

# INCOSE SA Western Cape Branch Event of 23 April 2015

**Gericke Potgieter on “We Are What We Will”**

*By Daniël Malherbe*

Gericke Potgieter of [ARTIFEX Knowledge Engineering](#) took the Stellenbosch INCOSE audience on a wonderful journey through systems theory and how it relates to human reality in a presentation titled

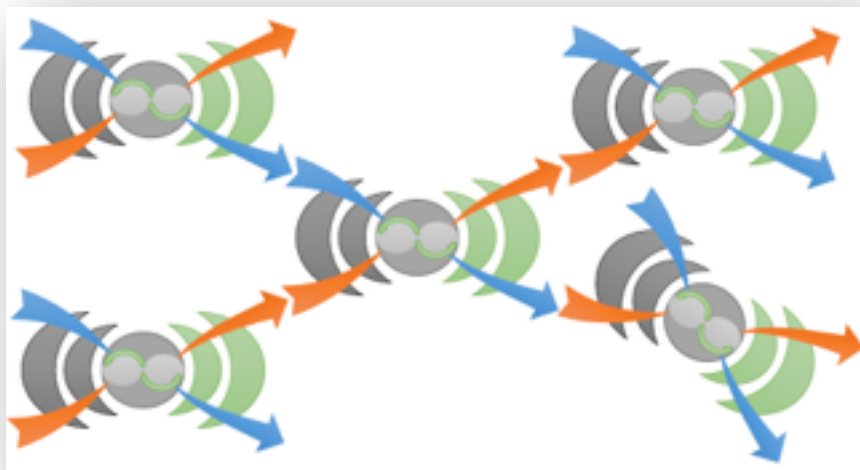


*“We are what we will – a systems perspective on decisions and relationships with practical implications for systems engineers”.*

It encapsulated the presenter’s many years of research and experience and showed a deep understanding of how people live and operate in a world of information and knowledge.



It was interesting to learn more about how the relationships between various interacting elements can either establish systems of growth or can cause decline and death. An important point from the presenter was that the interaction between elements largely depends on what we, as the designers, intend them to be... *“we are what we will”*.



It was only natural that this excellent presentation led to a lively debate afterwards on morality and ethics for systems engineers, especially those working in aerospace and defence. Gericke concluded his presentation with 5 Steps – practical advice to systems engineers on how they can make valued contributions to the world today and into the future:

1. Accept and acknowledge that we and our contributions are drivers of life;
2. View systems as relational mechanisms, each within a context of purpose and reason and with internal structure and function;
3. Design system structure and function for value in its context, not for profit;
4. Judge whether our systems are useful and constructive;
5. Measure whether our systems create life through growth or death through attrition.

There were 25 people attending the event, 16 INCOSE members and 9 guests. The following engineers travelled all the way from Denel OTR in Bedasdorp to Stellenbosch to attend the event:

- Hijn Tromp
- Kushal Uprety
- Louis Hannie
- Mark Brandt
- Noko Mahlachane
- Phumeza Valashiya
- Xolo Mdingi

I am always privileged and honoured by the Denel OTR team [making the trip](#) through to Stellenbosch for INCOSE events and I would like to extend my gratitude to these engineers for attending.



This well-crafted presentation was well worth it and I highly recommend INCOSE SA inviting Gericke Potgieter for a presentation in Gauteng! Meanwhile, slides and an audio recording of the presentation are graciously made available by iono.fm [here](#).

