



Sociocybernetics



Research Committee 51
on Sociocybernetics

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RC51 *Newsletter*

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Editor's Introduction

Dear RC51 Members,

In this newsletter, you'll find a letter from our new president, Saburo Akahori, along with essential information about the upcoming 5th ISA Forum of Sociology in Rabat, scheduled for 2025.

This past June, we successfully hosted the 18th International Conference on Sociocybernetics in Krakow. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our local coordinator, Czesław Mesjasz, and the officials at the Krakow University of Economics. It was truly special to explore the present and future of Artificial Intelligence and its societal impacts with fellow sociocyberneticians from around the globe, both online and in the historic and picturesque settings of Krakow, including at a modern rooftop bar-restaurant next to an ancient castle. We are excited to share an extended abstract by Aarón Cid Ramirez, the winner of the Walter Buckley Memorial Award 2024. You'll also find notes and essays related to the Krakow conference from John Raven and Ji Hong, along with John Raven's insights on the latest books concerning Artificial Intelligence, a central theme of the conference.

We've received an invitation from Mikael Kivelä and Raija Koskinen to kick off RC51's regular online meetings starting this September. These meetings offer a valuable chance to connect and discuss with colleagues worldwide between conferences. We look forward to seeing you there!

Looking ahead to next year, we will convene the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology in Rabat, Morocco. We are going to have 16 sessions covering everything from theoretical considerations to pressing issues like Artificial Intelligence, digitalization, the Anthropocene, and social justice. We eagerly anticipate your participation onsite. Please remember the submission deadline is **October 15th**, with no extensions.

See you soon!

Best regards,

Satoshi Iguchi

RC51 Newsletter Editors

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Letter from the President

Dear friends and members of RC51,

My name is Saburo Akahori, and I took over the role of President of RC51 this year. Some of you may not be familiar with me, so I will briefly introduce myself.

I first attended sessions of RC51 during the ISA's 17th World Congress of Sociology in Gothenburg in July 2010. At that time, I presented a report at the RC16 (Sociological Theory) session, but I felt there was no place for me at RC16. During the congress, I visited several sessions of RC51 in the theater on the campus of Gothenburg University and was fascinated by the discussions taking place there. So, the following year, 2011, I participated in the 10th International Conference of Sociocybernetics held in Krakow. Since then, I have attended the RC51 Conference every year. In 2014, ISA's World Congress of Sociology took place in Yokohama, after which I became a member of the Board of RC51. Thus, I have 10 years of experience as a Board member, and I think I understand what role I should play as President of RC51.

One of the reasons I was attracted to sociocybernetics is that it is unique and universal. The first is that we, RC51, are the only group of researchers in the sociocybernetics paradigm. In this respect, RC51 is sharply distinguished from other RCs in the ISA and has its unique character. Second, sociocybernetics is on the one hand interdisciplinary, but also very sociological. In my view, cybernetics is a tool for acquiring a sociological view of things. So sociocybernetics is universal in the sense that it can deal with everything that sociology covers. In summary, RC51 is not at all like a closed group that worships a narrow doctrine but has the potential to be a part of most areas of sociology. That is why RC51 should aim to get more members.

This issue of the Newsletter is a review of our activities this year, as well as a look ahead to the future. After the successful conclusion of the 18th International Conference on Sociocybernetics in Krakow in June, our immediate goal is membership development. As of January 2019, RC51 had over 100 active members. But as of August 2024, there are 71, of which 26 are life members. In order to carry the sociocybernetics paradigm into the future, it is imperative that RC51's activities within the ISA be widely known and that the number of active members be increased.

The 5th ISA Forum in Rabat, Morocco next July is a great opportunity for membership development. Currently, the Call for Abstracts is already open; RC51 is soliciting abstracts for 16 sessions. We hope to increase our membership by attracting presenters to these sessions. We encourage all RC51 members to apply and to spread the word about our session at the ISA Forum to those around you and encourage their participation.

Best regards,

On behalf of the RC51 Board

Saburo Akahori

RC51 President 2024-2027

Walter Buckley award winner's presentation summary

Sociocybernetics: the illusions through a mirrored glass

Aarón Cid Ramirez

During this summer, we had the opportunity to attend an international conference held in Kraków, one of Europe's most iconic cities. Over the course of a week, we met with colleagues and newcomers in sociocybernetics to discuss the implications and applications of artificial intelligence (AI) in the field of sociology. This gathering highlighted the importance of examining how these emerging technologies impact our lives and their interactions with the social fabric.

The event underscored a growing concern about understanding the evolution of AI and its sociological impact. The emergence of these technologies in daily life is undeniable, evidenced by the replacement of traditional tools like Wikipedia and Google search engines with advanced platforms such as Gemini and ChatGPT. This is despite data from The Insider (2024) indicating that the use of these advanced technologies represents ten times the cost of traditional searches.

From a sociocybernetic perspective, it is imperative to consider the emergence of a new and integral dynamic between technology and society. The codependence and adaptability of these systems compel us to reflect on the role of observers we have assumed in recent years. The speed of technological development has far exceeded our ability to control and fully comprehend its applications and consequences.

It is increasingly common for both public and private companies to rely on AI for their operations, displacing traditional programmers in favor of autonomous systems. This shift has led to a decrease in ethical reflection, prioritizing a so-called "objective" perspective and undermining the critical observation that falls within our academic responsibilities. This phenomenon poses a significant challenge for sociocybernetics, which must redirect its efforts to prepare new generations of researchers capable of addressing these changes with a critical and enriched perspective.

Our academic conferences clearly play a crucial role in keeping us updated, but there is also noticeable deceleration in content production compared to other committees of the International Sociological Association (ISA). This sense of misalignment between technological advancement and our ability to effectively integrate it into the discipline is shared by many colleagues. While AI applications offer notable benefits in terms of convenience and efficiency, their integration into sociology has faced resistance and exclusion, suggesting that we may be on the brink of an era where machines take precedence over humans: the "artificene" supplanting the "anthropocene."

Moreover, funding for AI and its infrastructure now vastly exceeds that of other scientific projects such as particle accelerators, gene editing, or the development of new energy sources; particularly, the latter benefits slightly from the high energy demand that AI represents.

However, as discussed during the conference, there remains a long way to go in terms of regulation and oversight. The reality of most AI applications is situated within private industries, where massive data management is prevalent. Therefore, it is essential to exert pressure on governments to ensure that the development and application of these technologies are carried out for global benefit, promoting algorithm auditing and transparency.

Personally, I have found AI to be an invaluable tool for generating applied knowledge, editing presentations, and resolving daily inquiries within my very own chaotic academic life. Despite the advancements, it is crucial to recognize that AI, at least in its current form, remains the product of human developers with their own social, moral, and ethical agendas. This means that human influence in the coding and logic of AI is unavoidable. Even as these observations are being written, preventive measures have been taken, such as the emergency briefcase of the CEO of OpenAI to shut down AI in case of loss of control. These actions reflect the uncertainty and potential risk associated with the unregulated development of advanced technologies, often relegated to the realm of science fiction; yet reality has frequently surpassed fiction.

AI has radically altered all aspects of society, from knowledge generation to daily practices. This shift has facilitated new interactions with machines, highlighting the capacity for self-organization in password generation and the proliferation of deep fakes, which pose serious global security issues. In my presentation titled “Delving into the Nexus of Artificial Intelligence, Free Will, and Biocapital: A Third-Order Sociocybernetics and Complexity Approach,” I aimed to highlight many of these practices and their implications. I explored whether computers can reach the complex level of the human brain and if they might one day possess free will. My analysis also addressed the state of the art from my perspective within the natural sciences, examining its implications for a future increasingly tailored to benefiting humans. Additionally, I discussed certain AI applications that truly challenge the proper functioning of the human psyche, such as personalizing reality, reuniting with deceased family members and friends, or interacting with AIs designed to our preferences and benefit, even to the extent of sharing intimate images in the process. This leaves a lot of gray areas of how this would bring consequences within my main interest: human destructiveness.

The increasing reliance on AI has shifted the focus from programming logic to prompt design, prioritizing efficiency over deep understanding. Meanwhile, humans continue to produce the only genuine resource within every single one of us: data. The personalization and exploitation of these data by private companies raise concerns about privacy and control, underscoring the need for greater regulation and oversight.

The reality demonstrates that feedback with modern technological systems has been disrupted, with recovery limited to advanced technical knowledge and comprehensive data protection; meanwhile, we continue to feed it at a rate approaching one zettabyte of new data per day and increasing.

Therefore, from a sociocybernetic perspective, it is necessary to adopt a more active and critical approach to these challenges. The pace of technological change demands greater adaptation and reflection within our disciplines to effectively address the risks and opportunities presented by this ever-evolving technology. For one thing is clear on the near horizon: the research and development of AI will not cease.

Despite the potentially fatalistic tone that may have permeated both this text and my presentation, I maintain an optimistic outlook towards the future, not only of technology or sociocybernetics themselves, but of humanity as a whole. The title of this reflection emphasizes our privileged position: a methodological "mirrored glass" through which both we observe and are immersed in the epicenter of social transformation. This methodology, which has undergone continuous refinement over the past 30 years, provides us with a unique and critical perspective.

Particularly, I find hope in the way presentations and private discussions with members of our community have unfolded. This accumulated knowledge not only lays the groundwork for more efficient interaction between humans and electronic devices, but also has the potential to be a crucial turning point in the face of potential crises and challenges ahead. The integration of this knowledge and practice can and should serve as a catalyst to confront the tumultuous eras that may arise, transforming difficulties into opportunities for significant advancement.

From this advantage point that we, as sociocybernetists, are at right now, let's rethink and form new generations of scientist from either discipline to understand applied sociocybernetics and become self-referential observers within the artificial age that we are immersed. And in a non-ironic way as I mentioned during the conferences: let's make sociocybernetics great again, and thanks for your companionship and your patience to help me understand this amazing discipline.

Notes and Essays

Sociocybernetics and World Governance

John Raven

Cybernetics is concerned with the study of the guidance and control processes which determine the functioning of animals and machines.

So sociocybernetics involves the study of the hidden guidance and control processes which control the operation of organisations and society and the design of better ones.

Strangely enough, I have not found too many studies of the latter.

Yet the need for them has been underlined in two videos that have crossed my screen since our conference.

David Brooks: *World On Fire: The Root Causes of Populism, Authoritarianism and The Whole Global Mess* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDdsTQG6Vc>

Tucker Carlson (@TuckerCarlson) posted at 6:08 pm on Tue, Jul 02, 2024:

This is how they take your country away. <https://t.co/PhlKmT2DLM>

(<https://x.com/TuckerCarlson/status/1808186033982353502?t=dfOlqX0ju9vHmwaCsWUB0w&s=03>)

Years ago, before I had heard of sociocybernetics, we attempted to map (i.e. generate a causal loop diagram of) the interacting network of social forces which corrupt, and lead to the dysfunctional operation of, most of the “educational” systems. Or, stated more narrowly (to take account of the observation that it actually functions very well to achieve sociological objectives), why the system functions in ways which do not result in the achievement of its manifest objectives.

I summarised some of this work in the first of my talks to our recent conference.

But, more importantly, I raise the question of how this work can be applied to the questions raised by the above authors.

How are we to understand (map) the network of social forces that lie behind the wave after wave of ideologically based mass movements that have engulfed us over the centuries (and resulted in endless destruction) ... with several in full swing at the present time?

I give some more examples of the problem in the second part of the above-mentioned paper and would be more than interested to hear of other work that might help us to move toward an answer to the question.

As to David Brooks' repeated references to the devastating effects of hierarchy, my second paper was devoted to trying to understand the inexorable onward march of hierarchy which Bookchin shows has, despite the observations of acute observers and the demonstrable negative consequences for the lives of those concerned and the sustainability of the planet, continued over endless millennia.

References

Raven, J. (2024) How are we to evolve governance systems which make it possible to take account of a wider range of information and promote pervasive experimentation and learning? A paper prepared for the 18th conference of Research Committee 51 (Socio-Cybernetics) of the International Sociological Association, held in Krakow, 24-28 June 2024.

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/382095439> [How are we to evolve governance systems which make it possible to take account of a wider range of information and promote pervasive experimentation and learning](#) also available at <http://eyeonsociety.co.uk/resources/RC51-2024-Governance.pdf>

Raven, J. (2024). Understanding Bookchin's Laws: The manufacture of senseless work and the inexorable onward march of hierarchy. A paper prepared for the 18th. conference of Research Committee 51 (Socio-Cybernetics) of the International Sociological Association, held in Krakow, 24-28 June 2024.

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/382091058> [Understanding Bookchin's Laws The manufacture of senseless work and the inexorable onward march of hierarchy](#) also at <http://eyeonsociety.co.uk/resources/RC51-Understanding-Bookchins-Laws-full-paper.pdf>

Notes and Essays

A Glimpse of Noise in the History of Cybernetics

Ji Hong

If we look back at the history of cybernetics, the concept of noise received relatively less attention than other notions. When Shannon published his pioneering paper “A Mathematical Theory of Communication” in 1948, noise was conceived as a disturbance that impedes the process of transmission. Though noise was also turned into an informational concept and began to constitute an important part of the new paradigm of cybernetics and information theory, it remained something that had to be eliminated, and engineering endeavors were mainly concentrated on increasing the capability of channels, simultaneously supplemented by other strategies. The remarkable turning point appeared in 1959 when Heinz von Foerster proposed his well-known “order from noise” principle in a symposium. Imagine a box full of magnetized cubes without orderliness, a structure will emerge after shaking. What von Foerster tries to show is how increasing orderliness in a self-organizing system is possible. In this sense, some intrinsic structural properties are required. Henri Atlan gave a further contribution to understanding the role of noise based on the observation of the molecular world, in which he realizes the downplay of both information theory and ideas of cybernetics in studying living systems, as well as the deficiencies in Shannon’s formulation. Atlan extrapolated Shannon’s theory by assigning noise and redundancy with different roles. He found that novelties and changes in living systems originate from new information created after receiving perturbations. The absorption and integration of noise could result in an increase in complexity, and a decrease in redundancy. These findings in nature, especially in the molecular world, endow the concept of noise with new connotations by virtue of further clarifying the role of observers at the organizational level. On the other hand, these transformations in understanding noise can also be regarded as one of the achievements from first-order to second-order cybernetics. Michel Serres, who is often seen as the philosopher of noise, generalizes the notion of parasite (noise) to understand human relations like production and reproduction, exchange, scientific revolution, etc., and holds a relatively radical idea. From Serres’ perspective, noise has its own agency and autonomy and is the interceptor that plays the role of the rectifier, which only has an impact on the receiver rather than the sender. Noise adds a circuit to the system which is irreversible and thus increases systemic complexity and weaves a more complicated network.

There are still many other works in cybernetics exploring the function of noise. However, to briefly conclude, the richness of noise can be understood through the way it relates to perturbation, chance, and uncertainty. Firstly, perturbation refers to what is added to the signal in the process of transmission but is unwanted or unintended by the information source, mainly results from the material conditions of transmission. Noise could also be used as chance and plays a productive role in accelerating evolution, it might make a system to be more adaptive to environments. In a more general sense, noise represents fundamental fluctuations and indeterminacies that permeated nature and the universe, which discloses the intrinsic uncertainty and incomprehensibility in our observation.

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Notes and Essays

A note about

Weyl, E.G. and Tang, A. and community. (2024) *Plurality: The Future of Collaborative Technology and Democracy*(no publisher given but assumed to be Plurality Community. Maybe: RadicalxChange.)

John Raven

I am in no position to offer a review of this huge (562 page) and important book, but felt that I should at least say something about it.

The book's main aim is to advocate a (world?) governance system which is heavily dependent on AI. This is symbolised by two overlapping boxes which it is deliberately hard to represent in words but can be roughly captured by the term *Plurality*. (In the quotation below it is represented by [:-=1]) The book is directly relevant to the theme of our conference and, in particular, my paper on governance.

Most basically, it introduced me to a whole range of applications of AI that I had never heard of and illustrated their current and possible applications in ways that I found seriously alarming. I have to admit that I still cannot get my mind round this variety of applications, let alone keep track of the acronyms used to refer to them.

However, in support of these Applications, the book is pervaded by a series of detailed discussions of problems arising in many sectors of society (and the ways in which the adoption of *Plurality* could help to resolve them). The topics discussed range from Identity and Freedom, through Democracy, Deliberation, and Business innovation, to voting and social markets. In each case, it describes ways in which variants of AI *are being*, and could be, used to overcome some of the problems – and the further problems which such applications introduce or could introduce.

On page 411 and subsequent pages it summarises ways these applications are being and could be used to transform every aspect of society.

Here is page 411 on the potential impact of AI embedded in the notion of *Plurality*.

Part 6: Impact

From [:-=1] to Reality

[:-=1] has the tangible potential, in the next decade, to transform almost every sector of society. Examples we study are:

1. The workplace, where we believe it could raise economic output by 10% and increase the growth rate by a percentage point.

2. Health, where we believe can extend human life by two decades.
3. Media, where it can heal the divides opened by social media, provide sustainable funding, expand participation, and dramatically increase press freedom.
4. Environment, where it is core to addressing most of the serious environmental problems we face, perhaps even more so than traditional "green" technologies.

While we do not detail them here, we also expect fundamental effects in a wide range of other areas including:

- Energy, where it can help underpin a fundamental transition from the "hunter-gatherer" model of fossil fuels to the "agricultural" model of directly harnessing solar energy.
- Learning, where it can upend the linear structure of current schooling to allow far more diverse and flexible, lifelong learning paths.

While, on the face of it, many of these seem laudable, the authors seem to be locked in to current thoughtways.

Most importantly, for all the apparent erudition the authors (of which more later) they do not seem to have stumbled basic information relating to the state of the planet (see e.g. <https://dothemath.ucsd.edu/2024/07/mm-7-ecological-nosedive/> for a summary.)

Raising economic output sounds laudable. But do we really want more junk foods, junk detergents, destructive cars, junk education, massive bureaucracy, or laptops and phones which depend on hugely energy-consumptive servers?

Do we really want to extend human life – the most destructive life on the planet – by two decades?

“Press freedom” ... that sounds kind-of archaic ... and what about censorship and misinformation?

As to the “serious environmental problems we face”, I am not at all sure that the authors have the slightest notion of the extent of our “environmental” problems ... i.e. the overwhelming destruction of the soils, seas, and atmosphere wreaked by humankind ... and the implications of these things for images of what can/could be done to “move forward”.

As to energy, the authors, again, for all their erudition, do not seem to have stumbled upon the basic physical laws relating to the conservation of mass and energy. If one uses energy for anything – regardless of where one gets it from – it inevitably results in products that destroy our biosphere. “Green energy”, which they continuously advocate, is an oxymoron.

Educational diversity ... Here again, the authors do not seem to have grasped the problem. The problem is not to increase internet access to ever-increasing amounts of (largely temporary) formal “knowledge”, but to nurture, recognise, utilise, and reward the vast array of talents that are available to us but stifled by the current system.

In short, it seems to me that, for all their apparent erudition, the authors have not escaped from pervasive, and extremely destructive, current thoughtways.

More generally, they do not address the problems posed by mass mental viruses. Indeed, they themselves fall prey to many of them e.g. in relation to the “Climate Crisis”, COVID, “pandemics”, and centralisation (e.g. WEF and the United Nation’s “sustainable development” goals).

More specifically, they seem to have been captured by the Chinese / Taiwanese growth mindset.

In short, the book is extremely informative and thoughtful within particular domains... but frightening in its limitations and advocacies.

But here is an interesting thing.

The book somehow conveys an image of advocating Big Government largely facilitated by Big AI.

But every so often there is reference to what is somehow seen as a kind-of parallel development in Taiwan – **GOV** which is articulated as “Gov Zero”.

I have to say that this seems somehow closer to my heart.

Announcement: RC51's regular online meeting

Welcome to participate!

RC51 open online activity at regular intervals starting in September 2024

- to stay connected and to have a chance to share conceptual discussions in the sociocybernetic framework.

What is happening?

Open sessions will be organised to meet at regular interval to discuss current themes of research in the sociocybernetic framework. The choice of concepts to discuss will be made during the process taking into consideration the interests of the participants. To launch this kind of activity is based on ideas of co-learning and co-innovation. The first concept chosen for discussion is **TIME**. Thoughts, questions and literature shedding light to this concept are welcome. The sessions are initiated, led and facilitated, also in form of collaborative documentation of the discussions, by Finnish RC51 members, Mikael Kivelä and Raija Koskinen.

When and where?

Three online meetings (90 minutes each) will be organised in the autumn and three in the spring. **The first session will be organised in Zoom at 4 pm Finnish time (13:00 UTC time) on Thursday 26th September 2024.** The preliminary plan is to continue with this activity during the period of the RC51 board 2023 – 2027. The times for further meetings will be decided based on experiences gained and feedback received from the participants and those with interest to join. One of the issues to solve is how to negotiate the times and dates for the activity fairly.

For whom?

Sessions are open for everyone interested! Information of the possibility to participate can be shared in the networks of RC51 and ISA as well as everyone's own networks. This activity is also planned to encourage individuals interested in sociocybernetics to join the research committee RC51 as members. For more information, see <https://sociocybernetics.org/how-to-join>

Why participate?

To openly discuss and conceptualize phenomena in our current world is worthwhile as such. Debate is welcome as long as it follows the guidelines for safer spaces, such as respect of opinions, beliefs, experiences, and differing viewpoints of others. Moreover, we want to promote respecting each other's work. Therefore, we ask you to cite and acknowledge generously and charitably. Active participation contributes to joint learning and shared understanding of sociocybernetics, which is not

bound to any specific discipline. Hopefully, participation in the sessions also provides support in doing research and in building networks.

How to join the activity?

Register one week in advance, by 19th September for this meeting organised in Zoom on 26th September 2024: <https://hamk.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5Asf-mqgT8iHNckyLAXrZvD-cPxFyxc1TWG>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please, note the time zones. Here are some examples:

Mexico 7:00

Colombia 8:00

Portugal 14:00

Spain 15:00

Finland 16:00

Japan 22:00

More information about the further dates and the activity will be provided in the RC51 website <https://sociocybernetics.org/>

Accessibility

We strive to make the discussions accessible to everyone interested. Please do tell us about your needs and preferences, preferably before the registration closes. We may need to test things in advance and plan accordingly.

Short introductions

My name is Mikael Kivelä. I work as a project lead in University of Helsinki. My current work concerns accessibility. I often try to find out the conditions for some desired thing to actually happen. Thus, my scholarly pursuits have repeatedly involved process philosophy and studying conversations.

Contact information: mikael.kivela@helsinki.fi see also my [University of Helsinki People Finder entry](#)

My name is Raija Koskinen. I work as a senior lecturer in the Häme University of Applied Sciences. In addition to my teaching responsibilities, I'm involved in various research and development activities.

Contact information related to these meetings preferably: raija.koskinen@hamk.fi see also my [Häme University of Applied Sciences Finder entry](#) Also reachable with my affiliation in the University of Helsinki: raija.koskinen@helsinki.fi

Feel free to get in touch in case of questions, and further suggestions!

Announcement: RC51 Sociocybernetics Sessions at 5th ISA Forum of Sociology in Rabat, 2025



Please do not miss the **abstract submission deadline (October 15, 2024 - No deadline extensions)!!**

Session Title	Session Organizer(s)
Artificial Intelligence, Metaverse and Data Capitalism Beyond Territories	Chaime MARCUELLO SERVÓS
Citizen Science and Participatory Action Research for Social Transformation	Patricia Eugenia ALMAGUER-KALIXTO Elisa Margarita MAASS
Complexity-Related Ideas and the Anthropocene: From Mathematical Models to Universal Philosophical Considerations	Czesław MESJASZ
Digital Era Social Justice and the Role of the Public Authorities	Raija KOSKINEN
Digital Injustice and Artificial Intelligence on a Single Planet	Chaime MARCUELLO SERVÓS
Discourse and Semantics in the Era of Large Language Models	Jorge CARDIEL
Functional Theory of Social Systems	Mark BELITSKY
Governance of Artificial Intelligence and Sociocybernetics	Czesław MESJASZ
In Search of Sociological Reflection on Decision-Making: Who Decides Who Decides?	Saburo AKAHORI
Integrating Sustainable Development Goals, Knowing Justice, and Sociocybernetics: Pathways to Equitable and Resilient Futures	Elisa Margarita MAASS Patricia Eugenia ALMAGUER-KALIXTO
Knowing Justice in the Anthropocene - a Sociocybernetics Approach	Andrew MITCHELL
On Paradoxical Consequences of Intelligence: Critical Perspectives on Critical Perspectives	Saburo AKAHORI
Politics and Justice in the Mid 2020s	Andrew MITCHELL
Sociocybernetic Perspectives on the Rapidly Changing Media Environment and Infodemic	Toru TAKAHASHI
The Collaboration between First-Order and Second-Order Observations	Satoshi IGUCHI
The Human Bios in the Social System. the Sociological Relevance of the Organic Body	Consuelo CORRADI Barbara SENA Daniela BANDELLI

Program of the 18th International Conference on Sociocybernetics in Krakow, 2024



Monday, June 24

14:00-16:00. Participants registration

16:00-16.30. Opening ceremony

16:30-18.30. Keynote Speeches:

1. *How Data Understanding Can Benefit Communities: Use of Artificial Intelligence in Smart Cities.* **Dr. Sebastian Ernst.** Academy of Mining and Metallurgy, Krakow, Department of Applied Computer Science, on-site
2. *GenAI and Students - Delving Into the Motivations Behind Adoption,* **Prof. Regina Lenart-Gansiniec,** Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Institute of Public Affairs, on-line

Tuesday, June 25

9.00-11:00. **Session 1 (ON SITE) Chair: Patricia Eugenia Almaguer Kalixto**

1. *REALITIES: Radical Constructivism from Husserl to Planck, Kjellman, and Screen Creatures.* **Bernd R. Hornung.** University of Marburg (retired), Germany.
2. *Invasion: AI applied to invent migration imaginaries in US.* **Juan Carlos Barrón Pastor.** CISAN UNAM, Mexico.
3. *The Social Impact of the Artificial Intelligence on national security concept and governance – a sociocybernetics approach.* **Mihail Anton.** Carol I National Defence University, Romania

11:20-12:00. **Session 2 (ON SITE) Chair: Patricia Eugenia Almaguer Kalixto**

4. *Artificial Intelligence: Challenges Ahead.* **Mark M. Michalski.** The CUA, United States.

14:10-16.10 **Session 3 (ON SITE) Chair: Margarita Maass Moreno**

5. *How can Sociocybernetics' epistemology contribute to AI models' explainability?* **Jorge Cardiel.** National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico

6. *Artificial intelligence, relevance and the coordination of action*. **Dániel Havrančík**. Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary.
7. *Artificial Intelligence and the Boundaries of the Social World*. **Werner Binder**. Masaryk University, Czech Republic.

16:30-18:30. **Session 4 (ONLINE) Chair: Saburo Akahori**

8. *MagicSchool AI as a cybernetic tool for course design: A framework to facilitate machine-teacher partnerships*. **Shantanu Tilak et al.** Chesapeake Bay Academy, CadetNet Program, United States.
9. *Online bubbles and echo chambers as social systems*. **Emerson R.C. Palmieri**. Universidade de São Paulo (USP), Brazil
10. *Voter Micro-Targeting and Democracy*. **Fernando Trincado Moraes**. University College London (UCL), United States.

Wednesday, June 26

9:00-11:00. **Session 5 (HYBRID) Chair: Saburo Akahori**

11. *“Outside and Then” in Monterrey: Implementing Systems 3-4-5 of the Viable System Model in the operation of a city government*. **Roberto Mancilla**. Independent Consultant, Mexico.
12. *Tracing Emotional Dynamics of Family in Film: A Cinematic Journey from 1890 to 2024*. **Sizhan Cui**. Nanjing University, China.
13. *Journalistic Autonomy in an Algorithm-Driven Society: A Sociocybernetic Consideration*. **Toru Takahashi**. Chuo University, Japan.

11:20-12:40. **Session 6 (HYBRID) Chair: Saburo Akahori**

14. *AI applied to the bíos: implications on the social identity of the human person*. **Daniela Bandelli**. Lumsa University, Italy.
15. *Delving into the Nexus of Artificial Intelligence, Free Will, and Biocapital: A Third-Order Cybernetics and complexity approach*. **Aaron Cid**. Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, México, México.

14:10-16:10 **Session 7 (ON SITE) Chair: Juan Carlos Barrón Pastor**

16. *New longevity and systemic Cohousing. Applied Sociocybernetics. Wellbeing, community and social development*. **Margarita Maass Moreno**. UNAM, México.
17. *Artificial intelligence as a social challenge*. **Chaime Marcuello-Servós**. Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain.
18. *The client data systems in the Finnish social welfare in the digital era*. **Raija Koskinen**. University of Helsinki, Finland.

16:30-17:50. **Session 8 (ONLINE) Chair: Chaime Marcuello-Servós**

19. *Systems Modelling using concepts of Functional Theory of Social Systems*. **Mark Belitsky**. United States.
20. *How are we to evolve governance systems which make it possible to take account of a wider range of information and promote pervasive experimentation and learning?* **John Raven**. eyeonsociety.co.uk. Scotland.

Thursday, June 27

14:10-16:10 Session 9 (ON SITE) Chair: Czesław Mesjaz

21. *Reflexivity in Social work communication: challenges in the use of artificial intelligence practices.* **Patricia Eugenia Almaguer Kalixto.** Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain.
22. *AI: Consuming energy and producing information. An ethical reflection.* **Cynthia Arredondo.** and **Juan Carlos Barrón Pastor.** CISAN UNAM, Mexico.
23. *The Anxious Machine: A Socio-Cybernetic Exploration of Technological Singularity.* **David Karminski.** Independiente, Mexico.

16:30-18:30. Session 10 (ONLINE) Chair: Raija Koskinen

24. *Text-to-image AI as a mechanism to manifest concept formation in the college psychology classroom.* **Shantanu Tilak et al.** Virginia Wesleyan University, United States.
25. *Ethical responsibilities about the use of artificial intelligence in socio-educational structures at the Autonomous University of Chiapas, Mexico.* **Gabriela Grajales García.** and **María Eugenia Culebro Mandujano,** Autonomous University of Chiapas, Mexico.
26. *Exploiting ambiguity: economic exploits and disinformation tactics on TikTok.* **Massimo Terenzi.** University in Urbino, Italy.

Friday, June 28

9:00-11:00. Session 11 (ONLINE) Chair: Jorge Cardiel

27. *The Limits of AI, Algorithms and other Software in Assisting Foreign Communities During Disasters: A Case Study of Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan.* **Andrew Mitchell.** Kumamoto University, Japan.
28. *Small Farmers in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Signature or Biometric Verification for Access to Welfare in Nagaland, India.* **O Grace Ngullie.** Department of Public Policy, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, India.
29. *Understanding Bookchin's laws: The manufacture of senseless work and the inexorable onward march of hierarchy.* **John Raven.** eyeonsociety.co.uk. Scotland.

11:20-12:00. Session 12 (ONLINE) Chair: Jorge Cardiel

30. *The Contribution of AI in the Whole Institutional Approach of Education for Sustainable Development.* **Mariella Nocenzi.** Sapienza University of Rome, Italy, and **Piero Dominici,** University of Perugia, Italy

12:40-14:10. Lunch break

14:10-16:10 Session 13 (ON SITE) Chair: Toru Takahashi

31. *Understanding "Order from Noise" in the Algorithmic Information Production.* **Ji Hong.** Bielefeld University, Germany
32. *On Advantages of Sociocybernetics in Describing the AI-Related Issues: Focusing on Algorithmic Decision-Making.* **Saburo Akahori.** TWCU, Japan.
33. *Object-mediated communication and Image-generating AI: Based on Luhmann's analysis of the art system.* **Satoshi Iguchi.** Chuo University, Japan.

16:30-17:50. **Session 14 (ON SITE) Chair: Toru Takahashi**

34. *A conceptual framework of studying interactions in complex social systems.* **Czesław Mesjaz.** Cracow University of Economics, Poland.

35. *Agent-based models, an example.* **Ville Turunen.** Häme University of Applied Science, Finland.

The **RC51 Newsletter** is open for permanent feedback to integrate new suggestions and ideas to achieve its goal: promote news among the ISA RC51 members and a broader scientific community interested in sociocybernetics.

Please contact the newsletter editor for any information you would like to include or any further suggestion.

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