

Analytical Methodologies to Guide Interventions in Informal Settlements

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FIG Working Week 2009 Eilat, Israel, 3-8 May 2009

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Definitions

Informal settlement

“a settlement where land is occupied according to a set of rules and processes that are not entirely legal” (Barry 1999)

System

“a set of elements connected together which form a whole, this showing properties which are properties of the whole, rather than properties of its component parts” (Checkland 1999, p. 3)

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Systems Theories

Soft Systems Methodology

Other theories:

- Multi-methodology
- Post Modern Systems Theories
- Complexity Theory

Soft Systems Methodology

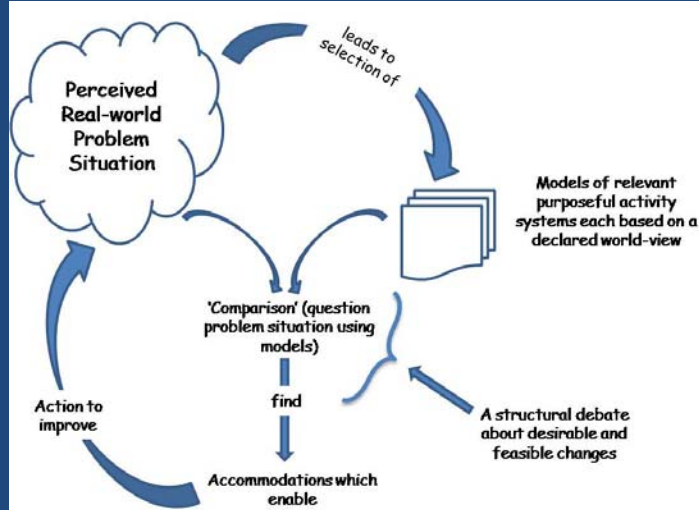
Meaning

Construction of social reality

Social, political and historical aspects

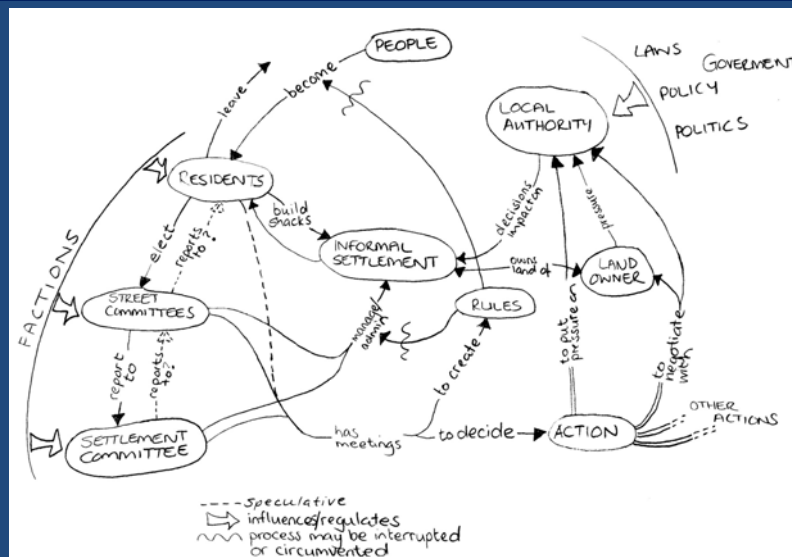
Weltanschauung

SSM: Four main activities methodology



(Checkland 1999)

Rich Picture: Informal Settlement



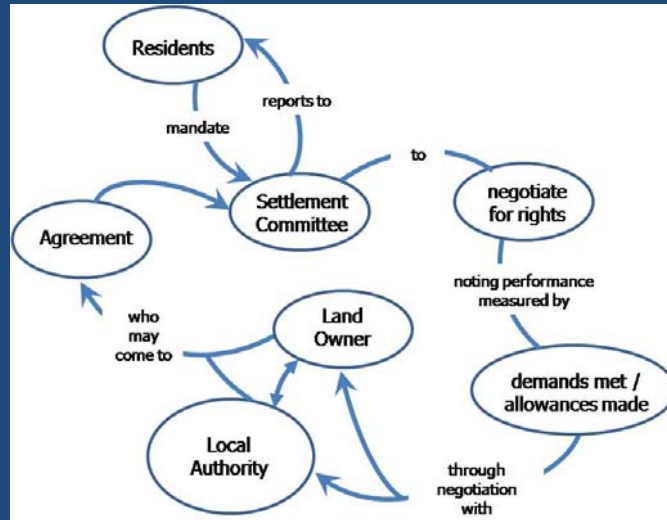
CATWOE: Informal Settlement

Customers	Residents of Informal Settlement
Actors	Settlement Committee, Local Authority, Land Owner
Transformation	From threat of eviction to some level of security of tenure
<i>Weltanschauung</i>	Right to shelter
Owners	Residents of Informal Settlement
Environmental Constraints	Government policy and laws, political environment

Root Definition: Informal Settlement

The **residents of the informal settlement** believe they have a **right to shelter**, and mandate the **settlement committee** to negotiate on their behalf with the **local authority and the land owner**, to prevent eviction. The environmental constraints are **government policy and law**, as well as the **political environment**.

Conceptual Model: Informal Settlement



Conclusions

Soft Systems Methodology

Weakness: Does not address problem situations with extreme coercive behaviour

Potential to be used more extensively in informal settlement interventions

References

Barry, M 1999, 'Evaluating Cadastral Systems in Periods of Uncertainty: A Study of Cape Town's Xhosa-speaking Communities', PhD thesis, University of Cape Town.

Checkland, P 1999, *Systems Thinking, Systems Practice*, John Wiley & Sons Ltd, Chichester.



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