

“System Dynamics Summer School” Progress Report

dd 5 March 2014 by Erik Pruyt

Overview: A 3-day System Dynamics Summer School will be hosted (July 16-18 2014, Delft) at the venue of the International System Dynamics Conference (ISDC) right before the start of the conference (July 20-24 2014, Delft). The summer school will be taught at two different levels: there will be basic/intermediate classes and supervision for relative newcomers and there will be advanced classes for SD students and practitioners. Registration for the summer school is only €300 per person. The summer school will be taught by an international team of System Dynamics professors and practitioners. Although summer school participants are not required to attend the conference, they are strongly advised to register for the ISDC too, and participate in the PhD colloquium and the post-conference workshop days. This 3-day pre-conference System Dynamics summer school, the 1-day pre-conference PhD Colloquium, the 3-day International System Dynamics Conference, and the 2-day post-conference workshops and master classes provide unparalleled opportunities to introduce newcomers to the field, keep practitioners aware of current advanced developments, and build & expand professional networks.

Highlights:

- July 16 – July 18, 2014 at the ISDC workshop venue
- Two levels: (i) beginners and (ii) advanced
- Main goal: offer learning opportunities to newcomers and advanced students/practitioners
- Hidden agenda: attract more ISDC participants!
- For more information, see: <http://conference.systemdynamics.org/summer-school/>

Progress:

- **Logistics:** all arranged for. Housing & travel are not included in the registration fee.
- **Professors and practitioners willing to join the teaching team so far include:**
Andy Ford (Washington State), Khalid Saeed (WPI), Yaman Barlas (Bogazici University), Hazhir Rahmandad (MIT and Virginia Tech), Navid Ghaffarzadegan (Virginia Tech), David Anderson (SUNY Albany), Kim Warren (LSE & Strategy Dynamics), John Morecroft (LBS), Len Malzinsky (Sandia Laboratory), and Erik Pruyt (TU Delft).
- **Participants so far: 9: 6 advanced and 3 basic. So far... see below.**
- **Note: The summer school will only take place if we reach a minimum of 10 beginners and a minimum of 10 advanced participants. So please, help us spread the word...**
- Registration fees will be used to pay for teaching team and teaching expenses. This is a non-profit enterprise. No profits will be made. No losses will be made.
- **Financial impact for the ISDC: none. Risk for the ISDC: none.**

In more detail:

- The summer school will be 3 full days (Wednesday-Thursday-Friday 16-18 July 2014) right before the conference, plus a half-day social activity and dinner on Saturday (19 July) for participants and professors that volunteer for the social activity, plus some activities during the conference and half a day during the workshop days.
- The registration fee for participants will be 300 euros for these three days + lunches + social activity + dinner, but does not include housing. Housing for participants will be about 40 euro/night on the basis of shared rooms. Budget-wise this means: 300 euro + 40x5 euro (housing) + about 15x4 euro (dinners) for attending the summer school ahead of the conference. Or in total: 560 euro in total if they stay (at least) from Tuesday till Sunday.
- If there are less than 20 participants, then the summer school may have to be cancelled. Otherwise we risk running a loss.
- From 20 participants on, we can pay for 3 professors (expenses except for transportation + normal honoraria) without the risk of running a loss. Every additional 10 participants means we can pay for 1 extra external professor. So, we need to be adaptive (upon the number of registrations) in terms of accepting professors on the team. It is hard to tell how many participants there would be this first time we are organizing this summer school. We hope about 40 will participate, but note that this already means slightly less than 10% of the ISDC participants would actually participate.... Hence, we would like the teaching team to be able to offer the widest variety of --especially advanced-- topics.
- The organization will be as lean as possible: additional costs will not be made and Erik Pruyt will do most additional organizational work in our evening hours, etc.
- There will be no scholarships and we will not help people to get visa: if they need one, they should also register for the conference too so that they can get visa with the help of the office. We will strongly encourage participants to also attend the ISDC, PhD colloquium, and workshops.
- Note that more students also means we can afford more professors on the team... so we would really appreciate your help with reaching out to as many potential participants as possible. More students means more teaching staff on the team.
- For the ISDC this will most likely mean additional participants, but not additional funding (or maybe a little sponsorship if there is a profit or if the team of professors wants to pass part of the honorarium to the SD conference): It is essentially a non-profit enterprise from our side.
- So what is "our side"? This summer school will be promoted as a jointly organized summer school by the System Dynamics Society and the TU Delft Graduate School and is locally hosted by Delft University of Technology's faculty of Technology, Policy and Management and the Benelux Chapter of the System Dynamics Society. The graduate school is in because they can actually give credits for attending courses which is important for (European) PhD students. We have also consulted the Student Chapter, the SDS home office, some of the office bearers and a variety of system dynamicists.