

# **Systems Snapshot Q&A**



## **Rocco Scolozzi, PhD**

Lecturer in Systems Thinking and Futures Studies at Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento

Research Fellow at Department of Civil, Environmental and Mechanical Engineering, University of Trento

Trainer and Consultant at SKOPIA s.r.l.  
Anticipation Services



## **Stefano Armenia, PhD**

President of SYDIC, the Italian Chapter of the System Dynamics Society

Professor in Business Information Systems, Tor Vergata University of Rome

Professor in Business Organization, Link Campus University of Rome

### **Q: How were you first introduced to systems thinking?**

**A: Stefano:** By reading *The Fifth Discipline*, by Peter Senge. I had just started my PhD and was working with an e-learning company that was building business simulators. I got fascinated with systems thinking very quickly and from there started reading many more books.

**Rocco:** Summer school during my PhD in Germany. There was a module dedicated to systems thinking but it wasn't until two years later that I took more courses and attended a Systems Dynamics Society conference.

### **Q: Which Habit of a Systems Thinker do you wish everyone practiced?**

**A: Stefano:** I don't have a favorite - they are all intertwined. As a systems thinker, I need to say all of them!

**Rocco:** I teach a futures studies course so I will say Mental Models - how they affect the present and the future. Resisting the Urge to Come to a Quick Conclusion also represents a need we have in society. And, if I can say one more - Systems Structure!

### **Q: Which leader (past or present) do you admire most and why?**

**A: Stefano:** Julius Caesar. How he dealt politically, economically and socially shows he had a very systemic perspective.

**Rocco:** Donella Meadows. I admire her work and thinking very much.

### **Q: What is one book you think everyone should read?**

**A: Stefano:** *Thinking in Systems*, by Donella Meadows. The Italian Chapter of the Systems Dynamics Society actually recently translated the book into Italian.

### **Q: What advice do you have for someone getting started as a systems thinker?**

**A: Rocco:** Recognize and look at the many feedbacks you are a part of.

**Stefano:** I will add to Rocco's answer - start reading *Thinking in Systems*!

### **Q: Why do you think the world needs systems thinkers?**

**A: Stefano:** The world needs systems thinkers at every level because the world is increasingly connected, more interdependent, more and more complex. True systems thinkers are people who can listen and have two-way conversations. Systems thinkers are leaders who will help others to start to think in systems.