



What are the implications of complexity for policymaking and administration?

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**What does complexity mean in relation to
policymaking and administration?**

Does it mean complicated?

For some, it describes complex systems:

1. Interdependence.
2. Positive and negative feedback.
3. Sensitivity to initial conditions.
4. Strange attractors.
5. Emergence.

Problem 1 - The tension between a focus on requirement versus reality when we seek concrete meaning

Problem 2 - The lack of central control and a lack of coordinative capacity; the system is not so amenable

Problem 3 – Let go or hold on?



Problem 4 – What is systems thinking?

High control:

1. See problems differently.
2. Engage in holistic policymaking.
3. Turn chaos into order.
4. Find the right levers to make a disproportionate impact.

Low control:

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1. Develop the humility to accept your limits.
 2. Adapt to the limits of government control.
 3. Anticipate emergence (complex policy mixes).



Q&A and discussion

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