Finally, **Section Three** of this book starts with some background to the author’s own intervention practice in Community Operational Research (dealing with problematic issues in community contexts). Four examples of systemic intervention are provided, each of which is used to illustrate a different aspect of the methodology outlined in Section Two.

The book then ends with an invitation to the reader to begin to practice systemic intervention and contribute to its further development.
“This book is a very special gift to the systems community. It was hard for me to put it down. And when I did, the rich insights I gained from it continued to inspire me to work out new understandings. Then, I picked up the book again and continued my rewarding learning journey. The work projects a fascinating landscape of systems inquiry and its potentials for the new century. The author paints this emerging landscape on the largest possible canvas. It is a masterpiece. It integrates in dynamic recursive interaction systems philosophy, theory, methodology, and their application for the improvement of the human condition. It opens up our thinking and invites us to take part in the evolution of systems inquiry and create it as an ever changing, dynamically unfolding process”.

Bela H. Banathy, Professor Emeritus at the Saybrook Graduate School and Research Center, San Francisco, CA, USA. President of the International Systems Institute; Past-President of the International Society for the Systems Sciences.

“Comprehensive and accessible in approach, well grounded in excellent examples and transdisciplinary analysis, this book promises to become a classic sourcebook for academics and practitioners seeking to better understand intervention and change in complex systems. The author makes significant connections between the philosophy, methodology and practice of systemic intervention. He brilliantly demonstrates how principles of boundary critique enable us to work with a major paradox of our time: how to stay dynamically attuned to the moral, ethical and systemic implications of intervention choices while enabling coordinated inquiry and action that can support sustainable community improvement. An important book!”

Professor Susan Weil, Director, SOLAR Centre, University of the West of England, Bristol, UK.

“C. West Churchman in the 1960s recognised that systems thinking at its core is concerned with bounded and value laden judgements that people make in coping with everyday life. Somehow this message became all but lost in subsequent conversations about systems models and methodologies. How refreshing, then, that Gerald Midgley, from a new generation of systems researchers, makes boundary and value judgements pivotal to his thesis. I feel certain that the reader who grasps the importance of Midgley’s development of Churchman’s work will experience a new window of thought opening and, through this window, will see a new exciting terrain for systems thinking”.

Professor Robert L. Flood, Maastricht School of Management, Maastricht, Netherlands; Editor of the international journal “Systemic Practice and Action Research”.

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Systemic Intervention
Philosophy, Methodology, and Practice
Midgley, G.
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