Social Capital and Social Learning in a Basin Becoming Full

Rod Dobell
and
Krista Iverson

GEORGIA BASIN FUTURES PROJECT
University of Victoria
February, 2000
The “Black Box”

Values (Indicators of Interest)

Data

Causal Structure

Outputs

Outcomes

Instruments

Indicators/Reporting

Well-being Measure
Grid/Group Dimensions and Solidarities

High

Grid

Low

Low

Group

High

Isolates

Hierarchy

Individualism

Egalitarianism
Action

- Citizen Involvement
  - In governance
- Citizen Engagement
  - In realization
- Citizen Agency
  - In both
Lifeworld--Awareness and Assessment

Concerns
(AGENDA)

Compliance
(ACTS)

Consequences

Enactment
Implementation,落实
Citizen Involvement in the System—Forming Intent

- Integration
- Covenant
- Community Collaboration
- Concerns (AGENDA)
- "Insider" Science into Policy
- Local Knowledge
- Other Perspectives
CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN THE SYSTEM--CREATING MANDATES

- Covenant
  - Collective commitment (INTENT)
- Protocol
  - Negotiation
- Consent
  - Mandate for Action (TEXT)
Citizen Engagement in the Lifeworld--Delivery and Compliance

Alternative institutional structures, incentives bearing on individual action

Consent
Mandates for action (TEXT)

Compliance (ACTS)

Contribution

Corporative/Cooperative

Intergovernmental, interagency collaboration
An interim conclusion: We Must Distinguish …

- Citizen involvement in policy formulation FROM
- Citizen engagement in policy delivery. THUS
- Citizen agency means both …
  - Capacity to participate effectively in governance, and
  - Discretion in achieving compliance.
Legitimacy, Trust and Social Capital

Reconciliation of the cooperative social optimum with individual self interest rests on:

- The perceived legitimacy of the process of formulating collective intentions
- Trust in the willingness of others to act according to the same rules
  or in other words …
- An adequate stock of social capital
Shared Values, Community Context and Social Learning

Scrutiny of compliance must consider:

- The intent of the work in the context when formulated
- The impact of the interpretation in the context when realized
- or in other words…
- Realization rests on an adequate foundation of shared values and community context
Citizen Agency Through Social Coordination: Action

(beliefs driving action to alter the world)
Citizen Agency Through Social Coordination: Recognition
(experience of the changing world to alter beliefs)
With these proposed frameworks, we might distinguish, roughly, dematerialization from resocialization. We can think of dematerialization as achieving reduced material throughput, or more generally achieving given social goals more effectively, through technological and institutional innovations, with given beliefs and values.

(Slide 22)
Resocialization

We might think of ‘resocialization’ as the evolution of beliefs and values, or the process of influencing beliefs and values, or, in other words, as a process of social learning (which may include internalization of external constraints). (Slides 21 and 23)
- Note that both beliefs and values are your own, but may be subjected to elements of reality testing.
- Beliefs may be required to confront empirical evidence, subjected to varying degrees of testing and possibly refutation through observation (cf Popper, Kuhn, Lakatos);
- Values may be subjected to tests of evolutionary fitness, with a search for evolutionarily stable strategies (cf literature on the evolution of cooperation, the evolution of social contract, the study of cellular automata in simulation of the role of trust, reciprocity or reputation in social relationships)
Borderlands

Note the interesting coincidence in interdisciplinary research: Dobell and Holling, starting from 1968 conf. Referring to the Ecological Frame (slide 6), we might see Holling’s work beginning from the outer ring (dynamics of the biosphere) and working into the centre; Dobell begins from the centre (dynamics of economic systems with multiple capital goods) and works out. Both finally focus on the institutional borderlands, with emphasis on the evolution of beliefs and values (figure 8 diagrams, Dobell straight up, Holling horizontal), within systems of tiered governance (panarchies).
Future Directions

- With this focus, we might see three key components in community-based research or community-university research alliances:
  - University: identifying, in social context, more focussed social concerns (values and belief systems; learning; institutional evolution)
  - Community: moving from act to consequence (natural system); grounded theory
  - Borderlands: moving from covenant to text, from intention to action, through social/institutional systems, across cultures.