



WOSC 2014

Our self-organising world: from disruption to reparation

Systems and cybernetics applied to technology, design, governance and power

**WOSC's 16th Congress: Organised by the Universidad de Ibagué, Colombia
15-17 October, 2014**

20th May, 2014

This communication offers an overview of current developments towards the realisation of WOSC 2014 in five months time.

The Congress

By May 20th 84 submissions have been received from people working in 19 countries in the five continents. As expected about half of these submissions have their origin in Latin America but we have also received submissions from China, Japan, Iran, Kazakhstan, South Africa, Australia and the Russian Federation, not to mention EU countries and the USA. We still expect to receive more abstracts in the coming weeks.

WOSC 2014 is bringing together people from different parts of the world to *debate positive and negative disruptions of the environment as a result of our human activities in a largely self-organising world*. Dealing with the impact of human activities in energy and climate change, marine environment, water and land resources and many other domains requires constructive design and governance. These are issues relevant to society and we hope that our conversations during the Congress, underpinned by cybernetic and systemic epistemologies, will produce valuable insights. This is the challenge we have set for ourselves in the Congress.

Recurrent topics addressed by submissions are sustainability, complexity, self-organisation, democracy, transdisciplinary modelling, ecology and governance. A third of the submissions come from research students bringing a substantial influx of new ideas. Overall, WOSC 2014 should make a contribution to social transformation and policy-making both at the local and also at more global levels.



WOSC 2014, Ibagué, Colombia Communication 5

Submissions' reviewing has been done by 17 theme coordinators from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, Australia, Canada, Germany, Poland, Spain, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, which represent a distributed network of cyberneticians and systems thinkers operating throughout the world.

We are now advising authors how to proceed producing a draft paper before September 30th. After the Congress they will have until January 31st to submit final papers, which will get into the usual electronic reviewing process of both *Kybernetes* and the *International Journal of Systems and Society* (<http://wosc-congress.unibague.edu.co/index.php/registration/submission-guidelines-for-full-paper>).

Congress organisation

WOSC 2014's website, <http://wosc-congress.unibague.edu.co/> is playing an important role in the Congress organisation. This website has been developed and is being maintained by an Operational Committee, led by Dr. Gloria Piedad Barreto, which includes local people as well as WOSC's Director Dr. Igor Perko from Slovenia. Additionally submissions are being managed by Dr. Hernan Lopez-Garay, as Chair of the OpenConf Peer Review & Conference Management System.

The Congress is planned as a three day event with daily morning plenaries and 6 parallel afternoon sessions of 1 ¼ hours each for the first two days and 3 in the third day. In other words, this implies 15 thematic sessions of, say 5 papers each, together allowing the presentation of about 75 papers (see Schedule below). We expect, together with theme coordinators, converge before the Congress into a balanced distribution of contributions to themes. This plan will be adjusted closer to the Congress. To further support the contributions of young researchers we are inviting presentation of posters during the three days.

The official language of the Congress is English; however plenaries will be translated simultaneously into Spanish.

The event will coincide with the 9th Conference of the European Union of Systems -EUS- (<http://www.ues-eus.eu>), which will take place in Valencia, Spain. The focus of the EUS's Conference is "Globalization and Crisis: Complexity and Governance of Systems". We are video-recording all plenaries.

Plenaries

Plenaries in WOSC 2014 will contribute to a deeper social, scientific and professional appreciation of issues such as ecological stability, economic policy, biological culture, language and communications, self-organisation, social organisation and governance. Towards this aim the University of Ibagué and WOSC have invited a powerful group of keynote speakers.



WOSC 2014, Ibagué, Colombia Communication 5

Humberto Maturana, Chile's National Science Award in recognition for his work towards an understanding of living systems (autopoiesis), has researched together with Ximena Dávila for the past 15 years a paradigm of cultural biology, which is being published in their book "El Arbol del Vivir", a powerful contribution to processes of cultural transformation. Both of them are sharing with Congress participants these developments. Dario Rodriguez, from Chile, along the lines of the work of the German sociologist and systems thinker Niklas Luhmann, will further develop the idea of autopoiesis from sociological and organisational perspectives; he is author and co-author of several books, such as "Organizaciones para la modernización".

Fernando Flores regarded as a world class expert in how people work together and co-author of books such as "Understanding Computers and Cognition", "Disclosing New Worlds", "Building Trust" and more recently "Conversations for Action and Collected Essays" will bring to the Congress political, managerial and philosophical depth. Flores was the initiator of the Cybersyn Project in Chile, which will be discussed by Eden Medina, from the United States, author of the book "Cybernetic Revolutionaries" and by Raul Espejo, Operational Director of this project and also author and co-author of many publications, including "Organizational Systems; Managing Complexity with the Viable System Model". Cybersyn was the invention of Stafford Beer; Allenna Leonard has contributed to the dissemination of his work over decades and in particular in this Congress she will discuss another of Beer's inventions, Team Syntegrity.

Economics is perhaps the most influential body of knowledge in governmental policy-making. Geoff Mulgan has contributed to policy-making at the highest levels in the UK, offering an often forgotten systemic perspective, which has been captured in his writings on power and capitalism; among others in books such as "Good and Bad Power" and "The Locust and the Bee". Clas-Otto Wene, a physicist and member of the Swedish National Council for Nuclear Waste will contribute a powerful alternative, grounded in second order cybernetics, self-organisation and organisational learning, to traditional economic arguments about energy technology learning. Last but not least Carlos Gershenson, from Mexico, will share his work in aspect of self-organisation as crystallised in his PhD thesis "Design and Control of Self-Organising Systems"; he exemplifies the emerging powerful contribution of new generations to the future of Systems and Cybernetics.

Norbert Wiener Gold Medal

WOSC will award the Norbert Wiener Gold Medal to Professor Maturana. WOSC's Executive Committee -represented by its President, Professor Robert Vallée, its Vice-President, Professor Brian Rudall, and its Director General Professor Raul Espejo- has agreed awarding to Prof. Dr. Humberto Maturana, at WOSC 2014, the Norbert Wiener Gold Medal in recognition for his outstanding contributions to Cybernetics.

Prof. Raul Espejo
Director-General World Organisation of Systems and Cybernetics



WOSC 2014, Ibagué, Colombia Communication 5

Congress Schedule

Time	Wednesday (Oct. 15)			Thursday (Oct. 16)			Friday (Oct. 17)					
8:00 - 9:00	Opening Governor of Tolima Rector Universidad Ibagué President WOSC											
9:00 - 12:00	Keynote Speakers Fernando Flores Eden Medina Allenna Leonard			Keynote Speakers Geoff Mulgan Carlos Gershenson Dario Rodriguez			Keynote Speakers Clas-Otto Wene Raul Espejo Humberto Maturana/Ximena Dávila					
12:00 - 1:45	LUNCH											
2:00 - 6:00	Parallel sessions*											
	Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3		Theme 7	Theme 8	Theme 9		Theme 13	Topic 14	Theme 15	
2:00 - 3:45	Posters	Conf 1.1 Conf 1.2 Conf 1.3 Conf 1.4 Conf 1.5	Conf 2.1 Conf 2.2 Conf 2.3 Conf 2.4 Conf 2.5	Conf 3.1 Conf 3.2 Conf 3.3 Conf 3.4 Conf 3.5	Posters	Conf 7.1 Conf 7.2 Conf 7.3 Conf 7.4 Conf 7.5	Conf 8.1 Conf 8.2 Conf 8.3 Conf 8.4 Conf 8.5	Conf 9.1 Conf 9.2 Conf 9.3 Conf 9.4 Conf 9.5	Posters	Conf 13.1 Conf 13.2 Conf 13.3 Conf 13.4 Conf 13.5	Conf 14.1 Conf 14.2 Conf 14.3 Conf 14.4 Conf 14.5	Conf 15.1 Conf 15.2 Conf 15.3 Conf 15.4 Conf 15.5
3:45 - 4:00	Coffe Break				Coffe Break				Coffe Break			
	Theme 4	Theme 5	Theme 6		Theme 10	Theme 11	Theme 12		Norbert Wiener Gold Medal			
4:00 - 5:45	Posters	Conf 4.1 Conf 4.2 Conf 4.3 Conf 4.4 Conf 4.5	Conf 5.1 Conf 5.2 Conf 5.3 Conf 5.4 Conf 5.5	Conf 6.1 Conf 6.2 Conf 6.3 Conf 6.4 Conf 6.5	Posters	Conf 10.1 Conf 10.2 Conf 10.3 Conf 10.4 Conf 10.5	Conf 11.1 Conf 11.2 Conf 11.3 Conf 11.4 Conf 11.5	Conf 12.1 Conf 12.2 Conf 12.3 Conf 12.4 Conf 12.5	5:00 - 5:45	4:00 - 5:00	WOSC Award of the NWGM to Prof. Dr. Humberto Maturana	
6:00 - 8:00	Folk event				Music Hall concert				Final event - closure			