generated experience amends no term. Correction of the arrangement from within accordingly requires a capacity the arrangement absorbs and a procedure the arrangement has withdrawn.*

Proposition 15.5 states why the two sections belong together and why their order matters. Capture alone leaves a procedure of revision available to a party who retains standing elsewhere. Fixation alone leaves a capacity that may be exercised in other arenas. Together they close both.

15.4 Standing of the account

Authority exposed to contestation has an established treatment. Freedom understood as non-domination has been developed together with a conception of legitimate government under which authority is subject to systematic contestation by those it governs, and the design of institutions is assessed by whether it sustains that exposure [27]. A reader arriving from political theory will reach for that treatment here, and the concession is due.

The present account differs in what it makes contestation answerable to. Contestability in the treatment cited is a property of institutional design, held against interference that tracks no interest of the governed. The account here is diachronic. Equation (43) holds that the terms are generated in the relation's history, so what a party acquires the standing to contest with is what the relation has since produced, namely experience, value, and capacity that postdate the terms in force. Definition 15.3 concerns the refusal of those grounds rather than the absence of a contesting procedure. The identification at Equation (44) is a further difference, since a position asserting its own reading as the terms themselves is not described by the category of arbitrary interference.

Remark 15.6 (What This Section Establishes). The section describes a mechanism and states what it withholds. The threshold at which an interpretation ceases to be one party's reading and becomes fixation in the sense of Definition 15.2 is a question the paper raises and leaves open, and Section 19 records it among the limitations. Section 16 carries the consequence of the mechanism for the arrangement's own continuation.

16 Generative Conditions and the Sustainability of Relational Systems

Sections 14 and 15 describe two ways in which an arrangement forecloses its own correction. This section states what follows for the arrangement's continuation. It has four objectives. The first is to give the balance governing a party's generative capacity across cycles. The second is to describe a beneficiary whose yield depends on generation it does not maintain. The third is to establish that a position's power and the generativity of the system it draws on can move in opposite directions. The fourth is to state the principle these results support and to assemble the sections of this part into a single sequence. The method is dynamic rather than normative, and the conclusion reached here is available to a reader who declines every argument of Sections 9 through 13.

16.1 The maintenance balance

Generativity is not a stock that persists without replenishment. Write the balance across one cycle as

$$G(R_{t+1}) = G(R_t) + \text{regeneration}_t - \text{extraction burden}_t, \quad (46)$$

where regeneration comprises what returns to the conditions under which the party generates, and the extraction burden comprises what the party expends in meeting the claims made upon it. Equation (9) gives the return ratio by which the first term is assessed.

Where the second term exceeds the first over successive cycles,

$$\text{extraction burden}_t > \text{regeneration}_t \implies \frac{dG}{dt} < 0, \quad (47)$$

and the arrangement instantiates Equation (11) rather than Equation (10). Sustained, the trajectory of Equation (47) carries G toward exhaustion.

Remark 16.1 (Modality Of The Trajectory). Equation (47) states a direction under a condition rather than an outcome. Whether the condition holds in a given arrangement is an empirical question, and the paper's claim concerns what follows where it does.

16.2 Yield without maintenance

A position may draw from a configuration while contributing nothing to the conditions under which that configuration generates. Where p receives value generated by q and supplies no part of the regeneration term in Equation (46), the arrangement has the form

$$G_q \rightarrow V_q \rightarrow p, \quad p \nrightarrow \text{regeneration of } G_q. \quad (48)$$

Definition 16.2 (Generativity-Dependent Yield). Generativity-dependent yield is benefit whose continuation requires another party's continuing generation, held by a position that supplies no part of the conditions of that generation, as at Equation (48).

Definition 16.2 names the maintenance side of Definition 13.3. The two describe one arrangement, the first by what the position receives and the second by what the position withholds.

Remark 16.3 (A Structural Analogy). Political economy has analysed a comparable division. Surplus arising from production is first appropriated by one position and thereafter divided among further categories of persons, taking the forms of profit, interest, merchants' profit, and rent, so that

positions which did not produce the surplus receive portions of it [22]. The comparison holds at the level of structure, in that a yield accrues to a position distinct from the one generating. The paper claims no identity between the two cases, and the differences in the constitution of the parties, in the character of the value, and in the presence or absence of a market are left unexamined here.

16.3 Divergence of position and system

Combining Equation (48) with the feedback of Section 8 gives a circuit in which the yield finances an increase in the drawing position's power, which in turn raises the extraction burden in Equation (46):

$$G_q \rightarrow V_q \rightarrow p \rightarrow P_p \uparrow \rightarrow \text{extraction burden} \uparrow \rightarrow G_q \downarrow. \quad (49)$$

Proposition 16.4 (Divergence Of Local Power And Systemic Generativity). *Under Equation (49) the power held by a position and the generativity of the system that position draws on move in opposite directions. Accumulation at a position is therefore compatible with decline in the arrangement as a whole, and the accumulation supplies no evidence of the arrangement's health.*

Corollary 16.5 (Short And Long Run). *Extraction that succeeds in the short run is consistent with generative collapse in the long run, since the quantity the extraction consumes is the quantity on which its own continuation depends.*

16.4 The sustainability principle

Definition 16.6 (Generative Sustainability). A relational system sustains the power or benefit of some participants compatibly with generative sustainability where it does so without systematically degrading the generative conditions of those on whose continuing generativity the system depends.

Definition 16.6 requires no absence of extraction. It requires that the cycle close, so that a sufficient portion of generated value returns to the conditions from which generation proceeds:

$$V_{\text{generated}} \rightarrow V_{\text{return}} \rightarrow G_{\text{renewed}}. \quad (50)$$

Where the final arrow of Equation (50) is absent, the arrangement exhibits return-cycle failure, which Equation (9) measures.

16.5 The sequence assembled

The sections of this part describe stages of one sequence rather than independent defects:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{normative fixation} \rightarrow \text{counter-power capture} \\ &\rightarrow \text{open-ended extraction} \rightarrow \text{depletion of generative conditions} \\ &\rightarrow \text{collapse of relational generativity.} \end{aligned} \quad (51)$$

Fixation removes the capacity to amend the terms, as Section 15 states. Capture removes the capacity to counterbalance, as Section 14 states. Extraction draws the scarce resource, as Section 13 states. Depletion follows by Equation (47), and collapse by Corollary 16.5.

Proposition 16.7 (Self-Consumption). *Under Equation (51) a position reproduces itself by consuming the generativity on which its reproduction depends. The arrangement is accordingly limited by its own operation, independently of any assessment of its justice.*

Proposition 16.7 carries the fifth contribution of the paper and states it in the form it takes. The arguments of Sections 9 through 13 give reasons for holding an arrangement of this kind objectionable. The present proposition holds whether or not those reasons are accepted.

16.6 Dependence and its exposure

Where a system's generativity rests substantially on one party, that party's withdrawal from generating or from transmitting what is generated makes the dependence visible.

Proposition 16.8 (Exposure Of Dependence). *Under $G_{system} \approx G_q + \dots$, cessation of generation or transmission by q reveals that the drawing position's apparent power rested on q 's generativity. A position may accordingly combine high control with low independent generativity, while a position holding little control sustains the system's generation.*

Proposition 16.8 is offered as a diagnostic of where generation occurs in an arrangement. The paper draws no recommendation from it, and the question of what any party has reason to do is outside the scope Section 19 records.

Remark 16.9 (Standing Of This Part). The results of this section rest on Equation (46) and on the sections it draws together. Their application to a particular arrangement requires the extraction burden and the regeneration term to be assessed, and the paper supplies no measure for either. What is established is the structure of the dependence and the direction of the trajectory under a stated condition.

17 The Constitutive Case: Family, Education, and Professional Formation

Relations resting on antecedent power are the hardest cases the paper treats, and Section 4 defers them here. This section addresses them. It has five objectives. The first is to record what Section 5 settles about their classification and to state the standard that applies to a position which constitutes. The second is to apply Section 9 to parties outside the constituting relation, which the section takes first because it requires no view about what the constituted party owes. The third is to apply Sections 11 and 12 to the constituted party. The fourth is to display the general mechanism across the domains within the paper's scope. The fifth is to treat the case in which a formation expands what is available along one dimension while contracting it along others. The method is application throughout, and the section introduces one definition and one claim of its own.

17.1 Classification and the standard for a constituting position

A position supplying a configuration's first grammar constitutes it, by Definition 5.3, however wide its aspect scope. Upbringing at origin therefore falls outside Definition 7.4, and the question of whether a family constitutes its child is settled at Section 5 rather than argued here.

Constitution stands in need of its own standard, and Remark 5.4 records that antecedence supplies none.

Definition 17.1 (Constitutive Relation). A constitutive relation is one that a party could not have selected, cannot exit at reasonable cost, and through which the party's capacities, vocabulary, and self-understanding are formed.

Claim 17.2 (The Discriminating Condition). A constituting position meets the standard where Ω_t expands over the relation's course, and fails it where Ω_t is held constant or contracted. The condition concerns the direction in which the space of the party's available future relations moves rather than the degree of authority exercised.

$$|\Omega_{t+1}| > |\Omega_t| \quad (\text{standard met}) \quad |\Omega_{t+1}| \leq |\Omega_t| \quad (\text{standard failed}) \quad (52)$$

The content of Claim 17.2 is that a legitimate constitutive relation works toward the dissolution of the asymmetry it operates under. A parent exercising authority over a child is building the child's capacity to select, to describe, to convert, and in the end to leave. The authority is justified by its own eventual dissolution, and its exercise is measured against that. A constituting position that exercises the same authority while working to preserve the asymmetry fails the standard, and the developed form of Section 11 is available to the second and closed to the first, since a party whose Ω has expanded holds relations the constituting grammar does not govern, which by Section 7.4 is the position from which a grammar can be contested.

Standing of the condition. The condition is established in philosophical form. A child holds rights that the child cannot yet exercise and that those with authority over the child are obliged to hold open until the child can, so that decisions taken during the period of authority are constrained by what they leave available afterwards [11]. Claim 17.2 is that position, stated over the space of available relations rather than over rights, and extended from children to constitutive relations generally.

The position is contested, and the paper cites the dispute rather than the founding statement alone. The grounding of the right has been reconstructed in ways that alter its scope [23], its relation to liberal neutrality has been argued in both directions [20, 7], and the existence of a right of this kind has recently been denied outright [24]. The paper's use survives most of this dispute, since it requires a comparative criterion about the direction Ω moves rather than a right with determinate content. It fails against the denial, and Section 19 records the dependency.

The quantity the condition tracks has an established formulation in welfare economics, where what a party can do or be is treated as a set of achievable functionings, and advantage is assessed over that set rather than over holdings or satisfactions [30]. Ω is the relational restriction of that construction, in that the set is of available relations rather than of functionings generally and the assessment is comparative over time rather than across parties. The paper claims no priority in the move from holdings to what a party is in a position to do, which belongs to that literature.

Two further pieces of apparatus support the condition. Where exit is costly, voice carries the whole burden of correction and loyalty operates to retard exit [16], so a constitutive relation that expands Ω progressively restores exit as an option and thereby relieves voice of a burden it cannot carry alone. The distinction between authority exercised over a party who cannot yet judge for themselves and authority exercised over one who can is the distinction the paternalism literature draws, with the first justified in terms that lapse as the party's capacity develops [9, 12].

17.2 Parties outside the constituting relation

The constituted party forms configurations with others as capacity develops. Where the constituting position reaches those configurations under Definition 6.3, the parties to them occupy the position Section 9 describes.

Their case is taken first for the reason Claim 9.9 gives. A party who extends a professional opening, a collaboration, or an introduction to the constituted party formed a judgement about that party and formed none about the constituting position. Allocation opacity and agency opacity obtain in the terms of Definitions 9.1 and 9.2, and non-operability obtains in the terms of Definition 9.5, since the instruments available to such a party reach the constituted party alone.

This argument requires no view about what the constituted party owes the constituting position. Granting the claim in full, and granting that it is discharged willingly, the position of the outside

party is untouched by either grant. Section 13 presses the question of the claim itself and reaches a bounded conclusion; the present subsection reaches its conclusion without pressing it at all.

17.3 The constituted party

Where value generated in the constituted party's later configurations is transmitted to the constituting position, the party functions as the conduit described at Section 11.1. Generativity proxying obtains where the constituting position supplies no part of the conditions under which the party now generates, in the sense of Definition 16.2.

Three questions are held apart here as at Equation (30). Whether the constituting position holds a claim is the first, and Proposition 13.5 states the paper's answer, that contribution creates a reason for reciprocity without an unlimited right of conversion. Whether an early contribution and a later scarce resource are convertible at a rate the position sets is the second, and Section 10 answers it. What the transferred resources are used for is the third, and Section 12 answers that. The second and third are answerable on the assumption that the first is settled in the position's favour.

17.4 The mechanism across the paper's domains

Definition 6.3 operates wherever a party belongs to two configurations and a position in one holds power sufficient to reach the other. The instances given at Section 6.4 recur here with the constituting relation in the first position.

An employer treats an employee's professional relations as assets of the employment. A supervisor treats a research student's collaborations as available to the supervisor's programme. A platform treats relations formed by a user through it as its own. A constituting position treats the configurations a constituted party later forms as extensions of the constituting relation. The four differ in the source of power under Definition 4.1 and share the structure of Definition 6.3, which is why the paper addresses the constitutive case within a general treatment rather than as a subject of its own.

17.5 Selection along dimensions

Claim 17.2 treats Ω as a single quantity, and the ordinary case is otherwise.

A formation that directs a party toward one discipline, one vocation, or one institution expands the party's available relations along the selected dimension and contracts them along others. No aggregate answer to Equation (52) is available, and the paper manufactures none.

Three things can be said, and the third is the useful one.

Any constitutive relation selects, since a formation that selected nothing would form nothing. Selection as such therefore marks nothing, and a criterion holding otherwise would return the worthless answer the conditions of Section 7.5 are constructed to avoid.

The dimensions resist comparison, and no exchange rate between them is proposed. Section 19 records the absence as a limit rather than as a detail.

What can be asked is whether the party acquires the capacity to revise the selection.

Proposition 17.3 (Second-Order Capacity). *A formation that develops a party's ability to assess the dimension it selected, to acquire what it did not supply, and to leave, satisfies Equation (52) on the side of the standard met, even where it contracted the party's options along some dimension in the interval. A formation that develops capacity only within the selected dimension, and forecloses*

the capacities by which the selection could be assessed, satisfies it on the other side. The operative question concerns second-order capacity rather than the inventory of first-order options.

Proposition 17.3 states at the level of a party's formation what Section 15 states at the level of a relation's terms. The capacity to assess and revise a selection is the capacity Definition 15.3 concerns, held by a party rather than exercised against a norm, and a formation failing Proposition 17.3 produces a party who lacks the grounds on which the formation could be contested.

Remark 17.4 (Direction Of An Existing Comparison). Childhood and structural domination have been compared in an established literature, and the comparison there runs opposite to any use made here. That work concerns the figuring of dominated peoples as children and the function of that figuring in justifying rule [28, 4]. The present section treats upbringing as the benign limiting case of a non-exitable constitutive relation and takes nothing from the infantilization argument. The two uses are compatible and distinct, and reading this section as an instance of the pattern that literature criticizes would be a misreading the paper forestalls here.

18 The Asymmetry of Reversal

The preceding sections describe how an arrangement of this kind is established and what it does while it operates. This section treats its reversal. It has three objectives. The first is to state five respects in which reversal is harder than establishment. The second is to identify the points at which intervention reaches the mechanism rather than its output, in an order that runs against the intuitive one. The third is to record two things the framework declines to supply, since their absence would otherwise be read as oversight. The method is to derive each asymmetry from a result already established, and no new apparatus is introduced.

18.1 Five asymmetries

The circuit closes internally. By Proposition 11.4, a configuration in its developed form closes its own circuit on the imposed grammar. The departure of the holding position accordingly leaves the loop running with a party inside the configuration in its role. A remedy directed at the position alone therefore reaches the party performing the operation and leaves the operation in place.

The holding grows while a single interruption holds. By Proposition 8.3, an arrangement in the amplification circuit acquires further relational surfaces from the value it captures. Interrupting the circuit at one configuration leaves the holding acquired in earlier cycles operating on surfaces the interruption never reaches, so reversal addressed to a single relation is overtaken while it proceeds. This asymmetry has no counterpart in the reproduction circuit, where a single interruption arrests the whole.

The evidence was never generated. By Corollary 8.8, a configuration under such a holding cannot state what was taken, since the vocabulary in which the statement would be made is the one at issue. A remedy applied at the point where the loss becomes apparent arrives after the record that would support it went unmade. This is the result the companion paper reaches for the reproduction region, arriving here at the scale of a configuration: intervention belongs where the grammar was replaced rather than where the depletion appears.

Absence of a prior state. A configuration that has passed through several cycles under an imposed grammar has generated its history, its capacities, its relationships, and its members' self-understanding under that grammar. What preceded it stands beyond recovery, since the parties who would recover it were formed by what displaced it. A programme of restoration accordingly has no object, and a programme that constructs an object and calls it restoration is doing something else, whatever its merits. What follows a successful intervention is a composition arising from the whole history, including the imposed grammar, rather than a survival of what preceded it.

Asymmetry in the cost of aspect scope. Establishing the structure requires holding form and conditions and letting the configuration generate. Leaving it requires that the configuration acquire the capacity to author form and conditions for itself, which is a capacity the structure specifically failed to develop, since by Section 7.4 the relations in which such a capacity would be built were themselves formed under the grammar. The asymmetry concerns capacities rather than will. Establishment uses capacities the holding position already had, and reversal requires capacities the arrangement prevented from forming.

18.2 Points of intervention

Five points follow from the framework, in an order that runs against the intuitive one.

Restore the position from which the grammar can be contested. By Section 7.4, contesting a grammar requires a relation governed otherwise. The first move is accordingly the creation or protection of relations outside the aspect scope of the position in question rather than the correction of any particular term. This is what the framework says the value of an outside relation consists in, and it explains why arrangements of this kind are characteristically hostile to their members' external affiliations without any policy needing to say so.

Restore the grounds of revision. By Definition 15.3, what forecloses correction from within is the refusal of newly generated experience, value, and capacity as grounds for contesting the terms. An intervention that reopens those grounds addresses the foreclosure directly, and by Proposition 15.5 it is insufficient alone, since a party admitted to contest without the capacity to press a contest changes nothing.

Return counter-power to the generating party. By Definition 14.2, what a party generates is absorbed by the power operating upon it. An intervention directed at the six capacities of Section 14.2 supplies the term Equation (41) lacks, and it is the complement of the preceding point. Together the two address Proposition 15.5, and separately neither does.

Widen the admissible form before addressing the share. By Proposition 8.5 and Corollary 8.8, a remedy directed at the division of what is recognized operates within the vocabulary whose boundary is the problem. Adding a format changes the vocabulary rather than refining within it, and reaches Δ_V where a refinement fails to. The difficulty is that the party positioned to add a format is ordinarily the party Condition 7.8 identifies, which is why this intervention is usually pursued from outside the configuration.

Move the closure. By Proposition 8.2 the structure sustains itself because Ω_{t+1} is set externally. An intervention that returns the determination of the next cycle’s possibility space to the configuration addresses the mechanism rather than its output. In institutional terms this is the difference between a transfer of resources and a transfer of the authority to decide what the configuration will do next, and the framework holds that the second alters the loop where the first leaves it running.

Remark 18.1 (Relation To Generative Sustainability). The five points above are addressed to the parties bearing the cost. A separate consideration bears on the holding position. Proposition 16.7 establishes that the arrangement consumes the generativity its own continuation depends on, so a position with a sufficiently long horizon has reason of its own to reach the same points. The paper records the convergence and rests nothing on it, since the horizon on which the argument depends is the quantity the arrangement is least likely to have.

18.3 Resources the framework withholds

Two things the framework declines to offer are stated, since their absence is otherwise read as an oversight.

The framework offers no account of restoration, for the reason given at Section 18.1. It can distinguish a configuration that determines its own next cycle from one that does not, and it has no resources for saying that a configuration has returned to a condition it held before.

The framework offers no account of what replaces the imposed grammar. Where the capacity to author form and conditions has been prevented from developing, the grammar following a successful intervention is composed from what is available, which includes the imposed grammar itself. The framework holds this outcome consistent with the closure having moved, and it supplies no ground for saying whether the result is good. That is a question about the substance of the new grammar and belongs to a normative theory the paper lacks.

Remark 18.2 (Against The Language Of Release). The asymmetries jointly imply that reversal of this structure is a long constructive process rather than an event. Nothing here supports a picture in which a configuration is held by an external position and becomes free when the position withdraws. By Proposition 11.4 the withdrawal is close to inconsequential in the developed form, and by Section 18.3 what follows is a construction rather than a recovery. The formulation this framework converges on holds that liberation requires the expulsion of a frame rather than the substitution of one party for another inside it [13], and the present contribution is a structural account of why the substitution changes so little.

19 Limits, Obligations, and Conclusion

This section records what the paper leaves undone. It has three parts. The first states the limits, severest first, and gathers the thresholds and open problems the preceding sections defer here. The second states obligations the account incurs, in the form of work required to test or complete it. The third summarizes the results.

19.1 Limits

Membership is presupposed throughout. Every application of the conditions of Section 7.5 is to a named position within a configuration whose extent is assumed, and Definition 6.3 presupposes that two configurations are distinct. Section 17 shows that the extent is frequently the object of the dispute rather than its background. The companion problem list states this as an open problem and

notes that determining membership is itself an exercise of the power the conditions would regulate. Remarks 5.9, 6.5 and 13.13 record the dependency where it bites.

No measure is proposed. Aspect scope is a set of regions rather than a magnitude, Ω is unmeasured, portability at Equation (4) is defined without a procedure for assigning values, and Section 17.5 declines an exchange rate between the dimensions along which Ω moves. The absence of a common measure across kinds is stated as an open problem in the companion problem list, where it is argued to defeat comparative arguments independently of any question about prediction. Section 10 is constructed so that it needs no such measure, and the framework elsewhere compares arrangements without ranking them.

Three thresholds are left open. Remark 7.12 declines a number of regions for Condition 7.6. Remark 15.6 declines a point at which an interpretation advanced by one party becomes normative fixation. Remark 14.6 declines to settle whether counter-power co-production holds as a general requirement on relational systems rather than as a condition whose failure the paper describes. Each is left open for the same reason: stating a threshold would claim a precision the framework lacks, and the arguments the paper makes require comparison rather than classification.

The counterfactual is unobservable. Proposition 8.4 holds that a configuration under such a holding generates a composition different from what it would otherwise have generated, and no party can demonstrate the difference. The proposition is accordingly untestable in the form given, and its status is that of an implication of the framework rather than of a finding. The companion problem list locates the reason one level deeper, in the claim that the portion of a capacity which makes it generative rather than productive lies outside the evidence by construction.

Constitutive reach is partial. Proposition 3.2 holds that an operation on a relation's grammar reaches the parties. Imposed forms are in fact taken up and redirected toward ends the imposing position did not intend, and the framework has no account of that remainder. Where the remainder is large the framework will overstate what the imposed grammar determines.

The discriminating condition depends on a contested position. Claim 17.2 is a comparative form of the requirement that constitutive authority hold open what the party will later be able to exercise [11]. The existence of a right of that kind has been denied [24], and although the paper requires a direction rather than a right with determinate content, a reader persuaded by that denial will find Section 17 without a foundation.

The evidential structure is uncomfortable. Corollary 3.3 holds that the absence of visible compulsion is consistent with the structure being complete. Remark 11.5 states the guard, that the same observable picture is presented by a relation in good order and that a finding therefore requires positive evidence about aspect holding, closure, and antecedence. The guard is necessary and the author declines to claim it sufficient, since a framework of this shape can be misused by a party who wants a grievance and lacks one.

The five conditions are unweighted. Nothing states what to conclude where four of five are satisfied, which is the ordinary case.

The scope is restricted by stipulation. The paper confines its analysis to the domains stated at Section 1 and extends its claims no further. The mechanisms described may or may not obtain in relations of other kinds, and nothing here settles the question either way. A reader who finds the structure recognizable elsewhere is left to determine what further conditions such an extension would require.

Spacetime is a borrowed word. Section 3.2 claims only extension and the indexing of events, and the term carries connotations the paper does not earn.

No normative theory is supplied. The framework describes a structure. Part III identifies mechanisms by which parties may be wronged and states its conclusions as *prima facie*, and a judgement that a given arrangement is wrong on balance requires premises about standing, entitlement, and development that the paper states where it uses them and declines to defend. Part IV is independent of this limit, since Proposition 16.7 concerns the arrangement's own conditions rather than its justice.

19.2 Obligations

Research Obligation 19.1 (Formalization). The survey underlying this paper located no formal model of the replacement of an institutional grammar. A dynamical or option-set treatment of Equation (20) and Equation (21), in which Ω is carried explicitly, would test whether the closure and amplification circuits have the consequences the paper attributes to them.

Research Obligation 19.2 (The Prediction About Disputes). Section 4.3 predicts that a position responds to a successful challenge at the process level by revising form and conditions. The prediction is testable on institutional records, and a finding that revisions of category and crediting schemes are uncorrelated with prior challenges would tell against the account.

Research Obligation 19.3 (Indicators). Operational indicators are required for aspect scope, for the location of closure, for the direction of Ω in constitutive relations, and for the six capacities of Section 14.2, together with an account of what each fails to capture. The last is the most tractable, since bargaining position, exit cost, and network independence admit observation in a way the others resist.

Research Obligation 19.4 (The Remainder). The redirection of imposed forms by those subject to them requires an account within the framework. The natural place to look is the register layer, since redirection is a matter of what parties do with a symbolic apparatus rather than of what the apparatus admits.

Research Obligation 19.5 (The Status Of Co-Production). Definition 14.1 is stated as a condition whose failure the paper describes. Whether it holds as a general requirement on relational systems requires an argument the paper does not supply, and Remark 14.6 records the question rather than answering it.

19.3 Conclusion

The companion paper indexes the appropriation of relational value by the region of a lifecycle at which it is performed and by the aspect on which it operates. This paper takes up a structure that indexing makes visible: a position holding the form and the conditions at several regions, extending

across the boundary into configurations formed by others, until the arrangement reproduces and enlarges itself.

Five results are offered.

The difference between redirecting flows and determining what a configuration can generate is a difference in aspect scope rather than in degree, and a position supplying a configuration's first grammar constitutes rather than extends, however wide that scope.

The structure sustains itself where the lifecycle's closure runs through the holding position, and enlarges itself where captured value is converted into further relational surfaces.

The holding alters the composition of what is generated, authors the gap between generated and representable value, and leaves return undefined rather than blocked, so that the question of shares loses the terms in which it could be put.

Parties may be wronged by such an arrangement along several independent directions, and the paper identifies the mechanisms and states its conclusions as *prima facie*. The direction that survives the widest disagreement concerns parties outside the original relation, whose position can be argued without settling anything about what the parties inside it owe one another.

An arrangement of this kind consumes the generativity on which its own continuation depends, and the result holds whether or not any of the preceding directions is accepted.

The central problem the paper leaves standing concerns who acquires the capacity to redirect the relations through which future value can be generated.

A Terms and Notation

Table 2: Terms of art

Term	Meaning	Defined at
Flow-level extraction	A position of empty aspect scope redirects flows within a structure it takes as given	Def. 7.4
Grammar-level extension	A position whose aspect scope spans several regions determines what the configuration is capable of generating	Def. 7.4
Constitution	A position supplies the configuration's first grammar	Def. 5.3
Antecedent grammar	A grammar in force before the position's holding and supplied by another position	Def. 5.1
Relational value	Value generated by a configuration rather than by any party, with no prior decomposition into shares	Def. 2.1
Region	One of the six coarse-grained sub-extents of the lifecycle	Eq. (1)
Aspect	Form, conditions, or process: the object on which an intervention operates	Def. 2.2
Grammar	The structure fixing which interactions are available within a relation	§3.3
Instance	An interaction realized under a grammar	Eq. (12)
Aspect scope	The set of regions at which a position holds form-aspect or conditions-aspect sites	Def. 7.3
External closure	The space of relations available at the next cycle is determined outside the configuration	Def. 8.1
Developed form	The parties apply, enforce, and deliberate in the imposed grammar without external instruction	Def. 11.3
Relational boundary over-reach	A position acquires access to or control over a configuration it neither constituted nor joined, by way of a common party, absent agreement by the remaining parties	Def. 6.3
Relational opacity	Composite of opacity as to the destination of committed value and as to the effective agency structure	Def. 9.3
Relational non-operability	A participant is unable to govern a configuration because the operative agency structure lies beyond the reach of that participant's action	Def. 9.5
Unlicensed conversion	A conversion between value domains at a rate supplied by one of the parties rather than by a normative arrangement	Def. 10.2
Relational misallocation	Value is transferred to a position whose capacity to convert it falls materially below that of the parties who generated it	Def. 12.2
Normative misuse	Transferred value funds an extension of the transferring position's holding	Def. 12.5
Generative provenance over-claim	A partial contribution to the formation of a capacity is treated as an entitlement over the whole capacity and its products	Def. 13.1
Perpetual relational rent	Continuing benefit drawn from later generated value by virtue of a past relational position, absent continuing contribution	Def. 13.3
Co-creation appropriation	A claim upon value generated jointly by several parties, resting on a historical relation with one of them	Def. 13.6
Co-generative standing	Historical contribution to one participant's generative conditions confers no automatic standing over value later co-generated elsewhere	Def. 13.9
Counter-power production	co- Value produced within a system enlarges the producing party's capacity to constrain the power the value relation generates	Def. 14.1
Counter-power capture	What a party generates, and which would enlarge its capacity to constrain, is absorbed by that power and reinforces it	Def. 14.2
Normative fixation	A position's interpretation of the terms governing a relation is treated as those terms	Def. 15.2

continued on the next page

Table 2, continued from the previous page

Term	Meaning	Defined at
Revisability deprivation	An incumbent prevents participants from using newly generated experience, value, and counter-power as grounds for contesting the terms	Def. 15.3
Generativity-dependent yield	Benefit whose continuation requires another party's continuing generation, held by a position supplying no part of the conditions of that generation	Def. 16.2
Generative sustainability	A system sustains some participants without systematically degrading the generative conditions of those on whose generativity it depends	Def. 16.6
Instrumental standing	A relation serves ends a position holds independently of it	Def. 3.4
Constitutive standing	Participation in a relation forms part of what its participants take their ends to be	Def. 3.4
Antecedent power (P1)	Power preceding the relation and not acquired through it	Def. 4.1
Emergent power (P2)	Power produced by the relation and turned back upon it	Def. 4.1
Imported power (P3)	Power constituted in another system and exercised inside the relation	Def. 4.1
Constitutive relation	Not selected, not exitable at reasonable cost, and forming the party's capacities and vocabulary	Def. 17.1
Representation gap	The part of generated value that available formats of valuation do not admit	Eq. (7)
Authored gap	A representation gap whose contents are determined at a holding position rather than by the general limits of representation	Prop. 8.5
Undefined return	Return in a form the issuing position does not admit, which is not withheld and is not a possible object of a claim	Prop. 8.6
Absorption	A surrendered quantity persistently fails to return and an identifiable position receives the difference	Cond. 2.3
Schema power	The receiving position also determines the description under which the arrangement is accounted for	Cond. 2.4
Blocked return	No act available to the depleted party opens a channel of return	Cond. 2.5
Asymmetric depth	Relation-specific sedimentation borne by one party and unmatched by the other	Cond. 2.6

Table 3: Notation

Symbol	Meaning	First use
$\mathcal{F}_k$	The k th region of the lifecycle	Eq. (1)
$\mathcal{G}$	The grammar of a relation	Eq. (12)
$\mathcal{G}_X$	A grammar supplied by an external position X	Eq. (20)
$\mathcal{A}$	The interactions realized under a grammar	Eq. (12)
X	A position external to the configuration	Eq. (18)
Ω_t	The space of relations available to a party at t	Eq. (6)
Δ_V	Representation gap	Eq. (7)
κ_i	Conversion capacity of party i	Eq. (8)
ρ_R	Return ratio	Eq. (9)
$G(R_t)$	Generative capacity of a relation at t	Eq. (10)
R, I, S	The Real, Imaginary, and Symbolic registers	§2.4
$El.d.n$	Site code: region, aspect, position	Eq. (5)
$\pi(V_R)$	Portability of a relational value	Eq. (4)
λ	A conversion between value domains	Eq. (25)
$P_p(R)$	Power held by position p within configuration R	Eq. (16)
P_q^c	Counter-power acquired by a generating party q	Eq. (37)
N_t	The terms governing a relation at t	Eq. (43)
$I_p(N)$	The interpretation of those terms advanced by position p	Eq. (44)

continued on the next page

Table 3, continued from the previous page

Symbol	Meaning	First use
P1, P2, P3	Antecedent, emergent, and imported power	Def. 4.1

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