

HSCB

**Synthesis Group
Outbrief**

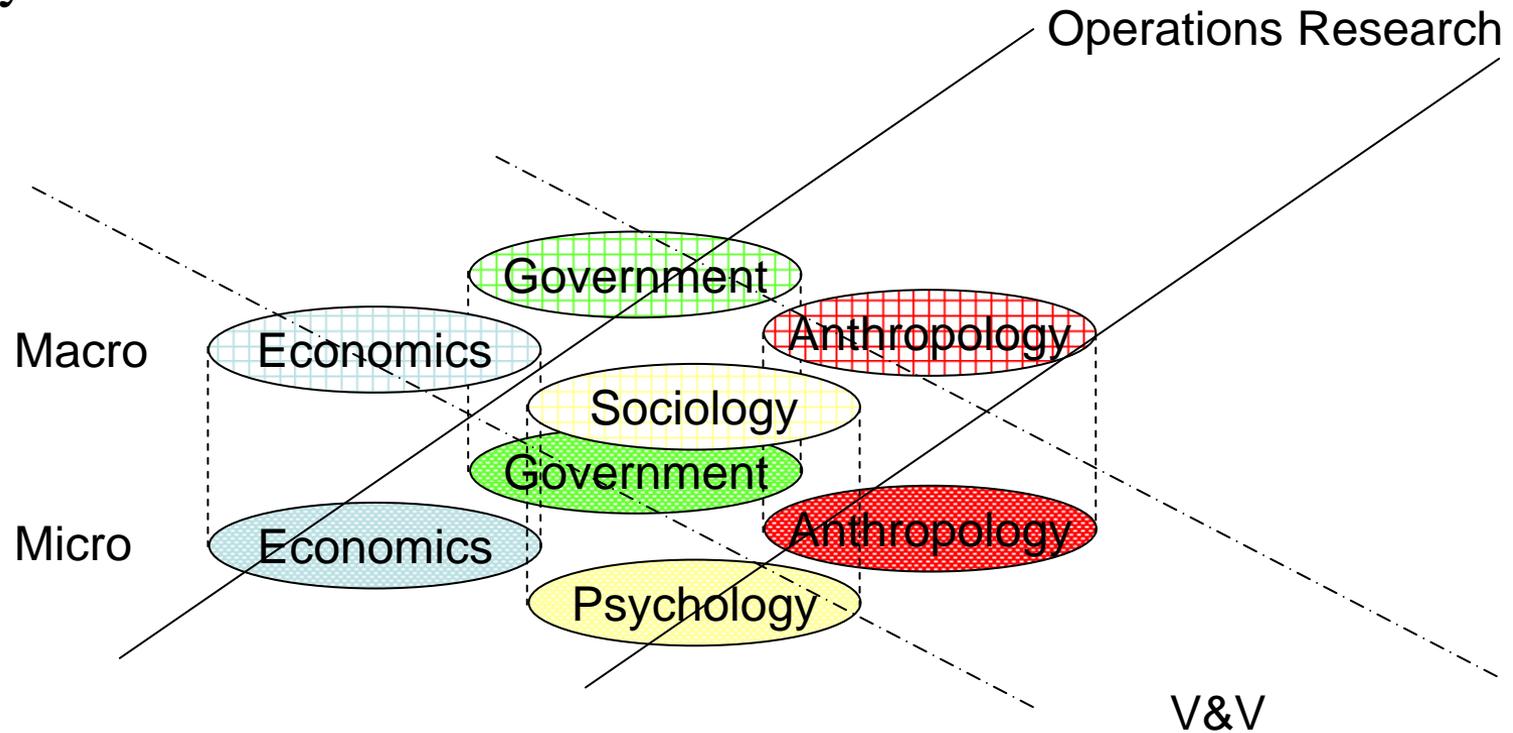
Structure of the Synthesis Group

- Chair: Dr. Stuart Starr
- Co-chair: Dr. Dean Hartley
- Members:
 - Dr. Ted Woodcock
 - Dr. Richard Hayes
 - Dr. Margaret Hayes
 - Dr. Doug Clark
 - Mr. Al Sciarretta
 - Prof. Dave Davis
 - Dr. Chuck Barry
 - Dr. Pat McKenna
 - Dr. Myriam Abramson
 - Mr. Skip Cole
 - Dr. Roger Hillson
- Process Description:

Synthesis Group

Day 1 Working Groups

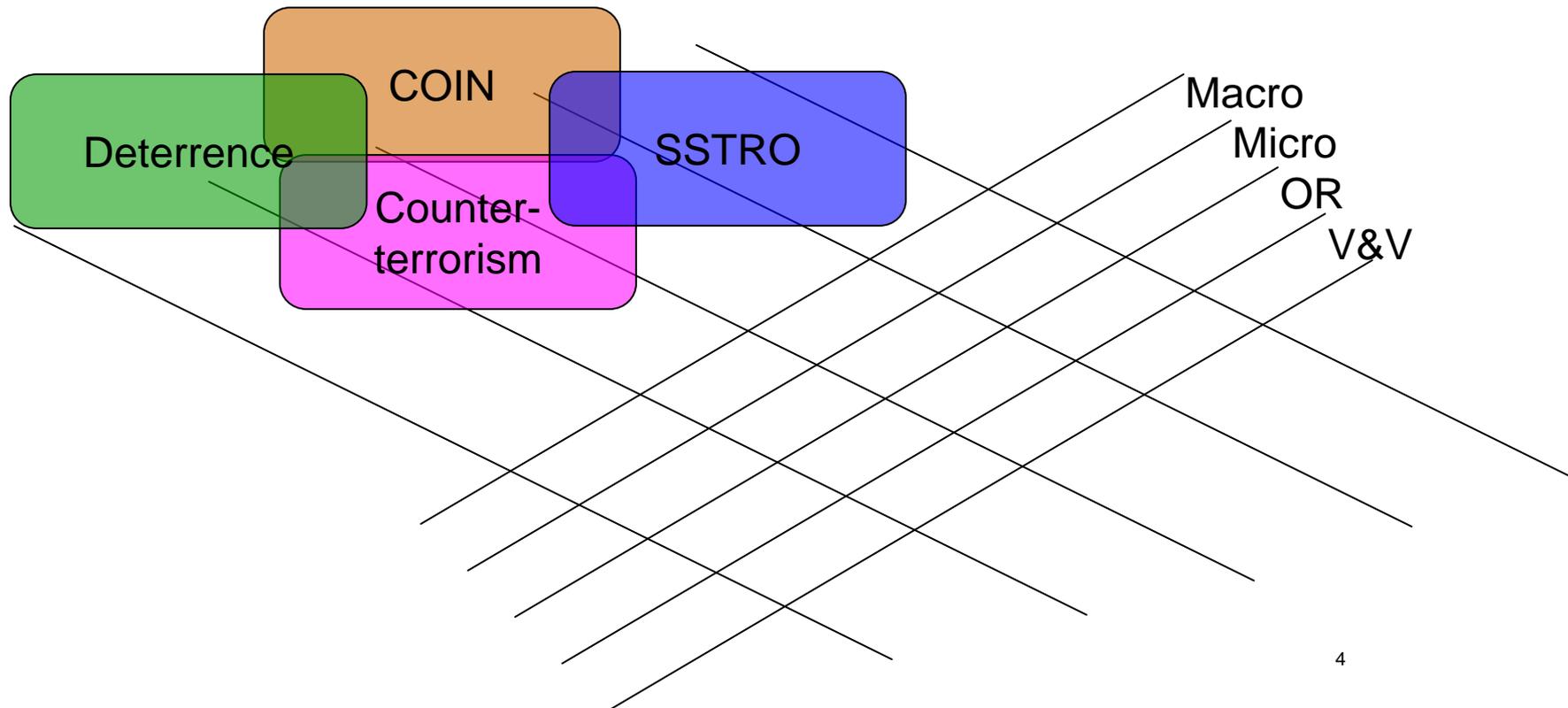
- Commonalities
- Differences
- Synthesis



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Day 2 Working Groups

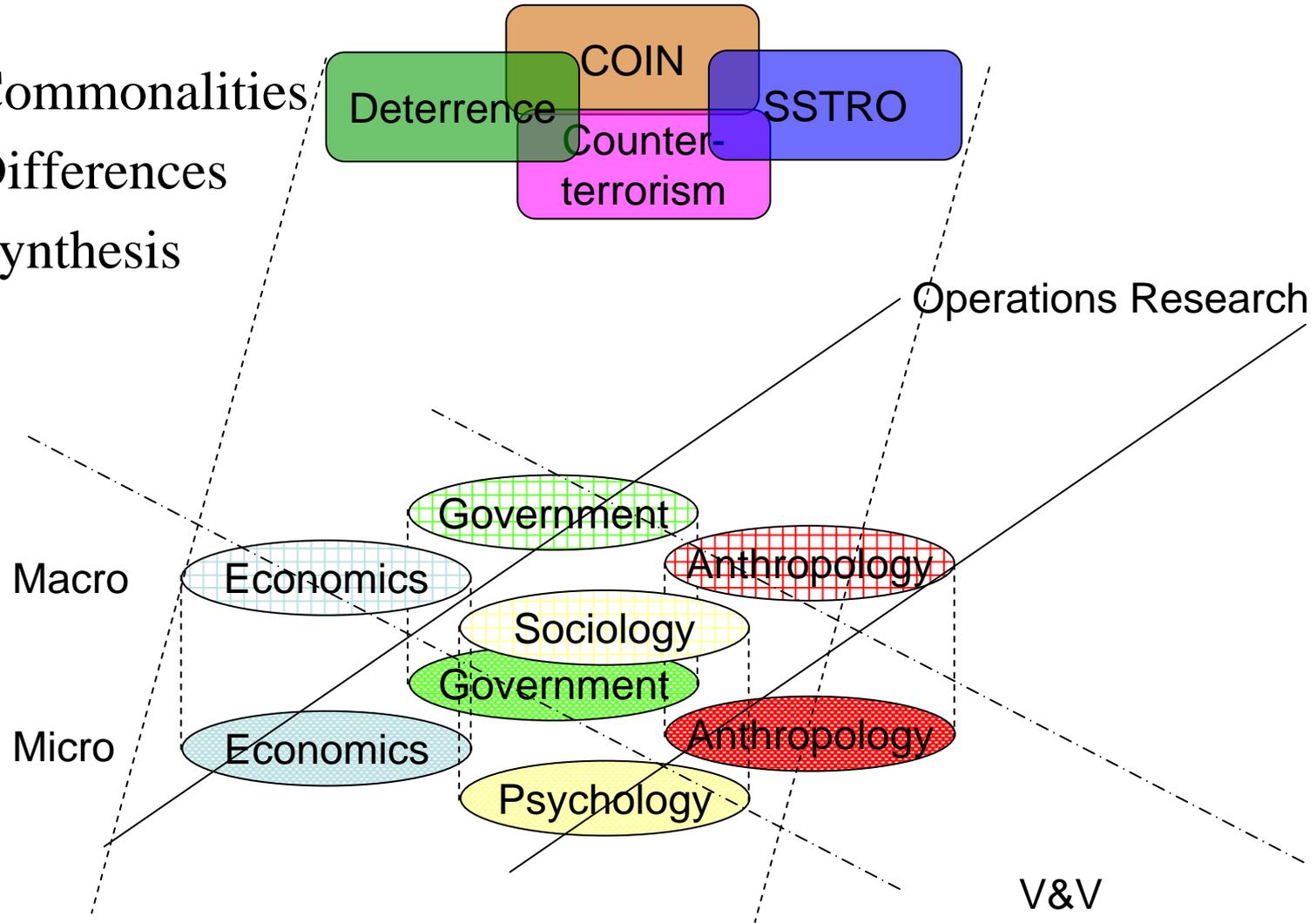
- Commonalities
- Differences
- Synthesis



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Day 1 & 2 Plenaries

- Commonalities
- Differences
- Synthesis



“Aha!” Statements in WGs/Plenaries

- xCobb – intro to paper Q1 = need for social theory
- Cells rather than provinces, greater equanimity in data distribution outside of political boundaries
- Model design includes cell to cell causal effect chains
- Pop, disease flow to cells/ transit between cells
- Takeaways = dynamism in models should capture dynamism across space and not solely time // macro level theories should apply at the “cellular” level //
- Contention regarding the failure of states – that it is the normal course for states to divide or be absorbed from time to time. By artificially freezing the status quo (of territorial boundaries) states which would ordinarily be absorbed faster in failure and stasis.

Connectible Statements in WGs/Plenaries

- x Need for a concrete lexicon of social changes (i.e. a means of operationalizing, categorizing) = = “taxonomy of violence”
- Micro motives for macro behavior and vice versa – majority concurs, vocal minority disagrees
- Models meant to MODEL not replicate reality, excess of variables leads to lower accuracy

Contradictory Statements in WGs/Plenaries

- x(Rebuttals – Phoenix factor and growth rates vs. Cobb’s PTSD postulate of doom leading to greater doom; from whence do the actions come which first impelled the original onset of PTSD; NOT falsifiable, not testable – how does one model based on such an empirically unverifiable premise?)
- Cobb – not intended to replace traditional explanations of conflict’s motives (i.e. scarcity), merely suggesting that this unaddressed
- (Rebuttal – how to determine causation? Which is scarcity which is PTSD?)
- Margret - we do not understand the driving, causal motors of “change” well enough to model it in the social sciences
- (What is this “change” – why do they find it too difficult to capture?)

New Data Sources/Sets from WGs/Plenaries

- **X**

New Theories from WGs/Plenaries

- PTSD becoming epidemic – inculcated in the culture – lay the ideological framework for extremism or terrorism; infection of social institutions
- Suggestion that models strive not to capture reality, but rather reality as it is perceived (???)

New Methodologies/Tools from WGs/Plenaries

- Desire expressed on several occasions for a “SimCountry” application; Cobb shared an early prototype of same. Criticisms: obvious over-extension of technology not yet capable of simulating reality effectively. – admission by Cobb that any solid results are about twenty years off...

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Synthesis of Needs

- Re: Q3: Need for abandoning the ad-hoc “one-off” approach to the problems to which modeling is applied, but rather....?
- How to address the composition of M&S to advance and coordinate with the objectives of theater security co-operation plan(s)?
- Recommending a re-composition of organizational structure to not only incorporate M&S activities in strategic planning, but also to hold the M&S community accountable for failures (esp. predictive ones)
- Foster: Capacity building and hypothesis testing: how well do the precepts and policy actions taken by DoD actually work? Can M&S be instantiated for the benefit of that process? (analogy of food aid inadvertently destroying food distribution networks)
- Concrete example of previous: DoD distributes aid to villages in Luzon to undermine Abu Saef recruiting efforts, does this actually work? Can modeling help answer the question and thusly be incorporated into the planning/CoA decision making process...?
- Everyone agrees that collaboration is very important – perhaps a mechanism is needed to facilitate said collaboration....

Synthesis of State of the Art/Practice

- Commonalities
- Differences
- Synthesis

Synthesis Group
Overall Synthesis

- Commonalities
- Differences
- Synthesis

Technical Recommendations to NDU

- Where to apply funding?
- Need continuity of interest and commitment?

Overview of Workshop Process

What Went Very Well?

What Needed Improvement?

Process Recommendations for the Next Workshop
