

## **Curriculum Vitae Dorien DeTombe (MSc. Ph.D.)**

Chair International Research Society on Methodology for Societal Complexity  
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Dorien J. DeTombe is the founding father of the field Methodology for Societal Complexity. She developed the Compram methodology for political decision making on complex societal issues like sustainable development, floods, large city problems, terrorism, healthcare, credit crisis and water affairs. She studied social science and computer science. She received her doctorate in the field of Methodology for Societal Complexity. She spend her main carrier as a scientist at Utrecht University and at Delft University of Technology in The Netherlands, and as a visiting professor abroad. She is a member of many scientific boards and review committees. She published more than 100 articles and many books. She created an International Research Group on Methodology for Societal Complexity in Europe, North-America, and Africa.

Dorien DeTombe is a regular referee for conferences and journals in her field of research. She is a recognized researcher in her field of research both national and international. She is doing research on the subject of how to handle complex problems; policy problems in risk management, sustainable development and healthcare. She gives lectures on the subject of Methodology of Societal Complexity as visiting professor and at conferences all over the world. She organizes yearly conferences on the topic of Methodology of Societal Complexity. She is editor of several journals. She build a multidisciplinary International Research Group on Societal Complexity in Europe, North-America, and Africa.

The COMPRAM methodology is based on the idea that societal problems must be handled multidisciplinary and cooperatively with experts, policy makers and stakeholders together. These difficult and complicated group processes are guided and structured by a facilitator in a six step approach. Multidisciplinary experts, stakeholders and policymakers discuss the content and possible solutions based on a cooperative (simulation) model of the problem. The method emphasizes facilitating the exchange of knowledge, and understanding and communication among the experts, stakeholders and politicians.

Knowledge, power and emotions are the basic elements in handing complex societal problems. The COMPRAM methodology is a prescriptive framework method to which all kind of sub-methods can be applied. The COMPRAM methodology has been used as a theoretical basis for handling over sixty real life cases in the field of societal policy making and in real life complex societal problems in several countries. The COMPRAM methodology is advised by the OECD (July 2006) to handle complex societal issues. The 'Final consensus report' from the OECD Global Science Forum Workshop held in Tokyo, Japan, on December 5-6, 2005 organized by the JST-RISTEX (Research Institute for Science and Technology for Society, Japan Science and Technology Agency) see [Report on the Workshop on Science and Technology for a Safer Society](http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/29/2/37163745.pdf) 20-Jul-2006 <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/29/2/37163745.pdf>

See for the COMPRAM methodology, publications, conferences and lectures:  
<http://www.complexitycourse.org/doriendetombe.html>

### Goal of the International Research Groups on Societal Complexity

Handling complex societal problems needs a special approach. Handling societal problems in an interdisciplinary way has become a must for our society and a challenge for the human sciences. The problems society is confronted with are difficult to handle. There is a growing gap between the complexity of these problems and the human capacity to deal with them. There is a need for better methods and tools, more knowledge and imagination. Scientific knowledge is needed to survive amidst these problems.

Therefore methodology for complex societal problems has become a new field of scientific attention. Some of the scientific reasons for this special approach are that the problems are seldom defined, change during their development, many actors are involved often with a different view on the problem, with different interest and with different 'solutions' in mind. Societal reasons for this special approach is the importance of these problems for society, the impact they have on many people, and the large amount of money involved. Combining the effort of scientists who are working in this field is an inspiring serious challenge from the perspective of a number of disciplines. Combining existing knowledge and creating new insights with methods and tools for supporting complex societal problems is a challenge for scientists from different fields.

The goal of the Research Groups on Methodology for Complex Societal Problems is to increase and to combine the available scientific knowledge regarding the handling of complex societal problems. Means to reach this goal are organizing workshops and conferences, publishing proceedings and books in which the discussion on this subject can take place.

All Research Groups work closely together with each other and other groups that are scientifically near. The Euro research en West-Euro group research works close together with the Dutch Nosmo Research Group on Complex Societal Problems & Issues.

The number of members of the research groups is steadily growing. The members of the research groups come from different fields and are working at universities and research Institutes all over the world. There is a high degree of activity and interaction amongst the members of the group. By the reaction of the audience there is a feeling that this subject of the Operational Research field is winning more and more interest as it is in social sciences. There is also a growing interest from the side of policy makers who recognize that the problems they are confronted with are complex problems, which are not easy to solve, and which need an complex integral approach. The growing interest is needed, because the problems society is confronted with should be efficient and sustainable handled. Complex societal problems like in Europe the recent troubles in the agro-industry as the Mad-Cow disease and the Mouth and Foot disease, SARS, and the continue problems with in the area of transportation and large city problems. The worldwide problems in the area of healthcare like malaria and AIDS, and the water problems (too less, too much and not clean).