

## **War time rape as a complex societal problem handled by the Compram methodology**

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War time rape is unfortunately a frequent behavior of the conquerors to express their dominance and their power over the conquered and to celebrate their victory. By raping members of a population conquerors emphasize their superiority over the conquered by humiliating them. This abuse is very traumatic for the victims. The situation becomes worse as women become pregnant due to rape. Children born out of this situation, children born of war, are often not treated optimally by their mother, other members of the nuclear and extended family and, as well, by members of their local community. This results in a reduction of the quality of life for these children. War time rape can be considered as a complex societal problem in which many phenomena and parties are involved. Like all complex societal problems the phenomena are complicated, interrelated and intertwined with each other. In order to create sustainable goals and viable interventions into this problem, one has to analyze the situation carefully in a scientific way. This can be done by applying the Compram methodology through which one can analyze the problem scientifically in order to produce sustainable interventions. The Compram methodology is a framework methodology that handles a complex societal problem in six major steps. First the problem will be analyzed by a group of experts, then by the different actors, both powerful and non-powerful actors. In step three, mutually acceptable interventions will be generated, after which, the societal reactions towards these interventions will be analyzed, as the fourth step. In step five, the interventions will be implemented and the outcomes will be evaluated as the sixth step. Handling complex societal problems through the Compram methodology supports defining and changing a problem from awareness of the situation to the evaluation of the outcomes of the problem handling process. This process utilizes all kinds of methods and tools to facilitate the problem handling process. The methodology incorporates the three basic elements in handling complex societal problems: knowledge, power and emotion.

Keywords: War Time Rape; Children Born Of War; Handling Societal Problems; Complex Problems; Methodology; Compram

### **1 Introduction: the dominance of one group over another**

Often the interrelated human actions, treatments and thoughts in this world of one person towards another person are not very positive. In many of the interactions between humans, one group or individual is dominating another group or individual. We see this within the nuclear family (Prick, 2008), among family and friends (Bourke, 2007), and within states (NGO.076, 1999). The dominated groups or persons are often at the mercy of the dominant group. While sometimes the dominated group is treated reasonably, more often the treatment of the

dominated group is adverse, depending on the goals, desires and whims of the dominant groups.

There are many examples in the past and present of regimes in which one group of persons has treated other groups of persons in humiliating and threatening ways, sometimes until death follows. Examples of this in the last century are the regimes: of Stalin (1924-1953) in the USSR, who sent all potential political enemies, as well as many farmers and intellectuals, to isolation and work camps in Siberia (Russia) in which people had to live under terrible conditions (Solzenicyn, 1974); Hitler (1933-1945) killing Jews, Roma and other perceived enemies in concentration camps and gas chambers (Heydecker and Leeb, 1979; Levi, 1987) and Pol Pot (1975-1979) who killed an enormous number of intellectuals who were not in favor of his regime (Kiernan, 1996)<sup>1</sup>. As well, there is the example of Rwanda in Africa where groups of people belonging to one tribe, the Tutsi massacred an estimated 800,000 thousand people belonging to the other the Hutus in a most terrible way (Zawati and Mahmoud, 2004). During the 1990s in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, various groups fought with others with goal of purging their newly formed countries of certain ethnic groups through a process described as ethnic cleansing. This included the systematic killing of Islamic people by the Serbs of Bosnia-Herzegovina (Vranić, 1996; Zawati and Mahmoud, 2004; Leydesdorff, 2008)<sup>2</sup>.

In the human interactions of this world there are many moments during which one group of people is treating other groups of people meanly, indecently and unfairly. As soon as one group is considered to be dominant over another group the dominated group is by definition dependent on the decisions of the dominant group. The dominant group decides what resources are available for the others. This may be in the sense of living space, such as houses, schools, hospitals and healthcare and/or jobs and thus actual funds. There are many examples for this phenomenon such as the exclusion by race<sup>3</sup>, religion<sup>4</sup> and sexual orientation<sup>5</sup>. However, the most common exclusion is women, excluded because they do not belong to the dominant gender (Baalen, Van and Ekelschot, 1978).

Although it seems that children of four years already feel what is just and what is unjust, (Kohlberg, 1984), excluding 'the other' seems to be a frequent characteristic of human kind. As soon as other persons are not considered to belong to the dominant group, they have to submit to the demands of the dominant group. This negative treatment of a group by a dominant group,

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<sup>1</sup> Pol Pot was born as Saloth Sar in Cambodian, and became leader of the underground communist party, Khmer Rouge, from 1962 in Cambodian. He became head of the genocidal regime of Democratic Kampuchea (DK) in 1975 and ruled until his overthrow in early 1979. See <http://www.enotes.com/genocide-encyclopedia/pol-pot>.

<sup>2</sup> Because the focus of this article is on awareness of a complex societal problem details and differences of abuses are not mentioned in this article. For more detailed information on war time rape in different times, different areas, and different circumstances, we refer to the mentioned articles of other researchers in this field.

<sup>3</sup> The black people were used as slaves during two hundred years in the USA (Beecher Stow, 1852)

<sup>4</sup> The treatment of the Jews during the last fifteen centuries and recently before, during and after World War II by the Nazis and other people (Frank, 1947; Frank and Presser (Ed.) 1997; Minco, 1966). The Jews were excluded from owning land and many jobs.

<sup>5</sup> "Don't ask, don't tell" (DADT) was the official United States policy on homosexuals serving in the military from December 21, 1993 to September 20, 2011.<sup>[1][2]</sup> The policy prohibited military personnel from discriminating against or harassing closeted homosexual or bisexual service members or applicants, while barring openly gay, lesbian, or bisexual persons from military service. The restrictions were mandated by United States federal law Pub. L. No. 103-160 (10 U.S.C. § 654). Wikipedia [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don't\\_ask,\\_don't\\_tell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don't_ask,_don't_tell)

like women dominated by men, has often been supported by law (Beauvoir, 1949; Kool-Smit, 1972).

## 2 Human rights

In history there are fortunately some examples in which suppressed groups improved their living circumstances, often with the help of intellectual outsiders (John Locke (Locke and Wynne, 1696; Voltaire and Rousseau, 2010)<sup>6</sup>. In the time after the Enlightenment the position of the common people improved, and in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century the situation of the working people began to improve as a consequence of the growth of unions and the philosophy espoused by Marx (1848) and Engels (Marx and Engels, 1883-1886). Working conditions generally continued to improve into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, although the benefit was more often to men than to women. The combination of the emergence of women's rights to be part of the political process through voting and holding office, the entry of more and more women into the labor force during and after World War II, and the feminist movement itself has meant an overall improvement in working conditions for women. In most societies of the Western world, human rights are enshrined in charters and in laws to provide protection to individuals in spite of gender, religion, race, sexual orientation, etc.<sup>7</sup> However, even in modern Western societies, discrimination may be so entrenched that it is neither noticed by the dominant group itself, nor by the victims.

## 3 Women

Women are a group of persons who are mostly dominated by men in every society in daily life<sup>8</sup>. Often this is seen by both sexes as 'normal' (Bourke, 2007). This suppression is not even or equal or even obvious in every society. In some societies the suppression is stronger and more evident than in others. For example in China and India many women are not even born; there is a systematic approach to abortion of female fetuses<sup>9</sup>. In India widows are often treated poorly by their husband's family. In Western societies women are usually earning about 15% less than men for the same job and same work<sup>10</sup>. Often women are not able to reach the top positions in organizations where they are employed<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> Voltaire lived 1694-1778 and Jean-Jacques Rousseau lived from 1712-1778.

<sup>7</sup> The Universal Declaration of Human Rights were installed after the terrible disasters of the Second World War in 1948. see [http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/hr\\_law.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/hr_law.shtml)

<sup>8</sup> The informal slogan of the Decade of Women became "Women do two-thirds of the world's work, receive 10 percent of the world's income and own 1 percent of the means of production." (Robbins in Allyn and Bacon, 1999, p. 354).

<sup>9</sup> "According to a recent UNFPA) State of the World Population Report, these practices, combined with neglect, have resulted in at least 60 million "missing" girls in Asia, creating gender imbalances and other serious problems that experts say will have far reaching consequences for years to come."

<sup>10</sup> Women earn 15%-30% for the same work than men

<http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/women/women96.htm#labour>

<sup>11</sup> The amount of female professor at Dutch university is the same low amount as Botswana (Volkskrant, 2003 [http://www.sofokles.nl/onderzoekinstellingen/monitor\\_vrouwelijke\\_hoogleraren.shtml](http://www.sofokles.nl/onderzoekinstellingen/monitor_vrouwelijke_hoogleraren.shtml))

#### **4 Male dominance and rape**

The idea of male dominance over women is widely spread in the society (Brownmiller, 1975). For a long time it was permissible to rape women as long as it was within a marriage by their husbands. This only is only recently changed. Men often think they have the right to have sex, like they think they have the right to rape prostitutes. Rape is generally a taboo, which is often not openly discussed, and if so the blame is often shifted onto the victims, either actively or passively. Incest and other acts of sexual aggression have been treated in much the same way. The aggressors have often been protected by their superiors and legal authorities such as police because of their social position or because both the aggressor and the authority were male<sup>1213</sup>. In all cases it seems that the victims are more shamed by the unwanted sexual activity, than the aggressors (Janssens, 2011).

#### **5 War rape as a complex societal problem**

War time rape is a result of the dominant position of men, attitudes of the dominant group and the authorities regulating the behavior of other men, as well as the way men think about women. The rape of women during war is often perceived as a reward to the soldiers for the fighting, risk taking, and absence from home, where they had free sexual possibilities with their wives. This behavior is very old, long and strongly endurable. Examples may be found in the bible (Book of Deuteronomy, Jongbloed, 2010), and descriptions of the activities of the military led by Alexander the Great (Roberts, 2008), and Genhis Kahn (Thomas, 2004; Ratchnevsky, 2008;). More recently war time rape was carried out during many of the civil wars and tribal battles in Africa. This phenomenon accompanied the massacres in Rwanda (Zawati and Mahmoud, 2004).

Women and young girls are often the victims of rape, although sometimes captured men and boys are included<sup>14</sup>. Women and girls who are raped are often discarded by their family. The situation becomes worse when women become pregnant as result of this rape, and are not able to get an abortion. The raped women and their children come to have a very negative social position (Mochmann and DeTombe, 2008). Raping women as a war booty is not always encouraged, but often is tolerated (Schouten, 1995). However it is very interesting to see that evidence shows that not always people are abused during and after war. Cohen explores in her article on civil war some of the aspects of this phenomenon (Cohen, 2013). This could be one of the starting points of the discussion on war time rape as a complex societal problem.

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<sup>12</sup> An example of this kind of behavior is that of a French politician, Dominique Gaston André Strauss-Kahn (DSK), director-general of the international Monetary Fund (IMF). DSK had sexual abused (raped) a chamber maid in his hotel room in New York. Although he admitted to have had sexual contact and was imprisoned several months, he was set free in September with the charges against him dropped. See <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/may/15/france-dominique-strauss-kahn-lifestyle> and [http://www.standaard.be/artikel/detail.aspx?artikelid=DMF20110919\\_157&s=1](http://www.standaard.be/artikel/detail.aspx?artikelid=DMF20110919_157&s=1)

<sup>13</sup> It should be noted that males, especially young males, are also sometimes the victims of sexual aggression, and that there are instances of female aggression against males and females, although far less common.

<sup>14</sup> How disastrous war can be is shown by the installation of Richard Mosse (2012) of the civil war in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, where more than 5.4 million people died from 1998 on in the fights of the armed rebel groups.

War time rape is a complex societal problem and should be handled as such in order to eliminate this situation. A complex societal problem should be handled according to the guidelines of the field of methodology of societal complexity. In this field, the Compram methodology provides guidelines to policy makers to handle complex societal problems. In the theory of methodology of handling complex societal problems one can distinguish 12 phases of problem handling (DeTombe, 1994; 2003). See Figure 1.

Sub-cycle 1: Defining the problem	
phase 1.1	becoming aware of the problem and forming a (vague) mental idea
phase 1.2	extending the rough idea by reflection and research
phase 1.3	putting the problem on the agenda and deciding to handle the problem
phase 1.4	forming a problem-handling team and starting to analyze the problem
phase 1.5	gathering data, exchanging knowledge and forming hypotheses
phase 1.6	formulating the conceptual model of the problem
Sub-cycle 2: Changing the problem	
phase 2.1	constructing an empirical model and establishing the desired goal
phase 2.2	defining the handling space
phase 2.3	constructing and evaluating scenarios
phase 2.4	suggesting interventions
phase 2.5	implementing interventions
phase 2.6	evaluating interventions

Figure 1: The phases in the problem-handling process (DeTombe 1994, 2001, 2003)

The first phase, phase 1.1, of the problem handling process is awareness. Before a social problem can be handled, people have to be aware of the problem. As indicated above awareness is not always the case as war time rape is seen as incidental and is smuggled away because it is taboo

or seen as 'normal' and tolerated (Lee, 2011). However there are indications that time is changing in this respect. As women became more powerful during the last century, step by step often due to long and tiresome fights<sup>15</sup>, women became more influential and were able to put some aspects of their suppressed position on the political agenda (abortion). Although war time rape has been known for a very long time, (NRC, 2011), because of the taboo not many people not even the victims spoke about this also because when the consequences of rape become obvious by a pregnancy the women and their children are treated second rate or worse (Mochmann and DeTombe, 2010)<sup>16</sup>.

When people become aware that war time rape could be a structural problem, they can enter phase 1.2 of handling complex societal problems by extending their mental idea by reading, thinking and discussing the subject. The conclusion of the process can be that one has the opinion that war time rape should be put on the political agenda because it is a severe complicated and complex societal problem, which should be politically handled.

## **6 The political agenda**

Before a problem can be handled it must be put on the political agenda, and it is necessary that the problem has a legitimate problem owner to have problem handled. A legitimate problem owner is able to analyze the problem, find the changes, and based on this process, can implement changes. A legitimate problem owner is a person or institute which is recognized as an authority in the field relating to the problem and who can implement the recommended action resulting from the problem handling process, by force if necessary<sup>17</sup>.

In the case of war time rape several questions should be answered:

Who is the legitimate problem owner, on which political agenda can war time rape be put and on which level should the problem be handled?

Who is the legitimate problem owner of war time rape? Is it the state whose military organization has committed the crime? Is it the women who have been abused? Or, is it an international organization that works for this goal; organizations such as UNESCO, the United Nations or the International Red Cross? Has the legitimate problem owner enough power, capacity and money to guide the process of eliminating and punishing war time rape?

On which political agenda should war time rape put? Should it be on the agenda of the military groups and institutes? On the agenda of every state like the individual states of the European Union and the federal states of the USA?

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<sup>15</sup> See the first feminist movement (Humm, 1992) and second feminist movement (Kool-Smit, 1967, 1972)

<sup>16</sup> There is a parallel with the abuse boys and girls by some Roman Catholic priests. The situation was well known, but nobody speaks about this or takes direct action against the perpetrators. The church authorities covered up the matter, and the secular authorities were reluctant to take action against the priests or their bishops as they were often both male and Catholic (Dohmen, 2010; Slingerland, 2011; De Graaf, 2011; Volkskrant 4 October 2011).

<sup>17</sup> An example of a legitimate problem owner is a government, who has the authority to demand tax payment from their population.

Putting something on an international agenda by groups concerned with the problem that are without much political power, like women and children, is very difficult<sup>18</sup>. It is very difficult, if not impossible, for the victims, the raped women and children, who have no power, to take any action against the perpetrators of this crime, at any level of the international society<sup>19</sup>. There is a need for the development of specific international groups who have the power to force bringing this issue to the forefront of the political stage. The group must have sufficient power to put this on a world-wide political agenda.

How may the process of putting war time rape on the international political agenda be organized? In order to do this there is a need for lobby groups for this subject. However, in order to get powerful lobby groups, there first has to be an awareness of the problem and its complexity. Therefore the lobbyist should have the experience of managing many social action groups that wanted to put something on the political agenda. The lobby group must be able to get the attention of the media by using not only television, newspapers and magazines, but also modern communication devices like the internet, Twitter and Facebook. And use political actions such as demonstrations and occupations<sup>20</sup>. In order to lobby fruitfully one should be well involved in the subject; have many examples or cases from on real life situations ready for the press, understand the depth of the complexity of the societal problem and the relationships of the phenomena, and realize who the actors are.

On which level should war time rape be handled?

War time rape is a matter of human rights. Rape is a crime and criminals should be punished. The criminals are servants of the state, by the state paid military or sometimes private servants. Although a state may have the right to exert force and violence under certain circumstances, no state has the right to permit the rape of women, men, or children (see Human Rights, 1948). Although there are civil wars and international wars, war time rape should be handled by an international institute that is independent. Is there an international institute or agency which has the authority over the various states to enforce and prevent actions that over rule human rights, and, subsequently, to punish the criminals if necessary? If there is such an institute, for instance an international court of human rights, such as the one in The Hague, The Netherlands<sup>21</sup>, is that institute willing to put war time rape on their political agenda and to develop laws which have to be enforced and observed to avoid war time rape? And, if necessary, does it have the authority to punish the criminals.

## **7 Using the Compram methodology to put war time rape on the political agenda.**

In order to get war time rape on the political agenda one has to know how the complex societal problem of ware time rape looks like, where, under which circumstances, and on what

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<sup>18</sup> See Occupy movement 2011. The Occupy movement is a critical movement in cities all over the world to protest against the way the politicians handle the credit crisis of 2008 (New York Times, NRC, Frankfuhrter Allgemeine, Le Monde, Oktober 2011).

<sup>19</sup> See Shilts, (1986) and DeTombe (1994, chapter 9) on awareness of HIV/Aids, and the stuggle for women to put abortion on the political agenda.

<sup>20</sup> See former actions of feminist groups (Humm, 1992).

<sup>21</sup> International Criminal Court, ICC. <http://www.icc-cpi.int/menus/icc>

moments war time rape is happening, who the victims are, and who the criminals are. What is the role of the commanders? How much is tolerated<sup>22</sup>, how much is punished. What are the consequences of war time rape on women, children and their families? This knowledge can be derived by using the Compram methodology for analyzing and handling a complex societal problem<sup>23</sup>.

The Compram methodology is a guideline for political decisions and gives answers to questions like the ones mentioned above. The methodology helps to make knowledge, emotional and power analyses with the help of neutral experts and with the involvement of the actors to find acceptable changes.

The problem handling process starts with phase 1.1 and 1.2 as described above in figure 1. In order to be able to put the problem of war time rape on the right political agenda, careful scientific analyses of the problem are needed. This can be done by a facilitator employed by a group of lobbyists. The facilitator should analyze the problem according to the guidelines of the Compram methodology. These analyses do not initially have the power to produce solutions to be implemented, because the lobbyist is not the legitimate problem owner, but it provides arguments and reasons to convince other parties that this subject is interesting and important enough to be put on an international political agenda which will lead to having the problem handled.

The analysis of a complex societal problem as war time rape belongs to the field of societal complexity. The claim of this field is that complex societal problems should be handled in accordance to the theoretical model of this field including its methods and tools. Handling means to find out what is going on, finding the causes, indicating possible interventions, implementing interventions and evaluating the process and the outcome of the problem handling process. Each complex societal problem needs a thorough analysis, only then there can be understood what happened and how it could have happened. Analyzing a complex societal problem in a thorough way enlarges the chance to find sustainable interventions. In order to know how war time rape is performed, which effects it has, and what the reactions are, a multi-disciplined approach is needed. This multi-disciplined approach is one of the basic aspects of the Methodology of Societal Complexity. The theory of societal complexity indicates that each problem has a knowledge, power and emotional component. By reflecting on a problem all these components should be considered in the analysis of the problem.”

In order to get the necessary scientific insight needed for a fruitful lobbying, one can start by having the group of lobbyist follow the steps of the Compram methodology (Figure 2).

step 1 analysis and description of the problem by a team of neutral content experts
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<sup>22</sup> An illustration of the tolerance of the army leaders for relations of their men, peace keepers, with the local women in the period of denazification, is the film of Billy Wilder ‘A foreign affair’, about US army men located in a totally destroyed and chaotic Berlin shortly after the Second World War.

<sup>23</sup> Although the Compram methodology is often used only after the problem is put on the political agenda, the methodology can also be used to put the problem on the political agenda, however in that case it is only an intellectual exercise in order to answer some questions, not a real life problem handling.



step 2	analysis and description of the problem by different teams of actors
step 3	identification of interventions by experts and actors
step 4	anticipation of the societal reactions
step 5	implementation of the interventions
step 6	evaluation of the changes

Figure 2: The six steps of the Compram methodology

The problem handling process continues by asking a facilitator to invite experts who all have a part of the knowledge of the complex problem. The experts discuss the problem guided by the facilitator and the seven layer model. The Compram Methodology states that a complex societal problem covers an area that is studied not only by one discipline but by different disciplines. Combining the knowledge of the different disciplines in relation to the problem gives a better insight into the problem and a better chance to make a policy which contains sustainable changes.

In phase 1.4 of the problem handling process the facilitator starts with step one of the Compram Methodology by reflecting on the fields that are involved in the problem of the war time rape . Based on this analysis, the facilitator invites experts from these different fields. The experts are neutral, that means neutral towards a certain outcome of the problem handling process<sup>24</sup>. These experts give an analysis of the problem from the point of view of their discipline. The experts start with defining the problem.

Phase 1.5 starts by gathering data, exchanging knowledge and forming hypotheses by the experts guided by the facilitator. Combining the analyses of these experts creates a better view on the problem and a deeper insight in the problem. The experts discuss together guided by the facilitator questions like: ‘What is going on? How was the situation in the past? How could this happen? How will this problem develop in the future? What are the causes and what are the effects? Who benefits from this problem and who suffers. What are the phenomena and in which way are the phenomena connected?’

The goal of the first sub-cycle of the problem handling process is to formulate the conceptual model of the problem. The conceptual model of the problem is the definition of the problem. The definition of the problem can be reached working through phase 1.1-1.6 of the problem handling process. During the discussions in the problem handling phases 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6 the facilitator fills together with the experts the seven-layer communication model (see Figure 3) to support the communication of the view on the problem between the problem handlers.”

“The Seven- layer communication model of DeTombe<sup>25</sup>

The seven-layer model is a way to describe the conceptual model of a problem. In the first layer the problem is described in words, in the second layer the concepts of the text are defined, in

<sup>24</sup> The Compram Methodology emphasizes that the problem should be handled first with experts then with actors. Commonly the problem is directly handled with actors. However, discussing the problem first with experts increases the chance to get a better and broader view of the problem and prevent that one of the powerful actors draw the problem into the direction of their desired goal due to actors who have less power.

<sup>25</sup> This part is a citation of DeTombe, 1994.

the third layer there is a reflection on the status of the knowledge described in layer one. Is the knowledge based on theory, hypotheses, experience, and intuition or is it an assumption. Based on the description in the first layer a conceptual model can be made, then a causal model and in the last seven-layer a simulation model, in which the cause–effect and feedback loops are indicated of the phenomena that are involved in the problem.

The content of the layers is<sup>26</sup>:

- I Description in words (natural language) of the problem
- II Definition of the concepts and phenomena of the problem
- III Verbal description of the theories, hypotheses, assumptions, experiences, and intuition, which explain the influence of the concepts and the phenomena on each other
- IV Graphic representation of the knowledge in the knowledge islands
- V A semantic model which is a graphic representation of the relations between the concepts and the phenomena
- VI A causal model which is a graphic representation of the causal relations between the concepts and the phenomena
- VII A system dynamic simulation model<sup>27</sup>. The system dynamic model is in this sub-cycle used as a discussion vehicle.

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<sup>26</sup> The layers I to VI are supported by HyperCard software. The layer VII is supported by system dynamic software.

<sup>27</sup> This can be constructed on the computer with system dynamic software like Stella/Ithink or PowerSim.

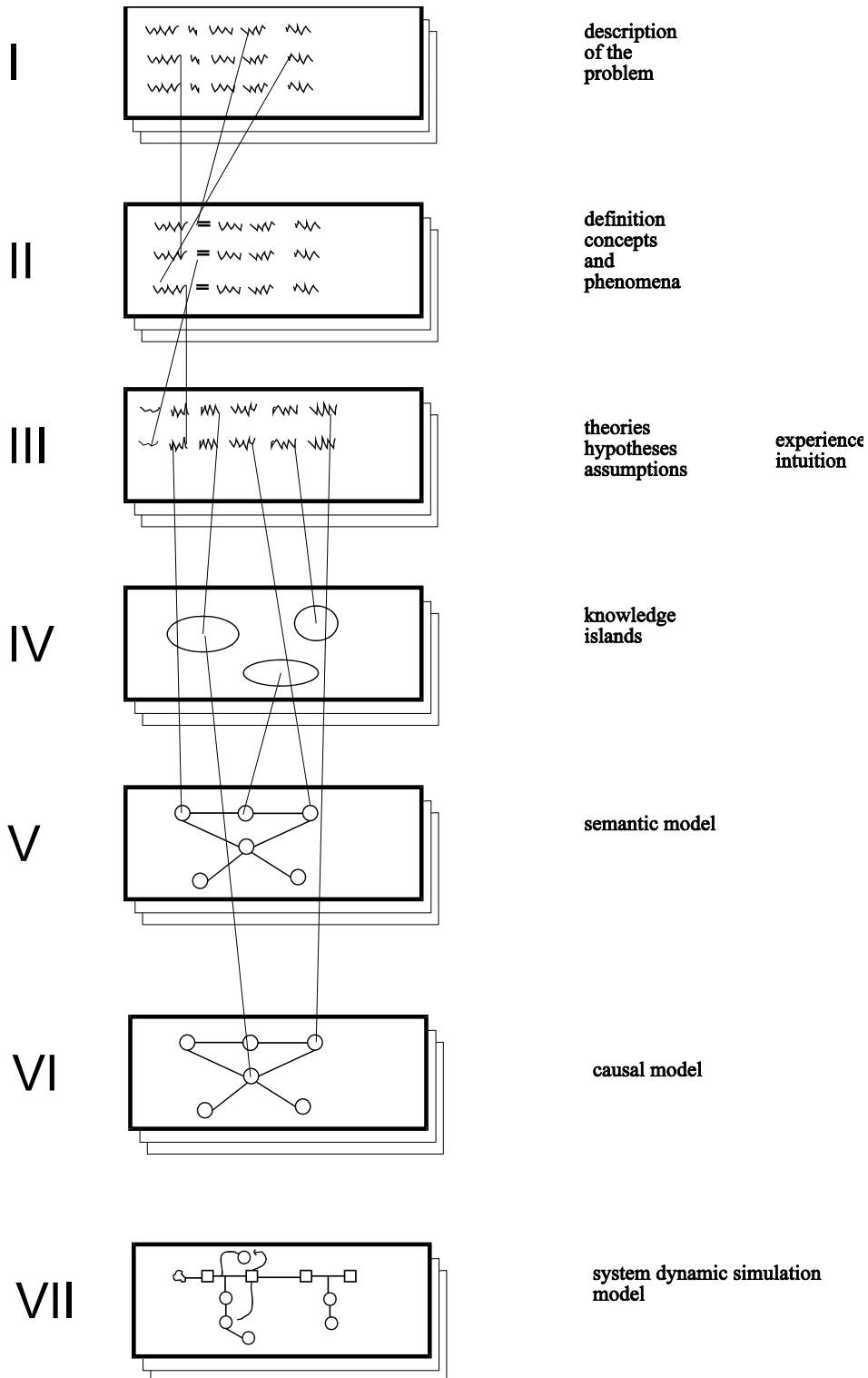


Figure 3 The seven-layer communication model of DeTombe

The experts discuss which phenomena are involved and how they are related, what the causes are and which effect the war time rape has on people, groups, communities and states. The discussion of problem handling phases 1.4 to 1.6 (see Figure 1) of handling the war time rape as a complex societal problem done by the experts in formulating the conceptual model and by doing this defining the problem.

According to the guidelines of the Compram Methodology the experts continue their discussion by reflecting the possibilities for changing the problem. They start the second-sub cycle of the problem handling process, guided by the facilitator, by making an empirical model based on the conceptual model of phase 1.6. This means that the phenomena of the conceptual model are now filled with empirical data (problem handling phase 2.1).

Then the experts discuss the desired goal of the outcome of the problem handling process in view of sustainable changes and benefits for all. Then they discuss the handling space of the problem. The handling space indicates the level on which the problem should be handled (see DeTombe, 1994, chapter 3, p. 128). The first level indicates minor changes in the contemporary situation involving not too many elements. The second level indicates major changes on micro, meso and macro level; changes that often extend the boundaries of a state or of a continent. Because of the world-wide appearance of war time rape, the many levels it includes, and the many changes it will take to implement acceptable sustainable changes, the war time rape should be considered as a problem, which should be handled on the second level of the handling space. In this case the question occurs: 'Has the problem owner, the one who should give the assignment for handling the war time rape, the power to implement the changes world-wide?' This is phase 2.2 of the problem handling process done by experts.

At the end of every problem handling phase a report is made by the facilitator with the results of the problem handling phase, and the way it was reached.

Then, in phase 2.3, the experts discuss several scenarios. These scenarios could be the status quo, when nothing really changes and the rules and regulations stays the same; or a situation in which the rules and regulations are made even less restricted, or a situation in which the rules and regulations are more restricted, to mention a few possibilities.

In phase 2.4 the experts discuss possibilities for sustainable changes. The neutral experts are however not able to implement the suggested changes. Not only they lack the power, but also the actors, the ones who have the power, should be consulted first. With this step one of the Compram Methodology ends. At the end of step one there is the seven-layer model of the problem (the definition of the problem) and the discussion reports of the problem handling phases of the experts of phase 1.1-2.4.

Step two of the Compram methodology is about the power in the problem. The lobbyists, by way of the facilitator, have to find out what the opinions of the different actors are. In step two the actors involved in the problem are consulted. The facilitator starts with in-depth interviews with the different actors like the military of different countries, soldiers as well as generals, and the victims in several countries. In the conceptual model of the experts the actors are described; powerful actors and less powerful actors, as some of these are indicated in the paragraphs above. The actors differ from the experts in the way that they have desired goals towards the problem and often different definitions of the problem. Each actor has different degree of power and a different position in the problem; some benefit from the problem, while others are

the victims of the problem. The facilitator can see whether the different actors groups are willing to cooperate in this problem handling exercise or not.

The different actor groups are invited to give their view on the problem. The facilitator guides each actor group separately in their problem handling process, in essence in the same way it is done with the experts. The actors start with problem handling phase 1.4 being already aware of the complex societal problem and having already extended the idea of the problem (problem handling phase 1.1-1.2). Together with the facilitator actors make their conceptual model of the problem, each actor group separately with their own group, in order to define the problem. The facilitator uses in the same way, as done with the experts, the seven-layer model. Now to be filled with data of the war time rape given by the actors. After defining (phase 1.6), the actors groups fill the conceptual model with empirical data, and discuss their desired goals for the changing the problem. Then they discuss the handling space, several scenarios and suggest changes. These are the problem handling phases 2.1-2.4. At the end of step two of the Compram Methodology there are the seven-layer models of the different actor groups and the discussion reports of them as outcome of the discussions with the actor groups.

In step three of the Compram Methodology the actors and experts come together to find mutual accepted changes. The starting points of the discussion are the seven-layer models and the reports of the experts and that of the different actor groups. Then, by comparing the outcomes, one can see the similarities and the differences in the seven-layer models and the discussion reports. This makes it easier to focus the discussion and to see where the possibilities are for a mutual agreement for changing the problem. There does not have to be a consensus, some actors can be persuaded by rewarding or punishment. At the end of step three a report is made that indicates the possible interventions on the problem and the limitations of these interventions.

Analyzing a complex societal problem as is described here with the Compram Methodology in step one to three has its limitations. One of the limitations is that a selection of the phenomena of the problem is made in which probably not all the phenomena are included. There are always blind spots<sup>28</sup>, the phenomena one oversees and white spots, the phenomena one knows that are involved, but because of several reasons, one does not take the effort to include them. Another limitation of the problem handling process is that of the amount of people. A limited amount of people: the problem owner, facilitator, experts and actor groups, are involved in the problem handling process. Although these persons are selected by their authorities in their field, it is still a limited amount of people. Therefore it is advisable to publish and discuss the results of the outcome of the problem handling process in step three, in casu, the suggested changes to the public first, before it will be implemented and maybe not accepted. This is step four of the Compram Methodology in which the societal reactions are anticipated. This process might lead to the necessity of adapting the suggested changes.

The interventions of this exercise cannot be implemented because the lobbyist group does not have to power to enforce the interventions. However at this moment the facilitator can discuss how to enlarge the awareness of this problem and how to put this item on a legitimate political agenda. Then if successful the legitimate problem owner can start the problem handling process

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<sup>28</sup> See DeTombe (1994) chapter 2, p. 58. In literature of Operational Research of 2010 the term 'blind spot' is called 'deep uncertainty' (Kwakkel, 2010).

again now officially. The problem handling process will be done in the same way as described above, however now reaching step five the interventions can be implemented in real life.

When there is a feeling, that the changes are accepted by the large public, one can start implementing the suggested interventions of the problem. The implementation is guided and controlled by a team of experts and actors together. This is step five of the Compram Methodology.

Then, directly after the implementations in step six, the last step of the Compram Methodology, the problem handling process will be evaluated. The interventions of the complex societal problem are evaluated, as well as the problem handling process itself. After some years, the interventions of the problem will be evaluated again in the view of the possible changed desired goal and circumstances of the problem. There might be a chance that the problem handling process has to be done over again, now within the changed situation.

These six steps of the Compram Methodology represent the main guidelines for handling a complex societal problem. Within the steps there is room for applying all kind of methods and tools, qualitative and quantitative methods of social science and operational research, like gaming and simulation, group decision support, multi criteria analyses, scenario making and methods and tools from other disciplines.”

## **8 Conclusions**

War time rape is a complex societal problem. Such a problem needs to be handled via the theory of Societal Complexity. The Compram methodology is a way to guide the complex and difficult process of handling war time rape. In order to put the issue of the political agenda one needs a good group of lobbyists that should be well informed about the problem and be able to draw evidence to support the argument necessary to putting this problem on the international stage. Next to arguments actions are needed to empower the arguments. Analyzing the problem according to the Compram methodology provides the arguments needed to empower the lobbyists so they can convince others, so that the problem can be put on a legitimate international agenda in order to make, enforce, and observe the laws of protecting women, men, and children from war time rape, as well as legitimately punishing the criminal perpetrators.

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