

# Attributes of Action

**Intro:** Action has Horizontal (breadth/arenas for action) and Vertical (as in depth/meaning/layers of causation/consciousness) dimensions. In order to present a basic position these distinctions will be noted and not drawn. Furthermore action is distilled into individual and collective our actions and various structural outcomes of the operations of society. For example actions can be concretised in an intentional manner in things such as the Exemplar Project. So any understanding of the Bush Mechanic Exemplar Project requires an understanding of the key context for same and that is action viz. attributes of action.

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## The Actions of Action (AOA 5)

1. **Action of Action** – action is the antithesis of thought – when acting one’s thoughts are generally constrained and very much vice versa. In fact considering the complexity of the attributes of action as enumerated here human action can be seen as much more complex than simple thought. Indeed any action we take can do differing extents be seen as having these attributes to varying extents embedded within it. Thought and Action are somewhat reflexive – a sort of yin and yang moment of being.
2. **Delicacy of Action** – finesse required in each sub-routine e.g. fishing, surgery [each needs to consider and simultaneously embed in resultant actions considerations of: environment, intent, design plan, sequence, capability and efficacy, diverse sub-routines, capabilities, support (human and resources), mistake implications, peer-group perspective, professionalism, personal integrity, collective ethics, learning potential]
3. **Interface of Action** – operational systems and design process interfaces e.g. between sub routines (see above) and between action in different design arenas e.g. a motor, a boat, the load, a driver, the conditions and the purpose
4. **Concreteness and duration of Action** – action is concrete as it eliminates options by enacting one and literally actually occurs and when it does it is for a specific time though the ramifications thereof may last a lifetime
5. **Aggregative nature of an action** – each action is an aggregate of action sub routines eg fishing as well as aggregating or cumulating on previous actions and needing future actions to complete

## The Politics of Action (POA 4)

1. **Exoteric political nature of action** – (a) since action rearranges resources it is by its very nature political; (b) since consumerism requires conditioned responses rather than action in the sense of our discussion here, then action re-establishes the relevance of local action self reliance and mutual aid all of which challenge monopoly and consumerism (c) since the vast majority of people today do not seek the nitti gritti skilled challenging application to task that action requires over an extended period. The politics of consumerism and couch.
2. **Esoteric political nature of action** – (a) since the big picture no longer makes sense esp. to the mass e.g. me folks do not have a big picture (except killing people) to anchor their mundane actions in, (b) since action is pejorative in the western epistem and thinking is supreme locating the locus of authenticity for being in efficacious acting ahead wisely challenges the mindset/epistem and to a small extent addresses Arendt’s call to re-link thinking and doing as the challenge of Modernity. The politics of the epistem.  
[The above 2 points puts someone seeking to locate authenticity in this manner outside 99% of society even futurists organisations – *by their works shall ye judge/know them* is now indeed rarely applied]
3. **Origins of analysis for action** – from local or from global considerations
4. **The organisation of action** – from a bureaucratic (power over – regimentation & hierarchy) or democratic/collective (power with) organisational perspective

## The Opportunity Cost of Action (OCA 2)

1. **Exclusion of alternatives of Action (either | or)** once an action is taken a separate action is excluded – this makes the opportunity cost argument particularly notable for Action ie what is the next best action I could do cp. this action and am therefore forfeiting by doing this action – actions here cause silences there
2. **Logistic and the cruciality of action in the context of the ‘D’esign cycle of:** priorities | idea | design | action | learning – action requires the ready availability of resources to conduct the action (action = implementation)

## The Learning From Act’ion (LFA 1)

1. **Criticality of Learning being subsequent to Action** (action learning) or prior to Action (conventional school based education) – action/simulation – my view.

## The Artifice of Action, its Artificer, Ingenuity and Artifice (AAA 2)

1. **Interface between Action, acting, artificing, actioning and art** – the Italian artisan mason is considered the equal of a sculptor or artist
2. **Artifice expressed through Action** – action can have a creativity, artisan ethical dimensions consciously however in our culture that deifies all nuances of thought such nuances as these in action are generally tacit or unconscious

## The Intents Of Action (IOA 5)

1. **Appearance of action to others** eg. consider the actions of, and how they are meant to appear/be interpreted/mean to others of: someone escaping prison, magician, shoplifter, actor, writer
2. **Embodied priorities/intents of Action** an action distils and concretises ones priorities
3. **Exemplar nature of action as it reveals ones intention, ethics, and integrity** – e.g. Ghandi’s salt walk, level of right livelihood e.g. sustainability of an action etc.
4. **Intent of Action** – Instrumental (immediate mechanical – pick up an apple, pull a trigger) and/or strategic (see below) and/or normative (moral – in response to the question ‘how should we then live together?’)
5. **Strategic Intent of Action** – outcomes to be interpreted as an intervention in the event, systems, world view, story layer, and in the context of:
  - a. *Simple* [cause-effect linear & sequential; Action =sense-categorise-act],
  - b. *Complicated* [c-e separated in time and space yet can be researched; Action = sense –analyse-act]
  - c. *Complex* [c-e does not repeat and is unpredictable yet anticipatable in terms of patterns and fractals; Action = sense-probe- act] – butterfly beating its wings effect, and
  - d. *Chaotic* [no cause effect relationships can be perceived; Action = act-sense]

## **The Psychology of Action (POA 2)**

1. **The meaning and intent of the action to and by the ‘actor’** – can be plural eg public spectacle; and to others
2. **Agency expressed with and through Action** - action rather than thought demonstrates a preparedness to take and express individual agency