

# Accepted Manuscript

Contradictions between political leadership and systems thinking<sup>1</sup>

Gábor Király, Alexandra Köves, Bálint Balázs

PII: S0959-6526(15)00710-6

DOI: [10.1016/j.jclepro.2015.05.131](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2015.05.131)

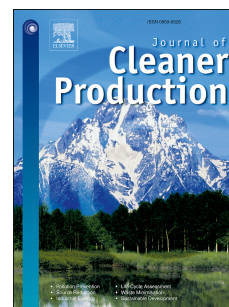
Reference: JCLP 5645

To appear in: *Journal of Cleaner Production*

Received Date: 21 April 2014

Revised Date: 13 April 2015

Accepted Date: 13 May 2015



Please cite this article as: Király G, Köves A, Balázs B, Contradictions between political leadership and systems thinking<sup>1</sup>, Journal of Cleaner Production (2015), doi: 10.1016/j.jclepro.2015.05.131.

This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting proof before it is published in its final form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

**Contradictions between political leadership and systems thinking <sup>1</sup>**

Gábor Király<sup>a,\*</sup>, Alexandra Köves<sup>b</sup>, Bálint Balázs<sup>c</sup>,

<sup>a</sup> Budapest Business School and Institute of Sociology and Social Policy, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

<sup>b</sup> Department of Environmental Economics and Technology, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

<sup>c</sup> Environmental Social Science Research Group, Szent István University, Hungary

\*Corresponding author at: Budapest Business School, 10-12 Buzogány utca, Budapest 1149, Hungary; Tel.: +36 303716010; fax: +36 14696693; email: [kiraly.gabor@pszfb.bgf.hu](mailto:kiraly.gabor@pszfb.bgf.hu)

**Abstract:** This paper argues that the failure to implement sustainable policies is not merely due to the fact that successful political leaders lack systems intelligence or foresight but that their ambitions – one of which is their motivation to politically survive – strongly influence their judgements. On the one hand, it is undeniably crucial to understand how leaders acquire and process information and how their systems thinking perspectives guide their cognitive procedures when turning pieces of information into policy interventions. On the other hand, it is also important to highlight that leaders are embedded both in institutional and political contexts that also deeply affect their political decisions and practices. Based on selectorate theory this paper suggests that in addition to these effects, under the current rules of politics, political leaders' main motivation is to increase the chances of their own political survival drawing upon their systemic understanding. By analysing how this motivation affects environmental policy-making, this paper would like to contribute to research that searches for new avenues in thinking about more sustainable political leadership.

**Keywords:** systems thinking, political leadership, political survival, environmental policy-making, environmental quality

## **1. Introduction**

The presupposition exists that various participatory methodologies using systems thinking and involving a broad range of stakeholders to establish transitional paths into sustainable societies will create better policies in the present and in the future (Grin et al., 2010). It rests partly on the supposition that political decision-makers currently lack key pieces of information that prevent them from formulating and implementing environmentally responsible policy measures. Therefore, providing better and more grounded research

---

<sup>1</sup> The authors would like to thank the anonymous reviewers and editors for their valuable comments and remarks on the previous versions of this paper. Responsibility for any errors in the resulting work remains our own.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/5480644>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/5480644>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)