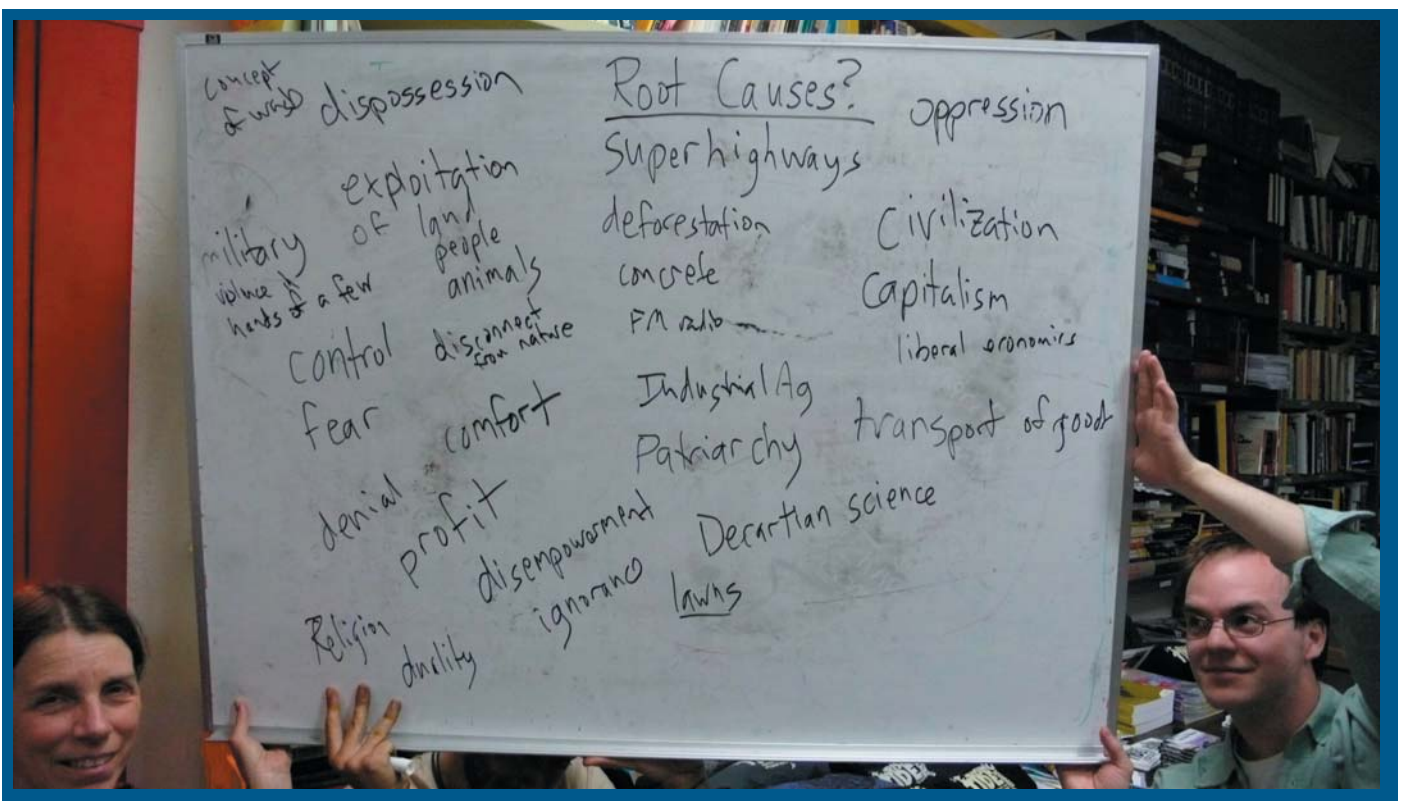


## making the links adventures with mind mapping

15 - 30 mins

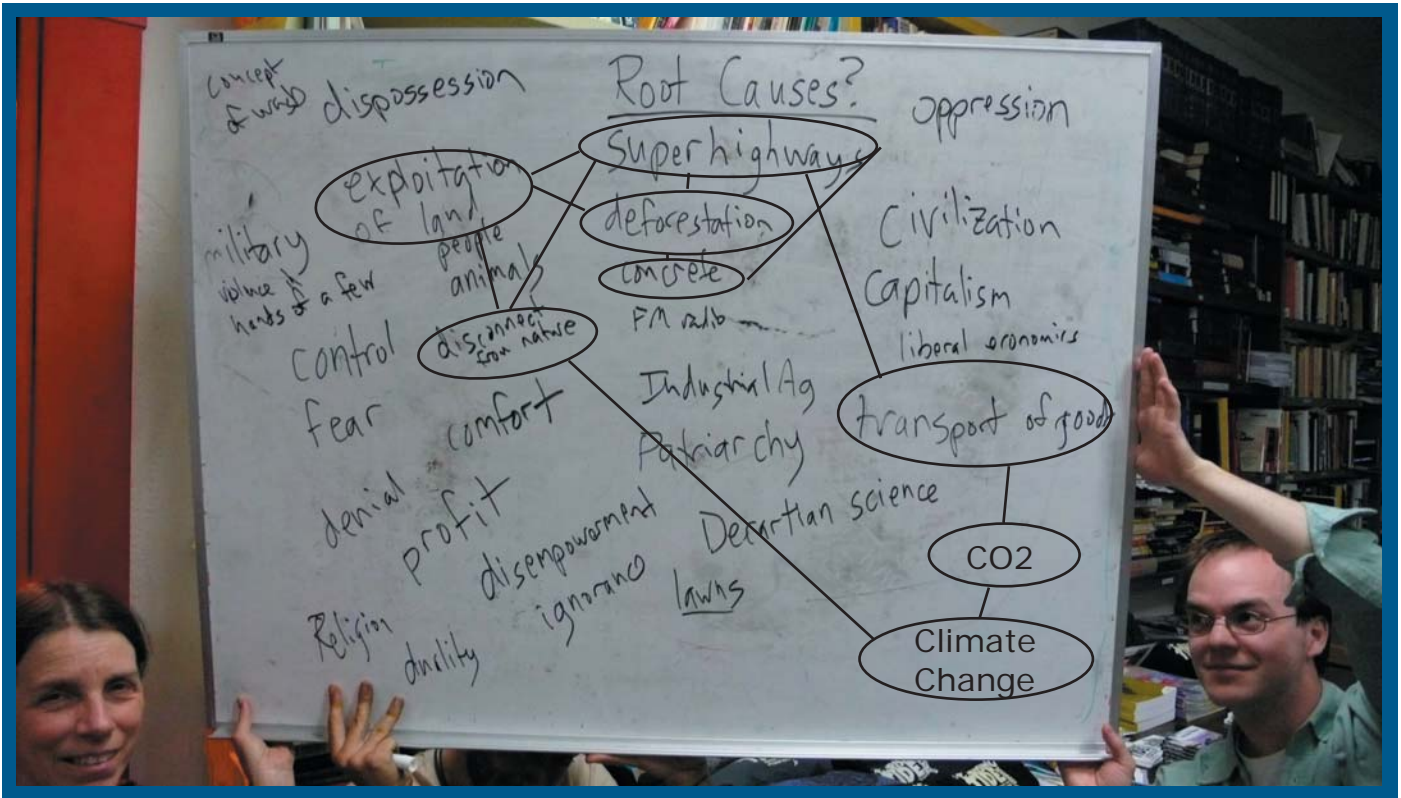
We love this exercise. It was developed along the road on the Rising Tide North America Spring Roadshow 2007. It can be stretched to be a whole workshop in itself or a major component. It is based around the idea of mind mapping. We've tried many different versions, gradually tweaking it each time. The inspiration came from many places, including the Beehive Collective (its similar to how they plan out their massive posters) and Trapese in Europe (links bleow).

Start by posing the question 'what are the root causes of climate change', popcorn style (calling them out when you they an idea), and writing what folks says up on a whiteboard. With the 'bigger' topics we encourage people to break them down a little.



## making the links adventures with mind mapping

Then, as an example, take one item from the white board and make a little mind map around the subject, linking to other topics around it, adding new things if needed.



Then we split everyone at the workshop up into four groups, each taking a piece of butcher paper (large paper) with a topic in the centre and a quarter circle in one corner with 'climate change'.

Topics we use:

- Industrial agriculture
- Fossil fuel extraction
- Colonisation
- Patriarchy

The groups are given about five minutes and asked to come up with mind maps around their subject including linking it with climate change.

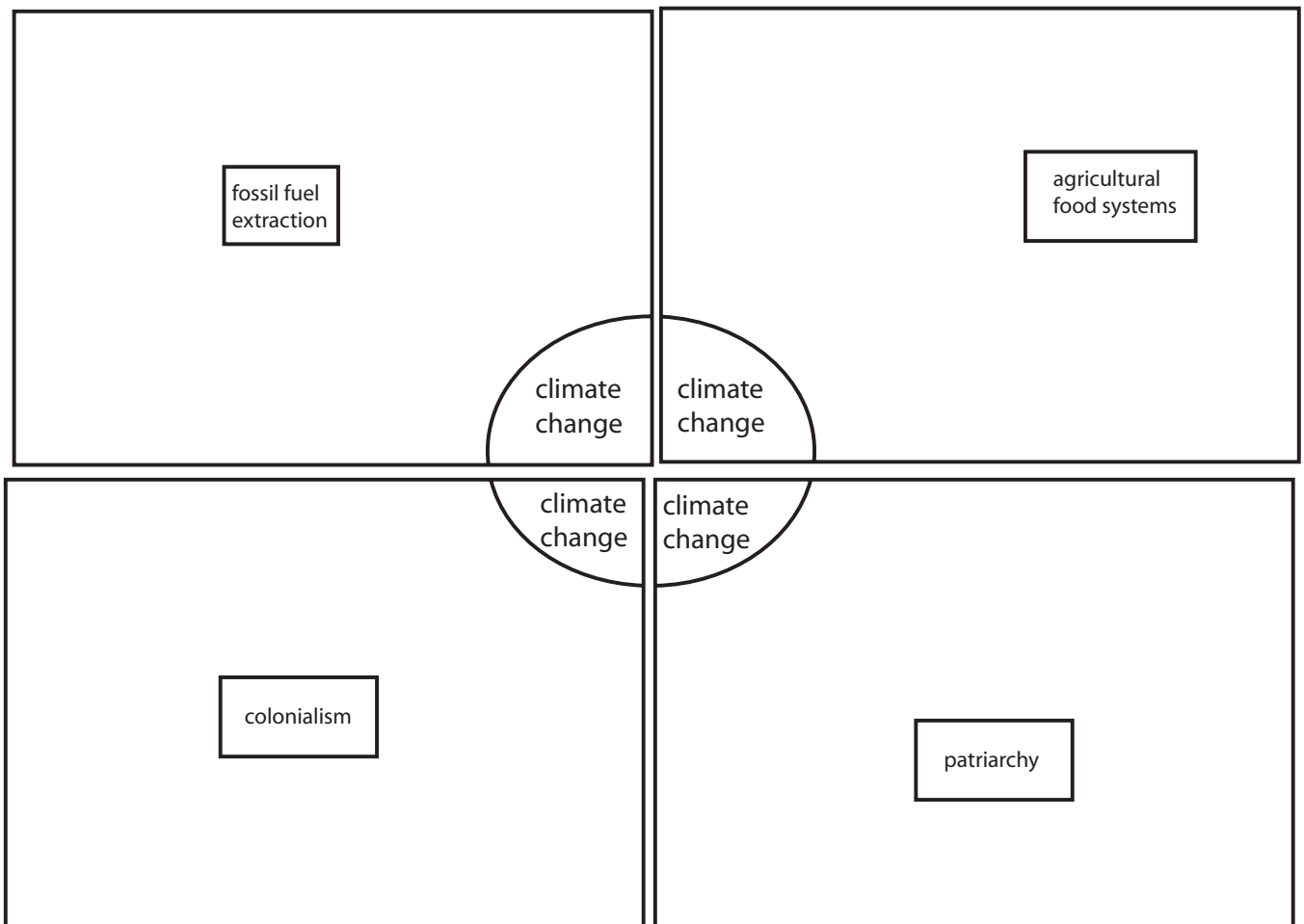
## making the links adventures with mind mapping

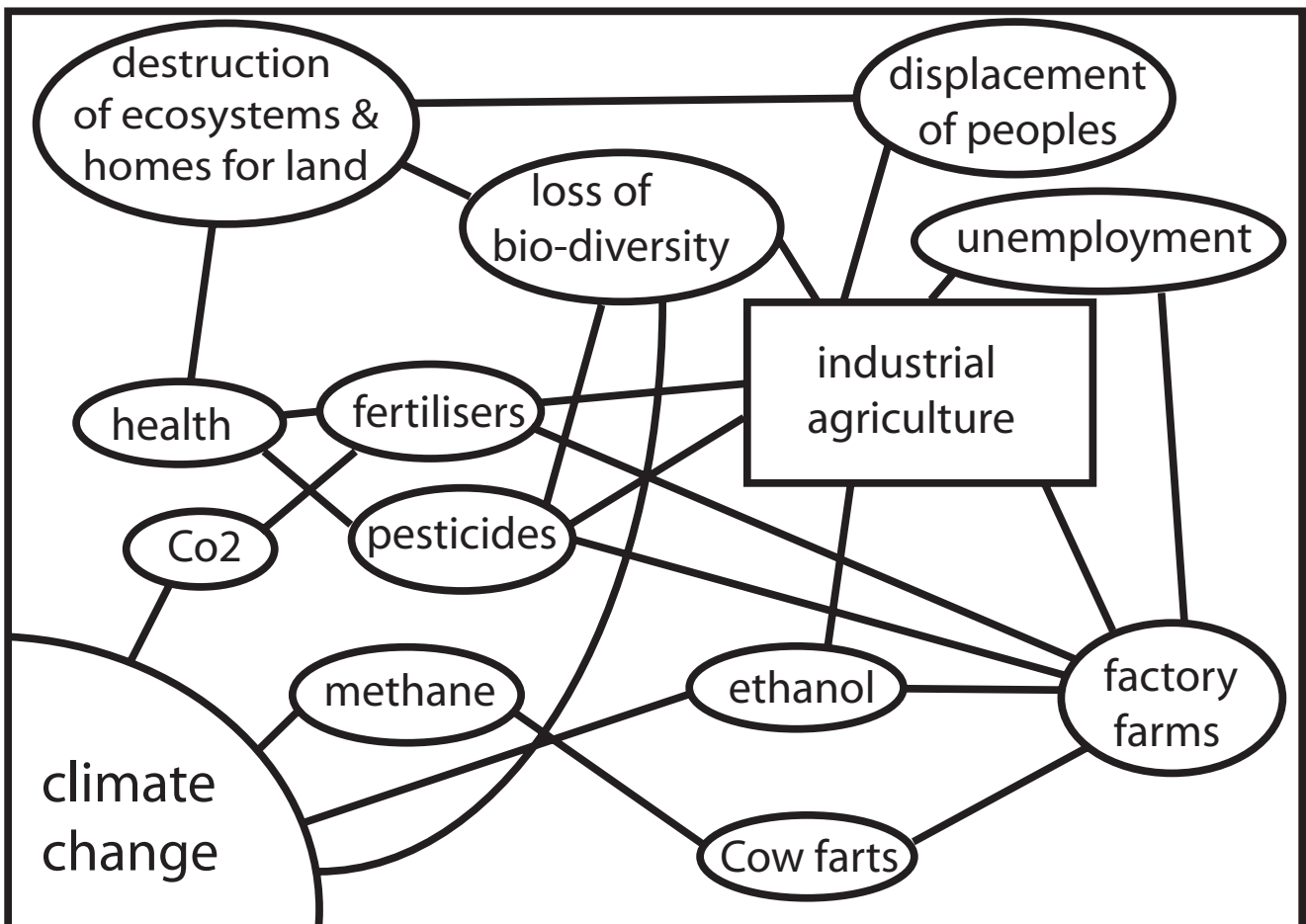
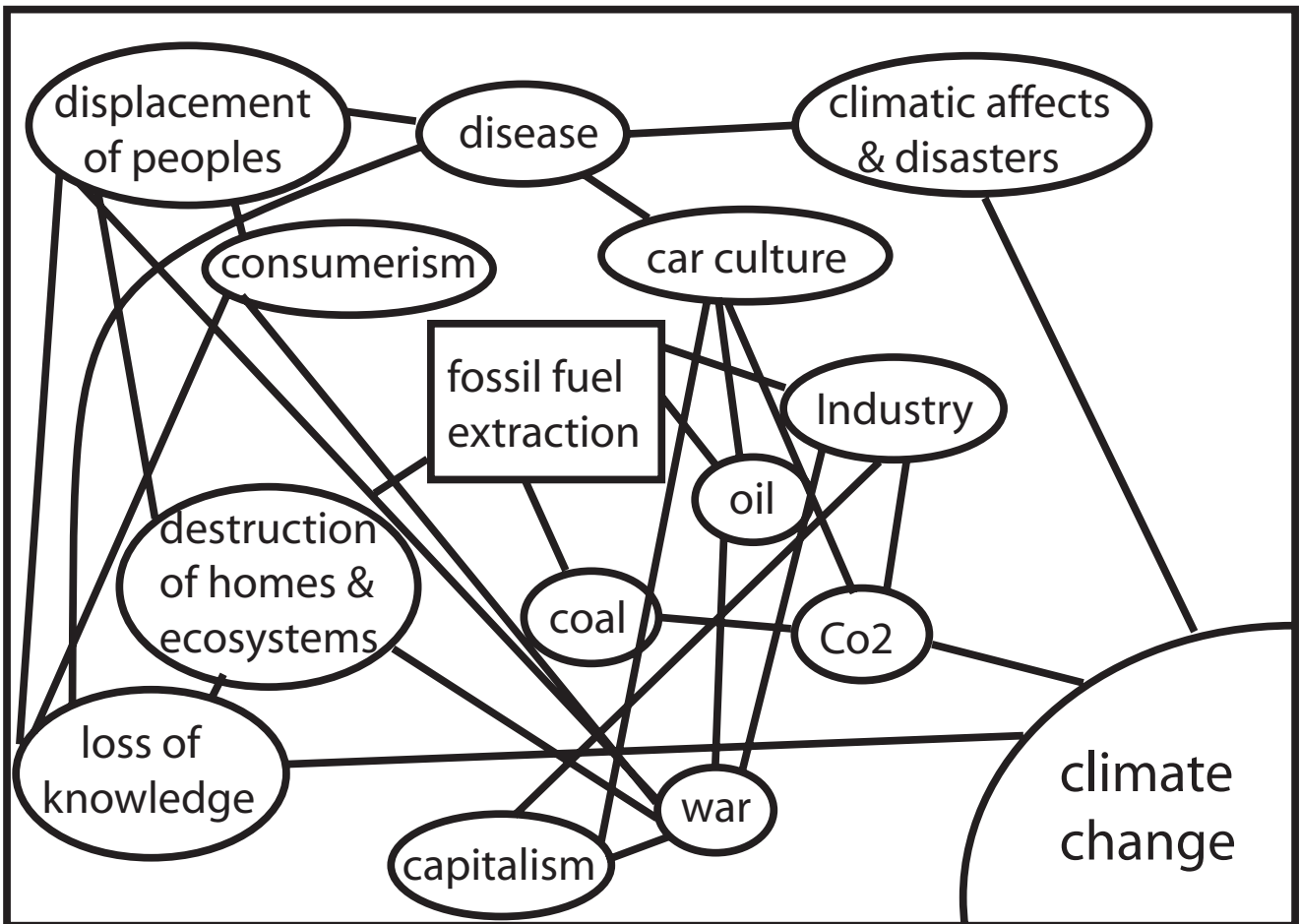
*We found it useful to have a facilitator in each group to scribe, as legibility for this exercise is important.*

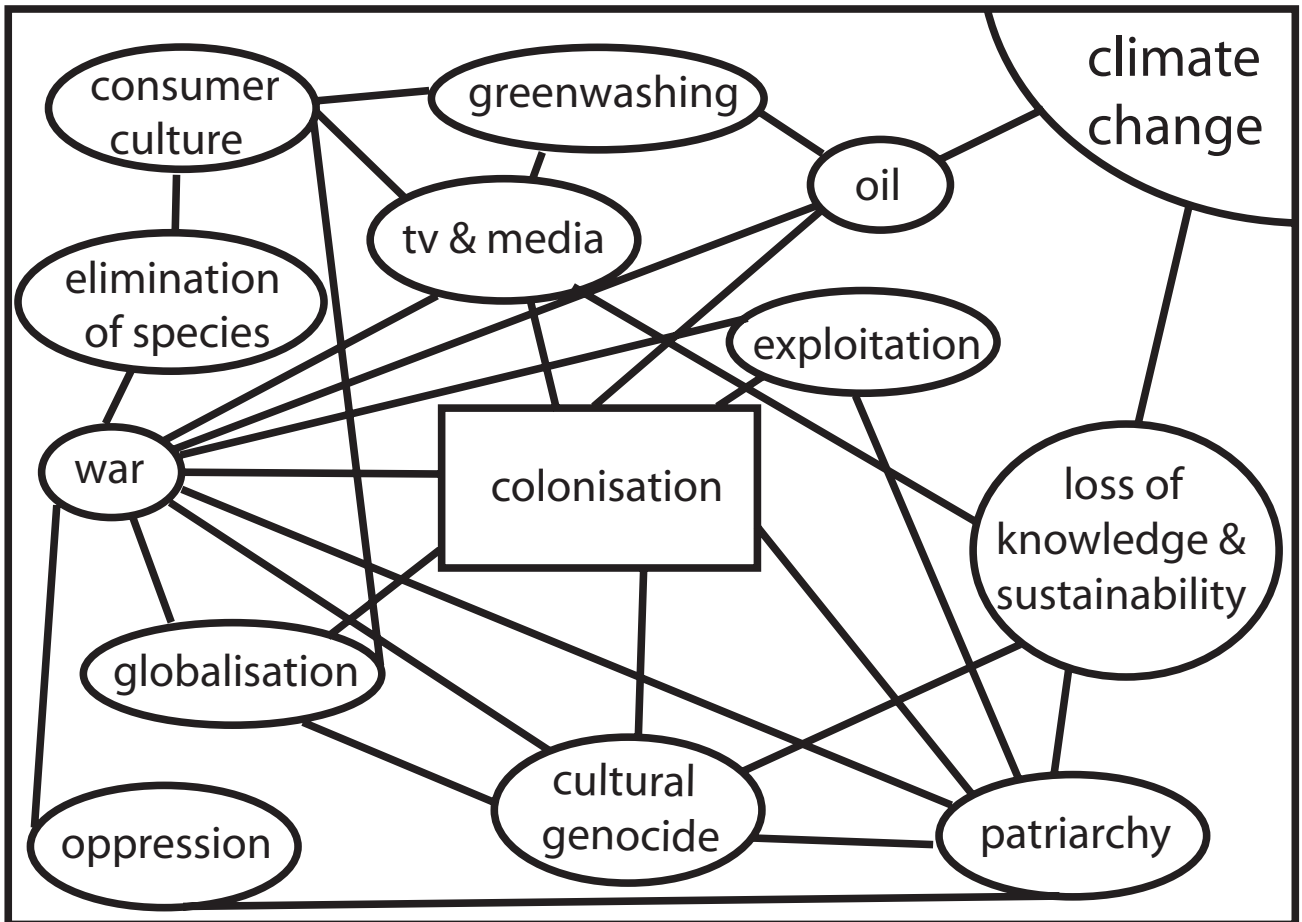
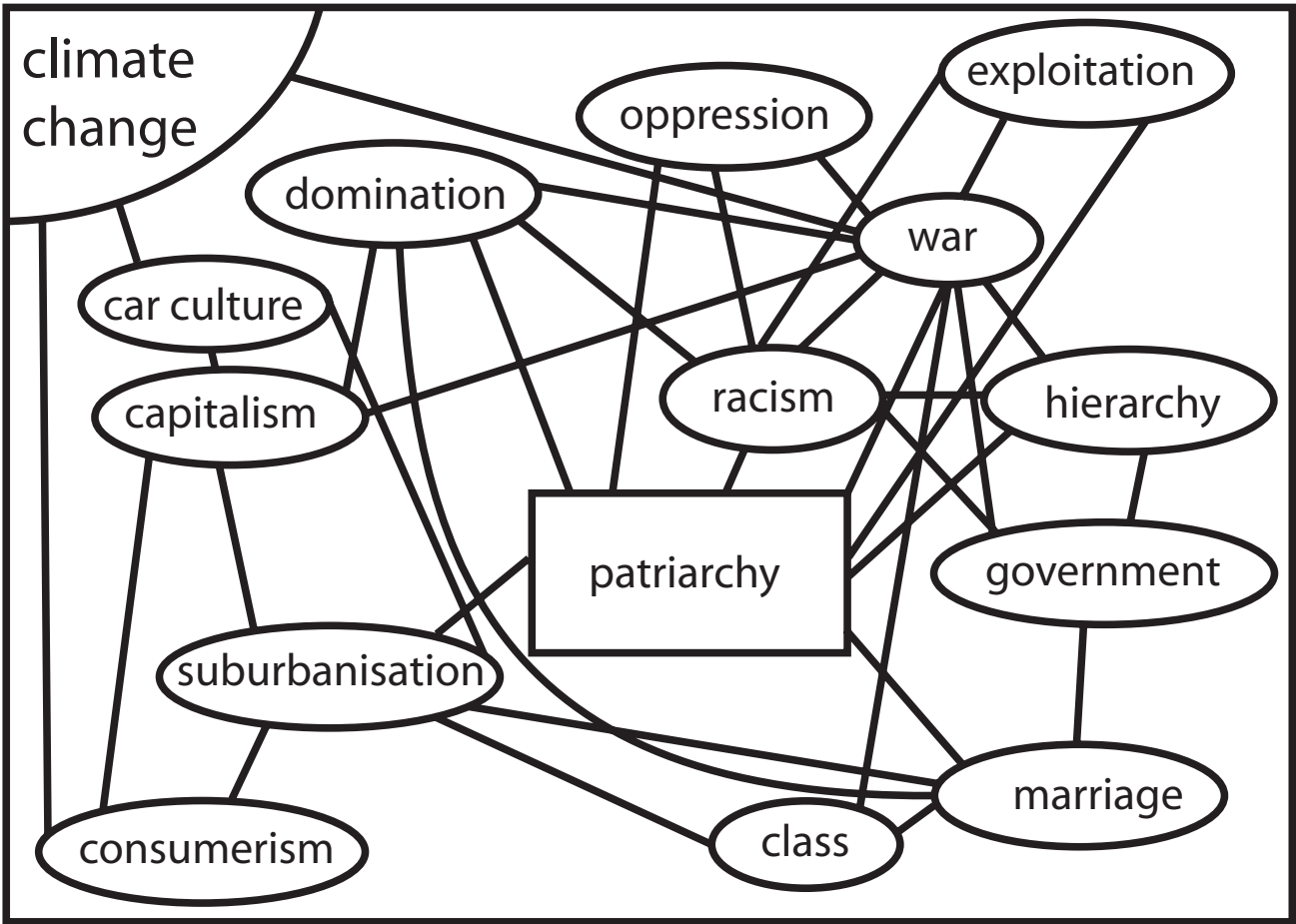
*If there is only one or two facilitators, you can suggest folks start with a discussion around their topic then you can jump from group to group to get them going.*

When your group has a map finished it helps to explain the next stage and find two volunteers to feed back to the main group.

On the following pages are examples of how it could look.. but it depends on the input from each group.









## making the links adventures with mind mapping

*It doesn't matter if there are links they miss.. it almost gets the point across further if folks are left thinking 'ooh! there is another link there, and there...'*

*Also, its OK when folks go crazy and start linking everything to everything and it really gets the 'everything's connected' idea across.*

At the same time as people are linking get someone else from the group to briefly explain how their groups mind map works.

Go around all four of the groups till it look a little like the map above.

### **Alternate ending:**

The Beehive collective suggested we if could get a really big board we could next put another ring of paper around the mindmap and map out solutions from all the problems/causes. If anyone manages this please send feedback!

Collectives mentioned:

[risingtidenorthamerica.org](http://risingtidenorthamerica.org)

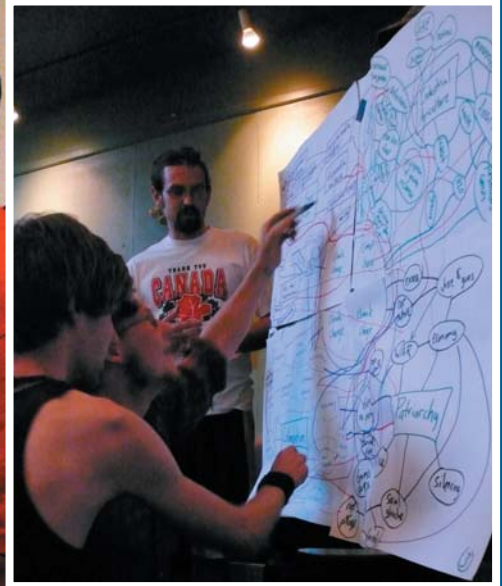
[www.beehivecollective.org](http://www.beehivecollective.org)

[trapeze.clearerchannel.org](http://trapeze.clearerchannel.org)

There is a film of a Rising Tide tour stop online, including this exercise at:  
[guelphsocialjustice.org/wiki/index.php/Rising\\_Tide](http://guelphsocialjustice.org/wiki/index.php/Rising_Tide)

For more information, feedback or reports on using this please contact [cookie@risingtide.org.uk](mailto:cookie@risingtide.org.uk)

Sophie Cooke  
Rising Tide  
June 2007  
[www.risingtide.org.uk](http://www.risingtide.org.uk)  
[risingtidenorthamerica.org](http://risingtidenorthamerica.org)  
[www.risingtide.org.au](http://www.risingtide.org.au)



Making the links in Guelph, Ontario, Canada

And at a high school in Ithaca, NY, USA



