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Entropy and Organization in Natural and Social Systems II

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Message from the Guest Editor

Complexity and self-organization are observed across systems or scales, be they physical, biological, economic, or sociological resulting in a quest for a fundamental unifying explanation that bridges the divide between living and non-living systems. The associated ideas of energy, entropy, equilibrium, complexity, etc. are now part of the lexicon of more than the natural sciences; they have invaded fields such as economics, education, psychology, sociology, sustainability, and political science, among others. The works of Nicolas Georgescu-Roegen in economics, Kenneth Bailey in sociology, Stephen Coleman in political science, Rudolf Arnheim in art, and William Doll in education are some classic examples of diffusion of thermodynamics beyond its birth-home in physics. This Special Issue is focused on understanding the diverse ways in which we recognize, define and discuss structures, patterns, and dynamics in different systems and their connection to thermodynamic principles by bringing together scholarship from different fields (natural and social sciences) to help to foster an interdisciplinary dialogue.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

The concept of entropy is traditionally a quantity in physics that has to do with temperature. However, it is now clear that entropy is deeply related to information theory and the process of inference. As such, entropic techniques have found broad application in the sciences.

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