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UNLOCK CONSCIENCES: RETHINKING THE WORLD AFTER THE PANDEMIC

Call to contribute to the journal *Acta Europæana Systemica* (AES), volume 10

1/ THEME

The Covid-19 pandemic calls the functioning of our eco-social systems into question in all their aspects (management of social relations, economy, hospital networks, food supply, work, parenthood, schooling, media, digital tools, information, tourism, etc.).

While we are all overwhelmed by the speed and scale of the phenomenon, we experience it differently: those who were worried about the trend towards the virtualization of our social relations are living a waking nightmare, those who valued a slow attitude towards degrowth are enjoying the calm, those who hoped that everything was under control are looking for those responsible.

Despite the gradual implementation of structured processes of deconfinement in several countries, the effects of this situation are still difficult to approach in terms of the physical and mental health of citizens, but also from the social, political and economic points of view.

Initially, taking assertive measures to deal with the current pandemic crisis seems reassuring. But potential abuses exist, such as the re-establishment of a new hygienism, of which we know from history the perverse effects, the occupation of the entire media space to the point of concealing all other information, the use of the pandemic as a *pretext* to diminish individual freedoms and to set aside the questions raised in particular by the disastrous state of our ecumene or by the exacerbation of social inequalities.

Secondly, at a time when the intensity of the crisis seems to be diminishing, would we not try to elucidate its underlying logic, to reveal our capacities for long-term resilience, to propose creative solutions to bring about a different world? This speculative work is less reassuring and requires a great deal of imagination since it is based on a question that is simple to state, but to which it is difficult if not impossible to give a definitive answer: would this pandemic situation not offer us the opportunity to *rethink the world*?

This question is just one more reformulation of other inevitable questions that humanity is cowardly reluctant to answer (imminent ecological crash, technological indifference, absurdity of economic models...).

In this context of widespread uncertainty, the concepts, tools and methods of systemic modelling could help us take advantage of this unprecedented situation to encourage us to *unlock our consciences*. They would enable us to avoid the tempting choice of the easy way out to mobilize our consciences in the service of questions that are disturbing.

Let us never forget our collective capacity to rethink the world!

2/ IMPORTANT DATES

1/ invitation to contribute	15/06/2020
2/ abstracts submissions (max. 300 words: damien.claeys@uclouvain.be)	10/07/2020
3/ notification of acceptance	15/07/2020
4/ finals papers submission (damien.claeys@uclouvain.be)	30/10/2020
5/ publication of the <i>AES</i> n°10	31/12/2020

3/ SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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4/ THE JOURNAL *ACTA EUROPEANA SYSTEMICA* (AES)

4.1. AES: A JOURNAL OF THE EUS

Acta Europæana Systemica (AES) is the journal of the European Union for Systemics (EUS).

Founded in 1988, the EUS, aims at promoting European research and practice of systemics. The EUS is a community of national scientific societies. The EUS seeks to establish, through its network of companies, a favourable environment to the evolution of systemics (including its theoretical foundations, its methods and its implementation) and its diffusion, in particular by promoting transdisciplinary exchanges.

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World Organisation of Systems and Cybernetics (WOSC)
The International Academy for Systems and Cybernetic Sciences (IASCYS)
International Federation for Systems Research (IFSR)

4.2. GOALS OF THE JOURNAL AES

The main objective of the journal AES is to promote systems thinking by providing keys to understanding the complexity of reality. Its mission is to promote the emergence, communication and deepening of systemic thinking.

The existence of the journal AES is necessitated by the realization that the complexity of the society in which we live exacerbates the need to find the tools, methods, an epistemology that allows to understand the functioning of the phenomena around us and able to act.

The journal AES is a place of reflection and exchange that confronts multiple practices, training and systems research. It supports in particular the approaches inter/pluri/multi/trans-disciplinary, openings to cultural diversity, field experiences and references to theoretical work.

4.3. THE COMMITTEES

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Reading Committee varies from issue to issue of the journal. This Scientific Committee provides peer reviewing of the contributions and it is composed according to the topics covered in the issue.

4.4. AUTHOR INSTRUCTIONS

The journal AES uses working languages: French and English. Nevertheless articles in other European languages can be included, to the extent that they are accompanied by a summary result in at least one of the working languages.

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