GENERAL SYSTEMS BULLETIN

VOLUME XXXIV, 2005

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE SYSTEMS SCIENCES

http://www.isss.org

Enrique G. Herrscher, President
Madere 1160
Vicente Lopez 1638
Argentina
enriqueherrscher@fibertel.com.ar

Jennifer Wilby, VP Administration
Bulletin Editor
47 Southfield Road
Pocklington, York, YO42 2XE, England
Email: isssoffice@dsl.pipex.com
Tel: +44(0)1759-302718 Fax: +44(0)1759-302718

Carl Slawski, Secretary
555 S. Ventu Park Rd.
Newbury Park, CA 91320 USA
Email: cslawski@juno.com
Tel: (805) 480-1845

OFFICERS AND UNITS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE SYSTEMS SCIENCES (ISSS)

ISSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ENRIQUE G. HERRSCHER, President
CAPSIS, Buenos Aires, Argentina

DEBORA HAMMOND, President-Elect
Cal. State University, Sonoma, CA USA

KENNETH D. BAILEY, Past-President
UCLA Dept. of Sociology, Los Angeles, CA, USA

LEN R. TRONCALE, Board of Trustees
Cal. State University, Pomona, CA USA

JENNIFER WILBY, VP Administration
University of Hull, Hull, UK

OPEN, Treasurer and VP Funds
(B A Banathy, acting)

CARL SLAWSKI, Secretary and VP for Protocol
California State University, Long Beach, CA USA

JAMES SIMMS, VP Communications and Systems Education
Fulton, Maryland, USA

MAURICE YOLLES, VP for Research and Publications
Liverpool John Moore University, Liverpool, UK

Agustin Delgado and Elvira Avalos Villareal
(Joint) VP Membership and Conferences
Instituto Politecnico Nacional, Mexico

PAST PRESIDENTS: (Council of Distinguished Advisors)

1956 Origin of the Society
1957 Kenneth Boulding (also '58)
1959 Charles McClelland ('60, '61)
1962 Ross Ashby ('63,'64)
1965 Anatol Rapoport*
1966 Peter J. Caws*
1967 John M. Milsum
1968 Milton Rubin
1969 Lawrence Slobodkin
1970 Bertram Gross
1971 Stafford Beer
1972 Margaret Mead
1973 James G. Miller
1974 Gordon Pask
1975 Kjell Samuelson*
1976 Heinz von Foerster
1977 Sir Geoffrey Vickers
1978 Richard Ericson
1979 Brian Gaines*
1980 Robert Rosen
1981 George Klir*
1982 John Warfield
1983 Karl Deutsch
1984 Bela H. Banathy
1985 John Dillon
1986 Peter B. Checkland*
1987 Russell L. Ackoff *
1988 Ilya Prigogine
1989 C. West Churchman
1990 Len Troncale*
1991 Howard T. Odum
1992 Ian I. Mitroff*
1993 Hal Linstone*
1994 J.D.R. de Raadt*
1995 Ervin Laszlo*
1996 Yong Pil Rhee
1997 G.A. Swanson*
1998 Bela A. Banathy*
1999 Peter Corning*
2000 Harold Nelson*
2001 Michael Jackson*
2002 Aleco Christakis*
2003 Kenneth D. Bailey*

* Denotes Board of Trustees

ISSS COUNCIL

The Council consists of Board members, Trustees, Chairs of SIGs and the following organizational units. The VP for Membership and Conferences is elected by the Council annually.

1. Argentina (ND)
Charles Francois

2. Australia (ND)
William Hutchinson

3. Canada, Eastern (C,D)
H. Ken Burkhardt

4. California, Los Angeles (C)
Carl Slawski

5. Far West Region (C)
John van Gigch

6. Southern Region (C)
Janet K. Allen

7. France, Paris (ND)
Pierre Auger

8. Italy, Milan (C)
Gianfranco Minati

9. Japan (ND)
Kazunari Ishidi

10. Korea, Seoul (ND)
Open

11. Minnesota (C)
Curt McNamara

12. North European Region (R)
Kjell Samuelson

13. Poland (C)
Miecyslaw Bazewicz

14. Saybrook Institute (C)
Arne Collen

15. Sweden (C)
Open

SPECIAL INTEGRATION GROUPS
SIG CHAIRS and LIAISON OFFICERS

Business/Industrial Systems Applications (1)
David Ing
sabi@systemicbusiness.org

Hierarchy Theory (2)
Jennifer Wilby
isssoffice@dsl.pipex.com

Duality Theory (3) (Open)

Systems Philosophy & Systems Ethics (4)
Kurt Richardson
kurt@kurtrichardson.com

Informatics and Communication Systems (6)
(Open)

Systems Modeling and Simulation (7)
Robert Orchard orchard@acm.org

Futurism and Systems Change (8)
Curt McNamara curt@scribmail.com

Meta-Modeling and Systems Epistemology (12)
John van Gigch
vang@sonic.net

Systems Psychology & Psychiatry (13)
Robert A. Orchard
orchard@acm.org

Information Systems Design & Info. Technology (16)
Bela A. Banathy
babanathy@sbcglobal.net

Research Towards General Theories of
Systems (17)
Len R. Troncale
lrtroncale@csupomona.edu

Medical and Health Systems (19)
(Open)

Living Systems Analysis (20)
James Simms
jrsimms@juno.com

Designing Educational Systems (21)
Patrick Jenlink
pjenlink@sfasu.edu

Processes and Human Processes (22)
(Open)

Spirituality and Systems (23)
Tetsunori Koizumi
koizumi@world.ryukoku.ac.jp
Charles Smith
miumuddin@verizon.net

Human Systems Enquiry (24)
Arne Collen
acollen@saybrook.edu

Critical Systems Theory and Practice (26)
Clemencia Morales
c.morales@hull.ac.uk

Evolutionary Development (29)
Kathia & Alexander Laszlo
Laszlo@syntonyquest.org

Evolution and Complexity (30)
Larry Edwards
ledwards@sasq.net

Applied Systems and Development (31)
Dennis Finlayson
dfinlayson@btopenworld.com

What is Life/Living (33)
John J. Kineman
jjk@nexial.org

Women and Children (34)
Anne Nelson
nelsongroup@worldnet.att.net

Systems Specific Technology (35)
Vadim Kvitash
kvitash@hotmail.com

Organizational Transformation and Social Change (36)
Maurice Yolles
m.yolles@livjm.ac.uk

Co-Futura (37)
Christine Hardy
1015152411@compuserve.com

Systems Pathology (38)
Len Troncale
lrtroncale@csupomona.edu

LIAISON OFFICERS
IFSR Gary Metcalf and (open)
American Assoc. for the Advancement of Science, AAAS
Section K (Social, Economic, and Political Science)
(Open)
Section L (History and Philosophy of Science) (Open)
Section M (Engineering)
Kazuhiko Kawamura, Vanderbilt University
Section Q (Education)
Howard Thorsheim, St. Olaf College
International Programs,
Dan Radell, Winston-Salem State University
UNESCO (Open)
IIASA (United Nations) (Int'l Inst. for Appl. Sys. Analysis)
Istvan Kiss
American Academy of Management (AAM)
Joe Litterer, Univ. of Massachusetts
European Operational Research Society (EURO)
Peter Pruzan, Univ. of Copenhagen

SECTION ONE

EDITORIALS, PAPERS AND CORRESPONDENCE

INCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
Asilomar July 2004
President, Enrique G. Herrscher

First of all, it is a pleasure for me to present to you the new Past President, Ken Bailey, and I wish to thank him in the name of everybody here present for a wonderful Presidency. It's always tough to follow one who did a good job. I would have preferred that you didn't step down; but it will be a pleasure to follow in your footsteps. Thank you very much Ken for everything.

Second, I want to present to you some of the people who are organising the Cancun meeting. Not everybody is here and many stayed in Mexico and couldn't make it, but they are a wonderful group of people. At least I would like to have them stand up so people know you. Thank you, Elvira Ávalos, Nacho Peón and Isaías Badiño. Perhaps you present yourself so that people who have some questions about the meeting can contact you. They can answer any doubts that that you may have. They know where will we have the meeting better of course than I do, and it's good to have them here. Thank you for coming and for all the work that you and your team are doing with Agustín Delgado.

Third, I would have a suggestion. Why don't you all come closer, to the front rows, because then we will have a more systemic meeting? That's great. The school teachers sometimes say "I see many people who are not here". Some may have left already: that's the problem with holding this activity the very last day.

You may have read something called the "Incoming Presidential Speech" that you got in your binder when you registered. I wrote it before coming. As promised, I won't repeat that piece. You also got the "Presidential Action Plan", which is mandatory according to the bylaws, and I will just mention some of the items as they come up with the questions, but I also won't repeat that document because you have read it or can read it later.

So what I do want to speak about is to address the three questions you may have as to what you expect of an incoming presidential speech. That is, to know "who is this guy", "what does he think about the Society" and "what does he intend to do?" I think those three items will be interesting to cover in half an hour, and then we can have some sort of conversation.

I became a systemist when I was 15 years old. Of course I didn't realise that I had became a systemist. I didn't even know that word. It somehow happened. And it happened when I discovered in the library of my father the books of Hermann Hesse. Many people, here and before, heard me quoting this German novelist and poet who, certainly without using that terminology, was the first one to present systemics to me. With him I learned one word, a wonderful word, 'awakening', and what happened to me was something like that. It awakened a whole life of things that hang together. I discovered with him, along with Eastern thought (Ying and Yang, the I Ching) the dynamics of the river: a boatman saying 'look, the river is here but it is also up in the mountains where it comes from, and it's down where it flows to the ocean. It's everywhere, but it's also in this very place. It's always the same butalways different. Always moving and never staying still'. A Greek philosopher said very much the same many years ago. Later, when I came to study systemics and systems dynamics more rigorously, nothing was as clear as that conversation between Siddharta and the boatman in Hesse's book.

Hesse's most profound book came even closer to be in my mind a sort of primer of systemics: it is about (and bears that name) the Glasperenspiel, the Glass Bead Game, which of course doesn't

exist. But if it would exist it would be a sort of language combining all sciences and all arts and all ideas in a sort of musical scripture like a pentagram. It is up to everybody's imagination how it would work in practice. It's an invention, a fantasy, but I've never found anything as systemic as that.

Soon after that age my father died and I had to earn money as bookkeeper apprentice. I got my first degree, which was in accounting. I did very little accounting in my life, almost none, but it gave me a sense of measurement which G. A. Swanson would like. The combination of accounting and Hermann Hesse gave me the sense that there are many things that can be measured and must be measured, but that there are also other things that cannot be measured and are also important.

Then I went into management and there's where I learnt "by doing" most of what I now teach. All my life I have been teaching in all kinds of universities in Argentina, not only at my own university, the University of Buenos Aires (of which I am now an Honorary Professor for life). So that was a sort of open-ended career of what we call administration and you would call management, with an accounting flavour and a systemic flavour.

The second awakening happened many years later in the living room of my house, when we were sitting together with John van Gigch, whom you saw yesterday with us, a wonderful person who wrote many excellent books on systems and who has the ability of spelling out things that young students can understand and like. And there in my home, speaking with him, I suddenly was awakened to the fact that this systemic idea that had come to me from the arts was a much more real thing and that there was an institution and a whole bunch of people studying and teaching it.

The third awakening happened when I attended my first ISSS meeting in Philadelphia in 1986. There I met the two most important people who guided me in the systemic stream of thought - this being most appropriate to say in the present meeting where we are honouring our roots. There we were, hearing Kenneth Boulding speak about whatever he had to speak with us in his strange stuttering way he had of speaking, which held us spellbound during two hours practically without breathing, so important, so relevant was every word he spoke. And there was Russell Ackoff, whose ideas accompany me in my job and in my writings up to the present day (we hope to get him to join us in Cancun next year). Those two persons really made a big difference in my first contact with ISSS.

And at a certain moment I realised that these two things that were in my life, the love for systemic thinking and the need to be in management in order to make a living, were not so separated as I thought when I was a youngster. Especially thanks to Ackoff, the big adaptor of systemic thought to organisations, suddenly I saw that those two things converged.

Some time afterwards I added another of my "heroes", as Debora would say, to the list of persons whom I cherish and remember, and that was Heinz von Foerster. During a trip he made to Buenos Aires, I was privileged to attend a two hour interview he gave to an Argentine journalist, who happened to be my son Roberto. After that, we had a three-part conversation that then continued by email for a long time and that was also a wonderful experience and may have been my fourth awakening.

So now I am here. And I see many friends. I have been with all of you and the others who had to leave, and the same happened in the 10 ISSS meetings that I attended. I have an image of walking through some woods and seeing lots of trees, different trees, and as if each tree would have a label. I must say I don't like labels. Nevertheless sometimes I see them. I don't like labels because they show a single word, and most things are too complex to be coined into one word. Again I quote Hermann Hesse. He said, 'words are no good to convey the secret meaning of things.' Good to remember that when we disagree: suddenly we see that we disagree on words and not so much on ideas.

So I see all these labels. And some labels will say "systems is the science of wholeness", or "systems is the science of complexity", or "systems is the science of interrelations", or "systems is the science of interaction" (we had some conversations with Gianfranco Minati about the difference between interrelation and interaction), or "systems is the science of design", or "systems is the science of

emergence", or "systems is the science of diversity" (lately I have been doing some research on the difference between variety and diversity), or "systems is the science of opposites" (Hector Sabelli would like that).

Consider this: perhaps systems is the science of complexity. At the same time, it's the science of models. We constantly make models. A lot of models. I saw many of them when I was studying Strategic Modeling with John Morecroft at the London Business School. The whole idea of a model is that it is a simplified representation of reality So we are studying complex systems in a simplified way. Well it's a contradiction. I like very much the saying (perhaps someone can tell me who said it because I don't remember it) that models are a wonderful thing provided we don't believe in them.

Similarly, consider that perhaps systems is the science of design but at the same time it is also the science of uncertainty. How can we design something if we don't know what will happen? Well, we will have to. That's how things are.

And consider this: perhaps systems is the science of interrelations, and we are using language to describe them. But we know it is very difficult with language to really cover the interrelations among different things.. So the world is contradictory. One of the most interesting contradictions I saw is that when I began looking at organisations I found that there are many "unsystemic systems": quite a nice contradiction! Now Ackoff writes about "misdirected systems" and yesterday GA was speaking of "the pathology of systems". The ever present difference between "is" and "should be".

Let me tell you that when I find in ISSS all these trees with labels on them, all these contradictions and opposites, they don't disturb me thanks to systemic thinking. I used to get a bit uneasy when I saw a contradiction but I don't now. Perhaps some of you share that sentiment. Now, not only do I "endure" it, let's say, but I like when I see a contradiction because variety of outlook enriches our life and our thinking. It is not that one outlook makes sense and the other doesn't make sense: it depends on the logic. From what logic are we looking and which words do we use when looking and perceiving, is really the whole key I think of our endeavors. So it's really that systemic thinking (the title of my last book) may have to be called "systemic seeing". In fact, there is a beautiful book called like that, by Barry Oshry.

What is the message of all this? Well, it is that I welcome all these contradictions in my short term of presidency (one year, in which you cannot do very much). I will welcome all those ideas, all those trees, all those labels. It's not up to the Society, I think, to decide which labels are okay or which are not. We do not have "a Vatican establishing the dogma". I think that it is both the strength and the weakness of this Society (again a contradiction) not to have a Vatican-like hierarchy that establishes a dogma.

But of course that diversity has a cost, as everything in life, and there my accounting mind comes again to life. We pay a cost: the cost of identity. It's much more difficult to have a clear identity, and to show it clearly, when you allow diversity.

Then suddenly I discovered, let's say, another tree, another label. Many people, especially those that have been honoured in such a wonderful way these days, may have meant the same, but perhaps they did not use this word. I came to the conclusion that systems is the science of generosity.

I think we need a lot of generosity. We need it when we are the "whole" and we have "parts" below or around us, and we need to be generous to allow those parts to have their own identities, their own action, their own resources, their own success, even if we are the whole. And we need generosity when we are a "part" and we must give or transfer to the "whole" some of our identity, some of our decision power, some of our action, some of our resources. For the sake of belonging to that whole, we may approach these things from the logic, and that's not enough. That logic is insufficient if we don't have generosity as well. Generosity only, without the rationality behind it, is no good; but the rationality without the generosity won't work either.

We need generosity for Bela H. Banathy's conversation. There is no real profound conversation without generosity. That means being really in the steps of the other person and putting ourselves into his or her shoes. We need generosity in order to make all those levels and fractals of Stafford Beer's Viable System work because otherwise it will be only structure: we need structure plus generosity.

We need generosity to embrace and respect and like natural science if we are a social scientist, and social science if we a natural scientist. I think that the whole systemic ISSS-idea is about that. We need generosity if we are theorists, researchers, to look at, be interested in, and respect the practitioner. And we need generosity if we are practitioners, to look at all this wonderful research that is done by the scientists and that one day will benefit us.

Generosity means to do something about the gap between rich and poor, which is the root of much of the violence we are seeing, and of course this requires the generosity of the rich. I don't mean just "giving" but mainly "allowing": that the powerful allow the socio-economic-political system to change to a more equitable one

And of course we need generosity to do something about conflict because to solve conflict we generally need to give up something. There is a film now showing 'Something's got to give.' I think that this is one of the key ideas of the systems movement. That means: if we promote this notion very strongly we may in a little way do something about avoiding war and avoiding violence and avoiding intolerance and avoiding fundamentalism. These are indeed the biggest problems we are facing today and where the systems movement, going to the remote causes and consequences, but not only from the rational view but also with the generosity element, should be able to help before it is too late.

We will have to remember generosity because otherwise our conversations, our dialogue, will not work. So, finally I came to this conclusion, finally I found my own label: Systems is the science of dialogue that includes generosity.

And with that idea I want to leave you for questions. Many thanks.

VICKERS AWARD STUDENT PAPER
Asilomar 2004
Communities, Narrative and Re-authoring

Janette Young
Division of Health Sciences, University of South Australia
GPO Box 2471, Adelaide, South Australia, 5001
Flinders Institute of Public Policy and Management

Introduction

The aim of this paper is to consider the applicability of the core concepts of narrative therapy - an approach usually linked to individual, couple and group counselling - to contemplate the dominant narrative about a community of some 60 000 people. To reflect on the manner in which this narrative shapes the reality of the community's life and how the concepts of narrative therapy can be applied to this community in ways that can "really make a difference".

The author has a systemic perspective of society as per writers such as Vickers (1983) and Giddens (Cassell, 1993), namely that the social world is composed of multiple interrelated and relating parts, which come to form a whole in time and space. Social entities are not immutable and reflective practises and critical reflection, including the transfer of existing ideas from one genre to another (in this case counselling to public policy) offers the opportunity to bring about positive change for the future in human systems.

The community that is referred to in this paper is the community of Elizabeth in South Australia. The author has a multi-faceted history of personal, professional and bureaucratic activity within this community, having grown up there, then left and returned as a commuting professional and central office bureaucrat, and more recently researcher. It is the personal connections that drive this enquiry most strongly.

A relatively unique mix of levels of experience in the community, in combination with a continuing network of friends, family and acquaintances who live and work in Elizabeth informs the conceptions of this paper. The everyday reality of living in this community is rarely written about and articulated publicly. This is because of the kind of dynamics that have been written about by a range of theorists for many years, to wit that the public arena is dominated by the voices and ideology of the socially and politically powerful and in public discourses the experiences and understandings of the less and least powerful in society are muted. (Fals Borda & Rahman, 1991, Park, 2001, Lincoln, 2001, Reason & Bradbury 2001). Statistics such as the extremely low rates of university access and participation of people from this community are one example of why their voice is unlikely to be heard, as so few are likely to be in a position to be publishing academic papers which articulate the lived (as versus observed) experience. In an increasingly knowledge dominated and (formal) qualification demanding environment, not accessing university means that the old pathways, such as working ones way up from the lowest levels to senior management are barred and their voices are not present in a greater range of powerful/decision making environments than in past eras.

Narrative therapy, Participatory Action Research and Experiential Knowledge

Narrative Therapy is linked in this paper to Participatory Action Research. Much of the evidence used here to offer alternative narratives and strategies has arisen in the progression of a Participatory Action Research process facilitated by the author (Young, 2004). Both of these models have a focus on finding and acknowledging voices and stories. Both have strong conceptions of the power of voice and story and believe in the potential for bringing about positive change through hearing, acknowledging and responding to people's expressed beliefs and understandings ('voice').

As a final year social work student I was privileged to hear Michael White lecture on narrative therapy. One line from that lecture has stayed with me for many years and forms the core conceptualisation to the ideas discussed here. That line is, "no one story fits all the facts".

The key point I wish to make in this paper is that there is a deficit or deficiency story about the community of Elizabeth, and that this has had, and continues to have, overwhelming, real life implications for the community. It is however not the only story possible. To "change" the story of this community, to renarrate or reauthor in the language of narrative therapy, through using the knowledge, experiences and understandings of people from that community offers powerful opportunities in terms of public policy and real impacts on people's lives.

Narrative therapy is an approach to counselling that has its philosophical roots in the postmodernist writings of Michel Foucault (White, 1995, p12) and owes much of its development to Michael White (White, 1989; White & Epstom, 1990). It is the practical application of postmodernist thinking that makes narrative therapy rather than Foucault's own writing the point of reference for the thinking elaborated on here. It also reflects the authors history of applying the concepts of narrative therapy in her work as a social worker.

Narrative therapy as a counselling practise looks for alternative stories in people's lives. White (1995, p13-18) posits that people's belief in stories means that:

• they ignore facts that contradict the dominant story,

• they interpret events and happenings within the context of the story;

• and in general people operate to "play out" whatever story they have about themselves.

For example a person with a belief in themself as a failure will be able to give numerous examples supporting this theory – and find it very difficult to identify events where they have succeeded. Often they will use expressions such as "yes but that was different…" to explain away events that seem to show success. They will interpret ambivalent events as negative and indicative of failure, and may actively engage in activities which to an outsider may seem to be obviously bound to lead to failure, yet the person seems driven to undertake (and even keep repeating) such behaviour.

White emphasises the power of interpretation and the complex process whereby as human beings our drive to make life intelligible requires us to develop stories that make sense of contradictory, even conflictual realities. These stories then come to actually "shape, constitute" and "embrace" our lives (White 1995, p14). Within this conceptual framework therapy becomes about exploring the existing stories held by people, establishing the nature of these stories, how they are and have impacted on the person(s), and how they are different from other potential stories. With the aim of such exploration being to help people recognise alternative facts that can be used to "reauthor" or create an alternate story (or even stories) that can be lived out by them. The person identified above would be helped to find examples in their life story that do not fit the dominant story of failure, that are examples of success and achievement so that these alternate facts can be built on and developed as an alternate to the negative and damaging story that this person has become enmeshed and trapped in.

White would theorise that while stories are not challenged they become enshrined in the world of "facts" and "objectivity" so prized by western rationalist thinking. An alternate perspective on reality is that we live in a world of coexistent contradictory facts that can be interpreted and perceived in a variety of ways. The aim of narrative therapy is not to contradict the existence of "facts" but rather to seek to unravel the beliefs and values that lead to and surround "facts", and to search for alternate, more useful and encouraging perspectives.

Participatory Action Research (or PAR) is one of the family of action research approaches that has developed which focus on linking research or knowledge seeking and development to implementation and change (Reason & Bradbury, 2001, p2-4; Fals Borda, 2001). PAR has developed particularly in response to the issue of the subjugation of the voice of oppressed peoples in favor of those with more social and political power. As a process PAR has a particular focus on the partnering and working together with people from oppressed communities. To actively address the issues they identify and define as problematic and to use the knowledge and understanding of

problems incorporated by the very experience of them, to implement solutions that work. PAR particularly values "experiential knowledge" (Rowan, 2001, p116-7) as key to making real social change possible (Lincoln, 2001; Park, 2001; Reason & Bradbury, 2001). In this paper use is being made of both the authors own experiential knowledge, and the experiential knowledge shared with me in a multifaceted history of interactions in the community of Elizabeth.

Elizabeth

Elizabeth in South Australia has a long history of being identified as a community with multiple problems and deficiencies. Rather than regurgitate all of the negative reports from many years, the anecdotal experiences of community members are noted here.

It is a community that is broadly identified as "bad". Evidence of this includes responses such as, "you poor thing" having informed someone of your address, or being asked "why are you here?" (with the implication being that one shouldn't be there) on attending university. It includes being the recipient of comments from taxi drivers such as "I wouldn't go there" or 'I go straight in and then out again".

Within professional settings the language of failure seems to be used constantly when the topic of Elizabeth arises, and as a co-worker (devoid of my identity as Elizabethan!) I have been informed by fellow workers of their fear of working in the area. Concerns include fear in regard to "working back late in the evening" with no experience to report as evidence for such , or refusing to go down into the shopping mall which ones office is situated above because of concern about "the kind of people down there". Newspapers seem to frequently name Elizabeth when negative events occur in a manner much less restrained than when similar events happen in other Adelaide suburbs. As a comparison events may be noted as occurring in "an inner southern suburb" or even having no geographical location specified.

These perceptions have real outcomes. There is a grim reality (rarely acknowledged and seemingly unaddressed by formal systems) that people are refused employment based on the address (Messenger News Review, 2003, p21).

Baum et al (2000) identify the kind of characteristics typical of the descriptions of Elizabeth focused on in most reports. This includes high rates of unemployment across all ages, low rates of educational achievement, high rates of welfare dependency, low rates of professional workers. In their 1999 report investigating national patterns of university participation, Stevenson, et al ranked Elizabeth as having the third lowest rate of university participation in Australia by 19-21 year olds (7.6% in 1996 and 7.2% in 2001). The same pattern of low rates is in fact reflected across all age groups (ABS, 2001).

The question is though – are these stories of failure, inadequacy, deficiency and deficit true? OR as narrative therapy concepts would suggest, are they only one of many stories that could be truthfully applied to this place, and more significantly to the people who make up this community? Furthermore, are they helpful? Or – like individual self perceptions of failure - harmful and even self perpetuating?

My position is that while there continues to be a focus on Elizabeth as a failed and deficient community, with no challenge to this perception from the presentation of alternative facts, a dangerous process of perception creating reality will continue to be perpetuated. However there are alternate facts and stories that can be drawn on that provide alternate perspectives that could be used to empower and strengthen this community, and is to these opportunities that we will now turn.

Alternative Stories

"But they don't live here anymore do they..."

In 2002 I undertook a research project which focused on seeking out university graduates from Elizabeth (the initial stage of a PAR process). In undertaking this process I frequently heard the line,

“but I bet they don’t live there anymore do they...”. The implications being that noone who was successful and could live elsewhere would dream of staying in a place like Elizabeth. That they have “escaped”, “progressed”, and even added to the negative statistics by their very leaving. This opinion often came in partnership with the opinion, “you won’t find many of them anyway”.

Initially my response was an embarrassed “Yes well…” However it seemed a useful exercise to investigate this concept in regard to the group of graduates who had been interviewed.

Twenty eight people were interviewed for the project (Young, 2004). Eleven of these graduates (or roughly one third) were still living in Elizabeth at the time interviewed. A further five were living in the northern metropolitan region in close proximity to Elizabeth. Hence well over half of the graduates interviewed were living in close proximity to, or in Elizabeth. In addition these graduates live in and originate from a variety of suburbs of Elizabeth – including those considered the “worst” anecdotally and statistically.

One of the most surprising aspects of this small exercise was the fact that as interviewer and collator of the qualitative project even I had not realized the substantial proportion of the cohort who were living in Elizabeth. The power of the story of how bad Elizabeth was seemed to have permeated the thinking of even someone like myself to the point where even having talked to each of the graduates individually and for some time, this information had not registered! Even with a powerful sense of advocacy and injustice in regard to the negativity about Elizabeth I had sifted out, and been blind to facts that did not fit the deficit story.

This story of badness assumes that the badness of Elizabeth is so great that all other connections that a person has (family, friends, geographical familiarity …) are overpowered. “Normal” reasons why people move, such as growing up and moving away from ones family of origin; meeting someone not from the area and establishing a life with them in a mutually convenient location, a brilliant job too far away for commuting; or simply liking somewhere else, are subsumed by the story of Elizabeth as a deficit place. People from Elizabeth are identified as “others”, (Fine, 1994) somehow fundamentally different and not normal. To not achieve in such a bad place is what is expected and those who are different (perhaps there by accident?) do not have relationships akin to the norm (because who could in that place with those people?) and so obviously need to assert their normality by removing themselves as soon as possible.

Elizabethan University Graduates narratives

Another alternative fact which emerged from the research I undertook, was that in contradiction to the frequently heard caution that I “would have trouble finding university graduates from Elizabeth” - the rationale being “there’s hardly any of them” and “they won’t want to acknowledge where they come from”- I had a sense of being inundated with an eager mass of Elizabeth graduates. They wanted to tell of their experiences, and expressed a desire to assist others in their community to achieve academically as well. Far more graduates were recruited than could be included as subjects.

Graduates, while diverse in their opinions, presented some striking and consistent alternate narratives as to why the statistically picture of a lack of university graduates from Elizabeth exists.

One of the most consistent alternate interpretations was the perspective from graduates that schools and teachers actively (through such things as telling people not to aim too high, or be “unrealistic’) and inactively (through not offering information about university and its usefulness, particularly in the earlier years of high school) were a major cause of people not accessing university. In their narrative, students were hardly likely to strive to enter university when its value for themselves has not been put to them. This opinion was in stark contrast to one of the most common rationales heard from outsiders, that the reason young people from Elizabeth were not accessing university was because “the parents don’t care”. Graduates presented an alternate picture of parents having as little information as to the usefulness of university as their children, and hence scarcely being likely to encourage their children into the unknown..

Insiders and Outsiders

The above examples demonstrate the nature of insider and outsider (Fine, 1994) perspectives and interpretations of social phenomena, and the manner in which discourses and understandings of the "whys" of social phenomena can be captured, regurgitated and become "facts" in environments where the lived experience of the phenomena is actually unknown. In my personae of professional and bureaucrat I have sat in a number of high level education meetings and heard these same outsider perspectives applied as facts, and seen discussions take the path of responding to these as legitimate, objective realities. Challenging such realities has rarely been responded to positively. It is often responded to with that classic line, "but you (and other graduates) must have been different". I (and in fact most of the other graduates I know) would argue that we were not particularly different. The greatest difference has been in knowing that university education had substantial and pragmatic (you get paid more and have a better guarantee of employment) outcomes to offer us.

The above discussion seems to exemplify some of the means by which Giddens (Cassell, 1993, p2), perspective of the nature and structure of the social world is actualized. In Gidden's view the social world is one in which the very theories and concepts of society and human systems become interwoven into that world, actually becoming par of the world they seek to describe. Narrative therapy would concur with this notion and seek to use this interactivity of concept and reality to bring about positive change.

Statistics

A second fact area that will be considered here is the use and application of statistics, using just a couple of examples to illustrate a broader topic.

Elizabeth is well known as having high rates of single parent families. Statistically,it does have higher than average rates of single parent households, however it also has higher than average rates of "couple with children" families. In fact the number of couple with children families is double (8122 households) that of single parent households (4110 households) (ABS 2001).

There are 9 categories of households used in the census. The categories are :

1. Couple with child(ren) under 15 years
2. Couple with child(ren) over 15 years
3. One parent family with child(ren) under 15 years
4. One parent family with child(ren) over 15 years
5. Couple without child(ren)
6. Other (one family household)
7. Two or more family household
8. Lone person household
9. Group household

Elizabeth has higher than average rates in the first, third, fourth, and seventh categories identified above. An alternative description or narrative of the statistics would be to note that Elizabeth has high rates of families, in particular families with children under the age of 15.

A second statistical example of the manner in which the dominant story of deficit impacts on the portrayal of Elizabeth is in the presentation of employment: unemployment statistics. Elizabeth has higher than average rates of unemployment across all age groups. However what this information hides is the huge number of EMPLOYED people in the community. A total of 22 632 people were identified as employed in the 2001 census, compared to 3 710 people who identified as unemployed (ABS, 2001). Based on these figures well over six times as many people are working in the community as versus not working.

It is a difficult dilemma – there is a need to focus on unemployment, yet in so doing the reality that so many people are actually employed seems to become lost. The reality of the number of local people who do work and hold down employment is not registered. Unfortunately in my experience the stigma of unemployment is transformed into beliefs about the unemployability of the entire

population of the community. This perspective has been evident in conversations that the author has had with service providers, including employment agencies in the area. Comments such as “well given the quality of the people out here its gong to be hard to find quality employees” are disheartening enough as a bureaucrat, they are life sentences for those people in the community who are unfortunate enough to be in need of such assistance.

Physical descriptions

Elizabeth is often described as being “like a desert”. That is, hot, dry and barren. Again this is one story and not without its roots in truth. However it is only half the story. In winter, the land becomes lush and green, as the winter rains and sunshine turn the gardens and surrounding paddocks first green and then yellow with the flowers of the annual weed known as ‘sour sob”. In fact one of the summer problems is that the lush growth of winter provides fodder for summer grass fires.

Obviously there are many people in Elizabeth with varying opinions of the place, but working and living in the area it is not uncommon to hear lines such as “this is god’s own country” and other very positive comments about living in the area. People love their parks full of trees and birds, and the “dry barren paddocks” that surround the area give a sense of freedom and contact with nature and non-city life for many residents.

A phenomena – the authoritative outsider

One of the phenomena which seems to be part of the story of deficit of Elizabeth is that of the nature of professional employment in services in Elizabeth. Most professionals who work in Elizabeth do not live in the community, and just as significantly, never have. A huge proportion come into the community for their working day to focus on the problems – child protection, domestic violence, criminal occurrences, school problems… They then go home at the end of the day – often to the leafy green affluent suburbs – outside of the community. So their perspective on the community is skewed to having only seen that relatively small proportion of the community population who are facing crisis, behaving badly, or in some other way being exposed as needy. They are never exposed to the vast majority of people in that community who are living very average, everyday lives.

Unfortunately it is the voices of the visiting professionals that are heard at meetings with bureaucrats making choices about funding and need, and describing the community to others outside of it. Geertz (1983, p156-7) notes a similar circular interconnectedness in academia, where facts become enmeshed in shared understandings and perspectives, in a network of individuals who are “characters in one another’s biographies”. These people constantly talk to each other about “them” with no chance of new light being shed on what become “facts” by alternative or new voices.

Peel identifies an additional factor which magnifies this phenomena. This is the way in which people in poor communities learn to speak the language of need and deficiency to get their needs met (Peel, 2003, p12). People know for example that simply having a low income will not get you public housing. That allocation of this resource is on the basis of need and so the “worst story” gets the resource. Clever welfare service utilisers learn the language and scenarios needed to achieve their aims. Those who wish to keep their pride by not divulging need (and need at its most pathetic and weakest) will not get the resources they need from the system.

Service provision – proving facts

Breakfast Clubs are the example that the author is most struck by as illustrating the circular, self-perpetuating process whereby deficiency narratives lead to service provision, which leads to believing that the initial analysis as to the cause of the problem is correct. Breakfast clubs are thriving in Elizabeth schools on the grounds that people can’t afford to buy breakfast and/or parents are incapable of providing breakfast for their children. (Again the insinuation of incompetent parenting rears its head.)

A recent national study (O’Dea, 2003) focusing on children’s nutrition has identified that one in five Australian children does not have breakfast, and one in four an inadequate one. Of most interest

here is the identification that this behavior is not peculiar to any socio-economic profile but is occurring across the board.

Similar statistics in Elizabeth have led to proliferation of breakfast clubs, funded by various charities and the government, on the understanding that this is due to poverty and parental deficiencies. The levels of attendance at such clubs are taken as proof that the rationales as to why people, especially children, were not having breakfast are correct.

Whilst there may well be some people for whom these rationales are correct, the evidence from O'Dea's study indicates that a broader social phenomena is in action. Attendance may indicate that this community shares many of the rationales expressed elsewhere. Ones heard (in fact I have used them myself at times!) include "not getting to it"; "not having time" or simply "not wanting" breakfast. When offered a free or cheap breakfast at their place of employment or education the author would suggest that this is an opportunity that many readers would accept. It is a decision indicative of consumer choice not social or personal deficit.

Implications

So what are the implications of a dominant story of deficit and deficiency?

One of the features of narrative therapy is recognizing that whilst stories are about perspective and have a level of flexibility their outcomes can be very real. Depression, anger and suicide can be real outcomes from believing a story of personal failure and deficiency.

In the same way this negative story of Elizabeth has real outcomes. Most graphic is the example highlighted by a series of articles in the local paper early last year (Messenger News Review, 2003). These articles – headlined with the caption "FERALS" - identified from several perspectives the reality that the belief that local people were unemployable, was leading to them not being able to get jobs. Some employers screened potential employees by postcode and geography and refuse to even interview applicants from undesirable locations.

These are real outcomes in terms of the financial, social and moral wellbeing of community members. Unemployment and lack of income have clear links to physical, mental and social wellbeing (Lynch et al, 1997). A reverse analysis of the deficit story of Elizabeth, includes that the story of itself is creating some of the outcomes, or at least feeds them. High unemployment, single parenthood, violence, mental illness, as these are clearly indicted in international literature (Marmot and Wilkinson, 1999) as OUTCOMES of social phenomena such as poverty and unemployment.

I believe that this deficit narrative has served to prevent the development of what could be called "normal" community structures. As an example, the author has been involved in the establishment and development of the Elizabeth Higher Education Network, a network of graduates from Elizabeth who wish to encourage other Elizabethans to consider and access the opportunities of higher education. One of the concerning elements of this process has been the fact that there are no other existing old scholars networks in a community that is now 50 years old and at the peak of its youth population had six high schools with up to 2000 students each. The rationales for such a lack, and expressed to myself by a variety of schools and other education personnel, include the beliefs that the community doesn't value education anyway, and that there wouldn't be anyone interested.

In reality an eager and enthusiastic network of some 80 Elizabeth graduates has been created with very limited publicity. Many of the graduates identify the lack of any such networks as indicative of a broadly negative attitude to the population in the Elizabeth – "they don't expect them to achieve". Many other public high schools including some in the region (which shares some of the features of a negative narrative as well) have old scholars networks so they are not unknown.

Not having any old scholars networks, which can demonstrate alternate narratives of academic success and achievement, have meant that a number of myths could be perpetuated. For example there was a myth that one school had never had a student complete matriculation (the entry year to university). In fact there is at least one medical specialist who graduated from that school. It means

that students at school in the area can be told that “noone from here has ever done that” in the absence of any forum to offer alternate information. Schools have tended to presume that the (limited) information they have about the pathways taken by their students is accurate and constant from the time they leave school. They have not known that a considerable number of graduates from local schools have returned to education and achieved highly as young (and older) adults.

Conclusion

The negative story of Elizabeth is powerful because it has its roots in some truths. There are single parent families, people who struggle financially, and those who for a variety of reasons “don’t care” about a range of things (although noone is asking them what they do care about, and considering that they may have valid alternate value bases). But they are not the whole story of the community and there are alternate facts and stories which can be used to support and narrate a different story. A much more ordinary story OR a story of people struggling in the face of what could well be interpreted as attempts to keep them poor and demoralized. But perhaps it is just the more “average, everyday” story of Elizabeth which holds most promise. Thinking of the community as “just another community” can allow observations of what is “missing” that happens routinely elsewhere and could usefully be replicated. It also allows the community to identify their inherent strengths and resources – who knows what other communities could be learning from Elizabeth and Elizabethans!

I know that I am privileged to have knowledge of many different and alternate stories in Elizabeth. Finding and building on such alternative narratives offers the chance to do things differently. To make differences in poor and marginalized communities which not only improve their lot in life, but have implications for the whole of society. The financial and social costs of the deficit narrative of individual communities are borne by all members of society ultimately. There are benefits for all of us in seeking positive community narratives.

References

Baum, S; Stimson, R; Mullins, P; and O’Connor, K (2000). Welfare Dependency in Communities within Australia’s metropolitan regions, People and Place., 8(3):28-36.

Cassell, P. (1993). The Giddens Reader., Macmillan Press, London.

Fals Borda, O (2001). Participatory (Action) Research in Social Theory : Origins and Challenges, in Handbook of Action Research: Participative Inquiry and Practice, (P. Reason and H. Bradbury eds), Sage, London.

Fals Borda, O., and Rahman, M (1991) Action and knowledge: Breaking the monopoly with participatory action research, Apex, New York.

Fine, M. (1994) Working the hyphens: Reinventing Self and Other in Qualitative Research in Handbook of Qualitative Research, (N. Denzin and Y. Lincoln, eds), Sage, Thousand Oaks CA.

Geertz, C (1983) The way we think now: toward an ethnography of modern thought., Basic Books, New York.

Lincoln, Yvonna (2001) Engaging Sympathies : Relationships between Action Research and Social Constructivism, in Handbook of Action Research: Participative Inquiry and Practice, (P. Reason and H. Bradbury eds), Sage, London.

Lynch, J.; Kaplan, G.; and Shema, S. (1997) Cumulative Impact of Sustained Economic Hardship on Physical, Cognitive, Psychological and Social Functioning, The New England Journal of Medicine., 337(26):1889-1895.

Marmot, M. and Wilkinson, R. (1999) The Social Determinants of Health., Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Messenger News Review (2003), May 28, pp1, 5, 6, 21.

O’Dea, J. (2003) “1 in 4 children go to school hungry”, Press release, The University of Sydney, Kelloggs, May 19.

Park, P. (2001) Knowledge and Participatory Research, in Handbook of Action Research : Participative Inquiry and Practice, (P. Reason and H. Bradbury eds), Sage, London.

Peel, M. (2003) The Lowest Rung: Voices of Australian Poverty., Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Reason, Peter, & Bradbury, Hilary (2001) Handbook of Action Research: Participative Inquiry and Practice., Sage, London.

Rowan, J. (2001) The Humanistic Approach to Action Research in Handbook of Action Research: Participative Inquiry and Practice, (P. Reason and H. Bradbury eds), Sage, London.

Stevenson, S., Maclachlan, M., and Karmel, T. (1999) Regional Participation in Higher Education and the Distribution of Higher Education Resources across Regions, Department of Education Training and Youth Affairs, Occasional Paper 99B, Commonwealth of Australia. www.detya.gov.au/archive/highered/occpaper/99B/1.htm

Vickers, G., (1983) Human Systems are Different, Journal of Applied Systems Analysis., 10:3-13.

White, M. (1989) The Externalizing of the Problem and the Reauthoring of Lives and Relationships, Dulwich Centre Publications, Adelaide.

White, M., and Epstom, D. (1990) Narrative Means to Therapeutic Ends., W.W.Norton, New York.

White, M. (1995) Reauthoring Lives: Interviews and Essays, Dulwich Centre Publications, Adelaide.

Young, J. (2004) Becoming Different : Accessing university from a low socio-economic Community, Systemic Practice and Action Research, accepted for publication.

BE YOUR ENEMY
By Ken Bausch

I feel that I know West Churchman without ever meeting him because he writes in such a personal way. This is especially true in The Systems Approach and Its Enemies (1979), where he identifies himself with the systems hero who wants to tie “all aspects of the human world…together in one grand rational scheme” (p.8).

The enemies of this systems approach try to “solve” systems problems head-on by relying upon politics, morality, religion, and aesthetics. They fasten upon on one thing and prescribe simple solutions like “outlaw marijuana,” and neglect historic lessons like “prohibition.”

Guarantor of Destiny (GOD)

The Systems Approach, like every overarching theory of everything, rests upon some ultimate logic. Churchman playfully terms that logic the theory’s Guarantor of Destiny (GOD). He identifies three approaches to this GOD that he identifies with Augustine, Spinoza, and today’s systems thinkers. For Augustine, “God is the designer of the real system and its decision-maker” (p. 41). For Spinoza, “God is the whole system: He is the most general system” (p. 41). For systems thinkers, the idea of god is only implicit in their ideas of progressive systems designs. For them, “god” is.

the best systems design we humans can create at any period of time… Such a god is incapable of finding a perfect design (to say the least). And god is not static; if we are hopeful, we can say that he learns or evolves, and that later on in his life he’ll know a lot more than he does now (p. 43).

Today we are locked in the assumptions of the classical laboratory that replaces God’s design as the guarantor of truthfulness with the methodical testing of hypotheses. This laboratory rests upon the assumption that its work can be shielded from social environmental influences. The planning laboratory cannot do this, however, and the bias of the researcher necessarily determines what data are relevant, and what can be obtained objectively. As a result, the collected data are often peripheral and do not address what is ‘basic’ in terms of human lives.

The Systems Approach

For Churchman, "human bias is an essential aspect" (p. 62) of an authentic inquiring system. For him, an inquiring system must be based on "a schema that can be modified as the planner learns more about reality, and especially about the reality of the human being.

The ambitions of systems theorists go beyond those of the classical laboratory. They try to weave all matters of human concern into "one grand imagery" (p. 67). They seek to tie all our goals together, and try to accomplish that task without resorting "to mysticism or some deep inexplicable human essence" (p. 67).

The Systems Hero

Our systems hero tries to put his ideas for good design into practice. He wants the world to act sanely and he is frustrated by enemies who righteously destroy the peaceful world of humanity. He has designed an inquiring system for himself that is as comprehensive as he can make it. He has developed a clear idea of his own ethics, but he has to admit that many people do not share his concerns. He is plagued with misgivings:

- I want to be just one of the boys and girls, but so many people disagree with me.
- Why does the vision of humanity going to its living hell, disease-ridden, malnourished, energy-less disturb me so much?
- Why doesn't it disturb others?
- Why do I want others to accept holism in their lives?
- Why should they obey my prescriptions of rationality?
- Why do rational types like me insist on making other people more rational?
- What is there about people like me that makes us continuously fight battles to overcome perceived stupidity? (p. 155).

Churchman's response to these "whys" was to immerse himself in the reality of his enemies and to recognize the limits of his rationality. As a first step, he tries to incorporate into his approach the insights of groups that he calls "enemies of the systems approach." He enters this discussion with the conviction that he has to cast as wide a net as possible.

The Enemies

The enemies of the systems approach do not use rationality in the holistic manner devised by our hero. They think principally in a mode of defending preconceived convictions. They think and feel issues in the general areas of politics, morality, religion, and aesthetics.

Referring to the Greek city/states, Churchman defines politics as "making polis around an issue" (p. 157). A family becomes polis, for example, if it gathers together around a common concern like getting a child through school. Groups and counter groups become polis over issues like pollution, anti-development, gay rights, and so on. Because of their issue-commitment, polis-makers take an ideological stance and do not see facts that might undermine their rectitude.

Churchman dramatizes the plight of the hero by considering "the tragicomedy of the systems hero as he encounters polis at work" (p. 158). He wants to tell conservationists that conservation has to be seen in the context of the larger system.

But the conservationist's joy comes from saving a redwood forest from destruction, and not from planning the whole future of the nation. His issue dissipates when it's put in the larger context . . . To a keen conservationist, the real enemy is in the counterpolis, the guy who says, "Once you've seen one redwood, you've seen them all." He cannot even hear the voice that tells him to put conservation in the proper context (p. 158).

Because of their ideological stance, polis-makers consider our hero an enemy. They think he is trying to co-opt them.

Moralists espouse values that our hero holds dear: "fairness, equity, treating humanity as an end"

(p. 198), but they resist any attempt to balance values by cost-benefit analysis or some other means. They insist that there are no trade-offs when it comes to robbery, suppression, or murder because those acts are sins. Moralists repudiate any attempts to rationalize or make dialectical decisions. For them, morality is a universal feeling and rationality is irrelevant.

Religion demands that the systems approach recognize that we are not the only designers of systems. The reality of God needs to be recognized. God needs to be worshipped by humans, who are basically non-rational beings, who are to obtain their direction from revelation.

The aesthetic person demands that our hero look toward the quality and not just the content of his planning. One should take into account the uniqueness of every individual. At this juncture, the hero perceives the trap. "Everyone's uniqueness is a world in itself, incomparable with any other uniqueness… [Therefore,] gone is tradeoff. Gone is adding up values. Gone is any sensible way of assessing change" (p. 199).

In his encounters with these enemies, the hero tries to sustain his vision, but he is done in at every turn by appeals to comprehensiveness that undermine rationality. He finds himself espousing a faith that fails in every instance—but is somehow true, in general.

Be Your Enemy

To deal with this quandary, our hero offers himself the prescription: "Be your enemy" (p. 204). With this prescription, he steps out of the body of rationality into the bodies of his enemies. From their perspectives, he sees that rationality is a tool, an expression (among other expressions) of what it is to be human. From those vantage points, "he observes the rational spirit and begins to realize not only what has been left out of it, but also what the spirit is like, especially its quality of being human (pp. 204-205).

In this, our hero does not lose his identity; he continues to operate as a deeply involved rational planner. He embraces the kind of "sane schizophrenia" that Otto Rank (1932) offered to visionaries: "at one and the same time . . . [to live] visions and the reality of the collective consciousness" (p. 213).

In stepping out, our hero gains objectivity about his rational self and leavens it with some humor. In looking at himself as his enemy, he begins to see how foolishly he pushes "one point of view, of model building, statistical analysis, game theory, ethics, or holism" (p. 214). Churchman expresses the satisfaction that comes with this recognition as follows:

Once you are your enemy, you at last see yourself as you really are: a human being, wise and foolish, who has a quirk about the destiny and the improvement of the human condition, just as all the rest of humanity has its quirks (p. 214).

A Memorial to Professor Yong Pil Rhee
Personal comments from Dr Eunjee Rhee, Dr Sung Chull Kim, Professor Ken D. Bailey, Professor Len Troncale and Dr G A Swanson

Eunjee Rhee:

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. First of all, on behalf of my family I would like to thank Dr Swanson, Dr Kenneth Bailey, Dr Lenard Troncale and the members of the ISSS for organising this memorial service and inviting me here.

I was about five years old when I woke up in the middle of the night, looking for my parents. They were sitting in the dining room side by side. My father was reading a book and my mother was typing for him. My father would spend most of his time at home on reading books and writing papers. I could see how much he enjoyed those moments. He was always thrilled and excited, yet calm. As young children my brother and I used to buy a box of pens and writing pads for him for his birthday. We just couldn't imagine anything else that he would love to have.

He always greatly treasured the experience he had as a student of Professor David Easton in Chicago who has been an intellectual and scholarly advisor of my father until lately. Even though he was a political scientist, he was extremely fascinated by natural sciences such as biology, chemistry and physics. He highly valued the idea of interdisciplinary research and dreamed that some day in the future my brother and I would collaborate with him. Twelve years ago I was on a trip with my father to Denver, Colorado. We were attending an ISSS meeting. A number of Korean scholars were encouraged to attend the meeting and I am very glad to see some of them here today. For most of those Korean scholars it was the first time to participate in this prestigious academic meeting and it was also the first time I had ever seen my father delivering a talk in the most passionate manner.

He was a faithful husband who enjoyed my mother playing pieces of Mozart on the piano and a devoted father whom I loved deeply. Whenever we faced difficulties in our life he reminded us of who we are and what we are all capable of. We were taught to keep our mind open to see the world from various different points of view. That's when I understand just how strong and wonderful my father was.

But more than anything he was a very dedicated teacher. He loved sharing his idea of systems science with the students. He kept teaching until last winter and looked forward to seeing that his idea would become of good use in the Korean political system. He had enjoyed himself to the full as a scholar. Last winter when I talked to him on the phone he was eager to be back to this meeting. Here we have gathered from all over the world to say goodbye: to honor the fifty years of tradition. May god bless my father and the other past ISSS members and the world they loved.

Sung Chull Kim

Good morning. I am deeply honored to talk about the late Professor Yong Pil Rhee and thank you to everybody who organised this meeting. Because of time, I want to talk very briefly. Professor Rhee was a great teacher personally, and also for the older Korean members of the systems science in the Korean community. I want to point out two things about the discipline of political science. At the time of his study in the University of Chicago, Professor David Easton's systems analysis of political life was well disseminated in our political science community in the United States. At the same time, there was some kind of new dimensions about 'what is a system' and 'how the system changes'. His dissertation and the intellectual career of Professor Yong Pil Rhee focussed on how the political system changes. His contribution was so important to the discipline of political science and at the same time to the political systems science in the Korean community.

Secondly, he successfully accounted and responded to the intellectual demand in Korean society. Then he returned to Korea. Korea is a divided country: there is a strong hostility between North and

South Korea. At that moment, he made kind of a breakthrough on how to cope with such an intellectual demand of how to sovbe such a problem. He talked about some reconciliation between the two Koreas and the reunification and more connection between the two Koreas. So based on his vast knowledge of not only the systems sciences but also other disciplines of social science, he contributed a lot for solving those problems. Nowadays I am living in a good situation with a more interactive engagement between the two Koreas. But I cannot forget Professor Rhee's contribution, his intellectual contribution, to the hostile situation at that time.

Ken Bailey

Dr Rhee died just three months ago, so it is still a little bit hard to talk about it. Everybody up here is still in mourning and in shock. I first met him in 1985 when he came to the Los Angeles meeting of ISSS and then I had the privilege of going to a lot of later meetings with him and his wife. People will note that they were always very close and an inspiration to everybody.

There's not enough time to say everything about him here; he expanded my world both intellectually and geographically that's for sure. It's because of him that I am the president. He and GA, both of them urged me to run, but I said 'well, I was also an officer in another association', and I just was not ready to do it, and then finally this last time, two years ago, Dr Rhee just said 'well, I'm nominating you'. So I thought he had already nominated me, so I said 'okay, I'll give in this time' and then it turned out he hadn't nominated me!, but then he nominated me anyway! So I am very upset he couldn't be here. He knew I got elected president but he wasn't here to see me be the actual president, so I am sad about that.

Last time I saw him was at his grandson's first birthday. He was registered at Shanghai at the ISSS meeting two years ago. He had his room and everything, but then the doctor said he couldn't come. Then he couldn't come to Crete either. But its because of him that, not only I am president, but also that I got to go to Korea three times and talk about systems applications to Korean unification. Because of him I was interviewed in the newspaper in Korea for the first time in my professional career, and also that I was on the radio in Korea also for the first time in my professional career, and that my book "Social Entropy Theory" was translated into Korean. So he did a lot of things for me and for others. And he shared my interest in integration too. In Korea it is unclear whether you want to say integration or unification. It's more popular to say unification of North and South Korea. So I have sort of used the terms interchangeably.

Another high point of my career was the panel he organised in ISSS in 1997 that had Dr Prigogine and some others on it to talk about the unification of natural and social sciences, which is still sort of a controversial term to some people. But he shared my interest in that. And then integrating the quantitative and qualitative approaches and social and natural sciences was another interest. I have a letter, an email letter, from Dr David Easton, who was his mentor at Chicago, and who was a pioneer in applying systems theory to political science, and he states that Dr Rhee was not only a student but he also taught him! Another thing he mentioned was that Dr Rhee helped him quantify his work. That is one other thing I noticed in the Festschrift volume that the students did for him, that it was very quantitative in perspective. Some of his older papers, especially, were quantitative, and so that was a side of him that some of us didn't know, but he did merge the quantitative and qualitative and his children are also very quantitative. Dr Rhee's daughter, Dr Eunjee Rhee, has a degree in maths from Irvine and his son is studying computer science. So this is a great loss for us, and that's all I need to say. Thank you very much.

Len Troncale

I first met Dr Rhee in the 1980s when he came to an ISSS meeting. At that time I was managing director of this Society. I asked Dr Rhee to be the chair of the national division for South Korea because we did not have much presence there. Now, at the time, I was quite worried about our drop in the membership, as we always are it seems in this society, and Dr Rhee promised that he would do something about that. Sure enough, within about three months we had 45 new members in the

society. It was like a breath of fresh air with all that creative talent that came in, but also it helped the society a great deal at a very critical moment because those subscriptions to the journals and membership dues are very important to us. To tell you the significance of that, it was like a 125 percent increase in the Society, just like that. He was quite capable of doing that because he was loved by his students and the other professors at Seoul National University, which is the top university in South Korea.

Sometimes it's hard for us to recognise the impact of our presidents in other areas. Dr Rhee had the chairmanship of the National Ethics Department. He was probably, in South Korea, the key person in that field, and he had many students. As his daughter has told you, he loved his students and he got a great deal of dedication back from his students. So we not only got all these new members but we also got an active chapter. It was actually a national division, which had its own meetings in South Korea, investigating applications to a key problem, reunification, and practical applications of systems knowledge to South Korea. And we got all these people coming to the annual meetings with papers on these various topics and that reinvigorated the meetings. I still remember him coming up to me, as he used to do, he would put his hand on your shoulder and your arm in the most intimate way, and reassuringly say 'we'll do something about the membership'. And he really came through with that and it was really a great help to the society and to me.

The reunification problem in South Korea is a matter of great concern, even across the whole world right now, because it's a hot spot. And when he had the meeting for his presidency in Korea, it was a top meeting. He brought Prigogine to the meeting and there were some noteworthy people there to see his connections in the society. The cabinet minister for education attended our opening and met with us for a while. He was tightly connected and coupled with the major leaders at that time in South Korea. And he took us to the DMZ. So we got this direct experience of the thundering of the two cultures that we still hear about in the news every day. He produced several books: collections of articles of systems science applied to the reunification. So I can't think of a more practical, immediate application of systems sciences at such a high level of concern anywhere. I was always so delighted to see him and wife together. They were one of three partners that we'll be talking about in these memorials. Mrs Rhee worked with him, as his daughter was just saying, late at night trying to produce things in systems sciences and she was always here at the meetings with us too. And she was a great hostess for all of us when we met in South Korea. So on a professional level, there was a whole nation involved here through the connections of Dr Rhee. But on a personal level, he was just a wonderfully supportive person. A kind person. A calm person: which I needed from time to time for sure. And I'm going to miss him deeply as I know most of you are, because I'm missing a very close friend, and I will try to continue his work in systems and I hope that you [Eunjee Rhee] will bring back to your family our deep concern and our personal love for the man and how we'll miss him. Thank you.

G A Swanson

Dr and Mrs Rhee were regal. If ISSS has royalty, I believe that they are our royalty. I never experienced a greater care and hospitality. Dr Rhee had the combination of a soft-spoken fatherly lift and the absolute firm control of a situation. There are only three individuals that I have met in my life that exhibited that sort of combination of characteristics and Dr Rhee is one. Dr Rhee wrote 26 books. I popped his name into Yahoo just before I left and there were scores of hits on his work. He has been a very effective and great spokesman for ISSS.

We were kind of comparing stories last night, Len and I, trying to better-up one another. And I can better-up Len on the contribution of Dr Rhee to ISSS. You wouldn't be sitting here under an ISSS meeting if it had not been for Dr Rhee. During the mid-90s, for some reason the systems movement had a death desire. Even in some of the major journals they talked about that the movement had served its purpose and had dissipated into the various disciplines, and all that sort of thing. Internally, there was a major crisis in that there were individuals who believed ISSS indeed had served its purpose and should be discontinued. Dr Rhee did not believe that. He personally funded the meeting in Seoul in 1997. He personally took complete responsibility for that meeting. ISSS was simply given

that meeting on a platter. Whatever was taken in from the fees was a very small portion of the cost of that meeting because they us treated us regally and it was a very dynamic, wonderful meeting, and a revival of all the currents that have made this movement. The office had zero in its budget and, as he lifted Len Troncale a few years earlier, and said that 'we'll take care of it', that's exactly what he did for me. He was the underscore of the desire and the vision to move forward. So when we had no budget, zero, I took 20 dollars of own money and opened an account and I had this promise from Dr Rhee that I'd have the substantial funds to continue: 'you let me know whatever it is that you need'. And I think everybody should know that, even though if he were alive today I wouldn't be saying that because of the person that he is. But I want us to know that, during a very critical moment of ISSS, it was Dr Rhee who stood and came forward and who had the capacity to do all of that for us. We honor him today.

SECTION TWO

MEMBERS' RESEARCH

The COE Boundary-Spanning Dialogue Approach Project: Building a Global Agora for Northeast Asia

Paul R. Hays
Kwansei Gakuin University, Sanda, Japan

Head Researcher: Jacqueline Wasilewski, International Christian University, Tokyo , Japan

Following up on discussions in the Indigenous Wisdom of the People Forum at ISSS 2003 in Heraklion, Crete (Harris & Wasilewski, "Indigenous Wisdom," 2004), the COE Boundary-Spanning Dialogue Approach Project will bring together 16-20 participants (mostly students) and 5-10 observers (mostly academics) from Japan, Korea, China, Russia, New Zealand and the USA for a three day meeting at International Christian University in Tokyo. The participants will discuss the question "What is the nature of the 'good' society in Northeast Asia in the 21st century in the context of the issues facing the region at the present time?" The participants will include indigenous people of the region such as Ainu, Evenks and Buryats. It will be facilitated by Native American and Maori members of the new indigenous people's organization, Advancement of Global Indigeneity (AGI). This is a first step in building a global agora for the region, putting into practice lessons learned through many years of ISSS research and collaboration with indigenous people.

The project derives its name from the Boundary-Spanning Dialogue Approach (BDA) to meeting design and meeting process (Wasilewski, 2002). This is a structured dialogue approach, one of many being developed by ISSS members. This particular approach has been developed through a two decade long collaboration between Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO), a national indigenous peoples' advocacy organization in the USA and Dr. Alexander Christakis and his colleagues in ISSS. Out of the collaboration has also emerged the new concept of Indigeneity (Harris and Wasilewski, "Indigeneity," 2004) and the organization, Advancement of Global Indigeneity. This is an opportunity to introduce the concept of Indigeneity and the BDA process to both indigenous and non-indigenous people in the region. By gathering students in the discussion and as observers, the project will provide an opportunity for future leaders of the region to experience this concept and process as they discuss, compare and contrast and bring into relationship the basic values of the various peoples of the region in the context of the issues currently facing the region.

The project originated through Dr. Wasilewski's long collaboration with AIO and ISSS and through the research of two of her graduate students at ICU, Zheng Wei and Elena Kozoulina.

Mr. Zheng is from Shanghai and is doing his doctoral research on the history of Chinese/Japanese human relationships with the goal of identifying factors that contribute to positive interactions between people of the two societies. Mr. Zheng (in press) is also researching contrasting concepts of harmony in Chinese and Japanese cultures. Chinese-Japanese relationships are often plagued by false assumptions of similarity, particularly around values that stem from Confucian roots.

Ms. Kozoulina is approaching her doctoral research as a linguist with a mixed heritage that includes Polish-Jewish, Tengu (also known as Evenk), and Ukrainian roots. She also has relatives in the Buryat community. She is exploring the identity maintenance strategies of the three communities of people considered by the government of the Russian Federation to be "native" to the Buryat Republic: the Russians, the Buryats and the Evenks. Her recent paper (2004) focused on the discourse of identity in The Russian and English languages. While there seem to be some similarity of identity terms on the surface level, in fact, the languages do not overlap. The vocabulary to describe identity is very different.

These two areas of research share a common concern for articulating and elaborating intercultural relationship dynamics in areas that until now have had little attention in our studies of intercultural communication and our ideas regarding self and identity. This is complimented by the long work that AIO has done (and which AGI is beginning) on explorations of non-Euro-American cultures and societies.

The COE Boundary-Spanning Dialogue Approach Project this Spring at ICU is another step in this long process. It will put into practice lessons learned and techniques developed with ISSS members over many years. It also will be based in Indigeneity. Two of the key concepts of Indigeneity are responsibility and redistribution. The participants, observers and facilitators are practicing redistribution by sharing the knowledge and understanding gained through the past years and transmitting it to a new generation and to other cultures. Putting our ideas into practice to create global agoras and a better world is taking responsibility for the future.

References

Harris L, Wasilewski, J. 2004. Indigeneity, an alternative Worldview – Four R's (Relationship, Responsibility, Reciprocity, Redistribution) versus Two P's (Power and Profit), Sharing the Journey Towards Conscious Evolution. Systems Research and Behavioral Science 21: 489-504.

Harris L, Wasilewski, J. 2004. Indigenous Wisdom of the People Forum: Strategies for Expanding the Web of Transnational Indigenous Interactions. Systems Research and Behavioral Science 21: 505-514.

Kozoulina E. 2004. Russian Matryoshka: The Hierarchy of Ethnicities and a Matrix of Semantic Shifts. The Journal of Social Science 53: 77-97.

Wasilewski, J. 2002. Global Multicultural Dialogue: The Boundary-spanning Dialogue Approach (BDA), a Practice that Enables Participatory Democracy. A paper presented to the Japanese Institute of Negotiation. November 11.

Zheng W. (in press). Contrasting Conceptions of Harmony in China and Japan.

SYSTEMIC VIEW, HIERARCHY AND COMPLEXITY

J Korn, e mail : janos999@btinternet.com

In order to help them navigate through their existence, people from times immemorial have been interested in descriptions, predictions and explanations of features of and events in parts of the world. To accomplish this 'things which stand for other things' had to be invented. Nowadays we have a variety of such things ranging from drawings, natural and man made signs to abstract symbolism like natural language and mathematics. Some descriptions are also practiced by animals like bees who can describe the location of flowers with honey and others who deposit urine to mark territorial limits.

Ancient and current methods of predictions like heated bones of selected animals, flight of birds, tarot cards, astrology are things which are claimed to stand for other things but there is no relation between the two. There is no systematic correlation between deformation of heated bones and the outcome of a forthcoming battle. Conventional science selected well defined quantitative properties which fit into mathematical symbolism, as the things that stand for other things. The other things being the objects of which these properties are the abstractions. For example, we can have properties like displacement, speed, momentum and force of mechanical things like a spring with mass from which these properties have been abstracted. By manipulating appropriate mathematical relations of these properties predictions about future behaviour of a mechanical thing can be made.

Conventional science has created a view of parts of the world as classes of objects which share the same set of properties. This practice has been followed by botany, biology and other disciplines. The immense success of conventional science in producing predictive statements and wide ranging explanatory hypotheses, is unquestionable. However, the method of conventional science has led to compartmentalisation and has restricted the view of parts of the world to groups of quantitative properties. Conventional science cannot handle purposive phenomena even at the technical level and human activity scenarios with predominantly qualitative properties. It has difficulties in dealing with multidisciplinary, dynamic scenarios.

There is another view of parts of the inanimate, animate, symbolic, technical and human activity worlds and of their conceivable combinations : Collections of functional objects with properties contingent on the situation or scenario in which they are perceived to find themselves. The objects are seen to be connected by qualified relations or interactions depending on whether their behaviour is static or dynamic forming a whole to which an emergent property, a name or a label can be assigned (the horizontal view or complexity). In its turn each constituent object with its emergent property or name or label can be divided into its constituents any of which can be further divided indefinitely until an agreed limit will have been reached (the vertical view or hierarchy). Limits can be : elementary particles in physics, geometric and material properties, functional elements like a steel shaft, a component like a motor, cells and organs in a body or individuals with character traits in an organisation. The systemic view consists of the horizontal and vertical views.

The following table illustrates the idea described:

aggregate	**constituents**	**emergent property**
table set	knife, fork	used for cutting and picking up food
knife	handle, blade	can be used for cutting
handle	shape : length, cross section, material : hardness, colour	can be grasped

The question arises of how the systemic view can be expressed in symbolic terms capable of forming inferential constructs for reasoning. As mentioned above mathematics is restrictive. Natural language through its declarative sentences expresses the systemic nature of the world since a sentence places its subject in the context of a predicate, the whole making sense through its meaning. Natural language through stative (to contain) and dynamic (to push) verbs designating relations and interactions (influence or power), distinguishes between static and dynamic wholes. There are verbs with influence interaction which carry information in their subordinate clauses (the company notified its shareholders that there would be no dividend). However, natural language as the primary model has linguistic complexities, metaphors, innuendoes and so on, it needs to be formalised. Accordingly, stories, or narratives, of scenarios which are used as the basis for development have to be turned into a homogeneous language through linguistic analysis which is suitable for reasoning about the empirical world. This language is comprised of one or two place sentences with qualified constituents (noun phrases for objects and stative, dynamic verbs for relations, interactions). Here the development branches into:

1. Mechanism of emergence — The sentences are regarded as ordered pairs organised into Cartesian product from which a number of combinations or choices of such pairs can be generated to form conceptually bounded wholes each with or without an emergent property. This property enables a whole to fit, or not, into another whole at a higher level of emergence. An evolutionary hierarchy has emerged from the vertical view.
2. Linguistic modelling — The sentences are regarded as basic constituents of a dynamic, inference mechanism which, through semantic diagrams, shows the progression of states (or contingent properties of objects) in time towards an outcome leading to an emergent property. The mechanism through predicate logic statements incorpo-

rates uncertainties and properties which describe mood changes, ambitions, emotions which modulate performance as well as driving properties associated with human components, and mathematical calculations required for decisions. Model of complexity or of horizontal view has emerged.

CONCLUSIONS

A progression of views of parts of the world (ancient, conventional science and systemic) based on 'things which stand for other things' or models has been discussed. In the systemic view the 'things which stand for others' is homogeneous language and 'other things' are scenarios. The idea of an emergent property defined as that which cannot be predicted, has been abandoned. A conceptual boundary can be used for formulating an emergent property, a name or a label. Objects aggregate so as to produce novel, emergent properties, however, each can be divided indefinitely. There is only mathematics and language as symbolism which can be manipulated for prediction, the former is the means of conventional science, the latter is that of systems science. The systemic view sees evolution and design from simple to complex as two forms of development.

LIVING SYSTEMS: A NATURAL SCIENCE

James R. Simms
9405 Elizabeth Court
Fulton, MD 20759, USA
jrsimms@juno.com

Every since the successes of Newton's work on nonliving systems, the scientific community has been trying to emulate his successes for living systems (cells, organs, organisms, and social systems). Newton's mechanics is now classified as one of the natural sciences. The natural sciences deal with objectively measurable phenomena or with matter and energy and their interactions and transformations. It is now possible to objectively measure the phenomena of life and to deal with the interactions and transformations of the determinants of life. Fundamental phenomena of life are reproduction and metabolism. Reproduction is typified by the synthesis of protein. The replication of DNA and cells are examples of protein synthesis. Metabolism is the sum of the biochemical reactions associated with life.

Protein synthesis phenomena can be objectively measured by the work (energy used) in synthesis behaviors. Biochemical reaction (metabolism) phenomena can be objectively measured by the work (energy used) in biochemical reactions. Simms (1999) identified the determinants of these behaviors. These determinants are (1) a system's capacity to direct energy, (2) the energy available to the system, (3) information, and (4) knowledge. A system's capacity to direct energy and available energy can be measured using existing measurements and units of measure. However, previously, there were no objective measures for information and knowledge. It is well known that genetic information is necessary to cause the synthesis of protein. It is also well known that biochemical information, in the form of enzymes, is necessary to cause biochemical reactions (metabolism). Synthesis of protein and biochemical reactions occurs only when genetic and biochemical information causes these behaviors. Because protein synthesis and biochemical reactions are observed and measured by the work done in these behaviors, the fundamental definition of information is the ability to cause work. This fundamental definition of information provides an ability to observe and measure both genetic and biochemical information. Simms (1999 and 2004) established the unit of measure as; one unit of genetic information causes the utilization of one unit of available energy to be used in the synthesis of one unit of protein by a system that has a capacity to direct one unit of energy. The unit of measure for biochemical information is, one unit of biochemical information causes the utilization of one unit of available energy to be used in a biochemical reaction by a system that has a capacity to direct one unit of available energy. This

definition of information and the units of information apply to living things from the smallest to the largest, including humans.

Genetic and biochemical information are both ephemeral. When genetic information has aused a behavior, it disappears. Additional genetic information, such as DNA, must be generated to cause additional behavior. Biochemical information, such as enzymes and hormones, also disappears after it has cause a biochemical reaction behavior and additional information must be generated for additional behaviors. Reproduction and metabolism behaviors are continuous in things that live and require the continuous generation of genetic and biochemical information to sustain life. Living things have a fundamental characteristic, which is an ability to generate information. It is appropriate to call this characteristic knowledge because living things know how and when to generate information that allows them to exist. This characteristic and the relationship between knowledge and information allow units of measure for knowledge to be established. One unit of genetic knowledge is the ability to generate one unit of genetic information. And one unit of biochemical knowledge is the ability to generate one unit of biochemical information.

In addition to reproduction and metabolism phenomena, animals have contractile tissues that provide them with a capability for rapid motion behaviors. Rapid motion phenomena can also be measured by the work done in contraction behaviors. These phenomena do not occur until caused by neural information. For example, a motor unit contraction is caused by neural information in the form of an action potential. Neural information can also be measured by the mechanical work it causes. Simms (1999, 2001, and 2004) developed a unit of measure for neural information. One unit of neural information causes the utilization of one unit of available energy in a system that has a capacity to direct one unit of energy. Animals have knowledge to generate neural information, which is function of the animal's neural structure. This unit of measure is applicable for the smallest to the largest animals. It also applies to the group behaviors of animals because group phenomena are observed though the coordinated behaviors of individuals, which, in turn, is a function of their genetic, biochemical, and neural information.

The objectively measurable information and knowledge phenomena described above completes the fundamental measures for the determinants of living system's behaviors. These measures provide the foundation for a living systems science equivalent to the existing family of natural sciences.

References

Simms, J. (1999). Principles of Quantitative Living Systems Science. Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers: New York, Boston, Dordrecht, London, Moscow.

Simms, J. (2001). "Fundamental Principles of Living Systems Science: Groups". Proceedings of the Forty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the International Society for the Systems Sciences (Asilomar, California, July 8-13).

Simms, J. (2004). "A New Natural Science: Living Systems." Proceedings of the Forty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the International Society for the Systems Sciences (Asilomar, California, July 4-9).

This subject as a doctoral dissertation (Technische Universität Wien) is my main research concern in the Ludwig von Bertalanffy Center (Vienna).

Only one Sun has made propitious some evolutionary forces to occasion the manifestation of life on Earth since some million years ago. The light and heat of this burning star have maintained the environmental features of the Earth as the unique possibility of suitable conditions for the presence in time and in space of many diverse living species – being comprised the human one.

Millions of humans recognize this nonpareil Earth moving permanently around this peerless Sun, which has been identified as a single burning star located somewhere in the unique Milky Way.

This is an undeniable fact, but every human mind perceives differently what the Sun and the Earth are:

- because the Sun's light and heat that reaches every earthly mountain, coast, desert or jungle,... is conditioned peculiarly by particular atmospheric circumstances. These happenings and facts emerged singularly under the influence of the very particular way they succeed to interact among themselves occurring in accordance with many diverse dynamical trends. They become the causality that determines the magnificent diversity of the terrestrial landscape.
- because every human perceives oddly the sunny light and heat without knowing precisely what other humans perceive. A genetic causality, inherited peculiarly by every individual, helps to learn how: to develop or obstruct personally, his/her perceptions; to enjoy, or to accept resignedly to suffer the sunny light and heat perceived. It happens that everyone is unavoidably trained and/or habituated by his/her own physiological possibilities and psychological experiences.
- because every human while learning to live, searches opportunistically how to survive, assuming that it is a feasible task, though it can be only a plausible attempt.

These three incidental questions impinge differently on every mind, which sooner or later tries to explain what was perceived, without being well aware what everyone else manages to perceive in the minute terrestrial location where he/she is learning to "live" collectively while fighting to identify his/her personality.

Anyhow there are not two trees, flowers, fruits and animals alike:

- because every living organism is the outcome of unique genetic features, that have determined the particular evolvement of previous organisms involved, those that could survive successfully;
- because the evolvement of every living being is unexpectedly affected, disrupted or stimulated, broken or encouraged by external forces derived from the particular environmental conditions where every living organism is located.

The logical comprehension of this uniqueness leads to realize that every stone or rock or inorganic part on Earth is also a unique phenomenon or thing.

Therefore every human being as a person indubitably is a unique individual. So far not so good, because the dynamics of the whole civilizing adventure has been determined by unilaterally utilitarian actions intending to make homogeneous everywhere the behavior of common people.

Along millennia most civilizing actions have aimed at making artificially alike the performance of most humans, though making a clear distinction between:

- the functional involvement of masses of people for employing them efficiently as human resources and using them as reliable buyers and consumers is needed for the accomplishment of civilizing concerns. They constitute the potential working force needed for sustaining the sanguinary trajectory of our magnificent civilizing attempts. The functionality of this force is determined by enough number of slaves, soldiers,

workers, employees,... identically ”educated” and uniformly ”trained” for maintaining, increasing and improving the facilities that may assure the total and permanent enjoyment of the members of every high society constituted
- the functional enjoyment of those members of every high society which must assure the consumption of luxury merchandise.

That efficiency and reliability has determined dogmatically and effectively:
- the training and schooling of individuals,
- the marketing of goods and services
- the culture of communities,
- the evolvement of economic and sociological concerns,
- the conduct of collectives
- the urban development
- the performance of nations,...

The civilized decision-making intend to make everything in the homosphere, comprised the humans, artificially homogeneous; therefore most people pretend to ignore that natural circumstances are heterogeneous.

Numerous archeological findings - confirmed by historical information – show how empowered minorities have continuously organized utilitarian actions reducing the diversity of Nature and humankind. Today everything is considered homogeneous for the sake of making larger and larger the monetary profits through trading and financial speculation of anything.

Few millennia of civilizing attempts have disregarded the long stretch of time that our predecessors needed to develop unique human features. Instead decision-makers have creatively invented and imposed compulsively ”diverse” methodological procedures as religious, economical, political, governmental, nationalistic,... principles, doctrines, fundaments, dogmas,... aiming ”diversely” at motivating, suggesting, convincing,... obliging masses of human brains to ”learn” that the progress of any ”civilized” society requires indispensably homogeneous thinking, behavior and performance.

In addition diverse, though dishonorable, racist ideologies, artificial nationalisms, social classes,... have been invented. The question what humans are or should be? is answered through fallacious interpretations. However clever humans essay to invent recipes for making sustainable what cannot be sustained.

The future of our magnificent civilization is announced today through the manipulation of human minds using the scientific ”development” of behavioral engineering employed for obstructing millions of minds to think on their own.

In the 60s Ludwig von Bertalanffy denounced that this manipulation intends to decerebralize humans for the sake of controlling the functionality of human resources. Modern robotomorphism and zoomorphism aim at making feasible the emergence of humans behaving as a conditioned-response robot while claiming that they are incorrigible naked apes.

Bertalanffy argued in 1971 ”...What is badly needed is a timely image of man. Since the previous proud image derived from religion and philosophy does not serve modern needs efficiently, a new image should be synthesized... I would contend that this is a very important business indeed – to find out what actually is human.”

In his book ”Perspectives on General Systems Theory”, posthumously published, he considered necessary to build a Philosophic Perspectivism covering the whole intellectual spectrum from physics to biology and history.

SECTION THREE

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

THE 49TH ANNUAL MEETING
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE SYSTEMS SCIENCES
Cancun Westin Resort, Cancun, Mexico
JULY 1-5, 2005

GENERAL INFORMATION

The theme for the 2005 ISSS conference is THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF SYSTEMICS ON SOCIETY. Papers that integrate the conference theme and the subthemes you are dealing with in your work are especially invited. The very sorry state of the world, its violence, hunger, inequality, war, terrorism, intolerance, lack of generosity (all interrelated) pose a supreme challenge to the systems community. Systemists like West Churchman or Bela H. Banathy, past ISSS meetings, as well as many studies and actions of colleagues of many generations, have attended this challenge, responding to one of ISSS' key objectives as stated in its Bylaws: to "promote efforts toward the service of humanity".

Information about the conference, with ongoing updates, can be found at:

http://projects.isss.org/Cancun2005.

The conference is being held at the Westin Resort and Spa, Km 20.0 Blvd Kukulcan, Zona Hotelera, PO Box 1808, Cancun, Q. Roo CP 77500

Phone: +52 998 848 7400 Fax: +52 998 885 0666

http://www.starwoodhotels.com/westin/

The rate negotiated for ISSS is $126 per night, room only. The price is the same for up to two people in the same room. An all-inclusive daily meal/beverage package can be purchased from the hotel on arrival.

Alternate hotels, apartments and eating establishments are located nearby. ISSS does not make any recommendation about these establishments. The Westin conference hotel should be booked using the form included in this package and sent directly to the Westin.

An ISSS conference registration form is also attached and this should be posted or faxed back to the ISSS Office.

AIRLINE DISCOUNTS

Mexicana Airlines have agreed discounts of between 10 and 20% for flights to Cancun. The discounts are valid for flights between June 27 through July 9th, 2005, for attendants, their spouse and children from 12 to 20 yrs. They should be reserved under the code EMEX000S.

AMERICAN EXPRESS

The local organizers are negotiating with American Express in Cancun regarding transportation from the airport and optional tours and excursions in the region. Details will be posted on the ISSS website when available.

DEADLINES

Abstract Deadlines

The deadline for the submission of abstracts is May 31 2005.

Conference Registration Form and Payment Deadline

The conference registration form and full payment are due with the submission of your abstract. There are early-payment discounts until April 16, 2005. The payment will be refunded if the abstract is not accepted.

Please send your conference registration form and payment to:

Ms. Jennifer Wilby, ISSS VP Administration, 47 Southfield Road, Pocklington, York YO42 2XE, UK

Hotel Registration Form

The hotel registration form must be sent directly to the Westin Hotel by fax or mail. The deadline for booking at the ISSS rate is April 29 2005.

Paper Deadlines

The deadline for the submission of full papers is April 15, 2005. Late papers will have the option of being included in the 2006 CDRom proceedings. Please send papers to

Ms. Jennifer Wilby, 47 Southfield Road, Pocklington, York YO42 2XE, UK

Ms. Wilby may be contacted at isssoffice@dsl.pipex.com Tel. +44 1759 302718

Participants are limited to two papers. Please submit one hard copy (printed) and one 3.5” floppy diskette in a commonly used word processing program. Papers must follow the paper-style guidelines presented at the end of this call for papers. If your paper is intended for a specific SIG, please submit it both to Jennifer Wilby and the appropriate SIG chair.

PAPER EDITING

The official proceedings of the ISSS 49th Annual Meeting will be published on a CD ROM. The editors of the proceedings are Jennifer Wilby and Janet Allen.

THE VICKERS AWARD

A plaque and check for $500 will be awarded for the best student paper. Although the advisor may be a co-author on the paper, it is understood that this award is meant to recognize student accomplishment and the paper should reflect principally the work of the student. Please indicate at the time of paper submission if your paper is to be considered for the Vickers award. If you have received your degree, please certify that this work was performed while you were still a student.

Special Integration Groups — Call for Papers — Cancun 2005: The 49th Annual Meeting of the International Society for the Systems Sciences

SIG chairs are still being contacted for confirmation of their interests in hosting sessions at the Cancun meeting. An evolving list has been posted in a working area at http://projects.isss.org/Cancun2005SIGCallsForPapers on ProjectsISSS. Interested members of SIGs not listed below may choose to colloboratively craft a call on that page.

SIGs that have issued a call for papers include:

- Critical Systems Theory and Practice
- Evolutionary Development
- Hierarchy Theory
- Human Systems Inquiry
- Organisational Transformation and Social Change
- Systems Applications in Business and Industry
- Systems-Specific Technology
- Women and Children in Community Systems

Critical Systems Theory and Practice

The special integration group in Critical Systems invites contributions for participation in its paper sessions at the 2005 annual meeting of the ISSS. This is a multidisciplinary and challenging area that represents an alternative to understanding current human, social, and political issues, from a mainly managerial perspective.

Its scope goes beyond the boundaries of traditional management sciences. On the one hand, it involves a reflection on issues emerging from current systems thinking and practice from contemporary philosophy (e.g., post-structuralism, critical theory, postmodernism), and other social disciplines. On the other, it also includes research that although systemic in orientation is mainly grounded in those disciplines.

Our aim is to take advantage of the multidisciplinary background and theoretical approaches of the participants, to generate a meaningful dialogue to inspire future research.

As a Critical Systems group we expect to be creative and innovative. Therefore, although the submission of a formal abstract and paper is expected, we would like to organise the sessions in accordance to the participants' needs and expectations. Please let us know of any suggestions about the topics, discussions or any other proposals as soon as possible.

For more information please contact mailto:B.Acevedo@mgt.hull.ac.ukBeatriz Acevedo-Holguín, at University of Hull Business School, The University of Hull, Kingston-upon-Hull, HU6 7RX, United Kingdom.

Evolutionary Development

We cordially invite you to join us at the 49th annual meeting of the International Society for the Systems Sciences (ISSS). Specifically, we hope you will consider contributing a paper and/or poster for presentation in the Evolutionary Development SIG (Special Integration Group) that it is our pleasure to co-chair. This will be the seventh year of productive meetings as an intact line of inquiry, the first four under the name of the Evolutionary Learning Community SIG, and the last two as the ED SIG. We will continue to focus our efforts on issues of timely relevance to which ELCs may best be dedicated.

The 49th Conference and Annual Meeting of the ISSS will take place from 1-5 July 2005 in Cancun, Mexico. The theme of this year's conference is: "The Potential Impacts of Systemics on Society," and will highlight the contributions of, and challenges for, Latin America in this regard. This theme provide an exciting platform to catalyze the collective explorations of the ED SIG.

Inquiry in the area of Evolutionary Development involves revision of development notions and strategies, from a systemic and evolutionary perspective, in order to integrate the often isolated areas of human, economic, social, and sustainable development. Doing more with less, promoting living simply and meaningfully, and creating a sustainable economy where present and future human needs can be met without compromising the natural environment are some of the concrete objectives of Evolutionary Development. Evolutionary Learning Communities, as learning environments where people can learn together about the interconnected nature of our world, the ecological impact of our individual and collective choices, and the joy of finding a meaningful way to contribute to the emergence of sustainable and evolutionary futures, are the social units where Evolutionary Development can be set in motion for the ongoing self-organization of human societies in syntony with the planetary life support systems upon which they depend.

We invite both theoretical analyses relating to the principles and constructs of Evolutionary Development as well as presentation of explorations and practical applications that foster Evolutionary Development. This SIG welcomes treatment of themes that include, but are not limited to, consideration of the following topic areas:

- Human, social, and natural capital
- Self-directed sustainable development
- Community empowerment and participatory/anticipatory democracy
- Socio-ecological competence and the evolution of consciousness
- Design of ELCs as evolutionary guidance systems
- Evolutionary Systems Design as praxis
- Syntony as an organizing force in societal evolution

The ED SIG will be run as follows: During the conference itself, no formal paper presentations will be made, even though acceptance of both abstracts and full papers and/or posters is required. In order to be congruent with the general theme of the conference and the specific focus of our inquiry, our sessions will be conducted as learning conversations. Participants will engage first in a generative conversation in which they will have the opportunity to share the core ideas of their work with each other. After the group has attained a basic collective cognitive map of the research and constructs represented in the room, we will to move into a strategic conversation to identify areas of synergy. Once common themes and directions have been identified, we will move into an evolutionary conversation to create new knowledge and insights and propose further collaborations.

By way of background information in preparation for this event, we urge you to visit the historical webpages of the ELC SIG. Since the ED SIG is a descendent of the previous ELC SIG, the statements of goals, purpose, and history, as well as of topics, format, and focus all bear directly on the spirit of engagement in which the ED SIG will meet in Cancun. The URL to visit is as follows: http://isss.org/sigs/sig29elc.htm

Of course, if there is anything we can help clarify for you with respect to the above, please do get in touch with us.

For further information, please contact: Alexander & Kathia Laszlo - Co-Chairs, ISSS ED SIG U.S.A.: 810-A Quarry Road - The Presidio, San Francisco, CA 94123 Mexico: Cardenal 1310, San Andres - El Barrial, Santiago NL 67300 Tel/Fax: ++415/346.1547 (USA) Tel/Fax: ++81/82.66.81.86 (Mex) mailto:info@SyntonyQuest.org http://www.SyntonyQuest.org

Hierarchy Theory

The Hierarchy Theory SIG invites papers relating to the study of hierarchical structures and their relationships in theory and practice.

Hierarchy theory views systems as a set of ordered levels with a governing-governed relationship between the levels wherein the hierarchical levels are the sub-units of the whole system of interest. Further, the levels within the hierarchy are defined by the scale of observation chosen by the researcher (observer) and exploring this process of choice of scale is also of interest within the SIG.

Abstracts are invited from all fields of research whether natural or social systems, and research or practice. In addition, this year it would be interesting to hear from people willing to participate in discussion sessions on the principles and practice of hierarchy, and input is welcomed as to what form these sessions should take.

SIG Chair: Jennifer Wilby, 47 Southfield Road, Pocklington, York, YO42 2XE, UK. +44 (0)1759 302718; Email: isssoffice@dsl.pipex.com

Human Systems Inquiry

HUMAN SYSTEMS INQUIRY is a central emphasis in those Systems Sciences directly concerned with human beings. We invite you to contribute a paper relevant to systems inquiry that helps our annual event to actualize the conference theme. Any paper that can make that connection will be considered.

The purpose of the HSI SIG is to provide an arena for ISSS members to present, exchange information, learn, and discuss: 1) ideas and viewpoints concerning issues in systems methods and methodologies relevant to human beings and the human condition; 2) applications of systems ideas to systems practice in human contexts; 3) innovations in systems methodology; and 4) systemic case studies conducted in, with, or by human activity systems. Any one or more of these purposes may be related to the conference theme.

For consideration, submit your abstract of 300 words maximum that includes at least one sentence relating the paper overall directly to the conference theme, and at least one sentence that connects your paper to any one or more of the four SIG focus areas stated above.

For further information, please contact: Arne Collen at acollen@saybrook.edu Saybrook Graduate School

Organisational Transformation and Social Change

One interest of this SIG is seeing organisations as social communities, thereby allowing for a convergence between management systems/cybernetic theory and sociology. Another concerns the change imperative for autonomous organisations in a complex world (more on this can be found at: http://www.intellectbooks.com/journals/otsc.htm). Abstracts are therefore invited from all fields of organisational or social systems research and/or practice.

Professor Maurice Yolles, Liverpool John Moores University, 98 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5UZ, UK. Email: m.yolles@livjm.ac.uk, and David Ing <sabi@systemicbusiness.org>

Systems Applications in Business and Industry

Authors are welcomed to share their papers and wisdom on Systems Applications in Business and Industry in Singerian Inquiry sessions at the 2005 ISSS meeting in Cancun.

The SABI sessions at Cancun 2005 will follow the approach that proved successful at Asilomar 2004 and Crete 2003. The agenda not only allows each author to relate the research that he or she has recently conducted, but to also share in the development of new knowledge by drawing on the wisdom across all participants. A Singerian Inquiry, as described by C. West Churchman in The Design of Inquiring Systems, is a systemic approach that features both multiple perspectives, and

the “sweeping in” of new knowledge. Authors and attendees at prior sessions have reported great satisfaction in this lightly structured, free flowing approach to conversation.

Prior to the meeting:

- Authors may discuss their ideas about potential contributions with the SIG chair, David Ing (mailto:sabi@systemicbusiness.org).
- Authors submit abstracts. Abstracts are posted on a web site for review by all. Preliminary discussions about clustering ideas into sessions are facilitated online through web forums/conferences.
- Authors submit final papers. Papers are clustered into session of three to five papers. Preliminary discussions about ideas are facilitated online through web forums/discussions.

At the conference:

In each session, each author is permitted up to five minutes to present the key ideas of their papers. For the remainder of the 90-to-120 minute session, an open discussion on common themes and differences between the papers gradually reveals more details about each author’s thinking. Non-authors are welcomed to ask clarifying questions and contribute additional ideas, later in the session.

After the meeting, digests are posted on the Internet, and audio recordings may be available on CD-R. The artifacts from Crete 2003 are available at http://systemicbusiness.org/digests/sabi2003. (The 2004 artifacts are still under development).

Authors who require more than five minutes to present their papers should not designate their papers for the SABI stream. The chairs of the streams on Organizational Transformation and Social Change, Human Systems Inquiry and Evolutionary Development aim to work together to appropriate place papers, and work through scheduling challenges.

Interested author may contact the SABI SIG Chair, David Ing (mailto:sabi@systemicbusiness.org) for more information.

When submitting an abstract, please ensure that it is flagged specifically for the SABI stream.

Systems-Specific Technology

The great scientific and practical potentials of General Systems Theory as well as Systems Sciences have not yet been fully realized. We are still mostly ruminating about the initial concepts of von Bertalanffy and have not yet progressed to the level of an exact and complete scientific theory with its own language, ontology, epistemology, methodologies, tools and technologies.

The purpose of the Systems-Specific Technology SIG is to be instrumental in the development and in the implementation of systems-specific technologies/tools sufficiently effective for scientific and pragmatic application in various domains and across the boundaries of different sciences. These technologies/tools are expected to push the limits of human perception, cognition, communication, and will transform today’s Systems Sciences to the level of the Exact Systems Science.

ISSS members are invited to contribute to the Systems-Specific Technology Session(s) to explore the following:

- Defining Systems-Specific Technologies/Tools
- Network Structures of Systems-Specific Relational Languages
- Concepts and Methodologies for Developing, Constructing, Testing and Validation of different types of Systems-Specific Technologies/Tools
- Systems-Specific Technologies/Tools: Established and Under Development

SIG Chair: Vadim I. Kvitash, M.D., Ph.D., 2299 Post Street, Suite 306, San Francisco, CA 94115, USA. E-mail: Kvitash@hotmail.com.

Women and Children in Community Systems

Papers are invited that identify themes and research interests which account for the perspectives, interests and needs of children and women in social systems. More than half of the world's population is women. Children are the future. Both groups are affected by different systems constructs, with formal and informal needs to have representation in the community or social system in which they live. Papers that apply systems thinking and understanding to family systems, community systems and other social systems as related to the development of 'service' systems are always welcome. A special invitation is extended to those who would like to present papers on the sub themes of 'integration and continuity' as they apply to women and children in community systems. Papers are invited from anyone who is interested in developing scholarship focusing on this area of study.

For further information, please contact: Anne Nelson Chair, Women and Children in Community Systems 2442 N.W. Market St. #112 Seattle, WA 98107

ISSS 2005
PAPER STYLE GUIDELINES

DEADLINE FOR FORMATTED PAPERS IS APRIL 15, 2005. SUBMISSIONS AFTER THIS DATE WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE 2005 CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS.

SUBMIT PAPERS TO:
Jennifer Wilby
47 Southfield Road
Pocklington
York YO42 2XE England
Phone: +44-1759-302718
E-mail: isssoffice@dsl.pipex.com

Please use regular airmail and avoid use of any courier service such as FedEx, DHL etc. If these carriers are used, any customs charges will be billed to the paper author.

PREPARATION, LENGTH AND PRINTING

A printed (hard) copy of all papers must be submitted along with an electronic submission on a 3.5" diskette. Alternatively a printed copy may be submitted by regular mail and the electronic version submitted by E-mail – please be sure that you note this on both submissions. However, if papers are submitted by E-mail, they should be sent as attached files with a description in the body of the message as to what word processing package has been used to create them.

The printed copy of the paper will be used for review and to ensure correct layout. A copy should also be sent to your panel chair IF YOU KNOW WHO THIS WILL BE.

Insert page numbers on the electronic version in the footer of each page beginning with page number 1, centered, in 12 point regular type (not bold).

Insert headers on the top of each page, centered in 12 point bold type using a shortened version of your paper title. Headers should not exceed one line.

Disks can be either IBM or Macintosh format; the files should be saved in a recognised word-processing program. Artwork and tables should be pasted into the document. Do NOT float the graphics over text. Send a paper copy of all artwork and tables with the paper so that layout can be checked.

The length of the paper should not exceed 20 pages, including title/summary page and references. Do not start a new page after the title and abstract. Pages must be single-spaced. Type on one side only.

Template File

If you would prefer to start your paper using a Word template file, please email isssoffice@dsl.pipex.com for a copy of the file. USE THE TEMPLATE for correct layout and styles.

In the template file you will find the following styles. Send any questions about the template or individual styles by email to the address above.

Style name	Description
Papertitle	title of the paper
Author	name of author
Address	address of author, may run to several lines
Heading 1	first level headings, including abstract and reference headings
Heading 2	second level heading
Heading 3	third level heading
Bodytext	regular paragraphs
Bulletindent	bulleted lists of paragraphs
Figuretitle	placed under a figure
Tabletitle	placed before the table
Reference	reference entry, hanging indent

Please enter a short running title in the header at the top of each page, except the first.

ABSTRACT AND KEYWORDS

Two lines below the title and affiliation, type the heading “ABSTRACT” and then after one line space, start a brief abstract as the first paragraph of the paper. You may use your program abstract or a suitable alternative.

At the end of the summary, skip a line and then type «Keywords:» (underlined and followed by a colon) followed by up to five (5) words that describe the focus and contribution of the paper. The summary should follow the title, author’s name, and mailing address on the first page. Skip two lines and then begin the body of the paper (after an Introduction heading, if needed) immediately after the summary. Do not begin a new page.

Figure captions should be typed directly below the figure, in bold 12 point type, upper and lower (title) case and centered.

Table captions should be flush left above the table. Tables should be included in the manuscript proper and referred to in the text as «Table X. Description of Table.»

EQUATION NUMBERS

When numbering equations, enclose numbers in brackets [ ] and place them flush with the right-hand margin. Refer to them in the text as «Equation [x]».

REFERENCES

List bibliographic references at the end of the paper under the major heading «References». List authors alphabetically by the first letter of the first author's last name. References should be identified in the text of the paper by typing the corresponding name and year in parenthesis. If a page number is included, it should be set as (author, year, page number). DO NOT NUMBER REFERENCES, they must be alphabetical and unnumbered.

There should be no extra line spaces between references.

Book titles and names of journals should be printed in italics, not underlined. The format for the reference section should be as follows:

Author, A. (1991). Title of Book., XYZ Press, Place of Publication.

Author, B., and Author, A. (1995). Title of Paper, Journal., 3(1):1-20.

Author, C., Author, A., Author, B. and Jones, G. (1996). Title of Paper, in Title of Book, (E. Editor, ed.), XYZ Press, Place of Publication.

For multiple publications in the same year by the same author:

Bauthor, B., and Aauthor, A. (1995a). Title of PaperA, Journal. 3(1):1-20.

Bauthor, B., and Aauthor, A. (1995b). Title of PaperB, Journal. 16(4):25-50.

NON-CONFORMITY OF SUBMISSIONS

Paper submissions that do not use the template and conform to these guidelines WILL be returned to the author(s) for correction.

OTHER CONFERENCES

July 6-10, 2005, Maribor, Slovenia
13th World Congress On Systems And Cybernetics – 13th WC SC
SYSTEMIC AND CYBERNETIC DEALING WITH INNOVATION
and
6th Conference on Sociocybernetics – 6th CSC
(as an independent part of the !3th WC SC)

WOSC – World Organization of Systems and Cybernetics: President Robert Vall?e; Director-General Alex Andrew, Vice-President Brian H. Rudall (also Director of the N. Wiener Institute of WOSC, Editor-in-Chief of Kybernetes);

http://www.cybsoc.org/wosc

http://www.afscet.asso.fr

SDSR – Slovenian Systems Research Society: President Matjaz Mulej (also 1st Vice-President of IFSR – International Federation for Systems Research)

September 5 -7 2005
UK Systems Society
International Conference
St Anne's College OXFORD
Co-sponsored by COGS and SPMC
Managing Complexity: The contributions of
Systems Thinking and Practice

Keynote Speaker: Fritjof Capra

http://www.ukss.org.uk/

September 11-14 2005
The Centre for Complexity Research
The University of Liverpool, Liverpool UK

The first of its kind, the conference will bring together an international group of contributors and delegates for an unparalleled opportunity to see what we can learn by exploring the relationship between complexity, science and society. Keynote speakers include:

Prof. Ian Hargreaves (former editor of New Statesman and Director of the Centre for Journalism Studies)
Prof. Francis Heylighen , (Center "Leo Apostel", Free University of Brussels).
Prof. Karl Mainzer , (University of Augsburg & author of 'Thinking in Complexity').
Prof. Ralph Stacey , (Professor of Complexity at Univ. Herts)

To achieve the conference's rich and vibrant programme, contributors and subject organisers have been invited to create their own distinct activities within the three day framework. A multitude of academic disciplines are included together with major social and business themes such as health promotion and corporate responsibility. Artistic contributions will include installations and music and film events.

Delegates will be able to choose what they want to be involved in, from focusing in depth on a particular subject to venturing across disciplines. An array of social events will be offered to create scope for even more interaction.

'We want to create an event that combines structure and openness, academics and practitioners, learning and exploration; a sort of Edinburgh Festival of conferences' explained the Centre's Director Dr Robert Geyer.

Based in the exciting city of Liverpool, recently celebrated for its 'unruly genius' and winner of the Capital of Culture award for 2008, Complexity, Science and Society is set to be a landmark event.

Details of the conference can be found at: http://www.liv.ac.uk/ccr/2005_conf/ and subjects can be found at: http://www.liv.ac.uk/ccr/2005_conf/subject_coordinators.htm

September 19-22, 2005,
PARIS, France
6th EuropeanSystems Science Congress – 6th ESSC
Paris, Ecole National Suprieure des Arts et Métiers (ENSAM),
151, Bd del'Hopital, 75013 Paris

Organised by:

ESSU – European Systems Science Union: President

AFSCET – L'Association Française de Science des Systèmes Cybernétiques, Cognitifs et Techniques: President Prof. Emmanuel Nunez,

1 rue de l'Echiquier, 78760 Jouars-Pontchartrain, France

Tel.: + 33134890690 Fax: + 33134898998

http://www.afscet.asso.fr/resSystemica/6CongresUES.pdf

Submission of proposals are requested for Plenary sessions, Workshops and round tables, Symposia in the framework of Specialized Scientific Societies at the Congress, as well as abstracts, suggestions, requests for further information on: Biological systems, Health systems, Educational systems, Technological systems, Cities systems, Corporation systems, Religious and ideological systems, etc

Other questions as fees, deadlines, accommodation - to:

Prof. Emmanuel Nunez E-mail: emmanuel.nunez@wanadoo.fr

Language: French and English (with French and English abdstracts)

October, 7-9, 2004, Castel Ivano (Trento), Italy
3rd Italian Conference on Systemics
Italian Society for Research on Systems (AIRS) http://www.airs.it - President: Gianfranco Minati, Email: gianfranco.minati@airs.it, gianfranco.minati@iol.it

Opening lecture: George J. Klir. Uncertainty and Information: Emergence of Vast New Territories

Publication Opportunities:

Proceedings:

KLUWER ACADEMIC/PLENUM PUBLISHERS New York, U.S.A. http://www.wkap.nl

Abstracted in: International e-Journal of Abstracts on Cybernetics and Systems Research

http://www.abstracts.ifsr.org

Language: Italian - for oral presentations at the Conference, presentations in English are possible (simultaneous translation service is not available).

Further information: Professor Gianfranco Minati - Italian Systems Society (AIRS), Via Pellegrino Rossi, 42 20161 Milan MI ITALY, Tel./Fax: +39-02-66202417 Tel. +39-02-36530183, mobile phone 328 8789042, Email: gianfranco.minati@airs.it, http://www.geocities.com/lminati/gminati/index.html

October 11-13, 2005,
Moscow, Russia
5th International Interdisciplinary Scientific and Practical Symposium
REFLEXIVE PROCESSES AND CONTROL

The Institute of philosophy of the Russian Academy of Science, the Institute of psychology of the Russian Academy of Science, the M.V.Keldysh Institute of applied mathematics of the Russian Academy of Science and the Institute of reflexive processes and control invite you to the International Interdisciplinary Scientific and Practical Symposium on Reflexive Processes and Control (RPC'2005) to be held in Moscow, Russia, October 11-13, 2005.

Major topics

The scientific fundamental problem - "Reflexive approach and systems research"

The scientific applied problem - "High humanitarian technologies"

The practical problem - "Strategy of the Russian development"

November 14-16, 2005
15th Annual Pegasus Conference 2005
Embracing Interdependence:
Effective and Responsible Action in Our Organizations and the World
Hyatt Regency San Francisco
San Francisco, California, USA
For further information contact: customerservice@pegasuscom.com
Website: http://www.pegasuscom.com/

November 14 - 17, 2005
The New Roles of Systems Sciences in Knowledge Society
The First International Congress of the International Federation of Systems Research
International Conference Centre Kobe
Kobe, Japan

For further information please see: http://ifsr2005.jtbcom.co.jp/

Submission of draft regular papers: July 1, 2005

Submission of draft Position Statements: July 1, 2005

Notification of acceptance: August 9, 2005

Submission of final camera-ready paper: October 1, 2005

Final programme available (on congress web site): October 20, 2005

December 5-7, 2005
Systems Thinking and Complexity Science: Insights for Action
11th Annual ANZSYS Conference/Managing the Complex V
Christchurch, New Zealand

With the conference's location, we expect high attendance and high-quality papers. For additional information on hotel accommodation, the hotel's website is http://www.grandc.co.nz Be sure to ask for the "ANZSYS 2005 conference" rate.

Organising Committee

Peter Allen	Cranfield University, UK
Roger Attwater	University of Western Sydney, Australia
Bob Cavana	Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand
Vladimir Dimitrov	University of Western Sydney, Australia
Jeffrey Goldstein	Adelphi University, USA
Jan Gregor	Institute of Environmental Science and Research, New Zealand
Wendy Gregory	Institute of Environmental Science and Research, New Zealand
Tim Haslett	Monash University, Australia
Gerald Midgley	Institute of Environmental Science and Research, New Zealand
Kurt Richardson	Institute for the Study of Coherence and Emergence, USA
Robert Woog	University of Western Sydney, Australia

We are writing to encourage you to:
- Submit papers
- Review papers
- Chair sessions/offer alternative activities

Submitting papers. A call for papers is available at

http://isce.edu/ISCE_Group_Site/web-content/ISCE%20Events/Christchurch_2005.html

Please note that the deadline for submitting abstracts (250 words) is May 1st 2005.

Reviewing papers. At this point, we are seeking confirmation from individuals who would be willing to review papers (maximum of two or three per reviewer). The timeframe for reviewing will be between the paper submission deadline (1st July 2005) and 30th August 2005 (the deadline for returning reviews).

Chairing sessions. If you would be willing to chair a session, or would like to organise a stream or other activity, please let the conference organisers know as soon as possible (e-mail to anzsys2005@isce.edu

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Kurt Richardson via e-mail (anzsys2005@isce.edu).

July 9-14 2006
PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT
THE 50TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE SYSTEMS SCIENCES

The 50th anniversary conference of the International Society for the Systems Sciences offers an opportunity to celebrate a half-century of theory and practice in the broadly defined field of systems, to reflect upon what we have learned, and to collaboratively envision future directions. This year's meeting will be jointly held with the American Society for Cybernetics, and will include representatives from the System Dynamics Group, bringing together three primary strands within the broad spectrum of systems thought. Drawing on Bateson's notion of the "pattern that connects," this conference will highlight both patterns and practices that connect. The ISSS was initially founded to bring together scholars from a broad range of disciplines, to explore common patterns of organization in different kinds of systems, as well as common theoretical frameworks underlying the various fields. Over time, it has evolved to incorporate methodologies for problem solving in complex systems, involving interactions between biological, social, technological, and ecological systems. During the last fifty years, the field of systems research has exploded into a myriad of specialized fields and schools of thought. My goal for the 50th annual meeting is to bring together representatives from as many systems-related organizations as possible, in the spirit of the original founders, to learn from each other and to nurture a more integrated and systemic way of understanding our world and living in peace with one another. Under the general theme of "Complexity, Democracy and Sustainability," the conference will address such questions as: "What can the sciences of complexity teach us about social justice and sustainability?" What is the nature of the relationship between information and consciousness? How do we manage information in a way that fosters effective decision-making processes? How do we nurture organizational structures that serve human needs while also protecting our resources for future generations?

The conference will be held on the Sonoma campus ofthe California State University in Cotati, California. There will be ample accommodation on-site and other hotels available close to the University.

For further information please email isssoffice@dsl.pipex.com

For program ideas and discussion please contact ISSS President-Elect Deborah Hammond at hammond@sonoma.edu

. . .

SECTION FOUR

ISSS BUSINESS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The following offices must be filled for terms beginning at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Society:

President Elect
VP for Systems Education and Communications
Treasurer and VP for Funds
VP Membership and Conferences (to be elected at Council)
Representative from Board of Trustees (to be elected by Trustees)

Section 4.6 of the Bylaws describes the positions. Nominations for the office of President-elect, Secretary and VP for Protocol, and VP for Research and Publications were requested and are now closed. Ballot papers will be circulated to all members shortly for return by June 1, 2005.

Nominations from all members of the Council are hereby requested for the office of VP for Membership and Conferences

Nominations from all members of the Board of Trustees are hereby requested for the office of Board of Trustees Representative.

NOTICE OF UPCOMING ISSS MEETINGS

The annual membership, council and board meetings willbe held during the annual conference at Cancun, Mexico during the week of 1 July to 5 July 2005.

ISSS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
July 5, 2004 Asilomar

Called to order: Scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in Toyon room at Asilomar Conference Center.

Present Voting members: Ken Bailey (President and Chair), Jim Simms (VP for Communications and Systems Education), Maurice Yolles (VP for Research and Publications), Jennifer Wilby (VP for Administration), Arne Collen (VP for Membership and Conferences, Carl Slawski (Secretary and VP for Protocol).

Special Voting Members: Enrique Herrscher (Incoming President), G.A. Swanson (representative of the Board of Trustees).

Absent: Regular Member: Treasurer and VP for Funds (C. Lynn Jenks) ; special voting member Absent: Past-President (Aleco Christakis).

Guests/Observers present: Debora Hammond (Incoming President), Carla A. A. Ventura, Pamela Buckle; David Ing (computer web site consultant).

Announcements and General Information:

1. Discussion began first, while waiting for late-coming members due to room change, Maurice Yolles and David Ing began first by giving a thorough demonstration of the structure, and discussed how we should decide on the contents of the various components (e.g., headers, SIG links and buttons to content, etc.) of the proposed new and official ISSS web site, including possible designs of the Logo (the integral sign), gatekeeper functions and responsibility for each component, the

responsibility for the position of Web Master, professional appearance and content, and the like. The site must meet the standards of the American Disabilties Act. It was noted that contributions of volunteers are welcome, under the guidance of appointed experts, but certain components, structures, and aspects of the site will need professional consultation.

2. Later there was considerable discussion of Herrscher's proposed plans for the Cancun meetings in 2005, including the possibilities for raising funds by a Finance Committee appointed by the incoming President, as well as ways to bring in young members with a voice (Commission, SIG, his 20/40 committee, etc.), a possible inventory of social actions in progress or completed by members the S. Beer Library at Liverpool.

3. A general review of funds was described, how much in which of three accounts, etc., referring to the early 2004 Bulletin for details. The suggestion was strongly made that the VP for Administration should receive a stipend, even if it does not cover more than a small portion of the costs, perhaps for the help of an administrative assistant to do some of the routine weekly office tasks.

4) The possibility of regular annual meetings at several "Alternate Regional Sites" was raised, to help bring in and maintain wider participation by those many unable to attend the distant annual international meetings.

Motions:

1) Yolles moved (Wilby seconded) that the structure of the web site be approved by the web site committee (Yolles as chair, D. Ing, T. Mandel, and Wilby). Unanimous.
2) David Ing will be the acting Web Master. Unanimous.
3) The site of Sonoma, California is approved as the 2006 conference site. Unanimous
4) Herrscher moved approval (for submission to the Council) of two co-Vice Presidents for Membership and Conferences for the 2005 meetings in Cancun, namely, Agustin Delgado and Elvira Avalos Villareal. Unanimous.
5) The Systems Pathology SIG formation was ratified. Unanimous

Adjourned at 10:45 p.m

The following morning, July 7, 2004, a special executive committee of the Board of Directors was formed at breakfast to approve an important legal and financial authorization to conduct business, an item that was omitted from the prior evening's full Board meeting.

Present were Bailey, Wilby, Simms, Slawski, with later approval obtained from Yolles. Only three specified members are required to act in this urgent manner.

6) The motion (of Bailey, seconded by Wilby, was) that Deborah Hammond be authorized to write checks as necessary for the ISSS at banks in the United States of America. Unanimous.

Items to be referred to the next e-mail Board meeting (all of a non-controversial nature) were:

1) Rules for selecting the Vickers Student Award.
2) Change of name of the LSA SIG.
3) Application for membership as a Chapter of Australian university students.
4) A Brazil Chapter.
5) A Natural systems sciences division

These minutes have not yet been approved. However, a copy shall be forwarded to each Council member within thirty days after the meeting, and published in the first issue of the Bulletin following the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Carl Slawski, Secretary of the ISSS.

MINUTES of the ISSS COUNCIL Meeting
July 8 2004

Called to order 7:23 p.m., Thursday, July 8, 2004, in Embers room at Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, California, with Arne Collen as chair (in loco President Ken Bailey).

Present (SIG chairs, President, VP's, Trustee's representative, and chapter heads are permitted to vote). A quorum was not exactly determinable since paid membership numbers in the various SIG's, chapters and members of the Board of Trustees were not announced. Only twelve members present shall constitute a quorum. It appeared that a quorum was present, however, with the following members: Arne Collen (Human Systems Inquiry SIG, meeting chair), Dennis Finlayson (Applied Systems and Development SIG), David Ing (Applied Business and Industry SIG), Kathia and Alexander Laszlo (Evolutionary Dvt. SIG co-reps.), K. Bailey (outgoing Pres., technically chair, and LST SIG), Vadim Kvitash (Specific Technology SIG), Gianfranco Minati (Italian Chapter, Robert Orchard (Systems Psychology SIG), J. Simms (LST SIG & incoming VP for Communications), Carl Slawski (Los Angeles Chapter and meeting Secretary), Len Troncale (Systems Pathology SIG), G.A. Swanson (Trustee rep.), John Kineman (Life & Living SIG), J. Wilby (Hierarchy SIG), Maurice Yolles (Organizational Transformation and Social Change SIG).

Observers/Guests: Enrique Herrscher [other SIG(?), and incoming President, as of 7/9/04], Ken Bausch, Mark Lewis, Jamie Rose

For information purposes, the actions of the Board of Directors of the previous evening were announced (see Board minutes for details) regarding the following, in brief:

1) Web site structure and content.
2) David Ing will be interim Web Master.
3) Deborah Hammond will organize the 2006 annual meetings at the Sonoma State University campus at the California meeting site.

Other announcements or information, partly about agenda items not reached by the Board yesterday, that will be considered at the next e-mail Board meeting:

5) Restructuring of the Vickers Award criteria.
6) Approval of Chapters in Australia and Brazil.
7) Kineman requests a forum to discuss integration of the SIG's into the next annual meeting structure(s).
8) Herrscher wishes to have a published hard copy (in addition to the CD-ROM) of the annual Proceedings for those who need it for reasons of language difficulty or for browsing by those who find CD-ROM reading less than adequate.

Motions or Actions of the Council:

1. Approval of the Co-Vice-Presidents for the 2005 Cancun meetings, Delgado and Villareal. Unanimous.
2. Ratification of approval of the SIG for Systems Pathology. Unanimous.
3. Herrscher be authorized to express personal thanks to Tom Mandel for his work in developing an ISSS web site, as well as its structure to date. Without objection.
4. Bausch moved to trust the organizing committee to set up details of the 2005 Cancun program (before later required or desired approval by the appropriate officials). Unanimous.

Adjourned by consensus at 8:19 p.m.

These minutes have not yet been approved. However, a copy shall be forwarded to each Council member within thirty days after the meeting, and published in the first issue of the Bulletin following the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Carl Slawski, Secretary of the ISSS.

MINUTES of the 2004 ISSS MEMBERSHIP Meeting

Called to order Friday, 7/9/04, in Chapel auditorium at Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, California, at 11:00 a.m., chaired by incoming President, Enrique Herrscher.

Present: About 35.

Information: Secretary Slawski summarized the minutes of the Board of Directors and Council meetings of Wednesday and Thursday respectively, stating only the motions passed. See previous minutes of the two meals for details.

AAnnouncements were made of the 2005 meetings in Cancun, and the 2006 meetings at Sonoma, California.

Mention was made of the possibility of the 2007 meetings in Australia, with tentative plans considered in some quarters for a five-year plan and possible future presidential nominees.

Motion: The annual financial report as printed in the 2004 Bulletin was approved without objection.

Wilby noted that there was approximately $35.000.00 in a long term Certificate of Deposit, $13,000.00 in cash in the USA, and about 1,500.00 pounds sterling in the UK bank.

The meeting ended with the singing of Happy Birthday to Sue Gabriele, our loyal morning roundtable leader.

Adjourned by consensus at 11:34 a.m.

These minutes have not yet been approved.

Respectfully submitted by Carl Slawski, Secretary for the ISSS.

CONFERENCE ISSS2004 FINANCIAL REPORT

ISSS deposit to Asilomar		2,400.00		
Memberships to ISSS		7,820.00		
Office		238.98		
Stationary		384.73		
Printing/Computer		1830.42		
A/V		4212.54		
Vickers Costs		104.35		
Asilomar 2nd payment		4,566.14		
USPS		92.45		
Vickers Award		500.00		
Chargebacks		460.00		
Refunds		452.72		
Bank charges		1,593.34		
CDRom	3,673.76	Total Expenses		28,329.43
Receipts		29,011.20		
Loan from ISSS Corporate		2,900.00		
Total Income			31,411.20	
Income less Expenses				3,081.77
Repay ISSS Corporate				2,900.00
Total Profit ISSS 2004				681.77

CASH ACCOUNTS ISSS 2004

Balance December 31 2003			$53,828.55
Income			
Interest USA	$348.61		
Membership	$12,622.00		
Member/Other	$254.73		
Conf Memberships	$7,820.00		
Conf. Loan repaid/profit	$3,581.77		
Total Income		$24,627.11	
			$78,455.66
Expenses			
Insurance	$325.00		
Postage	$2,892.39		
Bank charges	$582.22		
Internet development	$3,723.45		
Journals	$7,465.00		
Office uk	$2,428.73		
Printing	$1,845.31		
Loan to ISSS2004 Vickers	$500.00		
Office USA	$571.65		
Total Expenses		$20,333.75	
Ending Balance			$58,121.91
Bank Balances			
UK Sterling		$1,690.76	
UK Dollars		$11,007.76	
USA ISSS Trustees		$33,113.39	
USA ISSS Corporate		$12,310.00	
Total Cash			$58,121.91

SECTION FIVE

MEMBERS' BULLETIN BOARD

NEW BOOKS

New Books by Members with details and content taken from theirPublisher's site

Nature's Magic:
Synergy in Evolution and the Fate of Humankind
Peter A. Corning
Cambridge University Press, (2003)

The thesis of this book, in brief, is that synergy — a vaguely familiar term to many of us — is actually one of the major organizing principles of the natural world. It has been a wellspring of creativity in evolution and has played central role in the evolution of complexity, from the subject-matter of physics and chemistry to human societies. The "Synergism Hypothesis" asserts that synergy is not simply a class of interesting and ubiquitous effects; it has also been a major causal agency in evolution. Synergistic functional effects of various kinds have been a necessary, if not sufficient, requisite for the evolution of cooperation and complexity at all levels of biological organization. It is a unifying theory of complexity.

This theory is not as radical or revolutionary as it sounds. It is fully consistent with Darwin's theory, and with the canons ofphysics, chemistry, the biological sciences and the social sciences. It is also compatible with "symbiogenesis," "multilevel selection theory" and other recent formulations that are concerned with cooperative relationships in nature. In effect, the Synergism Hypothesis involves a different perspective, a different way of viewing the same phenomena. It is quintessentially an economic (or "bioeconomic") theory of complexity — a functional theory, as distinct from gene-centered theories, or postulates of self-organization and emergent "laws" of complexity, or even theories of historical contingencies (a "drunkard's walk"). Moreover, this theory is testable and lends itself to falsifiable predictions.

Nature's Magic provides a brief survey of the many different kinds of synergy in nature and develops the case for the Synergism Hypothesis in some detail. The theory is then applied specifically to the evolution of humankind and complex human societies.

The Science of Synthesis
Exploring the Social Implications of General Systems Theory
Debora Hammond
ISBN: 0-87081-722-1 U. of Colorado Press (2003) $34.95

Debora Hammond's *The Science of Synthesis* explores the development of general systems theory and the individuals who gathered together around that idea to form the Society for General Systems Research. In examining the life and work of the SGSR's five founding members (Ludwig von Bertalanffy, Kenneth Boulding, Ralph Gerard, James Grier Miller, and Anatol Rapoport) Hammond traces the emergence of systems ideas across a broad range of disciplines in the mid-twentieth century. A metaphor and a framework, the systems concept as articulated by its earliest proponents highlights relationship and interconnectedness among the biological, ecological, social, psychological, and technological dimensions of our increasingly complex lives. Seeking to transcend the reductionism and mechanism of classical science (which they saw as limited by its focus on the discrete, component parts of reality) the general systems community hoped to complement this

analytic approach with a more holistic approach. As one of many systems traditions, the general systems group was specifically interested in fostering collaboration and integration between different disciplinary perspectives.

The Science of Synthesis documents a unique episode in the history of modern thought, one that remains relevant today. This book will be of interest to historians of science, system theorists, and scholars in such fields as cybernetics and system dynamics.

Systems Thinking: Creative Holism for Managers
Michael C. Jackson
ISBN: 0-470-84522-8 Wiley (September 2003) £28.99

Too often, today's managers are sold simple solutions to complex problems. But as many soon discover, simplicity is rarely effective in the face of complexity, change and diversity. Despite apparent promise, quick-fix panaceas fail because they are not holistic or creative enough. They focus on parts of the organization rather than the whole, take little account of interaction, and pander to the notion that there is one best solution in all circumstances. As instances of such failure escalate, intelligent managers are increasingly seeking to improve results through Systems Thinking.

Whatever stage you are at in your study of Systems Thinking, this book will help. If you are new to the field then it will serve as a solid introduction. If you are familiar with a few concepts but not with how they can be linked and used by managers, then it will give you a greater understanding of how holistic ideas developed and how to use them in practice. And if you are expert in some approaches but not in others, then it will expand your knowledge and provide you with more choice. In all cases you will achieve competency in creative holism, emerge better equipped to solve complex problems, and ultimately become a more effective Systems Thinking manager.

Communication Breakdown: Decoding the Riddle of Mental Illness
Editor-in-Chief - John E. LaMuth M.S. (2004) ISBN# 1-929649-20-7
Fairhaven Book Publishers, Lucerne Valley, CA, USA
www.angelfire.com/rnb/fairhaven/cbd.html <*http://www.angelfire.com/rnb/fairhaven/cbd.html*>
fairhaven-books@excite.com <*mailto:fairhaven-books@excite.com*>

The communicational factors underlying mental illness have finally been resolved in the ground-breaking new book - Communication Breakdown: Decoding the Riddle of Mental Illness, edited by John E. LaMuth M.S. Each of the major categories of mental illness is incorporated into a unified Systems Theory dynamic: where dysfunctional behavior patterns can accurately be determined, leading to effective resolution.

This Systems approach is intended as an adjunct to currently available treatment regimens, adding a further crucial tool to the repertoire of the mental health practitioner, enhancing the potential for timely intervention. This new system helps increase awareness of dysfunctional patterns of communication, further highlighting trigger-factors that can precipitate behavioral outbreaks. Here, the 56 different classifications of mental illness breaks down into the eight forms of the personality disorders, eight forms of the neuroses, and twenty forms each for the mood disorders and schizophrenia: as partially depicted in the schematic diagram below:

Narcissistic Personality >>> Obsession Neurosis
Confabulatory Euphoria >>> Confab. Paraphrenia
Enthusiastic Euphoria >>> Proskinetic Catatonia
Non-Participatory Euphoria >>> Silly Hebephrenia

Borderline Personality >>> Phobia Neurosis
Suspicious Depression >>> Fantastic Paraphrenia

Self-Torturing Depression >>> Negativistic Catatonia
Non-Participatory Depression >>> Insipid Hebephrenia

Dependent Personality >>> Compulsion Neurosis
Pure Mania >>> Expansive Paraphrenia
Unproductive Euphoria >>> Parakinetic Catatonia
Hypochondriacal Euphoria >>> Eccentric Hebephrenia

Avoidant Personality >>> Anxiety Neurosis
Pure Melancholy >>> Incoherent Paraphrenia
Harried Depression >>> Affected Catatonia
Hypochondriacal Depression >>> Autistic Hebephrenia

The extensive terminology (for the psychoses) is in large part due to a pre-existing system of nomenclature pioneered by German clinician, Karl Leonhard. The nomenclature for the personality disorders and the neuroses is alternately specified within the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV). Indeed, this advanced degree of detail proves quite a revelation for those more at home with the American model of the psychoses, where manic-depressive disease and schizophrenia are generally treated as unitary entities. This enhanced range of detail, in turn, allows the current communicational approach to ultimately be proposed. In light of the probability of being impacted by mental illness at some time during one's lifetime (whether as a caregiver or a patient), this communicational approach to the mental disorders proves an extremely timely issue, and one holding considerable promise to those thusly afflicted.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING PUBLICATION

C. West Churchman's Legacy and Related Works.

We have just completed Volume # 1 of the Series entitled C. West Churchman's Legacy and Related Works. The publisher Kluwer-Springer, London and New York should publish it early 2005. The Editor of Volume 1 is Janet McIntyre-Mills from Adelaide, Australia. It is entitled "Rescuing the Enlightenment From Itself: Critical and Systemic Implications for Democracy."

The Second Volume, whose editors are Janet McIntyre-Mills with John P. van Gigch is entitled "Skepticism and Socratic Wisdom in Modern Holistic Thinking," is in production now and we are still accepting Mss. The content of these volumes is quite broad and does not have to be based exclusively on Churchman's work. You can take a contemporary topic and use Churchman's ideas to show how they have shaped the future of systems thinking.

Volume # 3 is in the queue and is also completed. We are open for suggestions and ideas for later articles and volumes.

Please contact one of the above at: janet.mcintyre@flinders.edu.au OR vang@sonic.net