



LLC (BV) International Institute Societal Complexity Europe (IISCE)  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Europe

# Societal Complexity: policy making for changes

## Interdisciplinary Master Class Methodology

Ten Master Classes start 2 x a year September and November

Prof. Dr Dorien DeTombe

[also available in Dutch](#)



## Master class



## Goals

The Methodology of Societal Complexity Course and the Compram Methodology provide insights into how to deal with complex societal problems, the theoretical basis of the methodology of societal complexity, and how to act when

confronted by such a problem. In the first four theoretical lectures you will have the opportunity to analyze one of your complex societal problems. In the second part of the course, consisting of six lectures, we approach a contemporary complex societal problem with the support of a simulation model to provide a deeper insight into the problem.

In the four theoretical lectures the founder of the field of Methodology of Societal Complexity, Prof. Dr Dorien DeTombe, introduces the Theory of Societal Complexity, and offers a way to analyze these problems. She will also provide methods through which policy makers can handle these problems to bring about sustainable changes. At this point you will learn about ways of handling your chosen complex societal problems.

## Background to the course

Policy making about complex societal problems is difficult. For interdisciplinary problems a multi-disciplinary approach is necessary with experts from different fields, and with actors who are confronted with these problems that involve knowledge, power and emotions. The COMPRAM methodology (Complex Problem Handling Method, DeTombe, 1994; 2015) has been developed to handle these problems effectively by analyzing the many perspectives on the problem, developing policy regarding it, and evaluating the results. Guided by the facilitator, experts and actors analyze the problem, suggest changes and evaluate the results. This is performed with a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods.

## Learning results

The course will inform you as a manager, a policymaker or a facilitator to better deal with complex societal problems. By participating in the course, you will receive an introduction in the Compram methodology and will understand the main aspects of it. You will learn to define a complex societal problem, and to realize why these problems should be handled by multi-disciplinary teams of experts, together with the actors involved with the problem. You will learn to appreciate the relationships of knowledge, power and emotions as aspects of the problem. At the same time you will learn to appreciate the role of simulation in considering and evaluating policy. After completing the course you should be better able to deal with complex societal problems in which your own company or organization is involved. In addition you should be able to share your new knowledge with your colleagues. For further information about the theory and methods see: [http://www.complexitycourse.org/detombe\\_compram.html](http://www.complexitycourse.org/detombe_compram.html).

**Certificate:** After completing the course with satisfactory results, you will receive a certificate.

## Methodology of Societal Complexity and the Compram Methodology

Complex societal problems are difficult to handle because there are several different factors which complicate them. The best approaches are multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary. A combination of qualitative and quantitative methods is needed to analyze these complex societal problems and make sustainable decisions. In the course the main ideas of the theory for handling complex societal problems will be explained with an introduction to the COMPRAM methodology (Complex Problem Handling Method, DeTombe, 1994; 2015).

Questions posed and discussed during the course are:



What are complex societal problems? What do different complex societal problems all have in common? Why do these problems require a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach? Why must these problems be handled by groups of experts and actors? What are some of the basic approaches for handling complex societal problems? What are the roles of knowledge, power and emotion in handling complex societal problems? What combination of qualitative and quantitative methods is needed to handle these problems? What are the roles of system thinking, system-dynamics, and chaos theory in the development of the theory of complex societal problems?

The Compram methodology is a scientific methodology for handling complex societal problems in a transparent and structured way. Handling means analyzing, policymaking, decision making, guiding and evaluating interventions. The Compram methodology was developed by DeTombe (1994-2009). Most problem-handling methods focus only on a part of the problem; the Compram methodology, however, focuses on the whole spectrum of the problem handling process. The Compram methodology can be applied to all kinds of policy problems, such as climate change, transport, sustainable development, healthcare, economy, and global safety.

Computer simulation and research on the theory behind these types of problems is indispensable in handling complex societal problems. First of all because computer simulation can facilitate the understanding of causal relations among determining factors of a complex societal problems. Secondly because with computer simulation one can comprehend the time development of this causal network. But most of all, because complexity is a concept that can best be understood when it is put into the framework of mathematical complexity theory. That is a theory based on the mathematics of non-linear differential equations, which can be developed with the aid of computer simulation.

## Course Outline

The course has a theoretical part consisting of four lectures of half a day and a more practical simulation part consisting of six lectures. The participants will have an active approach during the course including some preparation for each lecture, consisting of literature study and preparing one's own complex societal problem. Each lecture takes two hours.

### Cases

You will get the opportunity to use the cases from your own experience.

### Literature/software (included in the price of the course)

**DeTombe, Dorien** (2015) *Handling Societal Complexity. A Study of the Theory and the Methodology of Societal Complexity and the COMPRAM Methodology*. Heidelberg: Springer Verlag. 550 pages ISBN /EAN 978-3-662-43916-6.  
Syllabus Societal Complexity Dorien DeTombe  
You can read about the Compram methodology on [www.doriendetombe.nl](http://www.doriendetombe.nl)

### Final paper

The course will be completed with a paper on a complex societal problem by your own selection.

# Program

The Master Class consists of ten lectures of two hours each

**Lecturer Prof. Dr Dorien DeTombe**



Dates September course **Wednesday** 12 and 26 September, 10 and 24 October, 7 and 21 November, 5 and 19 December 2018, 09 and 23 January 2019, certificate March 8 2019.

## for dates November course contact

Prof. Dr Dorien DeTombe [detombe@nosmo.nl](mailto:detombe@nosmo.nl)

Wednesday September 12 2018	<b>What is societal complexity?</b> Examples of terrorism, climate change and the credit crisis will be used to illustrate the concepts. You will then transfer this knowledge directly to your own complex societal problem.
Wednesday September 26 2018	<b>Knowledge development: Introduction to step 1 of the Compram methodology.</b> Application to your own problem.
Wednesday October 10 2018	<b>Complexity in large organizations: Use of a group decision room and the role of the facilitator.</b> Application to your own problem.
Wednesday October 24 2018	<b>Complexity of power and emotion.</b> Application to your own problem.
Wednesday November 7 2018	<b>Case complexity:</b> discussion based on the Compram methodology of a contemporary problem and application to your own problem.
Wednesday November 21 2018	<b>Making a conceptual model of the case using the seven-layer model of the Compram methodology</b> and application to your own problem.
Wednesday December 5 2018	<b>Discuss a complex problem of your work place</b>
Wednesday December 19	<b>Filling the seven layer model of you own complex societal problem</b> and application to your own problem.
Wednesday January 02 2018	<b>Continued application to your own problem.</b>
Wednesday January 16 2018	<b>Completion of the description</b> of your own complex societal problem.
Wednesday January 30 2018	<b>Summary and course conclusion.</b>
Wednesday	<b>Receiving course certificate and presentation March 8 2017</b>

Course participants are limited to a maximum of 12.

The course runs over a period of five months, two meetings a month of lectures, total study time 3 days a month.

Course time: September 2018 - February 2019, certificate March 2019

Location: University of Amsterdam.



## Lecturer

**Prof. Dr Dorien DeTombe** is the founder 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. Dorien J. DeTombe studied social science and computer science and received her doctorate in the field of Methodology

for Societal Complexity. She spent her main career at Utrecht University and at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands and she is also a professor at Sichuan University, Chengdu, P.R. China. She is the author of [articles and books](#) on the subject of Methodology of Societal Complexity. She gives [lectures](#) on the subject of Methodology of Societal Complexity as Visiting Professor and she organizes yearly international [conferences](#). Dorien J. DeTombe is chair of the [International Society on Methodology of Societal Complexity](#) the [Operational Research Euro Working Group on Methodology of Societal Complexity Societal](#), the [West-Euro Working Group on Methodology of Societal Complexity](#), chair of the [Dutch Research Group \(Nosmo\) Complex Societal Problems & Issues](#). She is secretary of the [Nosmo Simulation Research Group](#). [www.doriendetombe.nl](http://www.doriendetombe.nl)

## Facts

**Day & Time** Wednesday afternoon from 4 - 6 pm.

**Cost** € 1695.00 per person.

Includes:

\* Dorien DeTombe (2015) [Handling Societal Complexity. A Study of the Theory and the Methodology Societal Complexity and the COMPRAM Methodology](#), Berlin/Heidelberg: Springer Verlag. 550 pages ISBN/EAN 978-3-662-43916-6; € 137,79.

\* *Syllabus Societal Complexity Dorien DeTombe*

**Location** Center of Amsterdam, University of Amsterdam

**Organization** The organization of this masterclass is provided by Greenhill & Waterfront International Scientific & Development Institute on Complex Societal problems, International Research Society on Methodology of Societal Complexity.

## Subscribe:



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Send email to: [detombe@nosmo.nl](mailto:detombe@nosmo.nl) Pay four weeks before the start 'Masterclass Societal Complexity' and your name. You will only be registered after we have received your payment.

In case it is not possible for you to attend, you will get your money back until two weeks before the course starts. No refunds of tuition after that date; however, you may send another person as a substitute.



LLC (BV) International Institute Societal Complexity Europe (IISCE) Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Europe [DeTombegw@hotmail.com](mailto:DeTombegw@hotmail.com)  
<http://www.complexitycourse.org/iisce.html>