

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»

Prof. André HURST

President of the WKD Foundation

Prof. Francis WALDVOGEL

Program Director of the WKD

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.

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 will 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 be 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 200 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.



Preliminary Program

The Program, along with the names and affiliations of the main speakers, will be published on February 28 - www.wkdialogue.ch

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 NN: Political Authority

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, 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 :

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

Round Table :

Richard R Ernst, ETH Zürich

Paul Boghossian, New York University

Veronica Boix-Mansilla, Harvard Graduate School of Education

NN

4:55pm / 5:15pm

Break

5:15pm / 6:00pm

Keynote Lecture I : Knowledge and responsibility

NN

Open to the public

6:00pm

Welcome cocktail and networking

Thursday 11 September 2008

Scientific session 1

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

Chair: NN

9:00am / 9:10am

Introduction

Chairperson

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 / 11:10am

Break

11:10am / 11:40am

Human conflict: What Is missing for prevention/solution

NN

11:45am / 1:00pm

Discussion / Dialogue :

Raghavendra Gadagkar, Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore, India

Frans de Waal, Emory University, USA

Karen S. Cook, Stanford University, USA

Iris Bohnet, Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government

NN

NN

1:00pm / 2:15pm

Lunch

2:15pm / 3:00pm

Keynote lecture II : Scientific enterprise and responsibility

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

Scientific session 2

Parallel study section 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

Cooperative behaviour, conflicts and socialisation: Between nature and culture

Chair: Ruth Dreifuss, Switzerland

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: NN

5:30pm / 6:00pm

Break

6:00pm / 7:00pm

Keynote lecture III :

Joël de Rosnay, President of Biotics International

Open to the public - En français / In french - live translation

8:00pm

Cultural event and gala dinner

Friday 12 September 2008

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

NN

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

NN

Pierre Lévy, University of Ottawa, Canada

NN

NN

12:30pm / 2:00pm

Lunch

2:00pm / 2:45pm

Keynote Lecture IV

NN

Scientific Session 4

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

3:00pm / 5:30pm

Dialogue labs

Abstracts session

TBD

Georges Haddad, France

TBD

TBD

5:30pm / 6:00pm

Break

6:00pm / 7:00pm

Keynote Lecture V : Title

Hubert Reeves, CNRS, France

Open to the public - En français / In french - Live translation

8:00pm

Young scientists dinner - -Dialogue dinner-

Preliminary Program

Saturday 13 September 2008

Concluding session

9:00am / 10:30am

Topic 1
Speakers from topic 1
Members of the Scientific board

Topic 2
Speakers from topic 2
Members of the Scientific board

The Dialogue : Means and outcomes

Chair: NN

Parallel round tables

Topic 1
Speakers from topic 1
Members of the Scientific board

Topic 2
Speakers from topic 2
Members of the Scientific board

10:30am / 10:45am

10:45am / 11:15am

11:15am / 12:00pm

12:00pm / 12:20pm

12:20pm / 1:30pm

Break

Feedback from the young scientists

Feedback from the students

Dialogue and responsibility :

Feedback from the round table chairs and general discussion

Concluding lecture

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

Farewell buffet

Special programs

Young Scientists

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

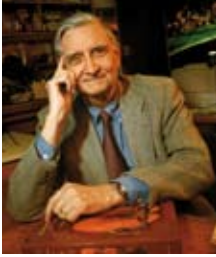
These scientists will be coached by a member of the scientific board.

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

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.

Hon. Koji Omi

Member of the House of Representatives, Founder and Chairman, STS *forum*, Tokyo, 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).

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Jean-Pierre Changeux

Professor at the Collège de France and Professor & Chairman of the Department of Neurosciences of the Pasteur Institute, Paris.

Jean-Pierre Changeux is considered one of the fathers of modern neurobiology. In an era of specialization, he is one of the rare scientists who has not only disregarded interdisciplinary boundaries, but in fact bridged them. He is the recipient of many prizes, including the Balzan Prize 2001 and the Louis Jeantet Prize for Medicine, 1993.

Joël de Rosnay

President of Biotics International, Paris.

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.

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.



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.

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*.

Georges Haddad

Director of the Division of Higher Education, UNESCO.

Georges Haddad holds a PhD in Mathematical sciences and he is “Agrégé en mathématiques” and a University professor, former President of the University of Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne, from 1989 to 1994. He was the President of the Board of the World Conference on higher education (UNESCO, 1994-1999) and acts now as the Director of the division of Higher Education of the UNESCO.

Hubert Reeves

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

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:

- Prof. André Hurst, President of the WKD Foundation, Genève, Switzerland
- Prof. Hans Weder, Rector, Universität Zürich, Switzerland
- Prof. Dominique Arlettaz, Rector, Université de Lausanne, Switzerland
- M. Claude Roch, Conseiller d’Etat, Chef du Département de l’Education, de la Culture et du Sport du Canton du Valais, Switzerland
- Prof. Martin Vetterli, Vice President, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland
- PD Dr Gertrude Hirsch Hadorn, Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich (ETHZ), Switzerland
- Ms Laetitia Henriot, former President, Swiss Universities Students Association, Switzerland
- 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 Vlérick (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)**.

WELCOME TO CRANS-MONTANA SWITZERLAND

**Are you looking for relaxation, emotion and new sensations?
We are pleased to welcome you in Crans-Montana, a plateau framed by a panorama of majestic alpine summits. Here, enjoyment has many different forms: skiing, winter sports, hiking, as well as entertainment and events for all tastes. Let yourself be carried away by these colourful activities and enter the absolute dimension!**

Motorway A9 to Sierre, then follow the indication for Crans-Montana (approx. 15 km)

- From Lausanne : A9 motorway to Sierre
- From Basel, Bern, Zurich : through Lötschberg tunnel then A9 motorway to Sierre
- From Brig: A9 motorway to Sierre
- From Sierre: main road Chermignon-Crans-Montana or Mollens-Crans-Montana
- From Sion : main road Lens-Crans-Montana
- From Milano: Simplon Pass then A9 motorway to Sierre

Crans-Montana in the heart of the Valais, near to international airports.

- Geneva: International Airport 2 1/2 hours from Crans-Montana:
- Railway station of Geneva directly at the Airport.
- Zurich: International Airport 4 hours from Crans-Montana
- Sion: Regional Airport 40 minutes from Crans-Montana
- Milano Malpensa Airport 2 1/2 hours from Crans-Montana

By train to Sierre. Shuttles from the railway station of Sierre to Crans-Montana (approx. 15 km).

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

Congress Centre

The Congress Centre «Le Régent» is located close to the center of the resort. Thanks to this exceptional location, memories of a stay in Crans-Montana will be slow to fade for both participants and speakers.

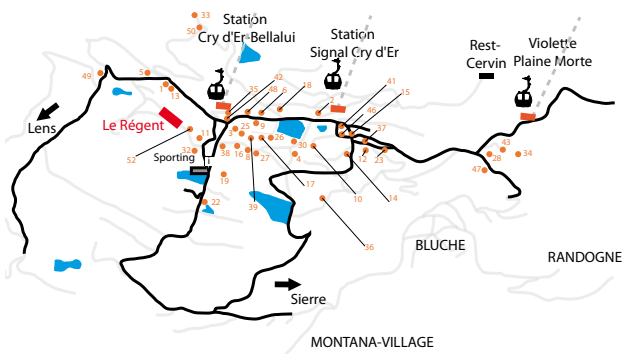
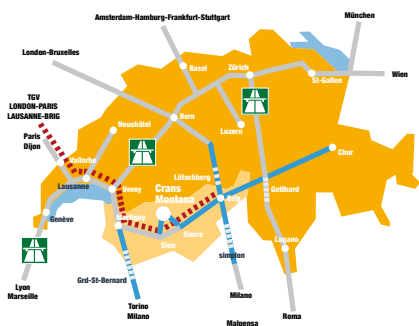


WEBSITE

www.congres.ch
www.crans-montana.ch

MAP AND HOTELS

“LE RÉGENT“



- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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 NotreDame 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 | |
| 14. Intergolf | 38. Serenella | |
| | 39. Le Splendide | |

SCIENTIFIC PARTNERSHIPS

- Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina, Wuerzburg (Germany): networking & young Investigators
- European Science Foundation, Strasbourg (France) : communication among European scientific community
- Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, München (Germany) : networking & young Investigators
- Swiss National Science Foundation (Switzerland) : networking & young Investigators
- European Association of Universities (networking and communication)
- Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences (networking and communication)
- Collegium Helveticum, ETH, Zürich (Switzerland) : networking
- Academia Engelberg (Switzerland) : networking
- Fondation Science et Cité, Berne (Switzerland): networking
- CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research), Geneva (Switzerland): Webcasting and Communication

ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch, Sion (Switzerland): operational aspects of the 2008 symposium
- Swiss Embassy, Tokyo (Japan): operational aspects network and communication in Japan
- Swissnex Singapore: operational aspects, networking and communication in Asia.
- Swissnex Boston (USA): operational aspects, networking and communication in the USA
- Swissnex San Francisco (USA): operational aspects, networking and communication in the USA
- Swiss Embassy Washington (USA): networking and communication in the USA
- ICVolunteers, Geneva (Switzerland): operational aspects of the 2008 symposium
- Crans-Montana Tourism (Switzerland): operational aspect of the 2008 Symposium
- Mac Cart, Genève (Switzerland): technical aspects of the 2008 symposium

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Swiss National Foundation for Scientific Research, Bern (Switzerland)

Anonymous (private), Geneva (Switzerland)

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