





Approaches on **Systems Governance and Policy** Case of the U.S. STEM-H





ICONS 22 - Keynote Speech

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Change is the name of the game!









From a technological metamorphosis towards a methodological paradigm shift













Human-Machine interaction era:

- Emerging Technology Breakthroughs are taking over:
 - Robotics
 - Internet of things
 - Autonomous vehicles
 - 3D Printing
 - Quantum computing
 - Nanotechnology
 - Fintechology
 - Biotechnology

 - Decentralized consensus, decision-making, design, governance, etc. • Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning, deep learning, etc.

New challenges needs new problem solving approaches





Two ways in one shot: hard vs. soft

Thinking *about* systems

Systems Engineering

Hard System Methods

Technology Systems

Systems

Engineering



Developing governance structures to hedge impact of complexity?



"The degree of difficulty in accurately predicting behavior over time."

Taxonomy of Complexity



Prediction Quality:

- Precision
- Time scale
- Context

Prediction Difficulty:

- Relationships
- Current state
- Computation

Simplification Framework

Abstraction - schematic modeling Transformation - graphical modeling Reduction - structural modeling Homogenization

mathematical modeling



Systems modeling approach: behavior pattern recognition

Simplification Functions

- Exponential growth
- Goal seeking
- Oscillation
 - S-shaped growth
 - Growth with overshoot
 - Overshoot and collapse











Systems governance approach to policy design and improvement planning

Case of the U.S. STEM-H Education

- A novel framework for understanding the STEM-H educational outreach ecosystem
- A model-based approach to analytical optimization intervention policies

Research doctoral journey of two graduate students in my research team: Dr. Ralph C. Tillinghast and Dr. Daniel C. Appel

Research pathway

Definition

- Identify and address lack of formalized definition for STEM-H Education Outreach
- Stakeholders
 - Identify and conduct analysis of stakeholders identified across literature
- STEM-H Education Ecosystem Model
 - Develop careerization pipeline model and causal loop modeling architecture to represent the broader STEM-H education ecosystem
 Conduct sensitivity analysis of Vensim model, comparing groups of surveyed STEM-H professionals to simulated instantiations of these groups to validate model
- Survey Data & Analysis
 - Conduct analysis of STEM-H professional survey to identify positive catalysts, trends, and validate careerization pipeline model

Functional Modeling & Simulation

- Develop Vensim system dynamics model to functionalize STEM-H education ecosystem model and conduct analysis of model
- Implement
- Verification and Validation of Modeling & Simulation

- Develop STEM Education Improvement Strategies
 - Perform optimization of intervention strategies across student cohorts



A systems approach:

Stakeholders analysis and establish relationships



STEM-H Outreach



Combined Fundamental Objectives Hierarchy (Blue) and Means Objectives Network Used to identify how educational outreach initiatives can meet stakeholder goals

Leveraging Scaled Agile Framework Epic Hypothesis, Fundamental Objectives Hierarchy, and Means Objectives Networks



STEM-H Career Pipeline Model



- Career Pipeline is modeled as:
 - Considering STEM-H fields as potential careers Selecting careers in STEM-H areas Survey responses captured the grade at which students reached these points
- Students developing an interest in STEM-H areas Proceeding with education and career goals

Final result of testing heuristic pipeline models, such as Introduce, Promote, Nurture, Recruit and Retain

Analyzing STEM-H Professional Survey









- Conducted analysis of 376 complete survey responses
 - 97% of responses indicated a positive catalyst or influence
- Catalysts and influences were categorized using character regex searches of survey responses
 - Subcategories for individuals and types of activities/ events were also generated
 - Additional markers were tested, such as Space Exploration, Camps, and Outreach
- Analysis performed in JMP, analyzing waveforms of grades where each pipeline transition occurs



Female respondents influenced by individuals outside the family (Solid) Other respondents (Dotted)



Sequential Layered Markov Decision Chain & **Systems Dynamics Models**

$$r_{ij}^{(n)} = \sum_{k} r_{i,k}^{(n-1)} p_{kj} \rightarrow r_{entry,succeed}^{(gradeN)} = \sum_{k} r_{i,k}^{(gradeN-1)} p_{k,succeed}$$

 $\left[\sum_{k=lostCons} \left(\sum_{k=lostInt} r \right|_{entry,k}^{(n-4)} p \right]_{k,interested} p_{k,consider} p_{k,choose} p_{choose,succeed}$

- - Selecting careers in STEM-H areas
- ecosystem model for simulation in Vensim



Layered Markov Decision chain representations of the education to career pipeline through successive phases Students pass through the Entry, Interested, Considering, Choose, and Succeed phases with STEM-H Career Goals

Core Career Pipeline remains modeled as: Students developing an interest in STEM-H areas Considering STEM-H fields as potential careers Proceeding with education and career goals Attritional losses, and causal loops added to



System Dynamics Model

- Vensim modeling and simulation framework
 emerging from 23
 architectural revisions
 - Conducted extensive
 sensitivity analysis for
 verification and validation
 for each architecture
 revision
 - Leveraged SynTheSim
 capability to approximate
 JMP output waveforms
 from every identified
 student cohort
 - Unified modeling
 framework successfully
 represented every student
 group







Vensim system dynamic model sensitivity analysis of background STEM awareness factors on career progression comparing Family Influence factor



"High Grit" - Consider, Choose, and Success Outputs



Intervention strategies: governance through policy making





Comparison of the nominal pipeline progression, emulation of underrepresented groups (Off-Nominal) Default Intervention strategy, and Proposed Intervention cases from the system dynamics model

Off-Nominal case generated by reducing initial community awareness and prevalence factors, reducing attrition resilience factors, and increasing self-reinforcing aspects of peer group and self-efficacy factors

Focusing almost exclusively on mentorship and near-peer outreach emerges as most promising strategy for students in underrepresented demographics



