



Conflict, Cooperation and Creativity in Complex Systems

Co-presented by Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group

September 6, 2007

*Venue: L'Enfant Plaza Hotel,
480 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, D.C. 20024*

In this meeting we will explore the conditions under which conflict leads to the generation of novelty and complexity in complex systems. Research on conflict typically emphasizes its negative consequences and focuses on developing methods to eliminate it. However, in many biological and social processes, it appears that conflict is a critical driver of innovation as well as integration of semi-autonomous units into coordinated collectives. This suggests that conflict management, and even facilitation of low-level conflict, might be more constructive strategies than conflict suppression.

Agenda

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| 8:30 a.m. | Continental Breakfast |
| 9:00 a.m. | Opening Remarks
<i>William Glenney, Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group</i> |
| 9:15 a.m. | Introduction
<i>Jessica Flack, Research Fellow, Santa Fe Institute</i> |
| 9:30 a.m. | "Conflict and Creativity in the Manhattan Project and After"
<i>Richard Rhodes, author of the Pulitzer-Prize winning book "The Making of the Atomic Bomb" (1986)</i> |
| 10:30 a.m. | Coffee Break |
| 11:00 a.m. | "Creative Genius: Two Darwinian Perspectives"
<i>Dean Simonton, Distinguished Professor and VC, Department of Psychology, University of California, Davis</i> |
| 12:00 p.m. | Buffet Lunch |
| 1:00 p.m. | "Causes of Conflict in Complex Systems"
<i>Aaron Clauset, Postdoctoral Fellow, Santa Fe Institute</i> |



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- 2:00 p.m. **“Cooperation and Conflict During the Evolution of Individuality”**
Richard E. Michod, Professor and Department Head, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Arizona
- 3:00 p.m. **Break**
- 3:30 p.m. **Summary and Q&A Session**
David Krakauer, Professor, Santa Fe Institute
- 4:30 p.m. **“Creativity and the Santa Fe Institute”**
Geoffrey West, President and Distinguished Professor, Santa Fe Institute
- 4:45 p.m. **Cocktail Reception**