47th Annual Conference of the International Society for the Systems Sciences

AGORAS OF THE GLOBAL VILLAGE

Conscious Evolution of Humanity: Using Systems Thinking To Construct Agoras of the Global Village

Cretan Maris Conference Center
July 6th - 11th, 2003
Hersonissos, Crete
47th Annual Conference
of the
International Society
for the Systems Sciences
(ISSS)

Conscious Evolution of Humanity:
Using Systems Thinking
To Construct Agoras of the Global Village

Alexander N. Christakis, Ph.D.
President and Co-Chair

Kenneth C. Bausch, Ph.D.
Co-Chair
The conference theme has been chosen to focus attention on: (a) the challenge facing humanity as it transforms from “evolutionary consciousness” to “conscious evolution,” and (b) the role systems thinking must play in constructing 21st Century Agoras in the context of globalization.

Globalization is being described by many as an emerging new system of world order that has accelerated following the end of the Cold War order in 1989. Systems thinking must make clear what is being eliminated and what constructed by globalization.

We must rise to the challenge of democratizing the processes of conscious evolution to ensure that globalization empowers all peoples and not just elites.

Dialogue is essential for understanding cultures and subcultures in the emerging global village. Boundary-spanning dialogue across disciplines and civilizations, if conducted wisely, can generate democratic agreement on the courses we must pursue to create Agoras. Thus, the ability to engage in dialogue becomes one of the most fundamental and most needed human capabilities. Dialogue becomes a central component of any model of conscious evolution.

Dialogue was practiced very effectively in the agoras of Ancient Greece, like the one in Athens. The agoras were public spaces where people congregated and deliberated on their issues. If we want to democratize the emerging global village, we must provide agora-like places where people can engage in meaningful dialogue.

ISSS (www.ISSS.org) has long advocated “transdisciplinarity.” This was indeed the common feature of the four aims of the Society for General System Research (the forerunner of ISSS) as stated by its founders in 1954. Concepts, laws and models developed in particular fields were to be investigated to see if they could be properly transferred to emerging phenomena which were less well
UTION OF HUMANITY: THINKING TO CONSTRUCT GLOBAL VILLAGE

conceptualized. The challenges of the 21st Century, associated with conscious evolution and globalization, demand the identification and general transmission of such concepts, laws and models in whatever field they were originally developed in order to enhance humanity’s capacity to design the 21st Century Agoras. Systems thinking remains the best hope for this to be achieved.

ISSS 2003 will engage participants in earnest discussion and structured dialogue on topics such as the following:

› Defining what a democratic global discussion might look like (agora as process);
› Describing what a global village achieved by an effective global discussion might look like (agora as product);
› Exploring how local discussions as processes and agoras as product might come about;
› Making explicit what thinking globally and acting locally means for individuals and groups within ISSS;
› Fashioning ISSS into a model functioning agora;
› Deciding how ISSS can become organized for influencing the course of globalization;
› Discovering how to enhance the practice of boundary-spanning dialogue across disciplines and civilizations.

Conference Objectives:
1. To work towards making ISSS a living model of a Society capable of appreciating and practicing “conscious evolution;”
2. To explore and identify the role of systems thinking in the context of the emerging phenomenon of globalization;
3. To identify action steps in the pathway of constructing the agoras of the global village;
4. To enhance the praxis of boundary-spanning dialogue across disciplines and civilizations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aleco Christakis</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Aleco@CWALtd.com">Aleco@CWALtd.com</a> (Co-Chair)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Bausch</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kenbausch@earthlink.net">kenbausch@earthlink.net</a> (Co-Chair)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evelyn Andreewsky</td>
<td><a href="mailto:andreews@ext.jussieu.fr">andreews@ext.jussieu.fr</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nikitas Assimakopoulos</td>
<td><a href="mailto:assinik@unipi.gr">assinik@unipi.gr</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oguz Babouroglu</td>
<td><a href="mailto:baburoglu@sabanciuniv.edu">baburoglu@sabanciuniv.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth Bailey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kbbab@aol.com">kbbab@aol.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surinder Batra</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cimi@nde.vsnl.net.in">cimi@nde.vsnl.net.in</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabrina Brahms</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sabejams@pacbell.net">sabejams@pacbell.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane Conaway</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Diane@CWALtd.com">Diane@CWALtd.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cesar D’Agord</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dagord.2@osu.edu">dagord.2@osu.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ali Granmayeh</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aligranmayeh@hotmail.com">aligranmayeh@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jifa Gu</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ifgu@jaist.ac.jp">ifgu@jaist.ac.jp</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Harris</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lharris@unm.edu">lharris@unm.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aretousa Ieronimaki</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aretusa@her.forthnet.gr">aretusa@her.forthnet.gr</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Jung</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Richard.Jung@post.harvard.edu">Richard.Jung@post.harvard.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Kineman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ijk@nexial.org">ijk@nexial.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Kokkinis</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gkokkini@ebeh.gr">gkokkini@ebeh.gr</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Laszlo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alexander@syntonyquest.org">alexander@syntonyquest.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathia Castro Laszlo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kathia@syntonyquest.org">kathia@syntonyquest.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Magliocca</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Magliocca.1@osu.edu">Magliocca.1@osu.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marios Michaelides</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mariosmi@spidernet.com">mariosmi@spidernet.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gianfranco Minati</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gianfranco.minati@iol.it">gianfranco.minati@iol.it</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nikos Paritsis</td>
<td><a href="mailto:paritsis@med.uch.gr">paritsis@med.uch.gr</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Sanders</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sandersk12@aol.com">sandersk12@aol.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Markus Schwaninger</td>
<td><a href="mailto:markus.schwaninger@unisg.gr">markus.schwaninger@unisg.gr</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eva Stavrakaki</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kesan@her.forthnet.gr">kesan@her.forthnet.gr</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reynaldo Trevino-Cisneros</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rtrevino@presidencia.gob.mx">rtrevino@presidencia.gob.mx</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ioanna Tsivacou</td>
<td><a href="mailto:itsi@aegean.gr">itsi@aegean.gr</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Wilby</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jmwilby@dial.pipex.com">jmwilby@dial.pipex.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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### July 6th • Sunday

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13:00–19:00</td>
<td>Conference Registration</td>
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<td>19:00–21:00</td>
<td>Welcoming Party</td>
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<td>Entertainment by the Quartette of the Heraklion Municipality and the dancing group of the “Lyceum of the Hellininen”</td>
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<tr>
<td>21:00–23:00</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
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### July 7th • Monday

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00–9:30</td>
<td>Welcome, Blessing and Announcements</td>
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<td>9:30–11:00</td>
<td>Chairs: Laura Harris and Mike Jackson</td>
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<td>9:30–10:15</td>
<td>Reforms: Complexity and Conflicts</td>
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<td>Keynote: Dimitri Pappoulitas</td>
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<td>10:15–11:00</td>
<td>Indigeneity: An Alternate Worldview</td>
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<td>Plenary: LaDonna Harris</td>
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<td>11:00–11:30</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30–13:00</td>
<td>Chairs: Kathia Laszlo &amp; Alexander Laszlo</td>
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<td>11:30–12:15</td>
<td>What Can Cybernetics Contribute to the Conscious Evolution of Organizations out Society?</td>
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<td>Von Bertalanffy Lecture: Markus Schwaninger</td>
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<td>12:15–13:00</td>
<td>The Dilemma of Autonomy</td>
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<td>Plenary: Ioanna Tsivacou</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00–17:30</td>
<td>Lunch and Free Time</td>
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17:30–20:30 Parallel Workshops and SIG Sessions

HALL ATHENA

Indigenous Wisdom of the People Forum
Chairs: LaDonna Harris and Laura Harris

HALL ARTEMIS

Greek Co-Laboratory
Chairs: Ioanna Tsivacou and Marios Michaelidis

HALL DIANA

Spanish Co-Laboratory
Chairs: Enrique Herrscher and Cesar D’Agord

HALL EUROPA

Global Agoras Co-Laboratory
Chairs: Ken Bausch and Gianfranco Minati

HALL IKOSI ENA

Systems Approaches to Business
Chair: David Ing

HALL DEKATESERA

Evolutionary Development and Industry
Chairs: Kathia Castro Laszlo and Alexander Laszlo

HALL IKOSI

Epistemology and Metamodeling
Chair: John Van Gigch

HALL DEKAEANIA

Foundations of Informational Science
Chair: Soren Brier

21:00–23:00 Dinner
July 8th  ●  Tuesday

HALL ZEUS

9:00-13:00  Chairs: Reynaldo Trevino and Surinder Batra

9:00-9:15  Review and Announcements

9:15-9:30  Break

9:30-11:00  Parallel SIG Sessions

HALL ENTEKA

General Evolution Research Group
Chair: Larry Magliocca

HALL DEKATESERA

Syntegrity
Chairs: Allenna Leonard and Markus Schwaninger

HALL DEKAENIA

Participatory Design
Chair: Janet McIntyre

HALL IKOSI

Critical Systems
Chair: Mike Jackson

11:00-11:30  Break
11:30–13:00 Parallel SIG Sessions

HALL DEKATESERA
Evolutionary Development
Chairs: Kathia Laszlo and Alexander Laszlo

HALL DEKAENIA
Applied Systems
Chair: Dennis Finlayson

HALL ENTEKA
Human Systems Inquiry
Chair: Arne Collen

HALL IKOSI
Information Systems Design
Chair: Olov Forsgren

13:00–17:30 Lunch and Free Time

17:30–20:30 Parallel Workshops and SIG Sessions

HALL ATHENA
Indigenous Wisdom of the People Forum
Chairs: LaDonna Harris and Laura Harris

HALL ARTEMIS
Greek Co-Laboratory
Chairs: Ioanna Tsivacou and Marios Michaelidis

HALL DIANA
Spanish Co-Laboratory
Chairs: Enrique Herrscher and Cesar D’Agord
HALL EUROPA

Global Agoras Co-Laboratory
Chairs: Ken Bausch and Gianfranco Minati

HALL IKOSI

Designing Educational Systems
Chair: Patrick Jenlink

What is Life/Living
Chair: John Kineman

HALL ENTEKA

Systems Approaches To Business and Industry
Chair: David Ing

HALL DEKATESERA

Spirituality and Systems
Chair: Hisako Koizumi

Women and Children
Chair: Anne Nelson

HALL DEKAENIA

Applied Systems
Chair: Dennis Finlayson

HALL APHRODITE

Syntegrity
Chair: Allenna Leonard

21:00–23:00 Dinner
July 9th  Wednesday

HALL ZEUS

9:00–13:00  Chairs: Sabrina Brahms and Jennifer Wilby
9:00–9:15  Review and Announcements
9:15–9:30  Break
9:30–13:00  Optional Tour of Knossos and Heraklion Museum
  Parallel Paper Sessions/Discussion Groups
  Poster Sessions

13:00–17:30  Lunch and Free Time

17:30–20:30  Parallel Workshops and SIG Sessions

HALL ATHENA

Indigenous Wisdom of the People Forum
Chairs: LaDonna Harris and Laura Harris

HALL ARTEMIS

Greek Co-Laboratory
Chairs: Ioanna Tsivacou and Marios Michaelidis

HALL DIANA

Spanish Co-Laboratory
Chairs: Enrique Herrscher and Cesar D’Agord

HALL EUROPA

Global Agoras Co-Laboratory
Chairs: Ken Bausch and Gianfranco Minati
HALL IKOSI

Critical Systems
Chair: Mike Jackson

HALL ENTEKA

Living Systems
Chair: Tracy Lane

HALL DEKATESERA

Organizational Transformation
Chair: Maurice Yolles

HALL DEKAENIA

Participatory Design
Chair: Janet McIntyre

21:00–23:00 Dinner

July 10th • Thursday

HALL ZEUS

9:00-13:00 Chairs: Karen Sanders and Dimitris Potamianos

9:00-9:15 Review and Announcements

9:15-10:15 In Memory of Past Presidents of ISSS

10:15-10:45 Vicker’s Award – Student Presentation

10:45-11:15 Break
11:15–13:00  Panel and Paper Sessions
            Poster Sessions

13:00–17:30  Lunch and Free Time

17:30–20:30 Parallel Workshops and SIG Sessions

HALL ATHENA

  Indigenous Wisdom of the People Forum
  LaDonna Harris and Laura Harris

HALL ARTEMIS

  Greek Co-Laboratory
  Ioanna Tsivacou and Marios Michaelidis

HALL DIANA

  Spanish Co-Laboratory
  Enrique Herrscher and Cesar D’Agord

HALL EUROPA

  Global Agoras Co-Laboratory
  Ken Bausch and Gianfranco Minati

HALL DEKATESERA

  Organizational Transformation
  Chair: Maurice Yolles

HALL DEKAENIA

  Foundations of Information Science
  Chair: Soren Brier

HALL ENTEKA

  General Evolution Research Group
  Chair: Larry Magliocca
HALL IKOSI

Information Systems Design
Chair: Olov Forsgren

HALL APHRODITE

Participatory Design
Chair: Janet McIntyre

21:00–23:00 Dinner

July 11th ● Friday

HALL ZEUS

9:00–13:00 Chairs: Larry Magliocca and Nikitas Assimakopoulos

9:00–9:40 Presidential Address
Wisdom of the People
Aleco Christakis

9:40–10:10 Incoming President’s Speech
Fifty Years of Systems Science
Kenneth D. Bailey

10:10–10:30 Break

10:30–12:00 Group Presentations of Collective Findings

12:00–13:00 Community Self Reflection

13:00 ADJOURN Formal Conference

13:00–15:00 ISSS Board and Other Business Meetings
Conference Hotel

The Conference Hotel is Creta Maris Hotel & Conference Center *****

Location: The hotel is situated on the northern coast of Crete in Hersonissos, only 25 km away from Heraklion and 23 km away from the Heraklion International Airport.

Registration fees

STATUS
- Members €400
- Non Members €450
- Students €200
- Accompanying Persons €250

The Registration fees include:

For Participants (Members, Non Members & Students):
- Arrival Transfer from airport to Hotel on Sunday July 06th, 2003
- Admission to all Scientific Sessions
- Conference Material (Program, Conference bag, Plastic badge, Certificate of attendance etc.)
- Conference Proceedings in CD-ROM
- Conference Abstracts
- Welcome cocktail
- Coffee breaks

For Accompanying Persons:
- Arrival Transfer from airport to Hotel on Sunday July 06th, 2003
- Welcome cocktail
- Half Day tour to Knossos Palace & the Archaeological Museum of Heraklion

Congress Secretariat Desk

The Congress Secretariat will operate as follows:

July 6th, Sunday 13.00-20.30 | July 9th, Wednesday 08.30-20.30
July 7th, Monday 08.30-20.30 | July 10th, Thursday 08.30-20.30
July 8th, Tuesday 08.30-20.30 | July 11th, Friday 08.30-15.00

The Congress Secretariat will not operate between 13.30 -17.30 throughout the Congress days.

Conference Secretariat

Triaena Tours & Congress S.A.

Heraklio: Ethnikis Antistaseos 116
GR-713 06, Heraklio, Crete, Greece
Tel. +30 2810 333420, Fax. +30 2810 333430
e-mail: crete@triaenatours.gr

Athens: Atchley House, 15 Mesogion Avenue,
GR 115 26 Athens, Greece
Tel.: + 30 210 7499300, Fax: + 30 210 7705752
Email: congress@triaenatours.gr, http://www.triaenatours.gr
Transportation
Shuttle service will be available from the Airport to the Hotel on Sunday July 06th, 2003 to all the conference hotels for all the participants. Service is included in the registration fee. Participants arriving a different day must arrange their transportation by themselves or in co-ordination with the Conference secretariat on request basis.

Banks in Greece
Banks are open from Monday to Thursday from 8:00 to 14:00, Friday from 8:00 to 13:30. The official currency of the country is EURO

Voltage
The voltage used in Greece is 220V

Shopping
Shopping hours are:
Monday/Wednesday/Saturday: 09:00-14:30
Tuesday/Thursday/Friday: 08:30-13:30 & 17:30-20:30

Climate
A typical Mediterranean climate with short springs, long hot summers and mild winters. The average temperature in Crete ranges between 12-17 degrees centigrade (enter the temperature in Farenheit too) in November-April and 30-40 degrees centigrade in June-September.

Optional Tours
WEST CRETE - CHANIA & RETHYMNON
(Monday, July 7th, 2003)
Rate per person EURO 40

KNOSSOS - HERAKLION ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM
(Wednesday, July 9th, 2003)
Rate per person EURO 35
The tour is included in the registration fee of the accompanying persons

ELOUNDA / SPINALONGA / AGIOS NIKOLAOS
(Thursday, July 10th, 2003)
Rate per person EURO 45
The ISSS Committee would like to express its appreciation for the contribution and generous support to the following sponsors:

CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

HERAKLION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MUNICIPALITY OF HERAKLION

MUNICIPALITY OF HERSONISSOS

NAFTEMPORIKI

UNIVERSITY OF PANTEIOS
BACKCOVER INTERIOR