Questions

1) Is it fruitful to distinguish hard from soft approach in systems thinking?
2) How could we accommodate hard, soft and other trends in systems thinking?
3) What are common features and critical differences between the western and eastern systems thinking?
4) Other comments
Simple definition

- **Hard**
  Tackle the situation based on the **given** objective

- **Soft**
  Tackle what is the objective(s) to pursue in the situation

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**Soft vs. Hard**

![Diagram showing the relationship between soft and hard methodologies with two views: View 1 and View 2.](image_url)
The hard and soft systems stances

Observer 1 ("hard")

"I spy systems which I can engineer"

The observer’s perceived real world

The world: systemic

Observer 2 ("soft")

"I spy complexing and confusion; but I can organize exploration of it as a learning system"

The observer’s perceived real world

The process of inquiry: systemic


Jackson’s extended version of Jackson and Keys’ ‘ideal-type’ grid of problem contexts

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<tr>
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(source: Michael C. Jackson, SYSTEMS THINKING, John Wiley & Sons Ltd., 2003)
Systems approaches related to problem contexts in the System of Systems Methodologies (SOSM)

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A possible multimethodology design.

• What should be further steps we take to advance systems thinking/research in the next decade?

Thank you