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November/December 2011, #3

## WELCOME

Welcome to the third I2S News. This newsletter provides a bi-monthly update about resources relevant to a) bringing together knowledge from different disciplines and stakeholders, b) effective ways of dealing with diverse unknowns and c) using research to support policy and practice change.

If you have developed or have experience in using concepts or methods relevant to such integration and implementation tasks, we'd love to hear about them.

This will be the last newsletter for 2011. We wish you a relaxing Christmas break and a healthy, happy and fulfilling 2012!

Gabriele Bammer and Peter Deane

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## FEATURED METHODS

### Critical Systems Heuristics

Ulrich, W. (2005). *A Brief Introduction to Critical Systems Heuristics (CSH)*. Web site of the ECOSENSUS project: <http://projects.kmi.open.ac.uk/ecosensus/publications/>, Open University, Milton Keynes, UK, 14 October 2005.

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Ulrich's Critical Systems Heuristics (2005) provides questions for scoping and boundary setting, covering:

1. the motivation for the collaboration,
2. the sources of power in the collaboration,
3. the sources of knowledge for the collaboration, and
4. the sources of legitimation for the collaboration.

Full text online at: [http://projects.kmi.open.ac.uk/ecosensus/publications/ulrich\\_csh\\_intro.pdf](http://projects.kmi.open.ac.uk/ecosensus/publications/ulrich_csh_intro.pdf) (please note this is an external link to a PDF of 255KB) (viewed 21 November 2011).

## A Taxonomy of Unknowns

Smithson, M. (1989). *A Taxonomy of Unknowns*. Short report, Unpublished.

A brief description of each of several types of unknowns (including undecidable, taboo, distortion, uncertainty, and fuzziness) from Smithson's 1989 taxonomy. The taxonomy demonstrates that there are multiple kinds of unknowns, many, if not all, of which will be inherent in any complex problem.

Full text online at: [http://i2s.anu.edu.au/sites/default/files/resources/smithson\\_2011.pdf](http://i2s.anu.edu.au/sites/default/files/resources/smithson_2011.pdf) (please note this is a link to a PDF of 40KB) (viewed 21 November 2011).

## Communicating Research for Evidence-Based Policymaking

Martin, T. (2010). *Communicating Research for Evidence-Based Policymaking – A Practical Guide for Researchers in Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities*. European Commission, Publications Office of the European Union: Luxembourg.

"This guide offers practical advice on how to build a functional communications interface between researchers and policymakers... Communicating research for evidence-based policymaking provides essential help in creating policy briefs, project websites, flyers and brochures. It offers insights into dealing with the press and contains valuable suggestions on how to organise a final conference."

Full text online at: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/guide-communicating-research\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/guide-communicating-research_en.pdf) (please note this is an external link to a PDF of 1.54MB) (viewed 21 November 2011).

For more methods and concepts see: <http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/tools>.

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## FEATURED JOURNAL

### European Journal of Operational Research

"The *European Journal of Operational Research* (EJOR) focuses on the methodology of operational research (OR) and on decision making in practice. The journal contains the following types of papers:

1. Invited Reviews, explaining to the general operational research audience the developments in an operational research topic over the recent years,

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2. Innovative Applications of operational research, describing novel ways to solve real problems,
3. Theory and Methodology Papers, presenting original research results contributing to the methodology of operational research and to its theoretical foundations,
4. Short Communications, including comments on papers previously published in EJOR; and,
5. Book Reviews pertinent to a operations research audience."

- Website:  
[http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws\\_home/505543/description#description](http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/505543/description#description)
- Impact factor (2010): 2.159

For more journals, such as

- Human Relations
- Evidence and Policy

See: <http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/journals>

## FEATURED NETWORK

### Humanities, Arts, Science and Technology Advanced Collaboratory (HASTAC)

HASTAC (Humanities, Arts, Science and Technology Advanced Collaboratory, pronounced *haystack*), "...is a network of individuals and institutions inspired by the possibilities that new technologies offer us for shaping how we learn, teach, communicate, create, and organize our local and global communities... [HASTAC members are]... motivated by the conviction that the digital era provides rich opportunities for informal and formal learning and for collaborative, networked research that extends across traditional disciplines, across the boundaries of academe and community, across the 'two cultures' of humanism and technology, across the divide of thinking versus making, and across social strata and national borders... HASTAC is open to anyone [to join]... HASTAC's scope and mission are fluid, constantly changing to meet the opportunities and challenges presented by the ever-shifting terrain of today's digital world and morphing with the needs and goals of...network members".

- Website: <http://hastac.org/>
- About HASTAC: <http://hastac.org/about>
- To join HASTAC: <http://hastac.org/user>

For more professional associations & networks, such as

- Association for Integrative Studies

See: [http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/associations\\_networks](http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/associations_networks)

## FEATURED COURSES

### European Masters Program in System Dynamics

This Masters program "has been specifically designed for students who are interested in learning how to initiate strategic change in organisations by using computer simulation models". The aim is to teach

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everything needed to start an international career in strategic modeling with System Dynamics, namely “how to build a System Dynamics model, how to apply it to a variety of complex problems in real life and how to facilitate the model-building process with the client in such a way that not only can a high-quality model be built, but what is equally important, that a strategic change can be achieved and policies can be implemented.”

- Detail at: <http://www.europeansystemdynamics.eu>
- Deadline for applications: 1st of December 2011

### University of Bern ‘Transformations’ Winter School: TransForming Knowledge and Epistemic Cultures

“From 2012 to 2015, with the Institute of Advanced Study in the Humanities and the Social Sciences (IASH) as the leading institute, the Philosophical-Historical Faculty of the University of Bern organizes four international Winter Schools of one week each.” The focus in 2012 is as follows “In post-industrial societies, due to the impact of globalisation and technological development, we are witnessing a growth and diversification of the sites of knowledge production and the ways in which a variety of actors articulate and circulate knowledge. As a result, the privileged position of ‘scientific’ knowledge is contested, making knowledge the symbolic and material capital not only of academic ‘experts’. By the same token, the authorization of ‘knowledge’ becomes a matter of debate and changing power structures. The Winter School analyses and discusses these changes from a historical, sociological, cultural and philosophical perspective. It reflects in particular on the challenges thereof for the humanities and the social sciences regarding their role in the knowledge society of (post)modernity and their contribution to larger processes of transformation” (PDF on the course: [http://www.iash.unibe.ch/content/e6526/e9692/e9703/ws\\_flyer\\_info\\_partners\\_eng.pdf](http://www.iash.unibe.ch/content/e6526/e9692/e9703/ws_flyer_info_partners_eng.pdf)) (viewed 21 November 2011).

- Course is in English (with contributions in German and French)
- Website: [http://www.iash.unibe.ch/content/winter\\_school/winter\\_school\\_2012/index\\_eng.html](http://www.iash.unibe.ch/content/winter_school/winter_school_2012/index_eng.html)
- Location: Schloss Münchenwiler near Berne, Switzerland
- Dates: 22-27 January 2012
- Application deadline: 27 November 2011

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## CONFERENCES

### Upcoming Conference Announcements

Conferences which have not been listed in previous newsletters are marked [NEW].

#### General Interdisciplinarity/Transdisciplinarity/Team Science/ Action Research

- 29 February-2 March 2012, Leuphana Sustainability Summit - Sustainability: Enabling a Transdisciplinary Approach, Lüneburg, Germany (<http://www.leuphana.de/en/faculty-sustainability/news/leuphana-sustainability-summit.html>)
- 16-19 April 2012, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual International SciTS (Science of Team Science) Conference, Chicago, USA (<http://scienceofteamspace.northwestern.edu/annual-scits-conference>)

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- 3-8 June 2012, Academy of Transdisciplinary Learning & Advanced Studies (ATLAS) bi-annual meeting, Taichung, Taiwan ([http://www.theatlas.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=22&Itemid=37](http://www.theatlas.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=22&Itemid=37))
- 10-14 June 2012, Society for Design and Process Science (SDPS), World Conference on Integrated Design and Process Technology (IDPT) - 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Transformative Science, Engineering, and Business Innovation: The Technology of Complex Systems, Berlin, Germany ([http://sdpsnet.org/sdps/images/sdps\\_2012\\_call\\_for\\_papers\\_2011-10-5\\_v1\\_iso\\_a4.pdf](http://sdpsnet.org/sdps/images/sdps_2012_call_for_papers_2011-10-5_v1_iso_a4.pdf))
- 22 June 2012, Swiss Conference on Interdisciplinarity and Transdisciplinarity, Sion, Switzerland (<http://www.iukb.ch/index.php?id=464>)
- 25-28 June 2012, 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Barcelona, Spain (<http://thesocialsciences.com/conference-2012/>)
- 12-14 July 2012, 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Interdisciplinary Network for Group Research (INGRoup) Conference, Chicago, USA (<http://www.ingroup.net/conference.html>)
- [NEW] 5-8 February **2013**, XIX International Conference of the Society for Human Ecology jointly with IV International Conference on Sustainability Science in Asia - Decisions that Work: Linking Sustainability, Environmental Responsibility and Human Well-being, Canberra, Australia (<http://www.societyforhumanecology.org/>)

### Systems and Modelling/Simulation

- 12-16 December 2011, International Congress on Modelling and Simulation: Understanding and Living with Uncertainty, Perth, Australia (<http://www.mssanz.org.au/modsim2011/>)
- 4-7 January 2012, 45<sup>th</sup> Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS), Maui, Hawaii, USA ([http://www.hicss.hawaii.edu/hicss\\_45/apahome45.htm](http://www.hicss.hawaii.edu/hicss_45/apahome45.htm))
- [NEW] 3-4 February 2012, 17<sup>th</sup> Coalition Theory Network Workshop, Paris, France ([http://www.feem-web.it/ctn/events/12\\_Paris/ctn17i.html](http://www.feem-web.it/ctn/events/12_Paris/ctn17i.html))
- [NEW] 16-18 March 2012, Plexus CHANGE 2012, Silver Spring, USA (<http://www.plexusinstitute.org/?page=plexus2012>)
- 26-29 March 2012, Symposium On Theory of Modeling and Simulation (TMS'12) (formerly known as the DEVS Integrative M&S Symposium), Orlando, Florida, USA (<http://tms-devs.org/doku.php>)
- 12-15 June 2012, 5<sup>th</sup> Chaotic Modeling, Simulation and Applications (CHAOS) 2012 International Conference, Athens, Greece (<http://www.cmsim.org/>)
- 15-20 July 2012, International Society for the Systems Sciences Conference: Service Systems, Natural Systems, San Jose, USA (<http://iss.org/world/sanjose-2012>)
- 22-26 July 2012, The 30<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the System Dynamics Society: Model-based Management, St. Gallen, Switzerland (<http://conference.systemdynamics.org/>)

### Uncertainty and Risk

- 4-7 December 2011, 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Risk Analysis, Charleston, South Carolina, USA ([http://www.sra.org/events\\_2011\\_meeting.php](http://www.sra.org/events_2011_meeting.php))
- 18-20 June 2012, Society for Risk Analysis (SRA)-Europe Conference 2012: Risk and Society - Decisions & Responsibilities, Zurich, Switzerland (<http://www.sraeurope.org/home.aspx?lan=230&tab=745&pag=747>)

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- 18-20 July 2012, 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress on Risk 2012: Risk and Development in a Changing World, Sydney, Australia (<http://www.sra.org/worldcongress2012.php>)

### **Bridging the Research-Policy/Practice Gap**

- 7 December 2011, Bridging the gap between research, policy and practice: The importance of intermediaries (knowledge brokers) in producing research impact, London, UK (<http://www.genomicsnetwork.ac.uk/forum/events/title,24718,en.html>)
- 9-12 January and 6-9 February 2012, Competence Center Environment and Sustainability (CCES) Winter School: Sustainability Science Meets Practice, Männedorf, Switzerland (<http://www.cces.ethz.ch/winterschool>)
- 19-20 March 2012, 5<sup>th</sup> Annual National Institutes of Health (NIH) Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation: Research at the Crossroads, Bethesda, USA (<http://conferences.thehillgroup.com/obsr/di2012/>)

### **Other**

- [NEW] 1-3 December 2011, Humanities, Arts, Science and Technology Advanced Collaboratory (HASTAC) International Conference, Ann Arbor, USA (<http://hastac.org/events/2011-hastac-international-conference>)
- 7-9 December 2011, 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management (ANZAM) Conference, Wellington, New Zealand (<http://www.anzamconference.org/default.asp>)
- 16-18 January 2012, International Conference on Technology, Knowledge and Society, Los Angeles, USA (<http://techandsoc.com/conference-2012/>)
- 25-28 January 2012, Shared futures/ Difficult choices: Reclaiming a Democratic Vision for College Learning, Global Engagement and Success, Washington DC, USA (<http://www.aacu.org/meetings/annualmeeting/index.cfm>)
- [NEW] 15-17 February 2012, 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual European Postgraduate Symposium: Sustainable Development Symposium, Graz, Austria (<http://sds2012.tugraz.at/>)
- 26-29 March 2012, Planet under Pressure Conference: New Knowledge towards Solutions, London, UK (<http://www.planetunderpressure2012.net/>)
- 10-11 March 2012, 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Social Science and Humanity (ICSSH), Chennai, India (<http://www.icssh.org/>)
- 18-21 April 2012, 15<sup>th</sup> Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH): Community-Campus Partnerships as a Strategy for Social Justice: Where We've Been & Where We Need to Go, Houston, USA (<http://www.ccph.info/>)
- 4-6 June 2012, 4<sup>th</sup> UN Conference on Sustainable Development: Rio+20, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (<http://www.earthsummit2012.org/>)
- 17-21 June 2012, 18<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (ISSRM) - Linking the North and the South: Responding to Environmental Change, Alberta, Canada (<http://www.issrm2012.iasnr.org/>)
- 6-8 July 2012, 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Knowledge, Culture and Change in Organizations, Chicago, USA (<http://ontheorganization.com/conference-2012/>)
- 9-11 July 2012, Australian Universities Community Engagement Alliance (AUCEA) Conference, Brisbane, Australia (<http://www.aucea.org.au/news/aucea-conference-9-11-july-2012/>)

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- [NEW] 27-29 July 2012, WorldFuture 2012: Dream. Design. Develop. Deliver, Ontario, Canada (<http://www.wfs.org/content/register-worldfuture-2011>)
- 1-5 August 2012, Society for Values in Higher Education (SVHE) Annual Meeting: Imagination and Compassion in Higher Education, Madison, USA (<http://www.svhe.org/content/2012-call-papers>)
- [NEW] 27-30 September 2012, 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), Milwaukee, USA (<http://litsciarts.org/index.html>)
- 15-17 November 2012, Fourth International Conference on Science in Society, Berkeley, California, USA (<http://science-society.com/conference-2012/>)

## ABOUT I2S NEWS

The aim of this newsletter is to provide regular (bi-monthly) updates about resources for researchers who investigate and help tackle complex real world problems, by:

- Synthesizing knowledge from different disciplines and stakeholders,
- Understanding and managing diverse unknowns, and
- Providing integrated research support for policy and practice change.

Each issue features concepts or methods relevant to I2S – either a useful compilation or a single tool of note. We also provide information about journals, professional associations & networks, and conferences where researchers can report their methodological findings, as well as interact with like-minded peers.

The I2S News is archived at: <http://i2s.anu.edu.au/i2s-publications/newsletters/i2s-news>.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the newsletter go to "I2S Updates" at <http://i2s.anu.edu.au> or contact Peter Deane at [peter.deane@anu.edu.au](mailto:peter.deane@anu.edu.au).

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