

Integrative Propositional Analysis Reading List

Integrative Propositional Analysis (IPA) is a method for integrating and improving theories, models, policies, programs, and laws based on the structure of the understanding (explanation, logic) behind them. The publications below detail the academic research behind IPA, instructions on how to apply it, examples, and software/tools that can facilitate diagramming theories for analysis.

* Publications marked with “*” are freely available at the links below. The other publications may require a fee to access. If you are affiliated with a university, you may be able to access these at no charge through your institution’s library.

Academic Research behind IPA

Wallis, S. (2015). The science of conceptual systems: A progress report.
Foundations of Science (in press).

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10699-015-9425-z>

This paper provides a brief history of the science of conceptual systems and suggests directions for extending the research. The author opens a conversation asking how this line of research might be extended to gain new insights and develop more useful and generally accepted methods for creating and evaluating theory. This will support our ability to generate theory that is more effective in practical application.

Wallis, S. (2015). Structures of logic in policy and theory: Identifying sub-systemic bricks for investigating, building, and understanding conceptual systems.
Foundations of Science, 20 (3), 213-231.

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10699-014-9360-4>

This paper presents an overview of the expanding field for gaining new insights into theories and policies by understanding and increasing their systemic structure. Next, it delves into the structures of logic underlying those theories and policies, focusing on five structures of “causal logic.” The results suggest a more useful approach to understanding our conceptual systems such as theory and policy.

* Wallis, S.E. & Wright, B. (September, 2014). *Strategic Planning 3.0. Meaningful Evidence*, LLC.

<http://meaningfulevidence.com/skm>

This paper describes three levels of strategic planning and how each supports nonprofit and business leaders to make effective decisions. The third generation is “Strategic Planning 3.0.” In this level, more data and more collaboration combine to develop better strategic knowledge maps, and those maps encourage the development of new knowledge and support collaboration. The reference list includes several research articles.

* Wallis, S.E. & Wright, B. (September, 2014). *The Science of Conceptual Systems: Its History and Usefulness for Improved Decision-Making and Organizational Success*. Meaningful Evidence, LLC.

<http://meaningfulevidence.com/skm>

This paper presents a deeper look at the academic research on the science of conceptual systems. Conceptual systems is a general term for theories, policies, strategic plans, and models. This paper presents the science of conceptual systems: its roots in history; its decades of development; its recent advances; and its usefulness today to support effective decision-making for organizational success.

Wallis, S. (2014). *Abstraction and insight: Building better conceptual systems to support more effective social change*. *Foundations of Science*. 19 (4), 353-362.

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10699-014-9344-4>

Creating theory to understand or implement change at the social and/or organizational level includes a process of abstraction. This paper explores one way we work with abstractions, placing new emphasis on the relationship between abstract concepts. It suggests that a better theory is one that is constructed of concepts that are on a similar level of abstraction.

Wallis, S. (2014). *Evaluating explanations through their conceptual structures*. Chapter in *Modes of Explanation: Affordances for Action and Prediction*. (M. Lissack and A. Graber, Eds.). Palgrave MacMillan.

http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1057%2F9781137403865_15

This chapter provides a conceptual overview without delving into the technical details of this emerging field. It explains how scholars often discuss concepts and conceptual systems without understanding conceptual structures from a systemic perspective (the science of conceptual systems). This, for systems thinkers, is highly problematic!

Instructions on How to Apply IPA

* Wallis, S.E. *Basics of IPA*. Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies/Fulbright Specialist Program.

<http://meaningfulevidence.com/publications>

In this handout, you will learn the place of Integrative Propositional Analysis (IPA) in research, the basics of how to use IPA for analyzing conceptual systems (theories and policy models), and benefits for improving theories and models.

* Wallis, S.E. & Wright, B. (September, 2014). *Strategic Knowledge Mapping for Improved Policy and Strategic Planning*. Meaningful Evidence, LLC.

<http://meaningfulevidence.com/skm>

This paper tells how to create a Strategic Knowledge Map (SKM), a new approach for improving the success of organizations. It covers what a SKM is, approaches to creating SKMs, how to determine and improve the usefulness of your SKM, and how an SKM supports success.

Examples of IPA

Example: Bill before United States Congress

* Wallis S., Wright B. (2016). *Integrative Propositional Analysis: The Missing Link for Creating More Effective Laws*. *The Science of Laws Journal*, 2, 10-15.

<http://www.scienceoflaws.org/common/getfile.aspx/492928>

Historically, the development of theories, policies, models, and laws have not been met with great success. This paper briefly presents a stream of research for evaluating conceptual systems (including theories, policies, models, and laws), culminating with Integrative Propositional Analysis (IPA). We use IPA to evaluate a bill before the United States Congress as an example for how IPA may assist with objectively evaluating and improving laws before they are implemented.

Example: Entrepreneurship theories

* Wright, B. & Wallis, S.E. (2015). *Using Integrative Propositional Analysis for Evaluating Entrepreneurship Theories*. *SAGE Open*, 5(3).

<http://sgo.sagepub.com/content/5/3/2158244015604190>

Studies have noted that a proliferation of disparate theories of entrepreneurship makes finding it difficult for entrepreneurship teachers, practitioners, and researchers to find the best theory to teach, encourage, and apply. This study used Integrative Propositional Analysis to assess and integrate nine entrepreneurship theories across disciplines. Several insights emerged that educators, entrepreneurs, and researchers can use to collaboratively integrative theories from research and experience, to provide entrepreneurs with the knowledge they need to succeed.

Example: Theories of conflict

Wallis, S. (2015). Are theories of conflict improving? Using propositional analysis to determine the structure of conflict theories over the course of a century. *E:CO – Emergence: Complexity and Organizations*, 17(4).

<https://journal.emergentpublications.com/article/are-theories-of-conflict-improving/>

Using Propositional Analysis (PA) to investigate changes in structure of theories of conflict over a century, this study showed that our theories are not evolving toward a higher level of structure. These results suggest a new understanding as to why the field of conflict theory has not increased in relevance and usefulness. This suggests new directions for accelerating the improvement of theories of conflict.

Example: Competing economic policies

Wallis, S. (2013). How to Choose Between Policy Proposals: A Simple Tool Based on Systems Thinking and Complexity Theory. *E:CO – Emergence: Complexity and Organizations*, 15(3).

<http://connection.ebscohost.com/c/articles/90619665/how-choose-between-policy-proposals-simple-tool-based-systems-thinking-complexity-theory>

This paper demonstrates a relatively simple method to measure the structure (complexity and co-causal relationships) of competing economic policies put forth by political parties. The results show clear differences between the policies that are not visible through other forms of analysis. Thus, this method serves as a powerful simple tool that can empower the public and organizations to increase their influence on the policy process.

Example: Economic policy, military policy, and constitutional organizations

Wallis, S. (2011). *Avoiding Policy Failure: A Workable Approach*. Litchfield Park, AZ: Emergent Publications, ISBN: 978-0-9842165-0-5.

This book presents an innovative yet workable approach to objectively choose the best policy from two (or more) competing alternatives. Specific examples are provided that compare successful policies with ones that have failed in economic policy, military policy, and constitutional organizations. The book shows scholars, researchers, and policy analysts how to develop more effective policies.

Example: System of ethics

Wallis, S. (2010). Developing effective ethics for effective behavior. *Social Responsibility Journal*, 6 (4).

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/pdfplus/10.1108/17471111011083428>

This paper investigated the internal structure of Gandhi's ethics to show why ethics such as his have not changed the world and how we might develop improved ethics for influencing behavior. The form of analysis presented in the paper provides a way for practitioners to compare (and so, advance) systems of ethics. The paper also suggests the opportunity to compare the internal structure of ethics with "external" aspects—the implementation of ethical systems.

Example: Alcohol and drug policies

* **Wallis, S. (2010).** *Toward the development of more robust policy models.* *Integral Review*, 6 (1), 153-177.

http://www.integral-review.org/issues/vol_6_no_1_wallis_toward_the_development_of_more_robust_policy_models.pdf

This paper uses propositional analysis to compare two policy models developed by the Scottish Parliament for a project on reducing damage from drug use. The structure of each model was analyzed to determine its complexity and robustness. The more robust policy was expected to be more effective in application.

Software/Tools to Facilitate IPA

* **Wright, B., Rostami, A., & Lewis, L. (2016).** *Tools for Mapping Your Strategic Plan.* Meaningful Evidence, LLC.

<http://meaningfulevidence.com/strategic-mapping-kit>

This guide tells about 1) low-tech tools that are often useful for visualizing your strategic plan, 2) details on five software/online tools that we've found to be helpful for making and explaining your map (including free/low-cost options), and 3) links to many additional software/online tools.