



**Public Health  
Institute Fulda**

UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE



## SUSS Revisited: An Interactive Spatial Understanding Support System (ISUSS) for Collaborative Spatial Problem Structuring

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AESOP conference

From control to co-evolution

Utrecht, the Netherlands, 9-12 July 2014

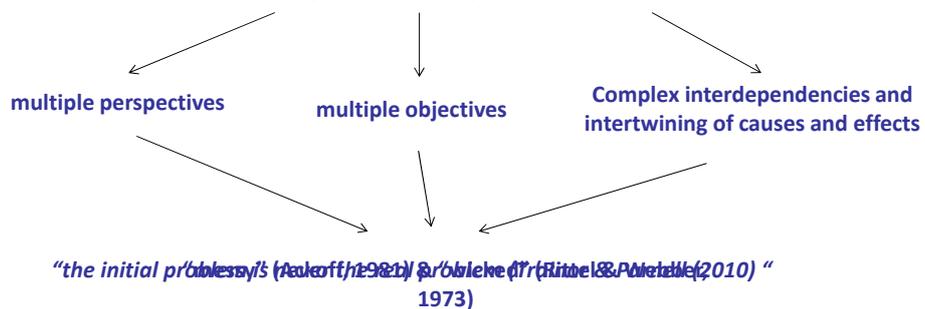


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## Introduction

Collaborative planning theories emphasize involvement of stakeholders from earlier phases of planning such as scoping and problem formulation

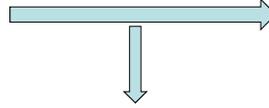


problem situation is spatial in nature, is instigated by environmental justice controversies (NIMBY, LULU), its negative externalities lead to spatial inequalities in health

**No Simple Formulations of the problem !!**

## Introduction

Problem finding



Problem formulation

Importance of getting a good appreciation of the situation and understanding “what is really going on and why” is paramount

Research Objective:

- To conceptualize and develop an Interactive Spatial Understanding Support System (ISUSS) to support the stakeholders in spatial problem structuring
- To show the effectiveness of such system in an interdisciplinary setting with a heterogeneous group of stakeholders; from spatial planning and public health domains

## Theoretical strengthening of ISUSS

Spatial Understanding Support System (SUSS)

- Coined by Couclelis (1991)

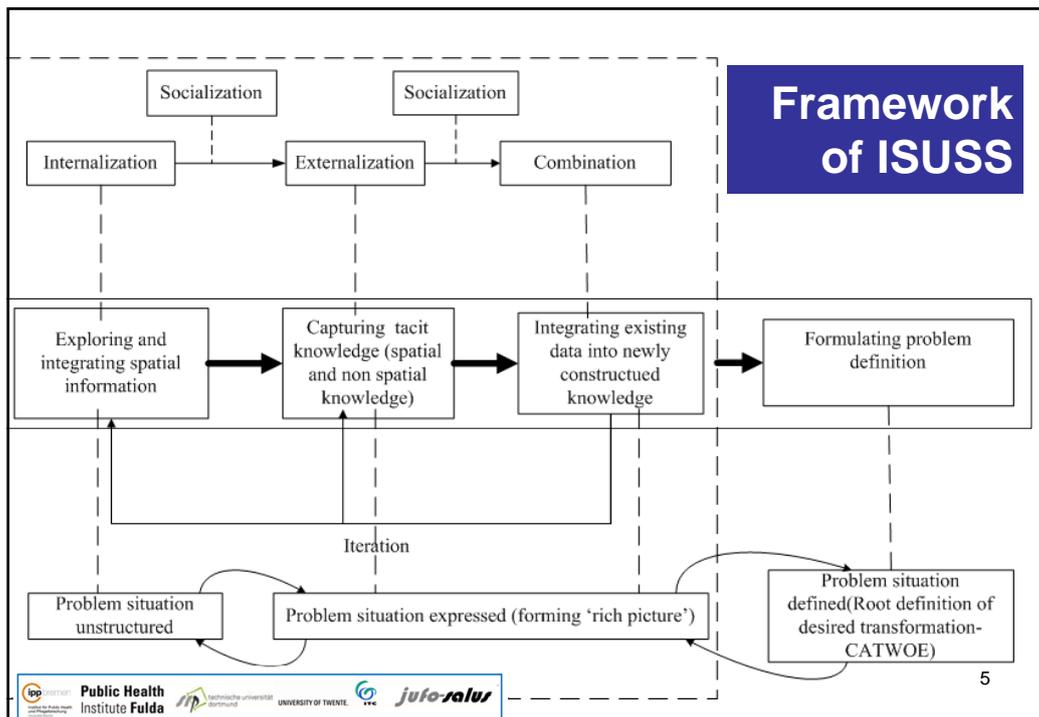
ISUSS

Problem structuring methodology

- Three stages of Soft System methodology (SSM) (Checkland, 1981)

Knowledge conversion model

- SECI (Socialization- Externalization- Combination- Internalization) model (Nonaka & Takeuchi, 1995)



## Implementation of framework in workshop

### Case Study – District of Nordstadt, Dortmund

- Existing land use plan reflects historically grown situation having close proximity of residential areas with other mixed land use such as industries
- Is instigated with negative connotation of mixed land use structure termed as "Gemengelagen"
- Statistical data shows higher percentage of migrants in the district and relatively higher mortality rate in the district



Photo source: Uwe Grützner, TU Dortmund

### Stakeholder identification

- Professionals with focus on spatial planning and public health on different issues in Nordstadt.
- Identified based on personal knowledge and contact network

## Implementation of framework in workshop

### Set up and components of ISUSS

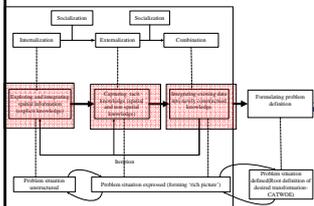
- **Hardware:** 'Mappable' – a horizontal table surface with touch sensitive screen that works as a common map interface as medium of communication
- **Software:** multi-touch software Phoenix 1.1 from Geodan, Amsterdam



## Implementation of framework in workshop

### Operational task description

- **Task I : Exploring and integrating spatial information**
  - insight into physical/built environment, existing social environment, environment related health pressures in Nordstadt
  - Familiarize with different functions within the map table

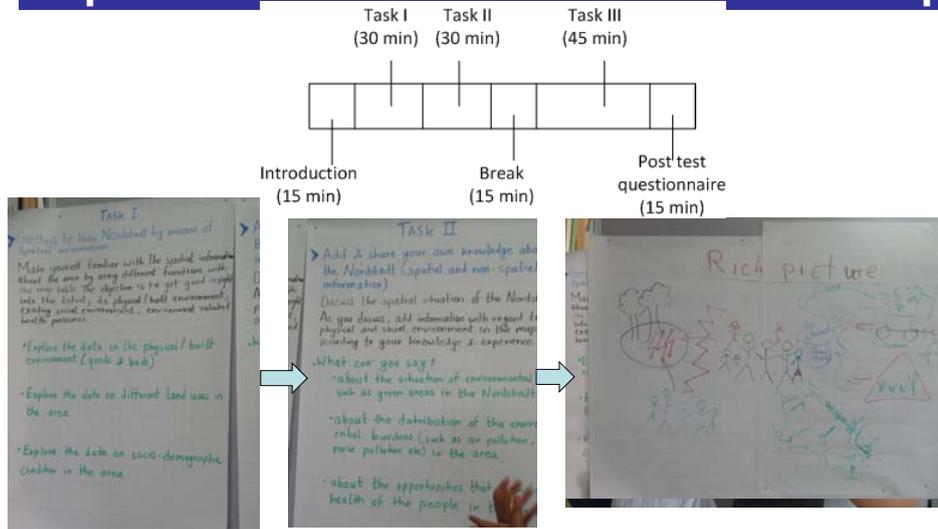


### Task II: Capturing tacit knowledge

- Add and share information according to knowledge and experience

- **Task III: Integrating existing data with the newly formed knowledge and information**
  - Build 'rich picture' showing problems and their causes, affected group, relevant actors

## Implementation of framework in workshop



## Preliminary findings from the workshop

- Information, retrieval of information at different scales and on the situation of the area
- Information on the problems and opportunities in the area and experience (tacit knowledge)
- “Show what you mean” could be observed on the digital map view and to communicate one’s point of view
- Stepwise introduction of tools/functions



## Preliminary findings from the workshop

Some challenges and limitations:

- Use of technology and its adaptation also depends on the age of the people
- At times, loss in focus and more effort on dealing with technology is observed
- Inflexibility of software and hardware to provide support on some tasks
- Integration of support provided by mappable during task I and task II to the production of rich picture

# jufosalus

THANK YOU  
QUESTIONS?

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