When Big Data is not enough: the role of simulation methods

	Big Data	System Dynamics	Complementarity
•	Exponential growth and availability of data: volume, velocity and variety	 Computer-aided approach to policy analysis and design using synthetic data 	 Simulation can complement big data by offering future-oriented data stream
•	More data lead to more accurate analyses : descriptive and predictive focuses	 Endogenous, behavioural view of the significant dynamics of a system focused on feedback processes: prescriptive focus 	• The full spectrum of analytics: descriptive and predictive (big data and data science) together with prescriptive (simulation)
•	 Strongly dependent on resources and capabilities: Technology quality Analytics capabilities Organizational structure 	 Mature and low cost technology to generate synthetic data 	 Interactivity and closeness to decision maker
•	Leading to value creating actions	 Leading to organizational learning 	 Learning from structure can provide better data analysis
•	Mainly emergent	Mainly top-down	 Emergent patterns to check and support planning and policy making

Martin.Kunc@wbs.ac.uk – Associate Professor of Management Science, WBS