

## **WELCOME**

Welcome to the March/April i2S News which provides updates on resources added to the Integration and Implementation Sciences website (<http://i2s.anu.edu.au>), as well as a list of blog posts published on the Integration and Implementation Insights (i2Insights) blog (<http://i2insights.org>).

You may recall from the January/February 2018 News that we've changed the way we present conferences. They now have a permanent presence on the i2S website: see <http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/conferences>. They are still presented in the six categories below, and here we also report the number of conferences in each category in brackets:

- Interdisciplinarity, transdisciplinarity and action research methods (6)
- Systems, modelling and simulation (34)
- Team science and project management (3)
- Uncertainty, risk and decision making (8)
- Bridging the gap from research to policy and practice (8)
- Other (including sustainability science) (9)

We've now added all the conferences we know about to this list and we'd be pleased to hear about any we've missed. Selected conferences and relevant one-off conferences are featured in each News.

Gabriele Bammer and Peter Deane

## **CONTENTS**

### **Featured Tool**

- Context: A Conceptual Framework for Understanding Political Circumstances

### **Latest i2Insights Blog Posts**

- There have been 12 new contributions since the last I2S News

### **Featured Journal**

- Journal of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis

### **Featured Professional Association**

- World Organisation of Systems and Cybernetics

### **Featured Conferences**

- 10<sup>th</sup> Action Learning Action Research and 14<sup>th</sup> Participatory Action Research World Congress
- 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies
- 62<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the International Society for the Systems Sciences
- 36<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the System Dynamics Society
- Knowledge Mobilisation Conference 2018
- Global Evidence and Implementation Summit 2018
- Leverage Points 2019 International Conference

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- Aims and how to contribute, subscribe and un-subscribe

## FEATURED TOOL

### Context: A Conceptual Framework for Understanding Political Circumstances

#### Purpose:

- To enhance the use of evidence in government policy making, by providing a systematic approach to understanding key dimensions of strategic decision-making in government institutions.

#### Description:

The framework provides six main dimensions of political context:

1. *macro-context*: the overarching forces (structural and circumstantial) at the national level that establish the “bigger picture” in which policy is made.
2. *intra- and inter-relationships with state and non-state agents*: although part of macro-context, these warrant special mention. They are the internal relationships between the public institution and other related government agencies and the interaction with relevant users and producers of knowledge who can affect or be affected by policy design and implementation.
3. *culture*: the set of shared basic assumptions learned by a group.
4. *organizational capacity*: the ability of an organization to use its resources (human and legal) to perform.
5. *management and processes*: ongoing processes and policies, and how routine decisions are made.
6. *core resources*: include budget, time, infrastructure and technology.

Each of the above dimensions are further divided into sub-dimensions, and these can be further explored at: <http://www.politicsandideas.org/contextmatters/>.

#### References:

- Weyrauch, V., Echt, L. and Suliman, S. (2016). *Knowledge into policy: Going beyond 'Context matters'*. Politics & Ideas and the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications. Report, May 2016. Online: [http://www.politicsandideas.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Going-beyond-context-matters-Framework\\_PI.compressed.pdf](http://www.politicsandideas.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Going-beyond-context-matters-Framework_PI.compressed.pdf) (PDF 1.9MB)
- Weyrauch, V., Echt, L. and Suliman, S. (2016). *Starting from context: How to make strategic decisions to promote a better interaction between knowledge and policy*. Politics & Ideas and the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications. Report, July 2016. Online: [http://www.politicsandideas.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Going-beyond-context-matters-Practical-paper\\_PI.compressed.pdf](http://www.politicsandideas.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Going-beyond-context-matters-Practical-paper_PI.compressed.pdf) (PDF 1.7MB)
- Politics & Ideas. (2016). *Knowledge into context: A framework to understand context*. Online: <http://www.politicsandideas.org/contextmatters/>
- Echt, L. and Weyrauch, V. (2017). *Going beyond 'context matters': A lens to bridge knowledge and policy*. Online: <https://i2insights.org/2017/04/25/how-context-matters/>

Additional tools can be found at: <http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/tools>

## LATEST i2INSIGHTS BLOG POSTS

The [i2Insights blog](#) has recently published the following posts:

### **How is transformative knowledge 'co-produced'?**

by Andy Stirling, Adrian Ely and Fiona Marshall

<http://i2insights.org/2018/04/03/co-producing-transformative-knowledge/>

### **Interdisciplinarity and evil - Understanding incommensurability**

by J. Britt Holbrook

<http://i2insights.org/2018/03/27/incommensurability-in-interdisciplinarity/>

### **Lessons from "real-world laboratories" about transdisciplinary projects, transformative research and participation**

by Antonietta Di Giulio and Rico Defila

<https://i2insights.org/2018/03/22/lessons-from-real-world-laboratories/>

### **Doing a transdisciplinary PhD? Four tips to convince the examiners about your data**

by Jane Palmer, Dena Fam, Tanzi Smith and Jenny Kent

<http://i2insights.org/2018/03/20/transdisciplinary-phd-data/>

### **Is it legitimate for transdisciplinary research to set out to change society?**

by Antonietta Di Giulio and Rico Defila

<https://i2insights.org/2018/03/15/transdisciplinary-research-and-social-change/>

### **Non-certified experts, stakeholders, practitioners... What participants are called defines transdisciplinarity**

by Antonietta Di Giulio and Rico Defila

<https://i2insights.org/2018/03/13/transdisciplinarity-participants/>

### **Using the concept of risk for transdisciplinary assessment**

by Greg Schreiner

<https://i2insights.org/2018/03/06/transdisciplinary-assessment-using-risk/>

### **Ten essentials for more impactful and integrated research on transformations**

by Ioan Fazey

<http://i2insights.org/2018/02/27/transformations-research-essentials/>

### **Five principles of holistic science communication**

by Suzi Spitzer

<http://i2insights.org/2018/02/20/science-communication-principles/>

### **CoNavigator: Hands-on interdisciplinary problem solving**

by Katrine Lindvig, Line Hillersdal and David Earle

<https://i2insights.org/2018/02/13/conavigator-for-interdisciplinarity/>

## Two types of interdisciplinary scholarship

by Andi Hess

<http://i2insights.org/2018/02/06/two-types-of-interdisciplinarity/>

## Overcoming a paradox? Preparing students for transdisciplinary environments

by Machiel Keestra

<http://i2insights.org/2018/01/30/preparing-transdisciplinary-students/>

## FEATURED JOURNAL

### Journal of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis

The *Journal of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis* "...provides an international forum for the presentation and discussion of all aspects of research, application and evaluation of multi-criteria decision analysis, and publishes material from a variety of disciplines and all schools of thought".

Issues addressed include mathematical, theoretical, and behavioural aspects of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA)/ Multi-Criteria Decision Making (MCDM), as well as relevant case studies, applications and evaluation of techniques and methodologies. Specific topic areas covered include:

- "Analytic hierarchy/ network processes
- Evolutionary multiobjective optimization
- Fuzzy sets and models for Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis
- Integrated methods and philosophy of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis
- Multiobjective optimization and goal programming
- Outranking
- Risk and uncertainty in Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis
- Rule-based methods and artificial intelligence
- Value and utility models".

The journal is supported by the *International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making* (MCDM).

- Website:
  - <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10991360>

Additional journals can be found at: <http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/journals>

## FEATURED PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

### World Organisation of Systems and Cybernetics (WOSC)

The *World Organisation of Systems and Cybernetics* (WOSC) "is an association of individuals and organisations promoting systems thinking and cybernetics worldwide."

The aims of the organisation are:

- "To promote and foster global and local collaboration of parties interested in systems and cybernetics, aiming at the inclusion of representatives from all parts of the world
- To co-operate with other organisations in matters related to systems thinking and cybernetics

- To organise triennial congresses in different parts of the world
- To make apparent the effectiveness of methods of systems and cybernetics in all areas of social systems and management, modern technology and the sciences in general
- To promote educational programs devoted to the distribution of knowledge and information of systems and cybernetics."

The World Organisation of Systems and Cybernetics is a membership based organisation, and "through the Norbert Wiener Institute WOSC supports the publication by its members of reports, projects, papers and communications in general. These activities are enabled by WOSC's official journal, its website and other networking tools. The Institute also supports activities at WOSC's congresses and other suitable educational and research and development meetings".

The organisation was launched in 1969.

- **Website:**
  - <http://wosc.co/>

**Additional professional associations and networks can be found at:**  
[http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/associations\\_networks](http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/associations_networks)

## FEATURED CONFERENCES

### Featured conferences in interdisciplinarity, transdisciplinarity and action research methods

#### **Action Learning Action Research Association (ALARA) 10<sup>th</sup> Action Learning Action Research and 14<sup>th</sup> Participatory Action Research World Congress: The Action Learning and Action Research Legacy for Transforming Social Change**

"ALARA is a global network of programs, institutions, professionals, and people interested in using Action Learning and Action Research to generate collaborative learning, training, research, and action to advance social change and transform workplaces, schools, colleges, universities, communities, voluntary organizations, governments and businesses".

This conference will have five streams, concentrating on the following issues:

- Experiences of individuals: "...the legacy for transforming social change based on the accounts of emerging models of Action Learning/Action Research shaping the experiences of individuals"
- Experiences of professionals: "...the anecdotal significance of transformational change that supports the development of stakeholders, practitioners, citizens, and the wider ecology"
- Communities' developments: "...the legacy of social and community development for transformational change initiatives"
- Organizational Advancements: "...the systemic legacy for transforming social change that supports the flourishing of stakeholders, citizens, organizations/institutions, education, higher education administration, technological innovations, and the wider ecology"
- Global Initiatives: "...building our global legacy to transform our world of practice that supports the flourishing of knowledge democracy, democratic governance, and human rights".

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The conference will be held in Northfield, Vermont, United States of America from June 17-20, 2018.

- For further details see:
  - <https://alarassociation.org/?q=about-us/conferences-and-congresses/congresses/ALARA-world-congress-2018>
  - <http://www.cvent.com/events/alara-world-congress-2018/event-summary-42ed3a41a8a24ca4add0709265e06fea.aspx>

## **40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies**

The topic of the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies 2018 conference “is ‘Inter/diversities’: Intersecting Race, Gender, Class, Abilities, Theories and Disciplines... This emergent concept, ‘Inter/diversities’, ranges from going beyond an ‘either/or’ approach to an awareness of multiple definitions of ‘diversity’ at work coinciding simultaneously. This developing term signifies interest in integrating diverse disciplinary insights - a significant feature of interdisciplinary work - while at the same time being aware of and embracing the diversity among people and/or cultures with unique world views”.

The conference will be held in Detroit, Michigan, United States of America from October 11-13, 2018.

- For further details see:
  - <https://s.wayne.edu/ais/>

## **Featured conferences in systems, modelling and simulation**

### **62<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the International Society for the Systems Sciences: Innovation and Optimization in Nature and Design**

The International Society for the Systems Sciences 2018 conference will “...explore foundational discoveries about the nature of complex systems which are now arising from research in systems disciplines such as System Biology, Systems Medicine, Systems Psychology, Systems Economics, Complexity Science and General Systems Research.”

“Over the last few decades many academic fields have developed systems specializations in order to investigate the systemic aspects of their subject areas, and in these areas there is a search for systems concepts and principles under such notions as design principles, organizing principles, channelling functions, and optimality principles”... The conference “will bring together these specialised strands of work, laying foundations for establishing the... general systems science that would enable us to design and optimize for elegant functionality and enduring value at any level of complexity”.

Topic areas covered include:

- The systems science landscape
- System principles in engineering and practice
- System principles in the sciences
- System principles in society and culture
- Feedback, integration and next steps

Abstract submission deadline is May 1, 2018.

The conference will be held in Corvallis, Oregon, United States of America from July 22-27, 2018.

- For further details see:
  - [http://iss.org/world/ISSS2018\\_Corvallis](http://iss.org/world/ISSS2018_Corvallis)

## **36<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the System Dynamics Society**

The System Dynamics Society conference will focus on the "...impacts of accumulation, feedback, and time delays while systematically evaluating policies for sustainable business practices, resource use, education, health care, and prosperity... The conference program consists of invited and contributed sessions and workshops demonstrating the state of the art in the theory and application of System Dynamics... including applications of the methodology to solve real-world problems, new technical and software developments, and productive integration of complementary methodologies. A highlight of the conference program is the Model Expo, where participants get a chance to talk with others about how their models work, and get important feedback".

The conference will be held in Reykjavik, Iceland from August 6-10, 2018.

- For further details see:
  - <https://www.systemdynamics.org/reykjav-k-conference-2018>

## **Featured conferences in bridging the gap from research to policy and practice**

### **Knowledge Mobilisation Conference 2018: New Approaches to Knowledge Mobilisation**

Run by the Sax Institute, the conference emphasises that "[r]esearch can make an important contribution to effective decisions about policies, programs and service delivery. This conference takes a broad approach to research and recognises that research is undertaken by universities, by policy and program agencies and using co-production approaches.

The conference will explore all aspects of knowledge mobilisation and will consider:

- Approaches to building the capacity of agencies to use the best available evidence
- Methods for co-production
- Better methods for more rigorous and useful evaluations of policy
- Measuring research use and impact

The closing date for abstract submission is 24 April, 2018.

The conference will be held in Sydney, Australia from July 4-5, 2018.

- For further details see:
  - <http://knowledgemobilisationconference.com/>

### **Global Evidence and Implementation Summit 2018: Evidence, Synthesis and Implementation: Creating Impact for Stronger Communities Around the World**

"The summit will explore the evidence for designing, implementing and reviewing effective programs and policies... GEIS 2018 will share the latest evidence synthesis and implementation

science research and practice strategies for improving the lives of individuals, families and communities worldwide”.

There are five core sub-themes:

1. “Understanding what works
2. Achieving scale and sustainability
3. Methods for impact and implementation evaluation and synthesis
4. Using evidence for better policy, programs and practice
5. National and global cooperation and partnerships”

The closing date for abstract submission is 29 April, 2018.

The conference will be held in Melbourne, Australia from July 22-24, 2018.

- For further details see:
  - <https://www.geis2018.org/>

## Featured conference in other (including sustainability science)

### Leverage Points 2019: International Conference on Sustainability Research and Transformation

“This conference is inspired by the seminal essay by Donella Meadows *“Leverage Points Places to intervene in a system”*. In this work, born of frustration and a deep desire for a more effective change, Meadows highlighted a series of leverage points - places in complex systems where a small shift may lead to fundamental changes in the system as a whole - for sustainability transformations.

Inspired by Meadows’ work we seek to explore (in theory, methods and praxis) the deep leverage points that can lead to sustainability transformations. This conference will ask: how do we transform ourselves, our science, our institutions, our interventions and our societies for a better future? The conference is premised on three principles:

1. The importance of searching for places where interventions can lead to transformative change.
2. Open inquiry, exchange and co-learning across multiple theoretical, methodological and empirical research approaches focused on sustainability science and transformative change.
3. The need for reflection on modes of research and processes in sustainability research.

The conference will have a number of core themes:

- Re-structuring institutions for transformative change
- Re-connecting people and nature as a deep leverage point
- Re-thinking how we know and act in relation to sustainability transformations
- Systems thinking and complexity as tools for transformation
- Transformative research practices in sustainability science

In the spirit of Meadows’ work there will also be emergent themes dictated by inspiring research that falls outside the confines of the themes outlined above.

The closing date for abstract submission is 30 June, 2018.

The conference will be held in Lüneburg, Germany from February 6-8, 2019.



- For further details see:
  - <http://leveragepoints2019.leuphana.de/>

**Additional conference information can be found at:**

<http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/conferences>

## ABOUT i2S NEWS

The aim of this newsletter is to provide regular (bi-monthly) updates about new resources added to the Integration and Implementation Sciences website (<http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources>). These resources are useful for researchers interested in Integration and Implementation Sciences (i2S), which underpins the investigation and tackling of complex real world problems, by:

- Synthesizing knowledge from different disciplines and stakeholders,
- Understanding and managing diverse unknowns, and
- Providing integrated research support for policy and practice change.

In general, each issue features tools (concepts and methods), case studies and/or approaches relevant to i2S - either a useful compilation or one or more examples of note. We also provide information about journals, professional associations & networks and conferences where researchers can learn from others, report their findings and interact with like-minded peers. The newsletter also reports on discussions in the LinkedIn group "Global Network for Research Integration and Implementation":

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4888295/> (when these occur) and new entries on the Integration and Implementation Insights blog: <http://I2Insights.org>.

I2S News is archived at: <http://i2s.anu.edu.au/what-i2s/i2s-publications/i2s-news>.

Useful links:

- i2S website: <http://i2s.anu.edu.au>
- i2S on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/i2sTalks>
- LinkedIn group "Global Network for Research Integration and Implementation":  
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4888295/>
- i2Insights blog: <http://I2Insights.org>

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