**Anticipation, Transdisciplinary Social Theory and Integrated Thinking**

Garry Jacobs, Chief Executive Officer, World Academy of Art & Science and World University Consortium

**Abstract**

The founding of the discipline of anticipation marks a major advance on the pathway toward integration and unification in the social sciences. For the principle of anticipation reconciles several critical dimensions of human existence. First, anticipation links and reunited the past, present and future by showing that all social determinations are governed by this triple time dimension. Our view and interpretation of the past has profound impact on our social construction of the present and expectations of the future. Similarly, our expectations of the future also influence and mold our interpretation of the past and present. The reconceptualization of modern history during the past three decades is illustrative. Second, anticipation reconciles the objective and subjective dimensions of reality. For while past determinations can be regarded and misconceived as purely physical in origin, the influence of the future necessarily includes the impact of our aspirations, beliefs, attitudes, perceptions, fears, etc. The unification of objective and subjective dimensions is essential to the evolution of the social sciences. Third, anticipation underlines both interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary factors in the social sciences. For it makes evident that our perceptions and aspirations from all fields of life influence both our perceptions and actions in every other field, as the prospects of war or peace, human rights, technological innovation and automation impact on such diverse fields as politics, economics, sociology and psychology. Further, anticipation compels us to examine the transdisciplinary forces and processes which underlie human behavior in very different fields and disciplines. Together these observations provide valuable insights for formulation of a unified theory of causality. Anticipation challenges the convention concept causality rooted in fragmented and partial, objective physical factors and forces that have acted in the past, thereby omitting the determinative impact of non-physical subjective social, psychological and occult factors and forces.