

MANY MODEL THINKING

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ABSTRACT

Models help us to understand, explain, predict, and act. They do so by simplifying reality or by constructing artificial analogs. As a result, any one model by be insufficient to capture the complexity of a process. By applying ensembles of diverse models, we can reach deeper understanding, make better predictions, take wiser actions, implement better designs, and reveal multiple logics. This many to one approach offers the possibility of near truth exists at what Richard Levins has called “the intersection of independent lies.”

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

SCOTT E. PAGE is Leonid Hurwicz Collegiate Professor of Complex Systems, Political Science, and Economics at the University of Michigan and an external faculty member of the Santa Fe Institute. Scott’s research focuses on complex systems and diversity. He is the author of three books and has published research papers in economics, political science, sociology, psychology, philosophy, physics, public health, geography, computer science, and management. His online course Model Thinking has attracted more than one half a million participants. He has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship as well as fellowship at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences. Professor Page is an elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.