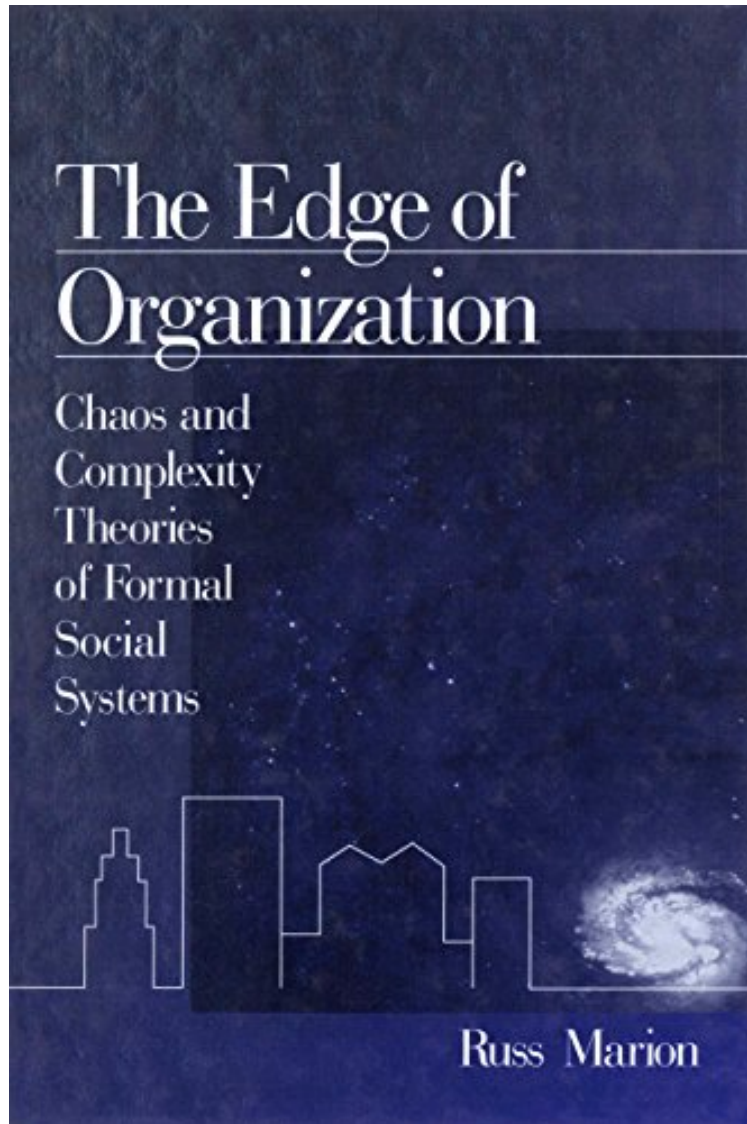


The Edge of Organization: Chaos and Complexity Theories of Formal Social Systems

Russ Marion

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Russ Marion : The Edge of Organization: Chaos and Complexity Theories of Formal Social Systems before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Edge of Organization: Chaos and Complexity Theories of Formal Social Systems:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Book on Complexity in Organizations By Donald E. Shaw Excellent book on applying complexity concepts to organizations. It becomes heavy in the mathematics of chaos in the latter chapters but most of that material can be skipped. It does have excellent chapters on the use of the logistic

equation and its modification for modeling growth faced with competition. The logistic equation is a differential equation used extensively in population dynamics. The book focuses on complex adaptive systems which go a long way toward modeling real organizations although falling a bit short of the adaptation caused by interactions of agents in line with the work of Ilya Prigogine although it is mentioned. Sadly a lot of work done on complex adaptive systems and organizations back in the 1990s has not found its way to practice, mostly because many people resist the primary finding of Prigogine that the control as has been sought for most of the past centuries is illusory when faced with the effects of multitudes of interactions within organizations having thousands of agents either formal or informal.

Russ Marion describes formal and social organizations from the perspective of chaos and complexity theories. The book is generously illustrated and includes references plus an annotated bibliography.