

**Revue Internationale de**

ISSN 0980-1472

**systemique**

Vol. 2, N° 1, 1988

**afcet**

**Dunod**

**AFSCET**

**Revue Internationale de**  
**systemique**

**Revue**  
**Internationale**  
**de Sytémique**

volume 02, numéro 1, pages 97 - 98, 1988

Compte-rendu de colloque

Jean-Pierre van Gigch

[Numérisation Afscet, janvier 2016.](#)



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COMPTE RENDU

**31ST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
SOCIETY FOR GENERAL SYSTEMS RESEARCH**

**(31ème RENCONTRE ANNUELLE DE L'ISGSR)**

J.P. Van GIGCH  
California State University <sup>1</sup>

June 1-5, 1997, the 31st Annual Meeting of the International Society for General Systems Research took place in Budapest, Hungary. The theme of the meeting was PROBLEMS OF CONSTANCY AND CHANGE : THE COMPLEMENTARY OF SYSTEMS APPROACHES TO COMPLEXITY. The meeting was well attended by delegations of the U.S., Western and Eastern Europe as well as from Japan and the Far East. There were also representatives from Central and South America. The meeting was chaired by Istvan Kiss, Director of the Bureau of Systems Analysis, Budapest, Hungary and by Peter Checkland, Chair of the Department of Systems Science, University of Lancaster, England, U.K. The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

of Laxenburg, Austria also provided logistic support.

This meeting was noteworthy by the fraternization of systems scientists from Eastern Europe and the U.S.S.R. with those of the rest of the world. A great deal of systems thinking is carried out in these nations and systems scientists from Eastern Europe and the U.S.S.R. have seldom the opportunity to air their views in a general public meeting. In general, they tend to be much more theoretically oriented than the scientists of other countries. It is clear that they lack the financial resources to keep up-to-date with the latest publications which has appeared in the systems literature. Unfortunately, this remark also applies to most third world and developing countries. Thus, a meeting such as the one held in

1. School of Business and Public Administration, 6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819, Etats-Unis.

Budapest is important in order to promote the exchange of knowledge between the have and the have-not countries with a toast, one by one.

Dr. Russell Ackoff took over the presidency of the I.S.G.S.R. from Dr. P.B. Checkland. He immediately started to plan for next year's meeting which will take place in the U.S. Two years from now the location of the annual meeting will revert to Europe and will take place in London, United Kingdom. Several business meetings of the

different committees and sub-committees of the component systems societies took place during the five days of the conference as well as organizing meetings for new systems journals such as *Systems Practice* from the U.K. (Editor : R. Flood, City University, London) and the *IFSR Newsletter* (Editor : Stephen Sokoloff, IFSR, Vienna, Austria). The audience was made aware of the publication of the *Revue Internationale de Systématique*.

### WORLD FUTURE – THE JOURNAL OF GENERAL EVOLUTION

Cette revue trimestrielle, dont le Rédacteur en Chef est Ervin Laszlo (Rédacteur en Chef adjoint : Jonathan Schull), est publiée par Gordon and Breach. Elle est consacrée à l'étude du changement et du développement aussi bien dans la nature que dans la société. C'est l'organe officiel du «Groupe de Recherche sur l'Evolution Générale» (E. Laszlo).

Pour s'abonner ou avoir tout renseignement supplémentaire écrire à :

Gordon and Breach  
Sciences Publishers GmbH,  
c/o STBS Ltd.  
1, Bedford Street,  
Londres, WC2E 9PP, Grande-Bretagne