



ESRC Research Seminar 4

Applied Complexity Theory as the New Framework for Public Policy

LSE Complexity Research Programme & Department of Politics and International Relations, Lancaster University

'Complexity and the International Arena'

9.30-17:00, Friday 6 November 2009, Institute for Advanced Studies at Lancaster University

Seminar Concept

For decades, international relations experts and practitioners have recognised the growing interdependence, connectedness and complexity of the global environment. Despite this, and a variety of intellectual challengers, realism with its simple and parsimonious tools based on a traditional scientific Newtonian paradigm remains the dominate framework in international relations and policy. The Complexity approach, emerging out of the physical and natural sciences in the late 20th century, can provide both a new, more realistic, paradigm and a range of simple and commonsensical tools (both metaphorical and modelling based) that can help move academics and practitioners beyond the limits of the current debates. In this workshop we will bring together a range of younger and established academics to explore the potential and practicality of integrating the new 'science' of complexity into the international arena.

Provisional Programme

Welcome (9:30 – 9:45) Welcome address from the seminar organiser, Prof. Robert Geyer

Session A (9:45 - 10:00) Introduction to the Grand Challenges on Complexity and the International Arena, Prof. Eve Mitleton-Kelly (LSE)

Session B (10:00 – 10:40) Presentation by Prof. John Urry (Lancaster), 'Complexity, the international arena and global climate (20 minute presentation/20 minute open discussion) **[Coffee Break, 10:40-11:00]**

Session C (11:00 - 12:30) will be based on three presentations. Each presenter will have 15 minutes to present their papers and 15 minutes for discussion. The session will be chaired by Prof. Lee Miles (Liverpool). **[Lunch, 12:30-13:30]**

- Prof. Robert Geyer (Lancaster) 'Applying the tools of complexity to the international realm: from fitness landscapes to complexity cascades'
- Dr. Kai Lehmann (Liverpool) 'Complexity theory and foreign policy: crisis-response as a process of self-organization'
- Dr. Mehmet Tezcan (Free University Brussels) 'Mechanisms of complexity in International Relations'

Session D (13:30 - 15:00) will be based on three presentations. Each presenter will have 15 minutes to present their papers and 15 minutes for discussion. The session will be chaired by Prof. Lee Miles (Liverpool) **[Coffee Break, 15:00-15:30]**

- Dr. Antoine Bousquet (Birkbeck, University of London) and Dr. Simon Curtis (LSE) 'Complexifying the language: A new conceptual language for IR?'
- Dr. Armando Geller (Manchester Metropolitan) 'Complexity based models of International Relations'
- Dr. Christine Brachthaeuser (University of Tübingen) 'Governance as a multi-level process'

Session E (15:30-17:00) Open discussion of the Grand Challenges on Complexity and the International Arena, led by Prof. Eve Mitleton-Kelly and Prof. Robert Geyer.

The seminar is free and open to all. However, due to the limited space available participants must register in advance with the workshop administrator, Emilie Secker e.secker@lancaster.ac.uk. Papers for the presentations will be made available in advance of the seminar on the workshop website.