

Seminar: The Self-Organisation of the Information Society

Session 1

Self-Organisation in Real-World Systems

We are witnesses of, and participants in, a developmental stage of humanity on earth that needs self-reflection for being able to successfully cope with the challenges at hand. Those challenges are complex in nature and necessitate a strategy that does justice to their complexity. It will be shown that complexity sciences that deal with complex systems provide that cross-disciplinary basis that is required to understand the challenges and develop appropriate options for action upon natural, social or technologically mediated systems. The concept of self-organisation forms the key concept of an Evolutionary Systems Theory (EST) which, in turn, can help devise a Unified Theory of Information (UTI) that bridges the gap between the “hard” science perspective of information as something like a thing and the “soft” science perspective of information as a subjective construct.