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System Dynamics Review Evolving: Myths and Facts

Myth: SDR does not anymore welcome traditional SD papers (based on SF and Causal-loop diagrams, using classical methodology developed by JWF).

Fact: There is absolutely no such inclination in the new editorial policy of SDR. As always we publish and will continue to publish papers using 'traditional SD methodology. These papers will continue to be central for SDR and the SD field (together with other modeling methods that properly implement the principles and philosophy of SD).

Myth: SDR categorically rejects papers that do not use extensive data and quantitative tools in model testing and parameter calibration.

Fact: There is no editorial policy that puts such a weight on quantitative data and measures. The policy is: The model (and/or other hypotheses in the paper) must be justified by a scientific approach and 'some sort of evidence'. The evidence can be quantitative or qualitative; it can be summarized in formulas, or shown in graphs and charts; it can consist of expert opinions, or can be demonstrated by real life success... What we don't publish are papers that just 'tell us' how good the model is and how valid the results are, without providing any justification and evidence of any kind.

Myth: SDR publishes only methodology papers, it does not welcome application or education/training papers.

Fact: There is absolutely no such policy. We indeed actively solicit application and educational papers. These papers are still peer-reviewed and must fit the relevant scientific standards, but for various reasons the review criteria can be quite different than those for methodology papers and modeling papers of 'academic' (and non-confidential) nature.

The fundamental challenge SDR faces is about increasing the number, diversity and quality of papers published. To this end, SDR strives to publish papers based on not just traditional stock-flow models, but also models using other modeling tools and methods, as long as the paper tackles a dynamic problem with an endogenous feedback (i.e. system dynamics) perspective and it is well-written. SDR invites not just methodology papers, but also application and educational papers that have this 'endogenous system dynamics' perspective.

Authors with any further questions are encouraged to read the updated Aims and Scope and Author Guide of SDR, or contact the Executive Editor.

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