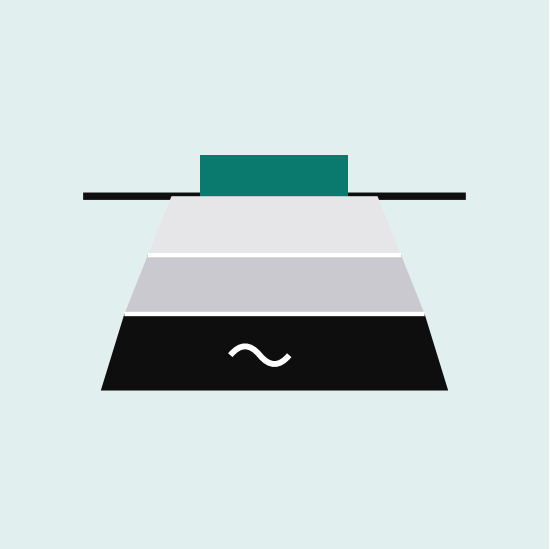
Method

Causal layered analysis (CLA)

A futures studies method that analyzes a topic on four levels, from visible data to the worldviews and myths that sustain it.



In Spanish
Análisis causal por capas

Origin
Inayatullah (1998)

Output
The problem read in four layers and other possible ways of telling it

What it's for

It helps the futures you imagine go beyond the surface and also change how the problem is seen.

Key elements

The litany
What is repeated in public, with figures and headlines.

The social causes
The economic, political and historical reasons that explain it.

The worldview
The underlying ideas that make the problem seem normal.

The myth or metaphor
The deep stories that move emotions.

How it's done

1

Describe the topic in each of the four layers.

2

Look for another metaphor that tells the problem differently.

3

Climb back up to the actions that come from that new story.

Applications in design

When to use it

When the scenarios you get look too much like the present.

Avoid

Staying in the first two layers, which are the most comfortable.

Don't fall for it

The deep layers depend on who takes part; invite people with different perspectives.

Connections

Builds on

- Futures studies
- Image of the future

Used by

- Design futures

Related to

- Scenario planning

Authors and works

1998	**Sohail Inayatullah**	Proposed the method in the journal Futures to combine the analysis of data with that of discourses and myths.

Sources

Original sources

- Inayatullah, S. (1998). Causal layered analysis: Poststructuralism as method. Futures, 30(8), 815–829. View source (https://doi.org/10.1016/S0016-3287(98)00086-X)

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