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WELCOME

The most recent meeting of the ANU Integration Network, organised by the Student Group on Thursday, 6 November 2008, was a fascinating comparative exploration of the diverse ways integration plays out in cross-disciplinary research. Please see the report under News & Events.

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 3 of our 3-part report on this meeting below under News & Events.

The ANU Integration News will suspend publication over the summer holidays and will resume in early 2009. Please send items of interest to Caryn Anderson (caryn.anderson@anu.edu.au).

Best wishes for a joyous holiday season,
Gabriele Bammer and Caryn Anderson

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NEWS & EVENTS

15 December 2008, 11a-12p, Facilitating Public Engagement Processes and Mediating Multi-Stakeholder Disputes: A Conversation with Jody Erikson

The Australian Centre for Dialogue invites you to an informal presentation by Jody Erikson about lessons learned from her facilitation and mediation experiences. Examples will be drawn mainly from the environmental field, but the material will be relevant for anyone dealing with public policy, public engagement and public dispute resolution processes. Jody is an Associate of the Keystone Center for Science and Public Policy in the US (<http://www.keystone.org/spp/>).

Jody has helped stakeholders resolve many controversial or difficult matters in a range of subject areas including environmental issues related to water quality, water rights, transportation, mining, geothermal energy and hazardous waste disposal. She has also facilitated public health related processes, like planning for pandemic outbreak of influenza and prioritization of initial vaccines, and has conducted trainings in facilitation and public engagement processes for staff at a range of government agencies.

The event will be held at the Australian National University in the Bob Douglas Lecture Theatre at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (Building 62a: <http://campusmap.anu.edu.au/largemap.asp>). To RSVP, and to request further information, please contact Caryn Anderson (caryn.anderson@anu.edu.au, 02.6125.5621).

REPORT: Thursday, 6 November 2008, 4-5.30p, ANU Integration Network Meeting: Integration in Action – A Discussion Panel and Case Studies

The third ANU Integration Network Meeting for 2008 featured a panel of speakers giving case-studies of their experiences with integrative and cross-disciplinary research. Specifically, the panelists were asked to describe their experiences using a framework of 6 key questions that help to focus on the 'What', 'Who', 'How' and 'Why' of integrative research. Many thanks to the Student Group of the ANU Integration Network for organising this meeting.

Professor Howard Morphy from the Research School of Humanities started off giving fascinating insight into an ARC Linkage project conducted with the Northern Territory Land Council. Combining the expertise of anthropologists, geologists, linguists, historians and geographers, this project was able to establish evidence of continuous custodianship of inter-tidal zones in coastal Arnhem Land stretching back 3000 years, which then formed the basis of a landmark native-title decision. Howard demonstrated the importance of collaborations, as well as serendipity in providing key evidence.

Next, **Dr Lachlan Newham** from the Fenner School of Environment and Society spoke about his research on river management and practice change in the Ben Chifley catchment area near Bathurst, NSW. Lachlan indicated that a key element of the integration process was developing a shared nomenclature among all the researchers and key stakeholders. Lachlan spoke about the challenges of working on long-term projects with agencies that regularly change structures and personnel. In particular, he noted the importance of finding local 'champions' to help establish and maintain

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relationships between researchers and key stakeholders throughout such changes. The champions were essential for improving the ability of the researchers to access and integrate all the relevant information and facilitating better acceptance of results by the decision makers.

Finally, **Associate Professor Pascal Perez** from the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies spoke about a stakeholder engagement project on the Pacific Atoll of Tarawa (part of the Republic of Kiribati) designed to establish a collaborative model for the management of Tarawa's limited groundwater supplies. The methodology involved collecting and analysing viewpoints from a variety of key stakeholders, developing these into a computer-assisted role-playing game that simulated resource conflicts, and engaging the stakeholders directly in the game to help with the negotiation of solutions. Pascal demonstrated that even though the integration was successful, leading to community consensus, the project was not, as the government decided to act without waiting for the findings.

This event was 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.

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

Research student supervisors from four colleges (College of Engineering & Computer Science, College of Asia & The Pacific, College of Arts & Social Sciences, and College of Medicine, Biology and Environment) gathered to discuss the challenges of supervising PhD students undertaking cross-disciplinary, problem-based research. There was fruitful and stimulating discussion about both institutional and intellectual barriers. Most supervisors indicated that they were fairly comfortable with managing integration issues themselves but that challenges emerged when other supervisors or examiners were not open to the approach. It was argued that the integration aspect of a cross-disciplinary degree ought to be examined/evaluated alongside the traditional examination which focuses on each discipline involved. This generated agreement and a lively discussion on how to establish criteria for evaluating integration. Ideas included assessing how appropriately each discipline was used, how well they were used, and the total quality of the final product. Further meetings will be held in 2009 – watch ANU Integration News for details.

This event was 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.

REPORT: Suggestions for Improving Research Integration at ANU (Part 3 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 & Learning. The participants discussed these issues and contributed further suggestions. Over the September, October and November issues of the ANU Integration News we are highlighting the strategies discussed. The following ideas were proposed in the area of Skills & Guidance:

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- Publishing – provide guidance on high impact journals that welcome or accept interdisciplinary work. *(NB: relevant journal information is provided in each issue of this newsletter, as well as at <http://www.anu.edu.au/iisn/>)*
- Funding – provide guidance on external funding for integrative research (sources, local mentors, and specific information on factors to enhance success)
- Consultation – establish a register of faculty available for cross-disciplinary consultation
- University activism to (for example) improve the Australian Research Council grant system, and to ensure fairness in Excellence for Research in Australia initiative to monitor quality in university research.
- Skills development for panels of cross-disciplinary PhDs (not just for individual supervisors).
- Methods seminars to highlight/introduce the common methods in diverse disciplines
- Requiring cross-disciplinary students to outline an explicit publishing plan in their Proposal/Midterm processes to encourage feedback and guidance

Readers interested in actively pursuing any of these ideas are encouraged to contact Caryn Anderson at caryn.anderson@anu.edu.au.

New Conference Announcements

- 13-17 July 2009, MODSIM09 – International Congress on Modelling and Simulation, Cairns, Australia (<http://mssanz.org.au/modsim09/>)

The following session may be of particular interest to ANU Integration Network members:

H6. Participatory Modelling Processes for Multi-Level Interactions

Organisers: Pascal Perez (pascal.perez@anu.edu.au), Scott Heckbert (scott.heckbert@csiro.au)

Participatory modelling processes have long demonstrated their ability to mobilize and empower local stakeholders, build a common vision, and support collective management of resources. In this context, local communities and management agencies are the traditional targets of participatory modelling. Increasingly, participatory modelling has extended to broader and more complex interactions between multiple actors and institutions, intervening at different hierarchical levels, spatial scales and decisional dimensions. For example, participatory modelling can involve a range of participants, such as farmers, agronomists, extension officers, and government ministers. Participatory processes may need to take on different forms to suit the decision making processes present within, and across these groups. In many instances, direct up-scaling of local participatory processes have failed to deliver. Process legitimacy, participants' mandates, hidden agendas or modelling inadequacies are examples of problems faced by multi-level participatory modelling. The session convenors welcome papers describing both successful and failed experiences, papers focusing on theoretical reflections or papers proposing innovative frameworks for future use. Research domains of environment, public health, community development, political science, and others involving participatory modelling with multiple-levels of decision making are encouraged to contribute. This session is supported by COSNet's Agent-Based Modelling Theme and the Agent-Based Modelling Working Group (CABM) of CSIRO's Centre for Complex Systems Science.

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- 20-23 July 2009, ICOSE09 – 19th Annual International Symposium, International Council on Systems Engineering, Singapore (<http://www.incose.org/symp2009/>)
- 30 January – 1 February 2009, Inter- and transdisciplinary research on sustainable resource use - Experiences, Methods & Instruments, Leipzig, Germany (<http://www.ufz.de/index.php?en=17271>)

Upcoming Conference Reminders

- 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/brisbane-2009>)

JOB & OPPORTUNITIES

- **1 Post-doctoral Fellowship, 2 PhDs and a Project Manager** in the Innovation in Governance Research Group (Re-configuring policy practice, governance regimes and social-ecological transformation) at the Center for Technology and Society at Zentrum Technik und Gesellschaft (Germany): Deadline 5 December 2008 (http://www.ztg.tu-berlin.de/politikinnovationen_en.shtml).
- **Post-doctoral Fellowship** at the Committee on Global Thought at Columbia University (USA): Deadline 1 December 2008 (<http://cgt.columbia.edu/about/opportunities/>).
- **Service Innovation Research Scientist** at ESR - Institute of Environmental Science & Research Limited (New Zealand): Deadline 24 November 2008 (<http://www.esrcareers.cri.nz/JobCentre/applycod.asp?cod=1%2F2%2FLLI&h=0&url=1>).

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JOURNAL PROFILE

Social Studies of Science

Social Studies of Science is devoted mainly to the results of original research, whether empirical or theoretical, which bring fresh light to bear on the concepts, processes, development, mediations and consequences of modern science and technology, and on the analysis of their social nature. *Social Studies of Science* covers a diverse range of topics, publishing important papers on new concepts, new methods and new research results. The journal is a vital, responsive and continuing resource for all academics in the field, and for a wide range of readers interested in the analysis of modern society. The journal is multidisciplinary, publishing work from a range of fields including:

- political science, sociology, economics
- history, philosophy, psychology
- social anthropology, legal and educational disciplines"

* Website: <http://sss.sagepub.com/>

* Impact factor: 0.948 (2004)

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

International Association for Public Participation

The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) "was founded in 1990... to respond to the rising global interest in public participation. The initial mission was to promote the values and best practices associated with involving the public in government and industry decisions which affect their lives." A signature aspect of IAP2 activities has been the development of "***IAP2 Core Values for Public Participation***":

1. Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
2. Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.
3. Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
4. Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
5. Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
6. Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
7. Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

(Reprinted with permission from IAP2. More detail available: <http://www.iap2.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=4>)

* Website: <http://www.iap2.org/>

* Conference: Annual IAP2 conference (Next conference: 21-23 September 2009)

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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.

The ANU Integration News will suspend publication over the summer holidays and will resume in early 2009. 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.