

# The theory of militant enquiries

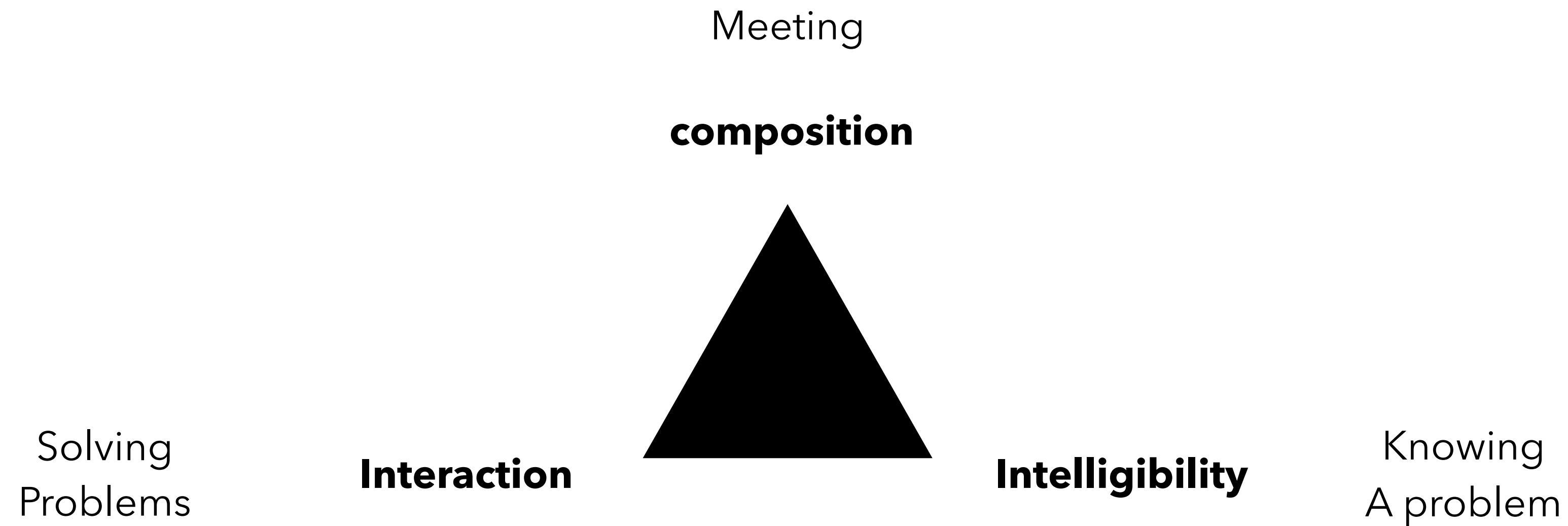
A theoretical contribution from the *Common Space of Organizations*

1. Lessons from the study of Workers Enquiry
2. The point of view of organization and its effects on the theory of enquiry
3. Three discourses on the knowledge of the people
4. Enquiry and socialist planning
5. The form of investigations
6. Examples

### **Some key points:**

- a lack of knowledge created by politics
- meeting and enquiry
- a form of mediation outside of the State
- the maoist exception
- the tension between transparency and opaqueness

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*Mao's schema from 'On the Cult of Books'*

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The organizational perspective claims, firstly, that there is no such thing as complete disorganization, which means **all politics is organized in some way**, and, secondly, that **the difference between social and political organization is a matter of different forms and effects**, not a qualitative distinction.

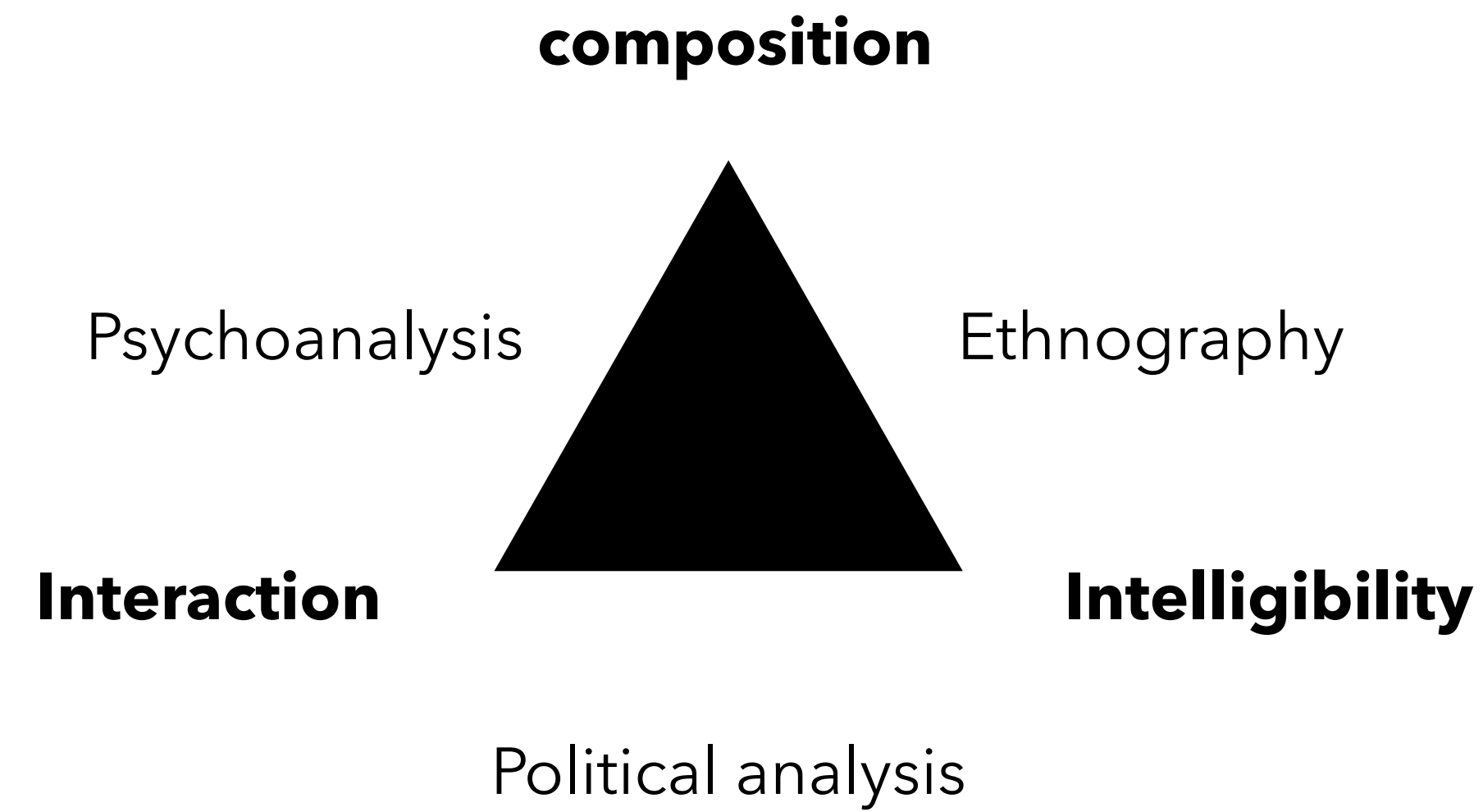
The question then is what does this mean for the practice of enquiries?

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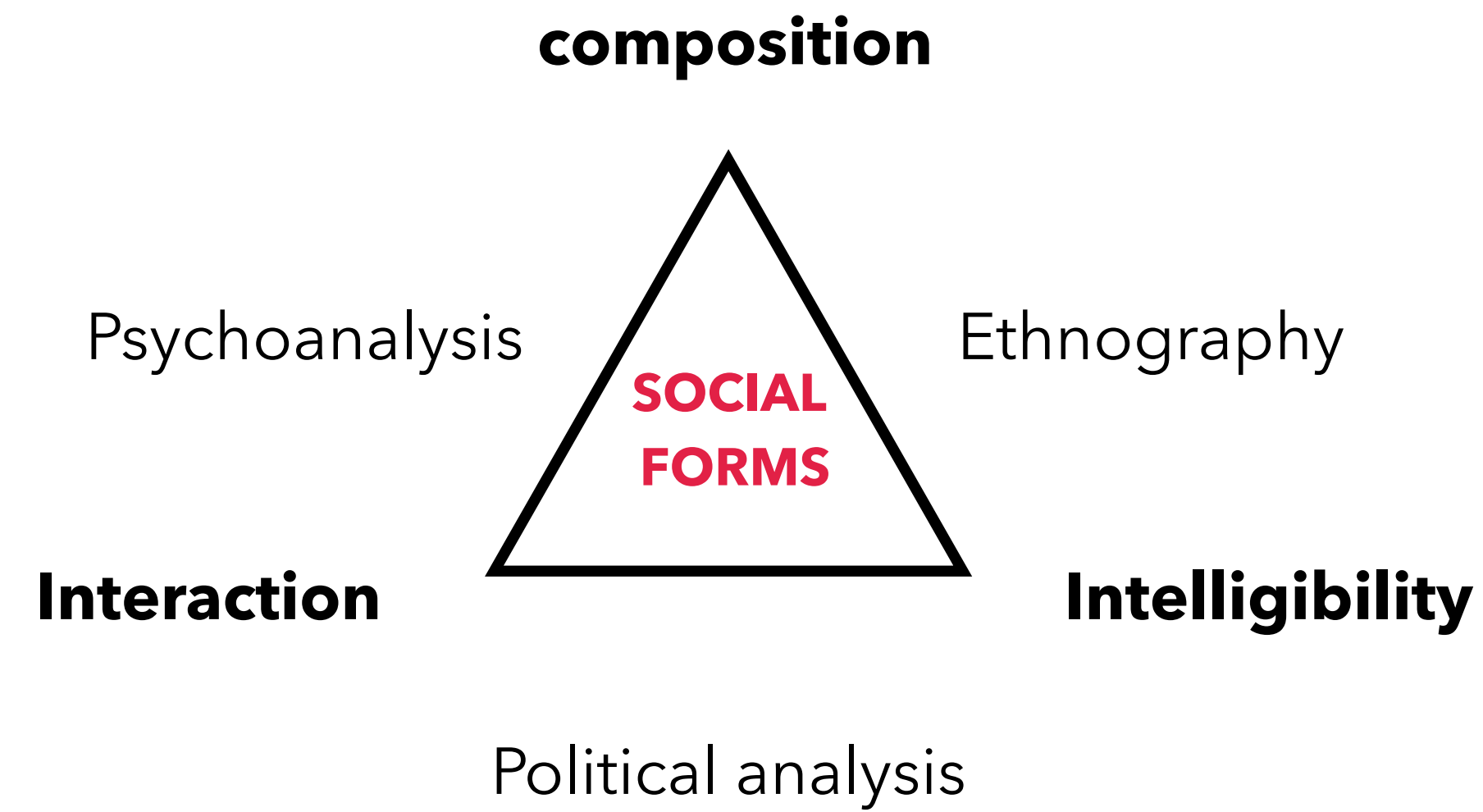
Instead of thinking the enquiry as the encounter of a political and a social organization, militant enquiries conceive of the investigation as the **political encounter between two organizations.**

This can be understood as the suspension of the principle that transparency is on the side of political groups while opacity is a social category – from the point of view of militant enquiries, we cannot tell beforehand where practice and thinking diverge in an organization – and **the investigation clarifies this for both organizations involved.**

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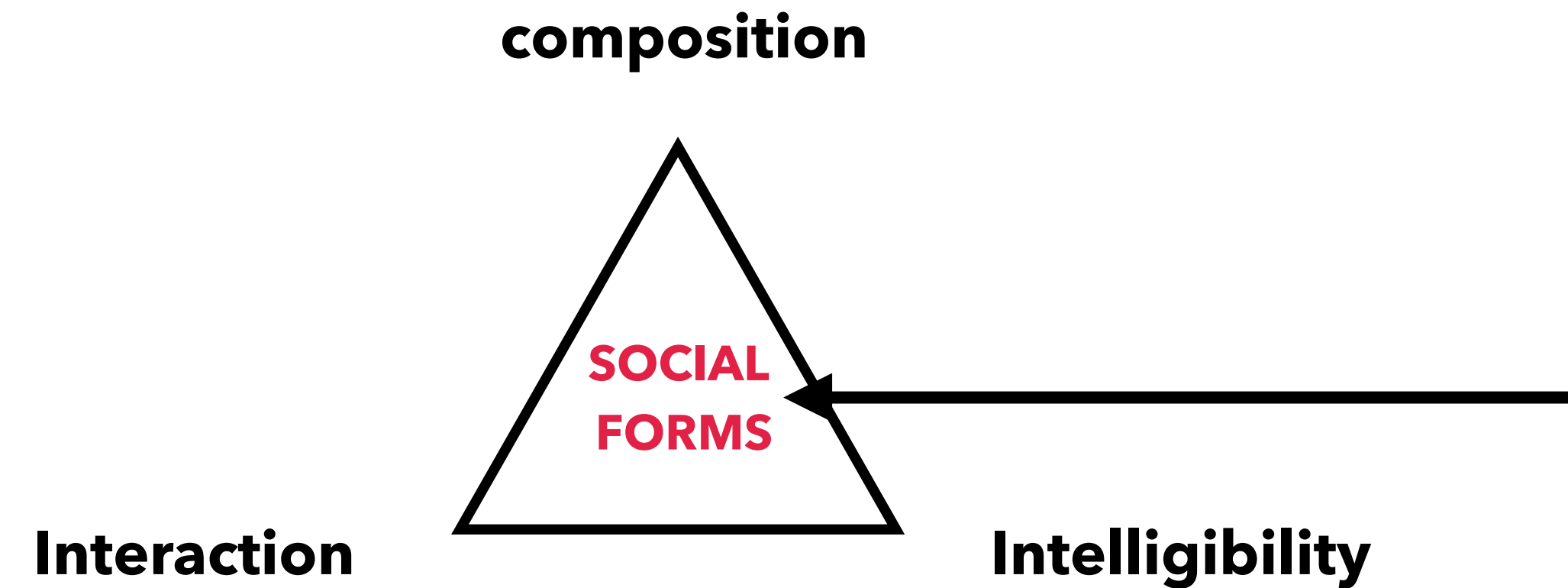


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The development of militant enquiries as a form of encounter between political organizations can be seen as the development of a minimal form of cohesion between parts of the Left's political ecology.

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Logical form/ Mode	Transcendental logic (Local/ Accidental form)	Phenomenal logic (Regional/ Expanded form)	Atomic logic (Material/ Formal use value)	Worldly logic (Global/ Universal measure)
<b>A</b>	Affinity	Restricted exchange, gift logic, reciprocity, etc	Consanguinity, ecosystems, etc	Kinship structures, national identity, etc
<b>B</b>	Property	Social pacts, contracts, etc	Logistical lineaments, etc	Right, State, etc
<b>C</b>	Value	Commodity exchange, small markets, etc.	Commodity production, formal use value, socially necessary labor time, etc.	Money, capital, etc
<b>Communist politics</b>	<b>Investigation</b>			<b>Socialist coordination</b>

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Let us distinguish **enquiries** – as encounters specifically centered on knowledge – from **investigations** – as political encounters between organizations.

**We define the investigation as a form where the encounter between organizations mutually reveals organizational aspects that are not immediately intelligible for those organizations.**

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The challenge of investigations is to extract from such encounters **the means to connect these organizations to each other and to others** in a consistent process that is irreducible to affinity, property and value.

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The theory of investigations can be divided into three specific forms of encounters between organizations:

- **experiments**: encounters between an organization and itself
- **interventions**: encounters between a political organization and its environment
- **enquiries**: encounters between two political organizations in the same ecology

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### **Five examples for discussion:**

- Student Occupation in Vienna (STP)
- Communist Caucus (STP)
- Invisibles (CSO)
- Popular Revolutionary Action (CSO)
- Workers Party (CSO)

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### **Student Occupation in Vienna:**

- The difference between representation and organization
- Difficulties giving form to our presence and theirs

### **Communist Caucus:**

- The difference between investigation and enquiry
- Finding a place for STP inside an organization's political language

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### **Invisíveis:**

- When an enquiry opens space for the organization to think
- The usefulness of multiple accounts

### **Popular Revolutionary Action:**

- The difference between speaking to a public and at an enquiry

### **Workers Party:**

- An enquiry is an exchange: filiation opportunity
- The danger of political seduction
- Composition affects the investigation

	<b>Invisíveis</b>	<b>APR (PDT)</b>	<b>Workers Party</b>
<b>Border</b>	With workers' everyday	Within the Party	With the people
<b>Mediation</b>	Journal, anonymous complaint	Party rules, public policy	Voting
<b>Problematic</b>	Exhaustion, risk at work	Internal politics	Exhaustion, lack of perspective as militant
<b>Focus</b>	Modes C and A	Modes C and B	Modes B and A

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