Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Review (JISSR) ISSN: 3078-8358
Vol. 4, Issue 1:2026

NeuroTectonic Theory (NTT): A Multilevel Connection Dynamics Framework for Understanding Sociopolitical Inflection

Dr. Mosi Dorbayani

Adjunct Professor at University Canada West.

Abstract

Contemporary societies are increasingly characterized by rapid technological disruption, ideological polarization, institutional instability, cultural fragmentation, and accelerating social change. While existing theories offer valuable insights into cognition, group behavior, political mobilization, institutional development, and social transformation, few frameworks systematically explain how interconnected psychological, social, cultural, organizational, legal, and political forces interact to produce critical sociopolitical inflection points. This article introduces **NeuroTectonic Theory (NTT)**, a multilevel connection dynamics framework designed to explain how tensions accumulate, propagate, and reorganize across human systems.

Drawing inspiration from social neuroscience, psychodynamics, network theory, complexity science, institutional analysis, and sociopolitical studies, NeuroTectonic Theory proposes that human systems consist of evolving connection structures that continuously converge, diverge, fragment, and realign. These dynamic interactions generate varying degrees of systemic pressure, which may eventually produce sociopolitical inflection points manifested through organizational transformation, social movements, political realignment, institutional restructuring, policy shifts, or cultural change.

The framework is organized into four interconnected analytical levels: Micro, Meso, Macro, and Meta. Together, these levels provide a comprehensive lens for understanding how psychological mechanisms, social relations, institutional arrangements, and emergent system properties interact to shape societal trajectories. Beyond theoretical explanation, NeuroTectonic Theory offers practical tools for individuals, organizations, and decision-makers seeking to anticipate, navigate, and adapt to sociopolitical shifts. The article concludes by outlining future research directions and proposing NeuroTectonic Theory as a foundational framework for the systematic study of connection dynamics and societal transformation.

Keywords: *NeuroTectonic Theory, Sociopolitical Inflection, Connection Dynamics, Social Neuroscience, Psychodynamics, Complexity Science, Systems Theory, Organizational Change*

ARTICLE INFO: Received: 18.07.2026 Accepted: 20.07.2026 Published: 22.08.2026

Introduction

Modern societies are experiencing an unprecedented convergence of technological acceleration, political polarization, shifting social identities, institutional disruption, demographic transformation, and information-driven complexity. These developments have exposed important limitations in existing explanatory frameworks. While psychology explains individual cognition, sociology explains group behavior, political science explains power structures, and complexity science explains systemic emergence, these perspectives often operate in relative isolation. Social Cognitive Theory emphasizes reciprocal interactions among cognition, behavior, and environment (Bandura, 2001), ecological approaches highlight multilevel influences on human development (Bronfenbrenner, 1979), and systems perspectives emphasize interconnectedness and feedback (Meadows, 2008). Nevertheless, contemporary scholarship lacks an integrated framework that systematically explains how these domains interact to produce sociopolitical inflection.

Major societal transformations rarely originate within a single domain. Rather, they emerge from interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, narratives, governance structures, and collective identities. Institutional scholars have long argued that organizations and societies are shaped by complex interdependencies among actors, norms, and structures (Scott, 2014), while complexity scholars emphasize emergence and nonlinear adaptation (Uhl-Bien et al., 2007). Understanding such

transformations therefore requires a framework capable of capturing the dynamic interdependence among multiple levels of human systems.

NeuroTectonic Theory (NTT) is proposed as a response to this challenge.

NTT defines sociopolitical inflection as a critical transition in which accumulated tensions within interconnected human systems lead to observable shifts in collective behavior, institutional arrangements, governance structures, social identities, or cultural narratives. Rather than treating these transitions as isolated events, NTT conceptualizes them as manifestations of deeper connection dynamics operating across multiple levels of analysis.

The term *NeuroTectonic* combines two complementary ideas. The term *neuro* does not refer narrowly to biological brain processes but rather to the broader cognitive and relational mechanisms through which humans perceive, interpret, and respond to their social environments. The term *tectonic* reflects the continual movement, friction, convergence, divergence, and reconfiguration of human connections that, over time, generate pressure and transformation. Similar to geological systems, sociopolitical systems may appear stable while significant tensions accumulate beneath the surface. When these tensions reach critical thresholds, periods of rapid reorganization can occur.

At its core, NTT proposes that:

Human systems evolve through the continuous reconfiguration of connection structures across psychological, social, cultural, institutional, legal, and political domains. These evolving structures generate dynamic patterns of interaction that shape collective outcomes and societal trajectories. To understand these processes, NTT introduces five foundational constructs and four interconnected levels of analysis: Micro, Meso, Macro, and Meta.

Theoretical and Analytical Architecture of NeuroTectonic:

NeuroTectonic Theory consists of two complementary components. The first is a theoretical component that explains how sociopolitical transformation emerges through the interaction of connection fields, tectonic pressure, fault lines, reconfiguration events, and inflection states. Together, these constructs define the causal logic of the theory and describe the mechanisms through which sociopolitical systems evolve.

The second component is an analytical framework that organizes these dynamics across four interconnected levels of analysis: Micro, Meso, Macro, and Meta. The framework provides a structured

method for examining where connection dynamics originate, how they propagate, and how they ultimately influence collective outcomes.

In this sense, NeuroTectonic Theory provides the explanatory model, while the Multilevel Connection Dynamics Framework provides the analytical lens through which the theory can be applied, examined, and operationalized.

Component	Purpose
NeuroTectonic Theory	Explains why sociopolitical transformation occurs.
Core Constructs	Define the causal mechanisms of change.
Multilevel Connection Dynamics Framework	Provides an analytical structure for studying those mechanisms.
NeuroTectonic Navigation Model	Provides practical application for decision-makers.

Table 1: Distinction and Navigation

Core Constructs of NeuroTectonic Theory

Five foundational constructs define the framework:

1. ***Connection Fields:***

Networks of relationships among individuals, groups, institutions, identities, narratives, and systems.

Connection Fields constitute the relational architecture of human systems. They describe the web of interactions through which information, influence, trust, resources, meanings, and power circulate across society. Within NTT, connection fields are not static structures but dynamic and evolving networks whose continual reconfiguration shapes collective behavior, institutional adaptation, and sociopolitical transformation. Understanding these fields allows researchers and decision-makers to identify emerging tensions, latent fault lines, and potential pathways of systemic change.

Tectonic Pressure:

Accumulated tension generated by unresolved contradictions, competing interests, identity conflicts, structural inequalities, or institutional misalignment.

Tectonic Pressure refers to the buildup of strain within and between connection fields as individuals, groups, institutions, and sociocultural systems confront competing demands, incompatible expectations, and unresolved tensions. Often developing gradually and remaining largely hidden from immediate observation, tectonic pressure reflects the system's growing imbalance between stability and adaptation. Within NTT, it functions as the primary driving force behind fault line formation, reconfiguration events,

and eventual sociopolitical inflection. The magnitude, distribution, and duration of tectonic pressure help determine both the probability and the nature of systemic change.

2. ***Fault Lines:***

Latent zones of vulnerability where social, cultural, organizational, or political tensions concentrate.

Fault Lines are areas of concentrated strain within connection fields where competing interests, identities, narratives, or institutional arrangements intersect but remain unresolved. They mark the boundaries along which tectonic pressure accumulates and where systems become increasingly susceptible to disruption, fragmentation, or transformation. Within NTT, fault lines serve as early indicators of potential instability, helping researchers, leaders, and policymakers identify where emerging tensions may eventually manifest as organizational crises, social unrest, political realignment, or institutional change.

3. ***Reconfiguration Events:***

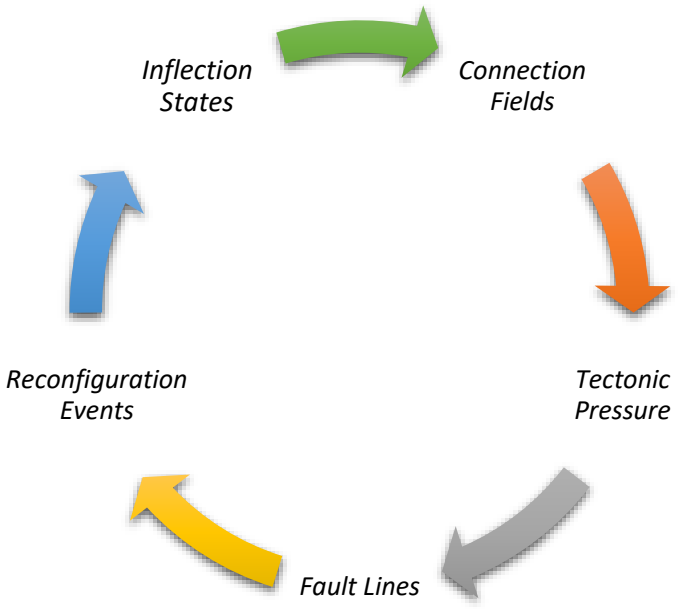
Catalytic events that trigger significant changes in connection structures.

Reconfiguration Events occur when accumulated tectonic pressure is released through shifts in the relationships, alignments, or interactions that define a connection field. These events act as catalysts for systemic adaptation, disrupting established patterns and initiating new configurations of influence, identity, cooperation, conflict, or governance. Within NTT, reconfiguration events function as the mechanisms through which underlying tensions become observable, setting the stage for broader sociopolitical transformation and the emergence of new system trajectories.

4. ***Inflection States:***

Critical transition points through which systems adopt new trajectories.

Inflection States occur when changes triggered by reconfiguration events become sufficiently significant to alter the broader direction of a social, organizational, institutional, or political system. They represent moments of systemic transition in which previously dominant patterns give way to new configurations of relationships, influence, identity, governance, or collective behavior. Within NTT, inflection states are not merely episodes of change; they are turning points that reshape future possibilities and establish the conditions from which subsequent connection fields emerge. Hence, all the above presents the following dynamic cyclical model: *Connection Fields → Tectonic Pressure → Fault Lines → Reconfiguration Events → Inflection States → New Connection Fields.*



©Mosi Dorbayani NeuroTectonic Theory (NTT), The Core Constructs Cycle (2026)

Collectively, these core constructs form the conceptual engine of NeuroTectonic Theory. Yet sociopolitical inflection does not emerge from any single individual, group, institution, or system. It arises through the interaction of multiple layers of human reality, each contributing unique pressures, relationships, and adaptive responses. To capture this complexity, NTT is organized around four interconnected levels of analysis: Micro, Meso, Macro, and Meta. Together, these levels provide a structured framework for examining how connection dynamics originate, accumulate, propagate, and ultimately reshape sociopolitical systems. In this way, NeuroTectonic Theory seeks not only to explain change, but also to illuminate the pathways through which transformation becomes possible.

The Four Levels of NeuroTectonic Analysis

Micro Level:

The micro level focuses on the individual person as both creator and recipient of social influence. Within NTT, this is examined through Social Neuroscience, Cultural Neuroscience, Cognitive Psychology, and Psychodynamics.

- ***Social Neuroscience:***

Individuals continuously interpret social signals through mechanisms associated with trust, belonging, cooperation, threat perception, and collective engagement.

Social neuroscience demonstrates that human beings are fundamentally social actors whose cognitive and emotional processes are deeply influenced by their relationships and perceived position within social networks (Lieberman, 2013). Within NTT, these mechanisms help explain how individuals experience connection, disconnection, inclusion, and exclusion, as well as how emerging patterns of trust and perceived threat can contribute to broader shifts in collective behavior and sociopolitical dynamics.

- ***Cultural Neuroscience:***

Cultural contexts influence perception, cognition, values, and behavioral responses, shaping how individuals understand social realities (Dorbayani, 2019).

Within NTT, culture functions as a powerful influence on how individuals interpret social events, form identities, establish relationships, and respond to change. Consequently, shifts in cultural values and narratives can significantly influence connection dynamics and the emergence of broader sociopolitical transformations.

- ***Cognitive Psychology:***

Mental models, biases, heuristics, memory structures, and decision processes influence how individuals interpret emerging sociopolitical conditions.

Within NTT, these cognitive processes influence how individuals interpret events, evaluate risks, form beliefs, and respond to change. As differing mental models interact within broader connection fields, they can reinforce social cohesion, generate misunderstanding, or contribute to the accumulation of tectonic pressure within sociopolitical systems.

- ***Psychodynamics:***

Conscious and unconscious motivations influence attachment, identity formation, group loyalty, fear responses, projection, and resistance to change.

Psychodynamics recognizes that human behavior is influenced not only by conscious beliefs and intentions but also by underlying emotional processes, unresolved tensions, identity needs, and unconscious motivations. These forces often shape how individuals perceive threats, form attachments, defend group identities, and respond to social or political change (Dorbayani, 2025). Within NTT, psychodynamic processes help explain why connection fields often remain stable despite objective pressures, as well as why seemingly minor events can provoke disproportionate reactions when they activate deeper fears, loyalties, aspirations, or collective anxieties. In this sense, tectonic pressure is not only structural or institutional but also psychological, accumulating within both individuals and groups before manifesting as broader sociopolitical transformation.

Collectively, the micro level explains how sociopolitical pressures are experienced and internalized by individuals.

Meso Level:

The meso level examines relationships among people and groups.

- ***Group Dynamics:***

Groups create norms, expectations, alliances, conflicts, and collective behavior patterns.

Group dynamics refer to the social processes through which individuals interact, coordinate, influence one another, and develop shared understandings of reality. These interactions shape collective identities, behavioral norms, and patterns of cooperation or conflict. Within NTT, group dynamics function as a key mechanism through which connection fields are strengthened, weakened, or reconfigured, thereby influencing the emergence of fault lines, reconfiguration events, and broader sociopolitical change.

- ***Social Identity:***

Individuals derive meaning and belonging through group affiliations that influence cooperation and polarization.

Social Identity Theory suggests that a significant portion of an individual's self-concept is derived from perceived membership in social groups (Tajfel & Turner, 1979; Ashforth & Mael, 1989). These affiliations help shape values, loyalties, beliefs, and behavioral expectations while fostering a sense of belonging and collective purpose. Within NTT, social identities function as important components of connection fields, influencing how individuals form alliances, interpret social realities, respond to perceived threats, and engage with competing narratives. As identities strengthen, overlap, or come into conflict, they can reinforce social cohesion or contribute to the development of fault lines and the accumulation of tectonic pressure within broader sociopolitical systems.

- ***Organizational Behavior:***

Organizations serve as nodes where competing interests, values, and objectives converge.

Organizational behavior examines how individuals and groups interact within structured environments shaped by culture, power, leadership, and institutional expectations (Scott, 2014). Within NTT, organizations are viewed as strategic connection hubs where social, economic, cultural, and political forces intersect. Because organizations frequently mediate between individuals and larger institutions,

they often become focal points for emerging fault lines, adaptive responses, and reconfiguration events that signal broader sociopolitical transformation.

- ***Network Theory:***

Patterns of connectivity determine how information, resources, trust, and influence flow throughout systems.

Network Theory focuses on the relationships that connect individuals, groups, organizations, and institutions into larger social systems. The structure, strength, and distribution of these connections significantly influence communication, collaboration, resilience, and collective behavior (Granovetter, 1973; Wasserman & Faust, 1994). Within NTT, network structures serve as the visible architecture of connection fields, shaping the formation of alliances, the diffusion of ideas, the concentration of influence, and the transmission of sociopolitical pressures. As networks evolve through processes of reinforcement, fragmentation, convergence, or realignment, they create the conditions from which fault lines, reconfiguration events, and systemic transformation may emerge.

Collectively, the meso level explains how localized interactions generate broader patterns of social organization.

Macro Level:

The macro level focuses on institutions and societal structures.

- ***Law:***

Legal frameworks codify social expectations and regulate collective interactions.

Law serves as one of society's primary mechanisms for organizing relationships, resolving disputes, establishing rights, and maintaining order. By translating shared values, norms, and expectations into formal rules, legal systems help shape the boundaries within which individuals, organizations, and institutions operate. Within NTT, law functions as both a stabilizer and a mediator of connection dynamics, influencing how tensions are managed, how conflicts are addressed, and how competing interests are balanced. When legal frameworks align with evolving social realities, they can reduce tectonic pressure; when they lag behind societal change, they may contribute to the formation of fault lines and the emergence of sociopolitical inflection points.

- ***Institutions:***

Educational, political, economic, religious, and corporate institutions shape social stability and adaptation.

Institutions are the enduring systems through which societies organize expectations, coordinate behavior, and maintain legitimacy (Scott, 2014). They influence how individuals and groups interact, how resources are distributed, and how collective challenges are addressed (Dorbayani, 2026). Within NTT, institutions serve as major nodes within connection fields, shaping the flow of influence, authority, norms, and social trust. Their capacity to adapt to emerging pressures often determines whether sociopolitical tensions are resolved, redirected, or intensified into broader systemic transformation.

- ***Political Psychology:***

Collective perceptions of legitimacy, leadership, authority, and identity influence political behavior.

Political psychology examines the relationship between psychological processes and political outcomes, highlighting how identity, emotion, cognition, and social attachment influence political attitudes and behavior (Jost et al., 2009). Within NTT, these factors shape how individuals and groups interpret political realities, respond to leadership, evaluate institutions, and engage in collective action. As perceptions of legitimacy and belonging evolve, they influence the stability of connection fields and contribute to the emergence of fault lines, reconfiguration events, and sociopolitical inflection states.

- ***Social Movements:***

Movements emerge when connection structures become sufficiently aligned around shared grievances or aspirations.

Social movements reflect the collective mobilization of individuals and groups around common causes, identities, values, or perceived injustices. Within NTT, they represent moments when connection fields become sufficiently interconnected and synchronized to transform dispersed concerns into coordinated action. Social movements often signal the release of accumulated tectonic pressure and can act as catalysts for institutional adaptation, political realignment, legal reform, or broader sociopolitical inflection.

- ***Governance Systems:***

Governance mechanisms function as stabilizers or accelerators of sociopolitical transformation.

The macro level explains how large-scale structures both shape and respond to societal pressures.

Governance systems provide the structures and processes through which collective decisions are made, conflicts are managed, and societal priorities are coordinated. Within NeuroTectonic Theory, governance influences how connection fields, institutions, and social actors respond to emerging pressures and disruptions. Effective governance can channel tension into constructive adaptation, while ineffective governance may permit pressures to accumulate and intensify. Consequently, governance systems play a pivotal role in determining whether sociopolitical change unfolds gradually through adaptation or abruptly through inflection and reconfiguration.

Collectively, the macro level illuminates how large-scale structures both shape and respond to societal pressures. Laws, institutions, social movements, and governance systems not only influence the flow of connection dynamics but are themselves transformed by those dynamics over time. Yet sociopolitical systems are more than the sum of their structures and actors. To fully understand how localized interactions produce broad societal transformation, it is necessary to examine the higher-order processes through which complexity, emergence, and adaptation operate across entire systems. This broader perspective is captured within the Meta Level of NeuroTectonic Theory.

Meta Level:

The meta level addresses the behavior of human systems as complex adaptive systems.

❖ *Complexity Science:*

System outcomes are often nonlinear and difficult to predict through simple cause-and-effect relationships.

Complexity science suggests that human systems operate through dynamic interactions among many interconnected actors, relationships, and feedback processes, making outcomes inherently difficult to predict through linear reasoning alone (Meadows, 2008; Uhl-Bien et al., 2007). Within NTT, complexity provides a lens for understanding how localized shifts within connection fields can generate cascading effects across larger sociopolitical systems. Consequently, inflection states often emerge not from a single cause, but from the cumulative interaction of multiple forces operating across levels and over time.

❖ *Systems Theory:*

Human systems consist of interconnected subsystems with feedback loops and mutual dependencies.

Systems Theory views society as a network of interconnected components whose behaviors, decisions, and outcomes are shaped by their relationships rather than by isolated actions alone (Meadows, 2008). Changes occurring within one part of a system often generate ripple effects throughout other parts, creating feedback loops that can either reinforce stability or amplify disruption.

Within NTT, systems thinking provides an essential lens for understanding how connection fields interact across psychological, social, organizational, institutional, and political domains. Because these domains are mutually dependent, pressures accumulating in one area can influence seemingly unrelated parts of the system, contributing to the emergence of fault lines, reconfiguration events, and inflection states.

- ***Emergence:***

Collective outcomes often arise that cannot be explained solely by examining individual actors.

Emergence describes the process through which interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and systems generate novel patterns and outcomes that transcend the intentions or actions of any single actor (Westley et al., 2006; Meadows, 2008).

Within NTT, emergence explains how seemingly isolated changes within connection fields can combine to produce broader societal shifts, unexpected alliances, institutional adaptations, or transformative sociopolitical inflection points. In this sense, societal transformation is often an emergent property of evolving connection dynamics rather than the direct result of a single event, leader, or decision.

- ***Adaptive Change:***

Long-term survival depends upon continuous adaptation to changing internal and external conditions.

Adaptive change describes the ongoing process through which individuals, organizations, institutions, and societies adjust to evolving realities in order to remain effective, relevant, and resilient (Uhl-Bien et al., 2007; Westley et al., 2006).

Within NTT, adaptation is the mechanism through which systems respond to tectonic pressure, navigate reconfiguration events, and establish new forms of equilibrium following sociopolitical inflection. The capacity to adapt ultimately determines whether emerging change becomes a source of renewal and growth or a catalyst for instability and decline.

Collectively, the meta level provides the overarching architecture within which all other levels interact.

Foundational Propositions of NeuroTectonic Theory:

- **Proposition 1:** Sociopolitical systems are structured through evolving connection fields that shape the flow of influence, trust, identity, information, and power.

- **Proposition 2:** Tectonic pressure accumulates when competing interests, identities, expectations, or institutional realities remain unresolved within connection fields.

- **Proposition 3:** Fault lines emerge where accumulated tectonic pressure becomes concentrated across psychological, social, cultural, organizational, institutional, or political boundaries.

- **Proposition 4:** Reconfiguration events occur when accumulated tectonic pressure exceeds the adaptive capacity of existing connection structures.

- **Proposition 5:** Inflection states arise when reconfiguration events alter the broader trajectory of a system and establish new patterns of relationships, influence, and adaptation.

- **Proposition 6:** The probability and magnitude of sociopolitical inflection increase as tectonic pressure accumulates across multiple interconnected levels of analysis.

- **Proposition 7:** Adaptive systems are more likely to absorb and redistribute tectonic pressure, while rigid systems are more likely to experience abrupt reconfiguration.

- **Proposition 8:** Tectonic Pressure is a latent but measurable construct whose accumulation across multiple levels of analysis increases the probability of fault line formation, reconfiguration events, and sociopolitical inflection.

Anticipating Sociopolitical Inflection: The Central Role of Tectonic Pressure

A central proposition of NeuroTectonic Theory is that sociopolitical inflection can often be anticipated before it becomes visible through major events, crises, institutional disruption, or other forms of systemic change. This anticipatory capacity rests upon the concept of Tectonic Pressure, which functions as the primary leading indicator within the theory.

Tectonic Pressure is conceptualized as a latent but measurable construct. Although it cannot be observed directly, it can be inferred through observable indicators of strain, fragmentation, misalignment, instability, declining trust, adaptive stress, and unresolved tensions within evolving connection fields. Similar to constructs such as intelligence, depression, or inflation, Tectonic Pressure is not directly visible, yet its presence may be assessed through measurable indicators and observable patterns.

Within NTT, the anticipation of sociopolitical inflection depends upon identifying rising levels of Tectonic Pressure before they manifest as visible fault lines, reconfiguration events, or systemic

disruption. Consequently, the theory shifts attention from the retrospective analysis of events toward the proactive assessment of the conditions that make transformation increasingly probable.

To support this objective, NTT proposes the NeuroTectonic Pressure Assessment (NPA) as a preliminary framework for identifying and monitoring indicators of Tectonic Pressure across the Micro, Meso, Macro, and Meta levels of analysis. Through the systematic assessment of these indicators, practitioners may recognize emerging vulnerabilities, adaptive challenges, and potential pathways of sociopolitical transformation before major disruption becomes apparent.

NeuroTectonic Pressure Assessment (NPA):

To facilitate future empirical research, NeuroTectonic Theory proposes the concept of a NeuroTectonic Pressure Assessment (NPA), a multidimensional framework for identifying indicators of tectonic pressure across the Micro, Meso, Macro, and Meta levels of analysis. The NPA is not presented as a validated instrument, but as a conceptual foundation for future operationalization and measurement. Future research may develop and validate a NeuroTectonic Pressure Index (NPI) capable of assessing tectonic pressure across multiple levels of analysis and providing a standardized basis for comparative assessment across organizations, institutions, communities, and sociopolitical systems. While Tectonic Pressure may not be observed directly[1], NTT proposes that it can be inferred and assessed through observable indicators of strain, misalignment, fragmentation, instability, and adaptive stress within connection fields.

Consequently, the anticipation of sociopolitical inflection depends on identifying rising levels of tectonic pressure before they manifest as visible fault lines, reconfiguration events, or systemic disruption.

Anticipation capability comes from monitoring: Connection Fields and Tectonic Pressure BEFORE Fault Lines become visible.

Pressure Indicators:

Micro-Level Pressure Indicators:

- Anxiety;
- Identity confusion;
- Perceived threat;

[1] **Inflation.** Can we touch inflation? No. But we can quantify it. **Depression.** Can we see depression directly? No. But we can operationalize it. **Intelligence.** Can we see intelligence directly? No. But we can measure it indirectly. Therefore, **Tectonic Pressure** may not be directly observed, BUT it can absolutely be estimated through indicators.

- Distrust;
- Loneliness.

Meso-Level Pressure Indicators:

- Organizational conflict;
- Group polarization;
- Alliance instability;
- Community fragmentation.

Macro-Level Pressure Indicators:

- Institutional distrust;
- Governance dissatisfaction;
- Legal disputes;
- Protest activity.

Meta-Level Pressure Indicators:

- System volatility;
- Cascading failures;
- Declining adaptability;
- Emergent instability.

With reference to the above, Tectonic Pressure is the leading indicator, which means, NTT's predictive power does not come from: Protests; Crises; Elections; Revolutions. Those are late-stage signals. Instead it comes from observing:

- Declining trust;
- Identity fragmentation;
- Polarized narratives;
- Weakening institutions;
- Governance dissatisfaction.

Level	Potential Indicators
Micro	Anxiety, identity confusion, perceived threat, distrust, loneliness
Meso	Organizational conflict, alliance instability, group polarization, community fragmentation
Macro	Institutional distrust, governance dissatisfaction, legal disputes, protest activity
Meta	System volatility, cascading failures, declining adaptability, emergent instability

Table 2: Indicators of Tectonic Pressure

Those are pressure indicators. Tectonic Pressure is a latent but measurable construct that functions as the primary anticipatory variable within NeuroTectonic Theory. NeuroTectonic Theory is designed as an anticipatory rather than deterministic model. Its purpose is not to predict specific events with certainty, but to identify emerging patterns of tectonic pressure, fault line formation, and systemic vulnerability that increase the likelihood of sociopolitical inflection. NTT is not attempting to forecast because: Events are contingent. Timing is uncertain. and External shocks occur. Instead, NTT monitors: Connection Fields and Tectonic Pressure before events occur. That is anticipation, which can facilitate timely intervention or solutions.

For example: Think About Geology

Geologists cannot predict: The exact hour of an earthquake. But they can identify:

- Fault zones;
- Pressure accumulation;
- Seismic vulnerability;
- Elevated risk.

NTT operates in a very similar way. It does not claim:

"Political unrest will occur next June 20th at 13:00."

It claims:

"Indicators suggest rising tectonic pressure, increasing the probability of sociopolitical instability."

The value of NeuroTectonic Theory lies not in predicting specific events, but in anticipating conditions under which sociopolitical inflection becomes **increasingly probable**. Through the assessment of

connection fields and tectonic pressure, NTT provides an early-warning framework for recognizing emerging vulnerabilities, adaptive challenges, and potential pathways of transformation before major disruption becomes visible.

Many sociopolitical models explain disruption after it happens. NTT's distinctive contribution is that it focuses on **detecting rising tectonic pressure before disruption occurs**.

Mentioning of before and after, Does NTT Already Contain Time?

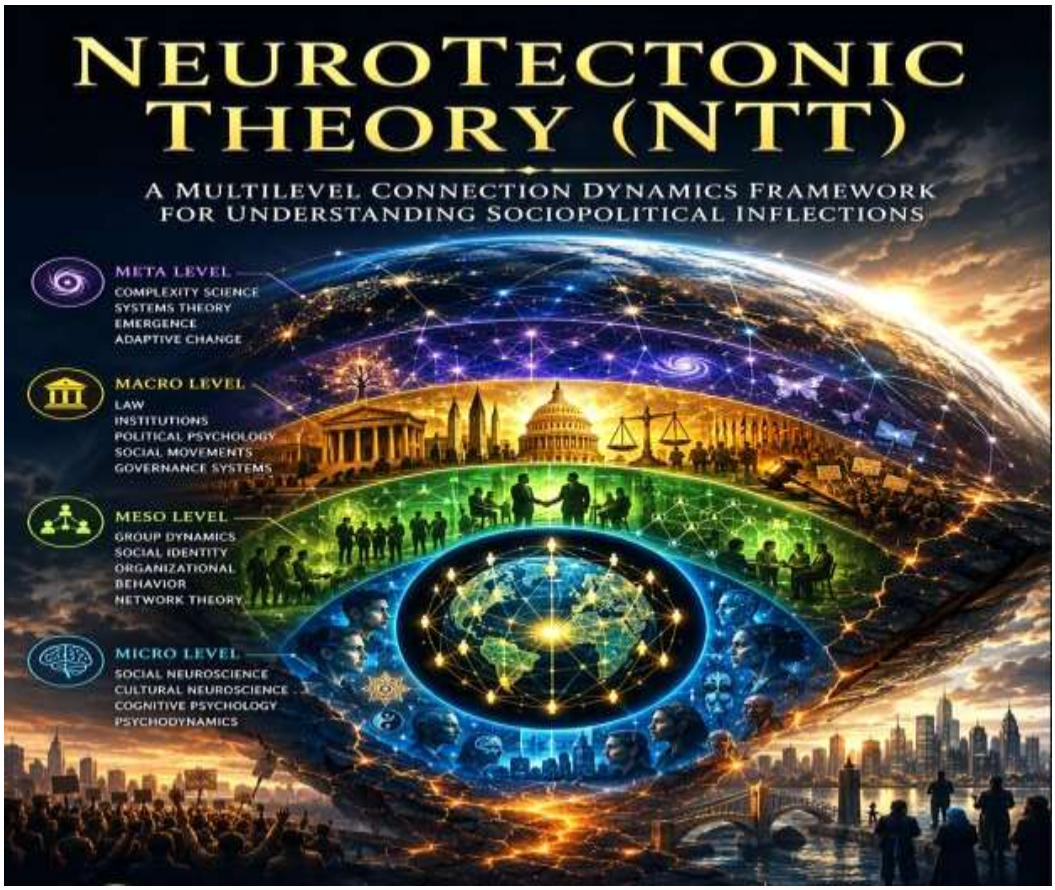
The NTT Core Cycle is inherently temporal. Why? Because:

- Connection Fields develop over time.
- Tectonic Pressure accumulates over time.
- Fault Lines emerge over time.
- Reconfiguration Events occur at a point in time.
- Inflection States represent transitions over time.
- New Connection Fields begin another temporal cycle.

In other words: ***Time is already embedded in the causal architecture*.**

Temporal Principle of NeuroTectonic Theory:

Connection dynamics unfold through cumulative, nonlinear, and path-dependent processes. The accumulation, concentration, release, and adaptation of tectonic pressure occur over time, and the timing of sociopolitical inflection may vary according to the structure and adaptive capacity of the underlying connection fields.



The Eye of NeuroTectonics - © Mosi Dorbayani 2026

Practical Application: The NeuroTectonic Navigation Model

NTT is not merely explanatory. It is intended as a decision framework.

Organizations and individuals can assess:

1. Emerging connection patterns.
2. Areas of rising tension.
3. Potential fault lines.
4. Probable reconfiguration events.
5. Future inflection states.

Example 1: Artificial Intelligence and Employment

Micro: Workers experience uncertainty and identity disruption.

Meso: Professional networks reorganize around emerging skills.

Macro: Labor regulations and educational systems adapt.

Meta: Entire employment ecosystems undergo systemic transformation.

By identifying pressures early, organizations can invest in retraining, communication, and workforce adaptation.

Example 2: Political Polarization

Micro: Threat perception and identity attachment increase.

Meso: Social networks become ideologically concentrated.

Macro: Institutions struggle to maintain legitimacy.

Meta: Governance systems approach an inflection state.

NTT enables policymakers to identify emerging fault lines before polarization escalates into institutional instability.

Example 3: Organizational Transformation

A corporation undergoing digital transformation may monitor:

- Employee sentiment,
- Stakeholder relationships,
- Policy adaptation,
- Industry ecosystem changes,

allowing leaders to anticipate resistance and guide adaptive transitions.

Discussion:

NeuroTectonic Theory contributes to existing scholarship by shifting attention from isolated variables to connection dynamics. Unlike many analytical frameworks that organize existing concepts, NeuroTectonic Theory additionally advances a set of theoretical propositions concerning the accumulation, concentration, release, and transformation of sociopolitical pressures across evolving connection fields.

Rather than asking exclusively what individuals think, what institutions do, or what policies accomplish, NTT focuses on how evolving relationships across multiple levels generate systemic change.

The framework also addresses a persistent gap in sociopolitical analysis. Much of contemporary research either privileges agency or structure. NTT treats both as manifestations of continuously evolving connection fields.

Methodologically, future NeuroTectonic research may employ mixed methods, including social network analysis, organizational diagnostics, sentiment analysis, institutional mapping, longitudinal case studies, and computational modeling. Such approaches would allow researchers to identify and measure evolving connection dynamics and emerging sociopolitical pressures.

Most importantly, *NTT shifts inquiry from reactive interpretation toward adaptive anticipation*. NTT shifts inquiry from reactive interpretation toward adaptive anticipation by proposing that tectonic pressure can be monitored through observable indicators across multiple levels of analysis. By identifying rising pressure before major fault lines become visible, organizations, institutions, and decision-makers may gain greater capacity to anticipate and navigate sociopolitical inflection. Rather than merely explaining sociopolitical change after it occurs, the framework seeks *to identify precursors, trajectories, and possible intervention points before critical inflections emerge.*

Practical Recommendations for Applying NeuroTectonic Theory

As societies become increasingly interconnected, adaptive capacity depends less on predicting isolated events and more on understanding the evolving dynamics of human connections. NeuroTectonic Theory offers a multilevel lens through which professionals across disciplines can identify emerging pressures, anticipate reconfiguration events, and navigate sociopolitical inflection with greater foresight and resilience.

Applying NTT as a Strategic Foresight Framework:

NeuroTectonic Theory is intended to function not only as an explanatory model but also as a practical framework for strategic foresight. Across all domains of application, practitioners can utilize NTT through a recurring five-stage assessment process:

1. **Map Connection Fields** by identifying key actors, relationships, institutions, narratives, and networks.
2. **Assess Tectonic Pressure** by monitoring indicators of strain, fragmentation, misalignment, distrust, adaptive stress, or emerging conflict.

3. **Identify Fault Lines** where tensions appear to be concentrating across individuals, groups, organizations, institutions, or societies.
4. **Monitor Reconfiguration Signals** for evidence of shifting alliances, behaviors, narratives, policies, organizational structures, or governance arrangements.
5. **Prepare for Inflection States** by developing adaptive strategies capable of responding to multiple possible trajectories of change.

Through this process, NTT seeks to move decision-makers beyond reactive problem-solving toward anticipatory awareness, adaptive preparedness, and strategic resilience in the face of sociopolitical change.

1. Neurologists, Neuroscientists, and Counseling Psychologists:

For clinicians and researchers, NTT provides a framework for understanding how individual cognition, emotion, identity, and social attachment interact with broader societal forces. While traditional approaches often focus on the individual as the primary unit of analysis, NTT emphasizes that psychological well-being and behavior are profoundly influenced by changing connection fields within families, communities, organizations, cultures, and societies.

Professionals in these fields should consider assessing *not only internal emotional states but also the quality, stability, and evolution of social connections surrounding individuals*. Emerging forms of anxiety, identity conflict, polarization, loneliness, and resistance to change may often reflect deeper tectonic pressures operating within larger social systems. By recognizing these pressures early, practitioners can help individuals develop adaptive resilience, strengthen meaningful connections, and navigate periods of social uncertainty more effectively.

Recommendation: Monitor evolving patterns of trust, belonging, identity, and perceived threat as early indicators of psychological and societal reconfiguration.

2. Socio-Political Economists, Policy Makers, and Legislators:

Traditional policy analysis often focuses on measurable outcomes such as economic performance, public opinion, or institutional effectiveness. NTT suggests that many sociopolitical disruptions emerge long before they become visible through conventional indicators. Changes in trust, social identity, institutional legitimacy, cultural narratives, and network alignment frequently signal future societal shifts.

Policy makers should therefore adopt a connection-dynamics perspective when evaluating risks and opportunities. Rather than responding only after crises emerge, governments and institutions can use NTT

to identify fault lines, monitor the accumulation of tectonic pressure, and anticipate areas where policy interventions may either alleviate or intensify existing tensions.

Recommendation: Complement economic and political indicators with systematic monitoring of connection fields, social trust, institutional legitimacy, and emerging identity-based divisions to improve anticipatory governance.

3. Diplomats and Cross-Cultural Scholars:

Diplomatic and intercultural engagements often fail not because of inadequate information, but because of insufficient understanding of the connection dynamics that shape perceptions, identities, and interests across cultures. NTT recognizes that sociopolitical behavior is influenced not only by formal institutions but also by historical narratives, cultural identities, collective memories, and evolving patterns of trust and mistrust.

For diplomats and cross-cultural scholars, NTT provides a framework for identifying hidden fault lines, mapping relational networks, and understanding how competing narratives influence international and intercultural relations. Recognizing these dynamics can improve conflict prevention, negotiation strategies, intercultural communication, and long-term relationship building.

Recommendation: Map not only political interests but also the evolving connection fields among cultural identities, institutions, narratives, and stakeholder networks when assessing diplomatic opportunities and risks.

4. Business Executives and Organizational Leaders:

Organizations increasingly operate within environments characterized by rapid social change, political uncertainty, technological disruption, and shifting stakeholder expectations. NTT encourages leaders to move beyond traditional market forecasting and incorporate connection dynamics into strategic planning.

Employees, customers, regulators, investors, communities, and governments are interconnected participants within broader connection fields. Changes in public sentiment, workforce expectations, social values, regulatory environments, or stakeholder trust often emerge well before their consequences become apparent in organizational performance. By identifying patterns of tectonic pressure and emerging fault lines, leaders can better anticipate disruption, manage transformation, and strengthen organizational adaptability.

Recommendation: Regularly assess stakeholder relationships, organizational trust, emerging social expectations, and institutional developments as leading indicators of future strategic risk and opportunity.

Integrative Recommendation:

Ultimately, NeuroTectonic Theory proposes that the most significant risks and opportunities of the twenty-first century will emerge not from isolated events but from evolving patterns of connection. Technology, economics, politics, culture, governance, and organizational behavior interact through dynamic connection fields that continuously shape one another. Individuals, organizations, institutions, and societies that systematically monitor these evolving relationships will be better positioned to recognize rising tectonic pressure, anticipate emerging vulnerabilities, and respond adaptively before major disruption occurs.

From this perspective, resilience depends not merely upon reacting to change, but upon understanding how change is forming. The practical value of NTT therefore lies in its capacity to illuminate the conditions under which systems become increasingly susceptible to transformation and to provide a structured framework for navigating that transformation with greater foresight, adaptability, and strategic awareness.

Conclusion

NeuroTectonic Theory (NTT) introduces a comprehensive approach for understanding how evolving connection dynamics generate sociopolitical inflection. By integrating insights from social neuroscience, cultural neuroscience, cognitive psychology, psychodynamics, group dynamics, social identity theory, organizational behavior, institutional analysis, governance studies, complexity science, and systems theory, NTT provides both an explanatory theory and a multilevel analytical framework for examining societal transformation.

At its core, NTT proposes that human systems are organized through dynamic connection fields that continuously evolve across psychological, social, organizational, institutional, and systemic domains. As tensions accumulate within and between these connection fields, tectonic pressure emerges, concentrates along fault lines, and may ultimately give rise to reconfiguration events and sociopolitical inflection states. Through this process, societies, organizations, institutions, and communities continually reshape their trajectories and generate new patterns of adaptation and collective behavior.

Beyond explanation, NTT advances an anticipatory perspective on sociopolitical change. The theory argues that rising tectonic pressure can be identified through observable indicators distributed across the Micro, Meso, Macro, and Meta levels of analysis, providing a basis for recognizing emerging vulnerabilities, adaptive challenges, and potential pathways of transformation before major disruption

becomes visible. In this regard, NeuroTectonic Theory is not designed as a deterministic forecasting model but as an anticipatory framework for understanding when systems may be becoming increasingly susceptible to significant change.

The practical implication is both simple and profound: individuals, organizations, institutions, and governments that systematically monitor evolving connection fields may be better positioned to navigate uncertainty, strengthen resilience, mitigate emerging risks, and capitalize on opportunities for adaptation. In an era characterized by accelerating complexity, technological disruption, cultural transformation, and geopolitical uncertainty, understanding connection dynamics may become as essential to sociopolitical analysis as understanding economic indicators, organizational structures, or institutional arrangements.

Ultimately, NeuroTectonic Theory invites a shift in perspective: away from viewing social and political change primarily as a sequence of isolated events and toward understanding it as the emergent outcome of evolving relationships, accumulated pressures, and adaptive reconfigurations across interconnected human systems. Future scholarship may refine, operationalize, and empirically test the propositions advanced in this article, but the central premise remains clear: Those who understand the dynamics of connection are often better positioned to recognize sociopolitical inflection before it becomes fully visible.

About the Author:

Dr. Mosi Dorbayani is an internationally acclaimed executive adviser, strategist, author and educator whose work bridges the worlds of management, economics, international law, public policy, cultural diplomacy and socio-cultural neuroscience. With advanced degrees from Harvard, Aston, Sunderland, Wolverhampton, and Salford universities, he has consulted for multinational firms including KPMG, BNP Paribas, and Sony-Ericsson, offering training, coaching, and insight into organizational and leadership development, governance, and strategic foresight. He is author of 24 books, an award-winning scholar, and a multi-platinum award-winning songwriter.

For his full profile visit: https://www.dorbayani.com/mosidorbayaniprofile

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/mosidorbayani

References

Ashforth, B. E., & Mael, F. (1989). Social identity theory and the organization. *Academy of Management Review, 14*(1), 20-39.

Bandura, A. (2001). Social cognitive theory of mass communication. *Media Psychology, 3*(3), 265-299. https://doi.org/10.1207/S1532785XMEP0303_03

Borgatti, S. P., Mehra, A., Brass, D. J., & Labianca, G. (2009). Network analysis in the social sciences. *Science, 323*(5916), 892-895. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1165821

Bronfenbrenner, U. (1979). *The ecology of human development: Experiments by nature and design*. Harvard University Press.

Dorbayani, M. (2026*). A Comparative Analysis of Noetism, Structuralism, Functionalism, And Behaviorism*. JISSR Peer-reviewed Journal, DOI: 10.60087/jissr.v3i01.355

Dorbayani, M.(2025), Understanding Political Economy: The Global Challenges, From Media – To Immigration.DOI:10.60087/jissr.v2i1.332

Dorbayani, M. (2025), The Psychology of the Many: Understanding Crowd Behavior and Public Order, DOI:10.2139/ssrn.5387834

Dorbayani, M. (2019). *Adaptive cross-cultural negotiation: The diagnostic foundations in diplomacy*. WAALM Publications; Orenda Publications.

Granovetter, M. S. (1973). The strength of weak ties. *American Journal of Sociology, 78*(6), 1360-1380. https://doi.org/10.1086/225469

Han, S., & Ma, Y. (2014). Cultural neuroscience: A new field bridging culture and biology. *Perspectives on Psychological Science, 9*(6), 646-654. https://doi.org/10.1177/1745691614553446

Jost, J. T., Federico, C. M., & Napier, J. L. (2009). Political ideology: Its structure, functions, and elective affinities. *Annual Review of Psychology, 60*, 307-337. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.psych.60.110707.163600

Kahneman, D. (2011). *Thinking, fast and slow*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Lieberman, M. D. (2013). *Social: Why our brains are wired to connect*. Crown Publishers.

McWilliams, N. (2011). *Psychoanalytic diagnosis: Understanding personality structure in the clinical process* (2nd ed.). Guilford Press.

Meadows, D. H. (2008). *Thinking in systems: A primer*. Chelsea Green Publishing.

Scott, W. R. (2014). *Institutions and organizations: Ideas, interests, and identities* (4th ed.). Sage Publications.

Tajfel, H., & Turner, J. C. (1979). An integrative theory of intergroup conflict. In W. G. Austin & S. Worchel (Eds.), *The social psychology of intergroup relations* (pp. 33-47). Brooks/Cole.

Uhl-Bien, M., Marion, R., & McKelvey, B. (2007). Complexity leadership theory: Shifting leadership from the industrial age to the knowledge era. *The Leadership Quarterly, 18*(4), 298-318. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.leaqua.2007.04.002

Wasserman, S., & Faust, K. (1994). *Social network analysis: Methods and applications*. Cambridge University Press.

Westley, F., Zimmerman, B., & Patton, M. Q. (2006). *Getting to maybe: How the world is changed*. Random House Canada.