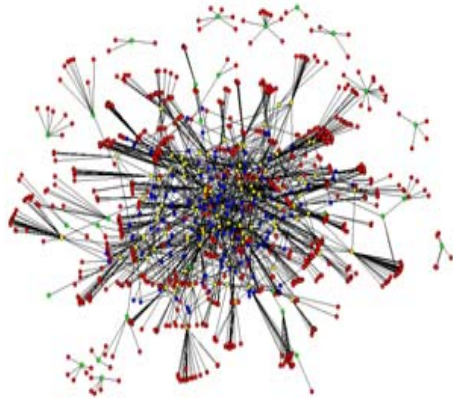


## Four-Campus Video-Conference Series, 2006-7 f-w-s Human Sciences and Complexity



**April 20, 2007:** Friday, 1:30-3:00 telecast from UCSD

**Douglas R. White (IMBS, Anthropology), UCI**  
<http://eclectic.ss.uci.edu/~drwhite/>

**“Human Survival and Complex Network Dynamics at Continental Scales “**

**Abstract:** Two projects on macrosocial systems are examined: food collecting societies varying through time and space in harshness of environmental conditions; and regional city systems networked by trade and war with coordination problems and interregional competition. Both involve complex network dynamics that support human survival. In each case, severe external conditions, competition, and instability often cause system crashes. A first question in each case concerns the instability of complex systems and the role of networks in resilient outcomes and recovery from system crashes. A second question concerns system dynamics of rise and fall, and problems of coordination. My focus is on how, through network and population dynamics, different but related forms of resilience develop to solve (and hopefully solve in the future) problems of human survival. These problems are particularly acute since we now face potentially catastrophic consequences of global warming; population collapse in many parts of the world; and a climate of fear and preemptive panic in the grab for resources that are more and more limited relative to urban system demands and pressures to solve resource pressures through warfare rather than adaptive innovation. One goal is to derive basic principles for complex human dynamics.

<http://eclectic.ss.uci.edu/~drwhite/center/cac.html#White4>

### **Video Conference Locations for Participants**

**UCLA: 285 Powell Library** – Don Roby vidcon@ucla.edu 310 206-7449

**UCI: Rm 3030 Anteater Teaching, Learning & Technology Center**, corner of East Peltason just across from Anteater Drive– Jeffrey.Fisher@uci.edu 949-854-7581

**UCSD: 260 Galbraith Hall** – Mary Gibsen mgibsen@ucsd.edu 858 534-8265

**UCR: A139 Olmsted Hall** – Mike Capriotti mcap@ucr.edu 951 827-3045