



International Federation for Systems Research

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Board Meeting of the IFSR *

FRIDAY, April 13, 2018, 13:30 - 16:10

**Seminar Hotel Sankt Magdalena "Bildungszentrum" Linz, Austria
Schatzweg 177, 4040 Linz, Austria**

Dated Jun 2, 2018

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* Abbreviations: <EC> Executive Committee, <PB> Pierre Bricage, <GC> Gerhard Chroust, <MCE> Mary C. Edson, <RI> Ray Ison, <GSM> Gary S. Metcalf, <GM> George Mobus, <JW> Jennifer Wilby

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1 Opening <GSM>

The list of current members of the IFSR, the final agenda and the Minutes of the Board Meeting 2016 were tabled

<GSM> opens the meeting on behalf of <MCE> who was not able to attend personally. He welcomes all delegates and guests. He points out that this year (similar to 2016) we offer to our members the opportunity to attend the meeting via Webex electronic meeting (see attendance list below) .

Attendance <GC> :

Present : (original with signature in the files of the IFSR)

e	e	IFSR Executive Committee	Jennifer Wilby
3	ISSS	International Society for the Systems Sciences	Jennifer Wilby
e	e	IFSR Executive Committee	Gary S. Metcalf
e	e	IFSR Executive Committee	Gerhard Chroust
1	OSGK	Oesterreichische Studiengesellschaft fuer Kybernetik	Gerhard Chroust
46	INCOSE	International Council on Systems Engineering	Hillary Sillitto
e	e	IFSR Executive Committee	Mary C. Edson
53	HPSSS	Hai Phong Systems Science Society	Nam Nguyen
57	MALIK	Malik Management Institute, St. Gallen, Switzerland	Nam Nguyen
7	ASC	American Society for Cybernetics	Ray Ison
e	e	IFSR Executive Committee	Ray Ison
e	WCSA	World Complexity Science Academy	Edit Fabo
x	x	TOTAL VOTES	12

Present via e-Conferencing :

Edit Fabo (WCSA)
Mary C. Edson

Guests :

- Eliot Rich (representative of SDS, to be accepted as member later)
- Marc Pierson
- Swami Natarajan
- George Mobus
- Louis Klein
- Andreas Hieronymi

Apologies and transfer of votes :

- G. Chroust represents the OSGK

Amendments to / Approval of Agenda <GC> :

- The final Agenda (tabled) is approved

- <GC> reminds the representatives to sign the attendance sheet, and to check the correctness of representative and e-mail address.

Minutes of previous meeting (April 2016) <GC> Correction to the Minutes: none

DECISION: <Board> : The minutes of the Board Meeting of April 8, 2016 were accepted as a true and accurate record

2 Report from the President <MCE>

<MCE> presents the President's report via e-conference system (copy attached)

3 Report from the Secretary General - Membership <GC>

<GC> remarks, that Electronic Voting was successfully implemented and has considerably sped up IFSR's decision process and reactivity. Initially with some poor response. It also emphasized the attractiveness of FULL membership increased.

3.1 Membership Status and Changes

Again <GC> requests that the Secretary/Treasurer should be informed about changes with respect to the officers (or even constitutions) and receive up-to-date (and stable) contact person.

Membership categories (Introduced via e-vote -> New constitution)

Full Members :

Scientific Members (they are usually non-profit organizations with a primary interest in research in the systems area)

Educational Members (they are primarily interested in education and dissemination of knowledge about Systems Sciences, like Systems Literacy etc.),

Systems Practice Members (their main interest is in the application of Systems Science, its theory and methods),

Sponsoring Members which provide the IFSR with financial or in-kind support.

Affiliate Members (they are primarily interested in receiving information),

Fellows (honoured for having provided outstanding contributions to IFSR)

REMARK (after the Board Meeting): When submitting the new constitution to the Austrian Authorities they found that in the meantime some changes cause additional changes to our constitution (not related to the membership categories). Therefore the Constitution are not yet in effect for the IFSR - there are some changes needed. The new General Secretary will take care of this)

New members :

The IFSR-EC has accepted the following new members since the last Board Meeting: MALIK Management Institute, St. Gallen, Switzerland (Full member, 2016-11-01). According to MALIK's self description, the objects of MALIK are:

- Collaborate with international experts in the systems field and other members of the IFSR
- Enhance the fields of systems and cybernetics sciences
- Apply systems thinking and systems tools in education, training, research
- Maximize governance effectiveness and enable organizations to transform themselves in order to excel at a time of great challenges and rapidly accelerating complexity

- Accelerate the intelligence, creativity, and experience of people solving any big and complex problems

Pending Application SDS's pending membership organisation was voted on during the Board meeting (see section 3.2).

Other Membership issues none

Potentially new member :

- Cyprus Society FOR Systemic Studies (Yiannis Laouris) (invitation sent)

Inactive members :

not considered

Unreachable societies : GfK: gfk@piotrowski.de

Non-paying societies No immediate action, should be considered in May 2018

3.2 Voting on SDS (Systems Dynamics Society)

The SDS has applied for membership in the IFSR. The **System Dynamics Society** is an international, nonprofit organization devoted to encouraging the development and use of System Dynamics and Systems Thinking around the world.

Annual international conference (58 countries represented in 2017; 2018 is the 36th year), publications, awards (research and service), Chapters (20 geographic and topical) and Special Interest Groups (13 topical), and a Website. Chapters also hold annual and semi-annual conferences (Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Italy, UK, Benelux, Germany, Brazil, etc.) *tabled: SDS Membership Info*

Eliot Rich gave a short presentation on the SDS, mentioning a conference with 1400 participants and a Summer school

<GC> puts the vote of SDS becoming a full member of the IFSR - Unanimous acceptances

Thus as of May 1st the IFSR has 46 members, of which 41 Full Members.

DECISION: <Board> : SDS is accepted as a full member of the IFSR

3.2.1 New Fellows

none

3.3 Membership fee 2019 and 2020

<GC> points out that most societies are in arrears with respect to the fees.

The introduction of the Paypal system has improved payments and reduced the costs. Invoices were sent out in Jan 2018 as a reminder for past payments, new invoices to be sent out middle of 2018

<GC>: Proposal : same fee as 2016 = 120 Euro

- Full Members: (these have to be societies) : euro 120
- Affiliated Members: no membership fee
- Honorary Members, Fellows: no membership fee
- Supporting members (fee to be negotiated)

DECISION: <Board> : Membership fee same as 2017

DECISION: <Board> : Membership Fee: The fee for full members is 120 EURO!

4 IFSR-Events and Collaborations (past and future)

Collaboration with sister organizations :

WOSC (World Organisation of Systems and Cybernetics) :

Main Contact: Prof. Raoul Espejo

UES-EUS (Union Europeenne de Systemique/ European Union for Systemics) :

Main Contacts: Prof. Pierre Bricage and Prof. Mrs Andree Piecq

IASCYS (International Academy for Systems and Cybernetic Sciences) :

now 58 Academicians, became independent from the IFSR in Sept. 2016; initially some problems, but now a good relationship relationship, "<http://www.iascys.org/>"

joint Book project with ISSS As a result of the Conversation 2016 the book " Guide to Systems Research: Philosophy, Processes and Practice" was a collaboratively sponsored publication between IFSR and ISSS.

Edson, Mary C., Buckle Henning, Pamela, Sankaran, Shankar (eds.) : "A Guide to Systems Research - Philosophy, Processes and Practice" Translational Systems Series 10, Springer 2017, 246 pages ISBN 978-981-10-0263-2, ISBN 978-4-431-54478-4,

see <https://www.springer.com/us/book/9789811002625>



Abbildung 1:

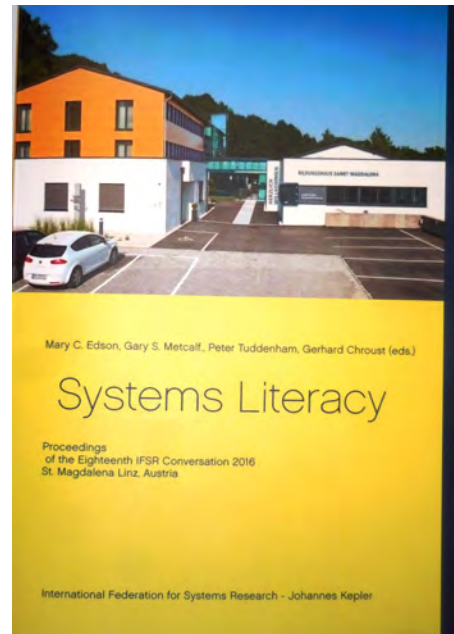


Abbildung 2: IFSR Conversation 2016: Proceedings published

IFSR Conversation 2016 - Proceedings *Proceedings of the IFSR Conversation 2016, IFSR Newsletter with reports on 2016 Conversation*

The Board thanks especially

- Mary Edson and Gary Metcalf for the organization
- Peter Tuddenham for considerable contributions to the Proceedings.

and also the Team Leaders:

- Brigitte Daniel-Allegro
- Gary Smith
- Jennifer Wilby

We had a change in the publication strategy: The proceedings were published by BoD, a print on demand publisher. The bibliographic data of the Proceedings are:

Edson, M.C. and Metcalf, G.S. and Tuddenham, P. and Chroust, G.: Systems Literacy - Proceedings of the Eighteenth IFSR Conversation 2016, Books on Demand, Norderstedt, Germany, Feb. 2017, SEA-SR 47, 104 pages, ISBN 978-3-7431-7913-4

ISSS 2017, July 10-14, Vienna :

A short presentation of the IFSR was given by Gary Metcalf and IFSR's Honorary Plaques were given to Gary Metcalf and Stefan Blachfellner by Gerhard Chroust



Abbildung 3: Honoring Gary Metcalf and Stefan Blachfellner(ISSS 2017)



Abbildung 4: Honoring Nam Nguyen at ISSS 2017

4.1 The 19th IFSR Conversation Linz 2018 <GSM>

The 19th IFSR Conversation took place Sunday, April 8 to Thursday April 13, 2018 in St. Magdalena, Linz. We had 26 participants in 4 teams:

- Team no 1 Systems Practice - Nam Nguyen, Constantin Malik
- Team no 2 What is Systems Science - Gary R Smith
- Team no 3 Active + Healthy Aging - Gerhard Chroust, Shankar Sankaran
- Team no 4 Data Driven SE Approaches - Edward Carroll

The EC thanked especially Mary Edson, Gary Metcalf and Gerhard Chroust for the organization and the Team Leaders for their efforts.

It is planned to have 4 short team reports in the next IFSR Newsletter (scheduled end of July) and the full Proceedings published at end of October, probably again with the BoD-publisher.

5 IFSR Publications



5.1 IFSR International Series on Systems Science and Engineering

For timing reasons this report was presented right after the President's speech



With the passing away of George Klir the position of the Editor-in-Chief of the Series became vacant. After some consultations and discussions, also with the publisher Springer, George Mobus took this job:

Professor Em. George MOBUS
 Institute of Technology, Computer Science & Systems/Computer Eng. & Systems,
 University of Washington - Tacoma, Campus Box 359592 4333, Brooklyn Ave NE,
 Seattle, WA 98105-9470, USA.

<GM> reported about the re-launch of the Series, especially the challenge to find new authors (for details see attachment).

5.2 IFSR Journal of Systems Research and Behavioral Science >GC<

The Journal is well managed by Michael Jackson and is - fortunately - also very profitable. During the ISSS Conference in Berlin (2016) we had talks with Michael Jackson and agreed to a closer cooperation. The IFSR homepage will strive for a better announcement of the contents of the Journal on IFSR's homepage "<http://www.ifsrr.org/index.php/publications/ifsrr-international-series-on-systems-science-and-engineering/>"

5.3 IFSR Newsletter <GC>

tabled: Newsletter 2017 (2 issues) <GC> reports that the Newsletter is usually published twice a year and put on IFSR's Website. For documentation and legal purposes approx. 12 copies are printed, the rest is mailed and offered electronically.



Abbildung 5: IFSR Newsletter no. 33-2 (Dec. 2017)

2016/2017 four issues were published:

- vol 33, No.1 (July 2016)
- vol 33, No.2 (December 2016)
- vol 34, No.1 (October 2017)
- vol 34, No.2 (December 2016)

5.4 IFSR Newsflash <GC>



Abbildung 6: IFSR News flash header

Important IFSR News are also directly sent to subscribers of the IFSR News, on the average there is one mailing per month. The Newsflashes are well received and currently there are approx. 280 subscribers. The mailing is done via MailChimp which also gives feedback on the acceptance. Approx. 50% of each News flash is opened by the recipients.

5.5 IFSR Web Site <GC>



Abbildung 7: IFSR Homepage 2018

<GC> reports: The homepage (see "ifsr.org") has been refurbished by Christian Waltner (www.waltner-webdesign.at) and has now a much better outer appearance. Unfortunately only few members use it as a communication medium to the systems community.

<GC> encourages the members to use it as a communication tool and to send in information on events and reports!

<GC> thanks Christian Waltner (www.waltner-webdesign.at), for his efforts in designing and reorganizing the new web site!

6 Financial Status and Outlook <GC>

<GC> tabled a copy of the financial situation for 2016-2017 and a report on the period of Jan. 1, 2018 to March 31, 2018

<GC> thanks Karin Vorsteher, secretary to Prof. Robert Trapp, for her efforts in performing the book-keeping of the IFSR so well and for creating the Financial Report!

tabled: Financial Reports 2016-2017 and Jan - March 2018

- There are two sources of finance for the Society, one are royalties from Journal "Systems Research and Behavioral Science" (published by Wiley Interscience) and the membership fees.
- The financial situation is not very good. We have to reduce costs (difficult) or to increase income (very difficult!) We have still a reasonable buffer for some future eventualities.
- The financial outlook of the Journal is very healthy, thanks to the great success of the Journal.

DECISION: <Board> : The Board thanked Prof. M. C. Jackson for his initiative and efforts and also Amanda Gregory, the Deputy Editor

- The income from membership fees and JSRBS is definitely too small to cover all expenses.
- The paying morale of our members is - unfortunately - very low. The next executive Committee needs to look into that. For the near future the savings can be used to supplement the expenses, but in the future we might have to re-allocate funds and expenses.
- We have hope that with the re-launch of the IFSR Book Series by George Mobus we will have some additional income from royalties.

6.1 Report from the Auditors <GC>

IFSR's auditors, Prof. Dr. Robert Trapp and Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Hofkirchner reported on April 5, 2018 that

- the correctness, plausibility and correlation of bills with the bank account is assured
- the financial system was correctly managed
- the usage of money was in accordance with the reasons and the objectives of the society

6.2 Release of Obligation of the old Executive Committee

DECISION: <Board> : The Board releases the complete Executive Committee from duty the unanimously for the period of Jan 2016 to March 31, 2018

The <EC> thanks the Board .

7 Election of the new Executive Committee <RI>

number of Vice presidents :

DECISION: <Board> : Upon the suggestion of the EC, there will be two Vice Presidents for the next Period - Unanimously approved

Proposals and presentation of Candidates The <EC> presents the new slate for the officers of the IFSR.

- President : Professor Ray Ison
- Secretary General : Mag. Stefan Blachfellner
- 1st Vice President : Dr Louis Klein
- 2nd Vice President : Dr Nam Nguyen

Formal Election of the new EC <GC> asks the meeting

- If there are other nominations - No further nominations
- If a secret ballot was desired

DECISION: <Board> : no secret ballot is desired

- If en-bloc voting is acceptable

DECISION: <Board> : en-bloc voting is accepted
--

<GC> calls for a vote of the proposed candidates

DECISION: <Board> : The Executive Committee for the Period 2018-20 is unanimously elected with ONE abstention

Election of Auditors :

<RI> proposes the following Auditors

- Albert Müller, University of Vienna and head of the HvF Archive
- Karl Müller, retired, formerly Steinbeis Transfer Center New Cybernetics in Vienna.

Change of office The change of office will take place on May 1, 2018

8 Changes to the Constitution <GC>

The Board accepts the changes to the Constitution as e-voted on Nov. 29, 2017, see section 3.1.

9 Other Business

<GC> brings to the attention of the Board that after considerable negotiations the BCSSS and Prof. Hofkirchner with strong help of Dr. Rainer Zimmermann acquired the copyright for the "Charles Francois Encyclopedia", officially: (author=Francois, C., title=International Encyclopedia of Systems and Cybernetics, publisher=2nd edition, 2 volumes, K.G.Saur, Muenchen 2004, pages=737, isbn=3-598-11630-6).

The IFSR congratulates the BCSSS on this move and offers its cooperation in further development of this work.

10 Closing

- <GC> thanks the Board for 27 years of fruitful cooperation as the Secretary General.
- <GC> will cooperate with the new EC, especially Stefan Blachfellner, to provide a seamless and effective transition.
- The following items tasks are till on the task list of <GC>
 - outstanding payments, especially to the seminar hotel St. Magdalena
 - minor bills accrued in March/April

- editing the IFSR Newsletter of July 2018, including the team reports from the IFSR Conversation 2018
- editing the proceedings of the IFSR Conversation 2018 (Nov. 2018)
- checking / completing the IFSR Newsletters on the IFSR web-site
- checking / completing the IFSR Conversation Proceeding the IFSR web-site (a few seem to be lost)
- <GC> will travel to the ISSS 2018 conference in Corvallis, Oregon on behalf of the IFSR (planned: further discussion about transition to the new IFSR EC, Charles Francois' Encyclopedia)

2 attachments:

- 1) Outgoing President's Report (M.C.Edson) 2) G. Mobis: report on the IFSR Books Series (shortened)



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IFSR Board Meeting President's Report 13 April 2018

Good afternoon to the Members, Executive Committee, Colleagues, and Guests of the IFSR and welcome to the 2018 IFSR Board Meeting. We have just concluded the 19th Biennial Conversation and now our focus shifts to updating you about where the IFSR is and where its future is going. Before we begin, let us take a moment to review and appreciate some of the accomplishments we have made in the last two years. Through the leadership of the IFSR's Executive Committee, the following projects have been achieved:

- The IFSR Book Series has been relaunched with the leadership of George Mobus as Editor-in-Chief and Springer as Publisher. George presented a Publications Workshop during the IFSR Conversation this week and will be reporting details of the progress of the Book Series later in this meeting. We thank Gary Metcalf for his sustained dedication to the development of the series for his assistance in achieving this goal.
- Outreach to existing member organizations by attending member meetings like the American Society for Cybernetics in Olympia, WAS (June 2016) and the INCOSE SysSciWG Workshop in Jacksonville, FL (January 2017), which strengthen ties within the Systems Community.
- Outreach to potential member organizations by attending conferences like the System Dynamics Conference in Cambridge, MA (2017), which build new ties within the Systems Community.
- Outreach to potential new interest groups like the U.S. National Laboratories, which build and broaden the reach of the Systems Sciences Community.
- Continued partnerships with existing Systems Sciences collaborators like ISSS, whose next meeting will be in Corvallis, OR, with David Rousseau hosting it as President and Jennifer Wilby continuing to master plan all details of its execution. The IFSR EC gave presentations at ISSS 2016 in Boulder and 2017 in Vienna.
- New memberships have been cultivated to widen the reach of the IFSR and the Systems Community, such as Malik Management.

- New projects, such as collaborations in Systems Science Education, which Ray Ison has pursued. Systems Literacy, championed by Peter Tuddenham, was the focus of the 18th Biennial Conversation and continues to develop into new opportunities for the Systems Community.
- The Systems Research Team is an innovative collaboration between the IFSR and the ISSS that began at the 17th Biennial Conversation. The SRT, through Springer, published *A Guide to Systems Research: Philosophy, Principles and Practice* in 2017. This type of collaborative project and publication is part of the IFSR's continuing educational mission.
- The 18th Biennial IFSR Conversation's Proceedings have been published and are now available for online ordering through an on-demand published on Amazon.
- The IFSR Website has been maintained by Gerhard. We thank him for keeping it current for the membership's information with announcements, activities, and publications.
- The IFSR Newsletter has been maintained by Gerhard. We thank him for keeping it current for the membership's information with announcements, activities, and publications.
- *Systems Research and Behavioral Science* (Wiley), edited by Michael Jackson, continues to be a vital part of the IFSR's educational mission and we appreciate the alliance as a platform for our members' contributions to the field.
- The IASCYS, also known as "the Academy," is now fully independent from the IFSR. It is now a collaborative working group directed by Stuart Umpleby as President.
- The administration of the IFSR membership has been maintained by Gerhard and we thank him for over 25 years of acting as Secretary General. He has been the glue that keeps this organization functioning and we wish him well as he moves into new ventures in the Systems Sciences and beyond.

These are just some of the projects that the Executive Committee has undertaken and I would like to recognize all the members of the committee Gary, Gerhard, Jennifer and Ray, for their time, dedication, and effort toward bringing these goals to fruition.

At this time, I would like to invite the members of the Executive Committee to comment before proceeding with the Board Meeting.

At this time, I would like to invite feedback from IFSR Member Representatives.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve you and I look forward to working with the new Executive Committee as it develops its vision for the IFSR's future.

Truly,

Mary C. Edson

Mary C. Edson
IFSR President (2016-2018)

IFSR Book Series

Systems Science & Systems Engineering

The IFSR's two major objectives with this book series.

- To open systems science and systems engineering up to a much wider audience than has been the case in the past.
 - SS & SE should be better known and understood by any thinking person
 - Mathematical-only approach is a barrier to many
 - All concepts and principles in SS are expressible in plain language with a few “technical” but common terms
 - SE has methodologies that can be used by many who seek to design human-activity systems
- To assist in the integration (or re-integration) of the many seemingly diverse sub-topics within the systems sciences.
 - SS is an umbrella discipline under which various facets of systemness are found
 - The academic drive to specialization has tended to drive wedges between fields that should be seen as working together
 - Focus on books that demonstrate the ties between subfields - transdisciplinary

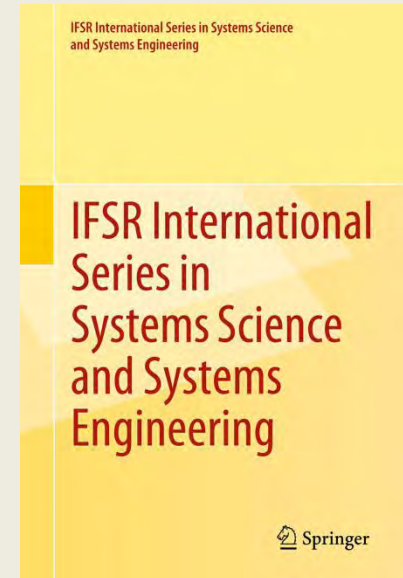
The Original and the New Series

- George Klir developed the idea for a book series while president of the IFSR
- Kluwer was the original publisher. It is worth noting that Robert Rosen's Anticipatory Systems was the first book published in the series.
- The main emphasis was on mathematical approaches (e.g. set theoretical constructs)
- Approximately 12-15 books were published but owing to the graduate textbook-like content of many of them, circulation was limited to that audience
- Before Klir died he approached the IFSR EC about keeping the series going. The Mathematics Division of Springer (who had bought Kluwer) decided to write a contract with the IFSR rather than an editor.
- Given the broader set of interest of members of the IFSR and the systems community in general and thanks to work done by David Rousseau and his accomplices to construct bridges to the SE community through INCOSE the need for a much broader vision of the books to be published was needed.

IFSR International Series in Systems Science and Systems Engineering

Purpose of the Series

The IFSR International Series on Systems Science and Systems Engineering book series is devoted to the demonstration of systems science and engineering as a body of integrated concepts, principles, methodologies, tools, and perspectives all directed toward a better understanding of the nature of systems (systemness) and how to use systems approaches in the other sciences and engineering practice. This series seeks to provide systems knowledge to a broad and diverse audience of those interested in a much deeper understanding of how the world works.



Areas of Interest:

- Complexity Theory
- Network Theory
- Hierarchy, Holarchy, and Panarchy Theories
- Dynamics
- Emergence and Evolution
- Modeling (System Dynamics, etc.)
- Computational Intelligence and Learning Systems
- Systems analysis and Synthesis Application Areas
- Biological and Ecological Systems
- Economics
- Management and Governance
- Methodologies (Applied Systems Science or Engineering)

IFSR International Series in Systems Science and Systems Engineering (cont.)

IFSR Series Proposals

The Editorial Board will solicit high quality **monographs, edited collections, and textbooks** that focus on research in areas of Systems Science and Engineering with the intent of making systems science, literacy, and thinking available to all involved in formulating the future of humanity. Topics of great interest include complex adaptive and evolvable systems. The research topics can be either theoretical or applied (e.g. action research) as long as they incorporate theories or principles specific to systems science.

Book proposals should demonstrate the integration of subjects across disciplinary lines within the system sciences, such as showing relations between cybernetics and hierarchy theory and other fields. The ideal proposal will provide both quantitative and qualitative explanations that allow those with strong mathematical backgrounds to absorb the quantitative aspects, but also allow those with more qualitative interests to gain substantial insights into the work.

Editorial Board

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