Chapter	Perspectives	Strengths	Limitations
2. Mechanization Takes Command: Organizations as Machines	 Actions preplanned, tasks observed and evaluated Military -> mass production -> computers Bureaucracy, scientific management 	• Works on straight- forward tasks, environment stable, product repeatable, precision at premium, people compliant	 Difficult adapting, mindless bureaucracy, interests of individual over org, dehumanizing
3. Nature Intervenes: Organizations as Organisms	 Open systems Adapting to environment Org life cycles Influencing health and development Different species of orgs Species related to ecology 	 Processes in environments Needs, goals, ends Different org species Organic innovation Ecology, interorg relations 	 Misses social construction Not functionally unified, harmony Becoming ideology
4. Learning and Self-Organization: Organizations as Brains	 Learning orgs, flexible, resilient, inventive as brain Distributed intelligence and control for self-org 	 Ability innovate and evolve to changes Requirements, pathologies, designs 	 Metaphors to holograms, DNA Conflicts with self- org
5. Creating Social Reality: Organizations as Cultures	 Knowledge, ideology, values, laws, rituals Traditions from Britain, Japan, etc. 	 Preserves rationality, legitimizes objectivity Shows shared systems of meaning Org-environment relation constructed 	 Good / bad culture success? Ideological manipulation? Only snapshots?
6. Interests, Conflict and Power: Organizations as Political Systems	 Shadowy figures on throne, succession? Autocracy, bureaucracy, technocracy, democracy Interests, power, control 	 Recognizes rational for some, not others Disintegrative strains Sociopolitical implications, rights 	 See agendas hidden where there are none Breeds mistrust Plurality, classes
7. Exploring Plato's Cave: Organizations as Psychic Prisons	 Trapped in imperfect grasp of the world Unconscious Freudian Patriarchy, death, shadow 	 Personal balanced with integration Ethics, defense mechanisms 	 Unconscious vs. explicit ideology Liberation -> utopian critique
8. Unfolding Logics of Change: Organizations as Flux and Transformation	 Autopoiesis, complexity + chaos, cybernetics, dialectical tensions Attractors, bifurcation, emergence, feedback 	 Recognizing paradox contradictions merits Mobilizing desirable, minimizing negative 	 Innovation creates basis for own downfall Could unleash destructive spiral
9. The Ugly Face: Organizations as Instruments of Domination	 Imposing will on others Primary labor as human capital, secondary as dispensable Work hazards, mental stress -> radicalization 	 Theory for the exploited, perceived and actual Occurs by default or by design? 	 Dilemma rock and hard place -> paralysis Non-domination possible



2020/02/25 SystemsThinkingTO, Gareth Morgan (2006) Images of Organization - Case Study



