



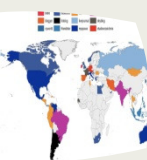
RC51 Newsletter



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Research Committee 51
on Sociocybernetics
ISA International Sociological Association

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Editor's introduction

Dear RC51 members:

It has been an exciting experience to be the new RC51 Newsletter Editor. First, because it is a great chance to get in contact with quite a number of interesting colleagues, and second, because is good to contribute to promoting the activities of our research on Sociocybernetics.

In the first part of this Issue, Eva Buchinger (current RC51 President), offers an overview of the Committee activities and future plans. Margarita Maass (Vice President) reports on the RC51 participation in the ISA World Congress 2010, explaining the process of selecting the fifty papers presented in the fourteen thematic work sessions and some of the contents of the Gothenburg meetings. One of the outcomes from Gothenburg is a book containing seventeen of the RC51 papers. Margarita describes the structure of the book: *"Sociocybernetics: a Way to Study Social Issues in the World"*, which is now being edited. As the book will be published in a bilingual version (English and Spanish), we include an extract from the introduction in both languages.

The Newsletter dedicates a good part of its contents to the RC51 10th International Conference titled *"Sociocybernetics and the Increasing Complexity of Social Life"*. The Conference will be hosted by Cracow University of Economics in Poland 20-25 of June, 2011. The local organizing committee is chaired by Czeslaw Mesjasz. We wish to thank Czeslaw and his colleagues for their efforts to make this event possible. The final program is included in this Newsletter Issue so, if you are attending, you might want to take note of the latest information.

We keep the tradition of the RC51 Newsletter being an instrument for spreading and promoting work on Sociocybernetics. In this issue, Luca Rossi from the University of Urbino gives the details of his research *"Mass media system 2.0: an empirical analysis of news propagation path in social network sites"*. With this presentation, Luca Rossi received the *RC51 Walter Buckley Memorial Award* in 2010.

In the new section *"RC51 Members: Where are we and what are we doing?"* we explore the geographical location of the RC51 Members. This is a first approximation, as the final product depends on updating the database of members; however it gives us at a glance an interesting picture of how RC51 is distributed in the world. The idea of this new section is for you to share with the rest of the RC51 members how your work relates to Sociocybernetics, how do you get organized with others in your country or within other countries to do research as well as to suggest or provide materials, research advances or papers of your own or your research group.

We thank the participations of *CesNova (former SociNova) FCSH, Universidade Nova de Lisboa (Manuel Lisboa, Dalila Cerejo, Ana Ferreira, Ana Roque, Ricardo Santana, Ana Lúcia Teixeira Dias)* for their contribution in this section. They explain how Sociocybernetics is contributing to the understanding of Dynamics, Identity and Social

Action. *Luciano Gallón*, from Bogotá Colombia, shares how he is working on building a theoretical and practical framework using Systems Dynamics to explore issues related to poverty reduction in Colombia and South America. *Søren Brier*, Professor of semiotics at Department of International Studies of Culture and Communication, CBS, Denmark, sent information about his latest advances in Sociocybernetic research: “*Cybersemiotics as a transdisciplinary paradigm integrating the semiotic and the informational paradigms through a new interpretation of Luhmann and Peirce*”. He provided different materials that might be of interest for those working within the intersection of Semiotics and Information: the Entropy special issue where he was Guest editor (Cybersemiotics—Integration of the informational and semiotic paradigms of cognition and communication) and other electronic sources that can be downloaded from the web.

We consider that these contributions give us an idea of how active RC51 members are in different parts of the world and how important is to share within our research community, resources, research advances and achievements. We look forward to including in the following issues your own (or team) research as well as the activities made with others beyond and outside our conferences.

The last part of the Issue 24 includes Michael Burawoy’s remarks about the ISA Executive Committee Meeting in Mexico City (May 2011), extracts of the ISA President’s Report 2011 presented by Margaret Abraham (ISA Vice-President for Research) and information relating to the ISA Forum 2012 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Taking in account that the deadline for session proposals is very close, if you are thinking of proposing a session, do contact to Hector Zamorano (zamorano@citinet.net.ar) the Program Coordinator for RC51 in this forum.

There is a lot of work behind the design and planning of the Newsletter which is the product of a collective effort. I would like to thank particularly to Fabio Giglietto (RC51 webmaster), Cor Van Dijkum (previous Newsletter Editor) and Bernd Hornung for their ideas, advice and experience related to the Newsletter. I also would like to thank Bernard Scott (Past RC51 President) for the proof reading of some sections and to LabCOMplex (CEIICH/Mexico) for their continuing feedback. In the next issue there will be further advances including putting some of the Newsletter contents on the RC51 website and in different ISA virtual forums. For the moment, I invite you to consider the RC51 Newsletter as the means to share and communicate your research advances within our own group and hopefully, within a larger audience.

Best regards,

*Patricia Almaguer Kalixto
RC51 Newsletter Editor*

Note from the RC51 President:

Dear RC51 Members!

I am glad to be able to report that our community is quite active. The RC51 interim conference 2011, which will take place in Cracow from June 20 to June 24, is *ante portas*. Its topics are covering theoretical issues as well as practical considerations in areas such as business management, action research or well being. I think we are all curious to listen to the introductory lecture of Stanislaw Drozd *"The science of complexity: With the Bible along Wall Street"* and will learn in which way Christian, Buddhist or other religions are getting again a vital orientation function in modern complex societies. For those, who are not able to come to the conference, we will provide information on our website <http://www.unizar.es/sociocybernetics>

Also the membership of our virtual communication space – *RC51 at LinkedIn* – is growing. Presently the Group has 74 members. Please feel encouraged to join it, and to use it for placing news, for discussing topics of your personal interest with the others, or only for observing what's going on.

I further would like to draw your attention to our *Journal of Sociocybernetics*. As you know, the journal covers any aspect of systems science relevant to social science disciplines (e.g. anthropology, economics, geography, psychology, social policy, sociology and ethics) and particularly findings or reviews which are of general interest to an international readership in social systems theory. Again, please feel invited and encouraged to send your texts to the *Journal Editor, Michael Pateau* at michael.paetau@sociocybernetics.eu for review.

Although the Cracow conference 2011 is pending, we are already preparing our 2012 meeting. Till the RC51 business meeting in Cracow we will know, how strong the response to the call for sessions for the *ISA Forum 2012 in Buenos Aires* was. According to that we will discuss whether we will have an independent RC51 conference elsewhere or not.

I wish you all a productive end of the term and restful summer holidays!

*Eva Buchinger
RC51 President*

RC51 participation in the ISA World Congress 2010



Margarita Maass Moreno (RC51 Vice-president)

It's no news that the world is changing rapidly, and certainly the complexity of contemporary problems requires new objects of study and a different theoretical and methodological approaches in order to understand the socio-cultural, political and economic problems since a systemic perspective.

On July 2010, the sociologists of the world were invited by the ISA, International Sociological Association, to attend the World Congress held in Gothenburg, Sweden. "*Sociology on the move*" was the central topic of discussion. More than five thousand academics responded to this call in order to present their research being done on different subjects and in different universities in the world and to propose new multidisciplinary research and thoughts.

"Determinism is dead in the social sciences" said categorically Michel Wieviorka, ISA's president, "Despite a strong interest in social structures, social mechanisms, forms of reproduction, we are all aware that human beings are not completely dominated by them. The world changes and this change to a large extent depend on human action and imagination. If sociology is to be useful, it has to contribute to an understanding of change, and it has to change itself" (Wieviorka, 2010).

The ISA Research Committee on Sociocybernetics, RC51 responded to this call with over fifty papers presented in fourteen thematic work sessions. Sociology is on the move and must be, because the world, societies, groups and individual actors are, too. Michael Pateau (Chair of the Abstracts Committee for RC51 at the World Congress), during the last RC51 Business Meeting, reported that more than 100 paper proposals, most of them of very good quality, were submitted for the RC51 session. With regard to the limited time slots available, there had to be a rigorous selection using the quality procedures and standards developed in RC51. The following table presents the sessions and the presenters who participated in the RC51 sessions at the ISA World Congress.

RC51 Sessions (as stated in the official ISA program)

Global Problems Require Solutions with a Global Perspective

Chair : Nils O. Larsson, University of Skoevde, Sweden

Important Decisions and the Settings for These Decisions Needed for Attaining a Sustainable World – A Methodological Proposal

Nils O. Larsson, Gothenburg, Sweden

Globalization and Distorted Development: In Search of a System Perspective for Sustainability

Dario Menanteau University of Minnesota, USA.

Poverty and Artificial Sustainability. A Research on the Structure and Dynamics of South America

Luciano Gallón Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana (Medellín, Colombia)

Cibercultur@ and Cognitive Complex Systems

Chair : Gabriel Vélez Cuartas, University of Antioquia, N/A Colombia

Social Representations through time: An Approach to a Better Understanding from Cibercultur@! System Construction

José A. Amozurrutia UNAM- CEIICH- LabCOMplex

Analysis of the Sixteenth Century Codex Books as a Complex System

Margarita Maass UNAM- CEIICH- LabCOMplex

From the Classroom to the Local Community Knowledge

Manuel Meza doctoral researcher UNAM- CEIICH- LabCOMplex

The Concept of Development of Social Groups in the Context of Digital Technology

Laura González doctoral researcher UNAM- CEIICH- LabCOMplex

Cybercultur@ and Environmental Knowledge: An Empirical Approach to Sociocybernetics

Patricia Almaguer UNAM- CEIICH- LabCOMplex Post-doctoral researcher

Intertwined Approaches on Social Emotions: Theorizing a Systemic Model

Chair Manuel Lisboa, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal

Emotion Build Systems

António Dores Iscte - IUL

Emotions and women's reactions to violence: A systemic approach

Dalíla Cerejo and Andreia Favita Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal

Emotional clues to a systemic approach to human action

Ana Ferreira Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal

A sociocybernetic approach on happiness

Ana Roque Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal

Observing, Measuring and Reconstructing Emergent Meaning. Not Individual-Centered Perspectives on Meaning Reconstruction

Chair s: José Amozurrutia, UNAM, CEIICH, LabCOMplex, Mexico

The Meaning of Translation and Translation of Meaning

Serge Tyulenev University of Cambridge

The Spectral Sign: Electronic Interaction Amid Cybernetics and Linguistics

Marco Toledo FiloCom, Universidade de São Paulo FAME, Frankfurt University

Modeling Semiotic Processes through a Complex System Approach

José Amozurrutia and Carlos Vidales Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México – UNAM

Difference Between Symmetry and Assymetry of Meaning in Scientific Communications: A Personality Disorder Study Case

Liliana Ramirez and Gabriel Vélez-Cuartas

Making Sense of Social Change: Observing and analyzing collective action in networked cultures

Sandra Rodríguez University of Montreal, Canada

Complex order out of confusing chaos: constructing hexalogues in virtual space

Bobé Hodge

Reflective Modeling - Problem solving. Sociocybernetics' functions

Chair : Cor van Dijkum, Utrecht University, Netherlands

An Immune System Model in the Research of Moral Socialization: Formation of Reflective Morality through Adolescent Relativism

Masahito Takahashi Yamaguchi University, Yamaguchi, Japan

The SACS Toolkit: Modeling Complex Systems Reflexively

Brian Castellani Kent State University, Kent Ohio, USA

Reflections on the Complexity of Feedback Process by Using Computers

Cor Van Dijkum Utrecht University, Netherlands

The Problem of Problem Making – A Perspectivist Path to Problem Solving

Hugo Alroe and Egon Noe Aarhus University

Emotion and Experience as Key Elements in Art

Bernd R. Hornung University Hospital Giessen and Marburg, Germany

Trust and transparency: A sociocybernetic approach to social accountability

Chairs: Chaime Marcuello Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain

Transparent Management of the Solidarity

Antonio Gutiérrez Resa UN Educación a Distancia

Accountability in Nonprofit Organizations: Commitment to Improving Stakeholders

M^a Isabel Saz Gil Universidad de Zaragoza y Javier Rodríguez U de Valladolid

Working relationship of the state and practice of transparency in the public and private sector, as a social policy

Carlos Livacic Rojas

Accountability and trust setting: the "Solidarius" Exchange System

Millán Díaz Fonseca Universidad de Zaragoza

Network administration and information accountability: e-democracy revisited

Esteve Sanz Yale University

Sociocybernetics of Innovation: Drivers, Barriers and Stabilizers of Innovation in Different Theoretical Contexts

Chair: Eva Buchinger, Austrian Institute of Technology AIT - Austria

An Ontology of Becoming: Which Convergences between Feminist Critics and STS?

Restituta Castiello University of Trento – Italy

Multilevel Governance: A Systems-Theoretical Approach

Eva Buchinger Austrian Institute of Technology AIT - Austria

Observations of Third Sector and Third Sector Observations in Governance through Partnerships

Silvia Ferreira University of Coimbra - Portugal, Lancaster University

Esteem or Contempt in Moralized Communications: An Example of Binary Coding Involving Emotions in Luhmann's Theory of Meaning.

Diane Laflamme Université du Québec à Montréal – Canada

Sociocybernetic Perspectives on Education

Chair: Bernard Scott, Cranfield University, United Kingdom

Education for Enlightenment

Bernard Scott Cranfield University, United Kingdom

Research Proficiencies in Human Inquiry Applied to Doctorate Education

Arne Collen Saybrook University

The Encounter between New Technologies and Education in the Construction of Children's Identity: A case study using robotics

Carlotta Bizarri University of Florence, Italy

Trivialization, Socialization and Education

Raf Van-der-Straeten Ghent University, Belgium

Self-Reference and Self-Regulation in University Faculties and Administration

Zachary Johnson Cranfield University

Global Education as Harmonious Education

Leo Semashko Public Institute of Strategic Sphere

On the outcome of the current economic crisis: some reflexions from systems theory and sociocybernetics

Chair: Francisco Parra-Luna, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain

Coping with Crisis: Prognosis, Evolutional Control, Learning

Helmut K. Loeckenhoff Independent Scientist D-71522 Backnang Germany

Regulations and Controls in the World Economic Crisis: The Case of the Environmental Problems of Air Transport

Antonio Sánchez Suar

The Economic Crisis and its Media Reflection

Eva Kasparova

Towards a New Epistemology of Socio-Economic Complex Systems: Between Social Constructivism and Social Spontaneous Order

Vers une nouvelle épistémologie des systèmes socio-économiques complexe: entre «constructivisme social» et «ordre social spontan

Alvaro Malaina Universidad Complutense de Madrid

Complex Systems and the Need of Rethinking Finance

Czesław Mesjasz Cracow University of Economics.

Corporate Social Responsibility and Emerging Corporate Systems

Chair : S.L. Hiremath, Gulbarga University, Jnana Ganga,

Constraints of Social Responsibility Spending on Corporate Allocations

Michel Heather AUSTRALIA

Climate of Industrial Relations and CSR Initiatives

C. Somashekhar Senior Faculty, Dept. of Sociology Bangalore University

Interfacing Community Initiatives with Business Operations: Structural Constraints and Innovations

K.M Basavarajappa M.R Bheemayya INDIA

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Employee Disposition and Performance

Antonio Cruz Lusophone Univ., AV. Campogrande, Lisbon, PORTUGAL

Implications of Executive Perception for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Profile

Chandrashekhar Vanagundhi Indian Administrative Service

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Corporate Image and Corporate Performance

Ramegouda, Kuvempu University

Understanding cyberspace and the Internet. Sociocybernetics on the Move

Chair : Bernd Hornung, University Hospital Giessen and Marburg GmbH, Germany

Sketches Towards a Theory of Every Thin/kin/g – The Subject-Oriented Approach

Arne Kjellman Mid-Sweden University

Experiences of Alternative Communication on the Internet: A Perspective for a Sociology of Communication

Lázaro M. Bacallao Pino Universidad de la Habana

Digital Generations, Soft Societies?

Chaime Marcuello Universidad de Zaragoza

Mass Media System 2.0: An Empirical Analysis of News Propagation Path in Social Network Sites

Luca Rossi Universidad de Urbino

From Visibility to Observability: Internet and the Accelerated Process of Self-Observation in Social Systems

Fabio Giglietto Univerisdade Urbino

Activists Transforming the Cultural Institutions of the Public Sphere. Translate Democracy

Nicole Doerr Freie Universität Berlin

Towards Computer-Aided Collective Bargaining: Enhancing the Trade Unions Position under Flexicurity

Andrenik Tangian Hans-BÄockler-Foundation, DÄusseldorf

E-Health – Its Implications for Clients and Society. Reflective Modeling

Chair: Cor Van Dijkum, Utrecht University, Netherland

E-Health – Its Implications for Clients and Society

Cor Van Dijkum Utrecht University Herman Snijders, Laura Vegter, Marja Bouman, Dini Glas, Niek Reus, NetCliënten

E-Health and the Doctor-Patient Relationship

Maria Céu Rueff Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal

The Baclafen Treat – The Wonder-Pill to Overcome Addiction and Its Societal Implications

Alf Masing University of Heidelberg, Germany

Sociocybernetics and the Concept of Emancipation

Chairs: Michael Paetau, Center for Sociocybernetics Studies Bonn, Germany

Systems of Music Communication and Process of Colonial/Postcolonial Emancipation

Mário Vieira de Carvalho Universidade Nova de Lisboa

Does Contemporary Constructivist Epistemology Break the Connection between Knowledge and Societal Praxis

Erkki Sevaenen University of Eastern Finland

The Emancipation of Local Knowledge: A Propose from Postmodernity of Latin America

Juan David Gómez Quintero

Doing Critique as an Empirical Question: On the Potential of Systems Theory for the Concept of Emancipation

Elke Wagner Universität Mainz

Emancipation, Post-Colonialism and Second Order Cybernetics

Michael Paetau Center for Sociocybernetics Studies Bonn, Germany

Complexity, Relations and Sociocybernetics: A French-Speaking Perspective

Chairs: Simon Laflamme, Laurentian University, Canada, Pascal Roggero, Université de Toulouse, France

Simulation Multi-Agents et Pensée Complexe: Vers une Nouvelle Synthèse

Alvaro Malaina Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain

Simulation multi-agents et complexité sociale ou comment faire du complexe avec du simple. L'exemple de la plateforme SocLab

Pascal Roggero Toulouse University

Prématurité, langue et suivis neurodéveloppementaux

Roxanne Belanger Laurentian University

The ago-antagonistic aspects of opacity in the organizational systems

Claude Vautier Université de Toulouse

Relations Internationales et Complexité - possibilité d'études systémiques

Graciela Arroyo Pichardo

Renouvellement de l'action publique relative a la gestion du Risque d'inondation. Entre approche globalisee et enjeux localises

Bertrand Baldet University of Toulouse

Analyse du pouvoir dans les groupes

Melanie Girard

Complexité et relations internationales. Possibilité d'études systémiques

Simon Laflamme

Other Issues related to the RC51 in Gothenburg

The RC51 sessions were held principally in Theater 2 of the Artisten Building, which is part of the University of Gothenburg. The RC51 Board meeting and the business meeting were held in the same place. People from different research committees and the general public also attended our sessions.

For its public character, interested participants were invited to attend the RC51 business meeting. The business meeting was attended by 28 RC51 members in good standing, plus other persons who attended from other committees, as well as the ISA team, who were always supportive in managing the the logistics of the event.

There were several issues addressed in this meeting, different reports have been already distributed as official minutes, so we merely address key issues that might be important to keep on record for the Newsletter readers for further activities:

RC51 Conferences Venues

During the RC51 meeting, Czeslaw Mesjasz proposed the next conference, which is only few weeks from now, to be organized by Cracow University of Economics in Poland. Suggestions for future conferences were made by Carlos Livacic in cooperation with Dario Menanteau who proposed Chile as a possible venue for the one of the next meeting and by Manuel Lisboa's research team, who proposed Portugal. Further announcements will be made after Cracow meeting in June 2011.

Revision of statutes

Bernard Scott (now RC51 Past President) explained that, after the Durban World Congress, one of his priorities was to undertake a thorough revision of the statutes of RC51. After intensive discussion among the members of the statutes committee, as well as the Board at large, the new version of the statutes was communicated to all members of RC51 for voting. 57 votes were received in favor, 1 vote against the revised statutes. The total of votes received, 58, was above the quorum required for a change of statutes, which had been also a requirement of the previous version of RC51 statutes.

Board election 2010

The board reported the call for nominations of candidates for the up-coming elections. The due deadline for submitting nominations was extended to September 10th, 2010 to give opportunity for interested members to organize their proposals. The ballot closed in October 22nd 2010, giving as result the new Board consisting of the following members:

President	Eva Buchinger, AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH, Austria eva.buchinger@ait.ac.at
Vice-president	Margarita Maass Moreno, LabCOMplex, UNAM, Mexico maass@labcomplex.net
Past President	Bernard Scott, UK BernCES1@gmail.com
Honorary President	Felix Geyer, The Netherlands geyer@xs4all.nl
Secretary	Czeslaw Mesjasz, Cracow University of Economics, Poland mesjaszc@uek.krakow.pl
Treasurer	Juan M. Aguado, Murcia University, Spain jmaguado@um.es
Journal editor	Michael Paetau, Center for Sociocybernetics Studies, Bonn Germany michael.paetau@sociocybernetics.eu
Newsletter editor	Patricia Almaguer-Kalixto, LabCOMplex, UNAM, Mexico palmaquer@labcomplex.net
Website Editor	Fabio Giglietto , University of Urbino, Italy fabio.giglietto@uniurb.it

The RC51 participation in Gothenburg was an exciting experience, both for the organizer members as well as the participants. We thank the RC51 research community for all their support. We consider that our community has become stronger as we welcome new scientists to our Research Comitee and we continue to developing rigorous applications of Sociocybernetics in our research and expand the possibilities of Systems Theory and related conceptual frameworks to address the complexity of contemporary problems.



Some RC51 Members after one of the sessions in the Artisten Building, Gothenburg, Sweden 2010. Fotography: Margarita Maass.

“La sociocibernética: Un camino para tratar los temas sociales del mundo”. Construyendo resultados a partir del encuentro en Gotemburgo.

Margarita Maass Moreno (CEIICH/UNAM Mexico) Versión en Español

A partir de las participaciones de nuestros colegas en la Conferencia del 2010, elaboramos un texto que reúne las aportaciones y reflexiones hechas por científicos que, desde la perspectiva de la sociocibernética, tocan los grandes temas sociales globales, como son la educación, la pobreza, la salud y el conocimiento. La estructura del libro está organizada bajo dichos temas trabajados por diecisiete académicos en nuestra reunión de Gotemburgo, misma que responden a la convocatoria de “Sociología en Marcha”.

La complejidad de los problemas globales requiere soluciones con una perspectiva global por sus múltiples determinaciones. La perspectiva sociocibernética da respuesta precisamente a esta demanda. Así entonces, la primera parte del libro es presentada por Nils O. Larsson, de la Universidad de Skoevde de Suecia, quien comenta tres capítulos relacionados con el gran tema.

En el primer capítulo, Larsson abre con el título *“Las decisiones importantes y la configuración de estas decisiones necesarias para la consecución de un mundo sostenible. Una propuesta metodológica”*. En este texto el autor presenta una metodología sistémica para tomar decisiones para los problemas globales. Igualmente vinculado al tema de la globalización, en el capítulo dos, Dario Menanteau habla sobre algunos principios básicos de la sociocibernética en un texto que se llama *“Globalización y desarrollo distorsionado: en busca de una perspectiva sistémica para la sostenibilidad”* con la idea de entender mejor el impacto de la globalización en la comunidad internacional. En el tercer capítulo Luciano Gallón, de la Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, aborda el problema de la pobreza en América Latina, presentando un texto que lleva por nombre *“Pobreza y sustentabilidad artificial. Una investigación dentro de la estructura y dinámica de Sudamérica”*. En él, el autor presenta el proceso de construcción de un marco teórico y empírico para modela sistemas dinámicos, con las herramientas de la cibernética de primer y segundo orden para los casos de la región latinoamericana.

El tema de las emociones dentro de la sociedad, ha sido trabajado por filósofos, psicólogos y sociólogos a lo largo del siglo XX. Ahora se aborda también desde la sociocibernética. En la segunda parte de este libro, Manuel Lisboa desde la Universidade Nova de Lisboa, comenta dos textos relacionados con enfoques entrelazados a las emociones sociales, bajo la teoría de un modelo sistémico. Los capítulos de esta segunda parte hacen una reflexión sistémica desde temáticas relacionadas con las emociones humanas. El primero, de Ana Ferreira, presenta pistas emocionales de un enfoque sistémico de la acción humana. El segundo, de Ana Roque, es un acercamiento a la felicidad desde la sociocibernética. Ambas investigadoras son miembros del grupo multidisciplinario de investigación coordinado por Manuel Lisboa en Portugal.

La sociocibernética es una ciencia en construcción. Sus conceptos y categorías de análisis se están re-configurando constantemente. En la tercera parte del libro, presentado por José Amozurrutia, tenemos tres capítulos que nos hablan de la observación, la medición y la reconstrucción de significados emergentes. Estas reflexiones nos permitirán comprender mejor el centro de los problemas y conflictos sociales que pueden ser observados desde distintas disciplinas. En esta parte, tenemos la aportación de Marco Toledo, quien presenta el capítulo que lleva por nombre *“El signo espectral: En medio de la interacción electrónica Cibernética y Lingüística”*. Posteriormente el mismo Amozurrutia en conjunto con Carlos Vidales nos presentan un estudio de caso donde hacen la integración de la semiótica y la cibernética en el nivel teórico y epistemológico en un capítulo titulado *“Modelo de procesos semióticos a través de un enfoque sistémico complejo”*. Finalmente, Liliana Ramírez and Gabriel Vélez-Cuartas presentan un estudio de caso dentro del tema *“Diferencia entre simetría y asimetría del significado en Comunicación científica: un trastorno de la personalidad”*. En él proponen una comparación entre dos marcos teóricos y metodológicos: teoría de redes y teoría de sistemas sociales de Luhmann and Leydesdorff.

En la siguiente sección del libro, son estudiados los grupos juveniles y sus prácticas culturales, mismas que están siendo revisados por varias ciencias. La sociocibernética no es la excepción. En la siguiente parte del libro, Cor van Dijkum, de la Utrecht University, Netherlands, presenta la temática de modelos reflexivos para la resolución de problemas desde la Sociocibernética. Dentro de esta temática, Masahito Takahashi presenta el capítulo *“Un modelo sistémico inmune dentro de la Investigación de socialización moral: La formación de la moral reflexiva del Adolescente”, un proceso de socialización moral mediante el uso de la metáfora de un sistema inmune”*.

Eva Buchinger, del Instituto Austriaco de Tecnología AIT aborda en la siguiente parte la temática *“Sociocibernética de la Innovación: los conductores, las barreras y estabilizadores de la innovación en diferentes contextos teóricos”*. Relacionada con esta temática, Diane Laflamme propone el capítulo de *“Los conceptos de estima o desprecio en comunicaciones moralizantes: Un ejemplo de codificación binaria de las emociones en la teoría del significado de Niklas Luhmann”*.

El tema de la educación no podría faltar en estas reflexiones. El papel de la educación en la globalización y el desarrollo de futuros mundos posibles; los procesos de enseñanza y aprendizaje; el liderazgo educativo y estudios de gestión; las relaciones entre la educación, la formación y de gestión del conocimiento y el impacto de las nuevas tecnologías, tales como entornos personales de aprendizaje y la Web 2.0, son temas que forman parte del tema educativo analizado permanentemente desde la sociocibernética. Aquí presentamos dos capítulos muy interesantes. El primero es *“Educación para la Ilustración”*, de Bernard Scott, cuyo argumento se centra en que los conceptos de la cibernética son útiles para proporcionar una explicación racional a otros procesos educativos. El segundo capítulo, de Arne Collen, trata de competencias en investigación aplicadas en educación a nivel doctoral. Propone la construcción de habilidades de investigación y la adquisición de dominio; la interrelación entre habilidades y conocimiento en la práctica y los niveles de complejidad para investigar con éxito.

La siguiente parte del libro trata sobre el tema de Internet, que se ha convertido en una realidad cotidiana en las sociedades contemporáneas. Con una presentación necesaria para comprender el ciberespacio y la Internet dentro de este gran tema de "La Sociología en marcha", Bernd Hornung, de la University Hospital Giessen y Marburg GmbH, en Alemania, presenta dos capítulos alrededor de este tema. El primero, de Chaime Marcuello se cuestiona si la generación digital es una sociedad ligera. Habla de la apropiación social de las tecnologías de Internet y sus consecuencias sociales en el nivel de las interacciones personales y organizacionales. El segundo capítulo, de Arne Kjellman, lleva por título "*Apuntes para una teoría del todo pensamiento. El enfoque orientado por asignaturas*" centrándose en la experiencia de vida del hombre y su privacidad, en el marco de una ciencia colectiva consensuada.

En ciencias sociales, la salud es también un tema central. En esta parte del libro Cor Van Dijkum, de la Utrecht University, en Holanda, presenta una discusión de este importante tema desde la sociocibernética. Un modelo reflexivo de la e-salud y sus implicaciones para los clientes y la sociedad. Herman Snijders, Laura Vegter, Marja Bouman, Dini Glas, Niek Reus y NetCliënten, presentan en conjunto un texto desarrollado sobre este tema. Su contribución es un estudio sobre un sitio web para apoyo de clientes con problemas de salud mental en los Países Bajos en el que los sistemas de apoyo para clientes que necesitan tomar mejores decisiones acerca de la ayuda profesional que requieren y sus esfuerzos para construir su vida otra vez, las posibilidades del uso de Wikipedia se utilizan para generar conocimiento, experiencia y sabiduría para (ex) clientes. Existe una objeción de que la sociología, basada en la teoría de sistemas o en los principios cibernéticos, no da el apoyo para hacer la crítica científica razonable sobre los fenómenos sociales que pueden considerarse claramente como indeseables, tales como la exclusión social, la injusticia, la humillación, la opresión, el racismo, la discriminación sexual. En esta parte del libro, Michael Paetau, del Centro de Estudios Sociocibernética en Bonn, Alemania, y Simon, Karl-Heinz, del Centro de Investigación de Sistemas Ambientales de la Universidad de Kassel, Alemania, presentan el tema "*Sociocibernética y el concepto de emancipación*". Esta parte está constituida por dos capítulos. El primero es de Erkki Sevaenen, de la Universidad del Este de Finlandia, que cuestiona "*¿Tiene la epistemología constructivista contemporánea un quiebre en la conexión entre el conocimiento y la praxis sociales?*". Y Elke Wagner de la Universität Mainz, que propone "*Hacer crítica como una cuestión empírica: en el potencial de la teoría de sistemas para el concepto de emancipación*". Ambos documentos desean mostrar cómo la perspectiva sociológica de la Teoría de Sistemas en torno a esta importante cuestión.

Como se puede apreciar, el contenido de esta obra es diverso y enriquecedor tanto en perspectivas teóricas como en ejemplos empíricos que cada uno de los investigadores aborda. Por ello nos parece que la compilación de estos desarrollos científicos podría ser una contribución importante desde la Sociocibernética a los diferentes debates donde la Sociología está inmersa.

“Sociocybernetics: a way to study social issues in the World. Building upon the results of our meeting in Gothenburg” (English Version)

Margarita Maass Moreno (CEIICH/UNAM Mexico) *English version*

Since our meeting in Gothenburg, we have been working to produce a book containing the debate and contributions made by scientists from a Sociocybernetics perspective. All the papers refer mainly to global social issues, such as education, poverty, health, knowledge construction, among others. The structure of the book is organized under these themes, with contributions from seventeen academics who presented their papers in the RC51 sessions at the meeting in Gothenburg, in response to the ISA World Congress theme “*Sociology on the Move*” We all understand that global problems require solutions with a global perspective, but this requires us to acknowledge the complex structure and dynamics of the processes involved. The Sociocybernetics perspective addresses this complexity.

The first part of the book is opened by Nils O. Larsson, from the University of Skoevde, Sweden. He introduces four chapters that use Sociocybernetics to provide a global perspective. Chapter one “*Important Decisions and the Settings for These Decisions Needed for Attaining a Sustainable World: A Methodological Proposal*”, authored by Nils, himself, presents an interesting systemic methodology for analysis and decision making for global problems. In the same way, and related with the globalization, in chapter two, Dario Menanteau refers to “*Globalization and Distorted Development: In Search of a System Perspective for Sustainability*”. His text takes the Sociocybernetic principles of a “Viable System”, as suggested by Stafford Beer, in order to understand the impact of globalization in the international community. In the third chapter, Luciano Gallón, from Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, offers a reflection on the problem of poverty in Latin America with a chapter titled “*Poverty and Artificial Sustainability: A Research on the Structure and Dynamics of South America*”. He presents a theoretical and practical framework, using dynamic systems for modelling South America, applying First and Second Order Cybernetic tools.

Emotions in society have been an issue analysed by philosophers, psychologists and sociologists for many years. In the second part of the book, Manuel Lisboa from Universidade Nova de Lisboa, presents two chapters relating emotions and Sociocybernetics: “*Intertwined Approaches on Social Emotions: Theorizing a Systemic Model*”. Ana Ferreira elaborates on “*Emotional Clues to a Systemic Approach to Human Action*” and Ana Roque presents her advances in “*A Sociocybernetic Approach on Happiness*”, both researchers are members of Manuel Lisboa’s academic group in Portugal, working on the systemic approach to the emotional dimension of social life.

Sociocybernetics is a science in construction. Its concepts and analysis categories are in permanent re-configuration. The third part of the book has three chapters which refer to observing, measuring and reconstructing emergent meaning. In this section, Marco Toledo develops his chapter titled *"The Spectral Sign: Electronic Interaction Amid Cybernetics and Linguistics"*. Then, José Amozurrutia and Carlos Vidales present a case of study where they discuss the integration of semiotics and cybernetics at a theoretical and epistemological level in a chapter titled *"Modeling Semiotic Processes through a Complex System Approach"*. Finally, Liliana Ramirez and Gabriel Vélez-Cuartas propose a comparison between two theoretical and methodological frameworks: Actor Network Theory and the Theory of Social Systems by Luhmann and Leydesdorff in their chapter *"Difference Between Symmetry and Asymmetry of Meaning in Scientific Communications: A Personality Disorder Case Study"*.

Youth groups and their cultural practices are being scrutinized by some disciplines. Sociocybernetics is not an exception. In the next part of the book, Masahito Takahashi presents his chapter *"An Immune System Model in the Research of Moral Socialization: Formation of Reflective Morality through Adolescent Relativism"*, in which he explains the process of adolescent moral socialization using the metaphor of the immune system. Cor van Dijkum, from Utrecht University in the Netherlands, contributes the chapter *"Reflective Modeling - Problem solving with Sociocybernetics functions"*.

The next chapter is presented by Eva Buchinger, from the Austrian Institute of Technology: *"Sociocybernetics of Innovation: Drivers, Barriers and Stabilizers of Innovation in Different Theoretical Contexts"*. Connected with this topic, Diane Laflamme presents her chapter *"Esteem or Contempt in Moralized Communications: An Example of Binary Coding Involving Emotions in Luhmann's Theory of Meaning"*.

Education is an important issue that has been analyzed using Sociocybernetics. The role of education in globalization and the development of possible world futures; processes of learning and teaching; educational leadership and management studies; relations between education, training and 'knowledge management', and impacts of new technologies, such as personal learning environments and Web 2.0, are some of the topics that have been addressed. There are two chapters related to this field: *"Education for Enlightenment"*, from Bernard Scott, who argues how Cybernetics concepts can be helpful in providing a rational account of what is education for enlightenment. The second chapter *"Research Proficiencies in Human Inquiry Applied to Doctorate Education"*, from Arne Collen, talks about the complexity of the interrelatedness among research skills, building inquiry and practical know-how.

The Internet has become a daily reality in contemporary societies. Bernd Hornung, from University Hospital Giessen and Marburg GmbH in Germany, presents two chapters around the issue *"Understanding Cyberspace and the Internet: Sociocybernetics on the Move"*.

The first chapter is from Chaime Marcuello, from the University of Zaragoza, Spain: *“Digital Generations, Soft Societies?”*, in which he talks about the social appropriation of “internet technologies” and its social consequences at the level of personal and organizational interactions. In the second chapter, Arne Kjellman, from Sweden, presents his paper *“Sketches towards a Theory of Every Thin/kin/g – The Subject-Oriented Approach”*, which includes a discussion of the consensual approach to science.

In social science, the intersection with health issues is of high importance. In the next part of the book, Cor Van Dijkum, presents a sociocybernetic discussion around the “reflective modeling” and “e-health” and its implications for clients and society. In this chapter, Herman Snijders, Laura Vegter, Marja Bouman, Dini Glas, Niek Reus, NetCliënten, present *“E-Health – Its Implications for Clients and Society”*, a study around a website for clients of mental healthcare in the Netherlands (netclienten.nl) which works as a decision support system developed to support (ex)clients in making better decisions about the professional help they might request and their efforts to build up their lives through a supportive network. This paper explores the possibilities of the Wikipedia approach to generate knowledge, experience and wisdom from (ex)clients.

There is a misperception that Sociology based on Systems Theory or on Cybernetic principles is not interested in making a scientific critique of social problems that are clearly undesirable such as social exclusion, injustice, humiliation, oppression, racism, sexual discrimination, just to mention few. In this last part of the book, Michael Paetau, from the Center for Sociocybernetics Studies Bonn in Germany, and Karl-Heinz Simon from the Center for Environmental Systems Research, University of Kassel, Germany, present the section *“Sociocybernetics and the Concept of Emancipation”*. Two chapters are included: the first one is by Erkki Sevaenen, from University of Eastern Finland, who discusses *“Does Contemporary Constructivist Epistemology Break the Connection between Knowledge and Societal Praxis?”* and Elke Wagner from the University of Mainz, whose chapter is entitled *“Doing Critique as an Empirical Question: On the Potential of Systems Theory for the Concept of Emancipation”*. Both papers aim to reinforce how the perspective of sociological Systems Theory can contribute to the analysis of the processes of emancipation from different perspectives connected by Sociocybernetic concepts. As you will notice, the content of this book is diverse both in theoretical perspectives as well as in empirical examples. That is the main reason why we consider that the compilation of these scientific developments could be an important contribution from Sociocybernetics to the different debates where a sociological perspective is required. The book is in the process of being edited and will be published by the end of this year in a bilingual version.



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Cracow University of Economics is ready for the 10th International Conference of Sociocybernetics

By **Czeslaw Mesjasz**
Chairman of the Organizing Committee

In the early 21st century the challenges of predictability have acquired a new significance. This is caused by an increasing awareness of environmental threats, terrorism, vulnerability of the techno-structure of modern civilization, barriers of strategic management and, last but not least, by the recent turmoil in the financial markets.

In such circumstances, the term “complexity”, used frequently as a kind of “buzzword”, has gained a specific role in the language of modern science and policy making. At the same time “complexity scholars”, i.e., the authors claiming to study the complexity of nature and society, purposively or not, directly or not, stimulate expectations of policy making by attributing marketing-like titles to their works and courses – “Hidden Order”, “Harnessing Complexity”, “Order out of Chaos”, “Understanding Complex Organizations” (repeated in various contexts), etc. The demand from practitioners (policy makers, managers, financiers) on the one hand, and attempts to provide relevant responses made by the academic community on the other, is nothing unusual by itself. A new element in that discourse between practice and “complexity studies” is resulting from awareness of the limited possibility, or even impossibility, of the prediction of social phenomena, especially at macro- and meso - scales. Such an epistemological pessimism can be acceptable in academic discourse but cannot be transferred to practice. Economic, social and environmental policy, and finance and management are most representative examples of the areas in which prediction is a foundation for actions, where an “early warning” is sometimes essential.

The first attempts to study complex entities go back to the works of Weaver (disorganized complexity and organized complexity), Simon (the Architecture of Complexity), Ashby (the Law of Variety) and Wiener and others (on selforganisation).

If unpredictability or low reliability of prediction is the key feature of the complexity of social phenomena, what ideas drawn from sociocybernetics can help the social sciences in achieving a better understanding of change in modern society?

Papers dealing with the complexity of social phenomena at all levels of the societal hierarchy will be presented in the context of the 10th International Conference on Sociocybernetics in Cracow Poland this summer

In the social sciences, and particularly in sociology, special attention is given to the concept of the complexity of social systems proposed by Luhmann for whom complexity is strongly linked to self-observation. This phenomenon is representative of the epistemology of modern social sciences, where observation and self-observation, reflexivity and self-reflexivity, and, subsequently, self-reference are playing a growing role. According to this interpretation, social systems are becoming self-observing, selfreflexive entities trying to solve arising problems through the processes of adaptation (learning).

A question thus arises: If unpredictability or low reliability of prediction is the key feature of the complexity of social phenomena, what ideas drawn from sociocybernetics can help the social sciences in achieving a better understanding of change in modern society? This question is of a special significance in policy-oriented sciences dealing with social phenomena – economics, management, finance and security studies, which aim, not only at description and explanation, but also at providing guidance for action.

Papers dealing with the complexity of social phenomena at all levels of the societal hierarchy will be presented in the context of the 10th International Conference on Sociocybernetics this summer, taking into account the theoretical background of RC51, the role of information, technology, innovation and governance in social systems.

WHERE IN CRACOW? VENUE AND ACCESS:

The conference is hosted by the **Cracow University of Economics (Uniwersytet Ekonomiczny w Krakowie)**, Rakowicka 27 (Rakowicka Street), which is located close to the Old Town of Cracow, <http://nowa.uek.krakow.pl/en>

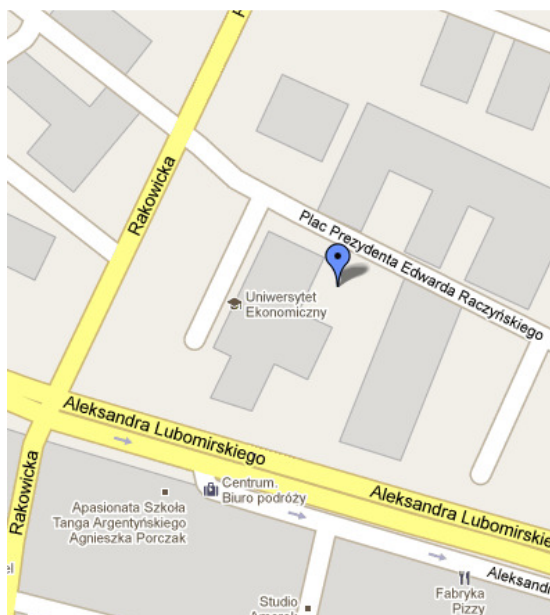
CONTACTS AND INFORMATION:

For information updates please consult the RC 51 website at (<http://www.unizar.es/sociocybernetics/>). For specific questions you may also directly contact the Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee.

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

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10th International Conference “Sociocybernetics and the Increasing complexity of Social Life” (20-25 June, 2011)

All meetings will take place on the campus of the **Cracow University of Economics**. Each Author has 40 minutes (20 minutes paper + 20 minutes discussion) to present their papers.

MONDAY 20 JUNE, 2011

14:00 -16:00 Registration

16:00 - 16:30 Official opening. Chair: Czesław Mesjasz

16:30 – 18:00 Introductory invited lecture “The science of complexity: With the Bible along Wall Street” **Stanislaw Drozd**, *Department of Complex Systems Theory, Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kraków.*

TUESDAY 21 JUNE, 2011

9:00 – 11:00 Session 1. Chair: *Bernd Hornung*

1. “Using the logic of life to reduce the complexity of life” *Bernard Scott*
2. “How meaning-constituting systems both reduce and preserve complexity” *Diane Laflamme*
3. “Innovation as an evolutionary process” *Eva Buchinger*

11:00 – 12:50 Session 2. Chair: *Eva Buchinger*

4. “The continuing quest for better ways of conceptualising, mapping, measuring, and harnessing social forces” *John Raven.*
5. “An index of social well-being as a measurement of system’s performance” *Dario Menanteau-Horta*

12:50 – 14:30 Lunch break

14:30 - 16:30 Session 3. Chair: *Chaime Marcuello Servós*

6. “The three inevitabilities of human being - A conceptual hierarchy model approaching social complexity” *Louis Klein.*
7. “Unmanageable organization: The consequences of complex responsive processes of relating” by *Marek Ćwiklicki.*
8. “Complexity dynamics shaping life and society” *Helmut K. Loeckenhoff.*

17:00 – 18:20 Session 4, Chair: *Michael Paetau*

9. “If versus if and only if - seven orders of complexity reduction” *Marilena Luca*
10. “An agenda for Sociocybernetics” *Felipe Lara-Rosano*

18:20 – 19:00 Board Meeting

WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE, 2011

9:00 – 11:00 Session 5 Chair: Bernard Scott

11. "Structural-functional model of self-organizing economic system" *Julia Fomina and Eduard Fomin.*
12. "Dynamic phase space construction for social analysis: A sociocybernetic approach" *José A. Amozurrutia.*
13. "Sociocybernetic lessons for business management" - from steering and control to culture and emotions" *Bernd R Hornung.*

11:00 – 12:50 Session 6. Chair: José A. Amozurrutia

14. "Critical incidents, theory and analysis: Strategies for coping with the ambiguous products of chaos" *Bob Hodge.*
15. "Evaluation of social and public policies: A sociocybernetic approach" *Chaime Marcuello Servós.*

12:50 – 14:30 Lunch break

14:30 - 16:30 Session 7. Chair: Fabio Giglietto

16. "Cibercultur@ and action research strategies to deal with complex environmental controversies: A case of waste disposal management" *Patricia E. Almaguer Kalixto*
17. "Complexity of social life and violence against women: A sociocybernetical approach" *José A. Amozurrutia et al.*
18. "How to govern migration? Diversity of cultures in a postmigration society" *Michael Paetau.*

17:00 – 18:20 Session 8, Chair: Karl H. Simon

19. "Complexity and tradition in the oasis communities. A discussion about research methodology from a Sociocybernetical approach" *Pedro José Escriche Bueno*
20. "Second-order observation of the increasing socio-cultural complexity: A difference theoretical approach" *Saburo Akahori.*
21. "On user generated content, teleology and predictability in social systems" *Fabio Giglietto.*

18:20 – 19:00 Workshop: ISO 26000 on social responsibility supports systemic/cybernetic behavior Matjaz Mulej, Zdenka Zenko.

THURSDAY 23 JUNE, 2011

14:30 - 16:30 Session 9. Chair: Matjaz Mulej

22. "Transformations on a National Researchers System Scientific Culture: A Sociocybernetic Approach " *Manuel Meza Cuervo.*
23. "Analyzing emergent interdisciplinary research communities network from sociocybernetics perspective" *Margarita Maass Moreno.*
24. "Cracow University of Economics at the edge of chaos – a preliminary study" *Robert Wójcik.*

16:30 – 18:00 Business Meeting

18:00 – 20:00 Conference Dinner

FRIDAY 24 JUNE, 2011

9:00 – 11:00 Session 10 Chair: *Margarita Maass Moreno.*

25. "On some early experiments in participatory decision support and decision making – from wicked problems to ORAKEL and beyond" *Karl H. Simon.*
26. "Invention – innovation diffusion process (IIDP) as a basis for realization of potential of the cultural and material development" *Matjaz Mulej, Zdenka Zenko.*
27. "Management of a system: example of an economic zone" *Dominika Salwa.*

11:00 – 12:50 Session 11. Chair: *Dario Menanteau-Horta*

28. "Analysis of gradients Cybercult@ the training through the use of an adaptative system" *Laura González Morales.*
29. "Violence as an adaptive system: An example in Mexico" *Juan Carlos Barrón Pastor.*

12:50 – 14:30 Lunch break

14:30 - 16:30 Session 12. Chair: *Bob Hodge*

30. "Is topological invariance an acceptable compression of complexity? Reflexions on (self) organization in Boolean network and autopoiesis" *Lucio Biggiero.*
31. "On the nature of exaptation and the complex co-generation of objects and functions" *Lucio Biggiero, Antonio Mastrogiorgio.*
32. "Complexity of social systems as consequence of awareness of limits of human knowledge" *Czesław Mesjasz.*

17:00 – 18:20 Session 13. Chair: TBA

18:20 – 19:00 Workshop: ISO 26000 on social responsibility supports systemic/cybernetic behavior
Matjaz Mulej, Zdenka Zenko

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

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Adam Stabryła (Poland)



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Research Committee 51
on Sociocybernetics
ISA International Sociological Association

Buckley Memorial Award 2010 to an empirical analysis of news propagation path in social network sites (Luca Rossi et al.)

The Walter Buckley Memorial Award is an ISA RC51 distinction for participants in the RC51 sessions at a conference or at an RC51 conference. The name of the award refers to Walter Buckley (1922 – 2006), an important promoter on systems and Cybernetics both within and beyond the social science community.

Considering Cybernetics is -following Norbert Wiener's formulation- a science of communication and, as per Heinz von Foerster's formulation of Second Order Cybernetics, a science of observing observer, the RC51 on Sociocybernetics gives such a prize to enhance self-referentially observation in its own observers trying to promote and improve scientific communication.

In 2010, the Walter Buckley Memorial Award was given to **Luca Rossi** from the Dpt. Of Communication Studies at University of Urbino "Carlo Bo" who presented a paper elaborated collectively with **Matteo Magnani and F. Marta L. Di Lascio** (University of Bologna), **Barbara Pacelli** (Independent Researcher) and **Fabio Celli** (University of Trento). In the next page, Luca shares the abstract of the paper in order to give details of the scientific contents expressed in his presentation.

The *Walter Buckley Memorial Award* is given as a prize to the best presentations both, in didactical and technical quality reflected in the ability to communicate with the audience, and also in the scientific contents expressed in the paper. All participants in the respective RC51 sessions, whether presenting or not, can nominate a presentation for the award, to be seconded by at least one other person. Nomination and seconding of one's own presentation is not admissible. If there are no nominations, the RC51 International Scientific Committee of the respective congress or conference is responsible for nominating at least one candidate. From the nominated presentations the best one will be chosen by the members of the RC51 International Scientific Committee of the respective congress or conference who are present. At least 3 members are required to make a decision. If not enough members of the RC51 International Scientific Committee are present, numbers will be made up from RC51 Board members who are present at the congress or conference. The award consists on a certificate to be given to the winner.

“Mass media system 2.0: an empirical analysis of news propagation path in social network sites.”

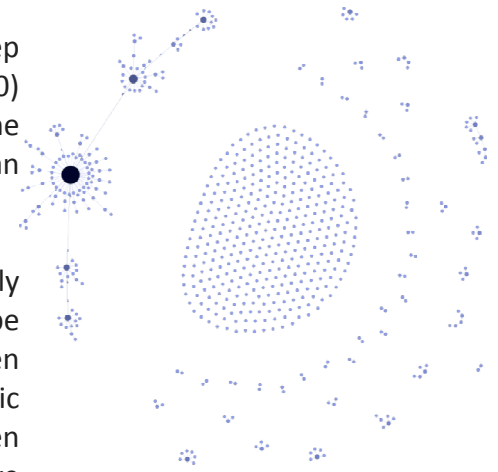
Luca Rossi (Dpt. Of Communication Studies – University of Urbino “Carlo Bo”), **matteo magnani** (Dpt. of Computer Science – University of Bologna), **F. Marta L. Di Lascio** (Dpt. of Statistical Science – University of Bologna), **Barbara Pacelli** (Independent Researcher), **Fabio Celli** (Language Interaction and Computation Lab. – University of Trento).

Social Network Sites are undoubtedly one of the most interesting phenomena that bring together new technologies and social practices. They are going through an incredibly fast growth all over the world despite the fact many obstacles like the digital divide still exist. Despite this global success it would be hard to define a single global leader of the Social Network Sites. Facebook, which counts more than 300 millions single users mostly clustered in Europe and in the US, is surely a big player but QQ with a high concentration of users in China as an even larger user base. It seems that cultural diversity and local identity lead toward the choice of a specific SNS while the shift toward the adoption of SNS-model for online interpersonal communications seems to be global (Cosenza, 2009).

Due to this large worldwide adoption SNS has been highly used in many global events as an important source to spread news and informations. From the terroristic attack in Mumbay in 2008 to the so-called Twitter revolution in Iran in 2009 SNSs proved several times to be a reliable way to communicate and to spread information in a quick and relatively efficient way. Contemporary media history contains many examples where social media have been the first sources to spread important information. Last in this line is probably the news of the death of music popstar Michael Jackson that was spread over the Internet hours before unofficial news came from the CNN.

Despite this scenario there is still very few research done on how news propagate them into the new networked (Varnelis, 2008) scenario. This paper will present the results of an ongoing investigation, based on a specific SNS: Friendfeed (<http://friendfeed.com>) aimed at investigating this specific topic. The research team collected every information that has been created in a sampling period of two weeks (from Sept. 6th 2009 to Sep 19th 2009) in the selected SNS. After the gathering phase the research team started a series of statistical and sociological analysis in order to investigate both how the network of Friendfeed users is connected and what is the role of every single network node in the propagation of information through the network.

On a sociocybernetic perspective this research aims at moving one step forward the observations on the Mass Media System (Luhmann, 2000) trying to understand how these new 2.0 phenomena can be part of the Mass Media System and, if this would not be the case, how they can interact with the whole Social System.

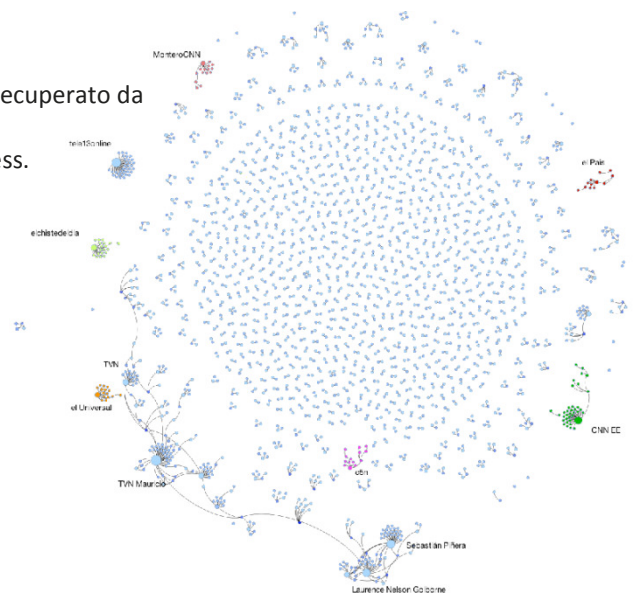


From a methodological point of view the research presents a truly interdisciplinary approach that seems to be the only effective way to cope with the complexity of contemporary digital scenario. The data have been collected using an ad hoc software tool able to store every public information that has been published on FriendFeed. Data have been then organized into a relational database and descriptive statistical analyses have been performed. After a first descriptive phase able to produce a picture of the SNS (number of users, number of links between users, number of messages, comments, etc) a cluster analysis has been performed on several data sub-sets defined by the language used. This allowed us to identify different clusters of users who are using the same social network site in different ways.

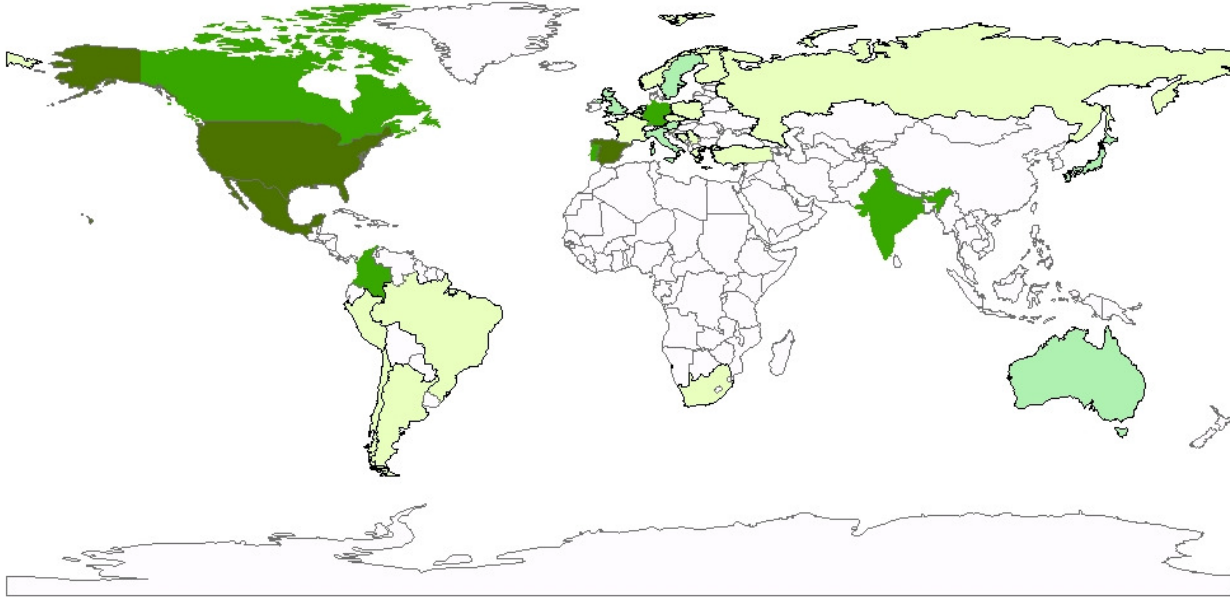
There is a further theoretical analysis that has been performed is the analysis of the propagation path of specific topics. Observing the networked users of the Friendfeed social network the research has been able to identify the specific pattern that every information followed in order to spread inside the network. This analysis allowed the research team to make some hypotheses about which elements are involved in the process of news spreading. This hypothesis as well as the comparisons with the traditional model of news spreading from the mass media system was presented during the conference.

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RC51 members: where are we and what are we doing?



worldmap

TOTAL members registered in 2010: 135

RC51 members by country.



In our last Business meeting, the board reported that RC51 had at that time about 120 members in good standing, that means members both of the ISA and RC51. The records showed 135 members by the end of 2010, however, we are working to update the information on our lists (If you have any change of email, address or any other contact detail it is important to let the Board know). In this new section “RC51 Members: Where are what are we doing?” We start exploring the geographical location of the RC51 Members. This is an approximation, as the final product depends on our updated membership database; however it gives us at a glance an interesting picture of how RC51 is distributed in the world.

The idea of this new section -beyond numbers and graphics- is to enhance the diversity of topics and approaches towards Sociocybernetics. So it is for you to share with the rest of the RC51 members how your work relates to Sociocybernetics, how do you get organized with others in your country or within other countries to do so, as well as sharing materials, research advances or papers of your own or your research group. For this edition, we thank the participations of *CesNova (former SociNova) FCSH, Universidade Nova de Lisboa (Manuel Lisboa, Dalila Cerejo, Ana Ferreira, Ana Roque, Ricardo Santana, Ana Lúcia Teixeira Dias), Luciano Gallón*, from Bogotá Colombia, and *Søren Brier*, for their participation. We consider these contributions give us an idea of how active RC51 members are in different parts of the world and how important is to share within our research community, resources, research advances and achievements. We look forward to include in the following issues your own (or team) research as well as the activities made be teamwork beyond and outside our conferences.

RC51 in Portugal: The contribution of Sociocybernetics in the understanding of Dynamics, Identity and Social Action.

Dynamics, Identity and Social Action CesNova (FCSH-UNL), Lisbon, Portugal National Observatory for Gender and Violence <http://onvg.fcsh.unl.pt/>



Since 1995, our research team “Dynamics, Identity and Social Action”, working at CesNova, former SociNova, FCSH, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, has been focusing on the role of the decision-making process to Social Action. Violence against Women became one of the major areas of expertise of our group, given its structural dimensions and prevalence. At that time, National surveys, confined to a sociological approach, confirmed the pre-existing notion, but yet to be proven by facts or numbers that in Portugal violence against women was indeed a social problem (first national survey in 1995). Going beyond the study of domestic violence’s prevalence was the subsequent step of our studies, which led us to recognize the need to collaborate with other disciplines to gain a wider understanding of this phenomenon. In these lines, our studies “Social, economic and health costs” resulting from violence against women (2002, 2005, 2006), the “Extreme violence” reported to Forensic Medicine Institutes (2003) and “Gender Violence” for Continent and Azores (2007 and 2008) have shown that violence against women has gender outlines, based on rutted historical power relations between the masculine and the feminine with high social costs at the educational, professional and health levels that public policies agents should not neglect. Indeed that was the case. Our results, first had a direct impact on national public policies and led to the institution of the National Observatory for Gender and Violence, and subsequently, contributed, at an international level, to the European Council and European Institute for Gender Equality.

These studies highlighted even further that a pluri-disciplinary conceptualization was critical for a deeper understating of these processes and we started collaborating with Mathematicians, Economists, Psychologists, Medical Doctors and Educational Sciences scientists. In spite of our efforts, when we started to look into the specific factors involved in the production and reproduction of “gender violence” towards women, to understand women's maintenance of long violent conjugal trajectories and the, many times recurrent, victims lack of an explicit reaction, we realized the utmost importance of the establishment of a common scientific language and a truly intertwined approach between disciplines. This new path of research



led us to hypothesize that the apparent women's inhibition or constrain could be strongly influenced by values, models, stereotypes and gender roles, interiorized as "social emotions", contributing, many times, to the maintenance of the violent relationships. We understand here Social Emotions as «the affinities and detestations we acquire discreetly in the course of a lifetime of perceiving and emoting in relation to people, groups, objects, activities, and places» (Damásio, 2003:48).

Barbalet's theoretical perspective on emotions adds another layer to the conceptualization of emotions. The author states that emotions are subjectively experienced and behaviourally expressed simultaneously, presenting cognitive, dispositional and physiological components (Barbalet, 1998). This view suggests an embodiment of social action, and thus, only a systems approach integrating knowledge produced by different scientific fields, but that are indeed, empirically inter-acting, can first allow for communication between researchers, and ultimately provide the basic framework for the study of social action (*reviewed in* Skyttner, 2005). It is precisely at this point that the RC51 ISA Group - Sociocybernetics- provided us with theoretical and empirical clues to engage in more incisive and fruitful research articulating the above mention systems and qualitative methodology.

Given that we intend to understand first, how social emotions arise in the form of gender stereotypes - that provide a cultural and social code of conduct to the social actor- and second, how social emotions shape interaction- with its social, cultural, psychological and physiological components- we need an *equilibrium* between the macro and micro level of analysis, and thus, between quantitative. Although this is not a specific attribute of the Sociocybernetic approach, it is considered one of its cornerstones. This multilayer empirical methodology combining quantitative data analysis with life-stories interviews, a technique that enables us to access the construction of values and cultural meanings behind the individuals actions and interactions, allows us to understand how their articulation with emotions influence social action. Furthermore, this methodology also allows to penetrate in the individual and idiosyncratic construction, in the (re)production of given social emotions and their manifestation(s). In what regards the articulation between the cultural and social systems with the psychological and biological systems, a challenge that is coherent with one of the basic arguments of the sociocybernetic perspective: detection of both the semiotic and what is not verbalized by the interviewed- the symbolical (Amozurrutia, 2007), we also focus on exteriorized expression of emotional *status* during the conduction of the

life-histories interviews. Assessment gestures, facial expressions and vocal tones gives us indirect clues for psychological and physiological involvement, a methodology similar to Thomas Scheff's detection of specific emotions by analysis of body language (paralinguistic clues: vocal withdraw or hiding behaviors and disorganized thought, oversoft speech, irregular rhythm, hesitation, self-interruption, self-censorship, pauses and filled pauses, stammering and stuttering; visual gestures: hiding hands, covering face and/or eyes, looking down, getting body away from the interviewee, blushing, turning the lips, biting them, biting tongue, false smiling, etc). Second order observations will be performed at all stages of our research, with a specific focus on the observation and analysis of exteriorized expression of emotional *status*.

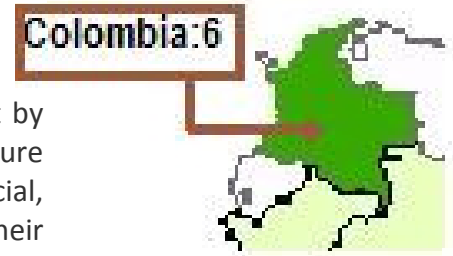
Expanding our previous findings, the Sociocybernetic approach will not only allow us to integrate the social, cultural, psychological and physiological dimensions underlying social (in)action, eventually allowing us to go from an interdisciplinary to a transdisciplinary approach, but also to reach a deeper understanding of the processes underlying Violence against Women.

CesNova and NOGV's team at Lisbon, Portugal: Manuel Lisboa, Dalila Cerejo, Ana Ferreira, Ana Roque, Ricardo Santana, Ana Lúcia Teixeira Dias.



Members of the CesNova and NOGV's team at the ISA World Conference Gothenburg, Sweden 2010. From left to right, Ana Lucía Teixeiras, José Amozurrutia (LabComplex, UNAM, México), Dalila Cerejo, Ana Roque, Ana Ferreira and Manuel Lisboa. Photography: Margarita Maass.

RC51 in Colombia: Perspectives for Sustainability *Luciano Gallón (Bogotá)*



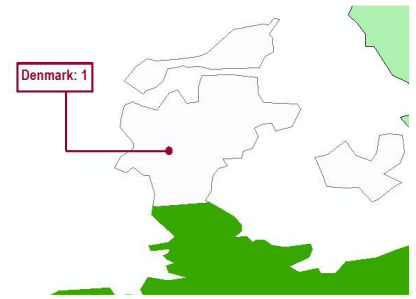
Contemporary population dynamics figures on a global average show that by each birth in a rich family there are 38 in poor families. Even with this figure changing for the better every day, it's necessary to think on new social, ecological and economic systems models to analyze and synthesize their possible sustainability. The tools of First Order Cybernetics (boundaries, sub- and supra-systems, circular causality, positive and negative feedback and simulation), and of the Second-Order Cybernetics (self-reference, self-steering, self-organization, self-catalysis and autopoiesis) helps to understand in new ways the structure and dynamics of Colombia. In particular, they help on modeling complex problems as poverty and sustainability with tools as System Dynamics, because they require determining and specifying boundaries, sub- and supra-systems, causality and positive or negative feedback, even though it is not clear the way to follow in order to analyze and synthesize these models in relation to second-order cybernetics; it is not clear how the evolution of an autopoietic system can breed another autopoietic system and it is not clear what type of scales are involved. However, in some way, the observer can observe or change the steady state of the observed system.

I'm working on building, with the help of First and Second Order Cybernetics tools, a theoretical and practical framework for modeling Colombia and South America poverty using Systems Dynamics and on exploring questions such as: Is it possible to reduce poverty following a sustainable path? What is the kind of steady state behind the sustainability ideas? In what sense is it possible to talk of artificial sustainability? What relationship can be found between the scales of space and time of the human perspective and of the sustainability and the dynamics of the new social equilibriums? How such exploration enriches the understanding of social systems and human behavior? What contributions can be offered from such analysis and synthesis to contribute to sustainability? How can the structure and dynamics of Colombia and South America helps to answer those questions? The obtained results will serve to discover possible inconsistencies and counterintuitive behaviors in traditional conceptions of poverty, development and sustainability.

Luciano Gallón (Bogota, Colombia 1969). B.S. Electronics Engineering (Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, Medellin, Colombia, 1993), M.Sc. Management of Technology (UPB, Medellin, Colombia, 2004), M.Sc. Sustainability, Technology and Humanism (Universidad Politécnic de Cataluña, Barcelona, Spain, 2008) He is currently studying his PhD on Sustainability, Technology and Humanism at the UPC's UNESCO Chair in Sustainability, Barcelona, Spain in 2006. Luciano is Titular Professor at UPB in Medellin. His research interests are in areas of micro and macro complex systems modeling, system dynamics, science and technology history and sustainable development. He can be reached at l.gallon@ieee.org



RC51 in Denmark: Søren Brier's work on Cybersemiotics



Responding to the call for sharing information about his latest advances in Sociocibernetic research, Søren Brier (Professor of semiotics at Department of International Studies of Culture and Communication, CBS, DK) share with us different materials that might be of interest of those working within the intersection of Semiotics and Information.

Attention needs to be given to the Entropy special issue "Cybersemiotics—Integration of the informational and semiotic paradigms of cognition and communication" where Prof. Søren Brier was *Guest Editor*. The introduction to the special issue goes like this:

“A common view among information theorists is that information - integrated with entropy in some way - is a basic structure of the world. Computation is the process of the dynamic change of information. In order for anything to exist for an individual, she must get information on it by means of perception or by re-organization of the existing information into new patterns. This cybernetic-computational-informational view is based on a universal and unembodied conception of information and computation, which is the deep foundation of “the information processing paradigm”, which is vital for most versions of cognitive science and its latest developments into brain function and linguistic research. Taken to its full metaphysical scope this paradigm views the universe as a computer, humans as dynamic systems producing and guided by a computationally functioning brain and sees language as a sort of culturally developed program for social information processing. What seems to be lacking is knowledge of the nature and role of embodied first person experience, qualia, meaning and signification in the evolution and development of cognition and language communication among self-conscious social beings and formed by the grammatical structure and dynamics of language and mentality. For this we need to enlarge the picture by for instance superimposing and integrating an even broader foundation such as Charles Sanders Peirce’s pragmatic semiotics in its modern development as a biosemiotics. Here the sign as triadic semeiosis is the central process of reality.”

You may access this Entropy special issue through:

http://www.mdpi.com/journal/entropy/special_issues/cybersemiotics-paradigms/

You will find Brier's articles such as:

Brier, S. (1992): “Information and Consciousness: A Critique of the Mechanistic foundation of the Concept of Information” in *Cybernetics & Human Knowing*, Vol.1, no. 2/3, pp 71- 94. <http://www.imprint.co.uk/C&HK/vol1/v1-23sbr.htm>

Brier, S. (1993): “A Cybernetic and Semiotic View on a Galilean Theory of Psychology” *Cybernetics Human Knowing* Vol. 2 no. 2 1993. Available in <http://www.imprint.co.uk/C&HK/vol2/v2-2sbr.htm>

Brier, S. (2003): "The Cybersemiotic model of communication: An evolutionary view on the threshold between semiosis and informational exchange." *TripleC* 1(1): 71-94.

Brier, S (2004) Cybersemiotics and the problems of the information-processing paradigm as a candidate for a unified science of information behind library information science, *Library Trends Wntr*, 2004
, http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1387/is_3_52/ai_n6080408

Brier, S. (2006): "The foundation of LIS in information science and semiotics", *Libreas: Library Ideas* 1 http://www.ib.hu-berlin.de/~libreas/libreas_neu/ausgabe4/pdf/001bri.pdf

Brier, S. (2008) *Cybersemiotics: Why Information is Not Enough*, Toronto University Press, 2008. Google
book: <http://books.google.dk/books?id=Ueiv9cRR9OQC&pg=PP1&dq=Cybersemiotics:+Why+information+is+not+enough#v=onepage&q=&f=false>

Brier, S. (2008b): "A Paradigm for Biosemiotics", *Signs* 2008, pp. 30-81.

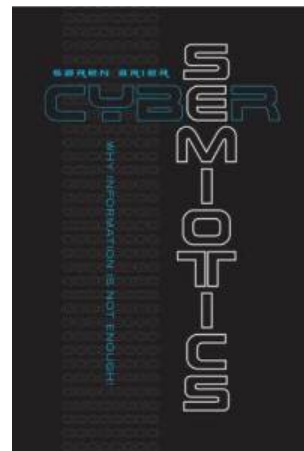
Brier, S. (2008). A Peircean Panentheist Scientific Mysticism. *International Journal of Transpersonal Studies*; vol. 27, p. 20-45
<http://www.transpersonalstudies.org/ImagesRepository/ijts/Downloads/A%20Peircean%20Panentheist%20Scientific%20Mysticism.pdf>

The journal "Constructivis Foundations" requested an article on his critique of radical constructivism and published his paper on Cybersemiotic Pragmaticism and Constructivism, which is available in:
<http://www.univie.ac.at/constructivism/journal/articles/5/1/019.brier.pdf>

Another input by Soren is the URL of the electronic version of the book INFORMATION AND COMPUTATION, the Book was published by World Scientific Publishing Co. Dr. Gordana Dodig-Crnkovic (Mälardalen University, Sweden) and Dr. Mark Burgin (UCLA, USA), Editors. This URL <http://www.idt.mdh.se/ECAP-2005/INFOCOMPBOOK/> will lead you to the electronic version.

In "Cybersemiotics: Why Information is not enough", Toronto University Press, 2008, Søren Brier offers an important attempt to integrate information science and semiotics under the heading Cybersemiotics. The book can be accessed as Google book at:
http://books.google.com/books?id=Ueiv9cRR9OQC&printsec=frontcover&dq=Cybersemiotics&hl=en&src=bmrr&ei=OEzxTa33IIXd0QHzi_XUBA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CckQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false

Søren Brier is a transdisciplinary philosopher of science. He is MSc in biology from U. of Copenhagen, Ph.D. in Philosophy of Science at U. of Roskilde and Doctor (Habil) of Philosophy at CBS. He is the founder and editor of the interdisciplinary quarterly journal *Cybernetics & Human Knowing*, a fellow of the American Society for Cybernetics and has been awarded with The Warren McCulloch Award. Brier is also member of the board of the Sociocybernetic Group in Int. Sociological Ass, Int. Ass. for Biosemiotic Studies and its *Journal of Biosemiotics* as well as the the scientific board of The Science of Information Institute.



ISA Executive Committee Meeting in Mexico City

Michael Burawoy, University of California, Berkeley and ISA President.

The ISA Executive Committee spent 5 days meeting in Mexico City, generously hosted by the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences at UNAM, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, in particular by its Dean, Dr. Fernando Castañeda Sabido, who is also President of the Mexican Sociological Association, and Dr. Raquel Sosa Elízaga who is also Vice-President of the ISA for Program. The 5 day marathon began with a day-long meeting of the Program Committee, and then meetings of the Publications Committee chaired by VP, Jennifer Platt, the Finance and Membership Committee chaired by VP, Robert Van Krieken, the National Liaison Committee, chaired by VP, Tina Uys, and the Research Coordinating Committee, chaired by VP, Margaret Abraham. The Executive Committee met as a whole for two days at the end of the week. Simultaneous with the meetings of the various committees our hosts organized an exciting conference, drawing on Mexican and ISA sociologists, addressing the theme Facing Inequality: A Challenge for the Contemporary World, prefiguring the debates at the ISA World Congress in Yokohama.

I reported on my various visits to different countries since being elected President at the Gothenburg Congress and then presented progress on our new Digital Worlds: the new newsletter, Global Dialogue, now appearing in 9 languages 6 times a year; the open university, Global Sociology, Live!; our own Sociotube devoted to sociology in action; and finally our blog, Universities in Crisis. They have all been well received and the ISA now has an active Facebook page that has drawn a lot of attention. I emphasized the importance of connecting teams of young sociologists across the globe to work on these Digital Worlds.

Part of my commitment to Digital Worlds is to create greater openness and transparency both in the operations of the Executive Committee and in its relation to the National Associations, Research Committees and general membership. So we will now publish a short annual report of our proceedings, like this one, in Global Dialogue, including the EC's major decisions. We also discussed a set of principles that would govern our decision-making and deliberations, including recognition of 'conflict of interests'.

We agreed that I would set up a number of subcommittees to deal with questions concerning the human rights of sociologists, early-career sociologists, ISA prizes, and the affiliation of ISA to other international organizations.

What follows are summaries of the reports of the individual Vice-Presidents.

Margaret Abraham, Vice-President for Research.

The Research Coordinating Committee (RCC) had a productive meeting in Mexico City. It addressed matters arising from the previous RCC meeting in Gothenburg. This included posting online the updated Aims and Requirements for Research Committees and approving the recommendation to increase the minimum number of members required to establish a Research Committee (RC) from 25 to 50 ISA members in good standing, and 25 members to establish a Working Group (WG). Margaret Abraham presented reports on Congrex (based on input from RCs, WGs and TGs – Thematic Groups) and on the plans for the 2012 Forum in Buenos Aires. The RCC discussed these reports and other RC related matters including the RC51 Board elections. It also reviewed proposals for two new Thematic Groups: (1) Institutional Ethnography and (2) Senses and Society. The former was approved while the latter is under review. A major portion of the meeting was devoted to the review and approval of ISA Research Committee grant applications for 2011.

Jennifer Platt, Vice-President for Publications

ISA journals have been doing well, with increased submissions, circulation and citations. However, editors' workloads have increased, and some previous local financial support has been withdrawn; a (successful) bid, supported by details of current costs, was therefore made for increased funding. Efforts are being made to identify regional problems in accessing digital content, so that policy can be adapted as required. A volume translating important work written by scholars from North East Asia is planned in connection with the Yokohama 2014 World Congress of Sociology.

No complete application for the next editorship of the International Sociology Review of Books was received by the deadline; it was agreed to extend this, and to encourage further candidates to apply. The editor of Current Sociology has run workshops for potential authors, and a 'Meet the Editors' session was held in Mexico City. Similar activities will be organized at as many meetings and training activities as possible.

Raquel Sosa, Vice-President for Program

The Program Committee for the World Congress in Yokohama (2014) is composed of the President, the Vice-Presidents for Research and National Associations, 4 members of the Executive Committee, the chair of the Local Organizing Committee and 6 social scientists chosen for their expertise, and representation of different academic traditions and regions. The committee is chaired by the Vice-President of Program. Its basic task is to shape the scientific program and debates that will take place in Yokohama by organizing the various plenaries, 'author meets critics' sessions, integrative sessions, etc. in accordance with the theme: Facing an Unequal World: Challenges for a Global Sociology. At its first meeting, the Program Committee determined the overall schedule of the program and the four main themes for plenaries: multidimensional analysis of inequality, dynamics of inequality, issues of justice, and finally, alternative ways of overcoming inequality. We hope that these guidelines will be stimulating for our Research Committees and National associations and that they will serve to nurture fruitful academic exchanges as well as proposals to address one of the most pressing problems of the contemporary world.

Tina Uys, Vice-President for National Associations

The National Associations Liaison Committee (NALC) discussed the applications for regular collective membership and website development and regional conference grants from the National Associations. Applications from the Argentinean, Bangladesh, Irish, Lebanese and the Mozambican Sociological Associations were approved. Members of the NALC were appointed to act as liaisons for the new members. When discussing the grant applications the NALC considered it important to clarify the requirements for the two grants. A website development grant is awarded for assistance in establishing a functioning website for a national association. Support for a substantial revision of a website is a low priority. It was also decided that National Associations should be encouraged to provide the home page of their websites in one of the official languages of the ISA. The aim of a grant for a regional conference is to provide funding for fostering dialogue across national borders in a region or for cross-region workshops. Website development and regional workshop grants were awarded to the Albanian Institute of Sociology and the Kyrgyzstan National Association; the Spanish and Portuguese National Associations received a joint grant for the organization of a regional workshop. It was also decided that the progress report that each grant recipient has to submit, should be made available at the following EC meeting.

The call for proposals for the NALC conference in 2013 was approved and will be distributed to all National Associations. Discussions were initiated about a possible theme for the conference. Finally, the NALC is considering conducting research on the history, membership, activities, structures and constraints of each National Association with a view to determining ways in which the NALC can assist National Associations.

Robert Van Krieken, Vice-President for Finance and Membership

The Finance and Membership Committee met on 22 March 2011 and reported to the Executive Committee on 25 March. After considering a number of membership issues, including the question of differentiating the Life Membership fee for Category A, B, and C countries and the problem of increasing membership in Category B and C countries, a membership sub-committee was formed to report with recommendations to the next EC meeting in 2012. As the NALC did, so did the Finance and Membership Committee approve the applications for collective regular membership. The contracts and budgets for the two major forthcoming conferences – the Forum in Buenos Aires in 2012 and the World Congress in Yokohama in 2014 – were discussed as they approach finality.

It was decided to make provision for donations to the ISA when commencing or renewing ISA membership. The provisional 2011 budget was revised in light of applications for grants from National Associations and Research Committees, from the President for his Global Dialogue newsletter and from the Publications Committee. Finally, a summary budget was finalized for 2010 which will be made available to the membership on request.

Other Items

We discussed reports from our representatives to the UN (Jan Fritz, Rosemary Barberet and Rudolf Richter), to the International Institute for the Sociology of Law (Ramon Flecha and Benjamin Tejerina), Global Development Network (Emma Porio). We heard from Tina Uys about progress on the next Laboratory for PhD students in Johannesburg. We also composed a message of solidarity with Japanese sociologists, reasserting our commitment to the 2014 Yokohama Congress. We ended on a note of thanks to our hosts for their overfly owing hospitality, and to the indefatigable staff of the ISA Secretariat for facilitating our complex meeting. The ISA marches on with more members and more activities.

- (1) *Information from: Burawoy, M. (2011) ISA Executive Committee Meeting in Mexico City. Available in: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/global-dialogue/?p=255> updated on May 7, 2011.*

ISA Vice-president Report 2011*

Margaret Abraham, ISA Vice-President for Research (May 24, 2011)

Greetings! As part of my commitment to ongoing communications I would like to share with you the major issues discussed at the Research Coordinating Committee (RCC) meetings held in Mexico City as well as update you on the ongoing preparations for the Forum 2012.

Issues Arising from the Previous RCC Meeting in Gothenburg 2010:

We addressed matters arising from the previous RCC meeting in Gothenburg 2010. The issues included posting online the updated *Aims and Requirements for Research Committees*. This has been done and the text is available on http://www.isa-sociology.org/about/rc_aims.htm We approved the recommendation to increase the minimum number of members required to establish a Research Committee (RC) from 25 to 50 ISA members in good standing, and 25 members in good standing to establish a Working Group (WG).

Report on Congrex: I presented my report on Congrex, a professional congress organiser, entrusted with the organization of the ISA Forum in Barcelona 2008 and World Congress in Gothenburg 2010. While acknowledging the overall success of both conferences (including many of the services provided by Congrex). The report provides some recommendations to rectify previous gaps and to consider ways to enhance the services for the 2012 Forum (A copy of the full Congrex report is available on request to Izabela Barlinska at isa@isa-sociology.org).

Report on Forum 2012: The theme *Social Justice and Democratization* for the Forum was approved by the RCC. The RCC discussed ways to enhance participation and diversity. Also discussed was the importance of clarifying to RC/WG/TG the difference between the Forum and the World Congress. The Forum is not

* Due space constraints we offer an extract of the report made by the RC51 Newsletter Editor.

mandatory for RC to participate, rather it is an invitation; it focuses on both meeting the RC needs and bringing themes to the larger public; it provides an opportunity for RCs to hold their mid-term conferences; it encourages participation of young people; it begins and ends with the meetings of the Research Council delegates allowing immediate feedback.

Update on Forum2012 Preparations: Much has been done since the decision to hold the Forum2012 in Buenos Aires was announced. The objectives and the priorities for the Forum are posted at the website set-up by ISA Secretariat <http://www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012/>

The invitation to all RC/WG/TG was sent and we have received a very positive response with 54 groups having confirmed their participation! As soon as a RC/WG/TG confirmed its participation it was posted on the Forum website. The Forum schedule was developed with the goal to meet the RCs' request of flexibility and uninterrupted time. It includes also time-slots for Plenary/Thematic Sessions, two Open Forum sessions, as well as a Roundtable session for junior sociologists to meet with senior sociologists. Initial Guidelines for Programme Coordinators have been sent.

Izabela Barlinska and I conducted an on-site visit, met with main organizers, Alicia Palermo, President of the Argentinean Sociological Association, and Alberto Bialakowski, President of the Latin-American Sociological Association, as well as with the Deans of the Faculty of Law and of Social Sciences.

All our sessions will take place at the Faculty of Law of the University of Buenos Aires.

The two Business Meeting sessions of the Research Council, one preceding the Forum and the second one on the very last day, will be held at the Faculty of Social Sciences. Both University venues are offered free.

Each RC/WG/TG will be assigned a local representative (sociologist) who can assist (if needed) on potential Latin-American speakers for the specific RC sessions as well as practical support. Alicia Palermo and Alberto Bialakowski, Co-chairs of the Local organizing committee are working on developing this list.

There is still a lot of preparation to be done but we are committed to all working collaboratively to ensure a productive meeting for the Research Committees.

ISA Research Committees Activities Grant 2011-2014: A major portion of the RCC meeting was devoted to the review and approval of eighteen ISA Research Committee 2011 grant applications. Please note that this set of applications was based on the first call for ISA Research Committee grants applications; subsequent calls will be issued in 2012 and 2013. This grant will not be given in the year of the World Congress as all funds are designated for congress grants.

Review of proposals for Two New Thematic Groups: The RCC also carefully reviewed two proposals to establish new Thematic Groups: 1) Institutional Ethnography and 2) Sense and Society. The former proposal was approved while the latter is under review.

Review of proposals for Two New Thematic Groups:

The RCC also carefully reviewed two proposals to establish new Thematic Groups: 1) Institutional Ethnography and 2) Sense and Society. The former proposal was approved while the latter is under review.

Review of all RC/WG/TG Statutes: The ISA Secretariat is working on *reviewing all RC/WG/TG Statutes*. The ISA Secretariat has been contacting you to address this matter. Special attention is being paid to ensure that: (1) Elections of RC Boards are held in a timely manner. (2) RCs develop improved practices for election, including proactively seeking out new candidates and ensuring at least 2 nominations per executive board position. 3) Conflict of interest is addressed whereby members of the Nominating Committee cannot be candidates for any of the positions and 4) ISA Statutes supersede RC Statutes. We have set up a sub committee to review the statutes.

FOR ACTION:

As you prepare for the ISA Forum 2012, **please keep in mind the following:**

Follow the guidelines provided and pay attention to deadlines.

Special effort needs to be made to distribute information and encourage participation, also from Central America.

Encourage preparation of some Spanish language sessions track to facilitate integration of Spanish speaking participants. However, please note that unfortunately we do not have specific funds to cover translation. Please work creatively to address this for your RC sessions.

Use different types of sessions to increase opportunities for participation (e.g.) roundtable sessions, poster session, distributed papers.

Adhere to the general rules for all presenters: **Rule 1:** One cannot present a paper in the same session that one is chairing, and **Rule 2:** A person (including sole author, co-authors, discussant, plenary speakers, session (co)chair, critic, roundtable presenter, poster presenter) can only be incorporated in the Congress programme twice, no matter their role or function (except Programme Coordinators and session organisers). **Rule 3:** **All programme participants (paper givers, session organizers, chairs, discussants, etc.) must pay a full registration fee before April 10, 2012.**

Contributions to the Global Dialogue Newsletter: Given the important activities and breadth of research among RCs/TGs and WGs, I would like to encourage members to submit articles for the Newsletter, *Global Dialogue*. You may send your submission (approximately 500 words) for the new newsletter to Michael Burawoy at Burawoy@berkeley.edu and a copy to me at margaret.abraham@hofstra.edu with "ISA Newsletter RC Contribution" as the subject heading.



CALL - RC51 Sessions - ISA Forum 2012 in Buenos Aires.

Last days for session proposals!!

The Second ISA Forum of Sociology “Social Justice and Democratization” will take place in 2012 in Buenos Aires, Argentina (<http://www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012>). All RCs are invited to **organize sessions as part of the Forum**.

The Research Committee on Sociocybernetics, RC51, will be organizing sessions at the 2nd ISA Forum 2012, August 1-4, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. We would like to benefit from the location and develop and consolidate links with Latin American researchers. Beyond that, we would take the opportunity to prepare for the RC51-presence in Yokohama in 2014. Members of RC51 are invited to submit proposals for sessions, which are related to the general theme of the ISA Forum and with respect to Sociocybernetic issues. **Héctor Zamorano**, will be the Program Coordinator of the RC51 participation in the ISA Forum 2011.

We would like to develop this theme in relation to sociocybernetic issues such as:

- feed-back-mechanism and their consequences
- systems, systems rationalities and system couplings
- first-order & second-order observation and construction & reconstruction of reality
- learning, control and governance

Proposal should consist of: a) a session title, b) a description of 200 words, and c) full name, email, and affiliation of the session organizer. Please send proposals to the RC51-Program Coordinator **Héctor Zamorano** (zamorano@citynet.net.ar), the RC51-Secretary Czeslaw Mesjasz (mesjaszc@uek.krakow.pl), and the RC51-President Eva Buchinger (eva.buchinger@ait.ac.at).

Deadlines

Session proposals: 15 June 2011

Announcing list of sessions: **15 July 2011**

On-line abstract submission will be open from **25 August to 15 December 2011**

Session Programme Planning: **15 November 2011 to 31 January 2012**

Session Programme Completion: **1 March 2012**

Guidelines for grant application submission. Further details: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012/guidelines-for-grant-application-submission.htm>

Events and call of papers

ISSS2011 Conference and KSS2011 International Symposium for Knowledge and Systems Science

Hull, UK, July 17-22, 2011

Visit the [KSS conference site](#) for further details on the Knowledge and Systems Science Sunday and Thursday meetings.

<http://isss.org/world/node/542>

Supporting Sustainable Communities in Times of Emergency: Participation, Empowerment and Democratic Innovations at Local Level

ISA Research Committee on Sociotechnics/Sociological Practice, RC26, with the Universities of Aegean and Athens. Athens, Greece, September 14-17, 2011 **Abstracts: June 15, 2011**

This is a forum where is going to be discussed the diverse aspects of globalization and the issues of empowering local communities, the role of social capital and the social economy in such processes. The agenda includes the following topics:

- The contemporary dynamics of social capital, the impact of globalization on local communities and common perceptions of world tendencies
- Social economy innovations and sustainable communities
- Inclusive recovery and local city employment governance
- Cellular Globalization in between Local and Global social dimensions
- Empowerment of citizens/workers/consumers/minorities/youth
- Innovative community social development and Education (NGOs, environment/culture/education)
- Social policies, entrepreneurship and social cohesion re-examined
- Organizational sustainability in times of crises, decline, turmoil and change

<http://www3.aegean.gr/sociology/gr/laboratories/ergaxia/English.html>

Eight International Conference on Complex Systems

Hosted by New England Complex Systems Institute. June 26 - July 1, 2011
Boston Marriott, Quincy, MA, USA

<http://necsi.edu/events/iccs2011/>

Heinz von Foerster Congress 2011. Self organization and emergence

University of Vienna November 11th-13th, 2011

A tribute to Heinz von Foerster an international conference on recent advances in self-organization research. Opening event includes a lecture by Yves Couder (Paris). Parallel conferences in this congress are *Self-Organization and Emergence in Nature and Society* and *Emergent Quantum Mechanics*

Information: <http://www.univie.ac.at/hvf11/congress/SelfOrganization.html>

OR53 Operational Research Society Conference

East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham. 6-8 September 2011

http://www.orsoc.org.uk/orshop/x1pylerlwvlnk3zi1wvr4puf/orcontent.aspx?inc=or53_main.htm

Operational Research Society (OR) also known as Operations Research or Management Science (OR/MS) is the discipline of applying advanced analytical methods to help make better decisions. To learn more about O.R. visit <http://www.learnaboutor.co.uk/>

23rd International Conference on System Research, Informatics & Cybernetics

Baden-Baden, Germany. August 1st to 5th, 2011

http://www.iias.edu/frameset_start_inters_ann.html

The Conference will provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of short reports on current systems research in humanities, sciences and engineering. A number of specialized symposia is being organized to focus on research in computer science, synergetics, cognitive science, psychocybernetics, sociocybernetics, logic, philosophy, management, ecology, health care, education and other related areas.

The **RC51 Newsletter** is open for permanent feedback to integrate new suggestions and ideas to achieve its goal: promote news among the ISA RC51 members and a broader scientific community interested in Sociocybernetics.

Please contact the Newsletter editor for any information you would like to include or any further suggestion.

Patricia Almaguer-Kalixto palmaquer@labcomplex.net

RC51 website <http://www.unizar.es/sociocybernetics/> ISA website <http://www.isa-sociology.org>



End of the RC51 newsletter Issue 24