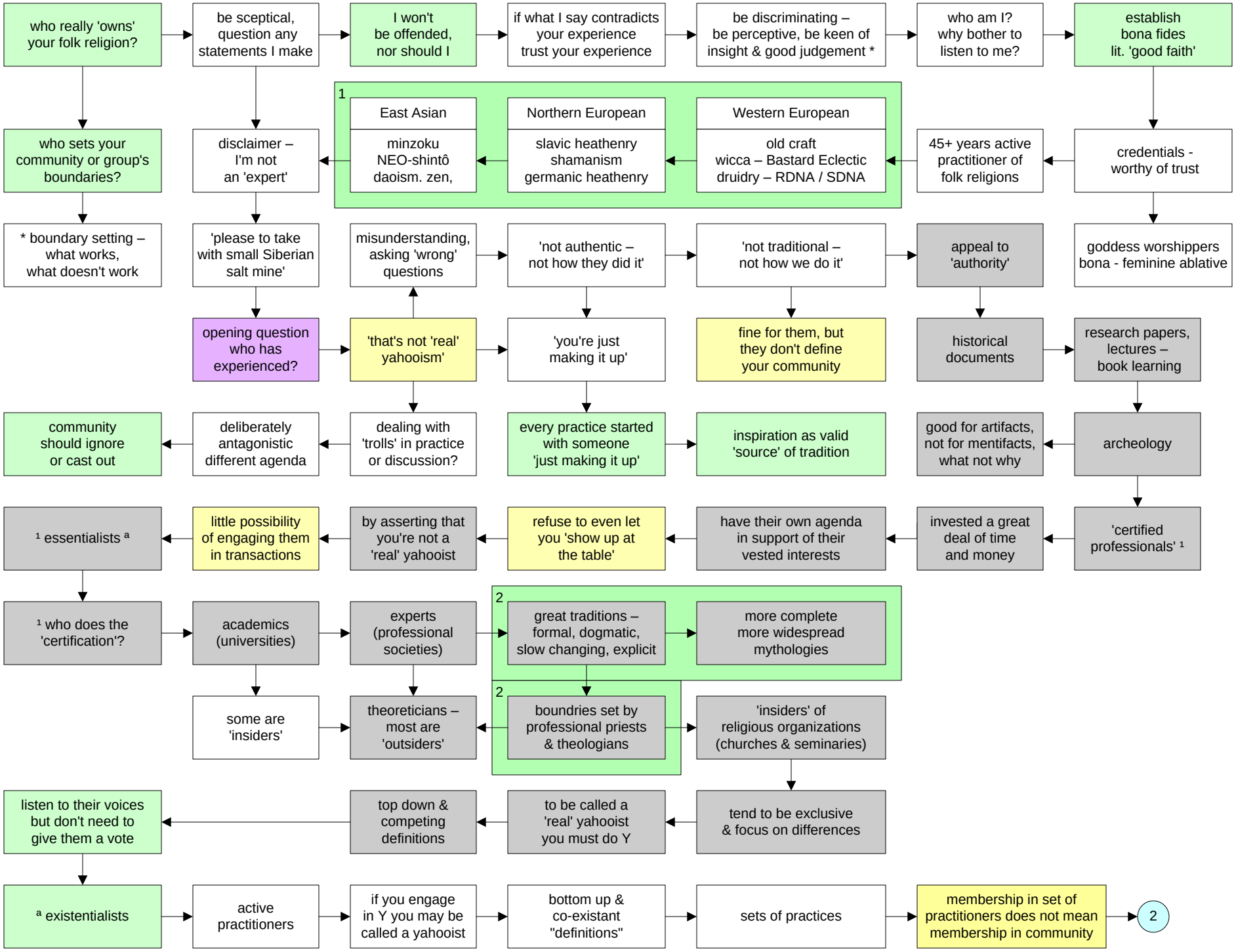
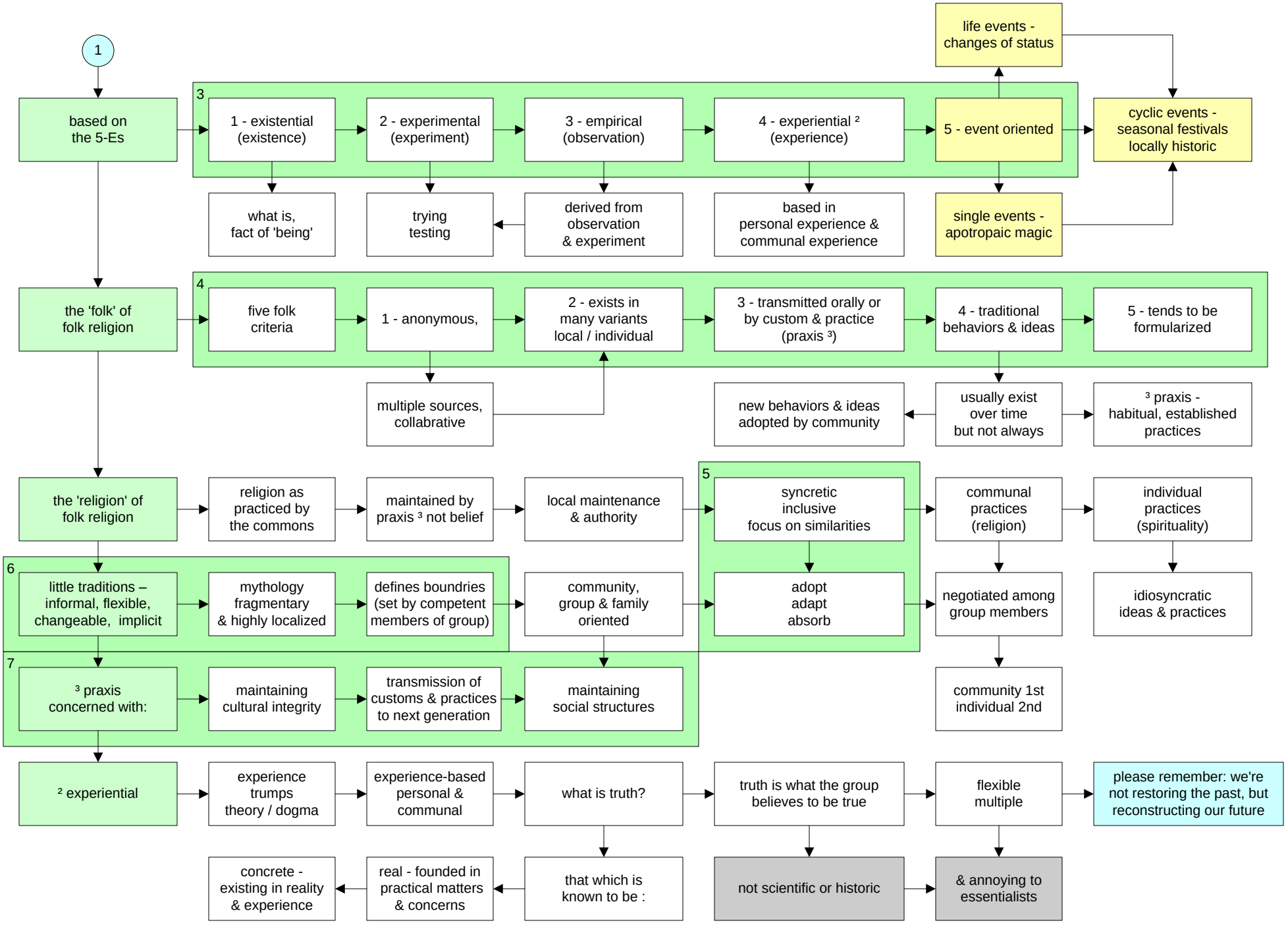

who really 'owns' your folk religion?
be sceptical, question any statements I make
I won't be offended, nor should I
if what I say contradicts your experience trust your experience
be discriminating – be perceptive, be keen of insight & good judgement *
who am I? why bother to listen to me?
establish bona fides lit. 'good faith'
1
East Asian
Northern European
Western European
who sets your community or group's boundaries?
disclaimer – I'm not an 'expert'
minzoku NEO-shintô daoism. zen,
slavic heathenry shamanism germanic heathenry
old craft wicca – Bastard Eclectic druidry – RDNA / SDNA
45+ years active practitioner of folk religions
credentials - worthy of trust
* boundary setting – what works, what doesn't work
'please to take with small Siberian salt mine'
misunderstanding, asking 'wrong' questions
'not authentic – not how they did it'
'not traditional – not how we do it'
appeal to 'authority'
goddess worshippers bona - feminine ablative
opening question who has experienced?
'that's not 'real' yahooism'
'you're just making it up'
fine for them, but they don't define your community
historical documents
research papers, lectures – book learning
community should ignore or cast out
deliberately antagonistic different agenda
dealing with 'trolls' in practice or discussion?
every practice started with someone 'just making it up'
inspiration as valid 'source' of tradition
good for artifacts, not for mentifacts, what not why
archeology
¹ essentialists ª
little possibility of engaging them in transactions
by asserting that you're not a 'real' yahooist
refuse to even let you 'show up at the table'
have their own agenda in support of their vested interests
invested a great deal of time and money
'certified professionals' ¹
¹ who does the 'certification'?
academics (universities)
experts (professional societies)
2
great traditions – formal, dogmatic, slow changing, explicit
more complete more widespread mythologies
some are 'insiders'
theoreticians – most are 'outsiders'
2
boundries set by professional priests & theologians
'insiders' of religious organizations (churches & seminaries)
listen to their voices but don't need to give them a vote
top down & competing definitions
to be called a 'real' yahooist you must do Y
tend to be exclusive & focus on differences
ª existentialists
active practitioners
if you engage in Y you may be called a yahooist
bottom up & co-existant "definitions"
sets of practices
membership in set of practitioners does not mean membership in community
2


1
based on the 5-Es
3
1 - existential (existence)
2 - experimental (experiment)
3 - empirical (observation)
4 - experiential ²
(experience)
5 - event oriented
life events - changes of status
cyclic events - seasonal festivals locally historic
what is, fact of 'being'
trying testing
derived from observation & experiment
based in personal experience & communal experience
single events - apotropaic magic
the 'folk' of folk religion
4
five folk criteria
1 - anonymous,
2 - exists in many variants local / individual
3 - transmitted orally or by custom & practice (praxis ³)
4 - traditional behaviors & ideas
5 - tends to be formularized
multiple sources, collabrative
new behaviors & ideas adopted by community
usually exist over time but not always
³ praxis - habitual, established practices
the 'religion' of folk religion
religion as practiced by the commons
maintained by praxis ³ not belief
local maintenance & authority
5
syncretic inclusive focus on similarities
communal practices (religion)
individual practices (spirituality)
6
little traditions – informal, flexible, changeable, implicit
mythology fragmentary & highly localized
defines boundries (set by competent members of group)
community, group & family oriented
adopt adapt absorb
negotiated among group members
idiosyncratic ideas & practices
7
³ praxis concerned with:
maintaining cultural integrity
transmission of customs & practices to next generation
maintaining social structures
community 1st individual 2nd
² experiential
experience trumps theory / dogma
experience-based personal & communal
what is truth?
truth is what the group believes to be true
flexible multiple
please remember: we're not restoring the past, but reconstructing our future
concrete - existing in reality & experience
real - founded in practical matters & concerns
that which is known to be :
not scientific or historic
& annoying to essentialists