

The Communicative Development Model



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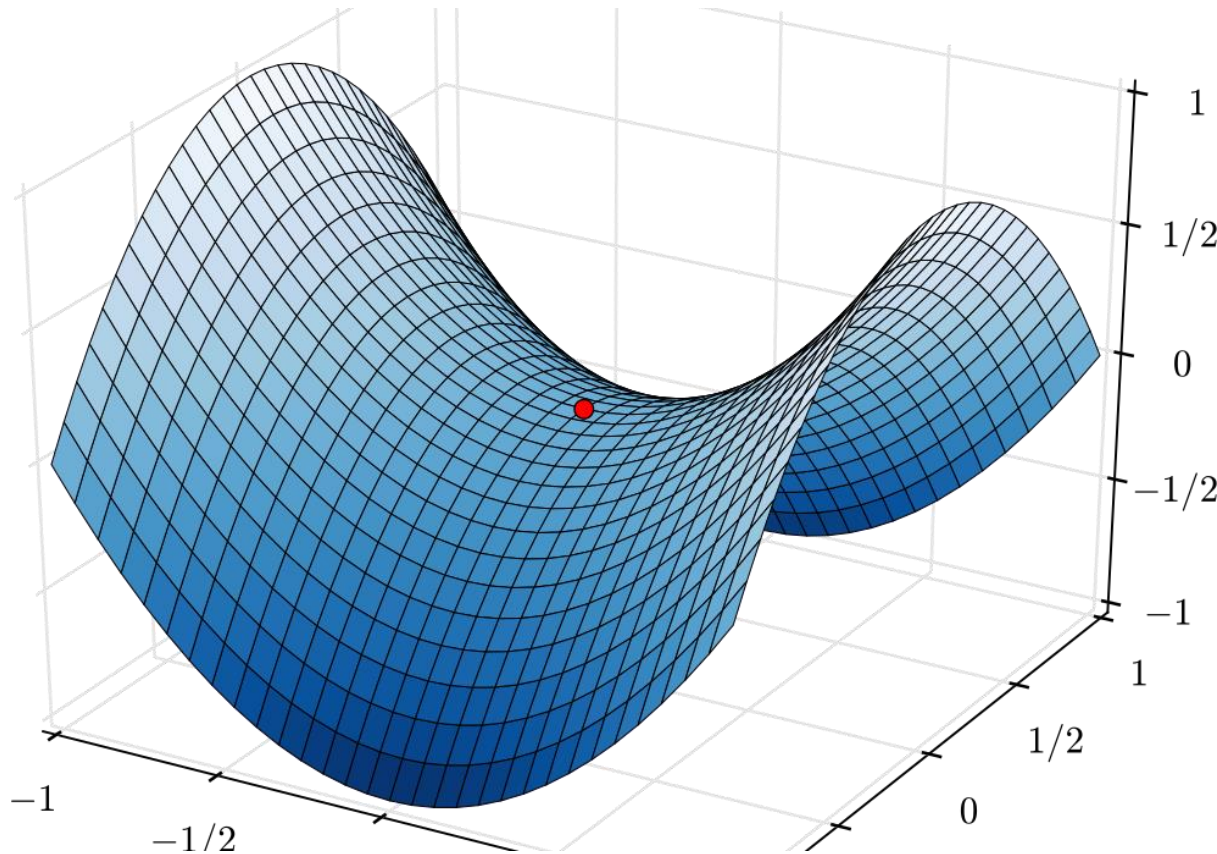
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«Saddle point stabilities»



"Saddle point stabilities" refers to dynamical systems, (usually systems of difference or differential equations), where the system has a fixed point, and there exists a single trajectory that leads to the fixed point. It follows that from a mathematical point of view these systems are in reality unstable.

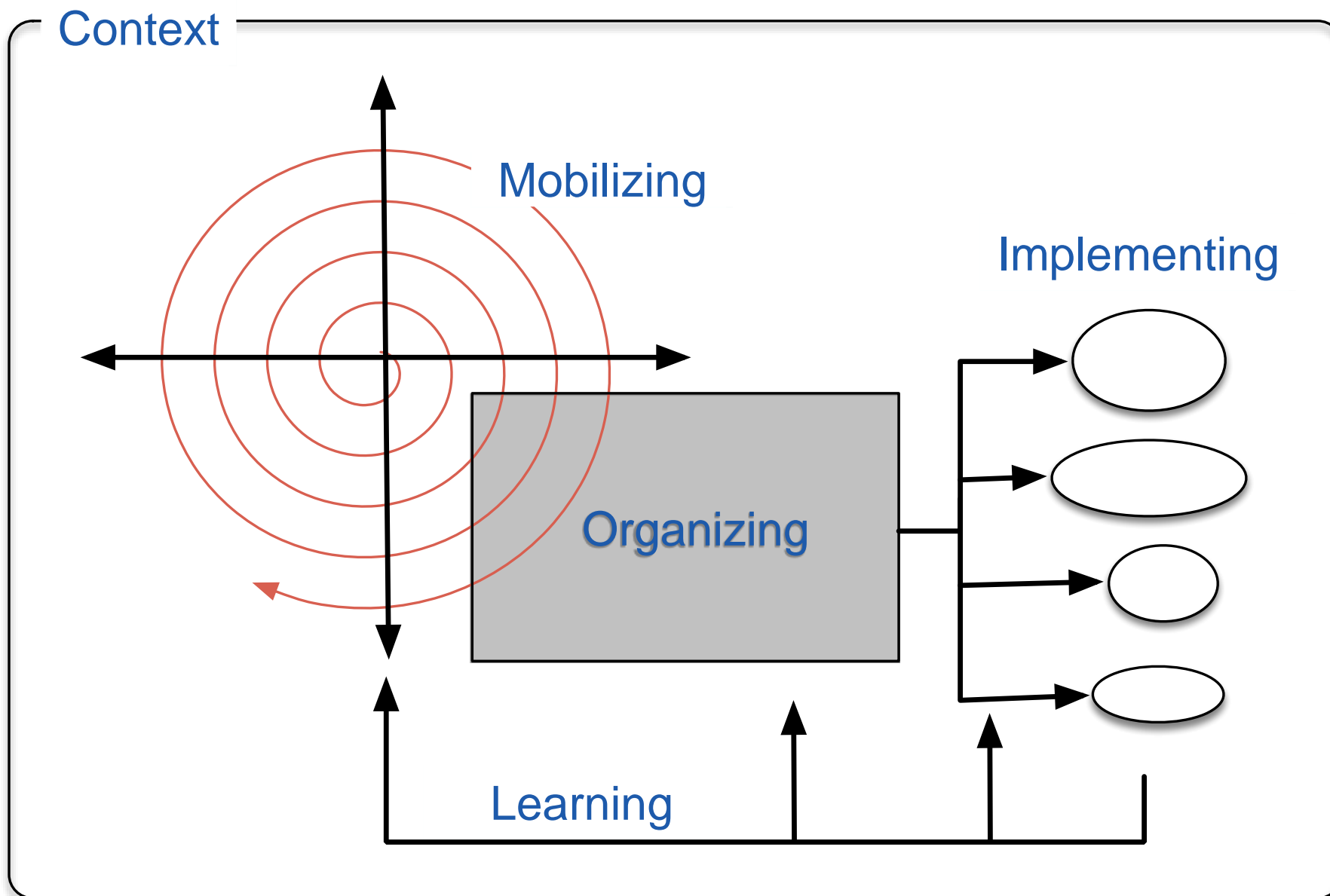
Amdam og Amdam

- Legacy: tools to use in local community development
- Conceptual model. Focus on structure and process rather than immediate results

The Community Development Model

Not to explain/determine, rather to build understanding

- *Simple framework to describe essential aspects*
- *Point at decisive traits that will be present, and work systematically with them to learn how they **may** interact*
- "Variabler og verktøy i samfunnsplanlegginga" (R. Amdam og J. Barstad, 1992) og
- «Planlegging som handling» (R. Amdam, 2005, 2009, 2011)
- With good results used in variuos real-life situations.



Five variables

Built around five variables* that experience has shown are present and important in local development situations:

- **Mobilisation** (How to empower participants to act)
- **Organisation** (How to structure and organize the process)
- **Implementation** (How to do what must be done)
- **Learning or evaluation** (How is knowledge/experience taken care of and nurtured)
- **Context** (Assets, frame-conditions etc. The setting in which it takes place)

Is the chosen phrase, might be more appropriate with 'items'

Mobilization

Activation to Action to promote own/common interests can be stimulated through strengthening of common understanding of possibilities and challenges for how to reach common goals.

- This calls for a focus on what are the important structures and processes, connections between local and higher levels and to clarify how to work to influence on these.

Creation of knowledge and support around your own resources (Assets) thus becomes instrumental in mobilizing.

- Experience has taught us that even if such can be (positively) stimulated, it generally takes (long) time before mobilization generates enough strength to create 'big changes'.

But – what we do know is that successful mobilizing processes contribute toward improved understanding of what needs to be changed, thus it has impetus to initiate real processes for organizational changes

Organization

I.e. the establishment and/or change of temporary as well as permanent structures

- To promote participants interests and
- To be responsible for the production of goods and services and
- The implementation of activities and projects.

To establish 'responsible organisational structures' often becomes a necessary (but difficult) follow-up of successful mobilization!

Harmony is often listed as a goal between local organisations and their surroundings

Still, conflicts are unavoidable! Different actors have different intentions, and accepting they may cross each other is necessary.

Conflict-management must thus be the ideal. This implicates a continuous process-view on the situation

Implementation

I.E that actors have/are given the power (resources, capacity and tools) to follow up on their decisions, changes, activities etc., to ensure the implementation as much as possible corresponds with visions and strategies

One actor alone seldom has the power/strength to carry out all her planned activities. MUST cooperate.

Power to implement in practice often is shared among several actors who thus become depending on each other to achieve their aspirations.

This often can be handled through explicit descriptions of the actions needed with reference to who controls what and what for them to do (Action-contracts)

Learning (Evaluation)

Changes in attitudes and activities is aimed for. This implicates an understanding of how they 'are' and how they may be changed (= evaluation).

- Evaluative processes must disclose knowledge about actions, attitudes and activities in a way that brings forward 'new learning' that may be the foundation of new action, nudging of present practice and the need to carry out more fundamental upheavals.

For all communities, organisations and actors, it is useful to continuously collect and evaluate experience with how things are, for a continuous feed-back of suggestions for improvement to happen.

- Continuous reflection is necessary to be able to provide insight and keep 'the process on its toes' at all times (enabling the learning processes that support, improve and adjust).

Contextual

Remember: the variables are non-linear and changing (for all practical aspects)

They do influence on/with each other in 'mysterious ways', thus they may become 'entities driven by/through themselves (= dangerous!!).

- Continuous processes demands for the variables to be 'stable' or growing over time. This means we need to know what they are and how they work/change).

Still, accomplishing this is in itself not enough!

- The macro-powers, the things at work outside of our reach are generally so much stronger than the ones we control in our project!
- Thus is needed a cooperative attitude towards these 'outside forces'. I.e. Authorities at different levels, economic trends and structures, social trends, traditions etc. etc.

'This model' in particular points at factors, issues, 'things', that are essential, without stating

- Which of them are the main movers&shakers to get the desired effect (in detail)
- Or how one may structure it all in order to achieve the optimal allocation of tasks and assets.

Main message is that optimal (or 'good') allocation always is depending on achieving the **best possible understanding** of:

What are the forces in action

What describes them

How are they interconnected (acting together)

Who has influence on them etc

Has to be tailored to the factual situation we are in now (and now, and now, and now.... To repeat the need for being continuously on the alert 😊)