



SANTA FE INSTITUTE

July 16th, 2012

Dear [REDACTED]

“The Principles of Complexity: Life, Scale and Civilization” workshop

We would like to invite you to the first of three annual workshops in a ground breaking new area, “The Principles of Complexity: Life, Scale and Civilization” addressing fundamental questions concerning the nature of hidden regularities in complex systems across the physical, biological and social realms.

The workshop will be held at the Santa Fe Institute Monday August 6th – Wednesday August 8th, 2012. This event is generously supported through a grant from the John Templeton Foundation (JTF).

The workshop organizes around three large-scale research projects and an educational component: (1) the evolution of complexity and intelligence on earth; (2) the scaling laws that pervade complex biological and social phenomena with specific reference to urban life; (3) universal patterns in the emergence of complex societies, and (4) education/curriculum development – complexity explorer. Each of these projects seeks to answer fundamental questions in areas of research where the Santa Fe Institute has a proven record of excellence.

The meeting will involve approximately 45 participants representing a broad range of backgrounds from the mathematical and physical sciences to the social sciences and economics.

We will begin the evening of Monday August 6th with a reception and a public event consisting of a panel discussion moderated by David Krakauer (University of Wisconsin-Madison and SFI External Professor). The following two days we will be holding the workshop at the Santa Fe Institute.

The first full day, Tuesday, August 7, will consist of six presentations with time for discussion following each speaker. On Wednesday, August 8, team leaders Jerry Sabloff, Geoffrey West, David Krakauer and Ginger Richardson, with SFI Omidyar and postdoctoral fellows will introduce their major research areas. Following lunch there will be an open synthetic discussion for all workshop participants.

We hope that you can join us in August to participate in what we believe will be an exciting and intellectually productive gathering. Please let us know no later than **July 20th** if you will be able to attend. If you have any questions we request that you send all correspondence through Hilary Skolnik at SFI (hilary@santafe.edu), who is coordinating the meeting. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,
David Krakauer Ginger Richardson, Jerry Sabloff, Geoffrey West,
JTF Project Team Leaders