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Centre for Research in Social Simulation - CRESS

The Centre for Research in Social Simulation (CRESS), based in the Department of Sociology in the Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences at the University of Surrey, is a multidisciplinary centre bringing together the social sciences, software engineering and agent-based computing to promote and support the use of social simulation in research in the human sciences.

What is Social Simulation?

There is growing interest in using computer simulation to explore issues in the social sciences. Simulation is a novel research method in most parts of the social sciences, including sociology, political science, economics, anthropology, geography, archaeology and linguistics. It can also be the inspiration for new, process-oriented theories of society.

If you would like more information on CRESS research and activities, or to learn more about collaboration with CRESS, please email us.

For brief guide to social simulation, see [Agent-based social simulation: dealing with complexity \(PDF\)](#), by Nigel Gilbert

PhD opportunities: We welcome applications to work in CRESS towards a PhD on, or using social simulation. More details [here](#).

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CRESS Team



Director Researchers Administrators

Nigel Gilbert David Anzola Richa Sabharwal

Ozge Dilaver Kalkan Lu Yang

Corinna Elsenbroich

Alastair Gill

Lynne Hamill

Peter Johnson

Elio Marchione

Mauricio Salgado

Frank Schiller

Christopher Watts

Amy Woodward

Maria Xenitidou

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Researchers

Researchers involved in ongoing CRESS projects

- ★ David Anzola
- ★ Jen Badham
- ★ Tina Balke
- ★ Corinna Elsenbroich
- ★ Lynne Hamill
- ★ Peter Johnson
- ★ Daan Kolkman
- ★ David Rozas
- ★ Frank Schiller
- ★ Amy Woodward
- ★ Maria Xenitidou
- ★ Kaifang Zheng



Other Researchers associated with CRESS

- ★ Mohamed Abouel-Ela
- ★ Irene Bonafine
- ★ Ozge Dilaver Kalkan
- ★ Alastair Gill
- ★ Jakob Grazzini
- ★ Samer Hassan
- ★ James Kitts
- ★ Elio Marchione
- ★ Terhi Nokkala
- ★ Cristina Ponsiglione
- ★ Alan Roach
- ★ Camille Roth
- ★ Mauricio Salgado
- ★ Naoki Shiba
- ★ Dario Taraborelli
- ★ Xi Xi
- ★ Christopher Watts
- ★ Zhou Zhaotian

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Administrators

Research Group Administrator

* Lu Yang

Web and Software Developer (2008 - 2012)

* Richa Sabharwal



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Ongoing Projects

WholeSEM

Whole Systems Energy Modelling Consortium (WholeSEM):

Energy models provide essential quantitative insights into the 21st Century challenges of decarbonisation, energy security and cost-effectiveness. Models provide the integrating language that assists energy policy makers to make improved decisions under conditions of pervasive uncertainty. Whole systems energy modelling also has a central role in helping industrial and wider stakeholders assess future energy technologies and infrastructures, and the potential role of societal and behavioural change.

Despite this fundamental underpinning role, the UK has not had a national strategic energy modelling activity. Models have been developed on a fragmented, reactive and ad-hoc basis, with a critical shortfall in the continuity of funding to develop new models, retain human capacity, and link modelling frameworks in innovative ways to answer new research questions. The whole systems energy modelling (wholeSEM) consortium is explicitly designed to enable the UK to make an internationally leading research impact in this critical area, and hence to provide cutting-edge transparent quantitative analysis to underpin public and private energy systems decision making. Following a rigorous selection process, the wholeSEM consortium encapsulates leading and interdisciplinary UK capacity in quantitative whole systems energy research.

Read more...

The Global Dynamics of Extortion Racket Systems

The GLODERS research project is directed towards development of an ICT model for understanding a specific aspect of the dynamics of the global financial system: Extortion Racket Systems (ERSs). ERSs, of which the Mafia is but one example, are spreading globally from a small number of seed locations, causing massive disruption to economies. Yet there is no good understanding of their dynamics and thus how they may be countered. ERSs are not only powerful criminal organizations, operating at several hierarchical levels, but also prosperous economic enterprises and highly dynamic systems, likely to reinvest in new markets. If stakeholders - legislators and law enforcers - are to be successful in attacking ERSs, they need the much better understanding of the evolution of ERSs that computational models and ICT tools can give them.

Read more...

GLODERS
Global Dynamics of Extortion Racket Systems

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NEW TIES

New and Emergent World Models Through Individual, Evolutionary and Social Learning (FP6-IST-3752-FET) is a three year, collaborative project that will grow a virtual society developed by agent-based simulation.



SocSimNet

Summary (from the project description): The main task of SocSimNet project is to diminish the disproportion between social and engineering science specialists in a democratic and economically profitable way.

SocSimNet



SimWeb

SimWeb (IST-2001-34651) was a three-year project to provide European businesses in the digital contents sector with insights and tools which will enable them to take informed business strategy decisions and become more competitive by adapting their traditional business models to the new, demanding reality. To achieve this objective, SimWeb has designed and implemented sector models based on reusable multi-agent simulation technology.



Innovation networks in Biotechnology-based industries

A comparative German/British model 2002 - 2004



PATRES: Pattern Resilience

In February 2007, CRESS joined a new project, PATRES, funded by the European Commission



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Publications by members of CRESS

In order of year of publication with the newest at the top.

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Year of Publication : 2011

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Year of Publication : 2008

Year of Publication : 2007

Year of Publication : 2006

Year of Publication : 2011

- * A New Model for University-Industry Links in Knowledge-Based Economies, Petra Ahrweiler, Andreas Pyka, Nigel Gilbert
- * Multilevel and Agent-Based Modelling in the Analysis of Differential School Effectiveness, Mauricio Salgado and Elio Marchione
- * Does cumulative advantage affect collective learning in science? An agent-based simulation, Christopher Watts and Nigel Gilbert
- * Friendship Dynamics: Modelling Social Relationships through a Fuzzy Agent-Based Simulation, Samer Hassan, Mauricio Salgado and Juan Pavon

Year of Publication : 2010

- * Simulating Large Social Networks In Agent-Based Models: A Social Circle Model, Lynne Hamill and Nigel Gilbert
- * Construct validity and theoretical embeddedness of Agent-based models of normative behaviour, Maria Xenitidou and Corinna Elsenbroich
- * The calm after the storm? Looting in the context of disasters, Mauricio Salgado, Elio Marchione and Alastair Gill
- * 'What did you say?' Emergent communication in a multi-agent spatial configuration, Elio Marchione, Mauricio Salgado and Nigel Gilbert
- * The Social Shaping of British Communications Networks prior to the First World War, Lynne Hamill
- * Social and Semantic Coevolution in Knowledge Networks , Camille Roth and Jean-Philippe Cointet

Year of Publication : 2009

- * Construyendo explicaciones: el uso de modelos en la sociología , Mauricio Salgado
- * 'What did you say?' Emergent Communication in a Multi-Agent Spatial Configuration, Elio Marchione, Mauricio Salgado

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Books

Download sample chapters

- ★ Researching social life, Nigel Gilbert
- ★ Agent-based models, Nigel Gilbert
- ★ Constructing Ideal Universities – The internationalisation of higher education in the competitive knowledge society, Terhi Nokkala
- ★ From postgraduate to social scientist: A guide to key skills, Nigel Gilbert
- ★ Simulation for the Social Scientist, Nigel Gilbert and Klaus G. Troitzsch

To order books published by CRESS members please click on the relevant link.

Researching Social Life

Author : Gilbert, Nigel
Paperback: 576 pages
Publisher: SAGE Ltd.; Third Edition edition (2008)

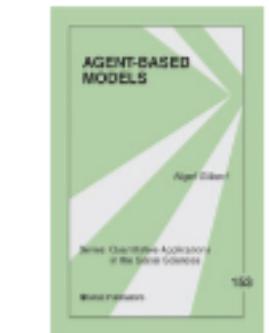
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Agent-based models

Author : Gilbert, Nigel
Paperback: 112 pages
Publisher: SAGE Inc. (2007)

Order this book



Constructing Ideal Universities – The internationalisation of higher education in the competitive knowledge society

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Presentations by members of CRESS

Emergence and social dynamics

Nigel Gilbert
University of Surrey
n.gilbert@surrey.ac.uk

Measuring wiki viability
An empirical assessment of the social dynamics of a large sample of wiki-based communities

Dario Taraborelli
d.taraborelli@surrey.ac.uk

Wikisym PATRES

CRESS Seminar November 4, 2008

Complex social systems: prospects and problems

Nigel Gilbert
Centre for Research in Social Simulation, University of Surrey, UK

Lexicons from noise

Elio Marchione – Mauricio Salgado
Centre for Research in Social Simulation, University of Surrey

Agents with emotional energy from social interactions

Dr Christopher Watts
CRESS Seminar, University of Surrey
28th October 2009

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Social Simulation Organisations and Research Centres

This list is intended to guide you to the organizations and groups working in the various fields of social and other disciplines of simulation including computer modelling, artificial intelligence and complexity. You will be redirected to the linked websites. CRESS is not responsible for any content on any third-party website.

Useful Links

- * Adaptive Systems Research Group, University of Hertfordshire
- * Agent-based computational economics
- * American Association for Artificial Intelligence
- * Center for Computational Analysis of Social and Organizational Systems (CASOS)
- * Centre for Policy Modelling
- * Centre for the study of Complex Systems
- * COSI--Complexity in Social Science
- * European Social Simulation Association
- * International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence
- * International Society of Artificial Life
- * Los Alamos National Laboratories - Center for Nonlinear Studies
- * Microsimulation Unit
- * NATSEM
- * Santa Fe Institute
- * Society for Computer Simulation International

If you would like to have your organization or work added to this list, please contact us with details of your work and your URL.

Adaptive Systems Research Group, University of Hertfordshire

The Adaptive Systems Research group at University of Hertfordshire is a strongly interdisciplinary group including roboticists, biologists, cognitive scientists, mathematicians and computer scientists. The group has particular expertise in Artificial Life, Social Robotics, Robot-Human Interaction, and Socially Intelligent Agents in design, therapy and education, as well as Robot Learning, Learning by Observation, Cognitive Technology, Interactive Systems, Sensor Evolution, Biological Systems, Artificial Intelligence, Algorithms, and Evolutionary Computation.

Agent-based computational economics

Agent-based computational economics (ACE) is the computational study of economic processes modeled as dynamic systems of interacting agents. Here "agent" refers broadly to a bundle of data and behavioral methods representing an

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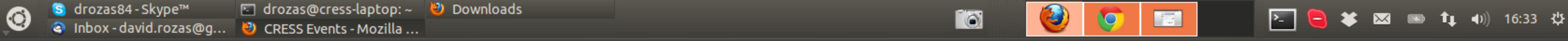
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Tuesday 11 January 2011	Frank Schiller: Modelling with Participants - Embedding socio-ecological models	Department of Sociology, Room 23AD04
Tuesday 7 December 2010	Speaker : Julie Christian	Department of Sociology, Room 23AD04
Tuesday 30 November 2010	Speakers : Alastair Gill & Maria Xenitidou	Department of Sociology, Room 23AD04
Tuesday 2 November 2010	Christopher Watts: Adopting and Adapting	Department of Sociology, Room 23AD04
Tuesday 5 October 2010	Dr Mark Temple (NHS, Wales) : Finding both the needle and the haystack.	Department of Sociology, Room 23AD04
Tuesday 21 September 2010	F. Toriumi : Simulation of Encouragement Methods for SNS based on User Behavior Model	Department of Sociology, Room 23AD04
Tuesday 8 June 2010	Dario Taraborelli (CRESS): Crowdsourcing Scientific Impact	Department of Sociology, Room 23AD04
Tuesday 11 May 2010	Modelling Service Operations: A Mixed Discrete-Event and Agent Based Simulation Approach: S Robinson	Department of Sociology, Room 23AD04
Tuesday 20 April 2010	Simulating Knowledge Dynamics in Innovation Industrial Districts: from SKIN model to SKID model	Department of Sociology, Room 23AD04
Tuesday 23 March 2010	Elio Marchione (CRESS): Grand Corruption and Power	Department of Sociology, Room 23AD04
Tuesday 9 March 2010	Simon Rodan (San José State University): Simple models of network learning	Department of Sociology, Room 23AD04
Tuesday 2 March 2010	Conventional social behaviour amongst microfinance clients - Pablo Lucas (CIPM, Manchester)	Department of Sociology, Room 23AD04
Tuesday 2 February 2010	Alastair Gill (CRESS): TBA	Department of Sociology, Room 23AD04
Thursday 28 January 2010 - Friday 29 January 2010	The QualityCommons Workshop	Maison de la Recherche, Sorbonne University, Paris
Tuesday 1 December 2009	Construct Validity of Agent-based Simulation:Normative Behaviour-Corinna Elsenbroich, Maria Xenitidou	Department of Sociology, Room 23AD04

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Wed Mar 13, 2013 @12:30 - 02:00pm
Lin Padgham and Dhirendra Singh: Improving the representation of cognitive agents in agent-based modelling and simulation

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The Quality Commons

MAISON DE LA RECHERCHE

PARIS • 28-29.01.2010

allow large communities of Web users to rank the quality of content in a decentralised way.

As these few examples illustrate, shared representations of quality may be only vaguely related to objective features of what is being evaluated: these representations are often in continuous flux and the process behind their production is intrinsically social. Competing evaluations of the quality of the same artefacts may coexist and evolve as a function of the different communities that sustain them.

Although collective quality assessment processes are a very widespread and important characteristic of human societies, they have rarely been treated as a topic for empirical enquiry. We have few recent studies of questions such as:

- * how do shared conceptions of quality emerge within communities?
- * how do these conceptions develop over time? Are there patterns in the dynamics?
- * how are standards of quality enforced within communities?
- * do the processes of quality definition and evaluation differ between, for example, communities involved in peer production (e.g. science) and those mostly involved in consumption (e.g. music)?
- * are there similarities in the processes of collective quality assessment in off-line and on-line collectives (e.g. local communities and social networking sites)?
- * what are the implications of centralised vs. distributed control for the production of collective quality representations?
- * how are collective quality assessment processes affected by individual incentives, organised action or institutional policies?
- * what are the effects of social network properties on processes of collective quality assessment?

The Workshop

The Centre for Research in Social Simulation (University of Surrey, UK) and the Centre d'Analyse et Mathématique Sociales (EHESS/CNRS, France) are hosting QualityCommons, a workshop bringing together contributions from a range of fields, including sociology, anthropology, economy, social epistemology, social psychology, cognitive science, social computing and complexity science, and offering the opportunity to develop ideas with a selected interdisciplinary

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Directions on how to visit CRESS and the University of Surrey

Click on the map for travel suggestions.



University of Surrey is located in the southeast of England, 50 kilometres outside of London.



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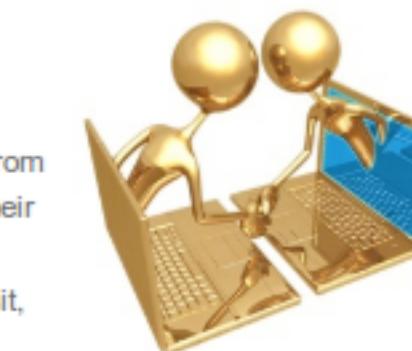
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Visiting CRESS

Visitors

The Centre for Research in Social Simulation is happy to have research scholars and doctoral students visit the centre to share knowledge. We also welcome applications from doctoral students registered at universities outside the UK who wish to spend part of their study time with us. We are however able to accommodate only limited number of visitors for stays lasting for few weeks or months. If you are thinking of applying to visit, please note the following:



- * At present, we only have one desk space for visitors, so there may be times when visits might not be possible. Visiting fellows are provided with a desk, a PC and internet connection. If they are staying for more than a few weeks an email address and library privileges may also be provided.
- * Accommodation on the University campus may be available during the vacation, but may not during term time. There are a range of hotels, guest houses and b&b's in Guildford. You should [allow](#) at least £200 per week to cover your living expenses (accommodation, meals, travel etc.).
- * In order to gain the most benefit from your stay you should have achieved a level of English language fluency equivalent to at least an IELTS score of 6.5
- * When deciding whether to apply to visit CRESS, please consider carefully the [research being done in the Centre](#).
- * We encourage the visitors to play a full role in the life of the Centre and to contribute a 'bench fee' of £350 per month to cover administrative costs (set by the Department).

To apply, please send a brief CV, a statement about your current research and research plans, the dates of your proposed visit and a sample of your written work to the Centre Director, [Nigel Gilbert](#).

Registering for a PhD at CRESS

There are details about how to apply to study for a PhD at CRESS [here](#).



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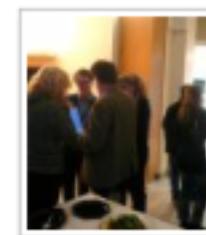
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QualityCommons (195)



NCRM Festival (29)



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(Events Calendar/Simon Rodan (San José State University): Simple models of network learning)
... The first deals with questions of vicarious learning, transactive memory and trust in system of two agents (at a later date an N agent model will be tested). Trust is modeled as the belief that another ...
2. Mauricio Salgado: More than words: the emergence and evolution of symbolic communication (2012-01-16)
(Events Calendar/Mauricio Salgado: More than words: the emergence and evolution of symbolic communication)
... to clarify this connection, and, in order to test in silico some hypotheses derived from this theoretical framework, I carried out some experiments and analysis that relied upon two different agent-based ...
3. Evolution and Resilience of Industrial Ecosystems (ERIE)
(Projects/Ongoing Projects)
... and techniques within prototype computational tools that will provide policymakers with realistic and reliable platforms for strategy-testing in real-world socio-economic systems. The ERIE programme ...
4. The QualityCommons: Presentations
(General/Cress General)
... much better the social nature of humans, but a large number of different parameters can make it difficult to test these models against real-world data. A better starting point in many cases may be to ...
5. Marchione, Elio
(People/Researchers)
... and Chaos Theory and an MSc in Agent-Based Computational Economics (University of Essex, UK), with a thesis on simulating and testing social policies in order to increase educational levels and job opportunities ...
6. PATRES: Pattern Resilience
(Projects/Completed Projects)
... and tools for defining action policies in order to maintain or restore desired pattern dynamics in a complex system, to test and illustrate these innovations on a set of case studies. The project ...

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