

SYSTEM DYNAMICS REVIEW

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE EDITOR TO THE POLICY COUNCIL (JAN 2008)

1. Special 50th Anniversary Issue 23:2-3

This was a major undertaking for both the editorial team and the Wiley production team. The issue was late but all agree it well symbolises a significant milestone for the Society. Congratulations to John Sterman and his colleagues for their considerable effort in bringing this Special Issue to fruition.

2. Subsequent Issues

The final issue in Volume 23 (23:4) has gone to press. It includes one paper which belongs to the 50th Anniversary set. The late arrival of the Special Issue means 23:4 is also late. It should arrive in around three weeks time.

Issue 24:1 is being assembled and my estimate is that it will arrive some time in March.

3. Future Special Issues

Nikko Georgantzas reports that 9 submissions have been received in response to a Call for Papers for a special issue on *Information System Dynamics*. The CfP appeared in 22:3. Along with his colleague E. Katsamakos he has sifted through the extended abstracts with the result that four full papers have been invited and submitted with two more on the way. All of these will be subject to the normal review procedure.

No other firm proposals for further special issues have been made in 2007.

4. Manuscript Submissions

The growth of System Dynamics as a methodology has inevitably led to an increase in the number of submitted manuscripts. In my report to the Winter Policy Council in January 2005, I noted that under the (then) manual input system 90 manuscripts had been received in the preceding two years. With *Manuscript Central* being operational from January 2006 it is possible to state the exact number of manuscripts logged in 2006 (48) and 2007 (84). So in 2007 we have moved up from around 40-50 manuscripts per annum to perhaps between 80% and 100% more. Clearly the 50th Anniversary Special Issue will account for some of the increase but certainly not all. It will be interesting to see how the 2008 submissions compare with the 2007 data.

I am most grateful to my colleagues in major editorial roles who have had to share with me the increased tempo, as well as carry out their normal employment duties. It has also meant that referees are perhaps receiving more requests for reviews than was the norm in the past, with a consequent impact upon response times.

5. Changes to the editorial team

Andy Ford stepped down as a Managing Editor at the end of 2007 and was replaced by David Ford (no relation) of Texas A & M University. Andy has given unstinting service to SDR as a Managing Editor since Volume 2 (1986). It would be remiss of me not to highlight this remarkable devotion to duty. Andy has served under all four Executive Editors and I doubt we will see 21 years of service in one major editorial role for a very long time, if at all. Andy: I salute you!

A number of Associate Editors relinquished their posts in 2007. Alan Graham has served since issue 1 in 1985 whilst David Peterson is listed from 1986 (both worthy of special mention). Other long-serving stalwarts making way for the new generation of researchers are David Andersen, Geoff Coyle and James Doyle. My sincere thanks and appreciation to you all.

New appointees who have accepted my request to serve are: Rogelio Oliva (Texas A & M University, USA); Silvia Ulli-Ber (Paul Scherrer Institute, Switzerland); Luis Luna-Reyes (Universidad de las Americas Puebla, Mexico). I welcome you all and hope you will become the long-serving editors of the future.

Brian C. Dangerfield
January 2008