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## WELCOME

Welcome to the first ANU Integration News for 2010. We hope you have had a great break and that the new year is shaping up well for you. We are excited to announce a new website for Integration and Implementation Sciences and an on-line project to expand the available collection of dialogue methods useful for research integration. We are also delighted to report on publications and activities of a range of ANU Integration Network members.

Because of other commitments, there will not be another newsletter until May.

Gabriele Bammer and Peter Deane

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- **Smithson, Michael.** (2009). How many alternatives? Partitions pose problems for predictions and diagnoses. *Social Epistemology*, 3-4, 347-360.
- **Newell, Barry and Proust, Katrina.** (2009). *I See How You Think: Using Influence Diagrams to Support Dialogue*. Short report. The Fenner School of Environment and Society.
- **Sherren, Kate.** (2010). Easing the interdisciplinary conscience – a tale from Sustainability Science. Social Science Research News Blog.

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## NEWS & EVENTS

### **ANU Human Ecology Forum seminar on 'Policy Entrepreneurs and Change Strategies: Lessons from 15 Case Studies of Water Policy Transitions across the Globe'**

Dr. Sander Meijerink (Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands) will present the conclusions of a recently finished (2009) edited volume on water policy transitions ('Water Policy Entrepreneurs: A Research Companion to Water Transitions around the Globe'), which he has co-edited with Dave Huitema, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (more book information at: [http://www.e-elgar-environment.com/bookentry\\_main.lasso?id=13428](http://www.e-elgar-environment.com/bookentry_main.lasso?id=13428)).

Abstract: "The central questions of this book project are (1) who are the main policy entrepreneurs in water management and (2) what strategies have they used to bring about change? A survey of policy science literature suggests that policy entrepreneurs have an 'arsenal' of possible strategies for achieving change. Based on a comparative analysis of water policy changes in fifteen countries around the globe in combination with analyses of water policy changes at the EU and global levels, the contributing authors have asked which of those strategies have in practice been used by change agents, to what effect and which lessons for managing water transitions we can draw from this. The comparative case analysis shows that individuals play complementary roles, hence entrepreneurship in water management is often collective entrepreneurship. Strategies of coalition building, the manipulation of decision making forums, and the strategic framing of issues and windows of opportunity are crucial to understanding water policy change, which suggests that the management of water policy transitions is a highly political game. The seminar concludes by listing recommendations for those who would like to direct water policy change".

Human Ecology Forum (<http://hec-forum.anu.edu.au/>), Friday March 5th between 10am and 12 noon in Room 101 (Old Library) of the Forestry Building (No. 48), The Australian National University

### **New Integration and Implementation Sciences (I2S) website and new project on dialogue methods**

We are very pleased to announce that Integration and Implementation Sciences has a new website – see: <http://i2s.anu.edu.au>. We have substantially remodeled the way the website supports I2S and also updated the software that supports the site. We are concentrating on projects that build I2S – our publications, courses, activities and tools.

One of these is expanding and improving our book on dialogue methods. If you have expertise in using dialogue methods to bring together disciplinary and stakeholder knowledge in a research context, we are keen to hear from you. See <http://i2s.anu.edu.au/projects/dialogue-methods>. This project is open until December 2010.

### **Symposium on 'Socioecological Adaptations to Climate Change' at the Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, August 2010**

**Rob Dyball** (Lecturer, Convenor Human Ecology Program, Fenner School of Environment and Society) and the Human Ecology Section of the Ecological Association of America are convening a

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symposium at the 95th Ecological Association of America Annual Meeting (Pittsburgh, 1-6 August 2010). The Human Ecology Section is new, having met for the first time in Milwaukee, 2008. The symposium is on 'Socioecological Adaptations to Climate Change'. Speakers will "discuss how the pressures associated with climate change may act on different aspects of human society and their ecosystems and how different social adaptations might feedback further change processes". General information can be found at: <http://www.esa.org/humanecology/> and more specific detail can be found under 'final submission' at: [http://groups.google.com/group/human\\_ecology\\_at\\_es/files?hl=en](http://groups.google.com/group/human_ecology_at_es/files?hl=en).

## Swiss-Academies award for transdisciplinary research – an opportunity for Swiss based researchers

If you have a colleague working for a Swiss research institution on issues that are integrative and transdisciplinary, you may wish to alert them to this award: "Every two years, the td-net for Transdisciplinary Research grants the Swiss-Academies award for transdisciplinary research to an outstanding transdisciplinary research project by an individual or a research group. The award of CHF 75,000 is provided by the Stiftung Mercator Schweiz...The award is given in recognition of excellence and innovation in transdisciplinary research. It is an incentive to researchers of all fields to develop more integrative projects in order to better deal with the complexities of sociocultural, technological, economic, environmental and health issues whose causes and effects are not well understood or uncertain".

Deadline for applications: 2 April 2010. The award is restricted to recent projects and the projects must have been based at a Swiss university or research institute (even though the research may be carried out abroad). More details at: <http://www.transdisciplinarity.ch/e/Award/awardcall.php>.

## New Conference Announcements

- 18 March 2010, Swiss National *FramingNano* Conference: A New Integrated Approach to the Responsible Development of Nanotechnologies, Stade de Suisse, Bern, Switzerland (<http://www.framingnano.eu/>)
- 23-24 April 2010, Graduate student conference - Uncertainty: Ambiguities and Doubt in Knowledge Production, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California (<http://www.stanford.edu/group/anthrograds/home.html>)
- 30 April–2 May 2010, Second International Conference on Social Entrepreneurship, Systems Thinking, & Complexity, Adelphi University, New York, USA (<http://socialentrepreneurship.wikispaces.com/Events>)
- 3-4 May 2010, 9th Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society (IAS-STS) Annual Conference: Critical Issues in Science and Technology Studies, Graz, Austria ([http://www.ifz.tugraz.at/index\\_en.php/article/articleview/1828/1/74/](http://www.ifz.tugraz.at/index_en.php/article/articleview/1828/1/74/))
- 30 May-1 June 2010, 16th Annual International Sustainable Development Research Conference: A New Agenda for Global Governance, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China (<http://www.kadinst.hku.hk/sdconf10/>)
- 7-12 June 2010, State of the Art in Ecological Footprint Theory and Applications, Footprint Forum: Meet the Winners of the 21st Century, Colle Val d'Elsa, Italy ([http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/blog/call\\_for\\_abstracts](http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/blog/call_for_abstracts))

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- 16-18 June 2010, Regional Environmental Governance Workshop: Interdisciplinary Approaches, Theoretical Issues, Comparative Designs (REGov), Geneva, Switzerland (<http://www.reg-observatory.org/index.html>)
- 2 July 2010, Swiss Conference of Inter-and Transdisciplinarity 2010 (ITD10), Graduate Institute Kurt Bösch, Suisse Sion, Switzerland (<http://www.iukb.ch/index.php?id=301>)
- 18-23 July 2010, 54th Annual Meeting of the International Society for the Systems Sciences: Governance for a Resilient Planet, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Canada ([http://isss.org/world/Waterloo\\_2010](http://isss.org/world/Waterloo_2010))
- 21-25 July 2010, Annual Meeting of the Society for Values in Higher Education, Making Choices: Sustainability in a World of Conflicting Values, Portland State University, USA (<http://www.svhe.org/content/call-papers>)
- 25-30 July 2010, International Conference of the System Dynamics Society: Beyond the Crisis: Greening Society, the Economy and the Future, Seoul, Korea (<http://www.systemdynamics.org/conferences/current/index.htm>)
- 7-9 September 2010, OR52, the Operational Research Society's 52nd annual conference, Royal Holloway University of London, Egham, Surrey, UK ([http://www.theorsociety.com/orshop/\(yzwopcu2eu0zvhm4wyhzb55\)/orcontent.aspx?inc=or52\\_main.htm](http://www.theorsociety.com/orshop/(yzwopcu2eu0zvhm4wyhzb55)/orcontent.aspx?inc=or52_main.htm))
- 14-16 September 2010, XVII International Conference on Systems Science, Wrocław University of Technology, Wrocław, Poland (<http://www.icss.pwr.wroc.pl/>)
- 15-17 September 2010, td-conference 2010: Implementation in Inter- and Transdisciplinary Research, Practice and Teaching, University of Geneva, Switzerland (<http://www.transdisciplinarity.ch/e/Conference/international/2010/index.php>)

### Upcoming Conference Reminders

- 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>)
- 25-29 April 2010, Environmental Decisions: Risks and Uncertainties, Monte Verita, Switzerland (<http://www.ied.ethz.ch/CEDRU/index>)
- 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>)

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## ANU INTEGRATION NETWORK MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

**Smithson, Michael.** (2009). How many alternatives? Partitions pose problems for predictions and diagnoses. *Social Epistemology*, 3-4, 347-360.

Abstract: "This paper focuses on one matter that poses a problem for both human judges and standard probability frameworks, namely the assumption of a unique (privileged) and complete partition of the state-space of possible events. This is tantamount to assuming that we know all possible outcomes or alternatives in advance of making a decision, but it is clear that there are many practical situations in prediction, diagnosis, and decision-making where such partitions are contestable and/or incomplete. The paper begins by surveying the impact of partitions on the choice of priors in formal probabilistic updating frameworks, and on human subjective probability judgements. That material is followed by an overview of strategies for dealing with partition dependence, including considerations of how a rational agent's preferences may determine the choice of a partition".

**Mike Smithson** is Professor, Deputy Head of Department and Graduate Program Convenor in the ANU School of Psychology

**Newell, Barry and Proust, Katrina.** (2009). *I See How You Think: Using Influence Diagrams to Support Dialogue*. The Fenner School of Environment and Society, College of Medicine, Biology & Environment, The Australian National University, Short report, [online] URL: <http://www.anu.edu.au/dialogue/2009/I%20See%20How%20You%20Think.pdf>.

A short report showcasing work done by Barry Newell and Katrina Proust that focuses on integrating the existing knowledge and opinions of a specific group of people. They blend different world views, which are expressed in a shared visual language. "Each group member constructs an individual influence diagram that captures a tentative hypothesis about how the target system works. Group members then enter a dialogue where they work in pairs to simplify and combine their diagrams (hypotheses) to form a single diagram that incorporates the essential features of both worldviews... Not only can the use of influence diagrams facilitate the development of blended worldviews, it can also help to identify and resolve conflicts existing between people with different aims and interests, when those conflicts arise because of narrow, disjoint understandings of cause-and-effect."

**Barry Newell** is a Visiting Fellow at the The Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU

**Katrina Proust** is a Visiting Fellow at the The Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU

**Sherren, Kate.** (2010). Easing the interdisciplinary conscience – a tale from Sustainability Science. Social Science Research News Blog. Available at <http://ssresearchnews.blogspot.com/2010/02/guest-post-friday-easing.html>.

Brief description: A short guest post for the Social Science Research News blog, which concludes: "As time-pressed academics in interdisciplinary settings, perhaps we should see it as our duty rather than our failing to prioritise the fostering of valuable, non-redundant collaborators and peers – those likely to bring new resources and knowledge to the organisation – over our departmental neighbours. A sparse internal network presents another duty: that contacts two or three degrees of separation away help connect people that should know each other but do not. With this, we can abandon the collective guilt and focus on our respective parts of the sustainability puzzle."

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

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.

## JOURNAL PROFILE

### Conservation Biology

Conservation Biology is the journal of the Society for Conservation Biology and was launched in 1987 as an important global step towards supporting this emerging discipline. The journal focuses on the science and practice of conserving the Earth's biological diversity. Material on theoretical, empirical, or synthetic research in the natural or social sciences is published in the journal as well as work on applications of conservation science to specific management, policy or education goals. Apart from publishing articles, the journal also publishes short research notes, letters, commentaries and opinion pieces.

\* Website: <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118487636/home?CRETRY=1&SRETRY=0>

\* Impact factor (2008): 4.705

## 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 <http://i2s.anu.edu.au/i2s-publications/anu-integration-news>. 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).