

Systems Thinking SIG – 2018/19 Supporting statement from the committee nominees

First name:	Surname:	What is your membership level?	Brief overview of your background and experience as a Systems professional:(maximum 150 words):	What motivated you to put yourself forward for election to the Systems Thinking SIG committee? (maximum 150 words)	What qualities, skills and experience do you think you'll bring to the Systems Thinking SIG committee? (maximum 150 words)	How much time do you anticipate being able to spend on SIG activities in an average week?
Kasun	Chandras ekara	Student	I have invented a critical systems practice approach to innovation and agile project management as part of my PhD research which is in the process of publication. Also, I have been employed as a lecturer in UK and now in Australia and a researcher in Project Management at University level and executive education for nearly four years where I particularly promote systems thinking.	I have been a member of the committee last year. However, I could not contribute with my intended case studies as there were delays to my data collection and writing of working papers. Therefore, I look forward to sharing my cases studies in systems thinking in the mega projects from an Australian perspective which can potentially contribute to the APM knowledge base in systems thinking.	Project Management Research Knowledge Project Management Teaching Experience Project management Practice from an Australian Perspective	One hour per week on average but may be more hours depending on any special projects at SIG group where I play a significant role.
David	Cole	Full	My background is in Engineering, initially as a Systems Engineer (developing and integrating	I am keen to further the application of Systems Thinking to the management of projects and believe its application helps organisations	I have been a member of the SEPM JWG since 2013, and a member of the STSIG committee since its establishment in January 2017. Managing volunteer	I am semi-retired and able to devote a

			<p>software and hardware in Defence Aerospace) and then as a Project Manager of technology projects, programmes and portfolios in the Defence and Civil Aerospace sectors. I also have long experience as a consultant both advising Public and Private Sector organisations on their technology and organisational change projects and programmes, and directly managing these on their behalf. All my roles have required consideration of causes and effects and identification of root causes of issues. I came across Systems Thinking in the late 1990s (including the 'soft' elements of the Soft Systems Methodology) and have applied ST techniques in my roles since then: in particular the ST Approaches to think about and frame dynamically complex problems and the ST Diagram Tools to explore and map this dynamic complexity.</p>	<p>not only to manage projects better, but also helps them ensure they undertake the correct projects. My contributions to the ST SIG during the last year has been to help set the direction of the group as a committee member and to develop the following documents. * Fusion Point Guidance to SEPM Roles & Responsibilities. * White paper 'Systems Thinking For Portfolio, Programme and Project Managers'. * Webinar (with Michael Emes) on 'Systems Thinking For Portfolio, Programme and Project Managers'. * Presentation to the APM South Wales and West of England branch on 'Systems Thinking For Portfolio, Programme and Project Managers'. * Presentation (with Andrew Gray) to the INCOSE UK Bristol Local Group on SEPM Roles & Responsibilities.</p>	<p>group projects is different to typical project management as they require more attention to members' motivations and interests and the time they have available to undertake work. I have experience of both working in and managing these types of groups and bring this experience to the STSIG (as well as managing improvement groups within the organisations I have worked for, I have managed a UK Civil Avionics Industry volunteer advisory group on behalf of DTI and, internationally, I have been a member of ARINC volunteer committees to propose and develop international avionics standards). I bring enthusiasm for applying Systems Thinking to projects and project management and also a level of integrity as a Chartered Engineer and member of the IET.</p>	<p>significant amount of time to STSIG activities. To date, this has been between a half and one day a week typically, although this has increased when a major SIG deliverable is due. (E.g. development of the ASEC2017 paper). I am flexible over meeting and workshop scheduling as I'm usually able to fit in with most proposed dates.</p>
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Douglas	Cowper	Full	<p>Doug is a professionally qualified and highly experienced systems engineering manager with extensive knowledge and skills in eliciting customer requirements, managing stakeholders, developing project teams, delivering programmes to time, cost and specified performance, and enhancing a technical capability within a wide range of commercial, military, government and academic sectors. Doug has a proven track record of delivering Systems Engineering, Stakeholder Change Management and Technology Decision Making with a diverse range of organisations including GlaxoSmithKline, Syngenta, University College London's Mullard Space Science Laboratory, Airbus, Boeing and AWE. Additionally, has leading a number of working groups developing the definition and teaching of systems engineering core competencies in the UK. Doug is a Chartered Engineer</p>	<p>Current committee member and Co-Chair (INCOSE UK) of the Systems Thinking SIG.</p>	<p>I have been the INCOSE UK Co-chair of the group since the original joint working group was established and the subsequent establishment of the Systems Thinking SIG.</p>	<p>Currently spending 8 hours per month. I am assuming this will continue.</p>
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			and a Fellow of the IET. He has been an active member of INCOSE for 17 years and was President of INCOSE UK from Nov 08 to Nov 10 and a Director from Sep 06 to Nov 12. He is an ESEP, Co-chair of the INCOSE Certification Advisory Group, a Certification Reviewer and is also a Visiting Professor at University College London.			
Frank	Curtolo	Full	Franco (Frank) Curtolo CEng, MSc, MINCOSE, is a Principal Consultant at Program Planning Professionals Ltd, specialising in integrating Systems Engineering and Project/Program Management. He has over 35 years' experience in the roles of both Senior Systems Engineer and Senior Project Manager, in engineering systems and plants and managing high tech, multi discipline, international, development and EPCM projects, in the Nuclear (Reactor & Fuel), Defence (Navy & Aerospace), Science (Radio Astronomy) and AEC fields.	I was a volunteer member last year and would like to increase my involvement with the group this year.	Extensive experience in Systems Engineering, Project and Program Management, integration of Systems Engineering with Project/Program Management, some novice skills in Systems Thinking and Soft Systems Methodology.	2 to 4 hrs per week.

Michael	Emes	Full	I am Director of UCL Centre for Systems Engineering, and have been working in Systems Engineering and Project Management education and research for over 15 years, including Directing MSc programmes in Systems Engineering and Project Management, and commercial training courses for organisations including the European Space Agency.	I am currently the Co-chair of the Systems Thinking SIG and have been on the committee since its inception.	Research and education skills and experience in academic and industrial contexts. Knowledge of how systems thinking can add value in various project contexts.	Approx 2-4 hours
Ifonima	Essien	Student	I started my professional career as a Resident Architect with Interdesigns Partnership in May 2001, managing the project delivery and contract administration of 12 General Hospitals for a State Government in Nigeria and this remains the most complex project I have managed to date. Although construction mobilization commenced in April 2001, only 3 General Hospitals progressed to practical completion in June 2005 which gave me first-hand exposure to complex construction systems and the influence of external	I am fascinated by complex systems which has led to my pursuit of a Masters and PhD in order to better understand the complexity of project systems. Prior to commencing my doctoral studies, I had a 12 year stint teaching at the University of Uyo and I am keen to continue to learn, share knowledge and experiences within the Systems Thinking SIG. My 5 year research has been focused on developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa which are some of the most difficult project delivery environments in the world. I believe my unique perspective will be beneficial to SIG members. As we are in the knowledge age, my passion for acquiring and sharing knowledge has led to my self-nomination to this	My PhD is focused on systems thinking, project organisation and leadership in dynamic environments. I can facilitate training courses having worked as a Lecturer and completed the Level 1 Teachers Training Courses at Brookes. I have worked as an Administrator with proven management, problem solving and interpersonal-relationship skills. My leadership credentials have been boosted by the Brookes Future Leadership Award and election as Students Representative for the School of Built Environment at Oxford Brookes University, a position I held between 2013 and 2017. I am also very entrepreneurial, recently winning an Enterprise Support Award for my business idea. For many years, I have successfully facilitated the organisation of the Annual School of Built Environment	One day a week.

			<p>environment subsystems on project delivery, particularly political, economic, sociocultural and technological influences. Since then I have gone on to head the Projects Team at Archaid Associates and more recently working as a Project Manager with Oxford Brookes University. These experiences have heightened my awareness of the value of Systems Thinking for all Project Management Professionals because managing adaptive problems have become just as crucial to success as delivering the technical configurations of projects.</p>	<p>committee membership now that I am within months of completing my studies. I am confident that my insight will contribute immensely to this non-mechanistic paradigm shift in project management thinking.</p>	<p>PhD Research Conference at Brookes, and I regularly attend other conferences including the APM Project Management, European Symposium on Research in Architecture and Urban Design (EURAU) and International Research Network on Organizing by Projects (IRNOP) conferences.</p>	
Andrew	Gray	Full	<p>Engineering background and a strong interest in the synergies between systems thinking and P3M. Application of techniques in programme management. Past member of INCOSE.</p>	<p>Unfinished business. Continuation of membership of committee since formation in 2016 and Joint Working Group prior to that.</p>	<p>Theoretical and practical knowledge of subject. Track record in publications accepted by APM and INCOSE. Experience in APM committee and volunteer work. Links to local branch (SWWE) and corporate member network.</p>	<p>Depends on work with clients. Around 2 days per month on average.</p>
Helen	Nasser	Associate	<p>I am a Project Manager with an Systems thinking outset. Working for WSP Rail</p>	<p>I strongly believe in the power of Systems Thinking in order to do things right from the beginning of</p>	<p>I bring my Civil Engineering Degree, MBA and MSc in Project Management and also my project Management Experience in</p>	<p>I have dedicated to this group an</p>

			<p>Business in the UK, managing complex and major rail projects. I joined the Joint Working Group 5 years ago when it was created and been an active member since then. I have led/motivated a group of 17 volunteers at one point to become part of the Workstream that consisted on researching successful Project Example with the application of Project Management and Systems Engineering. This has been one of the core bases of the research of the SIG and the JWG. I have also been invited to an MSC Class in UCL to talk about my experience with the JWG/SIG and WSP's application of System Thinking in Railway Projects.</p>	<p>projects. I would like to continue to develop this capability within the UK Rail Industry as part of the SIG. My aim is to continue to promote this way of working.</p>	<p>Major Projects in the UK and Overseas. I also bring current System Thinking application in Railway projects in the UK from my employer WSP.</p>	<p>average of 2 hrs a week in normal weeks and more than 5 hrs a week in peak weeks.</p>
Tony	Thornburn	Associate	<p>I have benefited from a successful career covering a broad array of appointments, environments and significant technical domains, where systems thinking has been a necessary fundamental underpinning attribute. A respected leader, acknowledged now as a</p>	<p>As a current member of the Systems Thinking SIG, and previously involved with the SEPM JWG, I am keen to continue supporting this important work.</p>	<p>By nature, and by training and education, I believe I exemplify and individual that thinks systemically. Systems Thinking underpins the Cranfield Systems Engineering in Defence Capability MSc on which I have taught for over 17 years. Now appointed a Cranfield University Visiting Fellow.</p>	<p>As present, I continue to vary my time to the group dependant on what is required from week to week. I have not</p>

			<p>Fellow of both CMI and InstLM, I aim to offer insight, objectivity, challenge and perspective to a wide cross-section of enterprises and situations. An acknowledged system thinker at my University, which was founded on a career spanning Acquisition, Procurement, Strategic Programme Leadership, Project Management and Systems Engineering, I have delivered high value business transformations. My wider profile is noted here. https://www.nonexecutivedirectors.com/tony-thornburn</p> <p>Currently adopting a systems thinking approach to transform a rare disease charity.</p>			<p>contributed as much as I would wish, but I see more clear water ahead now, and when I am asked to do something I will action it.</p>
Darren	Ward	Associate	<p>I am currently on a Systems Engineering for Defence Capability MSc with Cranfield. I have used Systems Thinking and SE techniques and tools for many years to support the delivery of infrastructure projects and more recently</p>	<p>Have the opportunity to work with other systems professionals developing systems thinking to develop APM members knowledge tools. I want to make a difference to enable other members to make a difference.</p>	<p>I am curious, collaborative and have a thirst for continuous improvement. And I have a deep and real interest in ST and SE. I have a defence and rail industry background delivering infrastructure in the UK and abroad and over the last 3 years I have been developing the rail industries forward technology programme to deliver the railway of the</p>	<p>I suspect it will be variable over the course of the year. I will have to prioritise time according to life, work</p>

			the rail industries future technologies programme.		future. I am a 3PM professional and a corporate member of the CIOB.	and MSc demands based on the importance/urgency of the SIG work.
Andrew	Wright	Fellow	Project management professional for 30+ years, applying systems thinking techniques to achieve successful solutions and outcomes. Lead author of the Requirements Management guidance produced by the SIG. Visiting Lecturer at the University of Manchester, UCL and University of Cumbria on "joined up thinking" in project management. Project leader of various complex projects requiring systems thinking to understand a viable solution.	Founder member of the SIG (and is predecessor, the Joint Working Group), currently a committee member. Want to get the message out that getting it right saves money and time. Founder member of the original SEPM Joint Working Group, and active contributor to the SIG since its formation	Committed to the success of the SIG. Remain active in its meetings and activities - working on the conference this year. Domain applications expertise and passion for communication.	1-4 hours
Baney	Young	Full	I am a Project/Programme/Portfolio management professional, with a strong track record in delivering complex, cross functional projects in highly competitive environment. Professionally, I am a passionate about supporting	Continuation of the work on the committee, which I joined last year.	As APM RPP working on embedding enriched Requirements Management processes and practices, I feel I am perfectly placed to aid with the work of this SIG.	Approximately half a day per week.

			<p>strategy through optimised portfolio, enabling full benefits realisation and driving best Project / Programme practice. My firm belief is that all three elements have to exist in balance for the projects in the portfolio to be truly successful. Findings from my MSc in Project Management thesis on “Impact of Project Managers’ leadership style on success of projects in Telecommunications” support that, and call for further research to be completed in this area</p>			
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