

CURRENT PERSPECTIVE # 36

UNDERSTANDING HUMAN SETTLEMENT PATTERS – AN OVERVIEW

15 June 2019

LOST IN SPACE

The importance of Functional Human Settlement patterns and of Complete, Balanced COMMUNITIES that comprise Sustainable New URban REGions is *tera incognito* to almost all citizens. (See End Note on Vocabulary and Capitalization.)

Most citizens do not yet realize that their day-to-day – as well as their long-term – economic, social and physical wellbeing are all dependent upon something about which they do not yet have any UnderStanding.

The basic reason for the lack of UnderStanding is that citizens do not have an Overarching Conceptual Framework (aka, A Unified Field Theory) with which to evolve the needed UnderStanding of Human Settlement Patterns.

The average citizen's UnderStanding of Human Settlement Patterns is akin to a giant elephant being described by a score of blind men: Everyone of them has a different perception of the beast, depending on what part of the elephant they 'touch.'

THE BASIC REALITIES

Reality One: To build an UnderStanding of Human Settlement Patterns, one must start with the UnderStanding that Human Settlement Patterns at any scale are **Complex Organic Systems**. Aristotle was the first to articulate this reality. NO ONE has disputed Reality One in over 2000 years. While Reality One is not disputed, it is ignored.

Contemporary science has demonstrated that Human Settlement Patterns are Complex Organic Systems. Fractal Geometry can be used to replicate Organic growth patterns.

If human settlement patterns are Complex Organic Systems they must follow the Natural Laws that control Organic Systems.

The numerical parameters of the Natural Laws of Organic Systems change as the organisms that make up the Systems change. The Natural Laws of Inorganic Systems do not change. These laws – gravity, geometry, magnetic fields, etc. – do not change in a stable universe (i.e. outside of Black Holes) and they also apply to Organic Systems. For example $A = \pi R^2$ and the laws of gravity apply to Organic Systems as well as Inorganic Systems.

N.B.: Before going farther a note of clarification: Chapter 4 of *THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE* does not make it clear that: Of the Five Natural Laws explored in that Chapter and summarized in Chapter 4 Box 5 only one is a Natural Law of Inorganic Systems. The first listed and termed “The First Natural Law of Human Settlement Patterns – $A = \pi R^2$ – is a Natural Law of Inorganic Systems. The other four (The Cost of Services Curve, The 10 X Rule, The 10-Person Rule and the 87 ½ Percent Rule are Natural Laws of Organic Settlement Patterns. They were derived from the dominate Human Settlement Patterns in the United States at the time *THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE* (Risse, 2000) was written.

The most important aspects of Functional Human Settlement Patterns depend on the derivation of the four Natural Laws of Organic Systems. They in turn rely on the proper functioning of the Organic Building Blocks of Human Settlement Patterns. These Components are UNits, DOoryards, CLusters, NEighborhoods and Villages. COMMunities and New URban REgions. These are the atoms, molecules, cells, tissue, organs, organisms, and communities of the Complex Organic System.

There are also components that are NOT Organic System Components. For example, SubREgions that are an agglomeration of COMMunities that have a critical mass of elements in common – the COMMunities on the North side of a major river within a New URban REgion, those COMMunities that are – or were once – in State X, etc. Citizens of the SubREgion must vote to create the entity.

Also MegaREgions are not Organic Components of Complex Organic Systems. They are made up of New URban REgions that have coterminous Logical Locations of their Clear Edges around the Core or have other strong economic, social or physical grounds for bonding. Again, citizens of New URban REgions must vote to create the MegaREgion entity.

Reality Two: The second reality is that there must be a Balance of the Core functions of human settlement patterns (Jobs / Housing / Services / Recreation / Amenity) starting with an Appropriate Balance at the NEighborhood scale, a Relative Balance at the VLllage Scale and a Functional Balance at the COmmunity Scale.

The parameters of Balance have changed dramatically over the last 566 years (navigation technology and emergence of natural sciences, etc.) and especially over the last 245 years (spinning frames, power looms, cotton gins, mechanical reapers, steam boats, railroads, elevators, steel and glass buildings, HVAC systems, etc.). Human settlement patterns have changed most dramatically over the past 85 years to reflect the accedence and dominance of Large Private Vehicles to achieve personal Mobility and Access.

In the last decade, the market for shelter for HouseHolds and buildings for ENterprise, AGENCY and INstitutional activities have now transformed to favor a reversion to pre-Automobile settlement patterns.

Beyond the shelter and settlement pattern markets that reflect current demographic reality, this reversion to traditional settlement patterns is driven by the cost of providing goods and Services to dysfunctionally scattered settlement patterns and the reality of a limited supply of Natural Capital on the finite planet.

THE ANATOMY OF NEW URBAN REGIONS

Walter Christaller's work in Bavaria and C A Doxiadis's work in Greece documented the interrelationships between different scale Components of URban fabric. SYNERGY expanded this work based on the experience living in and providing professional guidance in the development of large Planned New Communities and their components. This work led to the UnderStanding that:

New Urban REgions are the fundamental building block of Contemporary Civilization. Further, New Urban REgions are composed of UrbanSides and CountrySide. New URban REgions are coterminous in the United States. See *CURRENT PERSPECTIVE* # 41 forthcoming.

The Core of New Urban REgions and Large SubREgions.

Sustainable New Urban REgions are composed of conterminous, Balanced Communities within the Logical Location of The Clear Edge between the UrbanSide and the CountrySide. These are the ‘Cores’ of REgions – and of SubREgions if applicable. Some New Urban REgions have two Cores that are conterminous (e.g. Washington-Baltimore). In these cases there is a Core for each of the SubREgions.

The Countryside.

Outside The Logical Location of the Clear Edge around the Core of New Urban REgions is the CountrySide. A functional Countryside is dependent upon the existence of Balanced Urban components IN the Countryside. The CountrySide is made up of Urban Enclaves that are components of Balanced But Disaggregated COmmunities and Agrarian Neighborhoods that occupy the vast majority of the territory of the CountrySide. There may be Balanced COmmunities in the CountrySide that do not have the critical mass to be the Core of a small New URban REgion.

New Urban REgions are conterminous. The boundary between the CountrySide of New Urban REgion A and the Countryside of New Urban REgion B is determined by natural topography as well as economic, social and physical parameters.

Functional CLusters, NEighborhoods and Villages with democratic governance structures that are part of the governance structures of COmmunities and REgions are essential for the proper functioning of New Urban REgions in both the UrbanSides and in the CountrySides.

States and the municipal governance structure based on the Northwest Ordinances (1787 and 1789) have failed to evolve boundaries and governance structure to reflect economic, social and physical reality.

Achieving functional and sustainable New Urban REgions with governing structures that reflect the Organic Structure of the Human Settlement Pattern will require Profound Transformations.

Achieving Sustainable Economic Systems that support functional democratic Governance Structures will require Profound Transformations.

ON VOCABULARY AND CAPITALIZATION

In the evolution of a robust and functional Vocabulary to accurately articulate the complexity of Human Settlement Patterns, SYNERGY / E M Risse avoids the use of Core Confusing Words and attempts to create words, phrases and letter sequences that are intuitively clear in the context used.

Capitals are employed for key settlement pattern Vocabulary because words that have specific meanings must be treated like Proper Nouns to avoid confusion. Parents create new Proper Nouns on a regular basis. Within the guidelines of conventional grammar, Enterprises are free to employ all Caps, Initial Caps and interior Caps to differentiate and advertise their products and services. Why should those trying to articulate and UnderStand human settlement patterns be required to rely on confusing words and phrases and arcane rules of grammar?

Due to the fact that Capitalization survives most inter-system translations, Capitalized terms are employed when a specific definition of a word or phrase is intended. ALL CAPS are used for emphasis. This is because *italics*, underlining, **bold**, **color** and **highlighting** are often removed in software translations – e.g. different software used by email providers.

Many words, phrases and letter sequences used in SYNERGY / E M Risse communications, Perspectives and books that APPEAR to exhibit ‘irregular Capitalization’ are defined in GLOSSARY linked from the *RESOURCES* page at www.emrisse.com. The evolution continues and some have not yet been added to SYNERGY’s GLOSSARY.

In addition to consulting GLOSSARY, one can Google ‘e m risse’ followed by the word, phrase or letter sequences in question – for example ‘e m risse J / H / S / R / A’ – and find a definition and / or find the word, phrase or letter sequence used in context.

Links are provided for referenced resources. References to resources not authored by E M Risse can be located via an Internet search.

An expanded Capitalization strategy has been employed since the publication of CP # 33 (June 2014). In the past two capitals have been used within compound words with specific meanings (e.g. OpenSpace, SubRegional, etc.) to focus attention on the exact meaning of these terms.

As noted in Appendix Two of *THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE*, there are some confusing words for which there is no good substitute in English. In the past the words Unit, Cluster, Neighborhood, Village, Community, Region and Regional have been capitalized. In CP # 33 and subsequent publications, a double capital is used to start a word – e.g. UNit, CLuster, NEighborhood, VillAge, COmmunity, REgion, REgional. Also additional words will be given an interior Capital (e.g. HouseHold) as the need arises.

NB: This is a trial and feedback is requested. Please DO NOT provide negative feedback UNLESS you also provide an alternative strategy to evolve a functional Vocabulary. The continued use of Core Confusing Words and UnCapitalized words – especially for the organic components of human settlement – is NOT an acceptable response.

If one does not find the avoidance of Core Confusing Words and Capitalization to indicate precisely defined Vocabulary useful to articulate a comprehensive Conceptual Framework for human settlement patterns, they are welcome to create your own system to achieve UnderStanding in the context of Awareness => Interest => UnderStanding => Informed Action with respect to human settlement patterns.

However: Do not be deluded into thinking that you will achieve Understanding much less Informed Action using an inadequate Vocabulary which triggers Unfounded and Conflicting Neural Linguistic Frameworks that reflect Disorienting Naive Reality founded on Primitive Genetic Proclivities.