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Leading Article

### Long Live Atlantykron!

There are people - and I am glad I have the privilege of knowing a large part of them - who live waiting for their annual return to Stone Ring Island.

This Mother Gaia / Geea of Atlantykron, this cradle of the Atlantykronian movement, received us with full and unconditional love in the bosom of her wild nature for 30 years, with the same selfless generosity with which the Earth which is the cradle of humankind- carries us on its back, with all our good and bad deeds, looking at us with a forgiving smile as we have been damage our bedding for thousands of years.

But - the words of a good friend: "how long can you live in a cradle?" And just as Man brought the Light of The Blue Planet to The Red Planet escaping from the millennial cradle, so did the Atlantiykronian Movement take off from the Island the Stone Ring directly into the virtual environment. An exit from the Island more suitable than the New Horizons Round Table is hard to conceive! Through the care of the organizers, emblematic scientists of the Atlantykronian movement were gathered from three continents: Asia, North America and Europe.

The moderator of the event, Sorin Repanovici, one of the initiators of the Atlantykron phenomenon, had as guests Chan Chow Wah from Singapore, Corneliu Chişu from Canada, Alexandru Mironov, Radu Dop and Răzvan Buzatu from Romania and Cristian Presură from the Netherlands.

The question that opened the debate is related to the predictability of the future taking into account the evolution of humanity so far and the experience gained. We note that the famous British astro-physicist Stephen Hawking also tried to answer this question in his posthumous book "Short Answers to the Big Questions".

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## Compass — The Interview of the Day

## Center for Complexity Studies – from roots to new horizons

Interview with Dr. Florin Munteanu, correspondent member of Romanian Technical Sciences Academy, founder of Center for Complexity Studies

The Center for Complexity Studies is one of the traditional supporting organizations of the Atlantykron Summer Academy of Learning and we wanted to find more about its history and connection with the Atlantykron. That is why we addressed some questions to Dr. Florin Munteanu, president of CCS and one of the persons that had a major contribution to the way that the Atlantykron phenomenon evolved.



# What is the Center for Complexity Studies and its mission, when and how was it born?

With the discovery of quantum physics, but especially with the dawn of the computer and the Internet, science has developed, not only exponentially but also in a new, unexpected direction. Gradually, especially in the period 1960-2000, a new vision on the phenomena and processes in Nature was structured and new theories, models, techniques and technologies were elaborated: *Constructal physics, Fractal geometry, Dissipative systems theory, Catastrophe theory, Deterministic chaos theory, The theory of cellular automata and neural networks,* to name just a few. Together they formed a new approach to Nature known as the <u>Science of Complexity</u>.

In 1996, together with a group of young researchers, I founded the <u>Center for</u> <u>Complexity Studies</u>, the first Think Tank dedicated to the study of Complexity in Romania. A professional association that aims, in addition to developing the new field of research and promoting in society this new paradigm, initiating summer schools, street events to promote science, radio and TV shows, debates with students in various university centers in the country.

Tell us about important CCS projects (Nexus, Complexity Cafe, Summer Camps, research directions, etc.) and how they have contributed to raising awareness about the need to address current humankind problems with new methods and concepts.

The main difficulty in understanding the value and vision generated by Complexity Science was - and still is - the substantial difference in approach. If classical physics is based on a Newtonian, mechanistic, linear, causal approach, the new paradigm of Complexity is built upon an organic, integrative,

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#### Reporter from the far side tent - Alin Laicu (trol)

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This year, so far, so good.

Great achievements on using the online technology.

I ♥d being able to have wonderful chats with panelists as well as with many of my long time Atlantykronian friends. Here is just a short excerpt:

# Chat disabled

As expected, highly interactive panels with most of us having interesting and meaningful interventions.

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Pssst!!! Spoiler Alert. The secret plan of the Pavcon Publishing House to conquer the North American continent could be a 2 for 1 selling strategy. No, they don't intend to partnership with the well-known 2 for 1 Pizzeria. They might rather print one "americanos" issue containing every two european issues. For sure this will well fit into Big Size Matter philosophy of the New World.



#### Atlantykronecdotes

#### Immortality

Page #2

Do you have immortality? I ask the pharmacist, looking for something against the coronavirus. Currently out of stock. And when do you receive more? I insist. I do not know. Wait, I'm asking the headmistress. Madam Headmistress ... When do we receive immortality? The headmistress appears from behind and looks at me under her glasses. Wait to see if it's in storage. What kind of immortality are you interested in? Romanian or imported? I do not trust the Romanian immortality, I answer. I want imported. But not from China. No, I'm sorry, says the headmistress, it's not in the warehouse either. But what do you need it for? she asks me again. Well, I'm writing a play, and with this virus, I thought I wouldn't survive until I finish it. I could give you some telomeres, says the headmistress. Are they good for immortality? I ask. Not necessarily, but it helps in the rejuvenation process. You know, when you're young, you live longer. Anyway, I'm ordering, so try again next week. But do you have a recipe for immortality? It is only given on the prescription. Well, it was good if I had the prescription for immortality ... I'm going to another pharmacy, I said. And if I can't find it, I'll go home and write my play. I have heard that writing has made some immortal.

by Marilena Dumitrescu

(Center for Complexity Studies – from roots to new horizons — continued from page #1)

nonlinear approach, which is why it is more abstract, more intuitive than the classical perspective. In addition, the essential involvement of computational technology: *Data mining, Deep learning, Artificial intelligence* restricts the number of those who can easily move from the classical approach to the study of Complexity which includes the formalization of socio-economic, environmental, neuroscience, psychology to the rational study of Consciousness.

In this context, the activity of CCS was structured on two main levels, two programs: a) Contributions to the development of complexity science by developing theories, methods and applications of the new vision (completed by papers published in national and international journals), respectively b) preparing the society to be able to absorb this new way of thinking, beyond the substantial volume of information, notions and concepts. In this last direction are to be noted:

<u>The NEXUS program</u> - complementary training program to the curricular one, organized multi-age, from an integrative, multi- and trans- disciplinarian perspective and based on the principle: "learning by discovery";

Summer schools or workshops dedicated to the promotion of Complexity: Fractal XX (between 1995-2000), <u>Metamorphoses</u> (between 2001-currently, in partnership with scientific associations Cygnus), <u>Atlantykron</u> (1993-present), <u>Complexity Cafe</u> - weekly Talk Show style event;

<u>Researchers' Night</u> - European street event, dedicated to the promotion of science in society in general.

All these activities have generated throughout the 24 years of existence of the CCS the awareness of the society regarding the need for a change of mentality. Young people with an openness to research were identified and helped through mentoring to evolve in the direction of this new vision. Along with other NGOs in the country and abroad, our activities have contributed to the emergence of "germs" of socio-economic and educational restructuring, which could become points of support for the birth of a new society, conscious, committed, able to co-operate and evolve sustainably on a planet with finite resources such as GAIA.

# What was the role of CCS in the evolution of Atlantykron from Summer School / SF Literature Camp to Summer Academy of Learning?

The CCS-Atlantykron story has older roots. I had the chance to find out about the science of Complexity and then to get involved body and soul in the study and promotion of this vision since 1983, when I was head of academic research papers at the Bucharest Polytechnic University.

There was a great contradiction between what we teach: materials science and technology (classical approach) and what we discovered through the theories of Complexity: biomaterials, bioelectronics, mechatronics, intelligent materials, etc. Two worlds were colliding: the classical, pragmatic, clear and well defined with a new one, fuzzy, which was searching for its own path and invited to creativity, to exploration. In this context, we developed what is today called Exploratory Research, addressing at the academic level "exotic" topics such as "The Pyramid Effect", "biocommunication or dowsing", Chaotic communication theory, Semiotics in the study of biocommunication and many others. The difference in approach, linguistics and methodology was extremely large between the two types of research activities we carried, so we dressed these subjects in the clothes of science but with SF literature as a source of inspiration. It is known that those who love SF are "hungry" for knowledge, they have the "fabric" of explorers, so gradually a selection of young people started to join me on this new pathway, little known at the time and far away from curricular topics.

In 1987 I met MMM (Mihaela Muraru Mandrea) who had structured the SF club "STRing" in the Bucharest Polytechnic University. . From that moment, the interaction between the field of Complexity and the SF fans of the club gained

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#### (Center for Complexity Studies – from roots to new horizons — continued from page #2)

not only consistency but also meaning, because the information I brought from the field of Complexity aroused the minds of some students with openness to science and programming skills. Thus, the role that I assumed, that of promoter of the Complexity among the young people, those who represented in fact the potential for the future formation of some research centers in this new field, was gradually structured.

Then the 1989 revolution had come in Romania. The situation has changed dramatically. Laboratories disappeared but pubs appeared inside the Polytechnic. Students' interest declined unexpectedly quick. Clear student laws were stretched: attendance was no longer mandatory, re-sits could be taken over the years, etc. so, in this context, I left the Polytechnic University and formed a small research team within a research institute of the Romanian Academy. Gradually, the relationship between me and the STRing club "cooled down", as I was being absorbed in structuring an astro-bio-geodynamic vision based on the science of Complexity, an activity completed in 2008, by initiating the GAIA -Living Planet program.

However, my personal sensitivity for SF literature and the history accumulated in the previous period remained. Then I found out that, on a small island on the Danube, something new had been happening for about 3 years. The junction came naturally in 1993. That is when I first arrived on Atlantykron, together with my whole family: Cornelia (my wife) and Andreea (my daughter). As well as some partners from the Academy. And I did not come empty-handed but with a "personal laboratory", with a "latest generation" computer (with 286 processor) and a banner "Science of Complexity") talking about chaos, catastrophes, fractals, synergistic ... This is how it was born a lasting relationship that continues today between the initiators of Atlantykron phenomenon and the future Center for Complexity Studies (CCS) founded three years later (1996).

From then until today, personally, and then together with a group of specialists in the field I tried to motivate young people's interest in science in general, for the new paradigm of Complexity. I kept looking for partners, young people willing to explore the frontier field from the perspective of the new science and to define the conceptual basis of a school without walls, a complementary school, which became the NEXUS program in 1997.



What are the CCS's forecasts regarding the evolution of humanity in the current context and what projects does it propose for the future?

Humanity is going through a critical period, a real cultural metamorphosis. The evolution of science has generated disruptive technologies that have gradually but dramatically changed the notion of Work, Product, Value. Today we are talking about the values of the Knowledge society, the potential of Industry 4.0, quantum technologies and Mind-Matter interactions. We are thus crossing a multidimensional crisis born through the interference between the values of the industrial society, with the Knowledge society and with a new society whose seedlings are already seen (the society of Consciousness as defined by Mihai Draganescu, the father of orthophysics and based on the transdisciplinary vision of Basarab Nicolescu, vision that implies an acceptance of the spiritual dimension as a defining dimension of man). There are conflicts between new and old, between a new that has not yet stabilized socially and a newer "New" that seems to spring continuously. Cultures, concepts, paradigms collide.

Opinions are confronted and a Reality that is becoming more and more unpredictable is fragmented.

In this "turbulent" context, fueled also by the struggle for resources, geo-political competition and last but not least climate change, we can only outline a few directions needed to avoid the collapse of human civilization on Earth:

**Increased tolerance to uncertainty** (the evolution of the social "organism" is irreversible; we cannot return to "quiet", predictable, stable periods, based on mechanistic thinking that enhances competition; Reality becomes unpredictable and we will have to adapt to this situation);

**Increasing tolerance for diversity** (we will evolve in a diverse world, sometimes contradictory but in which we must live; and not anyway but in harmony with the environment, with the laws of Nature hence the need for a leap of consciousness in the global population);



Eradication of functional illiteracy (by generating didactic techniques and technologies that motivate the educational act, to allow a differentiated approach in relation to the abilities and expectations of each person, to allow and support lifelong learning, to prepare Man for life and not just to be a "spare part" in an economic mechanism).

AthlantyChronical redactional team

#### (Long Live Atlantykron! — continued from page #1)

The first answer is given by the renowned researcher and journalist Alexandru Mironov, who states that we are in terms of evolution in front of a half-open door because the industrial development of human society has produced natural imbalances and we entered the territories of animals on Earth borrowing from these not only land but also part of their problems. And here the journalist refers to the current crisis SARS-COV-2 which through a health crisis pushes human society in a cascade of crises: economic, social, political, etc. with specific manifestations but with global effects.

Al. Mironov, based on his rich life experience, realizes that the present future is not nearly what he and other researchers imagined decades ago and expresses his fear that a dangerous scenario like the one imagined by Isaac Asimov in "Solaris" could become a palpable reality.

Chan Chow Wah gives us the perspective of the future from the point of view of Asia considering that if you do not fight for the ideas you believe in you have no way to get a change and that the nature of what is happening now in the world is no different from what from a historical point of view has happened so far: the one who has power and resources will impose his own new order and the future thought by him.

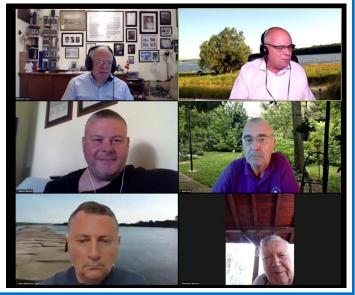
Regarding the same question asked by the moderator Sorin Repanovici, about the predictability of the future, Cristian Presură, physicist, states that scientists predicted a pandemic five years ago but the signals drawn by them were ignored by society and what is surprising about this health crisis is not its appearance but its magnitude against the background of a social refusal to listen and take into account the predictions of scientists. In Cristian Presură's opinion, technology is no longer a means of knowledge but has become a resource of knowledge and a means of improving human comfort, being at the same time a source of conflict.

Razvan Buzatu, who is an expert in state construction, development and transformation of public, private and associative institutions, comes first with two rhetorical questions: Are we a technologically developed society? Have we learned from our history?

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Page #3

**2020 - Opening Ceremony** Let the Virtual Atlantykron begin!



I don't know mercy I don't even want to compassion,

apart from hugs.

that's why I say be careful what you say, words hurt,

the utterance can be forgiven but never forgotten

wear a mask

.... words hurt ...

and that is for sure the constant ...

like the love of air and fear of you.

Marius Conu

# Island Vocabulary - words of the day

IOT = Internet Of ThingsIOE = Internet Of EverythingTOE = Theory Of Everything

(from the New Horizons Round Table Discussion)

Put all Knowledge together in the interests of everyone!

(Long Live Atlantykron – continued from page #3)

"The main thing that a human being must train for the future - says Răzvan Buzatu - is adaptability, the ability to learn, to un-learn and re-learn - continuously - to adapt".

Responding to the thesis raised by Cristian Presură above Răzvan Buzatu draws attention to the fact that there will always be conflicts in the evolution of society but against the background of the development of global intelligence for IoT integration, the manifestation of the conflict will overcome the physical conflicts we are used to and it is important how we will address these new conflicts.

Bringing back the issue of the pandemic that humanity is going through, and related to the prediction of the future, Corneliu Chişu from Canada emphasizes the bohemian, childish side of humanity (we remember that above is noted the idea of Terra CRADLE of earthly civilization!) which, here it is: although 100 years ago it went through a crisis similar to the current one -the reference is to the Spanish Crisis- humanity plays literally with its history repeating situations / states from which it has learned nothing or refuses to remind them.

Corneliu Chişu considers that we cannot expect a bright future if we do not have qualified politicians to stop the conflicting approach to the domination of the one who owns the resources. On the other hand, the Canadian politician is concerned that current education systems are not geared to promoting science and its new discoveries in real time, which will lead - in the near future - to a lack of social commitment from members of earthly communities.

From the words of Radu Dop- the giant optimist, one of the visionaries on the Stone Ring, we understand that the informational approach contributes essentially and defining to the road to the knowledge society and further to the society of consciousness as a goal of humanity in a possible future.

The frothy dialogue continued for over 75 minutes, with participants having relatively close opinions on questions such as: are there solutions to the health crisis, will man reach Mars, the Internet can become a weapon just as nuclear energy has become, as democracy shows tomorrow or what color will be the future of human society questions asked by the moderator of the conference, Sorin Repanovici, but also by people in the audience. The entire discussion has been recorded and will be made available to the public as soon as possible.

We note the professionalism of the technical team led by Mihai Gabriel Oprea, the team that ensured a smooth transmission with a clear sound and image and we are waiting for you at the Atlantykron 2020 conferences and workshops.

At the end of the conference, Corneliu Chişu made the wish that I allowed myself to turn into the title of this article:

LONG LIVE ATLANTYKRON !

By Lupisor

#### Quote by MWSH

Life is a thick book of one page for each of youş do not leafe without leafing your signature

(from the New Horizons Round Table Discussion)

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