

Invitation to a lecture given by

Duncan Watts Columbia University

who will speak on

Six Degrees: The Science of a Connected Age

on

Wednesday, January 12, 2005: 18:00 in the Audimax, Main Building, ETH

Professor Stephen Borgatti, Boston College, will deliver teleconferenced comments broadcast from SHARE / Consulate of Switzerland, Cambridge, Massachusetts. An apéro will follow the talk.

We've all heard of the small world phenomenon - the idea that each one of us is connected to everyone else through only "six degrees of separation." But where did this idea come from? This talk sketches out the scholarly history of the small world problem, from its origins in sociology up to the recent explosion of work in physics and mathematics that uses it as a central reference point. The lecture also discusses the relevance of the "six degrees" theory to a range of phenomena, from job hunting and organizations solving complex problems, to the spread of disease and the cascade-like dynamics of cultural fads.



This lecture is the inaugural event of

TAICON

**The Trans-Atlantic Initiative on
Complex Organizations and Networks**

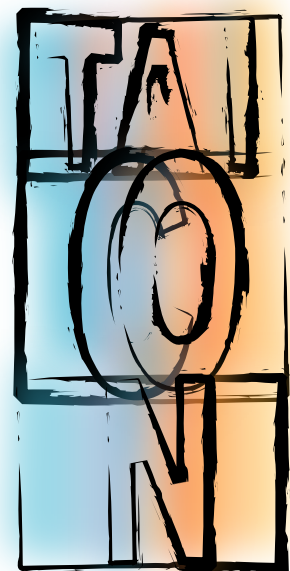
organized by
Prof. Lars-Erik Cederman, ETH, and
Prof. David Lazer, Harvard University

TAICON is a trans-Atlantic community, based at Harvard and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), that brings together research on social networks and complexity.

Additional speakers during the academic year 2004/05:

Professor John Holland, University of Michigan
Wednesday, April 13, 2005: 18:00
(Teleconferenced talk from SHARE)

Professor Frank Schweitzer, ETH
Monday, June 6, 2005: 18:00



Further information can be found under: <http://www.icr.ethz.ch/taicon>