

RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST
FOR PERIOD
JULY-DECEMBER 2005

A CASE STUDY APPROACH TO CLASSROOM
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OF PROBLEM
STRUCTURING METHODS

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14 March 2005

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OBJETIVO

Objective: To develop a complete case study approach to classroom experiential learning of *Problem Structuring Methods* (PSMs), with a view to submitting a paper to the *Journal of the Operational Research Society* (JORS) by December 2005.

The approach in question will include a tested case study, a pedagogic framework, a report on empirical classroom results, process and content recommendations for those who wish to replicate the exercise in the classroom, a recommended evaluation method, and suggested future research avenues.

Prior to a December submission to JORS, I will have the opportunity, in November, to present my results at the first Brazilian ISSS-sponsored¹ system theory conference in São Paulo. The conference is being held with the aim to create the first Brazilian chapter of the ISSS and, in addition to my paper presentation, I have been asked to give one of three keynote speeches (mine will focus upon pedagogic approaches to systems thinking and will draw heavily from my current research in classroom experiential learning of *Problem Structuring Methods*). The conference paper presentation and keynote speech, therefore, constitute a related research objective.

MÉTODO

Building upon two years of empirical tests, bibliographic research, and student feedback, I plan to spend the period July to December 2005 consolidating my data and analyses with a view to submitting two paper versions: the first (November) to the Brazilian ISSS-sponsored system theory conference in São Paulo, and the second (December) and more complete paper to *JORS*.

Prior to November, I will have had the opportunity for one more empirical classroom test whose results will provide further input to my already established data.

The research effort during the period in question, therefore, will be mainly concentrated upon producing papers (and one speech), combined with a classroom experiential exercise. In addition, a complete report, including the papers, will be provided to GVPesquisa.

ORÇAMENTO

In the main, there are no project costs which are not already covered by the FGV-EAESP/IMQ infrastructure. Writing research papers for submission to conferences and journals is always time-consuming, and it is envisaged that time outside regular work hours will be required for this activity.

¹ International Society for the Systems Sciences

In the case of the November conference in São Paulo, it is not yet known whether I will incur any significant conference expenses, either for travel or in the form of conference fees. My present understanding is that neither of these will be an issue since the conference will be held in São Paulo and will be organized by USP (with the possible involvement of FGV-EAESP).

RESUMO

The proposed research aims at consolidating two years of practical experience in developing a classroom experiential learning pedagogic approach for the problem structuring methods (PSMs) of operational research. The results will be prepared as papers to be submitted, respectively, to the Brazilian ISSS-sponsored system theory conference in São Paulo, and to *JORS*.

These two papers follow the submission (in 2004) of one related paper to *JORS* which is about to be resubmitted following certain revisions. This first paper draws from the PSM and experiential learning literatures in order to introduce a basic foundation upon which a pedagogic framework for experiential learning of PSMs may be built. It forms, in other words, an integral part of my research in this area.

By September, the area of pedagogic approaches to PSM learning will have received its first official attention - at the UK OR Society conference. My research and paper production during July-December, therefore, coincide with an important time in this area, enabling me to form part of the small cohort of published researchers creating the foundations upon which future pedagogic research will build. On the institutional level, such pioneering work also raises the national and international profile of FGV-EAESP, making it a reference for future researchers in this area.

INFORMAÇÕES COMPLEMENTARES

This project is a continuation of my research work for the period January-June 2005. My research project for that period outlined a basic bibliography which need not be repeated here.

As a new professor and researcher at FGV-EAESP, I welcome the extensive support which GVPesquisa provides, not least its financial support. I am currently receiving the research scholarship entitlement of my first six months at FGV. Such remuneration, provided on the top of my usual salary, is most welcome and constitutes essential income for me. This remuneration, however, will terminate in June and I am anxious to secure its continuation during July-December. I have therefore submitted the present research project early enough in the hope that it will be evaluated in time for me to know either:

1. that the project has been accepted and research remuneration will continue beginning July (and ending December); or,
 2. that the project requires more detail (or perhaps has not been accepted).
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In the case of the latter, I would appreciate an answer in time for me to be able to re-submit a project with a view to securing research remuneration beginning in July.

Being a new member of staff, I am still discovering 'the way things are done' at FGV-EAESP. I would be grateful for early indications and information on any aspect - of my research, of my present project proposal, or of my request, above, for early consideration - which does not fit current procedures. I thank GVPesquisa for their kind attention.