

## **WELCOME**

Welcome to the November/December i2S News. We hope 2018 has been a productive and fulfilling year.

We are celebrating the revamping of our website (<http://i2s.anu.edu.au>) and a third successful year for the Integration and Implementation Insights blog (<http://i2Insights.org>).

Both the website and the blog provide information about research integration and implementation resources. We compile the website resources, whereas the blog welcomes contributions from the wide international community of researchers developing concepts and methods for systems thinking, inter- and trans- disciplinary, action research, team science, co-creation, research implementation and much more. Between them, the website and blog aim to keep the research community working on complex real-world problems abreast not only of new tools, but also of useful journals, professional associations and networks, and the latest conference news. Contributions and feedback are welcome. Happy reading!

Wishing you all the best for 2019,  
Gabriele Bammer and Peter Deane

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**FEATURED TOOL****Dialogue: Appreciative Inquiry**

**Purpose:** Appreciative Inquiry (AI) is a method, a theory of action, a dialogue process, and a whole of system concept that brings together members of an organisation to clarify, develop and integrate their visions about their joint endeavours. The aim is to build on something in the organisation that works well and that can move the organisation to a higher level of goal attainment to strengthen the future of the organisation.

**Description:** A central concept in Appreciative Inquiry is the 4-D cycle: Discovery, Dream, Design, and Destiny.

*Discovery* emphasises defining one or more topics and valuing, using positive language, 'what is' working (*eg.*, when the organisation has been at its best and most effective).

*Dream* involves creatively drawing out 'what might be' (better or good), to envisage the organisation's strategic future as referenced through past successes.

*Design* focuses on dialogue and developing propositions on 'what should be', as based on what has been discovered and dreamt of in the two earlier phases.

*Destiny* is the accumulation of the other three phases, developing a commitment to a collective 'what will be' and creating a set of shared values through which innovation, learning and change can be supported.

This is all appreciative, generating a positive understanding in participants of what the future will look like and so feeding back on empowering present behaviour towards achieving that future. It reverses the common approach of defining a problem and looking for a best-fit solution, which generally frames an organisation as being deficient in some way and in need of being fixed.

In this sense, Appreciative Inquiry is as much an attitude and a philosophy as it is a method – it aims to invigorate change by drawing out the best of an organisation and its people and impelling an organisation to move in the direction of the shared values its members have crafted.

**Source:** David L. Cooperrider and Suresh Srivastva coined the term Appreciative Inquiry in the early 1980s. Cooperrider went on to write a dissertation on Appreciative Inquiry and the ideas and methods developed proved popular. Appreciative inquiry is still developing and has been applied in a wide variety of cases under the leadership of Cooperrider and others.

- **Reference:**
  - Cooperrider, D. L., Whitney, D. and Stavros, J. M. (2008). *The Appreciative Inquiry Handbook: For Leaders of Change*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edn. Berrett-Koehler: San Francisco, United States of America.
- **Website:**
  - <http://www.davidcooperrider.com/>

**Additional tools can be found at:** <http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/tools>

## LATEST i2INSIGHTS BLOG POSTS

The [i2Insights blog](#) has recently published the following posts:

### **Conceptual modelling of complex topics: ConML as an example / Modelado conceptual de temas complejos: ConML como ejemplo**

by Cesar Gonzalez-Perez

<https://i2insights.org/2018/12/11/conceptual-modelling-with-conml/>

### **Scatterplots as an interdisciplinary communication tool**

by Erin Walsh

<https://i2insights.org/2018/12/04/scatterplots-for-interdisciplinary-communication/>

### **Developing a 'capabilities approach' for measuring social impact**

by Daniel J. Hicks

<https://i2insights.org/2018/11/27/measuring-social-impact/>

### **Research impact in government – three crucial elements you will need for success**

by Anthony Boxshall

<https://i2insights.org/2018/11/20/research-impact-in-government/>

### **Transforming transdisciplinarity: Interweaving the philosophical with the pragmatic to move beyond either/or thinking**

by Katie Ross and Cynthia Mitchell

<https://i2insights.org/2018/11/13/transdisciplinarity-and-either-or-thinking/>

### **Skilful conversations for integration**

by Rebecca Freeth and Liz Clarke

<https://i2insights.org/2018/11/06/skilful-integration-conversations/>

## FEATURED JOURNAL AND JOURNAL NEWS

### **International Journal of Applied Systemic Studies**

The *International Journal of Applied Systemic Studies* (IJASS) publishes “on all aspects of systemic analysis, from both a practical and an academic viewpoint”. The journal seeks “to apply the insights... gained from systems thinking and a systems view of the world to the most significant issue of the day, namely, to conscious evolution, to the collective design of systems that enable the self-guided evolution of our lives, our organisations and institutions, and our communities and our societies... By focusing on applied studies, the journal can give voice to systems service on a wide range of issues that we have to address in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.... As such the IJASS aims to provide the latest developments, research and results from applications in the systems areas for its readers”.

IJASS goals are:

- “To provide a forum for the exchange of information on and experiences of studying the systems, and the methodologies, tools and products used to design, measure and achieve them.

- To promote awareness of the crucial role of systems studies in the effective construction of the information systems developed, used, and/or maintained by organisations in pursuit of their business objectives.
- To provide a vehicle for the publication of academic papers related to all aspects of soft and hard system approaches”.

Some of the topics covered by IJASS include: applications of systemic methodologies; applied [socio]cybernetics; ethical/living systems; complexity studies; critical systems thinking; total quality management; learning communities; virtual enterprises; cybernetics systems; human-computer interaction; modelling/simulation; multiagent-based systems; networks; system dynamics; problem structuring; semantics; knowledge representation; social systems design and simulation; systemic multi-methodologies; ontologies; systems thinking; and, decision support systems”.

This is the journal of the *Hellenic Society for Systemic Studies* (HSSS).

- **Website:**
  - <https://www.inderscience.com/jhome.php?jcode=ijass>

## **Call for papers by Environmental Science and Policy for special issue on 'Transdisciplinary Sustainability Research – Linking Research Processes and Outputs to Societal Effects'**

“The special issue aims at enhancing the debate on capturing links between transdisciplinary research processes, their results and intended (or unintended) effects as well as the challenge of categorizing and tracing different types of effects. It focuses on policy relevant sustainability research”.

Of particular interest to the special issue is “work that addresses one or more of the following questions through either new conceptual formulations or empirical studies (meta-analyses of several transdisciplinary projects or transdisciplinary case studies):

- Which effects can transdisciplinary sustainability research unfold in society and science and what are the central categories for describing different types and scalar dimensions of effects?
  - How can the challenges of assessing different types of effects be met, considering also the risks and unintended effects of TDR [Transdisciplinary Sustainability Research]?
  - How does the choice of methods and procedures specific for TDR (e.g. joint problem formulation, stakeholder participation, knowledge integration, assuring transferability of results and experiences) influence the effects of transdisciplinary research processes and the quality of their results? Which methodological elements can be included in transdisciplinary research processes to strengthen their potential for (societal) effects?”
- **For more detail see:**
    - <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/environmental-science-and-policy/call-for-papers/linking-research-processes-and-outputs-to-societal-effects>
    - Abstract submission for assessment to the special edition closes on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2019.

**Additional journals can be found at:** <http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/journals>

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**FEATURED NETWORK****SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Transformations Forum**

The *SDG Transformations Forum* "is founded on the belief that the many pressing challenges facing the world, its ecosystems and societies today require transformation rather than incremental change and superficial trade-offs. At the core of such transformations is a fundamental shift in social-ecological relationships that can help people and nature thrive together."

"The knowledge, tools and action for achieving transformative change are still inadequate and fragmented across disparate disciplines, issues, organizations and people. There is an urgent need to develop, nurture and connect ways of working and learning for transformative change. The *SDG Transformations Forum* is addressing this need. It provides a 'home', a platform for individuals and organizations worldwide interested in being part of such an effort".

The purpose and principles of the *SDG Transformations Forum* are to:

- "Accelerate co-creation, co-stewarding and the scaling up ... of transformations systems to ensure SDG-aligned outcomes at the following levels:
  - Place-based transformations systems, including at local, national and regional levels
  - Issue-led transformations systems
  - Capability-led transformations systems
  - *SDG Transformations Forum* transformations system
  - Global transformations systems
- Develop coherent, rich, accessible and evolving knowledge, methods, strategies and tools to facilitate SDG-inspired transformations systems
- Convene and support the development and strengthening of capabilities worldwide to work with, and within, SDG-inspired transformations systems towards desirable outcomes."

There are four ways to connect with the *SDG Transformations Forum*:

1. Apply to join one of the six working groups (these cover: evaluation for transformation, meta-narratives, innovation, financing transformations, capacity, and transformation system analysis)
2. Contribute your own issues-based and/or place-based transformations work
3. Follow the blog
4. Sign-up for the newsletter.

The *SDG Transformations Forum* was founded in 2016.

- **Website:**
  - <https://www.transformationsforum.net/>
  - Visions document: <https://www.transformationsforum.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Final-Vision-Mission-Goals-Value-Propositions-Principles-16-09-18.pdf> (PDF 660KB)

**Additional professional associations and networks can be found at:**  
[http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/associations\\_networks](http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/associations_networks)

## FEATURED CONFERENCES AND CONFERENCE UPDATES

### Summer School on Model-Based Decision Analysis

"The Summer School on Model-based Decision Analysis brings students of various backgrounds the fundamental knowledge and practice on the use of models to support decision analysis, learning, and problem-solving. The summer school will cover:

- How can you scope your research project using modelling and simulation as a primary research method?
- What problem framing and conceptualization techniques can you use in your project?
- How can you design and use a multi-method (optimisation, simulation, exploratory analysis) approach to enrich your project?
- What are the good modelling practices that you can follow to build your model's credibility and maximize its impact?
- How can you document your modelling project for a different audience (i.e., peer-reviewed publications, technical reports, etc.)?"

The summer school will be particularly useful for:

- "Undergraduate (senior year B.Sc./B.E.) and graduate (M.Sc and Ph.D.) level students who are interested in using modelling and simulation as their primary research method.
- Practitioners who wish to use modelling in their organisations"

At the course, there will be a focus on:

- "Jump start[ing] your research project with fundamental knowledge about modelling methodologies, techniques, and tools.
- Get hands-on experience with several modelling tools, including AnyLogic Simulation and Python analysis packages.
- Network and share your research problem and ideas with like-minded people.
- Challenge yourself through a set of group exercises, interactive tutorials, real-life case studies..."

The conference will be held in Canberra, Australia, on November 25-29, 2019.

- **For further details see:**

- <https://www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/capability-systems-centre/events/summer-school-model-based-decision-analysis-2019>
- Expressions of interest deadline: 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Association for Interdisciplinary Studies Conference: Interdisciplinarity in Global Contexts

"A defining feature of interdisciplinary education and research is its interest in the context in which problems emerge, are investigated and taught. In contrast to the abstraction and reductionism that defines many academic endeavours, interdisciplinarity (and transdisciplinarity) embraces explicitly the contextualized nature of most real world problems... [and so]... this conference theme asks participants to consider the global and local contexts of interdisciplinary education and research. "

The conference is arranged around four subthemes:

1. "Theme 1: From local to global
2. Theme 2: People, concepts, and methods crossing borders
3. Theme 3: Methodologies of interdisciplinary education and research
4. Theme 4: adjusting interdisciplinarity towards future challenges.

In line with the practice at other AIS conferences, the program committee will also welcome more general presentations that advance the AIS mission, which is 'to promote the interchange of ideas among scholars and administrators in all of the arts and sciences on intellectual and organizational issues related to interdisciplinary education and research.'

The conference will be held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on October 24-26, 2019.

- **For further details see:**

- <http://www.aisconference2019.nl/>
- Deadline for proposal submission: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019

### **3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Anticipation**

"Anticipation 2019 is a unique, radically interdisciplinary forum for exploring how ideas of the future inform action in the present. It brings together researchers, policy makers, scholars and practitioners to push forward thinking on issues ranging from modelling, temporality and the present to the design, ethics and power of the future. This conference includes attention to design amongst other domains.

The overarching aim of the conference series and of the emerging field of anticipation studies is to create new perspectives of how individuals, groups, institutions, systems and cultures use ideas of the future to act in the present". The conference is based at the Oslo School of Architecture and Design (AHO), "...where design is no longer a matter of problem solving but of working anticipatorily, that is in a reflexive interplay between making and analysing. The conference, however, is not limited to design. Our focus on anticipation – separately and together – stretches us to construct and communicate via a multitude of disciplines and domains, and more often than not through transdisciplinary linkages and configurations.

The Conference is arranged around a set of broad themes and underlying questions. These are offered to help build interdisciplinary engagement, content, and dialogue:

- How to care for the future
- Design by anticipation
- Time in shaping anticipatory practices
- The future as an anticipatory network
- Performative anticipation
- How does anticipatory learning happen
- Feeling the future
- Shaping critical cultures of anticipation
- Means and methods for making the future accessible"

The conference will be held in Oslo, Norway, on October 8-10, 2019.

- **For further details see:**

- <http://anticipationconference.org>
- Early registration through to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019
- Abstract submission deadline:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019
  - <http://anticipationconference.org/call-for-participation/>

## **Featured speakers for Science of Team Science (SciTS) 2019 Conference**

The Science of Team Science (SciTS) 2019 Conference, held in Lansing, Michigan, USA during May 20-23, has released initial information on the featured keynote address for the conference and also those who have committed to serving on the expert panels at the conference.

- **Featured speakers and panel information:**

- <https://www.inscits.org/featured-speakers>

## **Save the date for the International Transdisciplinarity Conference 2019**

Initial announcement of the date and location for the International Transdisciplinarity Conference 2019 has been released.

- **ITD 2019 to be held in:**

- Gothenburg, Sweden, on September 10-13, 2019

## **Additional conference information can be found at:**

<http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/conferences>

## **ABOUT i2S NEWS**

The aim of this newsletter is to provide regular (bi-monthly) updates about new resources added to the Integration and Implementation Sciences website (<http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources>). These resources are useful for researchers interested in Integration and Implementation Sciences (i2S), which underpins the investigation and tackling of 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.

In general, each issue features tools (concepts and methods), case studies and/or approaches relevant to i2S - either a useful compilation or one or more examples of note. We also provide information about journals, professional associations & networks and conferences where researchers can learn from others, report their findings and interact with like-minded peers. The newsletter also reports on discussions in the LinkedIn group "Global Network for Research Integration and Implementation":

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4888295/> (when these occur) and new entries on the Integration and Implementation Insights blog: <http://i2Insights.org>.

i2S News is archived at: <http://i2s.anu.edu.au/what-i2s/i2s-publications/i2s-news>.

Useful links:

- i2S website: <http://i2s.anu.edu.au>
- i2S on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/i2STalks>
- LinkedIn group "Global Network for Research Integration and Implementation": <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4888295/>



- i2Insights blog: <http://i2Insights.org>

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