



Critical systems thinking and practice: what has been achieved and what needs doing

Keynote speaker: **Michael C. Jackson**

Abstract

Critical systems thinking and practice began in the 1980s and is now an established part of the systems thinking tradition. Nearly 40 years later, it is possible to look back at what it has achieved in its lifetime and at what still needs doing if it is to fulfil its potential. To reach its conclusions, the review considers the theory and principles underpinning critical systems thinking – its commitments to ‘general complexity’, critical awareness, pluralism, and a radical change agenda. And it charts the development of attempts to translate those commitments into practice. In particular, the presentation discusses how the ideas can be made more accessible to decision-makers to enable them to manage the complexity with which they are confronted in today’s world.