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CONTENTS:

Editor’s introduction

Highlights of 2010-2012 - message from the Secretary

Czesław Mesjasz 4

11th International Conference of Sociocybernetics (Faro, Portugal)

(organizing committee) 11

Ways to get updated about RC51 on Sociocybernetics’ activities

Fabio Giglietto 13

Program of RC51 Sessions in ISA Forum 2012 (Buenos Aires)

Héctor Zamorano 14

Book announcements:
Scope and goals of the book series on “Complexity, Design, Society”

Karl. H Müller 17

Past conference reviews:
Looking Back - Some Contemplations about the 10th International Conference of Sociocybernetics "SOCIOCYBERNETICS AND THE INCREASING COMPLEXITY OF SOCIAL LIFE", Cracow, Poland, June 20-25, 2011.

Bernd Hornung 19

Incursions to the Sociocybernetic field: Perspectives on the recent conference on Complexity and Social Action (Faro, Portugal)

Pedro J. Escriche 20

Events and calls for papers from ISA and IFSR

22
Dear RC51 members:

Issue 26 comes with information related to our recent conference of Sociocybernetics held in Algarve University from the 2nd to the 6th of July in Faro, Portugal. We thought to share with you a summary of the different papers presented to have a hint of the variety of topics that RC51 members are addressing in their current researches and theoretical advances.

For RC51 on Sociocybernetics, annual conferences are key to maintaining debates about current issues. This is also a space where regular members present their empirical and theoretical work, as well as a good opportunity for new comers to understand more about the different sociocybernetic areas of application. In that sense, Bernd Hornung’s and Pedro Escriche’s reflections on previous meetings give to the reader a good idea of the dynamics of these events. You might also enjoy having a look at some pictures. As the ISA Forum is on its way, we present in this issue to the agenda of the 10 sessions organized by Héctor Zamorano, the RC51 program coordinator, wishing a good experience to all the participants of the RC51 sessions.

We have a book announcement: the Book Series on “Complexity, Design and Society” edited by Karl H. Müller from ECHORAUM and WISDOM, a Vienna-based social science institute. Müller presents the overall idea of the series with interesting titles that relate to Cybernetics, Heinz von Foerster’s legacy, selected items in systems theory, Gordon Pask’s work and life, and further explorations in second-order cybernetics: reflections on cybernetics, psychology and education. We thought you might be interested in some of these titles.

Further announcements from ISA are also included. Remember to have a look at them while you are on your summer holidays!

Best regards,

Patricia

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Highlights of 2010-2012 - Message from the Secretariat

Czeslaw Mesjaz (RC51Secretary)

Here some highlights of the Activities Report for the period 2010 – 2012 announced by the RC51 Secretariat during the Conference in Faro, Portugal (2 to 6 July 2012). For further details or please contact Czeslaw Mesjaz at mesjaszc@uek.krakow.pl

RC51 Activities:
Between the period of Fall 2010 to December 2012 we hold two international conferences:

- **11th International Conference of Sociocybernetics: Complexity and Social Action: Interaction and Multiple Systems** in Algarve University, Faro, Portugal between 2 to 6 July 2012.

As RC51 we also participated in the organization of the ISA World Forum in Buenos Aires, 1-4 August 2012 with 10 sessions.

Awards granted by the RC51:
The Walter Buckley Memorial Award for Excellence in Presenting Sociocybernetics” is granted by the RC51 to encourage the improvement of oral paper presentations in conferences by giving a prize to the didactically best presentation in the RC51 sessions at a conference or at an RC51 conference. The complete award winners are presented in the list below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Title of Presentation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Faro</td>
<td>IlknurOner</td>
<td>Complexity of recent disaster and migration patterns: Examples of Thoku – Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Cracow</td>
<td>DominikaSalwa</td>
<td>Management of a system: Example of an economic zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Gothenburg</td>
<td>Luca Rossi</td>
<td>Mass media system 2.0: An empirical analysis of news propagation path in social network sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Urbino</td>
<td>Corinna di Gennaro, Alberto Pepe</td>
<td>Political protest Italian-style: The dissonance between the blogosphere and mainstream media in the promotion and coverage of BeppeGrillo’s V-day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Zachary Jonson</td>
<td>Micro/macro decisions in university leadership and governance: Luhmann in action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Murcia</td>
<td>Margarita Maass</td>
<td>The social memory construction on the technology: A sociocybernetic reflection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Durban</td>
<td>José A. Amozurrutia</td>
<td>Sociocybernetics applied in cultural activity analysis</td>
</tr>
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During the business meeting at the 11th international conference of Sociocybernetics (Faro, Portugal) it was announced that since several members of RC51 will also be presenting in Buenos Aires a special extra edition of the award will be given this year to the best presentation and presenter of RC51 sessions at ISA Forum.
RC51 Newsletter

We are targeting two issues per year. 2011 issues deliver two issues in 2011in 2010 -2012


The Newsletter Is produced in electronic format (pdf) and distributed to RC51 members through the listserv: RC51.on.Sociocybernetics@listas.unizar.es. It is available for non RC51 members by download on the RC51 Newsletter website, where you can find current and past issues. If you are interested in submit information for the following newsletter please contact Dr Patricia Almaguer Kalixto, the current editor, at palmaguer@labcomplex.net

11. Publications

We hold the Journal of Sociocybernetics (ISSN 1607-8667). Previous issue (Volume 8, (1/2) 2010) can be downloaded from http://www.unizar.es/sociocybernetics/Journal/journal_1_2_2010_l.pdf

Two new issues are planned after the 11th RC51 Conference and the ISA Forum in Buenos Aires and a special issue in Complexity and migration.

Special activities for Junior Sociologists

The RC51 encourage junior sociologists’ participation by giving free access to the RC51 International conferences (note this may not be compatible with the ISA World conference fee system) and encouraging students' papers presentations.

Although the ”Walter Buckley Memorial Award for Excellence in Presenting Sociocybernetics” (see above) is not especially dedicated for students, as a practice it goes - when justified - to young researches (e.g. doctoral students). Other ways to encourage Junior Sociologist is through Sociocybernetic projects that RC51 members develop to include doctoral dissertations, postdoctoral work and academic visits in their institutions.

4. Affiliated members

Total number of members of RC51 who are also members of ISA on 31 May 2012 is 127. This number is not stable on average we are about 125 people from all over the world interested in sociocybernetics. Number of affiliated members who belong to RC51 but do not belong to ISA is about 30-35. It is the RC51 policy to encourage affiliate members to join ISA

There have been no changes in the Research Committee Board 2010-2014, appointed in 2010. Date of the next Board elections 2014.

You can read more on Aims and Requirements for Research Committees at http://www.isa-sociology.org/about/rc_aims.htm

For further information related to the Secretary of RC51 on Sociocybernetics please contact Czesław Mesjaz at mesjaszc@uek.krakow.pl
The RC51 11th International Conference of Sociocybernetics was held in Algarve University (Faro, Portugal) during the first week of July 2012. The call for papers under the title “Complexity and Social Action: interaction and multiple Systems” emphasised the themes of decision making and action, violence and social movements, as they embodied process resulting from the concerted action of a diverse set of interconnected social systems. Beyond those main topics, other papers addressing conceptual and theoretical issues in Sociocybernetics or reporting relevant empirical findings were also presented. The result of the conference was a rich discussion on different theoretical reflections and empirical applications of the Sociocybernetic’s body of knowledge that the RC51 members are strengthening through their work in different parts of the world. We present in RC51 Newsletter issue, the core of the papers’s presented with the intention to share the diversity of perspectives and contents addressed in the conference, this year. Full version of the abstracts is available in the Conference Booklet at our RC51 website as well as the full program can be downloaded. Appearance by alphabetical order.

ALMAGUER, Patricia and AMOZURRUTIA, José A. Participatory-Action Research: Basis for an analytical model merging Cibercultur@ and Sociocybernetics

The paper aims to discuss the conceptual and methodological basis that can be derivated from Cibercultur@ and Sociocybernetics in order to build an analytical model for Participatory Action Research (PAR). The first part of the paper discusses how PAR literature has integrated systemic perspectives in theory and practice. Action research literature has long tradition in educational field, action learning, community research and lately rural and regional development. Much of this work has been linked to systemic thinking in different degrees and styles, recognizing Lewin, Bateson, and Luhman’s influence. This has derivated in Systemic Action Research, a scientific methodology that engages open systems thinking and reflective inquiry (Herrsch 2006; Burke 2006, Burns 2007). How would look like a participatory action research model based on Sociocybernetics and Cibercultur@ concepts? The second part of this paper argues the conceptual contributions that Cibercultur@ and Sociocybernetics may offer for a PAR model proposal: a) an interdisciplinary approach as the basis of research design, b) a complex-systems perspective that emphasizes the research process as an adaptive system, d) second order observation perspective to enhance reflexivity of the process and c) the categories of information-communication-knowledge as a basis for analysis of complex research and action.

AMOZURRUTIA, José A. Sociocybernetic Approach to Enhance Reflexivity in Research Projects Dynamics

In this paper I focus on system development process carried out by five academic research projects as part of academic activities at LabCOMplex in the last three years. Researchers have used the Adaptive System strategy proposed from the author since 2007. Methodology and strong emphasis on second
order reflexivity i.e. as cybernetic of cybernetics (von Foerster, 1973), is based on Sociocybernetic perspective (Geyer, 1995 and Hornung, 2006). At the same time, general research environment is emphasized from the Cibercultur@ approach (González, Maas and Amozurrutia, 2007), with a strong emphasis on distributed intelligence and dialogical communication among other components. System development process in each project is analyzed from Genetic Epistemology Theory. Unit of analysis is based on Jean Piaget and Rolando Garcia epistemological concepts (Garcia, 2000, 2006 y Piaget, 2005). The aim is to observe how researchers observed system construction, system thinking and system products. Our final target is to show how we may represent dynamics of complex system construction and cognitive research transformation process.

AMOZURRUTIA, José A.; BOIRA, Santiago; CASTILLO, María F. del & MARCUELLO, Chaime. 
**Gender violence in Spain: A qualitative and systemic approach**

This paper offers a qualitative and systemic approach to gender violence and its recent evolution in Spain. Spanish society has experienced a deep transformation in last three decades. We analyze the context and focus on its consequences for sex roles and gender violence. We have studied heuristically these phenomena considering the discourses of aggressors (n = 45), victims (n = 9), and professionals (n = 14) directly involved in the problem. We find “fear,” amongst other things, is the main feature of the symbolic universes around gender violence in the period after the 1/2004 Integral Protection Measures against Gender Violence Act. The different legal operators are constrained by their own role expectations and a kind of “socially shared fear”. These aspects affect the practical issues and they are partially blocked by a collection of axiomatic and ideological positions. We find that it is necessary to modify researching categories in order to understand these phenomena.

ARAMBURU, Leandro & MORENO-JIMÉNEZ, José María.
**Public policy design through the e-cognocracy. A sociological analysis of the citizens’ motivation in public decision making**

The Knowledge Society is the new reference frame where social relations take place. Some of their fundamental characteristics are comprehension, communication and consensus. These promote the understanding of others to achieve the coexistence in an increasingly complex world. The Knowledge Society together with the information and communication technologies (ICT) permits the citizens’ participation in public decision making. Unfortunately most of the experiences in this area suffer from a minimal response by the citizenry. Currently there is a new model in development of cognitive democracy based on internet, known as “e-cognocracy”. This model intents to facilitate the joint decision making between politicians and citizens as well as looking for an increase in the citizens’ quality of life by their education. In this way, the model enables the e-involvement by the e-discussion within its own decision process. Recently this model has been proved with successful in a real-life experience in the design of public policies that took place in the Spanish municipality of Cadrete, Zaragoza. This paper suggests a sociological approach to explore the possibilities and the difficulties implicated by the e-cognocracy model.

BUCHINGER, Eva. **Complex social systems and the construction of reality: “Person” between self-reference and hetero-reference**

A “person” is a social attribution to human beings and therefore not an entity, but a construct. According to N. Luhmanns theory of social systems, the construct person is constituted for the sake of ordering behavioural expectations and consists at least of the following parts: a) psychic system (consciousness, with ego as identical pole) plus; and b) organic system (body) and persona (societal interface I) & role-set (societal interface II).It is the psychic system which constructs and maintains an ego as identical pole in form of a self-referential process on basis of meaning. This ego is the opposite pole to all other manifold object-poles which represents the reference to the environment (Husserl): i.e. hetero-reference. Even body, persona and role-set are object poles and therefore a matter of hetero-reference: i.e. person = self- + hetero-reference. The construct person which is attributed by one individual to another individual (“ego” versus “alter”) is to the contrary only a matter of hetero-reference. From the perspective of the theory of social systems, most of the construction of “a person” is a question of observation: one can observe him-/herself (body-, persona-, role-characteristics) and relate it to his/her identical ego pole. But the self-reference of the psychic system cannot be observed. In the perspective of the theory of social systems it is an emergent phenomenon – eventually resulting from the difference between self- and hetero-reference.
ESCRICHE, Pedro José. Analyzing decision making in socio-environmental problems with a Sociocybernetic perspective: the case of the oasian communities of Tafilalet

The paper presents an analysis of how oasian communities decide upon socio-environmental problems—in specific, water management— in a context of increasing scarcity of natural resources because of climate change and human pressure. In the first part, we will study the oasian community as a complex system model in constant connection with its environment, always depending on water for its survival. In the South East of Morocco, nomad communities have been living for centuries around a myriad of little spots that share one essential element in common: water. These oasis have survived up to now mainly through a delicate and complex system of balances between population, economic activities and water, thanks to the accumulated experience of previous generations, crystallized in oral tradition. In the second part we present an analysis of the oasis as a complex system, considering the different elements of the oasian community: inner elements like Jamaa, hotels, associations, etc. and external elements like local and regional government, NGOs, international institutions and, specially, international tourists. We analyze how the decision making process on environmental relations and, specially, water management, has worked up to now, and how it has remained static despite the recent conflicts and problems in last years.

FERREIRA, Ana & LISBOA, Manuel. Trust in Action

Social action is preceded by a decision-making process that connects variables coming from different systems. In each action, the social actor combines knowledge, values and social models that can be rationalized along with emotional dimensions strongly rooted in the body. Assuming this perspective, we will argue that social action cannot be explained only through the social system, or its relationship with the cultural system, but, as proposed by Talcott Parsons, by their interaction with other systems, namely the psychological and the biological systems. Among others, Barbalet proposes that both rationality and emotions are critical for embodied decision–making, since the uncertainty, that distinctively mark these processes, prevents strictly rational costs/benefits calculations. The contingency of the future’s unknowability characterizes innovation processes, where trust - a social emotion understood as secure expectations, based on past and present experiences and occurring at the boundaries of consciousness - overrides future’s uncertainty allowing action progression. To start addressing the interdependence of these systems and its emergent proprieties and expanding our findings on the role of emotions and rationality in innovation, we’ll start addressing how embodied decision-making in innovation processes are framed by the social, cultural and physiological systems and its intra-systemic and inter-systemic roots and connections. Not precluding knowledge specialization, but rather, crossing socially-constructed disciplinary boundaries, we aim to gather a deeper understanding of “trust in action”.

GIGLIETTO, Fabio. Social Actions, Uncertainty and Big Data

Our everyday decision making is often conceived as an action taken in the present, affected and constrained by the past and shaping our future. Although essentially paradoxical, this structure of time is the way systems orient themselves. During the last few years we are witnessing a surge to new technologies aimed at storing and analyzing large quantity of data. At the same time the amount of data produced every day – let’s just think of user generated content on social media - is skyrocketing. As storing data becomes cheaper, organizations are increasingly relying on their data-driven past to orient future actions. Given the unavoidable uncertainty of the future it is reasonable to believe that more data brings to an higher definition image of our past that will lead, in place, to better choices. Not only enterprises but increasingly also single individuals are starting to adopt similar strategies. The process of continuous tracking of sleep, physical activities, weight, blood pressure, heart rate and other data is today supported by a new wave of powerful connected and often portable devices. Users can set future goals (such as a weight loss) and keep track of their progress. Data and goal sharing is often used as an additional motivator fostered by social pressure. The paper will discuss the potential effects of this trend on decision making and social actions, in light of the structure of time introduced above. Implications on both social and individual level will be addressed.

HORNUNG, Bernd R. Man, motivation, and emotion at work in organizations - Behavior, Action, and Emotion in a Multi-System Environment

Modern business organizations are complex and highly dynamic systems in a highly dynamic complex environment. It is, however, the individual employee who creates products and value in such a multi-level-multi-systems environment. He is himself a complex bio-psycho-socio-cultural system. The paper takes the example of a university hospital as a particularly complex system of this kind providing a brief outline of its
properties in sociocybernetic terms. Particular complexity results from the unity of teaching, research, and health care inside a German university hospital and in some cases from a split between private and public sector. This raises motivational and emotional difficulties for the staff, corporate culture, and corporate identity. Values at the level of the company, its members, and teams, risk to become discrepant. Possible problems affecting the individual and its work satisfaction are outlined, which may lead to the burn-out phenomenon and the loss of staff. The latter is of particular importance in a hospital, but also at the level of the health care system, where competition for patients, for nursing and medical staff is tough. To be successful, an organization needs to replace the rational approach by a wholistic emotional approach. The theoretical link between emotional man and the wider organizational context is orientation theory, which is applicable both to organizations and the emotional system. The paper concludes with a number of suggestions, how work satisfaction might be promoted and developed by running a business organization in a sociocybernetically informed way.

LISBOA, Manuel & CEREJO, Dalila. Sociology of emotions in contexts of risk and uncertainty: an attempt of a Sociocybernetic approach through the use of emotional expression indicators
This paper aims to reflect on several interrogations that came to us from sociological researches developed in Portugal, where it has been made clear that social actors are conditioned to act within contexts of risk and uncertainty, particularly gender violence. The actions of the social actors involved, whether they are victims or aggressors, particularly within the contexts of violent interaction, cannot be understand without shedding light on several emotional and sentimental dimensions that emerge and conditioned that action. Some of these actions are determinant in the production and reproduction of violence. Accordingly, a new step was taken in order enhance the knowledge of gender violence. This paper intends to demonstrate how victims of domestic violence, in contexts of in-depth interviews, demonstrate their emotional context, through the analysis of the emotional expression indicators. Undeniably there are specific social emotions in the experience of violent situations, particularly within the conjugal ties and the way that those emotions can condition social action. Our hypothesis is that some social emotions can inhibited and condition action towards the acts of violence. We use shame and guilt as two specific indicators to understand battered women’s maintenance of violent relations and look for clues through the results of a detailed analysis of expression of emotional status throughout the interview. 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 and visual gestures. It is the results of this analysis that we intend to expose in this meeting.

LOECKENHOFF, Helmut K. Justice, Justness: Balancing Ambiguity. A Case of Social Complexity to be Governed
As social and societal evolution as well as history display, semidynamics, the evolvement of meaning, proved an essential factor. It acted as well as a directional driver, a constraint and a constituting force. Meaning co-determined the co-action with inner and outer environments of individuals and social groupings. Meaning shaped the social and societal behaviour by rules of social conduct, based on value systems and manifested in ethics. Justice, as a basic value, constitutes the pivot to decide whether occurring decisions and events can be ‘judged’ as ‘right’; irrespectively whether it concerns what merely happens, how one acts, and how one is treated by fate or contemporaries. In the world field ‘justice’, languages bear testimony, dependent from culture, of proximate values; e.g. connecting terms as truth, honour, or appropriateness. Even if justice and its connotations qualify as cultural universals, cultural differences are striking. ‘Egalité, liberté, fraternité’ are as typically French as the common understanding of ‘human rights’ reveals as ‘Western’ culture compared with Asian or Chinese base values. The distortion of central value systems as justice reflects growing social complexity mastered poorly if at all. The technical complexity induced by a technology based civilisation has been accompanied by complexity, opaqueness and non-obliging value systems responding to changing ore even disappearing basic traditional meaning. As for justice, the division of power into legislation, jurisdiction and execution securing the control and balance power has weakened. In vital systems negative feedback, acting as constraining and balancing measure, has been wilfully weakened or removed. Bureaucracy and complexity are instrumentalised as means of gaining and maintaining power. A turn is neither in sight nor likely without thorough re-consideration.
KLEIN, Louis. Thoughts on an ecology of paradigms

The ecology of paradigms conceptualises an alternative perspective on culture. The focus is on practice and understands culture as the paradigmatic reference of a community of practice. This looks at procedures of self-observation and self-description as well as on the routines of meaning creation and sense making. The perspective brought forward is radical in its focus on communities of practice. This links to concepts of different roles people play which in this sense have different paradigmatic references. This co-existence of different paradigmatic references holds for the individual as well as for the global scale. It acknowledges professions next to religions next to youth and pop culture next to administrative procedures. Ecology, the science of co-existence, allows the synopsis of different cultures on the whole scale ranging from competition to symbiosis. The clash of civilisations happens at the same time as the co-evolution of protestant ethics and capitalism. Based on the concept of ecology of paradigms we can take a pro-active stand and cease to submit reactively to traditions and catechism. We may start to see possibilities and responsibilities which come with our practices and their paradigmatic references. And finally mind that evolution correlates with symbiosis and not with competition.

MAASS, Margarita. Culture field as a complex system

Culture is in general studied in social sciences, but in this case, we are studying culture in science and humanities for the interdisciplinary development PhD programme, where we have integrated a group of five PhD students interested in developing research related with culture as a main theme and cultural practices from qualitative methods of society knowledge. Within our group we have several issues surrounding this issue: "The field of culture in Mexico and their power struggles", "the problems of creative art workers", "cognitive restructuring dealing with technological vector", "New cultural practices in cultural institutions". All these issues are part of this great one of culture, studied in this case as a great central system related with cultural policies in our country. Specific sub-systems with different value and processing degree, which are part of a system call "culture" inviting us to work from a methodological model on the Sociocybernetics emergence and since Cyberculture perspective. In this central System of "culture," each of the sub-systems is related and complemented with each other in building concrete procedures of observation and analysis units, as the elements of a larger system analyzed from a constructivist operational methodology. The Sociocybernetics is more like a laberintic approach than a straight highway with a happy ending. Therefore, this paper presents a methodology proposal that, from the main features of general systems theory proposed by Rolando Garcia (2006) in his Theory of complex social systems, based on Piaget's constructivism. He shows us how these investigations are forming a complex interrelated empirical Sociocybernetics working as an interdisciplinary research.


The generalization and extension of the Internet has changed our world and our societies. It is a structural transformation in micro, meso and macro levels where new social habits are modifying the economies, the processes of thinking even the way of loving and, mainly, the political arena. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are formatting the social systems. These ICT and the endless new devices introduce a “radical mutation” in people, organizations and daily life. Now, at the same time, analogue social system and hard societies overlap digital generations and soft societies. In any case, we are moving globally to a different scenario. ICT are defining new spheres and horizons in political interaction spaces. The customs and theories about traditional political representation and political identities are altered as a consequence of this change vector. This paper explores, firstly, these ICTs and their contextual consequences. Secondly, proposes a theoretical framework to conceptualize and describe the effects of the “internetization” and “digitalization” of our lives and, specially, its effects in the emergence of social movements. And thirdly, we describe some conceptual milestones to understand how the digital generations are building a social architecture where the emotions and meanings are supported on a different way of doing and thinking.

MEDINA, Pedro. Why are we still here?

In spite of the countless attempts at erecting a long time predictable theory of humankind’s evolution – particularly from his historical and social perspectives - the whole of such attempts have so far failed. From the reasons that justify this situation three are especially striking: (a) The complexity of the phenomena under scrutiny - entailing either the uncontrollable events that until now have threatened Earth (like
asteroids’ impacts) or the aggressiveness and violence intrinsically rooted in ourselves, (b) the unthinkable era we are presently undergoing, rendering any forecast practically meaningless and (c) the fact that a great deal of the variables and parameters that (eventually) would be used to erect such an endeavored mathematical theory have no measurable, quantitative counterpart (in a classical, physical sense). This paper aims at solving part of these questions using a novel, fresh tack based on three main assumptions: (i) Gordon Pask’s Conversation Theory (albeit partially modified by myself), (ii) the influence that unconscious ‘mechanisms have had throughout time in humankind’s fate, and (iii) the use of the so-called Fuzzy Cognitive Maps that provides a formal, mathematical base upon which the significant narrations of the historical/social evolution of humanity rests.

MESJASZ, Czesław. Equilibrium, stability and turbulence: How physics has shaped and limited economic thinking

The impact of physics onto economic, finance and management has been exerted in four ways. Firstly at the ontological and epistemological level by attempting to make economics in a “scientific” way. Secondly, by applications of physical models in the cases where a sufficient amount of data could be collected. Thirdly, by using models plus their phenomenological interpretations, and fourthly, with the use of analogies and metaphors applied in studies and policy making. The transfer of ideas from physics to economics and other social sciences can be illustrated with applications of five concepts — equilibrium, stability, turbulence, complexity and chaos. Although the above notions are widely used in economics, finance and management yet methods and influence of their applications are not sufficiently deeply analyzed. Their applications may lead to simplifications, sometimes artificial impression of normative “objectivity”, and even to scientism. The aim of the paper is to show how the ideas of equilibrium, stability and turbulence were transferred from mathematics, physics and control theory to economics, finance and management. Special stress will be put on the impact of mathematical models and metaphors associated with equilibrium, stability and turbulence on the discourse in economic theory and practice, since the incomprehensibility of contemporary economy is often linked with constraints imposed by those ideas on interpretations of phenomena in economics, finance and management.

PIRES, Edmundo Balsemão. Double Contingency reexamined – Agents and Agency according to Luhmann’s Theory of Social Systems

Sociology and Economics shaped the notion of “Social System” from what seemed an unquestionable starting point in the motivation of individual agents provided with a capability to plan complex courses of actions conditioned by rational purposes. This idea is now criticized and became questionable. The discussion of the cognitive basis of the agency and the discovery of non-conscious dimensions in human action proved that the idea of a continuity and conscious transparency between the agent’s representation of the action’s goals and the actual sequence of the actions in the world is disputable if not entirely false. The concept of the individual agent separated from groups, institutions or communicative underpinnings and unique responsible for a program of action is a fiction difficult to maintain in the actual state of the social research. The economic models that started with the individual will of the “rational agent” to describe the economic equilibrium of the markets and the aggregate variables, inattentive to social contexts of communication, need also a revision, today. In my presentation I’ll propose a critical evaluation of both sociological and economic backgrounds of the “methodological individualism” in the social sciences. My paper will provide a central place to N. Luhmann’s analysis of the problem of the “double contingency”.

RAVEN, John. Advances in mapping, measuring, and harnessing the complex network of social forces which lie behind the functioning of the “Educational” system... and have the future of humankind and the planet in their grip

By the time Figure 1 was published (in 1995) it had become clear that the central “governance” – socio-cybernetic sub-system - in this wider system (see box to the right of centre in Figure 1) had to be re-designed along non-hierarchical, organic, lines. Indeed, it was already clear that the hierarchical design of our so-called “democratic” systems was driving us toward our extinction as a species. The very idea of trying to design an alternative socio-cybernetic system for the management of society was questioned by some members of the UK group SCiO. They argued that, instead, it is necessary to allow a new system to emerge from the kind of activity that can be observed in some classrooms and organisations. Unfortunately, precisely these developments are eliminated by the network of systems forces depicted in Figure 1. The (re) publication of Bookchin’s Ecology of Freedom forcefully underlined the importance of studying the social forces shown in the sub-system box.
(labelled sociological demands) on the right hand side of Figure 1. This sub-system has the survival of our species and planet in its grip. Our own earlier sketch of the forces operating in this system is given in http://www.eyeonsociety.co.uk/resources/diagram%2020.6.pdf. Mapping this network would be an enormous task ... and one which could not be accomplished without substantial external funding ... especially as it is clear that the value of the work would depend on the quality of the resulting map. Assistance in obtaining the necessary funding has therefore become a priority.

RUEFF, Maria do Céu. LegesArtis and assisted dying
In this paper I will analyse medical performances at the end of life, and confront them with the responses of Portuguese Criminal Law. I will cross the criminal doctrine with a broader, interdisciplinary approach, including the reconsideration of medicine ethical tradition (notably the Hippocratic Writings) and the present developments in neurosciences. The “transition from an automatic homeostasis to a deliberate homeostasis” (Damásio, 2003) helps me to clarify to which extent the medical act – according to the legisartis – rather than a legal construction (or need for changes in the legal frame) becomes the centre of the whole problem. Indeed, it is within the medical act, understood as the encounter of two autonomies – patient’s and doctor’s autonomies --, that the “deliberated homeostasis” takes place, as a result from the compromise between the patient’s will of ceasing her/his life and the doctor’s duty to relieve suffering. The principle of “compassion” plays here a decisive role. An integrative perspective of Medical Law, by recognizing and exploring the structural connections between medical system and legal system, will certainly incorporate all situations of compassion at the end of life, in order to comprise a broader spectrum of cases (including the so-called “active euthanasia”). Such perspective has been already opened by the Portuguese neurologist João Lobo Antunes (2010), who invokes the so-called principle of mercy, or compassion, “which is not in fact synonymous of beneficence”.

SCHIEFF, Thomas. Looking Glass Self, Depression, and Violence: A Cybernetic Theory
This paper reviews the work of Goffman and Cooley in order to outline an interactionist theory. Is shame the force that leads most people to conform to social conventions, but under certain conditions, to withdrawal or violence? To explore this issue, it is first necessary to define what is meant by shame and pride, since there is confusion about the meaning of these terms, especially in the English language. The meaning of the concept of alienation is also reviewed. Empirical studies by Norbert Elias and Helen Lewis seem to support the idea that shame is the master emotion in modern societies. Another feature of Lewis’s work is the recognition of the social character of both pride and shame. Her work also may be used to develop a cybernetic theory: shame can act back on itself or on anger, leading to feedback loops that have no natural limit. A runaway shame loop is most likely to end in depression, or less likely a shame/anger loop, “humiliated fury,” in violence.

SCOTT, Bernard. Minds in Chains: A Sociocybernetic Analysis of the Abrahamic Faiths
The central concern of this paper with how humanity can cope with the many problems that require a global, coordinated response. Using concepts from sociocybernetics, I have argued elsewhere that the problems are inter-related and need to be tackled holistically. I have also discussed the requirement for ‘education for enlightenment’, one that would facilitate concerted action on a global scale. In this paper I address the troubling matter of ‘pathological belief systems’, which I have previously defined, following Pask, as those that ‘restrict the right of actors to interact’. As examples, I consider the tangled ‘Gordian’ knot of beliefs that constitute the Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. It is my belief that an analysis based on well-defined sociocybernetic principles can help cut through this knot and lay bare just what is pathological. The attraction of such an analysis is that, whilst it requires at least a broad brush stroke understanding of the central tenets of the three faiths, their similarities and differences and their intertwined histories, it does not require one to pass judgements and ‘take sides’ with respect to the major controversies that divide the faiths, except with respect to the extent to which they do or do not incorporate the possibilities for an education for enlightenment. More generally, a properly formulated sociocybernetic analysis does not require one to pose any fundamental opposition between ‘science’ and ‘religion’. What the analysis can do is help identify what are the key differences between ‘science’ and ‘religion’ as routes to knowledge and understanding, whilst noting that there are ‘undecideable questions’ about which an individual should be permitted to formulate her own beliefs without opposition or condemnation from others.
HEINZ SIMON, Karl. Transformations of or in social systems – what elements are changing and how?
There are recent attempts to explain societal transformation processes. Starting point is the application of classical cybernetics concepts (type Ashby) describing a state of the system at the beginning of the change process and a state of the system after the transformation act. The connection between start and end stages are the translation measures and those operators that are responsible for bringing forth the new system state. In addition to the four elements mentioned above, further differentiations are that between open and closed transformations. Closed transformation processes are deterministic in character and describe a “transformation mechanism”, a machine. Open transformations focus on a selectivity of elements that are used in the transformation process – others are ignored – and on the appearance of new elements. The crucial question is: what does that mean “appearance of new elements”? And a second one (as Dirk Baeker asked recently): Is it possible to keep control over the transformation process? Baeker suggested to “de-trivialize” the concept of transformation and to focus on endogenous elements in the transformation. Similar to the concept of the non-trivial machine of von Foerster obviously such a transformation process (a) cannot be determined “unambiguously and completely” from outside the system. (b) A second important suggestion is to situate states of the transformation process in the centre of attention (and not the start and end stages). Hence, a society is labelled as transformation society if certain elements are classified as unsustainable, and others as sustainable. However, both types of elements seem to be part of the society and are not emerging as new components.

XU, Ying & LANG, Graeme. Major Factors facilitate the Environmental Protests in China: A Case Study of Liulitun Anti-incineration Campaign in Beijing
Given the fact that China is in a period of rapid transition and environmental protests are on the rise, this study has set out in search of the structural factors of the protests by drawing on the findings from the case study of the Liulitun anti-incinerator campaign in Beijing. Applying the second-order sociocybernetical approach, the findings indicate that motivations, confidence, tactics and outside resources are the main factors of the environmental protests in China. It is also noted, as long as the loose-organized environmental activities are unlikely turning into a source of pressure for policy change, the independent successful protests contribute little to the environment protection and the environmental justice.

WALTER BUCKLEY AWARD 2012

ONER, Ilknur. Complexity of Recent Disaster and Migration Patterns of University Students: Thoku-Japan and Van-Turkey
Since Weiner’s discussions on cybernetics in 1940’s, discussions have come a long way, but they are still in need of coverage of experiences such as earthquakes, tsunamis, nuclear disasters. Social media, internet censorship and ongoing scientific literature in written and visual forms are revealing unseen to us in shorter times than before. This frame requires increasing awareness to catch up the speed of the events. The focus of awareness requires certain attentions to available, expected and unexpected patterns, size, complexity, coverage and impacts of the events. Earthquakes, their impacts and migration are contemporary discussion topics in Thoku-Japan and Van-Turkey. This study explores university students’ experiences of migration on the base of encountered disaster phases. Main intention is to understand the combination of disasters and migrations from their control and out of control, voluntary or involuntary appearances. Intentions are not keeping both countries’ experiences, societal structures and their ability to act as equivalent, but rather to understand phases of disasters and migratory patterns from traced examples of university students’ experiences. Thus, study intends to take attentions to unseen migratory patterns and disaster victim students and necessity of awareness of their presence and preparedness for their needs at their universities. The findings on Japan will be the results of evaluations of traced general literature and web pages of selected universities without segregation to be at the epicenter or distance to the disaster location. However, derived findings related to the Van quakes in Turkey and their evaluations will be basing on literature, newspaper content analyses, observations in general and findings on Firat University students. Long term follow up in depth study is postponed due to necessity of longer talks on the account of students’ psychosocial conditions. Preliminary results of analysis derived from target group meetings over 170, interviews with 25 students and registration records of over 250 students from Van will be presented here. Elaborations will be in comparative setting.

*(see also page 3)*
Ways to get updated about RC51 activities

OUR RC51 WEBSITE:

Just to remind you, our current website address [http://sociocybernetics.wordpress.com/](http://sociocybernetics.wordpress.com/) holds the information about the ongoing activities of the Research Committee on Sociocybernetics. Please update your bookmarks. The main sections of the old website, courtesy hosted by the University of Zaragoza (UNIZAR), are automatically redirected to the new one. Any eventual issue with the new website (broken links, missing or incomplete informations) should be addressed to <fabio.giglietto@soc.uniurb.it>

RC51 NEWS IN YOUR MAILBOX:

You can now opt to receive RC51 News directly in your email in box. To activate this feature visit the [RC51 website](http://sociocybernetics.wordpress.com/) and either click in the envelop icon or scroll to the bottom of the page to find the section labeled "GET NEWS BY EMAIL". Insert your e-mail address in the form and click the "Subscribe" button that will look like this:

![Subscribe](image)

A third way, available only to Wordpress members, is to simply include your address in the announcement that will pop-up on the bottom of the page.

![Follow](image)

In any of these ways, you have to check that these emails are not going to your Spam folder. Make sure to enable this address to be accepted by your regular mail service. Once you are subscribed, it will look more o less like this in your mail:

![Email](image)

Please remember that the RC51 website (and its email service) and the emails of the list server for the RC51 members are the official means of communication related to the RC51 activities. For more information on how to become a member check the section JOIN US of our website or contact the RC51 Secretariat CzeslawMesjaz, mesjaszc@uek.krakow.pl or our president Eva BuchingerEva.Buchinger@ait.ac.at
RC51 Sessions and participants in the ISA Forum of Sociology 2012

August will open with the Second ISA Forum of Sociology in BUENOS AIRES. We share with you the titles presented in the 10 RC51 sessions according to the ISA Forum website and Héctor ZAMORANO (Programme Coordinator of the RC51).

Wednesday, August 1st, 2012

10:45 AM-12:15 PM

Session 85 Systemic perspective to think knowledge and cultural management development. Part III  Session Organizer: Margarita MAASS

85.1 Culture study as a symbolic dimension of society and a social complex system  
Margarita MAASS, UNAM, Mexico

85.2 Cultural engagement and global creative cities: Singapore, shanghai and tokyo cases (Oral) Kenichi KAWASAKI, Komazawa University, Japan

85.3 Action systems and organizational operation from local reality Carlos LIVACIC, Universidad Central, Chile

12:30 PM-2:00 PM

Session 137 Systemic Perspective to think knowledge and cultural management development. Part II  Session Organizer: Margarita MAASS

137.1 AN EDUCATIONAL MODEL, analyzed from the interdisciplinary research. Blanca EVA GONZALEZ, Instituto Tecnológico de Querétaro, Mexico

137.2 De lo análogo a lo digital: una migración cultural Santiago CHIO, Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila, Mexico

137.3 El turismo cultural, una estrategia compleja para el desarrollo social: Estado de morelos, méxico. Ana Lucia RECAMAN, Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila, Mexico

137.4 Artistas y gestores culturales. Conocimiento para el desarrollo social (Oral) Abril GAMBOA ESTEVES, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, México

2:30 PM-4:00 PM

Session 173 Observing, measuring and reconstructing emergent meaning  
Session Organizer: Liliana RAMIREZ RUIZ (Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, Colombia)

173.1 Las formas de sentido del conocimiento en las universidades indígenas en México y Colombia  
Liliana RAMIREZ, Universidad de Antioquia, Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, Colombia

173.2 La cultura como observación de segundo orden en sistemas organizacionales  
Juan Pablo GONNET, CIECS-conicet, Argentina

173.3 Meaning understood as juxtaposed networks of communications  
Gabriel VELEZ-CUARTAS, Grupo Redes y Actores Sociales, FCSH, Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia

173.4 Expectations and meaning: Politics between policy orientation and clientelism  
Isabel KUSCHE, Universität Osnabrück, Germany
**Thursday, August 2, 2012**

**10:45 AM-12:15 PM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 256</th>
<th>Modern sociological systems theory in social practice. Part II</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Session Organizers:</strong></td>
<td>Karl-Heinz SIMON, University of Kassel, Germany and Michael PAETAU, Germany</td>
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- **256.1** Significance of luhmann's theory of symbolically generalized media in understanding problem of political power and rule of law. *Satoshi IGUCHI*, Japan
- **256.2** Internet y política: Un balance de la producción académica brasileña entre 2001 y 2011 *Maria Alejandra NICOLAS*, Universidade Federal do Paraná, Brazil; *Rachel RAGATTO*, Universidade Federal do Paraná, Brazil; *Rafael Cardoso SAMPAIO*, Universidade Federal da Bahia, Brazil
- **256.3** Spot on neglected function systems. Challenging the reignited trench warfare of politics and the economy by systemic constellations. *Steffen ROTH*, University of Geneva, Switzerland

**12:30 PM-2:00 PM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 316</th>
<th>The challenge of Sociocybernetics for Cultural and Political Knowing</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Session Organizers:</strong></td>
<td>Juan Carlos BARRON PASTOR, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico and Michael PAETAU, Germany</td>
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- **316.1** Rosario City, Argentina, internal migrations: Social injustice (Oral) *Héctor ZAMORANO*, Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Argentina
- **316.2** Project's results based elections and public management interactive democratic evaluation model (Oral) *Alejandro GUZMAN OCEGUEDA*, CETYS University & ASIDE Group, Mexico

**2:30 PM-4:00 PM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 348</th>
<th>Modern sociological systems theory in social practice (A): Applications to societal problems</th>
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<td><strong>Session Organizer:</strong></td>
<td>Karl-Heinz SIMON, Germany.</td>
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- **348.1** The emergence of a digital communicative media *Miguel Ángel FORTE*, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina; *Sergio PIGNOLO OCAMPO*, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas Técnicas, Argentina; *Santiago CALISE*, *Matías PALACIOS*, *Matías ZITELLO* de Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
- **348.2** The Japanese kuiki theory: As applied to reality construction, problem resolution, and social change *Youichi ITO*, Akita International University, Japan
- **348.3** How society is producing its own crisis: A systems theoretical case study of Japan *Saburo AKAHORI*, Tokyo Woman’s Christian University, Japan
- **348.4** A sistemtic aproach to crime and deviance *Alisson SOARES*, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil

**4:15 PM-5:45 PM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 405</th>
<th>RC51 Business meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Session Organizer:</strong></td>
<td>Eva BUCHINGER, Austria /Margarita Maass Moreno, México.</td>
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Friday, August 3, 2012

9:00 AM-10:30 AM

450 **Society, ciberculture and sociocybernetics, and sociology on the move**
*Session Organizer:* Margarita MAASS

449.1 Cultural offers and audience transformations. *Jaime Miguel GONZÁLEZ CHÁVEZ,* *Efraín DELGADO RIVERA* and *Joel ORTEGA CONTRERAS* (Universidad de Coahuila, Mexico)

449.2 Complex systems and cibercultur® *Jorge GONZáLEZ,* Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico

449.3 Under the pirate flag: Study on identification based on filesharing. *Daniel CESAR,* Universidade de Brasilia, Brazil

10:45 AM-12:15 PM

506 **Sociocybernetic approach to democratization processes**
*Session Organizer:* José AMOZURRUTIA

505.1 La configuración de un nuevo docente desde las prácticas culturales tecnológicamente mediadas. Caso de estudio: Modalidad semiescolarizada de la benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla. *Oral Presentation* Norma Angelica MARTINEZ, UNAM (Mexico), Mexico

505.2 Adaptive model as interpreter of multiple realities of complex social systems *Juan Carlos PEREZ DURAN,* Universidad del Altiplano, Mexico

12:30 PM-2:00 PM

555 **Sociocybernetic principles: Technology, ecology and globalization**
*Session Organizer:* Eva BUCHINGER

554.1 Sociocybernetics and hierarchical systems theory - philosophical foundation and methodology *Karl-Heinz SIMON,* University of Kassel, Germany

554.2 Technology as a social system (Oral) *Erwin RAFAEL,* University of the Philippines, Diliman, Philippines

2:30 PM-4:00 PM

574 **Book Presentation: Sociocibernética, cibercultur® y Sociedad**
José AMOZURRUTIA, Session Organizer, Mexico, Juan Carlos BARRON PASTOR, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico and Héctor ZAMORANO, Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Argentina

For more information check the full online program in: [http://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2012/webprogram/start.html](http://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2012/webprogram/start.html) or click on the banner.
Book announcements

Scope and Goals of the book series on “Complexity, Design Society”

Karl H. Müller (Austria)

From the year 2005 onwards edition echoraum and WISDOM, a Vienna-based social science institute, introduced a new book series under the title “Complexity, Design, Society” which takes Pieter Brueghel’s (1525 – 1569) “Tower of Babel” from the year 1563 as its central motive. Brueghel’s painting was divided into 6 x 3 segments and each segment was used as a book-cover. Thus, the eighteen volumes of the series, if placed in three rows with six volumes each, produce the original picture of Pieter Brueghel the Elder. The reference to the “Tower of Babel” is by no means accidental since the tower of Babel has become a strong metaphor for hyper-complex designs and for a breakdown in societal communication processes. In this sense the contents of the book series for the first eighteen volumes can be seen as a direct opponent and a strong recipe for complexity research, science designs and societal organizations against the metaphor of the cover-picture.

More specifically, the book series pursues three different goals:

- The series aims to revitalize visions, projects, models and conceptual frameworks which have been produced mainly during the classical period of cybernetics from the 1950s onwards. Here one can find six already published books, namely one on Heinz von Foerster and his Biological Computer Laboratory (BCL), one on Gordon Pask, one on early papers by Gordon Pask, a Festschrift for Ernst von Glasersfeld, a collection of articles by Richard Jung and a monograph on Gordon Pask and his interactions with architecture.

- Most importantly, the book series wants to pursue the agenda of second-order cybernetics and tries to demonstrate the scope and the power of this new cybernetic approach which originated as a vision by Heinz von Foerster and which, however, was never specified by him in greater detail. Here one finds a three volume set with articles by Ranulph Glanville with the title “The Black B=∞” (to be completed in 2012) and another three-volume set by Karl H. Müller on the new science of cybernetics (NSC) which can be considered as an realization of Heinz von Foerster’s original vision. Finally, Bernard Scott just has produced a massive collection of his articles with the title “Explorations in Second-Order Cybernetics”.

- Third, aside from classical and second-order cybernetics, the book series wants to add new facets and dimensions to the current wave of complexity research and complexity issues. Here one finds a book by J. Rogers and Ellen Jane Hollingsworths on major scientific discoveries, a volume on power-laws and their self-organizing effects under the name of “Risc-Societies” (Rare Incidents, Strong Consequences), two volumes on comparative survey research and, finally, a volume on a new statistical method under the name of time distance analysis.

In the end, the readers and not the producers will determine whether this first set of the book series on “Complexity, Design, Society” lives up to its self-proclaimed goals and standards. But we tried hard to work on these goals and to offer to the reader in particular and to our contemporary societies in general a complex designed arrangement of new books.
Overview of the Entire First Set:


See also the entire book series on edition echoraum

http://www.echoraum.at/edition/wisdomechoraum.htm
Past conferences reviews:

Looking Back - Some Contemplations about the 10th international Conference of Sociocybernetics "SOCIOCYBERNETICS AND THE INCREASING COMPLEXITY OF SOCIAL LIFE" Cracow, Poland, June 20-25, 2011

Bernd R. Hornung (Marlburg, Germany)

For me, at least, this turned out to be the most beautiful conference of sociocybernetics I have attended so far. Conference? As Czeslaw Mesjasz had expressed it at some point: "It may be rather a family meeting". But perhaps that was exactly the point. I could enjoy this conference in a different way not only as I was no organizer anymore, but especially as things seemed to fall into place.

In the academic sessions complexity was dealt with under all kinds of aspects using all kinds of careful and less careful definitions (or also none at all). Marilena Lunca was right in insisting that "complexity" is not a thing but a property of a thing or a system. But this starting point for a discussion of conceptual clarity, the lack of which was also deplored by some other speakers and discussants, unfortunately could not be followed up to a kind of consensus or conclusive result. Although we had apparently a lot of time for each paper, the days resulted still too short.

For me this was not the only dissatisfaction with the academic contents presented, when reflecting about what I learned from the papers and their discussion in this conference in Cracow.

Basically there were four kinds of papers: (1) Papers with the character of reminders and tutorials, which were certainly useful for an update or for relatively new participants who were not yet so deeply involved in sociocybernetics, (2) theoretical developments, which in this conference were not very numerous and which, in my opinion, did not present substantial steps ahead, (3) empirical applications which were certainly interesting and informative, but more so on the side of the empirical cases and not so much on the side of the theory or methodology applied, and finally (4) some applications of theory to new fields which might open up new perspectives. These, however, could not be really discussed. This in part again for lack of time, in part, however, also because in my opinion meaningful sequences of papers (and the respective discussions, of course) could not be carried all the way through due to apparently unfortunate organizational constraints which did not allow for an optimal sequence of the papers, like, e.g., presenting the contributions of the Mexican group in one series without thematic interruption.

The overall picture provided certainly a good overview over the state-of-the-art of the sociocybernetic discussion of complexity and social life. It provides, I think, good material which, if it is analyzed, can offer points of departure and directions for future work as well as consolidation of the theoretical Sociocybernetic framework.
In particular the paper of Bernard Scott, in a way introductory and programmatic on the first day, and the workshop run by Matjaz Mulej, deplorably with an audience much too small, indicated directions for the practical relevance and urgency of the use of sociocybernetics in real life and the issue of what might be called responsible science (or in German "verantworteteWissenschaft").

Family meeting? Much, much more. Not because of the academic contents, but because we were privileged to share – in the sessions and beyond – the wisdom of friends like Matjaz Mulej, Marilena Lunca, and José Amozurrutia. And because the complexities of social life fell into place – or merged or emerged? – more than ever before. Old friendships seamlessly with new ones – colleagues we have never met before – in harmonious get-togethers in the evenings, the pub next to the railroad station, the memorable dinner at which José made a surprising and wonderful announcement, and in particular the spontaneous evening at an empty restaurant with Edith Piaf and a very pretty hostess. All the complexities of social relations, communications, and human emotionality turned out to be simple and effortless, and as Nietzsche would have expressed it: "The world stood still for a moment".

**Incursions to the Sociocybernetic field: Perspectives on the recent conference on Complexity and Social Action (Faro, Portugal)**

Pedro J. Escriche (Zaragoza, Spain)

Under the subject “Complexity and Social Action: Interaction and Multiple Systems“, the 11th International Conference of Sociocybernetics took place last 2-6 of July in Faro, Portugal. In these 5 days sociocyberneticians from different countries and cultures discussed theoretical, global and local problems from a systemic perspective, in an environment of friendship but also academic interest and collaboration. Old and newborn sociocyberneticians exchanged exciting comments and suggestions in vibrant discussions that lasted not only during the conference sessions, but also were extended until late night in funny and also delicious dinners.

All this intensive intellectual work was possible because our Portuguese hosts cared about every detail to make us feel comfortable. We were able to forget any logistical problem because Manuel, Dalila, Ricardo, Ana Lucía, Joao and Ana looked after this group that looked sometimes a bit absent-minded and chaotic. RC51 confirmed in this Conference
that it has really brilliant members that offered us exciting and also enriching research proposals in a great variety of subjects. From religious to environmental problems, from gender violence to economic thinking, an ecology of matters was analyzed through the sociocybernetic prism splitting in multiple perspectives thanks to the interdisciplinarity of RC51.

Of course, I was in the group of newborn sociocyberneticians listening and always learning with each conference and contribution. I really enjoyed these inspiring proposals. But I also enjoyed this friendly atmosphere that was present in the conferences. Starting with the Portuguese team, but with the enthusiastic adhesion of all RC51 members, everybody felt this special feeling of comradeship through Sociocybernetics. We will never forget some happy moments lived in these conferences, specially that splendid sunset we shared between wonderful Portuguese wines and cheeses, singing and chatting. RC51 is filled with great scientists but also with great and friendly people. See you all next year, in Mérida (México).

On behalf of RC51 members who attended the meeting we give thanks to the Local Organizing Committee who engaged in the planning and logistics in order to make this conference possible: Manuel Lisboa (Chair), Dalila Cerejo, Ana Lúcia Dias Teixeira, Ricardo Santana and Ana RoqueDantas from Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas (FCSH) and Centro de Estudos de Sociologia (CESNOVA) da Universidade Nova de Lisboa; and João Filipe Marques and MárioViegas de Carvalho from Universidade do Algarve, in Faro (Portugal). From the INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE special thanks to Chaime Marcuello, Fabio Giglietto, Margarita Maass, Czeslaw Mesjaz, Michael Paetau, Bernard Scott, Karl Heinz and Eva Buchinger (Chair), who engaged in abstract reviews.

Keep a note in your diaries...

The 12th International RC51 Conference of Sociocybernetics will be held in Mérida, Yucatán (México) in 24th to 28 of June 2013

Information soon to be provided by local organizing committee
Events and calls for papers

From INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR SYSTEMS RESEARCH (IFSR) members:

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM. THE ECONOMIC CRISIS: TIME FOR A PARADIGM SHIFT. TOWARDS A SYSTEMS APPROACH January 24-25, 2013

Organised by: Business Systems Laboratory (www.bslaboratory.net) together with the Sociedad Española de Sistemas Generales (SESGE) and the Facultat d’Economia of the Universitat de València.

Link to the Call for Papers of the Symposium:

From ISA:
Sixth ISA Worldwide Competition for Junior Sociologists. Call for Papers

The International Sociological Association (ISA) announces the organization of the Sixth ISA Worldwide Competition for Junior Sociologists. The winners will be invited to participate in the XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology which will take place in Yokohama, Japan in July 2014. By Junior Scholars we mean people who obtained his/her first Master’s degree (or an equivalent graduate diploma) in sociology or in a related discipline, less than 10 years prior to May 1st, 2013. http://www.isa-sociology.org/wcys/index.htm

Note: We hold no responsibility in changes of the information provided about events organized beyond the RC51. Please check directly with the organizers.

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 palmaguer@labcomplex.net

RC51 website http://sociocybernetics.wordpress.com
ISA website http://www.isa-sociology.org

End of the RC51 newsletter Issue 26