Complexity Science and Social Entrepreneurship
Adding Social Value through Systems Thinking

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Jeffrey A Goldstein, James K Hazy, Joyce Silberstang. This ground-breaking volume explores social entrepreneurship from the perspective of complexity science and systems thinking. Case studies, models, simulations, and theoretical papers advance both theory and practice, providing an innovative and comprehensive look at these dynamic topics. Written by complexity theorists, international development practitioners, and experts in a variety of other disciplines, this must-have book is mandatory reading for everyone interested in this newly developing field. show more.
In this chapter the main argument is that social entrepreneurship can be reframed as a combination of network theory and agent-based models, and it is a source of social capital accumulation. Social entrepreneurship (SE) is an emerging field of practice; however, the underlying theory has not been well defined. Insights from complexity theory (CT) have provided novel insights into human organizations and, more recently, into the structure of theory. A complexity science-based model for social innovation in social enterprises is presented. The three components of the model include: (1) representing the evolution of social innovation using nonlinear dynamical systems with accompanying parameters and attractors; (2) a cusp catastrophe model of bifurcation or the emergence of a new attractor; (3) the role of emergence in complex systems.
This groundbreaking volume explores social entrepreneurship from the perspective of complexity science and systems thinking. Case studies, models, simulations, and theoretical papers advance both theory and practice, providing an innovative and comprehensive look at these dynamic topics. Complexity Science and Social Entrepreneurship. Specifications. Series Title. Exploring Organizational Complexity. Publisher. Isce Publishing. The chapter shows that, in the last two decades, several scholars adopted the chaos and complexity sciences as important perspectives in the social sciences and especially in management sciences, small business and entrepreneurship.

The 21st century seems marked by a gain of entrepreneurship as an important social (societal) and economic phenomenon driving economic growth and development of a country; as an emerging field of research in quest of scientific consensus among research community, and as an academic and teaching subject promoting a paradigm shifting in education and training at university (Davidsson, 2003; Gibb, 2002a; 2002b; Fayolle, 2007). Entrepreneurship has become a “burning issue” for everybody and everywhere. Social entrepreneurship combines the resourcefulness of traditional entrepreneurship with a mission to change society. One social entrepreneur, Ibrahim Abouleish, recently received the bAlternative Nobel PrizeQ for his Sekem initiative; in 2004, e-Bay founder Jeff Skoll donated 4.4 million pounds to set up a social entrepreneurship research center; and many social entrepreneurs have mingled with their business counterparts at the World Economic Forum in Davos. Often, the complexity, scale, and scope of the world’s environmental and social problems and challenges seem overwhelming, tempting us to resign ourselves and doubt the capabilities of our institutions to improve things.