

Building Resilience: Responses to a Turbulent World



UK Systems Society

International Conference: 1st-3rd September 2008 St. Anne's College, Oxford University

Invitation to participate

In this, our twelfth international conference, we will continue our tradition of encouraging debate and critical discussion about key issues facing society. The conference takes a multi-disciplinary perspective. Contributions from all fields are welcome. The programme will run for two and a half days, filled with a variety of activities: keynote addresses from key thinkers; formal presentations; salon-style discussion sessions of delegates' papers, narratives about practice, poster demonstrations and workshops. The emphasis is on participation, dialogue and knowledge exchange.

Conference Chair: Dr. Joanne Tippett, University of Manchester
Operations Chair: Dr. Jennifer Wilby, University of Hull
Programme Chair: Christine Welch, University of Portsmouth
Conference Coordinator: Professor Frank Stowell, University of Portsmouth
For full conference and programme committees see:

www.ukss.org.uk

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Call for papers

We experience a world full of turbulence. In the early years of the 21st century, we can point to many examples of this turbulence: flooding and associated devastation; cyber systems which leave us vulnerable to identity theft and fraud; instability in financial systems causing customers to mistrust their banks. We cannot hope to anticipate, still less control, every source of instability. However, we can aspire to build resilience. We can seek to create human-made systems which, when they fail, fail 'gracefully'. We can seek to anticipate the consequences of natural calamities on all sectors of society, and ensure that we are ready to deal with them. Systems thinking and appropriate tools for systemic practice can help in this endeavour.

Keynote Speakers

Professor Ralph Stacey, Professor of Management at the Business School, University of Hertfordshire, author of numerous books on complexity.

Dr. Tony Kendle, Foundation Director at the Eden Project, where his responsibilities include strategic development and science outreach.

Mark Lynas, Journalist and author of three books on climate change (one now a National Geographic documentary). He was placed 7th in the Independent's Green List 2007.

Sarb Sembhi, Director of Metis-For, is a world expert on networked surveillance, IT security and cybercrime.



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Call for Papers

Contributions to the conference are invited to facilitate conversations about the role of systems ideas in promoting resilience. These might come from (but are not limited to) soft systems approaches, cybernetics, complexity theory or operations research. Fields of application include health, sustainability, emergency planning, financial services, business governance, town planning, cybercrime, and information systems development. We are open to papers from any field dealing with resilience and systems thinking. All papers will be blind-refereed and produced in the conference proceedings.

Structure and Participation

You are invited to submit a proposal for a contribution. This could take the form of:

- Full academic paper (7,000 - 10,000 words)
- Practitioner paper - account of a practical application of systems ideas
- Abstract for a poster display (200 words). Chosen abstracts will appear in the proceedings. Please bring the poster to the conference.
- Proposal for a workshop – please give as much detail as possible.

Submissions must be uploaded electronically, from a link on the Society's website. Papers must be submitted using Microsoft Word, following the guidelines and using the template provided on the Conference website. The conference continues the practice of encouraging the involvement of postgraduate students, and will again award a Student Prize (£100) for the best submitted single-authored research paper or doctoral summary. Papers must be submitted through the same procedure, and on the same dates, as for the academic papers and noted as a student paper.

For further information about the conference:

- see our website – www.ukss.org.uk

Key Dates

Feb. 15 – June 30, 2008 – Early bird registration
April 30, 2008 – Final deadline for all paper submissions (Midnight GMT)
May 30, 2008 – Return of review information to authors
June 20, 2008 – Final, camera ready contributions
June 30, 2008 – Deadline for registration if paper is to be published

Booking Information

The conference is limited to 100 delegates. The 2008 conference will be held in St. Anne's College, which provides up-to-date facilities in the heart of Oxford's historic setting. See www.st-annes.ox.ac.uk.

The conference fee includes full board. We have a limited number of places for a tour of the Bodleian Library on 1st Sept. Please note there is a discount for early bird registration, which ends June 30, 2008.

Member fee: £350 (£400 after June 30)

Non-member fee: £395 (£445 after June 30) To become a member, see the Society website.

Early bird student/unwaged fee: £275 (£295) (limited places)

Day rates available.

A booking form can be downloaded from www.ukss.org.uk. All bookings should be made through the conference secretariat.

For information about bookings:

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