CdL Data Science 2020-21 Service Science F9101Q022

#### SSME = Service Sciences, Management and Engineering

Roberto Boselli

roberto.boselli@unimib.it

#### What are services?

- Context to the study of services
- History and early definitions of services
- Differences between products and services
  - Understand and define the services dominant economic shift
  - Discover the fundamental principles underlying services
  - Determine the elements necessary for systematic services innovation

#### Context

Figure 5 - Past and likely future trends by occupation (EU 25)

- Services becoming the new hub of most modern economies
- Services dominating current economic activities

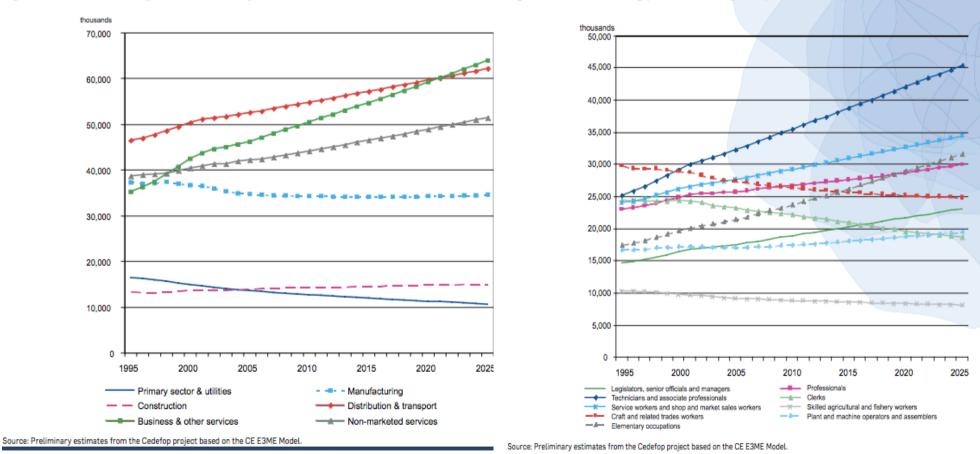
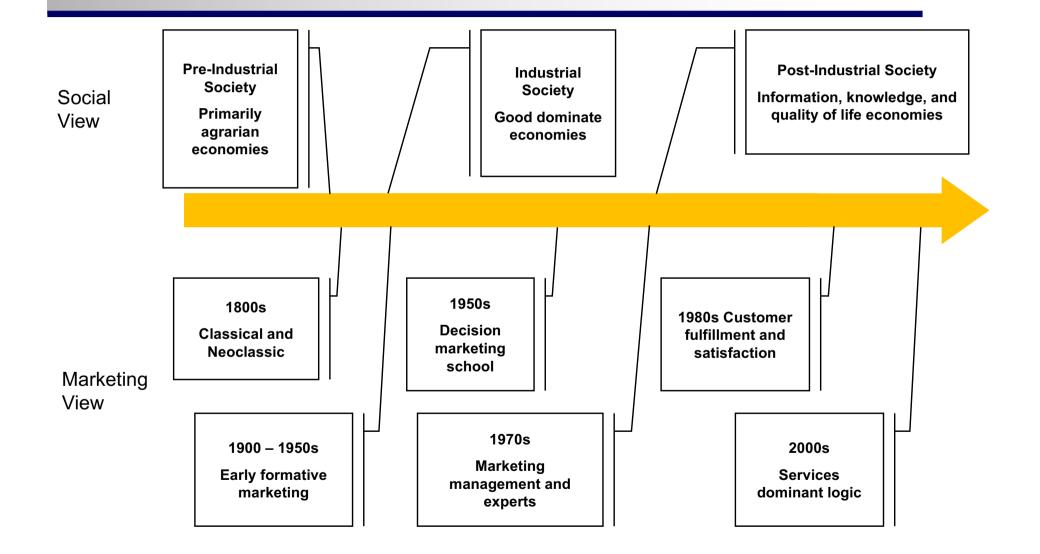


Figure 4 - Past and Likely Future trends by Sector (EU 25)

#### **Economic Evolution of Services**



### What is a Service?

- In economics and marketing, a service is the nonmaterial equivalent of a good
- It is claimed to be a process that creates benefits by facilitating either a change in customers, a change in their physical possessions, or a change in their intangible assets
- By supplying some level of skill, ingenuity, and experience, providers of a service participate in an economy without the restrictions of carrying stock (inventory) or the need to concern themselves with bulky raw materials. On the other hand, their investment in expertise does require marketing and upgrading in the face of competition which has equally few physical restrictions

### **Some other Definitions**

- ...work output that perishes in the very instant of its production (Smith, 1991)
- A good is a tangible physical object or product that can be created and transferred; it has existence over time and thus can be created and used later. A service is **intangible** and perishable. It is an occurrence or process that is created and used simultaneously or nearly simultaneously (Sasser, 1978)
- A service is an activity or series of activities of more or less intangible nature that normally, but not necessarily, take place in interactions between customer and service employees and/or physical resources or goods and/or systems of the service provider, which are provided as solutions to customer problems (Gronroos, 1990)
- Services are deeds, processes, and performances (Zeithaml & Bitner, 1996)

# **Service Dominant View**

Services dominant view (Vargo & Lusch 2004) revolves around three primary notions

- Co-creation of value
  - Customer as co-producer of the value extracted from the service system
  - Customer as input to the service process

#### - Relationships

- Relationship with the customer is of paramount importance and is a source of innovation and differentiation
- Long-term relationships facilitate the ability to tailor the service offerings to the customers' needs

#### - Service provisioning

- Provision service capacity to meet fluctuations in demands while retaining (quality of service) QoS
- QoS is mainly from the perspective of the customer

# **Provider-Client Relationship**

- Provider
  - An entity (person, business, or institution) that makes preparations to meet a need
  - An entity that serves
- Client
  - An entity (person, business, or institution) that engages the service of another
  - An entity being served



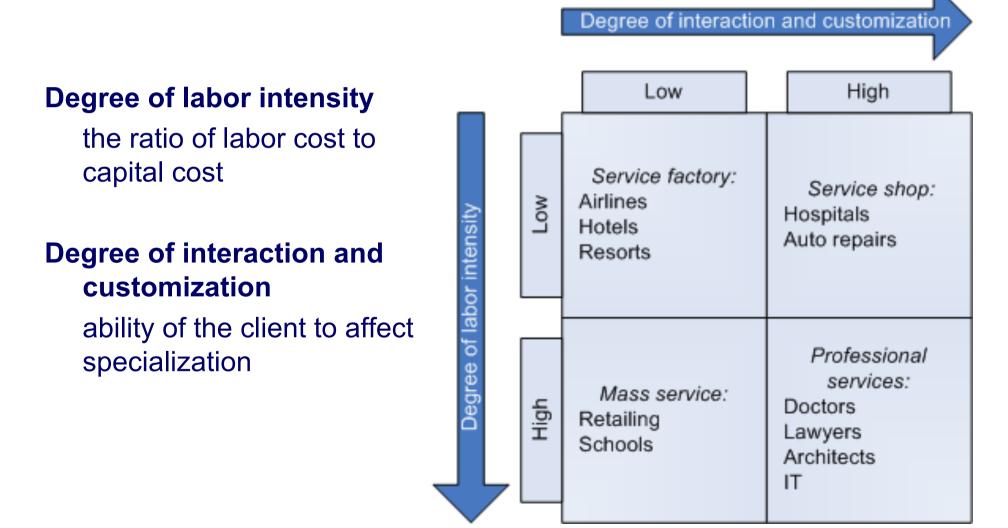
# Some other basic Concepts

- Resources, physical and non-physical (actor and object)
- Service systems
- Access rights
- Interactions
- Governance mechanisms
- Service systems networks
- Ecology of service systems
- Stakeholdes
- Measurements (quality, productivity, compliance, sustainability)
- Results

### Lovelock's Classification

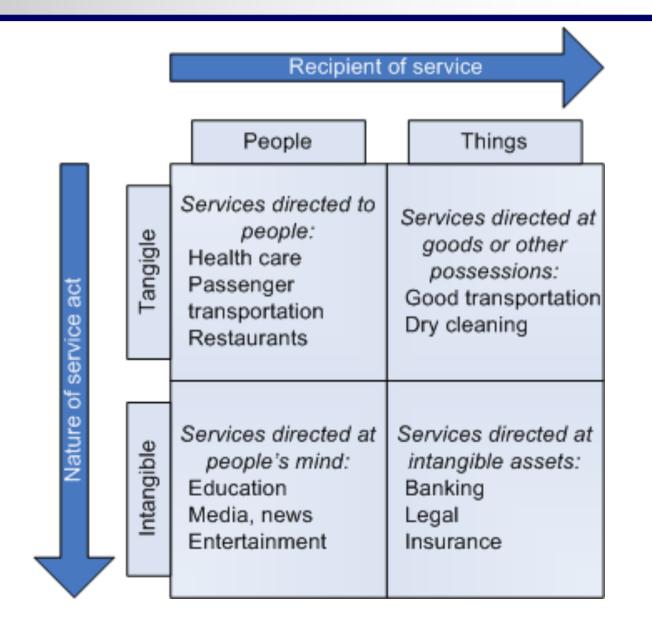
- Services classification systems have long existed in service management literature, some take a specific feature of the service as a classification key, for example:
  - Nature of service
  - Recipient
  - Producer of the goods object of the service
- Those who tried to define a single classification system was **Lovelock** (Marketing of services, 1983)
- Through a set of matrices Lovelock classifies the services representing different dimensions closely linked to each other

### **Service Process Matrix**

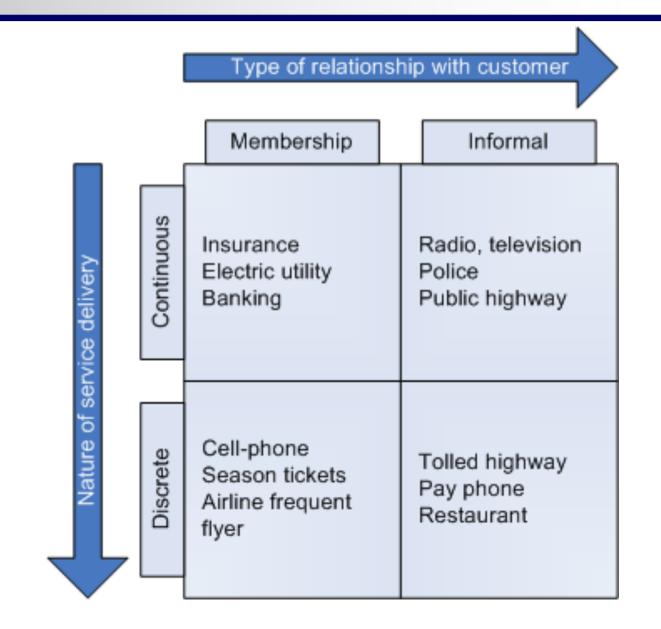


(Adapted from Lovelock (1983) and Fitzsimmons & Fitzsimmons (2003))

#### **Nature of Services Act Matrix**



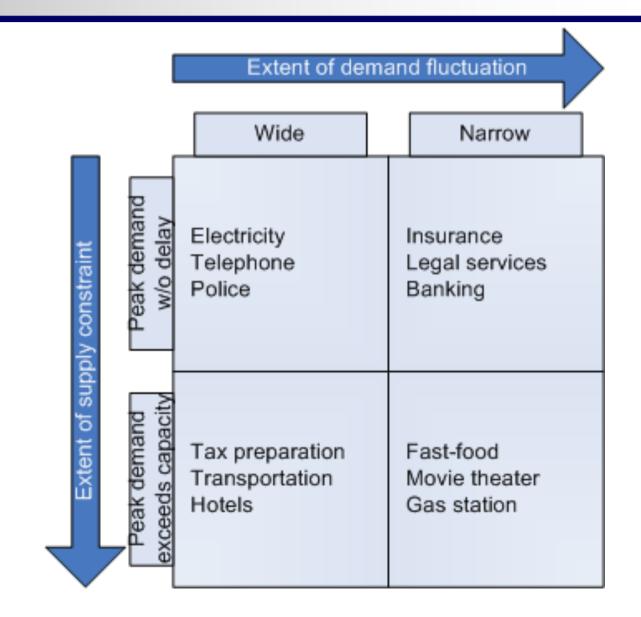
### **Client Relationship Matrix**



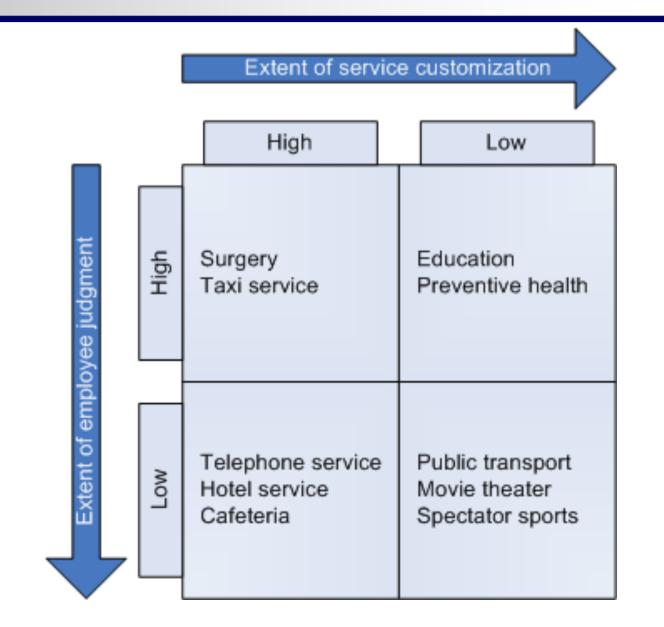
### **Availability of Services Matrix**

	Availability of service outlets				
		Single site Sites			Multiple sites
Customer travels	Theater Barbershops		Bus service Fast-food		
Service provider travels	-				ail delivery nergency repairs
Transaction is near					elephone ectric service
	Service provider travels	Service provider travels L d	Single site Single site Theater Barbershops Pest control Taxi	Single site Single site Theater Barbershops Pest control Taxi	Single site Single site Theater Barbershops Pest control Taxi En

#### **Service Demand Variation Matrix**



#### **Service Delivery Matrix**



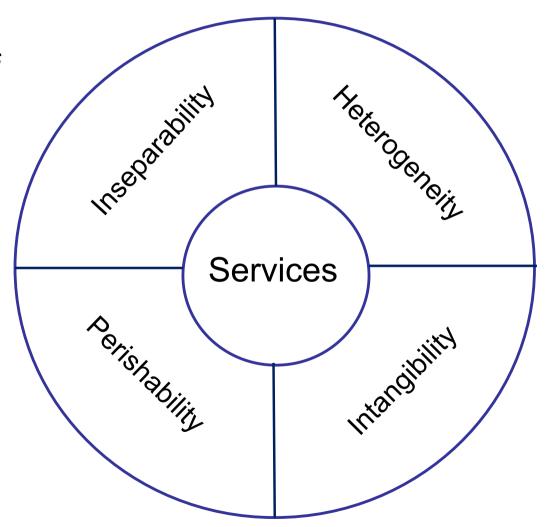
# **Service Classification Matrix**

		Degr	ee of Customer Contac	t		
		None to Lo	ow Moderate	High		
		WithTangibles	Amazon;	Auto Repair;	Cardiac Surgeons;	
			Land's End;	Nice Restaurants	Orthopedic;	
			L.L. Bean		Surgeons;	
					Catering	
	High	Without	Expedia;	Support Call	Doctors;	
		Tangibles	Turbo Tax;	Centers	Tax Accountants;	
		(or	Online Banking;	Personal Banking	Hair Stylists;	
Degree of		complimentary)		Insurance Agents	Lawyers;	
Customization					Architects;	
and					Financial	
Tangible					Advisors	
(goods)		WithTangibles	ATM;	Super Markets;	Specialty Shops	
Component			Online;	Wal-Mart;		
			Retailerswithout	Fast Food;		
			"transparent	Restaurants		
	Low		customization"			
		Without	Morningstar;	Theme Parks;	Education;	
		Tangibles	University of	Airlines;	MassageShops	
		(or	Phoenix Online;	Hotels;		
		complimentary)	MBA;	Movie Theaters		
			Automatic Car			
			Wash			

Riproduzione della matrice proposta in Salegna e Fazel (2013)

#### **IHIP Characteristics of Services**

What are the characteristics that distinguish services from goods and vice versa?



Zeithaml, Parasuraman and Berry, 1985

# Distinguishing Services from Goods

#### **Inseparability**

- Services are created and consumed at the same time
- Services cannot be inventoried
- Demand fluctuations cannot be solved by inventory processes
- Quality control cannot be achieved before consumption
- Consideration: Does the ability to tailor and customize goods to the customers' demands and preferences mean that these goods also have an inseparability characteristic?

#### **Heterogeneity**

- From the client's perspective, there is typically a wide variation in service offerings
- Personalization of services increases their heterogeneous nature
- Perceived quality-of-service varies from one client to the next

Consideration: Can a homogeneous perception of quality due to customer preference idiosyncrasies (or due to customization) also benefit the goods manufacturer?

# Distinguishing Services from Goods (2)

#### **Intangibility**

- Services are ideas and concepts that are part of a process
- The client typically relies on the service providers' reputation and the trust they have with them to help predict quality-of-service and make service choices
- Regulations and governance are means to assuring some acceptable level of quality-of-service

Consideration: Do most services processes involve some goods?

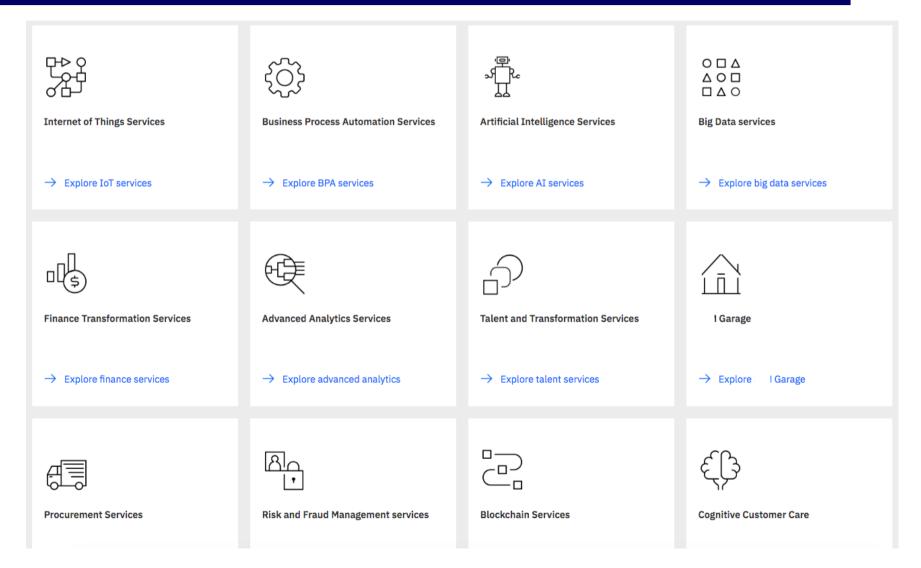
#### **Perishability**

- Any service capacity that goes unused is perished
- Services cannot be stored so that when not used to maximum capacity the service provider is losing opportunities
- Service capability estimation and planning are key aspects for service management Consideration: Do clients who participate in some service process acquire knowledge which represents part of the stored service's value? What might the impact be?

### **Current services thinking**

- A service is a provider-to-client interaction that creates and captures value while sharing risks
- Services are value that can be rented
- Services are the application of specialized competences (skills and knowledge)
- Services are autonomous, platform independent, business functions

# Example: Complex B2B services



#### Exercise

- Try to compare digital and traditional services with the IHIP model
- See what
  - Is the same
  - Is new
  - ... and perhaps understand digital service better

### **The Results**

Characteristic	Applicable	Explanation
Intangibility	yes	
Heterogeneity	yes	
Inseparability	yes	
Perishability	no	

# The Results (2)

Characteristic	Applicable	Explanation
Intangibility	Yes	Even more than physical services that often include a strong servicescape component
Heterogeneity	No	Due to digital delivery, they are standardized; quality can be kept
Inseparability	No	Digital services are on- demand; moreover, the service quality can be verified before delivery
Perishability	No	Resources are on-demand and scalable, the service is always stored in local memory or cloud

#### Conclusions

- Because IHIP is a poor fit, a better model for digital services is proposed
- The IHIS model:
  - Intangibility; intangible and consume a minimal number of physical resources
  - High technology; require little or no human intervention (thus similar to self-service)
  - Invariance; identical & consistent by measurable quality
  - Scalability; much more scalable due to digital distribution (no need to consider time, place, or labor)