

CESI RICERCA



**DAMSE**

EC funded project  
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CESI RICERCA



CONFEDERACIÓN  
HIDROGRÁFICA  
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CVA

*A European Methodology for the Security Assessment of Dams*

## **Lessons learned and final remarks**

*by Massimo Meghella, CESI RICERCA Spa*

**Final meeting, Valencia, February, 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

# Role of Technology

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IEEE Spectrum Magazine (Sept. 2006):

- ✓ All major recent attacks (*New York and Washington on 9/11/01; Bali in 2002; Beslan, Russia, and Madrid in 2004; London in 2005; and Mumbai in 2006, etc.*) required no significant technological sophistication to pull off.
- ✓ At the same time, however, some terrorist groups have proven extraordinarily adept at using the *Internet, networks, and digital video to recruit, conspire, and communicate.*
- ✓ Meanwhile, developed countries, that the extremists are doing their best to *terrorize*, have launched *research programs* that will in coming years help determine how much of a role *advanced technology* can have in this struggle.

# Role of Technology

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Could the hypothetical terrorist scenarios do harm by giving terrorists ideas they may not have thought of?

- ✓ it is common the belief that exposing a danger is, in the long run, better than ignoring it while hoping that terrorists won't notice it;
- ✓ moreover, knowing that a specific target is effectively protected might prevent an attack, or decrease its likelihood to occur;
- ✓ often, secrecy and confidentiality may hide incompetence and/or lack of effective information for an effective risk prevention or mitigation.

# How to predict and to model threats?

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- ✓ Information go about in the web and in other media.
- ✓ Gathering, analyze and manage such amount of information require advanced computational tools to effectively model the complex interdependencies between terrorist groups



Home

Search

- Home
- People
- Awards & News
- Tools, Models & Data
- Education
- Events
- IAACSOS
- Projects
- Courses
- Networks & Terrorism
- Publications & Search
- Links
- Mission
- Contact Us
- Site Map

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CASOS brings together computer science, dynamic network analysis and the empirical study of complex socio-technical systems. Computational and social network techniques are combined to develop a better understanding of the fundamental principles of organizing, coordinating, managing and destabilizing systems of intelligent adaptive agents (human and artificial) engaged in real tasks at the team, organizational or social level. Whether the research involves the development of metrics, theories, computer simulations, toolkits, or new data analysis techniques advances in computer science are combined with a deep understanding of the underlying cognitive, social, political, business and policy issues.

CASOS is a university wide center drawing on a group of world class [faculty](#), [students](#) and [research and administrative staff](#) in multiple departments at [Carnegie Mellon](#). CASOS fosters multi-disciplinary [research](#) in which students and faculty work with students and faculty in other universities as well as scientists and practitioners in industry and government. CASOS research leads the way in examining network dynamics and in linking social networks to other types of networks such as knowledge networks. This work has led to the development of new statistical toolkits for the collection and analysis of network data ([Ora](#) and [AutoMap](#)). Additionally, a number of validated multi-agent network models in areas as diverse as [network evolution](#), [bio-terrorism](#), [covert networks](#), and [organizational adaptation](#) have been developed and used to increase our understanding of real socio-technical systems.

CASOS research spans multiple disciplines and technologies. Social networks, dynamic networks, agent based models, complex systems, link analysis, entity extraction, link extraction, anomaly detection, and machine learning are among the methodologies used by members of CASOS to tackle real world problems.

**Director:** Prof. Kathleen M. Carley :: [kathleen.carley@cs.cmu.edu](mailto:kathleen.carley@cs.cmu.edu) :: [homepage](#)

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Dates: June 23 -29, 2008

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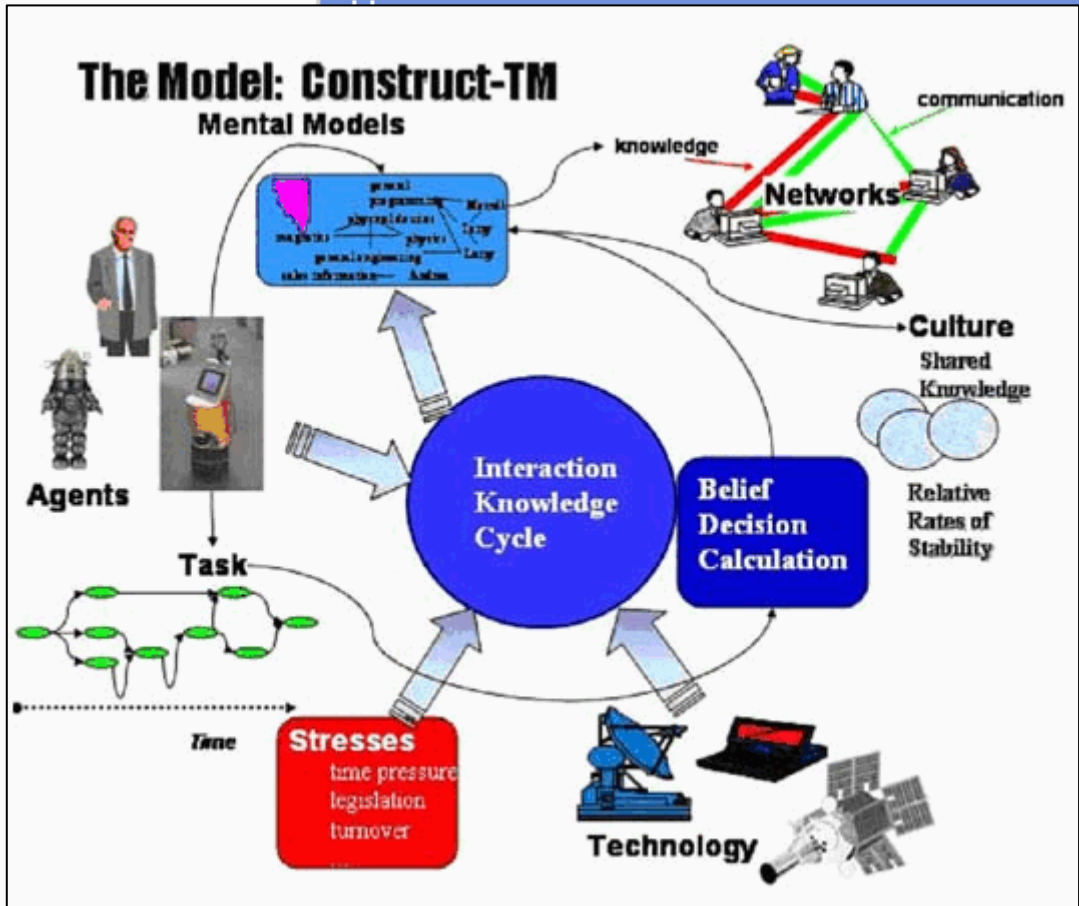
Location: George Mason University - Fairfax, Virginia  
Dates: July 14-17, 2008

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The Ph.D. program in Computation, Organization and Society ([COS](#)) prepares students to be tomorrows leaders in constructing and assessing technology and its societal impacts that is responsible to society, business, policy, and law. The program





Multi-agent model of group and organizational behavior. *Construct* models groups and organizations as complex systems and captures the variability in human and organizational factors.

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 Organization and Society (COS) prepares students to be tomorrow's leaders in constructing and assessing technology and its societal impacts that is responsible to society, business, policy, and law. The program  
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Home

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Home

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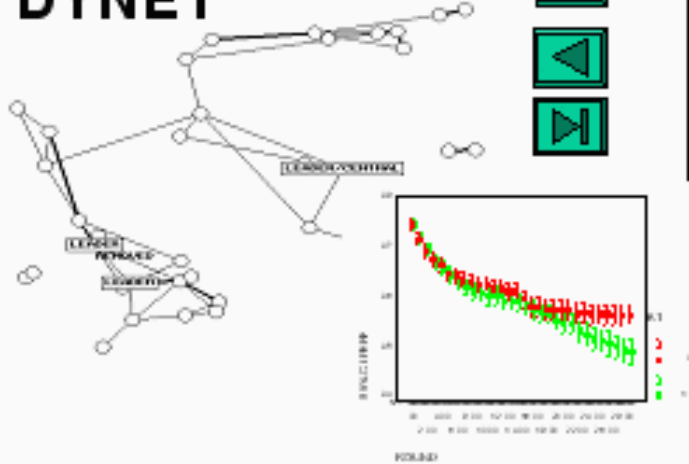
Network Profile

Attack Scenario

Critical Individuals

Observe Dynamics

DYNET



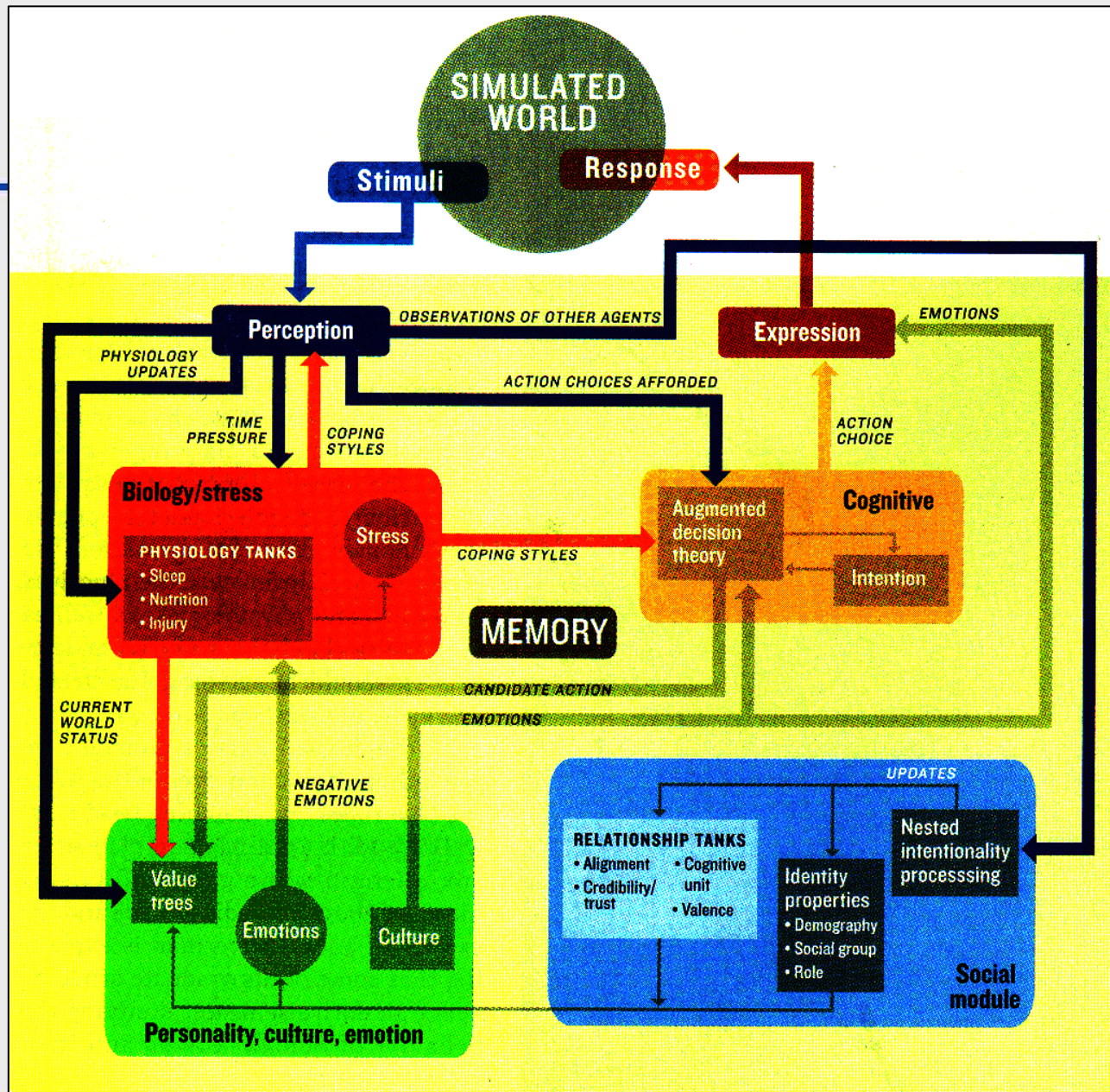
DyNet a simulator for dynamic networked organizations through a blending of computer science, social networks and organization theory.

complex systems, link analysis, entity extraction, link extraction, anomaly detection, and machine learning are among the methodologies used by members of CASOS to tackle real world problems.

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Organization and Society (COS) prepares students to be tomorrows leaders in constructing and assessing technology and its societal impacts that is responsible to society, business, policy, and law. The program





**GETTING INSIDE THE MIND:** Barry Silverman's team at the University of Pennsylvania models the individual terrorist. Each of Silverman's simulated terrorists responds to stimuli through a complex process that mimics human thinking. An agent's perception is influenced by various physical and psychological stressors and coping styles. That perception is then viewed in light of an agent's values, emotions, and culture. Once the agent has processed its perception of the stimuli, it must decide how to best attain its goals. It evaluates which actions will advance its values, but this is subject to constraints of its social relations, emotions, and stress. When the agent determines what it wants to do, it expresses that decision through action.

SOURCE: BARRY SILVERMAN

[Home](#)

[Chi siamo](#)  
[About us](#)

[Attività](#)  
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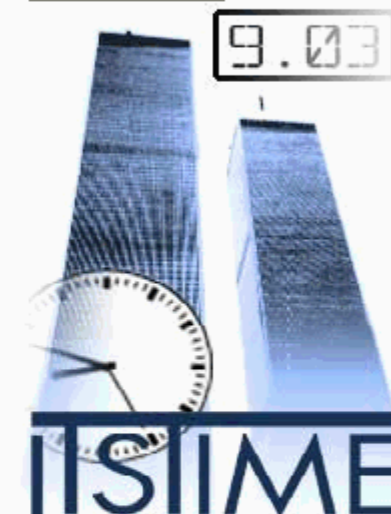
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Gennaio 2008 - Di **Stefano Bertozzi** un interessante volume su **"La Comunità Europea Di Difesa. Profili**

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# Conclusions & Lessons Learned

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- 1) Current security measures seems not fully justified and/or not based on rationale and comprehensive assessment
- 2) Simplified methods (e.g. *Risk Indexes* methods), even if easier and cheaper to apply, may provide wrong results and misleading conclusions
- 3) Significant improvement in security levels can be achieved at a considerably lower cost than for upgrading safety
- 4) *Redundancy* is one of the key concepts to effectively improve both security and safety

# Conclusions & Lessons Learned

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- 5) *Social acceptance* of risks related to terrorist threat is generally lower than the one related to natural hazards
- 6) Computational modeling of threats aimed at providing a numerical *estimate of threat probability*, is still not fully reliable and not directly applicable, due to inherent high level of uncertainty and limitations
- 7) The above statements highlight the difficulty to afford and manage *security and safety* in a *common framework*

# Conclusions & Lessons Learned

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- 8) The latter, anyway, should be definitely pursued, as *safety upgrading improves security too*, while the opposite might not be always true (e.g. the effort to check vehicles for explosives delayed the arrival of aid in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina)
- 9) For *new constructions*, more effective and cheaper protection against terrorist attacks can be achieved if security issues are properly addressed at the *design stage*

# Conclusions & Lessons Learned

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- 10) *Numerical modeling* can effectively support *vulnerability* analysis (FEM, BEM). Need of further research (e.g. explosives effects) is warranted
- 11) *Integration and coordination* between facilities owners, security experts, social scientist, police, intelligence and authority is of paramount importance.

# Conclusions & Lessons Learned

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**End of presentation**  
**Thank you**