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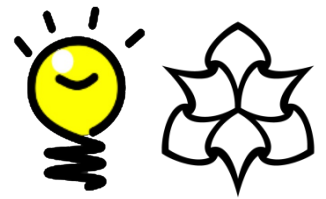
# ***A Declaration of Social Simulator Rights***

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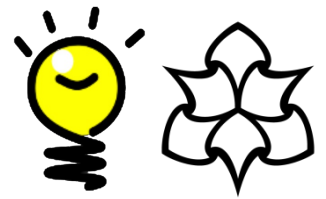
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# Modellers have told me they were asked to...



- ensure that all the different models of something give the same answers, even though each used different mechanisms/assumptions;
- to claim they will be able to predict the outcome of different policies even when this is in-feasible;
- to integrate different strands of results and evidence towards the end of a late-running project;
- to suppress negative results from modelling, to give an impression of success or so that the biases of decision-makers might not be contradicted;
- to have their conclusions simplified beyond recognition –caveats and complexities deleted in order to make things simple for a decision-maker.

# Rights and obligations

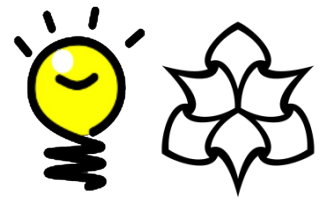


- Lots stuff written about modeller obligations
- But obligations and rights are linked

Thus one can ask...

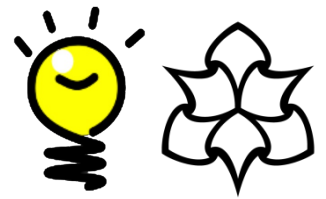
*What rights do social simulators need in order to do their job: honestly, transparently and reliably?*

# Summary – *the six rights*



1. **Feasibility** – *projects should be feasible within the limitations imposed*
2. **Adequate communication** – *enough interaction with stakeholders to check progress on the modelling*
3. **Criterion clarity** – *modelling goals should be clear*
4. **Assessment transparency** – *how the modelling will be judged should be open*
5. **Responsibility sharing** – *all involved in informing modelling decisions should share the responsibility for the project outcomes*
6. **Accurate attribution** – *who did which parts in a modelling project should be openly declared*

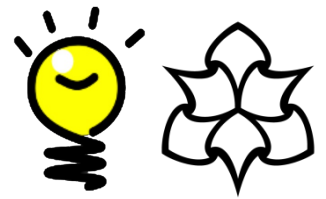
# 1. Feasibility



*... that modellers should not be asked to attempt the impossible.*

- A subtle version of this is asking for a “best guess” given some unrealistic time frame
- Such requests are often to predict the outcome of policy options
- Providing inadequate modelling for prediction can be worse than doing nothing
- This would reduce dishonesty and hence improve transparency

## 2. Adequate communication

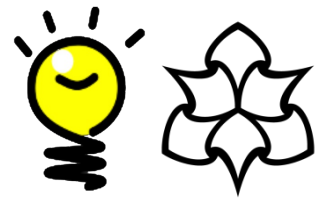


Sometimes social simulation is seen as another kind of off-line analysis, but due to uncertainties and choices this does not work

***Stakeholders needs to invest enough time in terms of frequent communication during model development***

Not doing this will result in modelling that misses key inputs, assumptions and data and deviates from what the stakeholders want

### 3. Criterion clarity

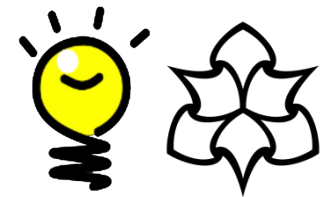


- Simulations can be used for lots of things
- So different people may have different hopes concerning what a model might do

***The model goals should be clear and transparent***

- Clear goals for the modelling can ensure that effort is directed in the right direction
- Determining the goal of a modelling project is a collective responsibility

## 4. Assessment transparency



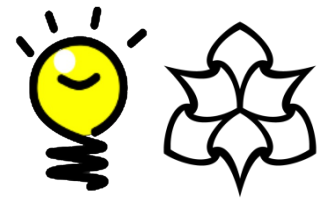
Many exaggerate the importance of modelling outcomes by spinning them or by interpreting the results too strongly

***Honesty is needed in terms of reporting success of modelling projects***

- A lack of honesty impedes feedback to modellers and makes reliable modelling more difficult in the longer-term
- The public have a right to know the reality of what models say (or not say)



## 5. Responsibility sharing

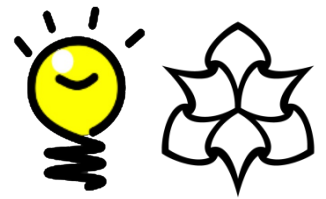


Decisions, collaboration, feedback and interpretation are not limited to the technical modelling team but involves many people

***All who participate in decisions that affect the modelling (framing, scope, goals feedback etc.) should share the responsibility for the outcomes***

- if they do not, it increases the probability of modelling failure due to less input

## 6. Accurate attribution



Modelling is a creative process, not just enacting the wishes of model commissioners

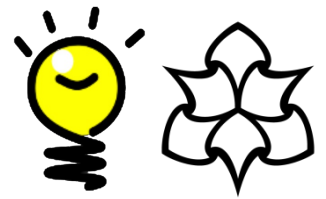
*all creative work should be explicitly acknowledged, saying who did what role*

Important for the careers of modellers

But also important when people are pulling together teams for future projects

Also for roles other than the technical modelling ones (e.g. commissioners)

# *Modellers of the world unite!*

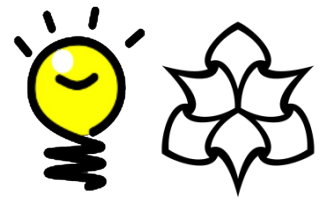


We are too often:

- The guardians of model integrity
- At the crux of evidence integration
- Used as a mere technical worker or tool
- Suffering fudged criteria & over-promising
- Uniquely blamed for modelling failures

***It is time to push back!***

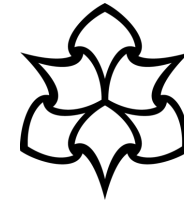
# Please...



- Explicitly endorse these rights
  - adding your name to the list
  - talking about them
- Insist on these rights for yourself within any modelling project you participate in
- Support other modellers in asserting these rights
- Suggest these rights are explicitly included in grant proposals etc.



# Thanks!



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