

CALL FOR PAPERS
Special issue of *System Dynamics Review*
“Qualitative Aspects of System Dynamics Modeling”

Guest Editors: Krystyna Stave (University of Nevada Las Vegas), Nici Zimmermann (University College London), Hyunjung Kim (California State University, Chico)

This special issue explores the qualitative aspects of system dynamics modeling. Although a distinction is sometimes made between quantitative and qualitative modeling, qualitative data and methods are used in almost all forms of system dynamics modeling. Computational simulation models can incorporate qualitative data, use qualitative methods for model formulation and to elicit model structure, or use qualitative approaches to interpret, represent and communicate model findings and insights. For some purposes, such as stakeholder engagement or developing consensus around problem definition, the entire modeling process may be purely qualitative and result in a qualitative system representation.

Discussions about qualitative aspects of system dynamics increasingly raise questions about the diversity, rigor, appropriateness, and quality of qualitative work, what constitutes qualitative data, and how best to combine qualitative and quantitative methods and data sources. The intent of this special issue is to highlight the variety of qualitative work in system dynamics modeling, address questions of rigor, appropriate methods, and approaches to integrating qualitative and quantitative work, and present a framework for more nuanced research about these topics.

We seek papers that demonstrate high quality qualitative work in system dynamics as well as those that present procedures and theory from other fields that advance our qualitative practice.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Qualitative procedures in problem elicitation
- Model conceptualization and representation, such as causal loop diagramming
- Qualitative data sources and research methods
- Integration of qualitative and quantitative data
- Validation of qualitative aspects
- Learning from social science theory and methods
- Qualitative approaches to developing and communicating insights from modeling work

Informal inquiries about proposed papers are welcome. For submissions, a two-stage procedure will be followed. Authors are requested to first submit by email an extended abstract (3 pages maximum). These will be reviewed by the editors and selected authors will be invited to submit a full paper, which will go through standard double blind peer review. Papers should follow the journal’s reporting guidelines for main articles and other categories of contribution. Inquiries and initial abstracts should be directed to the editors for the special issue: Krys Stave (krystyna.stave@unlv.edu), Nici Zimmermann (n.zimmermann@ucl.ac.uk), Hyunjung Kim (hkim18@csuchico.edu). Please include “SDR Qualitative SI” in the subject line. Final papers should be transmitted via the online submission system.

Initial abstracts are due by November 30th, 2021. First stage decisions will be communicated to authors no later than January 30th, 2022. Final versions of invited papers will be due no later than August 31st, 2022. Publication in print is expected in mid 2023 but accepted papers will be made available online once ready.