

Human Development and Life Stages General Systems Models

(Revised Nov., 2007)

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Abstract

Fractal or General Systems models have been extended into the area of human life span development, by myself, deliberately, and earlier by my father, and others, following their own agendas (not intentional GS models). A short discussion with both models is presented below.

Introduction

In applying the 4x3 matrix form to the [life span developmental cycles](#) of humans, I chose a generation period of 24 years and a cell period of 6 years. The generation period coincides nicely with the physical "markers" for completion of growth at age 24 (wisdom teeth and final brain development), the cessation of reproductive ability at age 48 (menopause), and the end of the average life span at age 72. The 6 year internal division or individual cell of the generation cycle corresponds to generally recognized growth and social "markers" at ages 6, 12, and 18 - the end of childhood and the beginning of school (6), adolescence, the beginning of sexual maturation (12), and graduation from school, the (legal) beginning of young adulthood and (typically) dispersal from home (to college, the military, or jobs) at 18. The transformative period from 18-24 marks the period of integration of the individual into the adult world at large, including the search for a mate, culminating in a transformed and completed identity through marriage and in-laws (age 24).

Discussion

In the two succeeding generation cycles (parent and grandparent cycles), the 6 year internal cells are not so obviously marked or easily recognized, but the hypothesis of the General System matrix says they are there nevertheless, and that they consist of stages which are higher system analogs of those in the 1st growth cycle.

Two of these later stages which are commonly recognized are the "mid-life crisis" at about age 42, in the reproductive generation, and its higher analog "retirement" in the grandparent generation at about age 66 - both events leading into transition periods from which we hopefully emerge onto the new and higher plateaus of the next generation cycle - the beginning of wisdom in the first case, and the beginning of spirituality in the second (whether in this life or the next).

I have extended the 4x3 72 year "core" life span development cycle to a 4x4 model, accommodating our modern longer life span with a 4th great-grandparent stage of non-specific and highly individualistic spiritual development stages, which is perhaps simply the beginning in this life of what

in more "natural" circumstances would be happening in the next. Some of these higher spiritual stages are discussed in my father's book ["Trance, Art, Creativity"](#) . There is also the suggestive notion of the "second childhood" applied to those who have lived long enough to begin a 4th generation cycle, perhaps (in some cases) recapitulating the cycle of development of this life rather than moving on to higher stages.

The "GRST" (Gather, Repeat, Share, Transform) growth stages of the General System matrix are perfectly obvious both horizontally and vertically in the life span developmental table. Here "Gather" corresponds to growth (in various forms), "Repeat" to reproduction, and "Share" to society; "Transformation" characterizes the period of transition between generations, or at the end of life. Corresponding to the four generations, I have chosen the terms "Metabolic" for the 1st generation "growth" cycle, "Reproduction" for the 2nd generation "parental" cycle, "Perception" for the grandparent "leadership" cycle, and "Spirituality" for the 4th or great-grandparent "counselor" cycle. These are the general characteristics which define and describe the major tasks, attributes, or contributions of each generation.

THE ERIKSON-PIAGET-GOWAN PERIODIC DEVELOPMENTAL STAGE CHART

[A second developmental table](#), reproduced from my father's book "Development of the Psychedelic Individual", is shown below my own life stages model. Although my father's table was not produced deliberately from any fractal or General Systems model, it is easy to see that the essential ingredients of either a 4x3 or 4x4 psychological model are present. This model incorporates formal, standard, psychological markers and parameters of development, absent in my own General Systems model.

Links:

Life Cycle Tables:

[Human Life Stages 4x4 Table](#)

[The Erikson-Piaget-Gowan Life Stages Table](#)

Table from: [Development of the Psychedelic Individual. A book by Prof. John Curtis Gowan](#) (1974)

See also: [Development of the Creative Individual. A book by Prof. John Curtis Gowan](#)

The Fractal Organization of Nature

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Table I: [Human Life Stages 4x4 General Systems Table](#)

Table II: [The Erikson-Piaget-Gowan Life Stages Table](#)

Table II from: [Development of the Psychedelic Individual. A book by Prof. John Curtis Gowan \(1974\)](#)

See also: [Development of the Creative Individual. A book by Prof. John Curtis Gowan](#)

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System Life Cycle Process Models: Vee. Lead Authors: Dick Fairley, Kevin Forsberg, Contributing Author: Ray Madachy. There are a large number of life cycle process models. As discussed in the System Life Cycle Process Drivers and Choices article, these models fall into three major categories: (1) primarily pre-specified and sequential processes; (2) primarily evolutionary and concurrent processes (e.g., the rational unified process and various forms of the Vee and spiral models); and (3) primarily

What is SDLC? SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT LIFECYCLE (SDLC) is a systematic process for building software that ensures the quality and correctness of the software built. SDLC process aims to produce high-quality software that meets customer expectations. The system development should be complete in the pre-defined time frame and cost. SDLC consists of a detailed plan which explains how to plan, build, and maintain specific software. Every phase of the SDLC life cycle has its own process and deliverables that feed into the next phase. SDLC stands for Software Development Lifecycle. In this Software Dev...

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The UN General Assembly has officially recognized the Human Development Report as "an independent intellectual exercise" that has become "an important tool for raising awareness about human development around the world." The Update's composite indices and other statistical resources rely on the expertise of the leading international data providers in their specialized fields, and we express our gratitude for their continued collegial collaboration with the HDRO.

Human and capital mobility 14. Supplementary indicators: perceptions of well-being 15. Status of fundamental human rights treaties Human development dashboards 1. Quality of human development 2. Life-course gender gap 3. Women's empowerment Social aspect of human development.

A different aspect of social development is closely related to the value of human life and human capacity or, precisely, how it is perceived in a society. This, we suggest, is reflected in the measures, which are taken against accidental injuries that may occur in production or even everyday environment. And yet the differences in general injury rates provide useful insight about the extent, to which life-saving technologies have become an organic part of society's system organization. We assume that a more advanced traffic management (including higher quality road construction) and lower corruption among the police are very important factors to the number of road accidents and, consequently, the number of their victims. In systems engineering, information systems and software engineering, the systems development life cycle (SDLC), also referred to as the application development life-cycle, is a process for planning, creating, testing, and deploying an information system. The systems development life cycle concept applies to a range of hardware and software configurations, as a system can be composed of hardware only, software only, or a combination of both. There are usually six stages in this cycle: requirement