

# ABM and the Dutch Policy world

UU Social Simulations Lecture 16-5-2019









### Alexander Melchior

#### Civil servant

- @Dutch Ministries of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy (EZK) & Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV)
- CIO-Office: responsible for everything related it "I"(e.g. Information, ICT) on a strategic level
- Involved with the AI, transparency, and data driven policy development
- Personal aim to bring academia and policy development closer together

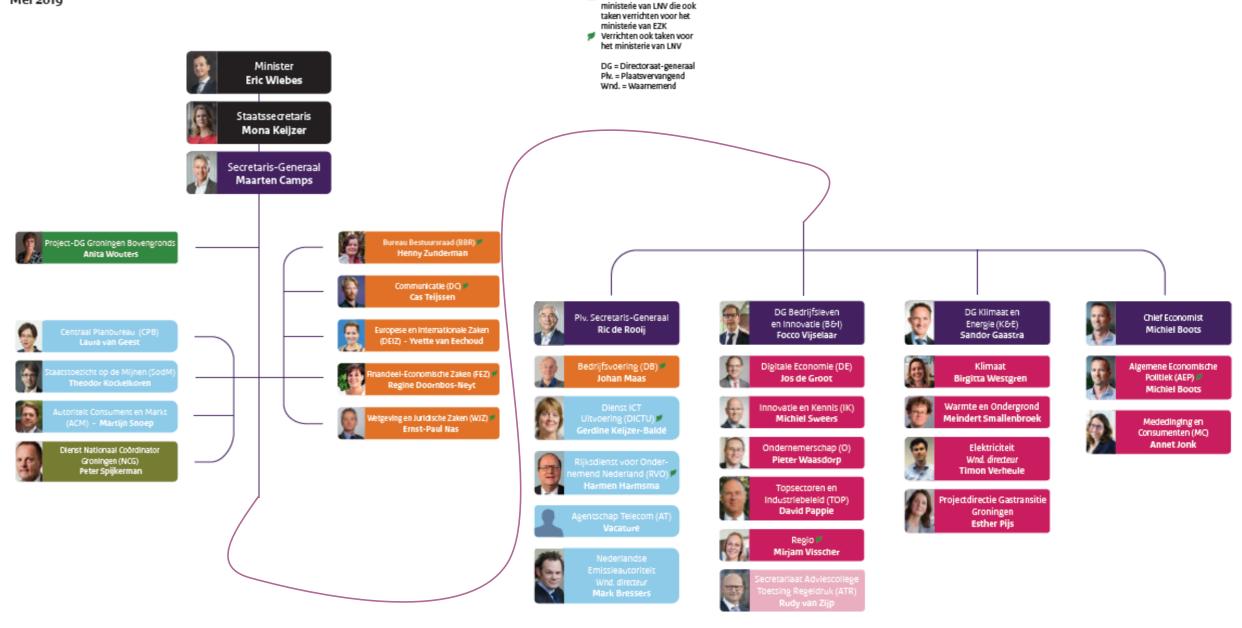
#### PhD Researcher

- @UU, Department of Information and Computer Science, Intelligent Systems
- "Agent Based Modeling for Policy Development"
- How do policy developers use knowledge and models?
- Aim: framework to use ABM for policy development

Keywords: Policy Development, Agent Based Modeling, Complexity

#### Organogram Ministerie van Economische Zaken en Klimaat

Mei 2019



Leden Bestuursraad

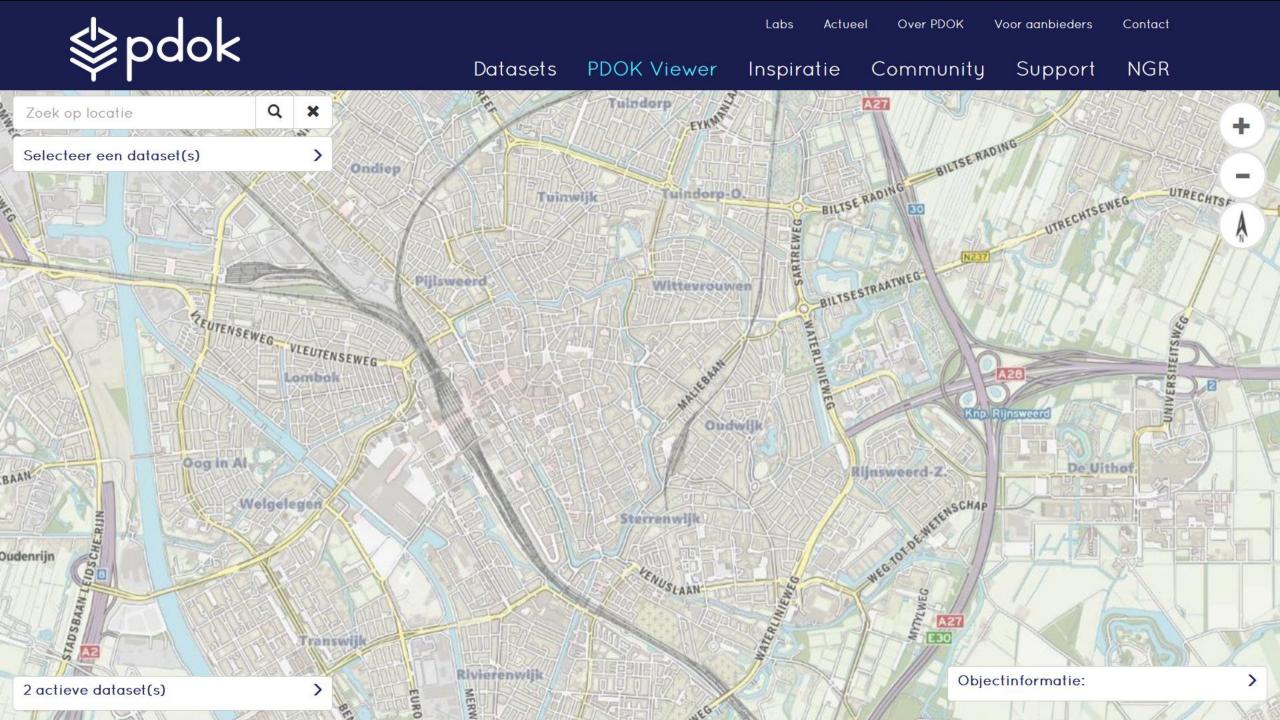
Beleidsdirecties

Stafdirecties
 Buitendiensten
 Dienstonderdelen van het



"Just define it for me and I'll make you a model."







### **Translations**

#### **DUTCH**

> Strooien



#### **ENGLISH**

- Sprinkling
- Sowing
- > Throwing
- Gritting



### Context

> NL: Kunstwerk

> EN: Art piece



> NL: Kunstwerk

> EN: "Civil engineered object"





# Paradigms

Wikipedia: In <u>science</u> and philosophy, a paradigm (/'pærədaɪm/) is a distinct set of concepts or thought patterns, including theories, research methods, postulates, and standards for what constitutes legitimate contributions to a field.



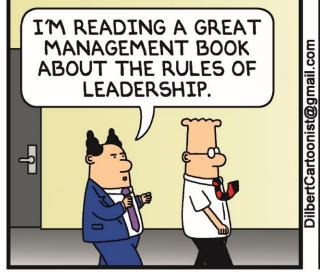
# Paradigms

- > Paradigm ≈ context
- > By putting a problem in context, it becomes messy



#### **DILBERT**

#### BY SCOTT ADAMS



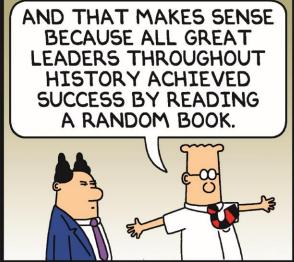












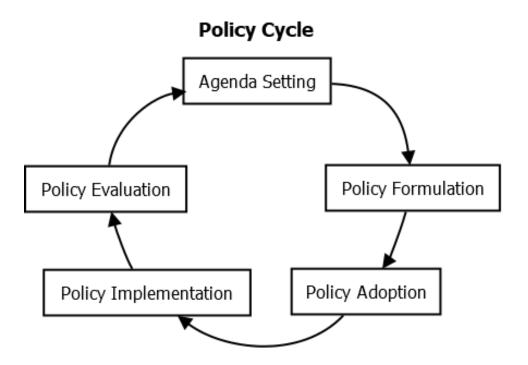




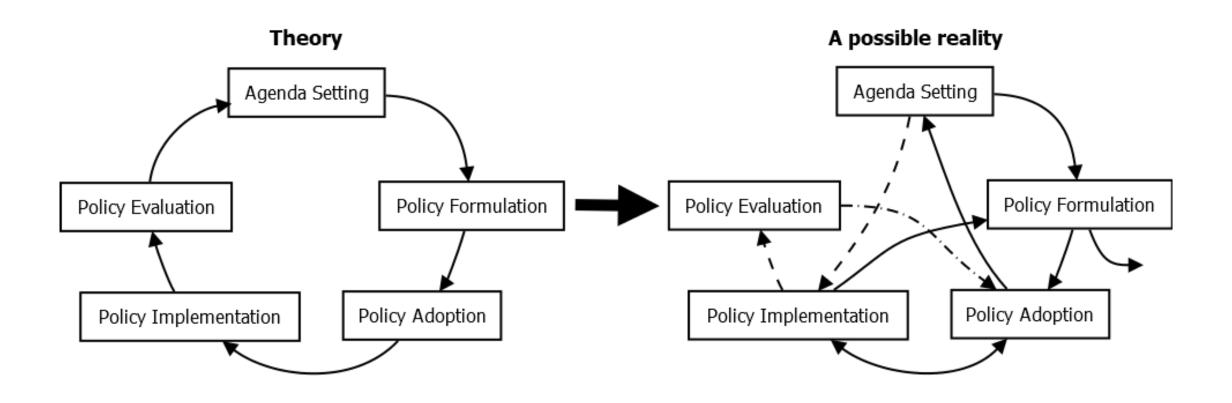
### Paradigms

- > Paradigm ≈ context
- > By putting a problem in context, it becomes messy
- > All policy problems, and thus solutions, are in a context...
- > ... And usually more than one
- ... That don't align nicely
- This makes most policies complex (If only the world behaved like the model!)

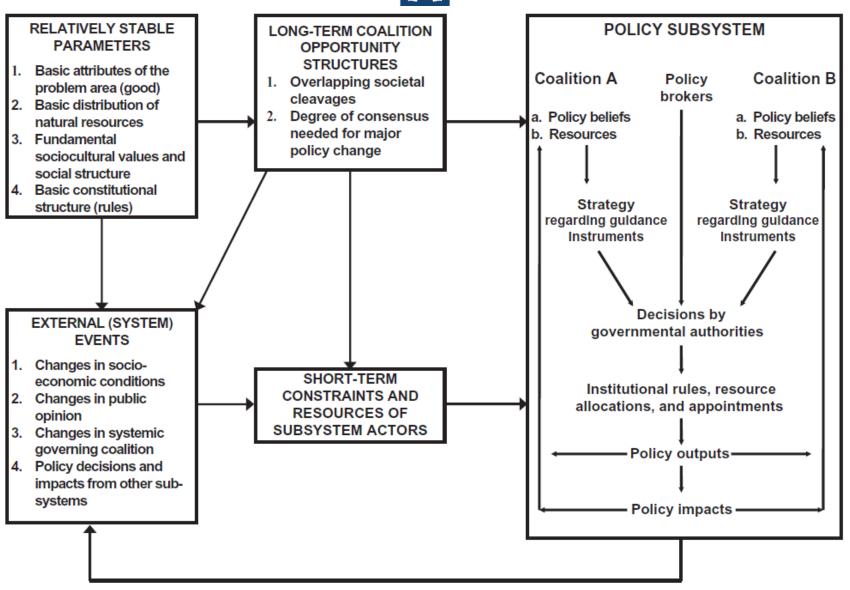












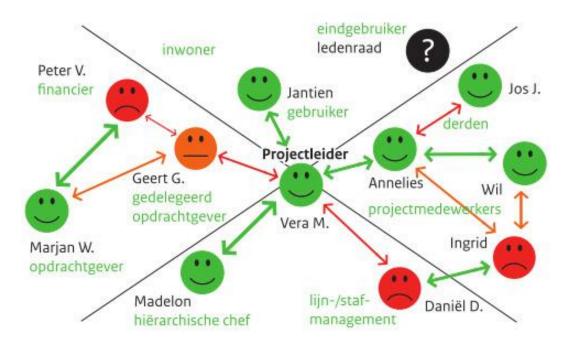
2007 Advocacy Coalition Framework Flow Diagram



### Working with different stakeholders

- Support of stakeholders is required to develop a policy
- Different goals
- Different influences on process
- Different contexts
- Different understandings of the problem
- Could require buy-in

Policy developers are mainly process managers:



Taken from https://www.010projecten.nl/krachtenveld



# Reasons to use ABM's in policy development

- Predict policy outcomes
- Illuminate core dynamic
- Demonstrate trade-offs / suggest efficiencies
- Explain
- Discipline the policy dialog
- Intergrade different contexts and perspectives

- Relevant literature:
  - Epstein: Why model? (2008)
  - Gilbert, et.al.: Computational modelling of public policy: Reflections on practice. (2018)
  - Edmonds, B., Gershenson, C.: Modelling complexity for policy: Opportunities and challenges. (2013)



### Solutions that ABM could offer

- ABM is well suited to facilitate an iterative development process and can serve as question articulation tool
- > ABM as a way to make your assumptions explicit
- ABM for finding and defining different contexts, perspectives and creating common grounds (<u>Interesting video in Dutch</u>)
- > ABM for knowledge representation
- ABM as a tool for communication
- Could be use as supplementary material bundled with a policy proposal or law



### Requirements for an ABM policy development framework

Requirement	Description	Possible solution
1	Time box	Pre-build model blocks
2	An easy to understand modelling process	ABM modelling principles in the right language
3	Visual representation of models	Diagrams, ontologies
4	Interactive with users	Participatory modelling
5	Path dependency, Context switching	?
6	Flexibility for process dynamics	Iterative, agile framework methodology
7	"Right" aggregation level of problems	Ontologies



# Current research





#### Why are people reading food labels healthier?

5/11/2019, 5:54:11 PM



People who read labels in the supermarket are on average lighter and healthier. Do you really lose weight when you read labels on food packaging?





# Indicator mismatch example for mobility

#### **PLAN**

- Goal: more electric kilometers drive by cars
- Idea: make electric kilometers more affordable
- Policy: subsidize the purchase of HPV's (also as lease cars)
- Indicator of success: amount of HPV's sold.

#### **RESULT**

- Available funds for subsidy ran out quickly, many HPV's were sold.
- Most HPV's were sold as lease cars.
- Lease drivers have a fixed budget to select a new car.
- Bigger and more luxurious cars that classify as HPV became affordable.
- These cars are less efficient than the older non-HPV's.
- Lease drivers make up the majority of the "HPV kilometers".
- Conclusion: increase of electric kilometers was minimal.



Elektriciteit







Bedrijfsleven











20,2 Mt



Mobiliteit

7,3 Mt

minder CO<sub>2</sub>-uitstoot

3,4 Mt

minder CO2-

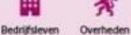
uitstoot





De samenleving doet mee. Meer dan 200 bedrijven en organisaties praten mee, aan tafel of op een andere manier. Mensen kunnen ook bijeenkomsten in het land bijwonen en zelf ideeên insturen via de site.



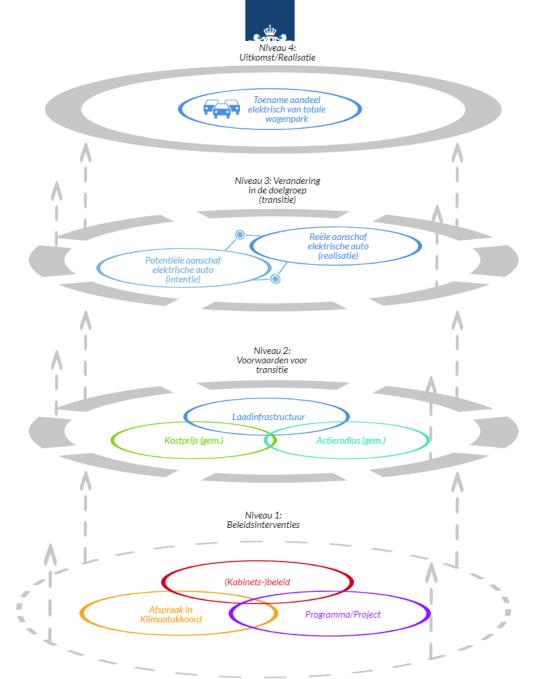


Maatschappelijke organisaties

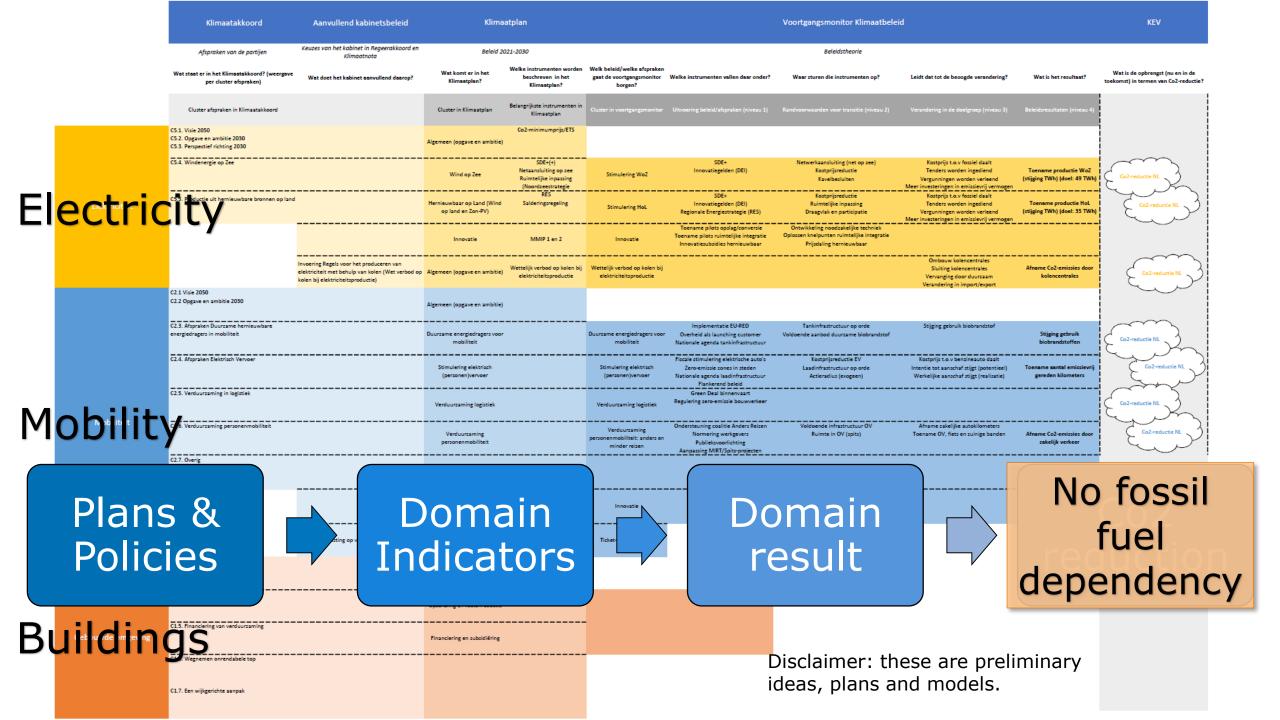


# PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency: Assessment of Climate Agreement

- > Doel 48,7 megaton valt binnen bandbreedte, maar wordt waarschijnlijk niet gehaald
- Het PBL concludeert dat de voorstellen in het ontwerpKlimaatakkoord een afname van de uitstoot van
  broeikasgassen kunnen bewerkstelligen van 31 52
  megaton CO2-equivalenten in 2030. Om 49% reductie te
  bereiken is ten opzichte van de verwachting bij het reeds
  vastgestelde en voorgenomen beleid 48,7 megaton reductie
  nodig. Deze opgave valt weliswaar net binnen de
  bandbreedte, maar wordt waarschijnlijk niet gehaald. Naast
  de (politieke) keuzes voor een maximaal effectieve
  uitwerking die daarbij voor alle instrumenten nodig is,
  veronderstelt dat een stapeling van verschillende meevallers
  in het gedrag van actoren in reactie op het beleid waarop
  niet a priori gerekend kan worden.
- Target of 48.7 megatons falls within bandwidth, but will probably not be achieved
- Agreement can bring about a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 31 52 megatons CO2 equivalents in 2030. To achieve a 49% reduction is compared to the expectations of the already established and planned policy 48.7 megaton reduction required. Although this statement falls just within the bandwidth, it is probably not achieved. In addition to the (political) choices for a maximum effective result that is required for all instruments, it presupposes that an accumulation of different windfalls in the behavior of actors in response to the policy that cannot be calculated a priori.



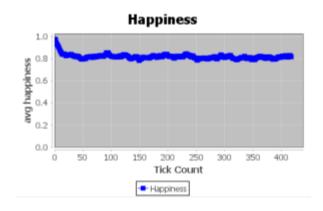
Disclaimer: these are preliminary ideas, plans and models.

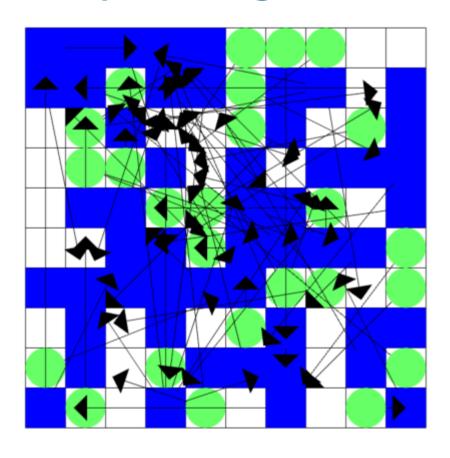




# Simple domain ABM example: parking

Ties in practical assignment of parking electric vehicles: one element of many relevant factors for CO2 reduction.







### Master Thesis Project

- Goal of EZK: publish first results of climate progress monitor summer 2020
- Indicators are being selected as we speak (stakeholder management...)
- Evaluation of selected indicators is required

- Project focuses on evaluating indicators in a single domain
- Construction of ABM and subsequent social simulation
- During the project you will work with policy developers from the Ministry
- Results can directly influence climate policies
- Details TBD
- Interested? Let me know!



"Focus on making a non-stupid model, not on a perfect model"

Interesting paper with example: Edmund Chattoe-Brown: So you got two ologies?



# Questions?

