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Dear Readers!
 I have the feeling that the announcement of the Fuschl 2000 Conversation is the most important message of this Newsletter. Consider an involvement in this extremely and highly rewarding meeting!
 With our December issue we (unnoticed) also published our 50th Newsletter. The first Newsletter to be published by our good friend and mentor Paul de P. Hanika came out in autumn 1981. Paul Hanika should always take up a place in our hearts. After Paul Hanika's death Steven Sokoloff edited the Newsletter for several years. With myself taking office as Secretary/Treasurer I also took over the job of the Editor-in-Chief. For statistics' sake: Paul Hanika edited 10 Newsletter, two Newsletters

were edited by Robert Trapp, further 16 by Steven Sokolof, 7 by Steven and me and I had the pleasure (and to some extent also the stress) to publish now my 17th Newsletter. So please keep the information coming in – we are always interested in project reports, new ideas and systemic questions.
 In this issue I touch on a subject which is of great concern to me: What is the effect of World Wide Web on the scientific world? Perhaps I generate some discussions! So take a position and tell us about it!
 I also have to apologise for forgetting to change in the letter head of our Newsletter my outdated email address to the new one – I never noticed it!
 Sincerely
 Gerhard Chroust

INVITATION TO THE FUSCHL CONVERSATION 2000

In April 2000 we are celebrating our tenth Fuschl Conversation. Preparations are well under way. Based on past successful experiences we will form five groups of five to six participants, which will discuss, as Bela Banathy put it so aptly
“How can we use the insights gained from systems sciences for the improvement of the human condition?”



We therefore invite people, interested in taking an active part in the Fuschl Conversation 2000 to submit a topic and subsequently to act as a 'moderator' for this topic for the five days in Fuschl near Salzburg. The topic should be timely and fit to the 'spirit of Fuschl'.

What is Fuschl?

Fuschl is a beautiful, romantic little village on a little lake in the lovely Salzkammergut, near Salzburg, Austria, surrounded by mountains. It was the starting point of the "Conversations", also known as the "Fuschl talks"

What is a conversation?

- Conversation is
- ?? a collectively guided disciplined inquiry
 - ?? an exploration of issues of social/societal significance
 - ?? engaged by scholarly practitioners in self-organized teams
 - ?? who select a theme for their conversation
 - ?? which is initiated in the course of a preparation phase that leads to an intensive learning phase

Bela H. Banathy

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BHBANATHY@AOL.com or
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GC@sea.uni-linz.ac.at

Previous Proceedings:

B.H. Banathy, G. Chroust (eds.): The Eight Fuschl Conversation (Fuschl Am See, April 14-19, 1996) Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies, Vienna, Sept. 1998, ISBN 3 85206 145 8
M. Bener, G. Chroust (eds.): Designing Social Systems in a Changing World (The Ninth Fuschl Conversation) Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies, Vienna, Sept. 1998, ISBN 3 85206 148 2

MORE THAN 50 NEWSLETTERS PUBLISHED!

In Autumn 1981 the first IFSR Newsletter appeared. In the Editorial of the first issue our Editor-in-Chief Paul Hanika wrote:

"The IFSR wish to use this first official publication of the Federation to record their thanks and appreciation to Dr. Firnberg, 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 Rat. Dr. Rozsenich, who took a leading role"



The first IFSR Newsletter

NEW TRENDS

**NEW READING, NEW LEARNING, NEW TEACHING
WILL THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM CHANGE ?**

Gerhard Chroust

Kepler University Linz, Austria

This is a summary of a paper given at STIQE-98

Mankind depends on communication and has in the past invented and employed many different technologies for it. The ability to disseminate information and knowledge is one of the keys to scientific research. *We try to stand on the shoulders of giants* as Isaac Newton once put it. Information has to be forwarded by some appropriate medium. New communication technologies will have a strong impact on the education paradigm. The changes of this medium over the past implied changes of the way scientific information is disseminated. Four means of transport effected major changes:

?? In the **oral tradition** (Fig.1) the information was passed personally from teachers to students; some of them later became teachers. The limitation of oral dissemination and the difficulty of access of more than one teacher resulted in a *very lean dissemination tree*.

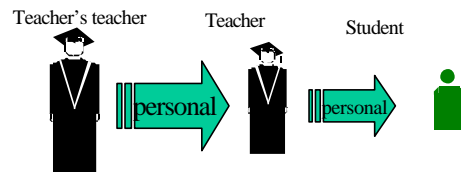


Fig. 1: Oral tradition

?? **Handwritten books** (Fig. 2) were expensive to produce and to reproduce. They contained the knowledge of previous teachers. So a certain extent they replaced the teacher's teacher and thus essentially broke the direct link.

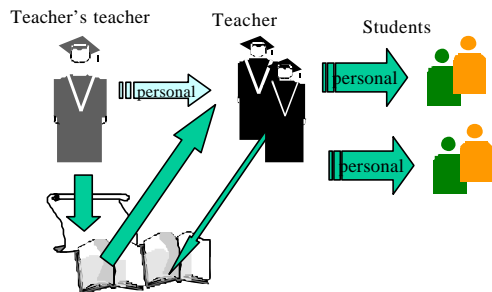


Fig. 2: Handwritten Book

?? The **printed book**, produced in quantities, allowed the establishment of a knowledge base (Fig. 3). The 'state of the art' could now be collected and maintained in many places. The *personality of the author - the teacher's teacher* lost much of its impact. The written text was the yard stick..

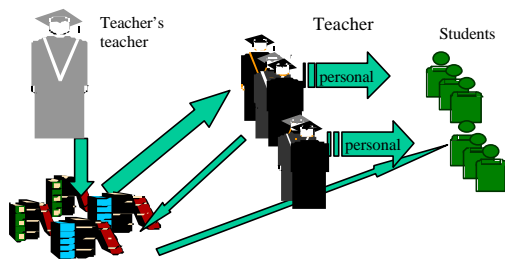


Fig. 3: printed book

?? The **World Wide Web** (Fig. 4) allows 'individual self-promotion'. Anybody is able to put a 'publication' into the internet, be it a scientist or a ignoramus. No quality control exists. Everybody has easy access to this

'published' material. The concept of the state-of-the-art is diluted.

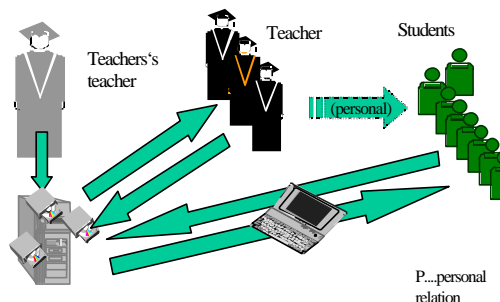


Fig. 4: World Wide Web

This development forces us to re-think some of the academic traditions established over centuries. Some obvious effects are (and more should be discovered and discussed):

- ?? easy access ? from memorising facts to ad-hoc searching
- ?? on-line information ? from collector to hunter
- ?? uncontrolled publishing ? from blind believer to critical reader
- ?? just-in-time-publishing ? from carefully prepared information to suddenly emerging new ideas

Both teachers and students must be made aware and trained to use the new techniques, to understand the consequences and define a new paradigm of education, especially at the universities. We will move from a 'Know-What' to a 'Know-Where' and 'Know-How' paradigm. Are we prepared for it?

Chroust, G. New Reading, New Learning, New Teaching - Will the University System change? in: Rebernik, M., Mulej, M.: 'STIQE '98 - Proc. of the 4th Int. Conf. on Linking Systems Thinking, Innovation, Quality, Entrepreneurship and Environment, pp. 19-29, Slovenian Soc. for Systems Research, Maribor,

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

For contacts and further information see Calendar of Events

HUMANITY, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMIC FOUNDATIONS OF THE INFORMATION AGE 43RD MEETING OF THE ISSS

June 27 – July 2, 1999

Asilomar Conference Center, Calif., USA

During the past few centuries we have achieved a remarkable synthesis of science and technology. We have been less successful in establishing a graceful or even workable relationship between nature, humanity, science

and technology. It is becoming important for us to ask the fundamental questions that will lead to an understanding of these relationships.

Unique to our age is the massive scale at which we are applying science and technology to the construction of our physical, social and cultural reality. However, our approach to the construction of these realities is fragmented. A distinguishing feature of the next millennium must be a more systemic view of science and technology. A view that gives full expression to

the creative energy of the human spirit upon which the information age can be built.

A disciplined approach to engaging our creative energy calls for a level of understanding that crosses the boundaries between the humanities, the arts, the sciences, and technologies. It calls for a re-examination of science, one that embraces different ways of knowing, and different ways of being. The boundary-crossings may well be rooted in our humanity, in our conceptions of aesthetics, justice, morality, and ethics.

Some 44 year ago a group of systems thinkers asked: How can science be unified? How can science be applied to the improvement of the human condition? The upcoming meeting on the Monterey Peninsula provides a unique opportunity for us to take up that challenge. Suggestions for presentation topics include:

Bases for the Unification of Science

- ?? Improvement of the Human Condition
- ?? Humanistic Inquiry
- ?? Critical Systems Theory
- ?? Living Systems Theory
- ?? Foundations of Information Science
- ?? Complexity Theory
- ?? Art as a Method of Inquiry

Bases for Improvement of the Human Condition

- ?? Unification of Science
- ?? Global Ethical Management
- ?? Education and Human Development
- ?? Designing Healthy Authentic Communities
- ?? Evolutionary Guidance Systems
- ?? Modelling and Simulation
- ?? Computer-based technologies

**7TH INTERDISCIPLINARY
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT TALKS
(IDIMT-99)**

Sept 1-3, 1999

Zadov, Czech Republic

The aim of this series of annually organised talks is to provide an interdisciplinary and informal forum for an interchange of concepts and ideas on Information Management, Information Engineering, Business Processes and related topics. The increasing interest in information as a vital resource makes it necessary to provide both technology transfer and also opportunities for establishing technical and commercial Cupertino across borders.

The Cupertino of technical and economic institutes and of researchers with different economic and historical backgrounds provides an interesting basis for interdisciplinarity.

?? Key topic sessions:

- ?? EU Standardisation Process in IS/IT
- ?? E- Commerce, distributed communication
- ?? Human Interfaces and Human Aspects
- ?? Methodologies for System Development
- ?? Quality Management and Audit of IS/IT
- ?? Applied Systemic Thinking

Further information: <http://www.sea.ini-linz.ac.at>

**11TH INT. CONGRESS OF CYBERNETICS AND
SYSTEMS**

Brunel University, Uxbridge, U.K.

August 23-27 1999

Papers are invited for section meetings. The suggested topics involve the following domains:

- ?? Artificial Intelligence (including chess)
- ?? Automation and Robotics
- ?? Behavioural Sciences
- ?? Biocybernetics
- ?? Chaos and Fractals
- ?? Cognition
- ?? Cybernetics and Art
- ?? Cybernetics and Philosophy
- ?? Economic Cybernetics
- ?? Educational Cybernetics
- ?? Environmental Cybernetics and Ecosystems
- ?? Genetic Algorithms and Neural Networks
- ?? Information, Complexity, Self-organisation
- ?? Management and Cybernetics
- ?? Medical Cybernetics
- ?? Sociocybernetics
- ?? Systems and Cybernetics Methodologies

**INT. CONFERENCE ON MODELLING AND
SIMULATION (MS'99)**

University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

17-19 May 1999

- ?? Modelisation & Simulation
- ?? Artificial Intelligence and Expert systems.
- ?? Fuzzy logic
- ?? Utilisation of models to help decision making
- ?? Models for linear and nonlinear optimisation
- ?? Data mining and warehousing,
- ?? Utilisation of fuzzy data in economical sciences and management of enterprises

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (ICAI'99)**

Technicom Natal
DURBAN (SOUTH AFRICA), 24-26
September 1999

Main topics:

All aspects of theory and application of Artificial Intelligence and applications in different fields. It also includes: fuzzy logic, neural networks, genetic algorithms, expert systems, pattern recognition and combinations with the conventional technologies.

Case Studies and experimental results are welcome.

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
COMPUTER MODELLING SIMULATION AND
COMMUNICATION (CMCS'99)**

Birla Institute of Technology
Jaipur (India),
1-3 December 1999

- ?? System Simulation,
- ?? Mathematical tools,
- ?? Artificial Intelligence,
- ?? Computation models,
- ?? Expert systems,
- ?? Neural systems,
- ?? Fuzzy systems,
- ?? Computer aided systems,
- ?? Circuit simulation and VLSI design,
- ?? direction for future research

Abstracts in English (300 - 500 words) are requested.

CASYS' 99

**THIRD INT. CONFERENCE ON
COMPUTING ANTICIPATORY SYSTEMS**

HEC - LIEGE, BELGIUM,
August 9-14, 1999

The general aim is to introduce anticipation and hyperincursion in any computing artificial system (a robot, a neural network, for example) or computing natural system (the brain, the cognition, for example). A computing anticipatory system is, for example, a system which computes its current state as a function of the anticipation of a model of itself and/or of its environment. Incursion and hyperincursion are extensions of recursion and hyper recursion in taking into account not only past or present states but also future states to iterate the current state. Hyperincursion is an incursion for which multiple states are generated at each iteration.

Topics of symposiums:

Anticipatory Systems, Epistemology, Logic, Catastrophe Theory, Category Theory, Chaos, Fractal, Mathematical Systems, Physical Systems, Quantum Mechanics, Relativity Theory, Cosmology, Neural Networks, Cognitive Sciences, Artificial Intelligence, Artificial Life, Psychology, Medicine, Sociology, Biology, Ecology, Economics, Management, Genetic Algorithms, Computing Systems, Recursive Systems, Incursive and Hyperincursive Systems, Self-referential Systems, Holistic Systems and Reductionism, Locality and Non-locality, Soft Computing, Systems Modelling, Simulation, Optimisation, Information Systems, Control Theory, Robotics.

<http://www.ulg.ac.be/mathgen/CHAOS/CASYS.html>

CONFERENCE REPORTS

**CASYS'98, SECOND INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON COMPUTING
ANTICIPATORY SYSTEMS,**

Liege, Belgium,
August 10-14, 1998

This conference was organised by CHAOS, Centre for Hyperincursion and Anticipation in Ordered Systems and was as successful as the first one: 230 authors and co-authors from 29 different countries presented 115 papers. Professor Ernst von Glasersfeld (USA), the Invited Speaker of CASYS'98, presented a paper on A Model for the Construction of

Elementary Concepts. Professor Agnessa Babloyantz (Belgium) received the CHAOS Award with a Crystal of Val Saint-Lambert for her outstanding scientific works on Chaos and Neural Computation in the Brain. She was invited to present an invited lecture on "Neuronal and Network Computation in the Brain". Professor Jose Luis Simies da Fonseca (Portugal) received the CASYS'98 Award with a Crystal of Val Saint-Lambert for his outstanding scientific works on Neuronal Basis of Cognitive Processes. He presented an invited lecture on "A Medical Prescription for a Mind".

More details:

<http://www.ulg.ac.be/mathgen/CHAOS/news.html>

JOURNALS

REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE SYSTÉMIQUE

This journal is edited by the French Association for Information, Systems, Sciences and Technology (AFCET). It is devoted to the publication of articles, notes, surveys and information about systems research. Systems research or systems science is understood as the set of methodological and applied studies on phenomena whose complexity cannot be approached in a reductionist way, for which we need insight to define or identify boundaries, internal and external relations, structures or emergent laws, and which raise methodological

questions concerning observation, description, modelling and simulation of their global aspects. The journal also includes information on scientific meetings and book reviews.

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e-mail: afcet.administration@ibp.fr

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FROM OUR MEMBER SOCIETIES

AFCET

ASSOCIATION FRANCAISE DES SCIENCES ET TECHNOLOGIES

AFCET, a non profit association, is dedicated to pursuing and contributing to the development of the main disciplines determining the progress of computer science, organisation and systems sciences.

AFCET is a meeting place for specialists anxious to participate and keep up with the scientific and technical development.

As the official representatives of France within ECCAI, EURO, IAPR, IFAC, IFIP, IFORS, IFSR, IMACS, IMEKA, WOSC etc. AFCET is the natural interface with it's foreign homologues. Moreover, AFCET, has reciprocal agreement with societies such as ACM, IEEE and organisations from other European countries, members of the Council for European Professional Informatics Societies (CEPIS).

AFCET is the privileged spokes-person of the authorities and bodies of general interest when they need a professional impartial opinion.

Members of AFCET (about 2000) come from all representative backgrounds: research, industry and trade, public and private sectors, universities and schools. They find in the

association means of maintaining and developing relations with their French and foreign peers, diffusion media for their studies and works, and logistical support for the organisation of scientific and technical meetings.

Specialised periodicals

AFCET Interflash (journal of members)
APII, Automatic Control Production Systems
JESQA (10/year)
EST, Educational Sciences and Technologies (4/year)
ISI, Information Systems Engineering (4 /year)
ITA, Theoretical Informatics and Applications (6/year)
TSI, Technology and Science of Informatics (10/year)
MAN, Mathematical Modelling and Numerical Analysis (7/year)
Parallel Computers (4/year)
RSD, Journal of Decision Systems (4/year)
RO, Operations Research (4/year)
RIS, The International Journal of Systemics (5/year)

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NEWS FROM THE BOOK MARKET

INVESTMENT IN UNCERTAINTY

Jaime Gil-Aluja

University of Barcelona

The objective of the book is to discuss and explain the problems caused by the investment process in a world that is so full of change that it has become uncertain. For this reason the author presents a very wide range of theoretical and technical elements gathered from the new mathematics of uncertainty, both in its numerical and non-numerical aspects. In this regards an important role is played by the theories of fuzzy sub-sets, forgotten effects, affinities, experts and many others that are being introduced with such success, in an attempt to arrive at a solution to the complex problems of management and the economy.

Kluwer Academic Publishers
 October 1998, 476 pp.
 Hardbound, ISBN 0-7923-5296-3
 ca. € 14,60

THE INTERACTIVE MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES IN UNCERTAINTY

Jaime Gil-Aluja

University of Barcelona

This work deals fundamentally with two of the most important aspects of personnel management, namely selection and job mobility. These topics are treated using the most modern techniques created from all-purpose logic for handling uncertainty. Personnel recruitment is covered from the angle of selection techniques for improved efficiency for the company and greater satisfaction and self-realisation for the employee. When considering workplaces, the suitability of each person and their mobility are studied under the best economic conditions.

Kluwer Academic Publishers
 Hardbound, ISBN 0-7923-4886-9
 ca € 9,00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>Title</i>	<i>Date and Place</i>	<i>Further Information</i>
<i>Abbreviations: CfP, CfA: Call f.Papers/Abstract, FP: Final Paper due, <No. nn>: more details in issue.nn</i>		
CHI 99 – The CHI is the Limit, ACM SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems	15 –20 May 1999 Pittsburgh USA	CHI 99 Office, 703 Gidding Ave., Suite U-3, Annapolis, MO 21401, USA, http://www.acm.org/sigchi/ch99 , Tel: +1 410 263 5382, Fax: +1 410 267 0332, chi99-help@acm.org
Int. Conference on Modelling and Simulation (MS'99)	University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain 17-19 May 1999 CfA: expired	José Carlos de Miguel Dominguez, Faculty Ciencias Economicas y Empersariales Univ. of Santiago de Compostela, Avda. Juan XXIII s/n, 15704 Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, Spain Fax: +34-981 56 36 37
Humanity, science, technology: The systemic foundations of the information age - 43rd meeting of the ISSS <18/1>	June 27-July 2, 1999 Asilomar Conf. C. Pacific Grove, Calif. USA	Bela Antal Banathy, 38 Seca Place, Salinas, CA 93908 USA, email: babanathy@worldnet.att.net, Tel: (831)375-7614

Synergy Matters: Working With Systems in the 21 st Century: 6 th Internat. Conf. of the United Kingdom Systems Society <no 17/3,4>	July 5-9, 1999 Lincoln, UK	Doreen Gibbs, Lincoln School of Management, University of Lincolnshire and Humberside, Lincoln LN6 7Ts, UK, Tel. +44 1522 886202, fax +44 1522 886023, Dgibbs@lincoln.ac.uk
CASYS' 99 Third Int. Conference on Computing Anticipatory Systems	August 9-14, 1999 LIEGE, BELGIUM	CHAOS, Centre for Hyperincursion and Anticipation in Ordered Systems http://www.ulg.ac.be/mathgen/CHAOS/CASYS.html
11 th Internat. Congress of Cybernetics and Systems	Uxbridge, Middlesex, UK. August 23-27, 1999 CfA: May 15, 1999	R. Valle, 2, rue de Vouillé, 75015 Paris, France, Tel & Fax: +33 1 45 33 62 46
7th Interdisciplinary Information Management Talks (IDIMT-99)	Sept 1-3 Zadov, Czech Republic	Christian Hofer Kepler Univ. Linz, 4040 Linz. Austria, tel+43 732 2468-873, ,
EUROMICRO 99 Workshop On Software Process And Product Improvement	Milano, Italy Sept 8-10, 1999	G. Chroust, Kepler Univ. Linz, 4040 Linz. Austria, tel+43 732 2468-866, GC@sea.uni-linz.ac.at, http://www.sea.uni-linz.ac.at/EU99SPI http://europub.ict.tuwien.ac.at/index.htm
European Software Day at the EUROMICRO-99 Conference	Milano, Italy Sept 10, 1999 CfP: June 11, 1999	Gerhard Chroust, Kepler Univ. Linz, 4040 Linz. Austria, tel+43 732 2468-866, GC@sea.uni-linz.ac.at, http://www.sea.uni-linz.ac.at/EU99SWD
CES-4: Fourth Systems Science European Congress <17/3,4>	Valencia – Ibiza Sept. 20-24, 1999	Sociedad Española de Sistemas Generales Escuela de Investigacion Operativa, Av. Blasco Ibañez, 13, 46100 Valencia. Spain tel: 34-96-3864-269, fax: -268, Lorenzo.Ferrer@uv.es http://www.uv.es/pla/SESSE/
International Conference On Artificial Intelligence (ICAI'99) <18/1>	Durban, South Africa 24-26 September 1999 CfA: May 15, 1999	Vladimir Bajic, Technikon Natal, Mansfield Road, Gate 1, S8 Block, 3rd floor, Room 314 Durban 4001, South Africa fax:+27-31 204 2560 or +27-31-204 2063, bajic.v@umfolozi.ntech.ac.za
EUROCAST'99 7 th International Workshop on Computed Aided Systems Theory and Technology-	Sept 29-Oct. 2, 1999 Vienna, Austria CfA: March 1, 1999	Peter Kopacek, EUROCAST'99 Vienna Univ. of Technology, Inst. for Handling Devices and Robotics, Floragasse 7A, A-1040 Vienna, Austria Tel:: +43-1-504 1835, Fax:+43-1-504 1835-9 e-mail ecast99@ihrt1.ihrt.tuwien.ac.at www: http://www.ihrt.tuwien.ac.at/ECAS99/
Int. Conference on Computer modelling simulation and communication (CMSC'99) <18/1>	Jaipur , India 1-3 December 1999 CfA: June 15, 1999	Prof. Dhyani, Computer dept. BIT Extension Centre, 27-MI Area Jaiour 302 017, India Fax: *91-141 525 602, , bismiaj@jpl.vsnl.net.in
15 th European Meeting on Cybernetics and Systems Research, EMCSR'2000	Vienna, Austria 24-28 April 2000	Austrian Soc. for Cybernetic Studies, -Schotteng. 3, A-1010 Vienna, Austria, tel: +43-1-53532810, fax +43-1-5320652, email: sec@ai.univie.ac.at http://www.ai.univie.ac.at/emcsr/
10 th Fuschl Conversation: <18/1>	Fuschl , Austria May 1-5, 2000 Call for Topics: June 18, 1999 Participation by invitation only!	Bela Banathy, International Systems Institute, 25781 Morse Drive, Carmel, CA 93923, USA tel/fax +1 (408) 625-3178. BHBANATHY@AOL.com or Gerhard Chroust, Kepler Univ. Linz, 4040 Linz. Austria, tel+43 732 2468-866 GC@sea.uni-linz.ac.at
WORLD CONGRESS OF THE SYSTEMS SCIENCES <18/1>	TORONTO, CANADA, JULY 17,18,19, 2000	Peter A. Corning , Institute for the Study of Complex Systems, 119 Bryant Street, Suite. 212, Palo Alto, CA 94301 USA. tel: (650) 325-5717 FAX: (650) 325-3775, ISCS@aol.com