

WORLD KNOWLEDGE

World Knowledge

DIALOGUE SYMPOSIUM

Dialogue Symposium

SECOND EDITION

Second edition

SWITZERLAND

Switzerland

CRANS-MONTANA

Crans-Montana

10-13 SEPT. 2008

10-13 Sept. 2008

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WORLD
KNOWLEDGE
DIALOGUE

«Towards a modern humanism»

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

«A Plea for a Better Global Understanding»

The strategic approach of the World Knowledge Dialogue (WKD) Foundation is based on the provision of a platform for a structured, innovative and productive dialogue between expert researchers, and across the traditionally defined disciplines of knowledge; the natural sciences, technical sciences, social sciences and humanities. The communication gap between them is a major obstacle in attaining a comprehensive understanding of the world and the major problems faced society today, in spite of the signs of concordance and cross-fertilization that are emerging through the seminal work of some internationally recognized scholars.

Prof. André HURST

President of the WKD Foundation

Prof. Francis WALDVOGEL

Program Director of the WKD

The first WKD Symposium, organized in Crans-Montana (Switzerland) in September 2006, brought together a group of outstanding speakers from fields such as physics, biology, genetics, anthropology, linguistics, history, philosophy and social sciences, in order to initiate an interdisciplinary dialogue centered around the two topics: “Emergence of Complex Systems” and “ The Traces of Human Migration”.

During the year 2007, through meetings and internal discussions, the WKD Foundation has initiated an in depth analysis of the results of the first Symposium. A book summarizing the fruit of these reflections is to be published shortly before the 2008 Symposium. The Foundation has also reorganized its Scientific Board to increase the presence of top representatives from philosophy and the social sciences.

The second WKD Symposium will be held from September 10 to 13, 2008. Once again, it will revolve around themes which have received a significant impulse and interest in recent years and which lend themselves particularly well to the experimentation of interdisciplinary discourse.

OPENING CONSIDERATIONS

Lessons learned

After the first WKD symposium (Crans-Montana – Switzerland) 2006, the foundation concluded that four main lessons were to be learned from this successful meeting:

- First, there is no single common language between the natural sciences and the human sciences, and only an in-depth understanding of the various epistemological approaches and methodologies will allow the two cultures to relate to each other on an equal footing and consequently develop a common understanding. Indeed, the culture gap is probably a generic one: Our knowledge and our academic world are split into innumerable fragments, and the problems of integrating the elements are often as important between specialised branches of one discipline as they are between the natural and the human sciences.

- Second, the attainment of a common understanding of our fragmented knowledge presupposes more broad-minded listening to the other’s point of view, as well as a humble migration out of one’s own field of competence. For each of the intellectual interfaces encountered, the various epistemological approaches available (i.e. the methods and criteria for critical thinking and justification of knowledge) have to be analyzed, compared, and bridges and incompatibilities have to be identified.

- Third, “the World has problems, and Universities have Faculties”: As the 21st century approaches the end of its first decade, the structure and teaching in our universities and research institutions is in need of redefinition and should be complemented by a novel, interdisciplinary approach, giving broader meaning, a wider sense of responsibility, higher values and new perspectives to our knowledge.

- Fourth, there is apparently a “generation gap” in the attractions of developing a holistic, interdisciplinary approach to knowledge. Many members of the young generation of scientists accord great priority to an interdisciplinary approach, which then gets rapidly “streamlined” into a discipline-oriented, vertically structured, rather impermeable research system: Today, the quest for funding, recognition, and promotion has to follow largely along specialized pathways. Academicians from the older, established generation can indulge in restituting their interests for a global, interdisciplinary approach as they reach the end of their professional career.



THE WORLD KNOWLEDGE DIALOGUE SYMPOSIUM 2008

The format of the 2nd WKD symposium takes into account the various lessons learned during the first edition. As in the 2006 event, this one will take its queue from two topics selected by the international scientific board for their relevance to present-day research :

1 «**COLLABORATIVE BEHAVIOUR, ALTRUISM AND CONFLICT: from animal behaviour to economics and prevention of violence**».

2 «**COLLECTIVE NETWORK KNOWLEDGE AND HUMAN INDIVIDUAL INTELLIGENCE: convergences and divergences**».

This framework being set, both themes will provide the starting points of an innovative, experimental, interdisciplinary dialogue. After a first roundtable debate defining our objectives and possible epistemological approaches, the two topics will be explored in presentations by internationally recognized scholars, who will concentrate not only on the “knowns”, but also on the “unknowns” of their respective fields. It is the latter which is likely to be particularly revealing and propitious to an interdisciplinary approach: With one full day being dedicated to each topic, there will be ample time for structured and free discussions in parallel workshops. These sessions will be complemented by free abstract sessions in the field of interdisciplinary research and education, and by public lectures given by two world leaders in interdisciplinary work. On the last day, leading personalities from the humanities will attempt to put the results of the presentations and workshops into an epistemological perspective. E.O.Wilson, the Scientist in Residence of this year’s symposium and one of the world’s foremost driving forces for an interdisciplinary conception of knowledge will close the proceedings with his own summary.

Prof. André HURST
President of the WKD Foundation

Prof. Francis WALDVOGEL
Program Director of the WKD

A few concluding comments: From a general point of view, all knowledge acquisition proceeds through the same basic mental processes, including among others, perception, memory, introspective consciousness, a priori reasoning, testimonial transmission. Each question we ask, each answer we obtain, combines these same basic elements in its own way. It must therefore be possible to identify the commonalities between how a social science student and a budding internet developer perceive tomorrow’s world of shared knowledge. Similarly, there must be points of convergence between the way a primatologist, an experimental economist and a leading figure from the political world observe altruistic or conflict behaviour.

Our aim is to step aside of possible wars in the fields of science or of ideology: We believe that the limits in one field, be they limits of a question or the limits of a method, correspond to the intellectual wealth in an adjacent field, and that the humble transgression of boundaries between one territory and another will promote responsibility and lead to reciprocal enlightenment and enrichment.

PARTICIPANTS AND GENERAL ORGANIZATION

The meeting will be moderated by Professor E.O. Wilson (Harvard), distinguished biologist and humanist, hailed as one of the most influential intellectuals in the USA.

One complete day will be devoted to each topic, with conferences from world leaders in the different fields, followed by discussions in the morning, and dialogue labs, with invited presentations in the afternoon. It will therefore provide a very attractive framework, and ample time for discussion and exchange of ideas.

Keynotes lectures will concentrate on the aspects of Knowledge in relation to Responsibility.

In addition, our Young Scientists Programme, which was considered as one of the great successes of the first symposium, will be reinforced for the 2008 symposium. A substantial number of promising young scientists will be offered travel grants and reduced registration fees, in exchange for taking an active part in the symposium.

A special program for students will be launched this year: Upon selection by partner universities, these students will be able to observe first-hand, the dialogue between the researchers and teachers representing different branches of academia. They will also have an opportunity to contribute to the debate with their own concerns and ideas about the values and pitfalls of transdisciplinary dialogue and how best to conduct it.

During the last day of the meeting, the various cross-cultural and interdisciplinary approaches developed will be summarized by leading epistemologists and by the Scientist in Residence.

Evening sessions (in French with English translation) are also open to public attendance, and are designed to extend the opportunity for questions to a lay audience.

The bulk of the symposium's participants are recruited from personalities from around the world holding positions of influence in academic teaching and research (Presidents/Rectors/Deans of Universities, Institute Directors etc.). Many also hold sway in economic and political fields (opinion leaders and policy-makers).

A special effort has been made to provide subsidies for travel fellowships to representatives from developing countries.

The presence of each registered participant throughout the duration of the symposium is expected, since the meeting is considered to be a workshop platform for all present.



The Executive Board of the World Knowledge Dialogue Symposium 2008 wishes to stimulate interdisciplinary dialogue between participants and invited speakers from the natural/technical sciences and human/social sciences through a

Call for Abstracts

Contributions are welcomed from any field of the humanities, social, natural and technical sciences. They should be aimed at encouraging and supporting the debate between fields during the Symposium.

Two categories of abstracts will be considered:

A

Research and education in interdisciplinarity

(to be presented within the main scientific sessions)

B

Research and education in the scope of one of the two central themes of the 2008 symposium (to be presented during workshop sessions):

1

Collaborative Behaviour, Altruism and Conflict: from animal behaviour to economics and prevention of violence

2

Collective network knowledge and human individual intelligence: convergences and divergences

Abstracts should include title, author(s) and their institution, and should not exceed 400 words. The preferred category for submission should be indicated. The abstracts will be reviewed by a Scientific Committee, chaired by the Scientific Secretary.

Registration fees and standard hotel accommodation costs will be waived for the senior authors of up to three abstracts selected from each category, by the Executive Board.

SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT: www.wkdialogue.ch

DEADLINE: May 30, 2008



TOPICS

The main object of the Symposium being to explore ways of integrating different disciplinary approaches to research and higher education in general, the themes chosen are not an end in themselves, but a vehicle for exploration of different epistemologic approaches to facets of the same question. For each topic, three or four principal speakers will first give a general account of the state of knowledge of their domain and attempt to situate their personal contribution within a broader context. Each one will attempt to share his perception of the limits of understanding of his domain and explore the possible extension of the conceptual framework and the necessity for new approaches from other fields. The presentations will be accessible to an educated audience, not necessarily cogniscent of the specialist fields associated with the subjects touched on. During the general discussions following the invited presentations, the speakers will interact with members of the International Scientific Board and the audience. The themes, and the dialogue itself, will be further discussed and expanded in the various group discussions, with the participation of the speakers.

1 **COLLABORATIVE BEHAVIOUR, ALTRUISM AND CONFLICT: from animal behaviour to economics and prevention of violence**

Four main presentations are scheduled on this topic:

Professor Raghavendra Gadagkar, will discuss social biology, cooperation and conflict in different animal societies; Professor Frans de Waal will introduce primatology and links between human and animal behaviours, discussing morality as a logical outgrowth of cooperative tendency; Professor Karen S. Cook will elaborate on the subject of trust in social relations and networks, and collaborative action and punishment in socio-economic environments; Finally, a renowned politician/ international negotiator (speaker to be confirmed) will discuss the theme of human conflict, its prevention and its solution.

2 **COLLECTIVE NETWORK KNOWLEDGE AND HUMAN INDIVIDUAL INTELLIGENCE: convergences and divergences**

The Friday morning's presentation will be divided into three parts:

Professor Wendy Hall will explore the development of web technologies, the development of the Semantic Web, and the interface between the life sciences and physical sciences; Professor Pierre Lévy will address questions of the impact of the internet on social organization from a philosopher's point of view on collective intelligence and knowledge-based societies; Lastly, (a speaker to be confirmed) will consider the structural organisation and dynamics of complex networks.

6

PRE-FINAL PROGRAM

Last update : 2008-04-30

All mentioned speakers are confirmed

Day one Wednesday 10 September 2008

2:00pm / 3:00pm

Registration, tea & coffee

3:00pm / 3:10pm

Opening of the symposium - Welcome address

André Hurst, President, WKD Foundation

3:10pm / 3:25pm

Switzerland, a most fertile environment to grow and propagate the dialogue

Mauro Dell'Ambrogio, State Secretary for Education and Research, Switzerland

Opening session

Knowledge, dialogue and responsibility

Chair: Dame Julia Higgins, Imperial College, London, and
Author in residence, WKD 2006

3:25pm / 3:35pm

Introduction : From the 2006 experiment to the 2008 dialogue

Dame Julia Higgins, Imperial College, London

3:35pm / 3:45pm

Lecture

Hon. Koji Omi, Founder and Chairman, STS Forum, Tokyo, Member, House of Representatives, Former Minister of Finance of Japan

3:45pm / 3:55pm

The knowledgeable and responsible person

Francis Waldvogel, Director, WKD

3:55pm / 4:55pm

Communication and cooperation:

Conditions for a dialogue addressing fundamental problems of our time

Introduction, Moderation and Conclusions :

Edward O. Wilson, Harvard University, Scientist in residence for the second WKD symposium

Round Table :

Richard R Ernst (Nobel Laureate), ETH Zürich

Paul Boghossian, New York University

Veronica Boix-Mansilla, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Karavannur P Mohanan, National University of Singapore

4:55pm / 5:15pm

Break

5:15pm / 6:00pm

Keynote Lecture I : Knowledge and responsibility

John Sulston (Nobel Laureate), Institute of Science, Ethics and Innovation, University of Manchester - Open to the public

6:00pm

Welcome cocktail and networking

Day two Thursday 11 September 2008

Day three Friday 12 September 2008

Scientific session 1

Main topic 1: Collaborative behaviour, altruism and conflict: From animal behaviour to economics and prevention of violence

Chair: Ruth Dreifuss, former Federal Councillor and former President of the Swiss Confederation, Switzerland

9:00am / 9:10am

Introduction

Ruth Dreifuss, former Federal Councillor and former President of the Swiss Confederation, Switzerland

9:10am / 9:40am

Survival strategies: Cooperation and conflict in animal societies

Raghavendra Gadagkar, Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore, India

9:45am / 10:15am

When animals do business

Frans de Waal, Emory University, USA

10:20am / 10:50am

Collaborative action and punishment in social and economic environments

Karen S. Cook, Stanford University, USA

10:55am / 11:00am

Break

11:00am / 11:45am

Human conflict: What is missing for prevention/solution

Kofi Annan (Nobel Laureate), former Secretary-General of the United Nations

11:45am / 12:00pm

Break

12:00pm / 1:15pm

Discussion / Dialogue :

Raghavendra Gadagkar, Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore, India

Frans de Waal, Emory University, USA

Karen S. Cook, Stanford University, USA

Kofi Annan (Nobel Laureate), former Secretary-General of the United Nations

Chairperson: Iris Bohnet, Harvard's John

F. Kennedy School of Government

1:15pm / 2:15pm

Lunch

2:15pm / 3:00pm

Keynote lecture II : Scientific enterprise and responsibility

Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard (Nobel Laureate), Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology, Tübingen, Germany - Open to the public

Scientific session 2

Parallel study sections based on main topic 1: Collaborative behaviour, altruism and conflict: From animal behaviour to economics and prevention of violence

3:15pm / 5:30pm

Dialogue labs :

Science and technology in Society Kyoto Forum
Chair: Hon. Koji Omi, Japan

Economic development and violence
Chair: NN

Interdisciplinary cooperative strategies and conflicts in the scientific and academic world
Chair: Jean-Pierre Changeux, France

Responsibility and governance of the university: Cooperation between science and society
Chair: Ulrike Felt, Austria

5:30pm / 6:00pm

Break

6:00pm / 7:00pm

Keynote lecture III : Joël de Rosnay, Conseiller du Président, Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie; Président Exécutif, Biotics International
Open to the public - En français / In french - live translation

Scientific session 3

Main topic 2: Collective network knowledge and human individual intelligence: Convergences and divergences

Chair: Hiroyuki Yoshikawa, President, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, (AIST) Japan

9:00am / 9:10am

Introduction

Hiroyuki Yoshikawa, President, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, (AIST) Japan

9:10am / 9:40am

Expansion of collective intelligence and semantic web: «new» human mind ?

Wendy Hall, University of Southampton, United Kingdom

9:45am / 10:15am

TBD

Florence Nibart-Devouard, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Wikimedia Foundation, France

10:20am / 10:50am

Which new communities are emerging around the collective web knowledge technologies?

Pierre Lévy, University of Ottawa, Canada

10:55am / 11:15am

Break

11:15am / 12:30pm

Discussion / Dialogue :

Wendy Hall, University of Southampton, United Kingdom

Pierre Lévy, University of Ottawa, Canada

Florence Nibart-Devouard, Wikimedia

Foundation, France

Chairperson:

Geoffrey West, President, Santa Fe Institute, USA

12:30pm / 2:00pm

Lunch

2:00pm / 2:45pm

Keynote Lecture IV: TBD

Edward O. Wilson, Harvard University, Scientist in residence for the second WKD symposium - Open to the public

2:00pm / 2:45pm

Break

Scientific Session 4

Parallel study sections based on Main Topic 2: Collective Network Knowledge and Human Individual Intelligence: Convergences and Divergences

3:00pm / 5:30pm

Dialogue labs

Abstracts session
Chair: Julia Higgins, UK

Transdisciplinary networks and knowledge sharing in universities
Chair: Georges Haddad, France

Regulation and control of knowledge
Chair: John Harris, UK

Networks and intelligence: from in vivo to in silico and back
Chair: Henry Markram, Switzerland

5:30pm / 6:00pm

Break

6:00pm / 7:00pm

Keynote Lecture V : Astronomie et Écologie

Hubert Reeves, astrophysicist and popularizer of science, CNRS, France
Open to the public - En français / In french - Live translation

8:00pm

Cultural event and gala dinner

Day four Saturday 13 September 2008

Concluding session

The Dialogue : Means and outcomes

Chair: NN

9:00am / 10:30am

Discussion labs

Experimenting the dialogue: rules, tools, risks and new opportunities

Speakers from topic 1

Chair: Al Teich, USA

Speakers from topic 1

Chair: Noreen Golfman, Canada

Speakers from topic 2

Chair: Richard Ernst (Nobel Laureate), Switzerland

Speakers from topic 2

Chair: Paul Boghossian, USA

10:30am / 10:45am

Break

10:45am / 11:15am

Feedback from the young scientists

Feedback from the students

11:15am / 12:00pm

A new dialogue for scientists and academicians: learning from our neighbours

Feedback from the discussion labs chairs and general discussion

12:00pm / 12:20pm

Concluding remarks

Edward O. Wilson, Harvard University, Author in residence for the second WKD symposium

12:20pm / 1:30pm

Farewell buffet

Special programs

Young Scientists

A group of young scientists will follow the scientist in residence in his observations, analyses and conclusions.

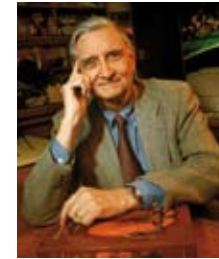
These scientists will be coached by a member of the scientific board.

Students program

It will be led by a member of our Board of Directors (student) and a member of the Scientific board. They will also provide an analysis of the dialogue and their conclusions/propositions.

SCIENTIST IN RESIDENCE

Edward O. Wilson



Pellegrino University Research Professor, Emeritus, at Harvard University, USA Edward O. Wilson's career began with the study of the social behaviour of ant populations. He demonstrated that certain aspects of ant behaviour could be triggered by chemical signals, showing that their behaviour was programmed, not learned. He applied these ideas to study the behaviour of other animals, including man, concluding that our genes and our environment intertwine to make us what we are. He has been lauded as one of the founders of the modern environmental movement and is a passionate defender of the need for our human society to seek out means of sustainable interaction with Planet Earth, the only home we have. He has long argued that as human beings multiply and use the Earth's resources to fuel the hedonistic lifestyle practised by the Industrialised countries, the planet's ecosystem is increasingly threatened. Professor Wilson's recent publications make a compelling case that mankind must act rapidly to preserve the Earth's biodiversity for our descendents. Credited with first bringing the concept of biodiversity to mass public attention in 1988, almost 20 years later he continues to encourage society to respond with a greater sense of urgency to the irrefutable evidence that the diversity of life on Earth is in rapid decline. Professor Wilson's many contributions to science have received international recognition. He has received 27 honorary doctoral degrees and more than 70 awards, including the U.S medal of Science (1976), The German Terrestrial Ecology Prize (1987), the French Prix du Institut de la Vie (1990), the Crafoord Prize from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (1990), the Japanese International Prize for Biology (1993), the Franklin Medal of the American Philosophical Society (1999), and the King Faisal International Prize for Science (2000). His conservation work has also been recognised through the award of the Gold medal of the World Wide Fund for Nature and the Audubon Medal of the Audubon Society. His books have also been widely acclaimed and he has twice been awarded the Pulitzer Prize. In 2006 he launched the E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Foundation, dedicated to preserving biological diversity in the living environment by encouraging the invention and implementation of business and educational strategies in the service of conservation.



PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS, CHAIRPERSONS AND ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS

12

Kofi A. Annan

Former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Founder and Chairman of the Global Humanitarian Forum, Geneva

Kofi Annan was the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations from 1997 through 2006, and the first to emerge from the ranks of the United Nations Staff. He took his first job with the organization in 1962 and held a number of posts, including Deputy Director to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (1980-83) and Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping (1995-96). In 2001, Kofi Annan and the United Nations were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their work in global peace and cooperation.

As one of the world's most prominent diplomat, Kofi Annan has been a powerful voice on issues of human rights, international cooperation, and in the fight against HIV/AIDS. A skilled leader during a difficult era, Kofi Annan provided powerful insights into the challenges facing the international community, and the role of the United Nations in achieving global peace and security.

Paul Boghossian

Silver Professor of Philosophy and Provost Fellow at New York University, USA

Paul Boghossian held the Chair of Philosophy at NYU from 1994 to 2004. His research interests are in the philosophy of mind, the philosophy of language and epistemology. He is the author of *Fear of Knowledge: Against Relativism and Constructivism* and the forthcoming *Content and Justification: Philosophical Essays*. He has written numerous articles on topics that include: color, rule-following, naturalism, self-knowledge, a priori knowledge, analytic truth, realism, relativism, the aesthetics of music and the concept of genocide. He has held research fellowships from several institutions in USA, UK and Australia and has been a Visitor at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

Iris Bohnet

Professor of Public Policy at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, USA

Iris Bohnet is the Faculty Chair of the Women and Public Policy Program at the Kennedy School, serves on the executive committee of the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School and on the board of the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva. A behavioral economist, her research combines insights from economics and psychology and explores the motivational foundations of human behaviour. She has published numerous articles on trust, cooperation, fairness, reciprocity, decision making and negotiation in leading academic journals, typically using an experimental approach and often with a cross-cultural or gender perspective.

Karen S. Cook

Ray Lyman Wilbur Professor of Sociology, Stanford University, USA

Karen Cook is the current chair of the Department of Sociology, Stanford University and the Director of the Institute for Research in the Social Sciences (IRISS). Her current research focuses on issues of trust in social relations and networks. She is also working on projects related to social justice, power-dependence relations and social exchange theory, in addition to collaborative research on physician-patient trust. She was a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (1998-99) and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1996.

Ruth Dreifuss

Former Federal Councillor (i.e. Member of the Swiss Government) and former President of the Swiss Confederation, Switzerland

After having worked as a civil servant in the field of development cooperation and as a leader of the Swiss Labour Union, she was elected by the Parliament one of the seven members of the Swiss Government. From early 1993 to the end of 2002, she acted as Minister of domestic affairs, including public health, research, higher education, social security and other political fields. She acts now in many national and international organizations. She chaired the Commission on intellectual property rights, innovation and public health of the WHO which achieved its report in Spring 2006 and a commission which proposed to the Government of Geneva a new law on the cantonal University.

Joël de Rosnay

President of Biotics International, Paris, France

Joël de Rosnay is the Special Advisor to the Director General of the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie at La Villette of which he was Director of Forecasting and Assessment until June 2002. From 1975 to 1985 he was Director of Research Applications at l'Institut Pasteur (the Pasteur Institute in Paris). He is particularly interested in advanced technologies and the applications of system theory and he is the author of several scientific books aimed at a large public, among them «L'Homme Symbiotique, regards sur le 3eme millénaire» (Symbiotic Man, a look into the third millenium), «La plus belle histoire du monde», (The most beautiful history of the World) with Yves Coppens, Hubert Reeves and Dominique Simonnet. In 1990 he was winner of the Academie des Sciences Award for scientific communication.

Frans de Waal

Charles Howard Candler professor of Primate Behavior, Emory University, Atlanta, USA

Frans de Waal is the director of the Living Links Center at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center and the author of numerous books, including «Chimpanzee Politics» and «Our Inner Ape». His research is focused on primate social behavior, including conflict resolution, cooperation, inequity aversion, and food-sharing. In 1993, he was elected to the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, and was elected as a Foreign Associate of the United States National Academy of Sciences in 2004. Time magazine elected him to their Time 100 list of the 100 Most Influential People in The World in 2007.

Richard R Ernst

Professor Emeritus of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich, Switzerland

After having received his PhD in Technical Sciences from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Richard R Ernst worked with Varian Associates in Palo Alto, California, He returned to the ETH in 1968 where he became Full Professor in 1976. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1991, for his contributions to the development of the methodology of high resolution nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy.

Raghavendra Gadagkar

Professor and JC Bose National Fellow at the Centre for Ecological Sciences of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India

Raghavendra Gadagkar is also the founding Chairman of the Centre for Contemporary Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore which is a bold new experiment to integrate the natural sciences with the social sciences, humanities, arts and literature and create a unified perspective on the production of knowledge. He is an Honorary Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, a Non-Resident Permanent Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin and a Foreign Associate of the American National Academy of Sciences

Wendy Hall

Professor of Computer Science at the University of Southampton, UK

Among many leadership roles, she is currently Senior Vice President of the Royal Academy of Engineering, a member of the UK Prime Minister's Council for Science and Technology, a founder member of the Scientific Council of the European Research Council, and Vice-President of the Association for Computing Machinery. Professor Hall is also founding director of the Web Science Research Initiative, launched in 2006. The influence of her work in multimedia and hypermedia has been significant in many areas, including the development of the Semantic Web, and the interface between the life sciences and physical sciences.

Julia Higgins

Principal of the Faculty of Engineering, Imperial College, London; UK

Professor Julia Higgins was Scientist in Residence during the first WKD symposium in 2006. She is a former Vice-President and Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society of Great Britain. She has pioneered exploration of the responsibilities of being a scientist in the modern world and has been instrumental in bringing consideration of gender issues in European science to the political forefront. Julia Higgins has received numerous distinctions in recognition of her contributions as a public ambassador for science, She became a Dame of the British Empire in 2002, and a Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur in 2003.

Pierre Lévy

Canada Research Chair in Collective Intelligence, University of Ottawa, Canada

Pierre Lévy is a philosopher who has devoted his professional life to the understanding of the cultural and cognitive impacts of digital technologies and to the promotion of their best social uses. He is a world-leading thinker on “cyberculture”. His work has been focused around the concept of collective intelligence and knowledge-based societies, and more recently, on the development of an Information Economy Meta Language (IEML) based on semiotic concepts. Pierre Lévy has published several books among them *Qu'est-ce que le virtuel ? (Becoming Virtual)* or *Cyberculture*.

Florence Nibart-Devouard

Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Wikimedia Foundation

Florence Nibart-Devouard serves as one of the elected representatives to the Board of trustees of the Wikimedia Foundation since June 2004. She is the current Chair of the Board since October 2006, succeeding Jimmy Wales. She holds two masters, one in Agricultural Sciences and the other in Genetic and Biotechnologies. She has been working in public research, first in flower plant genetic improvement, and second in microbiology to study the feasibility of polluted soil bioremediation. She was employed until 2005 in a French company, to conceive decision-making tools in sustainable agriculture. She is now a consultant in Internet Communication Strategy. She joined the Wikipedia adventure in February 2002 and is known as a contributor under the pseudonym Anthere.

Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard

Director of the Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology in Tübingen, Germany

Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard received the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1995 for research on the genetic control of embryonic development. She has also been honored with the Albert Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research and the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize. She became a member of the Nationaler Ethikrat (National Ethics Council of Germany) for the ethical assessment of new developments in the life sciences and their influence on the individual and society.

She is a strong advocate for women's opportunities in science and has initiated the Foundation for the promotion of science and research, which supports talented young women with children.

Koji Omi

Founder and Chairman, STS *forum*; Member, House of Representatives; Former Minister of Finance, Japan

Among a number of prominent posts, Mr. Omi has been Minister of State for Economic Planning (1997–1998), Minister of State for Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs and for Science and Technology Policy (2001–2002) and Minister of Finance (2006-2007). A major figure in Japanese science and technology policy, he founded the Science and Technology in Society (STS) forum, which meets annually in Kyoto, with the aim of building a worldwide network among scientists, policy makers and business people. He is a graduate of Hitotsubashi University (Japan).

Hubert Reeves

Directeur de recherches at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris, France

Hubert Reeves is an astrophysicist and popularizer of science. He has been a Director of Research at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique since 1965 and currently resides in France where he often speaks on television promoting science. He is also Associate Professor at the University of Montreal, and President of the Ligue ROC pour la Préservation de la faune sauvage.

He has written several publicly acclaimed books and, among the many honours that have been bestowed on him, he is an Officer of the National Order of Quebec (1994) and a recipient of the Albert Einstein Medal (2001).

John Sulston

Chairman of the Institute of Science, Ethics and Innovation, Manchester University, UK

Professor Sir John Sulston received the Nobel prize for Physiology or Medicine in 2002, for his role in elucidating the development and programmed cell death of a small but complex animal called *C.elegans*. The insights he brought were borne of decades spent exploring uncharted frontiers between biology and chemistry. Sulston went on to lead his country's contribution to the Human Genome Project and to defend the principle of universal free access to the information it yielded. He has long been an influential campaigner for open-access publishing of scientific information and continues to pioneer serious exploration of the issues of social and global justice that are raised by scientific and technological advance.

Geoffrey West

President and Distinguished Professor of the Santa Fe Institute, USA

As Senior Fellow and leader of the high energy physics group at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Geoffrey West's primary interests have been in fundamental questions concerning the elementary particles, their interactions and cosmological implications. In the mid-1990s, his focus shifted from particle to biological physics, and to studying the most complex of all systems: life. Since then, he has done major work at the confluence of biology and physics, including seminal work on biological scaling. His contributions have provided a framework for quantitative analyses of fundamental issues in biology. Among his current interests is the extension of these ideas to generate quantitative descriptions of the structure and dynamics of social organizations such as cities and corporations, and the relationships between efficiency and innovation.

Hiroyuki Yoshikawa

President, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, (AIST) Japan

Hiroyuki Yoshikawa is a former President of the University of Tokyo. His capacities as scientist and modern humanist earned him election to the Presidencies of the Science Council of Japan (1997-2003) and the International Council for Science (1999-2002), tasks which he carried out with distinction. As president of AIST, he continues to champion the principle of scientific responsibility towards humankind as a whole.

15

ORGANIZATION

The symposium is the primary project of the “World Knowledge Dialogue Foundation”, which has its headquarters in Geneva (Switzerland). The Foundation’s Board is composed of leading figures in higher education and research in Switzerland, with a strong participation of University Rectors. The present Board members are:

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- M. François Mudry, Vice President, Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch, Sion, Switzerland.



The themes and the speakers have been chosen by an International Scientific Board, which is composed of the following members:

- Werner Arber, Professor Emeritus, Biozentrum, University of Basel, Nobel Prize Laureate
- Paul Boghossian, Silver Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, New York University
- Iris Bohnet, Professor of Public Policy, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
- Jean-Pierre Changeux, Professor at the Collège de France and Professor & Chairman of the Department of Neurosciences of the Pasteur Institute, Paris.
- Ruth Dreifuss, Former Swiss Federal Councillor and former President of the Swiss Federal Council
- Gerald M Edelman, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurobiology, Scripps Research Institute and Founder and Director of the Neurosciences Institute in San Diego, Nobel Prize Laureate
- Richard R Ernst, Professor Emeritus of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich, Switzerland, Nobel Prize Laureate
- Gerd Folkers, Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at ETH Zurich and Chairman of the Collegium Helveticum, Zürich, Switzerland
- Georges Haddad, Director, Division of Higher Education, UNESCO
- Dame Julia Higgins, Professor, Imperial College, London, Foreign Secretary and Vice President of the Royal Society
- Hiroshi Komiyama, Professor and President, University of Tokyo
- Helga Nowotny, Fellow at the Wissenschaftszentrum Wien, Austria, Vice-President of the European Research Council, ERC
- Geoffrey West, President and Distinguished Professor of the Santa Fe Institute
- Frank Wilczek, Herman Feshbach Professor of Physics, MIT, Nobel Prize Laureate
- Timothy Williamson, Wykeham Professor of Logic at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of New College Oxford

The decisional structure of the project is the **Executive Board**, chaired by **Prof. Em. Francis Waldvogel**. Its members include the **Project Manager, Gilles Crettenand**, and the **Scientific Secretary, Dr Jérôme Billotte**. The WKD operational team is composed of **Ariane Vliérick (Scientific & Media Relations Manager)**, **Dr Moira Cockell (Scientific Assistant)**, **Dr Frédéric Darbellay (scientific Assistant)**, **Karima Amiguet (Administration)**, **Françoise Michaud (Director’s Assistant)** and **Laurent Zufferey (Webmaster)**.

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Representatives of WKD at the Sierre railroad station will guide you to the WKD shuttle.

Congress Centre

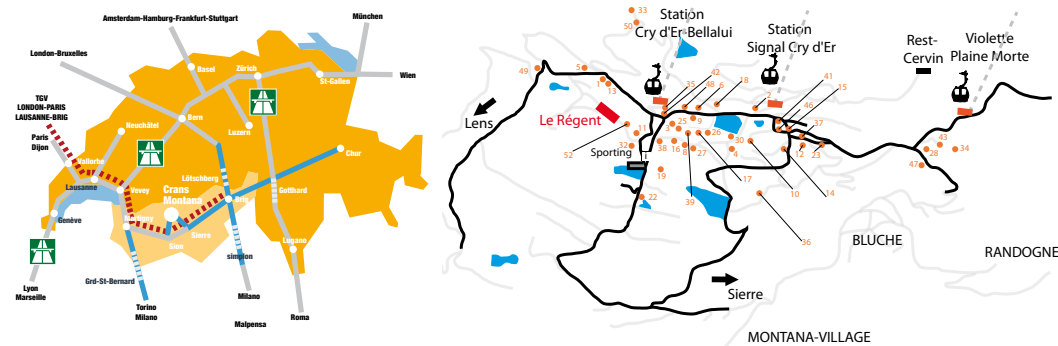
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18

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- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Pas de l'Ours 5 étoiles | 15. Mirabeau 3 étoiles | 41. Central |
| 2. Crans-Ambassador | 16. des Alpes | 42. Robinson |
| 3. Royal 4 étoiles | 17. Beau-Site | 43. Villa Notre-Dame 2 & 1 étoiles |
| 4. Aïda-Castel | 18. Bella-Lui | 46. Olympic (2*) |
| 5. Alpha | 19. Belmont | 47. Diligence |
| 6. Alpina & Savoy | 22. Crans-Belvédère | 49. Crans-sapins |
| 8. Excelsior | 23. Curling | 50. Dent-Blanche |
| 9. Le Green | 25. Eden | 52. Caddie's Résidence |
| 10. du Parc | 34. Le Mont-Paisible | |
| 11. Rhodania | 35. National | |
| 12. St. George | 36. La prairie | |
| 13. de l'Etrier | 37. Primavera | |
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