

Critical Systems Thinking as a Framework for Systemic Governance Analysis: an approach to the Governance Challenges of Northern Australia

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Governing the multiple 'norths' within northern Australia



Map 1: Northern Australia
(LNP, 2013)

Map 2: Indigenous language
areas of Northern Australia.
Adapted from (Horton, 1996)



Stephens, A, et al. (forthcoming)
'Identifying tensions in the
development of northern
Australia: Implications for
Governance' *Journal of Economic
and Social Policy*.

Governance for multiplicities...

- ◆ Critical Systems Thinking (Flood, 2010)
 - ◆ *Systems thinking*
 - ◆ *Critical awareness*
 - ◆ *Theoretical complementarity*
 - ◆ *Social awareness*
 - ◆ *Methodological complementarity*
 - ◆ *Human emancipation*
- ◆ Systemic Intervention (Midgely, 2000)
 - ◆ Boundary Critique of knowledge and power

Governance Systems Analysis

- ◆ A proven approach to supporting healthy governance systems in northern Australia (Dale, 2013; Potts, 2014),
- ◆ Beyond structural-functionalism:
 - ◆ Inter-relatedness and emergence
 - ◆ Change and transformation
 - ◆ Social awareness and Human emancipation
 - ◆ Critical awareness: enabling pluralism (worldviews and knowledges)
- ◆ ‘Interoperability’ with overt processes of governance

CRN Northern Research Futures: Governance work

- ◆ Chapter to demonstrate the theoretical work of the CRN NRF group on governance,
 - ◆ Honing a CST-informed version of GSA
 - ◆ Developing a theoretical and practical approach to governance that:
 - ◆ Engages with multiplicity and difference
 - ◆ Alert to power relations
 - ◆ Recognizes that effective outcomes require ethical modes of engagement