Verein zur Integration und Implementation von System-, Informations- und Gesellschaftswissenschaften

Report 2021 and Outlook

A Research

1 Projects
2 Presentations (selection)
3 Events
4 Networking
5 Teaching
6 Publications (selection)

B Development of organisation

C Outlook

1 Projects
2 Events
3 Networking
4 Teaching
5 Publications

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Vienna, March 2021

A Research

Research activities focus on exploring the techno-eco-social transformation of societies into a Global Sustainable Information Society. In particular, the concept of Edgar Morin's "Homeland Earth", the paradigm shift to a shared future for humanity, the meaning of life in the context of information processing systems, information ethics that is aware of the urgent need of achieving a quality leap to level up social evolution, the importance of educating global netizens, the assets of encyclopaedic knowledge, strengthening resilience in the pandemic, the shaping of technology for humane purposes, and critical theories that lay emphasis on the ineluctable function of commons are issues of investigation.

In that context, among others, connections were established with the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution.

The pandemic impacted us such that we had to face cancelations and postponing of face-to-face events. We compensated by enlarging online activities, recording talks and setting up an own video channel.

1 Projects

Preparation and execution of, or autonomous collaboration in, research projects by The Institute with or without funding (for details see our website https://gsis.at/projects/):

- **"Heimatland Erde"**
  This project was our first project that was fully funded. In the framework of the "Homeland Earth" movement that was started by the *Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution Schlaining* (ASPR) to propagate the idea of a unified mankind on our planet in the wake of French intellectual Edgar Morin, the idea came up to produce a documentary on that for pedagogical use. We formed a team with our film-maker Sophie Huber-Lachner whom we contracted to materialise the film, Werner Wintersteiner, an expert in peace pedagogy from the Alpen-Adria-Universität, as consultant, and Ursula Gamauf-Eberhardt from the ASPR that provided the financial support. The 20 minutes film was finalised in November. Due to the pandemic, the premiere was postponed to 2022.

- **Emergent Transformation**
  The manuscript of the book project of Wolfgang Hofkirchner was submitted to the publisher in February 2022. The monograph resumes his book *Emergent Information* and rounds up the paradigm shift to a shared future for humanity with providing a transdisciplinary theories framework – the so-called Logic of the Third.

- **COVID-19 Epidemic Austria Simulation Model**
  Peter Fleissner has still been simulating the Austrian pandemic.

- **Information Ethics, Responsibility and Sustainability**
  2021 was the second year of that project according to the contract between GSIS and the *Faculty of Informatics and Statistics, Prague University of Economics and Business*, 0013/VŠ/2020. The situation was also affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Despite that, we worked and developed our cooperation:
  - Tomáš Sigmund and Wolfgang Hofkirchner published in the field of Transhumanism and AI.
  - Both institutions became members and supporters of the initiative Homeland Earth. An online talk on "Die Verknüpfung von Globaler Citizenship, Globalem Dialog und Globaler Governance" was given at the ASPR Summer Academy.
  - Both Sigmund and Hofkirchner were involved in organising a workshop at the *2021 Summit of the International Society for the Study of Information* (IS4SI). A speech was given and the full paper prepared for publication in 2022.
  - Both institutions were represented with presentations revolving around Discourse and Power organised in Wittenberg at the annual conference of the *Institute für Design Science*, München.
  - Hofkirchner taught Bachelor online courses for students of Informatics at the *IMC University of Applied Sciences* in Krems, Austria, on the topic Reflections on Computer Science, Society and Ethics.
  - Sigmund and Hofkirchner contributed to a festschrift for the German philosopher Rainer E. Zimmermann.

- **Lernen lernen**
  After some break, Sophie Huber-Lachner's documentary "Lernen lernen" could, eventually, be finalised in February 2022. The title was changed to "Das Lernen (wieder) lernen".

- **SISI (Single Integrated Science of Information)**
  This project was continued with further publications.
  An invited speech of W. Hofkirchner at the ASPR Summer Academy devoted to Peace Policy in the Age of the Anthropocene demonstrated how imperatives for our time can be formulated by extending the scientific understanding of information to social information processes ("Die Verknüpfung von Globaler Citizenship, Globalem Dialog und Globaler Governance").

- **glossaLAB**
  This project was supported by Ecuadorian institutions in the years 2019-2021. It faced financial problems. However, in 2021, it enjoyed grants in the educational context.

- **Evolution of Information Processing Systems**
  Annette Grathoff published a paper "On the explicit function of life within a physical universe" in a special issue of philosophies on "The meaning of life in the universe", guest-edited by Rainer E. Zimmermann. Also, she presented her considerations on the topic at the annual Wittenberg meeting to which the *Institut für Design Science München* had invited.

- **Historical materialism, critical media and communication theory**
  This book project of Sebastian Sevignani and Sevda Arslan is still postponed.

- **Edgar Morin: Das Leben des Lebens**
  We have started negotiating with a new publisher of the German translation of Morin's second volume of "Method".

- **Transhumanism**
  The book *Transhumanism: The proper guide to a posthuman condition or a dangerous idea?*, edited by Hans-Jörg Kreowski and W. Hofkirchner, was published with an imprint of 2021.

- **Systems Thinking Origins**
  Contributions of W. Hofkirchner, i.e., lectures on "Doe Verknüpfung von Globaler Citizenship, Globalem Dialog und Globaler Governance" (ASPR Summer Academy) and "The future of anthroposociogenesis: panhumanism, anthroporelational humanism and digital humanism" (5th ICPI) as well as his book project (Emergent Transformation) advanced the further elaboration of that project.

The full project proposal on transformative media submitted in January was not successful.

2 Presentations (selection)

Lectures or other appearances by Researchers or Members of The Institute at scientific events (for details see Past lectures at our website https://gsis.at/lectures/):

- **David Braunstein and Irena Mostowicz** presented a talk at *Habits and Rituals*; IS4SI Summit 2021, 12-19 September 2021.

- **Mark Burgin** (together with co-presenters), **Annette Grathoff**, **José María Díaz Nafría**, **Joseph E. Brenner** and **Yurii Mielkov** presented talks at the *Theoretical and Foundational Problems in Information Studies*; IS4SI Summit 2021, 12-19 September 2021.

- **Wolfgang Hofkirchner**, **Joseph E. Brenner**, **Gordana Dodig-Crnkovic**, **Liang Wang**, **Jian Wang** (with a co-presenter) and **Tomáš Sigmund** presented talks at *The 5th International Conference on Philosophy of Information* (ICPI); IS4SI Summit 2021, 12-19 September 2021.

- **Rainer E. Zimmermann**, **Hans-Jörg Kreowski**, **Sabine Thürmel**, **Jaime F. Cárdenas-García**, **Howard Bloom**, **Sarah Spiekermann**, **Liang Wang**, **Modestos Stavrakis** (together with a co-presenter), **Christian Stary**, **Peter Brödner**, **Rafal Maciag**, **Vangelis Papadimitropoulos**, **Yurii Mielkov**, **Jian Wang** and **Robert K. Logan** presented talks at the workshop *Digital Humanism: how to shape digitalisation in the age of global challenges?*; IS4SI Summit 2021, 12-19 September 2021. The talks were recorded and are accessible at our vimeo channel TheGreatBifurcation.

- **Annette Grathoff, Tomáš Sigmund** and **José María Díaz Nafría** presented talks at the annual *Institut für Design Science autumn conference in Wittenberg*, 10-12 September 2021.

- **Helena Knyazeva** and **Wolfgang Hofkirchner** were invited to hold talks at the *ASPR Summer Academy* on 4 September 2021. The talks were recorded and are accessible at the ASPR site.

- **Vangelis Papadimitropoulos** was invited to give a presentation at the *1st Crypto Commons Gathering 2021*, 28 August to 3 September 2021.

- **Livia Regen** held a GSIS zoom seminar on The media vs. the climate on 10 May 2021. Her talk was recorded and is available at our vimeo channel TheGreatBifurcation.

- **Peter Fleissner** was invited to comment to an online workshop on envisioning post-capitalist societies via simulation in the framework of a project funded by Volkswagen Stiftung, 18-19 February 2021.

3 Events

Scientific meetings organised by The Institute or in co-operation with Researchers or Members thereof (for details see Past meetings at our website https://gsis.at/meetings/):

- **Cyberscience – Wissenschaftsforschung und Informatik**, conference of the Emergent Systems Group, Leibniz-Sozietät der Wissenschaften zu Berlin, in co-operation with Gesellschaft für Wissenschaftsforschung, Berlin, online, 26 November 2021 (Gerhard Banse, Klaus Fuchs-Kittowski)

- **Advanced Research in Technologies, Information, Innovation and Sustainability (ARTIIS) 2021**, CIST Research and Innovation Center of Universidad Estatal Peninsula de Santa Elena, Ecuador, and Algoritmi Research Center of the University of Minho, Portugal, Santa Elena Peninsula, Salinas, Ecuador, 25-27 November 2021 (Teresa Guarda)

- **Digital Humanism: how to shape digitalisation in the age of global challenges?,** contributing conference, International Society for the Study of Information (IS4SI) Summit 2021, online, 14-16 September 2021 (Wolfgang Hofkirchner, Hans-Jörg Kreowski, Yagmur Denizhan, Helena Knyazeva, Mina Koukou, Robert K. Logan, Yurii Mielkov, José María Díaz Nafrìa, Tomáš Sigmund and Modestos Stavrakis)

- **International Society for the Study of Information (IS4SI) Summit 2021**, online, 12-19 September 2021 (Joseph Brenner, Mark Burgin, Gordana Dodig-Crnkovic, Annette Grathoff, Wolfgang Hofkirchner, Hans-Jörg Kreowski)

- **Institut für Design Science München annual conference**, Wittenberg, 10-12 September 2021 (Rainer E. Zimmermann)

- **Peace policy in the Anthropocene: Homeland Earth – 37th Summer Academy, Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR)**, online, 1-4 September (Wolfgang Hofkirchner)

- **Pandemics; Impacts, Strategies and Responses – 29th Interdisciplinary Information Management Talks (IDIMT) 2021**, Kutná Hora, Czech Republic, 1-3 September 2021 (Gerhard Chroust)

- **Digital, structural transformation of the public sphere, ad-hoc group, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie und Österreichische Gesellschaft für Soziologie**, WU Vienna, hybrid, 23-25 August 2021 (Sebastian Sevignani)

- The conference Property, Media and the Public to take place in Vienna, first postponed to November 2021, has been scheduled for 14 May 2022

4 Networking

Establishing new relations of The Institute with other organisations, including sharing positions (for details see our website https://gsis.at/friends/).

So far, we enjoy three contracts on scientific collaboration that, due to Corona crisis, could not be executed in the full spectrum of agreed activities:

- with the **School of Humanities & Social Sciences, Xi'an Jiaotong University**, Xi'an, China;
- with the **Faculty of Informatics and Statistics, University of Economics and Business Prague**, Czech Republic;
- with the **Universidad a Distancia de Madrid**, Spain.

Wolfgang Hofkirchner was elected affiliate of the **Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR)**, Stadtschlaining, Austria.

We established friendly relations with **Schwerpunkt Rhetorik, Universität Koblenz/Landau**, **Ernst Bloch Gesellschaft**, Tübingen, **Ernst Bloch Assoziation**, Nürnberg, and **Convivialist International**, Hamburg.

5 Teaching

Courses or guest lectures for students at institutes of higher education Researchers or Members of The Institute are not affiliated with as well as tutoring external PhD students (for details see Past teaching at our website https://gsis.at/teaching/) :

- Due to the Corona pandemic the planned course at *Xi'an Jiaotong University*, China, had to be postponed.
- The same holds for the exchange of postgraduate and PhD students according to the agreement between the School of Humanities & Social Sciences at the *Xi'an Jiaotong University* and GSIS.
- During summer semester, Wolfgang Hofkirchner taught two Bachelor online courses for students of Informatics at the *IMC University of Applied Sciences* in Krems, Austria. The topic was Reflections on Computer Science, Society and Ethics.

6 Publications (selection)

Scientific papers, edited volumes, special journal issues, and monographs documenting research findings that serve the purpose of The Institute, (co-)authored or (co-)edited by Researchers and Members thereof (for details see our websites https://gsis.at/publications/ and https://gsis.at/category/publication/):

- **Martin Seeliger, Sebastian Sevignani** (eds.) | *Ein neuer Strukturwndel der Öffentlichkeit?*, Leviathan Sonderband 37, 2021, Nomos, 494

- **Rainer E. Zimmermann** (ed.) | *The Meaning of Life in the Universe, Special Issue*, philosophies, 2021, https://www.mdpi.com/journal/philosophies/special_issues/meaning_of_life

- **Edgar Morin** | *Abenteuer Mensch*, Ausgabe 28, 2021, https://www.freitag.de/autoren/the-guardian/abenteuer-mensch

- **Yurii Mielkov** | *From sustainable development to degrowth: philosophical and educationalstrategies for sustainability*, Philosophy of Education (Ukraine), 26 (1), 2021

- **Petr Doucek, Gerhard Chroust, Václav Oškrdal** (eds.) | *Pandemics: Impacts, Strategies, and Responses – IDIMT 2021*, 2021, Trauner, Linz

- **Christian Fuchs** | *Soziale Medien und Kritische Theorie*, utb, München, 2021

- **Joseph E. Brenner, Abir U. Igamberdiev** | *Philosophy in Reality. A New Book of Changes*, Springer, Cham, 2021

- **Hans-Jörg Kreowski et al.** (eds.) | *Grundrechte-Report 2021*, Fischer, Frankfurt/Main, 2021

- **Rainer E. Zimmermann, Silke Järvenpää, Ralph-Miklas Dobler** (eds.) | *Signifikant, Jahrbuch für Strukturwandel und Diskurs 3*, Berlin, 2021

B Development of organisation

The General Meeting, held electronically 25-27 May 2021, confirmed Hofkirchner as **Director** und Allmer und Sevignani as **Co-Directors**.

The membership of The Institute increased by 2 to a total of **36 Ordinary Members**. As last year, besides Members contributing to research, there are **5 Researchers** without being Members.

The Advisory Committee counts 6 experts. In July, we could celebrate the 100th birthday of our esteemed colleague **Edgar Morin** (see https://gsis.at/2021/07/08/who-is-edgar-morin/).

In 2021, we enjoyed the first fully financed project that was conceived and carried out by us.

And we applied for being listed as receiver of tax-deductible donations.

We established a video channel at vimeo ("TheGreatBifurcation"). We loaded up our first recorded webinar and the recordings of the workshop we organised on Digital Humanism. Also, our 20 minutes film "Heimatland Erde" is available there. Just click on the top menu item Video.

C Outlook

1 Projects

All projects not yet finalised will be continued.
- **"Homeland Earth"** will be the English version of the film project "Heimatland Erde".

Proposals that could not be started due to Corona crisis are still on the agenda:
- **HOPE** film project with film-maker Hans Selikovsky;
- **Convivial/sustainable interaction design** (working title) with Modestos Stavrakis and Christian Stary;
- **Rhetorics of the Third** (working title) in Israeli-Palestinian dialogue with Francesca Vidal;
- **Complexity and IT** (working title) application with Helena Knyazeva at the Russian Science Foundation or the Russian Foundation of Basic Research.

2 Events

From six events planned for 2021, three could take place. Three others were postponed:
- besides an event with **Modestos Stavrakis** on **"Convivial and sustainable interaction design"**,
- an event with **Gerhard Chroust** on **"Cultural Differences"**;
- an event of the **Netzwerk Kritische Kommunikationswissenschaft** on 12-14 May 2022, WU Vienna.

Following additional events to be organised or supported (last year several that should be supported did not take place) are scheduled or planned:
- an event with visiting scholar **Rafal Maciag** from Jagiellonian University, Krakow, on a new explanation of Information Society;
- a webinar with **Alexander Banfield-Mumb** on EU and Austrian AI strategies;
- **Communication, Capitalism and Critique: Critical Media Sociology in the 21st Century**, ESA Research Network 18, Turin, 1-3 September 2022;
- **IDIMT 2022**, Prague, 7-10 September 2022;
- after the first successful conference in 2021, the **International Conference on Advanced Research in Technologies, Information, Innovation and Sustainability** in Santiago de Compostela.

For details see https://gsis.at/meetings/ and https://gsis.at/lectures/.

3 Networking

We plan to strengthen relationships with the following organisations:
- the **Convivialist International** that was initiated by the involvement of Edgar Morin;
- the **Muslim-Jewish Educational Initiative** against antisemitism and islamohostility.

We will prepare our participation in the **IS4SI Summit 2023**.

4 Teaching

So far, the following course is still postponed:

- **"Information and Society"** at the School of Humanities & Social Sciences, Xi'an Jiaotong University, to be held face-to-face by Wolfgang Hofkirchner.

5 Publications

Among others, it is in the making:

- the publication of a monograph on **"Academic Labour in Times of Precarisation and Digitalisation"** with Routledge (T. Allmer);
- the publication of the monograph **"Emergent Transformation"** as follow-up book to "Emergent Information" with World Scientific (W. Hofkirchner);
- a special edition of the journal "New Explorations" with full paper length contributions on **Digital Humanism** according to the 2021 workshop agenda:

and an idea that could not yet materialise in 2021:

- a special edition of the journal "Sustainability" on the topic **"Sustainability and Information Society"** (working title).