Institute for Interactivist Studies

Interactivism is a philosophical and theoretical approach to modeling multiple biological, mental, and social phenomena. It is attracting interest from scholars and researchers around the world. For a general description, see: http://www.lehigh.edu/~mhb0/InteractivismManifesto.pdf

The primary functions of the Institute for Interactivist Studies are:

1. to build on the growing interest in the model,
2. to promote interactivist research,
3. to give Lehigh greater visibility within this wider community of people involved in the interactivist research program.

The primary focus of the Institute is the sponsoring of Summer Institutes on Interactivism. These are being held biennially, and the tradition is to alternate between North America and Europe for location. We have organized seven International Summer Institutes: 2001 at Lehigh; 2003 in Copenhagen; 2005 at Clemson University; 2007 in Paris; 2009 in Vancouver; 2011 in Syros, Greece; and 2013 at the University of South Florida in Tampa, FL. These have attracted philosophers, psychologists, biologists, roboticists, and linguists from more than twenty countries. ISI 2015 is planned for Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey.

The Institute also:

1. sponsors the Interactivist Forum, an email discussion group which currently has about 140 members from some 25 countries,
2. sponsors an institute web site — http://www.lehigh.edu/~interact/index.html,
3. encourages and sponsors visiting scholars,
4. participates in contributing to the journal New Ideas in Psychology, published by Elsevier, and
5. encourages collaborative work — we currently have about half a dozen publications co-authored by institute affiliates, and special issues on Interactivism in two journals are in press or planned.

For more information, contact Mark Bickhard, Director, mhb0@lehigh.edu.