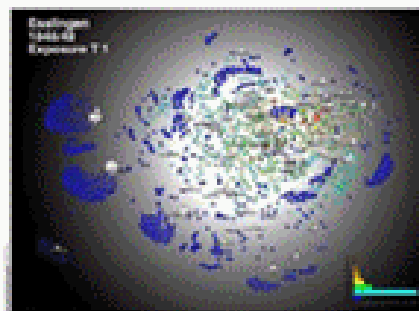


Four-Campus Video-Conference Series, F-W-S 2005-06

Human Sciences and Complexity



April 7: Friday, 1-3:00

HSC_4_UC Winter Conference on the theme of Simulation
UC Human Sciences and Complexity 3rd Conference

Steven Banks

(Evolving Logic Inc, Rand Pardee School, UCLA Human Complex Systems)

"Computational Exploration in Long Term Policy Analysis for Social and Organizational Complex Systems"

Abstract: This talk will describe new methods enabled by the capabilities of modern computers that can dramatically improve our ability to reason about the long-term future. These methods harness computation not to solve the intractable problem of predicting the long-term future, but instead to enable a fundamentally different, more sensible question: Given what we know today, how should we act to best shape the long-term future to our liking? We can use computers to create and consider myriad plausible futures, likely to include at least one similar to what may actually unfold. We can then discover near-term actions that perform well, compared to the alternatives, over all these futures, often through clever hedging actions and adaptation to updated information. Finally, the computer can be set to seek plausible futures that "break" a chosen strategy. After repeated iterations to shore up revealed weaknesses, the resulting strategy can support a consensus for successful action. In the end, the process yields near-term strategies not merely optimized for some "best guess" scenario but rather robust across a multitude of scenarios. The result is a powerful enhancement to the human capacity to reason in the face of enormous uncertainty.

Video Conference Locations for Participants

UCLA: 285 Powell Library - vidcon@ucla.edu

UCSD: 260 Galbraith Hall (CLICS) - mgibsen@ucsd.edu

UCR: A139 Olmsted Hall - mcap@ucr.edu

UCI: 120 Social Science Tower – Dwayne Pack (949)824-7581