



Call for Participation

Fourteenth Fuschl Conversation

Saturday, March 29 to Thursday, April 3, 2004
at Seehotel Schlick,, Seepromenade 35
5330 Fuschl am See, Austria

(updated 2008-01-30)

The Fuschl 2008 Conversations will to a large extent be the continuation of the Conversations held until 2004, taking into considerations the outcome of the Fuschl Conversation 2006.

The following five topics are planned for the Fuschl 2008 Conversation. Note that depending on the response by our members,

changes will be made. This could be both an expansion and a reduction of the topic.

For each Team we list the Team Leader (in some cases an interim one) who will help starting the team, taking care of the initial formation of the team, helping to find participants, modifying trigger questions etc.

For more details see also
<http://ifsr.ocg.at/world/node/34>

Team 1: Basic Concepts of Systems Sciences

Team Leaders: Gordon Dyer (g.c.dyer@open.ac.uk),
Horiuchi Yoshihide (horiuchi@sic.shibaura-it.ac.jp)

This team would include deans and professors from universities involved in administrating programs and teaching courses focused on systems research and applications. This would be based on the work done in 2006, gathering information about current systems programs and courses, as well as proposing new concepts for integrating systems courses and concepts into universities.

Triggering Questions:

- (1.1) What concepts must a person know in order to call him/herself a 'systems scientist'?
- (1.2) Can we establish an ontology of systems concepts using Charles Francois' Encyclopaedia.
- (1.3) Can we define a Systems Science Body of Knowledge?
- (1.4) What are existing / desirable University programs and courses - how much are they covering, compatible with (1.1.) and (1.3)
- (1.5) Given the fuzzy borders of Systems Sciences would it be helpful to separate the field into LARGE subfields, similar to e.g. informatics (practical, applied, theoretical).
- (1.6) Given that in Fuschl we cannot fully solve these questions, what is an appropriate road-map to achieve it, what should be the collaborators and what is the time frame?

Topic 2: The trajectory of systems research and practice

Team Leader: David Ing (daviding@coevolving.com)

The team would include individuals with experience in both systems research and practice and/or experience in industry, academia and/or public policy. The discussants should appreciate Lewin's idea that "there's nothing as practical as a good theory", with an emphasis on the relevance, evolution and usefulness of systems research.

Triggering Questions:

- (2.1) In which domains are systemic foundations -- either explicit or implicit -- significant and valuable for practice and methods?
- (2.2) Which organizations or institutions represent centers of competency and/or continuing development of systems knowledge?
- (2.3) How could systems research contribute to extending and/or linking the knowledge centers?
- (2.4) How can systems research respond to changes in institutions (public, private, not-for-profit) and technology (wikis, blogs, voice over Internet)?
- (2.5) What are the limits of systems research -- past and current -- and is overcoming those limits feasible on a mid-term (e.g. 5-year) horizon?
- (2.6) What role can the IFSR play and what are the requirements?

Topic 3: Disseminating, Accessing and Communicating Systems Knowledge

Team Leader: Gerhard Chroust (gc@sea.uni-linz.ac.at)

This proposed team would include current managers of systems archives, of systems journals as well as systems historians, communication experts and others who could contribute to the preservation and dissemination of seminal systems literature and information. The team would also need human engineering and psychological experts. The team members must also have some understanding of multi-cultural issues.

Triggering Questions:

- (3.1) How can we increase the accessibility of contemporary articles/books/journals on systems more effectively using modern technology, ?
- (3.2) How can we increase the dissemination of systems research ideas and achievements?
- (3.3) Can we design recommender system and assessment procedures to identify important publications?
- (3.4) How could we organize an information base to help people to find relevant information and pointers (given our limited resources!) ?
- (3.5) How can we preserve, analyze, record and make available publications of historical value and legacies of great systems scientists?
- (3.6) Could we compile a catalogue of the locations of important systems materials?
- (3.7) What modern means can be established to connect both our member societies and their members better?
- (3.8) How could such a system look, given that many of our members are not really interested in technology and just want to 'use' a system?

~~**Topic 4: Marketing Systems Ideas and Research projects to industry, politics and the general public**~~

~~**Interim Team Leader: Gary Metcalf (gmetcalf@interconnectionsllc.com)**
(!!! Will not be the held!!!)~~

Topic 5: Quality and Excellence in Systems Research

Team Leader: Matjaz Mulej (mulej@uni-mb.si)

This team would include individuals experienced in assessing, judging quality of systems research (journal editors, teachers, conference organizers, members of academies ...), experienced in working in high-quality/high excellence institutions (academies etc.). Its goal would be the identify forms of organisation and mechanisms to identify and highlight excellent achievements in the system sciences.

Triggering Questions:

- (5.1) What are key quality issues in systems research?
- (5.2) How could an Academy of Systems Research and Cybernetics work? What are the Needs, Challenges, Structure?
- (5.3) How can we establish cooperation between excellence centers of system Research?
- (5.4) What means/organizations exist now or are?



Application Form (Fuschl Conversation 2008)

Application: Participation in the Fuschl Conversation 2008

This is your commitment to attend, if selected, and the basis for making reservations for you at the hotel in Fuschl. Please complete and return this form **as soon as possible** to:

- 1) Gerhard Chroust, Kepler University Linz, Altenbergerstr. 69, A-4040-Linz, Austria, e-mail: GC@sea.uni-linz.ac.at AND
 - 2) To the Team Leader whose team is your first choice.
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I have read and I accept the Rules for Fuschl Conversations (attached). I also agree to pay a non-refundable registration fee of € 100 by February 15, 2004 to

Account no. 405.924.865 at Raiffeisen Landesbank Ooe, AG, (bank code: 34000) indicating "Fuschl 2008" (IBAN: AT18 3400 0004 0592 4865, BIC: RZ00AT2L)

Name _____

Address: _____

e-mail: _____

affiliated with (name(s) of member society): _____

First preference of Conversation Team: No. ____ Short Title _____

Second preference of Conversation Team: No. ____ Short Title _____

I plan to make contributions to the Conversation in the following area(s):

My partner will accompany me (double room!): Name:

My input paper is attached

My input paper has been sent separately on _____

I will submit my within the next week _____

Additional comments: _____



Rules for Fuschl Conversations (Fuschl Conversation 2008)

- The overall thematic responsibility is vested in the Executive Committee of the IFSR. It selects in close cooperation with potential Team Leaders the topics for the individual Teams
- Attendance at the Conversation is by invitation only and is only available to a severely limited number of participants (approximately 30)
- Participants are selected based on proposals by Board Members, Team Leaders, and individual applications (see Application form!)
- Applications will be considered by the Executive Committee in coordination with a strong voice from the Team Leader. The input paper stating the potential contribution of the applicant to the Conversation plays a decisive role. Geographic and disciplinary distribution is also a factor.
- Persons interested in participating should immediately e-mail the Application Form to Gerhard Chroust (GC@sea.uni-linz.ac.at) and to the Team Leader whose team they wish to join. The DEADLINE is announced in the schedule.
- Applicants will be informed of acceptance/rejection by date given in the schedule
- Participants will be contacted again by the Team Leader and asked for additional comments, feedback, and information.
- Participants are required to supply the requested input pages, contribution to proceedings etc. as requested by your Team Leader.
- The proceedings will be published under the auspices of Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies, Vienna with an ISBN-Number.
- The non-refundable registration fee is € 100 and should be paid to account no.: 405.924.865 at RAIKA Linz-Traun, Austria, (bank code: 34000) indicating "Fuschl 2008".
- Lunch and drinks will have to be paid by the participants themselves.
- A participant may take the partner to Fuschl, but at his/her own cost. The additional cost for half pension (breakfast and dinner) is approx. € 55 per night.
- If you have further questions please contact Gerhard Chroust (GC@sea.uni-linz.ac.at)