

## Conference Report

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### **WOSC AND IIGSS JOINT CONFERENCE, PITTSBURGH**

The Twelfth Congress of the World Organisation of Systems and Cybernetics, and the Fourth Workshop of the International Institute of General Systems Studies were held as a joint event in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (USA) during March 24–26, 2002.

The opening address was by Professor Robert Vallée, Director-General of WOSC, on “Cybernetics and Systems, from Past to Future”. The programme included four further plenary addresses, each of them introducing related conference sections. One was a review of Reconstructability Analysis, a technique that allows the derivation of appropriate models, where a great many sources of data may or may not be mutually correlated. Most of the examples referred to in presentations involved either medical or ecological data.

Other plenary addresses dealt with (a) the human predicament, with rising population and depletion of resources, (b) curious properties of number sequences generated in a particular way that have a relation to

biological phenomena and are not random, regular or chaotic according to accepted criteria, and (c) a novel approach to medicine termed Balascopy or Relonics, emphasising relations between deviations of the essential variables rather than their absolute values.

A variety of social issues, including the promotion of education in underdeveloped areas, received attention. The only paper on a robotic theme was about autonomous data-collecting micro-satellites, but a general treatment of non-linear systems was given by a participant from the University of Kazan, Russia. There were participants from the People’s Republic of China, where studies of Reconstructability Analysis and of the new field of Grey Systems are arousing interest. The local organiser and President of the IIGSS, Professor Yi Lin of Slippery Rock University, Pennsylvania (USA) is to be congratulated on a successful event.

Alex M. Andrew  
95 Finch Road  
Earley  
Reading RG6 7JX  
(UK)