Welcome to

Governing the Anthropocene: Cyber-systemic possibilities?

Herrenhausen Palace, Hannover, Germany
30th - 31st July 2015

'problem statement'

The prevailing paradigm in the governance of the relationship between humans and the biophysical world is characterised by commitments to scientism and linear, causal and dualistic thinking.

Currently governance, if understood as enacting cyber-systemic processes that maintain the quality of relationships between humans and the biosphere, can be seen to be failing on many fronts.

The Anthropocene has emerged as a conceptual framing for this issue, but to date little cyber-systemic understanding and praxis (theory informed practical action) has meaningfully informed the unfolding discourse.

Inquiry themes for future research and institutional innovation:

1. what contributions might a more institutionally coherent field of cybernetics and systems (hereafter cybersystemics) scholarship contribute to governing the Anthropocene?

A subsidiary question is: can relationships in this field be strengthened between German scholars and the Anglo-Saxon traditions and made relevant to the issue?

Inquiry themes for future research and institutional innovation:

2. can 'representatives from the differing cybersystemic lineages and communities in conversation with each other generate fresh insights into the *problematique* by identifying a research agenda with potential to realise new theoretical methodological, institutional and praxis innovation able to break with dualistic and linear, causal thinking and acting?

Inquiry themes for future research and institutional innovation:

This event at Herrenhausen Palace is framed as an invitation to contributors from different cybersystemic and 'institutionalist' organisations and communities to participate in a _systemic inquiry_ into how cybersystemic thinking and practice can contribute to transformations that better enable us to govern (in?) "the Anthropocene".

Outputs

Contributors will build 'evidence' for investment in, and institutional innovation for, cybersystemic capability building in table-based group inquiries that also include young PhD researchers and policy makers as well as research funding organisations;

A publication (book or major report), for setting a research agenda and policy briefings

Possibly a working group on institutional reform within the international cybersystemic community?
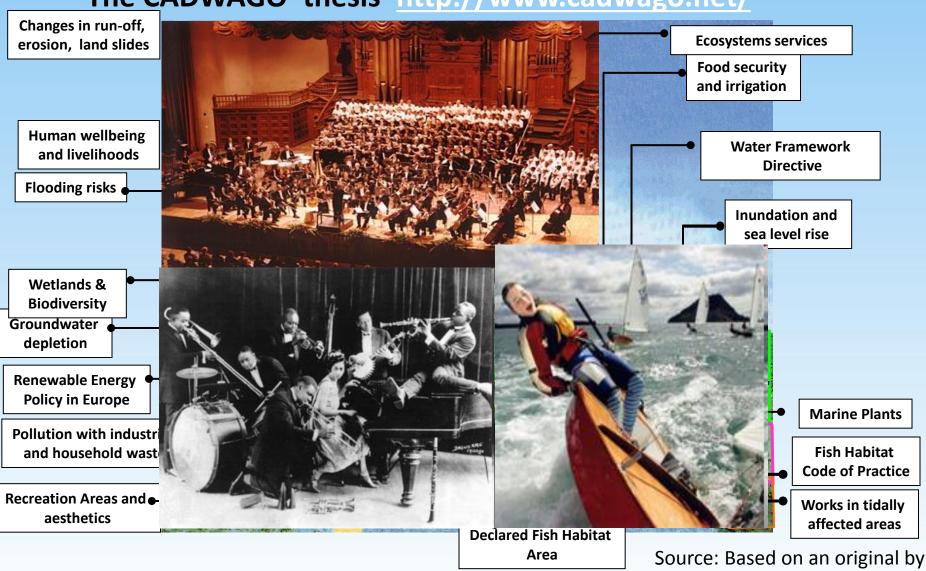
Emergent, ongoing inquiries?

CADWAGO (Climate Change Adaptation and Water Governance) Project

SEI (PI) & Applied Systems Thinking in Practice (ASTiP) Group, The Open University (CI)

Kevin Collins, Natalie Foster, Chris Blackmore, Ray Ison

'Water catchment' governance: from source to sea

The CADWAGO 'thesis' http://www.cadwago.net/

Changes in run-off, erosion, land slides

Human wellbeing and livelihoods

Flooding risks

Ecosystems services

Food security and irrigation

Water Framework Directive

Inundation and sea level rise

Wetlands & Biodiversity

Groundwater depletion

Renewable Energy Policy in Europe

Pollution with industrial and household waste

Recreation Areas and aesthetics

Declared Fish Habitat Area

Marine Plants

Fish Habitat Code of Practice

Works in tidally affected areas

Source: Based on an original by Jenny Bellamy