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Edited by:

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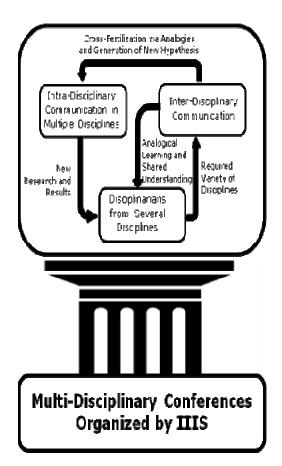
Country	# Papers	%
TOTAL	57	100.00
United States	21	36.84
Brazil	5	8.77
China	5	8.77
Austria	3	5.26
Germany	3	5.26
Italy	3	5.26
Japan	3	5.26
Mexico	3	5.26
Argentina	2	3.51
Ecuador	2	3.51
Portugal	2	3.51
Poland	1	1.75
Russian Federation	1	1.75
Saudi Arabia	1	1.75
South Africa	1	1.75
United Kingdom	1	1.75

Foreword

Our purpose in organizing the 9th International Multi-Conference on Complexity, Informatics and Cybernetics (IMCIC 2018) jointly with the 9th International Conference on Society and Information Technologies (ICSIT 2018) and their collocated events, including the 8th Ibero-American Conference on Complexity, Informatics and Cybernetics (CICIC 2018), is to provide a multi-disciplinary forum for both disciplinary and inter-disciplinary communication.

These collocated events were organized and sponsored by the International Institute of Informatics and Systemics (IIIS, www.iiis.org), member of the International Federation for Systems Research (IFSR, www.ifsr.org). The IIIS is a *multi-disciplinary organization for inter-disciplinary communication and integration*, which includes about 5000 members. Consequently, a main purpose of the IIIS is to foster knowledge integration processes, interdisciplinary communication, and integration of academic activities. Based on 1) the transdisciplinarity of the systemic approach and its emphasis on *relationships* and *integrating* processes, and 2) the multi-disciplinary support of cybernetics' and informatics' concepts, notions, theories, technologies, and tools, the IIIS has been organizing multi-disciplinary conferences as a platform for fostering inter-disciplinary communication and knowledge integration processes.

Multi-disciplinary conferences are organized by the IIIS as support for both intra- and inter-disciplinary communication. Processes intra-disciplinary of communication are mainly achieved via traditional paper presentations in corresponding disciplines, while conversational sessions, regarding trans- and interdisciplinary topics, are among the means used for interdisciplinary communication. Intraand interdisciplinary communications might generate coregulative cybernetic loops, via negative feedback, and synergic relationships, via positive feedback loops, in which both kinds of communications could increase their respective effectiveness. Figure (at the right side) shows at least two cybernetic loops if intra- and interdisciplinary are adequately related. A necessary condition for the effectiveness of Inter-disciplinary communication is an adequate level of variety regarding the participating disciplines. Analogical thinking and learning processes of disciplinarians depend on it; which in turn are potential sources of the creative tension required for cross-fertilization among disciplines and the generations of new hypothesis. An extended presentation regarding this issue can be found at http://www.iiis.org/MainPurpose/



In general, IIIS is an organization dedicated to contribute to the development of the Systems Approach, Cybernetics, and Informatics potential, using both: knowledge and experience, thinking and action, for the:

- a) Identification of synergistic relationships among Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics, and between them and society;
- b) Promotion of contacts among the different academic areas, through the transdisciplinarity of the systems approach;
- c) Identification and implementation of communication channels among the different professions;
- d) Supply of communication links between the academic and professional worlds, as well as between them and the business world, both public and private, political and cultural;
- e) Stimulus for the creation of integrative arrangements at different levels of society, as well as at the family and personal levels;
- f) Promotion of transdisciplinary research, both on theoretical issues and on applications to concrete problems.

Our objective organizing the 9th International Multi-Conference on Complexity, Informatics and Cybernetics (IMCIC 2018) is to provide, in these increasingly related areas, a multi-disciplinary forum, to foster interdisciplinary communication among the participants, and to support the sharing process of diverse perspectives of the same transdisciplinary concepts and principles. Complexity, Cybernetics and Informatics are being increasingly related to each other in almost every scientific discipline, engineering area, and human activity. Their common transdisciplinarity characterizes and communicates them, generating strong relations among them and with other disciplines. They work together to create a whole new way of thinking and practice. This phenomenon persuaded the Organizing Committee to structure IMCIC 2018 as a multi-conference where participants may focus on one area, or on one discipline, while allowing them the possibility of attending events from other areas or disciplines. This systemic approach stimulates cross-fertilization among different disciplines, inspiring scholars, originating new hypothesis, supporting production of innovations and generating analogies; which is, after all, one of the very basic principles of the systems' movement and a fundamental aim in cybernetics.

One of the main objectives of the 9th International Conference on Society and Information Technologies (ICSIT 2018) and the 9th International Conference on Education, Training and Informatics (ICETI 2018) is to bring together academics, professionals, and managers from the private and the public sectors, so they can share ideas, results of research, and innovative services or products, in a multi-disciplinary and multi-sector forum.

Educational technologies, socio-economic organizations, and socio-political processes are essential domains among those involved in the evolving co-adaptation and co-transformation between societies and cultures on the one hand, and between informatics and cybernetics (communication and control) on the other hand.

ICSIT 2018 and ICETI 2018 are related to each other, as well as to IMCIC 2018 and, as a whole, are producing or might produce synergistic relationships with Information and Communication Technologies. This is why the Organizing Committees have the purpose of combining their efforts in a way that would lead to the organization of an adequate joint event, where academics, researchers, consultants, professionals, innovators, and practitioners from the three areas might relate and interact with each other in the same event. These types of interaction might generate possibilities of cross-fertilization and analogical thinking, as well as possibilities of new working hypothesis, ideas, and reflections on the impact, significance, and usefulness of Informatics and Cybernetics in important dimensions of educational, socio-political, and socio-economical processes, services, and products.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I extend our heartfelt thanks to the Program Committees' members, to the 747 reviewers, from 76 countries, who made the **double-blinded** reviews, and to the 354 reviewers, from 53 countries, who made the **non-blind** reviews. (Some reviewers supported both: non-blind and double-blind reviewing for different submissions). A total of 2234 reviews made by 1101 reviewers (who made at least one review), from 86 countries contributed to the quality achieved in IMCIC/ICETI/CICIC 2018. This means an average of **7.28 reviews per submission** (307 submissions were received). Each registered author had access, via the conference web site, to the reviews that recommended the acceptance of their respective submissions. Each registered author could get information about: 1) the average of the reviewers' evaluations according to 8 criteria, and the average of a global evaluation of his/her submission; and 2) the comments and the constructive feedback made by the reviewers, who recommended the acceptance of his/her submission, so the author would be able to improve the final version of the paper.

In the organizational process of IMCIC/ICSIT 2018, about 214 articles were submitted. The IMCIC/ICSIT 2018 pre-conference proceedings include about 90 papers from 25 countries (57 papers from IMCIC and 33 papers from ICSIT), which were accepted for presentation. The submissions were reviewed as carefully as time permitted; it is expected that most of them will appear in a more polished and complete form in scientific journals. As announced in the conference web site authors of the respective papers "are responsible of the **content** of their respective papers, as well as for their respective **proofreading and copyediting**"

This information is detailed and totalized in the following table, along with the other collocated event:

Conference	# of submission s received	# of reviewers that made at least one review	# of reviews made	Average of reviews per reviewer	Average of reviews per submission	# of papers included in the proceedings	% of submissions included in the proceedings
IMCIC 2018	140	490	972	1.98	6.94	57	40.71%
ICSIT 2018	74	316	547	1.73	7.39	33	44.59%
CICIC 2018	93	295	715	2.42	7.69	57	61.29%
TOTAL	307	1101	2234	2.03	7.28	147	47.88%

We also extend our gratitude to the co-editors of these proceedings, for the hard work, energy and eagerness they displayed in their respective activities. We express our intense gratitude to the late Professor William Lesso, co-founder of these conferences, for his wise and opportune tutoring, for his eternal energy, integrity, and continuous support and advice, as the Program Committee Chair of past conferences, organized by the International Institute of Informatics and Systemics, as well as for being a very caring old friend and intellectual father to many of us.

Special thanks to Professors José Ferrer and Michael Savoie for co-chairing IMCIC 2018 Program Committee, to Professor Hsing-Wei Chu for his General Co-chairmanship, and to Professor Belkis Sánchez for chairing its Organizing Committee. Special thanks also to Professor Friedrich Welsch for chairing ICETI 2018, Professor José Ferrer and Belkis Sánchez for co-chairing the its Program Committee, and to Professor Andrés Tremante for serving as general co-chair.

We also extend our gratitude to the following scholars, researchers, and professionals who (up to the moment in which this Foreword is being written) accepted to deliver plenary Workshop and Tutorial, support the conference as panelists in conversational panels, chair conversational sessions and/or to address the audience of the General Joint Plenary Sessions with keynote addresses

Participative Workshops and Panel

- **Professor T. Grandon Gill,** University of South Florida, USA
- **Dr. Ira Blatstei,** John Hopkins University, USA
- Dr. Nanda van der Stap, University of Applied Sciences, Utrecht, Netherlands
- Dr. Risa Blair, Kaplan University, USA

Plenary Keynote Speakers

- **Professor T. Grandon Gill,** University of South Florida, USA
- **Dr. Ira Blatstei,** John Hopkins University, USA
- **Professor Donald Ropes,** Inholland University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands
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- Professor Fátima Consuelo Dolz, Universidad Mayor de San Andres, Bolivia
- Professor Jesús Salvador Vivanco Florido, Universidad A. de Aguascalientes, México

We also wish to thank all the authors for the quality of their papers, and to the 806 reviewers (who reviewed at least one article of IMCIC/ICSIT 2018 and its collocated events) for the great job they did, making the 1519 reviews that supported the acceptance process. We also extend our gratitude to María Sánchez, Juan Manuel Pineda, Marcela Briceño, Desireé Gamboa, and Freddy Callaos for their knowledgeable effort in supporting the organizational process, the help desk, and for producing the hard copy of the proceedings. Special thanks to Professor Belkis Sanchez for designing and programming the new interface for the CD version of the proceedings as well as for transforming the electronic files made for the electronic proceedings.

Professor Nagib C. Callaos *IMCIC 2018 General Co-Chair*

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