

ANTICIPATION: COMPLEXITY AND THE FUTURE

A joint colloquium organised by the *Centre for Studies in Complexity (CSC)* and the *Association of Professional Futurists (APF)*

Date: March 18th, 2014

Venue: STIAS | Wallenberg Centre | 10 Marais Rd | Stellenbosch | South Africa

Registration fee: R 400 per person

The notion of anticipation is increasingly at the heart of urgent contemporary debates, from climate change to economic crisis. As societies become less confident that traditional methods will provide effective models by which to understand and engage with complexity, anticipation is coming to the foreground as an emerging field of study that is influencing a wide variety of disciplines.

In this colloquium we will explore how complex systems can be understood by developing models of anticipation as an effective way to engage with the future. Anticipatory processes, in conditions of significant and disruptive change, are potentially very useful. They help us to raise awareness about the type of futures mankind may encounter and sensitise us to the influences and consequences of choices and actions of individuals and societies.

The format of the colloquium is twofold: 1) the keynote speakers will provide a conceptual overview of current theories and models that inform the notion of anticipation and complex anticipatory systems, and 2) researchers from various disciplines will explore the question of how humans anticipate. The risks and uses of such anticipatory practices will be discussed. The organisers hope that this colloquium will serve as a platform from where our understanding of anticipation and future-oriented dialogue will develop and expand across disciplines.

Program schedule:

09h00–10h00	<i>Anticipation: Using the future for understanding the present</i> Prof Roberto Poli
10h00–11h00	<i>Modelling anticipatory systems à la Robert Rosen</i> Prof Jan-Hendrik Hofmeyr
11h00–11h30	Tea break
11h30–12h00	<i>Complexity thinking and negotiating ethical decision making for the future</i> Dr Rika Preiser
12h00–12h30	General discussion
12h30–13h30	Lunch break
13h30–14h00	<i>Horizon scanning and other examples of using the future to understand the present in Africa</i> Tanja Hichert
14h00–14h30	<i>Is long-wave theory useful for anticipating sustainable futures?</i> Prof Mark Swilling
14h30–15h00	<i>Scenario planning as a tool for exploring sustainability transitions</i> Dr Reinette (Oonsie) Biggs
15h00–15h30	Tea break
15h30–16h30	General discussion
16h30–19h00	Cocktail reception

To register, please complete the [online registration form](#)

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