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RC51 Newsletter Issue 27 (JAN 2013) pg1
Editor’s introduction

Dear RC51 members,

Welcome to the RC51 Newsletter, Issue 27. We hope you have had a good start to the year 2013.

In this issue we want to remind you about the 12th RC51 2013 Conference on “The sociocybernetics of social systems and social networks”. As many of you know, the Conference will take place in Mérida (Yucatán), México in June 2013. The Call for Papers invites you to send proposals to a) report the empirical findings of research studies that apply sociocybernetics (both concepts and/or methodologies) b) address the methodological and ethical issues related to aspects of research in sociocybernetics and c) address theoretical and conceptual issues concerning how to effectively characterize social systems, social networks and the interactions of social actors.

In the Newsletter we have a section concerned with Sharing knowledge, findings and work in progress, where Bernd R. Hornung, Tony Korycki, Brian McCarron, Mike McCarron and John Raven present “Steps Towards Establishing a Task Force on the Management of Complex Organizations”, a report on the SCIO Conference, held at the Manchester Business School, in Manchester, UK on October 2012. In the same section, Leandro Aramburu presents his Master’s degree abstract, describing how he applies Sociocybernetic concepts. The title of his thesis is “Citizen Involvement in the Electronic Design of Public Policies: A Sociological Analysis of the e-Cognocracy Implementation in the Town of Cadrete.”

We have two excellent book reviews by Bernd R. Hornung: “Making social change”, authored by David Flynn and Jim Hay, and “Complejidad y Ciencias Sociales”, written by José A Amozurrutia. We have also other book announcements shared by the co-authors and editors: “Overview of the ABC of Harmony” by Leo Semanshko, “Observing Law through Systems Theory” by R.Nobles and D. Schiff and the November 2012 issue of Constructivist Foundations, “Niklas Luhmann and his relevance for constructivism”, edited by Alexander Riegler & Armin Scholl.

We are preparing for the XVIII ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY (YOKOHAMA- 2014). Chaime Marcuello reminds us of the call for session proposals for this important event. We have also included IFSR and ISA event information to put in your diaries.

Remember that the RC51 Newsletter always welcomes feedback and new suggestions about how to achieve its goal: to promote news among the ISA RC51 members and the broader scientific community interested in Sociocybernetics. We look forward to receiving your contributions!

Patricia Almaguer Kalixto
RC51 Newsletter Editor
patricia@labcomplex2.net
1. Scope of the Conference

The ISA Research Committee 51 on Sociocybernetics (RC51) is an international group that aims to promote the development of sociocybernetic theory and research within the social sciences. Sociocybernetics is broadly defined here as applications within the social sciences of first- and second-order cybernetics, general systems theory and the various combinations and variations of these that can be subsumed under the term “the emerging science of complexity”. Members of the group study all aspects of social dynamics and social interaction with particular attention to the observer-dependence of knowledge and the reflective, self-referential and self-organizing capacities of social systems and social networks.

Following our previous conference topics related to complexity, social action and complex social systems, the 12th RC51 2013 Conference will address “The Sociocybernetics of Social Systems and Social Networks”, in fields of complex social phenomena such as education, economy, interdisciplinary research, international relations, management, migration, new social media communication, scientific production, sustainability, social movements and systemic violence. We therefore invite the submission of paper proposals that:

- report the empirical findings of research studies that apply sociocybernetics (both concepts and/or methodologies).
- address the methodological and ethical issues associated with the creation and maintenance of research networks and with the reflective, self-referential aspects of research in sociocybernetics.
- address theoretical and conceptual issues concerning how to effectively characterize social systems, social networks and the interactions of social actors.

Papers with a strong sociocybernetics orientation addressing other topics are also welcomed.

2. Paper Submission:

Abstracts should be submitted in English. Please submit an extended abstract of 750-1000 words (including references) for review purposes, together with a regular abstract of 200-300 words. The latter, will be published on the RC51 newsletter, included in the abstracts booklet made available to conference participants and published as part of the programme on RC51 website. The regular abstract only should include information about the author(s): names, affiliations, email addresses and three keywords. Both abstracts should be sent to the Head of the Abstracts Committee, Patricia Almaguer Kalixto: (patricia@labcomplex2.net), with copy to the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, Margarita Maass: (mmaass@labcomplex2.net), and to the RC51 Secretary Czeslaw Mesjasz mesjaszc@uek.krakow.pl
A form of publication for selected contribution is already planned. Best quality papers in full version and presented in the Conference will be considered for a special issue of the Journal of Applied Research and Technology (JART). Full papers should be no more than 25 pages in length including figures and tables. All submissions will be confidential disclosed only to the committee referees.

3. Important Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28th February 2013</td>
<td>Deadline for submission of abstracts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th March 2013</td>
<td>Notification of acceptance, with possible request for revisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st June 2013</td>
<td>Deadline for submission of full papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th June 2013</td>
<td>Deadline for registration</td>
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4. Venue
The event will be held in at the “Centro Cultural Universitario” of the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán in Calle 60 No. 491-A x 57 Centro Histórico (City Centre), Mérida City, Yucatán (México). This event provides an excellent opportunity to visit Mérida, Yucatan. Mérida offers a wonderful space to meet contemporary and ancient Mexican cultural expressions. Yucatán state has several prehispanic (Mayan), colonial and modern buildings, typical markets, museums and nature reserves. There will be some excursions organized for the end of the conference. Information about excursions will be provided at a later date. Check RC51 website to find out about accommodation and travel information.

5. Participation fees:
- RC51 Non-members 100 USD
- Student fee (RC51 Non-members): 60 USD*
- RC51 affiliated members (non-ISA): 60 USD
- RC51 regular members in good standing (ISA and RC51): No fee.

Interested in becoming an ISA RC51 member? Click here

The registration fee includes: conference pack, coffee breaks, conference dinner and tourism information. We encourage participants to contribute and profit of the full stream of discussion within the conference, which usually is systemically and holistically over-arching all of the presentations.

6. Conference Language
The official language of the conference is English.

7. Contacts and information
For Conference information and updates please check the official website: http://sociocybernetics.wordpress.com/12th-international-conference-of-sociocybernetics/

For specific questions you may directly contact the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, Margarita Maass (mmaass@labcomplex2.net) and/or the Chair of the International Scientific Organizing Committee, Eva Buchinger (Eva.Buchinger@ait.ac.at).

- Academic register/student ID is needed to grant the discount.
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We look forward to welcoming you in June, 2013.

Local Excursions organised for the 12th Sociocybernetic conference

Saturday 22th June 2013. Visit to Blue Cenote (45 min from Merida)
A Cenote is a deep natural sinkhole resulting from limestone’s bedrock collapse that exposes groundwater underneath. They are characteristic of Yucatan Peninsula. This is one of the largest cenotes of Yucatan.

Saturday 23th June 2013. (45 minutes from Merida)
Also known as “The Yellow City”, Izamal was an important archeological site of the Pre-Columbian Mayan Civilization. Izamal was considered a site of pilgramages in the region similarly to Chichen Itza. Izamal remains a place of pilgrimage now for the veneration of Roman Catholic saints. Izamal is the home of a distillery which produces mescal from agave plants.

Saturday 29th June, 2013. Chichen Itza (1hour.30 min. aprox)
ChichenItza, It is one of the main and large pre-Columbian city built by the Maya civilization. It has been recently being inducted as one of the New 7 Wonders of the World. The restored area of the site covers 5 square kilometers and is home to El Caracol, one of the oldest standing observatories in the Americas, underscoring the advanced astrological studies of the Maya.

Sunday 30th June, 2013. Boat ride in Celestún (1hour.30 min aprox)
Celestún is a fishing town surrounded by the Celestun Biosphere Reserve, a mangroves reserve that is the winter home to vast flocks of flamingos, as herons and other bird species. It is also known as a hatching ground for endangered sea turtles. Celestun’s ecosystem is a combination of fresh water from the estuary and salt water from Gulf of Mexico.

More details will be provided after registration to the conference.
Sharing knowledge, findings and work in progress

Here two interesting contributions from our members’ activities related to Sociocybernetics. The report from the SciO conference organized at the Manchester Business School (UK). And the recent Master dissertation by Leandro Aramburu, a recent Member from Argentina who joined us at the 11th Sociocybernetic Conference in Faro, Portugal. If you want to share with the RC51 your recent work please write to the RC51 Journal Editor at patricia@labcomplex2.net

Steps Towards Establishing a Task Force on the Management of Complex Organizations

Bernd R. Hornung, Tony Korycki, Brian McCarron, Mike McCarron, John Raven

Report from the SCIO Conference,
October 2012, at the Manchester Business School, in Manchester, UK

Two topics have been on the agenda RC51 for a long time. One is complexity and the problem of coping with complexity. The other one, brought to discussion recently especially by John Raven, at the RC51 Conference in Faro this summer, is the working of social processes behind the back of social actors and without being under effective control of such actors, be it governments, banks, business organizations or other social actors attempting to influence the fate of our organizations, societies, and – after all – the human beings. As sociologists we know, that social life is only in part a result of intentional action, in part it is a result of unintended consequences of such action, and to a large extent a result of "the system", i.e. social processes not intended and not controllable by actors.

At the RC51 Conference in Faro these topics of sociocybernetics seemed to converge as exemplified by four papers given and discussed there.

Karl-Heinz Simon spoke about "Transformations of or in social systems – what elements are changing and how?" dealing with a sociocybernetic view of transformation in social systems at the theoretical level. After all, however, he supported evolutionary rather than transformational change, which is not surprising, as Karl-Heinz Simon comes from the background of ecological systems. For both kinds of change, however, the question arises, which processes are required to induce and promote desirable changes. John Raven presented "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" discussing advances in his work on the educational system and why it is unmanageable for the social actors trying to reform it.
An important methodological tool are flowcharts in the form of directed graphs or, as John calls them, systemograms. A very similar issue, but at the level of one particular organization, a large university hospital, was the topic of Bernd Hornung’s presentation of a case study on "Man, Motivation, and Emotion at Work in Organizations - Behavior, Action, and Emotion in a Multi-System Environment –". This case study illustrated clearly what happens, if money and shareholder value is given priority over social service, in this case health service. It was another clear case supporting the need for new and alternative concepts and theories of management for managing complex systems in complex environments. Pedro Medina, finally, spoke about "Why are we still here?", raising and analyzing a number of highly complex and therefore unmanageable major problems, to some extent also posed by ecosystems, i.e. nature, but without outlining a path towards solutions.

The overall picture given by these presentations and the fundamental problems raised led John Raven to propose in the Business Meeting of RC51 to collect forces and in order to start a major research project on this topic. This, however, seemed too ambitious at the moment, so it was decided to start with a discussion group on the Internet to permit a coordinated follow-up on these issues and hopefully the development of ideas for solutions with a minimum of input of resources. Once this discussion would become substantial and create impact, a research project, as proposed by John Raven, could well a promising next step. In other words, the idea was to have an Internet discussion group thus avoiding more organizational structures, more administration, and more – resource intensive – travel to meetings and conferences during a first phase of exploration. These ideas, strongly supported by Bernd Hornung, found the approval of the Business Meeting and the board of RC51. So it was decided to go ahead and consider this effort a thematic sub-group of RC51, which, however, would not be limited to RC51 members.

Correspondence after the conference resulted nevertheless in the suggestion to use a small conference of SCIO in Manchester for a first face-to-face meeting with some of John’s colleagues in the UK. This in order to outline and to develop concepts for the working of this new discussion group first, before getting it really started.

SCIO stands for "Society for the Study of Systems Thinking and Socio Cybernetics in Organisations" (www.scio.org.uk). At the time being it is a UK-based scientific organization, initially focussing on promoting and developing further the heritage of Stafford Beer, VSM – Viable System Model, and its practical use and application. VSM, first published by Stafford Beer in 1959, has its roots in Manchester. A particularity SCIO is its objective and policy to integrate theoretical academic work with the work and concerns of practitioners of management and sociocybernetics, both in business companies and public institutions. Therefore the membership of SCIO, which currently makes efforts to go more international, is composed both of academics and practitioners using VSM and sociocybernetics in their practical daily lives.

Under these aspects SCIO is an interesting partner for RC51 with its international and largely academic orientation. In particular, it seems to be a very valuable partner for the issue at stake, the management of complex organizations in a complex environment, which cannot work without a sound theoretical foundation, but for which "to work" means going practical, being applied in real-life contexts by the managers of real-life organizations and real-life problems.
Several events took place from Sunday, October 7, until Tuesday, October 9, in which participated John Raven, Bernd Hornung, and several of John’s colleagues from the UK. These meetings permitted to exchange views on sociocybernetics and Viable Systems Modelling as seen by SCiO and by RC51. The SCiO Open Event at the Manchester Business School on Monday, Oct. 8, was open to the public and started with a session on "Socio-Cybernetics and Complex Organisations" with contributions from John Raven, Mike McCarron, Bernd Hornung, and Tony Korycki. This session, focussing on the practical and applied side of sociocybernetic management, met quite some interest and resulted in a lively discussion.

It laid the foundations for an intensive workshop "Beyond Weber" or "Socio-Cybernetic Contributions to Models of Management for Complex Organisations" conducted at Stockport the following day, Tuesday October 9, 2012. This workshop, limited to a small group of invited participants, served to develop a concept for the discussion group intended, both in terms of contents and procedure. Much of the time was devoted to clarify what would be the basic concepts of such an endeavor, on which the participants would have to agree beforehand in order to dispose of a common point of departure and a common theoretical orientation.

It was agreed, that for a certain number of such basic concepts short papers would be necessary stating the common ground, "snacks", so to speak, while for quick information short paragraphs, "bites" would be required too. To create this series of papers a time-frame was agreed, at the end of which an invitation to participate in the discussion group would be extended to the members both of RCS1 and of SCiO as well as to a number of other colleagues who might be interested.

At this moment a number of these papers are under review by the group, a few still have to be written, and the technical means for discussion still have to be set up. Also a draft for the invitation to participate already exists and will be distributed in due time.

The Manchester conference was furthermore an opportunity to explore possibilities of cooperation between SCiO and RC51. With regard to their target groups and target activities the two organizations are complementary rather than competitors. It was agreed, not to start with too high ambitions, but to give it a try by exchanging the respective Newsletters and invitations to each other’s conferences. Another suggestion was to cross-reference the websites.

With regard to the group on Management of Complex Organizations, which, if successful, might develop into a task force on this topic, the possibility was discussed to present perhaps some papers in the 2013 RCS1 Merida conference, which could form a session, and also to propose an RC51 session on this topic at the forthcoming ISA World Congress of Sociology in Japan in 2014.

The key to communication and discussion on this topic, however, should be Internet discussion and the presentation of discussion papers and information on an Internet website. To give it a start, a first attempt is available at Bernd Hornung’s complexity website <http://sociocybernetics.unizar.es/chen/Hornung/webcompl.html>. 
Citizen Involvement in the Electronic Design of Public Policies: A Sociological Analysis of the e-Cognocracy Implementation in the Town of Cadrete

Leandro Aramburu (University of Zaragoza)

I was introduced to the sociocybernics approach attending Chaime Marcuello’s lessons during the first semester of my Master degree, at the University of Zaragoza. This interesting perspective caught my attention right from the beginning and therefore I started considering it as a possible theoretical framework for my prospective Master thesis. In order to go into depth in understanding the possibilities these tools offer to me, I participated in the 11th Conference on Sociocybernetics in Faro, Portugal, Prof. Marcuello informed me about. The meeting in Faro was a great opportunity to get in contact with experts in the field of Sociocybernetics. The experience was very informative as I had the chance of participating in the epistemological discussions and attending the presentation of results related to the application of the sociocybernetical perspective. Moreover I was given the opportunity to talk to several authors of my current research to discuss in person (and via e-mail later) several sociocybernetical aspects and therefore deepen my understanding of key concepts that would be useful for my following analysis.

This Master’s thesis proposes a sociological analysis of an electronic citizen participation experience in public policy making at the local level. The experience, called “Participa Cadrete”3, took place in the municipality of Cadrete (Zaragoza, Spain) in April 2010. The project intended to foster the conjoint decision between politicians, ordinary citizens, and representatives of associations, in Cultural and Sportive Policy design through the e-cognocracy model. The e-cognocracy, or knowledge democracy, is a new government tool which combines representative and direct democracy via the internet. This model was developed by José María Moreno Jiménez (GDMZ, University of Zaragoza).

The main objective of this investigation is the assessment of the influence of the cultural system on the magnitude of participation in the recorded project. In this regard, an analytical approach mainly based on the contributions from sociocybernetics and sociology of cultures is applied. On the one hand, the sociocybernetical2 approach allows conceiving the research issue from a holistic perspective, in which system theory and cybernetics play a key role. In this regard, the town of Cadrete was conceived as a social system belonging to a bigger social system, Spain. In turn, Cadrete is formed by individuals as actors-systems who are information and meaning processors themselves. The processing of information and meaning is conducted by the cultural system within the certain social system.
On the other hand, contributions from sociology of culture were considered to emphasize the perspective of the citizens involved, conceived as carriers of semiotic competence which allows them to process and interpret information, knowledge and meaning, based on which they build their "action strategies". Doing that, this study aims to emphasize the semiotic aspect of culture and its interrelationships with individuals, belonging to the same social system.

The research strategy applied was a qualitative approach which analyses the perspective of the social actors. The methodology combines conducting semi-structured interviews with documentary archival work to develop a socio-cultural framework in order to interpret the data. The data analysis technique was the discourse analysis. The fieldwork was made in the town of Cadrete during June 2012. The key finding is that the citizens of Cadrete (including common citizens, politicians, and representatives of associations) had to face concepts such as politics, citizen participation, public sphere, and citizenship, which already existed in their systems of symbols and meanings (culture). This particular way of conceiving those things was "responsible" for the dissipation of the public interest in participating in the experiment. After the experiment, the town (social system) came back to its initial stability without any kind of changes at the level of neither structures nor processes.

The implementation of the sociocybernetical approach was very useful in order to comprehend the stability of a certain social system, in this case Cadrete, despite the information exchange with the environment. The stability is related to the fundamental feature of the elements that form a social system, that is, system-actors- that according to their belonging to a certain social system process and interpret in a particular way information received from the environment. This processing and interpretation of information, conducted using inherent concepts and categories of the existing the cultural system, is linked to the adaptive function of living systems, here system-actors, which demonstrate a particular behavior like the low level of participation in the analyzed experiment.

1 The Project “Participa Cadrete” [https://participa.cadrete.es] was partially funding by the Government of Aragon. Furthermore, the project has been awarded by the European Institute of Public Administration with an “EPSA 2011 Best Practice” in Topic 2 (Opening Up the Public Sector Through Collaborative Governance), with the initiative “Collaborative Governance with e-Cognocracy. Design of Public Policies in Cadrete” [http://www.epsa2011.eu/files/BPC%20Recipients%20table%20final.pdf]; and it was also finalist at United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA 2012) within the 3rd Category (Fostering Participation in Policy-Making Decision through Innovative Mechanisms), with the initiative “e-Cognocracy: a collaborative and cognitive democracy for public decision making. Local application in the design of cultural and sports policies Cadrete (Zaragoza)”.

2 According to the Research Committee 51 (on Sociocybernetic), of the International Sociological Association (ISA), Sociocybernetics can be defined as “Systems Science in Sociology and other Social Sciences” [http://www.unizar.es/sociocybernetics/whatis.html].
We are getting ready for ...

Number of allocated sessions for RC51 including Business Meeting: 18.

Sessions proposals must be sent by **March 20, 2013** to the Program Coordinator, and to the RC51 Secretary Czeslaw MESJASZ, mesjaszc@uek.krakow.pl and RC51 President Eva BUCHINGER, Eva.Buchinger@ait.ac.at

Proposing a topic: you are expected to organize the session proposed as its session organizer and to be able to be present in Yokohama. This means that you should be reasonably sure to be able to obtain the necessary travel grant or to be able and willing to pay yourself for the expenses involved.

As session organizers usually want to present a paper in the session they organize, the session organizer is not necessarily identical with the chairperson. The chairperson of a session should not present a paper in the same session. If necessary, the programme coordinator will help you to identify an appropriate chairperson. Of course, if you know persons who work within the area of research delineated in your Session Proposal, you can invite them yourself directly, once your proposal has been approved. In the past, this has often been a good way to attract new members. **In your Session Proposal you should:**

- a) clearly define and delineate your subject in relation to sociocybernetic issues,
- b) formulate as explicitly as possible what kind of papers you would like to receive and what would fall just outside your subject, and
- c) indicate what type of session you intend to organize (e.g., paper session with questions after each paper, panel session, discussion session, etc.).

RC51 supports language diversity and promotes sessions in specific languages, beyond the three ISA official languages, English, French and Spanish. Nevertheless, in all cases, a version in English should be included for international peer review.

**Formal requirements for Session Proposals:**
A) Name of the Session Organizer, b) Postal address of the Session Organizer, c) E-mail address, d) Title of the session proposed, e) Language of the session, f) A 300-500 word outline. Include pge numbers, if more than one page, g)) Font with good readability, e.g. Arial 10, Times 12, i) RTF format, if possible.

**For more information contact to** Chaime MARCUELLO SERVÓS, Program Coordinator (Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain) at chaime@unizar.es
Book review

MAKING SOCIAL CHANGE
(Authors: David Flynn and Jim Hay)

REVIEWED BY: Bernd R. Hornung


Presented in the 12th International Conference of Sociocybernetics, 2012

This book is an invitation, a provocation, and a challenge to any sociologist and social scientist to rethink social change, a very old sociological topic. It provides a new and innovative look on a usually theoretically ill-defined area in an effort to provide an exceptional and consistent theoretical framework for the analysis of social change. The authors are at the cutting-edge of sociocybernetics and social systems research, providing a synthesis of different fields mathematical complexity theory like cellular automata, graph theory, network theory, and chaos theory. In spite of this wide mathematical background, the book is well understandable by non-mathematicians. Its contents are a challenge not only for systems scientists working on social systems, but for any sociologist trying to understand social processes and social change.

On the basis of a synthesis of mathematical complexity theory, which is connected both to the wider field of system theory, in particular the work of Ross Ashby, as well as the sociological tradition, the authors arrive at four states a complex system can reach and between which it can move: simple order, organized – often cyclical – order, chaos, and complexity. The authors investigate and make a number of propositions of what could be the detailed mechanisms causing transitions between these four fundamental system states. They provide fascinating hypotheses and suggestions to any social scientist struggling to understand the workings of social change. The authors stress, however, that with all these theoretical tools it still is not possible to predict what will happen, but only to experiment, thus confirming that (computer) experimentation and simulation is indeed the specific paradigmatic methodology of systems science and its paradigm.

1. Target Groups

This book is of interest to anyone who is dealing, in theory or practice, with social change and the complexity of contemporary society and its subsystems and organizations. That is, it is of relevance not just for sociocyberneticians and systems scientists dealing with social change, but for any sociologist, political scientist, management and organizational scientist as well as people dealing with the specific topics covered, i.e. art historians, teachers and facilitators working with group dynamics and last not least the practitioners of management and politics along with their consultants.

Moreover, the practical applications of chaos theory and computer simulation techniques in the realm of social systems should be of interest also to the scientists and students of these topics, as they are empirical challenges to the respective theoretical work.
2. Contents

The book is divided into two parts with three chapters each with an introductory chapter and a conclusion in addition. The first part deals with the theoretical framework proposed by the authors, the second part illustrates the application of the theory developed by providing three case studies situated at three different levels of social systems, i.e., the group level, the organizational level describing the fate of a business company, and the level of a social subsystem, taking for an example the development of the art system during certain periods of history. The latter might be considered a sociocultural system rather than simply a social system.

The first chapter of Part 1, Chapter 2, develops, on the basis of chaos theory, the idea that a complex system, analyzed at a level of abstraction and generality suitable for dealing with social change at a systems theoretical level, is in one of four states which can be distinguished: two types of ordered states, the state of chaos, and the complex state. The proposal of these four states is developed on the basis of the theory of cellular automata and the presupposition that social systems are discrete systems, just like cellular automata are discrete. The following chapter analyzes how and under which conditions a system changes from one state to another, while Chapter 4 elaborates the theory that the state and the transition from one state to another basically depends on two variables, differentiation ("D") and centrality ("C") of the respective system. This theoretical framework is used in three case studies in the second part of the book. Chapter 5 describes and analyzes at the group level, to some extent from a socialpsychological perspective, how this theory can be used to explain but also to design and control group dynamical processes of learning and creativity by leading a group from a stable state into a state at the edge of chaos or a state of complexity in order to permit creativity and new experiences to emerge, which in the following have to be stabilized by leading the group back into an ordered state. This process is analyzed as depending on the relationship between "D" – differentiation – and "C" – centrality in the group.

Chapter 6 takes the example of a Canadian company producing tools for farming which, during a long period, was very successful by succeeding in maintaining a delicate equilibrium between differentiation and centrality, permitting enough openness and innovation to grow, to adapt, and to succeed, but failing in the end as it could not cope with certain problems of centrality caused by the (international) financial system. This is probably the chapter which explains best, what the theory is all about and how it can be applied to change in social systems.

The most fascinating case, however, is in a way Chapter 7 dealing with cycles of change and the emergence of art systems before, during, and after the time of renaissance. This may be due to the fact that art systems are more than any other societal systems sociocultural systems, but also with regard to the linkage made to different cycles, short term, medium, and long term, which are also postulated and analyzed by economic theory. This example demonstrates that the relationship between differentiation and centrality can also be found and plays an important role at a macro-level like that of art systems, and not just at the micro-level of groups or the meso-level of (business) organizations.

5. Appraisal and Critical Issues

Merits of this approach of David Flynn and Jim Hay are the mathematically oriented consistent system framework used for analyzing social change, embedding the phenomenon of social change in a much wider social context of social networks as well as integrating it into an evolutionary
perspective. Thus their theory is apt to provide an encompassing overall view of social change and social evolution, from the first bands of hunters and gatherers to information society and its cyberspace. As the examples in the book show, however, it is also applicable to other research issues and perspectives and other system levels like small groups, organizations or the art system, which are presented in the second part of the book.

For the sociologist it takes some patience to read through the first technical chapters of the book, which are, however, formulated in a way that the informed reader should be able to understand without special technical knowledge of the mathematics of automata theory. Although at the first glance it may look like a very technical and mathematical approach, it is not. After all, the approach is intrinsically sociological.

5.1. Premises and Simplifications

In certain aspects it may appear a bit simplistic, apparently reducing the analysis of social change to differentiation and centrality, the two key concepts of this approach, but at a closer look it has to be taken into account that this is a first proposal opening up new avenues for analysis and research and that it is backed by empirical evidence. To what extent, at what system levels, granularity, and under what conditions the analogy with dynamic mathematical systems, i.e. cellular automata, holds in the long run, is a question of future research.

The central premise of the authors is, that social systems are, quite contrary to Luhmann´s theory, systems composed of discrete individuals, which therefore can be analyzed by analogy as discrete cellular automata. Looking at social systems as discrete systems may well be a simplification, the justification of which is not explicitly discussed in the text, just like the theoretical relationships between process and structure or action and communication in social systems are not explicitly discussed. Action is covered, however, by the rules of cellular automata and clearly present in the examples. Social life is both communication and (inter-)action, but the latter seems to remain somewhat in the background in the theoretical part and in the concept of centrality. To deal with these issues in more depth, however, may well have required a number of more chapters.

Whether phenomena (events, processes, structures) look discrete or not, after all depends on the level of aggregation, abstraction, and in particular on the time frame. It furthermore depends on the research problem, in particular in a constructivist approach. In the end, both system theory and cybernetics are constructivist. Seen at a higher system level, discrete events turn out as continuous. Also the argument, that individuals are discrete could be doubted: is an individual a structure or a process? Is a structure a discrete unit/event, or is it a "slow variable"? These reflections also concern the concept of "chaos" itself, which in its mathematical context is discrete, but what is it in the social context? Explaining social change by just two variables, centrality and differentiation, also looks like an extreme simplification, although because of this it can be considered a (mathematically) very elegant solution. The high level of aggregation certainly opens up useful insights, new perspectives, and new starting points for investigating also more detailed aspects of change within this overall framework. And – this solution is successful, at least as far as the case studies presented are concerned.

For further work along these lines it will be necessary to provide better indications of how to operationalize differentiation and centrality, i.e., measures and indicators have to be developed. Also several of the concepts used still need to be sharpened and better defined, including the concept of social system itself.
5.2. Luhmann

In this respect the reference to Luhmann, although only very short, and also the use of the concept of autopoiesis in a few places create contradiction. This was already mentioned with regard to the role of the individual, which according to Luhmann is outside the social system. The latter, on top, consists of communications only and is an autotopic, i.e. an "operationally" closed system. On the other hand, centrality implies a network perspective, which is essentially an open systems perspective. In particular the case studies show impressively how the changing relationship between differentiation and centrality (d/c), which is responsible for successful or unsuccessful social change in the theory of Flynn and Hay is an opening and closing of borders of social (sub-)systems, which does not fit at all with autopoiesis and Luhmann’s theory, but perfectly with open systems theory of non-Luhmannian approaches, in particular in the tradition of Ludwig von Bertalanffy or of Heinz von Foerster, dealing with the creation of order from chaos by self-organization.

5.3. Fractals

Another reference, which also looks more like a tribute to a fashionable concept, or maybe a loose analogy, than providing a substantial contribution, is the idea of fractals. The phenomenon of a superposition of waves and curves ("near" cycles) does not automatically constitute fractals. It looks more like over-extending the concept, which in this case can be used at best in a very loose metaphorical sense. The theory of Flynn and Hay has enough merit in itself, not needing such enhancements.

5.4. Other Relevant Concepts

In some places one would wish for a more thorough and deeper integration with other concepts of system theory. Starting points are provided that could well be maybe tasks of a future book. The issues of process/structure and action/communication in social systems were mentioned already. Other issues which would deserve further elaboration are cultural vs. biological evolution, ecosystems as a type of tightly integrated systems but without central control units, but also adaptivity as structural change and the phenomenon of emergence, i.e., the appearance of new system properties and innovation, which certainly plays an important role in social change. A question which also remains open, maybe rightly so, under the heading of social change but indispensable for development and also evolution, is “What for?” i.e. the issue of goals, norms, and values and the evaluation of social change. All of them play important roles in social life.

5.5 The Matrix of System States

Finally, the theory and the book concentrate on the relationship between chaos and the two states of complexity and cyclic order. It might be interesting, too, however, to take a closer look at the first state, static order, which is established as one of the four states but then not further dealt with.

6. Relevance and Conclusion

A central issue, which still needs thorough discussion by sociologists and social scientists on the basis of what the authors propose in this book, i.e., its provocation and challenge, is the analogy between discrete cellular automata, virtual systems, and real-life social systems. Such a discussion may help to bring sociology and the other social sciences forward, help them to find a common language, and help them to get equipped for meeting the challenges of fast and manifold social change in our current cyber-societies in which the future has already begun.

More information about the book, authors, and their research can be found on their website:
http://www.makingsocialchange.com/index.html
Book review

COMPLEJIDAD Y CIENCIAS SOCIALES. Un modelo adaptivo para la investigación interdisciplinaria
(Complexity and Social Sciences. An Adaptive Model for Interdisciplinary Research)

Author: José A. Amozurrutia de María y Campos
REVIEWED BY: Bernd R. Hornung

Presented in the 12th International Conference of Sociocybernetics, 2012

The Problem

Contemporary social problems can barely be understood or acted upon on the basis of one single scientific discipline. This would mean to ignore and dismiss many crucial factors which are at the roots of the problems, thus aggravating rather than ameliorating the situation. This means that interdisciplinary approaches are indispensable if the peculiarities of the problem are to be dealt with and not merely the problems of the discipline. Interdisciplinary work, however, also depends on a common language like mathematics or system theory and on such a basis this book proposes an "adaptive model for interdisciplinary research" together with a corresponding theoretical approach. These, combined with the research team and the social actors investigated, constitute a system which approaches the problem investigated in a heuristic adaptive process, thus promising to develop new answers to the contemporary social problems which are strongly characterized by their complexity.

But also the title itself, "Complexity and Social Sciences" refers to two different levels. One is the complexity of the objects of the social sciences, the social systems investigated, the other one is the complexity of the social sciences themselves as systems, which are investigating. It may not be evident at the first look, what the author is up to with his title and subtitle, when talking about an adaptive model for interdisciplinary research. The author coming from a background of mathematics and informatics, one might suspect an adaptive computer system or software model. In a certain way this is indeed the case. In a strict sense, however, a technical system, like a computer model, can learn, but it cannot be adaptive, i.e., change its own structures on its own. This requires a programmer or a user who can bring forth such structural changes.

This is the point where two other central concepts come in. Second order cybernetics/observation and interdisciplinarity. The author, the book, and the computer model described do not simply aim at investigating, modelling, and understanding a subject area of the social sciences, like a school, which is taken for an example in the book and which is 1st order observation. Instead, the objective is to include (self-reflexively) the self-observation of the team doing such a 1st order research. This then constitutes 2nd order observation and 2nd order research. Moreover, such 2nd order observation is extended beyond disciplinary boundaries providing a basis for interdisciplinary cooperation, (self-) reflection, and
for taking into account (critically) different disciplinary perspectives. From this point of view the book presents a computer model as an adaptive (or rather adaptable) technical tool, which is, however, part of a research system that also includes the (interdisciplinary) research team, representing different theoretical as well as disciplinary perspectives. In the end, it is this overall research system which is indeed adaptive.

**Target Groups**

In the first place this book is a valuable resource for all practitioners of social science research – irrespective of their discipline. Beyond those, it is of interest to all social scientists who simply want to understand methodology and theory for dealing with contemporary complex real-life systems, this also without the ambition to apply computer simulation. The same is true for anybody interested in or even practicing interdisciplinarity.

Moreover, cognitive scientists, informatitions, computer scientists, especially those dealing with Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems, should be interested in the more technical parts of this book. That is not to say, that the author really proposes an AI system. The use of this modelling software and its "adaptivity" is highly dependent on intensive interaction between users and system, so it is to be classified as a decision-support system rather than an AI system. The book can also be recommended to graduate students interested in one or several of the three main topics: interdisciplinarity, social science research methodology and theory, and computer modelling.

**4. Contents**

The book is divided into three parts. The first one explains the problem of doing research in a complex and highly dynamic world. It introduces the concepts of observers and perspectives as well as the general systemic/cybernetic background. The second part develops the theoretical foundations of this approach, which are mainly the genetic psychology of Piaget on the one the hand and system theory and cybernetics on the other. The third part, finally, arrives at a kind of synthesis explaining in detail both the software-based computer model and the role and interaction of the research team with the computer model and with empirical data. In the last part a case study of a school with a problem of absenteeism is presented, demonstrating the use of this particular approach and of the computer-model which goes along with it.

The first part analyzes the problem of doing social research in a complex and fast moving world, in which a single scientific discipline can, as a rule, capture at best a part of a real-world problem, while disciplinary problems are rarely relevant to the real world. The author therefore makes a case for interdisciplinary research, which, however, raises new problems like that of understanding other disciplines. This, in the end, requires a common language. Mathematics is such a language, but too abstract for many problems and at best applicable in quite specific parts of the social sciences. Therefore the author argues in favor of synthesizing informatics, cybernetics, and systems science, all of which are based on mathematics, but provide more concrete frameworks to be used in social science research, which is to a considerable extent qualitative and not quantitative. The author considers qualitative and quantitative as complementary aspects, not as contradictions. As a first approach to an answer to the challenges, problems, and new questions for social science research raised in this part, the author proposes an interdisciplinary, system-based approach – or, in the context of social sciences, sociocybernetic – approach, using as a key component computer modelling and simulation, which can be considered as the paradigmatic method of systems science and cybernetics. This is complemented by an explicit inclusion into the theoretical framework of different observers and perspectives, observers observing also themselves, thus following the credo of 2nd order cybernetics.
While, in a way, the first part presents the formal approach and methodology to be developed later on as a response to the problem, the second part presents the substantial key components. One is the genetic psychology of Piaget, which provides the theoretical foundations for the way adaptivity is being dealt with later on. Here the focus of the author is on the role which relations and relations of relations play, an issue also closely related to system theory. A second focus are three mechanisms for constructing cognitions, which later on will be used for computer-modelling as well as in the methodological approach to interdisciplinary teamwork. A second key component is system theory. Here the author uses the framework of open system theory following basically Ludwig von Beralanffy and the tradition going back to Heinz von Foerster with regard to 2nd order cybernetics and self-organization. The concepts of non-trivial systems and of adaptive systems are introduced, and the connections between system theory and Piagetian genetic psychology are established.

The third part finally presents the methodology for constructing what the author calls an adaptive computer-model, intended to be applicable to any complex social science research problem. This part provides a detailed description of the model. Strictly speaking, and to use a different terminology, what is presented is not a model of a real-world social research problem-area but a meta-model or a shell to be used as a tool for modelling a real-world social research area. As such, however, it is a model of (parts of) the functioning of a research team in interaction with its research area. In the end, the "adaptive system" the author is talking about, is not the computer-model, but the system constituted by the computer-model in interaction with the research team(s), and in interaction with the empirical reality (and its actors) to be investigated.

This part of the book describes in detail a case study as an example of how to use the computer-model presented along with its methodological and theoretical foundations and aspects. It becomes clear, that this kind of methodology and theory is based on participatory research, or what the author and his colleagues from the Autonomous University of Mexico call "cibercultura" – "cyberculture", and to some extent on grounded theory. It also becomes clear, that the adaptivity of the model - or rather of the overall system – results from an iterative process of collecting empirical data, processing it in the computer-model on the basis of the theories and knowledge of the research team, and then taking the results back to the field for confirmation or adaptation and, if necessary, subsequent adaptation of both the knowledge and the theories of the research team and the computer model itself.

5. Appraisal and Critical Issues

A certain problem is, not to lose orientation in the complexity of the details this text and its terminology. In particular in Chapter 7 several closely related terms are used, and it is not always easy to keep apart, what they are referring to, e.g. "model", "module", and "subsystem". Also the term "system" refers to several different kinds of systems, which are not always ease to keep apart: The general concept of system; the (empirical) real-world systems; the conceptual/ logical/mathematical systems as constructions in the heads of human beings, e.g. the researchers who have their cognitive models, models of real world problems and systems in the computer, and finally the software system. Especially for a novice this may be a bit confusing.

A conceptual difficulty arises, when intersecting circles are used to represent the different (sub)systems like in set theory (1). Especially if the diagrams are not meant as loose illustrations but as precise maps of software and other systems based on a mathematical approach, it is at best misleading to find intersections instead of interfaces.
Also misleading is the reference to the theory of social systems of Niklas Luhmann (1). First, we cannot say that Luhmann integrated "biology" and "mathematics" into his theory. At a close look, Luhmann had not really taken a lot from these two disciplines but just a few concepts from two authors, the biologist Maturana and the mathematician Spencer Brown, whose contributions are not even widespread in their own disciplines. Moreover he had taken and adapted ("luhmannized") those concepts which he built into his own theory. The question, whether these integrations still reflect the original theories is very questionable. Maturana at any rate does not agree. The approach presented in the present book is clearly 2nd Order Cybernetics in the tradition of Heinz von Foerster, but very far from Luhmann’s theory of autopoiesis.

What is fascinating, however, is that the author really does Second Order Cybernetics, observation, research, and modelling. It is not just a matter of reconstructing and simulating that school, taken for an example in the last part of the book, which has a problem of absenteeism. The approach presented is one of reconstructing and simulating the decision-making and cognitive processes of that headmaster, the other teachers, and the students involved in that research and decision-making. These persons analyze the absentee-problem in their turn. In other words, the focus is on the process of resolving the problem, not on the problem itself. This also explains why the computer model does not have the circular feedback-loops like traditional simulation models, but rather a hierarchical structure for aggregating and summarizing data to arrive at a clear conclusion on the basis of a lot of detailed data. This corresponds to Piaget’s approach. In this way the author provides a tool to assist and analyze in a second order observation the research and decision-making process which in its turn can deal with any kind of practical social problem. The software is flexible and adaptive (or rather adaptable), but adaptive also with regard to the "first order" model, e.g., of the school, which looks different from different perspectives (or "niveles") and changes as the research/decision-making process progresses. Taking this kind of view, it is plausible that the processes modelled, and the (computer-) model itself, are a kind of hierarchical one-way street from a lot of detailed data to a complexity-reducing decision: "This is what we should and want to do!" On the way to that decision, however, there are a lot of negotiations and feed-backs between the computer-model and its users. If necessary, the research team may step back again for a re-start, but ideally there is a clear result in the end.

This is a quite different set-up from usual computer models used to represent e.g. a school and making it possible to play and experiment with the school as a system. In such a case the "negotiations", also about values and goals, take place strictly in the minds of the researchers or in working papers, but not in the computer-model. The approach proposed in this book, however, tries to model precisely those processes, for which Piaget and neuronal systems are indeed appropriate frameworks. Modelling the cognitive processes of the individual researcher or an entire research team focusses naturally on a hierarchical aggregation of information, while modelling real-world systems, in systemic terms, needs to focus on feedbacks, circular causality, systems and sub-systems, etc.

6. Relevance and Conclusion

This book can be fully recommended for careful study. It may not be easily understandable, especially for students. This impression of the reviewer may in part be a result of the complexity of the issues being dealt with, but possibly it may also be due to the fact, that the reviewer is not a native speaker. The overall system and approach, as well as the software which is part of it, can be a very valuable tool for any kind of social or sociocybernetic research. It is certainly worthwhile reading in order to know where is the cutting edge of contemporary interdisciplinary social science research.

Find more about the book and get open access courtesy of UNAM: http://www.ceeich.unam.mx/0/S1LibFic.php?tblLibros_id=449

RC51 Newsletter Issue 27 (JAN 2013)
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Book announcements and other publications

Niklas Luhmann and His Relevance for Constructivism

Constructivist Foundations Volume 8, Number 1 15 November 2012 edited by Alexander Riengler & Armin Scholl

A special issue of the SCI-listed journal Constructivist Foundations on Niklas Luhmann and His Relevance for Constructivism was published in November 2012. We call your attention to it as there are RC51 members contributing to this issue.

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Observing Law through Systems Theory
(By Richard Nobles¹ and David Schiff²)

LEGAL THEORY TODAY - NO. 13 (ISBN 9781849462181)

This book uses Niklas Luhmann’s systems theory to explore how the legal system operates as one of modern society’s subsystems. The authors demonstrate how this theory alters our understanding of some of the most important and controversial issues within law: the nature of judicial communication and legal argument; the claim that it can be right to disobey law; the character of legal pluralism and globalisation; time and its construction within law; the significance of the rule of law and human rights and the role of appeals to, and within, law. Systems theory enables the authors to demonstrate how the legal system observes its own operations through its own communications, and how this contrasts with the manner in which law is observed by other systems such as the media and politics. In this context the authors explore the constraints imposed by systems, in particular the legal system, upon the individuals who participate in them.

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For More information about the book see: http://www.hartpub.co.uk/books/details.asp?isbn=9781849462181
Overview of the ABC of Harmony

By Dr. Leo Semanshko (Co-author)

Sociocybernetics, as a science of society in the cybernetic perspective, comes, in connection with the publication of a collective (76 coauthors from 26 countries) book of the Global Harmony Association (GHA) "The ABC of Harmony", to the next level, which can be defined as "Sociocybernetics of the Third Order" or "Sociocybernetics-3". But first are a few words about the book.


Among its 76 co-authors are prominent scientists, peacemakers, artists and politicians: former President of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam; architect of Ronald Reagan’s economic reform, Dr. Norman Kurland; head of the international organization of doctors (IPPNW), which received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985, Prof. Ernesto Kahan; Chancellor of the Pedagogical IASE Deemed Gandhi University, Kanak Mal Dugar; Catholic Professor and the UN agent, Dr. François Houtart; President of World Esperanto Association, Prof. Renato Corsetti; President of International Association of Educators for World Peace, Prof. Charles Mercieca; President of International Forum for Literature and Culture of Peace, Prof. Ada Aharoni; Secretary General of "World Constitution and Parliament" Association, Prof. Glen Martin; prominent Russian Professors: Vladimir Bransky, Gregory Tulchinsky, Alexander Subetto, Dimitry Ivashintsov and many others.

The ABC of Harmony opens before all spectrum of social sciences the perspective of qualitative paradigm shift to a new theoretical level of their development. Such its meaning is well-unfolded by the example of Sociocybernetics. The theoretical basis of the ABC of Harmony is Tetrasociology as a science of social and individual harmony, global harmony and harmonious civilization. The close idea ties of Tetrasociology with Sociocybernetics are disclosed in the joint work of Bernd Hornung, Bernard Scott, and Leo Semashko [1]. Bernard Scott is deeply revealed the contents of two main stages of Sociocybernetics: the first and second orders [2, and etc.].

The ABC of Harmony systematizes the 20 fundamental elements/spheres of the deep structure of social harmony from Tetrasociology in five necessary, sufficient, coherent, and tetra-dimensional clusters:
1. RESOURCES: People, Information, Organization, Things (PIOT),
2. PROCESSES: Production, Distribution, Exchange, Consumption (PDEC),
3. STRUCTURES/SHERESPHERES: Socio, Info, Org, Techno (SIOT),
4. CLASSES: Socio, Info, Org, Techno (SIOT-classes)
5. INDIVIDUAL: Character, Consciousness, Will, Body (CCWB)
The ABC of Harmony unites and combines them in the form of the world's first social genome of society: http://www.peacefromharmony.org/?cat=en_c&key=486. Social genome or SOCIONOME presents a society at all it levels - global, regional, national and local - as a one harmonious self-organizing sociocybernetic system of 20 fundamental societal spheres. Such an understanding of the integrity of society in Sociocybernetics was represented the first time. However, it can arise only as the development and integration of the Sociocybernetics fundamental ideas of its first two orders. These are the ideas of Wiener (1948, 1954), von Bertalanffy (1950, 1972), Ashby (1956), Beer (1972), Pask (1975, 1979), and especially the ideas of self-organization and autopoietic at the macro-level (Maturana and Varela, 1980) and Luhmann (1989, 1995), as well as similar ideas at the micro-level of social psychology and learning of Bernard Scott (2001, 2002, etc.): http://www.peacefromharmony.org/?cat=en_c&key=64.

SOCIONOME – it is a macro-level of sociology and Sociocybernetics. Besides it, The ABC of Harmony creates a holistic theoretical image of society on the human level as its the micro-level - PSYNONE, which is also as the micro-level for sociology and Sociocybernetics: (ibidem). Both of these levels are the fractally similar, expressing a deep structural and harmonious similarity of society in its extreme levels of micro- and macro-world.

The ABC of Harmony and its SOCIONOME and PSYNONE, covering the holistic society at the macro and micro levels, raise Sociocybernetics on the level of its third order knowledge. This new sociological and sociocybernetic paradigm is as the subject for new fundamental research in them future development. The ABC of Harmony - this is the beginning of Sociocybernetics of the third order in which the global society at all levels seems as a one perfectly and harmoniously self-organizing cybernetic machine of the 20 societal spheres. The ABC of Harmony enters into this cybernetic machine the harmonious social knowledge, thinking and consciousness of all its elements, processes and relationships. This harmonious consciousness and thinking transforms it from a spontaneous, violent and intuitive machine into self-conscious and rational, nonviolent system as the true human system. It self organizes now not violently, as in the past history, and consciously and non-violently in harmony with the ABC appearance, opening the global harmonious education in this ABC. It defines Sociocybernetics-3.

Notes:

For more information: Dr. Leo Semashko, GHA President, The ABC of Harmony Editor in Chief, Member, RC51 Sociocybernetics, International Sociological Association

The authors’ 27 reviews are at: http://www.peacefromharmony.org/?cat=en_c&key=489
The book may be ordered at: http://www.peacefromharmony.org/?cat=en_c&key=508.
IFSR and ISA Events information

From INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR SYSTEMS RESEARCH (IFSR) members:

July 2013: Systemics for Process Cohesion (Volos, Greece)
Hellenic Society for Systemic Studies (HSSS). 9th. HSSS National & International Conference. Systemics for Process Cohesion 11 - 13 July, 2013, Volos, Greece. in collaboration with the University of Thessaly Xenia Volos Hotel. Information email: info@hsss.gr

Forthcoming ebook Series "Business Systems" by B.S.Lab
Business Systems Laboratory is going to to present to IFSR members its forthcoming ebook series "Business Systems". "Business Systems" will publish short essays of maximum 20-30 A4 pages (longer works can be divided in more books). The main topics are: Systems Thinking, Cybernetics, Viable Systems, with a special focus on the application of these approaches to: Management, Marketing, Economics and Finance. Find more in... BS-Lab: Business Systems Laboratory – (IFSR Full Member) informantion at http://www.bslaboratory.net/

From ISA:
ISA Xllth International Laboratory for Ph.D. Students in Sociology
Theme: Towards a Global Sociology July 15-20, 2013
University of Sydney, Australia http://www.isa-sociology.org/isa_lab.htm

“Social Justice & Democratization Space”
This is a new ISA project initiated by Margaret Abraham, ISA VP Research and developed in partnership with Robert Rojek, and Naomi Blumsom, SAGE Publications. This site is available for all to Access Find more at http://sjdspace.sagepub.com/

The RCS1 Newsletter is open for permanent feedback to integrate new suggestions and ideas to achieve its goal: promote news among the ISA RCS1 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 RCS1 newsletter issue 27