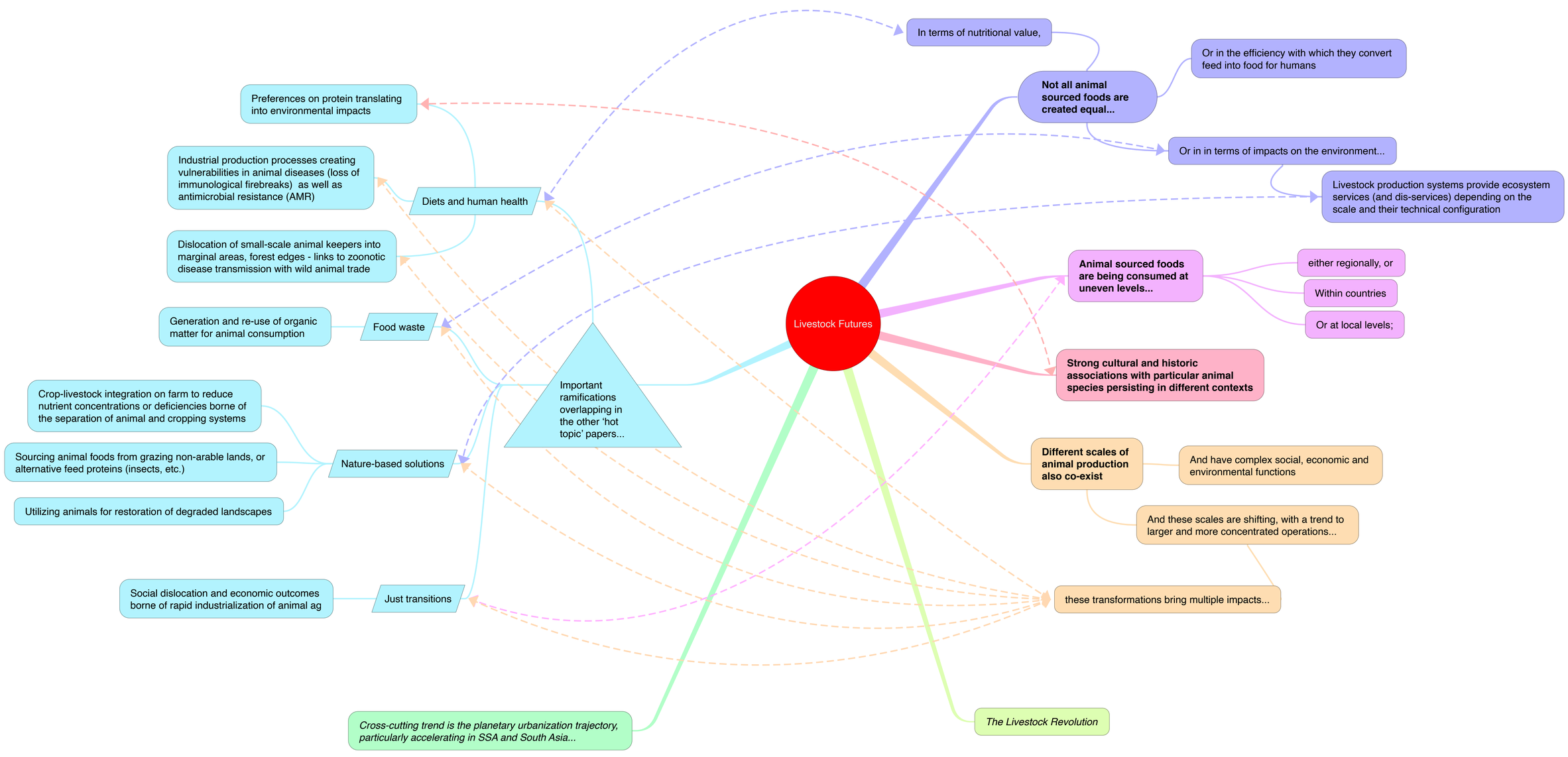
Livestock Futures
In terms of nutritional value,
Not all animal sourced foods are created equal...
Or in the efficiency with which they convert feed into food for humans
Or in in terms of impacts on the environment...
Livestock production systems provide ecosystem services (and dis-services) depending on the scale and their technical configuration
Animal sourced foods are being consumed at uneven levels...
either regionally, or
Within countries
Or at local levels;
Strong cultural and historic associations with particular animal species persisting in different contexts
Different scales of animal production also co-exist
And have complex social, economic and environmental functions
And these scales are shifting, with a trend to larger and more concentrated operations...
these transformations bring multiple impacts...
The Livestock Revolution
Important ramifications overlapping in the other 'hot topic' papers...
Diets and human health
Preferences on protein translating into environmental impacts
Industrial production processes creating vulnerabilities in animal diseases (loss of immunological firebreaks) as well as antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
Dislocation of small-scale animal keepers into marginal areas, forest edges - links to zoonotic disease transmission with wild animal trade
Food waste
Generation and re-use of organic matter for animal consumption
Nature-based solutions
Crop-livestock integration on farm to reduce nutrient concentrations or deficiencies borne of the separation of animal and cropping systems
Sourcing animal foods from grazing non-arable lands, or alternative feed proteins (insects, etc.)
Utilizing animals for restoration of degraded landscapes
Just transitions
Social dislocation and economic outcomes borne of rapid industrialization of animal ag
Cross-cutting trend is the planetary urbanization trajectory, particularly accelerating in SSA and South Asia...