

Call for expression of interest

Integrating Qualitative and Quantitative Evidence Using Social Simulation

A proposal for a NIAS-Lorentz Workshop

Topic

It is a principle of science that evidence should not be ignored without an extremely good reason. Thus, researchers are under an obligation to take note of both qualitative and quantitative evidence. However, integrating different kinds of evidence is far from easy, as both kinds of evidence have their own characteristics, strengths, and weaknesses. As such, translations between qualitative and quantitative representations is fraught with traps, including the inclusion of hidden assumptions, the addition of systematic bias and cross-context misapplication. However, agent-based social simulation offers a well-founded way of doing this translation by using narrative accounts to inform the specification of agent behaviour and comparing macro-level measures on runs of the simulation with numerical data. In this approach, the simulation forms a kind of bridge between the micro-level qualitative behaviours and the macro-level aggregate outcomes. Following a special issue on this topic in the Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation (<http://jasss.soc.surrey.ac.uk/18/1/>) and several sessions at the Social Simulation Conference (2014, 2016, 2017), we feel that there is the time to get together researchers who are (or want to) contribute to this endeavour, in order to design a strategy for structuring and developing the field. We would like to gather these researchers together for a NIAS-Lorentz Workshop (<http://www.nias-lorentz.nl/workshops-.html>) during which we will: identify the key challenges, difficulties, and opportunities of the field; design an action plan to address these challenges and difficulties and follow the opportunities; exchange practices and identify possible collaborations; establish a strategy for consolidating the nascent community of academics in this topic.

Target Dates for Workshop

We would like the workshop to happen during the period 06-10 May 2019, with possible alternatives 19-23 August 2019 and 02-06 September 2019 (dates might change depending on the availability of the venue).

NIAS-Lorentz Workshops

These are unique workshops held over an entire week at a dedicated venue in Leiden, the Netherlands, with great support and facilities. For more information about these see: <http://lorentzcenter.nl/>

Plan

We aim to develop this idea in the following steps:

1. 9th May: invite key people using the draft of the main text, asking people to write a short paragraph of their area of interest in the topic and details. In parallel, send out an open call asking for the same thing. Ask for replies by 25th May.
2. 25th May: All organisers to write the main text of the full proposal.
3. 31st May: Compile list of participants, improve proposal and submit.

Organisers:

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- *Stephanie Dornschneider*, Assistant professor, University College Dublin, Ireland, stephanie.dornschneider@ucd.ie
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