



Three Lenses on Org. Processes

Design

Need all

three!

Organizations are machines

An organization is a mechanical system crafted to achieve a defined goal. Parts must fit well together and match the demands of the environment.

Action comes through planning.

Political

Organizations are contests

An organization is a social system
encompassing diverse, and sometimes
contradictory, interests and goals.

Competition for resources is expected.

Action comes through power.

Cultural

Organizations are institutions

An organization is a symbolic system of meanings, artifacts, values, and routines. Informal norms and traditions exert a strong influence on behavior.

Action comes through habit.

Ancona et. al. 99

- Can't have two views of a formula
- Might have two views of a promise
- Then need "cultural" work towards shared understanding

One economist's view of part of grey!

















