



# Newsletter

*Official Newsletter of the  
International Federation of Systems Research*

*Editor-in-Chief: Gerhard Chroust*

*Volume 23, no. 1 (December 2005)*

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*A Merry Christmas and a Successful and Healthy New Year!*



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*Dear Readers!*

*It has been a year of many events for the IFSR. At the Board Meeting in 2004 we accepted an offer from the International Society of Knowledge and Systems Science, one of our members, to hold an IFSR-Congress in Japan. It was for the first time that IFSR itself took the lead in organising a congress of this kind. The Congress, called IFSR 2005, was held in Kobe, Japan, and was extraordinarily successful. We are including information and photos of this event.*

*Preparations for the IFSR 2005 Congress made us almost overlook the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the IFSR. The celebration will take place at the EMCSR 2006 in Vienna, on Wednesday, April 19, 2006, with a whole day devoted to the past, present and future of IFSR. In the evening we will traditionally hold the IFSR's Board Meeting.*

*Please read also about our plans to make some essential changes as to the manner in which we hold our Fuschl Conversations. The main purpose is to involve the Fuschl Conversations in the strategic planning of the IFSR, see the respective section for more details.*

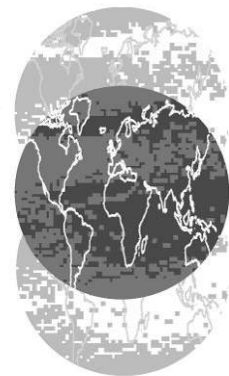
*We are also reporting on two IFSR projects: "ESCO - The International Encyclopaedia of Systems and Cybernetics" led by Günther Ossimitz and the analysis of L. v. Bertalanffy's legacy, led by Wolfgang Hofkirchner. Additionally you will find some update on the IFSR Book Series and on the Journal Systems Research and Behavioural Science.*


*It remains for me as your editor is to wish you*

***A Merry Christmas and a Successful, Healthy New Year!***

*I personally hope that the impulses from IFSR 2005 will lead the IFSR into a much more active and useful role in the systems sciences!*

*Yours sincerely  
Gerhard Chroust*



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	<b><i>IFSR Board Meeting 2006</i></b> <i>Wednesday, April 19, 2006, 18:00</i>
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**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



## 25 Years of the IFSR

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 key representatives were:

- The Society for General Systems Research under its then president Prof. J. Klir, USA, who became the first President of the IFSR. This society later became the International Society for the Systems Sciences
- 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 and
- The Systemgroup Nederland represented by Prof. Gerard de Zeeuw, Netherlands, who became the first secretary treasurer of the IFSR.

Since 1980 Federation has grown. It now counts 31 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 their 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.

Looking back to the 25 years of history, some of the achievements of the IFSR we can be proud of are:

- *Systems Research and Behavioural Science*, a scientific journal: The official journal of the IFSR, edited by Michael C. Jackson
- *International Series on Systems Science and Engineering*, a book series now published by Springer, New York, edited by George J. Klir
- The yearly *IFSR Newsletter*, contacting all member societies, edited by Gerhard Chroust
- A web-site informing the world about the Federation's activities (<http://www.ifsr.org>)
- Bi-annual *Fuschl Conversations*, meeting every other year in Fuschl near Salzburg, Austria, discussing issues of social learning
- Support for many other events (e.g. the EMCSR-conference in Vienna every second year)
- Sponsoring a bi-annual Ashby-lecture at the European Meeting on Cybernetics and Systems Research
- Convening the First International Congress of IFSR in November 2005 in Kobe with the title „The New Roles of Systems Sciences for a Knowledge-based Society „



## *George Klir looks back*

This year has a special significance for IFSR since it was founded a quarter century ago. It happened on April 10, 1980, during the Fourth European Meeting on Cybernetics and Systems Research in Vienna. On this occasion, let me make a few remarks regarding some events that had contributed to the creation of IFSR in 1980.

To my best recollection, the idea of creating such a federation emerged from discussions at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies (NIAS) in Wassenaar during the academic year 1975-76. This was my sabbatical year and I was invited to spend it at the Institute as a Fellow. Shortly after my arrival, I established a strong relationship with a Dutch Fellow at the Institute, Gerrit Broekstra, who was very active in systems research and served at that time as President of the Netherlands Society for Systems Research. Prior to my sabbatical, I was not aware of this Society, but during my residence at NIAS, I earnestly participated in its many activities and met some of its members.

At NIAS, I had many extensive discussions with Gerrit about some fundamental issues of systems methodology, but we were also talking from time to time about the bigger issues of systems movement. At some point, we both felt that some organization is needed that would provide a worldwide support of systems movement. Needless to say, this was initially a half-baked idea. Once it emerged, however, this idea began to reappear in our discussions

fairly regularly. When we started to think about its implementation, the concept of a federation emerged. We were also aware of three societies that we considered suitable for founding such a federation: Society for General Systems Research, Netherlands Society for Systems Research, and Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies. These societies were very different from one another in many respects and we were not sure if they would be interested to participate as founding members in forming the federation we had in mind.

First, we discussed the idea within the Netherlands Society for Systems Research and the response was, by and large, favourable. Then, I communicated with some influential members of the Society for General Systems Research and their response was somewhat mixed, but not totally negative. Finally, we presented the idea to some representatives of the Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies, in particular Robert Trappl and Franz Pichler, at the Second European Meeting on Cybernetics and Systems Research in Vienna in 1976. The response was quite favourable and increased our enthusiasm about this idea.

It had taken four more years before the Federation was actually founded. First, it was essential to obtain a commitment of the three prospective founding societies to participate in this endeavour. Fortunately, I became a Managing Director of the Society for General Systems Research in 1977 and that position

allowed me to convince the leadership of the Society to participate, at least in principle. Once the three societies agreed to participate in the formation of their Federation, many specific issues had to be negotiated, including the name of the Federation. After several proposed names were considered, the name "International Federation for Systems Research" was eventually unanimously approved. Several meetings of representatives of the three societies took place in 1976-78. The critical meeting was held at the Third European Meeting on Systems Research and Cybernetics in Vienna in 1978. At that meeting, a prospective support of the new Federation by the Austrian Government was announced and, due to this support, it was decided that the principal office of the Federation would be in Austria.

The period 1978-80 was devoted to drafting a constitution of the new Federation. After many modifications of the original draft, the constitution was finalized prior to the Fourth European Meeting on Cybernetics and Systems Research in Vienna in 1980. During this meeting, the Federation was officially founded, I was elected to serve as its first president, and an agreement with Austrian Government was obtained for a substantial financial support of the Federation.

I hope that these scattered recollections, which are nowhere recorded, will be of some interest to individual members of the growing number of IFSR member societies.

*George J. Klir*



Actually, the informal foundation of the IFSR took place during a conference in the USA. Dr. Norbert Rozsenich, a state officer in the Austrian Federal Ministry for Science and Research, saw a chance to obtain a "Sitzabkommen"<sup>1</sup> with the Republic of Austria like, albeit on a financially by far larger scale, The International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) had already signed one. A necessary prerequisite was that the IFSR became an Austrian "Verein"<sup>2</sup>, a legal not-for-profit entity, i.e. it had accepted to take its legal seat in Austria. So I went to the "Vereinsbehörde" to do all the formalities while Dr. Rozsenich managed that we received an "Sitzabkommen" which entitled us to Austrian Schilling 200.000 (approx. 20.000 \$) per year plus an office in Laxenburg where the IIASA already was located (in a big castle).

So I travelled several times to Laxenburg, talked with landlords and already had the agreement for a contract for a nice office, had it put into the draft contract with the Ministry - actually the contract with the Federal Republic of Austria, the Ministry was only acting on its behalf - when the person who rented these rooms decided to pay such a high rent to the landlord that he decided not to give the office to IFSR. Again, negotiations with other landlords, and finally we could settle an agreement, leading to sunny however noisy

rooms facing the castle. The draft contract was changed accordingly, then finalized and during a solemn ceremony it was to be signed in the "Blue Office" of the Ministry. The Blue Office is located in a palace on one of the loveliest places in Vienna, the Minoritenplatz (Note: Next time you'll come to Vienna, you have to visit this square!).

The ceremony was scheduled during the European Meeting on Cybernetics and Systems Research 1980, which following EMCSR's tradition takes place in the week following Easter. I showed up in time, the Federal Minister Dr. Hertha Firnberg, a very smart and tough lady, entered the blue office, Dr. Rozsenich and other dignitaries were present, but not George Klir, IFSR's president, and also Gerard de Zeeuw was missing. We waited for quite some time. The Minister became impatient: The Austrian Government offered the IFSR financial support and an office and those people let her wait? Finally I proposed that I, as vice-president, could sign on behalf of IFSR. In that moment when I offered to put my signature under the official contract, the door opened and breathless, George Klir and Gerard de Zeeuw entered the room. One of my collaborators in the Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies was supposed to bring George and Gerard to the ceremony. When reading the official invitation and programme, he had been so attracted by the word "Demel", a famous "Konditorei" (the translation 'pastry shop' does not convey its

<sup>1</sup> English: agreement of residence

<sup>2</sup> Legally registered association



flair at all!), that he ignored the lines above and led the other IFSR Board members directly to Demel. However, Demel was the location for the reception *after* the official signing ceremony in the Ministry! Luckily, George had become suspicious when waiting at Demels and, as he told me later, had started reading the program and thus found out that they were waiting at the wrong place.

So the situation found a happy ending, Minister Firnberg, after receiving the explanation of the delay, smiled, the signing ceremony took place, and we finally ended, eating gorgeous

food – now at Demels. Thus, the day of the signature became significant of the IFSR: With its ups and downs, with wrong people in the right places, and vice versa, but always with delicious food!

Side remark: Actually, the Minister started smiling because I said to the colleague who misled the other Board members "Du Trottel!" („you idiot“). She always loved to-the-point expressions. Later I naturally apologized.

*Robert Trapp*



## *Gerard deZeeuw looks back*

Like many other well known organisations the IFSR was born in one of the coffee houses and pubs in Vienna. Those were exciting times. The founding of the IFSR provided a much needed platform. It prevented the development of any 'system wars' that might have arisen in analogy to the science wars elsewhere. It contributed to the establishment of a fertile and varied systems science.

Looking back I feel happy to have been able to participate in these developments (as one of the founding fathers) and to have been allowed to contribute as its first secretary treasurer. As such I remember the financial support from the Austrian Government with gratitude. Many activities were made possible, including the start of the Journal for Systems Research and Behavioral Science.

Looking back - not only as first secretary treasurer, but also as past president and past editor-in-chief of the Journal - I am impressed by the present deep penetration of systems ideas in most areas of science. The IFSR and its members have a right to be proud of the way it has expanded on what systems founders like Von Bertalanffy and Churchman set in motion.

I congratulate the present members and their officers for continuing this good work and I wish them all the best for the coming next quarter century.

*Gerard deZeeuw*



## *More Memories*




*EC Meeting in Monterey, USA , July 1999  
(Prof. Yong Pil Rhee, Prof. G. Chroust, Prof. B.H. Banathy, Prof. M.C. Jackson)*




*Board Meeting April 26, 2000  
from left to right: M Mulej, V. Pozdinukov (guest) , St. Umpleby, M. Kaladjeva, G. Klir, M.C. Jackson,  
D. Gibbs, C. Francoi*



## *The official registration of the IFSR*

  
**REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH**  
 BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR INNERES  
 GENERALDIREKTION  
 FÜR DIE ÖFFENTLICHE SICHERHEIT


Zahl: "95.081/3-II/7/80  
Bei Beantwortung bitte angeben

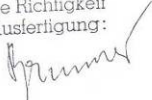


Bestandsbescheinigung

Der Bestand dieses Vereines wird nach Inhalt der vor-  
liegenden Statuten gemäß § 9 des Vereinsgesetzes 1951,  
BGBl.Nr. 233, in der derzeit geltenden Fassung, bescheinigt."

Wien, am 20. März 1980  
Für den Bundesminister  
i.A. OR. Mag. ZECHMEISTER



Für die Richtigkeit  
der Ausfertigung:  


The IFSR was founded in 1980 under Austrian Law as an association. Amongst other requirements an official registration was needed. The document certifies that there is no objection from the state to establish the association.



## 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

book series and author 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 board 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. Firmberg, 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.

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, brevity 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 of all.  
(Global Mission)





## *Celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Vienna*

*Call for contributions! Deadline: Feb. 10, 2006*

The celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the IFSR will take place where it essentially all started: with the European Meeting of Cybernetics and Systems Research in Vienna. IFSR's presence at this Conference is traditional but for 2006 we plan for more active role. Currently we pursue the following overall-plan:

### **Wednesday, Apr. 19, 2006**

**9:00 - 10:00 Presentation of the IFSR by its officers** (Plenary-Meeting)

**10:00 - 11:00 Ross Ashby memorial lecture** (Plenary-Meeting)

**11:00 - 13.00 IFSR Workshop** (in parallel with other symposia)

**14.00 - 17.00 IFSR Workshop, continued** (in parallel with other symposia)

**18:00- ?? Board Meeting**

**For the morning and afternoon workshops we ask you to offer contributions, supply ideas and topics, presentations, both on the history of the IFSR, on individual achievements of the IFSR and on its future activities.**

**Details of the Workshops will be elaborated depending on the incoming contributions.**

**Deadline for submissions: January 14, 2006**

**Submit your contributions to Gerhard Chroust, [gc@sea.uni-linz.ac.at](mailto:gc@sea.uni-linz.ac.at)**



## *IFSR 2005 Congress: The New Roles of Systems Sciences for a Knowledge-based Society*

The First International Congress of the IFSR took place from Nov. 14 – 17, 2005 at the Kobe International Convention Center, Japan. The preamble of the Call for Papers stated:  
*A knowledge-based, technology-supported society is the key to solving current problems of mankind. The ability to understand and manage a complex, dynamic knowledge society of the future and the overall systemic framework supporting it is vital. Systems Sciences carry the promise of promoting the creation, management, exchange, integration, and application of knowledge by applying holistic / systemic paradigms and principles. Systems Sciences provide a basis for balancing the divergent needs and interests between individuals and society worldwide, between ecology and economy, between nations of various levels of development and between differing worldviews. They enable us to understand the conflict potential, to search for suitable policies, to harness complexity, and to provide adequate methods and technological tools for their resolution. The*

*guiding themes of this congress are the new directions, challenges and roles for Systems Sciences and their potential beneficial impact on an emerging knowledge society.*



A view of Kobe

It was a very ambitious undertaking: it was the first of its kind and therefore we did not have some established clientele expected to come, the preparation time was rather short and communication was hampered by large time differences (8 hours between Japan and Europe and additional 7 hours between Europe

and the USA). But the Congress was an even greater success than was expected.



Prof. Y. Nakamori opening the Congress

- It was the first world congress in IFSR's history.
- The congress was convened in the famous International Convention Center in Kobe
- We had 200 participants from 27 nations; 175 papers; 7 symposia, one workshop and one panel discussion. Around 50 participants came from Europe or the USA, a very impressive percentage.
- The smooth running of the Congress was ensured by a staff of 50 persons, consisting of professional organizers and student help.
- The 175 accepted papers were included in a CD-ROM.
- An abstract book of 500 pages contained the extended abstracts.
- Three keynote speeches were given:
  - The first one related to the Third Basic Program for Science and Technology by Mr. Koji Omi, Member of the House of Representatives, former minister of Economic Planning and former minister of Science and Technology. He articulated an understanding of systems principles, and political support for the importance of systems research in Japan.
  - The second keynote was given by Tamito Yoshida, a 74 year old member of the Japan Academy and Professor Emeritus of Tokyo University emphasized the Second Scientific Revolution. He summarized theories from many years of his systems research which paralleled some of the more cutting edge research in Europe today, but which was virtually unknown to most of the non-Japanese participants.
  - The third keynote by Director of Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Professor Leen Hordijk introduced the future role of Environmental Systems Analysis. He stressed the need for long range computer supported theoretical and empirical research

on issues and sketched the role of the IIASA in this area.

- The symposia provided a chance for more in-depth presentations and discussions between participants. Since this was the first international systems conference in Japan, it primarily established a foundation of understanding between Japanese and non-Japanese systems professionals, on which more collaboration could now be built.
- The scientific exchanges especially promoted the understanding of the foundations of Systems Science, Systems research in East and West and the new role of Systems Science in the knowledge-based society
- 5 outstanding student papers were selected honouring the next generation of scientists
- 13 Outstanding Contributions Awards for conference leaders and one Outstanding Award for service were handed out for exceptional contributions to the IFSR 2005 Congress
- IFSR 2005 was well advertised and published by many web pages on Internet contributing to the increase of image and vision of the IFSR in the world.
- IFSR 2005 was an excellent example of the IFSR's role in supporting the development and integration of systems societies throughout the world.
- The example of IFSR 2005 induced the Polish participants to propose to convene the next congress in Poland, showing the attraction IFSR 2005 had to its participants. It was also a wonderful surprise for many people outside of Japan to learn about the depth of research and the breadth of support in systems work taking being provided in Japan.

*Jifa Gu  
President of the IFSR*



Closing Panel of the IFSR 2005

**The major events of the IFSR 2005 were:**

Symposium-1: Technology Creation Based on Knowledge Science (chair: T. Kobayashi)

Symposium-2: Creation of Agent Based Social Systems Sciences (chair: H. Deguchi)

Symposium-3: Intelligent Information Technology and Applications (chair: H. Nakayama)

Symposium-4: Meta-synthesis and Complex Systems (chair: X. Tang)

Symposium-5: Data/Text Mining from Large Databases (chair: T. Ho)

Symposium-6: Vision of Knowledge Civilization (chair: Andrzej Wierzbicki)

Symposium-7: Foundations of the Systems Sciences (chair: Gary Metcalf)

Workshop: New Roles of Systems Sciences in a Knowledge Society (chair: Matjaz Mulej)

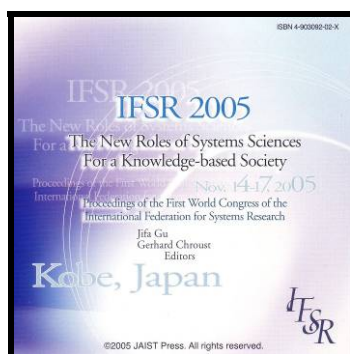
Panel Discussion: New Roles of Systems Science in a Knowledge Society (chair: K. Kijima)

Each Symposium/workshop lasted between 1 and 3 days. Usually four sessions of the Congress were held in parallel.

More pictures from Kobe can be found at

[http://www.uni-klu.ac.at/~gossimit/pic/2005/kobe\\_nl/01.jpg](http://www.uni-klu.ac.at/~gossimit/pic/2005/kobe_nl/01.jpg) to

[http://www.uni-klu.ac.at/~gossimit/pic/2005/kobe\\_nl/10.jpg](http://www.uni-klu.ac.at/~gossimit/pic/2005/kobe_nl/10.jpg)



Proceedings of the congress (on CD-ROM) can be ordered from JAIST Press at a price of 2000 yen, approx. 20 \$.

<http://www.jaist.ac.jp/library/jaist-press/eng/info/about.html>

or

<http://www.jaist.ac.jp/library/jaist-press/eng/catalogue/periodicals.html>



## *Report of the Secretary/Treasurer*

*Dear Members!*

*It has been a very eventful year for the IFSR. In July 2003 the IFSR Executive Committee ventured the idea of an IFSR Congress sometime in the future. Thanks to the good connections of our President, Prof. Jifa Gu, to our Japanese member, the International Society of Knowledge and Systems Science (ISKSS), we accepted at the IFSR Board Meeting 2004 in Vienna the offer of the ISKSS to hold an IFSR-Congress in Japan. It was the first time that the IFSR itself took a lead in organizing a congress of this kind. Before that we only supported other societies (especially the Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies) in holding a conference, e.g. the European Meeting for Cybernetics and Systems Research in Vienna.*

*Prof. Gu was nominated one of the two Chairmen of the Congress and Gerhard Chroust was nominated Programme Chair. Two of the 8 symposia were organized by persons with a strong affinity to the IFSR, six of the symposia were organized by key systems people from Japan and China.*

*In November 2004, after a considerable amount of detailed planning the Congress was a fact. Following a top level meeting in Japan in February 2005 we were able to announce the Congress to the general public, knowing that it was a hazardous endeavour because the planned Congress did not have a precedent and therefore no clientele from previous years. The time difference between USA and Japan (16 hours) and Europe and Japan (8 hours) to be proved additionally problematic.*

*We selected the ambitious title "The New Roles of Systems Sciences for a knowledge-based Society".*

*Our Japanese Partners did an excellent job with respect to financing and organization. Two very large organizations in Japan, JAIST, the Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology in Komatsu under the lead of Prof. Yoshiteru Nakamori and the Tokyo Institute of Technology, under the lead of Prof. Kyoichi (Jim) Kijima provided considerable sponsoring, related to two Japanese Centres of Excellence projects. Konan University under the lead of Prof. Wuyi Yue also gave the considerable support.*

*Based on suggestions from the IFSR, several scientists from outside Japan were invited.*

*The organizational side of the Congress was professionally handled by the Japan Tourist Board (JTB), with Ms. Jacqueline Howlett as the key contact.*

*The Congress was a tremendous success, much more than many of us had hoped for. It provided valuable contacts between systems scientists world wide. It also showed that there is considerable interest in understanding Systems Sciences as a key to the improvement of society.*

*The Congress was also a motivator for the IFSR to take a stronger lead in the systems field. We will strive to fulfil this new role by making some changes with respect to our structure and our activities. Being a federation of societies we still will refrain from competing with our own member societies. We rather want to help them with congress organisation and other activities by supplying IFSR's name and prestige.*

*In view of our new role has been felt that the Fuschl Conversations have drifted away from the centre of interest. Bela Banathy's passing away made itself felt in Fuschl. Therefore we have decided to re-direct of the Fuschl Conversation – for details see the respective section in this Newsletter.*

*Two projects are currently pursued by the IFSR:*

- *ESCO - The International Encyclopaedia of Systems and Cybernetics" lead by Günther Ossimitz*

- *The work on L. v. Bertalanffy's legacy (IFSR Newsletter 22/1 from 2004) by the Bertalanffy Centre for the Study of Systems Science led by Wolfgang Hofkirchner.*

*The publication efforts of the IFSR are getting along nicely:*

- *the IFSR Books Series under its Editor-in-Chief, George Kfir, and*
- *the Journal of Systems Research and Behavioral Science edited by Michael Jackson.*

*We are happy to report an expansion of our membership base: two societies from Latin American have become members. We are proud to welcome the Asociacion Latinoamericana de Sistemas (ALAS) and the Asociacion Mexicana de la Ciencias de Sistemas (AMCS)!*

*Additionally we have established good contacts with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Laxenburg, near Vienna. Its director, Prof. Leen Hordijk, and Prof. Marek Makowski, senior researcher, attended our Congress. We have established contacts with several representatives of Polish systems organizations, who expressed their wish to convene an IFSR Congress in Poland in 2007, 2008 or 2009.*

*To sum up, it has been an exciting year and I hope to see representatives of all our member societies in Vienna at the Board Meeting and in Fuschl during the Fuschl Conversation 2006 in order to define a roadmap for the IFSR into a more active future.*

*Yours sincerely  
Gerhard Chroust*



## *Executive Committee Meeting, Cancun 2005*

On Thursday, June 30, 2005, 9:00 – 15:00 the Executive Committee of the IFSR held its bi-annual Meeting in conjunction with the ISSS Conference 2005 in Cancun, Mexico. Being at the conference site allowed also to establish, renew and improve numerous contacts systems scientists. It was possible to meet several key persons involved in the preparation of the IFSR 2005 Congress and to sketch some roadmaps for the future of the IFSR and the Fuschl Conversation. Key items of the IFSR-EC agenda were:

### **1. Budget:**

The current situation and the outlook until 2010 were discussed. Despite the cancellation of the Austrian subsidy for the IFSR the financial situation is stable, especially due to the income from the Journal of Systems Research and Behavioral Science. The EC expressed its thanks to Prof. M. Jackson, the Editor in Chief of the journal.

### **2. Membership:**

Two new members were admitted:

- *The Asociacion Latinoamericana de Sistemas*, an association comprising members from practically all Latin-American nations.
- *The Asociacion Mexicana de la Ciencias de Sistemas*

Some potential further candidates for membership were discussed.

We discussed how the IFSR could complement the activities of our member societies. In view of the IFSR's own congress we explicitly decided to try not to get into competition with our own members.

### **3. International Systems Science and Cybernetics Academy (ISCA):**

The founding of such an Academy was discussed and basically considered positive



4. **IFSR Publications** (IFSR Book Series, Journal of Systems Research and Behavioral Science):

They are running well, no special attention is required.

5. **IFSR's web-site:**

New requirements and needs were identified. Improvements to the web-site are necessary in order to support the IFSR in its new efforts.

6. **Preparation of Board Meeting 2006:**

The next Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2006 in Vienna, as usual in parallel to the EMCSR. As usual, one major agenda item will be the election of the new officers for 2006/2008. For Agenda and details see above.

7. **IFSR-2005 Congress:**

The organisation, the Programme Committee, the IFSR-initiated Symposium and Workshop got attention. Considerable time was spent on discussing issues and some imminent problems of the IFSR 2005 Congress.

8. **Fuschl Conversation 2006:**

It was decided to bring the Fuschl Conversations more in line with the needs of the IFSR and the needs of the systems Sciences in general.

9 **IFSR Projects** (Encyclopaedia Project and Bertalanffy Legacy): Aims and budget, strategy, associated Web-Site were discussed.



The International Federation for Systems Research (IFSR) is a shared/umbrella organization of several organizations devoted to systems theory and cybernetics, which have decided to be its members from around the world. The IFSR is expected to continue to refine its resolve and mission in relation the systems societies of the world.

On this basis, IFSR is expected to do what its member organizations could hardly do in separate actions. These expectations include:

1. An unbiased co-ordination among IFSR's member organizations concerning topics of their choice and agreement. This implies the increased connection and integration of the societies, to reduce unnecessary conflicts and duplication of efforts (for instance, in the scheduling of conferences.)
2. Dissemination of systems ideas, both through research and publications, and through supporting the growth and development of systems organizations wherever there is a desire for the development and collaboration of systems professionals.
3. Talking the world-level / worldwide political and NGO (Non-governmental organizations) bodies into application and promotion of systems thinking and cybernetics, be it explicit / formal or implicit /informal. IFSR is a NGO, too.
4. Finding common denominators of systems thinking, such as:

- Systems thinking is a way / style of thinking, decision making, and action, which is aimed at achieving the requisite holism of insight, decision, tools, and action, meaning that nothing essential may be left aside and/or forgotten; the requisite holism is made possible by a requisitely broad and creative interdisciplinary co-operation, mostly.

- Systems theories are scientific and applied efforts concerning bases, backgrounds, methodologies, methods, and techniques of systems thinking. They have both a common ground and a number of specific features.

- Cybernetics is an equal effort concerning making impact over life events and processes by application of systems thinking.

- Systems thinking is applicable to every profession and every complex rather than simple topic / issue / problem, and especially to their interdisciplinary, shared work and co-operation. It tends to combine dealing with complexity and complicatedness.

5. *Promotion and research on how to increase the productivity / efficiency and effectiveness of research on and by application of systems thinking.*

6. Promotion of values expressed by ethics of interdependence of the mutually different specialists / professionals / nationals / nations / humans / components of the entire nature.

7. Preservation of memories of past roots and developments in the area of systems theories and cybernetics.

8. Acting as a platform / negotiator for agreement on a common terminology of systems thinking / theories and cybernetics.

9. Honouring the outstanding scientists and practitioners in the area of systems theories and cybernetics, e.g. by establishment of the IFSR Academy of Systems Science and Cybernetics.

10. Continuing the work by Charles François on Encyclopaedia of Systems and Cybernetics.

11. Continuing the work on L. von Bertalanffy's legacy.

12. When pursuing all these activities, the role of the IFSR, however, should never be to compete with individual systems societies or organizations, but to foster the growth and mutual support between them.

The rationales for such an orientation include:

a) *The millennia of experience with a requisitely holistic thinking, decision making, and action have demonstrated that it has been leading to much more success than the one-sided one, once one deals with complex and complicated issues.*

b) *The United Nations documents frequently, mostly implicitly, require humankind to use systems thinking; this is especially true of UN's Rio Declaration on Sustainable Development, UN's documents concerning the use of nuclear weapons, UN's Kyoto document on climate change, UNESCO and other activities, spanning all humankind, etc.*

c) *The European Union's and other Europe-wide or even world-wide organizations' documents frequently, even explicitly, such as the ones on promotion of innovation, entrepreneurship, total quality, and care for the humans' natural environment, require systems thinking. Requirements include more systems thinking in education on all levels.*

d) *In United Nations General Assembly, USA, through the president of USA at that time, required consideration of the fact that we all are interdependent, which is very much in line with systems thinking, as written about by L. v. Bertalanffy, and practiced in the circles of establishers of both Systems Theory and*

*Cybernetics, decades ago and later on. They were practicing interdisciplinary creative co-operation to a large extent. They established the General Systems Theory as a new world-view to fight the current overspecialization, because it is dangerous.*

e) *The same kind of practice seems to show up a lot in the foundations of the work done by the practitioners of systems thinking, although their methods have different names and specific details.*

f) *The work done by application of systems thinking and cybernetics inside single traditional and new disciplines of science and practices is less based on interdisciplinarity, of course, but it still may provide a specific level of the requisite holism. By more interdisciplinary and other co-operation their achievement may become even more fruitful, as proven by the cases of the medical cybernetics, computer and other hardware and software development, etc. prove.*

g) *The work done on the development of systems theories and cybernetics theories has also shown considerable interdisciplinary creative co-operation as its background, not only in the case of the General Systems Theory and First Order Cybernetics, but also in the cases of the newer concepts.*

h) *Since its establishment and especially since emergence of a theory about it, the common denominator of systems thinking has always, been the fight against an exaggerated narrow specialization, because the latter tends to cause crucial oversights rather than insights, or along with them, in a best-case scenario. Holism is a precondition of survival of humankind, and specialization is unavoidable, as well. Thus, in their thinking, decision making and action, humans and their organizations have an essential need to combine / network specialization of their skills and ethics of interdependence along with their capacity of interdisciplinary creative co-operation, for their specialties to be best applied.*

Matjaz MULEJ,  
Vice-president of the IFSR



## *Fuschl Conversation 2006 – the changes*

One of the contributions of IFSR to the systems community are the Fuschl Conversations. In 2006 we will have our 13th Fuschl Conversation, and at the 25th anniversary of the founding of IFSR (more details on Fuschl Conversations can be found on the IFSR homepage <http://www.ifsr.org>).

Even excellent events like Fuschl Conversations need a certain overhaul from time to time. Therefore the Executive Committee of the IFSR thought the time ripe to somewhat modify the Fuschl set-up. While some of the properties of the Fuschl Conversations become more and more important, other aspects (due to the world of fast internet, e-mail and World Wide Web) become less of a success factor. The suggested changes will more affect the contents than the form of the Fuschl conversation.

We believe that basically the concept of a conversation (mostly due to Bela Banathy) is still very valuable and perhaps even more fruitful today. Our feeling is, however, that the topics treated in the past years in Fuschl did not have direct relevance to the systems community and did not help the IFSR to become a change agent. This concept requires some changes in the participation and in the arrangements for Fuschl 2006:

### **1. Requirements:**

The basic requirements for Fuschl 2006 are:

- The basic concept of a Conversation (face to face discussions, scholarly approach, self-guided teams,) is kept.
- A considerable part of the Fuschl participants should be representatives of the IFSR member organizations and other stake holders in the systems field in order to formulate future goals and directions both for the IFSR and for the systems field in general.
- The conversation should attempt to achieve what Bela Banathy termed “an exploration of issues of social/societal significance”, but focussed at topics relevant to the Systems Sciences and to IFSR.
- The outcome from the Fuschl Conversation should have some impact on IFSR’s strategic and tactical activities and be a directive for the governance of the IFSR in the years to come.

### **2. Minor Date Change:**

In order to avoid a gap between the end of the EMCSR and the Fuschl Conversation the Conversation will start on *Saturday, April 22*, early afternoon and end on *Thursday, April 27* after lunch.

### **3. Participants:**

For financial reasons we have to limit the participation to 29 or 30 people.

We want to have the following types of participants at the Fuschl Conversation:

- Representatives of our member organizations.
- Then current IFSR Officers
- Editors and Project Coordinators of the IFSR publication media and projects
- Experienced Fuschl Participants
- Opinion Leaders in the Systems Field
- Self-nominated participants, answering a Call for Participation

### **4. Topics:**

Keeping in the (formal) set-up of Fuschl Conversations we will again establish 5 groups of approx. 6 persons each. Tentatively the following topics are planned (with alternative or further suggestions appreciated).

**Topic A:** “The IFSR and the Systems World”: Future directions, initiatives etc., i.e. looking from the IFSR to the outside world

**Topic B:** “The Modern World and its impact on Systems Thinking and the IFSR”: new roles for Systems Sciences, i.e. looking from the outside world onto the IFSR

**Topic C:** “IFSR and the historical foundations of the systems movement, especially GST”: the Ludwig von Bertalanffy Library, the Bertalanffy Center for the Study of Systems Science, lessons learnt, information gained, ways to utilize and disseminate this information

**Topic D:** “IFSR in its role as a disseminator, educator and yellow pages provider”: terminology, standards and systematics of the systems sciences, the ‘Electronic International Encyclopaedia of Systems and Cybernetics’, questions of ontology, scope, electronic usability, including questions of copyright, costs, digital Libraries, Internet, Web, Blogs

**Topic E:** "IFSR cooperating with other organisations": new projects, e.g. with the EU, with Japan and China, positioning as an NGO?

#### 5. General Organization:

The Conversation will take place in Hotel Schlick in Fuschl, near Salzburg, Austria.

With respect to the financial side we keep the traditional Fuschl set-up:

- Each participant has to pay 100 Euro participation fee which includes: 5 nights and half pension at the Hotel Schlick.
- Each participant has to pay for himself/herself for drinks, lunches (low-cost

alternatives are available), and extras (telephone, internet access,)

Transport to and from Fuschl: from Salzburg airport or train station by public bus or taxi.

Trains take 2,5 hours from Vienna to Linz (approx. 40 euro each way).

#### 6. Call for Participation:

*If you feel that you would be able to contribute to one or more of the topics indicated above you may send in an application for participation, stating besides your name etc. your credentials and a one-page position statement allowing the organisers to evaluate your application.*



At the EC Board meeting two new members were accepted:

- *The Asociacion Latinoamericana de Sistemas*, an association comprising members from practically all Latin-American nations.
- *The Asociacion Mexicana de la Ciencias de Sistemas*

The IFSR has now the following members:

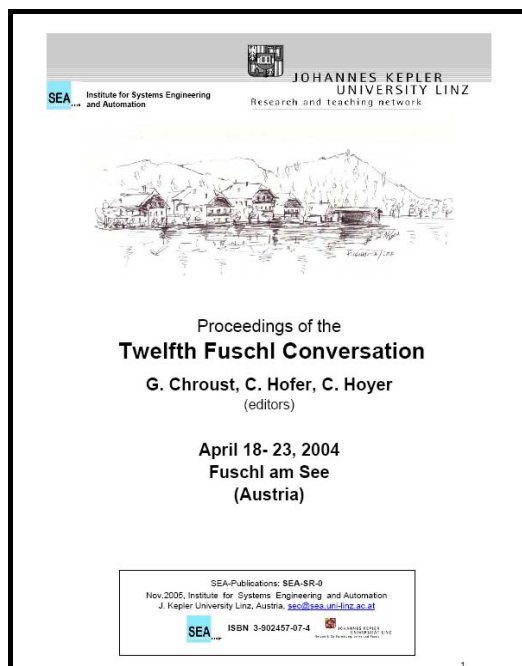
- AFSCET (Assoc. Francaise des Sciences et Technologies de l'information et des Systems), France
- American Society for Cybernetics (ASC), USA
- Australia and New Zealand Systems Group (ANZSYS), Australia
- Asociacion Latinoamericana de Sistemas, Latin America
- Asociacion Mexicana de la Ciencias de Sistemas, Mexico
- Asociacion Mexicana de Sistemas y Cibernetica, Mexico
- Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sui Sistemi (AIRS) (Italian Systems Research Society), Italy
- 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 Society for the Systems Sciences (ISSS), USA
- International Systems Institute, USA, California, San Francisco
- International Society of Knowledge and Systems Science, Japan
- 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.
- United Kingdom Systems Society (UKSS), U.K.



After some delay finally the Proceedings of the Fuschl Conversation 2004 have been published.

### **Contents of the Proceedings**

- 5 Fuschl 2004: The 12th Fuschl Conversation, April 2004
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- 9 Fuschl - 24 years of history
- 9 List of Participants of Fuschl 2004
  
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- 99 Team Report: Being Social Systems
  
- 105 Team 5: Y3K and a Meta-System Design Field
- 107 Team Report: Towards Y3K - a 2004 perspective on hominisation with some emphasis on educational systems



Additional 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](mailto:gc@sea.uni-linz.ac.at)



Systems Research and Behavioural Science is the official Journal of the IFSR.

### **A Year of Celebration for Systems Research and Behavioral Science**

This has been a year of great celebration with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IFSR and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the journal *Behavioral Science*. *Behavioral Science* became an official publication of the Society for General Systems Research (now the International Society for the Systems Sciences) in 1974 and merged with *Systems Research*, the official journal of the International Federation for Systems Research, in 1997. The history of *Behavioral Science* has been distinguished by the publication of many seminal articles: James Grier Miller, the founding editor of *Behavioral Science*, first published his work on 'Living Systems Theory' in the journal and many other leading authors have chosen it as a vehicle for their work. A list of 20 of the most influential of these papers appeared in the Notes and Insights section of the first issue of *Systems Research and Behavioral Science* in 2005 (22.1).

It publishes original articles on new theories, experimental research, and applications relating to all levels of living and non-living 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 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.

In 2006 we shall continue to publish leading edge research papers. The first edition of the year will start on a high note and will include papers by Professor Yoshiteru Nakamori, Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, and Professor Kyoichi Kijima, Tokyo Institute of Technology, who recently were among the hosts of the first international congress of the IFSR in Japan. Future editions of *Systems Research and Behavioral Science* will include special issues on Systems Research and Knowledge Management, the work of James and Jessie Miller, the Second European System Dynamics Workshop and the ISSS yearbook.

Here's looking forwards to another truly outstanding year of *Systems Thinking and Behavioral Science*!

Amanda Gregory  
SRBS Deputy Editor


The IFSR Book Series was founded in 1985. Over the twenty years of its existence, 23 books have been published in the Series and four different publishers have been involved in publishing these books:

- Volumes 1-6 (1985-1991) were published by Pergamon Press in Oxford.
- Volumes 7-11 (1991-1997) were published by Plenum Press in New York.
- Volumes 12-22 (1999-2003) were published by Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers in New York.

- Commencing with Volume 23 (2005), the IFSR Series is now published by Springer in New York.

Books published in the IFSR International Series during the last five years:

- CONSTRAINT THEORY: Multidimensional Mathematical Model Management, by George J. Friedman: Volume 23, 2005.
- ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE: Cybernetic Systems Foundations, by Yasuhiko Takahara and Mihajlo Mesarovic: Volume 22, 2003.
- ARCHITECTURE OF SYSTEMS PROBLEM SOLVING (Second Enlarged Edition), by George J. Klir and Doug Elias: Volume 21, 2003.
- FUZZY RELATIONAL SYSTEMS: Foundations and Principles, by Radim Belohlavek: Volume 20, 2003.
- FLEXIBLE ROBOT DYNAMICS AND CONTROLS, by Rush D. Robinett III and a team of six coauthors: Volume 19, 2002.
- CREATING INTERNET INTELLIGENCE: Wild Computing, Distributed Digital Consciousness, and the Emerging Global Brain, by Ben Goertzel: Volume 18, 2002.
- UNDERSTANDING SYSTEMS: Conversations on Epistemology and Ethics, edited by Bernhard Poerksen on the basis of his conversations with Heinz von Foerster, and translated from German by Karen Leube: Volume 17, 2002.
- PROBABILISTIC ANALYSIS OF BELIEF FUNCTIONS, by Ivan Kramosil: Volume 16, 2001.
- FACETS OF SYSTEMS SCIENCE (Second Enlarged Edition), by George J. Klir: Volume 15, 2001.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Project:</i> <i>Bertalanffy Center for the Study of Systems Science</i></p>
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As already reported the IFSR Newsletter No. 22, the IFSR was instrumental in acquiring Ludwig von Bertalanffy's scientific legacy and bringing it to Vienna. Under the lead Wolfgang Hofkirchner, now University Salzburg, Salzburg, the Bertalanffy Center for the Study of Systems Science was founded. Although its objectives are much wider, the first task is to preserve, register, and scientifically analyze Bertalanffy's legacy



As a first step all books, journals, publications and especially the letters had been registered and archived. The legacy consisted of some 500 personal letters, 150 monographies, many of them with personal dedications, especially from the fields of biology, systems theory and philosophy.

After the first quick registration now the real work starts with details analysis and correlation.



Opening the boxes with the Bertalanffy legacy



Handing the IFSR €500.- donation to the BCSSS



## *Project: ESCO - The International Encyclopaedia of Systems and Cybernetic*



The Encyclopedia of Systems and Cybernetics Online (ESCO) is ready for being filled with articles and extensions to Charles François' printed "International Encyclopedia of Systems and Cybernetics". In an effort being sponsored by IFSR and the University of Klagenfurt, Austria a team around ESCO-editor-in Chief Guenther Ossimitz combined a Mediawiki-based database with a comfortable text-editor and an electronic database for managing the many literature citations of ESCO. The articles of ESCO will consist both of new material and of extensions of articles of the printed Encyclopedia of Systems and Cybernetics. The literature database will have to be built up from scratch.

A key feature of ESCO will be introductory articles, which might act as portals or entry points for the different fields of systems sciences. Systems Experts willing to contribute their systems experience in ESCO are welcome!

For further Information contact:

Guenther Ossimitz, University of Klagenfurt [guenther.ossimitz@uni-klu.ac.at](mailto:guenther.ossimitz@uni-klu.ac.at) or <http://esco.uni-klu.ac.at/index.php/Info:join>



## *The IFSR Website*

More information on the IFSR can be found on the IFSR's homepage <http://www.ifsr.org>, including a colour version of this Newsletter.



## *EMCSR 2006*

*April 18 - 21, 2006, University of Vienna*

organized by the [Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies](#)

in cooperation with the

[Institute of Medical Cybernetics and Artificial Intelligence, Center for Brain Research, Medical University of Vienna](#) and

[International Federation for Systems Research](#)

The international support of the European Meetings on Cybernetics and Systems Research has been held in Austria every second year since 1972. In 2004 some 500 scientists from more than 40 countries from all continents, except the Antarctica, met to

present, hear and discuss 137 papers. Therefore the Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies (OSGK) organizes a similar meeting in 2006 to keep pace with continued rapid developments in related fields.

### **Planned Symposia of EMCSR 2006**

- A: Systems Science (G.J.Klir, USA, and P.Prautsch, Czech Republic)
- B: Mathematical Methods in Cybernetics and Systems Theory (Y.Rav, France, and J.Scharinger, Austria)
- C: The Cybernetics of Cybernetics: Cybernetics, Interaction and Conversation (R. Glanville, UK)
- D: Living Systems Theory (G.A.Swanson, USA)
- E: Biocybernetics and Mathematical Biology (L.M.Ricciardi, Italy)
- F: Systems Science in Medicine (F.Tretter, Germany, G. Ossimitz, Austria, and G.Porenta, Austria)
- G: Cultural Systems (M.Fischer, UK, and D.Read, USA)
- H: Cognitive Rationality, Relativity and Clarity (P. Ballonoff, USA, I. Ezhkova, Belgium)
- I: Management, Organizational Change and Innovation (M. Mulej, Slovenia)
- K: Soft Computing and Knowledge-Based Systems (C.Carlsson, Finland, and K.-P.Adlaßnig, Austria)



L: Artificial Neural Networks and Adaptive Systems (G.Dorffner, Austria)  
 M: AT2AI-5: From Agent Theory to Agent Implementation (J.P.Müller, Germany, and P.Petta, Austria)  
 N: ACE 2006: Agent Construction and Emotions (J.Gratch, USA, S.Marsella, USA, and P.Petta, Austria)  
 O: ABModSim: Agent-Based Modeling & Simulation (S.Bandini, Italy, G.Vizzari, Italy, and P.Petta, Austria)  
 P: Theory and Applications of Artificial Intelligence (V.Marik, Czech Republic, and E.Buchberger, Austria)

The deadline for submission of papers has expired, Further details: <http://www.osgk.ac.at/emcsr/>



May 2007 marks the 90th birthday of Ernst von Glasersfeld. Ernst is known for his pioneering work in cybernetics, working in the 50s with Ceccato in Italy, and his development of Radical Constructivism, an epistemological position that is closely related to that of Second Order Cybernetics. At the ASC Officers Meeting in Washington DC in October he was awarded the Society's Wiener Gold Medal.

We (Alex Riegler and Ranulph Glanville) hope to edit a festschrift at the time of Ernst's birthday and are writing to invite proposals for contributions. We are soliciting 2 types of contribution: academic papers that critically develop and/or evaluate Ernst's own work, or relate personal work and interests to von Glasersfeld's work; and more personal items including biography, reminiscence and anecdote. We believe that a festschrift should recognise the person and celebrate his work, so all contributions should be focussed on and around Ernst's work even when presented through your own work. The first sort of paper will typically be 3500 to 5000 words long, the second 1000 to 2500 words.

We invite you to write to us with your proposal. These should take the form of attached documents not longer than one side, containing your name and email address, a working title, and a brief synopsis that presents the argument or anecdote to be developed. You should indicate which type of contribution you wish to make. We will consider all proposals and select those which, together, show the most promise and paint the most complete picture. Please address your proposal and any other correspondence to: [festschrift@vonglasersfeld.com](mailto:festschrift@vonglasersfeld.com)

We are also looking for graphic and photographic material. Please advise separately if you have such material. Given that the publication is web based, we can also include sound and video material.

The festschrift will be published as the May 2007 issue of Constructivist Foundations (CF; see <http://www.univie.ac.at/constructivism/journal/>), an independent academic peer-reviewed e- journal. Its aim is to promote the interdisciplinary study of scientific foundations and applications of constructivist sciences.

**Important dates:**

Deadline: Friday 13 January, 2006.

Notification of authors: end of January 2006

Final papers due: beginning September, 2006.

*Ranulph Glanville*



## *ISSS 2006: 50 years of ISSS*

*July 9 – 14, 2006 at Sonoma State University in California*

The theme for the 50th anniversary conference of the International Society for the Systems Sciences (ISSS) "Complexity, Democracy, and Sustainability." It is an attempt to capture some key dimensions in the broadly defined field of systems research.

Following an opening keynote from Fritjof Capra on Sunday evening, July 9, the conference will be organized around four main plenary sessions:

- Complex Systems and the Roots of Systems Thinking
- Self-Organization and Living Systems
- Ecological Systems and Sustainability
- Social Systems Design and Practice

Confirmed speakers include Ralph Abraham, Yaneer Bar Yam, Vincent Barabba, Mary Catherine Bateson, Mike C. Jackson, Alexander & Kathia Laszlo, Ervin Laszlo, Humberto Maturana, Richard Norgaard, Susan Oyama, George Richardson, and Geoffrey West.

Building on its impressive heritage, the 50th annual meeting of the ISSS aims to convene leading thinkers and practitioners from across the spectrum of systems-related fields in order to nurture an ongoing synthesis of theory and

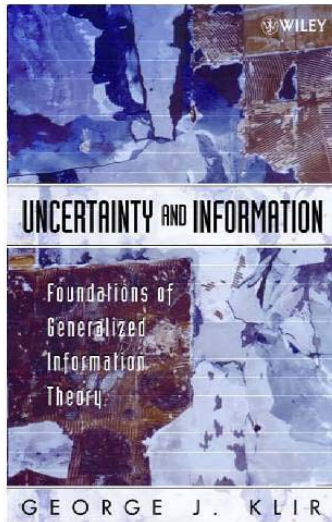
practice, to cultivate a more integrated understanding of the challenges confronting humanity, and to envision possible paths toward solutions. Both the American Society for Cybernetics and the International Council for Systems Thinking in Management (ICSTM2006) will be holding their annual meetings in conjunction with the Sonoma conference; and representatives from other related organizations will be participating in the program, including the System Dynamics Group, the Santa Fe Institute, the New England Complex Systems Institute, the Institute for Intercultural Studies, the General Evolution Research Group, the Ackoff Center for Advancement of Systems Approaches (ACASA) and the Center for Organizational Dynamics (University of Pennsylvania), etc.

Detailed Information can be found at:  
<http://www.issss.org/conferences/sonoma2006/>

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**GEORGE J. KLIR, PhD** is currently Distinguished Professor of Systems Science at Binghamton University, SUNY. A Life Fellow of IEEE, IFSA, and the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies, he has served as president of SGSR, IFSR, NAFIPS, and IFSA. He has published over 300 research papers and 16 books, and edited 10 books. He has also served as Editor in Chief of the International Journal of General Systems since 1974 and of the IFSR International Book Series on Systems Science & Engineering since 1985. Professional awards received include Bernard Bolzano's Gold Medal, Arnold Kaufmann's Gold Medal, and the SUNY Chancellor's Award for "Exemplary Contributions to Research and Scholarship."

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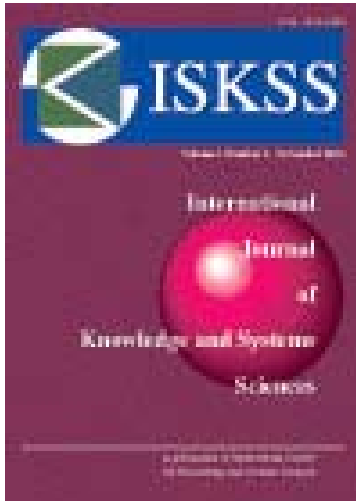
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