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WELCOME

In this newsletter we report on the first meeting of the new ANU Network on “Coping with Imprecise Probabilities, Immeasurable Risks and Rude Surprises”. See also a new publication by Kate Sherren and colleagues. Please don’t be shy about sending us news about publications relevant to research integration and implementation.

Gabriele Bammer and Peter Deane

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ANU Integration Network Member Publications

- Sherren, K., Klovdahl, A. S., Robin, L., Butler, L., & Dovers, S. (2009). Collaborative research on sustainability: Myths and conundrums of interdisciplinary departments. *Journal of Research Practice*, 5 (1), Article M1.

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NEWS & EVENTS

REPORT: 23 September 2009, 4.30-6pm, The ANU Integration Network, the Centre for Policy Innovation and the Department of Applied Mathematics co-hosted the first meeting of a new ANU Network on “Coping with Imprecise Probabilities, Immeasurable Risks and Rude Surprises”.

Chaired by Deputy Vice Chancellor Lawrence Cram, this meeting drew together eleven people from across campus interested in unknowns, uncertainties and risks. Attendees brought perspectives from diverse areas including the interactions of science, policy and innovation, philosophy of probability, policing and security, applied mathematics, climate adaptation and water allocation, sociology, and complexity. The value of a cross-disciplinary, cross-campus group focused on these issues was

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agreed. The group intends to meet again to explore possible activities, starting with cross-campus seminars, conferences and workshops. Future meetings will be announced in the ANU Integration News and through the "Coping with Imprecise Probabilities, Immeasurable Risks and Rude Surprises" network. For more information go to http://mailman.anu.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/imprecise_risks.

New Conference Announcements

- 30 May–1 June 2010 - *2nd Call For Papers*: The 16th Annual International Sustainable Development Research Conference 2010. The Kadoorie Institute of the University of Hong Kong, in association with the International Sustainable Development Research Society, will be organizing this international conference between 30 May – 1 June, 2010 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong (<http://www.kadinst.hku.hk/sdconf10/indexin.html> or <http://www.isdrs.org/>)

Upcoming Conference Reminders

- 9-12 November 2009, Australasia-Pacific Extension Network 5th International Conference, "Shaping Change in Communities - Dimensions of Excellence", Abbey Beach Resort, Busselton, Australia (<http://www.apen.org.au/default.asp?PageID=52>)
- 18-20 November 2009, 8th International Transformative Learning Conference, Bermuda (<http://transformativelearningbermuda.com/>)
- 19-21 November 2009, td-conference 2009: Integration in Inter- and Trans-disciplinary Research, Berne, Switzerland (<http://www.transdisciplinarity.ch/e/Conference/international/2009/>)
- 1 December 2009, Risk and Uncertainty in Environmental Management: A one day symposium, Canberra, Australia (<http://www.tasaconference2009.com/environday.html>)
- 5-8 January 2010, 43rd Hawai'i International Conference on Systems Sciences, Koloa, Hawai'i, USA (http://www.hicss.hawaii.edu/hicss_43/apahome43.htm)
- 25-29 April 2010, Environmental Decisions: Risks and Uncertainties, Monte Verita, Switzerland (<http://www.ied.ethz.ch/CEDRU/index>)

FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowships at Quadrant (Minneapolis, USA): A Program to Promote Interdisciplinary Publication and Research

"The University of Minnesota Press in partnership with the Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Minnesota has been awarded a grant of \$672,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to launch Quadrant, a program to promote interdisciplinary publication and research. Quadrant marks the beginning of a new model for Press-University partnerships designed to bring scholars in the humanities and social sciences into dialogue with those in the sciences and professional schools...

Scholars pursuing interdisciplinary work are invited to apply for a semester-long Quadrant Fellowship at the University of Minnesota to be held in academic year 2010-2011. Quadrant's research and

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publishing collaboratives cover Design, Architecture, and Culture; Environment, Culture, and Sustainability; Global Cultures; and Health and Society.”

Applications are due by November 20, 2009. Fellows will receive a stipend of up to \$30,000, depending on rank and experience.

Website: <http://www.ias.umn.edu/quadrantapply.php>

ANU INTEGRATION NETWORK MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

This feature of the ANU Integration News highlights publications by ANU Integration Network members. We encourage members to advise us of publications (books, articles, book chapters, etc.) they have authored that may be of interest to other members. We're interested in both new and older publications. Please send citations, abstracts and web URLs where appropriate, to Peter Deane (ra.iis@anu.edu.au or peter.deane@anu.edu.au) and we will highlight those publications most relevant to the ANU Integration Network community.

Sherren, K., Klovdahl, A. S., Robin, L., Butler, L., & Dovers, S. (2009). Collaborative research on sustainability: Myths and conundrums of interdisciplinary departments.

Journal of Research Practice, 5 (1), Article M1. Retrieved [29.10.2009], from <http://jrp.icaap.org/index.php/jrp/article/view/163/167>.

“Establishing interdisciplinary academic departments has been a common response to the challenge of addressing complex problems. However, the assumptions that guide the formation of such departments are rarely questioned. Additionally, the designers and managers of interdisciplinary academic departments in any field of endeavour struggle to set an organisational climate appropriate to the diversity of their members. This article presents a preliminary analysis of collaborative dynamics within two interdisciplinary university departments in Australia focused on sustainability. Social network diagrams and metrics of coauthorship and cosupervision are analysed qualitatively. A “vicarious interdisciplinarity” was identified among key academics working narrowly in order to earn the resources that allow them to support others working interdisciplinarily. Those supported in this way appear to benefit from the esteem and nonredundant collaborative connections their mentors provide via this strategy, but they experience uncertainty about their own career opportunities in similar settings. This article thus unearths a conundrum of succession for interdisciplinary academic environments, and suggests that simple colocation of diverse academic stars is an inadequate strategy to achieve effective intradepartmental collaboration”.

Kate Sherren is a Research Fellow in the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society

Alden Klovdahl is a lecturer in the ANU School of Social Sciences

Libby Robin is a Senior Fellow in the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society

Linda Butler was with the Research Evaluation and Policy Project, ANU Research School of Social Sciences

Steve Dovers is Director of the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society

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JOURNAL PROFILE

Systemic Practice and Action Research (SPAR)

"Systemic Practice and Action Research (SPAR) is dedicated to critical systems thinking and its applications and building an understanding of the complexities of modern society. The journal examines the effects of technological advancement, including older technologies that continue to have profound effects on society today. Furthermore, the journal contributes to a rethinking of science as well as to the reflective application of systemic practice and action research in all types of organizational and social settings.

A forum that fosters new thinking about management and systems research, SPAR also encourages traditional research methods that have remained effective. Contributions therefore draw upon all forms of investigation and reasoning, including deductionism, empiricism, inductionism, and metaphor. Readers will find works of original research, case studies, reflections on experience, and short research notes."

* Website: <http://www.springerlink.com/content/1094-429X>

* Impact Factor: 0.288 (2008)

ABOUT ANU INTEGRATION NEWS

This newsletter aims to share updates on events, visitors, activities, opportunities and resources among ANU staff and students with an interest in research integration (or inter- or trans-disciplinarity).

Back issues are available at www.anu.edu.au/iisn. To contribute material or to subscribe or unsubscribe from the newsletter, please contact Peter Deane at ra.iis@anu.edu.au or peter.deane@anu.edu.au.