Union of Intelligible Associations

Part C: Comprehension challenges

Anthony Judge
Union of International Associations
for
World Academy of Art and Science
Conference theme: The Future of Knowledge:
Evolutionary challenges for the 21st Century
(Zagreb, November 2005)

Panel theme: Organizing knowledge for human benefit
7. Comprehension gap: core challenge of governance
Polyhedral complexity & comprehension gap
Core challenge for governance

• **challenge for any "council of the wise":**
  - the greater the consonance (namely the lesser the "gap") between "outer" and "inner" comprehensive (or "global") understanding,
  - the more complex must be the mapping surface -- and hence the more difficult to understand it in its "globality", *and conversely,*

• **challenge of any media "public relations" presentation:**
  - the simpler the mapping surface required to articulate any strategic governance initiative,
  - the greater the "gap" between "outer" and "inner" comprehensive (or "global") understanding -- and hence the higher the degree of cognitive dissonance that may be experienced (whether by the governors or by the governed)
“New Strategic Vision”
vs. “Policy Halitosis”?

• Dependence on a single global vision?

• Dependence on a single metaphor - “vision”?
  – no “sound” → an “unsound” future?
  – no “smell” → great visions that “stink”?
  – no “touch” → for future “untouchables”?
  – no “taste” → towards a “tasteless” future?

• From vision to super-vision?

• Vision “myopia” or “presbyopia”?
Beyond policy billboards !!!

• Dependence on strategic “vision” metaphor
  - **vision:** myopia, blindness, billboarditis

• Complementary metaphors
  - **sound:** hearing the voice of the people (soundscapes)
  - **touch:** touching the hearts of the people (touchscapes)
  - **smell:** policies that stink !!! (policy smellscapes)
  - **taste:** tasteless policy (policy tastescapes)

• Sound (as opposed to Vision)
  - as the metaphoric key to strategic harmony
8. Design challenge of knowledge organization:

meeting “roundtables”
“keystones”
“Rosetta stones”
Integrating the “12 integrative modes”

• Individually insufficient as “ways of knowing”
  – Ashby’s Law of Requisite Variety
• Need insights via all of them
• Challenge is how to integrate the distinct modalities
• Self-reflexively each may be used to integrate the others
• Potential of most value:
  – Those capable of formally encompassing the others
  – Therefore the interest of the cuboctahedron model
  – Modelling 12-degrees of freedom
Meeting insight capture

- 7,000 future int. meetings: key events?
- Binding moments
- Speed vs Configuration
- Eliciting patterns
- Cognitive resonance with patterns
- Maps / Morphs / Melodies
- Time binding vs Ever-rolling present
Implicit “roundtable” within meetings
Interlocking pathways of strategic dilemmas
(from Rio Earth Summit, 1992)
Sustainability through cyclic interlocking
Communication protocols
(for the semantic web?)

• Construction of interlocking cycles
  – Interlocking in 3-D, beyond “web rings”
• Sustaining higher patterns of order via protocols
• Sustaining more complex virtual entities
  – Configurations of “incommensurable” concepts
  – Configurations of “incommensurable” strategies
  – Configurations of “incommensurable” stakeholders
• Ensuring the emergence of more complex entities
  – New kinds of profile “matching” to enable links
9. Integrating new metaphors with configurative software

marrying “Beauty” and the “Beast”

towards insight scaffolding & prosthetics
Beyond: “Active Worlds” ??
http://www.activeworlds.com/

• Home to hundreds of thousands of users and millions of kilometers of virtual territory.
• **In Active Worlds you can:**
  • explore over 1000 unique virtual worlds (3D “conferences” ?)
  • build your own 3D world on the Internet (own conference centre?)
  • make new contacts and chat with people from all over the world
  • play interactive 2D and 3D games
  • choose from a vast range of identities (conference roles?)
  • shop online in a 3D virtual mall

• **Future relevance to policy elaboration ???**
Gardening Knowledge !!!

- Cultivating patterns of knowledge
  - from menus to petals
- Ecologies of policies
  - conserving policy ecosystems
- Working virtually with patterns of hyperlinks
  - towards memetic engineering
- Integrating musical feedback
  - towards resonant knowledgescapes
Psycho-technical challenges

- Massaging active (web) information into memorable integrative configurations
- Enabling (web) users to explore their own aesthetic/imaginative preferences in doing so
- Converting such structures into communication templates (patterning/filtering message flow)
- Converting such evolving templates into evolving policy, legal and funding structures
- Ensuring the emergent and movement of strategic metaphors
10. Implications for a “Global Brain”?
GB-relevant conceptual entities

• **Organizations**
  - Globally connected distributive knowledge systems (of global brain?)

• **Problems**
  - Collective phobias, neuroses (of global brain?)

• **Strategies**
  - Collective procedure, best practices (of global brain?)

• **Human values**
  - Attractors / Repulsors (of global brain?)

• **Meetings**
  - Binding moments (of global brain?)
GB-relevant integrative features

- Global: “world” / “unitary” / “integrative”
- Interrelating different kinds of entity
- Interaction with information sources
- Hyperlink context and generated links
- Hypertext editing
- Use of multi-media for conceptual integration
- Feedback loops
GB-relevant challenges

- Reflection of real-world preoccupations
- Perceptions vs Facts
- Exaggerated claims and contradictory statements
- Non-closure and incompleteness
- Global modelling and simulation
- Subject matrix
- Humour
GB-concerns in practice

- Knowledge “corruption” and “diseases” of GB
- Funding development of a GB
- Limits to collaboration in GB development
- Global brain: What for?
  - Because it is possible?
  - Because it is needed?
  - Because it is a powerful symbol?
  - Because it would engender new learnings?
  - Because it is effectively emerging?
GB challenging assumptions

- Cultural assumptions
- Styles of global brain
- Volatility and coherence within a GB
- Expanding knowledge universe
- Globality of person // Resonance with GB
- Hemispheric organization?
- Higher order functions and self-awareness
Dimensions of a global brain?

- Integrative knowledge
- Dynamics/Speed
- Machine intensive
- Extensive/Distributive
- New knowledge
- Intensive / Interface
- Collective intelligence
- Configurative/Static

New knowledge
Higher order strategic questions?

- Richer cognitive frameworks enable
  - More relevant questions to be asked
  - More relevant answers to be comprehended
- What are the strategic questions the future would wish us to ask at this time?
- How can polarizing frameworks be transcended?
12. Challenges for a Union of Intelligible Associations

- Mathematical limitations
- Provision of meaningful integrative tools
- Integrating multimedia tools into h/l editing
- Role of metaphor
- Quality intelli-work / Fruitful input
Future challenges --
for memorable policies with soul

Aesthetics of governance in the future:

• *Agenda 21* versus the *Mahabarata* (or *Dynasty* !)

• A “singable” *Declaration of Human Rights* -- to make it memorable rather than just “signable”

• *UN Charter* as a poem integrated by a pattern of resonant associations

• The set of UN Specialized Agencies as an integrated mythological pantheon

• A pattern of intelligent associations embodied in the EU Constitution through song – meaningful to the peoples of Europe
UIA Links

Anthony Judge:
Email: Anthony.Judge@gmail.com
Web: http://www.laetusinpraesens.org

This presentation:
http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/docs00s/untelos2.pdf

Associated text (and references):
http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/musings/untelos.php

UIA home page
http://www.uia.org/

Online database access
http://www.uia.org/data.htm
Some related texts

- Animating the Representation of Europe (2004)
- Spherical Accounting: using geometry to embody developmental integrity (2004)
- Simulating a Global Brain: using networks of international organizations, world problems, strategies, and values (2001)
- Coherent Policy-making Beyond the Information Barrier (1999)
- From Information Highways to Songlines of the Noosphere: Global configuration of hypertext pathways for meaningful collective transformation (1996)
- Aesthetics of Governance in the Year 2490 (1990)