

NEWSLETTER

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Society for Chaos Theory in Psychology & Life Sciences



President, IVELISSE LAZZARINI
Editor, SARA NORA ROSS
Production, STEPHEN GUASTELLO
Send Newsletter submissions to:
Sara.Nora.Ross@gmail.com

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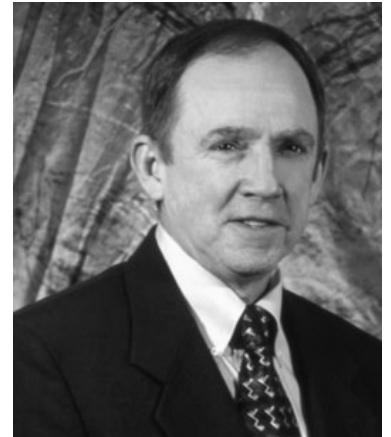
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Dick Thompson Elected SCTPLS President-Elect

Letter to our Membership from the President-Elect

In my official capacity as president-elect of the Society for Chaos Theory in Psychology & Life Sciences (SCTPLS) I want to wish everyone a happy, new chaotic year! This year promises to emerge in a nonlinear manner full of self-organized criticality. The global economy has been perturbed. The U.S. has a new president. The climate appears to be vacillating between global warming and global cooling. Everywhere you look you can see examples of an inverse power law. Fortunately, this year brings with it an outstanding annual meeting which will include keynotes from Drs. Mohammed Dore and Guy van Orden. Dr. Dore will help us understand the chaotic economy through his nonlinear modeling of the current financial crisis and recession. Dr. van Orden will share his model on Living in The Pink. There will be pre-conference workshops as well as many other outstanding presentations and posters. You don't want to miss this meeting.

I see opportunities for creating conditions that allow for the emergence of systemic growth in the Society's global contribution, membership and conference attendance. Our global mission through SCTPLS and our own humanity requires us to use our knowledge of NDS and our collective member intelligence to help resolve global issues. Our sister organizations, NESCI and Delphi, are already doing this. As a corporate body, SCTPLS has the knowledge, resources, skill sets, experience and ability to reshape the trajectory of human consciousness and, consequently, the future of humanity—and perhaps the earth. The window of opportunity is open. I encourage you to help us move through.



To be trite, membership is critical for SCTPLS' survival. There are many factors affecting the size of our membership. As president I have pledged to apply my collaborative skills to build membership. We have a strong base of highly intelligent members who can all benefit from expanding our size. SCTPLS provides a medium for professional and personal growth. Examples include the *SCTPLS Newsletter*, annual conference, discounts on NDS and chaos related books, book reviews and *Nonlinear Dynamics, Psychology, and Life Sciences*, to name a few. Steve, Matt, Jeff and others have done a great job in this area. I'm sure many of you have great ideas that will help build membership. I would like to see us explore quarterly workshops, webinars, virtual presentations by NDS discipline leaders on their current work, research papers, copies of articles, global project participation, more research collaboration, more networking, more graduate student participation, increased multi-discipline membership, expanded relationships with other societies, reduced rates for multiple society membership, an enhanced website with articles, videos, etc., more member recognition in the *Newsletter*, global impact, to name a few. I encourage those of you who are interested in exploring any of these ideas, or others you may have, to contact me. I can be your sounding board and conduit to the Board. We live in an electronic digital age—there's not much we can't do very quickly.

By taking on a global focus, building our membership and putting on "the" NDS related conference of the year (each year) we will begin to create a synergistic effect that may become a reinforcing loop for all the areas discussed...

In my candidate statement I mentioned that I believe in long-range visionary conference planning that can be adapted at the operational and tactical level as we move through time toward specific yearly milestones. I'm excited to announce that this year's conference committee is already hard at work planning both the 2010 SCTPLS and INSC conferences. We will announce the details of these conferences at the SCTPLS 2009 conference—and send out a "save the date" email prior to that. Adopting this type of long-range planning will allow us to develop strategic themes to support the SCTPLS vision. Additional techniques for increasing the power of our annual conference and attendance include, but are not limited to: establishing a larger conference team; a powerful multi-

disciplined conference program; keynotes who are leaders in their field with presentations integrated into the particular conference theme; enhanced pre-, onsite and post-networking opportunities; presenter bios; a referral network;

presentation abstracts; presentation handouts and takeaways; opportunities to meet book authors; purchase books at a discount; project collaboration meetings; strong marketing to members; non-members and other organizations and—this is critical—marketing by SCTPLS members!

By taking on a global focus, building our membership and putting on “the” NDS related conference of the year (each year) we will begin to create a synergistic effect that may become a reinforcing loop for all the areas discussed above. At this point I implore you to do three things in the next 7 days:

- Submit a proposal to present your great work
- Register for the conference—and bring a colleague
- Talk to me about how to make SCTPLS more valuable to you and others

This is going to be an outstanding year for SCTPLS and I want to thank you for the opportunity you have given me to serve in this capacity.

Dick Thompson
SCTPLS President-Elect

Announcing Our 2009 Conference Speakers!

Mohammed Dore to be Sunset Keynote Speaker



Mohammed Dore is a Professor of Economics at Brock University where he was the first Director of Environmental Economics. He has worked on resource management issues and sustainability ever since arriving in Canada in the late 1970s. His early work on sustainable forestry led to the establishment his NSF

funded climate change laboratory in 1996. In 2001 he began work on water infrastructure as one of seven theme leaders in the Canadian Water Network that was established in to provide a vision for the effective management and use of water resources in Canada. Mohammed has a particular interest in the long-term supply and demand of water, and in the impact of climate change on water and water infrastructure. In 2002 he received Brock University’s Distinguished Research Award, and in 2007 one of his former students endowed the Mohammed Dore Graduate Scholarship in perpetuity. Mohammed holds a D.Phil. from the University of Oxford.

Sunset Keynote Abstract: The Economic Downturn of 2007-2008

The world has a history of financial crisis and business cycle downturns. Linear models of business cycles cannot explain these repeated crises and downturns. Each time, rational agents are persuaded that “this time it is different.” While the crises repeat, there is also emerging novelty that linear models cannot handle. On the other hand, trying to estimate chaotic dynamics in economics has proved to be difficult as the time series are short and often noncomparable due to emerging novelty. Nevertheless, some sense needs to be made of the current downturn which invites comparison with the Great Depression. In my talk I plan to focus on the financial crisis of 2008 and the accompanying downturn in the US. I argue that a skewed income distribution could not sustain effective demand and that over the 2001-2006 Bush expansion demand was maintained through massive amounts of credit, with more than 50 percent of sales in the US being maintained through credit. A vector autoregression model confirms the crucial role played by credit. However, legislative changes that dismantled the restrictions place on the financial sector after the crash of 1929 and the consequent structural changes in the financial sector after 1980 enabled the growth of new debt instruments and credit. But overexpansion of credit when profits and house price were declining in 2005/06, led to a nonlinear shift in expectations due to a new realization of the poor quality of some of this debt, namely mortgaged backed securities. Bankruptcies, followed by retrenchment at the

banks, then led to the bursting of the credit bubble, with the possibility of a severe recession.

Guy Van Orden to be Banquet Keynote Speaker



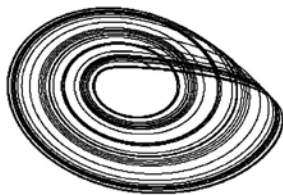
Guy Van Orden received his PhD in Psychology from University of California San Diego in 1984. Following postdoctoral positions at AT&T Bell Laboratories (1983-1984) and University of Colorado Health Sciences Center (1985-1987) he joined the Department of Psychology at Arizona State University where he directed

the Graduate Program in Cognitive Systems and Behavioral Neuroscience (1992-1996). Since then, Dr. Van Orden has held visiting positions at the University of Amsterdam, University of Connecticut, and Catholic University, Eichstätt, Germany. He served as guest editor for *Ecological Psychology* and currently serves on the editorial boards of *Philosophical Psychology* and *The*

Mental Lexicon. From 2001-2005 he served as the Director of the program in Perception, Action & Cognition at the National Science Foundation. He has served on review and advisory panels for the U.S. National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Defense, European Science Foundation, and European Commission, and is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association. He joined the Department of Psychology at the University of Cincinnati in 2007.

Banquet Keynote Abstract: Living in the Pink

Purposeful acts appear pre-prepared as propensities to act. Propensities anticipate possible actions appropriate to the context at hand and consistent with the history of the actor. Anticipation, in this sense, situates the actor in the future, so far as circumstances allow. A conceptual tool to make sense of anticipation is self-organized criticality. The embodiment of anticipation self-organizes to stay close to critical points or choice points for possible actions. This hypothesis explains a growing body of research, focused on patterns of variation in sickness and in health, to gauge the anticipatory poise that precedes repeated actions.



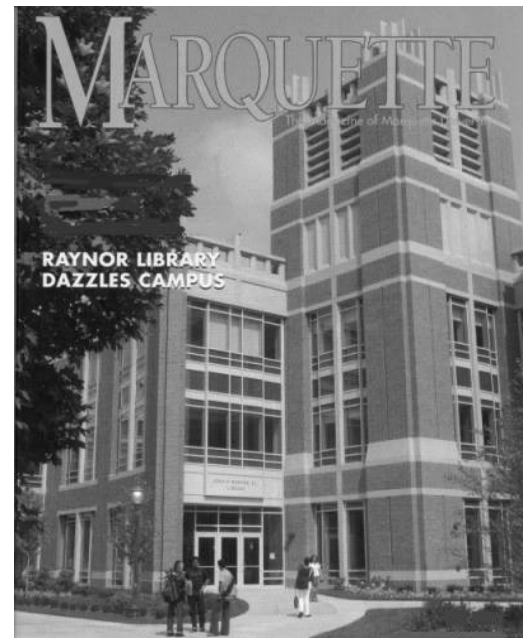
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

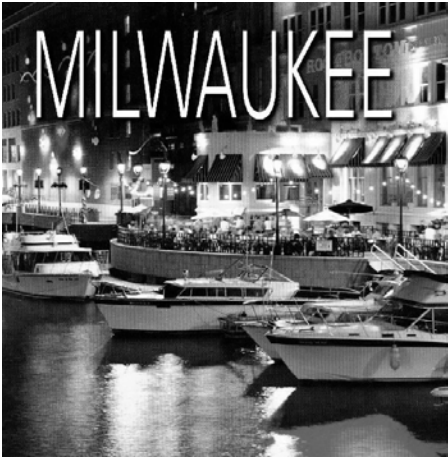
For the 19th Annual International Conference

Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI USA ~ July 23-25, 2009

We invite interested scholars to present and discuss recent developments in nonlinear dynamical system theory, which includes chaos theory, fractals, complex systems, and related topics. Over the years, the Society for Chaos Theory in Psychology and Life Sciences' conferences have inspired and supported scholars from an array of disciplines to look at new ways to develop their theoretical and empirical work in an integrated approach to life sciences.

The Society for Chaos Theory in Psychology and Life Sciences is a multidisciplinary organization, and its conferences present work in all areas of psychology, general biology, neuroscience, medicine, and the social sciences, as well as anthropology, art, education, literature, mathematics, philosophy, and physics. The program will include workshops, invited addresses, symposia, panel discussions, a poster session, and sessions of individual papers. Advances in basic or applied research, developments in theory, reports of empirical results, and methodological papers are all welcome. We continue to encourage all nonlinear scientists, including graduate students who might be finishing up a dynamical thesis or





dissertation, to consider sharing their ideas through paper presentations, chairing a roundtable session, or by proposing other alternative presentation formats, such as posters, product demonstrations, short workshops, or debates around controversial topics.

Instructions for Abstracts

Abstracts should be between 150-250 words for posters, individual papers, short workshops, and other alternative formats. The connection to nonlinear dynamics, chaos, complexity, fractals, or related concepts should be clear to the reader. Include a short background on each speaker/author.

Abstracts may be up to 500 words for symposia or panel discussions. For symposia, abstracts should reflect the content of EACH speaker's contribution and indicate the relevant background of each speaker. The format for a symposium is for all speakers to give presentations, followed by or interspersed with discussion. Symposium organizers are encouraged to include a discussant. For panel discussions, abstracts should provide a brief overview of the topic, and indicate the relevant background of the panelists and sample questions they will address. The format for a panel discussion is an introduction to the topic and the speakers, after which the panelists address a series of questions or issues (rather than giving a series of presentations).

Each person submitting is limited to a maximum of two presentations as first author. It is acceptable to be a co-author on additional work submitted by others.

The deadline for submissions is **April 30, 2009**. *Early birds will receive acceptances after March 9th*
Submit abstracts electronically at <http://www.societyforchaostheory.org/conf/2009/cfp.html>

Four New, Exciting Pre-Conference Workshops!

These lively, half-day workshops are designed to teach useful skills and methods. Designed to meet learning objectives, they are great conference take-aways!

Terrill Frantz – Agent-Based Modeling and Social Networks.

Stephen Merrill – Markov Chains for Time Series, Modeling, Simulation and Analysis of Dynamical Systems.

Sara Ross – The Nonlinear Model of Hierarchical Complexity: How Order is Constructed in the Process of Emergence.

And a fourth to be announced!

Be on the lookout! Expanded descriptions of these workshops and their learning objectives will appear in future announcements and the next Newsletter.



Inside Raynor Library, where our conference sessions will take place.

We hope to see  you in Milwaukee!

Registration Information

SCTPLS will be managing registration for the conference, workshops, and lodging. The conference lodging facility will be the famed Mashuda Hall of Marquette University, formerly a Holiday Inn Hotel, and lodging place for **The Beatles** (yeah, yeah, yeah!) when they played Milwaukee in 1964.

The Marquette facilities offer single lodging, private bath, and internet connection.

Conference Rates for 2009*

Conference registration:

Regular members	\$195
Student members	\$145
Non-members	\$280

Pre-Conference Workshops (4 hours each):

Regular	\$145
Price break for 2:	\$240
Students	\$ 95

Lodging (single accommodations only):**

2-night package-July 23-24	\$120
Additional nights, each	\$ 65

*Fees include refreshments and the July 24 banquet.

**Alternative lodging suggestions for larger parties will appear in future announcements.



Milwaukee Art Museum with the sails down



March 9 (Monday). Early-bird abstract submissions will receive a reply after this date.

April 30 (Thursday). Call for abstracts closes.

May 15 (Friday). All acceptances finalized by Program Chair.

June 1 (Monday). Students who have a paper accepted for presentation must be active members by this date in order to qualify for a Scholarship Conference Fee Waiver. www.societyforchaostheory.org/membership.html Qualifying students should contact Dr. Dick Thompson dick@hpsys.com if they are interested in this opportunity.

June 22 (Monday). All speakers must register by this date to remain on the program.

July 1 (Wednesday). Cancellations of conference registration and lodging will be subject to a 25% service charge starting on this date.

July 8 (Wednesday). Last day for early-bird conference registration. Last day for conference lodging. We cannot guarantee the availability of lodging units after this date. Cancellations of conference registration and lodging will be subject to a 50% service charge starting on this date.

July 15 (Wednesday). Cancellations of conference registration and lodging will be subject to a 75% service charge starting on this date.

July 22 (Monday). We regret that we cannot offer any refunds for cancelled registrations or lodging received after this date.

July 22 (Wednesday). Arrive if attending morning workshop or starting the fun early!

July 23 (Thursday). On-site registration and workshops starting 8:30 AM. Sunset session with guest speakers

July 24 (Friday). Conference day. Reception and banquet starting at 5:30. Guest speaker.

July 25 (Saturday). Conference day. Annual business meeting.

Publication Opportunity

All presenting conferees are further invited to prepare their papers for review and possible publication in the Society's research journal *Nonlinear Dynamics, Psychology, and Life Sciences*. *NDPLS* is peer-reviewed and abstracted in *PsycInfo (Psychological Abstracts)*, *Medline (Index Medicus)*, *JEL/Econlit* and other important databases. *NDPLS* uses American Psychological Association (APA) style. Click JOURNAL on the SCTPLS web site to access Instructions for Authors. All SCTPLS members receive *NDPLS* and the *SCTPLS Newsletter* as a benefit of membership. *NDPLS* accepts manuscripts all through the year, but please use September 1, 2009 as the target date for submitting conference-related papers; the journal would like to have as many articles based on conference presentations as possible ready for the same issue.

Sara Ross Appointed SCTPLS Secretary



2007, as Newsletter Editor.

The Executive Committee appointed Sara Ross as Secretary, succeeding Joe Jacobsen's tenure in the position (thanks for your service, Joe!). Sara has been a member since 2003, serving previously on the Membership Committee and, since

Members' News

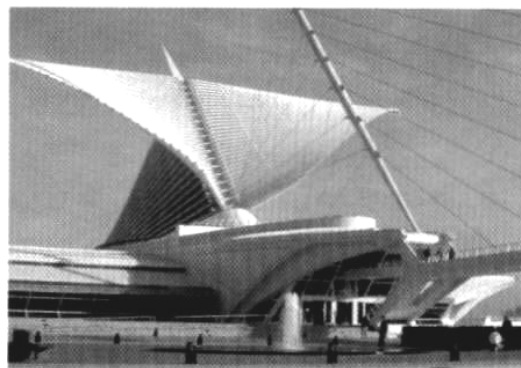
Pasquale Commendatore co-edited *Geography, structural change and economic development: Theory and empirics*, due to roll off the printing presses in February, published by Edward Elgar. See the details in the Bookshelf below. Congratulations, Pasquale!

Dimitrios Stamovlasis received an academic position at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy and Education, Greece. He will be teaching Research Methodology for Social Science and Statistics. His main research interest has been in educational research and the applications of nonlinear dynamics. Dimitrios joined SCTPLS in 1998 and was an active member as co-chair in the last two International Nonlinear Science Conferences (INSC's) in Crete (2006) & in Tokyo (2008). He positively will be in Palermo (2010) for the next INSC, too! And SCTPLS positively appreciates your leadership contributions in these conferences, Dimitrios!

Richard Taylor reports he appeared on a Nova program in October, "and that was fun. It was called 'Hunting the Hidden Dimension.' You can view it at the PBS Nova site. I think you'll enjoy it. It's about recent applications of fractals." The one-hour program is divided into five chapters: Fractal basics; the Mandelbrot set; on the defense; fractals in the body; nature's fractal nature. What a great way to introduce students and other new audiences to fractals and even help audiences familiar with the concept (but less so, spotting their evidence everywhere) to perceive them more readily!

Vela Velupillai has co-planned a two-day workshop, *Nonlinear Dynamics in Economic Modeling: Celebrating the Contributions of Women to Dynamical Systems Theory*. It is a CIFREM Tutorial Workshop of the Department of Economics, University of Trento, March 12-13, 2009. Check out more information on the CIFREM website at <http://portale.unitn.it/drem/>.

Are **other members** up to some mighty interesting things, too? Surely so! Please send your news items to share here with your colleagues! -- *Editor*



Milwaukee Art Museum with the sails up!

In Memoriam: Gottfried Mayer

We pass along the message posted by Dean LeBaron, which he received through the folks at Complexity Digest.

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of my friend and founding editor, Dr. Gottfried Mayer on January 25, 2009 in Taipei, Taiwan. He had been battling numerous cancers with his intellect, guidance from complexity science and his strength. But the fight was concluded, attended at his bedside with his wife, Yeou-Teh, and daughter, Stephanie. Complexity Digest is Gottfried's creation. It was his vision that work was being done all over the world which needed to be brought into the community's network to solve problems. His own scientific sweep was a demonstration of the multi-

disciplinary, rapid response features that became the hallmark of each weekly issue reaching over 10k members dedicated to furthering complexity.

He trained a small international team of editors to write concise, summaries of important articles. And he partnered with me on what more we could do whether exploring new media like video, partnering with other institutions or finding ways to preserve the services of Complexity Digest beyond the lives of any of us. And Gottfried triumphed in setting the course for ComDig's next phase. The editor's burdens are being assumed by Carlos Gershenson who has been writing for the publication since 2001. The publisher is the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), the leading university in Latin America, and its new Center of Complexity Sciences. This exciting group will impact complexity both through its own research and in acting as a source of inspiration for others in its publication efforts. Publication will be on a bi-weekly basis and you can expect to find Complexity Digest continue to be useful in your work....the spirit of Gottfried will be present to guide us by continuing to be on the masthead as founding editor.

Wolfgang Tschacher's response on the CHAOPSYC list, giving us another window into Gottfried.

I was very sad to learn of Gottfried's (for me) unexpected death. Having shared regions of growing up (in southern Germany) and intellectual backgrounds (Haken's synergetics), I had the pleasure to meet Gottfried repeatedly on occasions such as conferences in Stuttgart, Karlsruhe, Tokyo... We had wonderful conversations on synergetics, chaos, systems theory, all in the soft Swabian dialect. Gottfried was very knowledgeable and his ideas were truly interdisciplinary and thought-provoking. Apart from this, and more importantly, he was a very kind man.

MathSciNet Indexes NDPLS

The Publications Committee is pleased to report that NDPLS will be included in the MathSciNet index service starting with the 2008 issues. MathSciNet is the electronic continuation of Mathematical Reviews, published by the American Mathematical Association, and is the premier index service in its topic area. MathSciNet includes both theoretical and applied mathematical articles.

Help us promote our 2009 SCTPLS Conference!
Circulate our announcements!

Other Conference, Training, and Funding Announcements

Winter Chaos Conference: Dynamical Systems Thinking in Science, Education, the Humanities, and Society (aka "Snowflake") - March 20-22, 2009.

The Conference Room in Center for Human Development, 332 Birnie Avenue, Springfield, MA

This conference has established a tradition of informality both in style and substance that features open discussion and mutually respectful interactions among participants. It is open to metaphoric as well as formal explorations of systems/integrative thinking into science (including psychological, social, biological disciplines, mathematical, and logical disciplines), education, the humanities, society, and philosophy. We range over rather diverse subjects in philosophy, education, research, social applications, and theory. Whether based on presenters' published materials or works-in-process presented for feedback and collaborations, we have been fortunate to have been exposed to so many fresh, innovative, often ground-breaking, ways of approaching and/or perceiving the world around us. Driving directions: <http://www.chd.org/directions.htm>. A preliminary web page for 2009 has been added to Blueberry's Winter Conference web pages. <http://www.blueberry-brain.org/winterchaos/Winter%20Chaos%202009.htm>

American Psychological Assn. (APA) Advanced Training Institute in Nonlinear Methods for Psychological Science

University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio
June 8-12, 2009

This Advanced Training Institute (ATI) teaches methods of nonlinear analysis, and provides each participant with the first-hand experience of having analyzed time series for nonlinear structure. On the first day of the ATI each individual generates a unique dataset that they learn to analyze during the course tutorials. Each participant leaves the training with turnkey software for nonlinear analyses, provided by the instructors, and the experience of having analyzed their own time series data for nonlinear structure.

The institute is directed by Guy Van Orden (University of Cincinnati [UC]), in collaboration with fellow psychologists Kevin Shockley (UC), Michael Riley (UC), Rick Dale (University of Memphis), and Jay Holden

(California State University Northridge). Other experts in nonlinear methods may also make presentations. The course is specifically tailored to psychologists and graduate students, and the only prerequisites are the standard statistics courses taught in almost all psychology graduate programs.

Some of the methods covered are not represented elsewhere in textbooks. Despite their utility, they are mostly known and disseminated through journal publications in disciplines other than psychology. The course makes use of a free webBook *Tutorials in Contemporary Nonlinear Methods for the Behavioral Sciences*, edited by Riley and Van Orden, which came out of an NSF workshop on Nonlinear Methods in Psychology.

The ATI focuses on analyses that have already impacted psychological science in prominently published work, such as quantitative recurrence analysis and cross-recurrence analysis (forms of nonlinear "correlation" analysis), fractal methods, and the discovery of power law structure. Theoretical issues may also be introduced in the course. Nonlinear methods using limited and multiple time series data (recurrence analyses) are emphasized. Optional course readings may include basic articles on theoretical issues in nonlinear dynamics and tutorials in nonlinear analysis, and will largely come from the webBook. – from http://www.apa.org/science/ati_nlm.html

NSF Opportunities

1. There are two positions available as Program Director for Perception, Action, and Cognition. One is a rotator position and the other is permanent. For those of you unfamiliar with the NSF Rotator Program, it allows a professor to come to Washington for a year or two and assume the role and responsibilities of a program officer. Program Officers run the review meetings ("Panels" at NSF), are very involved in funding decisions, and can have a permanent effect in shaping the field.

For the rotator position, you do not have to take a sabbatical, as most institutions will allow you to take a leave of absence (the NSF pays your full salary either through your university or as a federal employee). You will learn a lot about how the grants process works, and get to enjoy all that Washington has to offer.

The PAC rotator position is posted at:

<http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/getjob.asp?JobId=78120456&AVSDM=2008%2D12%2D15+07%3A58%3A03>

The permanent position is posted at:

<http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/getjob.asp?JobId=78095492&AVSDM=2008%2D12%2D12+12%3A38%3A17>

To talk about the nature of the position, contact Betty Tuller, btuller@nsf.gov, 703.292.7238 or Vince Brown, vrbrown@nsf.gov, 703-292-7305.

2. The Human and Social Dynamics Program (HSD) at NSF funded some exciting and innovative work but unfortunately the program has ended. Nevertheless, the directorate is committed to continuing the momentum. NSF has issued a 'Dear Colleague Letter – Integrating HSD Goals into Core SBE Programs.' (SBE= Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences). New funds will be available to support work in 1) Complexity Science; 2) Large-scale Interdisciplinary Research, and 3) Infrastructure (broadly defined). There are no special competitions or new programs for these three areas. Relevant proposals should be submitted to an existing program according to the program's regular target or deadline dates. Please distribute this notice to others who may be interested. More information can be found at:

http://nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf09019.

3. NSF has issued a 'Dear Colleague Letter' that invites applications for participation in a joint NSF/EPSRC "sandpit" (interactive workshop). The sandpit is meant to be an intensive, interactive and free-thinking environment, where participants from a range of disciplines immerse themselves in collaborative thinking processes in order to construct innovative approaches to synthetic biology. Substantial funding is allocated for selected collaborative research projects arising from the sandpit.

Synthetic Biology uses biological systems as the primary source of data, dynamics, and phenomena to fabricate devices that are based on natural living systems. For example, new tools for designing and controlling neural circuits can lead to engineering of a virtual brain with the goal of better understanding brain/behavior interactions and to new computer technology based on our understanding of brain processes. Cognitive science and neuroscience are essential to this goal. Anyone eligible to apply for funding from either the NSF or EPSRC is eligible to apply to attend the sandpit. Please read the Dear Colleague Letter at

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2009/nsf09012/nsf09012.jsp>

and a fuller description of the sandpit, its aim and desired outcomes at

<http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/CallsForProposals/JointSyntheticBiology.htm> .

Contact Rita Teutonico with any questions: rteutoni@nsf.gov, 703-292-7118.

Feature Article

On Clinical Paradoxes Seen from Chaotic Psychoanalysis

Roberto Harari

Translated by Judy Filc

Editor's note: We are pleased to publish a third, culminating article of Roberto Harari's project to elucidate in English the nonlinear dynamics evident in Jacques-Marie-Émile Lacan's (1901-1981) seminal interdisciplinary work. The first two articles were published in 2007, in *Analysis No. 13*, by the Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis. The introductions to those first two articles are reproduced here with permission as a preface to help set the context for the present article.

Preface

The Drive Is as Turbulent as Language

Both because of the later evidence gathered in his praxis and because of the very direction of his teachings, the "latest" Lacan became gradually critical of the central foundations of psychoanalysis made up by the notion of the unconscious. In this respect, his dictums sound straightforward and conclusive. We find words such as "lucubration," "assumption," "attribution to a substance," "supposition," "entity," and the like. At the same time, Lacan pointed out how his own logic and clinical operation were no more than a replacement for the Freudian episteme since, in his view, the inventor of psychoanalysis had also had to resort to the notion of drive as a valid alternative that might enable him to overcome the *impasses* inherent to the positing of the unconscious—and to the praxis derived thereof. In Lacan's words, "the hypothesis holding the unconscious to be an extrapolation is not absurd, while it also explains why Freud resorted to what is called the drive" (1977c, n.p.).

It is obvious that from such a standpoint, the echolalic repetition of "the four fundamental concepts of psychoanalysis," where the unconscious and the drive are understood as equivalent supports whose hierarchy over each other cannot be descried, this repetition becomes both anachronic and deceitful, as it brings out only a "middle" stage in Lacan's teachings. Moreover, if it is true that emphasis—or its "sliding"—moves from the unconscious towards the drive, what is then the standing of the Lacanian apothegm, revered as canonical and

irrefutable: "the unconscious is structured like a language"? The lines that follow are intended as a contribution to a brief elucidation of both these issues.

Turmoil in the Word

Whenever psychoanalysis "imports" notions from other fields of knowledge, a no small number of psychoanalysts reacts almost mechanically, in an attitude that is half-way between thoughtlessness and irritability. This constellation makes itself heard through paradigmatic phrases, such as "that has nothing to do with psychoanalysis", or "Freud and/or Lacan has/have already posed the issue", or else "that's all very interesting as far as the theory is concerned, but it's no use for the praxis". Summing up, the pretendedly epistemologic criticism involves all sorts of reproaches, be it for impertinence, redundance, impracticability, or the three of them at once.

Well, then. For several years now, having detected the fertile outlines for his developments in the proposals to be found in the latest Lacan, this author has been trying to "import" into psychoanalysis such notions as are central to the Chaos Theory, for these notions have taken up the turmoil as one of their *princeps* objects of study. Along this same way, then, this article will attempt to bring out the realization of the said notions in the midst of the *medium* that psychoanalysis reckons to be valid. I mean, of course, the order of "speakeage" (Lacan, 1987, p, 15).

Introduction

In this article I shall seek to go more deeply into one of the items that conform the fruitful range of problems stemming from an encounter between Lacan's teachings and the Chaos Theory. I think it proper to name this encounter *chaotic psychoanalysis*, for the absence of epithets summons the epistemic myth according to which the sole label "psychoanalysis" might well result in massive agreement supported by would-be universal guidelines that all of us who share a community of experience adhere to. Well, then; in my view, this is not the case.

Why not? Because the way in which the said experience is conceptualized governs both the levels at which the experience is apprehended and the efficiency—which is not equivalent to the empirical efficacy of doing—of the psychoanalyst's work.

When a diametrically opposed criterium is maintained, it simply means that the stakes favour either an intuitionism that is unable to lavish upon itself the theoretical boons of its interventions, or else an "orthodox" determinism whose aim in the cure does not go beyond the limits of an imaginary, childish and endogamic reconstruction.

On Chaotic Psychoanalysis

When we qualify our discipline as "chaotic," what do we denote? Briefly speaking, we point to the appearance of new orders—emulating the dissipatives posited by I. Prigogine—generated by a crisis in the stability of the originary system as a consequence of severe fluctuations in the equilibrium conditions. Rather than lead either to the collapse or the ultimate disappearance of the system, such fluctuations introduce new constellations which can arrange a deterministic "chaos." A would-be chaos, since the fluctuations—the movements of unpredictable edges together with that of outlines and borders that cannot be circumscribed in advance—are governed by a new legality the elucidation of which is still to be worked out.

In other words, the paths traversed by the successive forkings undergone by the originary system obey the *logic of disorder*, which refers to one or more places or centers able to support the fastening of the initial order. In fact, these *attractors*, which are responsible for the apparently chaotic design of the path, are called *strange*. If topologically written, it is possible to overturn these attractors by means of one or two Moebius' bands (which should not be mistaken for the double band resulting from the middle cut of a single band like the one already mentioned).

Hence—and this is not the first time I state this—our intervention as psychoanalysts aims at disrupting the balance rather than at manufacturing "balanced individuals." In this respect did Lacan not teach that the neurotic was the one who could best give lessons on adaptation, since the neurotic so successfully adapts to his/her symptom? Now then, the psychoanalyst's unadaptive praxis, working in a local, singular fashion, stands at a distance from whatever "prognosis" rooted in medical-psychiatric disciplines. Thus, in an attempt to keep apart from the idealizing parameters of control and

reproductive determinism, the psychoanalyst toils after the conception of favourable conditions so that the speaking being's degrees of freedom may be expanded. Yes: of the "uninstallment" (Lacan) of neurotic constraints which, ruled as they are by the "demonic" repetition compulsion (Freud), only cling to fixed-point attractors (i.e., those that stop movement gradually) or to attractors of limit cycle (that is, of regular, periodic alternation, with pre-established borders and short-reaching movements) when it comes to strategies designed to regain *jouissance*.

It is then when the psychoanalyst's inborn purpose is perceived: that purpose which draws him/her to *poiesis*, to an unveiling sort of efficiency, not to a "prosaic" one. The thing is to break up the neurotic equilibrium supported by both fixed-point and limit-cycle attractors by implementing resources of a "speaking" order. These will help the structure to flow chaotically, so as to install, without any chance of reversibility, an order governed by the laws of a strange attractor, and whose ulterior "prognosis" will become-Lacanian-Real, that is to say, impossible to predict.

A Non-Linear Intervention

Along the lines of what has already been said, it might be believed that such a procured effect responded to a cause of equipollent caliber; still, the whole development of "our psychoanalysis" (Lacan) affirms the validity of a radically different principle, defined as *non-linear*. It is just by speaking that great effects, often bordering on the spectacular, are achieved when it comes to changes in the analysand's subjective position. This is as obvious as it is traditional: speaking, indeed, but not in a suggestive-imperative fashion, one that suits the precepts where the psychoanalyst has stagnated as the Ideal. It is well-known that this is a classic, critical warning which, as such, is wielded to the point of sickness. Why insist on it, then? Well, apart from the acknowledged good faith, it is worth wondering about "linguistic" modes through which the said ethical goal can become feasible. In other words, how do we manage to avoid gorging the analysand's Imaginary by feeding it even more sense when, precisely, the analysand's demand tends to reach out for the hermeneutic-symbolic? How are we to counteract the psychotherapeutic, resistential search for "enlightening," for "explanations," for "please, tell me again so that I can understand," for "what should be done in such circumstances," all of which is so typically subservient to the University's self-reproductive discourse?

Many self-appointed Lacanian development followers have tried various "instrumental" answers to this riddle. Starting from a cadaverous silence, the psychoanalyst glided on to a psychodramatic intervention called "in act" (purposefully unwise and, on occasions, untimely), and/or moved on to an allusory-elusive "languageous" mode, often somewhere between the mysterious and the oracular, and/or to interventions named "in the Real." Instances of these do not fall very far from forms of imposition to be detected in the advice and orientation grounded on the Ideal of common sense (in its aspect of collective phantasy). It goes without saying that every one of these modes builds social bonds which, one way or another, operate turning points of and in the cure, besides having taken on an absolute quality thanks to the above mentioned attitudes. What I mean is that such interpretation patterns may account for their punctual, conjunctural *raison d'être* if they are understood in an isolated, not hypertrophied or exclusive, manner, and if, at the same time, the local, singular relevance of each cure is borne in mind. These patterns respond either to the exhaustion of the "languageous" resource—hence the need for another register—or to its implementation so that other modes of the social bond (i.e., discursive modes) can be put in act.

On the Paradox in the Field of Chaotic Psychoanalysis

Starting from chaotic psychoanalysis, it is possible to posit a new implementation—*not a new alternative*—so as to counteract the resistential ego obstacle already discussed: we can, in fact, implement the *paradox*. No doubt "our" psychoanalytic interventions retain much of the purpose conveyed by the very etymology of the word: we settle down "against ordinary points of view," questioning the analysand's supposed "truths" till they reach a crisis. According to Lacan, this is why "[...] since there are paradoxes, there are no true opinions of any kind" (1977b, n.p.). Yet what are paradoxes? In Falletta's classification, they comprise the following cases: "1. An enunciate that appears contradictory but is, in fact, true. 2. An enunciate that appears true but, in fact, involves a contradiction. 3. A valid set of arguments that leads to contradictory conclusions" (1998, pp. 1-3). On the other hand, paradoxes share the following characteristics: (a) contradiction, (b) self-reference, and (c) a vicious circle (Falletta, 1998). It is precisely these properties that prevent an "exit" from or solution to the paradox in the same terms it poses.

This is why the shake experienced by the ego—for it is not a matter of mere enunciates, as enunciation is also implicated—throws it off its balance, inexorably leading

the subject towards the path of the drive, of entropy, of dissipation, where new inscriptions will be invented (but no new representations of the ego).¹ Again, Lacan tells us that this is so because what prevails in "our psychoanalysis" is the notion of an "open set" linked to that of vicinity (1974); consequently, in accordance with this topological premise, we abide by an "elastic" logic which is neither "formal logic" nor "conceptual logic" (1962a, n.p.). Where does this point to? In my view, it is no more than putting in act, once more, the fact that "[...] man and woman have no business together[...]", which makes up "[...] a paradox of a similar order as the 'I lie' one, or like that of Russell's catalogue of [all] catalogues that do not include themselves" (1968, n.p.). *Therefore, if the aphorism that goes "There is no sexual relation" governs and organizes the developments produced towards the end of Lacan's teaching, then the paradox turns out to be its fundamental "languageous" concretion.*

Besides, the paradox also conveys another crucial feature of that final period: the sliding over of the notion of language from speech to writing. In Lacan's words: "[...] none of the paradoxes where classic logic dwells, particularly the 'I lie' one, holds together until it is set down in writing" (1971, n.p.). On the other hand, if the paradox puts in act the non-sexual relation, then, Lacan adds, "[...] freedom is precisely identical [...]" (1971, n.p.) with such inexistence.

Objections

Notwithstanding what we have already stated, a number of objections might arise; for example, the following.

1. Do paradoxes not imply fallacies, particularly when they misconceive or fail to trace out the border of the "I" in the enunciate and the subject of the enunciation?
2. Since they are self-referential, do they not encourage the mistaken belief that the subject may signify itself?
3. If we advocate the supplement rather than the complement, do paradoxes not suggest a way of complement-completion insofar as they propose the contradictory streak?

Answers

It behoves to offer a clinical answer to the item asking about a possible indifferentiation between enunciate and enunciation. Thus we record the analysand's reaction on the face of the paradox, for this true *reflectafora*

¹ This enables us to invert Freud's classic apothegm and affirm that "Where (the) Ego was, Id must come."

generates, owing to its very nature, "[...] a state of unmeasurable wonder, doubt, and uncertainty; a perception of hues" accurately illustrated by Briggs and Peat (1990, p. 196). This is how we achieve the Lacanian precept of "making waves" through interpretation, so that the analysand may go into poiesis, that is to say, so that he/she may invent (Lacan, 1967, n.p.). So that he/she may invent from a neoplace triggered by the tethering, disturbing, embarrassing (1962b) exhaustion resulting from the aporetic "no (immediate) exit."

As regards hypothetic self-signifying, let us remember one instance where subject and signifier seem to coincide, thus digging a deeper barring of the former. We are speaking of the constellation denoted by the *act*. Well, then; such freedom as is set into motion by the paradox gradually curbs all syntagmatic cristalizaciones inhabiting the anxiety of inhibitions and symptoms while offering and impelling the body to action.

Lastly, one word of warning: prior to dialectic completion, prior to complementary contradiction regarding the appearance of that opposite inherent to either member of the pair, the subjective implication at stake places us in the presence of a reflectafora "[...] where all hues rise from the insoluble tension between the terms involved[...]" (Briggs & Peat, 1990, p. 197).

Conclusion

Non-linear, languageous causality in psychoanalysis finds the paradox to be an invaluable instrument. As a direct branch stemming from the exhaustion of the metaphoric, symbolic path, the paradox pays tribute to *the chaotic logic of disorder*, which supports itself on *forceage*² (Lacan, 1977a) and not merely on interpretation. Inasmuch as it puts in act the non-sexual relation, it tends to "transfer" the axiomatized determinations inherent to the parasitical *jouissance* of the phantasy towards the invention of enunciates that cannot be decided within the given system. By means of such inventions, the analysand "opens up" to the unexpected, chance aspects of the encounter. Thus, by enabling the analysand to hurl off his/her letters so that they will be captured by a strange attractor, he/she will succeed in exercising poiesis from bits of the Real, for thanks to the paradox, the notions of true and false have undergone an irreversible crisis. In the light of our psychoanalytic praxis, this crisis resembles the one affecting propositional, predicative logic (Lacan, 1974).

Lastly, and by way of reflection, allow me to pose three "tendentious" queries: when sustaining the validity of the Moebian space for "our psychoanalysis," was Lacan not introducing the paradox as a central, concomitant notion, since both Moebius' band and Klein's bottle write topological paradoxes (Granon-Lafont, 1987, pp. 31-47; 93-108)? Along the same lines, what is the point of the well-known anamorphosis depicted in Holbein's painting *The Ambassadors* (whose remarkable revision is found in Lacan's *Séminaire 11*) but the teaching of a paradox of perspective? Finally, what does Lacan (1977b) intend to transmit by recurrently referring to Gödel's familiar theorem about non-wholeness but the paradoxical nature—highly fertile for the praxis of our psychoanalysis—the paradoxical nature, I repeat, of that which cannot be decided?

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² Translator's note: The author has chosen to stay as close as possible to the French original *forçage*.

Re-View Corner

The Re-View Corner invites members to pull up a chair, sit down, and take time to share what they are reading, learning from, experiencing, reacting to, and reviewing.

Seeking to Publish “Little Known Facts and Circumstances of the Society’s Roots”

I seek ongoing submissions to the newsletter feature titled as above! As this feature’s articles in some of our 2008 Newsletters indicated, it is a sp(l)ace to cocreate our organizational memory by becoming (more) aware of our history and making it at the same time. Recollections galore are invited from members new and old, and especially from pioneers in the Society! -- *Editor*

Reflective Report

Winter Chaos (aka ‘Snowflake’) Conference Report, Part III

By Frederick David Abraham

In the first report on the 2008 Winter Chaos Snowflake Conference (SCTPLS Newsletter, April 2008) I identified first three themes: evolution, existentialism, and emancipation, putting them under Tytel’s admonition that context matters, and using VanderVen’s metaperspective of philosophical hermeneutics as a common place for their discussion. In the first two reports (see also Part II, October 2008 Newsletter) we viewed mainly the contributions of Sabelli (in absentia), Tytel, Wensing, Porter, Chandler, Smith, Eldridge, Cushing, Fromberg, Vander Ven, Gibson, Gardiner, and myself. In commenting on the remainder of the presentations it may prove difficult to maintain the philosophical perspective in some instances.

Perhaps a good place to start is with Tina Champagne’s presentation of a liberalized approach to the assessment of occupational therapy. After critiquing the rigidly and squabbling within the use of traditional theory and assessment tools, she stresses the interaction between client and practitioner from a systems point of view:

“As an occupational therapist (OT), the gap between theory and practice is not only wide, it is littered with loosely defined terms and turf wars among the leading theoretical proponents. As a consequence, much of the

burden of applying any of these to real world practice is limited and largely unrecognized. In my exploration of non-linear dynamics, I’ve improved my ability to recognize and discard flawed or inferior models and integrate more fluid and superior ones that demonstrate the essence of OT services. What I presented this year at the Snowflake Conference was my latest work in the area of human cognition and how the ambiguity of this term can lead to aberrant data transposition. I proposed a way to use a nonlinear approach to cognition that placed the onus on the interaction of the practitioner and the patient, which establishes a collaborative and contextual baseline for performance.

“By making cognitive function more explicit, many of the theoretical OT models lost coherence, making it clear to me that inclusion of the fundamentals of nonlinear dynamics permits practitioners to not only create models that more accurately describe and direct the outcome of rehabilitation services, but require and deeply support engagement in relationship-centered practice. This element will be further demonstrated in my upcoming paper on ³Activities for Dynamic Living² that I plan to share at Snowflake ‘09.” (Champagne, 2008)

I wish to point out that this approach is not only driven by the interactions among the principles involved, but is highly experiential as well, a basic feature of philosophical hermeneutics, which stresses the phenomenology of the whole being. It is also reminiscent of the revolution in psychological methodology that was driven by feminist psychology, where the distinction between experimenter and subjects was fractured, with discussion groups providing both ‘data’ and a new interactive or participatory experimental paradigm (see Murphy & Abraham, 1995). This also reiterates the philosophical hermeneutic critique of the Cartesian subject-object split.

Frank Mosca, another unique, congenial, and brilliant practitioner and theorist, has been chasing the idea that happiness for individuals is a reasonable goal, and the field of psychology has been catching up with him, in the name of positive psychology. Some research has been forthcoming recently, which supports the contention. But Frank’s philosophy transcends the goal of happiness. He summarizes:

“We have looked at two dimensions of Positive Psychology: the first is *that* it works, and here the reader is invited to dip into the large fund of published material to satisfy themselves that this is indeed the case. Second, we have posited *why* it works and the answer here is reflected in the sinews of chaos and complexity theory. That is, that the fabric of reality is constructed in such a manner that

there are built in bifurcation points, thresholds of emergence [many ways of describing this] which ratify the understanding that certain ratios of relationships will produce a shift in the phase portrait or possibility space of some dimension of reality under certain conditions. These conditions are fulfilled in the case of human self and other relating in either the direction of positive to negative states or negative to positive states when the mean measurement of the interaction exceeds 2.9 in either direction.[the positive to negative ratio is more by inference than study; there is some work to ratify that this is indeed a two way interaction, but the work of Gottman [1994] would seem to support what is implied in the work of Fredrickson and Losada [2005].

"Where a person ends up in terms of self created attractor states is not a matter of inevitability or ineluctability. [We also] demonstrate the critical relevance of a strange attractor, i.e., the heart, the very engine of all attitudinal alterations, human freedom. Freedom drives/creates the momentum to move people towards and across thresholds. Once the threshold potentials are evoked then the outcomes are critically over determined as bifurcations, ranging from mild "aha" insights to grand conversion-like epiphanies. This is also true in the mechanics of a negative, downward spiral as well."

When Frank first proposed this topic, I, along with some critics of Positive Psychology criticized the goal of happiness as insufficiently profound, or at least subordinate to other concepts of self-fulfillment. Frank, as I mentioned, transcends this possible limitation. He uses a complex diagram, somewhat egg shaped, to demonstrate the positive and negative poles, but they are labeled "metastrophe" and catastrophe," with the former being a "freedom attractor" of personal integration, fulfillment, and equanimity, something akin to Maslow's self-actualization, or Jung's individuation. His diagram suggests the continuum between the poles and the factors and their interaction that support the nonlinear model of personality. Now I think it time to prod Frank into incorporating cultural goals that nurture personal and social integration (but not at the expense of individuality, of course. Frank is in pursuit of personal freedom.)

Hermeneutic and Postmodern discourse depends heavily on an analysis of language (see Part II of this report, October 2008, on Chandler). Mark Filippi's ideas rather fit that interest, in combining Hanna somatics ("the procedure for teaching voluntary conscious control of the neuromuscular system to persons suffering muscular disorders of an involuntary, unconscious nature." (Hanna, 2009) with memetics ("Memetics is an approach to

evolutionary models of cultural information transfer based on the concept of the meme. Starting from a metaphor used in the writings of Richard Dawkins, it has since turned into a new area of study, one that looks at the self-replicating units of culture. It has been proposed that just as memes are analogous to genes, memetics is analogous to genetics" (Wikipedia).

"By removing the academic and other artificial boundaries that keep the spread of ideas and the neurobiology of human development on different bookshelves, we can speak plainly about how an individual, a community or a culture creates and then internalizes a worldview and attempts to share it." (Filippi, 2008)

"The view I am proposing is this: in order for us to have meaningful, connected experiences that we can comprehend and reason about, there must be pattern and order to our actions, perceptions, and conceptions. A schema is a recurrent pattern, shape, and regularity in, or of, these ongoing ordering activities. These patterns emerge as meaningful structures for us chiefly at the level of our bodily movements through space, our manipulation of objects. and our perceptual interactions." (Johnson, 1987)

"So in order to recognize what is primarily an implicit process, we can apply some of the tools of biosemiotics and delineate three interacting environments and the conversational resources they have to offer each other. In this way survival and evolution of both an individual organism and it's ideological terrain can be coupled." (Filippi, 2008)

"By describing the continuity between body and mind, biosemiotics may also help us to understand how human "mindedness" may naturalistically emerge from more primitive processes of embodied animal "knowing. "**Biosemiotics** (from the Greek *bios* meaning "life" and *semeion* meaning "sign") is a growing field that studies the production, action and interpretation of signs in the biological realm." (Wikipedia)

There is little to add here, except to point out that Mark's presentations win the Robin William's Award. Informative, unique, and innovative.

George Muh, a chiropractor like his friend Mark, depends on a somatic model for integration of theory and practice. And like Mark, he is a genius at reading the body for clues as to both psychological and bodily problems blocking integration. These he demonstrates with members of the audience, thinking on his feet during his presentation (Muhs, 2008).

Finally, while Linda Dennard's airline misconnection precluded her attending, her work is so important to the community of the Winter Chaos Conference and to the theme I present for the Conference, being based on philosophical hermeneutic and postmodern philosophies and dedicated to principles of emancipation that they imply I conclude with her introductory abstract:

It is a common myth that the administrative institutions of the American federalist system are the necessary conditions for stable democracies, but it is argued here that institutions establish boundaries for regulating, rather than practicing, democracy. While our attention to diverted by elections in Iraq, a more managerial democracy is spreading globally through NGOs, construction contracts and social service delivery. The dilemma of this patterning of American-style 'democratic' management is not only that it creates the process structures for what conditions societies adapt to, it also creates the illusion of reality - - that social change begins and ends with the State and its institutions in the same manner that freedom does. Yet, managerial democracy emerged from Enlightenment principles and freedom was limited by the boundaries of the Social Contract which perceived social relationships as being merely transactional, competitive and conflicted. Although, the world has evolved to reflect these self-referential perceptions, the federalist regime was always only one possibility for the actualization of the freedom implied in the democratic ideal. This can best be illustrated by principles from the sciences of complexity and the philosophies of phenomenology. A theory emerges from the text that makes citizens the 'founders' of democracy(ies) through their diverse relationships - those relationship patterns that form the civic space appropriate and sustainable within the conditions that individuals find themselves. The organizing principles of these 'local democracies' are freedom of association and the aesthetics of relationship - the term used here to illustrate the attracting power of Others and also the interaction from which new emergent and inclusive states appear. It is suggested that the Cartesian idea of *Cognito Ergo Sum* be replaced with *J'agis donc je suis* (I act/interact, therefore I am). Action/interaction implies relationship in a way that 'thinking' does not since it cannot occur without the Other. If the State is to have a role in the democratic project it must learn to observe the interactions outside its boundaries, learn from them and submit to co-evolve, rather than merely regulate the deficits of human behavior. (Dennard, 2008)

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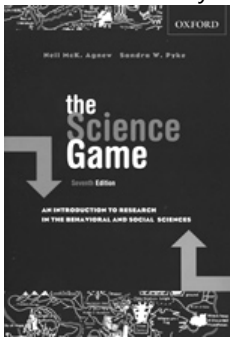
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These reports are also being posted on *Implexi Mundi* for those of you who occasionally misplace your back issues of the Newsletter.

The Nonlinear Dynamical Bookshelf

This feature depends on material people send to us. Thanks to all who do. If you find a new nonlinear book and would like to share the joy, please send the full citation with descriptive information to register@societyforchaostheory.org with the message heading "Nonlinear Bookshelf."

Agnew, N. McK., & Pyke, S. W. (2007). *The science game: An introduction to research methods in the social and behavioral sciences* (7th Edition). Toronto: Oxford University Press. SCTPLS author. A complete



revision of a popular text which treats science as a news service with theorists serving as editors and researchers as reporters. While viewing science as our most trusted news service, and documenting its strengths, the book also acknowledges its limitations (e.g., as trial and error problem solving conducted by dedicated searchers

operating with bounded rationality and relying on functional but fallible premises). The web site includes seven chapters focusing on applied research methods and topics.

Almendo, M. (2003). *Chaos psychology*. Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain: Ediciones La Llave. [in Spanish]. "Professor Almendo is an excellent and experienced psychotherapist who, in the well-documented book that he has published, reveals and puts to the test—in my opinion with great accuracy and vision for the future—a concept of clinical psychology that breaks very meditatively and significantly with the great academic precepts of the social sciences.... The basic thesis that the author maintains is that science should inquire as to the role of suffering—of chaos, that is—in the realm of nature and human life; an inquiry which then leads us to question how we should approach it (whether to annul it, transform it, or repress it) and whether one is to develop a culture of comprehension, of analgesia, or something worse in this regard. In response to this decisive question, the reading of Dr. Almendo's book offers genuine clues and themes to meditate on, which are pivotal if we are ever to awaken the public consciousness at this most violent hour in our world's history." --Jose Luis Pinillos.

Commons, M. L. & Ross, S. N. (Eds.). (2008). *Special Issue: Postformal thought and hierarchical complexity*. *World Futures: The Journal of General Evolution* 64(5-7). SCTPLS editors/authors. See past SCTPLS conference abstracts and workshop for more on this project.

Glattre, E., Nygård, J.F., & Skjerve, E. (2008). *Fundamental aspects of fractal epidemiology*. Oslo: Norwegian School of Veterinary Science. SCTPLS author. We have modified conventional concepts of exposure, response, and study setting, and made them fit the dynamics of prospective studies, to be able to discover fractal aspects of the study and examine complexity-associations of exposure and response. By means of these tools epidemiologists will undoubtedly find lots of fractals and complexities hidden in their studies, as shown in previous papers (2, 3). In an example we use methods of the book and test the highly actual, climatologic hypothesis that there is a relationship between air CO₂ and air temperature – with interesting results. – *Authors*.

Goldstein, J. (Ed.). (2008). *Special Issue: Complexity*. *The Innovation Journal*, 13(3). A peer-reviewed online journal. Introducing complexity to the innovation audience, in his introduction to the special issue, Goldstein points out the following relationships. "Each of the four main complexity constructs discussed above – networks, differences, emergence, and attractors – are intimately related to innovation. Thus, innovation can be said to diffuse via social networks, innovation can be said to come about through the recognition, mixture, and amplification of differences from the norm, innovation can be said to be all about the emergence of new structures with new properties, and innovation can be said to involve both inter- and intra-attractor change, the deeper the innovation the more likely it represents a bifurcation into new attractor regimes."

Goldstein, J., & Hazy, J. (Eds.). (2008). *Special Issue: Social entrepreneurship, systems thinking and complexity*. *Emergence: Complexity & Organization*. 9(4). Mansfield, MA: ISCE Publishing. See feature article by J. Goldstein, SCTPLS Newsletter, Oct. 2008 for description of the project behind this issue and a book in press at ISCE by the same title.

Hanson, B., & Sword, L. D. (Eds.). (2009). Special Issue: Chaos, Complexity and Conflict. *Emergence: Complexity in Organizations*, 10(4). Mansfield, MA: ISCE Publishing. See feature article by L. D. Sword, *SCTPLS Newsletter*, Oct. 2008 for a description of this project.

Harari, R. (2008). *El sujeto descentrado: Una presentación del psicoanálisis. [The decentered subject]*. Buenos Aires: Grupo Editorial Lumen. [in Spanish] ISBN 978-987-00-0798-2. SCTPLS author. The issue is to present psychoanalysis; that is to say, to make it known to those who have not yet struck either a friendship or an acquaintance with it. This was my purpose in writing these pages, based on a Seminar I conducted addressing an audience that was not necessarily familiar with the discipline created by Freud. Thus, without taking for granted any previous knowledge of the matter, in this rewrite I attempt to pose the crucial themes of psychoanalysis, using the basic notion of the *decentered subject* as the axis of my presentation. In my view, it is there that one of psychoanalysis' indisputable though still unaccounted for demonstrations lies: the fact that the supposed center of decisions, choices, projects, and alleged motives are mostly found in an Other place that 'speaks' within every one of us. Starting from the above premise, and constantly resorting to my clinical experience, to which I owe whatever knowledge I have acquired after my long practice, I revisit the theoretical grounds that have supported it and to the many singularities related to the direction of treatment. Last but not least, I address the social inception –by no means uncontested –of the practice presented. Such practice moves ahead along the path traced out by Freud –master and founder – and by Lacan, who took upon himself to retroactively refound 'our' chaotic psychoanalysis. – *Author*.

Hoijtink, H., Klugkist, I. and Boelen, P. A. (2009). *Bayesian evaluation of informative hypotheses.* New York: Springer. ISBN 978-0-387-09611-7. A book that is now in press and scheduled to come out early next year is one that I have already ordered for myself. It should be of value to anyone who is trying to make inferences from psychological data, and update their methodological competences.

Provides the philosophical, statistical and psychological foundation for the evaluation of informed hypotheses; covers applications of Bayes factors based on different prior distributions to classical psychological data sets; the Bayes factor versus

hypothesis testing using p-values; views on informed hypotheses by a philosopher of science, a psychologist and a statistician. More details available from the web pages of the publisher, Springer.com. – *RAMG*.

Letiche, H. (2008). *Making healthcare care: Managing the complex, Vol. 3.* Norwood, MA: ISCE. ISBN/ISSN 9781593119232. In this volume, Hugo Letiche tackles the



all-important question, is there "care" in healthcare? If, as Klaus Krippendorff (2006) argues, "meaning is a structured space, a network of expected senses, a set of possibilities ...[that] emerges in the use of language," then within the healthcare systems of today, the meaning of "care" has been defined to be the eradication of a problem. We must recognize that patients do not wish to be

regarded merely as a problem requiring eradication. Letiche is opposed to the very idea that complexity reduction can address the humanity of each individual healthcare situation. He argues that, through narratives and through complexity based social theory, the complexity of each individual situation must be transcended through mindful listening and engaged dialogue. Letiche suggests that in the absence of such mindfulness, the lack of time for true listening, and the inability of providers and systems to allow for patients and family to engage in dialogue lies both the roots of the problem and the potential for its solution. If complexity theory has a role in the analysis understanding and betterment of social systems, then approaches such as the one Letiche undertakes herein will become essential tools of the trade.

Salvadori, N., Commendatore, P., & Tamperi, M. (Eds.). (2009). *Geography, structural change and economic development: Theory and empirics.* Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar. SCTPLS author. The authors in this book regard the process of economic expansion as a non-homogeneous and multifaceted phenomenon which has deeply affected human welfare, and cultural, social and political change. The book is a bridge between the theorists (Rosenstein-Rodan, Lewis, Myrdal, and Hirschmann) who in the post-war period analyzed regional inequalities, structural change and dualism, and the modern literature on economic growth. The latter has emphasized the existence of multiple equilibria, bifurcations and various types of dynamic complexity, and clarified the conditions for the

emergence of phenomena such as cumulative causation, path dependence and hysteresis. These are the typical ingredients of structural change, economic development or underdevelopment. – *Publisher*.

Shelhamer, M. (Ed.) (2009). Special issue: Psychomotor Coordination and Control. *Nonlinear Dynamics, Psychology, and Life Sciences, 13*(1). A copy of this issue was delivered to all active members in January as part of their 2009 subscriptions.

Feng, J. C., & Chi Kong Tse, C. K. (2008). *Reconstruction of chaotic signals with applications to chaos-based communications.* Hackensack, NJ: World Scientific. ISBN 978-981-277-113-1. This book provides a systematic review of the fundamental theory of signal reconstruction and the practical techniques used in reconstructing chaotic signals. Specific applications of signal reconstruction methods in chaos-based communications are expounded in full detail, along with examples illustrating the various problems associated with such applications.

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