



Systems Approaches to Public Service Delivery: Lessons, Questions, and Opportunities

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Systems approaches in health, educ., & infra. (1/2)

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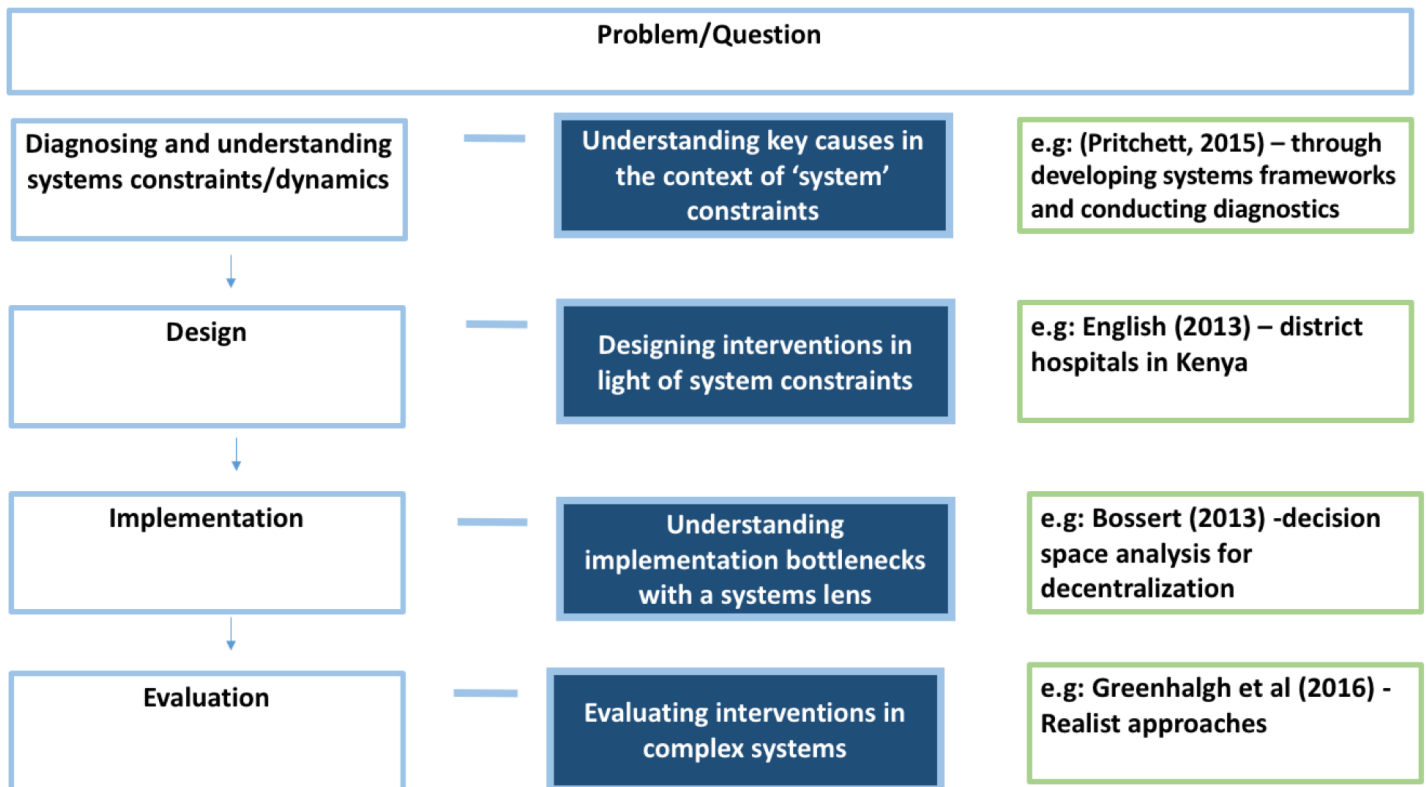
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- ▶ Influences of complexity theory
- ▶ Policy-focused and applied
- ▶ Research approaches focused on long-term local collaborations

Systems approaches in health, educ., & infra. (2/2)

Differences:

- ▶ Stage of systems research in each sector
- ▶ Disciplinary grounding, types of methodologies used
- ▶ Types of policy questions
- ▶ Implications for causality



Review Applications **Pub. mgmt. & pub. fin.** Discussion

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Increasing amount of causal research in economics & political science

- ▶ But little attention to systemic aspects, even in review papers (Finan *et al* 2015, Bandiera *et al* 2016, Finan & Dal Bo 2017)

Comparative tradition in poli. sci. & public admin.

Comparative politics shares some features with systems approaches

- ▶ Emphasis on contextual differences' effects on policy choices/outcomes, scope conditions

Similar emphases in much public administration literature:

- ▶ Research on public sector reform (Hammerschmid *et al* 2016), implementation (Pressman & Wildavsky 1974), performance management (Bouckaert & Halligan 2008)
- ▶ Sub-fields & journals on systemic topics like HRM, budgeting

Similar questions, different angles

PM/PF often asks similar questions as health/educ./infra. systems lit., but with different motivation & approach, empirics

- ▶ Motivation: for health/educ./infra., need to integrate precise-but-narrow evidence & models
- ▶ Approach: PM/PF usually inductive, rather than deductive
- ▶ e.g. ideal types & case studies, rather than causal inference

Key questions: how/when/whether to translate these rich literatures into language/logic of causal inference & systems?

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- ▶ A **complement** to narrower (quasi-)experimental studies

Today

Additional perspectives on systems approaches

- ▶ Infrastructure systems modeling
- ▶ Scaling up health care technology interventions

Information and transparency in systems of public service delivery

Panels:

- ▶ What is good evidence in systems research?
- ▶ How to organize and fund systems research?