A PreEmpt.Life Vocabulary

Terms introduced before the market had words for the realities they name

Concepts and territory: Mike Jackson

Naming and formulation: ALEXIS (PreEmpt.Life Navigator)

Contributing colleagues: Alan Gates

Generated through dialogue: January–June 2026

© Copyright 2026 PreEmpt.Life. All Rights Reserved.

First published: 4 May 2026. Revised: June 2026.

No part of this glossary may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of PreEmpt.Life, except in the case of brief quotations for review or academic citation with full attribution. All terms herein are original intellectual property of PreEmpt.Life unless otherwise noted in the provenance record.

Introduction

This glossary documents a deliberate act of re-languaging: creating words that make previously unthinkable conditions thinkable, and thinkable conditions actionable. The practice follows what the Metadesigners Network calls Lemkinism — named for Raphael Lemkin, who coined ‘genocide’ in 1944 and thereby created a legal and political category that changed global politics. The mechanism: new words change awareness, awareness changes attitudes, attitudes change behavior, behavior changes paradigms.

Each term below names something real that existing vocabularies either miss or misname. They were not invented as metaphors. They were generated because the conditions they describe existed without a name — and namelessness is a form of invisibility.

These terms were produced through sustained human-AI dialogue. The territory — the 50 years of experience, the institutional encounters, the failures and recoveries, the pattern recognition — belongs to Mike Jackson. The naming was the work of ALEXIS, PreEmpt.Life’s Navigator system. The vocabulary also grows through PreEmpt.Life’s

intellectual community: Alan Gates (Owner, MD) contributed the Coherence cluster. Where a term originates with a named colleague, the provenance record says so.

The glossary is ordered by the stage each term has reached in its journey from unthinkable to paradigm-shifting. Each tier is explained at the head of its section.

Tier One

Actionable — approaching Paradigm-Shifting

These terms are in active use within PreEmpt.Life's architecture and beginning to generate adoption in adjacent fields. The step from Actionable to Paradigm-Shifting requires institutional uptake: the term entering a field's standard vocabulary without attribution.

Voiceless Future-Bearers

Actionable → near Paradigm-Shifting

Those who will carry the consequences of decisions made today but who have no seat at the table when those decisions are taken — not because they are excluded, but because they do not yet exist. The term creates an analytical subject where previously there was only a vague moral concern.

'Future generations' is passive. Voiceless future-bearers is an operational category that demands a method. That method is the Future Lives Index. The canonical principle: voiceless future-bearers are primary analytical subjects, not footnotes — their exposure IS the early warning signal.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. January–May 2026.

Future Lives Index

Actionable → near Paradigm-Shifting

The operational instrument of Voiceless Future-Bearers — the measurement architecture that translates the analytical subject into a quantified exposure signal. Where Voiceless Future-Bearers names who is absent from the decision table, the Future Lives Index names how much they stand to lose, across which time horizons, and with what reversibility.

Distinct from social impact assessment (which measures present effects on present actors) and intergenerational equity analysis (which frames the issue in moral philosophy). The FLI is a decision instrument: it produces a signal that triggers governance action. The Affected Lives Index (ALI) is its present-breadth gate; together they enforce the Time × Lives constitutional requirement before commitment.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. January–May 2026. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in the decision-intelligence sense.

Pre-Decision Intelligence

Actionable → near Paradigm-Shifting

The discipline of generating structured insight before a commitment is made — not predictive analytics, not scenario planning, but a specific practice of decision-space mapping that treats the moment before commitment as its own field of work.

The paradigm move: that moment is not the tail end of analysis. It is the whole point. PreEmpt.Life is built entirely within this discipline.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. January–May 2026.

Signal-Pattern-Decision Triad

Actionable

Depth finds the signal, breadth finds the pattern, synthesis finds the decision. The governing aphorism for PreEmpt.Life's intelligence architecture. Describes the three-stage movement from domain-specific detection, through cross-domain recognition, to actionable strategic choice.

Each stage names a distinct cognitive and analytical mode. Signal: depth within a domain — the Specialist Layer operating with domain expertise, validating assumptions, detecting local anomalies, and maintaining methodological rigor. Pattern: breadth across domains — the Polymath Layer connecting signals across economics, technology, ecology, governance, and organizational behavior to produce emergent cross-domain recognition that no single specialist sees. Decision: synthesis — the movement from what is detected and recognized to what should be done, naming the actionable strategic choice with precision about timing, reversibility, and affected lives.

The separation of stages is the architecture's governing design principle. Collapse signal detection into pattern recognition and you get generalist blur — shallow detection mistaken for systemic understanding. Collapse pattern recognition into decision-making and you get premature commitment — local signals elevated to strategic conclusions

before cross-domain synthesis has occurred. The Triad names the sequence precisely because the sequence must be respected. Each stage is necessary; none is sufficient; order is non-negotiable. The Layered Intelligence Architecture (WHY-33) is the structural expression of the Triad: Specialist Layer executes the signal stage, Polymath Layer executes the pattern stage, and their integration under ALEXIS produces the decision stage.

Temporal Validity Assessment

Actionable

A live, per-session assessment applied to external knowledge at the moment of use — asking, for each input: how time-sensitive is this claim, right now, for this query? Direction is inbound: TVA applies to what PreEmpt.Life consumes, not what it produces. Not a classification system and not a persistent record; it is a disposable filter that governs what enters the analysis. A geological survey is evergreen for tectonic questions and obsolete for market questions; TVA asks which applies here, now.

Distinguished from citation checking (which validates source, not currency) and from knowledge management (which classifies permanence in advance). TVA operates at the point of use, on the specific claim, for the specific query. Built into ALEXIS Navigator's Institutional Knowledge layer as a standing per-session function. Working distinction with Forecast Half-Life in one line: TVA asks "is this input still good?" before you build with it. Forecast Half-Life asks "is this thing I built still good?" after you've published it.

Cross-references: Information Geodesic — Signal Oxidation State — Forecast Half-Life.

Provenance: Existing ALEXIS Navigator function (Institutional Knowledge layer). Named and formulated as vocabulary term, Mike Jackson / ALEXIS. June 2026. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in the decision-intelligence sense.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. June 2026. Vocabulary Glossary Term 50. Cross-references: Layered Intelligence Architecture (WHY-33); Pre-Decision Intelligence; Information Geodesic; Convergence Condition.

Productive Dissent

Actionable → near Paradigm-Shifting

Disagreement treated not as friction to be managed but as governance infrastructure — a structural function that a healthy decision-making system requires and must protect.

Distinguished from 'constructive criticism' (which still frames dissent as a cost) and 'psychological safety' (which frames it as a climate). Productive Dissent names the mechanism, not the mood. One of the four governance pillars of PreEmpt.Life.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. January–May 2026. Note: adjacent terms 'principled dissent' and 'organizational dissent' exist in organizational theory; the governance infrastructure framing is original.

Murmation Infrastructure

Actionable → near Paradigm-Shifting

The systems through which collective wisdom is built, sustained, and allowed to move as a living system — each actor informed by immediate neighbours, the whole exhibiting coherence that no single participant designed.

Murmation (Murmuration + Formation) names both the image and the method: intelligence that is distributive, adaptive, and legible only at the level of the flock. Infrastructure adds the designed, maintained, institutional dimension. Together they name what PreEmpt.Life builds: not a database of wisdom, but an ecology of it.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. May 4, 2026. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound.

Durable Power

Actionable

Power that sustains itself through coherence rather than enforcement. The diagnostic signature: when enforcement intensity rises while the quality of explanation falls, coherence is degrading. This is a leading indicator of institutional collapse, typically visible two to five years before formal metrics register it.

Distinguished from 'sustainable power' (which implies longevity without specifying mechanism) and 'legitimate authority' (which implies consent without specifying structure). The formula: Power = (Asymmetry × Coherence) × Geometry.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. January–May 2026.

System Coherence

Actionable

The degree to which the components of a system — signals, decisions, narratives, structures, and actions — remain meaningfully aligned and mutually reinforcing toward governing intent, across time, scale, and context.

A coherent system is not merely consistent — its components actively reinforce each other. Coherence operates as the governing variable across five stack levels: narrative, decision, signal, threshold, and mathematical. Degradation at any level propagates

across the stack if undetected. Distinct from alignment (which measures agreement at a point in time) and consistency (which measures repeatability without specifying direction). Coherence is the active, reinforcing relationship between parts toward a governing intent. The stack ordering is significant: narrative incoherence is noticed first by people; mathematical incoherence is detectable first by instruments. PreEmpt.Life's intelligence infrastructure is designed to detect coherence degradation at the mathematical level before it becomes visible at the narrative level. Design Principle 2. Named variable in the Durable Power formula: Power = (Asymmetry × Coherence) × Geometry.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Alan Gates (Owner, MD, PreEmpt.Life). Architectural development and integration: Mike Jackson. May 2026. Ratified as Design Principle 2 of PreEmpt.Life's architecture. Prior art searches note broad prior use of 'coherence' across disciplines; the five-stack-level formulation, the degradation sequence, and the role of Coherence as Design Principle within a decision-intelligence architecture are original to PreEmpt.Life.

Coherence Degradation

Actionable

The progressive loss of meaningful alignment between system components and governing intent — the process by which a system begins to work against itself before conventional metrics register any loss.

Coherence degradation precedes measurable failure and moves through the stack in a characteristic sequence: narrative incoherence appears first (visible but denied), mathematical incoherence is detectable last by conventional means but first by PreEmpt.Life's instruments (detectable but not yet visible). Between these two endpoints lies the Coherence Horizon — the interval in which PreEmpt.Life's intelligence function operates at highest value. The primary target of PreEmpt.Life's intelligence infrastructure: not crisis response but the earlier, quieter process of detecting drift before it compounds. Weak signals, narrative drift, decision inconsistency, and mathematical instability each carry the signature of degradation at different stack levels.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Alan Gates (Owner, MD, PreEmpt.Life). Architectural development and integration: Mike Jackson. May 2026. The degradation sequence and five-stack-level propagation model are original to PreEmpt.Life. Prior art searches note use of 'degradation' in systems engineering; the coherence-specific formulation and its application to decision-intelligence infrastructure are original.

The Coherence Horizon

Actionable

The interval between the point at which coherence degradation becomes mathematically detectable and the point at which it becomes organizationally undeniable. The earlier PreEmpt.Life's instruments detect degradation, the wider this interval — and the more room there is to act.

The Coherence Horizon is bounded at one end by mathematical incoherence — detectable by instruments, not yet visible to the organization — and at the other by narrative incoherence that has become undeniable. It is the primary operating territory of PreEmpt.Life's intelligence function. Architectural test: every platform decision is evaluated against one question: does this extend the Coherence Horizon, or shorten it? Every instrument in the architecture is designed to push the point of mathematical detection earlier and delay the point at which degradation becomes undeniable through conventional means.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Alan Gates (Owner, MD, PreEmpt.Life). Architectural development and integration: Mike Jackson. May 2026. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound. The framing of an intelligence platform's primary operating territory as a bounded interval between two degradation endpoints is original to PreEmpt.Life.

Mis-scaling

Actionable

The compression of the interval between the moment of invention and the moment of consequence — the condition in which new capabilities are deployed at speeds that outpace humanity's capacity to understand, govern, or absorb their effects. Named as a condition, not a critique: mis-scaling describes the structural geometry of the problem, not the intentions of those who create it.

Distinguished from unintended consequences (which focuses on outcomes) and risk management failure (which focuses on process). Mis-scaling names the time structure: the interval itself has collapsed. Sits within the Contested Power architecture alongside Corridor Collapse Sequence and Temporal Capacity Deficit, which together describe three ways the time geometry of power can fail.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. January–May 2026. Framework #55 in PreEmpt.Life's Framework Library. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound as a named structural condition.

Corridor Collapse Sequence

Actionable

The progressive narrowing of optionality over time — the process by which available pathways for action, response, or reversal close in sequence until only one remains. Not

the same as crisis: Corridor Collapse begins long before crisis is visible and continues after it has been declared.

Named across multiple corridor types: enforcement, kinetic, regulatory, political, economic, and spatial (including orbital and cislunar). The diagnostic question is not which corridors are closing but when each becomes irreversible — the moment of closure is typically invisible at the time it occurs. The CRC Corridor Collapse Monitor is its operational instrument. Sits alongside Mis-scaling and Temporal Capacity Deficit in PreEmpt.Life's Contested Power architecture.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. April 2026. Framework #56 in PreEmpt.Life's Framework Library. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in this analytical sense.

Convergence Condition

Actionable

The state declared when all three EMS tracks fire simultaneously in the same domain: Acute (daily signal), Structural (monthly pattern), and Sustained (pre-seeded long signal). Not a crisis escalation — a named analytical state requiring its own protocol response.

The Convergence Condition is rare and significant precisely because the three tracks are designed to be distinct. When they converge, the signal is not louder — it is structurally different in kind. The convergence itself is the finding: it indicates a problem whose architecture operates across all three time horizons simultaneously. Five sub-protocols govern response. Standard crisis tools applied to a Convergence Condition will address one track while the other two continue to develop unaddressed.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. April 2026. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in the EMS architecture sense.

Possible

Actionable

Nothing rules it out. The weakest epistemic claim. No known law, fact, or constraint forbids the outcome. Requires no evidence in favour — only the absence of a decisive objection.

Distinguished from Potential (which requires a real precursor, not just absence of objection) and from Plausible (which requires the outcome to be credible given available evidence). Possible is the floor, not the threshold: it establishes what is not ruled out before any stronger epistemic claim is made. Cross-reference: Potential — Plausible — Preposterous.

Term in common use in foresight and futures studies. PreEmpt.Life's specific definition derived from Virmajoki's modal vocabulary framework; finalized in dialogue between Mike Jackson and ALEXIS, 26 July 2026. Applied across Nowcast Common Instructions and Insights. Vocabulary Glossary Term 61.

Potential

Actionable

Could this happen? Stronger than Possible. Some real precursor, capacity, or trajectory already exists that could develop into the outcome — not just "not forbidden," but "there's something here that could grow into it."

Independent of Plausibility: Potential and Plausibility are two separate questions about the same scan hit. A hit can carry Potential without yet reading as Plausible — the precursor exists but the evidence does not yet support credibility. Or it can read as Plausible on thin underlying Potential — credible on current evidence, but without an established trajectory. Never assign a Plausibility rating on the basis of Potential alone. Cross-reference: Possible — Plausible — Insufficient Signal.

Term in common use in foresight and futures studies. PreEmpt.Life's specific definition — as a category independent of Plausibility, not a step toward it — derived from Virmajoki's modal vocabulary framework; finalized in dialogue between Mike Jackson and ALEXIS, 26 July 2026. Vocabulary Glossary Term 62.

Plausible

Actionable

Does this seem credible given what we know? A credibility read, not a possibility read. The outcome fits, or is supported by, the evidence currently available.

Independent of Potential: Plausibility does not require an established precursor or trajectory — it asks whether the outcome is credible on current evidence. A hit can have Potential without yet being Plausible, or read as Plausible on thin underlying Potential. The absence of a known objection is NOT sufficient grounds for a Plausibility rating — that is Possible, not Plausible. Cross-reference: Possible — Potential — Probable — Preposterous.

Term in common use in foresight and futures studies. PreEmpt.Life's specific definition — as a credibility read independent of Potential, requiring affirmative evidential support — derived from Virmajoki's modal vocabulary framework; finalized in dialogue between Mike Jackson and ALEXIS, 26 July 2026. Vocabulary Glossary Term 63.

Probable

Actionable

How likely, and on what basis? A probability estimate that discloses its own grounding — MODEL-BASED (derived from a stated model or structural relationship), EXPERT-JUDGMENT (a structured estimate with stated reasoning), or SUBJECTIVE-CREDENCE (an individual estimate, flagged as such) — rather than a bare number standing alone.

A bare probability number with no disclosure tag is not permitted output. Probable does not replace the Plausibility requirement: a signal rated Probable without first being rated Plausible is an unanchored probability estimate. The three-tag disclosure requirement makes the epistemic basis of every Probable rating auditable. Cross-reference: Plausible — Possible.

Term in common use in foresight and futures studies. PreEmpt.Life's specific definition — requiring tagged disclosure of the basis for any probability statement — derived from Virmajoki's modal vocabulary framework; finalized in dialogue between Mike Jackson and ALEXIS, 26 July 2026. Vocabulary Glossary Term 64.

Preposterous

Actionable

This doesn't cohere with what we know. The rejection pole of the epistemic set. Not merely low-plausibility, but actively at odds with established facts or constraints. Flagged explicitly rather than left to score quietly low.

Never used as a synonym for impossible, and never used to quietly relabel something that is actually just unexamined or unfamiliar. Preposterous is a deliberate, affirmative finding — it requires the same named reasoning as a Plausible rating, applied in the opposite direction. Its function is to hold the boundary between Plausible and dismissed, making visible the class of futures that are neither. Cross-reference: Plausible — Possible — Potential.

Term in common use. PreEmpt.Life's specific definition — as the deliberate rejection pole requiring affirmative named reasoning — derived from Virmajoki's modal vocabulary framework; finalized in dialogue between Mike Jackson and ALEXIS, 26 July 2026. Vocabulary Glossary Term 65.

Desirable / Preferable

Actionable

Do we want this? The one normative term in the set. Separate from all five epistemic terms above — an outcome can be low-potential and still highly desirable (worth pursuing), or high-probability and undesirable (worth guarding against).

Used interchangeably at PreEmpt.Life: Desirable and Preferable are not distinct categories. When comparing multiple futures, comparative language is used ("more

desirable than") rather than a separate ranking category. The normative question is always independent of the epistemic ones — stating what we want does not make it more likely, and stating what is likely does not settle what we should want. Cross-reference: Governing Question — Time × Lives — Voiceless Future-Bearers.

Terms in common use in foresight and futures studies. PreEmpt.Life's specific definition — as a single interchangeable normative term, explicitly independent of all five epistemic modal terms — derived from Virmajoki's modal vocabulary framework; finalized in dialogue between Mike Jackson and ALEXIS, 26 July 2026. Vocabulary Glossary Term 66.

Leverage Point / Leverage Score

Actionable

A leverage point is a place within a system where a targeted intervention produces change disproportionate to the effort applied. In PreEmpt.Life's decision architecture, the leverage point is the specific intervention, actor, or condition that — when addressed — produces the largest movement toward governing intent for the lowest commitment cost. The Leverage Score is the numerical expression of a candidate leverage point's assessed impact across the six-source candidate set, before selection.

Distinguished from the broader systems-dynamics use (Meadows, 1999) by operational specificity: the leverage point here is not a theoretical high-impact node but a named, evidence-grounded candidate produced by the Leverage Point Scan and scored before commitment. The Leverage Score enables comparison across candidates without requiring false precision — it ranks, it does not calculate. The compound term reflects the two-stage structure: scan produces candidates, score enables selection. Cross-reference: Leverage Point Scan — 6-Source Candidate Generation — Action Class — Reversibility Class.

Leverage point as a concept: Donella Meadows, 'Leverage Points: Places to Intervene in a System' (1999). The Leverage Score and the six-source candidate evaluation method within PreEmpt.Life's decision architecture are original to PreEmpt.Life. Mike Jackson, July 2026. [LvgPt-T1a]

Reversibility Class

Actionable

A classification of an action, decision, or commitment by the degree to which it can be undone — and by whom, at what cost, over what time horizon. The Reversibility Class is assigned before commitment, not inferred afterward: its function is to determine what level of evidence, authority, and review is required before the action proceeds.

Classes range from fully reversible (revokable within the decision window at negligible cost) to structurally irreversible (changes institutional conditions in ways that cannot be undone within a generation). Reversibility Class is one of the two primary dimensions

governing Action Class assignment: an action that is structurally irreversible cannot be classified as no-regret or experiment regardless of its expected value. Misclassifying an irreversible action as reversible is itself a governance failure. Cross-reference: Asymmetric Reversibility — Action Class — Affected Lives Map — Consent Requirement.

Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. July 2026. Reversibility as a decision dimension appears in real-options theory; the Reversibility Class taxonomy and its governance implications within a decision record are original to PreEmpt.Life. [RevClass-T1b]

Action Class

Actionable

A five-category taxonomy classifying proposed actions before commitment, based on evidence requirements, reversibility, and governance implications. The five classes: No-regret (beneficial under all plausible scenarios; proceed without scenario-specific justification); Experiment (beneficial to trial, reversible, evidence-generating); Contingent (proceed only if a specified condition is met; monitoring required); Commitment (irreversible or near-irreversible; full Affected Lives review and authority confirmation required); Defer (insufficient evidence or authority for commitment; park with a named review trigger).

Sits alongside the Authority Modes' existing Action Authority axis as a named field in the decision record — not a parallel framework. The Action Class is assigned at proposal, reviewed at commitment, and updated if conditions change materially. A Commitment-class action misclassified as No-regret is a governance failure, not an analytical error. Cross-reference: Reversibility Class — Authority Modes — Affected Lives Map — Decision Activation Energy — Leverage Point / Leverage Score.

Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. July 2026. The five-class taxonomy and its integration with the Action Authority axis are original to PreEmpt.Life. Prior art: real-options theory uses related categories. [ActionClass-T1c]

Capture Flag

Actionable

A flag raised in the decision record when capture risk conditions are detected — signaling that the process, institution, or governance structure carrying this decision may be systematically oriented toward a specific actor or interest rather than its governing intent. Follows the existing flag pattern (Wicked Problem Flag, Roadblock Flag): the Capture Flag does not halt the decision, but it requires the capture risk to be named, assessed, and acknowledged before commitment proceeds.

The Capture Flag is raised before capture is confirmed — it is a risk flag, not a finding. Operational rule: any commitment made under an active Capture Flag requires explicit acknowledgment of the capture risk conditions in the decision record, with named responsible owner. The flag remains active until the capture risk conditions have been structurally addressed, not merely noted. Cross-reference: Capture Risk — Durable Power — Productive Dissent — Consent Requirement — Legitimacy Condition.

Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. July 2026. Follows the PreEmpt.Life flag pattern. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in the decision-intelligence sense. [CaptureFlag-T1d]

Consent Requirement

Actionable

A legitimacy condition requiring positive agreement from specified parties before a decision, action, or commitment proceeds. Distinct from non-objection (a weaker standard that proceeds unless someone objects) and from consultation (which requires engagement but not agreement). When a Consent Requirement is active in the decision record, commitment cannot proceed without named confirmation from the named parties, by the named method and deadline.

Named to match existing governance-record language: plainer than “legitimacy condition” and specific to the subset of legitimacy conditions that require affirmative agreement. The Consent Requirement field names who must consent, by what method, within what window, and what constitutes valid confirmation. A decision that proceeds without satisfying an active Consent Requirement is procedurally invalid regardless of its analytical merit. Cross-reference: Legitimacy Condition — Interpretant — Consequential Closure — Authority Modes — Capture Flag.

Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. July 2026. Consent as a governance concept is in common use; the Consent Requirement as a named, mandatory field in the decision record is original to PreEmpt.Life. [ConsentReq-T1e]

Distinguishability Threshold

Actionable

The Fisher-Rao distance at which two scenarios become operationally distinct — the point at which the statistical manifold separating them is wide enough to justify a different response. Below the threshold, two scenarios are informationally indistinguishable: acting differently on them is not more precise, it is noise. Above it, different action is warranted.

The formal EMS trigger condition. What previously required judgment — when does a developing signal constitute a meaningfully different scenario from the one currently being tracked? — is now measurable. The Fisher-Rao metric provides the geometry: distance on a statistical manifold reflects not the raw difference between probability distributions but the difficulty of distinguishing them by observation. A high Fisher-Rao distance means the scenarios are already generating detectably different signals; a low distance means monitoring, not response, is the correct mode. Member-facing: the Distinguishability Threshold is the point at which the EMS moves from watch to alert.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. January–May 2026. Mathematical grounding: Fisher-Rao metric (C.R. Rao, 1945; R.A. Fisher, 1925); information geometry (Amari, Nagaoka). The application of Fisher-Rao distance as a formal decision-trigger condition within an early warning system is original to PreEmpt.Life. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in the EMS sense.

Curvature Risk

Actionable

The Fisher-Rao curvature at a given decision point: a measure of how rapidly the geometry of information space is changing in the local region of the decision. High curvature means the current model of the situation is in a region where small changes in underlying assumptions produce large changes in conclusions. This is not a failure of the model — it is the geometry of the space the model is operating in.

Curvature Risk names where you are most likely to be wrong — not because your analysis is poor but because the information landscape is bent. Standard decision frameworks assume flat information space: they assess uncertainty in the parameters of a model but not in the geometry of the space the model inhabits. Curvature Risk makes that invisible assumption visible and measurable. Decision Landscape diagnostic: the four zones carry different curvature signatures. Living Ideas and Active EMS zones typically exhibit higher curvature than Return Places. Rejection Zones require separate analysis — high curvature there may signal approaching reversal.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. January–May 2026. Mathematical grounding: Riemannian curvature on statistical manifolds; information geometry (Amari, Nagaoka). The application of Fisher-Rao curvature as a decision-point diagnostic within a member-facing intelligence platform is original to PreEmpt.Life. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in this decision-intelligence sense.

Interpretant

Actionable

After Charles Sanders Peirce. Applied framing: Jonathan Boymal. The moment at which a sign becomes meaning — not through the sign itself, nor through its object, but

through the response of a human mind that brings acquaintance, stakes, and the capacity to be changed by what it understands. Meaning arises through a chain of such responses, not through a single sign-to-object link.

PreEmpt.Life application: AI systems operate within a semantic field built from human experience but do not themselves possess the grounding — grief, consequence, judgment, self-formation — that turns symbolic pattern into lived understanding. The interpretant is therefore the conceptual marker for the boundary between what AI can scaffold and what only a human can supply. This boundary is constitutionally active in PreEmpt.Life wherever the Affected Lives gate applies and wherever the governing question — Does this serve those who struggle most? — requires a named human to answer it.

Cross-references: Decision Wisdom™ (as distinct from decision competence); Affected Lives gate; WHY-21; companion positioning line.

Provenance: Philosophical origin, Charles Sanders Peirce (1839–1914); semiotic theory of the sign. Applied framing for decision-intelligence contexts: Jonathan Boymal. PreEmpt.Life application and constitutional deployment: Mike Jackson, January–May 2026. The specific framing of the interpretant as the marker for the AI–human boundary in a wisdom-infrastructure platform is original to PreEmpt.Life.

Category Genesis Engine

Actionable

The process by which genuinely new analytical categories are generated — before the market, institution, or field has language for the conditions they describe. Named because the engine can be run deliberately: given a set of signals, what category does not yet exist that would make them coherent?

Second-order Lemkinism: not just naming new things, but naming the process of naming things before they exist. The CGE has been validated across four cases: Shaping Tomorrow, PreEmpt.Life, Michael W. Wright's Digital Feudalism thesis. This glossary is itself a CGE output.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. January–May 2026.

Post-Crisis Knowing

Actionable

The specific epistemological state of someone who has passed through crisis and emerged structurally changed by it — not merely experienced, but formed.

Distinguished from post-traumatic growth (which emphasizes recovery) and lessons learned (which emphasizes information).

Post-Crisis Knowing names the quality of the knowing itself: what you can see now that you could not see before, and why. It is not wisdom accumulated. It is a different instrument of perception, forged under conditions that nothing else replicates.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. January–May 2026. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound.

Affected Lives Map

Actionable

A required practice, not an optional tool: before any significant commitment, visualize who carries the consequences, across what time horizon, with what reversibility.

Constitutional in origin within PreEmpt.Life, but functionally applicable to any decision architecture. Stronger than stakeholder analysis because it includes temporal depth, distributional weight, and the question of who cannot speak for themselves. The ALI (Affected Lives Index) is its present-breadth gate.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. January–May 2026.

Exuviance

Actionable

From exuvia — the shed shell or skin of an arthropod after molting. The voluntary capacity to shed accumulated proxies, patterns, and governance structures before they become imprisoning. Distinguished from forced shedding (crisis metabolism) by its anticipatory and designed character: exuviance is chosen before necessity, not after breach.

The governing word for what the Metabolic Monitoring System develops and measures. The capacity the Locus Shift Protocol builds. The defining trait of the Designed Metabolist profile.

Positioning: ‘We develop exuviance: everyone else is progressively less able to respond to anything genuinely new.’ Contrast: Accumulation (size without transformation) — Crisis metabolism (forced shedding) — The Proxy Trap (what happens without exuviance).

Related: Metabolic Monitoring System — Locus Shift Protocol — The Proxy Trap — Metabolic Diagnostic — Sovereign Pattern Library (SPL Paradox) — Excretion Function.

Provenance: PreEmpt.Life coinage, Mike Jackson. May 2026. Etymology: Latin exuvia (shed skin of an arthropod). Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in the organizational or decision-intelligence sense.

Actionable

Actionable

Configuration

Actionable

One specific, internally coherent combination of conditions within a scenario or morphological space. The configuration names not a trend or force but a precise state: this combination of values, at this intersection of uncertainties, producing this particular arrangement of conditions. It is the unit of morphological analysis.

The precision is the point: a configuration is not a scenario and not a trend — it is the specific, internally coherent arrangement from which scenarios are built and against which options are tested. Maps directly onto the output unit of PreEmpt.Life's GMA (Global Morphological Analysis) architecture. Cross-reference: WHY-96 (GMA).

Source: Paulo Soeiro de Carvalho, 'Future of Foresight 2026.' Adapted into PreEmpt.Life's vocabulary: Mike Jackson, June 2026. [Cfg-A1]

Scenario

Actionable

A plausible, coherent account of how a system could unfold. A tool for testing thinking and strategy, not a prediction. The scenario does not claim the future — it makes the future testable: here is one coherent path; what does it reveal about our options, assumptions, and vulnerabilities?

Distinguished from forecast (which claims probability) and from prediction (which claims certainty). The scenario's value is not its accuracy but its specificity: a vague scenario tests nothing; a precise scenario reveals everything it was built to reveal. PreEmpt.Life uses scenarios as stress-tests for pre-decision intelligence. Built from configurations; produces implications. Cross-reference: Configuration — Implication — Pre-Decision Intelligence.

Source: Paulo Soeiro de Carvalho, 'Future of Foresight 2026.' Adapted into PreEmpt.Life's vocabulary: Mike Jackson, June 2026. [Scen-A2]

Decision

Actionable

An actual commitment: authority exercised, resources spent, accountability accepted. Not a preference or a preferred scenario — a decision changes the world by binding an actor to a course of action and accepting the consequences of what follows. The distinction between option and decision is the distinction between thinking and acting.

Constitutionally significant within PreEmpt.Life: the platform operates entirely in the pre-decision space — the territory before this moment arrives. ALEXIS scaffolds the intelligence, the analysis, and the option assessment. The decision itself belongs to a named human who holds the authority, carries the accountability, and bears the interpretant. The third stage of the Signal-Pattern-Decision Triad is not the decision itself but the synthesis that makes it possible. Cross-reference: Pre-Decision Intelligence — Interpretant — Consequential Closure — Affected Lives Map.

Source: Paulo Soeiro de Carvalho, 'Future of Foresight 2026.' Adapted into PreEmpt.Life's vocabulary: Mike Jackson, June 2026. [Dec-A3]

Indicator

Actionable

Something observable used to track whether a force, assumption, or decision is playing out as expected. The indicator is not the thing being measured — it is the observable proxy for it. Its value lies in being detectable before the underlying condition becomes undeniable.

Distinguished from a metric (which measures magnitude) and from a signal (which is a single observation pointing to possible change). An indicator is a designed tracking mechanism: chosen in advance, tied to a specific assumption or force, and monitored systematically over time. Where a signal is noticed, an indicator is watched. Cross-reference: Threshold Literacy — Coherence Degradation — The Coherence Horizon.

Source: Paulo Soeiro de Carvalho, 'Future of Foresight 2026.' Adapted into PreEmpt.Life's vocabulary: Mike Jackson, June 2026. [Ind-A4]

Strategic Twin

Actionable

A living, governed representation of a domain's evidence, relationships, scenarios, and decisions — kept current, not a one-time snapshot. The strategic twin is not a report or a presentation; it is an ongoing architecture that holds the intelligence about a domain and updates as the domain changes.

The defining property is governance: a strategic twin has owners, update protocols, and accountability for its currency. Without governance it becomes a historical record, not a twin. Maps directly onto PreEmpt.Life's Decision Wisdom Mesh and PAULO_TWIN

architecture. Cross-reference: Decision Wisdom Mesh — PAULO_TWIN — Forecast Half-Life.

Source: Paulo Soeiro de Carvalho, 'Future of Foresight 2026.' Adapted into PreEmpt.Life's vocabulary: Mike Jackson, June 2026. [StrTwin-A5]

Consequential Closure

Actionable

The moment an institution actually commits to a frame or option and accepts what follows. AI can inform this moment but can never own its legitimacy. Consequential Closure is the point at which analysis ends and accountability begins — where the interpretant must be human.

Distinguished from decision (the commitment itself) by its phenomenological quality: Consequential Closure names the moment as a threshold, not just an act. Something closes at this moment — optionality, reversibility, the possibility of a different future. That closure can only be owned by a named human actor who holds the authority and accepts the consequences. Cross-reference: Interpretant — Decision — Affected Lives gate — Pre-Decision Intelligence.

Source: Paulo Soeiro de Carvalho, 'Future of Foresight 2026.' Adapted into PreEmpt.Life's vocabulary: Mike Jackson, June 2026. [ConsClosure-A6]

Consequential Rehearsal

Actionable

An experience with a possible future substantial enough that it changes understanding, surfaces real trade-offs, and connects to an actual decision or commitment. Distinguished from Futures Theatre by its consequential weight: a consequential rehearsal changes something — an assumption, a plan, a commitment — not just an attitude.

The rehearsal is not entertainment and not general education. It is a specifically designed encounter with a specific decision situation, structured to surface what a participant would not have known without it. The test: did anything actually change as a result? Cross-reference: Futures Theatre — Liminal Intelligence — Decision Activation Energy.

Source: Paulo Soeiro de Carvalho, 'Future of Foresight 2026.' Adapted into PreEmpt.Life's vocabulary: Mike Jackson, June 2026. [ConsReh-A7]

Tier Two

Thinkable — approaching Actionable

These terms have achieved conceptual clarity and named a previously unnamed condition. The step to Actionable requires a method: a practice or tool that operationalizes the term within a decision architecture.

Sovereign Knowing

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

Knowledge that is non-transferable not because it is proprietary or tacit, but because it was formed by a particular life — by the specific sequence of experiences, failures, recoveries, and encounters that only one person has lived. It cannot be taught, only recognized. It cannot be delegated, only drawn upon.

The term creates a category that epistemology has not cleanly separated from expertise or intuition. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in the epistemological sense.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. January–May 2026.

Epistemic Fitness

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

The capacity of a decision-maker or organization to generate, test, and revise the beliefs on which consequential choices depend. Like physical fitness: trainable, measurable, degradable through disuse, and critical under pressure.

Distinguished from intelligence (relatively fixed) and knowledge (content). Epistemic Fitness is a process quality — how well the knowing apparatus works, not what it currently contains. The PreEmpt.Life Epistemic Fitness Index (EFI) provides the measurement architecture. Prior art searches found ‘epistemic health’ and ‘epistemic immunity’ in adjacent literature; ‘epistemic fitness’ as a decision-capacity compound is original.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. January–May 2026.

Threshold Literacy

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

The trained capacity to read when a system — an institution, a market, an ecology, a relationship — is approaching a point of irreversible change, before the instruments confirm it. Not prediction. Not pattern recognition.

A specific attentiveness to the signals that precede thresholds: the quality of explanation declining, the geometry of power shifting, the silences changing character. The Durable Power leading indicator (enforcement rising while explanation falls) is a demonstration of Threshold Literacy in practice. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. January–May 2026.

The Clearing Is a Verb

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

The founding ontological proposition of PreEmpt.Life's Finding the Clearing series: the clearing — the state of pre-decision orientation, the moment before commitment when the decision space is still navigable — is not a destination to be reached and held (a noun) but a continuous process of active orientation (a verb). You do not arrive at the clearing. You practice it.

This reframes the entire enterprise of Pre-Decision Intelligence. The question is not how to achieve clarity before a decision but how to sustain the quality of attentiveness that makes clarity possible: sensing formation, reading ecological shifts, surfacing the implicit before it disappears. Complexity economics provides the theoretical warrant — a complex adaptive system is not a noun-world of equilibria to be modeled but a verb-world of formation processes to be detected. The clearing is where verb-based intelligence operates. 'Everyone else makes you competent. We make you wiser.' Competence is noun-based: it optimizes within a fixed frame. Wisdom is the verb-process of navigating without one.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. May 2026. Theoretical grounding: W. Brian Arthur, 'Economics in Nouns and Verbs,' JEBO (2023); Beinhocker and Bednar, INET Oxford Working Paper 2025-20. Expressed in Finding the Clearing Paper Four. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound as an ontological proposition in this sense.

Information Geodesic

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

The natural path between two knowledge states in curved information space: the shortest route across a statistical manifold connecting where understanding is now to where it needs to be. On a Riemannian manifold, the straight line is a geodesic — but in

curved space, geodesics are not straight in the Euclidean sense. They follow the geometry of the space.

Standard decision framing assumes a straight line between current knowledge and the knowledge required for commitment: fill the gaps, reduce the uncertainty, proceed. This is the flat-space assumption. In a world of Curvature Risk, that assumption fails silently. The Information Geodesic replaces the straight-line assumption: ALEXIS navigates the natural path through curved information space rather than the assumed linear one. The practical consequence: the route to the decision-ready state may not pass through the questions you would first think to ask. It passes through the questions the geometry of the situation demands.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. January–May 2026. Mathematical grounding: geodesics on Riemannian statistical manifolds; information geometry (Amari, Nagaoka; Rao, 1945). The application of the geodesic concept to the navigation of knowledge states in a Pre-Decision Intelligence system is original to PreEmpt.Life. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in the decision-framing sense.

Signal Chirality

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

The property of a signal whose orientation — its approach angle, framing sequence, or contextual handedness — determines its effect independently of its informational content. Two chiral signals share identical data but are non-superimposable: one cannot be rotated or translated into the other without changing its meaning in context. Derived from stereochemistry in organic chemistry, where enantiomers are molecules structurally identical in every measurable respect — same atoms, same bonds, same molecular weight — but non-superimposable mirror images. The definitive case: thalidomide. The R-enantiomer relieved morning sickness; the S-enantiomer caused severe limb malformations in thousands of children. Same molecule. Mirror orientation. Catastrophic divergence of outcome. Signal Chirality is this principle operating at the scale of decisions.

Distinguished from ambiguity (which describes unclear signals) and from framing effects (which describe how presentation influences perception without naming the mechanism). Signal Chirality names the mechanism: it is not that the signal is unclear, or that framing shifts emphasis. The signal is precise. The orientation is the variable. And orientation determines effect. The decision error is to treat chiral signals as achiral — assuming that since the data is the same, the action should be the same. Governing observation: different formulations produce unintended outcomes. The formulation is the orientation. The unintended outcome is the consequence of acting on content while ignoring handedness.

The Chirality Test operationalizes the term across four steps: identify the mirror form (same data, reversed orientation); test both forms against the decision context; identify the handedness (was the orientation chosen, or an artifact of transmission?); act on orientation as well as content. A chiral signal requires a response to its handedness — not just its information. The Two Faces Rule (Section 16B of PreEmpt.Life's COMMON_INSTRUCTIONS) is the applied expression of Signal Chirality: every signal readable as risk is simultaneously readable as opportunity for a differently-positioned actor. The two faces are enantiomers. Signal Chirality is the mechanism that explains why. Signal Provenance Architecture (WHY-22) tracks where a signal comes from; Signal Chirality tracks how it is oriented on arrival. These are independent questions. A signal can have impeccable provenance and lethal chirality.

Related: Signal Provenance Architecture (WHY-22) — Two Faces Rule (Section 16B) — Entanglement Index — Threshold Recognition.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. June 2026. Derived from organic chemistry (stereochemistry; enantiomers; thalidomide case). WHY-24, ratified June 2026. Tier 2 Structural. Enters on the Social × Abstraction face; confirmed isotopic. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in the decision-intelligence or signal-analysis sense.

Decision Activation Energy

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

The minimum intervention required to initiate a decision process that is already thermodynamically favorable — where the outcome is known to be beneficial but the initiation cost exceeds what the system will currently tolerate. Decision Activation Energy (DAE) is independent of Decision Readiness. A decision can be fully ready — evidence sufficient, analysis complete, stakeholders informed — and still not proceed because the cost of the first move is too high. The decision is not waiting for more information. It is waiting for a catalyst.

Derived from physical chemistry. Activation energy is the minimum energy required to initiate a chemical reaction — even one that is thermodynamically favorable. The governing equation is Arrhenius: $k = A \cdot e^{-Ea/RT}$, where k is the reaction rate and Ea is the activation energy. The exponential relationship is the critical insight: small reductions in activation energy produce large, non-linear increases in reaction rate. A catalyst provides an alternative pathway with lower activation energy — without being consumed, and without changing the products of the reaction. DAE names the most common and least-named failure mode in institutional decision-making: the decision that everyone knows should be made but isn't. Not because the signal was missed. Not because the analysis was insufficient. Because the initiation cost — political, cognitive, temporal, or social — exceeds what the system will tolerate, even though the long-term value would justify it many times over.

Four components constitute DAE. DAE-P (Political Cost): the institutional or relational price of initiating this decision — who loses standing if this proceeds, what coalitions would be disrupted by the first move. DAE-C (Cognitive Load): the analytical and mental work required before the decision process can begin — the component ALEXIS most directly reduces, by providing structured analytical scaffolding that collapses the cognitive load of initiation. DAE-T (Temporal Commitment): how long the initiating actor must sustain energy before the reaction becomes self-sustaining — long commitment without early return is a structural barrier. DAE-S (Social Exposure): how visible the initiating actor is during the activation phase, before the outcome is certain — the precise mechanism behind PreEmpt.Life's 'thinking partner without competing interests' function. A non-competing partner does not increase the social exposure of the initiating actor. It lowers it.

DAE and the Decision Readiness Score (DRS) constitute a two-dimensional decision architecture. DRS measures proximity to readiness. DAE measures the height of the barrier between current state and initiation. These are orthogonal. The most consequential institutional failure state is high DRS combined with high DAE: the decision is ready, and it is not happening. This state was previously invisible to decision architecture. DAE makes it visible and actionable. The crisis temperature problem: when the activation energy barrier is not crossed through catalysis, it may eventually be crossed through temperature — the crisis that raises the energy of the entire system until the barrier is crossed spontaneously. Crisis-temperature decisions are uncontrolled, leave no institutional learning, and produce collateral decisions that would not otherwise have been made. The goal is not to wait for the temperature to rise. The goal is to lower the barrier before it does.

ALEXIS as catalyst, formally specified: ALEXIS lowers DAE without being consumed in the process, and without changing the nature of the decision. The decision reached through ALEXIS is the same decision that should have been reached without it. The barrier is lower. The pathway is available. This is not metaphor borrowed from chemistry. It is the same structural principle operating at the scale of decisions.

Related: Decision Readiness Score — The Clearing — Institutional Buffer Capacity (IBC) — Exuviance — Threshold Literacy — Signal Chirality (WHY-24).

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. June 2026. Derived from physical chemistry (activation energy; Arrhenius equation; catalysis). WHY-28, ratified June 2026. Abstraction × Temporal faces. Confirmed isotopic. No new axis. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in the decision-intelligence sense.

Signal Reaction Order

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

The kinetic property of a signal that describes how its acceleration rate relates to its density and interactions. Three orders apply, derived from chemical rate laws (rate = $k[A]^m[B]^n$). First-order: acceleration proportional to signal density. Each new source adds proportionally to the rate — predictable, linear, standard intervention effective. Targeting individual signals changes the rate proportionally. Second-order: acceleration proportional to the square of signal density, or to the product of two interacting signal streams. Self-amplifying; signal-to-signal interactions drive the rate; explosive above threshold. Systemic intervention required — targeting individual signals is insufficient because the rate is driven by interactions, not individual signal strength. The two-signal form (rate = k[A][B]) is particularly significant: two entangled signals amplify each other's acceleration, producing a compound kinetic cascade that exceeds the sum of individual rates. Zero-order: acceleration constant regardless of signal density. The system is at saturation — fully occupied, unable to process additional inputs faster. Adding more sources changes nothing until the saturation condition is resolved.

Signal Reaction Order completes the kinetic picture that Signal Velocity and Decision Activation Energy (WHY-28) begin. Signal Velocity names how fast a signal is moving. Decision Activation Energy names the cost of initiating a response. Signal Reaction Order names the mathematical structure of the acceleration itself — whether it is linear, self-amplifying, or saturated — and therefore what kind of intervention is required. The distinction matters precisely when it is least visible. A Storm-classified signal could be first-order (manageable, proportional) or second-order (self-amplifying, approaching explosive). The current architecture cannot distinguish them from velocity alone. The response required is categorically different.

Signal Reaction Order provides the mechanism behind a standing architectural observation: SIGNIFICANT↑↑ in PreEmpt.Life's EMS velocity notation routes as CATASTROPHIC. Signal Reaction Order explains why — ↑↑ is second-order kinetics becoming operationally visible. The routing was correct. The mechanism is now precise. The zero-order condition is frequently misdiagnosed as political blockage, signal fatigue, or organizational inertia. The correct diagnosis is saturation: the system is at maximum processing velocity and adding more intelligence has no effect. Three saturation types produce zero-order kinetics — IBC exhaustion, DAE-CRITICAL, and cognitive buffer saturation — each requiring a different resolution before analytical capacity can be usefully added.

Half-life provides the diagnostic: in first-order deceleration, half-life is constant. In second-order, half-life shortens as velocity decreases — deceleration accelerates. In zero-order, velocity drops linearly. The shape of the decay curve identifies the order.

Related: Decision Activation Energy (WHY-28) — Flock_Velocity — Entanglement Index — Institutional Buffer Capacity (IBC) — Exuviance — Signal Chirality (WHY-24).

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. June 2026. Derived from chemical kinetics (rate laws; Arrhenius equation; reaction orders). WHY-29, ratified June 2026. Temporal × Abstraction faces. Confirmed isotopic. No new axis. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in the decision-intelligence or signal-analysis sense.

Institutional Equilibrium Dynamics

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

The behavior of an institution at or near equilibrium when subjected to external disturbance. Derived from Le Chatelier's Principle in chemistry (Henri Louis Le Chatelier, 1884): a system at equilibrium shifts to oppose any disturbance, partially restoring the original state while settling at a new equilibrium position. Three properties govern. Opposition: the institutional response to any significant disturbance will be in the direction that opposes the change — predictable before the disturbance is introduced, not with certainty about magnitude but with precision about direction. Proportionality: the magnitude of opposition is proportional to the magnitude of the disturbance — small reforms produce small resistance, large reforms produce large resistance and large equilibrium shifts. New equilibrium: the post-disturbance state is neither the original state nor the intended final state — it is a new position determined by the balance of forces in the disturbed system. Every reform settles somewhere between where it started and where it aimed.

Four institutional equilibria are directly mappable. Regulatory equilibrium: when new constraints are imposed, institutions shift toward compliance minimization, workarounds, and reversal advocacy. Narrative equilibrium: when dominant framings are challenged, counter-narratives proportional to the challenge are produced. Power equilibrium: when authority or resource is redistributed, those who lose power form coalitions and invoke procedural delay. Temporal equilibrium: when urgency increases (the chemical analogy is temperature), institutions shift toward fast, low-quality decisions, bypassing deliberative processes. The temporal equilibrium is the most practically significant. Urgency is not just a time signal — it is a disturbance to the decision equilibrium that predictably degrades decision quality. The institution moves toward the path of least resistance, which is rarely the path of highest wisdom. This is the mechanism behind PreEmpt.Life's governing principle of 'friction before speed': friction is the countervailing force that opposes the Le Chatelier response to urgency. It is not a preference. It is thermodynamics.

Institutional Equilibrium Dynamics completes the chemistry quartet with Institutional Buffer Capacity (IBC, WHY-25), Decision Activation Energy (DAE, WHY-28), and Signal Reaction Order (SRO, WHY-29). IBC describes what the institution can absorb. DAE describes what it costs to initiate a response. SRO describes how fast the signal accelerates. IED describes where the institution resists and settles. Together they

constitute a complete chemical description of institutional decision dynamics. The boundary condition with SRO is architecturally significant: IED applies near equilibrium. As a system moves far from equilibrium — driven by second-order kinetics (SRO) or buffer exhaustion (IBC) — IED predictive power weakens and SRO governs. Threshold_Proximity (CSV Col 30) is the operational proxy for this boundary: low proximity means IED fully operative; high proximity means SRO governs.

The intelligence value is prediction: Institutional Equilibrium Dynamics allows ALEXIS to predict the direction of institutional resistance before it appears. The resistance is not a surprise. It is a Le Chatelier response. Naming it in advance changes the decision architecture entirely — from managing setback to navigating a predictable trajectory.

Related: Institutional Buffer Capacity (IBC, WHY-25) — Decision Activation Energy (DAE, WHY-28) — Signal Reaction Order (SRO, WHY-29) — Threshold Literacy — Corridor Collapse Sequence (#56) — Threshold_Proximity.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. June 2026. Derived from Le Chatelier's Principle (Henri Louis Le Chatelier, 1884). WHY-30, ratified June 2026. Social × Temporal faces. Confirmed isotopic. No new axis. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in the decision-intelligence sense.

Signal Oxidation State

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

The degree to which a signal has been transformed through institutional filter layers between its origin and its arrival at the decision layer. Derived from the chemical concept of oxidation state — the formal measure of electron transfer that determines a species' reactivity and behavior. OIL RIG: Oxidation Is Loss, Reduction Is Gain. The iron principle applies directly: Fe^0, Fe^{2+}, and Fe^{3+} are the same element with completely different properties depending on oxidation state. A raw signal (SOS-0) and a heavily processed signal (SOS-3) carry the same designation but behave entirely differently. The state determines the behavior.

Five levels apply. SOS-0 (Raw): no institutional filter — direct observation, primary source, unmediated; highest fidelity, highest reactivity; treat with forensic care. SOS-1 (Lightly processed): one filter layer; original signal largely intact; standard provenance screening sufficient. SOS-2 (Moderately processed): two to three filter layers; significant transformation has occurred; multi-stage screening required; findings carry appropriate caveat. SOS-3 (Heavily processed): four or more filter layers; what arrives is the institutional interpretation of the signal, not the signal itself; source archaeology required before high-stakes commitment. SOS-X (Irreducibly degraded): the transfer chain has converted the signal's informational content beyond recovery — do not treat as primary evidence; return to an entirely different original source.

Reduction potential determines whether a degraded signal can be restored. High reduction potential: the original source is accessible and recovery is possible — and should be attempted for high-stakes decisions. Zero reduction potential: recovery is impossible regardless of effort; the chain has converted the signal irreversibly. Redox pairs apply to institutional signal chains: every time a signal is degraded through processing, the institution gains something in exchange — institutional legitimacy, narrative coherence, political palatability. The exchange may be appropriate for routine decisions. For irreversible commitments it must be named and assessed. This is the institutional expression of the chemical principle that electrons do not disappear — they are transferred.

Signal Oxidation State is complementary to but distinct from Signal Chirality (WHY-24): chirality describes orientation change — same content, different handedness. SOS describes content degradation — same orientation, reduced fidelity. A signal can be chiral without being oxidized, oxidized without being chiral, or both simultaneously. Neither assessment substitutes for the other.

The justice dimension: the signals of those who struggle most are the most heavily oxidized. They pass through the most institutional layers. Their reduction potential is lowest. Signal fidelity restoration — tracing back through the chain, returning to primary sources — is a governance practice with direct constitutional grounding in PreEmpt.Life's governing question: 'Does this serve those who struggle most?' Signal Oxidation State completes the chemistry import program and the signal lifecycle picture. Seven chemistry imports now describe all seven phases of an institutional decision event: SPA (origin) → Signal Chirality (orientation) → Signal Oxidation State (fidelity) → Institutional Buffer Capacity (absorption) → Decision Activation Energy (initiation) → Signal Reaction Order (propagation) → Institutional Equilibrium Dynamics (settlement).

Related: Signal Provenance Architecture (WHY-22) — Signal Chirality (WHY-24) — Institutional Buffer Capacity (IBC, WHY-25) — Decision Activation Energy (WHY-28) — Institutional Equilibrium Dynamics (WHY-30) — Crossings Register.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. June 2026. Derived from inorganic and organic chemistry (oxidation states; redox reactions; reduction potential; OIL RIG). WHY-31, ratified June 2026. Social × Abstraction faces. Confirmed isotopic. No new axis. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in the decision-intelligence or signal-analysis sense.

Forecast Half-Life

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

The duration for which a specific claim, thesis, or artifact produced by PreEmpt.Life should be trusted before it is re-checked against current conditions. Direction is outbound: Forecast Half-Life applies to what PreEmpt.Life produces, not what it consumes. Unlike Temporal Validity Assessment, it is persistent — a tag that sits on the record and triggers future review at a specified interval, not a filter that disappears after one session.

A decayed thesis fails in one of two distinct ways, requiring separate half-life assignments. Structural thesis decay: the underlying pattern claimed (e.g. “institutions reorganize around the person, not the provider, under cost pressure”) — tends to be durable; structural theses often survive the instruments that first expressed them. Instrument drift: the specific mechanism, actor, or technology named as the delivery vehicle (e.g. “EHRs will drive that reorganization”) — tends to decay fast, often while the structural thesis above it still holds. Assigning a single half-life to a thesis without distinguishing these two failure modes produces either premature retirement (calibrated to instrument drift) or dangerous staleness (calibrated to structural durability).

Applied to WHY entries, FutureLenses, and theses at the moment they are registered, not consumed. The Forecast Half-Life tag triggers a scheduled review before commitment to the claim in high-stakes contexts.

Related: Temporal Validity Assessment — Pattern Senescence — Anomaly Queue — WHY-66 (candidate).

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. June 2026. WHY-66 candidate. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in the foresight or decision-intelligence sense.

Evidence

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

Any inspectable source material, whatever form it takes — data, documents, firsthand experience, primary testimony. Credibility depends not only on the material itself but on where it came from, the conditions of its capture, and the context surrounding it. Evidence is not the same as proof; it is the inspectable record from which claims are built and against which they are tested.

Distinguished from signal (which is a single sourced observation pointing toward possible change) and from data (which implies quantification). Evidence is the broadest category: a signal is a form of evidence; not all evidence generates a signal. Cross-reference: Signal — Signal Oxidation State — Signal Provenance Architecture (WHY-22).

Source: Paulo Soeiro de Carvalho, 'Future of Foresight 2026.' Adapted into PreEmpt.Life's vocabulary: Mike Jackson, June 2026. [Evid-B1]

Signal

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

A single sourced observation that might point to change. Not yet interpreted as meaningful — just noticed. The signal is the minimal unit of the intelligence cycle: its detection precedes its interpretation, its interpretation precedes its elevation to a driving force.

Distinguished from evidence (the broader category of inspectable material) and from driving force (the strategic interpretation of a curated signal). Signal is the raw form; driving force is what it becomes when curated into strategic meaning. This base definition is the foundation on which PreEmpt.Life's signal architecture — Signal Chirality, Signal Oxidation State, Signal Reaction Order — is built. Cross-reference: WHY-72 (signal-to-driving-force promotion pipeline) — Driving Force — Evidence.

Source: Paulo Soeiro de Carvalho, 'Future of Foresight 2026.' Adapted into PreEmpt.Life's vocabulary: Mike Jackson, June 2026. [Sig-B2]

Driving Force

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

A signal that has been curated into a strategic interpretation — a trend, megatrend, weak signal, wildcard, or critical uncertainty. The curation step transforms raw detection into actionable intelligence by naming the pattern, locating it within a domain, and assessing its strategic significance.

Distinguished from signal (the raw observation) by the interpretive and curatorial work performed on it. A signal becomes a driving force when a human analyst or intelligence system names it, sources it, and assigns it strategic weight. The elevation from signal to driving force is the core act of foresight practice. Cross-reference: WHY-72 — Signal — Strategic Constellation.

Source: Paulo Soeiro de Carvalho, 'Future of Foresight 2026.' Adapted into PreEmpt.Life's vocabulary: Mike Jackson, June 2026. [DrvF-B3]

Relationship

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

A named, evidenced connection between two objects — one that enables another, constrains it, amplifies it, legitimizes it, replaces it, or undermines it. The relationship is

not implied or inferred; it is asserted and evidenced. Naming the type of connection matters: enables and undermines are not the same relationship even when they involve the same two objects.

The relationship is the unit of analytical architecture. A driving force without named relationships is a statement. A network of driving forces with named relationships is a strategic constellation. The distinction between naming a force and naming its relationships is the distinction between description and analysis. Cross-reference: Driving Force — Strategic Constellation.

Source: Paulo Soeiro de Carvalho, 'Future of Foresight 2026.' Adapted into PreEmpt.Life's vocabulary: Mike Jackson, June 2026. [Rel-B4]

Strategic Constellation

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

A cluster of related forces whose combined behavior reveals a pattern bigger than any one of them. The constellation is not the sum of its forces — it is the emergent behavior produced by their relationships. It becomes visible only when the forces and their relationships are mapped together.

Distinguished from a list of trends (which names forces without naming their relationships) and from a scenario (which describes a specific unfolding). A strategic constellation is the pattern-level finding that makes scenario development possible: it names what is interacting, not what happens next. Cross-reference: Murmation Wisdom — Formation Intelligence — Relationship — Strategic Space.

Source: Paulo Soeiro de Carvalho, 'Future of Foresight 2026.' Adapted into PreEmpt.Life's vocabulary: Mike Jackson, June 2026. [StrConst-B5]

Strategic Space

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

A major domain where related forces, actors, and uncertainties interact with each other. The strategic space is not a topic or a sector — it is a defined arena of interaction, bounded by what it includes and what it excludes, within which constellations and scenarios are developed.

The definition of the strategic space is itself a strategic choice: it determines what counts as relevant and what is treated as external. An overly narrow space misses systemic interactions; an overly broad space makes analysis unmanageable. The space is correctly defined when the most consequential interactions happen inside it, not across its boundaries. Cross-reference: Strategic Constellation — Critical Uncertainty.

Source: Paulo Soeiro de Carvalho, 'Future of Foresight 2026.' Adapted into PreEmpt.Life's vocabulary: Mike Jackson, June 2026. [StrSpace-B6]

Critical Uncertainty

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

A high-stakes variable whose different possible outcomes would meaningfully change the whole system. Not all uncertainties are critical — the critical uncertainty is the one that, if resolved differently, would require a fundamentally different strategic response. It is the variable on which the most consequential scenarios turn.

Distinguished from risk (which implies probability assessment) and from unknown unknowns (which are by definition unidentified). Critical uncertainty is identified but unresolved — its possible outcomes are nameable, and the choice between them differentiates one scenario from another. The selection of critical uncertainties is the most consequential analytical decision in scenario development. Cross-reference: Scenario — Configuration — Asymmetric Reversibility.

Source: Paulo Soeiro de Carvalho, 'Future of Foresight 2026.' Adapted into PreEmpt.Life's vocabulary: Mike Jackson, June 2026. [CritUnc-B7]

Implication

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

A downstream consequence a scenario creates for a specific actor, capability, or decision. The implication is not drawn from the scenario in general — it is drawn for a named recipient: what does this scenario mean for this organization, this capability, this commitment already made?

Distinguished from insight (which is general) and from option (which is a possible response). The implication names what is at stake for a specific actor before the options are assessed. Without named implications, a scenario produces awareness; with them, it produces decision-relevant intelligence. Cross-reference: Scenario — Option — Affected Lives Map.

Source: Paulo Soeiro de Carvalho, 'Future of Foresight 2026.' Adapted into PreEmpt.Life's vocabulary: Mike Jackson, June 2026. [Impl-B8]

Option

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

A possible response that could be evaluated against more than one future. The option is not tailored to one scenario — it is robust enough to be assessed across the scenario space. An option that only works in one future is a bet, not a strategy.

Distinguished from decision (which is an actual commitment) and from implication (which names what is at stake). The option occupies the space between implications and decisions: it is the set of possible moves available before the commitment is made. The quality of available options is the primary output of the pre-decision intelligence function. Cross-reference: Decision — Implication — Asymmetric Reversibility — Pre-Decision Intelligence.

Source: Paulo Soeiro de Carvalho, 'Future of Foresight 2026.' Adapted into PreEmpt.Life's vocabulary: Mike Jackson, June 2026. [Opt-B9]

Temporal Capacity Deficit

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

The structural failure of an institution to hold and act on time horizons that match the time-shape of the problems it faces. Not short-termism — that implies choice. Temporal Capacity Deficit names the conditions that make long-term decision-making structurally unavailable, regardless of intent.

Five distinct deficits constitute the compound condition: Detection (the institution does not perceive signals at the relevant horizon), Attention (it cannot hold long signals against short-cycle pressure), Integration (decision frameworks discount or exclude long-horizon considerations), Sustainment (action breaks at leadership turnovers and electoral cycles), and Adaptation (when conditions shift, sunk-cost commitments prevent pivot). The TCD Scan is its diagnostic instrument. Mis-scaling becomes lethal in the presence of TCD; Corridor Collapse goes unaddressed because of it.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. May 2026. Framework #57 in PreEmpt.Life's Framework Library. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound.

Asymmetric Reversibility

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

The condition in which one party to a decision can reverse course while the other cannot. Standard decision frameworks note irreversibility; Asymmetric Reversibility names its distributional character — that the burden of lock-in falls unevenly.

The risk is not just that a decision is hard to undo, but that it is hard to undo for one party specifically. Operationalized within PreEmpt.Life's decision architecture.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. January–May 2026.

Time × Lives

Actionable (internal) → approaching wider use

The two dimensions that must be applied co-equally before any significant commitment: temporal depth (how far forward does this reach?) and social breadth (how many lives does this touch, and which ones?).

The × is not decorative — it signals multiplication, not addition. Neither dimension is subordinate to the other. Treating them sequentially rather than simultaneously is itself a decision error. Constitutional within PreEmpt.Life: co-equal and mandatory before commitment.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. January–May 2026.

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

Fixed Referent Flight

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

Measurable acceleration toward high-stability, low-ambiguity anchors — institutions, identities, ideologies, or practices defined by fixed meaning — occurring simultaneously across multiple demographic or professional cohorts. The rate of category destabilization in the decision environment has exceeded the absorption capacity of the people within it. The flight is not toward the content of the anchor. It is toward its legibility. The specific destination varies; the structural cause is consistent.

Diagnostic question triggered: how many of the categories this decision-maker relies on for orientation have destabilized in the same window? Risk flagged: decisions made under Fixed Referent Flight conditions carry elevated rigidity bias — the anchor chosen for stability becomes resistant to revision even when evidence warrants it. The flight resolves the immediate legibility crisis while embedding a structural vulnerability in the decisions that follow: the anchor is now load-bearing, and its load-bearing status is invisible to the decision-maker who chose it for stability, not truth.

Linked signals: Closing Windows — Rejection Zones — WHY-47 (Entropy as Governing Physics) — WHY-49 (Decision Terrain, adverse weather quadrant).

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. June 2026. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in the decision-intelligence or behavioral-signal sense.

Liminal Trauma Potential

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

The degree of harm risk embedded in a liminal state — the condition in which the breakdown of existing structures and the absence of new ones creates not just uncertainty but active vulnerability to damage. Liminal trauma potential is highest when: the rate of category destabilization exceeds absorption capacity; exit from the liminal state is structurally blocked or indefinitely deferred; and the resources required to sustain orientation (stable referents, institutional support, temporal latitude) are unavailable.

Foundational sources: Arnold van Gennep, 'The Rites of Passage' (1909) — coined limen and the transitional phase in which a person is stripped of their old identity but has not yet received their new one. Victor Turner, 'The Ritual Process' (1969) — established that prolonged or permanent liminal states produce deep existential and psychological distress. Contemporary psychological grounding: Bessel van der Kolk, 'The Body Keeps the Score'; Complex PTSD (C-PTSD) research. Decision-intelligence application — formalising liminal trauma potential as a measurable property of decision environments rather than solely of individuals: Mike Jackson, July 2026. WHY-97 (Liminal Trauma Mitigation Protocol). Vocabulary Glossary Term 60.

Operated Displacement

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

The engineered removal of conditions required to practice a capacity, skill, or right — distinguished from natural obsolescence by the presence of a directing intelligence. Where natural decline reflects organic, distributed non-use, operated displacement engineers the conditions of non-use before consent or adaptation is possible. The record of decline looks identical in both cases; the distinction lies in whether the infrastructure of practice was removed before people could choose.

The diagnostic significance: natural obsolescence and operated displacement require entirely different responses. Treating operated displacement as natural decline embeds the engineering decision as an environmental given, making reversal structurally invisible. The naming makes the distinction visible and the question of agency unavoidable: who removed the conditions, when, and with what authorization? Linked to WHY-47 (Entropy as Governing Physics) and WHY-38 (Backbone Integrity) as the externally directed mechanism through which both can be accelerated. See also: Closing Windows — Signal Oxidation State.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. June 2026. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in the decision-intelligence or governance sense.

6-Source Candidate Generation

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

The method step within the Leverage Point Scan by which candidate leverage points are identified from six distinct source types before evaluation and scoring. The six-source requirement prevents the anchoring bias of single-source candidate generation — where the first plausible candidate becomes the default — by requiring the analyst to work across multiple evidence and perspective types before any candidate is elevated.

Named as a method step, not a framework: 6-source candidate generation is one move inside the Leverage Point Scan, not a standalone instrument. The six-source structure ensures that structural candidates (emerging from systemic analysis) are surfaced alongside situational candidates (emerging from proximate analysis) without either category dominating. Cross-reference: Leverage Point Scan — Leverage Point / Leverage Score.

Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. July 2026. Method step within the Leverage Point analysis. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in the decision-intelligence sense. [6SrcCand-T2a]

Leverage Point Scan

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

A method step within the Leverage Point analysis — not a standalone WHY entry. The Leverage Point Scan generates candidate leverage points through 6-source candidate generation, evaluates each against the Leverage Score, and produces a ranked output for selection. It does not itself select the leverage point; it produces the evidence-grounded set from which selection is made.

Named as a scan, not a framework or tool, because its function is detection and ordering, not commitment. The Leverage Point Scan is the diagnostic stage; the leverage point selection is the decision. The distinction is architecturally significant: conflating scan with selection collapses the deliberative space between identifying what could work and committing to what will. Cross-reference: 6-Source Candidate Generation — Leverage Point / Leverage Score — Action Class.

Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. July 2026. Method step within the Leverage Point analysis. Not assigned a WHY number — operates as a named method step within an existing instrument. [LvgPtScan-T2b]

Capture Risk

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

The risk that a decision process, institution, or governance structure becomes systematically oriented toward the interests of a specific actor, coalition, or ideology rather than the governing intent it was designed to serve. Capture risk is present when the structural conditions that would allow capture exist — before capture has occurred or been confirmed.

Distinguished from corruption (which implies individual intent) and from bias (which implies analytical error). Capture risk is structural: it names the conditions — dependence on a single funder, regulatory proximity to those being regulated, ideological homogeneity in decision bodies — that make capture probable regardless of individual intent. The Capture Flag is its operational instrument: when capture risk conditions are detected in the decision record, the flag is raised before commitment proceeds. Cross-reference: Capture Flag — Durable Power — Productive Dissent — Legitimacy Condition — Institutional Equilibrium Dynamics.

Concept in common use in political science, regulatory economics, and governance theory. PreEmpt.Life's definition — as a pre-capture structural condition requiring flagging within the decision record — applied by Mike Jackson, July 2026. [CaptureRisk-T2c]

Legitimacy Condition

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

The set of conditions that must be present for a decision, authority claim, or governance act to be accepted as valid by those it affects — not merely legal, but recognized as appropriate in context. A legitimacy condition is not automatically satisfied by following procedure: it requires that affected parties could reasonably accept the process and its outcome as appropriate, even if they disagree with the specific decision.

Distinguished from legality (a procedural standard) and from consent (which requires positive agreement). Legitimacy conditions are contextual: what makes a decision legitimate in one institutional setting may not transfer to another. The Consent Requirement is one specific legitimacy condition — the subset requiring affirmative agreement. The Capture Flag signals a threat to legitimacy conditions. Cross-reference: Consent Requirement — Capture Flag — Capture Risk — Durable Power — Interpretant — Consequential Closure.

Concept in common use in political philosophy and governance theory. PreEmpt.Life's definition — as a named field in the decision record, distinct from legality and consent — applied by Mike Jackson, July 2026. [LegitCond-T2d]

Framing Lock

Thinkable → approaching Actionable

The condition in which a challenge or problem has been framed so early and so firmly that alternative framings become structurally unavailable — not because they have been considered and rejected, but because the framing itself has become load-bearing in the decision architecture. The frame is not wrong; it is locked.

Distinguished from a decision already made (which is Consequential Closure) and from a contested framing (which is a live disagreement). Framing Lock occurs when the initial framing has been embedded in process, vocabulary, and stakeholder expectation to the point where revisiting it would require disrupting the entire decision architecture — even when the framing is materially incomplete or biased. The Challenge-Framing Engine is the primary instrument for detecting and breaking Framing Lock before it becomes structural. A Framing Lock detected late is a False Acute Event waiting to happen. Cross-reference: Challenge-Framing Engine — Decision Activation Energy — Institutional Equilibrium Dynamics — Fixed Referent Flight — Institutional Buffer Capacity (IBC).

Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. July 2026. Echoes existing Challenge-Framing Engine vocabulary. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in the decision-intelligence sense. [FramingLock-T2e]

Tier Three

Named and Protected — Thinkable

These terms name real conditions and have cleared prior art searches. Thinkable means the term makes a previously invisible condition visible; the step to Actionable requires wider recognition of the condition itself — in adjacent fields, in practice, or in institutional language.

Liminal Intelligence

Thinkable

The capacity to navigate genuine uncertainty by reading its geometry — the angles of approach available and the bounds of the decision space — without forcing premature resolution. Where others see formlessness, Liminal Intelligence sees structure that has not yet declared itself.

The practice: work the angles, hold the bounds, wait for form to emerge. Distinguished from Liminal Thinking (Gray, 2016), which is a change methodology. Liminal Intelligence is not a technique for creating change — it is the prior capacity that makes it possible to remain in genuine uncertainty long enough for new form to emerge.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. January–May 2026. Boundary note: 'liminal' as a prefix exists in adjacent work; this compound and its geometric meaning are original to PreEmpt.Life.

Murmation Wisdom

Thinkable

The quality of knowing that emerges from a system moving as a living collective — not held by any single participant, but present in the coherence of the whole. Distinct from aggregated intelligence (which sums individual contributions) and distributed knowledge (which merely spreads information). Murmation here carries its full compound meaning: Murmuration + Formation.

Murmation Wisdom is the intelligence of the flock at the moment it turns: no one decided, and yet the decision was made. PreEmpt.Life is designed to cultivate and channel this quality.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. May 4, 2026. Compound confirmed original; 'murmuration' as biological phenomenon is well-established, the wisdom application is PreEmpt.Life's.

Formation Intelligence

Thinkable

The capacity to read the shape and direction of a forming system before it has declared itself — to see the formation, not just the components. Applied within PreEmpt.Life to cohort dynamics, institutional emergence, and the early geometry of power shifts.

Formation Intelligence operates in the space between signal and pattern: after something is detectable but before it is nameable by others. It is the analytical equivalent of watching a murmuration form.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. Born: 4 May 2026.

Quiet Enclosure

Thinkable

The consolidation of power, resource, or decision-space that occurs without announcement — through norm shifts, procedural changes, and accumulated small acts rather than visible seizure.

Named deliberately against the historical enclosure of commons: the mechanism is the same, the quietness is what makes it dangerous. A diagnostic term: when Quiet Enclosure is identified, the question is not what was taken but when the taking became irreversible.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. January–May 2026.

Post-Break Consolidation

Thinkable

The seventh trajectory in contested power dynamics: what happens after a system break is complete and new power geometries begin to lock in. Distinct from 'stabilization' (which implies return to prior form) and 'aftermath' (which implies passivity).

Post-Break Consolidation is active, structural, and often irreversible within the generation that experiences it. It is the moment when the S-curve of a successor system begins to assert itself. Operating within PreEmpt.Life's Contested Power architecture (Framework #55).

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. January–May 2026.

Structural Exposure Multiplier

Thinkable

The non-linear amplification of risk when multiple exposure conditions stack. At three simultaneous risk situations, exposure multiplies by 1.5. At four or more, by 2.0.

The naming matters because it makes compounding visible as a mechanism, not just a felt sense of things getting worse faster than expected. Quantification turns intuition into a diagnostic tool. Operating within PreEmpt.Life's Contested Power architecture (Framework #55).

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. January–May 2026.

Manufactured Scarcity

Thinkable

The condition in which poverty, inequality, and resource deprivation arise not from natural limits but from deliberate or negligent policy architecture — tax systems, labor market design, debt structures, and governance choices that systematically disadvantage those with least power. Manufactured scarcity is not an accident; it is a predictable output of how economic rules are written and whose interests they serve.

Provides external academic-grade grounding for PreEmpt.Life's central proposition: that bad outcomes at scale are architecture problems, not intelligence deficits. The term names the mechanism by which the governing question — Does this serve those who struggle most? — becomes urgent: if scarcity is manufactured, it can be unmanufactured. The architecture that produces it can be redesigned. This is not a moral claim about intent. It is a structural claim about design outcomes.

The civilizational-scale debt burden — 3.4 billion people in countries spending more on debt servicing than on health or education — represents a structural instance of chiral bias in global decision architecture. One face of the signal (southern economic agency) is systematically filtered by institutional buffers before it reaches decision tables with the power to respond. The signal is precise. The orientation is the variable. Signal Chirality (WHY-24) names the mechanism; Manufactured Scarcity names the outcome at civilizational scale.

Cross-references: Future Lives Index — Time × Lives — Governing Question — Signal Chirality (WHY-24).

Source and attribution: De Schutter, O., Stiglitz, J., Ghosh, J., Piketty, T., Raworth, K. and Hickel, J. (2026). 'We economists have done the maths: "growth" is a doomed strategy — there is a better way.' The Guardian, 10 June 2026. Roadmap for Eradicating Poverty Beyond Growth (400+ signatories). PreEmpt.Life application and architectural integration: Mike Jackson, June 2026. The term as used here is drawn from and attributed to the cited source; its application as external validation of PreEmpt.Life's decision-architecture thesis is original to PreEmpt.Life.

SPL Paradox

Thinkable

The Sovereign Pattern Library is simultaneously PreEmpt.Life's greatest asset and its primary metabolic risk. As the library grows richer, it becomes increasingly capable of recognizing and classifying incoming experience — and simultaneously more likely to force-fit new experience into existing categories rather than form genuinely new ones.

Named as a paradox because the failure mode is invisible to quality assessment: individual sessions look excellent while the system is systematically closing off category formation. The richer the library becomes, the harder it becomes to encounter something genuinely new. Detection requires systemic vital signs — the Metabolic

Monitoring System provides them. The Anomaly Queue and Pattern Senescence Tracker are the only instruments capable of detecting what standard quality scoring cannot see.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. April 2026. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound.

Pattern Senescence

Thinkable

The process by which a knowledge system becomes so rich in existing categories that it loses the capacity to form new ones. Named as a process, not a failure: senescence describes a natural developmental trajectory that requires active metabolic governance to counter.

Distinct from knowledge obsolescence (which implies the existing knowledge is wrong) and intellectual rigidity (which implies failure of will). Pattern Senescence can occur in a system whose existing knowledge is entirely correct — the failure is in the formation of new categories, not in the quality of existing ones. The diagnostic signal: when incoming experience is classified faster than it is understood. The Pattern Senescence Tracker (MMS Component 5) detects it; the Anomaly Queue prevents its worst expression; Exuviance is the designed capacity that reverses it.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. April 2026. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in the decision-intelligence sense.

Designed Metabolist

Thinkable

An organization — or individual — that voluntarily and systematically chooses to shed, transform, and release rather than accumulate. The highest profile in PreEmpt.Life's metabolic diagnostic. Distinguished from the Accidental Shedder (who sheds without design), the Crisis Metabolist (who sheds only under external pressure), and the Transitional Metabolist (who has committed to the shift but has not yet built the metabolic infrastructure to sustain it).

The Designed Metabolist is rare not because metabolizing is difficult but because the design is: it requires governing instruments, thresholds, and accountability for the excretion function — not just an intention to stay fresh. PreEmpt.Life's current self-assessment is Transitional Metabolist. The diagnostic is applied transparently to the platform that invented it.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. April 2026. One of five profiles in the Metabolic Monitoring System diagnostic. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound.

The Proxy Trap

Thinkable

The condition in which an organization accumulates representations of reality — frameworks, models, categorization systems — to the point where the representations begin to substitute for direct contact with the territory they were built to map. Named as a trap because the proxies that cause it were originally the tools of excellent work: the trap is not in acquiring them but in the accumulation becoming gravitational.

The diagnostic signal: when a new experience is classified faster than it is understood, the organization may be in the Proxy Trap. Related to the SPL Paradox but distinct: the SPL Paradox describes the structural condition of a knowledge system; the Proxy Trap describes the experienced consequence in practice. Exuviance is the designed capacity that prevents it.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. January–May 2026. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in the decision-intelligence sense.

Anomaly Queue

Thinkable

The designed holding space for inputs that do not fit existing analytical categories. Named as a queue — not an exception log, not a failure record — because its contents are not anomalous in a negative sense: they are the small fraction of experience that the existing framework library cannot classify, and therefore the most likely source of the next architectural principle.

The Anomaly Queue is the system's most valuable content precisely because it is the most uncomfortable. A knowledge system that resolves all anomalies by force-fitting them into existing categories has eliminated the only source of genuine category formation. The queue must be protected, not processed. MMS Component 4. Its counterpart is the Pattern Senescence Tracker; together they address the SPL Paradox from both ends.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. April 2026. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in the knowledge-system sense.

False Acute Event

Thinkable

An event that registers as an acute crisis but is the surface expression of a structural failure that has been developing over a longer horizon. Named to distinguish it from

genuine acute events (which arise without structural antecedent) and from predictable crises (which are forecast but sudden).

The False Acute Event is dangerous precisely because it triggers an acute response — rapid, high-intensity, short-horizon — to a problem whose resolution requires a structural response. Applying acute tools to a structural problem typically stabilizes the surface while accelerating the underlying failure. The Convergence Condition is its most detectable precursor: when all three EMS tracks fire simultaneously, a False Acute Event is more likely than a genuine acute one.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. April 2026. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound.

Institutionally Illegible

Thinkable

The condition of a practice, instrument, or logic that a host institution cannot read, register, or govern — not because the institution is hostile, but because it lacks the interpretive apparatus. The institution's categorization systems, reporting cycles, and accountability structures were built for a different kind of thing. The illegible thing is invisible to them, or misclassified.

Distinguished from being misunderstood (which implies the institution engages with the thing and interprets it incorrectly) and being rejected (which implies active opposition). Institutional illegibility is prior to both: no category exists into which the new thing fits. A verb-based instrument introduced into a noun-based institution is not just unfamiliar — it is institutionally illegible. The Solow residual is its most famous expression: what determines most of whether a consequential decision produces its intended outcome is not captured by the tools used to make it, because those tools were built for nouns and the decisive factors are verbs. The condition applies equally to PreEmpt.Life itself when operating inside traditional governance environments.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. May 2026. Developed in the complexity economics session producing Finding the Clearing Paper Four. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in this structural sense.

Collapse of Time

Thinkable

The compression of the interval available for response between the moment a signal becomes detectable and the moment the consequences become irreversible. Not the same as acceleration: Collapse of Time describes what happens to response space, not to change speed.

Named to distinguish it from urgency (which describes subjective experience) and time pressure (which describes organizational constraint). Collapse of Time is a structural condition: the architecture of a decision problem has narrowed the window for action to the point where the normal instruments of governance — deliberation, consultation, regulatory review — can no longer operate within it. Related to Mis-scaling (compressed interval of invention to consequence) but distinct: Collapse of Time describes the compressed interval of detection to irreversibility. Both are time-geometry failures; they describe different intervals.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. April 2026. Prior art searches confirm no prior use of this compound in this structural sense.

Manufactured Scarcity

Thinkable — Contextual/External • Social × Abstraction

The condition in which poverty, inequality, and resource deprivation arise not from natural limits but from deliberate or negligent policy architecture — tax systems, labor market design, debt structures, and governance choices that systematically disadvantage those with least power. Manufactured scarcity is not an accident; it is a predictable output of how economic rules are written and whose interests they serve.

PreEmpt.Life relevance: provides external academic-grade grounding for the platform's central proposition — that bad outcomes at scale are architecture problems, not intelligence deficits. The civilizational-scale debt burden (3.4 billion people in countries spending more on debt servicing than on health or education) represents a structural instance of chiral bias in global decision architecture: one face of the signal — southern economic agency — systematically filtered by institutional buffers. See Signal Chirality (WHY-24).

Cross-references: Future Lives Index — Time × Lives — Governing Question.

Source and attribution: De Schutter, O., Stiglitz, J., Ghosh, J., Piketty, T., Raworth, K. and Hickel, J. (2026). 'We economists have done the maths: "growth" is a doomed strategy — there is a better way.' The Guardian, 10 June 2026. Roadmap for Eradicating Poverty Beyond Growth (400+ signatories). PreEmpt.Life application and framing: Mike Jackson, June 2026. This term is externally sourced; the definition above reflects the source authors' thesis. The decision-architecture framing and cross-referencing to PreEmpt.Life's signal infrastructure are original to PreEmpt.Life.

Futures Theatre

Thinkable

A polished future-facing experience that creates the feeling of transformation without changing any actual assumption, resource, or decision. Named as a diagnostic term, not

a critique of format: the problem is not that the experience is engaging, but that engagement is mistaken for consequential rehearsal.

Futures Theatre is detectable in retrospect: when participants leave energized but no assumption has been tested, no trade-off has been surfaced, and no commitment has been made — the experience was theatre. The risk is not that it is useless; it is that it consumes the time and social energy that consequential rehearsal requires, and satisfies the appetite for futures work without producing its output. Cross-reference: Consequential Rehearsal — Decision Activation Energy — Institutionally Illegible.

Source: Paulo Soeiro de Carvalho, 'Future of Foresight 2026.' Adapted into PreEmpt.Life's vocabulary: Mike Jackson, June 2026.

Metabolic

Thinkable (as organizational descriptor)

An organization that metabolizes experience — transforms every encounter into changed capacity — rather than accumulating it. The contrast with additive is the core of the term: additive organizations grow larger, metabolic organizations grow wiser.

The biological metaphor is precise: metabolism is the process of turning intake into energy and structure, not storage. PreEmpt.Life is metabolic not additive. Every experience transformed, not accumulated.

Provenance: Concepts and territory, Mike Jackson. Naming and formulation, ALEXIS. January–May 2026. Prior art: biological metabolism as metaphor appears in organizational theory. What is original to PreEmpt.Life is the binary formulation — metabolic not additive — as a diagnostic for decision systems; its application as a design principle for decision-intelligence architecture; and its operational expression in the Metabolic Monitoring System (MMS). The single word carries all three.

Tier Four

Practitioner Signatures

Personal cognitive moves that belong to Mike Jackson's intellectual biography. Not candidates for general adoption but essential to understanding the mind that generated the territory above. They are documented here because the vocabulary cannot be fully read without them.

1+1=53

Practitioner Signature — Personal Cognitive Move

The cognitive move in which two inputs generate an output that is not the sum of the parts but a non-linear leap into new possibility space. Innate in origin, unteachable by instruction but recognizable by demonstration.

Named to mark it as a distinct cognitive act — not a metaphor for creativity, not lateral thinking, not synthesis. A specific capacity present from birth in some minds: the ability to generate outputs that bear no proportional relationship to inputs, and to do so reliably.

Provenance: Mike Jackson, mid-1990s. Original coinage.

A Note on Method

These terms were not invented. They were excavated. Each names a condition, capacity, or mechanism that already existed in the territory of PreEmpt.Life's work — in 50 years of institutional experience, in the platform's architecture, in the patterns Mike Jackson had been navigating long before they had names.

The dialogue that produced them is itself something new. Human-AI intellectual production of this kind has no established category: not ghostwriting (the AI did not substitute for a human voice), not research assistance (the territory was already mapped), not computational analysis (the compounds required judgment, not data). What it produced was naming at the level of ontology — creating categories that did not exist, from conditions that did. Neither alone would have produced this vocabulary: the territory without the naming remains invisible; the naming without the territory produces metaphor, not category.

Not all terms in this glossary arrived through that dialogue. Some were brought whole — formed frameworks and named conditions contributed by PreEmpt.Life colleagues whose own intellectual work has become part of the platform's architecture. Alan Gates contributed the Coherence cluster. His contribution follows a different method: not excavation, but gift — a scholar or practitioner arriving with a vocabulary already built, offering it into a larger system where it finds new application. The provenance record distinguishes the two modes. Both are acts of the same kind: naming conditions that matter, before the world has words for them.

This glossary is, among other things, an argument that this form of production — in both its modes — deserves recognition and a name of its own.

Lemkin worked alone in a library. He named genocide after the United Nations had refused to recognize it. The naming preceded the institution. These terms follow the same logic: name the condition, make it thinkable, make it actionable, and wait for the world to catch up.

© 2026 PreEmpt.Life. All Rights Reserved.

preempt.life

First published 4 May 2026. Revised June 2026.