

July 2008, #7

WELCOME

We invite you to join us for the next meeting of the ANU Integration Network on Thursday 28th August 2008 from 4-5pm (location to be advised in the August newsletter). Professor Stephen Dovers of the Fenner School of Environment and Society will lead a discussion around practical, organisational, incentives and other steps that can be taken to better enable (or at least not constrain) integrative endeavours at ANU. Cash bar and refreshments will be available. The conversation at the last meeting with Lawrence Cram was very stimulating and this next meeting is certain to develop the ideas further. We hope you can join us.

We are also delighted to report the publication of a book by ANU Integration Network member, Lorrae van Kerkhoff: *Making a Difference: Science, Action and Integrated Environmental Research*.

Gabriele Bammer and Caryn Anderson

CONTENTS

News & Events

- SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, 28 August 2008, 4-5pm, ANU Integration Network Meeting – presenter Professor Stephen Dovers, Fenner School of Environment and Society
- REPORT: July ANU Integration Network Meeting with Professor Lawrence Cram
- REPORT: Research Integration Graduate Course Planning Meeting
- New *Integration Insights* available

New Books & Resources

- Making a Difference: Science, Action and Integrated Environmental Research
- A Vision of Transdisciplinarity: Laying Foundations for a World Knowledge Dialogue

Journal Profile

- *Social Studies of Science*

Professional Society Profile

- Association for Integrative Studies

About ANU Integration News

- How to contribute, subscribe and un-subscribe

July 2008, #7

NEWS & EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, 28 August 2008, 4-5pm, ANU Integration Network Meeting – presenter Professor Stephen Dovers, Fenner School of Environment and Society

The next ANU Integration Network meeting will be chaired by Professor Stephen Dovers, who will lead a discussion around practical, organisational, incentives and other steps that can be taken to better enable (or at least not constrain) integrative endeavours at ANU. ANU Integration Network meetings are an opportunity for those interested in cross-disciplinary research at ANU to engage with each other and discuss ideas for improving the practice of integrating research across disciplines. All ANU Integration Network members and guests are welcome. Refreshments will be provided. The location will be advised in the August newsletter.

We are also planning a meeting in November to address the unique challenges faced by PhD students engaged in cross-disciplinary, problem-based research.

REPORT: July ANU Integration Network Meeting with Professor Lawrence Cram

ANU Deputy Vice Chancellor Lawrence Cram kicked off the 2008 series of meetings of the ANU Integration Network, on Thursday, the 2nd of July, with a discussion of a variety of ways of approaching integrative research at ANU. Stimulating conversations among the faculty, staff and graduate student participants ranged widely and included discussions of:

- the purposes and structures of universities in relation to solving complex problems,
- techniques for mobilizing latent networks,
- reward structures for cross-disciplinary research,
- skills development in collaboration and communication across disciplines,
- increased opportunities for exposure to other perspectives and methods,
- challenges and benefits of academic partnerships with government and industry, and
- tools and strategies for fostering creativity and innovation.

In particular, Lawrence Cram expressed his support for all kinds of integrative endeavors and activities that enable ANU faculty, staff and students to engage more fruitfully with each other. It is expected that ideas raised in this conversation will be continued at the next ANU Integration Network meeting on the 28th of August, and possibly take the form of some practical suggestions and steps for improving the integrative research experience at ANU.

REPORT: Research Integration Graduate Course Planning Meeting

Members of the ANU Integration Network Student Group met on Thursday, the 17th of July to discuss the development of the research integration course. We are currently looking at a one-day overview "short course" to introduce graduate students to the ideas of research integration for cross-disciplinary research problems and to give a taste of the content of three intensive modules. We plan to offer the one-day overview course in the 2nd week of September. It will be open to all graduate students.

July 2008, #7

New *Integration Insights* available

Integration Insights is a series of digests of concepts, techniques or real-world examples of integration as used in research. The following issues in the series have recently been published and are available from the Integration and Implementation Sciences website (<http://www.anu.edu.au/iisn>):

- The Case for a new Discipline of Integration and Implementation Sciences (I2S)
- Understanding Uncertainty
- Uncertainty: Metaphors, Motives and Morals
- Coping with Deep Uncertainty
- Enhancing Research Collaborations

New Conference Announcements

23 August 2008, Natural Outbreaks and Deliberate Diseases: A National Science Week Event, National Centre for Biosecurity, Canberra, Australia (<http://biosecurity.anu.edu.au/>)

11-12 September 2008, Annual Conference of Action Learning, Action Research Association, Canberra, Australia (<http://www.alara.net.au/public/home>)

1-3 December 2008, ANZSYS 2008, 14th International Australian and New Zealand Systems Conference, Perth, Australia (<http://scissec.scis.ecu.edu.au/anzsys08/>)

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)

July 2008, #7

NEW BOOKS & RESOURCES

Making a Difference: Science, Action and Integrated Environmental Research

Lorrae van Kerkhoff. 2008. Sense Publishers. Available from Amazon.com:

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/908790391x>

The idea of “integration” has risen to prominence in recent years as a mantra in environmental research, but remains surrounded by confusion. What is integration? How do researchers integrate? What are the ramifications of integration for science? In this book, Lorrae van Kerkhoff captures and explores innovations in integrated environmental research, in all their excitement, hopes, perplexity and conflicts. Based on thorough empirical research with two “integrated” research centres, she proposes that researchers need to radically extend conventional understandings of what science is and how it should be done. This book is essential reading for scholars of science and environmental researchers at all levels who are grappling with what science and research can and must contribute to contemporary society, and how they can do that with integrity and clarity.

A Vision of Transdisciplinarity: Laying Foundations for a World Knowledge Dialogue

Frédéric Darbellay, Moira Cockell, Jérôme Billotte, Francis Waldvogel (Editors). 2008. Lausanne,

Switzerland:EPFL Press. Available from: <http://www.epflpress.com/livres/EPFL978-2-940222-28-5.html>

Based on reflections that the shared 2006 WKD Symposium experience stimulated among participants, this collection of essays vividly illuminates the principles of consilience. It bears testimony that each branch of knowledge studies a subset of reality dependent on factors studied in other branches; that the exact sciences, the social sciences, the humanities and arts each have their specific tools, methodologies, and limitations, but share a common goal of giving purpose to understanding.

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.

“*Social Studies of Science* is indispensable for anyone seriously concerned about understanding the place of science and technology in the modern world’ - Michael Mulkay”

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

* Impact factor: 1.651 (2007)

July 2008, #7

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

Association for Integrative Studies

The Association for Integrative Studies is an interdisciplinary professional organization founded in 1979 to promote the interchange of ideas among scholars and administrators in all of the arts and sciences on intellectual and organizational issues related to furthering integrative studies. Incorporated as a non-profit educational association in the State of Ohio, it has an international membership.

The Association strives to:

- Articulate the nature of integrative studies and to document their importance for higher education and for society.
- Establish standards of excellence for the conduct of integrative studies in both teaching and research.
- Maintain a communication network for the exchange of scholarly and pedagogical information on integrative study among faculty and administrators in undergraduate and graduate education in the arts and science and the professions.
- Enhance research and teaching in integrative studies by promoting the development of interdisciplinary theory, methodology and curricular design.
- Facilitate the success of interdisciplinary endeavors by collecting and sharing information on supportive personnel policies, programmatic structures, and administrative methods.
- Serve as an organized voice and a source of information on integrative and interdisciplinary approaches to the discovery, transmission, and application of knowledge.
- Become a broad-based professional home for reflective interdisciplinarians.

* Journal: *Issues in Integrative Studies*

* Website: <http://www.units.muohio.edu/aisorg/>

* Conference: The 30th Annual Conference of the Association for Integrative Studies will be held 23-26 October 2008 in Springfield, Illinois, USA. The 2008 conference theme is Interdisciplinarity and the Engaged Citizen: Integrating Higher Education, Public Policy, and Global Action

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.