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## WELCOME

This is the last newsletter for 2009. We'll plan to send out the first newsletter for 2010 in February. One of the features we have introduced recently is presenting publications by ANU Integration Network members relevant to research integration and implementation, but you have all been remarkably shy about sharing your achievements. When making your new year's resolutions, please add sending us at least one publication in 2010 (it can be an old publication). It's an easy way for us to get to know about each other's work.

We hope you all have a relaxing break and that 2010 is healthy, happy and fulfilling.

Gabriele Bammer and Peter Deane

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### ANU Integration Network Member Publications

- **Matthews, Mark.** (2009). *Giving Preparedness a Central Role in Science and Innovation Policy*, The Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies. FASTS Policy Discussion Paper, 6 November 2009.
- Moore, David, **Dray, Anne**, Green, Rachael, Hudson, Susan L., Jenkinson, Rebecca, Siokou, Christine, **Perez, Pascal, Bammer, Gabriele**, Maher, Lisa and Dietze, Paul. (2009) Extending drug ethno-epidemiology using agent-based modeling. *Addiction*, **104**, 12: 1991–1997.

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## NEWS & EVENTS

### **SPECIAL ISSUE (Journal of) Housing Studies on the securitization of risk - 'Disasters, housing and actuarialism'.**

Call for papers with a deadline submission of 12 March 2010

(<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/02673037.asp> or

<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/cfp/choscfp1.pdf>). Possible topics for papers might include:

- "Theorising risk and security in the context of housing and natural disaster as at the limits of knowable and insurable catastrophic events (after Beck) or as focused on the regulation of population and territory (after Foucault)...;
- Probabilism versus possibilism, or a comparison of rational knowledge and the calculus of risk with problems of ignorance, uncertainty, post-normal science and non-knowledge in the management of disasters...;
- Empirical research on the incidence and impact of natural, technological and other (for example, financial) disasters that focuses on housing issues...;
- Phenomenological understandings of the home as life-world, the place of the subject and of subjectivity in risk assessment, and the embodied experiences of anticipating and perhaps insuring against possible disaster and destruction...;
- The relevance of risk, security and actuarialism to concepts such as sustainability and vulnerability and their importance for both policy and practice in housing and disaster management".

"Housing Studies...welcomes contributions on housing and housing related issues in any national or cross-national context. The journal also provides an outlet for contributions from many different disciplines including economics, political science, urban studies, history, social administration, sociology, geography, law and planning".

### **CALL FOR PAPERS for a special issue of *tripleC* on Information and Communication Technologies-and-society. A new transdiscipline?**

Call for papers with a deadline submission of 28 February 2010 ([http://www.triple-](http://www.triple-c.at/index.php/tripleC/announcement/view/6)

[c.at/index.php/tripleC/announcement/view/6](http://www.triple-c.at/index.php/tripleC/announcement/view/6) - *tripleC* is an open access journal focused on discussing the challenges humanity is facing today and in context to the global sustainable information society).

"Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have changed our lives significantly over the last few decades, and they will continue to do so. ICTs influence the way we live, work, and organize. These changes we are facing as societies (and as individuals) bear positive and negative side effects that concern academia as well, since science and research serve a function in and for society...What kind of academic field do we need to meet the challenges of the information age? Many different research approaches have emerged over the last decades that aim at explaining, shaping, and forecasting social change related to an increasing penetration, miniaturization, and convergence of ICTs. *tripleC* suggests the designation of this research area as ICTs-and-Society to indicate its broad perspective. The term ICTs itself is broad enough to capture Internet, Web, Web 2.0, Social Media, Social Networks, new mobile technologies, ambient technologies, etc. Society too, can refer to society at large, or to certain aspects, of society, such as economy, ecology, politics, culture, etc., and includes both individuals and organizations. However this research area is defined, and from which disciplinary background it is viewed, there are several shared problems, since ICTs-and-Society is not (yet?) an established discipline. For Shrum (2005, 274) it is an "indiscipline" where "[e]veryone is

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welcome, no matter what your perspective, no matter whom you cite, no matter what method you choose for your research." Researchers such as Hunsinger (2005), Fuchs (2008), Hofkirchner et al (2007), suggest that ICTs-and-Society research should be considered as a transdiscipline. In this special issue of tripleC we are seeking answers to the following questions in the areas of ICTs-and-Society and ICTs-and-Society as a transdiscipline: Is ICTs-and-Society a research field? If not, should it be? What is current practice and methodology? What are the main questions and challenges? Which topics does it cover? What kind of models of ICTs, Society and Transdisciplines are most appropriate? How can ICTs-and-Society be located in the academic landscape? What kinds of interdisciplinary and/or transdisciplinary theory, empirical research, epistemology, and ethics are needed for ICTs and Society? These questions are not intended to be exclusive, but as suggestions of topics of general interest. In summary, this special issue of tripleC calls for high quality research papers from any theoretical, professional, or disciplinary perspective that offer innovative analysis that promote and provoke further debate about ICTs-and-Society as a subject of study".

## New Conference Announcements

- 15-17 February 2010, Symposium and Workshop at the University of Wollongong with Professor Paul Robbins (from the University of Arizona and author of *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction* and *Lawn People: How Grasses, Weeds and Chemicals Make us Who We Are*) (<http://www.nirra.anu.edu.au/event/%E2%80%98new%E2%80%99-biogeographies-invasive-transgenic-and-hybrid-landscapes-symposium-and-workshop-professor>)
- 18-19 February 2010, Shaping Australia's Resilience: Policy Development for Uncertain Futures - A Multi-disciplinary Conference on the Application of Resilience Thinking to Policy Development. Australian National University, Canberra (<http://www.australia21.org.au/resilienceConference.htm>)
- 12-15 April 2010, Symposium on Theory of Modeling and Simulation (DEVS 2010), Orlando, Florida, USA (<http://www.sce.carleton.ca/faculty/wainer/DEVS10>)
- 22-23 April 2010. Science of Team Science Conference, Northwestern University, Chicago, USA (<http://scienceofteams.science.northwestern.edu/agenda>)
- 12-15 May 2010, Community-Based Participatory Research Conference, Portland, Oregon, USA (<http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/conf10-overview.html>)
- 27-28 May 2010, International Conference on Developing Human Capital for Sustainable Economies: Greening Human Capital. Karlsruhe, Germany (<http://www.etechgermany.com/HCConference.pdf>)
- 6-9 September 2010, 8<sup>th</sup> World Action Learning and Action Research Congress, Melbourne (<http://www.alara.net.au/files/World%20Congress%202010%203rd%20Announcement.pdf>)

## Upcoming Conference Reminders

- 5-8 January 2010, 43<sup>rd</sup> Hawai'i International Conference on Systems Sciences, Koloa, Hawai'i, USA ([http://www.hicss.hawaii.edu/hicss\\_43/apahome43.htm](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>)

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## COURSES

### MASTERS COURSE OFFERING IN SYSTEM DYNAMICS

The European Master Programme in System Dynamics is the first international master programme in System Dynamics in Europe. 10 full scholarships to non-EU students are being offered. The programme builds on the strengths of four leading universities: the University of Bergen (Norway), Lund University (Sweden), the University of Palermo (Italy) and Radboud University Nijmegen (the Netherlands). It is specifically designed for students who are interested in learning how to initiate strategic change in organisations through the use of computer simulation models. Applications by 1 January 2010 for August 2010 start (<http://www.europeansystemdynamics.eu/>).

## ANU INTEGRATION NETWORK MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

**Matthews, Mark. (2009). *Giving Preparedness a Central Role in Science and Innovation Policy*, The Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies. FASTS Policy Discussion Paper, 6 November 2009. Canberra.**

(<http://www.fast.org/images/news2009/preparedness%20nov%2009.pdf>).

Over the last few decades public policy and public management methods have been very much concerned with the management of risk. Risk by definition is quantifiable, or if not quantifiable, something that can be 'managed'. In contrast, the preparedness perspective places far more emphasis on the need to deal with uncertainty – challenges that cannot be easily quantified, accurately forecasted or managed. Although the distinction between risk and uncertainty is not clear-cut (and is often the troubled area where policy-makers find themselves working), a strong bias towards framing the challenge as 'manageable' risk can, in practice, be distinguished from the more important challenge of handling substantive uncertainty. The preparedness perspective stresses the key role of governments in managing the economic, social, environmental and national security consequences of this substantive uncertainty. Preparedness also clarifies why government funding for basic research is so important: basic research, in essence, translates ignorance into risk. We explore the unknown because we want to find out more about it – human beings prefer to face risks than uncertainties because we can (attempt at least) to act rationally in response to measurable risks. Consequently, giving preparedness a central role in science policy would counter-balance and address shortcomings in current science and innovation policy frameworks. Such a shift in emphasis would also make it easier to defend spending on capacity building in public science. In an uncertain world, the ability to respond quickly and effectively to the unforeseen is critical. Indeed, preparedness capacity is critical to setting the innovation objectives that allow us to respond to unforeseen threats. The paper recommends five complementary principles for giving preparedness a more central role in science and innovation policy.

- (1) Being more realistic and honest about limitations to forecasts and predictions, particularly in complex systems environments where simple Newtonian dynamics of linear cause and effect do not apply.
- (2) Making a more explicit distinction between risk and uncertainty, and doing more to understand the 'fuzzy' grey area between the two, again giving due recognition to the inherent unpredictability of complex systems.
- (3) Putting more effort into demonstrating how science translates uncertainty into risk and in so doing increases our levels of preparedness.

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- (4) Adopting 'preparedness friendly' guidelines for research funding and performance evaluation that utilise 'risk-facilitating' portfolio-based investment methods.
- (5) Doing more to specify how preparedness outcomes are reflected (in the short term) in greater accuracy in the estimated Net Present Value of economic assets and also (in the very long term) the challenge of being fairer to future generations.

**Mark Matthews** is the Director of Policy Engagement at the Centre for Policy Innovation, Research School of Social Sciences, ANU

**Moore, David, Dray, Anne, Green, Rachael, Hudson, Susan L., Jenkinson, Rebecca, Siokou, Christine, Perez, Pascal, Bammer, Gabriele, Maher, Lisa, and Dietze, Paul. (2009).**

**Extending drug ethno-epidemiology using agent-based modeling. *Addiction*, 104, 12: 1991 – 1997.**

*Aims:* To show how the inclusion of agent-based modelling improved the integration of ethno-epidemiological data in a study of psychostimulant use and related harms among young Australians.

*Methods:* Agent-based modelling, ethnographic fieldwork, in-depth interviews and epidemiological surveys.

*Setting:* Melbourne, Perth and Sydney, Australia.

*Participants:* Club drug users in Melbourne, recreational drug users in Perth and street-based injecting drug users in Sydney. Participants were aged 18–30 years and reported monthly or more frequent psychostimulant use.

*Findings:* Agent-based modelling provided a specific focus for structured discussion about integrating ethnographic and epidemiological methods and data. The modelling process was underpinned by collective and incremental design principles, and produced 'SimAmph', a data-driven model of social and environmental agents and the relationships between them. Using SimAmph, we were able to test the probable impact of ecstasy pill-testing on the prevalence of harms—a potentially important tool for policy development. The study also navigated a range of challenges, including the need to manage epistemological differences, changes in the collective design process and modelling focus, the differences between injecting and non-injecting samples and concerns over the dissemination of modelling outcomes.

*Conclusions:* Agent-based modelling was used to integrate ethno-epidemiological data on psychostimulant use, and to test the probable impact of a specific intervention on the prevalence of drug-related harms. It also established a framework for collaboration between research disciplines that emphasizes the synthesis of diverse data types in order to generate new knowledge relevant to the reduction of drug-related harms.

**Anne Dray** is a Research Fellow at the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, ANU

**Pascal Perez** is Associate Professor at the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, ANU

**Gabriele Bammer** is a Professor at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, ANU

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](mailto:ra.iis@anu.edu.au) or [peter.deane@anu.edu.au](mailto:peter.deane@anu.edu.au)) and we will highlight those publications most relevant to the ANU Integration Network community.

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## JOURNAL PROFILE

### International Journal of Social Research Methodology

The International Journal of Social Research Methodology publishes articles on methodology and research practice in professional and service settings. It also focuses on the relationship between methodology and research practice. "It thus addresses an audience of researchers within academic and other research organizations as well as practitioner-researchers in the field. The journal provides;

- a focus for on-going and emerging methodological debates across a range of approaches, both qualitative and quantitative, and including mixed and comparative methods, as these relate to philosophical, theoretical, ethical, political and practical issues;
- an international medium for the publication of discussions of social research methodology and practices across a wide range of social science disciplines and substantive interests; and
- a forum for researchers based in all sectors to consider and evaluate methods as these relate to research practice".

\* Website: <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713737293~db=all>

\* Impact factor: Nil

## 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](http://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](mailto:ra.iis@anu.edu.au) or [peter.deane@anu.edu.au](mailto:peter.deane@anu.edu.au).