

UK Systems Society International Conference

(co-sponsored by COGS and SPMC)

will take place on 5 - 7 September 2005 at St. Anne's College, Oxford.

Managing Complexity: The contributions of Systems Thinking and Practice

Keynote Speaker: Fritjof Capra

UK Systems Society International Conference

The 2005 UK Systems Society International Conference continues with the successful style set in 2004. Acting on feedback from the 2004 delegates the 2005 conference will take place over 3 days starting on 5th September at 12.00noon.

Conference Theme

The conference is dedicated to facilitating conversations about the use of Systems Theory and Practice relating to : ***“Managing Complexity”***.

Contributions will include (but are not limited to areas such as: health, information systems development, the environment, sustainability, knowledge management and governance.

Structure

The conference will provide two and one half focussed and intensive days with the accent on delegate interaction and knowledge exchange – not forgetting some time for relaxation too!

Day 1: Following lunch on Day 1 there will be opportunities for Researchers to display their research ideas and calls for collaboration in one of the large meeting rooms. This part of the programme is intended to facilitate discussion about Systems research and encourages collaboration. This conference will see the resurrection of the Student Prize and to facilitate this there will be an opportunity to submit a short research paper for consideration.

The conference will then be opened with a keynote address from our distinguished speaker which will mark the beginning of the theory paper section of the conference. Day 1 will conclude with two Master Classes before adjourning for dinner. After dinner there will be a public debate between two distinguished Systems professors. All papers on Day 1 will be delivered in Plenary.

Day 2: will have two streams and will continue with Theory papers.

Day 3: will follow the popular pattern of last year with workshops dedicated to systems practice all aimed at providing opportunities to learn and exchange ideas about using Systems Thinking in a variety of situations. Day 3 will have two streams. Papers should contain an account of the lessons learnt from the application of Systems ideas plus, where possible, practical examples of the application of the ideas.

Each theory paper will be double blind refereed with an accent on high quality. To maximise delegate involvement, opportunities exist for delegates to take on a conference role.

Participation

A new feature of this conference is the display of poster papers to provide researchers with an opportunity to show and discuss their work and interests with other delegates. The accent is on participation and knowledge exchange and in addition to those presenting papers and running workshops invitations will be made to delegates to undertake a conference role. E.g. discussant, stream or workshop chair.

Conference keynote speakers

We are delighted to announce that Professor Fritjof Capra is to give the keynote address. Fritjof Capra is a physicist and systems theorist and founding director of the Centre for Eco-literacy in Berkeley, California, which promotes ecology and systems thinking. He is the author of several international bestsellers, including *The Tao of Physics*, *The Turning Point*, and *The Web of Life* that say something also about his actual work. His most recent book, *The Hidden Connections*, was published this year. He also co-wrote the screenplay for *Mindwalk*, a film based on his books. The conference will include master classes on Action Research given by eminent research Professors and Plenary presentations from distinguished practitioners.

Please see the web site for short biographies of the speakers and for details of the conference format and guidelines (to be available very soon) <http://www.ukss.org.uk/>

Further information

Further information about submissions, bookings and accommodation can be obtained from the conference secretariat:

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