

MEDIA ADVISORY

Making sense of a turbulent world – Thomas Homer-Dixon to speak at Congress 2012

Homer-Dixon to discuss how societies confront and adapt to complex threats

May 30th 2012 - Waterloo— Global threats loom large in our media and consciousness-- economic, ecological, and technological upheavals are becoming constant sources of anxiety. How can we make sense of threats to our safety, and our changing global society?

Thomas Homer-Dixon will present his guideposts to understanding complexity science and its potential relevance to practical social science at the Congress for the Humanities and Social Sciences in Waterloo. Recently, Homer-Dixon's research has focused on threats to global security in the 21st century and how societies adapt to complex economic, ecological, and technological change.

Thomas Homer-Dixon holds the CIGI Chair of Global Systems at the Balsillie School of International Affairs in Waterloo, Canada. His award-winning books include *The Upside of Down: Catastrophe, Creativity, and the Renewal of Civilization* (2006), *The Ingenuity Gap* (2000), and *Environment, Scarcity, and Violence* (1999).

What? Thomas Homer-Dixon's "Big Thinking" lecture

"New tools for understanding a turbulent world: Complexity theory and the social sciences" -- 2012 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Where? John Aird Centre, Wilfrid Laurier University (Maureen Forrester Hall)

When? May 31, 2012 at 12:15 PM.

For more information, please contact:

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About the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences

Organized by the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Congress is the largest interdisciplinary conference in Canada. Described as a "conference of conferences," Congress involves nearly 70 academic associations that represent a rich spectrum of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, including literature, history, theatre, film studies, education, music, sociology, geography, social work and many others.