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WELCOME

The ANU Integration Network meeting on the 28th of August generated many ideas for strategies to encourage and improve cross-disciplinary research at ANU. Please see Part 2 of our 3-part report on this meeting below under News & Events.

We invite you to join us for the next meeting of the ANU Integration Network on Thursday, 6 November 2008. This meeting is being organised by the Student Group of the ANU Integration Network and will involve discussions with successful cross-disciplinary researchers (confirmed are Pascal Perez of the Resource Management in the Asia-Pacific Program, Howard Morphy, Director of the Research School of the Humanities, and Lachlan Newham of the Integrated Catchment Assessment and Management Centre) who will give an overview of their experiences. Refreshments will be available. We hope you can join us from 4-5.30p in the Seminar Room of the Ian Ross Building.

Gabriele Bammer and Caryn Anderson

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NEWS & EVENTS

Thursday, 6 November 2008, 4-5.30p, ANU Integration Network Meeting: Integration in Action – A Discussion Panel and Case Studies (organized by the ANU Integration Network Student Group)

LOCATION: Seminar Room, Ian Ross Building (across from Purple Pickle Café, with sculpture over doorway: <http://campusmap.anu.edu.au/displaybldg.asp?no=31>; up circular stairway, room is over entranceway).

The next meeting of the Integration Network will involve discussions with successful cross-disciplinary researchers (confirmed are Pascal Perez of the Resource Management in the Asia-Pacific Program, Howard Morphy, Director of the Research School of the Humanities, and Lachlan Newham of the Integrated Catchment Assessment and Management Centre) who will give an overview of their experiences using a specific integration framework. Specifically, they will describe and analyse their experiences by answering these 6 questions:

1. What is/was the integration aiming to achieve and who is intended to benefit?
2. What is/was being integrated?
3. Who is/was doing the integration?
4. How is/was the integration being undertaken?
5. What is/was the context for the integration?
6. What is/was the outcome of the integration?

This event is partially supported by a grant from the Higher Degree by Research Innovation Fund of the Office of the Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University.

Friday, 24 October 2008, 3.30-5p, Supervising Cross-Disciplinary PhD Research: A meeting for supervisors

LOCATION: Seminar Room, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Building 62 (<http://campusmap.anu.edu.au/displaybldg.asp?no=62>)

This is a meeting of ANU supervisors and advisors of PhD students undertaking cross-disciplinary, problem-based research to discuss the intellectual challenges encountered when supervising cross-disciplinary research and how coursework might assist with those. As previously reported in the ANU Integration News, a recent introductory course on cross-disciplinary research integration for PhD students received very positive evaluation and many participants indicated that they would like to explore the ideas further in additional courses and engage more actively with other cross-disciplinary student researchers. In developing further courses we would also like to take into consideration the views and experiences of supervisors.

All those who supervise or advise PhD students are welcome.

This event is partially supported by a grant from the Higher Degree by Research Innovation Fund of the Office of the Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University.

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REPORT: Suggestions for Improving Research Integration at ANU (Part 2 of a 3-part report on the 28 August 2008 ANU Integration Network Meeting with presenter Professor Stephen Dovers of the Fenner School of Environment and Society)

On the 28th of August 2008, the ANU Integration Network met for a conversation about strategies to encourage and improve cross-disciplinary research at ANU. The conversation was led by Steve Dovers, who provided suggestions in three areas: Incentives, Skills & Guidance, and Teaching and Learning. The participants engaged in discussion on these issues and contributed further suggestions. Over the September, October and November issues of the ANU Integration News we will highlight the strategies discussed. The following ideas were proposed in the area of Teaching and Learning:

- Improving cross-College permeability:
 - clear instruction and encouragement
 - survey to identify impediments
 - clarity in sharing income
 - analyse and advertise successes
- Further develop the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies. While this is now available in the area of Sustainability, other options have not been put forward, as was originally expected.
- Formal integrative methods courses, especially targeted at Honours students and onwards. Examples (4 new courses):
 - ENVS3036 – Integrative Research Methods (Fenner , <http://studyat.anu.edu.au/courses/ENVS3036/details.html>)
 - POPH8800 – Research Integration: Knowledge Synthesis (NCEPH, <http://studyat.anu.edu.au/courses/POPH8800/details.html>)
 - POPH8801 – Research Integration: Managing Uncertainty (NCEPH, <http://studyat.anu.edu.au/courses/POPH8801/details.html>)
 - POPH8802 – Research Integration: Research Informing Policy and Practice (NCEPH, <http://studyat.anu.edu.au/courses/POPH8802/details.html>)
- Should every area at ANU deliver an introductory course for non-specialist students? How many do now?
- Should all undergraduates do 1-2 such courses?
- Cross-Disciplinary Undergraduate Group Projects [described in the September 2008 issue of the ANU Integration news: <http://www.anu.edu.au/iisn/index.php?action=newsletters>]

Readers interested in actively pursuing any of these ideas are encouraged to contact Caryn Anderson at caryn.anderson@anu.edu.au. The next issue will cover suggestions in the area of Skills & Guidance.

Professor Stephen Dovers Appointed New Director of The Fenner School of Environment and Society

Congratulations to Steve Dovers on his new appointment. Steve has been an active member of the ANU Integration Network and a strong advocate of integrated approaches to cross-disciplinary research for many years. As noted above, he was the featured speaker at the ANU Integration Network meeting on the 28th of September 2008. He will take up his new appointment at the Fenner School in March 2009.

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Upcoming Conference Reminders

- 14 November 2008, Analysing Collaborative and Deliberative Forms of Governance, Canberra, Australia (<http://deliberativedemocracy.anu.edu.au/>)
- 27-28 November 2008, Transdisciplinarity Conference 2008: Inter- and Transdisciplinary Problem Framing, Zurich, Switzerland (<http://www.transdisciplinarity.ch/newsmail/detail.php?id=1098>)
- 1-3 December 2008, ANZSYS 2008, 14th International Australian and New Zealand Systems Conference, Perth, Australia (<http://scissec.scis.ecu.edu.au/anzsys08/>)
- 7-10 December 2008, 28th Society for Risk Analysis 2008 Annual Meeting, Boston, USA (http://www.sra.org/events_2008_meeting.php)
- 29 June – 3 July 2009, International Conference on Human Ecology, Society for Human Ecology, Manchester, UK (<http://www.societyforhumanecology.org/Manchester%20Announcement.pdf>)
- 8-11 July 2009, Fourth International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Athens, Greece (<http://i09.cgpublisher.com/>)
- 12-17 July 2009, International Society for the Systems Sciences, Brisbane, Australia (<http://www.iss.org/world/en/brisbane-2009>)

JOBS & OPPORTUNITIES

Liaison Officer, Visiting Researcher Programs, NCEPH, The Australian National University (part-time)

Part-time Liaison Officer until June 12, 2009 (full-time mid-April-May) to coordinate visiting researcher programs, particularly a Fellowship Program for researchers from Asia-Pacific countries.

Research fellows from Asia-Pacific countries will attend a six week program at ANU to enhance skills for providing research advice to policy makers in the areas of security, public health, and environmental change. The Liaison Officer will facilitate the smooth execution of this program, including coordination of travel, visas, and accommodation, as well as managing logistics for delivering program activities. The Officer will communicate regularly with the fellows and other program participants. The Officer will work with ANU areas, government agencies, and overseas organisations, and will resolve challenges as necessary. In addition the Officer will assist with the coordination of other events, as required. The position is 14 hrs per week until 12 June 2009, and full-time (35 hrs) between 14 April and 29 May. Candidates who are self-motivated, professional, customer-service-focused and oriented to problem-solving are encouraged to apply. Experience with Asia-Pacific countries and/or relevant research is a plus.

Apply online: <http://jobs.anu.edu.au/PositionDetail.aspx?p=302>

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JOURNAL PROFILE

Interdisciplinary Science Reviews

"ISR's ambition: to set contemporary and historical developments in the sciences and technology into their wider social and cultural context and to illuminate their interrelations with the humanities and arts. ISR seeks out contributions that measure up to the highest excellence in scholarship but that also speak to an audience of intelligent non-specialists. It actively explores the differing trajectories of the disciplines and practices in its purview, to clarify what each is attempting to do in its own terms, so that constructive dialogue across them is strengthened. It focuses whenever possible on conceptual bridge-building and collaborative research that nevertheless respect disciplinary variation. ISR features thematic issues on broad topics attractive across the disciplines and publishes special issues derived from wide-ranging interdisciplinary colloquia and conferences."

Recent issues focus on:

- Philosophy in and for engineering (September 2008)
- Climate change: interdisciplinary approaches (March 2008)
- Perspectives on water, environment and society (September 2007)
- Working at the interface: physics meets biology (June 2007)

Forthcoming issues will focus on:

- Aesthetics and the neurosciences (December 2008)
- Today and tomorrow: science and technology in the early twentieth century
- Continuous access to cultural heritage: multidisciplinary collaborative research between computer science and heritage studies

* Website: <http://www.maney.co.uk/search?fwaction=show&fwid=168>

* Impact factor: 0.433 (2006)

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

Society for Human Ecology

"**The Society for Human Ecology (SHE)** is an international interdisciplinary professional society that promotes the use of an ecological perspective in research, education, and application. **SHE's goals are to:**

- Provide a forum through which scientists, scholars, educators, and practitioners may exchange ideas and information.
- Promote the advancement of an ecological perspective in interdisciplinary studies and practice.
- Identify problems, discover their origins, examine possible solutions and their implications, and then make recommendations for implementing those solutions.
- Look ahead to the consequences of human action on our social, natural, and built environments.

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- Build cooperative arrangements among human ecology programs and organizations throughout the world.
- Facilitate the exchange of this information throughout an international network of individuals interested in human ecology.

* Website: <http://www.societyforhumanecology.org/>

* Journal: Human Ecology Review; Impact Factor: 1.254 (2007)

* Conference: Annual and periodic regional conferences

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). In addition to current information, each issue will also highlight a relevant journal and professional society.

Our aim for 2008 is to distribute the newsletter monthly. Back issues are available at www.anu.edu.au/iisn. To contribute material or to subscribe or unsubscribe from the newsletter, please contact Caryn Anderson at caryn.anderson@anu.edu.au.