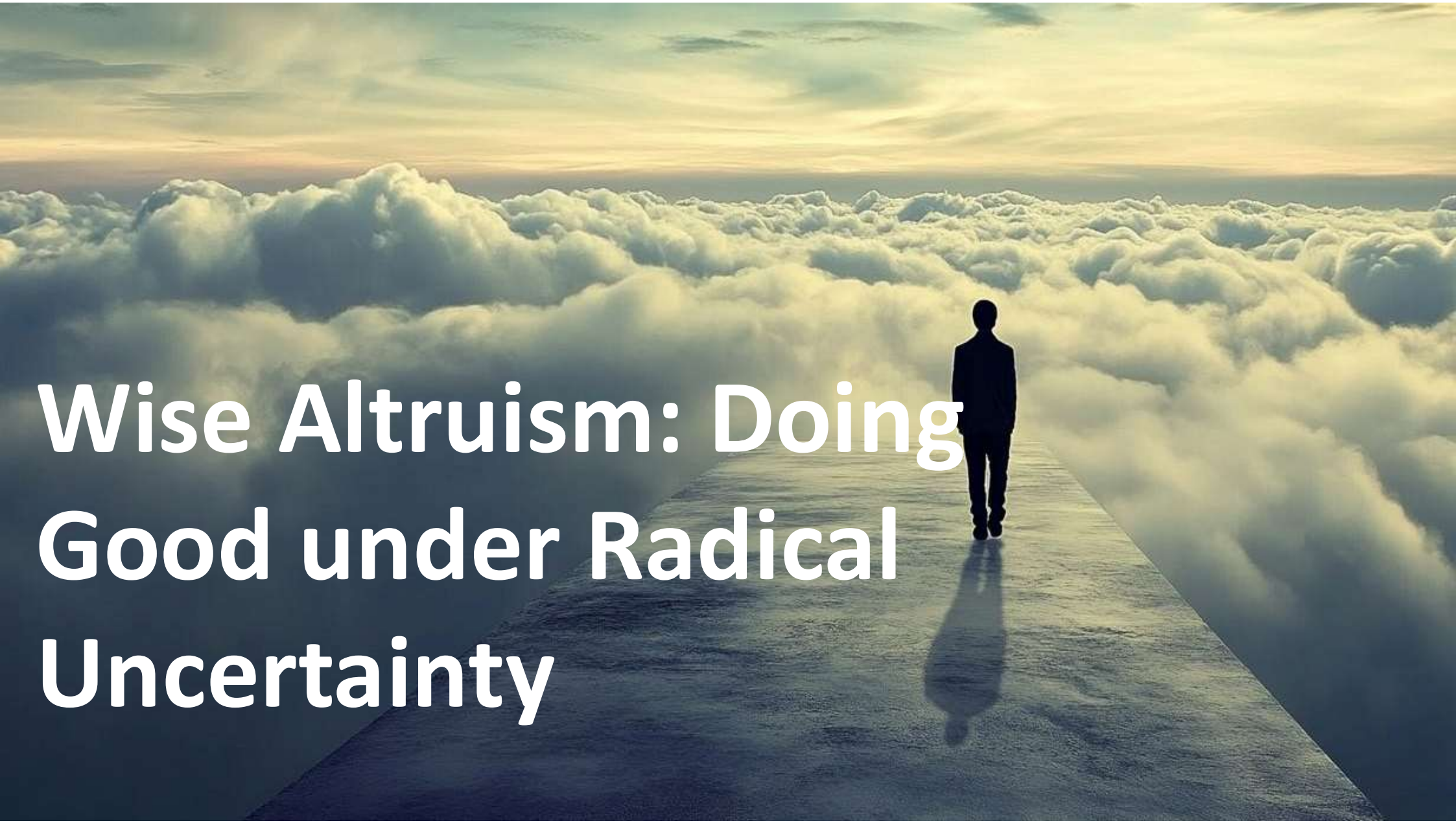

Wise Altruism: Doing Good under Radical Uncertainty

A practical question

- How to contribute to the world
- How to do the ‘most good’
- How to address global crises

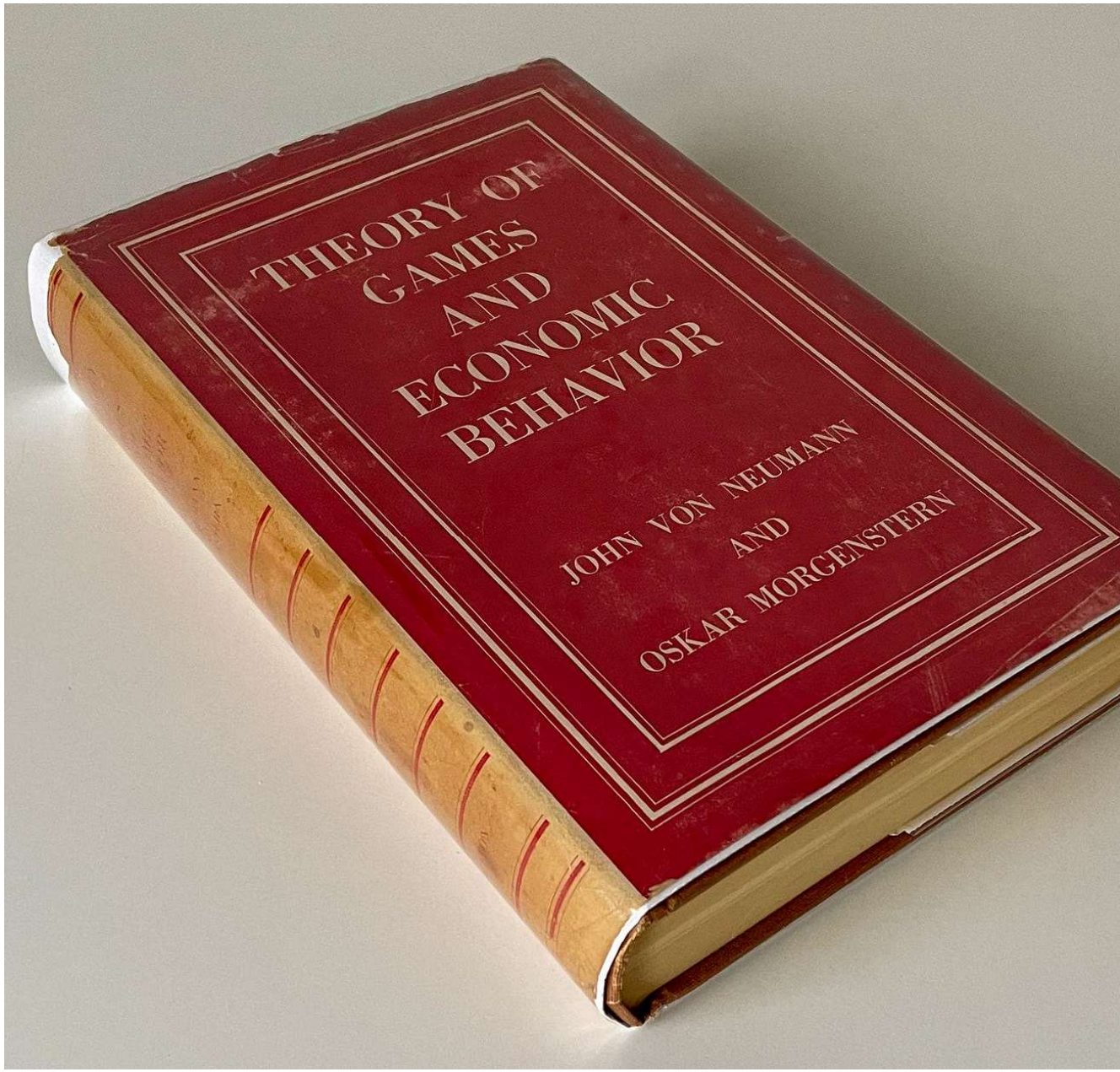
Effective Altruism: Decision theory

- Estimate likelihood and impact
- Calculate ‘expected utility’
- A response to uncertainty

Examples

Choosing between charities

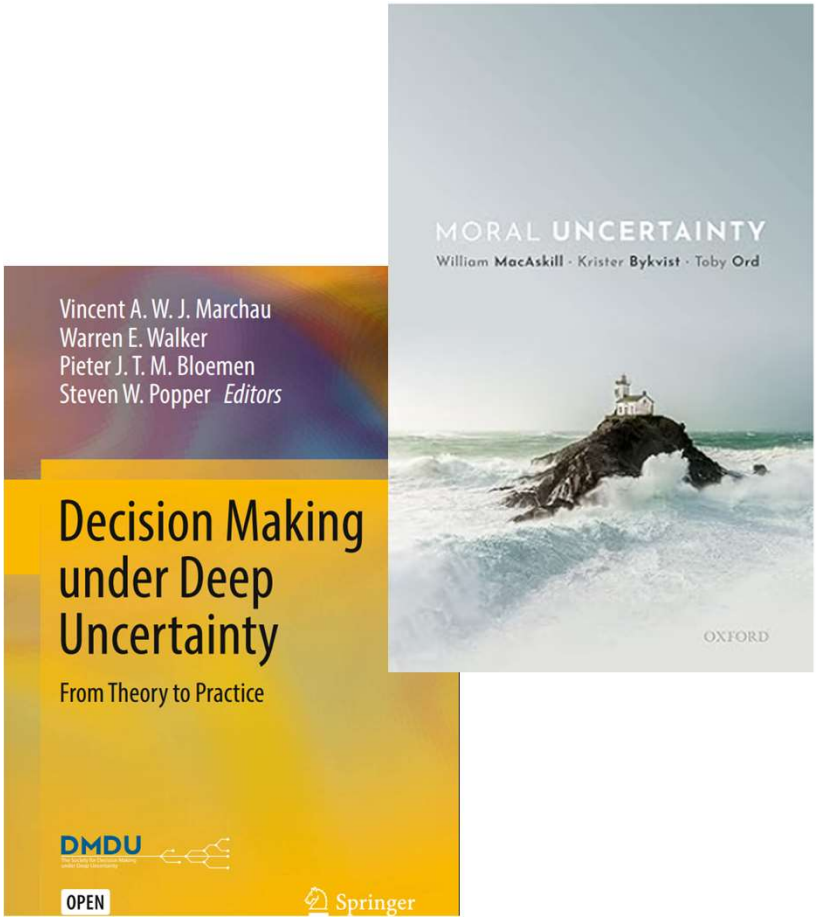
AI Risk: 10% chance of massive impact.



Deep uncertainty

- Moral uncertainty
- Model uncertainty
- Deep uncertainty

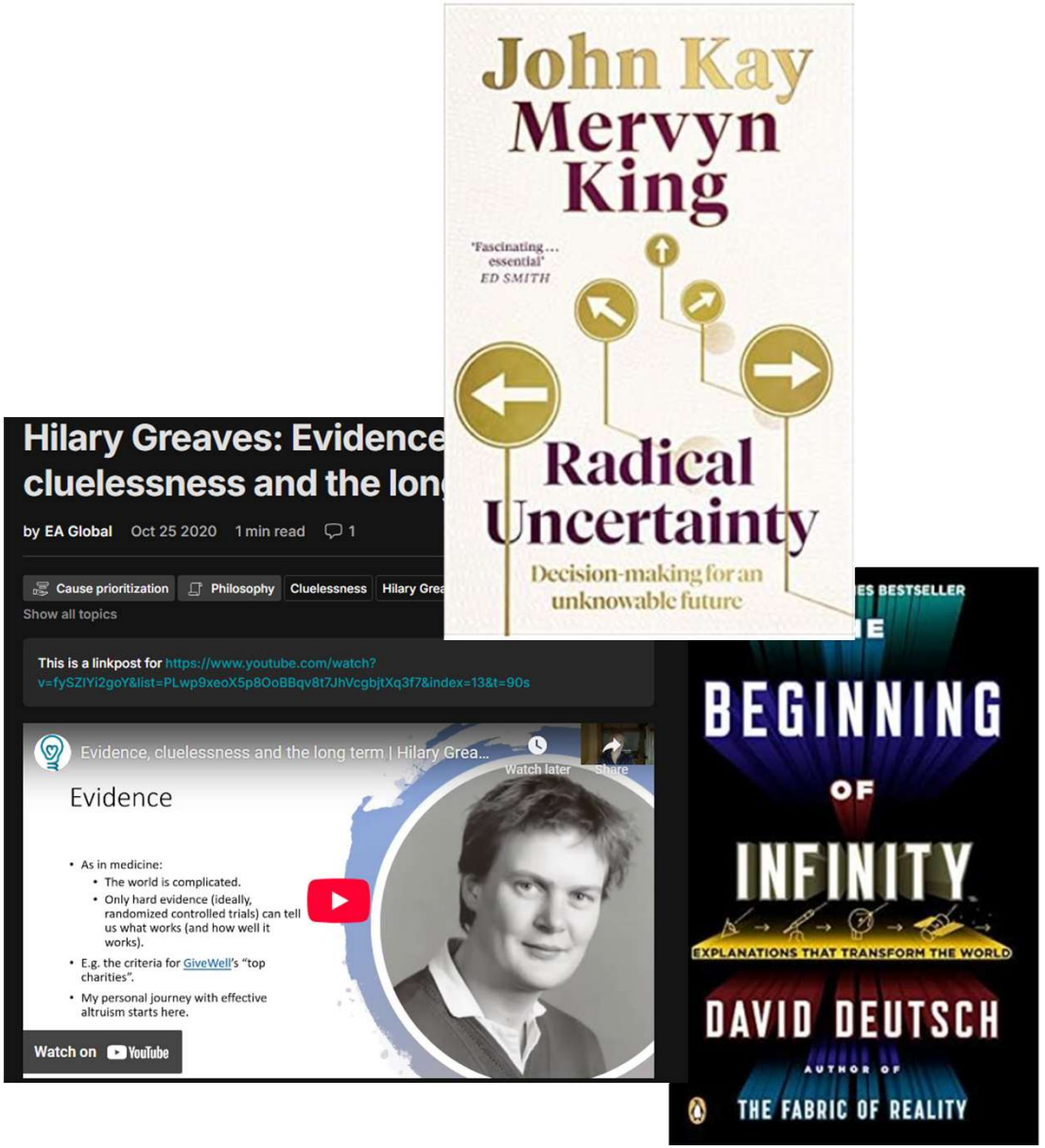
Attempt to address using quantitative methods?



Radical Uncertainty

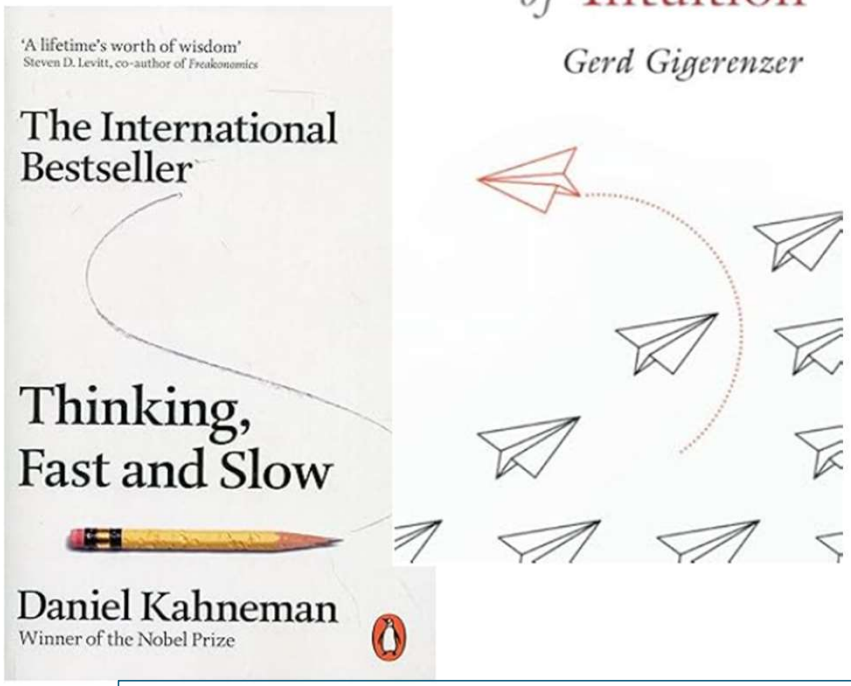
- Radical uncertainty
  - Unresolvable
  - Incompleteness
- Cluelessness
- Scientific discovery
- Complex systems

Limits of
quantitative methods



The Great Rationality Debate

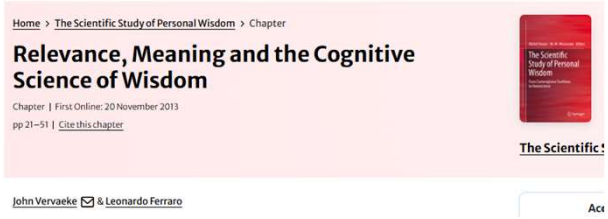
- Kahneman
  - System 1 (fast) vs System 2 (slow)
  - Use system 2 to correct system 1
- Gigerenzer
  - The intelligence of system 1
  - Ecological rationality
- Vervaeke & Riedl
  - Integration of both approaches

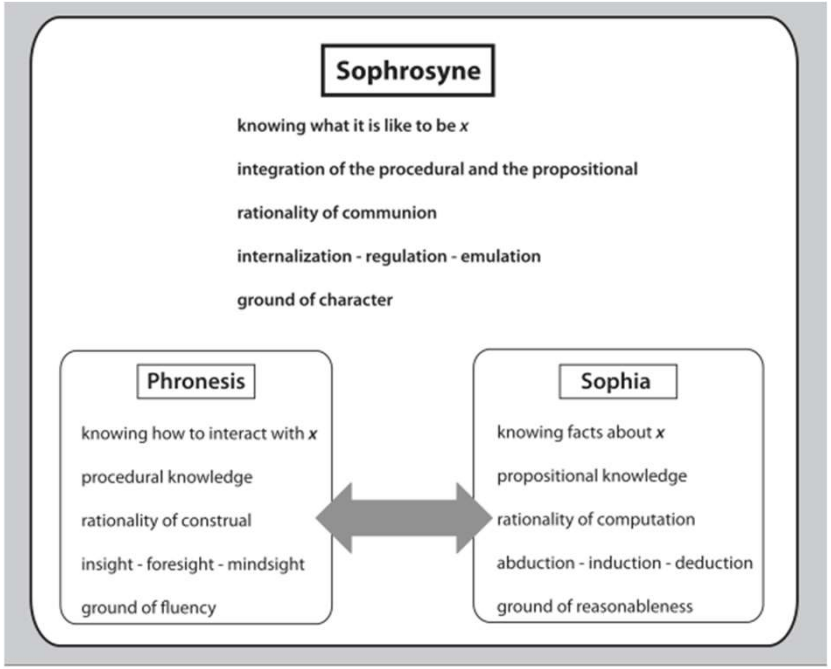


Rationality and Relevance Realization *[Submitted Version]*

Anna Riedl*, John Vervaeke

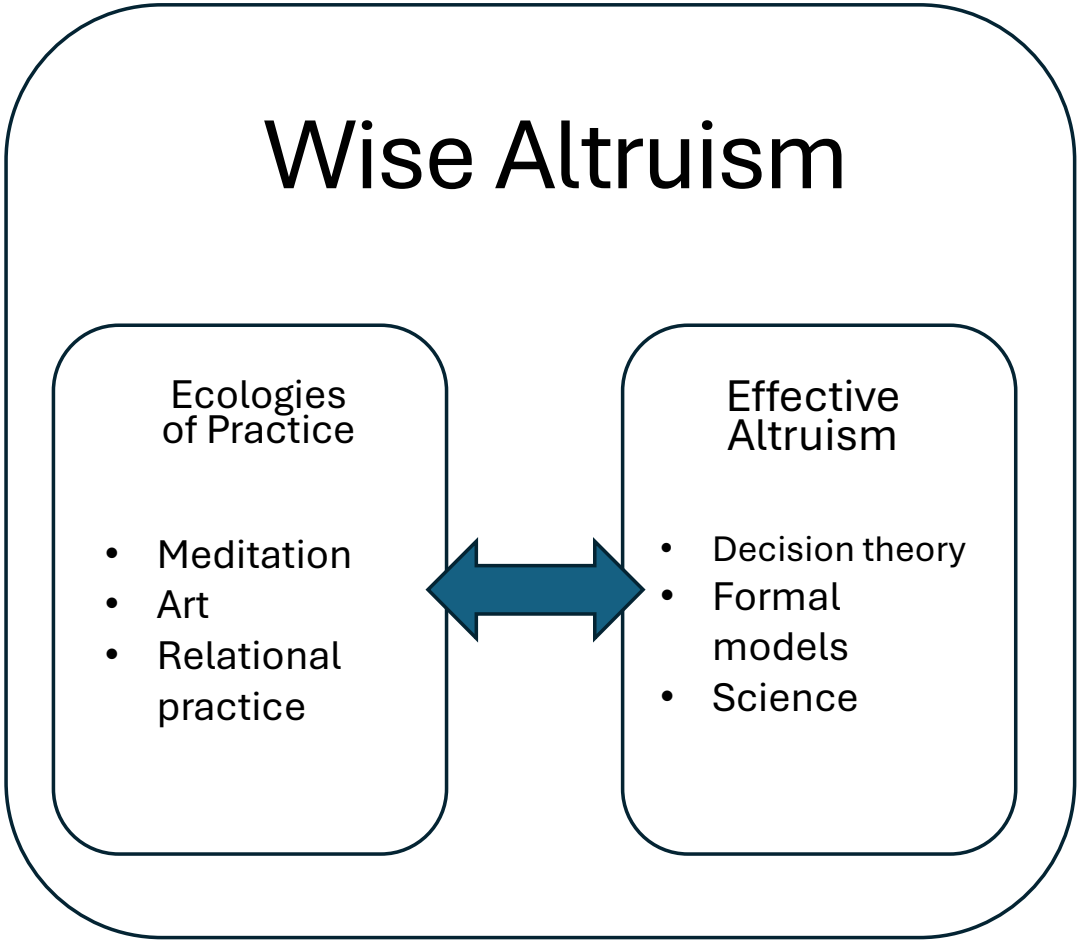
Cognitive Science of Wisdom





- Combinatorial explosion
- Solving the frame problem

Relevance Realisation (large world) ⟷ Formal Models (small world)


Wise Altruism
Ecologies of Practice
• Meditation
• Art
• Relational practice
Effective Altruism
• Decision theory
• Formal models
• Science