



## UKSS Newsletter – Winter 2026

Dear Systemists,

This first UKSS newsletter of 2026 provides an update on several important developments within the Society, including plans for the forthcoming UKSS Conference, new member-focused activities, and recent changes to our membership arrangements. As this newsletter is circulated widely beyond our current membership, we also take the opportunity to briefly mention how colleagues new to Systems and the UKSS can find their way through our publications, events, and online resources.

### 1. UKSS Annual Conference 2026

Planning for the UKSS 2026 Annual Conference is now well advanced. It will be held at Portsmouth University on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September. The conference theme is *Systems – addressing the challenges of the digital age*. Members are encouraged to stay in contact with the conference chair (Gary Evans, [conference@ukss.org.uk](mailto:conference@ukss.org.uk)) and members of the management committee for updates as these become available.

We are pleased to emphasise that this year's conference attendance will be free of charge for UKSS members, reflecting the Society's commitment to providing high-quality intellectual exchange as a core membership benefit.

### 2. Systems Workshops for Members

In addition to the annual conference, UKSS is developing a programme of afternoon systems workshops, which will also be free to members. These workshops are intended to provide focused, interactive spaces for discussion and learning around Systems ideas in practice.

Rather than prescribing topics in advance, the Management Team is keen for workshop themes to emerge from the membership. Suggestions will be gathered through the newsletter and via feedback coordinated by Pam Hearne ([pamhearneUKSS@gmail.com](mailto:pamhearneUKSS@gmail.com)) and myself (Petter Ogland, [ukssnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ukssnewsletter@gmail.com)). Once proposed topics are known, we will explore how best to take them forward, drawing upon the expertise within the Management Team and from the wider membership and invited Systems contributors.

A provisional timetable will be developed and shared in a forthcoming newsletter. Please send us your suggestions (see table below).

Member Y/N	Wish to join	Workshop topic suggestion	2026 Conference Delegate/presenter
	If Y please contact our UKSS secretary <a href="mailto:pamhearneUKSS@gmail.com">pamhearneUKSS@gmail.com</a>		Do you plan to submit a paper? Do you plan to attend as a delegate

### 3. Membership and Fees

A new membership fee structure has been introduced for 2026. We have not increased the membership fee for several years but our running costs have increased so, reluctantly, we have increased the annual fees. Full membership will now be £50 and £35 for students. These increases in membership fees are coupled with several advantages open only to members. These include, for 2026, free conference attendance (F2F only), free ‘virtual’ workshop attendance, and opportunities for publishing in *Systemist* with accepted papers published on the *Systemist* web page as open access at no additional cost to members.

All editions are registered with the British Library (<https://www.bl.uk/services/legal-deposit>). It should be noted that *Systemist* is an independent publication, wholly owned by the UKSS. The UKSS trustees and the management committee remains committed to keeping membership affordable while expanding the range of benefits available within that fee.

For colleagues receiving this newsletter who are not yet members, we encourage you to consider joining the Society and becoming part of a vibrant and diverse systems community.

### 4. Publications and Editorial Developments

The prepublication of the editorial for the *Systemic Practice and Action Research* edition on ‘soft systems’ theory and practice papers is now available on the UKSS website: <https://systemsforum.org/>

In addition, the *Systemist* journal new submission system is now fully operational: <https://systemist.uk/about>

The first issue on this platform is soon to be published. The old platform has been redesigned to function as an archive site (<https://systemist.online/>).

### 5. Conferences and Related Activities

UKSS continues to monitor and engage with Systems-related events in the UK and internationally. Recent and forthcoming activities of interest include:

- [21<sup>st</sup> Conference on Complex Systems \(1-5 Sep 2025; Siena, Italy\)](#)
- [14<sup>th</sup> RSD Symposium \(3-23 Oct 2025; Ontario, Canada\)](#)
- [10<sup>th</sup> Business Systems Laboratory Conference \(22-23 Jan 2026; Bucharest, Romania\)](#)
- [1<sup>st</sup> CCS/SCiO/ISFR Conference \(24-26 Mar 2026; University of Hull\)](#)
- [36<sup>th</sup> INCOSE Symposium \(13-18 Jun 2026; Yokohama, Japan\)](#)

- 21<sup>st</sup> IRDO Conference (16-17 Jun 2026; Maribor, Slovenia)
- 70<sup>th</sup> ISSS Conference (22-26 Jun 2026; Pyla, Larnaca, Cyprus)
- 44<sup>th</sup> Intl. System Dynamics Conference (20-24 Jul 2026; Delft, Netherlands)
- 68<sup>th</sup> ORS Conference (8-10 Sep 2026; University of Nottingham)
- **26<sup>th</sup> UKSS Conference (17 Sep 2026; University of Portsmouth)**
- 9<sup>th</sup> AIRS Congress, expected to take place in 2026
- 20<sup>th</sup> WOSC Congress, expected to take place in 2027

A few special issues worth mentioning:

- Systems Thinking to Advance the Global Sustainability Goals (*Systemic Practice and Action Research*; deadline 03 Apr 2026)
- Trust in Complex Systems – Approaches from the Social Sciences, Philosophy, Engineering and Management (*Kybernetes*; deadline 31 May 2026)
- Beyond Doomsday – Heinz von Foerster’s legacy in systems theory and cybernetics (*Kybernetes*; deadline 30 Jun 2026)
- From theory to impact – how do organizations benefit from systems research? (*Kybernetes*; deadline 30 Nov 2026)
- Leadership and Governance in Complex Learning Systems: Risk, Knowledge and Entrepreneurship (*Kybernetes*; deadline 26 Dec 2026)
- **Special Anniversary Edition (*Systemist*; 2027)**

## 6. Staying Involved

The newsletter remains an important channel for sharing news, ideas, and opportunities across the UKSS community. Members are encouraged to contribute short items on research, teaching, reading groups, projects, or events with a systems orientation. You are encouraged to offer your experiences in our workshops and/or conferences.

As always, the vitality of the Society depends on active participation, and we hope this newsletter conveys both the intellectual breadth of UKSS and the practical value of membership, and will encourage you to engage with the community.

With best wishes,  
Petter Ogland

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