68TH MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR SYSTEMS SCIENCES

A PEOPLE'S SYSTEMS SCIENCE

GST/n

Weaving Abstract & Contextual Systems: Telling Them Apart & Aligning Their Parts

Jessie Lydia Henshaw
HDS Natural systems design science
sy@synapse9.com

Abstract

A truly general systems science needs to start with natural systems in context, the normal kinds we see, are made of, and engage with GST/n. Physics and other abstract systems models - GST/a - can help, but they can't be the real subject, as they're imaginary. There's no sign that nature exists as abstractions, despite their often misleading popularity.

The paper presents an advanced view of a general science for systems in context (rather than as abstractions). It aims to offer a new general science for everyone with some experience in reading the meanings of what's happening around them, not just theorists, a "People's Systems Science." Our world is mostly made of visibly self-animated and self-organizing systems that emerge through their own exploratory design processes to grow new working relationships in their contexts. There have always been people adept at reading them, but science offered very profitable ways of exploiting nature's most stable patterns, and pushed them away. Science has always seen the S-Curves of locally self-organizing natural systems but preferred to represent them like everything else as expressing rules rather than changing relationships, unable to see their importance.

Nature's Integral
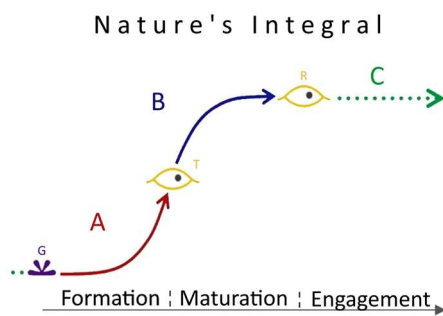
Physics and its many variations have indeed been wonderful for identifying useful rules for nature's stable patterns of behavior, represented as mathematical formulas. Left the animated dynamic reorganization of growth systems, now destabilizing the earth, quite unstudied. A people's science might use physics to differentiate stable and unstable patterns but sees systems as self-organized relationships in the context we are made of, live on, and with, like everything in nature. That allows inquiry to refer directly to natural subjects rather than substituting artificial ones, such as equations or statistics do. The natural designs of systems are far more context-dependent and deeply organized.

For example, almost everyone senses when they are pushing a relationship too far. Represented by abstractions as economics mostly is, an entire planet can be made to think of growth as limitless rather than naturally self-destabilizing.

So, we base the new science on stories with boundary conditions, often starting with data curves presented as story arcs. The observer needs to then explore the contexts and verify the progress of expected transformations expected to occur. We start with more of the broad views of our struggle with the global crisis enveloping our lives in dangerous change. Our lives are increasingly challenged on all sides and scales. So, understanding that is our first lesson plan, with a storytelling paper with a few references to theorems and studies as points of reference. It also aims to help us revive the deep wisdom on which our languages were built, all of them proof positive of the usefulness of referring to features of natural systems in context.

Keywords

control v. care, conceptual v. contextual, theory v. experience, abstraction v. relation, right brain v. left, continuity, growth, steering, general systems, homemaking in a global crisis