



HUMAN SYSTEMS
DYNAMICS INSTITUTE

Thrive in the 21st Century: Simple Rules that Work

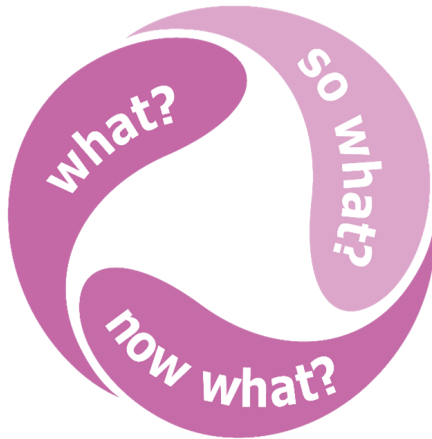
Live Virtual Workshop
April 6, 2017
Glenda Eoyang
geoyang@hsdinstitute.org

Nothing is intractable.



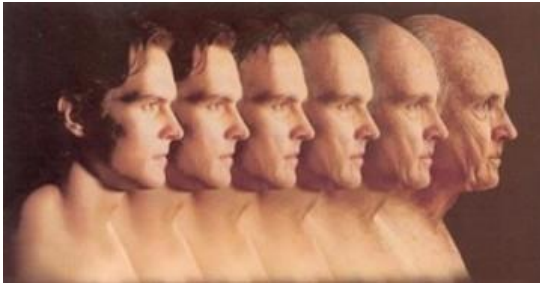
Today we will explore . . .

- ▶ **What** dynamics drive change today?
- ▶ **So what** will prepare us to influence an uncertain future?
- ▶ **Now what** will you do to get ready?





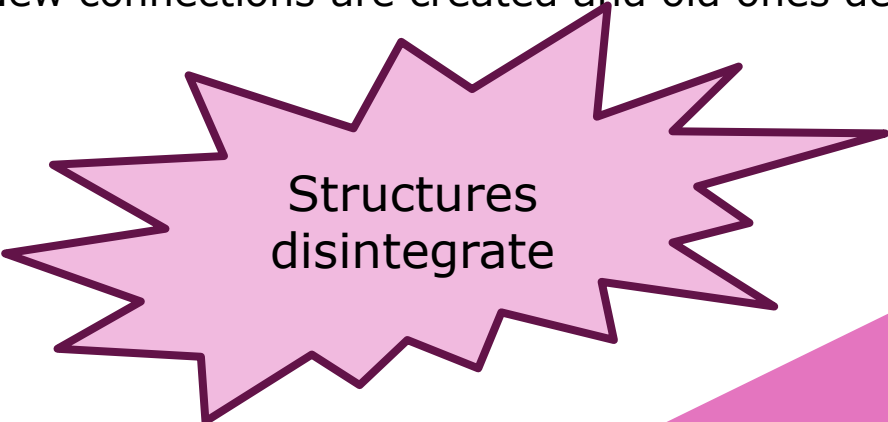
What dynamics drive change today?





Dynamical Change

- ▶ Boundaries shift
- ▶ Tensions accumulate across differences at multiple scales
- ▶ New connections are created and old ones destroyed



Structures
disintegrate



Tipping Point & Butterfly Effect





You never know . . .

- ▶ When the shift will happen
- ▶ Where it will begin
- ▶ How far it will go
- ▶ When it will stop
- ▶ Where it will land

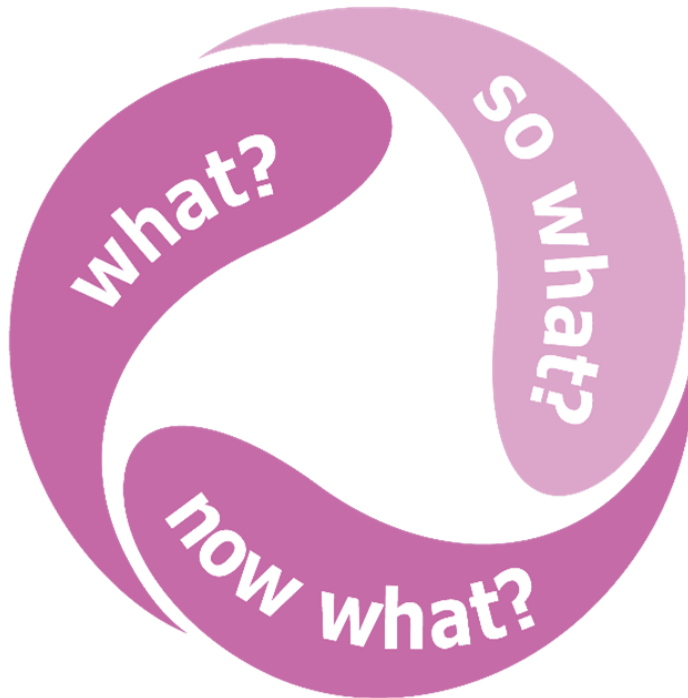
So what influence can you have?



So what will prepare us to
influence an uncertain future?



Adaptive Action, Of Course!



But that is not
enough.

Something has to
inform the
meaning making
and action taking.



— Simple Rules —



**effective simple
rules are:**

few



— Simple Rules —



**effective simple
rules are:**

few

generalizable



— Simple Rules —



effective simple
rules are:

few

generalizable

positive



— Simple Rules —



effective simple
rules are:

few

generalizable

positive

active





Simple Rules Examples

- ▶ Do unto others . . .
- ▶ Repair the world
- ▶ Do no harm
- ▶ Balance freedom and equality
- ▶ Take care of your own
- ▶ Be good (or wise or sweet)
- ▶ Welcome strangers
- ▶ And . . .

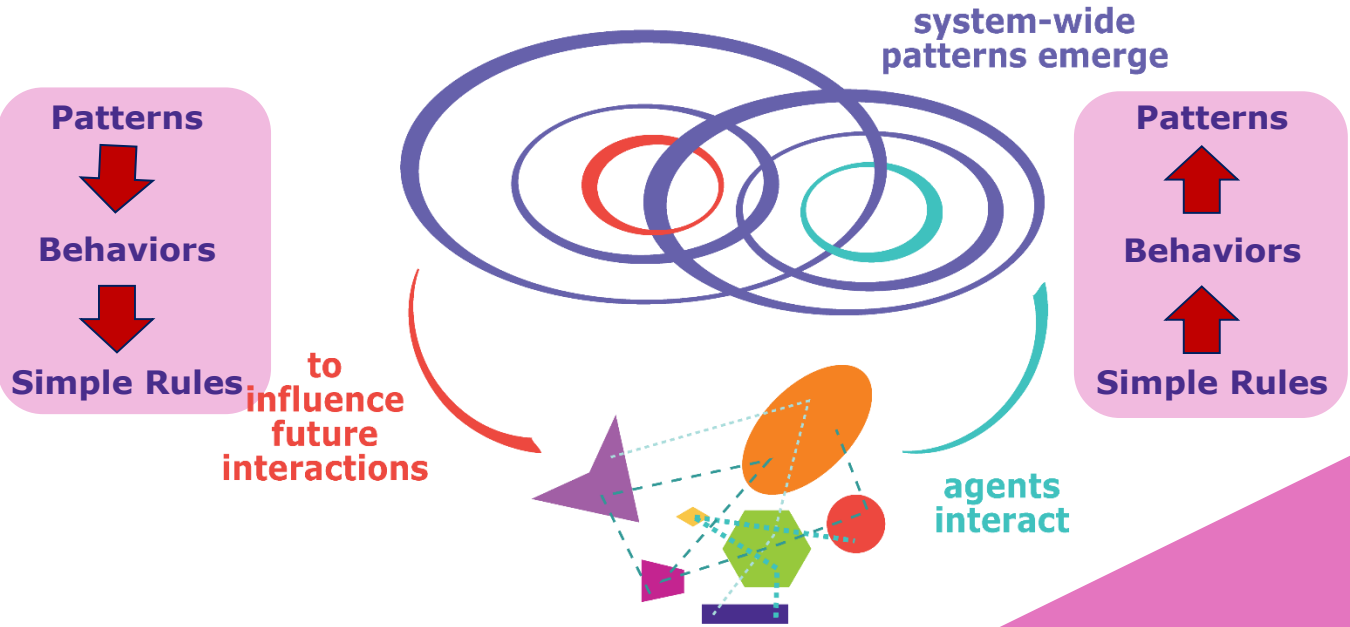


Simple Rules . . .

- ▶ Connect systemic intentions with local information and action
- ▶ Set conditions for patterns to emerge
- ▶ Hold the pattern, regardless of circumstances
- ▶ Apply everywhere
- ▶ Respond to context
- ▶ Support freedom and constraint
- ▶ Are shared across a community
- ▶ Invite generative dialogue
- ▶ Are easy to remember
- ▶ Are consonant with existing practice
- ▶ Become intuitive over time



— Complex Adaptive System (CAS) —





Short List of Simple Rules

Rules for simple rules:

- ▶ Include no more than 7
- ▶ Begin with a verb
- ▶ Work for everyone and everywhere in the system
- ▶ Must be stated in the positive
- ▶ Need at least one rule for each of the conditions for self-organizing (CDE) to generate a pattern



HSD Simple Rules

- ▶ Teach and learn in every interaction





Teach and learn in every interaction





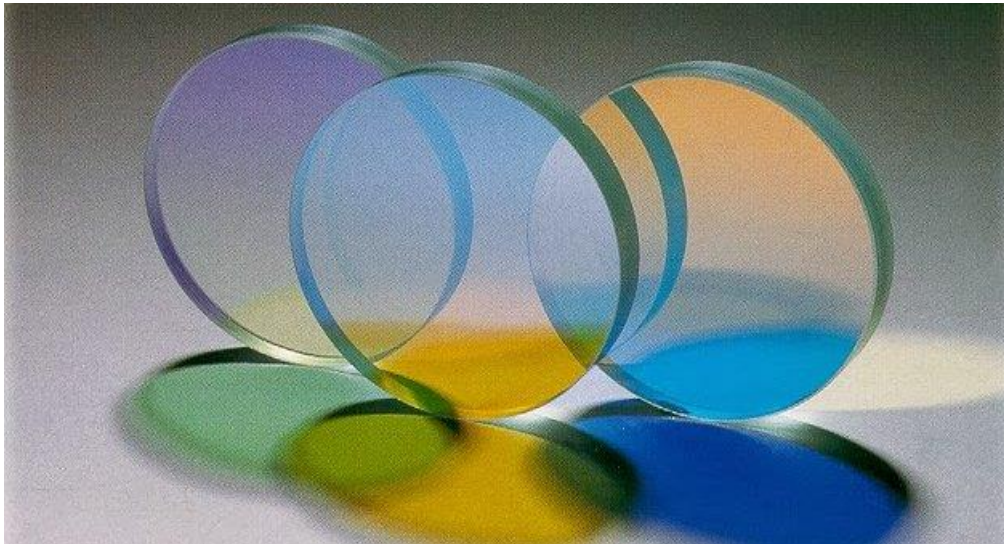
HSD Simple Rules

- ▶ Teach and learn in every interaction
- ▶ Search for the true and the useful





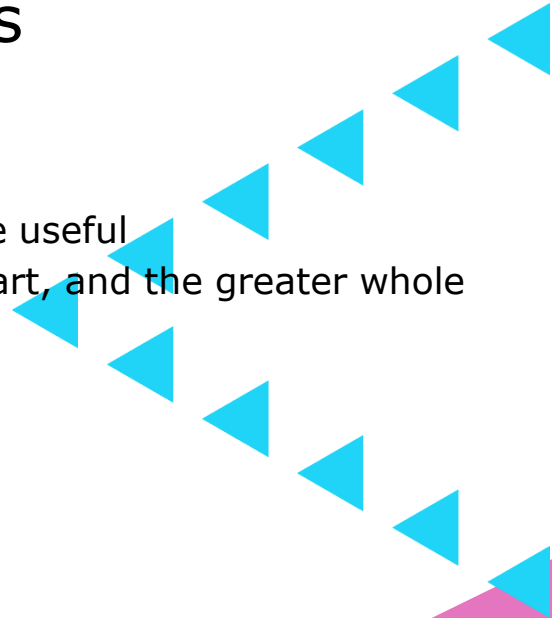
Search for the true and the useful





HSD Simple Rules

- ▶ Teach and learn in every interaction
- ▶ Search for the true and the useful
- ▶ Attend to the whole, the part, and the greater whole





Attend to the whole, the part, and the greater whole





HSD Simple Rules

- ▶ Teach and learn in every interaction
- ▶ Search for the true and the useful
- ▶ Attend to the whole, the part, and the greater whole
- ▶ Give and get value for value



Give and get value for value





HSD Simple Rules

- ▶ Teach and learn in every interaction
- ▶ Search for the true and the useful
- ▶ Attend to the whole, the part, and the greater whole
- ▶ Give and get value for value
- ▶ Engage in joyful practice



Engage in joyful practice





HSD Simple Rules

- ▶ Teach and learn in every interaction
- ▶ Search for the true and the useful
- ▶ Attend to the whole, the part, and the greater whole
- ▶ Give and get value for value
- ▶ Engage in joyful practice
- ▶ Share your HSD story



Share your HSD story



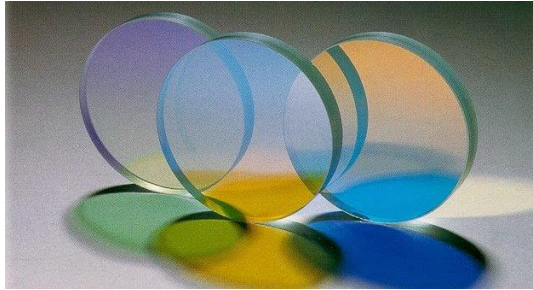


HSD Simple Rules

- ▶ Teach and learn in every interaction
- ▶ Search for the true and the useful
- ▶ Attend to the whole, the part, and the greater whole
- ▶ Give and get value for value
- ▶ Engage in joyful practice
- ▶ Share your HSD story



What patterns would these rules generate as the dynamical change moves along?

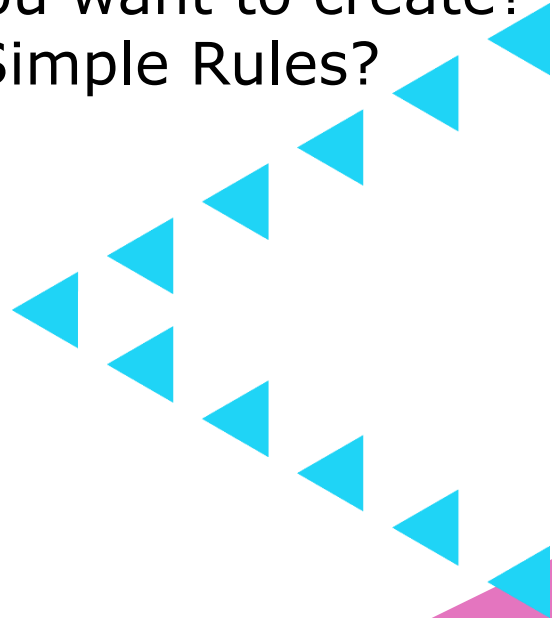




Now what will you do to get ready?



What pattern do you want to create? So what are your Simple Rules?





Learn more...

- ▶ Online at HSDInstitute.org
- ▶ Adaptive Action Labs:

Conflict Lab: Dialogue Across Difference	St. Paul, MN	April 27
Complex Change: Lead, Collaborate, Succeed	Roffey Park, UK	May 2
Nonviolent Resistance for the 21st Century	Eastern Mennonite University, VA	May 18-26



Join us for upcoming webinars:

Go!: Leadership for Complex Times	<i>May 4</i>
Thumbs, Marbles, and Real Estate: Patterns as Possibility	<i>June 8</i>
Quarterly Mini-Conference	<i>June 15</i>