Social Systems Thinking as three perspectives: socio-psychological, socio-technical, socio-ecological

[... the] socio-psychological, the socio-technical and the socio-ecological perspectives ... emerged from each other in relation to changes taking place in the wider social environment. One could not have been forecast from the others. Though interdependent, each has its own focus. Many of the more complex projects require all three perspectives. [Trist & Murray 1997, p. 30]

Socio-psychological

... in Institute projects, the psychological forces are are directed towards the social field, whereas in the the Clinic, it is the other way around [with social forces directed toward the psychological field].

[Trist & Murray 1997, p. 31]

Social-technical

... the best match between the social and technical systems of an organization, since called the principle of joint optimization

... the second design principle, the redundancy of functions, as contrasted with the redundancy of parts.

[Trist & Murray 1997, p. 32]

Socio-ecological

... the context of the increasing levels of interdependence, complexity and uncertainty that characterize societies a the present time.

... new problems related to emergent values such as cooperation and nurturance.

[Trist & Murray 1997, p. 33]

Directive correlation; Social Systems Thinking

t_0 player sees ball	t_k player kicks ball	end
Case (a): Action adapted to ball		
	Action$_k$	
Ball$_0$	Ball$_k$	Goal
Case (b): Ball is adapted to action		
Action$_0$	Action$_k$	
	Ball$_k$	Goal

Social Systems Thinking

person

machines

socio-psychological

socio-technical

social organization

socio-ecological

contextual field

environment (for the system of interest)