
June 2008, #6

WELCOME

The ANU Integration Network will begin holding periodic meetings to discuss ways of enhancing research integration at the ANU. **The series will be launched by Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Lawrence Cram on Wednesday, 2 July 2008, from 4-5 pm in the Drawing Room at University House.** Subsequent meetings will include coverage of topics such as practical guidelines for facilitating integrated research at ANU and the unique challenges faced by PhD students engaged in cross-disciplinary, problem-based research. We hope you will join us for these meetings.

Gabriele Bammer and Caryn Anderson

CONTENTS

News & Events

- Wednesday, 2 July 2008, 4-5 pm, ANU Integration Network Meeting – presenter Professor Lawrence Cram
- Research & Innovation Policy Dialogue Workshops
- SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, 17 July 2008, 2-3.30p, Research Integration Graduate Course Planning Meeting for ANU Integration Network Student Group
- New Conference Announcements – Annual conference of the System Dynamics Society (July)

New Books & Resources

- Rapid Evidence Assessment Toolkit (UK Government Social Research)

Journal Profile

- *Ecological Economics*

Professional Society Profile

- System Dynamics Society

About ANU Integration News

- How to contribute, subscribe and un-subscribe

June 2008, #6

NEWS & EVENTS

Wednesday, 2 July 2008, 4-5 pm, ANU Integration Network Meeting – presenter Professor Lawrence Cram

ANU Deputy Vice Chancellor Lawrence Cram will kick off the 2008 series of meetings of the ANU Integration Network with a discussion of the ways to best "locate" integration research at The Australian National University. All ANU Integration Network members and guests are welcome.

Date: Wednesday, 2 July 2008

Time: 4-5 pm

Location: Drawing Room, University House (Bldg #1), Australian National University

RSVP: Caryn Anderson (caryn.anderson@anu.edu.au, (02) 6125 5621).

Cash bar available. Light snacks will be provided.

We are also planning meetings in September and November to address practical guidelines for facilitating integrated research at ANU and the unique challenges faced by PhD students engaged in cross-disciplinary, problem-based research.

Research & Innovation Policy Dialogue Workshops

"The Australian National University is seeking to make a substantial contribution to the Federal Government's broad-ranging review of the National Innovation System by hosting a series of Research and Innovation Policy Dialogue Workshops to consider key issues in research and innovation. A series of 6 policy dialogue workshops will be held in Canberra between June and October 2008." Four workshops are open to the public:

- 4 July 2008: The contribution of the creative industries to the national innovation system
- 11 July 2008: Supporting risk-aware research
- 15 September 2008: Public sector innovation
- 16 September 2008: The economic and social importance of innovation in services

For more information, see the Research & Innovation Policy Project: <http://repp.anu.edu.au/ripp/>

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, 17 July 2008, 2-3.30p, Research Integration Graduate Course Planning Meeting for ANU Integration Network Student Group

Members of the ANU Integration Network Student Group are asked to mark their calendars for the next planning meeting for the graduate course in research integration. We will meet on Thursday, the 17th of July, from 2-3.30p in the Seminar Room at NCEPH (Bldg 62, same room as the 29 April meeting). The agenda will include a more detailed discussion of the course curriculum and scheduling, as well as issues around accreditation and assessment.

June 2008, #6

Please feel free to share this information with other graduate students at ANU who may be interested in participating in the development of a course to provide techniques and principles for conducting research across disciplines. They are welcome to join the ANU Integration Network Student Group. Please have them contact Caryn Anderson (caryn.anderson@anu.edu.au), (02) 6125.5621).

New Conference Announcements

20-24 July 2008, annual conference of the System Dynamics Society, Athens, Greece
(<http://www.systemdynamics.org/conferences/current/index.htm>)

Upcoming Conference Reminders

20-23 August 2008, Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
(<http://www.4sonline.org/meeting.htm>)

30 September – 1 October 2008, 3rd Annual Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Chapter of the Society for Risk Analysis, Canberra, Australia
(<http://www.acera.unimelb.edu.au/sra/news.html>)

23-26 October 2008, 30th Annual Conference of the Association for Integrative Studies, Springfield, Illinois, USA
(http://www.units.muohio.edu/aisorg/Conference/conference_upcoming.shtml)

27-28 November 2008, Transdisciplinarity Conference 2008: Inter- and Transdisciplinary Problem Framing, Zurich, Switzerland
(<http://www.transdisciplinarity.ch/newsmail/detail.php?id=1098>)

7-10 December 2008, 28th Society for Risk Analysis 2008 Annual Meeting, Boston, USA
(http://www.sra.org/events_2008_meeting.php)

NEW BOOKS & RESOURCES

Rapid Evidence Assessment Toolkit (Government Social Research unit of the UK)

"A Rapid Evidence Assessment (REA) is a tool for getting on top of the available research evidence on a policy issue, as comprehensively as possible, within the constraints of a given timetable. The Toolkit has been designed as a web-based resource to enable Government Social Researchers to carry out or commission REAs. It contains detailed guidance on each stage of an REA from deciding on whether it is the right method to use to communicating the findings. There are a range of templates and sources in the Toolkit that will support the successful completion of an REA."

Main site: http://www.gsr.gov.uk/professional_guidance/rea_toolkit/. The toolkit sitemap of the contents: http://www.gsr.gov.uk/professional_guidance/rea_toolkit/sitemap.asp.

June 2008, #6

JOURNAL PROFILE

Ecological Economics: The Transdisciplinary Journal of the International Society for Ecological Economics

"The journal is concerned with extending and integrating the study and management of "nature's household" (ecology) and "humankind's household" (economics). This integration is necessary because conceptual and professional isolation have led to economic and environmental policies which are mutually destructive rather than reinforcing in the long term. The journal is transdisciplinary in spirit and methodologically open.

"Specific research areas covered include: valuation of natural resources, sustainable agriculture and development, ecologically integrated technology, integrated ecologic-economic modelling at scales from local to regional to global, implications of thermodynamics for economics and ecology, renewable resource management and conservation, critical assessments of the basic assumptions underlying current economic and ecological paradigms and the implications of alternative assumptions, economic and ecological consequences of genetically engineered organisms, and gene pool inventory and management, alternative principles for valuing natural wealth, integrating natural resources and environmental services into national income and wealth accounts, methods of implementing efficient environmental policies, case studies of economic-ecologic conflict or harmony, etc. New issues in this area are rapidly emerging and will find a ready forum in *Ecological Economics*."

* Website: http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/503305/description?navopenmenu=-2

* Impact factor: 1.266 (2004)

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

System Dynamics Society

"System dynamics is a methodology for studying and managing complex feedback systems, such as one finds in business and other social systems. In fact it has been used to address practically every sort of feedback system. While the word system has been applied to all sorts of situations, feedback is the differentiating descriptor here. The field developed initially from the work of Jay W. Forrester." His 1961 book *Industrial Dynamics* is still a significant statement of philosophy and methodology in the field. Since its publication, the span of applications has grown extensively and now encompasses work in:

- Corporate planning and policy design
- Public management and policy
- Biological and medical modeling
- Energy and the environment

June 2008, #6

- Theory development in the natural and social sciences
- Dynamic decision making
- Complex nonlinear dynamics.

* Journal: *System Dynamics Review*

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

* Conference: The 2008 annual conference of the System Dynamics Society will be held 20-24 July, 2008, in Athens, Greece.

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.