

It is not if the climate is changing. The science on which predictions are based is fraudulent. Corruption is a similar complex system. It is possible to propose

simplified solutions for a complex problem based on falsification because of vested interests, greed and the ignorance of people not familiar with the complexity of complex systems.

**References**

Cilliers, P (2005). Complexity and Postmodernism: Understanding Complex Systems. New York: Routledge

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# The complexity of corruption

In order to increase understanding of corruption, it is appropriate to focus on the complex nature of corruption. In this article and a number that will follow the focus will be on comparing corruption to the elements of a complex system.

Corruption is a system, meaning it consists of many elements. It is also a process. For example, a bribe entails one party initiating an offer and another party participates.

Corrupt systems are institutions that are engrained with a culture of corruption. In such institutions, almost nothing can be done if corruption is not facilitated as the way how things are being done. If there is no other way to get things done, except for example to bribe or abuse power, such institutions are systemically corrupt.

Corruption in such systems "grease the wheels" of the public service. In systemically corrupt institutions, there is inconsistency in leadership, values and its application. The behaviour of people in systemic corrupt systems is unpredictable. The environment in such institutions can change overnight, create insecurity and cannot be controlled or managed.

## CITY OF WINDHOEK

Such behaviour is illustrated by the City of Windhoek (CoW). The Chief Executive Officer and the Chief of the City Police after having been suspended were both reinstated. The issue here is not only if the CoW and/or the two managers are corrupt or not. The reinstatements took place without their disciplinary cases being finalised. The issue is that a U-turn has been made without reli-



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able and valid evidence applied and the accountable people being held liable for either initiating the suspensions or the two managers being held liable for alleged wrongdoing.

Cilliers noted that complexity cannot be described by a definition,

but rather by a "general description". Corruption's intricate relationships with other variables, such as poverty and development, are complex. Poverty, development and corruption are complex systems.

There is neither only one co-producer that contributes to corruption, nor an ultimate description, no one root definition, capable of capturing the "mess/knot" of relationships between elements of corrupt systems. Approaching the problem from a systemic perspective will enable to "dissolve" the problem, that is too complex to be "untied". Systemic and complex problems cannot be analysed, pulled apart and put together again the same way as analytical and complicated problems. For example, getting a Boeing 737 in the air is complicated but not complex.

## POLICING AND CRIME

If only a few strings are pulled to untie a systemic and a complex problem situation, the "knot" tightens. For example, increasing policing without other supportive strategies will put more offenders behind bars, but they will soon be out repeating similar offences. Offenders should be rehabilitated and inte-

grated in society by supporting systems that function as safety nets to secure their social integration. This is an example of how a complex problem should be "dissolved". Cilliers' unique contribution is that he described in a nutshell and very precisely characteristics of complex systems. Complex systems consist of millions of elements.

## CLIMATE

Climate, for example consists of millions of variables. Amongst others rainfall, topography and plants interact with each other and no one influences the other independently. Elements in a complex system interact and this interaction is dynamic.

In the aircraft industry, weather predictions are critical for passenger safety. To schedule flight plans, accurate weather predictions are needed every six hours. Weather cannot be predicted with reliability and validity, not for longer than six hours, because current models become unreliable after six hours. It is a falsification that the climate (long-term weather) can be predicted for the next fifty years. In the movie "A Convenient Truth" (2006) Al Gore made predictions until 2050. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and mainstream scientists claim these predictions are reliable. They have developed plans that are unsustainable and based on falsification. Once falsified, any scientific modelling on top of that is unreliable and not valid. Climate plans facilitate billions of US\$ that benefit thousands of scientists, environmentalists and mostly Multi-National Corporations. The issue here