Modelling Risk ERM Research

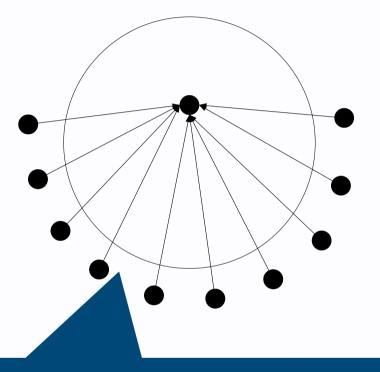
Elliot Varnell FIA CERA FRSA

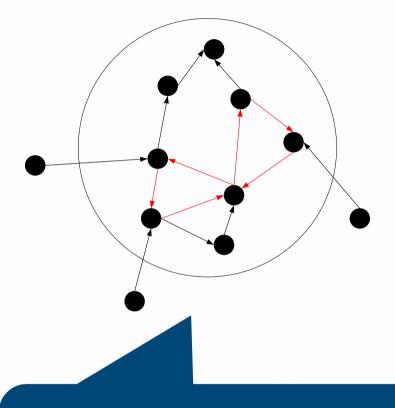
14th January 2014



Risk Model

Endogenous Risk Dynamics & Exogenous Risk Factors





Exogenous Risk (Factors)

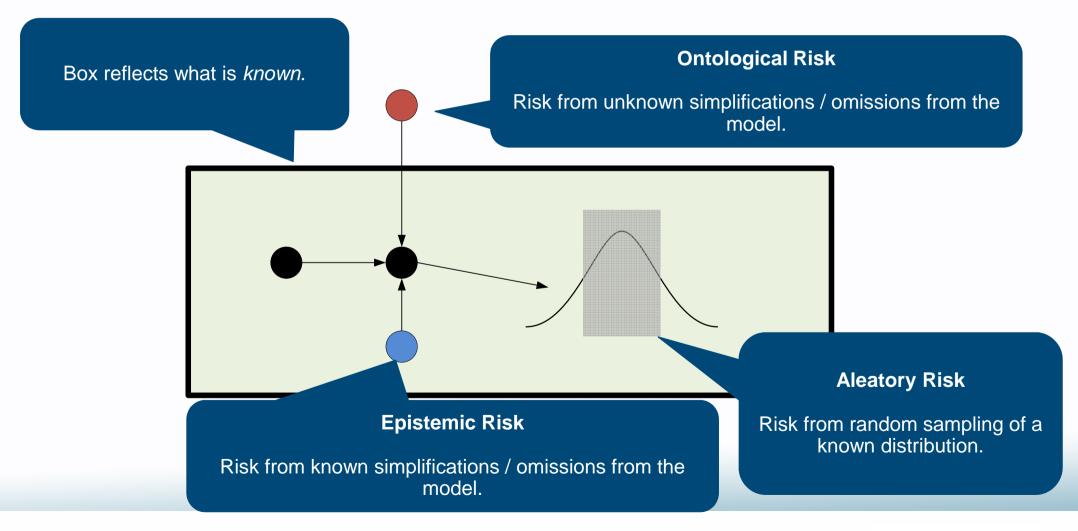
All the sources of uncertainty arise from outside the system (model). Distributions are fitted to external data. Risk from god (or at least the database administrator!)

Endogenous Risk (Dynamics)

Some source of risk / uncertainty arise from the dynamics inside the model. Some risk caused by the *system*.



Model Risk Illustrating Ontological, Epistemic and Aleatory Risk





Ontological / Epistemic Risk

What is missing from the model?

Missing Dynamics

We may be missing some important variables. Not least every non-zero correlation we accept implies some process that delivers the dependency. Do we always know what that process is?

Missing Data / Information

We may be using only a fraction of the information available to us in setting the distribution.

Missing Parameters / Risks

If we have missed some dynamics then we may also have missed some important parameters that have important consequences for our system (model).



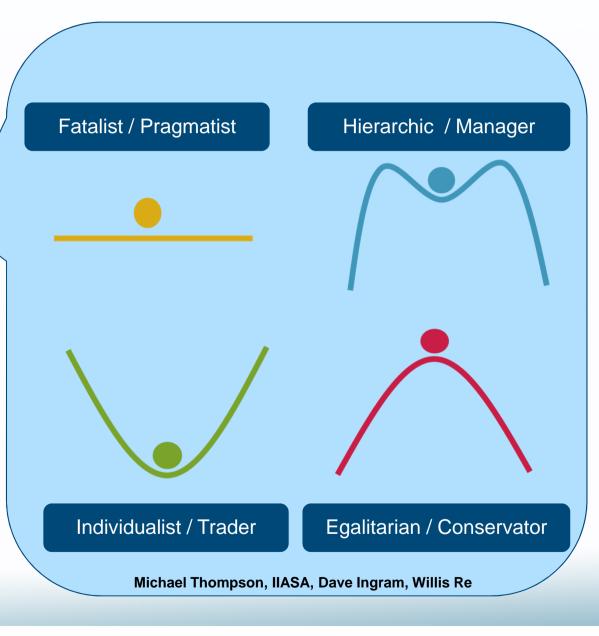
Is Risk Objective? Risk as a Social Construction

Objective Risk Risk Risk Perception

As physicists / mathematicians / (and actuaries and risk managers!) we are trained to believe in objective risk .

However anthropologists teach is that that risk is socially constructed and our view of risk as objective is a cultural bias.

We come back to this time and again as models interact with other *cultures*.



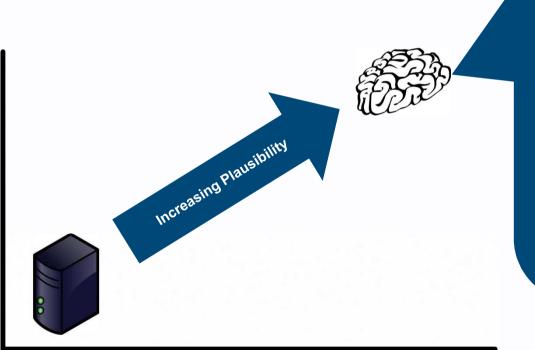


Using Cognitive Science

What sort of scenarios should we design?







Business Use (Strategic)

For scenarios to be useful in business planning the (brains of the) decision makers need to be convinced the scenarios are plausible.

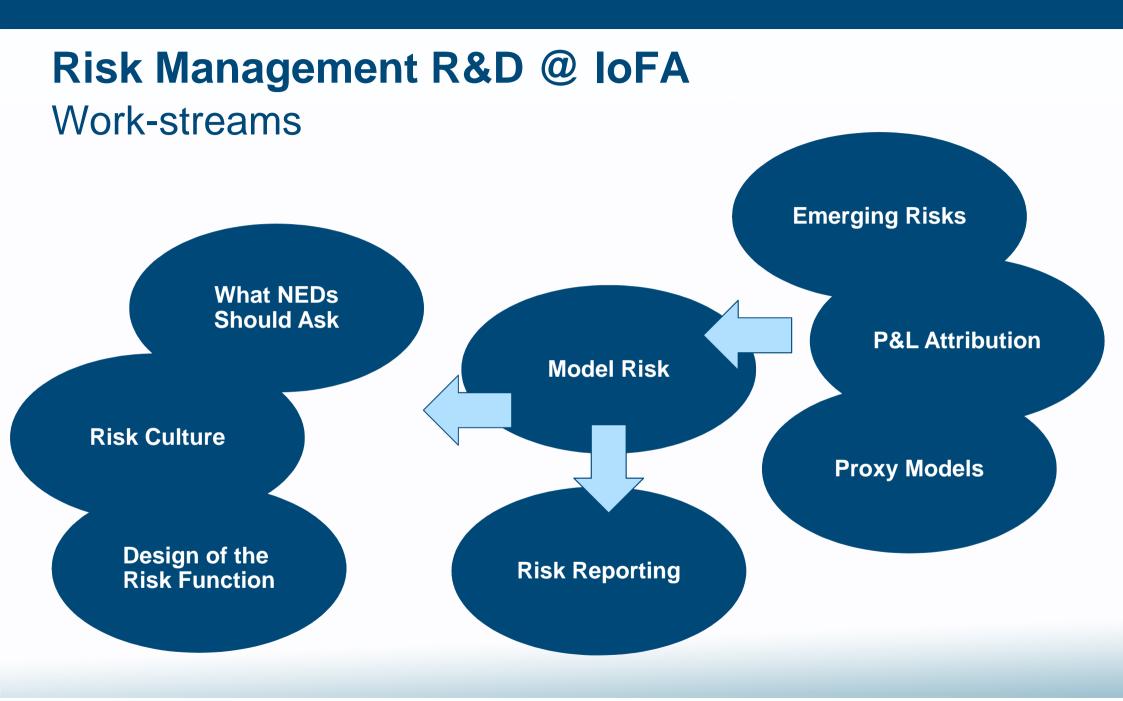
Yet by ascribing cause and effect and by providing more detail we actually increase aleatory risk by making the scenario less likely.

Nonetheless this is a trade off that needs to be managed if the scenarios are to be used in the business.

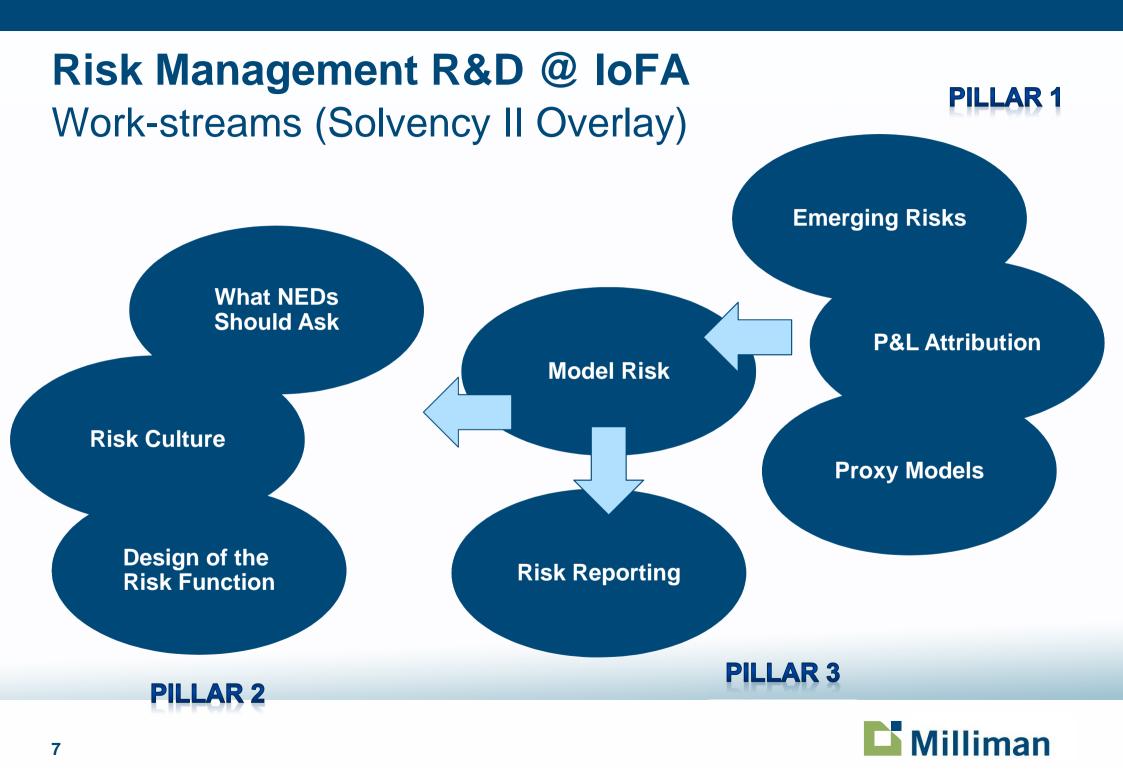
Random Chance

Cause & Effect









Contact Information

Elliot Varnell FIA CERA FRSA

Consulting Actuary

Milliman

E: elliot.varnell@milliman.com

- T: @RiskActuary
- L: http://www.linkedin.com/in/elliotvarnell



