

Beyond the third culture! Science in the information age

Lecture dedicated to the memory of Tom Stonier

Wolfgang Hofkirchner

ICT&S Center, University of Salzburg
Center for Advanced Studies and Research
in Information and Communication Technologies Society
Sigmund-Haffner-Gasse 18
5020 Salzburg, Austria

Abstract: Tom Stonier was a polymath. His research field was Science-Technology-Society. When he began to dive into the foundation of information topics, he started with economy where he found out that economists were ignorant about the essence of information. He then began to elaborate on the physics of information and published a book well reviewed by physicists. After that he wrote a monography on the evolution of intelligence from physical entities to biotic ones to the global brain he envisaged when looking at the internet. His last manuscript dealt with the change information societies undergo in matters of war and peace. He was a visionary whom we are in need of today more than ever. His approach was transdisciplinary - the only way we conceive of to be appropriate to cope with the challenges of the new millennium. This attitude is what unites the foundations of information community.

In this talk I will sketch a framework of transdisciplinary thinking for the purpose of substantiating information science.
