

Westminster Business School, Marylebone Road,
(Opp. Baker Street Station, and Mme Tussauds)

BCS SPECIALIST GROUP



Time: 6pm - 8.00pm. Cost: Free. All welcome! Especially PG students.

Room: HRM215. Tea/Coffee/Biscuits available.

Directions from Security - but see diagram below

Registration required - please email Elayne on coakese@westminster.ac.uk - places limited.

Past lectures on <http://users.wmin.ac.uk/~coakese>

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9th Annual Series **Breaking News**

Currently we have a two-centre lecture series and are now intending to establish a further centre in the South West. This would enable both interested industry and academic bodies to benefit.

Benefits are seen as:

- * Sharing knowledge on the challenges and solutions to the social / technology interface dilemma, hence furthering understanding of the subject.
- * Giving attendees the opportunity to understand the need for socially acceptable approaches to technology implementation and to adopt best practices.
- * Increasing networking opportunities for South West UK ICT professionals, academics and other interested parties.
- * Providing greater opportunities for BCS members to accumulate CPD points.
- * Providing personal development opportunities for individuals willing to get involved in the establishment and running of the new centre.

To achieve the above benefits in 2008 through a South West UK centre we are expecting to host lectures at the Rolls-Royce plc, Bristol facility; BCS South West regional branches; and South West academic institutions.

Further details of this new group will be announced as the programme is established but to be put on the mailing list please contact: Dave Martyn *Business Manager e-Business Rolls Royce* on Dave.Martyn@rolls-royce.com

December 5th

Professor George Rzevski and Anastasios Smeros

**Managing Business Complexity using Multi-Agent
Technology: Practical Applications**

Univ of Westminster

"I think the next century will be the century of complexity." Stephen Hawking

There exists compelling evidence that as the evolution of our Universe takes its course, the ecological, social, political, cultural and economic environments within which we live and work increase in complexity. This process is irreversible and manifests itself in a higher diversity of emergent structures and activities and in an increased uncertainty of outcomes.

Consider problems experienced by global consumer product supply chains consisting of a large number of suppliers, warehouses, logistics operators, assembly plants and retailers distributed around the world, encompassing together a vast quantity of resources such as machine-tools, robots, conveyers, loading bays, trucks, freight trains, cargo planes and cargo ships, operated by hundreds of crew members, loaders, operators, progress chasers and supervisors. Such supply chains are exceedingly complex because of the frequent and unpredictable occurrence of events such as the arrival of new orders, order cancellations, changes in previously agreed orders and delivery arrangements, delays, failures of logistics resources and human errors.

Speakers will demonstrate how multi-agent technology can manage complex business problems.

Professor George Rzevski is an academic, entrepreneur and consultant. He is Professor Emeritus, Department of Design and Innovation at The Open University, Milton Keynes; Visiting Professor of Multi-Agent Systems at Cologne University of Applied Sciences and Visiting Scholar at Westminster Business School, where he is involved in a number of advanced research projects in the fields of Complexity and Multi-Agent Systems.

Professor Rzevski is also founder and Chief Scientist of Magenta Corporation Ltd, London, an international company developing and marketing multi-agent systems for applications such as logistics, e-commerce, text understanding and knowledge discovery and Chairman of Rzevski Solutions Ltd, London, providing advice and solutions for a wide variety of organisational and Information Technology problems in private companies and administrations. George's personal website is www.rzevski.net

Anastasios Smeros is a research student and part-time research assistant at Westminster University's BIOPoM Centre. He has a BEng in Computer Systems and Software Engineering from Greenwich University and an MSc in Distributed Information Systems from Brunel University.

Anastasios has expertise in the software development, including requirements definition, prototyping, proof of concept, design, implementation, testing and maintenance. His professional background includes working as a software engineer for NEC-Computers.

Anastasios has a great passion for developing multi-agent systems for managing the increasing complexity in our professional and social lives. His research interests include Complex Adaptive Systems, Emergent Intelligence, Knowledge Management and Real-Time Logistics and recently published a conference paper called "How to make Real-World Complex Supply Chains Deliver Benefit using an Adaptive Multi-Agent System".

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2008
January date tba

Dr John P Carney
Industrial and Academic Co-ordinator DSTL/MOD
Confessions of a Knowledge Manager

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Dr Nadia Papamichail
Manchester Business School

7th May

Best practice in decision making

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Dates (and topics)

tba

Professor Trevor Wood-Harper

Director of Graduate Research

The University of Manchester

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Peter Smith

President - The Leadership Alliance Inc

Confessions of a Consultant

Peter is president of The Leadership Alliance Inc. (TLA), an Anglo-Canadian management-consulting company he founded in 1988. Peter maintains a very active international consulting practice assisting client organizations in both public and private sectors. He largely specializes in helping clients enhance their performance by optimizing strategies for design and development of critical innovation drivers such as Organizational Learning, Knowledge Management, Leadership, Collaboration and Motivation.

Prior to establishing his consulting practice, Peter held various senior positions in I/T, HR, and R&D in New York and across North America. Peter is a past associate of Peter Senge's Organizational Learning Center (MIT) and of the Agility Forum.

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Frances Abraham

Principal Consultant

The Tavistock Institute

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Bill Olivier

JISC

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Sunderland venue:

<http://www.cet.sunderland.ac.uk/webedit/allweb/news/SocioTechNorth.htm>

Don't forget the books too....

Coakes, Willis & Lloyd-Jones *The New Sociotech: Graffiti on the Longwall* ;

Coakes, Willis & Clarke *Knowledge Management in the Sociotechnical World* ;

Clarke, Coakes, Hunter & Wenn *Sociotechnical and Human Cognition Elements of Information Systems*;