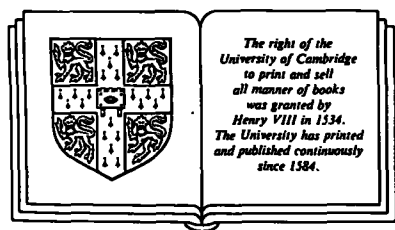


# Dynamic functionalism: strategy and tactics

**Michael A. Faia**

*College of William and Mary*



**Cambridge University Press**

*Cambridge*

*London New York New Rochelle*

*Melbourne Sydney*

# Contents

List of figures and tables	<i>page</i> ix
Preface	xi

## **Part I. Allegations, definitions, and illustrations**

1. A kindly critique of Kingsley Davis	3
Entanglements of teleology	5
Methodological inhibitions	14
The languid logic of indispensability	17
2. The incest taboo: social selection as a form of feedback	22
3. Exemplary exercises in survivorship	35
Years in school	35
Congressional tenure	36
Duration of marriage	41
4. The nature, determinants, and consequences of time-series processes	56
Patterns of change within stability	58
The stabilities and instabilities of Malthus and Marx	61

## **Part II. Adaptive structures and social processes**

5. Patterns of adaptation	69
The subtleties of circularity	72
An almanac of adaptations, with helps	76
Evolving taxonomies	84
Positive feedback and social catastrophism	88

6. Processes, simulations, and investigations	95
A primer on time-series analysis	95
Malefactions Marxist and otherwise, with hope	118
 <b>Part III. L'envoi</b>	
7. Toward an integrated social science paradigm	127
Value-added aspects of social science theories	128
Theory, methods, and the single paradigm	133
 Appendix. Snafu and synecdoche: historical continuities in functional analysis	142
 Notes	168
References	174
Index	185