



Newsletter

*Official Newsletter of the
International Federation for Systems Research*

Editor-in-Chief: Gerhard Chroust

Volume 24, no. 1 (Nov. 2006)

25 years



25 years

*IFSR
Newsletter*



University of Vienna

Dear Readers!

The front page already indicates the predominant theme for the IFSR in 2006 and for this Newsletter: Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the IFSR and in parallel the 25th anniversary of the IFSR Newsletter.

We will honour the past editors of our Newsletters and show you some nostalgic pictures of old Newsletters exhibiting the various layouts we have used over the years.

We then report on the 25-year celebration itself, which was held on April 19, 2006, at the site of the Vienna University. The whole celebration day has been filmed by a camera-team and we are planning to condense it into a one-hour DVD to be available in the first half of 2007.

We report on the Board Meeting, its decisions and the election of the new Executive Committee of the IFSR. A short account of each of the IFSR's projects is also included.

The Fuschl Conversation 2006 was also completely different to previous ones. We bring a short summary of the result. A full report is contained in the proceedings, which have been published and distributed during July 2006.

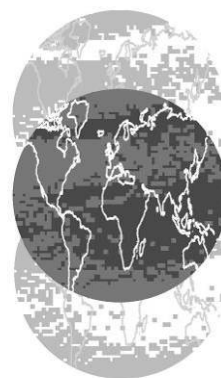
One major project is just starting. In order to be able to fulfil the various new challenges for the IFSR we have decided to refurbish our web site. Read more about it inside.

As usual you will also find some reports from our members.

This leaves me to wish you all

A Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year 2007.

Gerhard Chroust



ISSN 1818-0809 (print)
ISSN 1818-0817 (online)

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Pictures from the 25 year Celebration



from left: Gerhard Chroust, Matjaz Mulej, Gerard deZeeuw, Gary Metcalf, Ranulph Glanville, Gerrit Broekstra



from left: Jifa Gu, Sigi Priegliger, Amanda Gregory, Robert Vallee, Helmut Loeckenhoff, ?, Jennifer Wilby, ?, G.A. Swanson, Nagib Callaos, Vadim Kvitchash, Daniel Dubois, ?, Christian Fuchs, ?, Christian Loesch



from left: Sigi Priegliger, ?, Amanda Gregory, Robert Vallee, ?, Helmut Loeckenhoff, Jennifer Wilby, ?, G.A. Swanson, Nagib Callaos, Vadim Kvitchash,



from left: Nagib Callaos, ?, ?, Wolfgang Hofkirchner, Christian Fuchs, ?, Christian Loesch

	<h2><i>25 Years of the IFSR Newsletter</i></h2>
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This year we celebrate the 25th Year of the IFSR Newsletter. It has accompanied the IFSR over all those years. It has reported about the ups and downs of the IFSR and of the systems sciences. The Newsletter has sustained a remarkable stability of editors.

Editors of the IFSR Newsletter

1981 - 1984	Francis de Paula HANIKA
1985 - 1986	Robert TRAPPL
1986 - 1993	Stephen SOKOLOFF
1886 - 1995	Stephen SOKOLOFF and Gerhard CHROUST
1995 -	Gerhard CHROUST

A short history of the IFSR Newsletter

Number	Date	
1	Autumn 1981	The first Newsletter is published. Editor-in-Chief is Francis de Paula Hanika. 4000 copies are printed and distributed to the member societies of the IFSR
11	Summer 1985	With the passing away of Francis Hanika, Robert Trappl becomes Editor-in-Chief
13	Summer 1986	Stephen Sokoloff becomes new Editor-in-Chief, a new layout is chosen
28	Autumn 1991	A new layout for the Newsletter is chosen, A yellow header band and a new font on the title page is chosen
	1992	Due to adverse circumstances no Newsletter appeared in this year
29	July 1993	The newly appointed secretary/treasurer of the IFSR, Gerhard Chroust joins Stephen Sokoloff as Co-editor. The newsletter is not type-set any more but produced
33	July 1994	The newsletter is also published via the newly established Web-site of the IFSR via desk-top publishing and only printed at the printers.
36	March 1995	Gerhard Chroust becomes the sole Editor in Chief. Part of the Newsletter edition is printed in the united States, and shipped from there to North and South America. Thanks to Gordon Rowland from Ithaca University
vol. 15, No. 1 (= no. 40)	March 1996	The numbering scheme of the Newsletter is changed to a volume/issued system. At the same time the Newsletter is no longer type-set but produced via desk top publishing by Gerhard Chroust
vol. 18 no 3/4	Dec. 1999	The Newsletters for American distribution are printed at Ithaca College with the help of Gordon Rowland.
vol. 19, no 1	July 2000	A new layout is created, having considerable similarity with the layout of the Journal for System Research and Behavioral Science.
vol. 20, no 1	Sept 2001	A minor change in layout is done in order to bring the Newsletter to look like the publications of the IFSR (light brown cover)
vol. 21m, no 1	Nov. 2003	Mass printing of the Newsletter is abolished, only a small quantity is printed for documentary purposes. Only 2 copies are sent to the member organisations, due to the availability of the Newsletter on the internet.
vol. 24, no. 1	Nov. 2006	The IFSR Newsletter is assigned a ISSN-number: 1818-0809 (print version) and ISSN 1818-0817 (online version)




International Federation For Systems Research

NEWSLETTER


AUTUMN 1981 Print of this issue — 4000 copies

Editorial Office: Prof. F. de P. Hanika, International Secretariat of the Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies, Haus Hanika, A-8524 Bad Gams 92 to whom all material submitted for publication should be sent.


OFFICERS OF THE IFSR



President George J. KLIR is a professor of systems science and chairman of the Dept. of Systems Science at the State University of New York at Binghamton, NY. He received his Ph.D. in computer science from the Czechoslovak Academy of Science in Prague. He is President of the Society for General Systems Research, Editor of the International Journal of General Systems, editor of two or editor of 12 books and over 70 papers in the areas of systems methodology, discrete mathematics and computer architecture and design.



Vice-President Robert TRAPPL (Ph. D. Vienna), Professor in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Vienna, Director of the Institute for Medical Cybernetics of the University, President of the Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies, Vienna since its foundation in 1970. Editor of Cybernetics and Systems: An International Journal and General Editor of Progress in Cybernetics and Systems Research, Vols. I—XI.



Secretary/Treasurer Gerard de ZEEUW is Professor in the field of social change at the University of Amsterdam. He has a Ph.D. in philosophy and is a member of various Dutch scientific organizations; an associate editor of SYSTEMICA. He was for many years consultant in applied and pure research projects.

EDITORIAL

The IFSR wish to use this first official publication of the Federation to record their thanks and appreciation to Dr. Finberg, the Federal Minister for Science and Research for her help in arranging the financial support and office accommodation for the Federation on behalf of the Austrian Government. Thanks are also due to the officials concerned in this matter, especially to Herr Ral Dr. Rosenich, who took a leading role.

This is the first Newsletter to appear after the IFSR Annual Meeting of The Board of the IFSR. Some decisions taken there are detailed in our "Points" feature on page 3. Appearing three times a year, briefly of reporting will be our aim to present multum in parvo about activities, projects, programs and events organized by IFSR and its member societies as well as other items of interest to Systems and Cybernetic people.

Suggestions and contributions will be welcome and acknowledged to contributors.

IFSR GOALS

by Prof. Bela BANATHY

(Approved by the IFSR Board at its Meeting in June in Vienna, Austria)

- Strengthen the programs of member societies by their involvement in the program and network of IFSR. (Social Learning Goal)
- Facilitate (encourage) the development of systems science in countries in which such programs do not yet exist or are now developing. (Membership Development)
- Develop — Implement — evaluate IFSR level programs to meet the purposes of IFSR; to advance system science. (Synergic Goal)
- Identify inventory system science relevant resources, acquire those and make them accessible to member societies. (Resource Development Goal)
- Make contribution to the larger global scientific community and be of service to improve the global human condition and enrich the quality of life. (Global Mission)

The first Newsletter (autumn 1981)



International Federation For Systems Research

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 1985 No. 11 Print of issue — 3000 copies

Founding Editor: F. de P. Hanika. Editor: R. Trapp. Editorial Assistant: M. Schulte-Denne. International Federation for Systems Research, Hofstrasse 1, A-2361 Laxenburg, Austria.



Prof. Dr. h.c. FRANCIS DE PAULA HANIK A

In the night from January 1 to 2, while asleep, the long-term vice-president of the Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies, member of the Board of the International Federation for Systems Research, associate editor of Cybernetics and Systems: An International Journal, editor of the IFSR-Newsletter and editor of the International Cybernetics Newsletter, Professor F. de P. Hanika, died in his new apartment in Bad Gams, Austria. Professor Hanika was 84 years old.

My cooperation and friendship with Paul Hanika started in 1971. One day, when I was sitting in the (then) only room of the just recently established Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies, I received a call from a man who told me that he had just passed by from Khartoum and would like to meet me. Puzzled that the knowledge about our society had already spread so far, I invited him to come right to our office.

He told me that he had just retired from the chair of management science of the University of Khartoum and through his wife was scottish, they had fallen in love with a nice place in Styria and they were planning to buy some land and build a house where to spend the rest of their life. Most of the rest — because he felt fully active and wanted to help us whenever we could — need him.

If we could! We had considered to arrange some kind of a conference of cyberneticians and systems researchers in Austria, both in order to exchange ideas and to spread the "cybernetic seed" in Austria. But we had no




Prof. Dr. h.c. and Mrs. Francis de Paula Hanika

experience how to do it. Paul had. Though it was very late, a few months only before the date we had envisioned, he drafted the program, invited chairman, looked for contributors, and gave a name to the conference: Since we hoped that at least some scientists would come from outside of Austria, "Europeans" wouldn't be too wrong. And since we were not sure if more than 30 people would come, "Meetings would suit, anyway. Thus, in 1972, the first "European Meeting on Cybernetics and Systems Research" took place, with about 150 participants, coming from more than 20 countries, also outside Europe. From then on, the Meetings took place biennially, thanks to the initiative and the efforts of Paul Hanika. And we decided not to change the name, e.g. to "International Congress", though the meetings had really become international.

It took some time until we learned more from Paul about his life. And it was a really unusual one! Born in 1880 in St. Pölten, about 60 kilometers west of Vienna, he was educated in a Jesuit school in Czechoslovakia, he worked in an international timber business company with centers in London, Hamburg, and Vienna. He worked his way up to senior management level, and in 1921 formed his own company, Continental Hardwoods Ltd. 1939 ended this timber business, but soon thereafter he started his second career as production manager of Astra Steelworks in Sheffield, and added the Diploma in Metallurgy to his accomplishments.

In 1950, the Royal Technical College of Glasgow decided to build up a management school. Paul Hanika seemed to be their right man to join the foundation team. Thus, at the age of 50, Paul Hanika started his third

With the passing away of Paul Hanika, Robert Trapp takes up the editorship (1984/85).




INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR SYSTEMS RESEARCH

NEWSLETTER

Founding Editor: F. de Hanika Editor: Stephen Sokoloff International Federation for Systems Research Hofstrasse 3, A-1070 Wien, Austria

SUMMER 1986 · NO. 13 · PRINT OF ISSUE · 3000 COPIES



ABOUT OUR NEW EDITOR

Dear Members,

Please allow me to present the successor of our friend and colleague Paul Hanika, who we all held in such high esteem.

Our new editor, Dr. Stephen Sokoloff, 43, can point to both scientific and journalistic accomplishments. He is an American from Detroit, Michigan who couldn't resist the charm of the old world. Interning his scientific studies with frequent travels and foreign-language courses, he finally earned his doctorate in genetics from the Max Planck Institute for Biology in Tübingen, W. Germany, under the supervision of Prof. W. Beermann. His work has been published in "Chromosoma" and other journals.

I am very pleased that we have found in Dr. Sokoloff a colleague with both journalistic and scientific experience. I would like to ask you to help him in his work by submitting contributions to the Newsletter.

Franz Pichler
Prof. for Systems Theory
IFSR Board Member

After a post-doctorate in gene technology, he turned to a career in teaching and popular scientific writing. His articles appear in many different magazines and newspapers, some of them international. He writes a weekly environmental page for a local newspaper and prepares educational radio series for the Austrian Federal Radio Network (ORF). His university courses in my department — he teaches the evolution and manipulation of biological information — always attract a large number of students.

You can submit articles or notices in any of the following languages: English, German, Spanish, French, Italian or Russian. Reports in languages other than English will be translated. Faulty English will be rewritten. Please include at least an English translation of all technical terms. Maximal length: six double-spaced manuscript pages.

FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you have not been getting the Newsletters regularly but would like to, please request it from your local organization.


THE NEW IFSR-NEWSLETTER IS FULL OF SURPRISES!

WE WELCOME CONTROVERSY!

Science is — even for scientists — a very limited kind of human activity. We all know that many valuable thoughts, ideas, opinions elude objective verification. This newsletter — which will be localized somewhere near the interface between research and gossip, is intended not to compete with but to complement the professional journals. This publication can only succeed if you are willing to cooperate. We will be accepting the following kinds of material:

- Articles of editorial opinion concerning the systems sciences. Some possible topics: desirable research aims and objectives, funding, education (see the contribution by Franz Pichler in this issue), current status of these disciplines.
- Articles providing a semipopular overview of a particular field of systems research. They should be readily comprehensible to all information scientists.
- News items — new developments, research projects now being initiated, ideas and speculations.
- New books, important articles and publications.
- Forthcoming scientific meetings.
- Professional opportunities (jobs).

Stephen Sokoloff becomes the New Editor, and the Newsletter gets a face-lift (1986).




INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR SYSTEMS RESEARCH

NEWSLETTER

Founding Editor: F. de Hanika Editor: Stephen Sokoloff International Federation for Systems Research Hofstrasse 3, A-1070 Wien, Austria Electronic Mail: H.82326@az.siemens.Binet, Systems Research

1991 NO. 26 PRINT OF ISSUE 3400 COPIES



PROF. STUART A. UMPLESBY

Negotiating Procedures and Underlying Ethical Convictions in the Soviet Union and the USA

Prof. Stuart A. Umplesby
Department of Management Science
George Washington University
Washington D.C., 20016, U.S.A.

and
Visiting Research Fellow, Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies, Vienna

In the light of his own personal experience the author describes fundamental differences in Soviet and American processes of conflict resolution. These, as he proceeds to demonstrate, have deep cultural roots; the basic assumptions concerning morals are different in both societies. Now under Gorbachev, however, the Soviets are changing; they are becoming much more frank and open.

I became interested in the topic of this paper when I was involved in arranging conferences between Soviet and American scientists in the fields of cybernetics and systems theory. When I first began working with Soviet scientists nine years ago, I assumed that scientific conferences involving Americans and Soviets would proceed in a fashion similar to meetings I had experienced among academics from North and South America, East and West Europe and Japan. Although I expected some difficulties due to the super-power rivalry, I was shocked by the magnitude of the differences between the thinking of Americans and Soviets about topics such as the relationship of politics to science.

In order to comprehend the reasons for this disparity, I began to study Soviet history and culture. Learning about Marxist-Leninist thought helped me to understand the terms the Soviets were using and their frame of reference. But the theory that I found most useful in my interactions with Soviet scientists was that of two systems of ethical cognition formulated by a Soviet émigré mathematician and psychologist, Vladimir Lefebvre (1982).

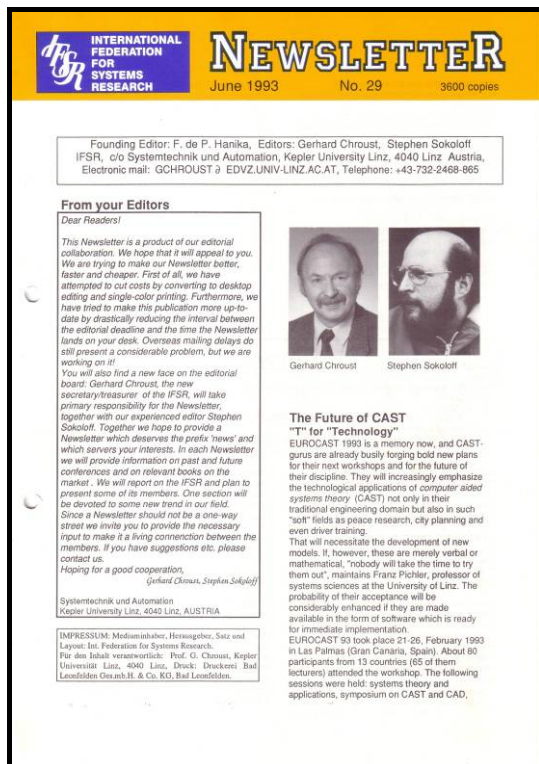
An Example of Cultural Differences

On most matters I found that working with Soviet scientists was not greatly different from dealing with scientists from any other country. However, when an issue of political importance arose, I discovered that Soviet scientists negotiated in a way that was dramatically different from that I was accustomed to. (I should note here that the experiences I am about to describe occurred before Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in 1985.)

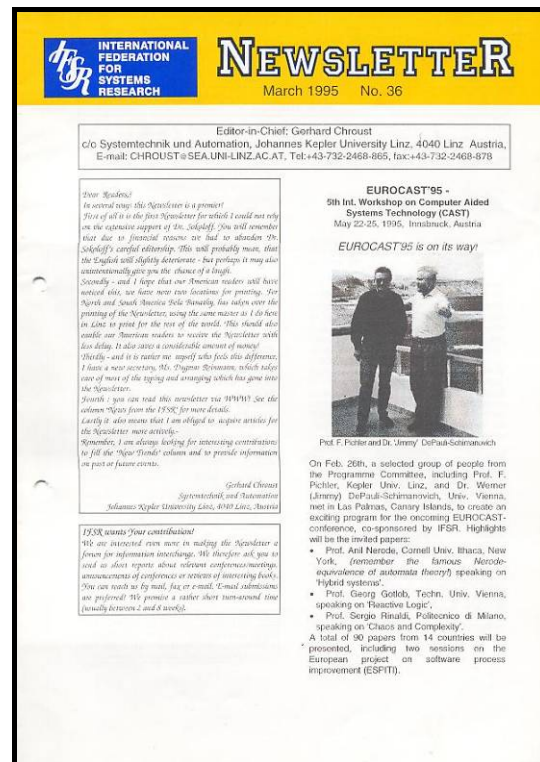
When an American begins a negotiation, he will often lead off with a conciliatory statement, thereby indicating his willingness to compromise and to reach agreement. A Soviet negotiator usually begins with a confrontational statement, indicating his commitment to principle and his determination not to compromise on vital issues. As a result of these opening statements Americans tend to conclude that the Soviets are aggressive, impolite, and unwilling to negotiate seriously. The Soviets are likely to conclude that the Americans are weak, not committed to their principles, and unprepared to negotiate seriously.

Not only do Americans and Soviets have different ways of initiating a negotiation; they also have different ideas of how it should proceed. Americans begin by indicating the area in which an agreement might be possible. They expect the other side to do the same. The region of overlap then becomes the focus of attention. The rest of the negotiation

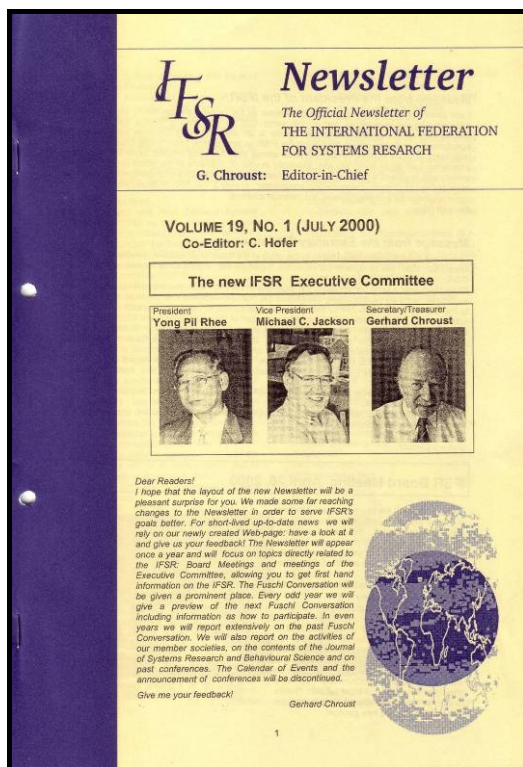
The Newsletter receives another face-lift (1991)



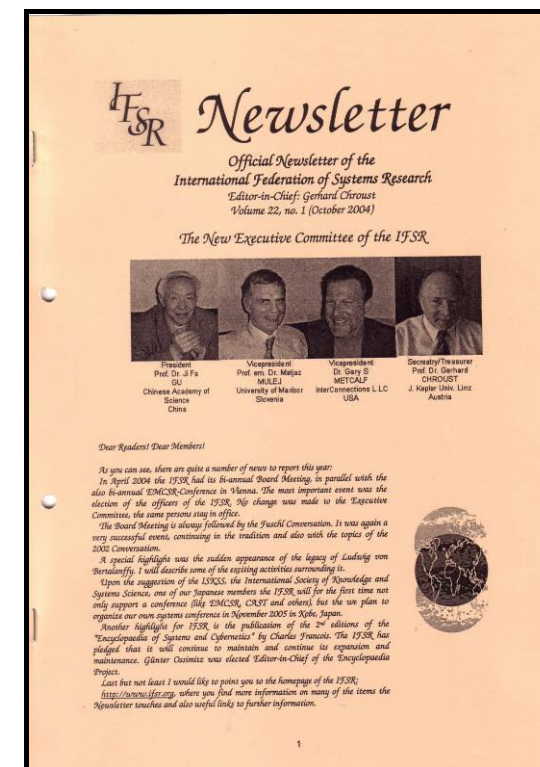
Gerhard Chroust joins Stephen Sokoloff as co-editor (1993)



Gerhard Chroust becomes the sole Editor of the Newsletter (1995)



A new layout is chosen for the newsletter (2000)



The Newsletter receives its current type-face and appearance (2004)



Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of IFSR

The celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the IFSR took place where it essentially all started: at the European Meeting of Cybernetics (EMCSR) and Systems Research in Vienna. IFSR's presence at this Conference has tradition but for 2006 we planned for more. Already in Newsletter 23/1 (December 2005) we gave an account of IFSR's 25 year history and showed some historical reminiscences:

On April 19, 2006 we devoted a whole day to the celebration. In order to preserve the event for posterity a television team was engaged who filmed (with 2 cameras) the whole day. It is planned to produce an approximate 1 hour

DVD-video this recordings, but also to make (in limited numbers) the whole filmed (approximate 6 hours of film) available to interested person. Publication is planned for early 2007.

A whole day was devoted to the celebration. We show the invitation to the event, a short historical retrospective on the roots of the systems movement, followed by a PowerPoint presentation of the current status of the IFSR-Traditionally the IFSR sponsors the so-called Ashby-lecture, this year held by our new president (then still vice president) Matjaz Mulej.

Partial Contents of Newsletter 23/1:

25 Years of the IFSR (a short history of the evolvement of the systems sciences)
George Klir looks back (a personal history)
Robert Trappl looks back (a personal account of the founding of the IFSR)
Gerard deZeeuw looks back (another view of the same topic)
Some pictures
The official registration form of the IFSR with the Austrian authorities
The first page of the newly founded IFSR Newsletter



1980 - 2005



Invitation
to the
25 Year Celebration of the
International Federation for Systems Research

April 19, 2006
9:00 – 17:15
University of Vienna, Austria
Wien 1., Dr. Karl Luegerring 1

Programme of the Celebration

9:00 - 9:30 (Room 47)

IFSR - The International Federation for Systems Research: Aims and Activities

Prof. Dr. Jifa Gu
Chinese Academy of Science, China
Prof. Dr. Gerhard Chroust
Kepler Univ. Linz, Austria

09:30 - 10:30 (Room 47)

Ross Ashby Memorial Lecture: Systems Theory - a World View and/or a Methodology

Prof. Dr. Matjaž Mulej
University of Maribor, Slovenia

11:00-13:00 Round Table (Room 16): The Future of Systems Sciences and the IFSR: Trends, Challenges and Plans

Ranulph Glanville, CybernEthics Research, UK
Jifa Gu, Chinese Academy of Science, China
Matjaz Mulej, University of Maribor, Slovenia
Gary S. Metcalf, InterConnections LLC, USA
G.A. Swanson, Tennessee Tech University, USA
Robert Trappl, Medical University Vienna, Austria
Gerard de Zeeuw, University of Amsterdam

14:00 - 15:30 Round Table (Room 16): 25 Years of the IFSR: A retrospective

Gerrit Broekstra, Nyenrode University, Netherlands
Gerhard Chroust, Kepler University Linz, Austria
Ranulph Glanville, CybernEthics Research, UK
Gary S. Metcalf, InterConnections LLC, USA
Matjaz Mulej, University of Maribor, Slovenia
Franz Pichler, Kepler University Linz, Austria
Norbert Rozsenich, Austrian Soc. of Technology
Policy
Robert Trappl, Medical University Vienna, Austria
Gerard de Zeeuw, University of Amsterdam

15:45- 17:15 Round Table (Room 16) 25 Year of the IFSR : Achievements and Projects

Gerhard Chroust, Kepler University Linz, Austria
Amanda Gregory, University of Hull, UK
Jifa Gu, Chinese Academy of Science, China
Wolfgang Hofkirchner, Univ. of Salzburg, Austria
Matjaz Mulej, University of Maribor, Slovenia
Günther Ossimitz, University of Klagenfurt, Austria
Franz Pichler, Kepler University Linz, Austria

The afternoon was organized as a family type event, without much formal structure. Past officers together with friends of the IFSR were invited to join the round tables. Three one and a half hour sessions were organized, discussing

- **The Future of Systems Sciences and the IFSR, Trends, Challenges and Plans**
 - Starting with the challenging and though provoking Ashby lecture the panellist, together with the audience pointed out problems, challenges and chances of the Systems Sciences
- **25 Years of the IFSR: A retrospective**
 - This was devoted to reminiscences of the 'good old days', some of the active persons of the first years of IFSR spoke up. Some more details can be found in the memorial reminiscence of IFSR Newsletter 24, no. 1 (December 2005)
- **25 Year of the IFSR : Achievements and Projects**
 - Key Projects of the IFSR were presented and discussed, by chief representatives of the individual projects: The Journal of Systems Research and Behavioural Science, the IFSR Book Series, The Fuschl Conversation, The IFSR Newsletter, the Web-Site. The Bertalanffy Legacy, The First IFSR Congress 'The New Roles of Systems Sciences for a Knowledge-based Society in Kobe, Japan, the electronic version of Charles François' Encyclopaedia, the International Academy of Systems Sciences and Cybernetics. for some of these topics more details can be found below



Ranulph Glanville
Gerrit Broekstra



from left: Gerhard Chroust, Matjaz Mulej, Gerard deZeeuw, Gary Metcalf



The film team – 2nd from right: Kawo Reland (director)



The starting point of the IFSR

(taken from IFSR Newsletter vol. 23, no. 1 (December 2005))

A good half a century ago, right after the end of the World War I – World Economic crisis – World War II (1914-1945) period, scientists such as Ludwig von Bertalanffy, Norbert Wiener and their colleagues found a response to the terrible events that killed tens of millions of people: holistic rather than fragmented thinking, decision-making and acting. They established two sciences to support humankind in the effort of meeting this end, which is a promising alternative to the worldwide and local crises. These were *Systems Theory* and *Cybernetics*. System was and is the word entitled to represent the whole. One fights one-sidedness in order to survive.

Nevertheless, every human must be specialized in a fragment of the immense huge available knowledge humankind possesses today. Thus, one-sidedness is unavoidable and beneficial, too. But networking of many one-sided insights can help all of us overcome the weak sides of a narrow specialization. Thus, we all need a narrow professional capacity and have to add to it systemic / holistic thinking.

From this combination most modern equipment resulted, most modern knowledge in all spheres of human activity, solutions to environmental problems, etc. Most of the remaining problems can be ascribed to a lack of this combination; and there are very many around that can hardly be solved without systems thinking and creative co-operation of diverse specialists.

Our responsibility for the future obliges us to try to improve the current situation and not to leave an excessive burden to future generation

Already in 1980 a group of far looking individuals from several associations working on systems theory and cybernetics recognized that it is not enough to have small nuclei of systems thinking in some countries: if our problems are international or even global, so must be the network trying to respond to them. Since a system, in its general abstract definition, is more than its parts as well as their sum, it was decided to interlink groups of system thinkers around the world and to try to find answers to some of the pressing problems of the world. With the support of the Austrian Federal Minister for Science and Research of the time three important societies in the area of systems research founded the *International*

Federation for Systems Research (IFSR) on March 12, 1980.

The societies and their representatives were:

- The Österreichische Studiengesellschaft für Kybernetik (Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies) under its president Prof. Robert Trappl, Austria, who became the first Vice-President of the IFSR
- The Systemgroup Nederland represented by Prof. Gerard de Zeeuw, Netherlands, who became the first secretary treasurer of the IFSR.
- The Society for General Systems



Robert Trappl



Gerard de Zeeuw

Research under its president Prof. J. Klir, USA, who became the first President of the IFSR. This society later became the International Society for the Systems Sciences

Since 1980 Federation has grown. It now counts 33 members representing scientists from 25 countries on all continents.


In June 1980, at its first Board Meeting, the founders of the IFSR defined the goals of the Federation as follows:



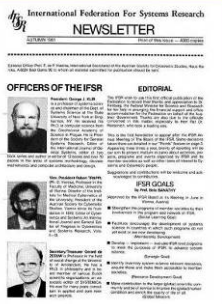


- **Social Learning Goal:** Strengthen the programs of member societies by involvement in the program and network of IFSR.
- **Membership Development Goal:** Facilitate (encourage) the development of







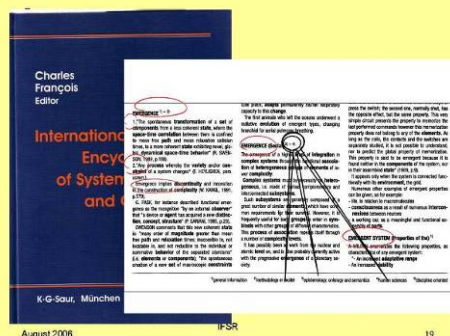






Systems science in countries in which such programs do not yet exist or are now developing.

- **Synergetic Goal:** Develop – implement – evaluate IFSR level programs to meet the purposes of IFSR; to advance systems science.
- **Resource Development Goal:** Identify an inventory of system science relevant resources, acquire those and make them accessible to member societies.
- **Global Mission:** Make contribution to the larger (global) scientific community and be of service to improve the (global) human condition and enrich the quality of life of all.



	<h2>What is the IFSR today?</h2>
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 <h1>IFSR</h1> <h2>International Federation for Systems Research</h2> <p>August 2006 IFSR 1</p>	 <p>Founded in 1980</p> <p>George J. Klir</p> <p>Robert Trapp</p> <p>Gerard de Zeeuw</p>  <p>August 2006</p>
 <h3>Purpose</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stimulate all activities ... • with the scientific study of systems, ... coordinate ... at the international level. • organize, support and sponsor research and development in systems research • develop international publications • define and promote standards of competence • coordinate programs of members <p>August 2006 IFSR 3</p>	 <h3>Governance</h3> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Executive Committee</p> <p>elects</p> <p>↑</p> <p>Send 2 representatives</p> </div> <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p>BOARD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Member (organisations in good standing) • Affiliate (developing organisation) • 32 members from 25 countries </div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <p>President 2 Vicepresidents Secretary/Treasurer</p> </div> <p>August 2006 IFSR 4</p>

<div><div></div><div><div>Ludwig von Bertalanffy Legacy</div></div></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Born 1901• 1934 -1948 Ass. Prof / Professor at the Institute of Philosophy und Biology in Vienna, Austria• 1944 most personal papers lost (bombing in Vienna)• 1948- 1969, London, then Canada• 1969- 1972 Center for Theoretical Biology at the State University of New York in Buffalo.</div> <div><div>August 2006</div><div>IFSR</div><div>15</div></div>	<div><div></div><div><div>The Bertalanffy Legacy</div></div></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• March 2004 on Internet:• „Bertalanffy's Legacy surfaced in Buffalo, NY“• Hectic activities by IFSR:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Exclude competitors– Ensure authenticity– Guarantee safety– Guarantee scientific analysis• June 2004: whole legacy goes to Vienna<div>THANKS to sponsors! And to Wolfgang Hofkirchner (Salzburg)</div></div> <div><div>August 2006</div><div>IFSR</div><div>16</div></div>
<div><div></div><div><div>The Bertalanffy Legacy</div></div></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• „Bertalanffy Center for the Study of Systems Science“ (W. Hofkirchner)• 500 personal letters (to and from), 1946-1972• 150 monographies (various authors, partially signed)• 120 manus and books by Bertalanffy</div> <div><div>Currently catalogued and archived</div><div>Bertalanffy Center for the Study of Systems Science (BCSSS)</div></div> <div><div>August 2006</div><div>IFSR</div><div>17</div></div>	<div><div></div><div><div>International Encyclopedia of Systems and Cybernetics</div></div></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• In book form• Publisher: K.G. Saur, Munich, Germany• <i>IFSR pledges to continue its maintenance</i></div> <div><div></div><div><div></div><div>Günther Ossimitz, Klagenfurt, Austria</div></div></div> <div><div>August 2006</div><div>IFSR</div><div>18</div></div>
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W. Ross Ashby (b. 1903, London, d. 1972) was a psychiatrist and one of the founding fathers of cybernetics. He developed the homeostat, the law of requisite variety, the principle of self-organization, and law of regulating models. He wrote *Design for a Brain* (1952) and an *Introduction to Cybernetics* (1956).

The commemorative lecture, sponsored by the International Federation for Systems Research (IFSR), is held every second year on the occasion of the EMCSR-Conference in Vienna.

Systems theory – a worldview and/or a methodology

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Papers to conferences, even on systems and cybernetics, show that many leave aside Bertalanffy's (1979, p. VII ff.) intention: systems theory is a worldview of holism

and it attacks over-specialization; it is not one of many specialized disciplines of science; methodologies and methods should support holism. But what is holism?

The growing, immense quantity of humankind's knowledge causes unavoidable narrow specialization of individuals to one of about one hundred thousand professions of today. Each and every profession exists with full right. But they work on partial attributes: if knowing and using parts alone rather than wholes was enough, sodium alone and chlorine alone could be used for food rather than edible salt, which they compose in synergy.

Voices warning about the problem of oversights, one-sidedness, and their consequences were around millennia ago, too, such as Chinese philosophy of interdependence (yin-yang), Ancient Greek philosophy of interdependence (dialectics), and concepts of *systema* and *holon* meaning the whole, similar ideas from Middle Ages period, and the 19th century's Idealistic and Materialistic Dialectics, etc. They remained over-

heard and neglected, given a very cool reception in the arena full of many specialists of different professions (having a lot of good and precious work to do inside their own delimited gardens), who have not seen that their precious work is not enough: it leaves interaction aside and makes specialists a tool in hands of coordinating bosses.

Attitude and capacity of holism by interdisciplinary co-operation is foreign to very many, even most of them. So is ethics of interdependence: we need each other for differences, be them natural, ethnic, professional, etc. They should not be overseen or called problems, but enrichment. Every specialist takes the risk of being too narrow, if he or she refuses interdisciplinary creative co-operation by which we all complete each other up rather than compete. Many methods concerning cooperation are offered: many people keep having hard times when asked to be holistic. One-sidedness is easier, but helpful to a limited extent only, even if it provides for depth.

A good half a century ago, right after the end of World War I – World Economic Crisis – World War II (1914-1945) period, scientists like L. v. Bertalanffy (LvB), N. Wiener and their colleagues found a new response to the terrible consequences of one-sidedness visible in events of this period, again: holistic rather than fragmented thinking, decision-making and action. They established two sciences, growing into one in the course of time, gradually and more or less,

to support humankind in the effort of meeting this end – holism – which is a promising alternative to the worldwide and local crises: Systems Theory and Cybernetics. System was and is the word entitled to represent the whole. One fights one-sidedness in order to survive. LvB wrote very clearly, on page VII of his Foreword to his seminal book “... systems theory is a broad view which far transcends technological problems and demands, a reorientation that has become necessary in science in general and in the gamut of disciplines ... It ... heralds a new world view of considerable impact. The student in »systems science« receives a technical training which makes systems theory – **originally intended to overcome current overspecialization** [bold face mine] into another of the hundreds of academic specialties. ...« (LvB, 1979, p. VII). »It presents a novel »paradigm« in scientific thinking ... the concept of system can be defined and developed in different ways as required by the objective of research, and as reflecting different aspects of the central notion.« (Ibidem, p. XVII) ... »General systems theory, then, is scientific explorations of »wholes« and »wholeness« which, not so long ago, were considered to be metaphysical notions transcending the boundaries of science.« (Ibidem, p. XX) ... ».. »Systems« problems are problems of interrelations of a great number of »variables«.« (Ibidem, p. XX) .. ».. models, conceptualization and principles – as, for example, the concept of information, feedback, control, stability, circuit theory, etc. – by far transcend specialist boundaries, were of an interdisciplinary nature..« (Ibidem, p. XX). Another quotation (LvB, 1979, pp. XXI-XXII) says that systems are mental pictures of real or abstract entities, concepts that

represent something existing from a selected perspective / viewpoint / aspect.

Inside an authors' (expressed or tacit) selected viewpoint, one may put system equal to object dealt with; but in such a case one risks misunderstanding with one's audience, especially the one from other professional backgrounds. Therefore, when specialists of any profession (which we all are) use the word system to express something that we perceive as a whole inside our own selected viewpoint – it makes a system fictitiously holistic. Why is this important? There are scientists attempting to say that their discipline offers the only unique and unifying basis for dealing with systems. They do not speak of worldview, like LvB does, but of professional disciplines. Can they be right? Yes, in their perspective. Can they be sufficient? Rarely, exceptionally: one-sidedness is unavoidable, but beneficial and dangerous, all at the same time; every human must unavoidably be specialized in a fragment of the immense huge given knowledge of today. Alone, though, it can do much less benefit than in cooperation / network of mutually different specialists (e.g. a management team, a doctors/nurses/etc. team, a professors or teachers team, a sports team, a trainers team, etc.). Networking of mutually different one-sided insights can help us overcome the weak sides of a narrow specialization, and use the good ones. Thus, humans need a narrow specialization and (!) capacity and practice of systemic / holistic thinking. But there seems to be a lot of disagreement what holism may be all about. My response is a complex entity in Figure 1.

<i>Actual attributes of real features</i>		<i>Considered attributes of thinking about real features</i>
Systemic	Complexity	Consideration of whole's attributes that parts do not have
Systematic	Complicatedness	Consideration of parts' attributes that whole does not have
Dialectic	Basis for complexity	Consideration of interdependences of parts that make parts unite into the new whole
Requisite realism / materialism	Basis for requisite holism of consideration	Consideration that selection of the systems of viewpoints must consider reality in line with the law of requisite holism for results of consideration to be applicable

Figure 1: Dialectical system of four basic attributes of holism of thinking

Total holism cannot be attained; one-viewpoint holism is fictitious. This is what we have addressed with the concept of the dialectical system (e.g. see Fig. 1) and the Mulej/Kajzer law of requisite holism (Fig. 2).

←-----→		
Fictitious holism (inside a single viewpoint)	Requisite holism (a dialectical system of essential viewpoints)	Total = real holism (a system of all viewpoints)

Figure 2: Holism of consideration of the selected topic between the fictitious, requisite, and total holism

Most – if not all – successes in history of humankind, such as survival of humankind over many millennia, modern equipment, most modern knowledge, etc. have resulted from application of requisite holism. Take a look at the background of your (and others') best successes, all over the human history, and you will see it: success has its background in requisite holism, and failure has it in one-sidedness and resulting oversights.

The best way toward making the requisite holism attained to an acceptable degree is the interdisciplinary co-operation. But it is neglected even inside the systems community, conferences and journals say. Hence, we can maintain that our dialectical system of principles of systems thinking – as an attribute and attitude, rather than as a profession – makes sense (Fig. 3). But it lives in a small minority rather in all the systems science community, or in broader circles: it addresses and admits complexity rather than simplification (but it does so because oversight of complexity by over-simplification causes complex and complicated consequences, including world wars). Systems theory, taken as methodology, should support the attitude/principles in the left

column of the Figure 3 and fight the right column. Results are helpful anyway, I trust, but might be even more so, if authors had more of the Figure 3 (left column) in mind.

Humans using the left column in Figure 3 are working toward preventing terrible events such as World Wars from happening again. Thanks a lot for these extremely valuable efforts!

They prove that LvB has been right saying: Systems thinking is a worldview, not a profession. In other words: systems thinking is a matter of education, values, culture, ethics, norms of behaviour, added to any single professional knowledge; it can receive support from methodological contributions – once they do not go away from requisite holism toward one-sidedness, toward fictitious holism. Which level of holism is the requisite one in the concrete case, is a matter of authors' decision and responsibility: this decision can make them succeed or fail, do good, or do harm. But there are very few interdisciplinary conferences around, such as Problems of ... (no longer), STIQE (since 1992) and IDIMT (since 1993).

<i>Systems / Systemic / Holistic Thinking</i>	<i>Un-systemic / Traditional Thinking</i>
Interdependence/s, Relation/s, Openness, Interconnectedness, Dialectical System	Independence, One-way dependence, Closeness, A single viewpoint / system
Complexity (plus complicatedness)	Simplicity or Complicatedness alone
Attractor/s	No influential force/s, but isolation
Emergence	No process of making new attributes
Synergy, System, Synthesis	No new attributes resulting from relations between elements and with environment
Whole, holism, big picture	Parts and partial attributes only
Networking, Interaction, Interplay	No mutual influences

Fig. 3: The Basic Seven Groups of Terms of Systems versus Non-systemic Thinking



Systemic reflexions on the Mankind-Planet System in the making

Charles Francois, Argentina

Man has been once described as the “mad ape”. This reflects the incredulous horror felt by someone as a witness of the murderous follies recurrent through the whole history of mankind and especially generally worldwide during the last Century.

We should seek a real understanding of the deeper causes that madden that supposedly high intelligent primate.

As a first step we could at least advance some hypothesis about the psychology of man's madness. Could it not be the knowledge that he must inevitably die ... being it seems the only animal to have received the gift of consciousness about his inescapable destiny. To cover up his fright man has invented an astounding number of psychological placebos and make-beliefs in seemingly all and every past and present culture and under the most varied forms. One of the basic placebos is the idea that, if we behave well (according to some rational, pseudo- rational or irrational rules) we will merit immortality in some or another way, or maybe a sweet farewell to Nirvana.

Indeed there have always been prophets to describe exactly what should be such a good behaviour that would lead to salvation or eternal peace. However the great inspired prophets have been followed in their task by a vast number of lesser prophets with somewhat watered down or ideological version of these rules of good behaviour. As the prophets generally differ among themselves on that difficult subject, clashes between followers of different good behaviour textbooks have many times derived into horrendous massacres.

The appearance of an increasing number of growing sceptical or even cynical unbelievers did not lead to more peaceful ways. On the contrary they merely became just one more class of contenders: “unbelievers” who become ideological or pseudo-philosophical believers of some or another shade.

In prehistoric times clasherers were merely using sticks and spears, and the number of fatal victims was minimal. The situation evolved with time until we came to the great worldwide hecatombs of the 20th Century and, unfortunately there is every reason to believe that the 21st Century could even be worse.

Admitting the deep and eternal psychological suffering of man, confronted with his inescapable future, there seems to be two basic problems that should be faced and, if possible, somehow managed:

- 1) Can our innate fear be psychologically managed in such a way that it may be placated and not anymore lead us to madness and, in cases, inordinate cruelty?
- 2) Why has human ferocity reached such apocalyptic dimension during the last decades, what could eventually be done to reduce it?

The first question mark is related to the search for psychical serenity, probably through understanding the “nature of nature” and accepting it with growing equanimity. This would at least be a much dignified placebo! The second question mark is why sticks and spears have been replaced by nuclear bombs, which could even be used by relatively unsophisticated terrorists. This last conundrum can seemingly be explained by a systemic view of mankind's scientific and technical “progress” (or would we merely say “progression”) from, let us say, 1750 on.

The last 250 years witnessed an extraordinary explosion of mankind's power over nature. This was the result of the discovery of new ways to use nature's resources in general. But most significant has been the use of fossil energy sources (coal, oil, gas), which has obviously been the force behind the emergence of our evermore powerful and complex technical way of life. It has been in fact a neat and extraordinary example of Prigogine's model of structures emergence through dissipation of energy on a gigantic scale.

However our psychological and ethical level of understanding is trailing far away behind our scientific and technical prowess. On the other hand, we are squandering our geological treasure chest at such a rate that it will probably be exhausted before the end of the 21st Century. Altogether we are also in great danger to become asphyxiated worldwide in our waste. Accordingly we will have to face a huge global reordering and reaccomodation of our mankind-planet system in the making.

This issue is of course a typical systemic-cybernetic one, if however on an enormous scale.

It could be from our part a crucial contribution for better understanding and management. Let

us hope (and prepare) to be able to meet this challenge to the very survival of the human race.



Dear friends,

As an old participant of Fuschl Conversations and Honorary President of the Argentine Systems and Cybernetics Association, since long ago member of the IFSR, I wish to be present at the Meeting in some form through your voice.

I value very highly the existence and the activity of the IFSR, as a world centre for the collection and redistribution of the significant information and knowledge produced by the members of all our federated societies, up to the point of preparing part of my personal collections for donation to your library. I observe with much pleasure how the IFSR becomes evermore active and useful and we fully appreciate the quality and importance of your personal work in achieving these growing results

Please, transmit to all of the members of our Federation my congratulations for their belonging and collaboration to the development of projects and publications that consolidate and support systems knowledge and applications in a transdisciplinary way There is no doubt that the role of IFSR in contributing to a better understanding and more adequate management of all kinds of complex problems and issues in the world as a whole, will be more and more widely appreciated. Please find in this Newsletter also some deep felt musings about man's nature and future that I dare to offer to IFSR as a contribution to its 25th Anniversary. But is such stuff suitable for diffusion?

Yours

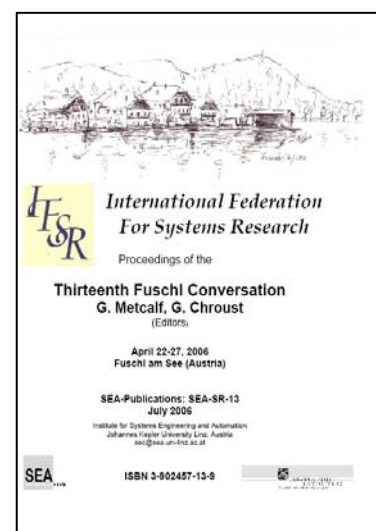
Charles Francois



In April 2006 the IFSR sponsored the 13th Fuschl Conversation. Conversations originated as an alternative to traditional conferences, and out of the insight that most of the benefit for participants resulted from the discussions and conversations with one another rather than from the formal content or presentations. The initial format for the Fuschl Conversations was built around Social Systems Design, as espoused by Bela H. Banathy.

In 2004 it became apparent that Conversation teams in Fuschl had, through the years, begun branching into a wide array of systems topics, also adopting a variety of approaches to their processes. In essence, the Conversations were evolving, but without clear or specific direction.

The 2006 Conversation provided a time for reflecting on a number of themes: the Conversation process and how it is evolving; the state of systems organizations as they relate to the IFSR and to each other; and most importantly, the future direction and role of systems organizations collectively. We bring short reports from the teams, details can be found in the proceedings:



Metcalf, G. and Chroust, G.: Proceedings of the Thirteenth Fuschl Conversation, April 22-27, 2006, Inst. f. Systems Engineering and Automation, Kepler Univ. Linz, 2006, SEA-SR-13}, ISBN = 3-902457-13-9}, 68 pages

Copies (10 €) can be ordered from Institute of Systems Engineering and Automation
Kepler University Linz, Altenbergerstr. 69, A-4040 Linz, Austria-
gc@sea.uni-linz.ac.at

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Team 1: Fuschl Extension

Igniting a New Form of Conversation

Team members: Christian Fuchs, Yoshi Horiuchi, Urban Kordes, Barbara Rivera, Gordon Rowland, Doug Walton

Our team formed to explore the conversation concept and associated methods in order to make specific recommendations regarding the future of Fuschl conversations. We considered whether and how such events should take place. Based partly on our own experience of the week, our answer to the former was an enthusiastic yes, and we proposed a new form of conversation that would extend Fuschl to local communities.

We arrived at Fuschl with unclear and/or mixed expectations. Some of us were aware of a perceived disconnect between the original Fuschl conversation goals and recent team activities, and the charge of making recommendations. Others joined the team purely to engage the general topic. We soon found common interests and developed triggering questions that would energize our conversation for the week.

Emerging from our conversation was a range of ideas and insights regarding the nature of conversation—the concept, key characteristics, techniques, and so on. A few samples include:

- *Conversation involves opening and holding the space for ideas and stories to unfold; synergetic concepts emerge in this newly created space.*
- *Passion is more important than method, and interconnection ultimately makes the selection of a certain starting point unnecessary.*
- *The questions: Who should be involved? And who is served? both have the same answer.*
- *While systems science and design may offer much to society, our joy—our passion for dialogue—may be the gift with the most potential influence that we can share.*



from left: Barbara Rivera, Doug Walton, Gordon Roland, Urban Kordes, Christian Fuchs, Yoshihide Horiuchi

Three key outcomes from our work are:


1. *The Horizontal Flip Chart Method.* We found that traditional presentation and recording by individuals on flipcharts created an intimidating performance aspect that diminished our creativity and collaboration. Placing flipchart pages horizontally on the table where all of us could add ideas, draw relations, and so on contributed to equality and synergy. In what we came to describe as *interactive systems thinking*, no single angle was correct and multiple angles yielded insights that would otherwise not have emerged.

2. *Fuschl Extension.* As we explored the essence of Fuschl-like conversation, we realized that more might be accomplished by inviting Fuschl (i.e., systems scientists who attend the IFSR-sponsored event) to society than by inviting members of society (i.e., community members who might benefit from

insights of systems science) to Fuschl. We created a model in which a small group of Fuschl attendees would join with members of a local community in co-inquiry with complementary goals. We completed a first round of development in terms of purposes, participants, criteria, logistics, and so on.

3. *Stories.* We recognized the inadequacy of typical reports in capturing the lived experience of conversation. We attempted to do this better by writing our report as a story (see Fuschl Proceedings).

Our next step is to pilot test the Fuschl Extension, perhaps in association with Global Open Space 2007 (previously known as the Asilomar Conversation of the International Systems Institute).

	<p>Topic 5: Unity as a Part of Diversity <i>a new resource from the 2006 Fuschl conference</i></p>
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Team members: Gabriele Bammer, Maria Mercedes Clusellas Cornejo, Debora Hammond, Wolfgang Hofkirchner, Matjaz Mulej and Gary Metcalf.

Do you want to know who is working on unifying concepts for systems thinking?

Do you want to know what resources are available for developing unifying concepts?

Then go to:

<http://www.anu.edu.au/iisn/index.php?action=systems>

One of the working groups at the 2006 Fuschl conference focused on core concepts underpinning systems thinking. It addressed the following questions:

1. Who is working on core concepts for the integration of systems thinking?
2. How can we achieve an integration of different approaches to systems thinking?
3. How can we develop human capacities to accept an integration of different approaches to systems thinking (including worldview, ethics, and acceptance of differences)?
4. Where do we find and how can we put into use a toolbox of system methodologies corresponding to detected/felt problems?
5. How can we work against overspecialization, while still recognizing the importance of

specialization, using transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches?

The working group led discussions with all the Fuschl conference participants to identify people working on unifying or core concepts, as well as resources useful for such a task. These people and resources are now listed on a webpage at <http://www.anu.edu.au/iisn/index.php?action=systems>

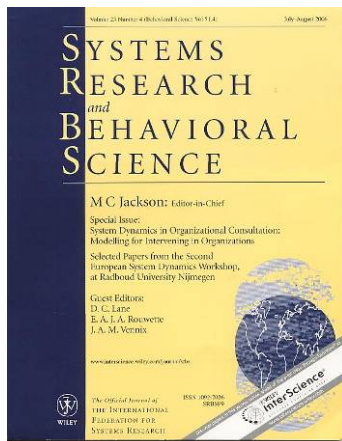


(from left) Wolfgang Hofkirchner, Matjaz Mulej, Maria Mercedes Clusella Cornejo, Debora Hammond, Gabriele Bammer

We are looking to make the list as comprehensive as possible and to keep it updated. The webpage also provides information on how to add new resources or update existing ones.



Journal of Systems Research and Behavioural Science



Systems Research and Behavioural Science is the official Journal of the IFSR. It publishes original articles on new theories, experimental research, and applications relating to all levels of living and non-living

clashes of norms and values; social cognitive processes; modelling; the introduction of new scientific results, etc. Manuscripts of a theoretical or empirical nature which have broad interdisciplinary implications not found in a journal devoted to a single discipline are especially welcome.

Forthcoming issues of the journal will include special editions on 'Complexity and Systems Studies: Voices from China', the 10th Australian and New Zealand Systems (ANZSYS) Conference and the yearbook of the International Society for the Systems Sciences (ISSS).

systems.

Its scope is comprehensive, dealing with systems approaches to: the redesign of organisational and societal structures; the management of administrative and business processes; problems of change management; the implementation of procedures to increase the quality of work and life; the resolution of

Further information including submission instructions for authors, can be found on Wiley Interscience at:

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/home>.



The IFSR Book Series on Systems Science and Engineering

In 2006 the following book was published in the IFSR International Series on Systems Science and Engineering as Volume 24

FOUNDATIONS AND APPLICATIONS OF MIS: A Model Theory Approach, by Yasuhiko Takahara and Yongmei Liu, Springer, New York, 2006, xv + 360 pages, ISBN 0-387-31414-8.

The book presents a unique system theory approach to management information systems (MIS) development. The development is driven by the need to eliminate ambiguity in specification, design and construction of the application software. Further, the authors show that the considerable effort being expended nowadays on validation, verification and testing, as required in current software engineering practice, will be reduced.

The book assumes a working knowledge of elementary set theory, logic, and familiarity with some systems concepts, such as the automaton model. Senior undergraduates and graduate students, researchers in management information systems, systems engineers and systems scientists will benefit from this book.

The approach also reinforces the belief that MIS development is independent of software development.



Current Projects of the IFSR



International Academy of Systems Science and Cybernetics

In its founding constitution the IFSR stated that the overall purpose of IFSR is to advance systems research and cybernetics (C&S) and systems application and to serve the international systems community. Among the ways to attain this purpose, establishing associations mentioned. One of the aims was: *Defining and promoting standards of competence in systems research and systems education;*

A specific means to achieve this aim could be to establish an *International Academy of Systems and Cybernetics Science*.

In the draft bylaw of the Academy the following concepts are included:

- The overall purpose of Academy is to provide a forum for persons professionally excelling in System and Cybernetics Research on a distinguished level such as authors of S&C theories with wide acceptance, members of academies of sciences and arts, distinguished laureates, established and/or long-time leaders of S&C Associations, etc.
- More specific purposes are:
 - Promote Ludwig von Bertalanffy's concept that systems thinking is a holistic world view and methodology supportive of this world view (by working against over-specialization)

- Provide an open, international and multi-cultural forum for the advancement of knowledge in the field of S&C research, education and practice;
- Provide a network for S&C research presentations and evaluations;
- Provide publication outlets for high quality research on S&C;
- Disseminate information and provide benchmarks for the assessment of S&C education and professional training;
- Support young researchers in the field of S&C and promote the creation of international networks for doctoral education on S&C;
- Foster a broad variety of methodological approaches and research issues in S&C research, and encourage cross-fertilization between approaches and research traditions;
- Develop an agenda of innovative research topics and promote the establishment of collaborative research networks in S&C and by application of S&C;
- Honour the most distinguished S&C professionals.



Report from the Bertalanffy Center for the Study of Systems Science

Bertalanffy's legacy is already registered and archived: some 500 personal letters, 150 monographies, many of them with personal dedications, especially from the fields of biology, systems theory and philosophy. One of the next challenges will be a legacy from Charles Francois, which consists of most of his

books and journals, which among other purposes, were also the basis for the 'International Encyclopedia of Systems and Cybernetics'. In these days the shipment leaves Argentina with the destination BCSSS.



Project: ESCO - The International Encyclopaedia of Systems and Cybernetic



The programming work for the project "Encyclopedia of Systems and Cybernetics Online" (ESCO) has been finished in Summer 2006. ESCO is

based on the open Source platform Mediawiki, which is used for many online Encyclopedias - including the Wikipedia. In addition to the Mediawiki functionality in ESCO a comfortable text editor and a literature database are included.

ESCO has been presented at the 25th Anniversary Meeting of IFSR in Spring 2006 in Vienna and the future of ESCO has been

discussed intensively at the Fuschl Conversations 2006. In the feedback from the Systems Community many concerns about the necessity to maintain in ESCO the high standards of the printed Encyclopedia of Charles François were formulated.

Another important issue is the relation of the future content of ESCO to the fast growing Systems and Cybernetics content in the very popular Wikipedia. The executive committee of IFSR and G. Ossimitz are about to settle the question how to position ESCO in relation to the printed Encyclopedia of Systems and Cybernetics on the one hand and the Wikipedia on the other hand.



Sponsoring the EMCSR 2006

This year again IFSR has sponsored several students to come to the EMCSR 2006 congress (April 18 - 21, 2006, University of Vienna) by paying their conference fee. The conditions was that they had a high quality accepted paper. This year the following students were subsidized:

Basic Controllers of the Dynamical Class 0
M. Huba, Slovak Technical University, Bratislava, Slovakia

Agent-Based Problem Solving
F. Capkovic, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Quotients of Noncommutative Polynomials in Nonlinear Control Systems
M. Halas, Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava, Slovakia

Optimal Control of a Hybrid Coupled Tanks System
T. Hirmajer, M. Fikar, Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava, Slovakia

Probability of Intuitionistic Fuzzy Events with Help of Modal Operators
T. Gerstenkorn, J. Manko, University of Trade, Lodz, Poland

Autonomous Inspectors in Tax Compliance Simulation
J. Balsa, L. Antunes, A. Respício, H. Coelho, University of Lisbon, Portuga

Acknowledging the Non-trivial
U. Kordes, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia



The IFSR Website

The new especially as expressed challenges at the Fuschl conversation 2006 and the planned increased activities of the IFSR will need a more dynamic, interactive web-site. Therefore the IFSR has decided to refurbish its home page in several ways.

- The web site will be relocated to the Austrian Computer Society which hosts and maintains dozens of homepages. OCG offers around-the-clock operation and technical support.
- Modern open source software will be used, i.e. DRUPAL for contents management, based on PHP, MySQL, Linux, Apache, all open source software.
- The new set-up will allow for the integration of the data bases of the IFSR Secretariat with information on the homepage (single sourcing)
- Utilizing a system of permissions, the individual pages of our home page can be maintained by board members, selected individuals, project leaders, etc. themselves.
- Fora will be installed allowing interactive communication of members of the IFSR amongst themselves without the need of intervention of the web master.
- If needed, a further communication basis will be provided via Wordpress (under discussion). The external appearance of the Web-site will be improved.

The IFSR Executive committee would like to thank especially David Ing for highly valuable advice and direction giving.

In the second week of November the OCG has installed DRUPAL. The next steps will be to transfer the content of our current web site to the new site. Once this is accomplished the address 'www.ifsr.ocg will be switched to the new site. Hopefully this will happen early next year.



Report of the Secretary/Treasurer

Practically all concerns of the Secretary/Treasurer (who will from now carry the title 'Secretary General') were already discussed in other sections of this Newsletter. The main concerns (and activities) in 2006 were:

- Preparing the 25 year celebration of the IFSR
- Preparing the Board Meeting 2006
- Preparing (together with Gary Metcalf) the Fuschl Conversation 2006
- Publishing the Fuschl Proceedings
- Publishing this Newsletter

For the near future the tasks will be:

- Preparing and populating the new IFSR web site
- Preparing the interactive components of the web site.
- Publishing the DVD with the 25 year Celebration video,



Executive Committee Meeting, 2006

On April. 17, 2006 a short meeting of the outgoing Executive Committee took place at the Restaurant Wienerwald (the traditional meeting place of the IFSR Board). The past year and its events were discussed and the detailed agenda for the Board Meeting of the next day was charted and prepared. All discussion points were brought up in the Board Meeting again.



IFSR Board Meeting 2006

Wednesday, April 19, 2006, 18:00
Wienerwald-SCHOTTENKELLER
Freyung 6, 1010 Vienna

Agenda:

1. Minutes of the Board Meeting April , 2004
2. Report of the President
3. Report of the Secretary/Treasurer
 - a. Membership Status
 - b. Financial Status and Outlook
4. Report on the Fuschl Conversations 2004 and 2006
5. IFSR-Publications
 - a. Status of „IFSR-Newsletter“
 - b. Status of „Systems Research and Behavioural Science“
 - c. IFSR Book Series
6. IFSR supported events
 - a. Ashby lectures
 - b. EMCSR 2004, 2006
7. Membership-related decisions
8. Election of Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer)
9. IFSR Committees
10. IFSR Projects

Financial situation:

Gerhard Chroust submitted to the Board the consolidated financial report 2004-05, containing income and expenditure of both the IFSR in general and the Journal of Systems Research and Behavioral Science.

At the moment the financial situation is healthy. The IFSR has a reasonable buffer for future eventualities, to some extend thanks to the great success of the Journal. The Board thanked Prof. M. C. Jackson and his team for his initiative and efforts.

Important decisions by the Board:

- The Board approves the membership of HSSS, AMCS, ALAS, RC51, BCSSS
- The Board directs the Secretary General to start the procedure of revocation of membership for the Asociacio Mexicana de Sistemas y Cibernetica
- The Board agrees to fund the shipping of Charles Francois' legacy to Vienna
- The project to acquire the Bertalanffy Legacy and bring it to Vienna has been closed successfully, the BCSSS will take care of this legacy
- The EC is charged to define requirements for an updated web site and to take steps to tender for such a website.
- FUSCHL Committee and Web Committee are dissolved
- The IFSR should not organize an IFSR Congress in Poland in 2007
- The decision to hold the Fuschl Conversation 2008 or not is delegated to the EC



The new Executive Committee

The following Executive Committee was elected for the period 2006-2008.



PRESIDENT

Prof. Dr. Matjaz MULEJ
University of Maribor,
Slovenia
mulej@uni-mb.si



Vice president
Prof. Dr. Ji Fa GU
Chinese Academy of Science,
China
jfgu@amss.ac.cn



Vice-president
Dr. Gary S. METCALF
InterConnections LLC, USA
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Secretary General
Prof. Gerhard CHROUST
Kepler University Linz,
Austria
gc@sea.uni-linz.ac.at

Curriculum Vitae of Prof. Dr. Matjaz Mulej

Born 1941, in Maribor, Slovenia, married, two children.

graduated at the College of Business (later 'Faculty of Economics and Business', University of Maribor), BA at the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana, MA at the Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade.

1977 Ph.D. in Systems Theory Applied to Economics at the Faculty of Economics, Univ. of Zagreb.

1983 - 2001: Professor of Systems and Innovation Theory at the University of Maribor, Faculty of Economics and Business, now Professor Emeritus

12 Semesters of Guest Professorships and Guest Lectureship at approx. 50 Universities worldwide
Consultant to more than 400 companies.

Originator of the Dialectical Systems Theory, of the USOMID (a method supportive of the law of requisite holism), and of the Innovative Business and Innovative Society Paradigm.

Author/co-author of approx. 50 books and textbooks, amongst them:

R. Dyck, M. Mulej and co-authors, Self-Transformation of the Forgotten Four-Fifths,

T. Ecimovic, M. Mulej, R. Mayur, Systems Thinking and the Climate Change System

Vice-President of the IFSR, Co-Chairman of the bi-annual STIQE-Conference (Ljubljana),

Member of the Board of ISA RC51 Sociocybernetics.

Board member of a number of professional journals, including Systems Research & Behavioral Science, and scientific board member of numerous of international conferences of systems thinking and related topics.



Message from the New President

After the IFSR board meeting in Vienna in April 2006 there was a week devoted to IFSR in Fuschl conversations. On the basis of what was discussed at the board and in Fuschl, I find the most crucial attributes of IFSR activities in the current 2 years election period as follows:

1: IFSR should not be just a formality. IFSR should be an umbrella service organization covering topics that the individual member associations have hard times to do. They should be agreed upon by the members and should not be in competition with the individual members' aspirations. Some such services are:

- o Foundation of an International Academy of Systems Sciences and Cybernetics.
- o An active and interactive homepage with data and information from and for all member associations.
- o International Encyclopaedia of Systems Science and Cybernetics – to continue the work done so far by Charles Francois;
- o Archiving Services, preserving, structuring and making available the legacy of system thinkers and the foundations of Systems Sciences.
- o The IFSR should serve as an umbrella organizing by
 - Coordination and supporting cooperation in the area of System science and systems Education, in view of professionalism and curriculum development.
 - Establishing contacts and cooperation and support with Asian association.
 - Providing a Web-Site which provides strategic support for IFSR's objectives.

2: IFSR should support and sponsor activities and organizational forms that would help both the systems community at large and all of us to promote systemic thinking, observing, decision making, and action rather than the one-sidedness, which prevails in modern times to the detriment of humankind.

- This may include contacting international organizations, which have had systems theory and cybernetics as their background of establishment, but no longer remember it, because they have grown big as special ones.
- This may also include international and world-wide organizations, such as UNESCO, or education and research related similar organizations, but not political ones, because the later would oppose statutes of IFSR member organizations.

3: Meetings like Fuschl 2006 are a useful means to bring systems organizations together and foster cooperation and common ideas. Meetings like Fuschl 2006 are also very inspiring to the participants with respect to understanding and insight. They should keep going.

4: IFSR will not sponsor conferences of its own, because this is an activity belonging traditionally to IFSR member organizations. IFSR may help IFSR member organizations in arranging conferences, if invited and having an IFSR board decision supporting such action.



Lessons from Fuschl 2006

The Executive Committee of the IFSR decided that the Conversation-style was the right tool and Fuschl the right environment to achieve the goal of understanding the current and future trends of the Systems Sciences and setting new directions for the For 2006 the EC choose topics which were relevant to the systems movement at large and to the IFSR in particular. Representatives of member organisations were invited to suggest participants.

Despite this break in tradition from the previous topic selection process the EC believes that this approach was the right approach and even more in the sense of Bela's original objective to make stakeholders discuss *their* problems and design *their own* system. For details see 'The Fuschl

Conversation 2006 (above) and the Proceedings of the Fuschl Conversation (Metcalf, G. and Chroust, G.: Proceedings of the Thirteenth Fuschl Conversation, April 22-27, 2006, Inst. f. Systems Engineering and Automation, Kepler Univ. Linz, 2006, SEA-SR-13}, ISBN 3-902457-13-9}, 68 pages. Given the double task of both evaluating the systems movement in general and IFSR's future role in particular was expected to create some confusion and some friction at the Conversation, and it did.

Conclusions of Fuschl 2006

Matjaz Mulej (Slovenia), Jifa Gu (China), Gary Metcalf (USA), Gerhard Chroust (Austria)

(copied from Mulej, M. and Gu, J. and Metcalf, G. and Chroust, G.), Conclusions of Fuschl 2006}, in: Metcalf, G and Chroust, G. Proceedings of the Thirteenth Fuschl Conversation, April 22-27, 2006, Inst. f. Systems Engineering and Automation, Kepler Univ. Linz, 2006, SEA-SR-13, ISBN 3-902457-13-9}, pp. 10-11)

The 2006 Fuschl conversation was unique in several ways. It was essentially a meta-conversation in that it used the conversation setting to talk about conversation as a process. At the same time it allowed representatives of the member associations to consider the future of the IFSR and its role in the future of systems sciences. Discussions at such a level can be confusing if people gravitate to proposing and defending theories which may not be familiar to others. This is a key reason for having five-day, small-group meetings, which are a considerable exception to most other professional meetings now. It takes time for people learn to understand each other, especially when topics are large and abstract. Though the effort required was taxing at times, we can be proud of the number of additional ideas, suggestions and volunteering voices which surfaced during these five days at Fuschl.

General consensus seems to be achieved on the following conclusions:

Conclusion 1: The IFSR should be careful not to compete with its member organizations in any of its activities. The IFSR should be an umbrella service organization covering topics and activities that the individual member associations find difficult to do individually and consider important to many;

Conclusion 2: The IFSR should support and sponsor activities and organizational forms that would help both the systems community at large and all of us to promote systemic thinking, observing, decision making, and action rather than the one-sidedness, which prevails in modern times to the detriment of humankind.

Conclusion 3: Meetings like Fuschl 2006 are a useful means to bring systems organizations together and foster cooperation and common ideas.

Conclusion 4: Meetings like Fuschl 2006 are also very inspiring to the participants with respect to understanding and insight.

In more detail some of the salient comments/conclusions were (for more details see the proceedings):

- The IFSR can and should provide services to (a) society at-large (i.e. systems thinking, systems science, education), and (b) member organizations. These services should be agreed upon by the members and should not be in competition with the individual members' aspirations. Such services include:
 - Foundation of an International Academy of Cybernetics and Systems Sciences.
 - An active and interactive homepage with data and information from and for all member associations.
 - International Encyclopedia of Systems Science and Cybernetics - to continue the work done so far by Charles Francois;
 - Archiving Services, preserving, structuring and making available the legacy of system thinkers and the foundations of Systems Sciences.
- The IFSR should serve as an umbrella organization by
 - coordination and supporting cooperation in the area of System Science and Systems Education, in view of professionalism and curriculum development and
 - establishing contacts and cooperation and support with Asian associations, as well as Latin-American and African.
 - Providing a Web-Site which provides strategic support for IFSR's objectives.

- The Fuschl Conversation should serve as a platform to both establish consensus between systems organization and serve as a guiding tool for IFSR's next future activities.
 - There should be a Fuschl 2008 Conversation as a support for strategic decisions beyond the relative short board meetings of the IFSR.
 - Representatives of member organizations should be invited to the Fuschl Conversations.
 - Essentially the Fuschl Conversations should be continued in the same form with improvements in the preparation and post-evolution, including selection process for topics and participants.
 - The IFSR-oriented view of Fuschl should be reduced.
- The IFSR should initiate projects together with its members,
 - They should be approved by the Board
 - They should be useful for society at large and for the systems science field.
 - Projects should be of a kind which is outside of the scope or means of the member organizations.



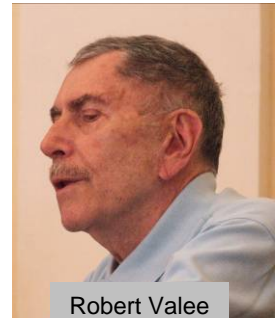
The IFSR has now the following members:

Assoc. Francaise des Sciences et Technologies de l'information et des Systems (AFSCET), France
 American Society for Cybernetics (ASC), USA
 Australia and New Zealand Systems Group (ANZSYS), Australia
 Asociacion Latinoamericana de Sistemas, Latin America
 Asociacion Mexicana de la Ciencias de Sistemas, Mexico
 Asociacion Mexicana de Sistemas y Cibernetica, Mexico
 Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sui Sistemi (AIRS) (Italian Systems Research Society), Italy
 Bertalanffy Center for the Study of Systems Science (BCSSS)
 Bulgarian Society for Systems Research (BSSR), Bulgaria
 Centre for Hyperincursion and Anticipation in Ordered Systems (CHAOS), Belgium
 Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kybernetik, Germany
 Gesellschaft für Wirtschaft und Sozial-Kybernetik eV (GWS), Germany
 Global Institute of Flexible Systems Management, India
 Greek Systems Society, Greece
 Grupo de Estudio de Sistemas Integrados (GESI) (Study Group of Integrated Systems), Argentina
 Hellenic Society for Systemic Studies (HSSS), Greece
 Instituto Andino de Sistemas (IAS) Peru
 International Institute of Informatics and Systemics (IIIS), USA
 International Society for the Systems Sciences (ISSS), USA
 International Systems Institute, USA, California, San Francisco
 International Society of Knowledge and Systems Science, Japan
 International Sociological Association RC51 on Sociocybernetics, Germany
 Japan Association for Social and Economic Systems Studies (JASESS), Japan
 Korean Society for Systems Science Research, Korea
 Learned Society of Praxiology, Poland
 MSSI - The Management Science Society of Ireland
 Österreichische Studiengesellschaft für Kybernetik (OSGK) (Austrian Soc. f. Cybernetic Studies), Austria
 Polish Systems Society (Polskie Towarzystwo Systemowe), Poland
 Slovenian Society for Systems Research (SDSR), Slovenia
 Sociedad Espanola de Sistemas Generales, Spain
 Systems Engineering Society of China
 Systemsgroep Nederland, The Netherlands
 The Cybernetics Society London, U.K.



French Association for Systems Sciences AFSCET

- After the death of Lucien Mehl, Conseiller d'Etat, Professor Emmanuel Nunez was elected President.
- On October 24, 2004, at Université Paris VII, a Symposium devoted to Heinz von Förster, was organized by AE-MCX (Programme Européen « Modélisation de la Complexité ») and AFSCET. A book has been published.
- The 6th Systems Science European Congress of Union Européenne Systémique (UES, European Systems Science Union) was held in Paris, 2005, from September 19 to 22, in cooperation with AFSCET. The official languages were French and English. Around 200 communications from 21 countries were presented. Proceedings containing abstracts were distributed as well as a CD. A book is in preparation.
- In May 2006, a Colloquium was organized in Normandy, at « Moulin d'Andé », devoted to « Representation and Systems ».
- The electronic AFSCET Journal RES-Systemica presented its vol.4, n.1, 2.
- The eight working groups were active as usual.



Robert Valee

Robert Vallée
Representative to IFSR of AFSCET, the French Association for Systems Sciences

www.afscet.asso.fr



Centre for Hyperincursion and Anticipation in Ordered Systems (Chaos)

- CHAOS (Centre for Hyperincursion and Anticipation in Ordered Systems) will organize the next CASYS'07. This International Conference will be held, August e6-11, 2007, at HEC-ULg, Liege, Belgium
- See the web site: <http://www.ulg.ac.be/mathgen/CHAOS/CASYS.html>



GESI and new Latin American Systemic Societies

During 2005 new links between Latin American Groups for the development of Systemics and Cybernetics were created, as various systemic events took place in Latin America. Within GESI, the Argentine Society, founding member of the IFSR, and Argentine chapter of the ISSS, interesting systemic activities were developed.

On April 2005 Dr. **Ernesto Grün** attended the *International Seminar of General Theory applied to Law at the University of Medellín,*

Colombia and presented his contribution "A systemic –cybernetic approach to law".

From July to November our Seminar on Governance and Governability of Systems (from the biological to the social, educational and political levels) took place with many contributions from our members all along the sessions; a synthesis work was published in Spanish with a selection of contributions on *Regulations; Controls; Governability of States; Elements for a Theory of Governance; Governance and intelligent agents;*

Bibliography and Glossary. It may be consulted at: www.gesi-online.com.ar

A Seminar on Problemology (i.e. the study and management of complex issues through the systemic approach and methodology was offered in August by Prof. **Charles François** at the San Miguel University, Buenos Aires.

At the 49th ISSS Meeting at Cancun, México, under the Presidency of Prof. **Enrique Herrscher**, members of our Association attended the event and presented various contributions; some of them have been edited by the ISSS.

Titles:

Dr. E. Grün: "The potential and real impacts of Systemics on Society"

Prof. Ch. François: "Our need for coherent and global understanding: a plea for a better practical use of Systemics"; Prof. E. Herrscher: "The future of the Systems approach, or how well are we doing"

During the Meeting the **Latin American Association of Systems (ALAS)** was consolidated; new authorities and members were elected from Colombia, Argentina, Mexico, Bolivia, Brazil, Peru and the United States of America. For more information refer to <http://projects.issss.org/Main/ALAS>, and also to our web site: www.gesi-online.com.ar

A universitarian colloquium on Transdisciplinary Systemics took place on August 3 to 6 at Rio

Hondo, Santiago del Estero, province of Argentina. See more Information at:

<http://www.fundaringenio.net> and also at www.gesi-online.com.ar

The First Regional Meeting of ALAS, was held on August 7 to 9, 2006 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, as well as a previous tutorial on Systemics, with the presence of important systemist from abroad. For more information refer to <http://projects.issss.org/Main/ALAS>, and also to our web site: www.gesi-online.com.ar

The Brazilian Systems Group at the Universidade de Sao Paulo in Ribeirao Preto, chaired by Prof. **Dante Pinheiro Martinelli** organized his 2nd. Congress of Systems, on October 27th. Charles François was invited to give a lecture on History and applications of the Systemic View

New editions by our members:-
"Problemología: una metodología de indagación de los sistemas complejos" Ed. Virtual IAS, Perú by Charles François www.iasvirtual.net/ebooks/Probl.exe.

"Planeamiento sistémico; un enfoque estratégico para conducir en la obscuridad" Editorial Macchi, Buenos Aires, 2005 by Enrique Herrscher;

"Inteligencia natural y sintética: una aproximación transdisciplinaria". Nueva Librería, Buenos Aires, 2005 by Sergio Moriello

	<p><i>Hellenic Society for Systemic Studies (HSSS)</i></p>
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3rd National Conference of the HSSS:

"New Agora" and New Technology : Systemic Structures and Social Dynamics

University of Piraeus, Piraeus, Greece.
24-26, May 2007.

Keynote speakers:

Professor Aleco Christakis, USA.
Professor Loet Leydesdorff, Holland.
Professor Timothy Shih, Taiwan.

	<p><i>Italian Systems Society</i></p>
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The Italian Systems Society (Gianfranco Minati) has created a manifesto 'Towards a new generation of systems societies'. It is worth reading, see www.airs.it

As it often happens, the Slovenia Systems Research Society has over the recent years limited its activities to sponsoring, together with other organizations, two events. One is the biannual STIQE conference, the other is the annual PODIM conference.

In both cases the University of Maribor, Faculty of Economics and Business, Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management, Maribor was an essential cosponsor. In the case of PODIM Tovarna podjemov Maribor, an incubator for innovative enterprises was so as well, or even, first of all.

The 8th STIQE conference on linking systems thinking, innovation, quality, entrepreneurship and environment took place in Maribor, Slovenia, on 28-30 June, 2006. It attracted 50 authors with 30 papers that had passed two double blind review processes in which 13 more were turned down. Authors were from 13 countries (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, United Kingdom, and United States of America). Proceedings can still be bought at the price of 50 Euro, contact vojko.potocan@uni-mb.si.

For the third time, doctoral candidates in the fields covered by STIQE, from Maribor and Klagenfurt universities met for a one-day workshop on 27 June

2006 in Maribor and were invited to join STIQE after it. This enables contacts of the younger generation. Last year they met in Klagenfurt, colleagues from Warsaw, Poland, participated as well.

The 26 PODIM is working on entrepreneurship and innovation on a more and more international basis from year to year. The

presence of beyond 300 participants, including the Minister of Economy of Slovenia and the ambassador of Netherlands in Slovenia and professionals of European Union, as well as speakers from 15 countries says much.

In 2005 besides PODIUM the main activity of SDSR was to sponsor the world congress of WOSC and annual conference of Sociocybernetics on 05-10 July in Maribor.

A group dealing with systems thinking in terms of autopoiesis emerged over the recent years in Ljubljana. In fall of 2006 a closer co-operation is expected.

A connection has also been established with Slovenian society for cognitive science. Cognitive science is by its very nature an interdisciplinary enterprise. The spectrum of disciplines tackling the phenomenon of cognition is very broad - biology, AI, neuroscience, psychology, sociology, education, linguistic, philosophy, etc. They provide a long list of very interesting new insights, all rather limited with disciplinary frame mostly lacking interdisciplinarity. Collaboration of different disciplines is a key issue for cognitive science and it seems that systems thinking can provide some answers in this area. Representatives from the Slovenian system research community were invited to this year's cognitive science conference with hope that systemic thinking might trigger synergetic processes in this new and still not well established interdisciplinary field. After-conference feedbacks are indicating that future cooperation between systemic and cognitive scientists will be a natural continuation of efforts of both groups.

The 51st annual meeting of the International Society for the Systems Sciences (ISSS) marks the beginning of another half-century history of interdisciplinary collaboration and synthesis of systems sciences. The ISSS is unique among systems-oriented institutions in terms of the breadth of its scope, bringing together scholars and practitioners from academic, business, government, and non-profit organizations. Based on fifty years of

tremendous interdisciplinary research from the scientific study of complex systems to interactive approaches in management and community development, the 51st annual meeting of the ISSS intends to promote systems sciences as a holistic and integrated scientific enterprise.

Under the theme "Integrated Systems Sciences: Systems Thinking, Modelling and Practice", the 51st annual meeting of the ISSS

will be held in *Tokyo, Japan from August 5 to 10, 2007*. It attempts to promote systems sciences as an approach to complexity in a broad sense, identified in organizations, communities and societies, and their environments, in such a holistic and integrated

way that we draw on all of systems sciences from systems thinking and systems modelling to systems practice.

For more details see
<http://www.isss.org/conferences/tokyo2007/>



Conferment of the Wiener-Schmidt-Prize 2006

Prof. Dr. Siegfried Piotrowski, Sibiu and Hagen

The traditional "*Berliner November*" took place on November 17 and 18, 2006 in the club house of the *Freie Universität* of Berlin and dealt on the 17th with an expert conference on "Multimedia and ethnic formation" and on the 18th with the symposium "Management and Cybernetics". To mark the occasion, the German Association for Cybernetics (*GfK*), a non-profit scientific expert society, and the Association for Pedagogic and Information (*GPI*), also a non-profit making scientific expert society, which supports multimedia, educational technology and media didactics, awarded the Wiener-Schmidt-Prize, which was founded in 1994, to **Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Felix von Cube**.

Felix von Cube is the sixth prize-winner after Milos Lánský (1996, Prague), Klaus Weltner (1998, Paderborn), Uwe Lehnert (2000, Hradec Kralové), Friedhart Klix (2002, Berlin) and Klaus Krippendorff (2004, Vienna).

The Wiener-Schmidt- Prize

In December 1994, the Wiener-Schmidt Prize was proclaimed to celebrate the 100th birthdays of Hermann Schmidt and Norbert Wiener at the Technical University of Berlin by the *GPI* and a society formerly called Institution for Cybernetics Berlin/ Society for communicational Cybernetics. The price is now donated for excellent scientific achievements supporting concepts of cybernetics.



From left: Prof. DDr. Gerhard E. Ortner, president of the GPI directorate, Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Felix von Cube, Prof. Dr. Siegfried Piotrowski, president of the GfK directorate

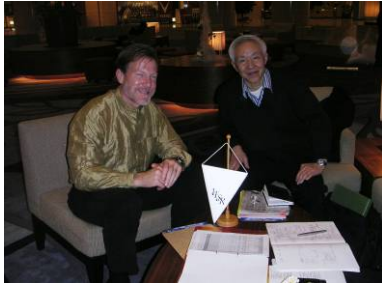
Felix von Cube, born on November 13, 1927 in Stuttgart, studied mathematics and sciences. After he took his degree in 1951, he worked as a grammar school teacher in Stuttgart. In 1957 he did his doctorate (Dr.rer.nat.), in 1963 he received a professorship at the College of Education in Berlin, 1970 he moved to the College of Education in Bonn.

His most important publication on cybernetics comes from "Kybernetische Grundlagen des Lernens und Lehrens" ("Cybernetical basics of learning and teaching"), published in 1965 and "Was ist Kybernetik?" ("What is Cybernetics?"), published in 1967. Since 1997, Felix von Cube occupies the position of a full professor (Ordinarius) for educational sciences at the University of Heidelberg.



Glimpses of the IFSR Conference in Kobe

The conference is over!



from left: Gary Metcalf, Jifa Gu



from left: Jifa Gu, Matjaz Mulej, Gerhard Chroust, Gary Metcalf



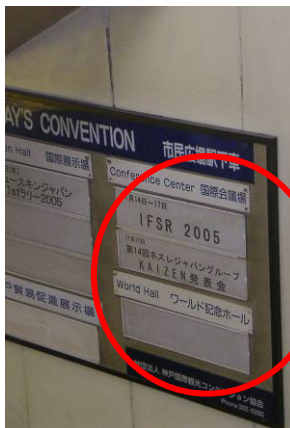
from left: Gerhard Chroust, Jifa Gu



The conference Hotel



The Harbour of Kobe



In the Metro



Geishas



Security



Good bye!



End of the Newsletter

IMPRESSUM: Mediuminhaber, Herausgeber, Satz und Layout: Int. Federation for Systems Research.,

f. d. Inhalt verantwortlich: Prof. G. Chroust, Kepler Universität Linz, 4040 Linz, Druck: Hausdruckerei J. Kepler Univ. Linz, Austria (v. 1.1)