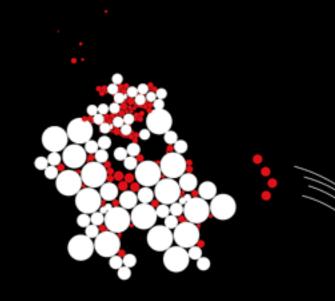
UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.

Biases, beliefs and values in participatory modeling and citizen science

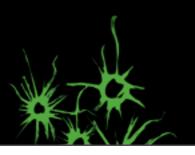




Alexey Voinov

Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC)
University of Twente
aavoinov@gmail.com

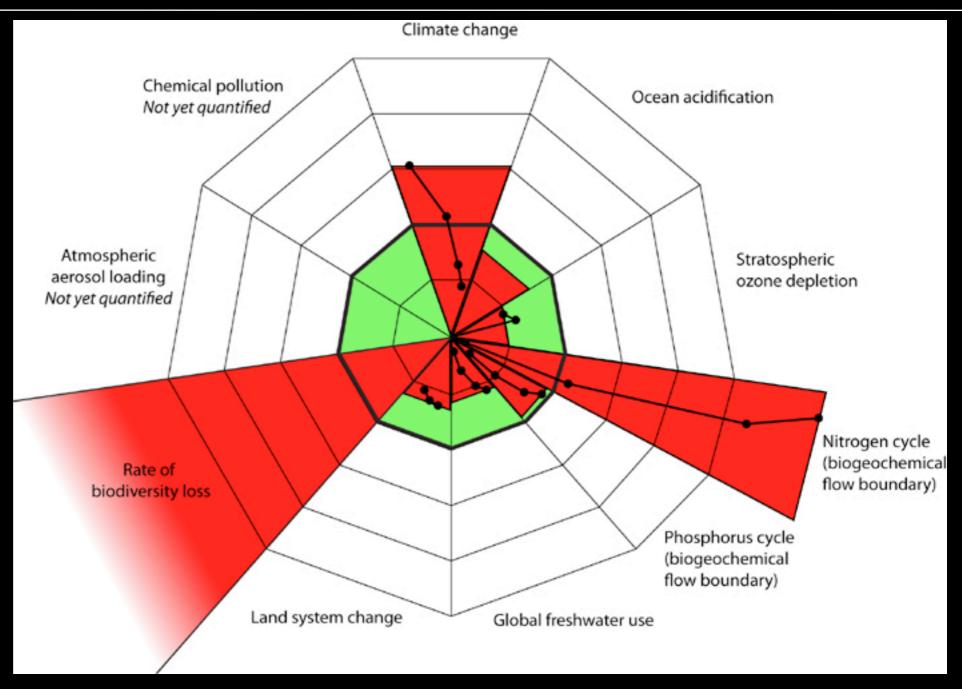
Innovations in Collaborative Modeling, 2016



"May you live in interesting times"



Planetary boundaries

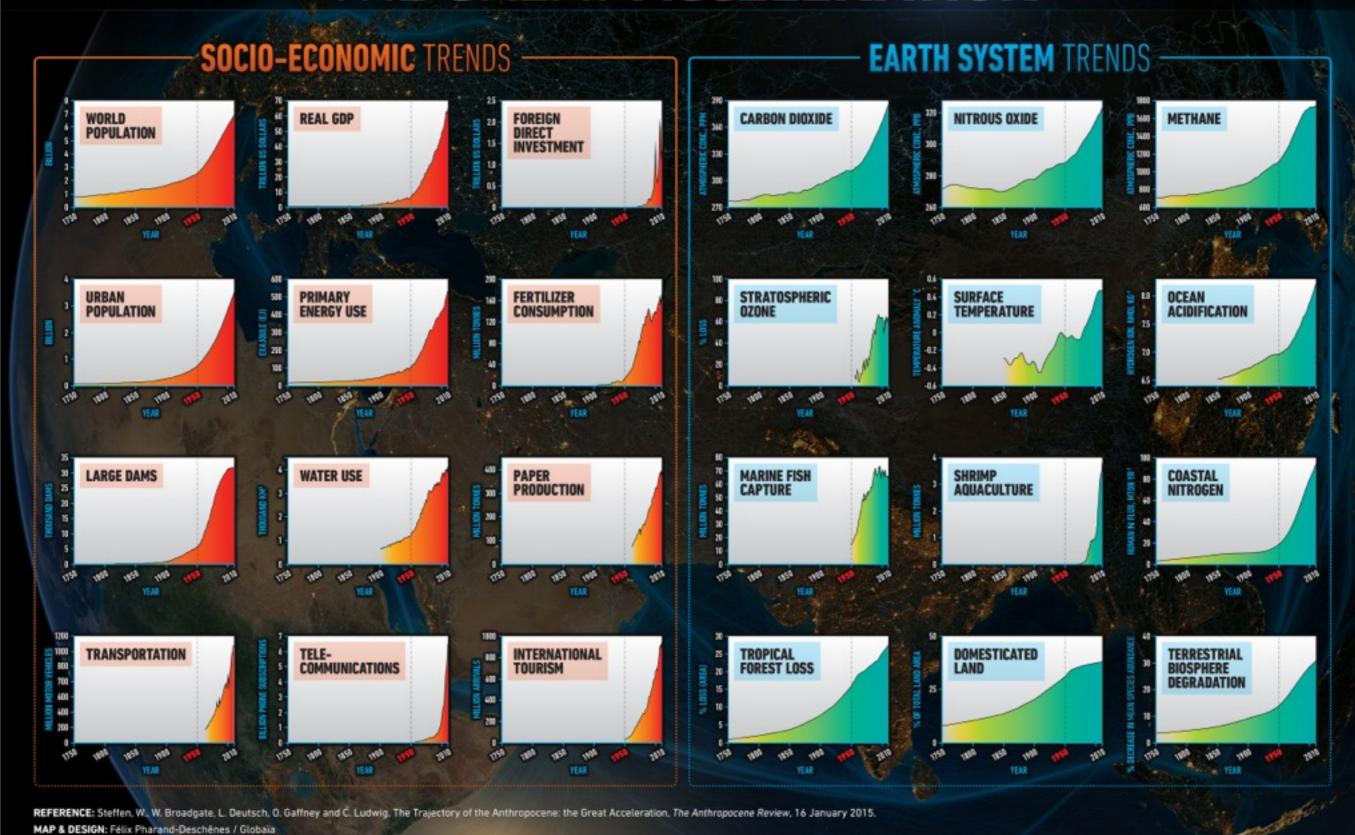




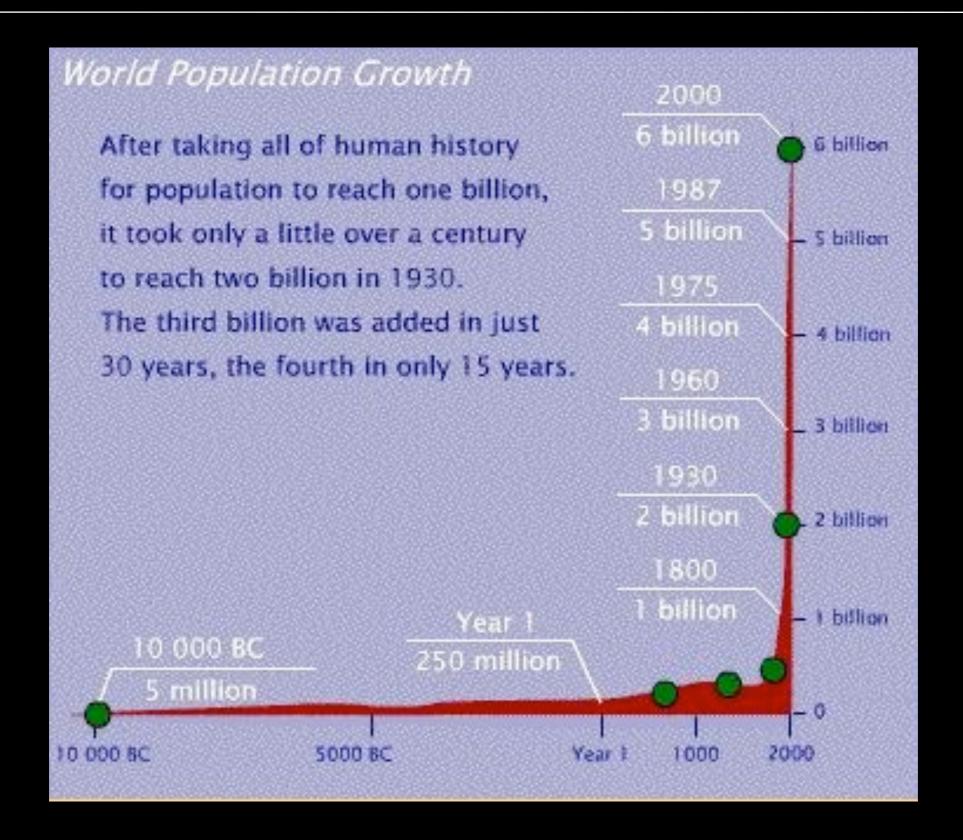
 Estimate of quantitative evolution of control variables for seven planetary boundaries from pre-industrial levels to the present

Rockstrom, J. et al., 2009. A safe operating space for humanity. *Nature*, 461(7263), pp.472–475.

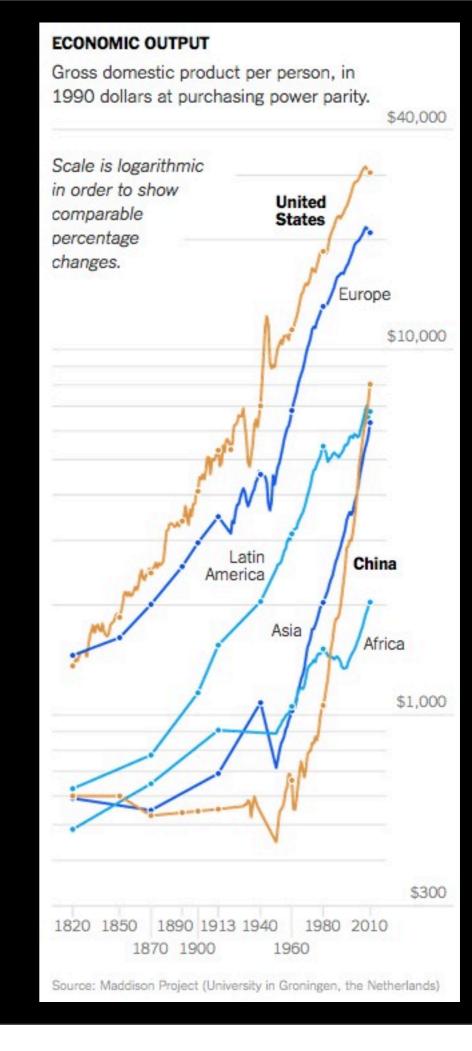
THE GREAT ACCELERATION



Population Growth

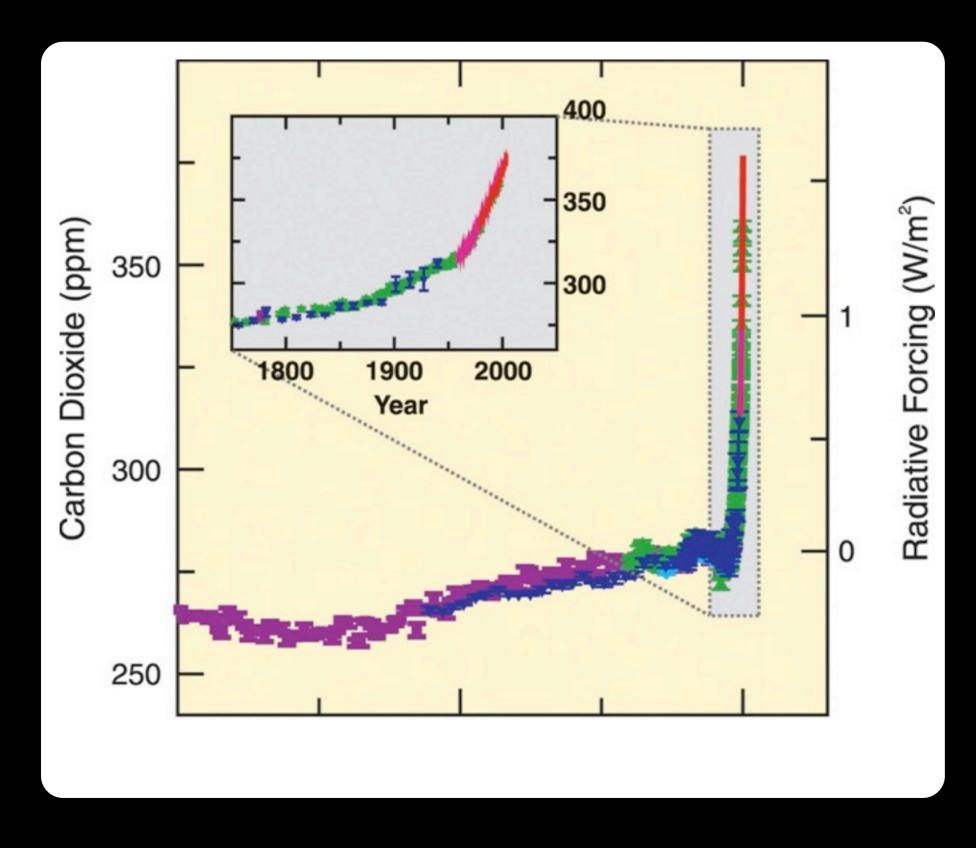




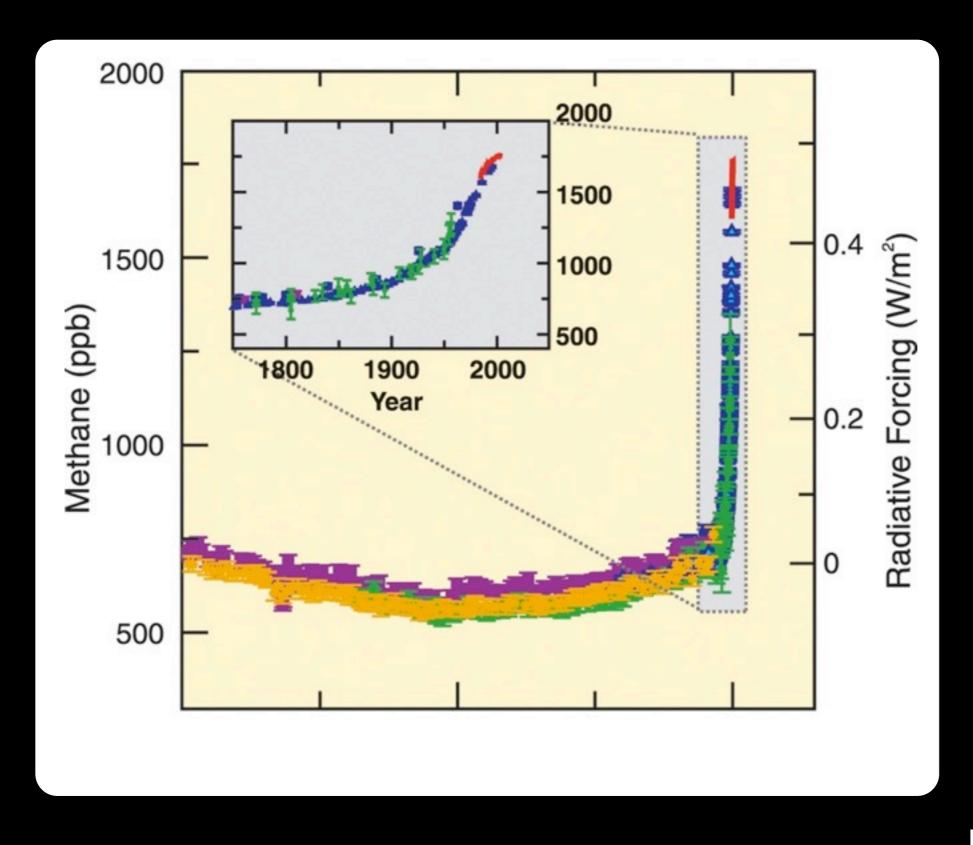




http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/02/business/economy/imagining-a-world-without-growth.html









IPCC Synthesis Report, 2007

The Annihilation of Nature

- 50% of all wildlife has been lost worldwide in the last 40 years
- 70% in South America.
- Since 1500, eight mammals have gone extinct,
- Another 27 "possibly extinct".
- 188 mammals are critically endangered, 450 are endangered, and 493 are threatened with extinction.

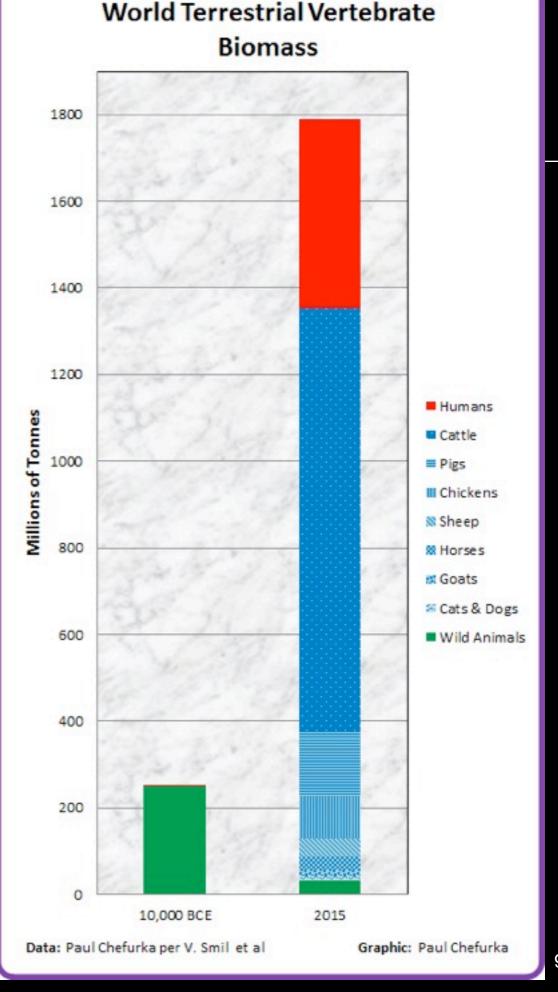
Gerardo Ceballos, Anne H. Ehrlich, and Paul R. Ehrlich The Annihilation of Nature – Human Extinction of Birds and Mammals



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Gerardo Ceballo The Annihilation of Nature – Hu





Inequality



62 INDIVIDUALS



TRILLION

Have the same wealth as the poorest 3.6 billion people in the world The increase in wealth of the richest 62 individuals since 2010 The fall in wealth of the poorest 3.6 billion people since 2010



1%



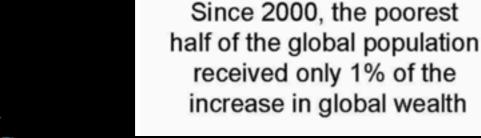
50%





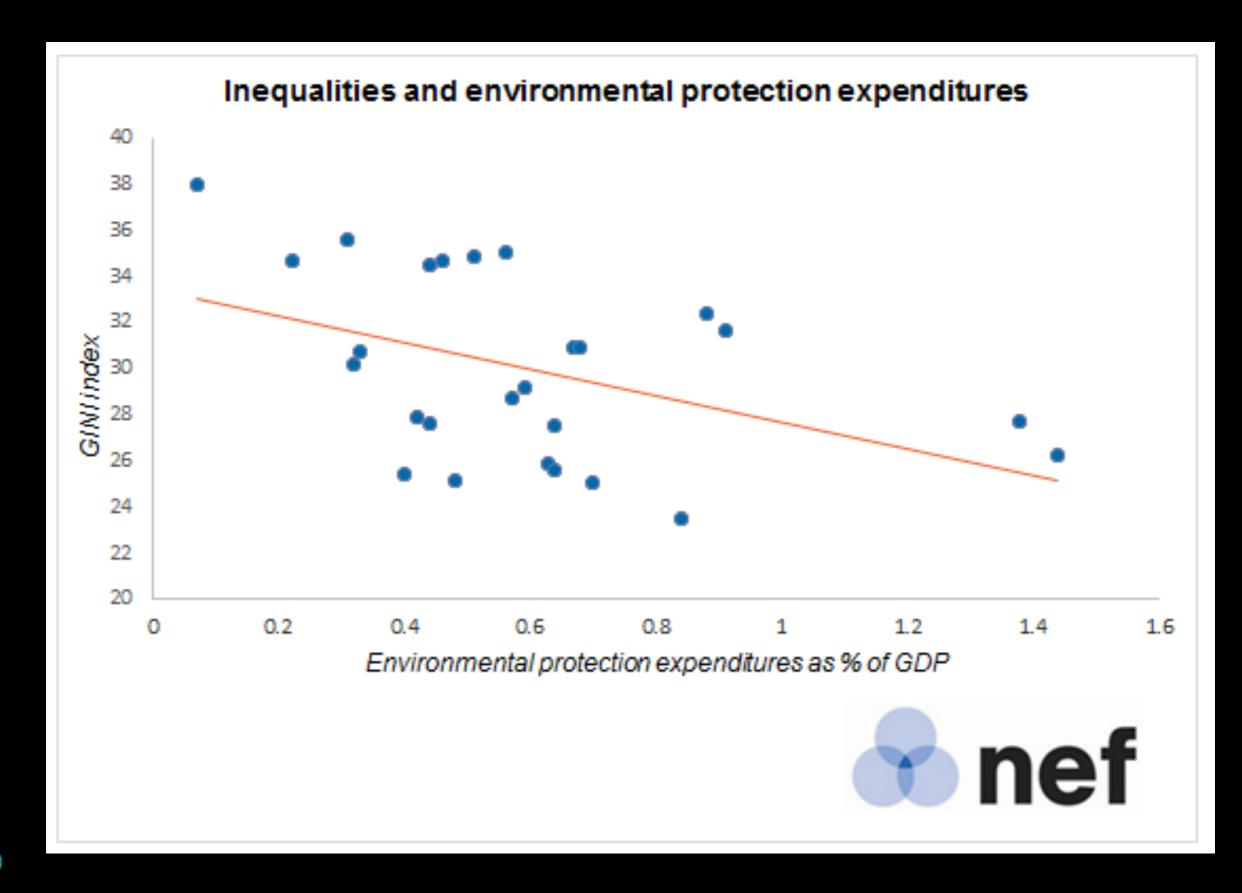
The amount of the global wealth increase since 2000 received by the top 1%

Rise in the average annual income of the poorest 10% of people in the world

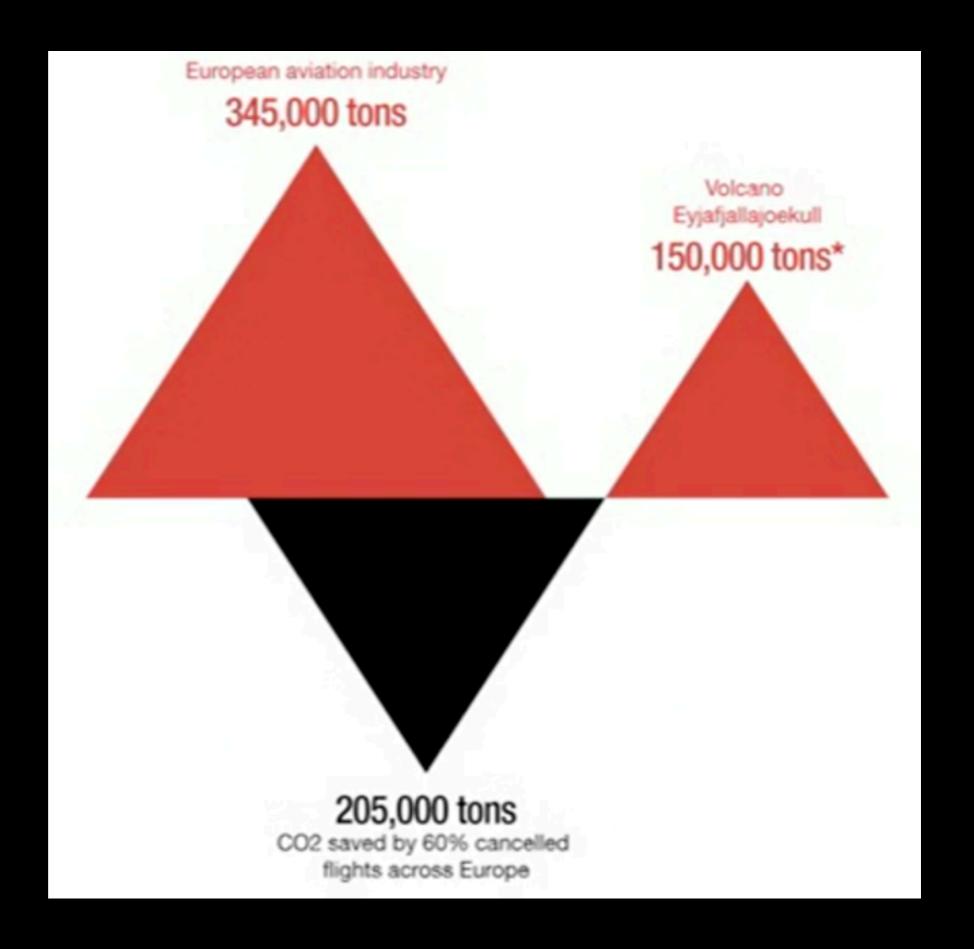




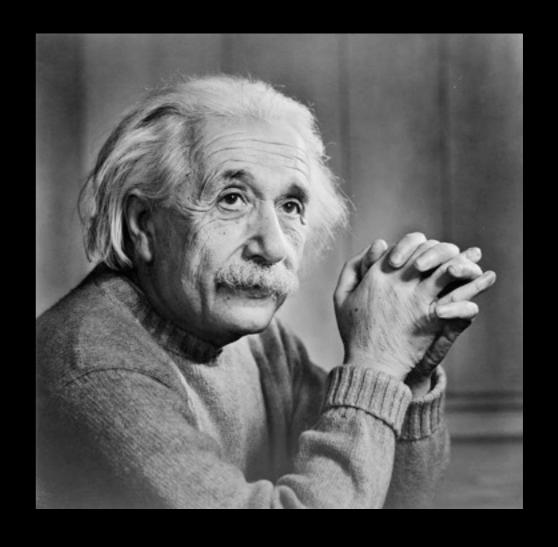
http://oxf.am/Znhx







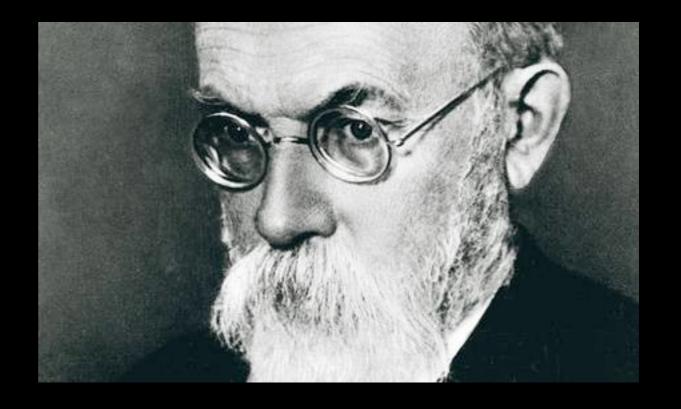




"All of our exalted technological progress, civilization for that matter, is comparable to an axe in the hand of a pathological criminal."

— Albert Einstein - Letter to Heinrich Zangger (1917)





"I look forward with great optimism. I think that we undergo not only a historical, but a planetary change as well. We live in a transition to the noosphere."

— Vladimir Vernadsky - The Biosphere and the Noosphere (1945)



Denial of science

- Lobbying to "reposition global warming as theory rather than fact".
- 1992 The United Nations "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro. Models of the greenhouse effect had "substantially exaggerated its importance." ¹
- 1996 There is too much "scientific uncertainty" to justify curbs on greenhouse emissions. ²
- 1997 Kyoto, Japan, over 100 nations negotiate a treaty on making Rio's voluntary greenhouse curbs mandatory. Coal and oil industries: "there is too much scientific uncertainty to justify any such cuts".
- 1998 Marshall Institute, Exxon and the American Petroleum Institute's (API): a \$5 million campaign to convince the public that the science of global warming is controversial and uncertain.



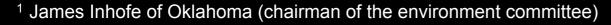
¹ George C. Marshall Institute, a conservative think tank

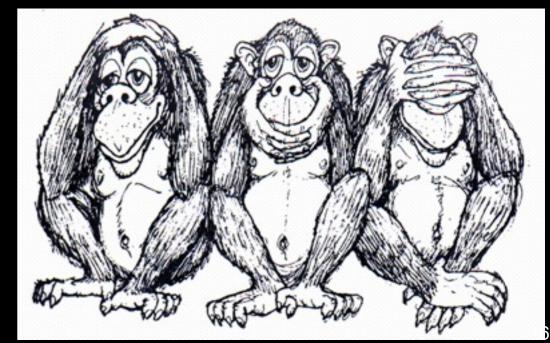
² William O'Keefe, vice president of the American Petroleum Institute ₁₅

Denial of science

- 2003 US Senate: There is no scientific consensus on climate change ¹
- 2003 Another denial study is underwritten with \$53,000 from the API
- Ex-oil lobbyist, working for the White House, edits a 2002 report on climate science by adding "lack of understanding" and "considerable uncertainty" throughout the text
- 2007 Al Gore testifies to both chambers on climate change. Strong republican opposition to any mandatory greenhouse emission cuts
- 2009 "Climategate" mistakes in IPCC report and hacked e-mails
- 2015 The "climate warming pause"







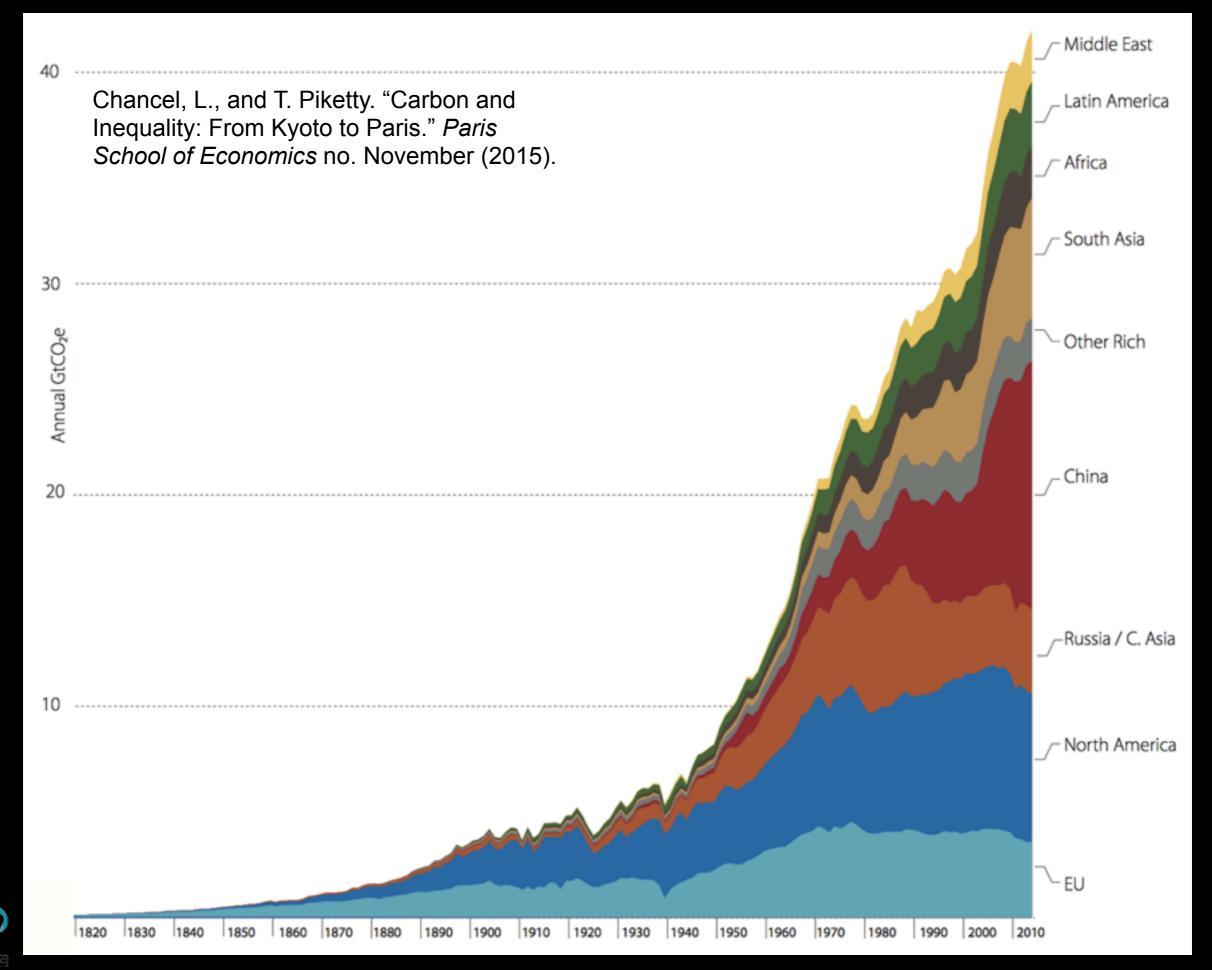
Result: no action

- 2009 Copenhagen no results.
- 2010 Emissions had risen by a record amount, despite the worst recession for 80 years. 30.6 Gt come from fossil fuels (1.6 Gt more than the previous year).¹
- 2011 No new global climate agreement will be reached before 2016, and even then, it would not come into force until $2020.^{2}$
- 2015 Paris some hope but still not much happening.



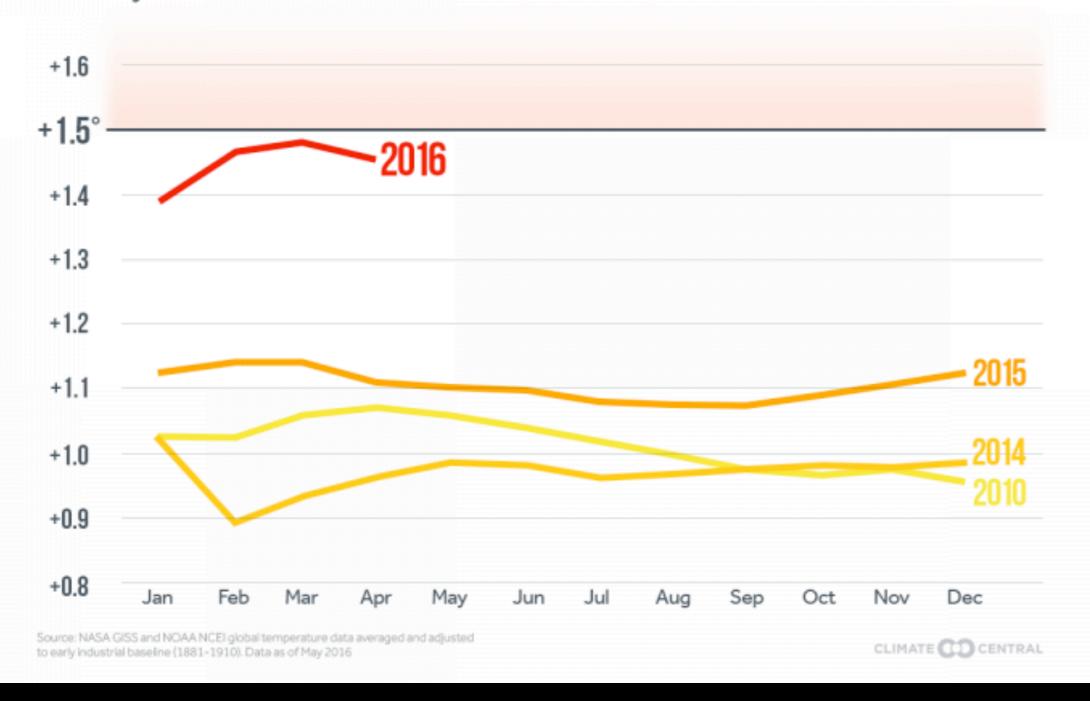
¹ IEA report: http://www.iea.org/ index_info.asp?id=1959

² http://www.guardian.co.uk/ environment/2011/may/29/ carbon-emissions-nuclearpower 17



On the Edge of 1.5°C

Global year-to-date anomalies from 1881-1910 baseline





Climate change

Within a few decades, climate change will have "massively disruptive consequences to societies and ecosystems," including widespread famines, lethal heat waves, more frequent and destructive natural disasters, and social unrest.



 Need to change the paradigm that science is only about facts and data



 Need to change the paradigm that science is only about facts and data

"The whole system of science, society and nature is evolving in fundamental ways that cause us to **rethink the way science is deployed** to help people cope with a changing world. **Scientists should be leading the dialogue** on scientific priorities, new institutional arrangements, and improved methodologies to disseminate and utilize knowledge more quickly"

— Jane Lubchenco, 1998



Modeling





- A proliferation of models
 - One model cannot be sufficient to represent all the details needed for decision making and planning



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- Many legacy models developed by the "best in the field"
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- Model integration
 - System of systems approach
- Modeling with stakeholders





Voinov, A.A., Gaddis, E., 2008. Lessons for Successful Participatory Watershed Modeling: A Perspective from Modeling Practitioners. Ecological Modelling: 216, p. 197–207.

Companion modeling, mediated modeling, shared vision planning...



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- Participatory modeling is the process of incorporating stakeholders, including the public and decision-makers, into the modeling process



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- Leveling the playing field: co-learning, co-understanding

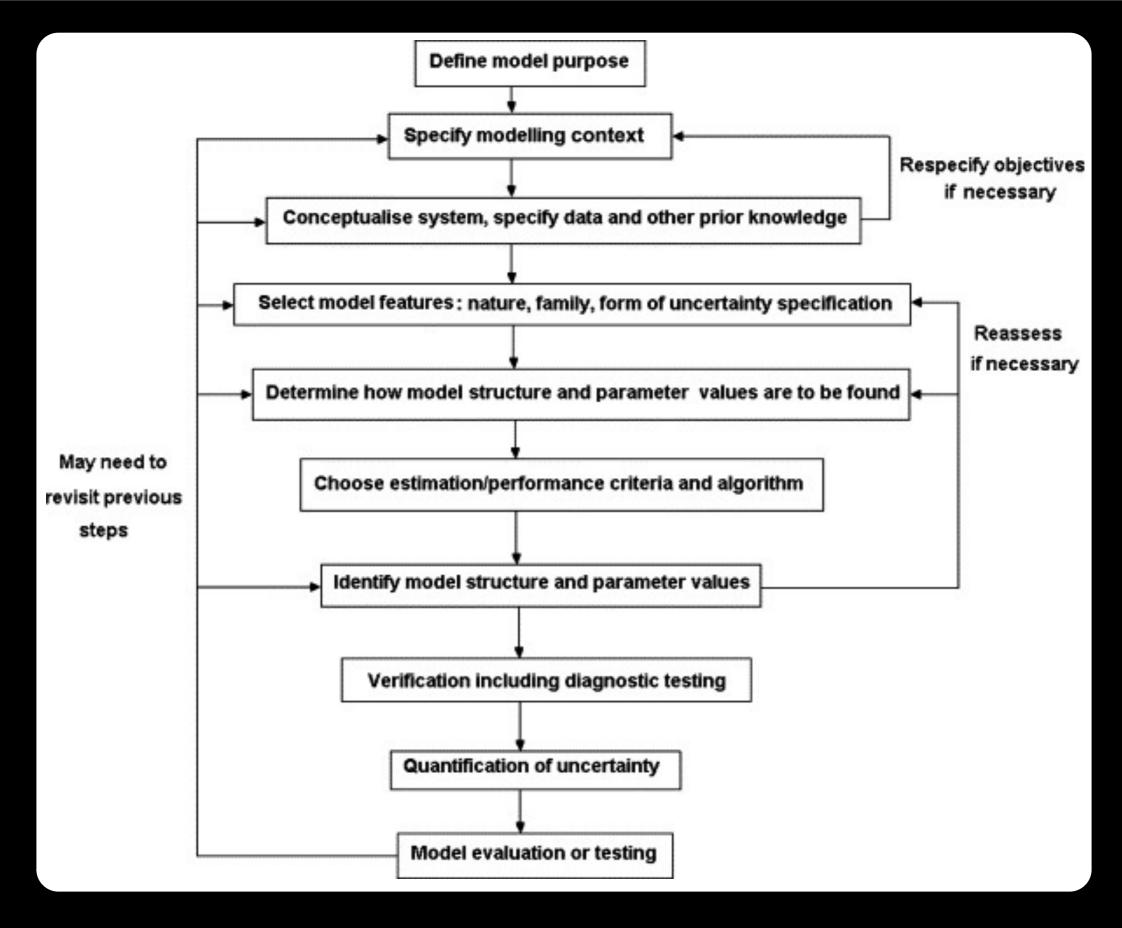


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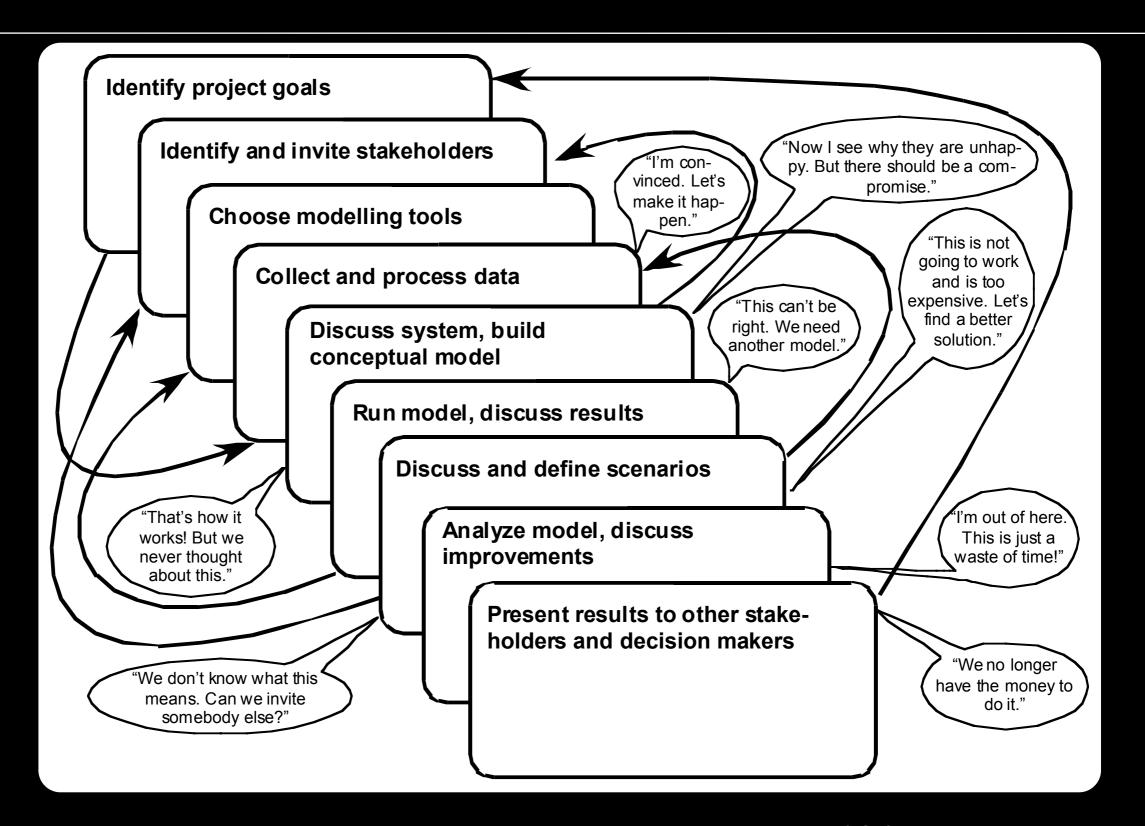






A.J. Jakeman, R.A. Letcher, J.P. Norton, 2006. Ten iterative steps in development and evaluation of environmental models, Environmental Modelling & Software, Volume 21, Issue 5, p. 602-614

The Process





Voinov, A., and F. Bousquet. 2010. Modelling with stakeholders. *Environmental Modelling & Software* 25: 1268-1281.

Voinov, A, et ali. 2014. "Values in Socio-Environmental Modelling: Persuasion for Action or Excuse for Inaction." Environmental Modelling & Software 53: 207–212. Engage early in the process to decide what the problem is Identify project goals Identify and invite stakeholders 'Now I see why they are unhap-'I'm conpy. But there should be a comvinced. Let's promise." make it hap-**Choose modelling tools** pen." "This is not going to work Collect and process data and is too expensive. Let's 'This can't be find a better right. We need Discuss system, build solution." another model. conceptual model Run model, discuss results Discuss and define scenarios I'm out of here That's how it Analyze model, discuss works! But we This is just a improvements waste of time!" never thought about this. Present results to other stakeholders and decision makers "We no longer We don't know what this have the money to means. Can we invite do it." Work on the project until action is somebody else?" taken 27

theguardian

News Sport Comment Culture Business Money Life & style

Comment is free

Scientists have a moral obligation to take action on climate change

Calling on all scientists to refrain from public advocacy and leadership is wrong. We are in a global crisis, and the scientific fraternity has an ethical obligation to act



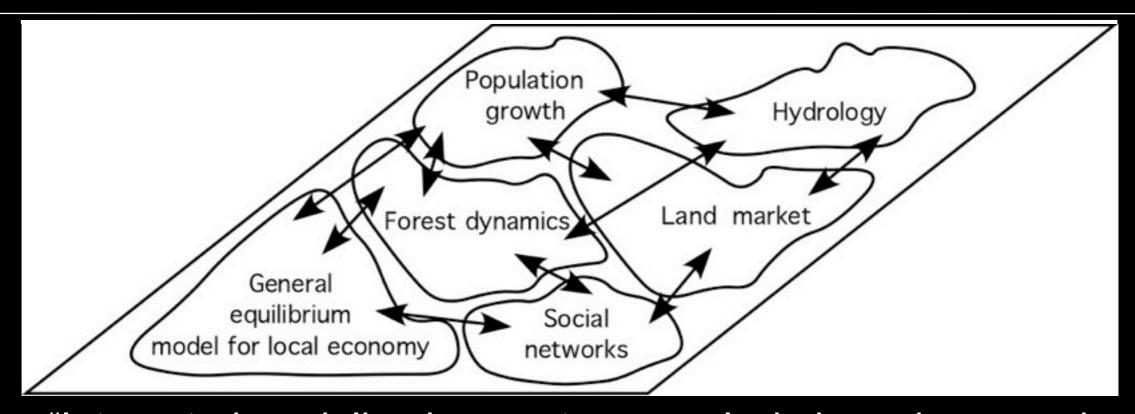
Dan Cass theguardian.com, Thursday 15 August 2013 05.50 BST Jump to comments (...)



'We need some scientists to show social leadership, not just scientific leadership'. Photograph: Getty/Joe Raedle



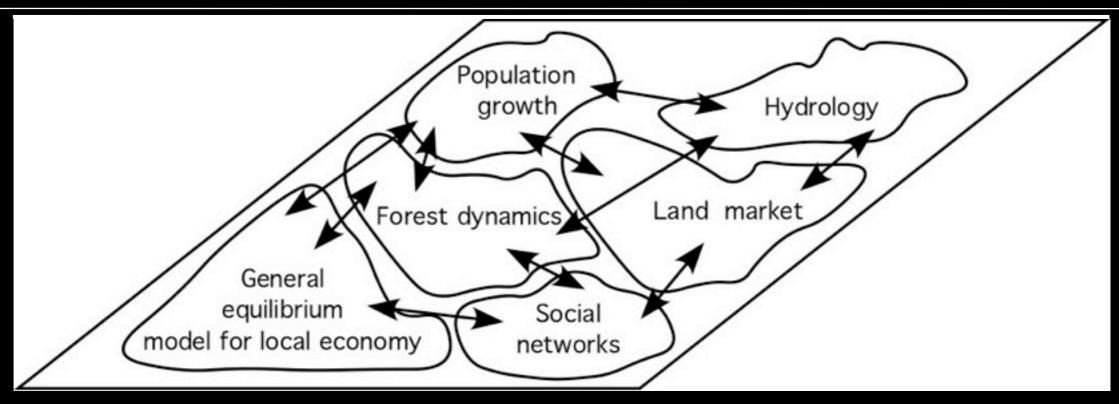
Integrated modeling



Integrated modeling is a systems analysis-based approach to environmental assessment. It includes a set of interdependent science based components (models, data, and assessment methods) that together form the basis for constructing an appropriate modeling system" *



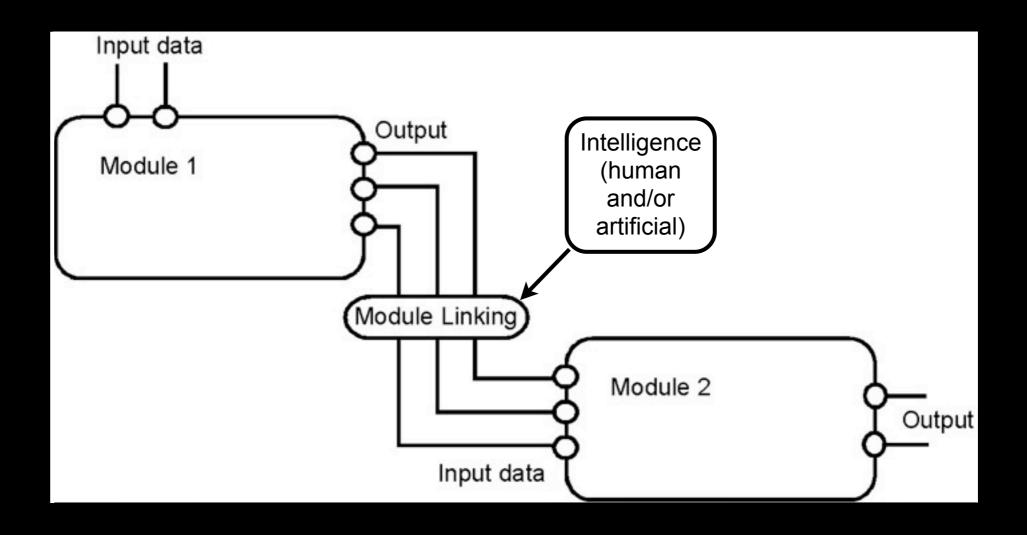
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- * EPA (2008). White Paper on Integrated Modeling for Integrated Environmental Decision Making: http://www.epa.gov/crem/library/IM4IEDM_White_Paper_Final_(EPA100R08010).pdf

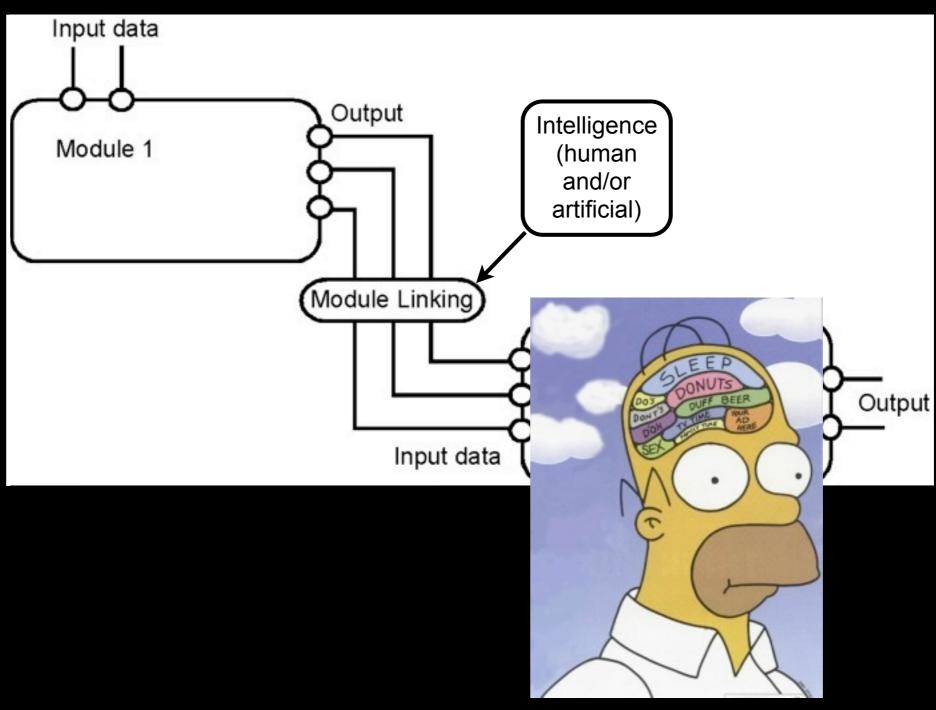


Model integration

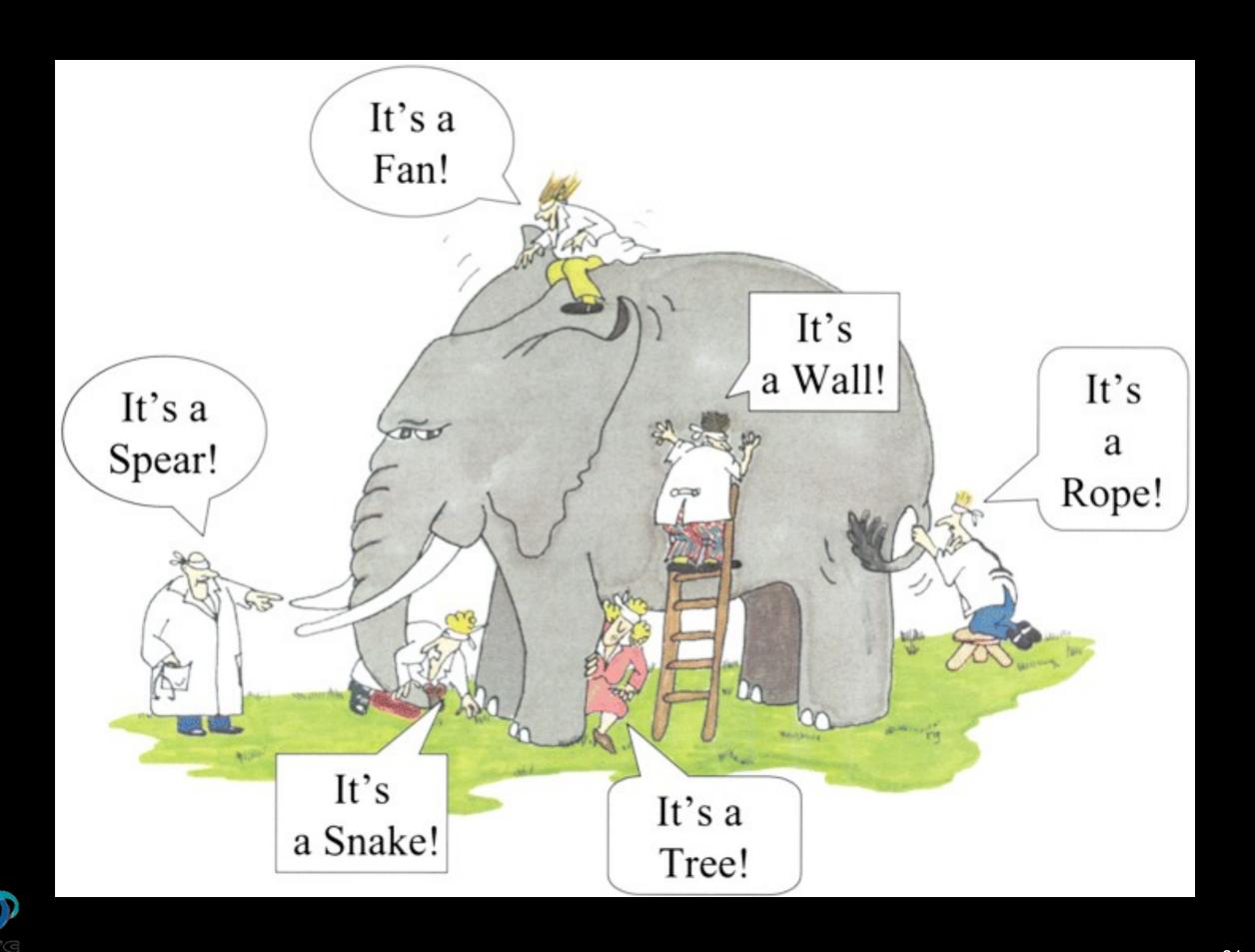




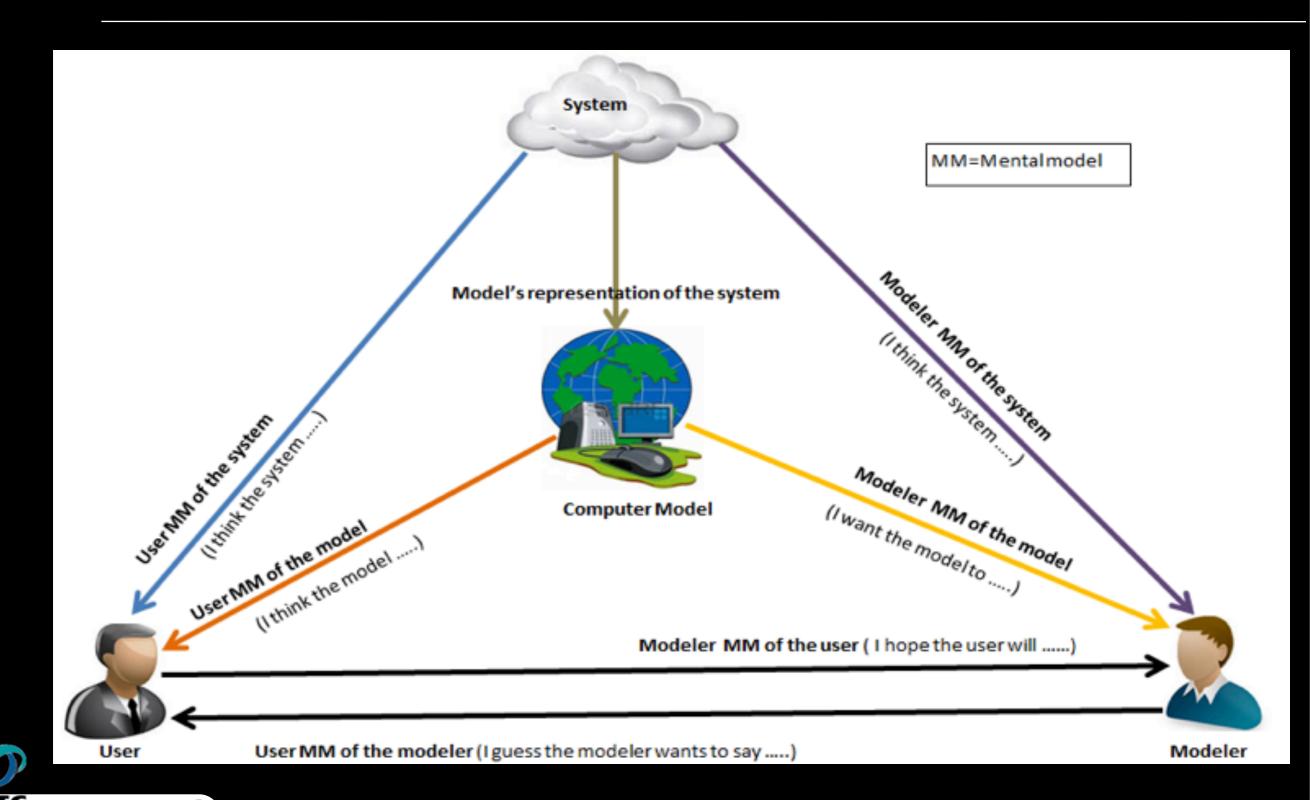
Model integration



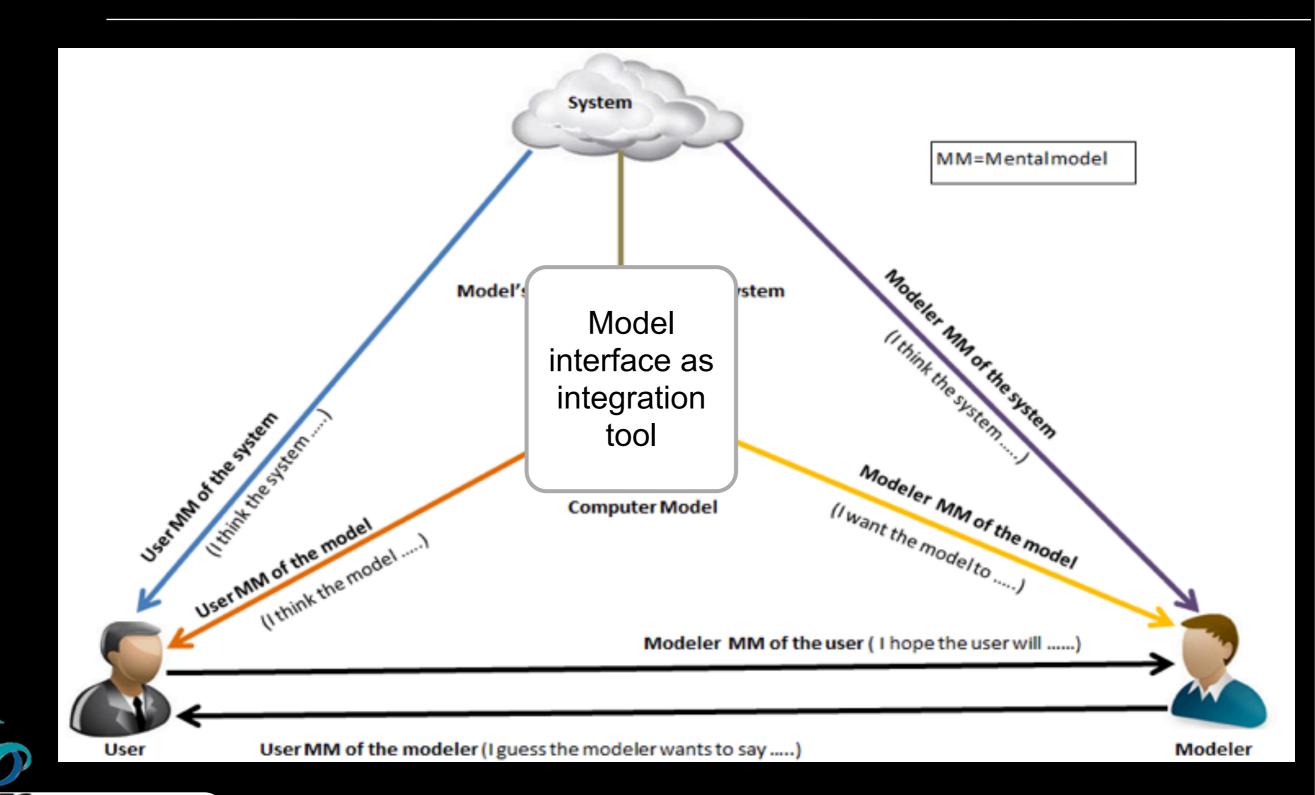


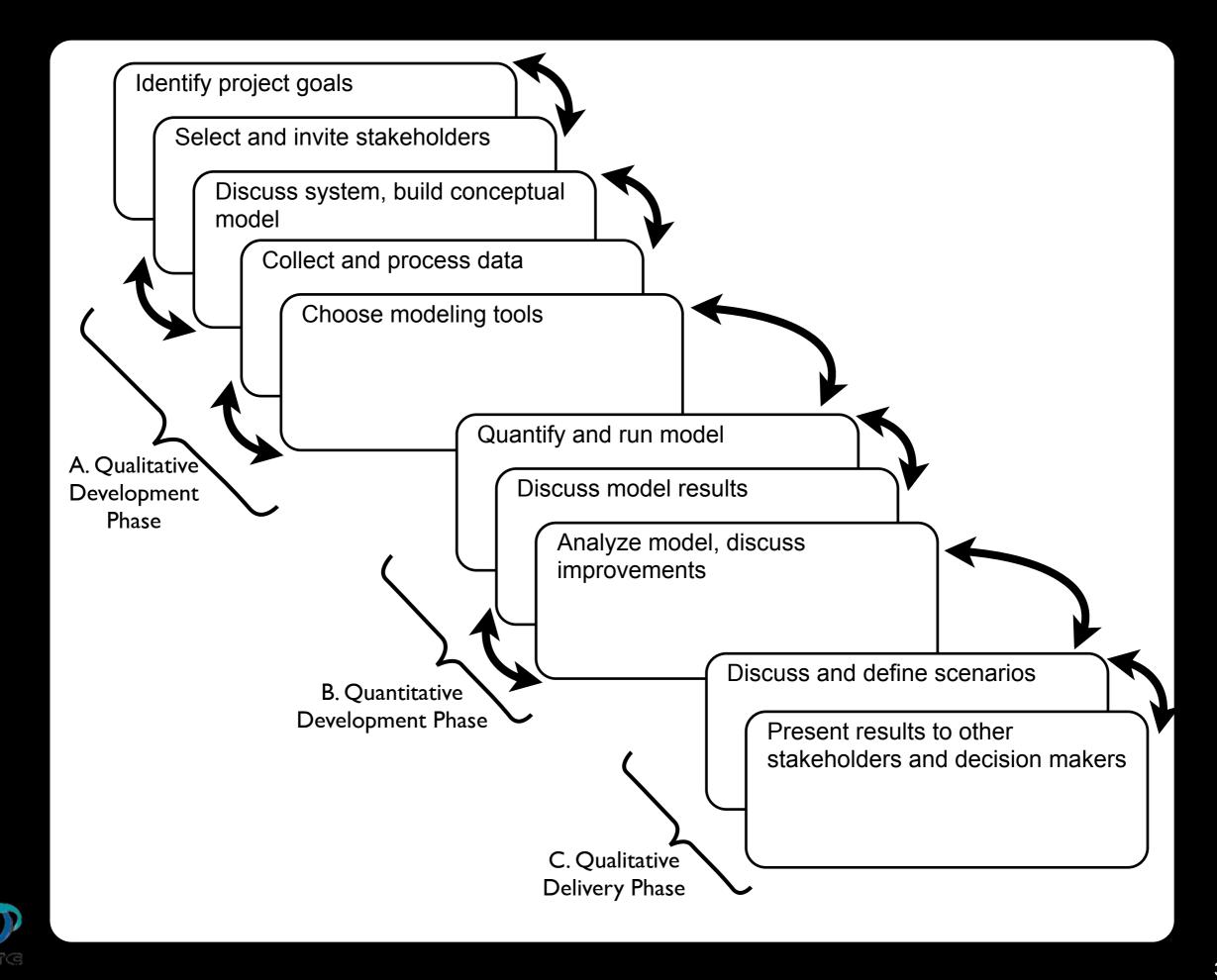


Integrating software and "human-ware"



Integrating software and "human-ware"





Problems (software angle - doable)

- Written in different languages (conversion is timeconsuming and error-prone)
- Code is not well-documented or easy to understand and reuse
- Models have different geometry, dimensionality (1D, 2D or 3D)
- Models may use different types of grids (rectangles, triangles, polygons)
- Each model has its own time loop or "clock"
- Mismatched numerical schemes (explicit vs. implicit).



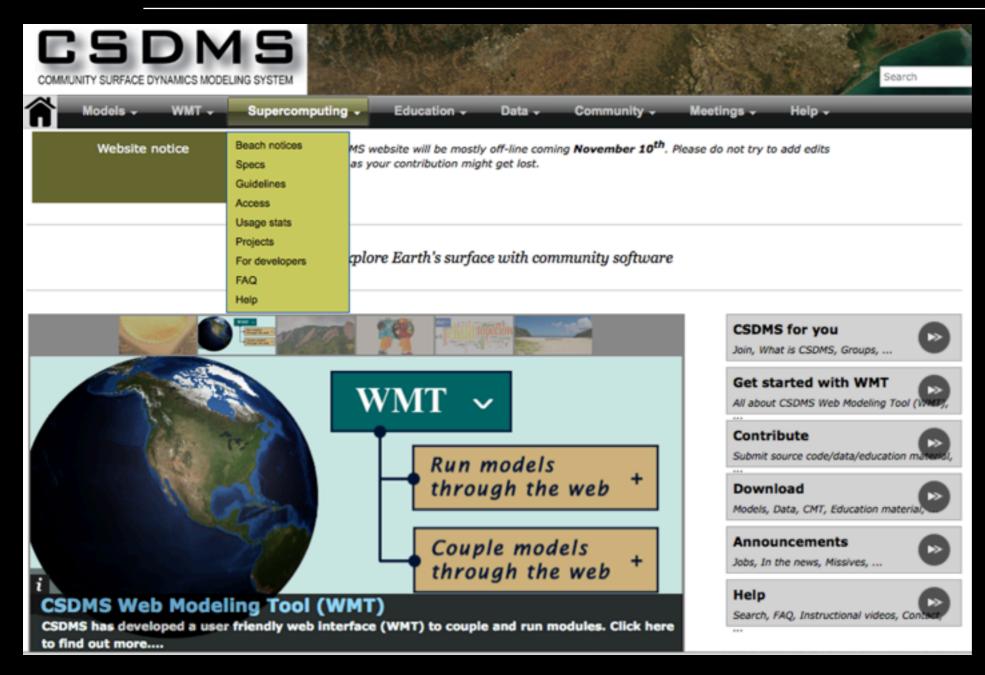
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Peckham, S. 2010. CSDMS Handbook of Concepts and Protocols: A Guide for Code Contributors. http://csdms.colorado.edu/wiki/Help:Tools_CSDMS_Handbook

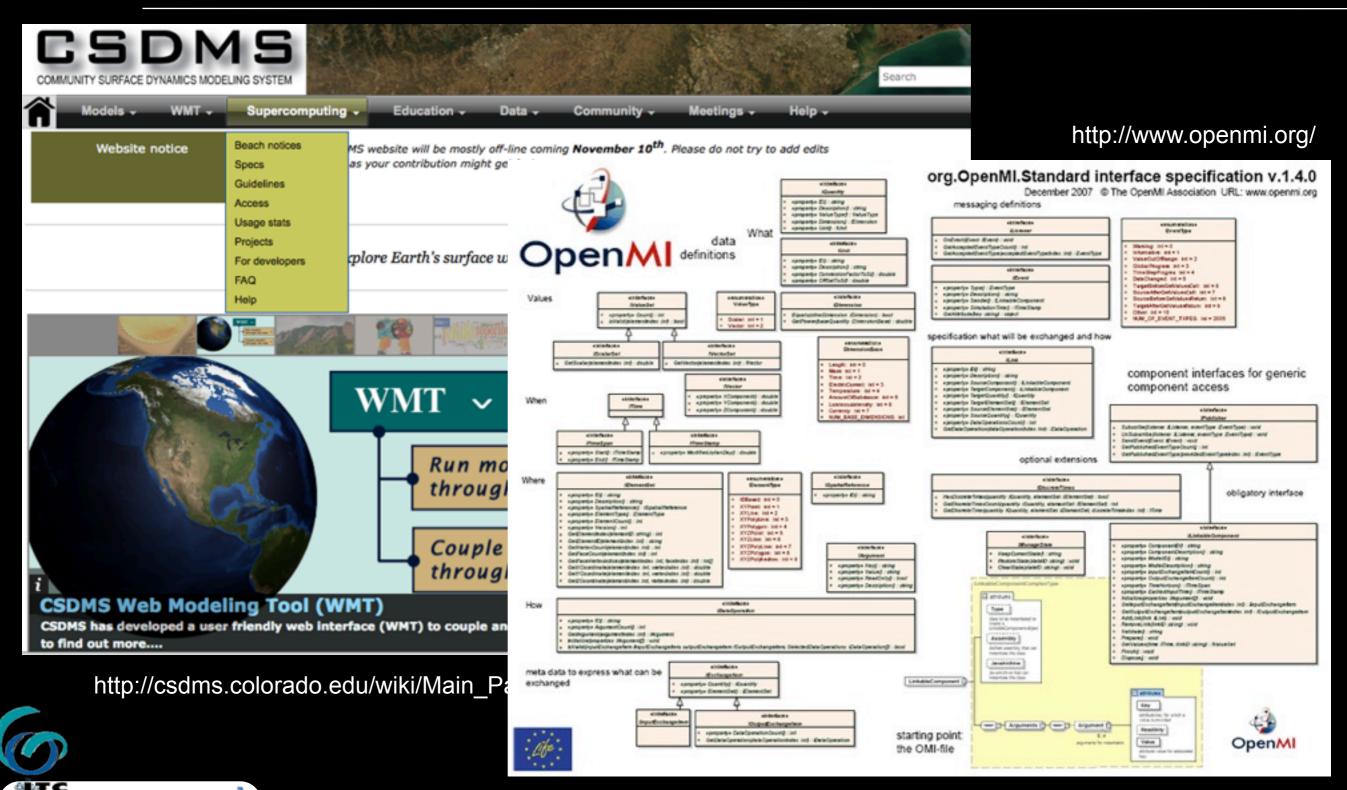
CSDMS, OpenMI, etc.



http://csdms.colorado.edu/wiki/Main_Page



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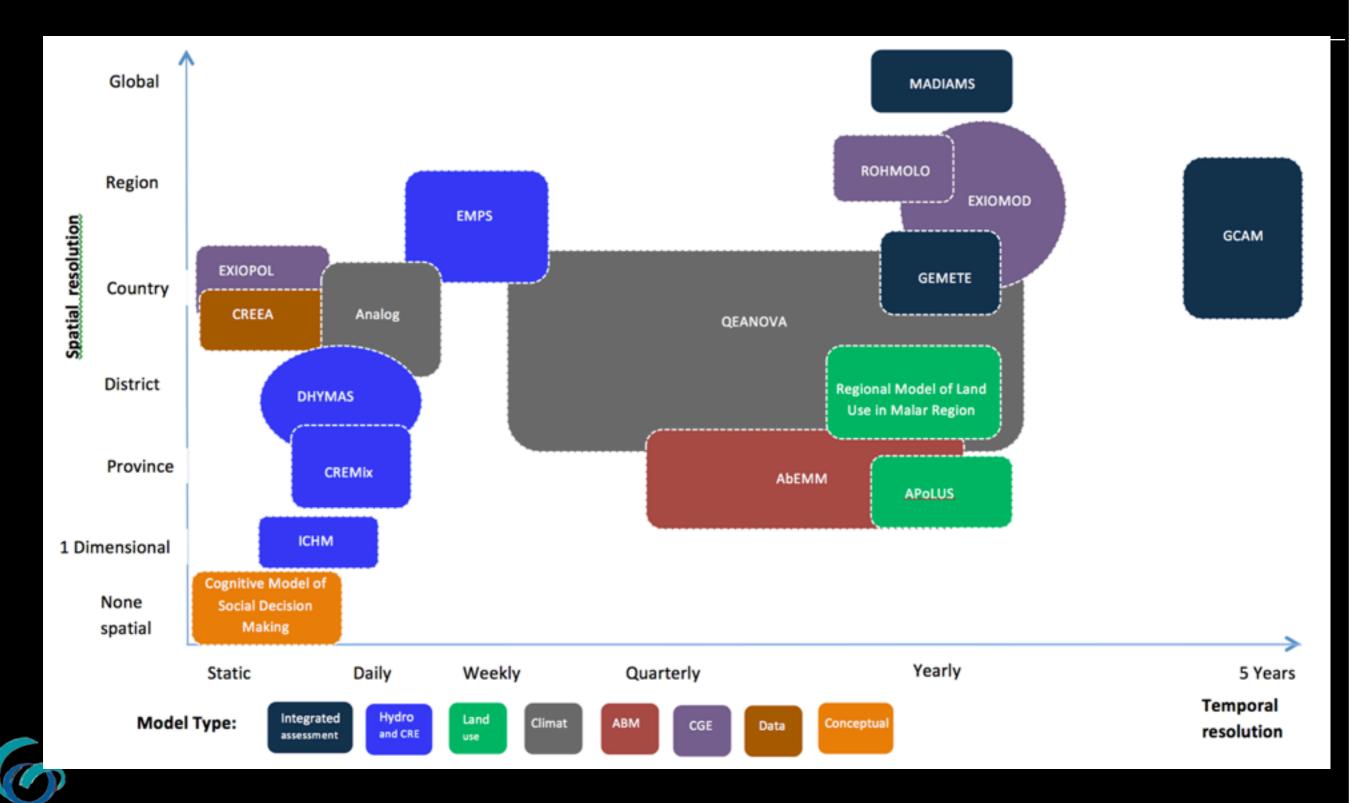
Problems (modeling angle - iffy)

- Are models software? What about mental models?
- Components built by different teams, at different time, at different places. Built for different goals and purposes.
- Teams use different languages. Need to communicate assumptions. Metadata, metamodels and standards.
- What are the modeling paradigms used? Are they compatible? How do we calibrate integrated models?
- What are the scales? Resolutions? Time, space, structure.
- Propagation of error and uncertainties.
- What are models? Modeling as art or science?





COMPLEX model space



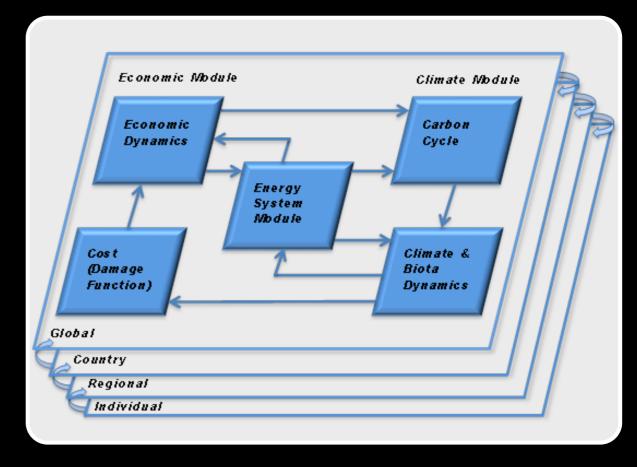


Integration of models

• How to operate in a generalized 'socio-environmental model space' (empirical models, conceptual models, complex computer simulations, and data sets)?

 Integrate qualitative models of stakeholder knowledge, opinion and scenarios

Explore the different models along the complexity continuum to understand how information from more aggregated qualitative models can be transmitted to more elaborated and detailed quantitative simulations, and vice versa.





Model integration in COMPLEX

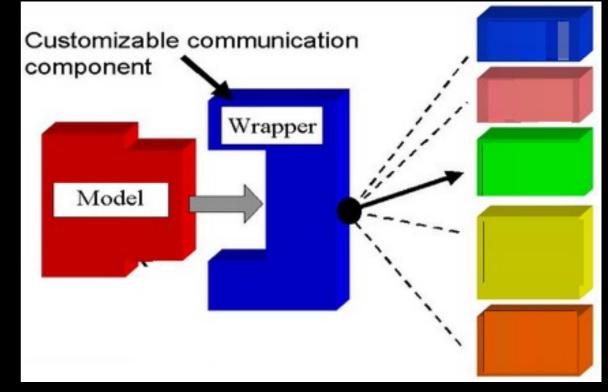
- GCAM Integrated assessment model (IAM)
- EXIOMOD Country level Computational General Equilibrium Model (CGE)
- Apolus Landuse change model
- AbEMM Agent-based model (energy market in NUTS2)
 - Supply-side: diffusion of low carbon energies (LCE) among heterogeneous firms
 - Demand-side: behavioral change at household level
- MADIAMS System Dynamics (SD) model



Service oriented architecture

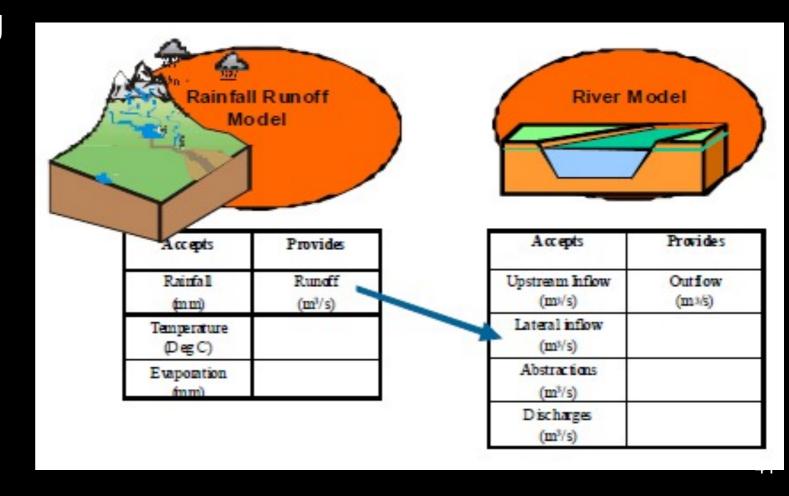
- Probably essential for multi-disciplinary linking
- A model is a composition of two major parts:
 - Interface that defines inputs, outputs and parameters of a model,
 - Core which implements the model processes and equations
- Wrapper is a program or script that sits between a model and the model space

Developing wrappers as a calling interface to existing code to assure language interoperability and to convert existing models into interoperable components.



Semantic mediation

- Ontology enables model integrators to communicate independent of implementation type, modeling framework, and programming language.
- Ontology for integrating multidisciplinary models
 - cover all participating concepts in those disciplines?
 - what is the scope?





The complexity curse

- With integration, models are becoming even more complex
- Oreskes: "A complex model may be more realistic yet at the same time more uncertain"*
- Complex models are hard to test
- Complex models are hard to communicate
- Complex models are hard to trust
- Complex models are hard to calibrate
 - In environmental modeling calibration is a must.

Voinov, A., and C. Cerco. 2010. Model integration and the role of data. Environmental Modelling & Software 25, no. 8: 965-969.



^{*} Oreskes, N., 2003. "The role of quantitative models in science," in Models in Ecosystem Science, Ed: C. D. Canham, J. J. Cole, and W. K. Lauenroth (Princeton: Princeton University Press), pp. 13-31.

Integrating across model types

- Conceptual, mental models diagrams, charts, "rich pictures", cognitive maps;
- Qualitative models operating in terms of value sets, such as "more", "less", "good", "better", etc. - fuzzy logic;
- Quantitative models computer simulations that operate in terms of equations, parameters, measured, observed rates and quantities
- How can we bring them all together?



New Trends in PM

- Quantitative and qualitative growth of social media
- Increasing popularity of mobile applications
- Use of web services
- Broad 'popular' access to data and information
- Wider social participation in creating these data and information
- Citizen science



Voinov, A., N. Kolagani, M. K. McCall, P. D. Glynn, M. E. Kragt, F. O. Ostermann, S. A. Pierce, and P. Ramu. "Modelling with Stakeholders – Next Generation." Environmental Modelling & Software 77 (2016): 196–220.

PM over social media

- Engage the society in crafting our models
- Track human decisions while they play with the model
- Jointly choose the most appropriate behavior
- Use the social media to engage the society in making important decisions





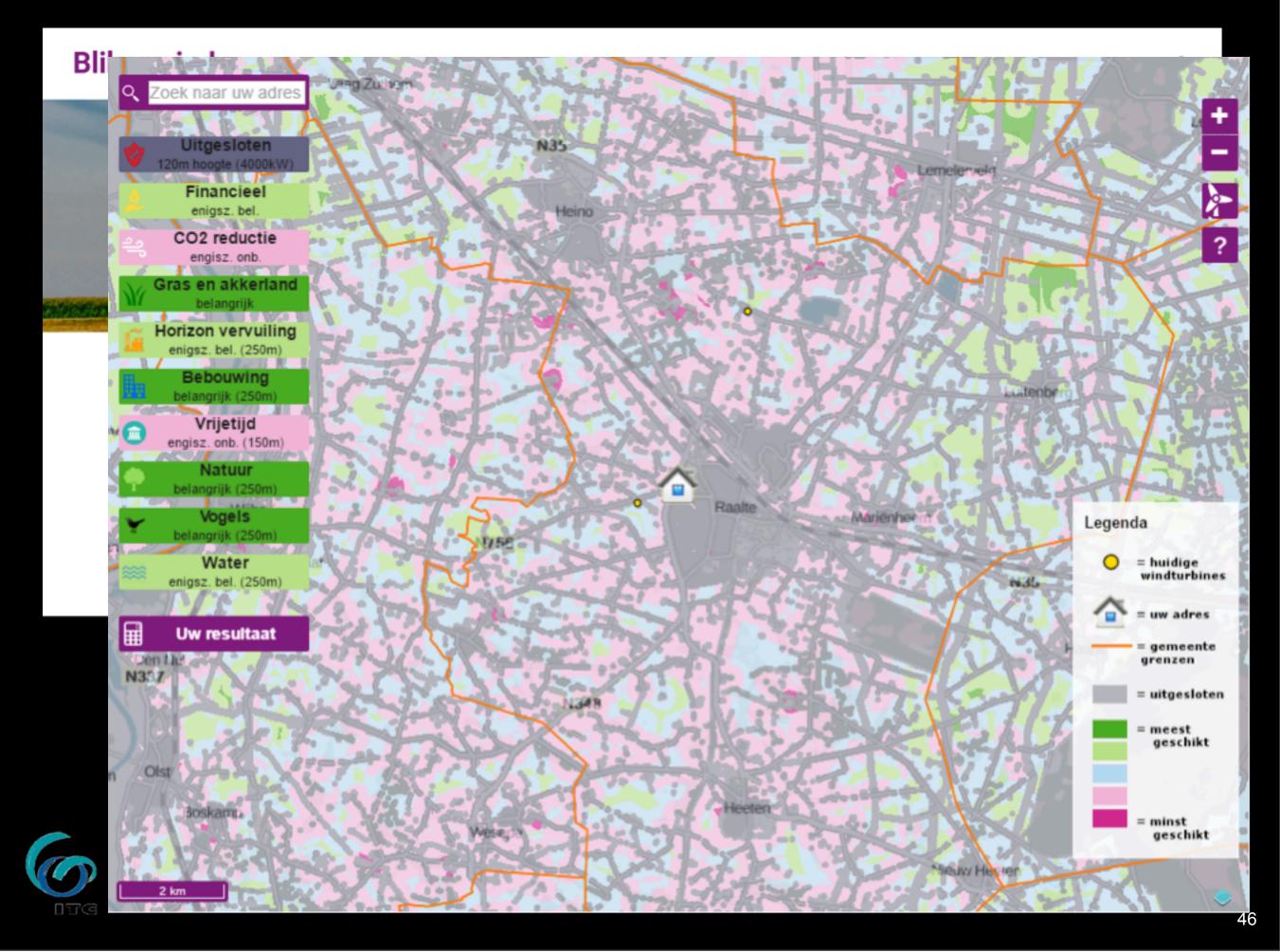


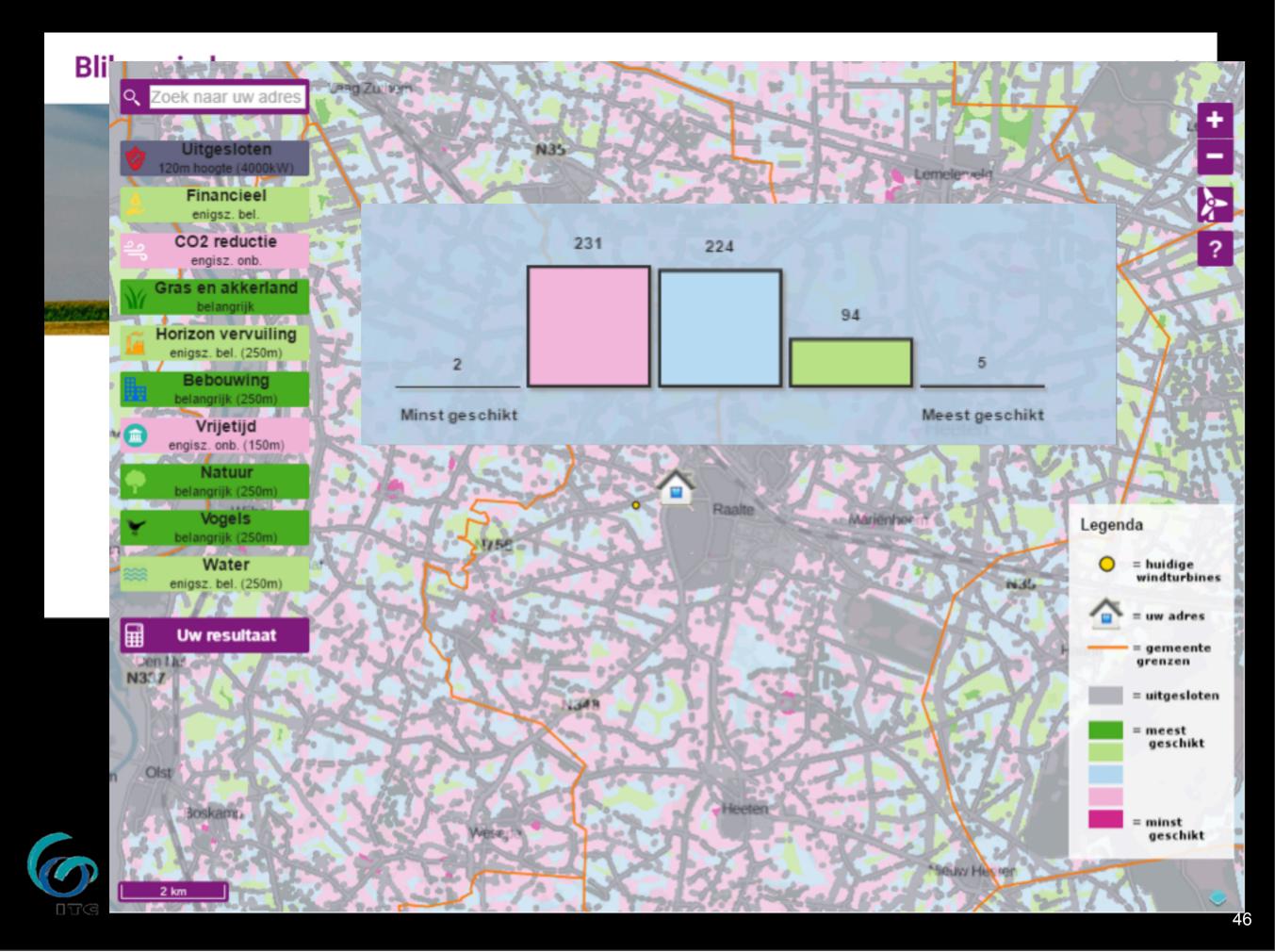
Introductie

Nederland heeft internationale afspraken gemaakt over het terugdringen van CO2 uitstoot. Eén van de mogelijke toepassingen om deze doelstellingen te bereiken is het plaatsen van windmolens op land. Het beschikbare land is echter schaars in Nederland en er zijn veel belanghebbenden, zoals de landelijke overheid, provincies, gemeenten, energieleveranciers, netwerkbedrijven, fabrikanten en consumenten. Als burger kan het lastig zijn om een gefundeerde mening te vormen over dit onderwerp. Dit kan komen door gebrek aan kennis over windturbines en inzicht in de (beschikbare) openbare ruimte in uw directe omgeving.

Het doel van dit onderzoek is het testen van een webapplicatie. Deze webapplicatie geeft u de mogelijkheid om meer inzicht te verkrijgen over de beschikbare ruimte binnen zijn/haar gemeente voor de plaatsing van windturbines. Het idee is dat u een sterkere mening vormt over windturbines binnen uw gemeente door meer informatie te verstrekken over windturbines en de hoeveelheid beschikbare openbare







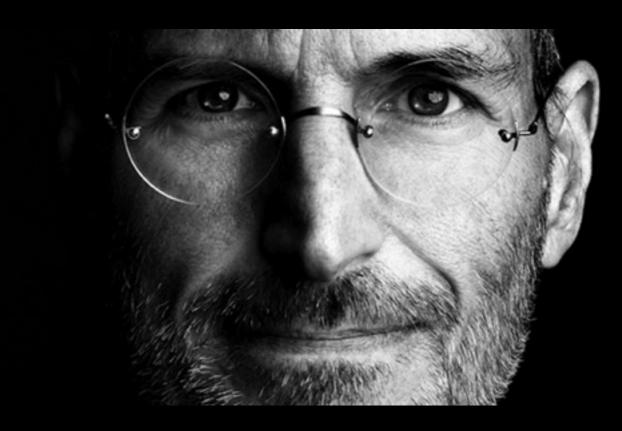
Caveats



But...



But...

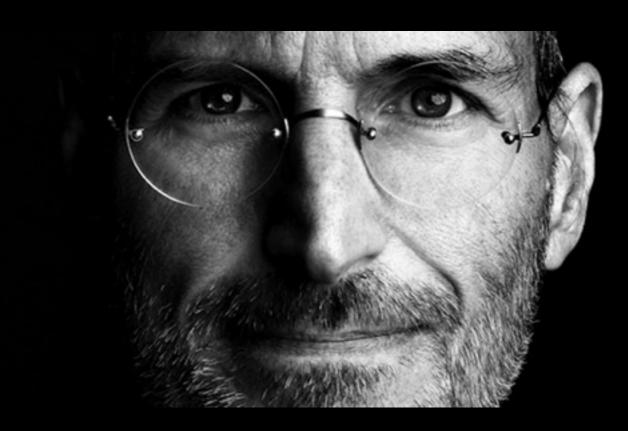


It's really hard to design products by focus groups. A lot of times, people don't know what they want until you show it to them."

— Steve Jobs



But...



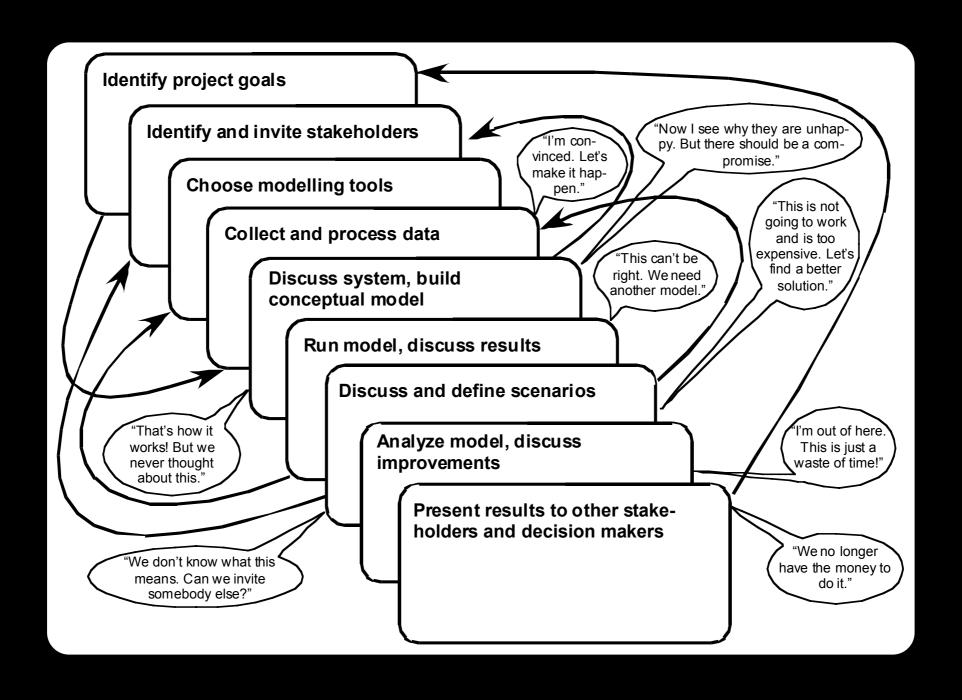
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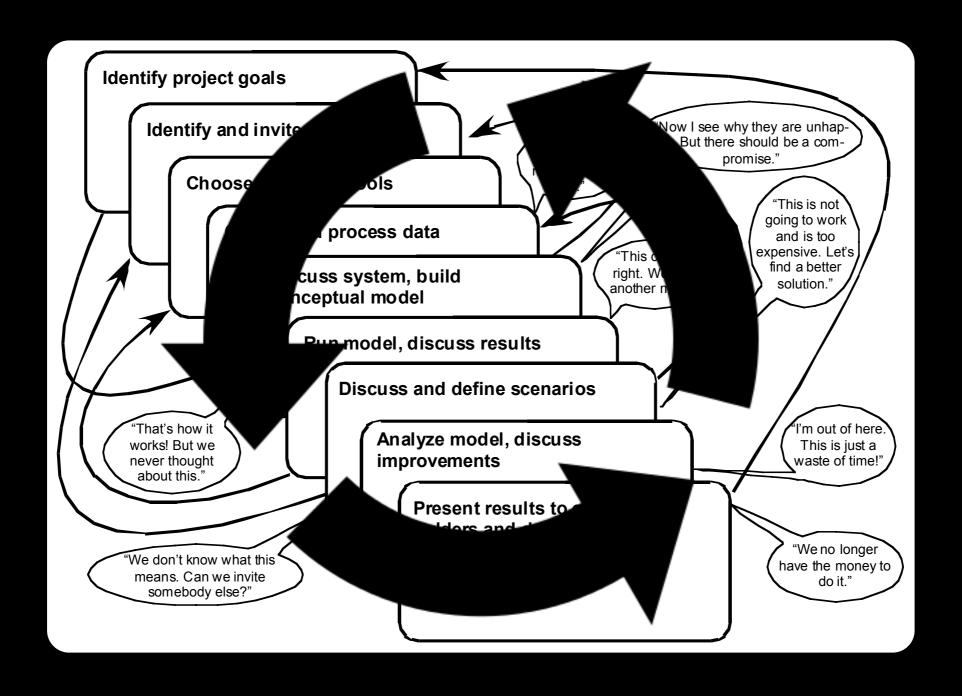


But: Process is long and open-ended





But: Process is long and open-ended





But: Uncertainties

Decreasing uncertainties by making models more transparent and trusted



But: Uncertainties

- Decreasing uncertainties by making models more transparent and trusted
- Increasing uncertainties with information production and sharing biased by group thinking and clustering along cultural, educational or party lines



But: Biases

- 'Temporal insensitivity'
- 'Steady-state'
- 'Man versus Nature'
- Anthropomorphic bias
- 'Single species'
- Cognitive perceptions and the 'visible is credible'
- 'Creeping normality'
- Disciplinary biases
- 'Dominant stature'
- 'Managed expectations'
- 'Confirmation bias' or 'myside bias'



P. D. Glynn, 2014. Integrated Environmental Modeling: Human Decisions, Human Challenges. Geological Society of London.

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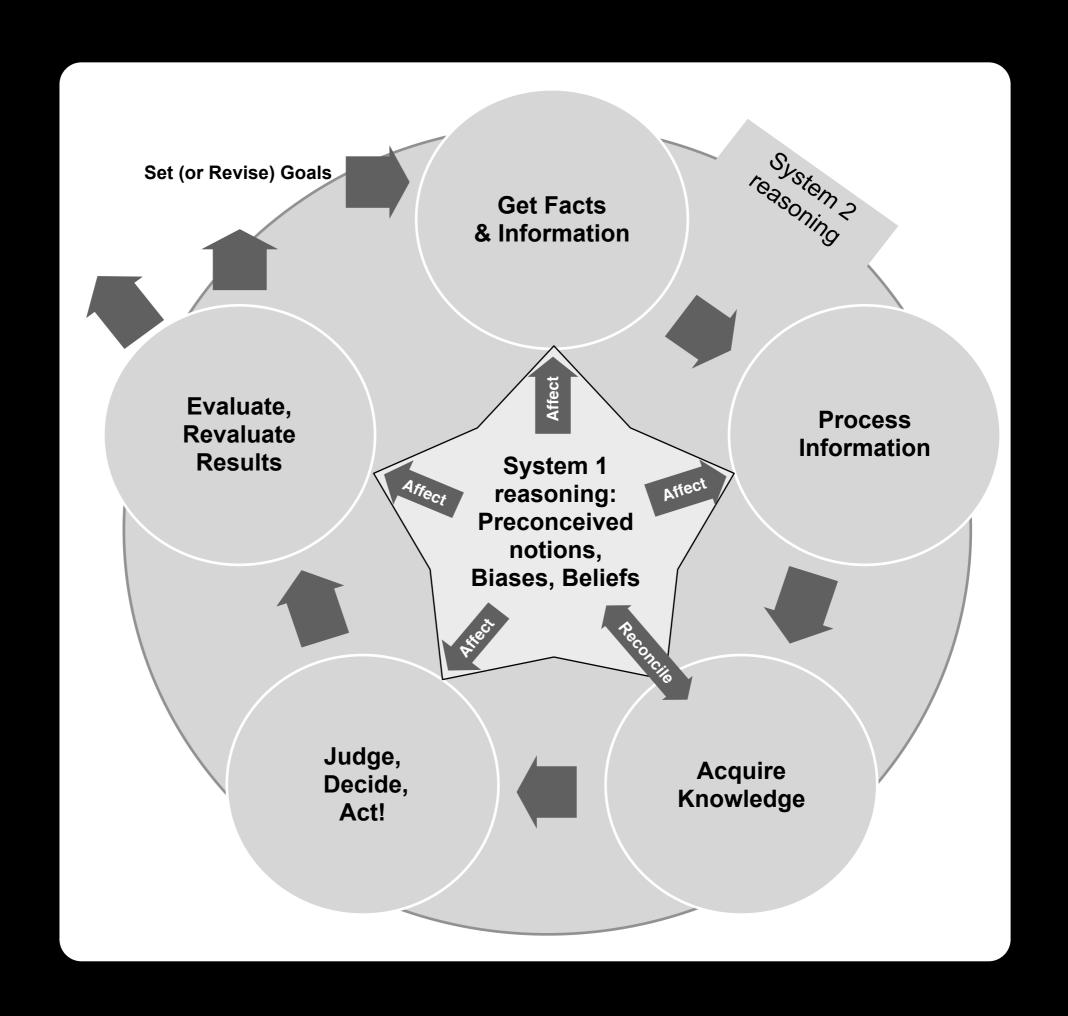






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https://newswatch33.com/science/nasa-confirms-earth-will-experience-15-days-of-complete-darkness-in-november-2015/2/

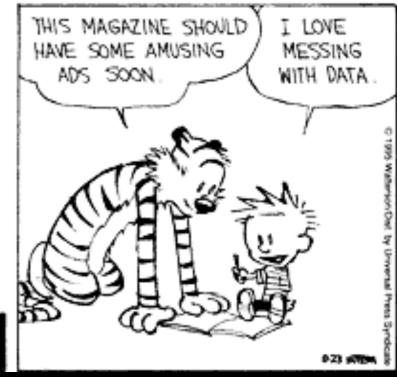
"...it often happens, that if a Lie be believ'd only for an Hour, it has done its Work, and there is no farther occasion for it. Falsehood flies, and the Truth comes limping after it; so that when Men come to be undeceiv'd, it is too late; the Jest is over, and the Tale has had its Effect..."

Jonathan Swift (1710)

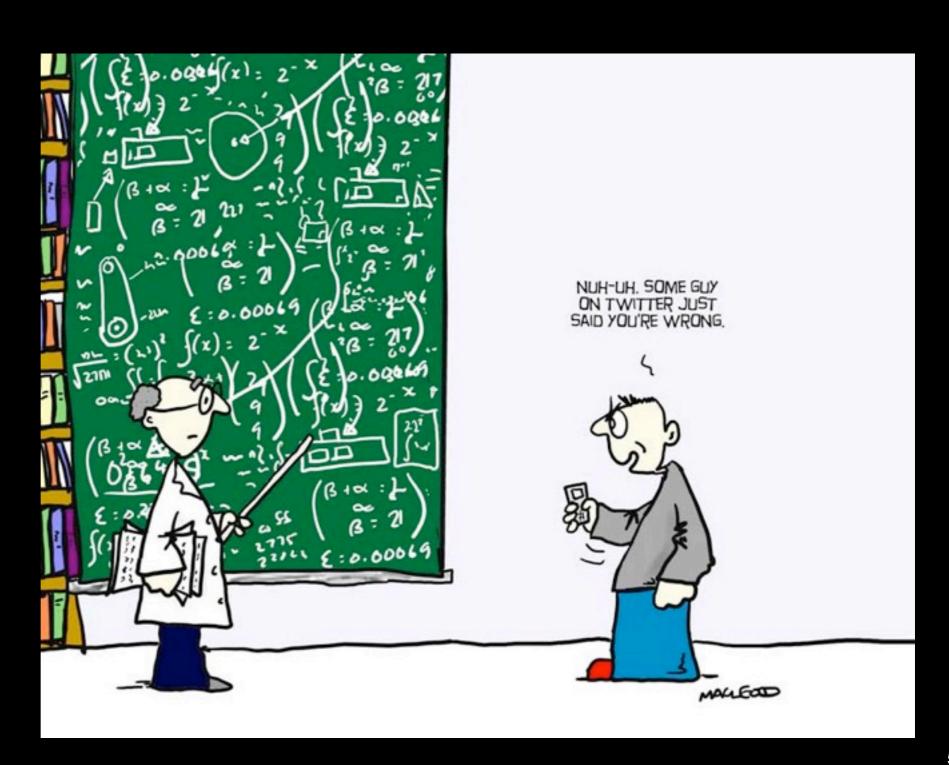


SEE, THEY ASKED HOW MUCH MONEY
I SPEND ON GUM EACH WEEK, SO I
WROTE, \$500. FOR MY AGE, I PUT
43, AND WHEN THEY ASKED WHAT MY
FAVORITE FLAVOR IS, I WROTE
GARLIC/CURRY.











Values and biases in science

■ The dominant assumption is that science is value neutral and is supposed to provide information for policy and decision-making: only the latter have to account for societal values and preferences



Robert Lackey

- "...science, although an important part of policy debates, remains but one element, and often a minor one, in the decision-making process"
- "...scientists can assess the ecological consequences of various policy options, but in the end it is up to society to prioritize those options and make their choices accordingly"
- It is easy and wrong for scientists to become stealth policy advocates.



Lackey, R., 2008. Does the Public Expect too Much from Science? *Science Wednesday*. Available at: http://blog.epa.gov/blog/2008/07/science-wednesday-does-the-public-expect-too-much-from-science/. Lackey, R., 2013. Normative Science. Terra Magazine, pp.1–15.

Values in science do matter

"A scientific man ought to have no wishes, no affections, a mere heart of stone." Charles Darwin



Values in science do matter

- Who pays my salary? Will they like it?
- What are the credits from this research?
- What impact factor my research will have?
- How many citations will I get?
- Does this help with my tenure?

"A scientific man ought to have no wishes, no affections, a mere heart of stone." Charles Darwin



Values in science do matter

- What are the assumptions we make?
- What are the boundaries of the system?
- What spatio-temporal resolution we choose?
- What models we use?
- What are the experts we invite?
- What accuracy we allow?
- How do we collect, process and use data?
- How do we report our results?
- What objective functions we define for optimization?



It is all about values, norms and preferences prevailing in a society, and the corresponding choices we as individuals make. These are very different and do change.



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P.P.Rubens. The Judgement of Paris 1632









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Dynamics of fashion





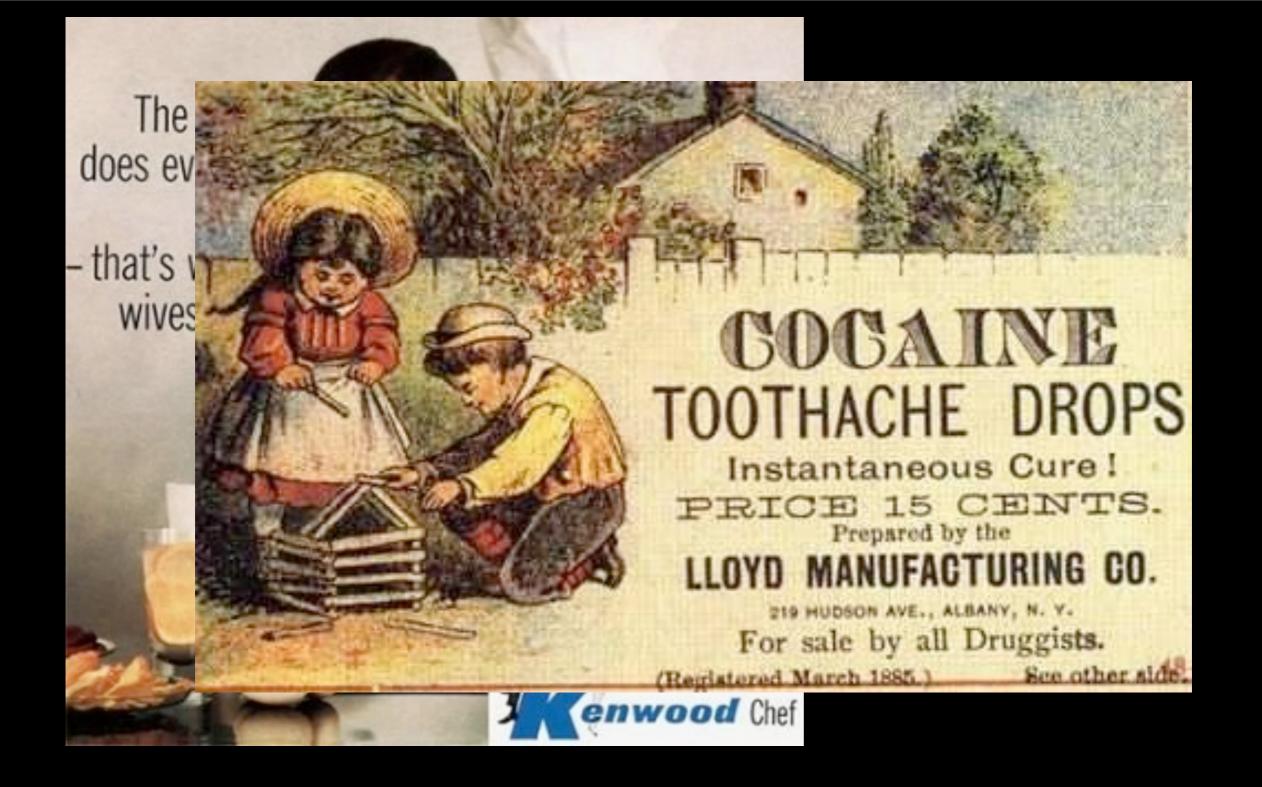
Dynamics of fashion



















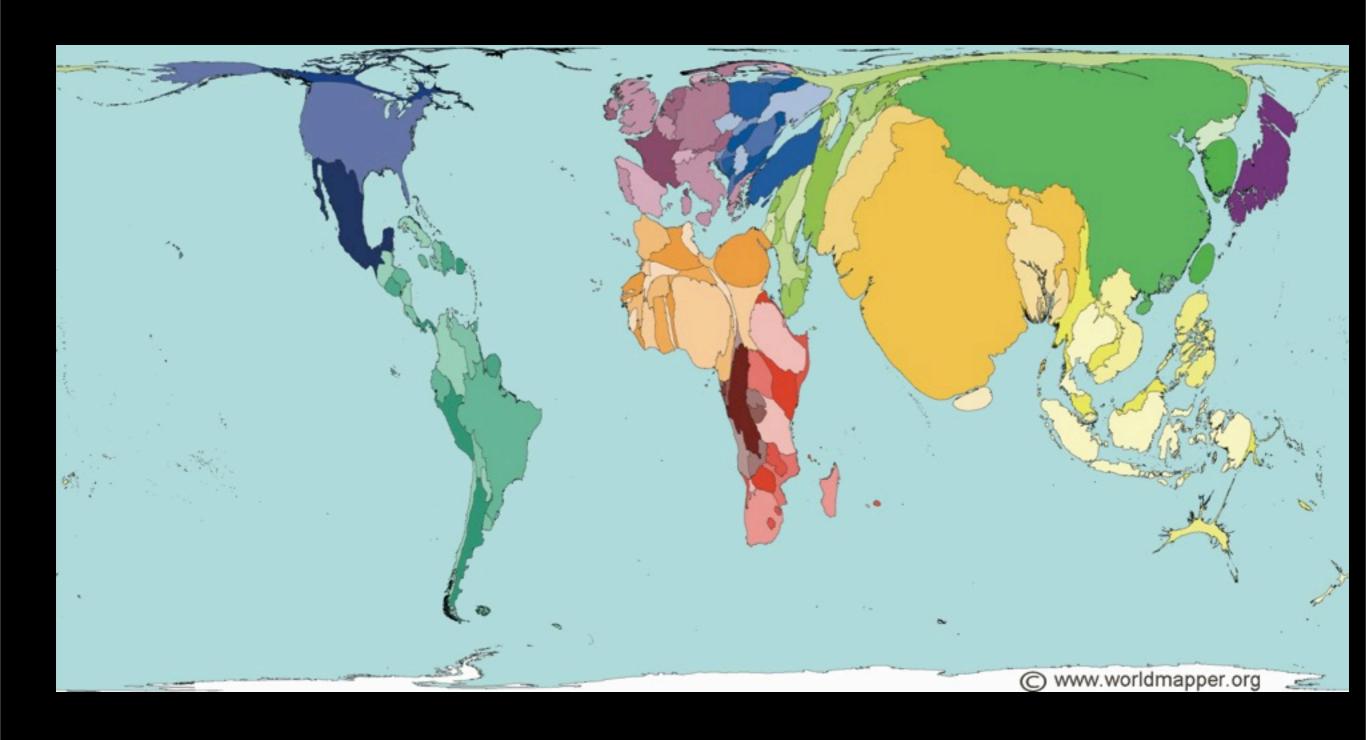




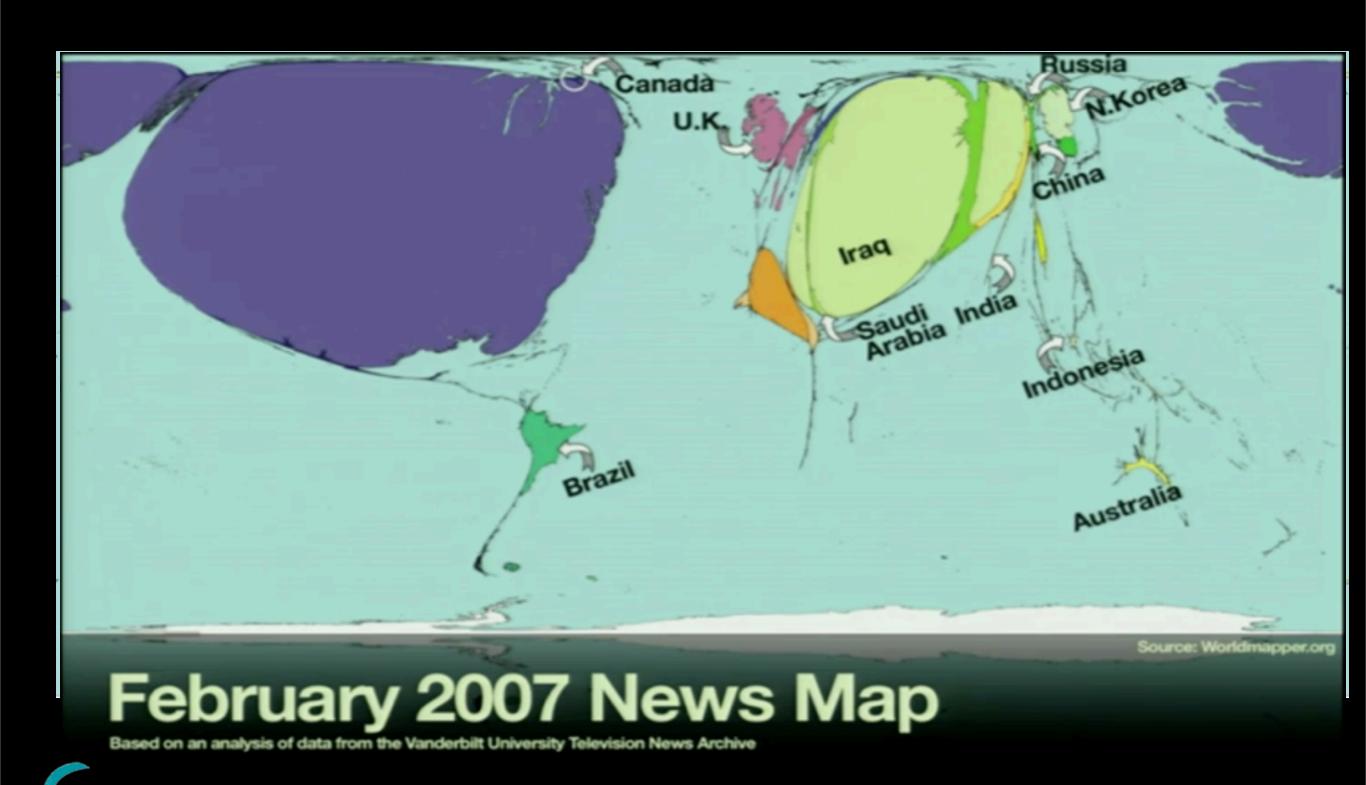












"Is it hypocrisy to honestly believe in something that is not true? Furthermore, if people honestly believed in something and if they acted upon such belief, can one consider such a belief to be a real cause of an ensuing historical event, even if it is not true?... Human beings create history on the basis not of reality but their perceptions of reality, perceptions that are often far removed from what actually occurred. But what actually occurred... is visible only from the hindsight that the study of history presents."

(Mark Stoler, 2012. "The Skeptic's Guide to American History")



Solutions







Stop pretending that applied science and models are always objective and value neutral – they are not. Acknowledge implicit decisions and assumptions in modeling, document and communicate them.





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Do not confuse personal values and interests with scientific facts. Explain how scientific facts can shape values.







Engage with stakeholders to define problems together







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Engage with policy makers to help them understand the solutions and make sure they act accordingly. Use the modeling process to engage the public in debates about our future





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Engage with policy makers to help them understand the solutions and make sure they act accordingly. Use the modeling process to engage the public in debates about our future

Treat modeling as a process, which evolves and adapts to accommodate new knowledge and data, which does not have a final solution because there are no final solutions for open systems





Always follow the best practices of rigorous model characterization and testing. This is a necessary, but not a sufficient condition of successful modeling





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Explain and appreciate all types of uncertainties as an inherent part of all complex systems





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Explain and appreciate all types of uncertainties as an inherent part of all complex systems

Use all available means of communication and interaction.

Do not be afraid to turn around the weapons used in mass media and advertisement. Seek for funding and means to deliver your message in the most compelling and powerful way



Voinov, A, et ali. 2014. "Values in Socio-Environmental Modelling: Persuasion for Action or Excuse for Inaction." *Environmental Modelling & Software* 53: 207–212.



Open Source Software

- Sourcecode made available with a license in which the copyright holder provides the rights to study, change, and distribute the software to anyone and for any purpose. May be developed in a collaborative public manner
- Great for bug fixing, continuity and learning.



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- Great for bug fixing, continuity and learning.
- Community modeling
 - A community model is an open source component that is constructed and/or improved through the combined efforts of a "community" of individuals working together to develop, debug, calibrate, document, run and use the model. They include both developers and users, and may be distributed among a number of different institutions, organizations and geographic locations.





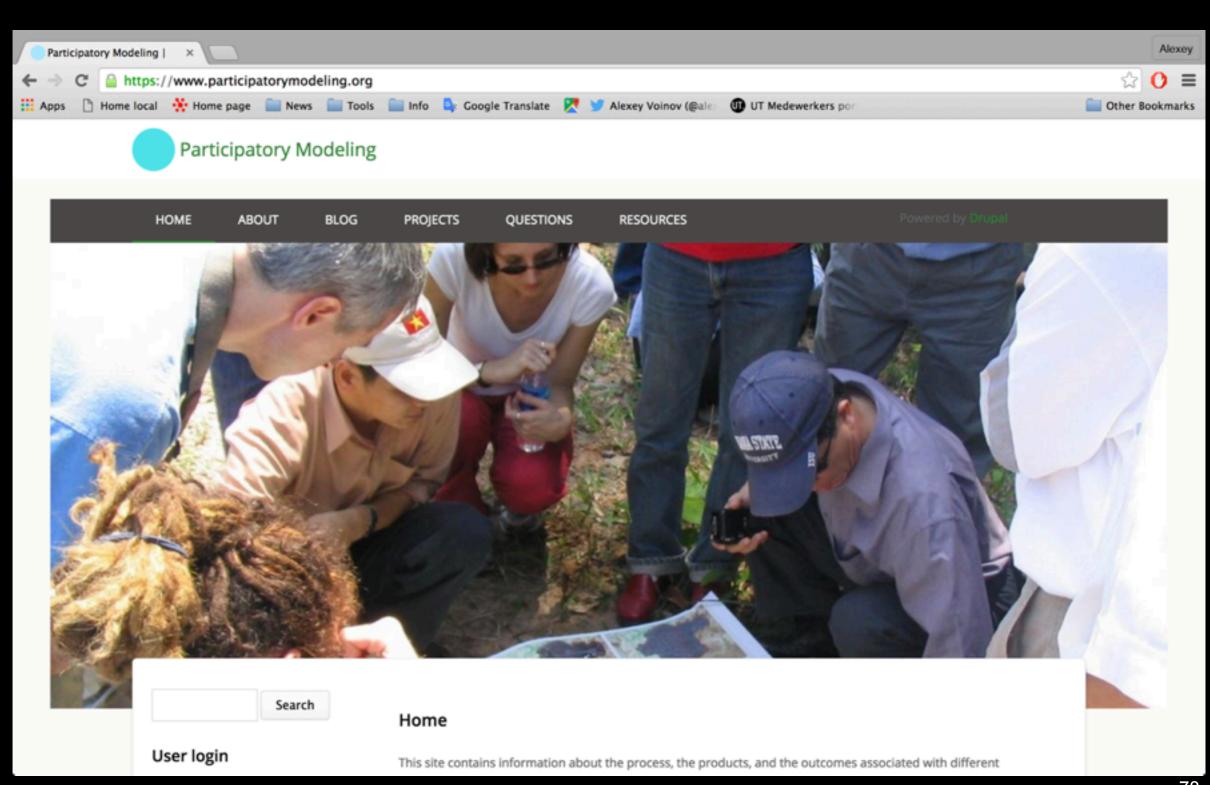
- Community of practice for PM
 - A community of practice is a group of people who share a craft and/or a profession



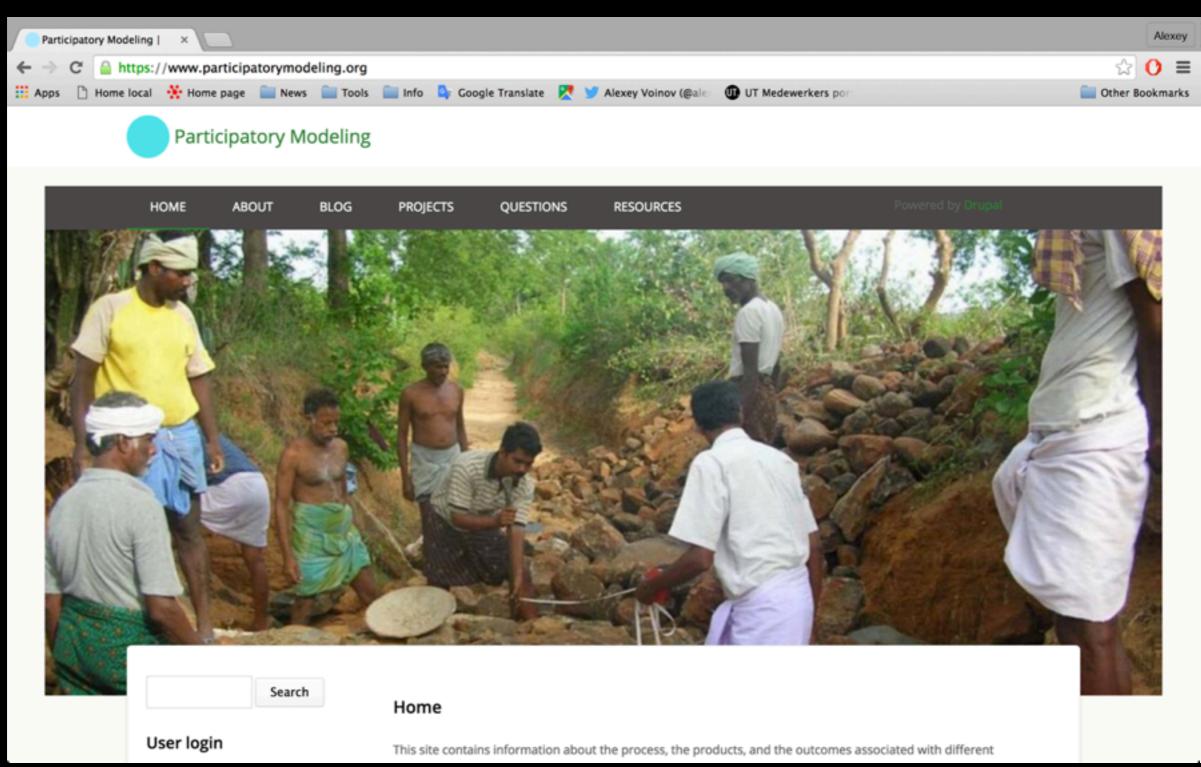
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- SESYNC project: "Synergizing public participation and participatory modeling methods for action oriented outcomes"

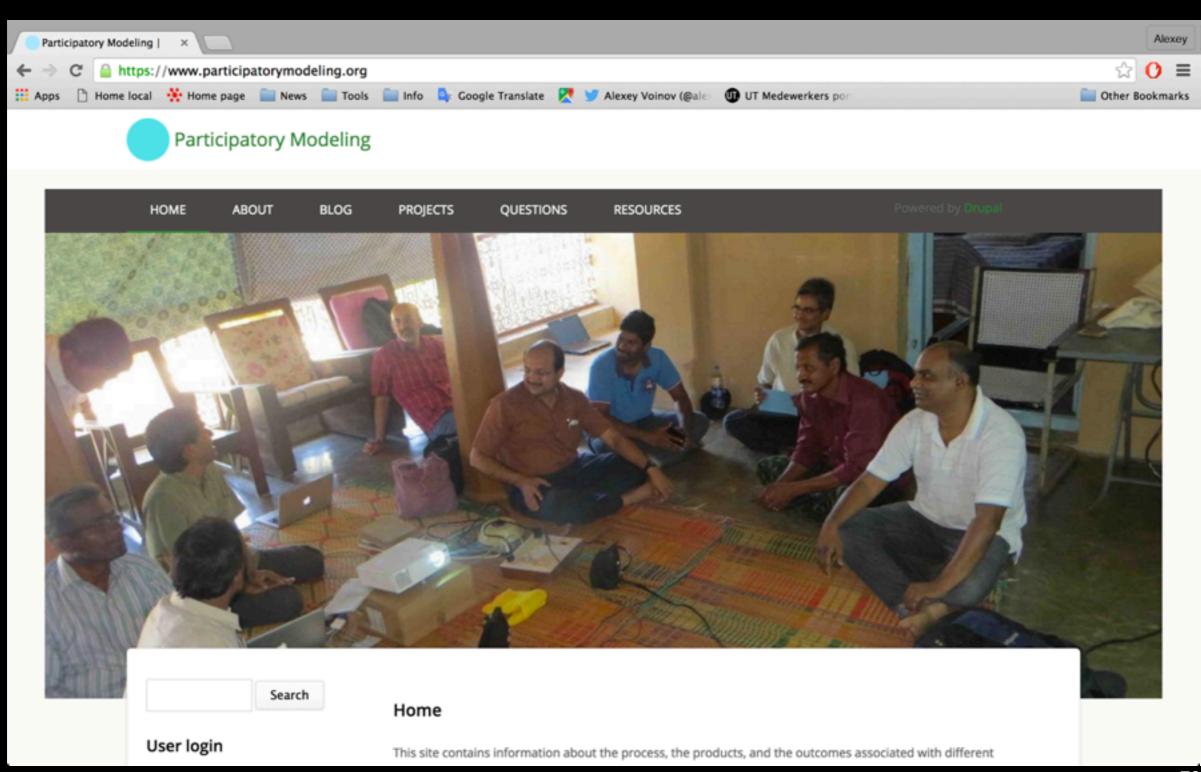


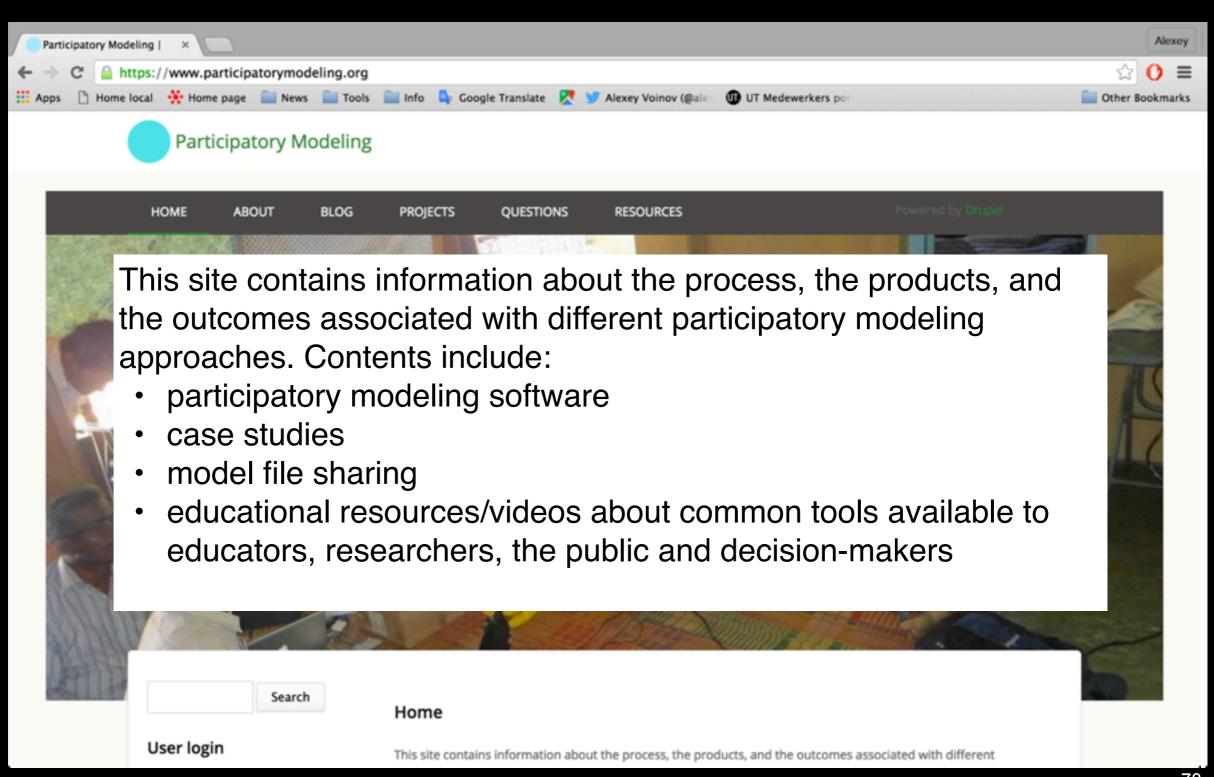














■ If you want something to be done - do it



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- Practice what you preach



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- Account for biases, values, perceptions
- Recognize the new information culture
- We are humans, we can be and we are manipulated



"I know you think you understand what you thought I said but I'm not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant."



Alan Greenspan