Systems Thinking: Creative Holism for Managers

By Michael C. Jackson

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Too often, today's managers are sold simple solutions to complex problems. But as many soon discover, simplicity is rarely effective in the face of complexity, change and diversity. Despite apparent promise, quick-fix panaceas fail because they are not holistic or creative enough. They focus on parts of the organization rather than the whole, take little account of interaction, and pander to the notion that there is one best solution in all circumstances. As instances of such failure escalate, intelligent managers are increasingly seeking to improve results through Systems Thinking.

Whatever stage you are at in your study of Systems Thinking, this book will help. If you are new to the field then it will serve as a solid introduction. If you are familiar with a few concepts but not with how they can be linked and used by managers, then it will give you a greater understanding of how holistic ideas developed and how to use them in practice. And if you are expert in some approaches but not in others, then it will expand your knowledge and provide you with more choice. In all cases you will achieve competency in creative holism, emerge better equipped to solve complex problems, and ultimately become a more effective Systems Thinking manager.

"It's neat, easy to read and easy to absorb... It is a boon to students and executives alike.."

J P. von Gigch in Systems research and Behavioural Science

" … excellent summary of the latest research findings and … very clear explanations and accessibility"

"No other recent book in the systems field aims for such an accessible and at the same time rigorous interpretation of the major developments of systems theory"

D. Petkov in Journal of the Operational Research Society

"As far as I can tell there is no other book that includes all the major developments in systems thinking over the last fifty years"

Misha Hebel (Amazon Review)

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Editorial Review

Review
"Provides an excellent guide and introduction to systems thinking for students of management."
(Professional Manager, March 2004)

"...a very important contribution to the management and systems literature for its excellent blend of rigor and relevance..." (Review in the Journal of the Operational Research Society, Vol 56 2005)

From the Inside Flap
Systems Thinking is holistic. Its focus is on ensuring that the parts of the organization function properly together to serve the needs of the whole. It is also creative, because its development has produced a range of approaches that can be used in powerful combinations. Indeed, being systemic increasingly means resolving problems from multi-viewpoints and using multi-techniques. Placing a central emphasis on such 'creative holism', this groundbreaking book draws on a host of examples to cover the development, implementation and integration of all major systems approaches:

Hard Systems Thinking

System Dynamics

Organizational Cybernetics

Complexity Theory

SAST

Interactive Planning

Soft Systems Methodology

Critical Systems Heuristics

Team Syntegrity

Postmodern Systems Thinking

Total Systems Intervention

Critical Systems Practice

From the Back Cover
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Timothy Brown:

Hey guys, do you desires to finds a new book to learn? May be the book with the title Systems Thinking: Creative Holism for Managers suitable to you? Typically the book was written by renowned writer in this era. The particular book untitled Systems Thinking: Creative Holism for Managersis one of several books that everyone read now. That book was inspired a number of people in the world. When you read this publication you will enter the new shape that you ever know ahead of. The author explained their plan in the simple way, and so all of people can easily to comprehend the core of this guide. This book will give you a large amount of information about this world now. To help you to see the represented of the world within this book.

Robert Wallace:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book might be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the book untitled Systems Thinking: Creative Holism for Managers can be great book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

Marcela Beach:

The particular book Systems Thinking: Creative Holism for Managers has a lot info on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was published by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research before write this book. This book very easy to read you will get the point easily after reading this article book.

Timothy Kahle:

In this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability in doing something more are more special than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple approach to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time not much but quite enough to possess a look at some books. One of several books in the top listing in your reading list is Systems Thinking: Creative Holism for Managers. This book that is certainly qualified as The Hungry Slopes can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking way up and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

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