Hello all

Welcome to our December 2016 newsletter, issue 33. Hope you find useful the information we have prepared. In this number, there are the main deadlines for the 2017 14th Conference of Sociocybernetics to be held in Medellin Colombia on June 20-24, and for the 2018 ISA World Congress of Sociology (Toronto Canada, July 15-21).

Also, you will find a message form Chaime Marcuello, a notice prepared by Fabio Giglietto to publish in the Journal of Sociocybernetics, and a date-reminder prepared by Patricia Almaguer and Chaime Marcuello for the ISA 2018 Congress. Also, there are two interest considerations: one from Bernd Hornung about a memorable session last summer in Vienna; and two, a John Raven´s reflection about Bernard Scott´s presentation.

Hope we can meet in Medellin, Colombia in June, and best wishes for this 2017 that promises to be frantic.

Juan Carlos Barrón Pastor
Dear Colleagues,

We are living fuzzy times and unusual changes in local and global spheres. There are big opportunities and big challenges for all the human beings. As specie, we never got so big amount of data and knowledge. Technologies are improving possibilities and modifying social, political, economical and scientific scenarios. Solid ideas and rules are mixed with liquid believes and experiences. Our societies are more liquid two decades after of the Peter Drucker (1993) Post-capitalist societydiagnosis and the Baumann’s liquid modernity description. This liquid metaphor (Bauman, 2000; 2007) is one generalized characteristic.

It seems clear that routines are changing and, also, past monsters of war and conflict are present like in Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Ethiopia… Even Brexit and Trump election are examples of this times of uncertainty, «that in times of socio-cultural change the future will not be like the past. Moreover, with a future not clearly perceived, we do not know how to act with only one certainty left: if we don’t act ourselves, we shall be acted upon. Thus, if we wish to be subjects, rather than objects, what we see now, that is, our perception, must be foresight rather than hindsight» (von Foerster, 2003, 199). As sociocyberneticians, we have a lot to work, say and foresight.

Our Research Committee on Sociocybernetics 51 had a very active presence in the Third ISA Forum of Sociology celebrated in Vienna, Austria, in July 10-14. Initially, we received 90 abstracts proposals. After the abstracts review and the
registration process, finally, we got 64 papers. This allowed to ask for two more slots. This was 14 sessions.

In 2017, we will celebrate our 14th International Conference: «Sociocybernetics, innovation and social conflicts. It will be celebrated in June 20-24 2017, at Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, Medellín, Colombia. Our member Luciano Gallon is the local convenor, with his team they are preparing an excellent conference, including social activities.

During 2017, we have to prepare our presence in the XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology: «Power, Violence and Justice: Reflections, Responses and Responsibilities» Toronto, Canada, July 15-21, 2018. This is a relevant date. Twenty years after Montreal, RC51 will have to define the horizon and dive for the next decades. We need to increase our membership and improve our contributions to scientific literature. It is a time for steering social systems to recover the peace, global justice and prosperity. In these times of surprise and troubles, we need new (socio)kybernetes and social scientists.

We have good opportunities in the next months. I look forward you in Medellin conference.

Chaime Marcuello
References

Dear All,

A new issue of the Journal of Sociocybernetics is now out! Volume 14 (2016) includes the following papers:

- Is external control important for internal control?
- Evo Busseniers
- Political legitimacy in Japan: a Luhmannian perspective
- Andrew Mitchell
- Bildung in the Era of Digital Media
- Jesper Tække, Michael Eric Paulsen

You can grab the open access full papers at: https://papiro.unizar.es/ojs/index.php/rc51-jos/index.

We have more interesting articles under reviews. I take the chance to thanks all the reviewers who completed their tasks in time. Many thanks also to the reviewers who still have to complete their reviews (we know you are doing your best, but please do it soon so that we can timely publish more interesting works).

Fabio Giglietto
Dear Colleagues,

As you may already know, the XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology will take place in Toronto, Canada, on July 15-21, 2018. Congress main theme is: Power, Violence and Justice: Reflections, Responses and Responsibilities.

Although it seems far away yet, ISA has already set the definitive deadlines for all the process. So here you have an overview of important dates to add in your 2017 agenda:

**February 2 – 15 March 2017. Call for Sessions**

-RC/WG/TG session proposer must submit session’s description on-line via Confex platform.
-Invited session organizer (RC/WG/TG, Presidential, Plenary, LOC sessions, etc.) must submit session’s description on-line via Confex platform.

**March 16 - 7 April 2017 Final list of Sessions**

RC/WG/TG Program Coordinator must finalize a list of sessions. Sessions titles, descriptions and the language in which they will be held (English, French or Spanish), as well as contact details of session organizers (name, affiliation, country, e-mail) will be available on the ISA conference platform run by Confex.

**April 25 – 30 September 2017 24:00 GMT Abstracts submission**

Participants and organizers of invited sessions must submit abstracts on-line via Confex platform. Abstracts must be submitted in English, French or Spanish. Only abstracts submitted on-line will be considered in the selection process.
**October 5 – 3 November 2017 24:00 GMT Abstracts selection**

Session Organizer must complete selection of abstracts and provide a final presentation designation (oral, distributed, poster, round table). Session Organizers move good quality abstracts unsuited for their sessions to the Program Coordinator’s bin for transfer to another session.

**November 4 – 24 November 2017 24:00 GMT Abstracts re-location.**

Program Coordinator re-locates good quality abstracts considered unsuited by Session Organizers from the Program Coordinator’s bin to other sessions.

**November 30, 2017 24:00 GMT Notification letters:**

Confex sends notification letters to:
- Authors and co-authors of accepted abstracts
- Authors of rejected abstracts

**January 31, 2018 24:00 GMT Applications for Registration Grants deadline:**

Program Coordinator receives applications for ISA grants submitted by the participants

**February 15, 2018 24:00 GMT Submission of proposed Registration Grants recipients:**

Program Coordinator sends a list of selected individuals and amounts recommended to the ISA Secretariat isa@isa-sociology.org for verification and approval.

**March 20, 2018 24:00 GMT Registration deadline for presenters:**

Registration must be paid by the deadline. Confex matches registrations with accepted presenters and will send out last reminder to register. Presenters who have failed to register will be automatically deleted from the program.

**April 14 – April 30, 2018 24:00 GMT Final modifications:**

Session Organizer modifies sessions based on withdrawal of non-registered presenters.
Session allocation

The number of sessions will be allocated based on the number of the ISA members in good standing in the group as of October 2016. Members in good standing are individual members who have paid both ISA and the RC/WG/TG membership due for the current year.

The number of allocated sessions is the total number of all sessions assigned to RC/WG/TG and includes all types of sessions as well as (1) A time slot for a Business Meeting; and (2) Joint sessions. Joint sessions cannot constitute more than 50% of all sessions in which a RC/WG/TG is involved (as host and/or co-organizer).

As we are in the range of > 100 members, RC51 will have 14 sessions allocated.

We think the overall topic will be highly related to our next conference in Colombia (Sociocybernetics, innovation and Social conflicts) in 2016. We look forward for your active participation in the session definition and of course, abstract submission.

Best regards,

Patricia Almaguer & Chaime Marcuello
Program coordinators
A Conference of Sociocybernetics is a unique and ideal academic forum for discussing on innovation and social conflicts, one that goes beyond the boundaries of traditional disciplines.

The Conference has no parallel sessions, thus we encourage all participants to contribute to and profit from the full stream of discussions during the Conference, which, as a developing conversation, usually embraces all of the presentations, systemically and overarchingly.

The goal of the 2017 Conference is, therefore, bring researchers from different disciplines together to explore, within a sociocybernetics approach, the challenges and opportunities related to the complex relationships between innovation and social conflicts.

We invite the submission of proposals to discuss innovation and social conflicts from a sociocybernetics perspective. Topics may include:

- Conflict resolution
- Culture clash and systemic change
- Cybercultur@ and knowledge communities
- Innovation systems
- Innovation vs. Tradition
• Media, protests and political action
• New forms of social organization
• News production, circulation and consumption
• Privacy, control and surveillance
• Simulation and computational social science
• Sustainable Development

Proposals with a strong sociocybernetics orientation addressing other topics (conceptual, methodological, practical) or reporting the empirical findings of research studies that apply sociocybernetics are also welcomed.

Proposal submission

Abstracts should be sent in English. Please submit an Abstract of 200-300 words together with an Extended abstract of 750-1000 words (including references) for review purposes. The former will be published in the RC51 Newsletter, included in the abstracts booklet made available to conference participants and published as part of the conference programme on the RC51 website.

The Abstract only should include information about the author(s): names, affiliations, email addresses and three (3) keywords. Both abstracts should be sent to the Head of the Abstracts Committee José A. AMOZURRUTIA (j.antonio.amoz@gmail.com), with copy to the RC51 Secretary Patricia E. ALMAGUER (endev.research@gmail.com). Selected papers will be published in a special issue of the Journal of Sociocybernetics.

Important dates

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March 2017</td>
<td>Abstract Submission deadline</td>
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<td>31&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; March 2017</td>
<td>Notification of acceptance, with possible request for revisions</td>
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<td>15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; May 2017</td>
<td>Full paper Submission deadline</td>
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<td>22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; May 2017</td>
<td>Registration deadline</td>
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<td>20-24 June 2017</td>
<td>14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; International Conference of Sociocybernetics</td>
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### Venue

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<td>Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana</td>
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<td>Medellín, Colombia</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.upb.edu.co">www.upb.edu.co</a></td>
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The Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, also referred to as UPB, is a private university in Colombia with its main campus in Medellín, where it was founded in 1936. Currently, the university has campuses in other Colombian cities, such as Bogotá, Bucaramanga, Montería and Palmira. The university offers 77 undergraduate programs, 24 master programs and 7 doctorate programs nationwide. The university groups its educational programs under the schools of Architecture and Urbanism, Design, Engineering, Health Sciences, Law and Political Sciences, Management, Social Sciences, Education and Teaching, and Theology, Philosophy and Humanities. The university also operates elementary and high school programs under its educational umbrella.

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<th>Host City</th>
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<tr>
<td>Medellín, Colombia</td>
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<td>Medellín Travel</td>
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<td>Medellín Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau</td>
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<td>International Cooperation Agency of Medellín</td>
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**Transport**
- José María Córdova / International Airport
- Olaya Herrera / Regional Airport
- Secretaría de Movilidad de Medellín
- Metro de Medellín
**Participation fees**

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<tr>
<th>Participant</th>
<th>Fee* (USD)</th>
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<tr>
<td>RC51 Member in good standing (ISA and RC51)</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student** (RC51 Non member)</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>RC51 Non member</td>
<td>100</td>
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* Participation fee includes: conference pack, coffee breaks, digital certificates of assistance and tourism information.

** Valid Student ID is needed to grant the discount.

Interested in becoming an ISA RC51 member? [Click here]

**Accommodation**

All the information on accommodation will be available at the “Accommodation” section of the Conference webpage. Some of the nearby hotels are:

- Hotel Bolivariana Plaza
- Hotel Asturias Medellín
- Hotel Cabo de la Vela
- Hotel Laureles 70
- Hotel Mediterraneo
- Inntu Hotel
- Hotel Lincoln
- Hotel Suite Comfort
- Hotel Verony San Joaquin
- Hotel Vivre
- El Portón de San Joaquin

**Conference Language**

The official language of the conference is English.

**Registration**

All the information on registration will be available at the “Registration” section of the Conference webpage.
About ISA RC51 on Sociocybernetics

Research Committee 51 (RC51) of the International Sociological Association (ISA) is one of the Research Committees which, along with a large number of national sociological associations, constitute the ISA. The aim of the RC51 is to promote the development of sociocybernetic theory and research within the social sciences. Sociocybernetics is broadly defined 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. See our website for more information: https://sociocybernetics.wordpress.com/

Local Organizing Committee

- Luciano GALLÓN / UPB / Chair
- Jose R. ÁLVAREZ / UPB
- Gabriel VÉLEZ / UdeA

International Scientific Committee

- Patricia E. ALMAGUER / México-España /Chair
- Saburo AKAHORI / Japan
- José A. AMOZURRUTIA / México
- Juan C. BARRÓN / México
- Eva BUCHINGER / Austria
- Fabio GIGLIETTO / Italy
- Margarita MAASS / México
- Chaime MARCUELLO / España
- Bernard SCOTT / United Kingdom
- Toru TAKAHASHI / Japan
- Michael PATEAU / Germany

Contacts and information

For Conference information and updates please check the official website: https://sociocybernetics.wordpress.com/conferences/

For specific questions you may directly contact the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee Luciano GALLÓN (luciano.gallon@upb.edu.co) or the RC51 President Chaime MARCUELLO (chaime@unizar.es).
RC51 offered a quite special event, both in terms of contents and in terms of format at this, once more huge, ISA conference. The organizers of this session, John Raven and Bernd R. Hornung, were very serious about the theme of the forum “The Futures we Want - Global Sociology and the Struggles for a Better World” by switching the perspective and trying to find means to avoid futures we do NOT want, i.e. “Social Forces Behind our Backs - Searching for Points of Intervention”.

Also not wanted in this session, which in the end features 7 “presenters”, was the standard ISA World and Forum Congress procedure of a sequence of frontal presentations squeezed into a tight time schedule and permitting three short questions to each one of them.

Instead, the session was organized as a discussion, not only among the panelists, but with all participants present, preceded by short, admittedly not always 3-minute, statements of the panelists. This was intended to outline as broadly as possible but also as quickly as possible the background and range of the issue to be discussed – points of intervention to bring forces behind our backs up front and modify them to serve the well-being of human individuals, humankind, and – as John Raven prefers to express it, the public interest.

For those who could not attend this event, a few sentences on the issue which prompted this session:

Social life in society has conflicting premises. On the one hand, society is clearly man-made. On the other hand, when we are born into it and start acting in it, it is a given. Acting in it, we often intend to change it, sometimes it does change sometimes not. Moreover, if we succeed to change something, more often than not it changes in a way
different from what we had intended. And, maybe in most cases, there are changes without our intending them.

Social processes are going on in structures which are given at that moment. Often they go on behind our backs and without being realized, moving society in directions we may not want. Attempts at controlling and steering such social forces (these terms are used here in their technical, cybernetic meaning) have turned out quite ineffective, and organizational actors which, by design, are supposed to do so (like governments) are quite helpless, the more we move towards more global issues. "Social forces" does not refer to some global conspiracy group, but to the mechanisms and processes built into society at a given moment.

The introductory statements at the beginning of the session started with the question of “What is the problem?” (John Raven), “Some ideas towards solutions” (Bernd Hornung), and a few reflections about “Successful with Sociocybernetics and Techniques of Modeling?” (Karl-Heinz Simon) along with ideas about “The potential contribution of computer simulation (Luciano Gallon). Francisco Leon and Jordi Tena-Sanchez argued for “A role for agent-based simulation?” while) David Hernández Casas went on with an empirical case study “A sociopoetics of dwelling, A point of intervention?” and Michael Paetau concluded with remarks on “A role for new social movements like the “Pirates” in Germany?”. A CD containing the different statements as well as the full papers, to the extent they were available already, and additional pertinent materials was made available to the audience. We hope to publish these materials also on the website of RC51.

John Raven pointed out, that the key issue with regard to the multitude of social and ecological problems we are faced with is not a lack of ideas of how to resolve them, but the lack of implementing such ideas. In other words, it is a problem of how our societies are managed, i.e. in hierarchical command-and-control arrangements and not as learning systems. To arrive at the latter would require a radical transformation, which, however, is blocked and counteracted by the social forces behind our backs.

Bernd Hornung outlined a few of the interrelated feedback circles involved in a diagram and gave a few hints at possible solutions, both according to Covey, who is primarily dealing with effective management at the individual and organizational level, and according
to John Raven, summarizing some of his points in this respect.

**Karl-Heinz Simon** insisted, similar to John Raven, that it is not enough to develop bright ideas, but that ideas, concepts, and solutions, e.g. resulting from the computer models developed for the Club of Rome, need to be implemented. Moreover, actors need to be identified and convinced who are able to implement them. We can talk about a “success” only, once the implementation results in lasting positive change. In this sense Denis Meadows considered the World Models as failures in the end, as they did not result in substantial changes in the real world. In the scientific context, Karl-Heinz suspects, mere publicity and noise by conferences and presentations may be considered as “success” already.

**Luciano Gallon** presented a more technical view of computer simulation, arguing that the wonderful, but in some respects limited, capacities of our human brains could be extended usefully by computer simulation techniques which do permit to experiment with models of social systems and analyze them by controlled and systematic modifications. This is not possible with real-life social systems nor with the conceptual systems we have in our minds or written down on paper.

Francisco Leon sketched a mathematical agent-based modeling-approach to the analysis of abrupt social changes, using some examples from recent history. Points of intervention might be shocks, which are introduced into a system, in the cases presented, in belief systems. Such shocks might change the belief in public support for an option but in the following also the thresholds for changes of preferences and finally private beliefs.

**David Hernández** sketched his approach to new ideas for vertical housing in Mexico City. Combining theoretical components from systems theory and cybernetics he approached the practical problem of housing in large and poverty-stricken cities. A basic intention of his vertical concept is to provide decent housing and quality of life, and not just a shelter meeting the most elementary need.
Michael Paetau situated the issue in the context of social science history, which has a tradition of dealing with "processes behind our backs" which goes back to Karl Marx and Adam Smith. He argued, that there is not one ideal solution to finding points of intervention, but that we have to take into account Ashby’s "Law of Requisite Variety". Only a variety of measures can cope with a variety of problems. This was precisely the intention of the discussion session – to elicit, if possible, a variety of views and proposals concerning possible points of intervention. Michael pointed out that his empirical example, the Pirate-Party-Movement in Germany, is not about such variety but concentrates on one, though very important and central issue, the new communication relations made possible by the so-called digital revolution. The struggle of the Pirate Party against the restriction of civil rights, the complete commercialization of the Internet, and for open access and transparency ("liquid democracy") might well be a point of intervention.

All of this was setting the scene for an expected lively and heated discussion about futures we want or do not want and about how to move into a wanted direction, taking at least the scope and ambitions of the Club of Rome studies – but this did not happen. Instead, the discussion took a quite different, but maybe important and useful turn with regard to starting such an endeavor. Was it only typical “sociological” self-inspection or sociocybernetic 2nd order self-observation? The key issue turned out not to be what can Sociocybernetics, what can RC51, what can “we” do to find points of intervention and to intervene in fact, but whom should we address? A question luring around since quite a while, just like the other one, years ago, which we tried to answer at the Corfu (?) conference “What is socio-cybernetics?” followed by the never really made explicit one “What is the mission of RC51?”

Bringing members to the ISA and organizing a lot of conferences is certainly important (along with fulfilling the other ISA-requirements), but for quite a number of us this was never all and fully satisfying. The idea of a joint project of members of RC51 has been around since long, which could also give our conferences and presentations a direction, a “red thread” in terms of substantial contents and identifiable progress also in the subject matter of “socio-” and not just in the theoretical matter of “-cybernetics” (and “systems”, of
course). But so far this did not materialize and also there was not really a convincing “socio-” topic around. The social forces behind our backs, however, could turn out to be such a topic, interesting and relevant for many RC51 members, in particular if we take into account seriously the wide background this issue has in John Raven’s work on “The New Wealth of Nations” and all the problems and obstacles preventing us from getting closer to it.

In this sense, it seems to me, the turn of the discussion towards the question whom to address was quite fruitful. In the first place we address our colleagues and members of RC51, which, in my view, has brought forward much useful dialogue and progress in individual work and also some teams, if I think of our Mexican friends. Over the years we have made more or less intensive efforts to address the ISA. With more or less success. More, as they know us and cannot overlook us, and sometimes they give the impression they are afraid of us, less, as they don’t dialogue with us, they don’t take over sociocybernetics or systems and cybernetics while, on the other hand, often using systems concepts without being aware of it.

Or should we address the scientific community beyond the ISA and social scientists? Or should we address “politics”?

The experience of RC51 shows, in my opinion, that it is necessary to be open and to go out to promote what we have to offer, but also not to get lost in show and publicity but act with enough closure, at least during certain periods, to be able to produce valid social science within RC51 which then can be offered to a wider audience. The pattern of openness and closure is, as I see it, well present in the sequence of our small, intimate annual conferences and the huge ISA events which we can and do use as showcases.

The experience, however, also shows that the effort required, even to address the ISA, is beyond our human resources, as long as only the board, or sometimes only some of the board members, are the activists.
A conclusion of this session could be, that we – RC51 – should draw up an informal and later on maybe formal agenda of research around this topic, without, however, excluding colleagues who for some reason or other to not want to follow this agenda. Also in our conferences we usually have a theme, but the conferences are still open to any other topic, as long as it is sociocybernetic. But then we also need to activate our members to cooperate actively, also between conferences. The Board is important to initiate activities, but we need a much broader base of active members than we have had so far.

Such a broader base of activists is not only essential to implement a research agenda, but also to carry out effectively the “side-activities”, organizing conferences, recruiting new members, strengthening our base of young members, and all the other activities we have on our agenda anyway, but which are crucial pre-conditions to carry out successfully a research agenda and to present results to the ISA and the wider scientific communities, but possibly also to actors who have the capability for implementing some of the proposals.

Although it is perhaps invidious to pick out one paper to highlight from the conference, I personally found the paper by Bernard Scott particularly engaging.

He first showed two slides (merged into one below) to illustrate the state of the world, and thus, I assume, problems which sociocyberneticians should be encouraged to address:

Only 11 out of 162 countries were not involved in conflict of one kind or another.

838 terrorist incidents, Jan-June, 2016.
Global Terrorism Database https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/

Islamic terror attacks 2016: 1205 Islamic attacks in 50 countries, in which 10939 people were killed and 13350 injured.

Climate change, damage to ecosystem: Scott(2009), Tony Juniper (2016).

Femicide, human trafficking, slavery.

Business as usual economics, G7: “Global growth a priority for dealing with threats to the world’s economy and security.”

I myself would have added some figures on the number of deaths orchestrated by the great powers via their military programmes and perhaps something about the role of the international banks and international (WTO) trade treaties in orchestrating inequality within and between nations (again backed up by military intervention or the threat of it).

But he then went on to offer what seem to me to be two very pertinent quotations indicating very precisely the issues sociocyberneticians would need to address if they were to contribute to the amelioration of these problems:

“The structure of domination (false consciousness) is maintained by its own mechanical unconscious functionality.” (Friere).

“The structure of the myth of endless economic growth has been maintained by its own mechanical and unconscious functionality.” Education for cybernetic enlightenment (Scott, 2014).

John Raven
Together with Michael Eric Paulsen Jesper Tække is working on the Socio Media Education project. Socio Media Education (SME) is an action research project about how Danish upper secondary schools can improve their media culture. The two researchers have conducted research in a number of upper secondary schools in Denmark and written a series of articles about how digital media and wireless networks influence social relations in classroom teaching (see their English publication). Their findings have showed that these media cause a series of problems: distraction, conflicts between students and teachers, and a high drop-out rate. They have also showed that teachers either react to the new media environment with prohibition (control and surveillance strategies) or indifference (laissez-faire strategies). Using medium theory (Meyrowitz 1985) and sociological systems theory (Luhmann 1995), They are able to explain and understand this theoretically. According to their analysis, information, communication, and action situations have changed with the new media environment. This has resulted in a situation where the norms formed in the former media environment do not efficiently guide social situations in the new digital and wireless network media environment. New forms of classroom management and classroom culture are needed.

In August 2011 teaching began in a new first-year upper secondary school class in Denmark, an experimentation class in the three-year SME project. This upper secondary school’s background for being a part of the project fell in line with the mentioned research results. The school representatives felt so frustrated with the situation that they fully agreed to be included in the project, even though this meant they had to participate in a so far unprecedented educational experiment. The core of this experiment is that the teachers can neither meet the students with prohibitions nor with indifference with regard to the use of media. In addition, they have to facilitate student reflexivity in relation to attention and media use, and they have to use two social media in their teaching, namely Twitter and a wiki.

In 2016 The two researchers propose a dialectic process between ‘new conditions’ and ‘school reactions’ running as a deconstruction of the old closed classroom in favour of an open community between students, teachers and third parts. Yet, the deconstruction does not happen at once. Rather they, suggest that it arises through three waves. In the first wave the old classroom is opened up. Students are distracted and teachers do not know what to do. The Internet becomes a challenge to teaching. In the second wave attention is drawn back to the educational interaction between teachers and students through the use
of social media. In this phase social media are used to re-stabilise the educational situation and intensify it. In the third wave teachers and students go a step further and succeed in establishing educational relevant interaction with third parts (authors, researchers, foreigners etc.). Only in this final phase the Internet becomes a mean of new perspectives that alter the old educational setting thoroughly.

Jesper and Michael have written books, articles and conference papers about the SME project and their theory about the three waves.

References in English
(see http://www.smee.dk/index.php/publikationer for also Danish references)


