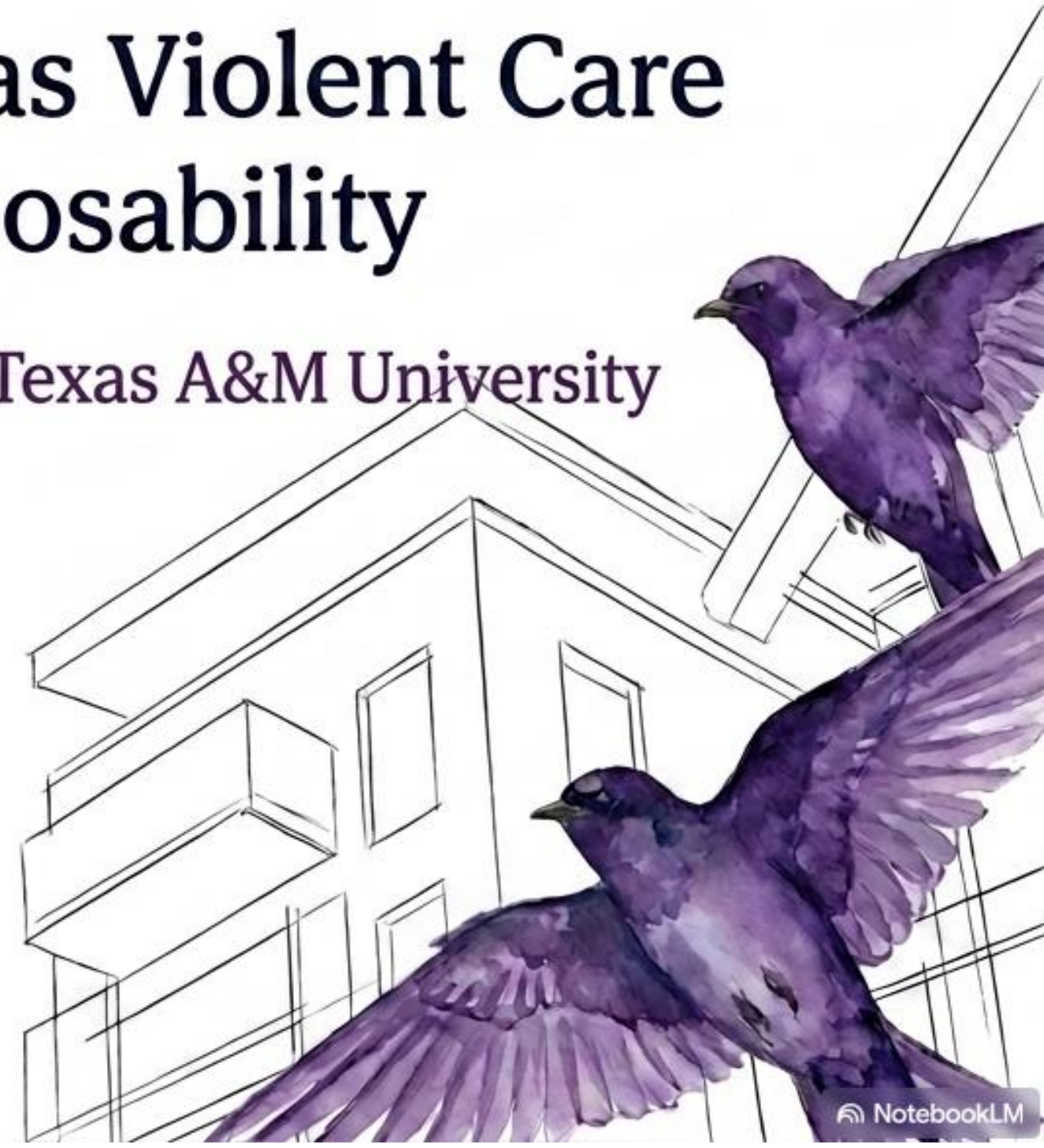
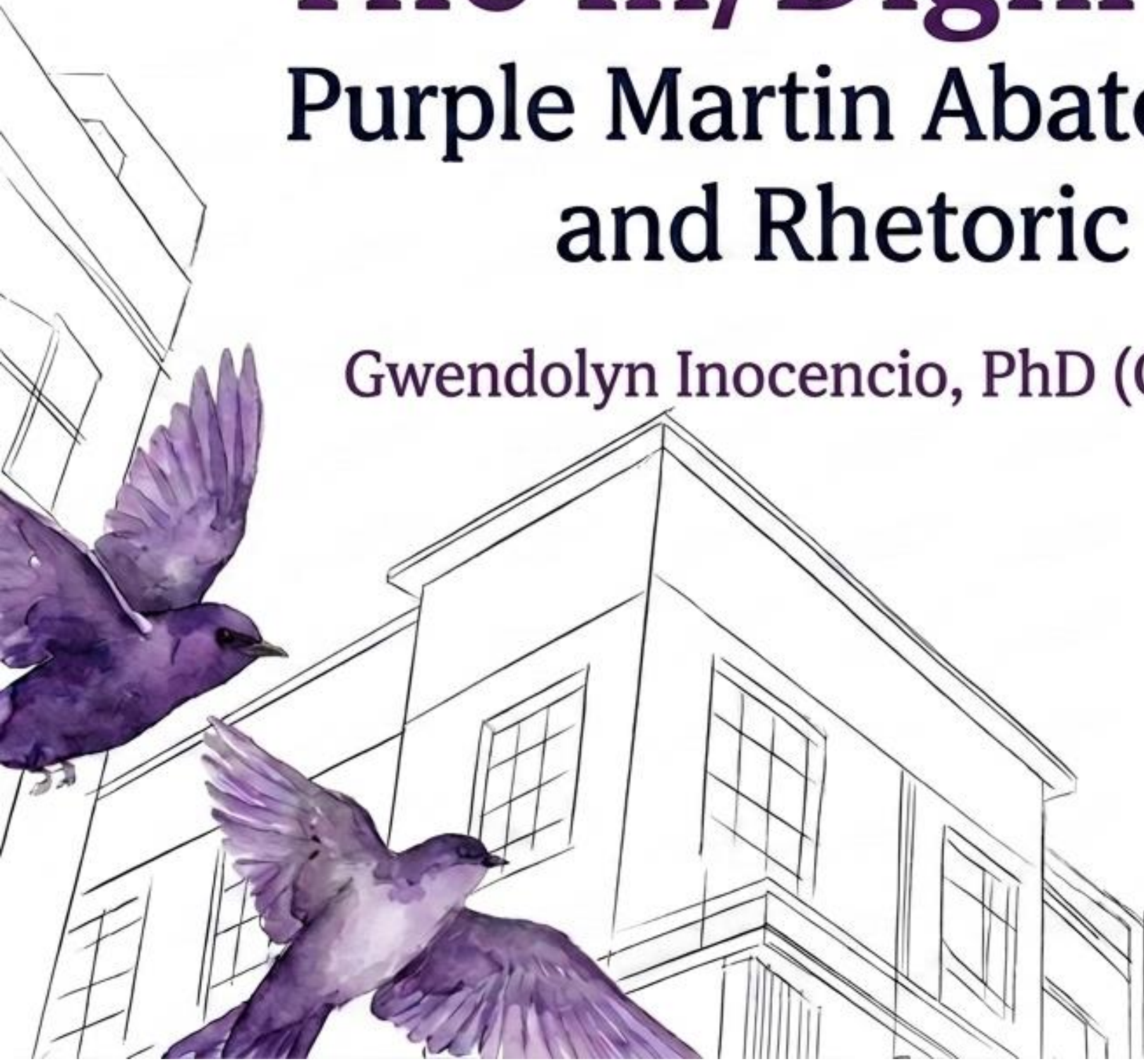
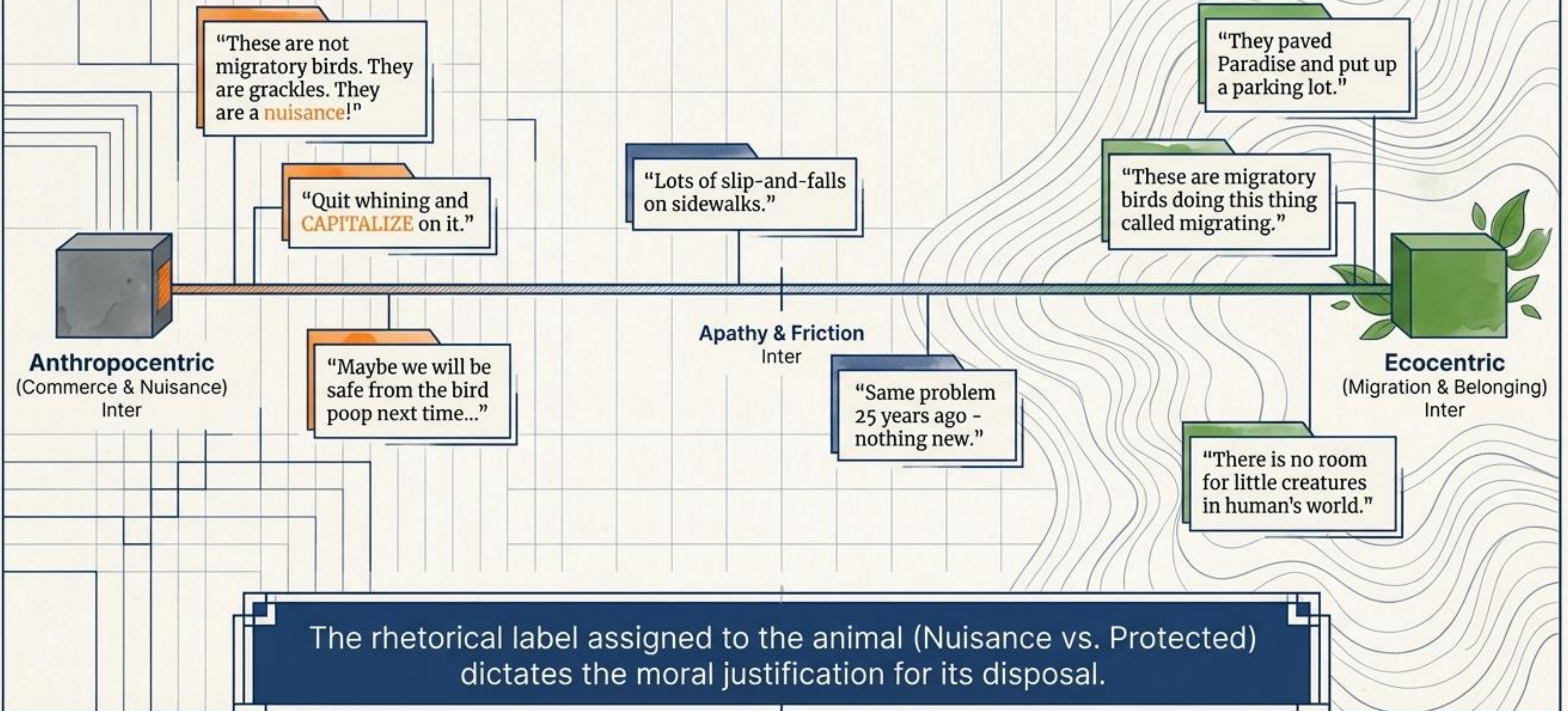


# The In/Dignity of Nuisance Purple Martin Abatement as Violent Care and Rhetoric of Disposability

Gwendolyn Inocencio, PhD (Graduand), Texas A&M University



# Legibility Operations in Public Discourse





**Rusty Surette** ✓

August 4 at 7:00 PM · ⚙️

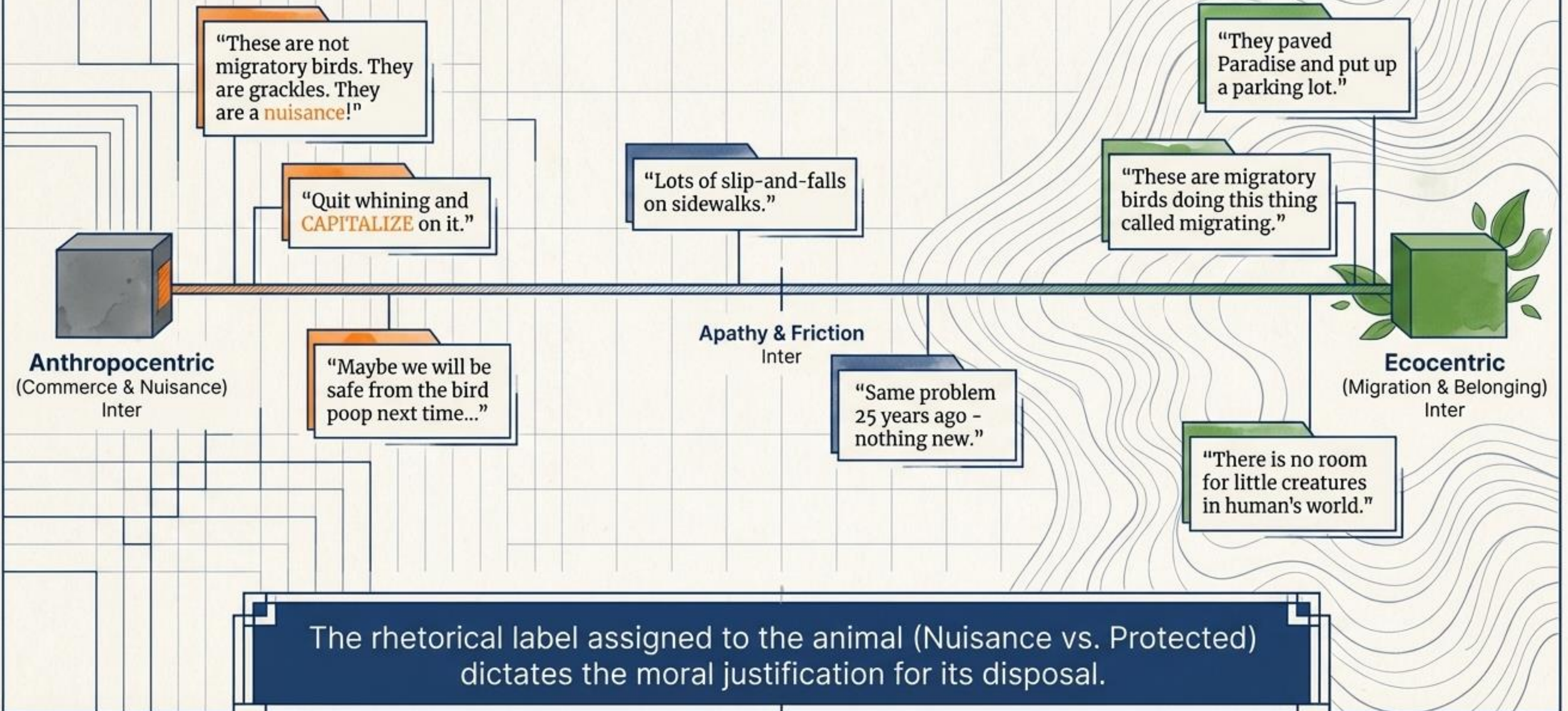


🐦🚫 The City of College Station is ramping up efforts to deal with an ongoing bird problem in the Northgate entertainment district.

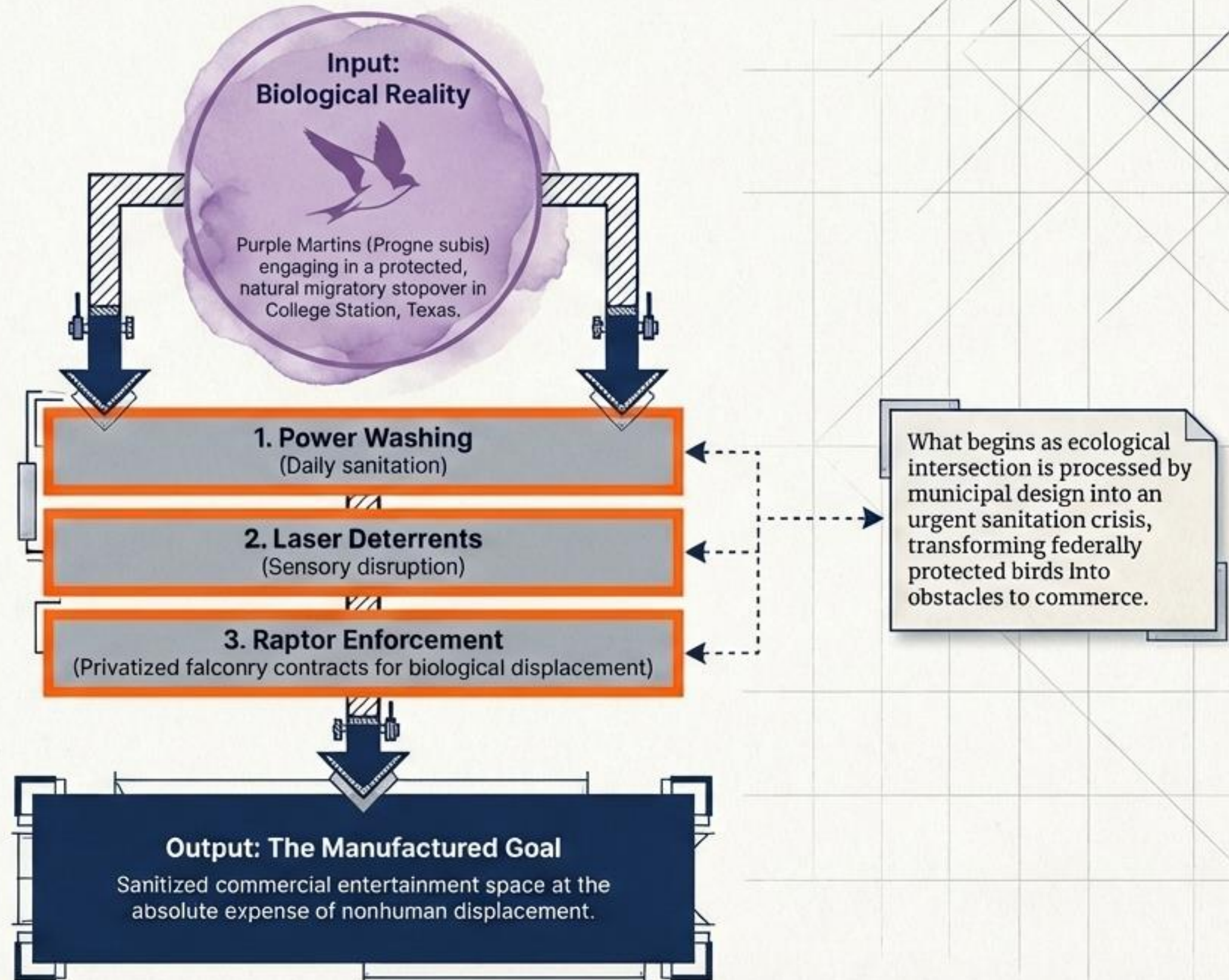
City crews are power washing public spaces daily and using lasers and other deterrents to reduce the mess caused by roosting birds. After consulting with wildlife experts and local bird groups, the City has now partnered with Raptor Enforcement — a falconry-based bird abatement company — to help control the situation.

Abatement efforts began Sunday night and will continue as needed to keep Northgate clean and safe for everyone.

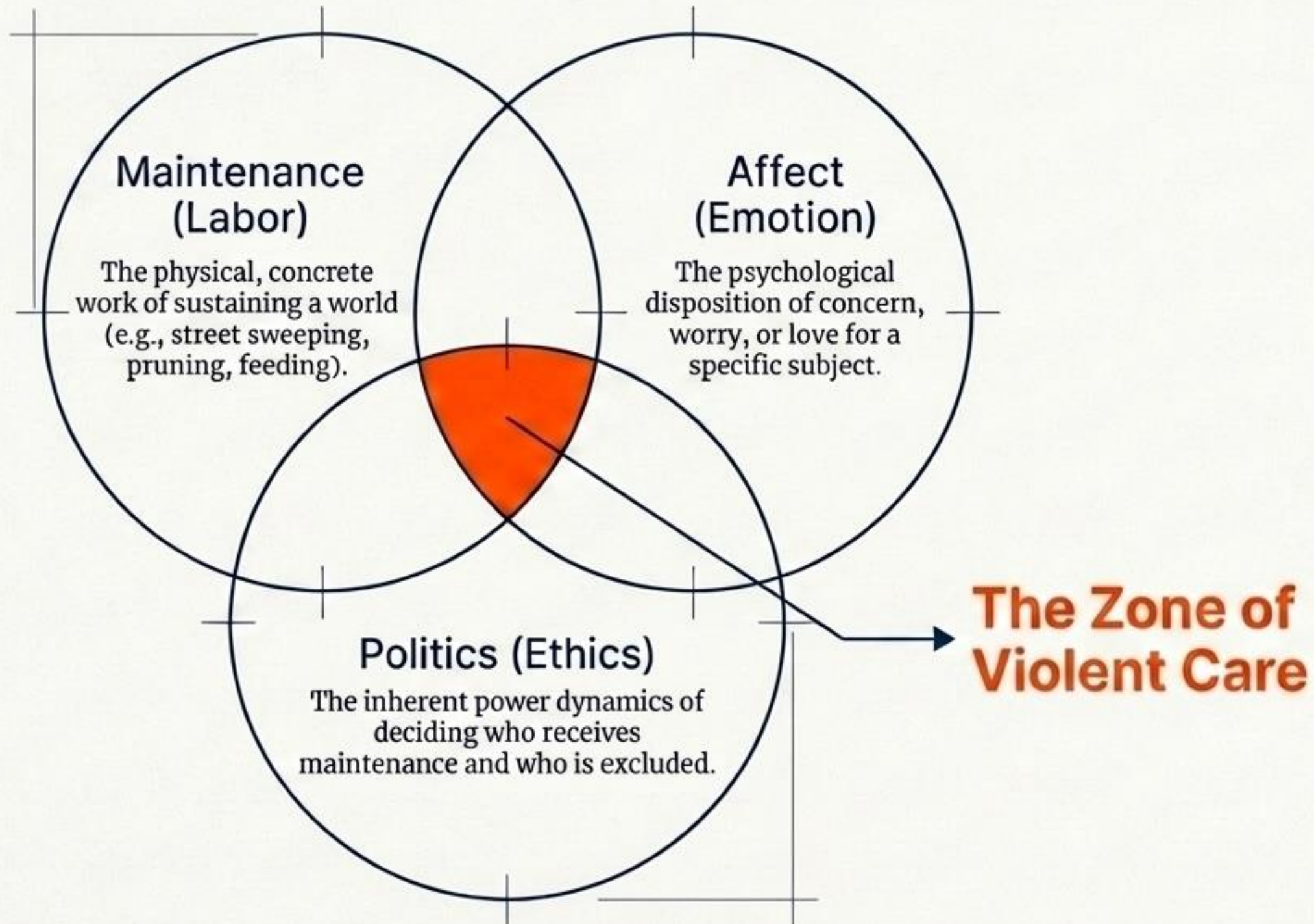
# Legibility Operations in Public Discourse



# The Escalation Engine of Violent Care



# Deconstructing Care

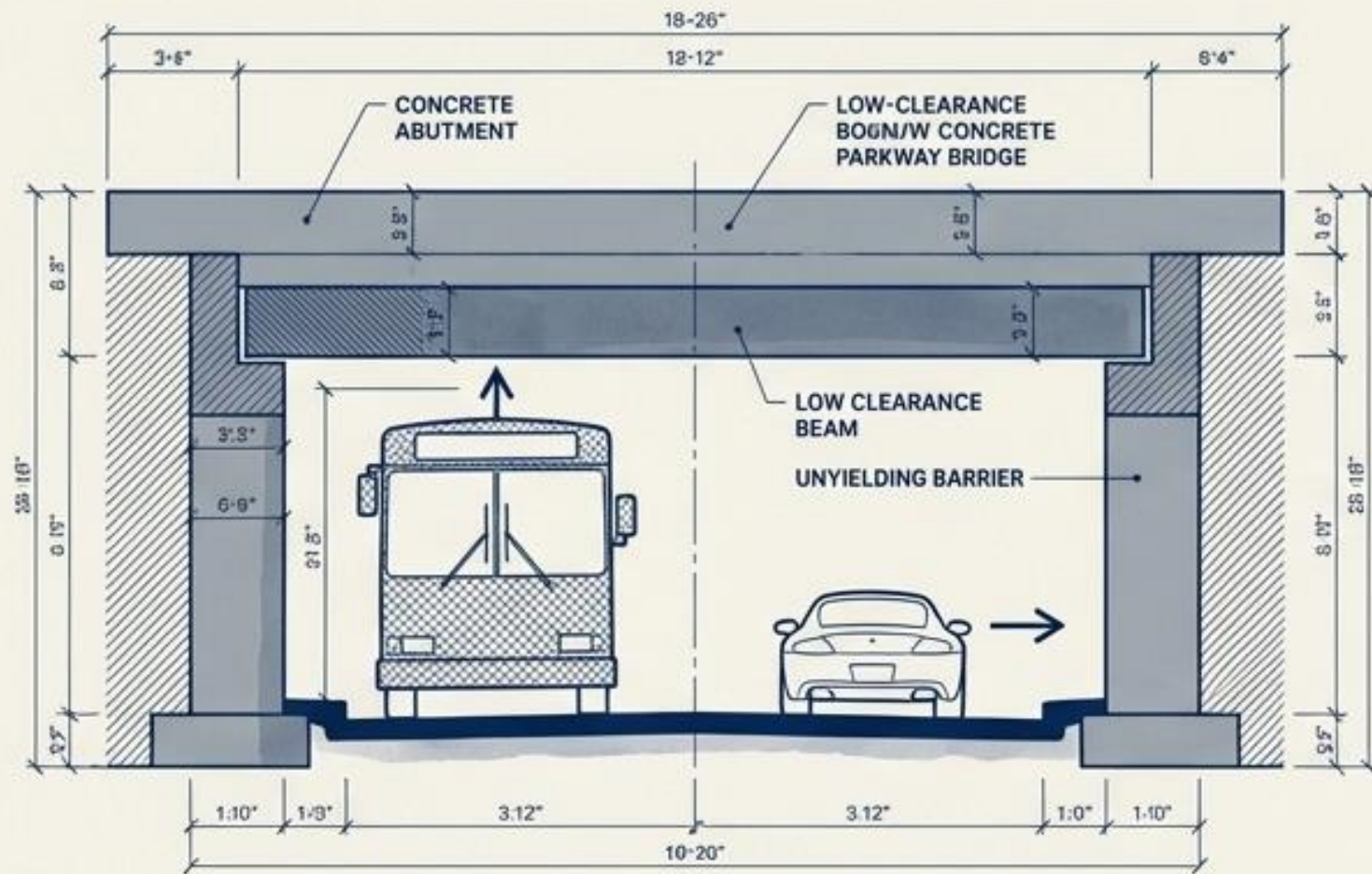


“Because speaking of ‘good care’...is never neutral. Because the work of care can be done within and for worlds that we might find objectionable. For what is care given?”

--Bellacasa

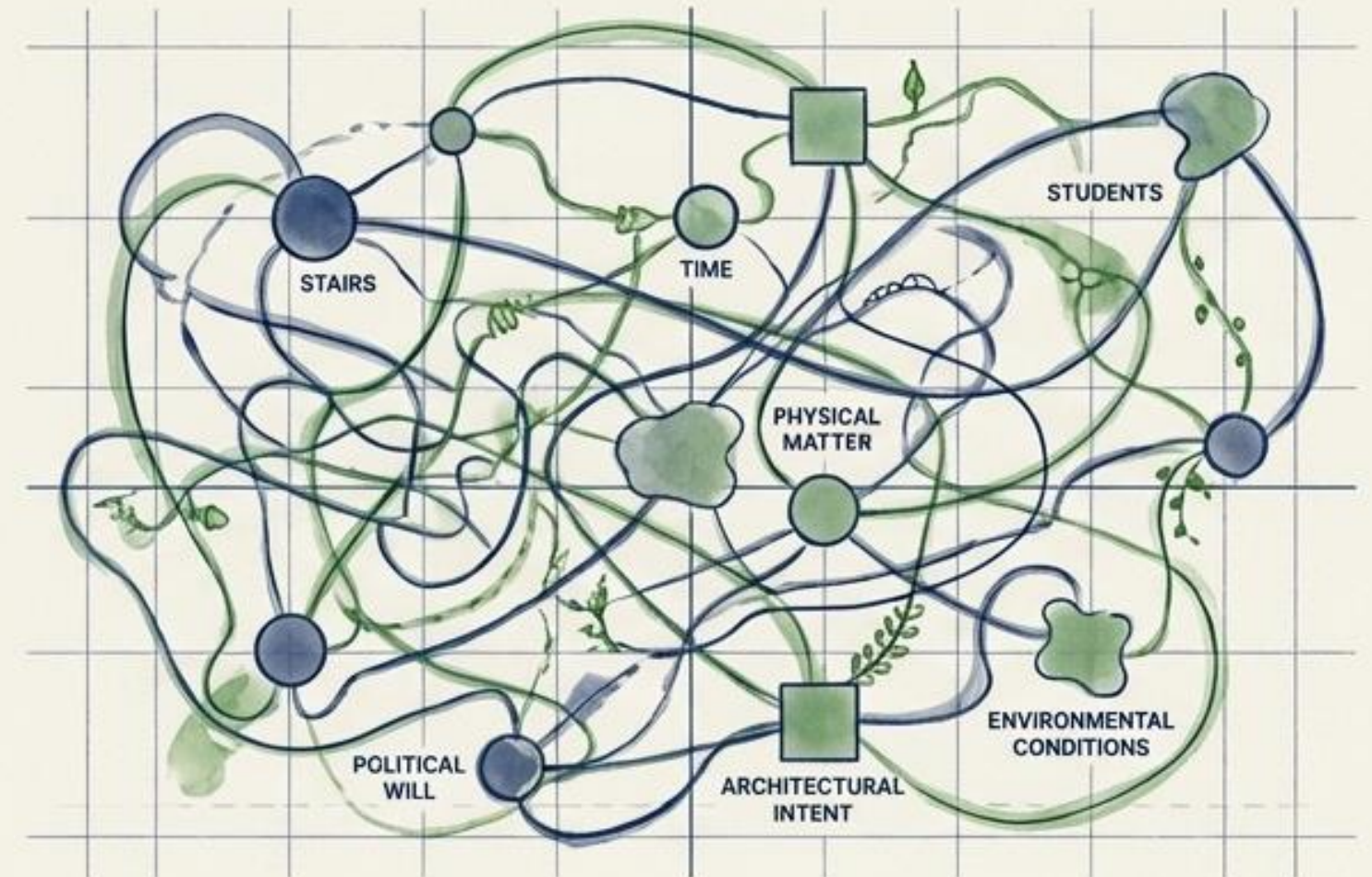
# The Physical Infrastructure of Politics

## Langdon Winner: Intentional Political Design



Artifacts embody direct, oppressive intent cast in concrete.

## Bruno Latour: Actor-Network Drift

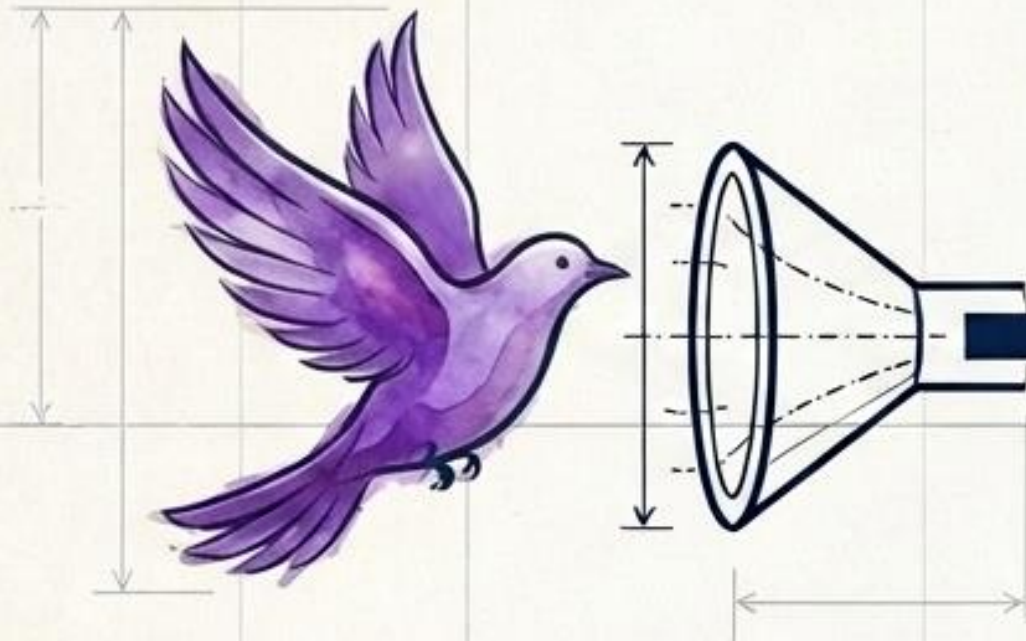


Artifacts are nodes in a power struggle; their architectural politics drift into new, unintended meanings over time.

Whether by direct intent (Winner) or systemic drift (Latour), the designed environment is the physical infrastructure that executes our political priorities.

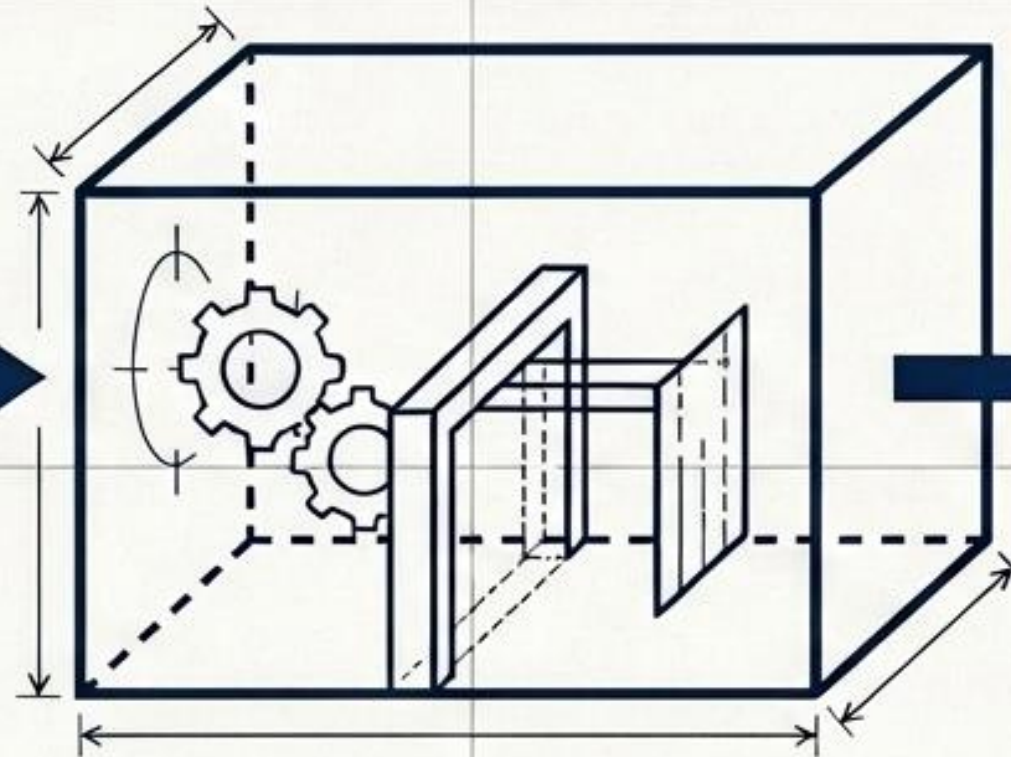
# The Architecture of Disposability

## Stage 1: Rhetorical Reframing



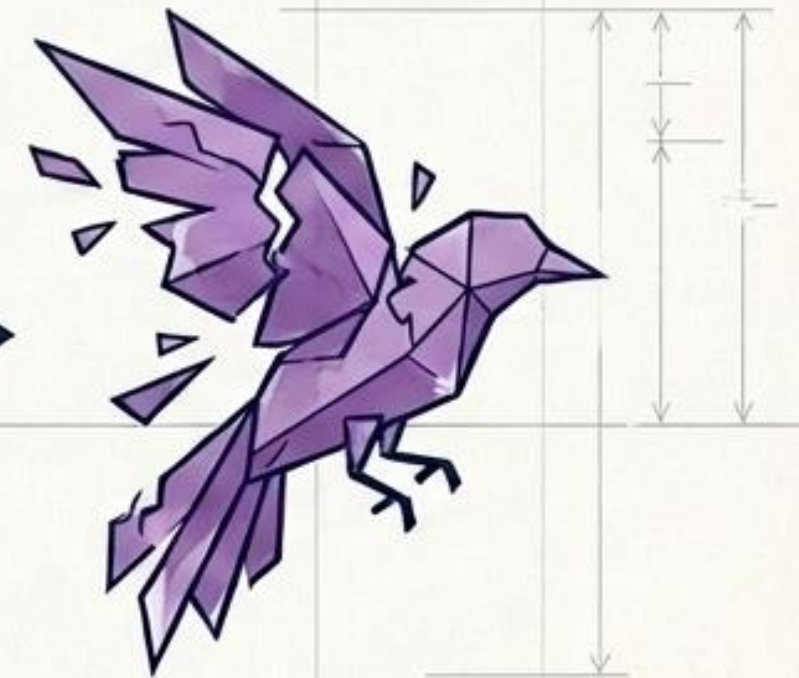
A living being is rhetorically stripped of agency and labeled a “nuisance,” “pest,” or “threat”.

## Stage 2: The Design Artifact



The newly labeled subject is processed through physical infrastructure (low bridges, falconry protocols, laboratory cages).

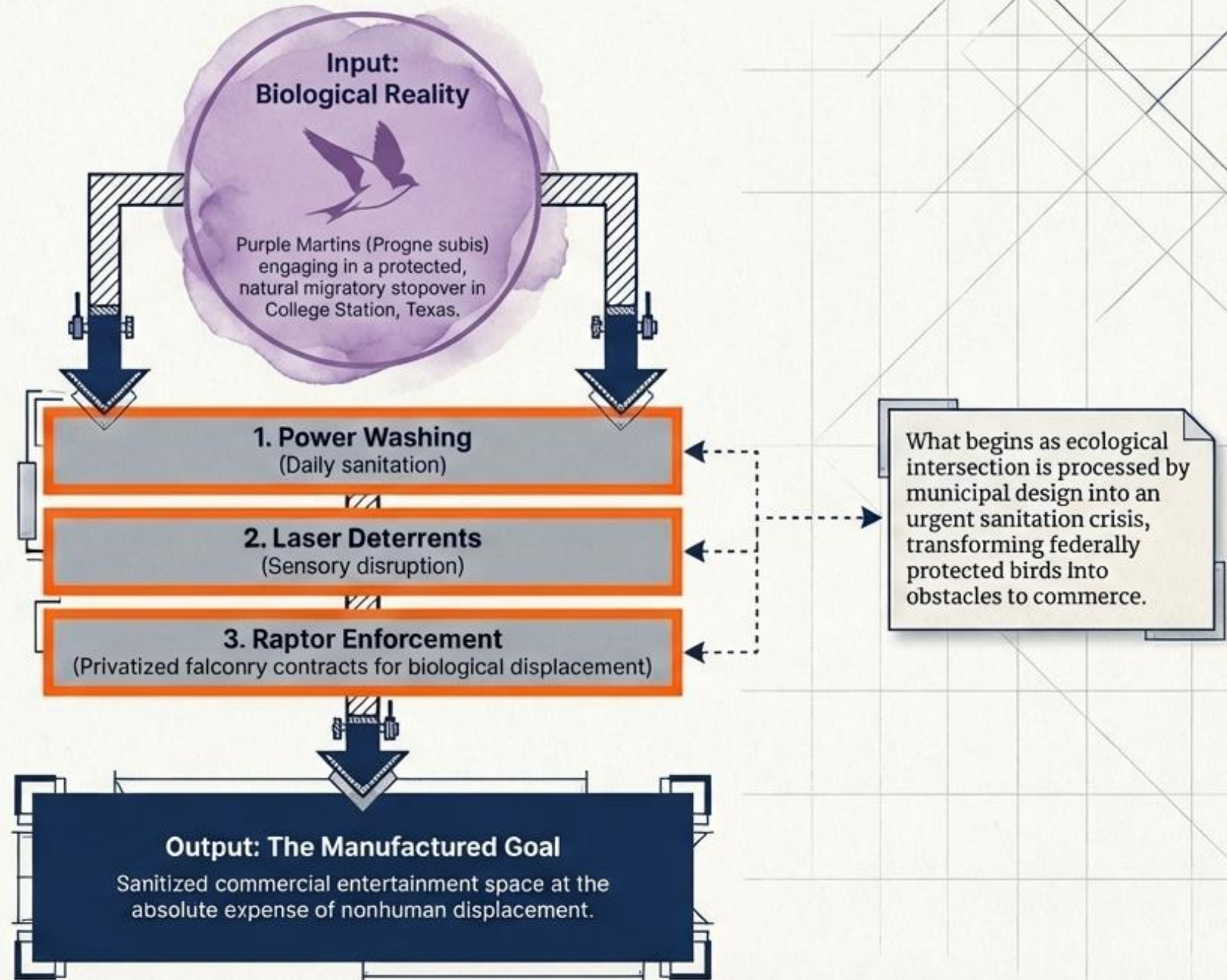
## Stage 3: Disposable Output



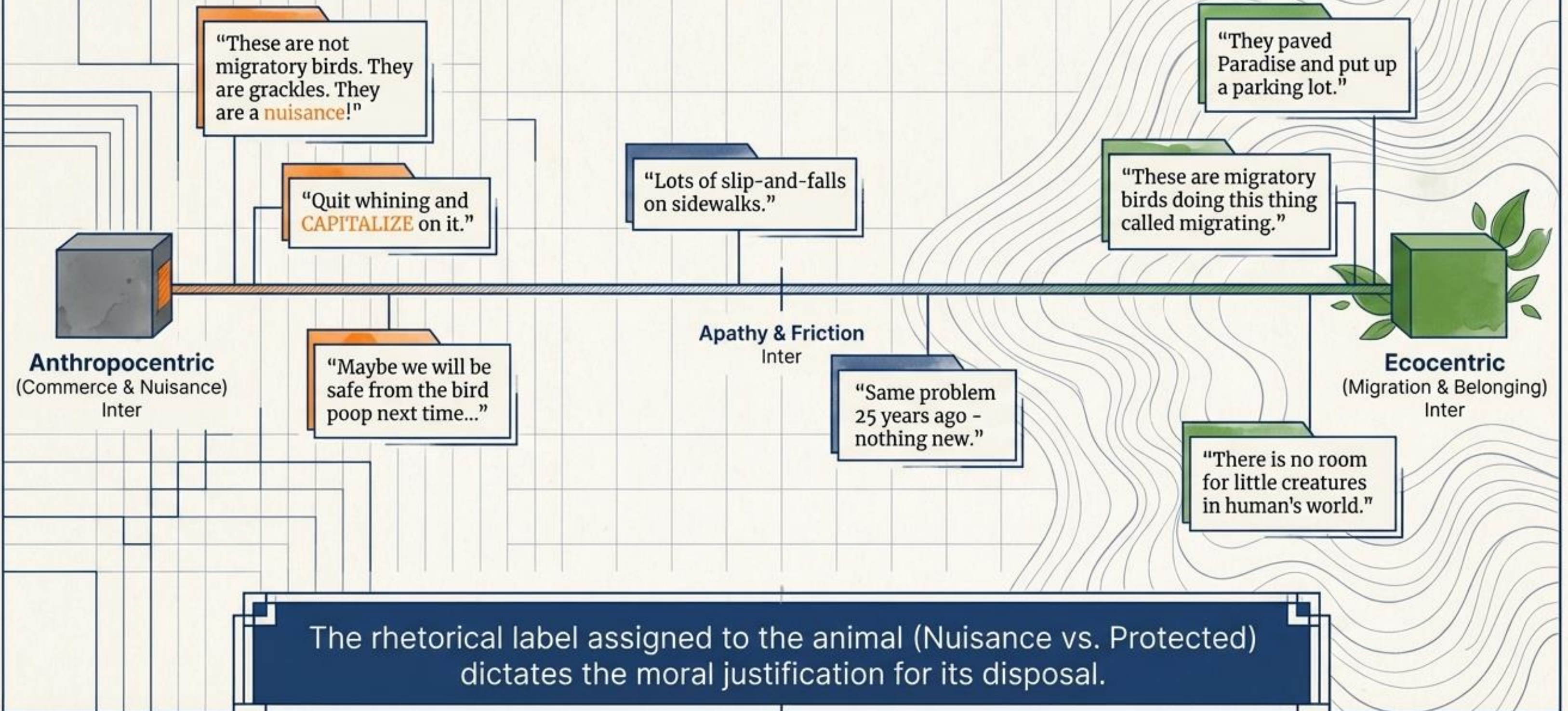
The artifact automates the violence, rendering the being fundamentally disposable while framing the violence as “care” for the public.

**Key Point: Design artifacts do not just have politics; they are the physical infrastructure that automates violent care.**

# The Escalation Engine of Violent Care



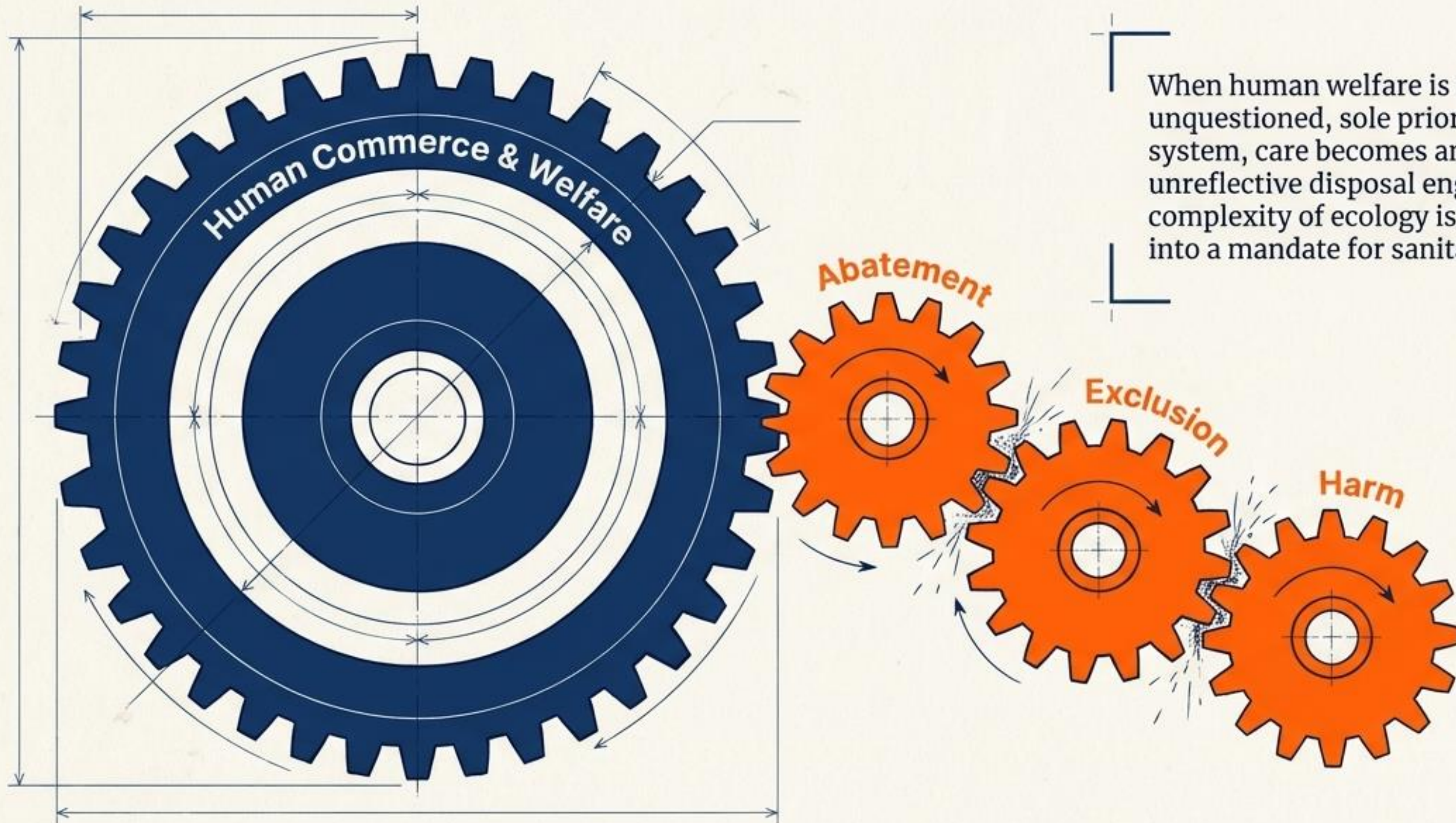
# Legibility Operations in Public Discourse



# The 4 Sites of Violent Care

Case Study	The Label	Care Justification	Design Artifact	Resulting Indignity
Laboratory Mice	<b>Data Instrument</b>	Human medical advancement	Breeding cages & regulatory guides	Genetically designed to die; embodiment reduced to data production (17-22M used annually). (Merriweather)
Purple Martins	<b>Urban Nuisance</b>	Public sanitation & commercial safety	Raptor enforcement & laser deterrents	Ecological labor (insect control) erased; migratory path criminalized. (Merriweather)
Wisconsin Wolves	<b>Livestock Threat</b>	Agricultural protection	Predator management quotas	Pack dynamics destroyed; treated as existential threats rather than apex carnivores. (Merriweather)
Russian Olive Trees	<b>Ecological Contaminant</b>	Native habitat restoration	Settler-colonial removal policies	Eradicated for 'healing', ignoring complex historical entanglements. (Merriweather)

# The 'Unthinking Care' Machine



When human welfare is the unquestioned, sole priority of a system, care becomes an automated, unreflective disposal engine. The complexity of ecology is flattened into a mandate for sanitation.

# Refusing Disposability



## The Illusion of Purity

Care is not innocent. Without critical reflection, it easily weaponizes into violence.

## The Multispecies Mandate

We must refuse the false choice between human flourishing and nonhuman dignity.

## The Power of Artifacts

We must stop designing infrastructure that automates the eradication of nonhuman life.

**To practice a true environmental ethic, we must redesign our physical and rhetorical artifacts to honor the agency, labor, and inherent dignity of all our relations.**

# The Paradigms of Care

Dimensions	Traditional Corporate Management	Violent Care	Multispecies Ethics
Primary Goal	Efficiency & Profit	Targeted Preservation	Dignified Coexistence
View of Nonhumans	Resources or Obstacles	Expendable if Conflicting	Active Relatives & Teachers
View of Dependency	A weakness to engineer out	A tragic necessity	The foundational state of being
Method of Action	Command-and-Control	Eradication & Abatement	Reciprocal Responsibility

**Diagnostic Note:** Traditional management assumes mastery over natural systems, consistently failing because it ignores ecological certainty and frames human spaces as biologically sterile.

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