

**Ad Hoc Committee on PhD Colloquium – additional information
Winter PC Meeting 2015**

See Page 2 for Call for Angel Advisors

**See Page 3 for Call for Papers, 16th Annual PhD Colloquium
Student Chapter of the System Dynamics Society**

Call for Angel Advisors

***Invest in the future of system dynamics:
Become an Angel Advisor to students in the
PhD Colloquium Poster Session at the 2015 conference!***

Like angel investors in a start-up enterprise, angel advisors provide feedback to students in early stages of research formation and production. Unlike formal research advisors, the time commitment for angel advisors is low, bounded in space and time.

The PhD Colloquium has increasing numbers of students undertaking system dynamics as part of their research, some with varying levels of SD support at their institutions. To respond to evolving needs, student leaders have revised the Colloquium to foster community and candid conversation among participants. This year's call invites doctoral students to submit work at any stage of the research process, and ***the Colloquium review process no longer parallels the general conference review process.*** Rather, selections for oral presentations (25 minutes, plus discussant feedback and Q&A) will be ***based on the submission's quality, clarity and potential for informing many others' learning***, as judged by the PhD Colloquium organizers. Students whose work is not selected for an oral presentation may be invited to present their work in the Colloquium Poster Session (1.5 hours between the Policy Council Meeting and the Welcome Reception).

As an **angel advisor**, you can serve as a friendly encourager, questioner, and recommender of useful resources to *three or four* Colloquium Poster Session presenters. We estimate that 7 to 10 angel advisors are needed, based on recent years' numbers of Colloquium participants.

For each of your angel advisees, you will:

- Read a 300-word abstract and watch a 1-2 minute video of the student describing his/her current work-in-progress; and
- Attend the Colloquium Poster Session—*strategically scheduled between the Policy Council Meeting and the Welcome Reception, and providing drinks and snacks especially to nourish Policy Council Meeting participants*—and visit with each advisee to provide friendly encouragement, resources, feedback, etc.

You will receive the abstracts and access to online videos 2 weeks before the conference begins.

****We are also seeking 4 to 8 volunteers to serve as a Colloquium **discussant** for a single oral presenter, providing 1-2 pages of written comments to the presenter and 5 minutes of oral comments on the work valuable to the entire Colloquium audience. Discussants will receive presenters' papers 6 weeks before the conference begins.****

To volunteer as an angel advisor or discussant, or to request more information, please contact Laura Black, lblack@montana.edu, or Jill Kuhlberg, jkuhlberg@go.wustl.edu.

The upside potential for you, the students, and system dynamics is strong!



Call for Papers

16th Annual PhD Colloquium

Student Chapter of the System Dynamics Society

July 19, 2015 □ Cambridge, MA, USA

The PhD Colloquium is a one-day event devoted to developing and mentoring students using system dynamics in their doctoral dissertations/theses. **This year the submission, selection process, and the structure of the Colloquium have changed to address more effectively the changing needs of students from diverse fields, with varying levels of SD support at their institutions, and at different points in their studies.** We warmly invite doctoral students to submit their work, which can be at any stage of the research process (proposal, middle stages, or nearly complete) to share and receive feedback from experts and peers at the Colloquium.

Colloquium Highlights:

By March 18
Submit extended abstracts or full-papers.

By June 2, 2015
Register for the Colloquium and
May 7, 2015
Look for notification of acceptance. <i>Oral presentations will be selected based on the quality of the</i>

Opportunities for feedback at the Colloquium	
For oral presenters:	Extensive written feedback before and comments at the Colloquium 20 minutes of discussion between experts and others in attendance following presentation
For all poster presenters:	Excellent feedback from those in attendance at the Colloquium
NEW! For poster presenters who make optional 1-2 minute "About my work" video:	Feedback on the day of poster session from 2 experts who are your "angel advisors"

By July 3, 2015
Deadline for poster presenters to submit optional informal 1-2 minute "About my work" video.

July 19, 2015
Attend the PhD Colloquium in Boston, MA.



PhD Colloquium 2014 in Delft

submission and potential to inform the learning of many students in attendance.

PhD Colloquium Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why submit to the PhD Colloquium?

Different from the regular sessions in the conference, the colloquium provides a forum where students can openly share the challenges they face with modeling and their research, rather than communicate polished results of completed research. Here are just a few reasons to consider submitting your work to the colloquium:

- You have an idea for a research/dissertation proposal and would like feedback (on the conceptualization of the problem, the suitability of SD, appropriate next steps, feasibility, etc.).
- You are in the middle-stages of your research and modeling (i.e., the work is not yet ready to present at the general ISDC) and would like feedback on work to date, help getting un-stuck, advice on next steps, or perspectives on the research contributions from people outside your department.
- You are nearing completion of the project/dissertation and are seeking critical feedback and questions to improve to the scholarly and practical contributions and implications of your work.
- You are studying at an institution where there are few (or no) faculty engaged in system dynamics work and you wish to present your work in a friendly setting, make connections with people in the field who can help you, and meet potential mentors.

2. Who can submit to the Colloquium?

The majority of submissions come from doctoral students; however, exceptional work from undergraduates and master's students is also reviewed.

3. Who can attend the Colloquium?

All are welcome to attend the Colloquium. Pre-registration is kindly encouraged, since by doing so, we can estimate the resources required for space and refreshments. This registration also ensures that you will have a lunch ticket provided to you on that day. (See #9 for more information)

4. What options are there to present work at the Colloquium?

The Colloquium will include both oral and poster presentations. The selection committee will assess the suitability of your work for these options ***based primarily on its potential to catalyze feedback and discussion useful to many participants about common challenges and opportunities in conducting research using system dynamics.*** For oral presentations, each student will be given 25 minutes to present the work, 10 minutes for expert feedback from two discussants, and 20 minutes for questions, comments, and further discussion from

those in attendance.

- *For poster presentations*, students will be given a space to explain and engage attendees in conversations about their work for 1.5-2 hours in the afternoon/early evening of the Colloquium.

5. How are oral presentations chosen?

Students whose submissions with subsequent expert feedback would benefit the larger audience of Colloquium attendees will be invited to present their work in oral presentations. These submissions may reflect a problem or question that was observed in several submissions or are commonly experienced by SD students and/or they may demonstrate exceptional modeling, research design, and/or innovative application areas. No preference will be given to the stage of the work presented; rather the emphasis will be on the clarity and quality of the work and its potential for informing many others' learning.

6. What kind of feedback can I expect from participating in the Colloquium?

Students whose submissions are selected for oral presentations will also receive extensive written feedback from two experts in the field before the Colloquium and substantive oral feedback on the day of the Colloquium by a discussant, in addition to informal feedback from the Colloquium attendees in a 20-minute period following the oral presentation. Students whose submissions are accepted as posters will be have the opportunity to share their work with conference and Colloquium attendees on the evening of the poster session. **NEW this year:** Students who make a 1-2 minutes "about my work and me" video (very informal) will also be assigned two expert advisors to offer constructive and friendly dedicated feedback on their work on the day of the poster session, in addition to other informal feedback from those in attendance.

7. What are the submission guidelines for the Colloquium?

There are two types of formats acceptable for submissions: full papers and extended abstracts.

To aid the review process, we ask that students follow the general guidelines provided below for all submissions:

- Single-spaced
 - 3 cm margins all around
 - 12-pt Times font or some equivalent
 - Abstract less than 300 words
 - Clear figures, tables, graphs
 - Prose edited to eliminate typos and increase clarity
- Submission via the online system on conference.systemdynamics.org, from February 2, 2015

Suggested content:

- Introduce the problem and describe its relevance
- Describe previous work done in the field (i.e., how this problem has been addressed before in other fields, or how the field of SD has viewed this problem in the past, etc.)
- Discuss how the problem is an appropriate problem to address using SD and/or why it is relevant to the field
- Present your research question(s) and aim(s)
- Describe potential contribution of your work/proposed work (i.e., what contribution can SD make, how this work can improve how SD is practiced, etc.)
- Describe the work you plan to do and how you plan to do it (or have already been proceeding).
- (*For those presenting work-already-in-progress*) Describe the work you have already done, and consider addressing some of the following questions:
 - What are the model boundaries?
 - What initial structures do you have and why is that a useful way to conceptualize the problem?
 - What is your dynamic hypothesis?
 - What model insights are you aiming to generate from your work?
 - What are some of the major feedback loops in your model(s)?
 - What/who are your data sources?
 - What variables are endogenous, exogenous, and not included in your model?

 - What current behavior modes is your model producing?
 - What policies are you testing?
 - What steps are you taking to build confidence in your model?
 - What insights did you gain about the problem in the modeling process?
 - What conclusions can you draw from your work at this time?

Extra Information for Extended Abstract Format Option--suggested length 5-6 pages (single-spaced)

This alternative is especially useful for students in early stages of research or in the proposal stage. The purpose for submissions in this format is to receive feedback on the conceptualization of the problem and proposed work, relevance and contribution of SD, feasibility of the scope of work, insight into next steps, etc.

Extra Information for Full Paper Format Option--suggested length 10-20 pages (single-spaced)

Full papers are more appropriate for work that is already proceeding, and might be thought of as an intermediate progress report of the research. These papers are expected to provide deeper discussion about the current status of the study and the preliminary findings. Depending on the type of research, this may include detailed discussion of the model structure and preliminary output, or the setup used in group model building sessions, etc., for example.

8. Do I need to attend the International System Dynamics Conference to present at the PhD Colloquium?

Yes. In fact, we find that the PhD Colloquium is an exciting way to start off ISDC

2015! Registration for the Colloquium and ISDC for presenters must be completed by June 2, 2015.

9. I am traveling from a country that requires me to apply for a visa to attend a conference in the US. Whom can I contact to discuss obtaining documents related to my participation in the Colloquium?

Questions of this nature should be directed toward the System Dynamics Society Home Office sds@systemdynamics.org.

10. Whom do I contact with questions about the Colloquium?

Feel free to contact Jill Kuhlberg and Sibel Eker at phdcolloquium@systemdynamics.org with any questions about your submissions, registration, attendance, or any other colloquium related issue.

IMPORTANT DATES:

March 18, 2015:	Submission deadline for PhD Colloquium
May 7, 2015:	Notification of acceptance
June 2, 2015:	Presenter deadline to register for PhD Colloquium and ISDC
July 3, 2015:	Deadline to upload video
July 19, 2015:	PhD Colloquium!