



7th June 2007 | Draft

In Further Quest of "Meta-Union"?

Interplay of generic dimensions of any "union of international associations"

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Development of the argument in *Dynamic Reframing of "Union": implications for the coherence of knowledge, social organization and personal identity* (2007). The argument below includes, and extends, a separate simpler presentation (*In Quest of "Meta-Union"? 2007*)

Strategic initiatives exemplifying characteristic styles of "union", "inter-" and "associations"

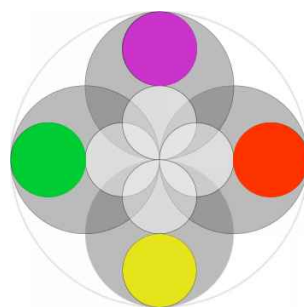
Table 1 is a (**very tentative**) exercise in generalizing the significance of "union", "international" and "associations". The upper portion of the table highlights "union" as emergent identity, "inter-" as indicative of a generic form of bonding across boundaries, with "associations" as the content of what might be potentially interrelated by the previous two. The domains of the Mandelbrot set are used experimentally as metaphors to distinguish these, together with contrasting traditional symbols.

The table highlights the particular features of the strategic initiatives ([separately described](#)) that correspond to generic understandings of "union", "inter-" and "associations". Again these are tentatively associated with two quite distinct sets of metaphor, namely those of the fundamental forces of physics and those of traditional categories. It is possible that the 12 zones of that portion of the table are indicative of 12 "languages" appropriate to sustainable governance [\[more\]](#) -- as an extension of Edward de Bono's metaphorical argument for "6 hats" and "6 shoes" in strategic management dialogue .

The references below the table point to related explorations of these issues -- although other references are indicated as resources on the websites of the four strategic initiatives linked below.

Table 1: Distinction between 4 strategic initiatives in terms of their exemplification of 3 ordering characteristics <i>[tentative]</i>					
			Union	(Inter-)	Associations
			emergent identity	bonding (across boundaries)	potential associations
strategic initiatives	metaphors				
		Mandelbrot set domains	order	chaos/order boundary	chaos, complexity (uncertainty)
	traditional categories/symbols		cardinal	fixed	mutable
		fundamental forces			
Union of Imaginative Associations	air, man	electro-magnetism	coherent (design) concept / pattern	(unforeseen) connections	significance
Cognitive Fusion Reactor (ITER-8)	fire, lion	strong nuclear	configuration enabling improbable focus / tail-biting self-reference	arrays	requisite diversity
University of Earth	earth, bull	gravity	viable ecosystemic integrity / biodiversity as a self-sustaining process / "grounded" insight	relationships / feedback loops	biodiversity
Union of the Whys	water, eagle	weak nuclear	existentially coherent self-questioning / paradoxical transcendence (catastrophe theory, koans)	(intriguing) challenges to assumptions of coherence / riddles / humour	inexplicables / incompatible insights / catastrophe / tragedy

In an effort to interrelate the four strategic initiatives in Table 1 in the light of their three-fold attributes, the logo used in various orientations for each of them calls for some further comment. [Note that access to the websites of each initiative can be achieved by **Disabled** clicking on the corresponding coloured circle -- as is the case from each of those websites]



The image has the merit of holding the 4 contrasting initiatives, each indicated in a 3-fold manner. Arguably the circles holding each of the 4 can be associated with the particular understandings of "union" -- with the particular "associations" in the outermost (coloured) smaller circle within, whilst the "inter-" dimension is held by the (uncoloured) inner circle. Faintly circumscribing the whole is a circle indicative of some form of "meta-union". In an effort to focus these concerns on engagement in immediate global challenges, the symbol (derived from the Basque [lauburu](#)) was first used in a "[playful exploration of ecopsychological embodiment of climate change pathways](#)" (cf *Playfully Changing the Prevailing Climate of Opinion Climate change as focal metaphor of effective global governance*, 2005).

Of course such a 2 dimensional image raises interesting questions as to whether an appropriate "roundtable" representative of the 12 "languages" would be more fruitfully represented in 3 dimensions to avoid diminishing (or privileging) the significance of any.

The implications of such a representation have been discussed separately (*Union of Intelligible Associations: remembering dynamic identity through a dodecameral mind*, 2005) -- notably with respect to its implementation (or recognition) in a virtual environment (*Spherical Configuration of Interlocking Roundtables: Internet enhancement of global self-organization through patterns of dialogue*, 1998).

Conventional preoccupations exemplifying characteristic styles of "union", "inter-" and "associations"

An extension of Table 1, in the form of Table 2, highlights the significance of the contrast between the generic understandings of "union", "inter-" and "associations" with the conventional preoccupations of values (faith), knowledge, strategy, organizations, problems, information and law. Efforts at their interrelationship are evident to some degree in the strategic initiative of the [Union of Intelligible Associations](#) (now terminated) and the diversity of databases that arose from it (and are still [accessible online](#)). Tentatively, again, these are clustered into real/imaginary, tangible/intangible in the spirit of the distinctions of the complexity sciences.

Table 2: Distinction between conventional preoccupations in terms of their exemplification of 3 ordering characteristics [tentative]					
			Union	(Inter-)	Associations
			emergent identity	bonding (across boundaries)	potential associations
complex dimensions	preoccupations		.	.	.
intangible	imaginary	faith, values	union with the transcendent (as a community or individual embodiment)	inter-faith relationships / challenge of unbelievers	diversity of beliefs
	real	knowledge	synthesis (theories of everything)	classification	subjects
		strategy / policy	(global) plans, resolutions, action frameworks, policy coordination	cooperation, collaboration	actions, proposals, initiatives
		organization (social, group)	(global) unions, conferences, federations, coalitions, meetings, parliaments	international, inter-regional, inter-disciplinary, inter-cultural, inter-sectoral (networking)	themes, topics
tangible	imaginary	problems (strategic, tactical)	crisis (of crises), (global) insecurity	inter-sectoral, cross-disciplinary, international	disruptors
	real	information	integrated information systems (world wide web, internet, telecommunication system)	compatibility across boundaries, standards and technologies, hyperlinking	content
		law	harmonised (international) legal framework	compatibility across boundaries, reciprocity	specific laws

WH-questions exemplifying characteristic styles of "union", "inter-" and "associations"

Table 3 explores the possibility of combining the above distinctions with those derived from an experimental ordering of the set of **WH**-questions in terms of [Arthur Young's](#) integrative "Rosetta Stone" of meaning (see [Functional Complementarity of Higher Order Questions: psycho-social sustainability modelled by coordinated movement](#), 2004; also [Conformality of 7 WH-questions to 7 Elementary Catastrophes: an exploration of potential psychosocial implications](#), 2006)

Table 3: Distinction between 4 strategic initiatives in terms of their exemplification of 12 characteristic pairs of questions [tentative]					
			Union	(Inter-)	Associations
			emergent identity	bonding (across boundaries)	potential associations
			Future	Present	Past
			Motive	Means	Suspect / Accomplice
			WH-questions	Why?	How?
			Why?	How?	Who?
University of Earth	grounding in spatial context	Where? (Where to go?, Where is it from?)	<i>Significance</i> [Where/Why] Provenance: Where does that come from? Why is it significant?	<i>Observation</i> [Where/How] Where am I?	<i>Knowledge</i> [Where/Who] Where is the knowledge? Who has it? Who discovered it?
Cognitive Fusion Reactor (ITER-8)	operacy in functional context	Which? (Which way? Which to choose?)	<i>Transformation</i> [Which/Why] Which transformation and why?	<i>Change</i> [Which/How] Which response? How to respond?	<i>Faith</i> [Which/Who] Which belief? Who to believe in? Who believes?
Union of the Whys	kairos (in temporal context)	When? (When to start? When to stop?)	<i>Being</i> [When/Why] When to be like that? Why be like that?	<i>Spontaneous act</i> [When/How] When to act? How to act?	<i>Impulse</i> [When/Who] When to start? Who is so impelled? Who to impell?
Union of Imaginative Associations	attractor design	What? (What is it? What to do?)	<i>Establishment</i> [What/Why] What have I done? Why have I done it?	<i>Control</i> [What/How] What do I do? How do I do it?	<i>Fact</i> [What/Who] What evidence is this? Who says so?

Conclusion

Although these experimental juxtapositions of categories are useful pointers to possibilities, all such orderings call for refinement through a conceptual "tuning" of the arrays. The musical metaphor is also helpful in pointing to the possibility that quite different "tuning systems" may be significant and useful.

References

Anthony Judge:

- Dynamic Reframing of "Union": implications for the coherence of knowledge, social organization and personal identity, 2007 [\[text\]](#)
- Emergence of a Union of Imaginative Associations: engendered by a Union of Intelligible Associations from a Union of International Associations, 2007 [\[text\]](#)
- Consciously Self-reflexive Global Initiatives: Renaissance zones, complex adaptive systems, and third order organizations, 2007 [\[text\]](#)
- Psycho-social Significance of the Mandelbrot Set: a sustainable boundary between chaos and order, 2005 [\[text\]](#)
- Union of Intelligible Associations: remembering dynamic identity through a dodecameral mind, 2005 [\[text\]](#)
- 12 Complementary Languages for Sustainable Governance, 2003 [\[text\]](#)
- Typology of 12 complementary strategies, 1998 [\[text\]](#)
- Typology of 12 complementary dialogue modes essential to sustainable dialogue, 1998 [\[text\]](#)
- Spherical Configuration of Interlocking Roundtables: Internet enhancement of global self-organization through patterns of dialogue, 1998 [\[text\]](#)
- Transdisciplinarity-3 as the Emergence of Patterned Experience: transcending: duality as the conceptual equivalent of learning to walk, 1994 [\[text\]](#)
- Patterns of Conceptual Integration, 1984 [\[text\]](#)
- Criteria for an Adequate Meta-model, 1971 [\[text\]](#)



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