

Michaelmas Term 2007

CABDyN SEMINAR SERIES
Saïd Business School, University of Oxford



Convenors:

Felix Reed-Tsochas, *James Martin Institute, Saïd Business School*

Jukka-Pekka Onnela, *Physics Department & Saïd Business School*



Our meetings intend to provide a forum for rigorous research (in a broad range of disciplines) focusing on complex adaptive systems, using methods and techniques such as agent-based modelling and complex network analysis. Since potential areas of application for such approaches can be located across the social, natural and engineering sciences, our aim is to involve participants from a wide range of departments in Oxford. We welcome talks which focus on particular areas of application and associated technical issues, but also encourage contributions which address more fundamental conceptual or mathematical problems. The CABDyN Seminar Series is one of the activities of the CABDyN Research Cluster (<http://sbs-xnet.sbs.ox.ac.uk/complexity/>).

Tuesday 23rd October, 12.30 – 2.00 pm

Reception Room
(Please note different venue)

Prof László Pólos
Durham Business School, Durham University

The Emergence of Classification Schemata

ABSTRACT

This paper explores some of the social mechanisms that lead to the emergence of classification schemata, i.e. social codes that put producers or products into different categories. The theoretical challenge is to tell apart cases where a producer does not belong to a category, and cases where it does belong but violates some of the codes that define the category. A satisfactory response to this challenge has to account for the fuzziness of classification schemata: some products may belong to a category in some degree. Bringing fuzzy set theory into the models allows us to develop concepts such as contrast of a cluster, which turns out to be a sensible predictor of the emergence of classification schemata.

For background to this talk read chapters 2-3-4 from 'Logics of Organization Theory: Audiences, Codes, and Ecologies' by Michael T. Hannan, László Pólos & Glenn R. Carroll.

Sandwiches and drinks will be provided

For further information contact info.cabdyn@sbs.ox.ac.uk

Seminar webpage: http://sbs-xnet.sbs.ox.ac.uk/complexity/complexity_seminars.asp