Ackoff Collaboratory

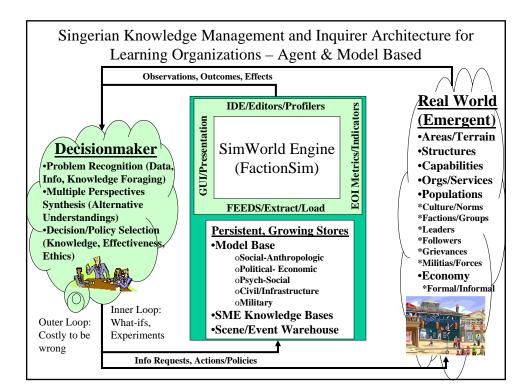
for Advancement of the Systems Approach

Simulators of Complex Systems:

Micro-Decision Making, Macro-Behavior Emergence

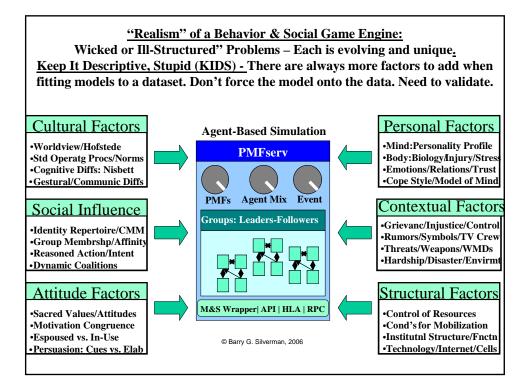
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Pennsylvania



Singerian Inquirer Guidelines (Churchman, 1971)

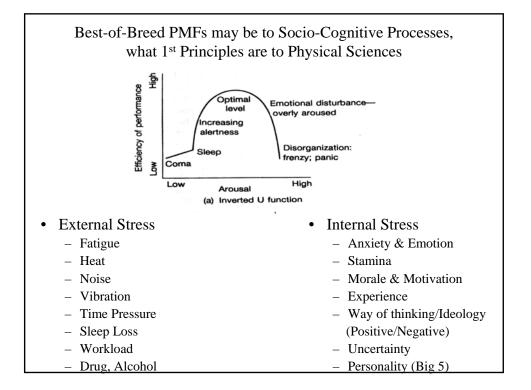
- Social System is Teleologic (purposeful, macro-behavior emerges from micro-decisions, edge of chaos, non-ergodic, ...)
- Assembling Exoteric Knowledge is its main purpose each new SI is an experiment in social policy, in social science, and systems science
- Components are not SS Disciplines, but themselves Teleologic Subsystems (orgs, factions, leaders, followers, etc.)
- System is indivisible (open exchange of info will lead to serendipitous learning and adaptation) improve the description/models & society
- Boundaries Client is society and humanity, multiple perspectives being swept in is raison d'etre (social equality, transformation)
- Measures of Performance Improvement Emancipation for all clients/perspectives, freedom of individuals, self-sustainment
- Validity/Guarantors Knowledge/models built should "do no harm". Must try to use all approaches and must treat the SI as an experiment in doing it better
- Ideal (shared interests): Designer = Decision maker = Client *Issue*: All definitions appear imprecise and unsatisfying.

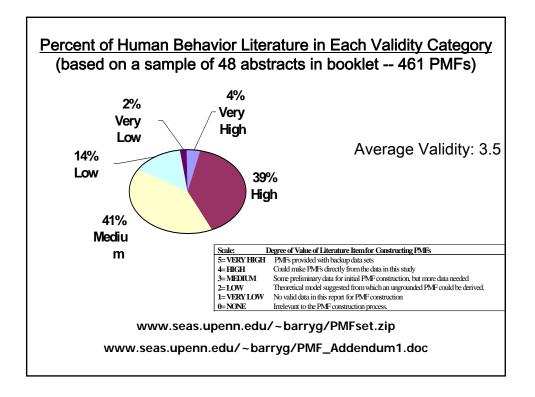


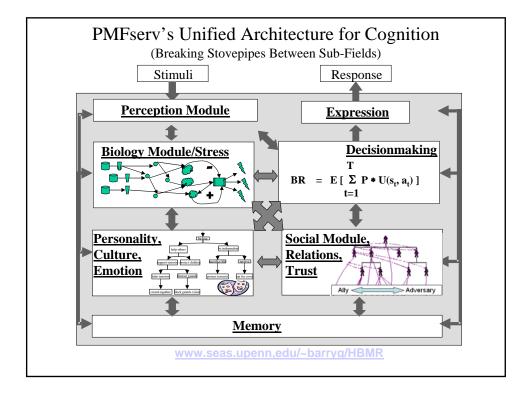
Systems Science, Synthesis, Wholisms (Singer, Ackoff, Churchman, Jackson, Silverman)

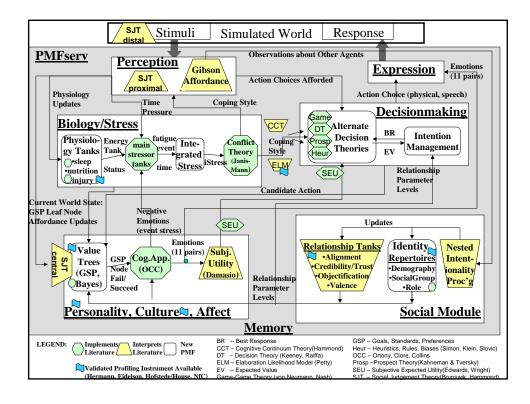
- Synthetic or Systems Thinking (Synergies)
 - Seek to Visualize/Study the Whole & Its Dynamics
 - Focus on inter-relations between parts
 - All parts are purposeful systems too (Micro-Decisions lead to Macro-Behavior, Unscripted Emergence of Equilibria, Phase Shifts) – Teleologic Parts
- Not Just Integrating Up to Wholes
 - Encapsulate Components and Replace/Modify/Reuse
 - Interchange Specs (semantics, math, terms, units, .)
 - Accuracy, not precision (1st order, linear approximations)
- Knowledge Synthesis (Esoteric, Exoteric, Complex, Descriptive)
 - Domain Knowledge (1st Principles, Best-of-Breed PMFs)
 - Testing and Validating (Training Datasets, Out-of-Sample Testing)

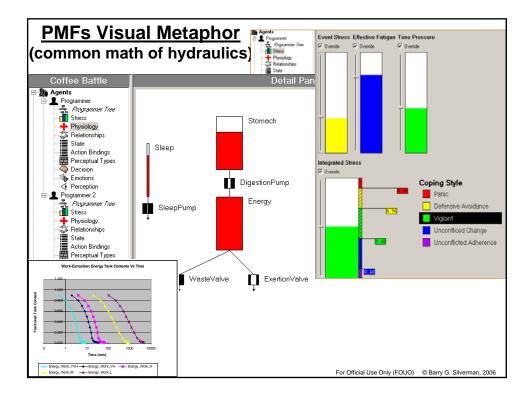
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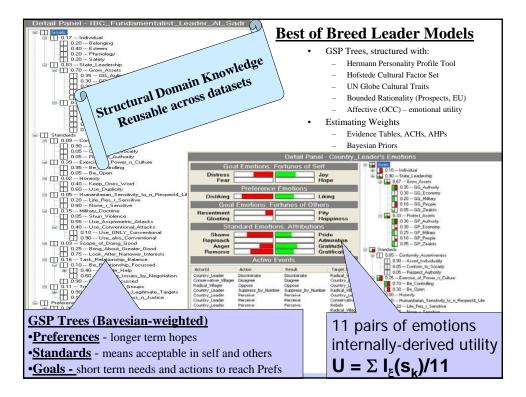


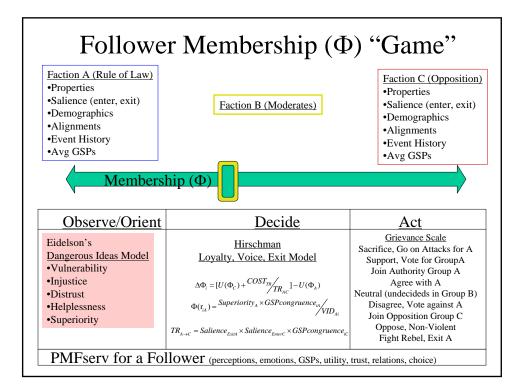


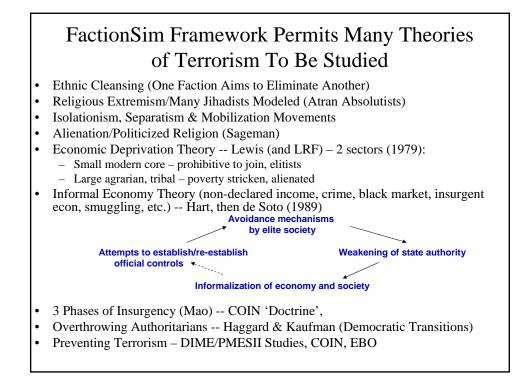


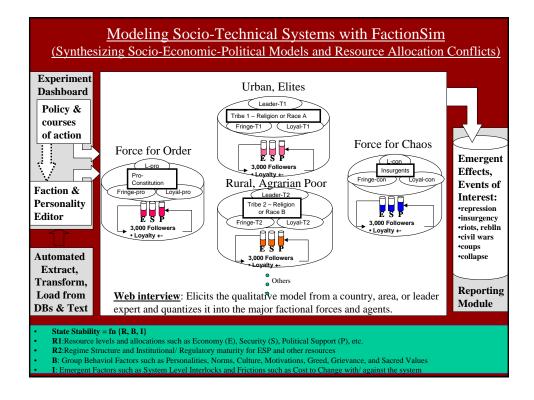


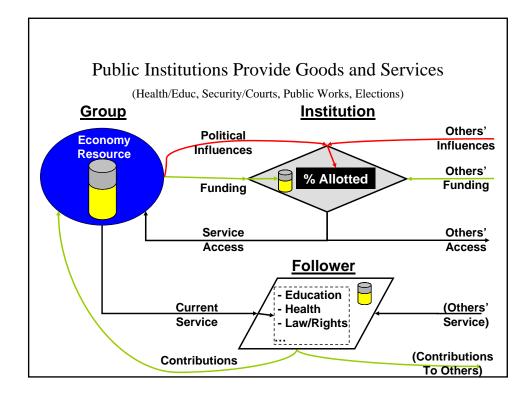


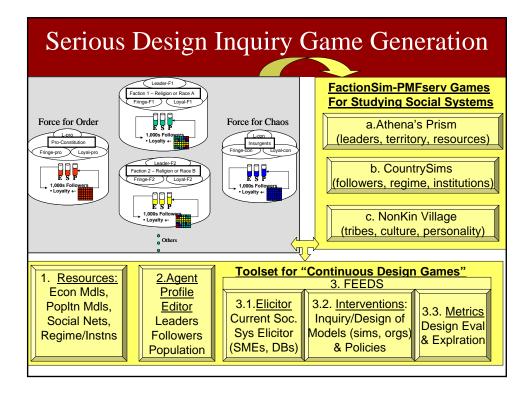




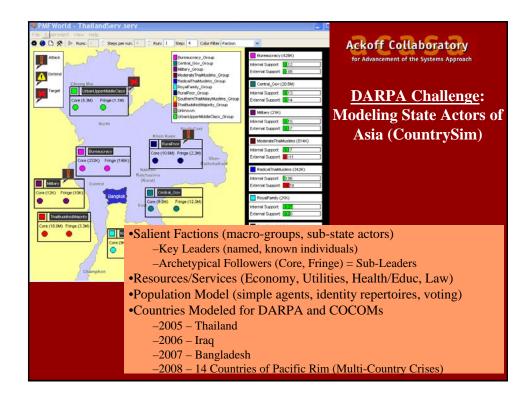


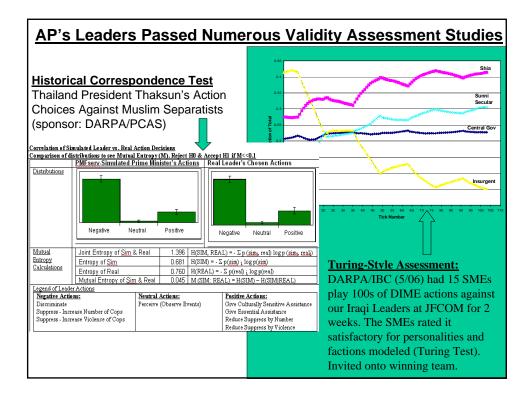














Validity Assessment Levels

1. *Internal validity assessment.* For any given theory or model we try to implement, is it complete, clear, coherent, and robust? What are the situations it fails to address? What needs to be added to make it better?

2. <u>Ontological adequacy</u>. Do the combined set of theories and models implemented work well together? What are the gaps that need to be filled in? What further research and studies does this suggest?

3. <u>Analytical adequacy.</u> Can the collection of models assembled and implemented thus far satisfy various types of correspondence tests and historic recreation tests? What about SME sniff tests and Turing assessments?

4. <u>Mechanism assessment.</u> If we have gained some trust in the first three levels of testing, are the socio-cognitive agent collections able to explain the underlying mechanisms guiding situations? Can we use them going forward to explain anything? Are the possibility spaces that they enumerate worth knowing about?

5. <u>Cross-sample testing</u>. To avoid the problem of over-fitting to a single test sample, we always need to examine if the models work across samples. Here we propose to apply them to many States, Groups, People.

Collaborations Needed

- Behavioral Researchers setup/test hypoths across DIME-PMESII life cycle – grow evidence base for training, DSS and M&S
 - Behavior/norms/patterns of cultures & groups (individual diffs)
 - Training & test data sets (population persuasion susceptibilities)
 - Campaign assessment studies/measurement (what succeeds/fails)
- Computational Researchers modeling human behavior and factions synthesize & test the theories
 - Multi-resolution agent models individuals, groups, social nets, societies
 - Validity Assessments (Analytic, Ontologic, Correspondent, Mechanism, Cross-Sample, etc.)
 - Composing new toolsets from reusable parts w/ interchange standards Hard vs. Soft, Esoteric vs. Exoteric, Complex and Emancipatory/Transformative
- Decision Makers & Stakeholders participate in conversations about real social systems they have inquiries about
 - Encourage discourse across stakeholders
 - Use of models to understand the system and its dynamics, precipitate questions
 - Wire up real world to collect results and promote adaptation & learning

