

ISA - International Sociological Association
RESEARCH COMMITTEE 51 ON SOCIOCYBERNETICS

RC51

Newsletter 19

May 2006

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1. PREFACE FROM THE EDITOR

Spring is in the Air

By the time this newsletter is completed, Spring in the Netherlands will have arrived. After a long stretch of cold weather, in which the Dutch were starting to believe that global warming had reversed to global dimming, promises of things to come become apparent: flowers blossoming, fresh green growth blooming everywhere and most of all, people emerging from their homes and becoming active again.

The upcoming months hold a lot of promise and activity for our cybernetical community. The ISA World Congress in Durban is knocking at our front door; a new RC51 board is going to be installed, and cooperation with allied organizations like the IFSR is flowering. It appears that-- as mentioned in our President Bernd Hornung's letter published in this issue-- RC51 is going to realize ambitious goals set a decennium ago and, in the interim, has "acquired high standards of scientific quality," thanks to the efforts of our members, past and present.

A number of them will demonstrate their scientific acumen in the Durban sessions, together with newborn cybernetic stars. A special issue of *Kybernetes* has appeared in which the progress of the past, supervised by the hard work of our honorary president Felix Geyer, is made clear in a series of intriguing articles. Along with this, the sociocybernetical challenge he posed to the social sciences is fully fledged, undeniable and is a starting point for serious scientific progress for social scientists.

As we all know, our ambitions can not be realized without cooperation with allied organizations striving for the same goals. One of the successes we achieved in this domain this year was to become official member of the IFSR - International Federation of Systems Research. To illustrate what this organization represents, we have included a short summary article of the goals and methods of the IFSR which we hope our readers will find helpful.

Also noteworthy in this newsletter is a change we have made to the 'Communications about Sociocybernetics' section. Typically in this section we have recounted about what is going on in our organization, such as news from past or future board and business meetings. We have broadened this section to include news, short articles and reports of allied organizations and appropriately renamed it 'Communications about Sociocybernetics Topics.'

We are grateful to our member Stuart A. Umpleby, who is also a member of the American Society for Cybernetics, for submitting a report from a meeting of this organization. The report should be of interest to our community and we encourage other members to keep us posted of their participation in meetings of fellow organizations as well.

Another organization that could interest us, especially when it comes to subsidized research programs, is a report about the Global University System (GUS) and Globally Collaborative Environmental Peace Gaming (GCEPG). The report makes it clear that the ambitions and goals of these two organizations are similar, and it may be useful to our own efforts to start a subsidized program of research. (Also refer to Newsletter 18).

The success of our committee's collaborative efforts is evident in the program of sessions in Durban, of which a summary is included in this newsletter. We have organized joint sessions with two of ISA's Research Committees. One of them is RC16 (Sociological Theory) and the other RC33 (Logic and Methodology). The first was initiated by our member Raf van der Straeten who, as was reported in Newsletter 16, temporarily serves as the Chair of Sociology in Bielefeld, a post formerly occupied by Niklas Luhmann. The second joint session was initiated by Hans van der Zouwen and myself. It is gratifying that one of the founders of sociocybernetics and a longtime collaborator of Felix Geyer, wants to continue the quality tradition of RC51 and joined efforts with RC33.

Finally, we end this issue with a selection of Calls for Papers and Activities. Once again we invite you to submit your contributions of short articles, announcements, and interesting Calls for Papers and Activities. This will permit us to keep our newsletter alive, useful and relevant to you, our valued members. Enjoy!

Cor van Dijkum, Editor-in-Chief
Alicia Menanteau F., Copy editor

2. LETTER OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of RC51:

Months of very busy work preparing the RC51 sessions and a full program of tutorials to be held at the forthcoming World Congress of Sociology lie behind us. We are now looking forward to this exciting scientific event which hopefully will provide us with new inspirations, experiences, and ample discussion.

But there are also other new challenges ahead for RC51. You may be aware that some of our board members, in particular our Vice-President Vessela Misheva, our Secretary Richard Lee, and myself as President of RC51, will be completing our second term of office in Durban. As such, we will no longer be eligible for these functions according to the rules of the ISA. Apart from the rules, eight years is a long time and I think it is good to hand over responsibilities to other members after such a period.

In Maribor we had the opportunity to discuss candidates proposed by the outgoing board (per our statutes) for a number of functions on the board. It seems to me that we have identified an excellent management team for the next term, including Bernard Scott, UK, as candidate for President, Eva Buchinger, Austria, as candidate for Vice-President, and Chaime Marcuello, Spain, for Secretary.

I am very glad that we will be able to hand over the 'house' in good condition to the next board. Currently we have a strong, large, and very active RC. Without a doubt, we are now beyond all those tedious and nasty membership problems on which I reported in my previous letters. In terms of numbers we are back to the level of Brisbane, but more importantly, our RC has also achieved high standards of scientific quality, an issue of particular concern to our Vice-President, Vessela Misheva. Our RC has proven its ability to organize small and large conferences on its own and in collaboration with international and local partners, and to provide scientific knowledge on a variety of socially relevant issues, including globalization, sustainability, information and knowledge societies, among others.

Moreover, we have fortified strong links of cooperation not only with the ISA but also with other scientific associations, including WOSC - World Organization of Systems and Cybernetics; ISSS - International Society of Systems Science; ESSU - European Systems Science Union, and last but not least, the IFSR - International Federation of Systems Research- to which just a short time ago we became an official member.

This is by no means to say that all the work is done. On the contrary, all of this provides a set of conditions and potentials into which you, the members of RC51, are invited to invest your ideas and efforts in order to develop some of them, thus advancing your own scientific work, the field of sociocybernetics, and, hopefully, contributing on a larger scale to the social sciences and to society itself on some of its most pressing issues.

I think it will be a great opportunity for RC51 to enter a new phase of development with a new team with renewed energy and new ideas. But even much more it will depend on you, the members of RC51 on Sociocybernetics, whether the new chances and new horizons can materialize. It is up to each one of you to seize these opportunities, make active use of them, and to turn potentialities into realities.

Bernd R. Hornung, President, ISA RC51

3. COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT SOCIOCYBERNETICS TOPICS

3.1 INTERNAL AFFAIRS

3.1.1 Report from RC51. Board and Business Meetings in Maribor

Bernd R. Hornung

A great many RC51 board members attended the Maribor conference and gathered to discuss a large agenda of 11 topics at a board meeting and a few days later at a business meeting with members of RC51 and other interested colleagues. Topics included several issues of great importance for the future of our research committee, most importantly, the question of who will be on the team that will be responsible for RC51 after the Durban World Congress of Sociology.

First Proposal for the New Board after Durban

Usually a new board is proposed for election by the outgoing board at the World Congress of Sociology and is elected by e-mail ballot after the Congress. The next elections will be of particular interest because a number of key board positions, including President, Vice-President, and Secretary, have to be filled. According to the statutes of the ISA and of RC51, the same person can have only two terms of office in the same function. As such, it was deemed necessary to discuss these issues with due time, beginning at the Maribor board meeting. The objective was to determine a tentative slate to be finalized and decided definitely in Durban. Of course, the Durban slate will still be subject to the electoral procedure and can still be changed and augmented by alternative candidates proposed by any RC member, not just the board.

Discussions about candidates for the next board took into account the following three principles:

- 1) The new board should be a balanced mix of old (experienced) and new board members (also with new ideas).
- 2) The strategy of sharing work among a greater number of board members—a far cry from Felix Geyer's 'one-man show' as up to the time of the Montreal World Congress of Sociology-- should be continued. This goal should be taken into account when evaluating particular candidates.
- 3) For the President and the Vice-President in particular, these candidates should have easy access to the ISA management and governing bodies, as well as access to or active relationships with other institutions with which RC51 is increasingly establishing closer relationships (e.g., IFSR, ISSC, UNESCO).

These three criteria are, of course, apart from candidates' scientific qualifications and their indispensable ability to excel in practical, organizational work.

For the key positions both meetings agreed on:

Bernard Scott as the candidate proposed for the Presidency.

Eva Buchinger as the candidate proposed for Vice-President.

Chaime Marcuello as the incoming Secretary (appointed by the board). According to the statutes of RC51, the Secretary is not elected in the usual way by the members of RC51 but is appointed by the board.

Chaime Marcuello is known to RC51 members as an excellent and imaginative organizer and a very hard worker. He is also well-known in the ISA since the Zaragoza ISA EC-Meeting and Conference on Sociology, which he organized in March 2005 in Zaragoza, Spain, with great success. He therefore can be expected to complement and support in an ideal way Bernard Scott as President and Eva Buchinger as Vice-President.

With this combination of Bernard, Eva, and Chaime the board considered to have found an outstanding team for the next term of office.

A number of other board positions could not be finalized in Maribor and, as a result, the slate will be subject to completion and revision at the Durban board and business meetings. At that time the board will present its final slate of candidates for elections.

Institutional Consolidation of RC51 Activities

The agreement with the University of Zaragoza, the text of which was published in the previous Newsletter, was discussed by the board and business meetings and approved by both. It will hopefully be signed next Spring in Zaragoza. Essentially this agreement serves to regularize and formalize the present status of relations with the University of Zaragoza, which had evolved in particular thanks to Chaime Marcuello, and to provide a sound basis for further cooperation. The University of Zaragoza has hosted our website for many years, supported Chaime in different ways in his work for RC51, and last but not least, supported the organization of the ISA EC-Meeting and Conference in Spring 2005 in Zaragoza. These efforts were greatly appreciated, especially by the ISA EC-members who attended.

Strengthening the Institutional Network of RC51

As the readers of this Newsletter know very well, our Research Committee is not only linked to the ISA, but we have also contacts by joint conferences or participation in conferences with a number of important scientific associations, including the WOSC - World Organization of Systems and Cybernetics; ISSS - International Society for Systems Science; ESSU/UES - European Systems Science Union, and the ISSC - International Social Science Council, to name a few.

Steps to strengthen and formalize relations with other scientific associations were discussed in Maribor, specifically the possibility of becoming a member of the IFSR, the International Federation for Systems Research. This idea was formerly extensively discussed in Lisbon, and in Maribor it was ultimately decided to go ahead and ask for membership in the IFSR, which is an association of associations.

Developing New Horizons: ISSC Task Force on Sociology of the Internet

In the context of a conference in Beijing in fall 2004 organized by the International Social Science Council (ISSC), to which I was invited as a representative of the ISA, the proposal was made to establish a "Task Force on Sociology of the Internet." The basic idea was to establish a network of scientists and institutions working on this topic and to collect and make relevant information and publications available. In the future, this could lead to the development of research projects and even prospective collaboration on such.

I was asked whether I could take charge of this, and we subsequently developed a concept for implementing such a task force under the roof of the ISA, a formal member of the ISSC, and hosted by RC51 on Sociocybernetics. The intention of this set-up is to avoid doubling the work by closely linking this task force to RC51 activities and also to hopefully provide RC51 with better access to international institutions.

Meanwhile, ISA has formally agreed to this project and it was also formally approved by RC51 at the Maribor board and business meetings.

Spreading the Message of Systems and Cybernetics - Tutorials in Durban

Doing, presenting, and publishing advanced research is one thing. Explaining to the non-specialist what systems, cybernetics, and their application in the social sciences (i.e. sociocybernetics) are all about, is something else. We all recognize that the latter is essential when we talk to "normal" sociologists or social scientists, be it at a World Congress or at our own universities.

As such, the Maribor board and business meetings decided to organize once more, like in Brisbane, tutorials on sociocybernetics, its basics and some of its most important sub-fields.

3.1.2 Board and Business Meeting 2006 of ISA-RC51

Tentative Agenda

ISA World Congress, South Africa, Durban.

Monday, July 24, 20:00-23:00: Board Meeting RC51 (Board Members only)

Saturday, July 29, 18:00-20:00: Business Meeting RC51 (All interested participants)

- 1) Opening and Welcome by the President
- 2) Short Reports of Board Members
- 3) Report on Finances of RC51
- 4) ISA Elections
- 5) The New Board of RC51 after Durban
- 6) Statutes of RC51
- 7) Interim Conferences
- 8) Other business - also from the floor

3.1.3 New Books on Sociology and Sociocybernetics *Chaime Marcuello, Bernd R. Hornung*

The activities of RC51 on Sociocybernetics, which have strongly concentrated on conferences so far, gradually also bear their fruits in terms of publications, which are in some way or another representative of the field. Although not all of them are collective works of RC51 in a strict sense, in some way all of them represent the production and the influence of the research committee as a group.

First of all, there is the Festschrift for Felix Geyer published as a special double issue of *KYBERNETES - The International Journal of Systems & Cybernetics*. The Festschrift, which can be considered to represent the state of the art of Sociocybernetics within RC51, was at an earlier time presented by Bernard Scott in Newsletter 18.

Then there is a volume edited by Chaime Marcuello and J.L. Fandos, which presents plenary papers given at the 1st Zaragoza International Conference on Sociology, Zaragoza, Spain, March 7-9, 2005, *Cultural Change, Social Problems, and Knowledge Society - Sociology for a Global Society*, which was organized along with the ISA Executive Committee Meeting 2005 by Chaime Marcuello. As a collection of papers given by members of the ISA Executive Committee this volume can be considered as representing sociological thinking within the ISA and to some extent its relation to sociocybernetics.

MARCUELLO, Chaime; FANDOS, J.L. (comps.): *Sociological Essays for a Global Society: Cultural Change, Social Problems and Knowledge Society*. 1.a edición, Prensas Universitarias de Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain 2006.

Contents:

0. Perseus' Shield: Sociology for a Global Society. Chaime Marcuello, Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain
1. Trust in a Globalizing Society. Piotr Sztompka, Jagiellonian University at Krakow, Poland
2. Reducing Inequalities and Maintaining Difference in a Globalizing World: A Challenge for Internet Use in a Knowledge-Based Society. Ann Denis, Department of Sociology, University of Ottawa, Canada
3. Organizational and Occupational Professionalism: The Legacies of Weber and Durkheim for Knowledge Society. Julia Evetts, School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Nottingham, UK
4. From Cultural Relativism to the Unity of Science by Means of Epistemological Constructivism: Foundations for Sociocybernetics. Bernd R. Hornung, Marburg University, Germany
5. First Movers Confronting Rogue States: 16th-century Spain and 21st-century America. Dennis Smith, Department of Social Sciences, Loughborough University, UK

6. Innovation Driven Globalization: From Information to Research Societies.
Henry Teune, Political Science Dept., University of Pennsylvania, USA

A second volume, also edited by Chaime Marcuello and J.L. Fandos, originated from the same conference. It presents selected papers from the different topic sessions in Spanish, which is one of the three official languages of the ISA, next to English and French.

MARCUELLO, Chaime; FANDOS, J.L. (comps.): Aproximaciones sociológicas para una sociedad mundial: Cambio cultural, problemas sociales y sociedad del conocimiento. 1.a edición, Prensas Universitarias de Zaragoza, Zaragoza 2006.
(Sociological Approaches to a World Society: Cultural Change, Social Problems and Knowledge Society)

A truly collective work of RC51, also in Spanish, is a book on "Sociocybernetics - Outlines of a Paradigm", the intention of which is to provide a sophisticated introduction and overview of important topics in sociocybernetics.

MARCUELLO, Chaime (comp): Sociocibernética: Lineamientos de un paradigma. Editado por Institución Fernando El Católico DPZ (CSIC), Colección Estudios, Zaragoza 2006.
(*Sociocybernetics: Outlines of a Paradigm*)

Índice/Contents:

1. La pregunta de Dorine, por Chaime Marcuello, Spain
(*The Question of Dorine*)
2. Reflexiones sobre el futuro de la Sociocibernética, Felix Geyer, Presidente de Honor del Comité de Investigación en Sociocibernética de la ISA, The Netherlands
(*Reflections on the Future of Sociocybernetics*)
3. El paradigma sociocibernético: conceptos para la investigación de sistemas sociales complejos, por Bernd R. Hornung, Universidad de Marburg, Germany
(*The Sociocybernetic Paradigm: Concepts for the Investigation of Complex Social Systems*)
4. Complejidad, cognición y comunicación: Sobre el contexto epistemológico de la Sociocibernética, por Juan Miguel Aguado, Universidad de Murcia, Spain
(*Complexity, Cognition and Communication: About the Epistemological Context of Sociocybernetics*)
5. Cibernética de Segundo Orden: una introducción histórica, por Bernard Scott, Universidad de Cranfield, UK
(*Second Order Cybernetics: A Historical Introduction*)
6. El reto del pasado para el futuro de las Ciencias Sociales, por Cor van Dijkum, Universidad de Utrecht, The Netherlands
(*The Challenge of the Past for the Future of the Social Sciences*)
7. Niklas Luhmann y la Cibernética, Michael Paetau, Fraunhofer Institute, Germany
(*Niklas Luhmann and Cybernetics*)
8. Cohesión social, comunicación y doble contingencia: la complejidad de la vida en sus múltiples posibilidades culturales, por Fernando R. Contreras, Universidad de Sevilla, Spain
(*Social Cohesion, Communication and Double Contingency: The Complexity of Life in Its Multiple Cultural Possibilities*)

9. El enfoque sistémico-axiológico en el estudio de lo social: sus posibilidades operativas, por Francisco Parra Luna, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain
(*The Systemic-Axiological Approach in the Study of the Social: Its Operative Possibilities*)
10. Pensamiento sistémico y organización matricial orientados a la construcción de sistemas sociales: retos y herramientas ante la complejidad, por José Antonio Amozurrutia de Maria y Campos, LabComplex, CEIICH UNAM, México
(*Systems Thinking and Matrix Organization Oriented Towards the Construction of Social Systems: Challenges and Tools in the Face of Complexity*)
11. La dinámica de sistemas y los modelos de simulación por computadora, por Héctor Zamorano, Universidad de Córdoba, Argentina
(*System Dynamics and Computer Simulation Models*)
12. Sociocibernética aplicada al Cambio Social y Desarrollo: el Caso de Chile, por Darío Menanteau-Horta, Universidad de Minnesota, USA
(*Sociocybernetics Applied to Social Change and Development: The Case of Chile*)
13. Cibercultur@ y Sociocibernética: ideas para una reflexión conjunta en paralelo, por Jorge González, LabComplex, CEIICH, UNAM, México
(*Cybercultura@ and Sociocybernetics: Ideas for a Joint Parallel Reflection*)

At a more basic level, finally, Fabio Giglietto wrote an introductory volume in Italian, which aims at the undergraduate level. This book is strongly inspired by the author's participation in RC51 conferences, discussions, and exchanges.

GIGLIETTO, Fabio: Alle radici del futuro, Dalla teoria dell'informazione ai sistemi sociali: una introduzione, FrancoAngeli, Milano 2006.
(*To the Roots of the Future, From Information Theory to Social Systems: An Introduction*)

Introduction (Emergence, Control, Modernity)

1. Information Theory (Historical Context, Shannon, Probability, Information, Entropy)
2. Cybernetics and General System Theory (Historical Context, Concept of System, Circular Causality, System-Environment)
3. Observing Systems (1st and 2nd Order Cybernetics, Heinz von Foerster, Self-organization, Autopoiesis, Observation, Self-reference)
4. Social Systems (Society as a System, Parsons, Luhmann, Social Action, Double Contingency, Communication, Evolution, Functional Differentiation)
5. Conclusion (Illusion, Delusion, Control, and the Cybern-Ethic way of Control)

3.2 ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS

3.2.1 Report on the 2005 Meeting of the American Society for Cybernetics *Stuart A. Umpleby*

The 2005 annual meeting of the American Society for Cybernetics (ASC) was held at George Washington University, October 27-30, 2005. All of the various branches of cybernetics, including engineering cybernetics, biological cybernetics, management cybernetics, and social cybernetics were represented.

Takeshi Utsumi, who has been working for many years to bring the benefits of computer-based communications to developing countries, described his work on creating a Global University System. Eric Dent explained his widely-referred to study of what the various fields of systems science have in common and what obstacles have prevented their further integration. Stuart Umpleby reviewed reflexive theories, focusing on the work of George Soros, which provides a link between second order cybernetics and the fields of economics, finance, and political science.

Russell Ackoff, who has made well-known contributions to the field of strategic management, discussed types of systems, some of their models, and their implications. Klaus Krippendorff Bateson, Professor at the Annenberg School of Communication of the University of Pennsylvania, discussed language and philosophy. Anthropologist Mary Catherine Bateson described how longer life expectancies are affecting cultural transmission.

Karl Mueller, director of a social science data archive in Vienna, Austria, described recent developments in meta-analysis and how this work is leading to a second-order science. Ranulph Glanville from the UK described how second order theories are particularly appropriate for activities involving design, such as architecture. John Warfield, who once worked on redesigning the hugely complicated acquisition system of the U.S. Department of Defense, reviewed many centuries of “thought about thought” and reflected on his decades of experience designing and managing very complex systems.

In addition, there were three panel sessions on the philosophy of radical constructivism, three panels on therapy and neurofeedback, two panels on the epistemological implications of quantum theory, and several panels on management methods, information systems, and e-commerce. There was a workshop on open source approaches to innovation and an evening performance by the Performers Workshop Ensemble. The meeting ended with an afternoon participatory strategic planning exercise to define future directions for ASC. For those new to the field, Larry Richards led a tutorial on October 27.

Abstracts, papers and slides can be found at http://www.gwu.edu/~rpsol/asc_conf.html.

3.2.2 RC51 as a member of the International Federation for Systems Research *Cor van Dijkum*

Because of our interest in systems science, as was articulated in a letter of Bernd Hornung to the Chairman of IFSR, Professor Chroust, “RC51 is highly interested in joining the IFSR in order to strengthen its own international scientific communications and exchanges and to contribute to the IFSR as a forum for systems science and cybernetics in the social sciences.” The request for membership was granted, so we have extended our network to promote, practice and to do research.

What basis does the International Federation for Systems Research give us to do so? First of all, one has to realize that the IFSR is a European-oriented organization, and has its base in Vienna, Austria. Because systems science owes a lot to Europeans such as Bertalanffy and Vienna has a strong tradition in the (philosophical) foundation of science, including systems science, we have no problem with this European-orientation. However, as European traditions and science are spread around the world, so must RC51 activities of the Federation “cover all countries of the world” (Article 2 of the IFSR statute). Furthermore, the IFSR is a non-profit organization whose goal is to “stimulate all activities associated with the scientific study of systems, meaning complex entities and mental reflections of them, and to coordinate such activities at the international level” (Article 3). To find out about the IFSR and its activities, please refer to its excellent website (<http://www.ifsr.org/>). Information can also be found about the journal the IFSR is publishing, *Systems Research and Behavioral Science*. Coincidentally, a number of RC51 members can be found on the board of this journal, including Ranulph Glanville, Ken Bailey, Francisco Parra Luna, Stuart Umpleby, and Gerard de Zeeuw, one of the former journal’s chief-editors. In sum, when it comes to personal associations between our associations, we certainly we stand united.

3.2.3 A RC51 Research Program about e-learning and a Virtual Campus? *Cor van Dijkum*

In a previous newsletter our member Michael Paetau invited us to consider a number of possibilities to join each other in a program of research. Among others he introduced the idea of building a 'European Virtual Campus on Sociocybernetics'. For programs such as this (<http://www.cordis.lu/nest/ncp.htm>), we are clearly too late, but it would be worthwhile for us to discuss this idea in a more relaxed setting in the future (not hindered by a deadline that was yesterday). Again, I ask you as reader, to join the discussion and, to begin with, have a look at promising examples of allied organizations' e-learning programs. Perhaps we can join them in the near future.

Globally Collaborative Environmental Peace Gaming (GCEPG)

E-mail and multimedia world wide web of Internet have significantly contributed to the global dissemination of information. The next phase of Internet development with emerging global GRID computer networks, initiated by Dr Takeshi Utsumi (Founder and Vice President for Technology and Coordination of GUS, utsumi@columbia.edu), should be the globally collaborative experiential learning and creation of knowledge and wisdom with interactive actions on virtual reality simulation models of joint global research and development projects on various subjects. This is to form a globally collaborative innovation network (GCIN) to foster the creativity of youngsters around the world (see: <http://ewic.bcs.org/conferences/2003/3rdlege/session3/paper1.htm>).

The GCEPG is advancing in this direction and proposes to utilize the semantic benefits of gaming simulation on a global scale to aid decision makers in appreciating the impact of their decisions on interwoven global problems. The GCEPG, focusing on the issue of environment and sustainable development in developing countries, intends to train would-be leaders in crisis management, conflict resolution, and negotiation techniques based on "facts and figures." The socio-economic-environmental models of participating countries will be constructed with System Dynamic methodology and linked together in a globally distributed computer simulation system mode through a grid computer network. The GUS will supply game players, simulationists, and technical support from around the world.

The GCEPG is a computerized gaming/simulation developed to help decision makers construct a globally-distributed decision support system for positive sum/win-win alternatives to conflict and war. The idea involves interconnecting experts in many countries via global Internet to collaborate in the discovery of new solutions for world crises, such as the deteriorating ecology of our globe, and to explore new alternatives for a world order capable of addressing the problems and opportunities of an interdependent globe. Gaming/simulation is the best tool we have for understanding the world's interwoven problems and the solutions we propose for them. System analysis for systemic change at the global level is a precondition for any significant resolution to today's global-scale problems. The understanding of interwoven world phenomena gleaned from scientific and rational analysis and critical thinking based on "facts and figures" would be the basis of conflict resolution for world peace, and hence ought to provide the basic principle of global education for peace.

The purpose of an interactive gaming mechanism is to help find appropriate alternative policies by establishing consensus among participating parties. It is suggested here that globally distributed computer simulation should be tested interactively with the game player inserting pseudo-policy parameters into the models whenever necessary during the execution of simulation. This is called peace gaming/simulation, similar to war games practiced by military strategists. With the advent of global broadband Internet and standard interface protocols for interconnecting various dispersed, dissimilar host computers, the potential exists for ensuring the coordination of international efforts by providing more frequent communications and an environment for shared development, enabling more credible simulation study than was previously possible.

This will be done in cooperation with the European Learning GRID Infrastructure (EleGI: <http://www.elegi.org/>) Project group, North American and Japanese groups, and subsequently with

groups in developing countries. This will promote trustful friendship among youngsters around the world to realize the Knowledge Society of the 21st century, and their collective creativity will enlarge the size of pie for stakeholders to reach peaceful win-win resolutions to conflicts.

4. CALL FOR PAPERS AND ACTIVITIES

A New Journal: International Journal of Applied Systemic Studies

Nikitas A. Assimakopoulos, President of HSSS.

The Council of Hellenic Society for Systemic Studies (HSSS) is pleased to announce its new International Journal entitled International Journal of Applied Systemic Studies: (IJASS, <http://www.inderscience.com/ijass>) published by Inderscience Publishers. This Publishing House runs over 120 international journals and it is one of the leaders in our wider scientific area.

For the inaugural issue, you are invited to send quality papers to our HSSS Society (info@hsss.gr) up to the end of June 2006. The inaugural issue of IJASS will receive important publicity as it is going to be printed in a lot of copies and will be given to relevant people around the world.

For the presentation of your paper, please get information from:

<http://www.inderscience.com/mapper.php?id=64> and use the template for 9 ½" x 6 ½" size (single column) in Word XP format.

Invitation for the Editorial Board is open. Please let us know if any of you or your friends from any part of the world with strong background in scientific areas of the IJASS subject coverage wishes to become a member. A short CV will help to have among us the appropriate personalities. The usual requirements and obligations of the Inderscience Publishers and the IJASS Journal are that the duties of each member of the editorial board, beside their help in directing the editorial policy and promoting the objectives of the journal would include helping us to receive from them or from their acquaintances at least two papers and referee at least three papers for the journal every year. Each member of the editorial board should also help us in editing a special issue for the journal or nominating a guest editor to edit a special issue once every two years.

Sociocybernetics - Social Science for Globalization and Complexity. Tutorials

Durban, South Africa, July 22-23, 2006

A key phenomenon in globalization and the emergence of a worldwide knowledge society is the rapidly increasing complexity of all areas of life which holds both promises and threats for the quality of life of human beings and social entities like groups, organizations, and society. Coping with overwhelming complexity is a need of the day and a sociology which is not capable of dealing with complexity and theorizing about it is doomed to become irrelevant. If sociology is to survive and, much more, to develop perspectives for the future, it necessarily has to become a science of social complexity. Implicitly or explicitly it is bound to become systemic. Sociology as systems science, or rather systems science in sociology, has been institutionalized within the International Sociological Association (ISA) in its "Research Committee 51 (RC 51) on Sociocybernetics". Sociocybernetics is systems science and cybernetics applied in sociology and other social sciences. We talk about systems science, because the topic is not only systems theory and cybernetics, but also axiology - i.e. the study of values and ethics -, epistemology, methodology, application, and empirical research. While the scientific programme of RC 51 will present the cutting edge of current sociocybernetic research, the tutorial programme is designed to present in a coherent and systematic way basic concepts and notions. These evidently cannot be explained in the framework of the scientific

presentations although they are necessary to understand them. The tutorial programme of RC 51 covers the two major streams of theory within sociocybernetics (i.e. first-order and second-order cybernetics), possibilities of its application, and methodology for empirical research.

See website for more information:

<http://www.unizar.es/sociocybernetics/congresos/DURBAN/tutorial.html>

The Global Political and Social Order

Prague, Czech Republic, August 10 -17, 2006

This international/interdisciplinary conference welcomes submissions from any discipline or art that seeks to understand the impact of current political, social and economic trends on humanity and its ideas and institutions. Potential topic examples are globalisation, world orders, wars and holy wars, syncretism, roles of NGO's and global political and social welfare organizations, human rights, or nationalism.

Deadline Call for Abstracts: 5 July 2006

Website: http://www.expandinghc.org/s_4.asp

A World Beyond Capitalism, The Second Annual International Multiracial Alliance Building Peace Conference

Portland, Oregon, August 26, 2006

A World Beyond Capitalism 2006 invites activists to come to Portland, Oregon in August 2006 and engage in a weekend of educational discussion and visionary dialogue.

Website: <http://www.commonunitypeaceconference.org/>

Summer School Use of System Approaches for Issues in Rural Development Like Local Food Systems, Agrotourism, Organic Farming

Crete, Greece, August 22-29, 2006

An unique opportunity that combines modern system thinking and notions of complexity from around the world with ancient Greek thinking on "the nature of nature". All this is applied to practical problems of rural development in the harsh and challenging environment of Crete (Greece). The expenses are modest with special fees for students, and relatively cheap lodging. Please have a look at the attach and/or the website www.agsa.gr circulate it to your friends and colleagues and let us know of any comment / suggestion that you may have.

3rd Latin American Political Science Association Congress: Democracy and Inequalities

Campinas, Sao Paulo, Brasil, September 4 - 6, 2006

The 3rd Latin American Political Science Association Congress, sponsored by the Latin American Political Science Association (La Asociacion Latinoamericana de Ciencias Politicas [ALACIP]) and the University of Campinas (UNICAMP) Department of Political Science will discuss "Democracy and Inequalities" in Latin America in the two last decades. It is organized in 14 thematic groups. English, Portuguese and Spanish are the official languages.

Website: <http://www.ifch.unicamp.br/alacip>

Governments & Communities in Partnership

Melbourne, Australia, September 25- 27, 2006

The Centre for Public Policy Governments & Communities in Partnership conference will bring together key policy makers, community leaders and researchers from around Australia, together with leading experts from the UK, Ireland, Austria, Canada, the United States and New Zealand. The aim of the program is to deepen the academic and policy debate about the impact and value of efforts to 'join-up' different public services and related initiatives to strengthen communities.

Website: <http://www.public-policy.unimelb.edu.au/conference06/index.html>

Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies: an Integrated Perspective

Kuwait, December 3-5, 2006

One of the primary purposes of the conference is having the opportunity to meet with specialists and experts from around the world and exchange ideas in the field of social sciences from an integrated and applied perspective. Another purpose is to discuss the role of social sciences in solving contemporary issues such as the development of society's health, the elimination of violence, terrorism, and extremism, and the fulfillment of social, civil, environmental, political, and cultural stability.

The conference is an academic opportunity to share and exchange opinions, to initiate critical thinking, and to share various cultural experiences by confronting the challenges of the new millennium through cooperation, coordination, and utilization of social sciences concepts.

Website: <http://www.conferences.css.kuniv.edu>

Workshop Complexity and Philosophy

Stellenbosch, South Africa, February 22-23, 2007

This workshop complements the 3rd *Biennial International Seminar on the Philosophical, Epistemological and Methodological Implications of Complexity Theory* that was held in Havana, Cuba, January 2006. The larger international seminar provides a forum to discuss complexity and philosophy-related issues in general, whereas the aim of the smaller workshop event is to explore specific issues at a greater length with more time made available for discussion rather than presentation.

Extended deadline for abstracts: June 30, 2006

Website: http://isce.edu/ISCE_Group_Site/web-content/ISCE%20Events/Stellenbosch_2007.html

The 5th WSEAS International Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Knowledge Engineering and Data Bases (Aiked '07)

Corfu, Greece, February 16-19, 2007

Topics of the Conference, among others:

Artificial Intelligence (Neural Networks, Mathematical foundation, Supervised and Unsupervised Learning, neurobiology and neurosciences, information theory, expert systems, operational research, multimedia), *Knowledge Engineering and Data Bases* (Information and Knowledge Engineering, Web-Based Design and Development, Modeling and Simulation, Decision Support Systems, Geographic Information Systems, Agent-Based Techniques and Systems).

Deadlines for Paper submissions: October 17, 2006

Website: <http://www.wseas.org/conferences/2007/corfu/aiked>

International Conference on Multicultural Discourses

Hangzhou, China, April, 13–15, 2007

Concepts and theories of language/communication/discourse outside the Western mainstream as well as the related research and teaching traditions; intercultural dialogue, critique and cross-fertilization in discourse/language/communication studies; globalization of non-western intellectual traditions; discourses that reflect the realities issues, concerns and aspirations of marginalized or otherwise troubled groups and communities; new or alternative discourses of cultural cohesion and progress; rules and needs for conducting intercultural and international communication; localization of English as international language. This tri-annual conference will provide English interpretation for papers in Chinese.

Website: <http://www.shixu.com/institute-conference>

World Forum 2007

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, May 15-18, 2007

The purpose of the World Forum on Early Care and Education is to promote an ongoing global exchange of ideas on the delivery of quality services for young children in diverse settings. We have two goals for delegates: first, that they acquire a wealth of new ideas and new perspectives to enrich their work; and second, that they develop meaningful relationships that continue into the future with their peers from other nations.

Website: <http://www.worldforumfoundation.org/wf/wf2007/index.php>

EuroCogSci07, jointly organized by the Cognitive Science Society and by the Hellenic Cognitive Science Society.

European Cultural Center of Delphi, Greece, May 23-27, 2007

Purpose of the conference is the presentation of empirical, theoretical, and analytical work from all areas of interest in cognitive science, such as artificial intelligence, education, linguistics, neuroscience, philosophy, psychology and anthropology.

The focus is on interdisciplinary work that is either of interest for more than one of the mentioned research areas or integrates research methods from different fields. Furthermore, applications of cognitive science research in such domains as human-computer interaction, education, knowledge management, or engineering are equally welcome.

Information at website: <http://conferences.phs.uoa.gr/EuroCogSci07/>

Industrial Simulation Conference

Delft, The Netherlands, June 10-12, 2007

The conference will cover Methodology and Tools of Simulation and Industrial Applications of simulation. For Proposals for invited presentations, tutorials, software demonstration and student presentations, and so on, use the following link:

<http://biomath.ugent.be/~eurosis/conf/isc/isc2007/temp.html>

The 51th Annual Meeting of the International Society for the Systems Sciences
Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan, August 2007

See website: <http://www.isss.org/conferences/tokyo2007/>

8th Esa Conference: Conflict, Citizenship and Civil Society
Glasgow, Scotland, September 3-7, 2007

ESA is an academic association of sociologists and a non-profit Europe-wide association made up of over 700 members. It was established in 1992, following deliberations and consultations among sociologists from a diverse range of countries.

Europe is in the midst of massive changes, including the transformations in east and central Europe and the increasing integration of the European Union. Sociology has much to contribute to European level debates and developments. The ESA has an important role to play in organizing the European debate and setting the agenda.

For more information: <http://www.valt.helsinki.fi/esa/conferences.htm>

Political Linguistics

Warswa, Poland, September 13-14, 2007

In recent years, 'political-linguistic' studies have been drawing on increasingly bigger empirical input from the neighboring domains, including linguistic pragmatics, critical discourse analysis, social psychology, sociology and anthropology. Our conference, the first international event of its kind and scale in central/eastern Europe, comes as a response to this trend.

It aims at convening scholars from a wide range of disciplines, interested, broadly speaking, in the rich and heterogeneous but thus yet to become better demarcated area of intersection of language/discourse and the political sphere (i.e. politics, both in its institutionalized and everyday dimensions). The general purpose is to explore and deepen ways of analyzing language as a political instrument, a political theme, and a political domain.

Website: <http://www.ils.uw.edu.pl/pl2007/>

5. LATE NEWS

XVith World Congress of Sociology
THE QUALITY OF SOCIAL EXISTENCE IN A GLOBALISING WORLD
Durban, South Africa, July 23-29, 2006

PRELIMINARY RC51 CONFERENCE PROGRAM
Version May 31, 2006
Karl-Heinz Simon

MONDAY JULY 24: 13:30 – 15:30
JOINT SESSION 1: SOCIOLOGY AND SYSTEMS THEORY
Chairs: Jeffrey Alexander (Yale University, USA)
Raf van der Straeten (University of Bielefeld, Germany)

Michael Paetau, Fraunhofer Institute for Autonomous Intelligent Systems, Germany,
Niklas Luhmann and Cybernetics
Claudio Baraldi and Laura Gavioli, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italia,
Interaction Analysis: Towards an Integration Between Social Systems Theory and Conversation
Analysis
John Urry, Lancaster University, United Kingdom
The Promise of Complexity for Sociology
Raf van der Straeten, University of Bielefeld, Germany,
System and Environment: On the Evolution of Modern Society
Jeffrey Alexander, Yale University, USA,
Comments to the Papers Presented in the Session: "Sociology and Social Systems Theory"

MONDAY JULY 24: 15:45 – 17:45

JOINT SESSION 2: SOCIOLOGY AND SYSTEMS THEORY

Thomas M. Kemple, University of British Columbia, Canada
Cybernetic Casings and Observational Systems: From Weber to Parsons to Luhmann
Andreas Pickel, Trent University, Canada
After General Systems Theory: Systemic Ontology, Epistemology, and Methodology for the Social
Sciences
*Wolfgang Hochkirchner, University of Salzburg and Bertalanffy Center for the Study of Systems
Science, Austria*
Towards a Post-Luhmannian Social Systems View

MONDAY JULY 24: 18:00 – 20:00

SESSION 3: SOCIOCYBERNETIC CONCEPTS IN INFORMATION SOCIETY

Chair: Czeslaw Mesjasz (Cracow University of Economics, Poland)
Czeslaw Mesjasz, Cracow University of Economics, Poland, <mesjaszc@ae.krakow.pl>
The Concept of Self-Reference and Theory of Information Society
Lucio Biggiero, L'Aquila University, Italia
System Identification and Autonomy of an International Research Team: A Case Study in Self-
Observation
Leo M. Semashko, Russia, Public Institute of Strategic Sphere (Tetrasociological) Studies, Russia
The Tetrasociological Approach: Six Sociocybernetic Innovations for an Information Society
*Robert Bichler, Christian Fuchs, Celina Raffl, Advanced Studies and Research in Information and
Communication Technologies & Society, Austria,*
Ethics for a Sustainable Information Society
Eva Kasparova, University of Economics, Prague, Czech Republic,
An Information Society Challenge by the Sociocybernetic View

TUESDAY JULY 25: 13:30 – 15.30

ROUNDTABLE SESSION 4: LUHMANN APPLIED

Chair: Soeren Brier (Copenhagen Business School, Denmark)
Eva Buchinger, ARC systems research, Austria
Practical Relevance of Luhmann's Social System Theory: Governance of Autopoietic Social Systems
Erkki Sevänen, University of Joensuu, Finland
Niklas Luhmann and Critical Theory: Non-Critical System Theory vs. Critical Systemic Sociology?
Vessela Misheva, Uppsala University, Sweden
Sociological Systems Theory and its Philosophical Problems: The Theory of Medium from Kant to
Heider and Luhmann
Lars Qvortrup, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark
The Concept of "Knowledge" in the Knowledge Society and Religion as 4th Order Knowledge
Soeren Brier, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark
The Missing Person Problems in Reflecting Luhmannian Empirical Systemic Research Results: Back
into a Democratic Society of Embodied, Juridical, Political and Ethical Responsible Subjects

Morten Knudsen, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark
Autolysis – An Operation-Analytical Observation of "Noise out of Order"
Ole Thyssen, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark
The Three Tempi of Globalisation

TUESDAY JULY 25: 15:45 – 17:45

SESSION 5: PARTICIPATORY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Chair: Philippos Nicolopoulos (University of Crete and University of Indianapolis, Athens Campus, Greece)

Mihai Pascaru, Călina Ana Bupiu, University of Alba Lulia, Romania

The Social Fact from a Cybernetic Perspective: Exploratory and Grounding Investigations in the Apuseni Mountains, Romania (1999-2005)

Cestmir Halbich, Czech University of Agriculture, Czech Republic

Participatory Sustainable Development in Rural Areas: Case Study – Internet in the Czech Countryside

Serge-Patrick Boueyi, Departement de Sociologie, Universite Abomey-Calavi, Cotonou, Benin

Participatory Sustainable Development in Rural Areas and the Contribution of Systems Theory

Jorge A. González, LabCOMplex-UNAM-México

Research and Development of Cyberculture@ in Displaced Communities

TUESDAY JULY 25: 18:00 - 20:00

SESSION 6: APPLICATIONS OF SOCIOCYBERNETICS

Chair: Daniele Bourcier (Centre d'études et de recherches science administrative, France)

Karl-Heinz Simon, University of Kassel, Germany

Transitions Management – An Issue for Sociocybernetics?

Jane Davis, North Carolina A&T State University, USA

A New Theory: The Nonlinear Dynamic Theory of Teaching and Learning

Jose A. Amozurrutia, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico

Sociocybernetics Applied in Cultural Activity Analysis

Francisco Parra-Luna, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain

Cervantes' Novel Don Quixote as a System: The Emergence of the "Place of La Mancha"

Zach Johnson, Bernard Scott, Cranfield University, United Kingdom

Learning Conversations in Higher Education

Sonja Treven, Matjaž Mulej, University of Maribor, Slovenia

Systemic Approach to the Encouragement of Innovativeness Through Employee Diversity Management

WEDNESDAY JULY 26: 13:30 – 15:30

SPANISH SESSION 7: SOCIAL CAPITAL AND SOCIAL NETWORKS

Chairs: Juan D. Gomez Quintero (University of Zaragoza, Spain),

Chaime Marcuello-Servos (University of Zaragoza, Spain),

Dario Menanteau-Horta (University of Minnesota, USA)

Antonio Eito Mateo, University of Zaragoza, Spain

Inmigración, integración y capital social: El caso de la Ciudad de Huesca

Margarita Maass Moreno, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico,

Análisis del volumen y composición social del capital de tres generaciones de mexicanos del siglo XX: Reflexiones de segundo orden desde una metodología sociocibernética

Iosu Lizarralde Aiastui, Mondragon Unibertsitatea, Spain

Building up an Entrepreneurial Region by Means of Social Capital

Unamuno Ainhua, Calzada Igor, MIK Mondragón Innovation and Knowledge, Spain,

Social Capital and Network Development for Regional/ Local Economic Development

Pablo Forni, Mariana Nardone, Universidad del Salvador, Argentina

Grupos solidarios de microcrédito y redes sociales : Sus implicancias en la generación de capital social en barrios del Gran Buenos Aires

WEDNESDAY JULY 26: 15:45 – 17:45

PORTUGUESE SESSION 8: EQUALITY AND INEQUALITY

Chair: Manuel Lisboa (Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal)

Manuel Lisboa, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal

Desigualdade de género e teoria da acção social - o público e o privado no caso português

Breno Augusto Souto-Maior Fontes, Klaus Eichner, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Brasil,

A formação do capital social em uma comunidade de baixa renda

Marzia Grassi, University of Lisbon, Portugal

Género, Economia informal e transnacionalismo em contextos multiculturais: Cabo Verde, Angola e países da diáspora

Armando de Melo Lisboa, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brasil

A construção da identidade: caminho para superação da desigualdade

Maria Jose Arthur, WLSA, Moçambique

Entre lei e moral social: o funcionamento dos Gabinetes de Atendimento de Mulheres e Crianças vítimas de violência

WEDNESDAY JULY 26: 18:00 – 20:00

SESSION 9: SOCIOCYBERNETICS AND CYBERETHICS

Chair: Vessela Misheva (Uppsala University, Sweden)

Diane Laflamme, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

The Emergence of Ethical Programmes and Moral Conditionings in Meaning-Constituting Systems

Christopher Kindblad, University of Halmstad, Sweden

The Importance of the Moravian Ethics for the Miskitu Culture: A Matrizitic Perspective on the Role of Emotions in Cultural Change

Barry Gibson, King's College London, United Kingdom

The Codification of quality of life in medicine and dentistry: a systems theoretical study

Pavel O. Luksha, The Higher School of Economics, Russia

Anthropocentric Science: Von Foerster's Great Project Revisited

Louis Klein, Systemic Consulting Group, Germany

Being a Post-modern Organisation

THURSDAY JULY 27: 13:30 – 15.30

SPECIAL TOPIC SESSION 10:

THE SYSTEM OF MASS MEDIA AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

Chairs: Juan M. Aguado (Universidad de Murcia, Spain),

Vessela Misheva (Uppsala University, Sweden)

Vessela Misheva, Uppsala University, Sweden

The Mass Media as a Social System

Isabel Kusche, University of Bielefeld, Germany

Media Democracy as Description of the Relation Between Media and Politics: Self-observation of the Media System and its Consequences

Bob Hodge, University of Western Sydney, Australia

Foucault's Discursive Machine and the Cybernetics of Truth

Jesper Tække, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Social Evolution: Technical Communication Media and Autopoietic Systems

Juan Miguel Aguado, Universidad de Murcia, Spain

Self-observation, Self-reference and Operational Coupling in Social Systems: Steps Towards a Coherent Epistemology of Mass Media

Ana Thereza Nogueira Soares, Catholic University of Minas Gerais, Brazil

The Information is not Necessary Anymore: The Codes of Mass Media Systems in Brazil

THURSDAY JULY 27: 15:45 – 17:45

SESSION 11: ANALYZING AND ESTIMATING FEEDBACK RELATIONSHIPS

Chairs: Han Oud (University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands)

Cor van Dijkum (Utrecht University, The Netherlands)

Georg P. Mueller, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

The Dynamics of Social Inequality as an Iterated Game with Feedbacks on the Payoff-Structure

Han Oud, Toni Toharudin, Jaak Billiet, University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Three Standard Procedures for Assessing Feedback Relationships in Social Science: A Comparison

Illustrated by Ethnocentrism, Individualism and Nationalism in Flanders

Kees van Montfort, Frits Bijleveld, Siem-Jan Koopman, Jacques Commandeur, Free University

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Nonlinear and Feedback Time Series Aspects of Road Safety Research

Eldad Davidov, Peter Schmidt, Han Oud, University of Basel, Switzerland

Anomia and Authoritarianism in Germany: Analyzing Feedback by Means of an Autoregressive

Cross-Lagged Model and a Stochastic Differential Equation Model on Three Wave Panel Data

Johannes A. Landsheer, Cor van Dijkum, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands,

Modeling Feedback Relations in the Development of Delinquency During Adolescence and Early

Adulthood with an Auto-regressive Growth Curve

THURSDAY JULY 27: 18:00 – 20:00

JOINT (WITH RC33) SESSION SESSION 12: CAUSALITY REVISED

Chairs: Cor van Dijkum (Utrecht University, The Netherlands)

Hans van der Zouwen (Free University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

Cor van Dijkum, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Causality in the Social Sciences Revised: A Short History and Outlook to the Future

Johannes van der Zouwen, Johannes H. Smit, Free University, of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Bidirectional Causality in Methods Research of Interviews with Standardized Questionnaires:

Anticipation and Repair as Sources of Interviewer Effects

Loet Leydesdorff, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Modelling Anticipation, Codification, and Husserl's Horizon of Meanings

David Byrne, Durham University, United Kingdom

What is an effect?

FRIDAY JULY 28: 13:30 – 15.30

SESSION 13A CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF INNOVATION

Chairs: Matjaz Mulej (University of Maribor, Slovenia),

Eva Buchinger (ARC systems research, Austria)

Eva Buchinger, ARC systems research, Austria

Public Governance of Innovation: From Legal to Monetary to Knowledge-based Policy Instruments

L. Biggiero, A. Sammarra, C. Muzzi, L'Aquila University, Italy

Innovation Catalysts in the Aerospace and the Telecommunication Districts in Central Italy: Its

Identification, Characteristics and Role

Vojko Potocan, Matjaz Mulej, University of Maribor, Slovenia

Systemic Understanding of Trust and Ethics of Interdependence in Innovative Business

Chaime Marcuello-Servós, University of Zaragoza, Spain

The 3rd Generation Innovation Policy of the European Union: A Critical and Systemic Reading

Matjaz Mulej, Zdenka Ženko, Vojko Potocan, Nastja Mulej, University of Maribor, Slovenia

The Capacity of Companies to Absorb Suggestions from Government: The Case of Inventions of

Research Organizations in Europe, e.g. in Slovenia

FRIDAY JULY 28: 15:45 – 17:45

SESSION 13B: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF INNOVATION

Chairs: Matjaz Mulej (University of Maribor, Slovenia),

Eva Buchinger (ARC systems research, Austria)

Gerald Steiner, University of Graz, Austria

Innovative Performance of Organizations in Dependency on Workplace and Interior Design
Filippina Risopoulos, University of Graz, Austria

An Adequate Communication Design within the Context of the Generation of Radical Innovations

SESSION 14: SOCIOCYBERNETICS OF EMOTION

Chair: Bernd R. Hornung (University Hospital Giessen and Marburg GmbH, Germany)

Julia Fix, Daniel Moldt, University of Hamburg, Germany

Emotional Agent Systems: Modelling Emotions in Large-Scale Artificial Societies

Pavel O. Luksha, The Higher School of Economics, Russia

Emotions in Organizations: More Than Mere Fluctuations

Felix Geyer, Laren, The Netherlands

The “War on Terror” and “The Future of an Illusion”: Regression to Fundamentalist Religion as an Inadequate Defense Against Growing Complexity

FRIDAY JULY 28: 18:00 – 20:00

SESSION 15: ADVANCES IN SOCIOCYBERNETICS I

Chair: Pavel O. Luksha (The Higher School of Economics, Russia)

Lucio Biggiero, Enrico Sevi, L'Aquila University, Italy

Interdependence Theory: Definition and Formalization of the Fundamental Types

Daniel F.M. Strauss, University of the Free State, South Africa

The Basic Concepts of Sociology Involved in System Theory

Arne Kjellman, Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden

Reversed Causality

Hellmut Löckenhoff, Research Consulting, Germany

Transdisciplinarity Grounding Transcultural Dialogue: An Approach to Intercultural Discourse

Janet McIntyre, Flinders University, Australia

Rescuing the Enlightenment from Itself: Implications for Addressing Democracy and ‘The Enemies Within’

SATURDAY JULY 29: 13:30 – 15:30

SESSION 16: ADVANCES IN SOCIOCYBERNETICS II

Chair: Marie-Noelle Sarget (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, France)

Marie-Noelle Sarget, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, France

Systemic Approach of Art: The Example of Painting

Bernd R. Hornung, University Hospital Giessen and Marburg GmbH

Bits, Bytes, and Other Distinctions which make a Difference: From the Laws of Form to a Sociocybernetic Concept of Information

Kathleen S. Long, OptimaConsulting, USA

Dancing With Demons: Pathogenic Problem Solving Systems

Suchismita Ray Paul, Jogamaya Devi College, India

Micro Credit, Empowerment of Women Selfhelp Groups: A Fuzzy Logical Study

Lauren Langman, Saher Salod, Loyola University of Chicago, USA

Papyrus, Paper and the Public Sphere: CMC and the Means of Social Transformation

SATURDAY JULY 29: 15:45 – 17:45

SESSION 17: EMERGENCE IN SOCIAL SYSTEMS AND SOCIOCYBERNETIC THEORY

Chairs: Bernd R. Hornung (University Hospital Giessen and Marburg GmbH),

Francisco Parra-Luna (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain)

Ken Bailey, UCLA, USA

A Typology of Emergence in Social Systems and Sociocybernetic Theory

Dave Elder-Vass, University of London, United Kingdom

Emergence and Functionalism: Friends or Foes?

Michael Jonas, Institute of Advanced Studies Vienna, Austria

Towards an Explanation of Emergence Processes in Regional High-tech Clusters: Development of Structural Complexity vs. Creativity in Situational Practices of Action?

J. David Flynn, University of Western Ontario, Canada

The Emergence of Art Systems - Cycles of Change in Art Styles Before and After the Renaissance

Alf Masing, MJN Bt. Research and Development Unit Budapest, Hungary

Emergence and Autopoiesis – Key-qualities that Allow Social Systems to Go Global? Three Examples of Globally Multiplied Social Systems Reconsidered