

Modelling the Network of Social Forces that have the future of Homo Sapiens and the Planet in their Grip AND Designing a Dynamic Public Management System

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At the 2017 conference, Harbig and Voigt highlighted the dramatic growth in the population of London that can be anticipated over the next 30 years, illustrated the unprecedented growth in infrastructure which would be required to cope with it, and demonstrated that, with appropriate applications of DSM, the necessary developments could indeed be brought into being. What was not said was that, from an ecological point of view, multiplied across the planet, such developments could only result in the destruction of the planet as we know it. This, of course, is the conclusion drawn by the authors of Limits to Growth from studies conducted using Forrester's dynamic systems model of the interactions of world biological and economic processes. Yet there is a serious problem with their work: It does not map the network of interacting social forces which control the operation of processes they map. Finding ways of conceptualising, mapping, measuring, and harnessing this network of social forces - which have the future of the planet in their grip - thus becomes the most important task facing those concerned with sociocybernetics and dynamic systems modelling. A vital activity to be undertaken along the way will be to devise/evolve a public management system – a governance (cybernetic) system – which will innovate and learn in the long term public interest. Earlier work in these areas will be summarised.

John Raven has been involved policy-relevant social research for 60 years, much of it devoted to the evaluation of educational and economic policy. From the point of view of this conference, his most relevant publications are:

Raven, J. (1995). The New Wealth of Nations: A New Enquiry into the Nature and Origins of the Wealth of Nations and the Societal Learning Arrangements Needed for a Sustainable Society. Unionville, New York: Royal Fireworks Press; Edinburgh, Scotland: Competency Motivation Project. http://eyeonsociety.co.uk/resources/fulllist.html#new_wealth

and

Raven, J. (2016) Harnessing Social Processes for the Common Good.
<http://eyeonsociety.co.uk/resources/Harnessing-Social-Processes.pdf>