

Applying a Method of Extended System Analysis to Country Development

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The complexity of the problems faced by scientists in the 21st century makes it necessary to rethink many current social theories and research approaches so that they will be able to support full development of the networked, knowledge-based economy and society. There are many intellectual attempts to revamp current theorizing and to improve understanding among social scientists. One of those, which provides a fundamentally new, complex vision of society through the prism of a new understanding of life, is Fritjof Capra's approach, integrating biological, cognitive and social dimensions on the basis of a theory of complexity.

This paper compares Capra's integrated conception for understanding social systems and four methods for describing systems. The paper also applies this multi-perspective approach to analyzing the changes in social and labor relations in Russia during the past 20 years of reforming the Russian economy.