

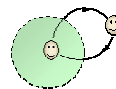
in organic research

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This presentation is at <http://www.orgprints.org/archive/00000292>

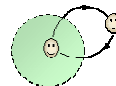
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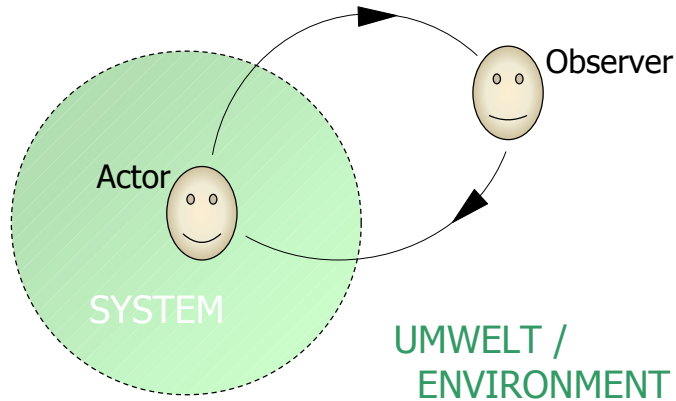
Key points

- A systemic science is a science that influences its own subject area
- Research is an important actor in the development of organic agriculture
- In order to do good systemic research, science needs to be able to handle values

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The self-reflexive learning cycle in systemic research



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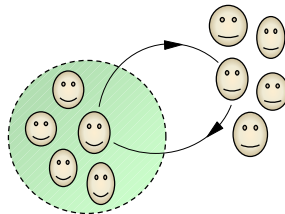


See <http://www.orgprints.org/archive/00000005/>

Communicating values

Decide on values to be employed in ...

Reveal the values embedded in ...



- the identification of problems
- the design of methods and experiments
- model assumptions

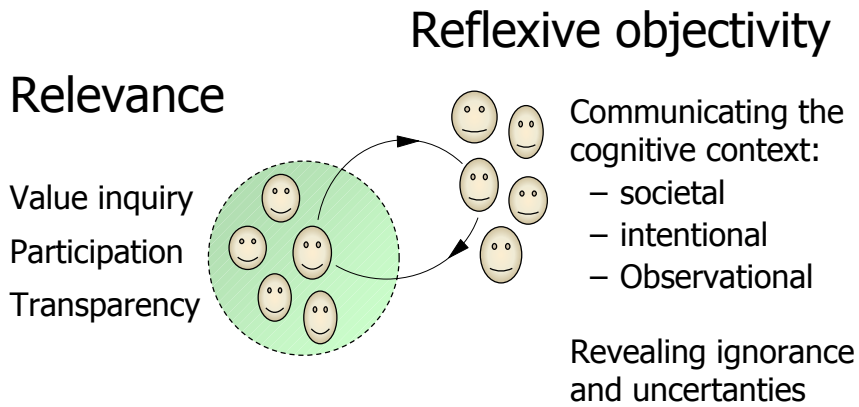
• the use of concepts

- Sustainability
- Food quality
- Soil quality
- Nature quality
- Animal welfare
- Farm well-being
- Rural development
- Human well-being

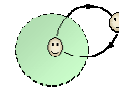
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Criteria for doing good science



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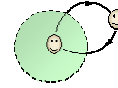


Examples

- Knowledge syntheses
- Scenarios for an all-organic Denmark
- Normative principles for organic agriculture
- Criteria for evaluation of organic research
- Organic Eprints

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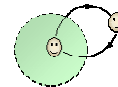


Knowledge syntheses

Before initiating research projects - in areas where there is a lack of clarity of problems, concepts, etc.

- Nitrate leaching
- Health and welfare in milk production
- Nature quality
- Pig production
- Organic seed production
- Consequences of GMO production
- Energy use

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Different views of nature quality

Separative:

**Man separate
from nature**

Controlled, ordered
cultivated nature

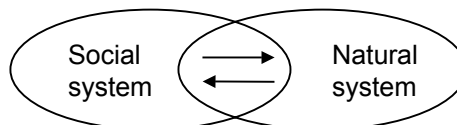
*Culturist
view of nature*

Wild, authentic,
uncontrolled nature

*Naturalist
view of nature*

Systemic:

**Human a part
of nature**

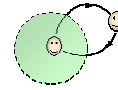


Ecologist view of nature

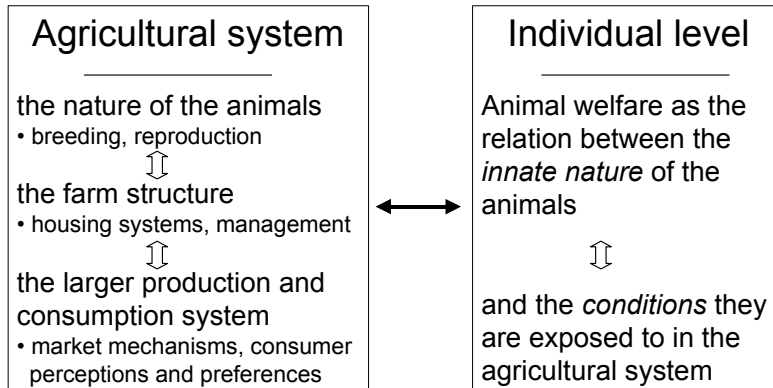
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See e.g. <http://www.orgprints.org/archive/00000010/>



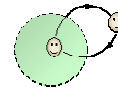
A systems view of animal welfare



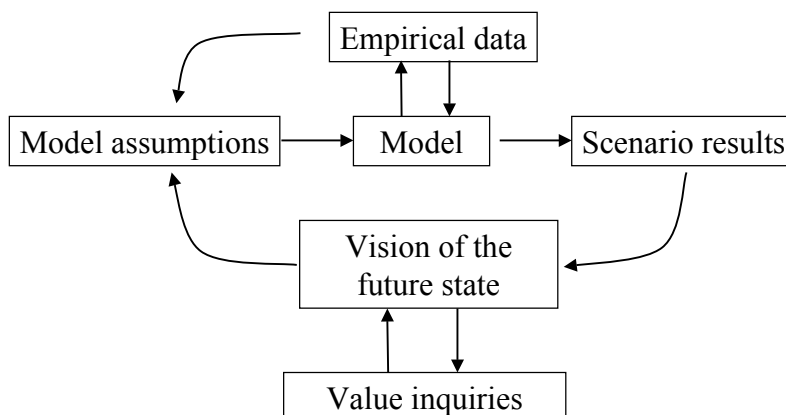
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See <http://alroe.dk/hugo/papers/orgwelfa.html>



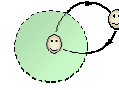
All-organic scenarios for Denmark



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See <http://www.orgprints.org/archive/00000209>



Three normative principles



Ecological
principle

- Human integrated part of nature
- • Cooperation with nature
- Emulation of natural processes



Precautionary
principle

- Scientific knowledge is limited
- • Stop unforeseeable technology
- Cleaner and safer technology



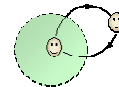
Nearness
principle

- First hand experience important
- • Communicative experience
- Transparency and participation

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See also <http://www.darcof.dk/discuss/index.html>

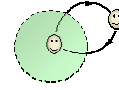


Evaluation criteria for organic research

- Quality of research process
(following and adjusting plans, cooperation, etc.)
- Number and quality of different research products
(papers, public meetings, etc.)
- Reflexive objectivity
(e.g. how context and values are handled)

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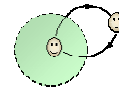
Organic Eprints

Organic Eprints is an electronic, open access archive for papers related to organic agriculture.

<http://www.orgprints.org>

A discussion on context and values can take place by way of linking comments to papers.

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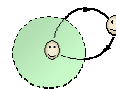


Conclusion

- Values and context should play a key role in systemic research
- Hence the criterion of reflexive objectivity
- Questions to research in organic farming:
 - Does it employ values that correspond with the spirit of the organic movement?
 - Should it always?

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More information

- My workpage -- [http:// www.alroe.dk/hugo](http://www.alroe.dk/hugo)
- DARCOF -- <http://www.darcof.dk>
- Organic Eprints -- <http://www.orgprints.org>

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