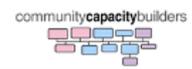
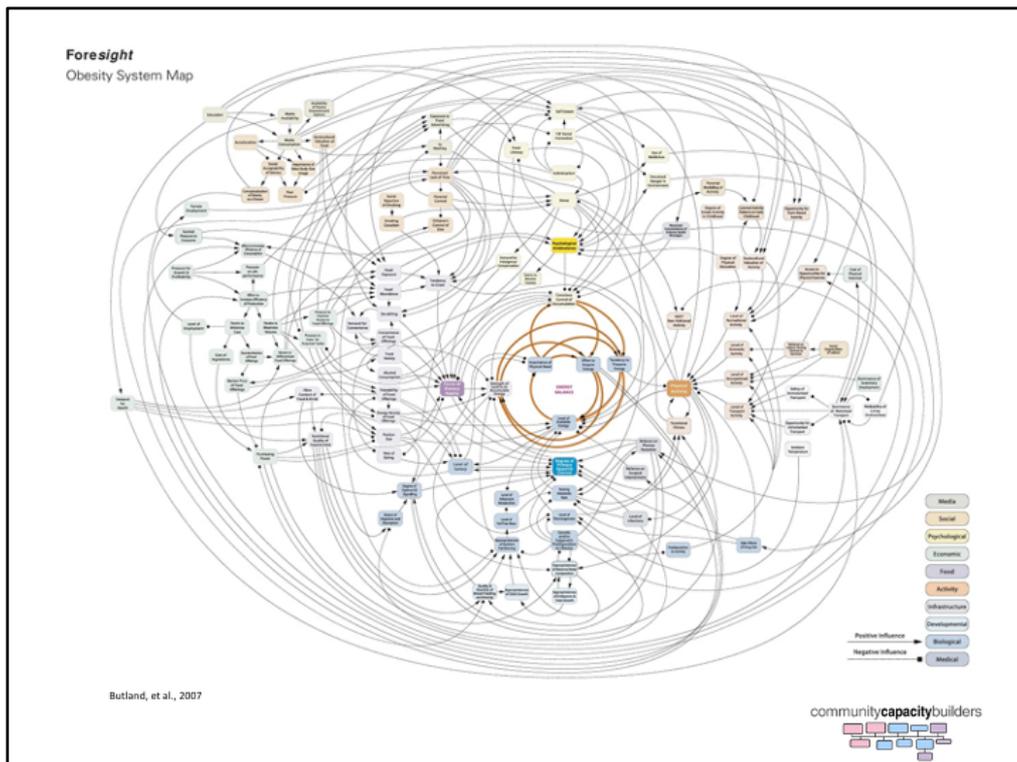


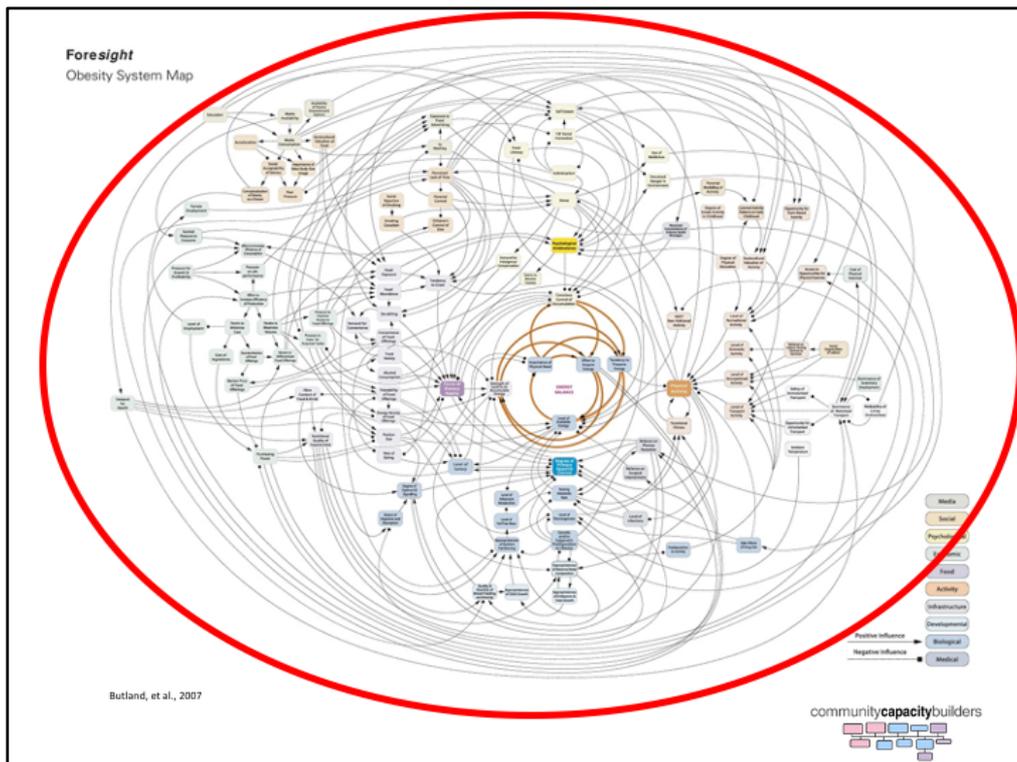
Systems and Social Change



In this lecture we are going to discuss systems from a social change perspective..



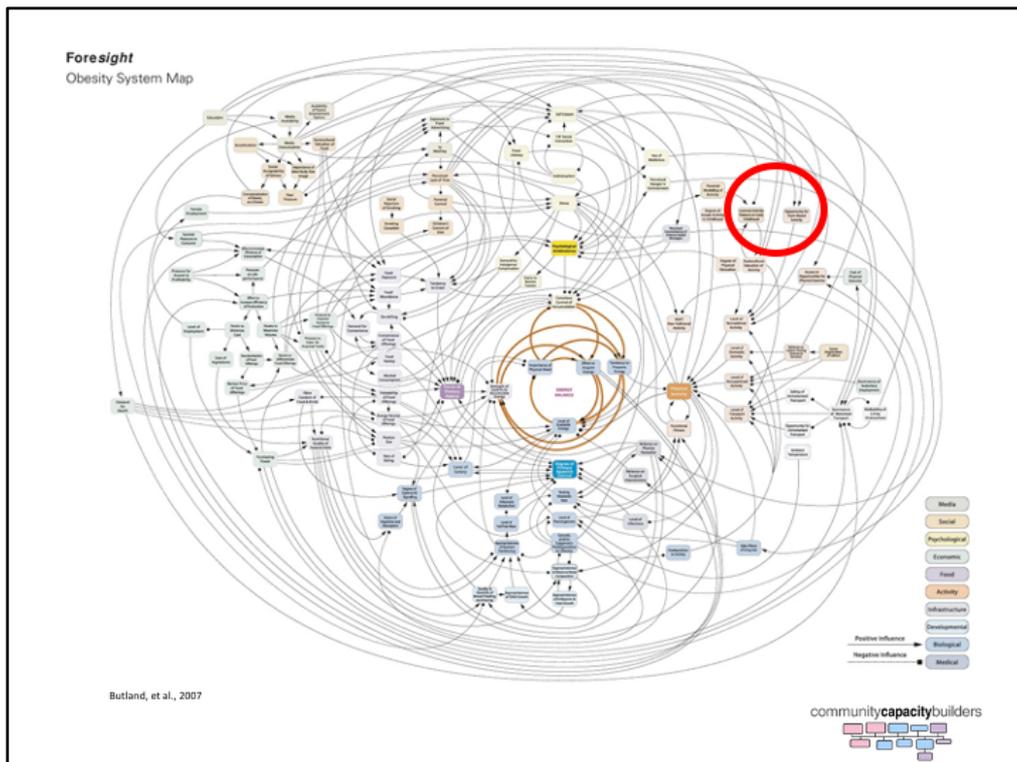
In unit 1 we noted that both the Social Innovation School perspective and the Complexity perspective for social entrepreneurship focus on creating systems change.



We highlighted in Unit 1 that Social Entrepreneurs from a Complexity Perspective focus on transitioning the whole system to a new state for the system that has increased system functioning.

Taking this perspective you focus on transitioning all of the initiatives in a place that are addressing any of the underpinning causal factors of a wicked problem to a new state.

This new state is where the initiatives within the system work more coherently together and they are more effective at addressing the wicked problem as a whole.

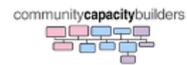


In contrast we saw that social entrepreneurs that take a Social Innovation School approach create systems change by selecting and addressing some of the underpinning causal factors of the problem ecosystem – the ones that they consider will produce the greatest impact (Martin & Osberg, 2015).

Systems

- A collection of interacting parts that function as a whole.
- Examples of social science systems:
 - Family
 - Community
 - Organisation
 - School district
 - Human service delivery network
 - Coalition of organisations

Foster-Fishman et al., 2007



So both the Social Innovation School perspective and the Complexity perspective for social entrepreneurship highlight the importance of focusing on systems.

So what are systems?

Put simply, systems are a collection of interacting parts that function as a whole.

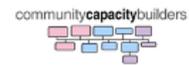
From a social science perspective, examples of systems include a family, a community, an organisation, a school district, a human service delivery network or a coalition of organisations.

Foster-Fishman et al., 2007

The System

- When working on systems change:
 - ‘the set of actors, activities, and settings that are directly or indirectly perceived to have influence in or be affected by a given problem situation’

Foster-Fishman et al., 2007



When we are working on systems change, what we refer to as ‘the system’ that we want to change is ‘the set of actors, activities, and settings that are directly or indirectly perceived to have influence in or be affected by a given problem situation’.

Foster-Fishman et al., 2007

So when we are working on systems change we are working with actors such as organisations, their activities such as initiatives, and settings such as geographical places.

References

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