



BGNES  
NEWS AGENCY



# Elon Musk and “Baked in” Bioethics

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# Scale 1 - interventions

## **Small scale, local interventions**

Changing agricultural practice e.g.  
moving from maize to drought  
resistant sorghum

Familiar bioethics



## **Global interventions**

Changing the weather

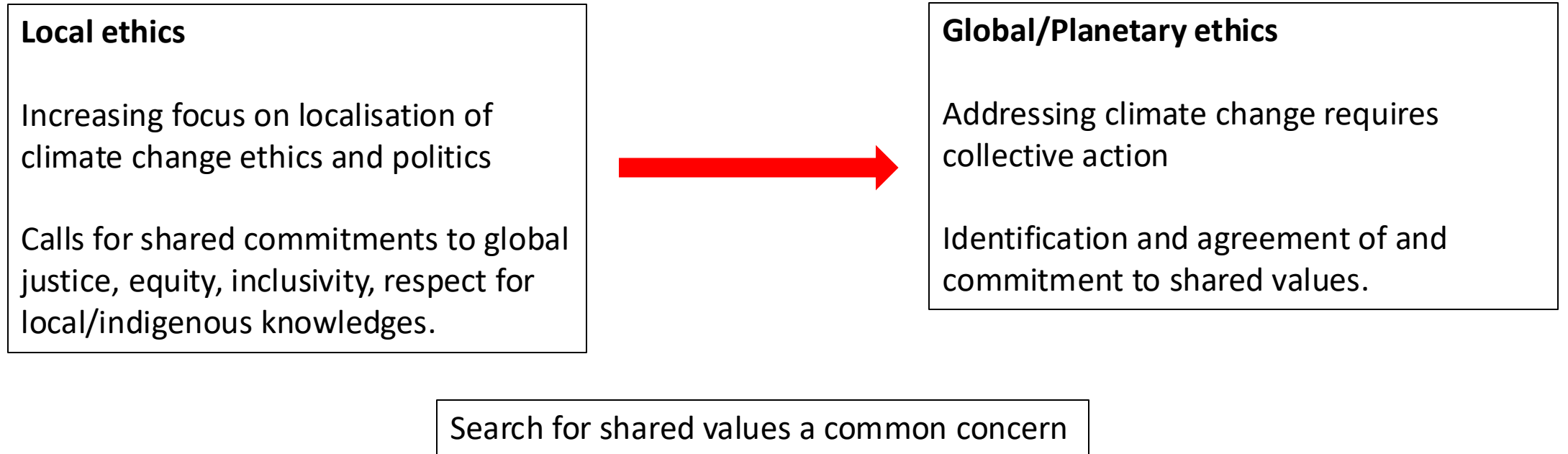
Surveillance of Earth systems

Techno-solutions

Not so familiar bioethics

Can bioethics be coherently and usefully scaled up and down? What are the methodological and ethical implications of doing this?

# Scale 2 – shared values at different scales



Can bioethics be coherently and usefully scaled up and down to engage meaningfully both with (some) difference of knowledge and value, and (some) shared values and knowledge?

Connections with political philosophy

# Scale 3 – disagreement at different levels

## Local knowledge

All local and indigenous knowledge practices will include persistent false beliefs [smoking is good for health]

Different local/indigenous knowledge practices can disagree and conflict

Internally and between groups



## Global ethics

Polarisation, multipolar world

Fake news and misinformation

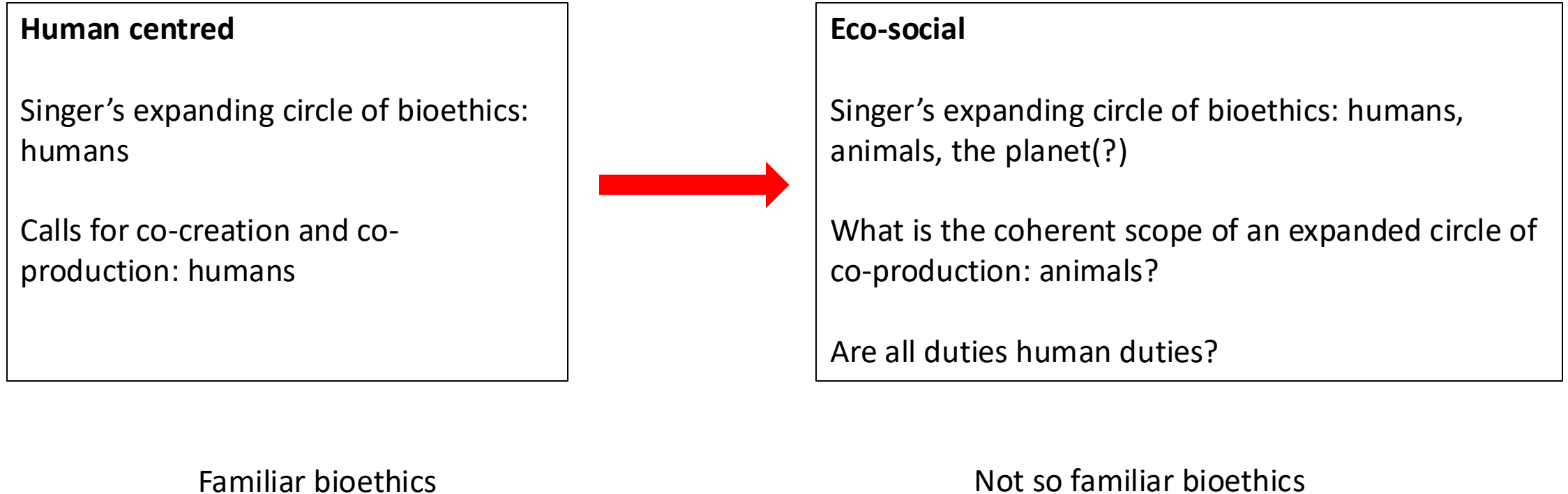
Crises of expertise

Politics

Disagreement and radical value conflict, are persistent features of climate change ethics?

Critique is not incompatible with respect. It is required for it.

# Scale 4 – expanding circle of co-production?



Can bioethics be coherently and usefully scaled up and down to engage meaningfully with the human/non-human? What does this mean for politics of bioethics?

# “Baked in” Bioethics

In his introductory talks, Julian Sheather said,

*If we don't identify and address ethical issues, we risk 'baking in' existing inequalities and structural injustices.*

My reformulation,

*If we are serious about identifying and addressing inequalities and structural injustices, we need to ensure that 'bioethics' is baked into climate change debates, policy, and intervention.*

‘Baking bioethics in’, means baking in respectful (critical) engagement with conflict and radical value disagreements – from the local to the global.

