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The Gentle Art of Coevolution

A Complexity Theory Perspective on Decision Making over Estuaries in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands

Lasse Gerrits

Propositions

1. The erratic disposition of physical systems partly determines the future policy options available to decision makers deciding on those systems. *This thesis.*
2. The change of disposition of policy systems is a process that takes place regardless of intentions and steering efforts by decision makers. *This thesis.*
3. The often assumed anthropocentric perspective on decision making over physical systems obscures the coevolutionary nature between decision making and physical systems, consequently hiding the reciprocal nature of decisions. *This thesis.*
4. The coevolutionary nature of decision making over physical systems holds that decisions that seem sound at a certain point in time could have severe unfavourable consequences some time later. *This thesis.*
5. The human tendency to simplify decision making in the face of complex situations is both inevitable and destructive. *This thesis.*
6. Societal problems do not become less complex when politicians state that they hold a straightforward solution.
7. The national policy goal of promoting the Dutch 'knowledge economy' shows that the Dutch still think that economy and counting numbers are identical notions.
8. Despite its many calls for interdisciplinary and societal relevant scientific research, science is strongly self-referential.
9. Centralisation of decision making will not move the Randstad Holland back to the top of the economic, cultural and social rankings.
10. Real cities always have rough edges.
11. Under current Dutch immigration laws love is indeed a battlefield.