



# Sustaining Organisations in Complex Environments

**Wednesday 14 May 2008**

**Hull University Business School**

**One-day workshop**



## INTRODUCTION

The traditional understanding of sustaining performance and development of organisations is now questionable – accepted perspectives are no longer appropriate in the long-term in the global context.

Organisations in the 21st century must still manage their viability, but need to explore more creative paths in sustaining themselves in the face of increasing variability, interconnections and overall complexity.

Managers now realise that organisations are complex systems and recognise the need to manage that complexity. There has been an explosion in terms of awareness, funding of research in this field and the exploration of appropriate methods to address sustainability and complexity in all forms of organisations.

In this one-day workshop our invited speakers will discuss this issue and lead a workshop exploring current theory and practice in facilitating sustainable structures and processes in complex organisations. The aim is to build a network of practitioners and researchers to share knowledge in this area, as part of an Emergence and Complexity EPSRC funded project.

The workshop will benefit practitioners with experience in managing sustainable organisations and managing sustainability programs in communities, institutions or organisations. It is also open to all researchers in the fields of systems, complexity and sustainability.

## SPEAKERS

- Professor Ralph D Stacey, Professor of Management at the Business School, University of Hertfordshire, UK
- Elizabeth McMillan, complexity sciences consultant and co-founder of the Innovation, Knowledge and Development Research Centre, Open University, UK
- Professor Terry Porter, Maine Business School, University of Maine, USA
- Dr Angela Espinosa, Business School, The University of Hull, UK
- Dr Robin Durie, Senior Lecturer in Politics, University of Exeter

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

- 09.00 registration in the Nidd Building  
09.45 introduction  
10.00 morning session – Complexity Theory with Angela Espinosa, Robin Durie and Terry Porter  
11.30 break-out discussions  
12.30 lunch  
13.00 afternoon session – Complexity and Organisations with Ralph Stacey and Elizabeth McMillan  
14.30 discussions  
15.30 summaries of the day  
16.15 close

## RESERVE YOUR PLACE

Please contact Stefano Revill to register for this workshop

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