**Leveraging Systems Thinking in Social Work/Other Social Sciences Curriculum**

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### Why Integrate Systems Thinking in Social Work Education?
- Increasing exposure of Systems Thinking to more students, faculty, and community members.
- Make Systems Thinking more accessible for students and spread within the community.
- Gateway to System Dynamics
- Integration of Systems Thinking further in the lives and careers of the students
- Supporting Social Work students in practicing Systems Thinking in tackling relevant social problems.
- Increased application of Systems Thinking by social workers within their careers.
- Increased System Dynamics/Systems Thinking Career routes for students.

### Case Studies

#### Example 1: Introduction to Social Justice (Undergraduates)

**Strategy**
- Integrated across the course
- Personalized CLDS on social issues for the final project.
- Slight exposure to leverage points
- Repeated exposure to Systems Thinking tools across the course

**Reflections**
- Generate early excitement
- Practice tool in visualizing complex issues
- Surface level (survey course)
- Lack of accessible readings
- No further exposure.

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#### Example 2: Introduction to Human Diversity (MSW)

**Strategy**
- Guest lecture on ST and SD
- Theoretical exposure to leverage points, virtuous and vicious loops within social systems
- Examples of feedback loops in social systems

**Reflections**
+ Generate early excitement
+ No “practice” of ST. Left students wanting more.

#### Example 3: Theories of Community Building (MSW)

**Strategy**
- Integrated
- Theories modelled to explain structural relationships.
- Visualization of “unintended consequences” of policies
- Repeated exposure to Systems Thinking

**Reflections**
+ Generate early excitement
+ Practice tool
+ Longer-term engagement
+ Struggle in getting students to actually create CLDS

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#### Example 4: Operationalizing Racism for Everyday Impact (Design Phase)

**Strategy**
- Integrated across the course with assignments
- Personalized CLDS on everyday racism issues
- Integration of relevant System Thinking readings
- Focused on praxis

**Reflections**
+ Stepping stone for integration across the syllabus
+ Gentle invitation for further learning
+ Pipeline for full course on Systems Thinking
+ Learning curve in simultaneous hi-flex engagement.

### Reference Modes

**Ongoing questions**

- Best practices for teaching Systems Thinking pedagogy in a hybrid format? Optimal class size for integrated experience?
- What are your experiences in integrating Systems Thinking with other courses?
- What are best practices in “teaching” systems thinking in a hybrid environment?
- What are things are avoid?