



Economic Dynamics Chapter of the System Dynamics Society

To: Policy Council of the System Dynamics Society
From: Economic Dynamics Chapter
Re.: Chapter report
Period covered: February 2005 through June 2005
Date: July 1, 2005

Membership

There are currently 64 members, based on the subscriptions to the mailing list of the chapter. This is a net increase of 5 members since the time of the last report in January 2005.

Website and mailing list

The chapter website, <http://www.wpi.edu/~econsd>, has been continuously maintained and updated. The chapter's mailing is: list-econsd@wpi.edu. Instructions about how to subscribe to the list are available on the chapter website.

Chapter name

An issue that received a lot of attention this past year involved the possibility of changing the chapter's name to something like: 'The Economics Chapter of the System Dynamics Society.' It is anticipated that this issue will be discussed further at the chapter meeting that will be held during the summer system dynamics conference, and that a committee will be appointed to investigate the steps that must be taken to put a chapter name change into effect.

Current officers

President: Burkhard Schade
Secretary: Oleg Pavlov

A suggestion was made to extend the term of office of the chapter president to two years from one year. It is anticipated that this issue will be discussed and voted on at the chapter meeting that will be held during the summer system dynamics conference.

Chapter meetings

Michael Radzicki has made significant progress in finding places for the chapter to meet annually with economists. More specifically, our chapter will be meeting each April at

the Association for Institutional Thought (AFIT) meetings in the western part of the USA. This is an economics conference and our chapter's presence is being enthusiastically cultivated.

The chapter is presently investigating similar opportunities in Europe. Burkhard Schade is pursuing an option of a joint conference with the EcoMod, which is the Global Economic Modeling Network. Yet another possibility is to attend a joint Heterodox economics conference at Lancaster University's new Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS). We may also consider participating in the conference by the Society for Computational Economics, which will be held in 2006 in Cyprus.

Scholarship and teaching

Chapter members continued working on a variety of economic topics. Below is a sample of the work organized by specific areas in economics.

Macroeconomics

David Wheat teaches macroeconomics with MacroLab, which is a learning environment based on a STELLA model. He received a grant for developing an electronic textbook based on MacroLab.

Kaoru Yamaguchi of the Doshisha Business School in Kyoto, Japan received funding for developing a macroeconomic model of Japan. This work is an extension of his research in generic macroeconomic system modeling.

Finance

Mila Getmansky works in the area of finance and system dynamics. She recently accepted a faculty position at UMASS, Amherst in the Department of Finance and System Dynamics. She will be presenting a paper on limits to arbitrage during the summer conference in Boston (paper is available on the conference website).

Development

Brian Dangerfield is involved in a project sponsored by the Government of the State of Sarawak in East Malaysia to create a System Dynamics model to facilitate the management of a transition of the local economy from a resource-based economy to a knowledge-based one by 2020. During 2004, the work was presented at EUROXX in Rhodes, Greece and OR47 (the UK OR Society annual meeting). This year Professor Dangerfield talked about the project during the UK chapter meeting; the theme was "SD in Government". He will also present his research in Boston.

Transport economics

Transport economics is the research area of Burkhard Schade. He recently published the following papers:

- Schade, B.; Rothengatter, W. (2004): The Economic Impact of Environmentally Sustainable Transport in Germany. In: European Journal of Transport and Infrastructure Research, Vol. 4, no. 1, pp. 147-172.
- Schneider, M.; Schade, B.; Grupp, H. (2004): Innovation Process ‚Fuel Cell Vehicle’: What Strategy Promises to be Most Successful? In: Technology Analysis & Strategic Management, Vol. 16, No. 2, pp 147-172.
- Schade, B.; Schade, W. (2005): Evaluating Economic Feasibility and Technical Progress of Environmentally Sustainable Transport Scenarios by a Backcasting Approach with ESCOT. In: Transport Reviews Special Issue on Sustainability and Energy Use in Transport (forthcoming).

He also presented at:

- 10th World Conference on Transport Research (WCTR) in Istanbul, 2004
- International Conference on Policy Modeling (EcoMod2004), 2004

Institutional economics

Several members of the chapter combine system dynamics and institutional economics in their work. Glen Atkinson published an article:

- Atkinson, G. (2004) "Common Ground for Institutional Economics and System Dynamics Modeling", System Dynamics Review, (20)4, pp. 275-286.

He later presented this paper during the annual meeting of the Association for Institutional Thought [AFIT], held April 13 - 16, 2005 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The conference theme was “The Methodology of Institutional Economics.” Professor Atkinson wrote: “The purpose was to instigate a discussion with institutional economists on this topic. I gave copies of the article to the audience and several others requested a copy later.”

Oleg Pavlov, Michael Radzicki and Khalid Saeed presented a paper during the annual meeting of the Association for Evolutionary Economics (AFEE, <http://www.orgs.bucknell.edu/afee/>). The meeting was held January 7-9, 2005 in Philadelphia, PA. The paper will also be published in the September issue of the Journal of Economic Issues, v.39 (2).

This report was prepared by Oleg V. Pavlov. I would like to thank chapter members for contributing to this report.