

University of Oregon Systems Sciences Seminar

How to steal control of an organization: New Systems Science tools for CEOs, organizational strategists, technologists, activists and military strategists

Dr Terence Love and Dr Trudi Cooper

© 2009 T. Love & T. Cooper

Management, government, military, terrorists, activists and unionists depend on their ability to achieve power and control. Typically, they do this by several conventional and well known modes of intervention such as the application of legal or military power.

This presentation describes new and powerful systems theories and tools that offer another way that can be undertaken without other participants necessarily being aware of the interventions or the implications, or the way they play out to change the balance of power.

These new theories and tools provide a means of power and control in complex socio-technical organizations ranging from nations to small social groups. They offer a means of doing this from a position of power, from an underdog position, or from a position not institutionally involved in the organization of the situation.

The theories and tools described in the presentation provide a formal basis for making small hidden changes to systems that automatically play out over time to change the ownership of power and control.

The presentation will describe several new extensions to the work of Ashby on the Law of Requisite Variety that realign its role into social and organizational context involving power and provide a new systemic understanding of the approaches described by Nicolo Machiavelli.

These tools were developed by Dr Terence Love and Dr Trudi Cooper as part of a project investigating the role of classic systems tools in the design of highly complex socio-technical systems.