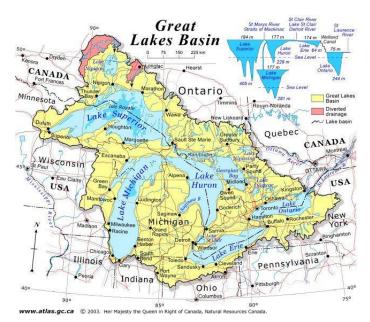
Mediated Modelling: Taking Stakeholders inside the Black Box

Brett Dolter, PhD Postdoctoral Research Fellow Faculty of Arts

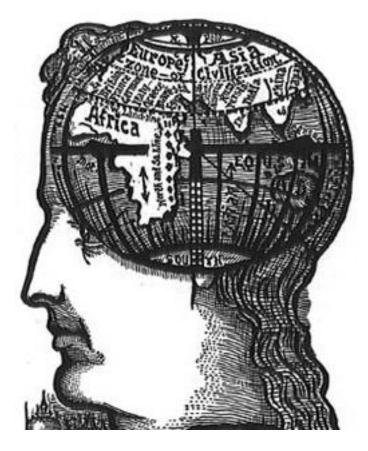
January 24, 2018



What is a model for?



Simplified "map" of reality





Tool for Structuring a Dialogue

Encourages Systematic Thinking & Exposes Our Assumptions

^{of}**Regina**

Photo credits: Great Lakes map: <u>https://fthmb.tqn.com</u>; Brain map: https://pablogarcialopez1.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/brain-map5.jpg Dialogue image: Stephen Hall.

Mediated Modelling



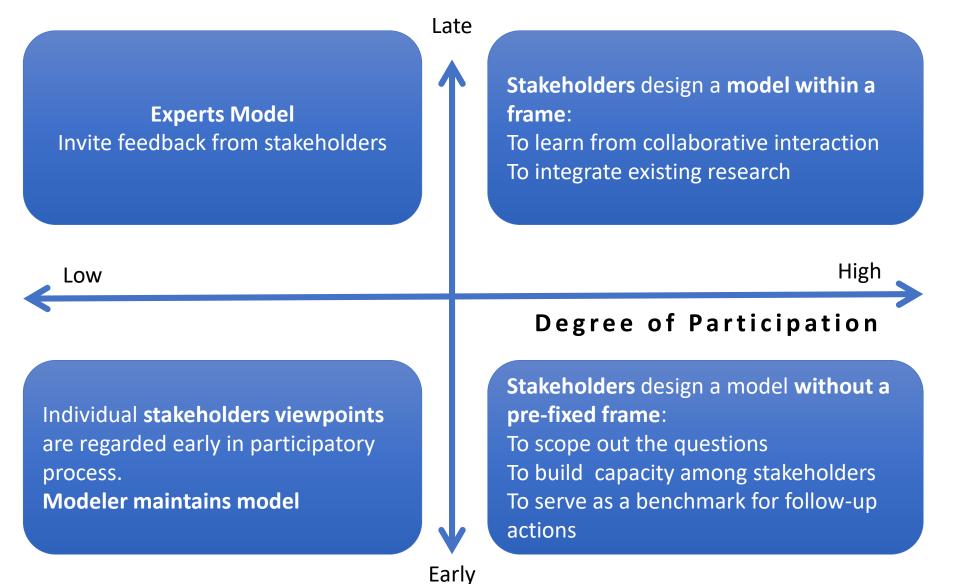
Marjan van den Belt

Goal of mediated modelling: create **shared understanding** that can form the basis for **action**.

^{of}Regina

van den Belt, Marjan (2004) Mediated Modelling: A System Dynamics Approach to Environmental Consensus Building. Washington, DC: Island Press. Photo credit: <u>https://0.academia-photos.com/29553008/8477890/9475103/s200 marjan.van den belt.jp</u>

Timing of Participation





van den Belt, Marjan (2004) Mediated Modelling: A System Dynamics Approach to Environmental Consensus Building. Washington, DC: Island Press, p. 16.

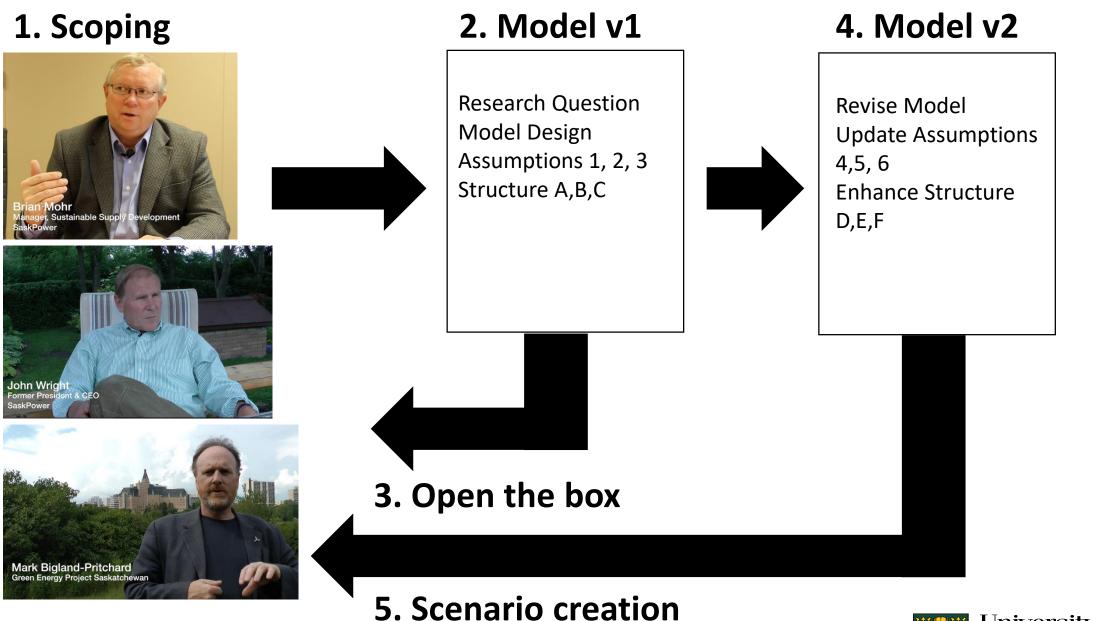
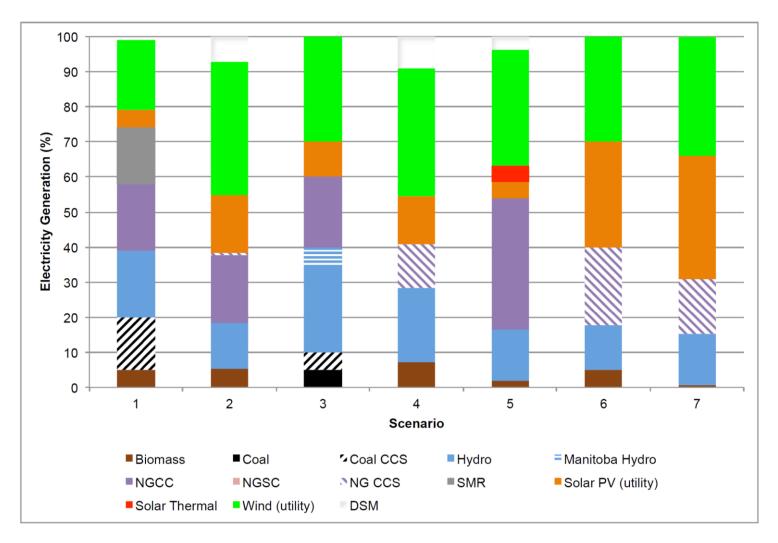




Image credits: Brett Dolter. Process design of mediated modelling carried out in Brett Dolter (2015) Greening the Saskatchewan Grid.

Stakeholder Generated Scenarios





Participant Feedback

- "I've always found it amazing how creative (and aligned) all of our thinking can become when we are able to match the tools, to the problems, to the thinking."
- "I learned that this whole issue is more complicated than I first thought."
- "Always fun to talk to folks with different priorities and background."
- "People seem eager to find collaborative solutions."



What is deliberative dialogue?

Dialogue: "an orientation toward constructive communication, the dispelling of stereotypes, honesty in relaying ideas, and the **intention to listen to and understand the other.**" (McCoy & Scully, 2002)

Deliberation: "the use of **critical thinking and reasoned argument** as a way for citizens to make decisions on public policy." (McCoy & Scully, 2002)

"The only condition for authentic deliberation is the requirement that **communication induce reflection upon preferences in non-coercive fashion**." (Dryzek, 2002)

Assumes: "individuals participating in democratic processes are **amenable to changing their minds and their preferences** as a result of the reflection induced by deliberation." (Dryzek, 2002)



Citizen Dialogues on Canada's Energy Future



CITIZEN DIALOGUES ON CANADA'S ENERGY FUTURE

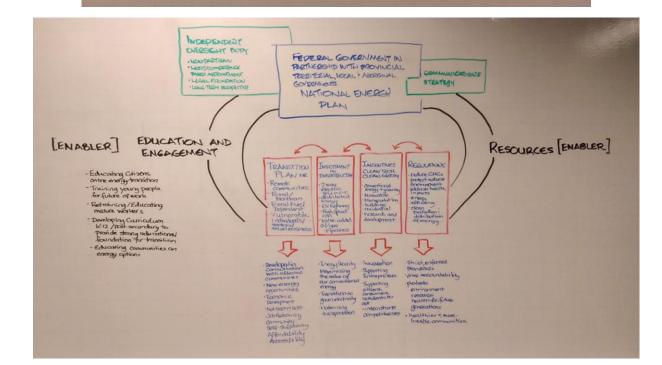
REGIONAL DIALOGUES



GENERATION ENERGY



4 PILLARS OF NATIONAL ENERGY RAN TRANSITION RAN FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE INCENTIVES IN CLEAN TECH · CLEAN ENERGY REGULATIONS TO ADDRESS IMPACTS





Images from: SFU Centre for Dialogue & NRCAN (2017) Citizen Dialogues on Canada's Energy Future: http://www.canadaenergyfuture.ca/.

- Thesis: Social license cannot simply be inserted into a model
- Instead, a mediated modelling process can be a key engagement tool in the process of obtaining social license

"Analysis is not enough....making things happen in real situations is a complex and subtle process, something which will not happen simply because some good ideas have been generated or a sophisticated analysis developed." (Checkland, 2013: S20)

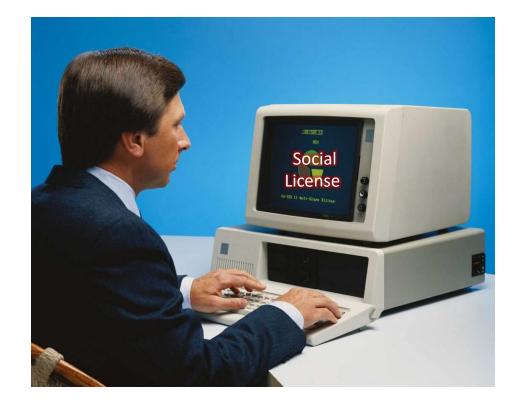




Photo credit: <u>https://timedotcom.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/man-computer.jpg?quality=85&w=1100</u>. Quote from: Checkland, Peter (2000) "Thirty Year Retrospective on Soft Systems Methodology." *Systems Research and Behavioral Science Syst. Res.* 17, S11–S58.

Brett Dolter, PhD Email: Brett.Dolter@uregina.ca Twitter: @BrettDolter

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