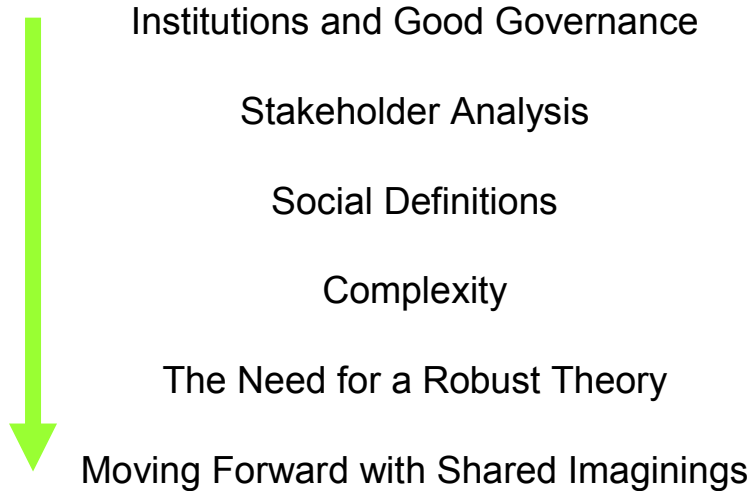


Institutions, Complexity & the Land

Professor Spike Boydell



Presidential Task Force on Institutional and
Organisational Development



Introduction



The 'Rules' Influencing Human Behaviour

Formal Institutional Arrangements	Informal Institutional Arrangements
Constitutions	Relationships
Statutes	Social expectations
Regulations	Family
Plans	Firm
Policies	Community
Title	Traditional Laws and Customs

- Who are potential beneficiaries?
- Who might be adversely affected?
- Who has existing rights?
- Who is likely to be voiceless?
- Who is likely to resent change and mobilise resistance against it?
- Who is responsible for intended plans?
- Who has money, skills or key information?
- Whose behaviour has to change for success?

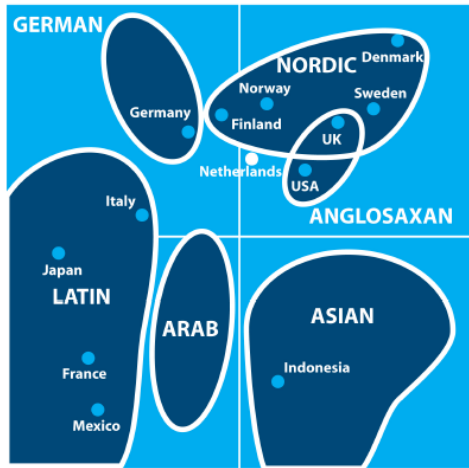
- **Basics** – men / women, rich / poor, young / old;
- **Location** - rural/urban dwellers, near to the issue / far away;
- **Ownership** - landowners/landless, managers, staff;
- **Function** – producers / consumers, traders / suppliers / competitors, regulators, policy makers, activists, opinion-formers;
- **Scale** – small-scale / large-scale, local / international communities;
- **Time** - past, present, future generations

- The institutions that underpin land tenure systems are ‘manmade’ social definitions.
- Institution has to be adaptable.
- Can society enforce institutions?

Responsibilities

Relate to a more social, ethical commitment or attitude to environmental sustainability and good husbandry.

High ← Uncertainty Avoidance → Low



Uncertainty avoidance:

The preference of structured situations over unstructured or flexible ones

Power distance:

The degree of inequality among people accepted by the population

Geert Hofstede (2001).
Professor of Organizational Anthropology and International Management (1985-93), Maastricht University, the Netherlands

Complexity

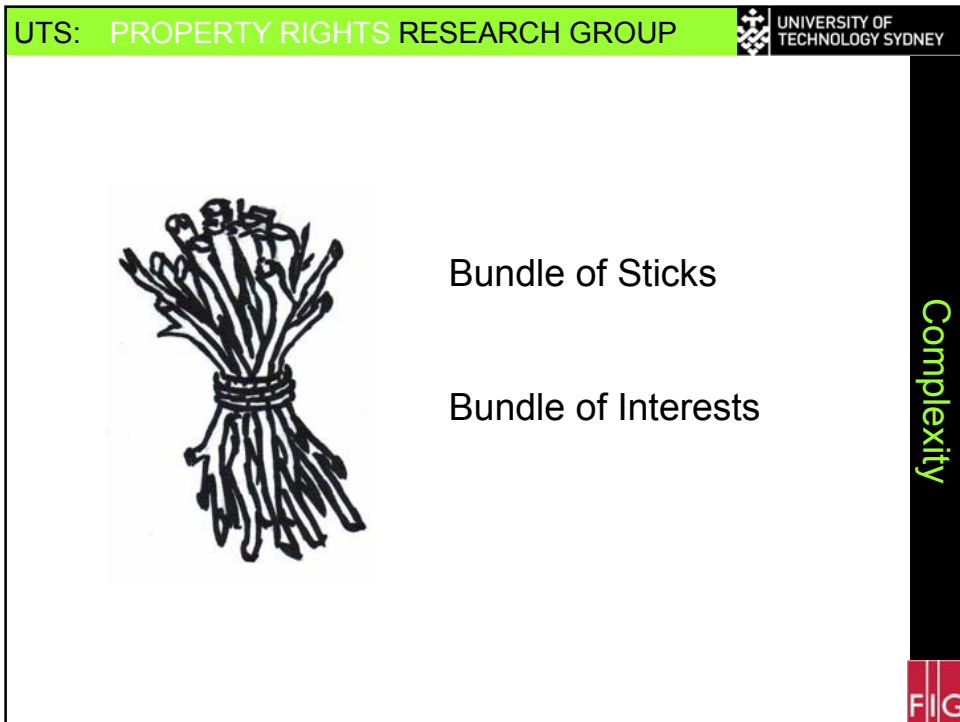
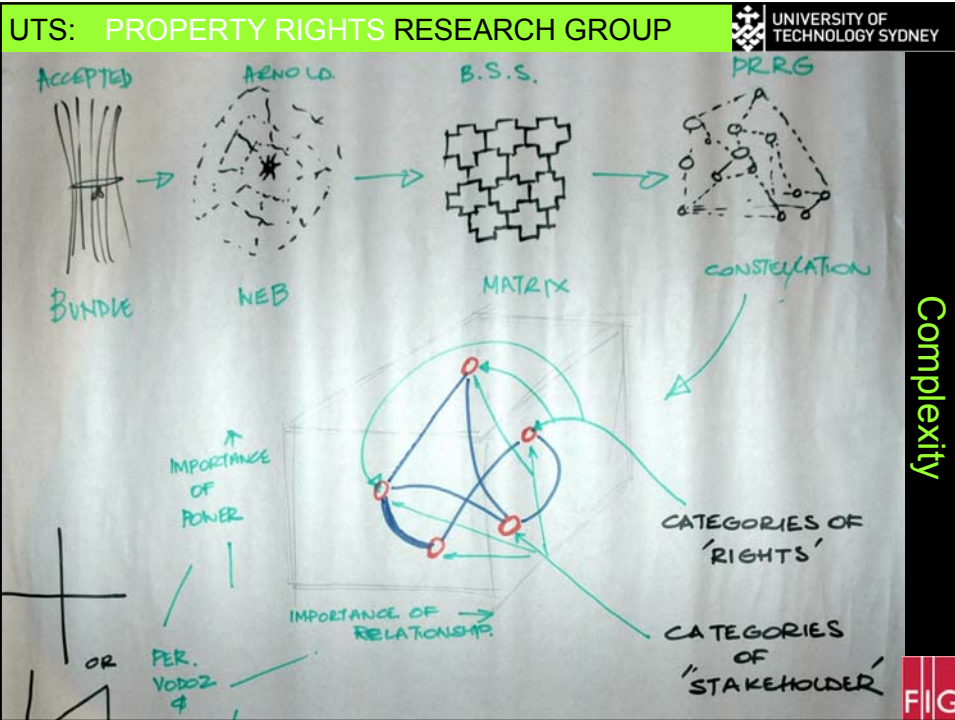


CONTINUUM OF RIGHTS



Complexity



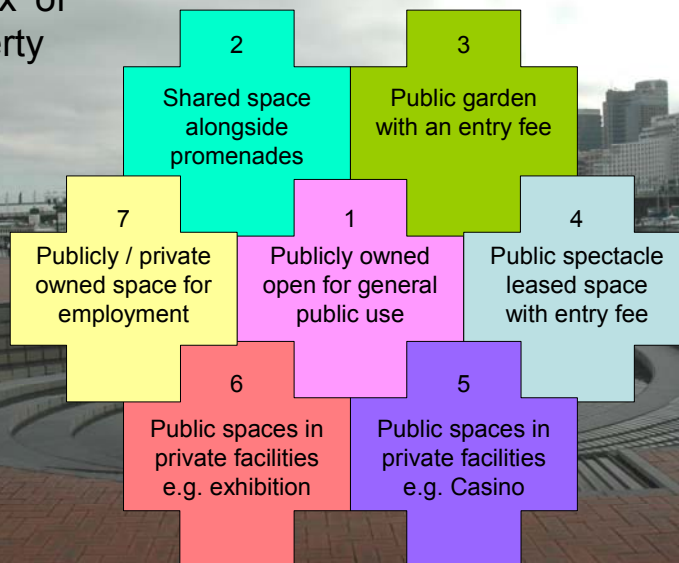


A web of property interests needs to be distinctive, interconnected, functional, and have context. Arnold's metaphor sees the web as "a set of interconnections among persons, groups, and entities each with some stake in an identifiable (but either tangible or intangible) object, which is at the center of the web. All of the interest-holders are connected both to the object and to one another" (Arnold, 2002, p.333).

Complexity



'Matrix' of property rights



Complexity





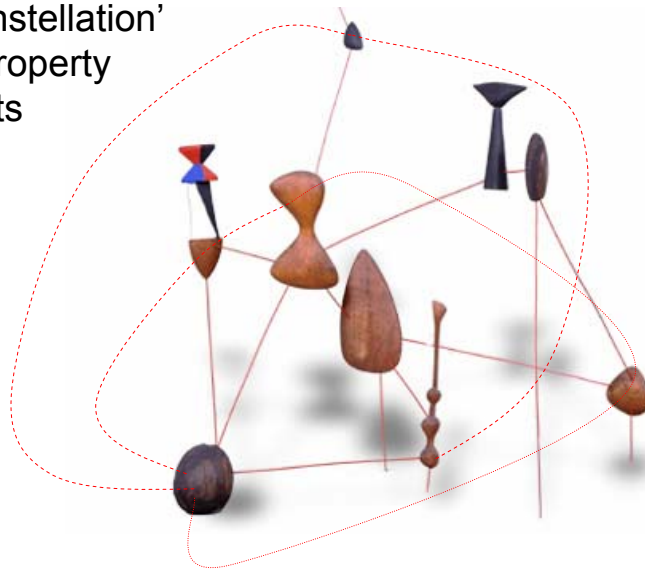
Complexity



Complexity



'Constellation' of property rights



Complexity



Institutional process	How individuals evolve changes
1. Perception of change	Impressions - individuals perceive a change in conditions they operate in – a change in environmental, social, economic or institutional conditions.
2. Identification of causality	Meanings - depending on their behavioural tendencies and attitudes, some individuals compare the perceived change with their mental models of why it might have happened, what its impacts could be, and come up with their own explanations of these causal relationships.
3. Communication of the opinion on change	Expressions - depending on their behavioural tendencies and attitudes, some individuals communicate their opinion of causal relationships within their social network; this may cause diffusion processes, depending on the individual's position / power relations within the network, as well as perceived relevance of the change.
4. Alignment of opinions	Abduction - individuals align themselves, based on their opinion of causal relationships and motivation factors.
5. Decrease of fitness of the existing institution.	Reality - acceptance that existing institution is failing to meet individual and societal aspirations. Consensus (based on fact, expectation, or myth) that changes are needed.
6. Formation of new institutions.	Imaginings - can be societal (informally) or through government policy and supporting legislation (formal), rather than at an individual level. An individual is involved through their engagement with particular society or democratic process.
7. Replacement or modification of existing institutions.	Expectations - as with 6, can be societal (informally) or through government policy and supporting legislation (formal), rather than at an individual level. Again, an individual is involved through their engagement with particular society or democratic process.

Need for a Robust Theory



- Consensus
- Pragmatism v Absolutism
- Participation & Shared Imaginings
- Power, Participation & Voice (World Bank)
- Administrative Reform
- Public Engagement
- Political Will

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