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WELCOME

Welcome to the first issue of the ANU Integration News for 2009.

We are planning three ANU Integration Network meetings for 2009, the first of which has been scheduled for Tuesday, the 7th of April from 4.30-6.00 pm in the Billiards Room at the rear of the Cellar Bar at University House. This meeting will kick-off with a panel, chaired by Professor Mandy Thomas, ANU Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) who will each briefly describe different approaches to dialogue and its uses in research, before opening up to the group for discussion. We hope you will join us for this opportunity to network with like-minded ANU colleagues. We are pleased to co-sponsor this event with The Centre for Dialogue.

As we move into the new academic year at ANU, we encourage you to pass this issue of the ANU Integration News along to colleagues and students interested research integration, especially those who may be new to ANU or not yet aware of the ANU Integration Network.

Gabriele Bammer and Caryn Anderson

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NEWS & EVENTS

7 April 2009, 4.30-6p, ANU Integration Network Meeting focused on Dialogue (co-sponsored with The Centre for Dialogue)

The first ANU Integration Network meeting for 2009 will be held on Tuesday, the 7th of April from 4.30-6.00 pm in the Billiards Room at the rear of the Cellar Bar at University House. This meeting will kick-off with brief presentations by a panel on different approaches to dialogue and its uses in research, followed by a group discussion.

Panelists will be Professor Mandy Thomas, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), who will also chair the meeting, Professor Gabriele Bammer, CMBE and Professor John Dryzek, CASS. Mandy Thomas will describe the ANU Centre for Dialogue, Gabriele Bammer will outline the use of dialogue in generating fresh thinking for intractable problems and John Dryzek will present the role of dialogue in deliberative democracy.

We are pleased to co-sponsor this event with The Centre for Dialogue. Light refreshments provided and cash bar.

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

The Australian Centre for Dialogue (<http://www.anu.edu.au/dialogue/>) convened this event, and the following summary is excerpted from their annual report:

“Jody Erikson of the Keystone Centre Science and Public Policy, Denver USA is a facilitator in collective decision-making on development projects with environmental and socio-economic impacts. She gave a short illustrated presentation on lessons learned in her facilitation and mediation work and then engaged in dialogue with academics and invited professional facilitators from the government, private and non-government sectors.

“Useful learning experiences were shared on resolving conflict through constructive dialogue. The principles which support participation were strongly reinforced, eg that all parties should have access to clear and balanced information on the impacts and benefits of the matter being considered and that the views of all participants must be respected. The conversation also reinforced the importance of recognising the potential impact of the power of the sponsoring client and that their leadership capacity and the constraints under which they operate will affect implementation of outcomes.”

Human Ecology Forum 2009 Meeting Schedule

In 2009, the Human Ecology Forum will be convening on Fridays from 10 am - 12 noon in Room 101 of the Forestry Building (#48: <http://campusmap.anu.edu.au/largemap.asp>). This year, sessions will be oriented around four themes: Fenner Scholar Series, Human Ecology for an Urbanising World, Key

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Texts in Human Ecology, and the No Themes! theme. To see what is on each Friday (or to sign up to the e-mail list) please visit the Human Ecology Forum website: <http://hec-forum.anu.edu.au/>.

The Human Ecology Forum at ANU is “an informal gathering of a vibrant but shifting cast of academic staff, PhD and Honours students, as well as interested individuals and members of communities beyond The Australian National University. ... The Human Ecology Forum is not a seminar series, it is first and foremost a 'space' where interested people can come together and contribute to current or upcoming research and broader topical interests of the day in a constructive environment. ... with a concentration on research topics like complexity (of social and ecological systems), human ecology, rationality, environmental policy, science, social science and the practice of research (notably around methodology, transdisciplinarity and theory broadly).”

New Conference Announcements

- 1-5 June 2009, 2nd Chaotic Modeling and Simulation International Conference (CHAOS2009), Chania, Crete, Greece (www.chaos2009.net)
- 4-5 June 2009, 1st European Conference on Sustainability Transitions, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (<http://www.ksinetwork.nl/conference2009/>)
- 2-5 July 2009, Earth Charter Day Academic Conference 2009, Eindhoven, The Netherlands (<http://www.ecdac2009.org/>)
- 5-8 July 2009, 15th Annual International Symposium on Society and Resource Management, Vienna, Austria (<http://www.issrm09.info/>)
- 10-13 July 2009, 2nd International Symposium on Academic Globalisation, Orlando, Florida, USA (<http://www.iiis2009.org/wmsci/website/default.asp?vc=22>)
- 18-20 November 2009, 8th International Transformative Learning Conference, Bermuda (<http://transformativelearningbermuda.com/>)

Upcoming Conference Reminders

- 29 June – 3 July 2009, International Conference on Human Ecology, Society for Human Ecology, Manchester, UK (<http://www.societyforhumanecology.org/>)
- 5-8 July 2009, 15th Annual International Sustainable Development Research Conference, Utrecht, The Netherlands (<http://www.environmental-expert.com/resultEachEvent.aspx?cid=7302&codi=3465&idproducttype=3&level=0§ion=7>)
- 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>)
- 13-17 July 2009, MODSIM09 – International Congress on Modelling and Simulation, Cairns, Australia (<http://mssanz.org.au/modsim09/>)
- 20-23 July 2009, ICOSE09 – 19th Annual International Symposium, International Council on Systems Engineering, Singapore (<http://www.incose.org/symp2009/>)

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JOURNAL PROFILE

Gaia

"*GAIA* is a transdisciplinary journal for scientists and other interested parties concerned with the causes and analyses of environmental and sustainability problems and their solutions. ... Environmental problems cannot be solved by one academic discipline. The complex natures of these problems require cooperation across disciplinary boundaries. Since 1991, *GAIA* has offered a well-balanced and practice-oriented forum for transdisciplinary research. *GAIA* offers first-hand information on state of the art environmental research and on current solutions to environmental problems. Well-known editors, advisors, and authors work to ensure the high quality of the contributions found in *GAIA* and a unique transdisciplinary dialogue – in a comprehensible style."

* Website: <http://www.oekom.de/etc/gaia.html>

* Impact factor: 0.494 (2007)

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

International Society for the Systems Sciences

The International Society for the Systems Sciences is a broadly based professional society focused on systems thinking. It is inter-disciplinary and stretches beyond an interest in theory of complex systems into the practicalities of problem solving using systems methodologies. The society caters for people in academia, business, government and non-profit organizations.

* Special Integration Groups. There are several special "integration" groups, covering:

- Agent-based Social Simulation
- Aging Systems
- Balancing Individualism and Collectivism
- Critical Systems Theory & Practice
- Designing Educational Systems
- Evolutionary Development
- Hierarchy Theory
- Human Systems Inquiry
- Information Systems Design & Information Technology
- ISSS Roundtable
- Living Systems Analysis
- Medical and Health Systems
- Meta-Modeling & Systems Epistemology
- Organisational Transformation & Social Change
- Research Towards General Theories of Systems
- Socio-Ecological Systems
- Spirituality and Systems
- Students SIG
- Systemic Approaches to Conflict and Crises
- Systems Applications in Business & Industry
- Systems Biology and Evolution
- Systems and Mental Health
- Systems Modeling & Simulation
- Systems Pathology
- Systems Philosophy & Systems Ethics
- Systems Specific Technology
- What is Life/Living

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- Primer Project

* Website: <http://iss.org/world/>

* Journal: General Systems Bulletin. Other journals include: Systemic Practice & Action Research; Cybernetics & Human Knowing; International Journal of Organisational Transformation and Social Change; and Emergence: Complexity and Organization [E:CO].

* Conference: Annual conference (Next conference: 12-17 July 2009, Brisbane, Australia) Previous conference proceedings are available at <http://journals.iss.org/>

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.

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.