

Seminar: The Self-Organisation of the Information Society

Session 4

The Great Bifurcation

According to this CIST, current crises mark a period of approaching a point of bifurcation in societal development – either a breakthrough to a new level of organisation of world society can be achieved or a breakdown of civilisation is inevitable. The vision of a Global Sustainable Information Society (GSIS) is introduced which gives provisions to be met in order to enable societies to take the first option. A GSIS is a society that applies information processes for keeping itself on a sustainable path which is possible only on a global scale. ICTs bear the potential of fostering the necessary redesign of social and other information processes. However, development is nowadays locked in antagonisms of informational capitalism characteristic of each subsystem of societies.