

Alessandro Rossi

The “unit way of thinking” is immensely pervasive. I am from Italy and am a consultant for various organizations. My specialty is in a specific methodology called systems thinking or systems dynamics, with which I build simulation models. I approach generally complex problems, trying to understand systematic problems and attempting to understand the structure of interconnections that underlie the pervasive problems. And when I have and create the map of this kind of interconnection in the attempt to simulate it – it is then that I try to understand the levels available to change the system. For example, out of this work, I can ask myself what kind of policies can be applied to change these complex situations.

I studied the work of Jay Wright Foresster at M.I.T (who also died a few months ago); he is not widely known in Italy. I was fascinated by his approach, because the point is how to change the way of thinking, passing from a linear way of thinking to a systemic way of thinking. What I’ve learned in studying the Process Model is this new dimension – The Implicit.

There is a risk to the approach I am applying. For example, we can apply and try to understand the complexity from a unit model perspective without a real transformation in the way of thinking. Or, again, my aim is how to transform the way of thinking. But there is now awareness of the Implicit Dimension. Yet, we can think about passing from a perception of the problem as a single event to understanding with an implicit structure, though not visible. This structure has to be discovered.

Again, there is not this same kind of awareness about the Implicit in a philosophical way in its depth, in its deepest reality. Accordingly, I am very interested in “monading” the systems dynamics approach and the Process Model approach. I hope we can work together in our current group in a TAE way – this is one of my main interests – to help people help themselves in transforming their way of thinking.