FTS · THE FUNCTIONAL THEORY OF SYSTEMS

Methodology

A short guide to the functional method

Dragoslav Jojić · First edition · Belgrade, 2026

One question changes everything

Man has always sought to understand the reality that surrounds him. The sciences have divided that reality into fields: each studies its own part of the world, in its own language and with its own method. This wealth of knowledge raises one important question: is it possible to view different areas of reality in a unified way, without violating their particularity?

The Functional Theory of Systems answers affirmatively. It does not ask what something is, but what function something has in the realization of a Task. This change of starting point does not change reality. It changes the way we view it.

The functional method does not describe reality. It reveals the functional order of reality.

An example: a cup of coffee

Let us consider the simplest possible Task: preparing one cup of coffee. The same coffee can come into being in a cezve, an espresso machine, a filter, or as an instant drink. The forms are completely different, yet the Task is the same.

The functional method therefore does not ask how the coffee is prepared, but which functions must be realized for the Task to be successfully carried out. The water, the coffee, the heat source, the vessel and the person cease to be objects. They become bearers of functions. And suddenly something becomes visible that was there all along: the same functional Pattern stands behind every method of preparation.

You will then recognize that same pattern in the preparation of tea, in the organization of a school lesson, in a production process, in a surgical operation. Different participants, different concepts, different goals, yet the same functional order. That is precisely the power of the method: knowledge gained from one example transfers to any area of reality.

Six concepts you will take away from this book

Task The starting point of everything. A functionally defined goal whose realization requires organized action. There is no System without a Task.

Shell The chosen aspect of reality that is the object of functional examination. The same reality can be examined through different Shells, and the Shell is always determined by the Task.

Mold The universal functional method. It is unchanging: only the Shells to which it is applied change. Therein lies the universality of FTS.

Algorithm The procedure for applying the Mold. A logically ordered sequence of functional questions: Why? What? How? When? Who? Each question prepares the answer to the next.

Functional Extraction The first essential operation. From the complexity of reality it extracts only what is essential for the realization of the Task. It does not simplify reality, it reveals the essential.

Pattern The result of examination. An objective functional pattern that is not constructed but recognized. The same Pattern manifests itself in completely different Shells.

The Task determines the Shell, the Shell is examined by the Mold, the Mold is applied by the Algorithm, the Algorithm reveals the Pattern, the Pattern expands functional knowledge.

What you get in the full book

This guide shows only the outlines of the method. The book "Methodology" develops it consistently, step by step, through eleven chapters:

- the complete Algorithm of functional examination and the logic behind the order of its questions,
- functional confirmation: the four conditions under which a Pattern becomes reliable knowledge,
- functional analogy: how knowledge from one field is transferred to another,
- the limits of the method: where functional examination applies, and where it ceases,
- the FTS Canon: the axioms, fundamental categories, Dimensions, principles and regularities on which all future functional theories rest.

"Methodology" is not only the first book of the Functional Theory of Systems. It is the common language, method and foundation of all the books that follow: on man, communication, organization and management. Whoever masters the Methodology has received the key to all of them.

O R D E R T H E C O M P L E T E B O O K

The Functional Theory of Systems: Methodology · Dragoslav Jojić · Belgrade, 2026

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"*Reality becomes understandable when it is seen through function.*"

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