HBA Complexity Ontology to frame processes for addressing Wicked Problems and Social Messes.
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An Introduction
Wicked problems are those containing levels of complexity for which exclusively linear, mechanistic, reductionist processes are misapplications that may be not only incompetent, but make the situation worse (32 & 19). This paper describes a process which in my experience allows the complexities of wicked problems to be better appreciated and understood, and thereby opens the way for more skilful means to be employed to address them. In particular, this requires a much stronger emphasis upon axiological complexities – the interplay of values – than previous ontologies, which were imbalanced on epistemological complexity, resulting in a lack of a values/reason evolutionary dynamic (1, 25).

The presentation assumes a Wilber-based integral understanding from the reader, but through years of practice I have developed from AQAL to “AHAL” - all hexants, all levels, and further still to ADALAS - all domains, dimensions and degrees, all levels and lines, and all scales and systems – weighted as may be required in the particular dynamic.

The dynamic/process nature of the model is emphasised by the flames at the bottom of the HBA “chimney” emitting heat rising in a hexal helix, which is to spiral around a central developmental line expressing homeorhesis towards the optimal antifragility (36) of the responses to the wicked problems. It’s a bumpy ride because flames rise, fall and interrelate, and it’s slowed by an anchor because all the flames have to be resolved into the umwelt’s Goldilocks Zone for the identity/wicked problem narrative to rise towards the best resolution possible for the umwelt concerned. And it’s not just a Tree of Knowledge (26, 34); it’s an umwelt of knowing and valuing (1, 5, 25).

Once the glossary familiarises the reader with the terminology, I hope this will be a useful and intelligible ontology for approaching the reader’s own wicked policy etc. problems. For example, the umwelt can be scaled fractally according to the identity component: bodyself, social identity, national identity, cultural identity and so forth.

I am trying to be complementary to those authors cited, the umwelt chimney enfolding the coevolutions happening via the tackling of wicked problems. However in addition to the hexal framing another essential distinction I am making here is between the produce, culture and nature hexants inside the umwelt chimney - that is, that part of the welt identified (made intra-umwelt, whether positive or negative) by the umwelt (“a person’s identity is inseparable from the way in which the world appears to that person” [26, 33, 34], and the much vaster one outside full of unknown unknowns (35 & 36) to that umwelt. So I see Ken Wilber’s AQAL as being intra-umwelt too, also requiring that distinction with the more general welt.

So our problem-tackler absorbs the wicked environment’s produce/culture/nature in bite-sized chunks (8) and addresses it via its soma, psyche and skills until able to cope with it sufficiently. From involving intrinsic valuations rather than exclusively extrinsic and systemic valuations, it becomes a process of psychic digestion towards increased competencies in manifesting wisdom and compassion. In other words, it’s a participatory approach facilitating, and facilitated by, Torbert’s Action Inquiry (38).

HBA = HIDEGRE BIES ADALAS

HIDEGRE Framing and Principles
H Hexants: The division of an umwelt’s functional circle highlighting six domains that must be engaged to address wicked problems (Refs: 11, 17 p. 68, 19, 22, & 40).
I Identity: the identity of the umwelt engaging the wicked problem. (Refs: 10, 27, 33, 37 & 41).
D The inter & intra-hexal developments of the umwelt to respond to the wicked problem, and its developments (Refs: 32 & 39)
E Emergence: the identity’s responses to the wicked problems through levels of emergence, every new emergent being a new ball game (Refs: 4, 31, & 42).
G Goldilocks: development may only occur within a limited zone of challenge intensity; required to pace the responses. (Refs: 6 p.50, 7, & 8).
RE Related Evolution: All evolution is co-evolution, (20, p. 237) and requires engagements all hexants and in conformity to the above principles to occur.

BIAS Navigation
B Butterfly Effects and Black Swans. A reminder of the essential unpredictability and non-linearity of both umwelts and wicked problems, and to consider the need to engage strategies that are antifragile in the face of them (16, 35, & 36).
I, E, and S These signify three forms of valuation to be considered in the umwelt’s resolution of its wicked problem: the intrinsic value, the extrinsic value, and the systemic value of matters of concern (14, 15, 18, 20, 21, 27, 28, 29, 30, & 40).

ADALAS Territory (Refs: 2, 3, 9, 12, 13, & 40]
AD All domains, dimensions and degrees of the umwelt and its wicked problem (For example, drilling from heuristic to ansatz to science).
AL All levels of complexity and lines of development of the umwelt and its wicked problem.
AS All scales and systems of the umwelt and its wicked problem.
Glossary:

Antifragility
Becoming stronger as a result of addressing a challenge (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antifragile)

Ansatz
An expert first approximation

Hextal Helix
Just as DNA requires a double helix, development requires a hextal (6-strand) intertwining and inter-relating helix

Hextant

Homeorhesis
A dynamic system’s return to a trajectory (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homeorhesis)

Homeostasis
A system’s return to a particular state (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homeorhesis)

Karathleo
Neologism from Gk karis (graceful) and athleo (striving for mastery)

Psyche
The mind, will, and emotions

Re-Solutions
Recommended activities with wicked problems

Social messes
A suite of wicked problems (q.v.) (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wicked_problem)

Soma
The physical body

Umwelt
All the semiotic processes of an organism into a whole (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umwelt)

Welt
German for the world.

Wicked Problems
Difficult or impossible complexly interrelated problems (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wicked_problem)
References:


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