



**JAN W. VASBINDER**  
Director, Complexity Program  
Nanyang Technological University

## **COMPLEXITY STUDIES AT NTU**

As a first step in the establishment of the Complexity Program at NTU a Complexity Community is being formed. Members of that community are faculty and researchers who are already active in the field of complexity.

This session is meant to give an overview of some of the activities presently taking place at NTU, with some indication of areas or themes that the complexity program may focus on in the coming year. Speakers will be members of the community.

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Jan Wouter Vasbinder (1945) studied physics at the Technical University of Delft (1972). He started his professional career as a researcher in a nuclear laboratory. Until 1981 he worked in the nuclear industry in Israel and the Netherlands.

In 1981 he was appointed Attaché for Science and Technology in Washington and Ottawa. In 1985 he returned to The Netherlands, to head a small organization responsible for developing large and long term cooperative industry university research programs. Subsequently he became member of the management team of the Dutch organization responsible for executing government innovation policies.

In 1991 he became partner and then CEO of an interdisciplinary consultancy firm. Since 1994 he is an independent consultant and since 1995 partner of Prisma & Partners, a small firm dedicated to finding, strengthening, and mobilizing the innovative capacity of companies, consortia (e.g. of corporations and universities), government (related) organizations and regions.

The joy in his work comes from finding new potentially powerful combinations of knowledge, and developing programs to explore and exploit these combinations. A lot of his time is invested in helping organizations to develop

their strategies for the future. In 2003 he initiated Institute Para Limes<sup>1</sup> of which he is the president.

In his career, the common thread is "looking for new combinations and connections, building bridges and coaching". His motto is: "the value of knowledge is in its application". He is married and has four children.

---

<sup>1</sup> Nobel Laureates and scientists of equal eminence founded Institute Para Limes (IPL) in 2006 to transcend disciplinary boundaries in search of new concepts and ideas. Being run in a virtual way, IPL delivered its proof of principle in the following years.