2012 joint conference of the
American Society for Cybernetics
and the Bateson Idea Group
9-13 July 2012
Asilomar, California

BíG

an ecology
of ideas

CALL FOR PAPER ABSTRACTS

Our ideas form, grow, and thrive in relationship. Ideas inspire and transform each other and their bio-cultural medium. New ones emerge unexpectedly, some persist, some change, and some are lost, as if they were living.

The American Society for Cybernetics (ASC) and Bateson Idea Group (BIG) come together to hold a conference on the relations among ideas as seen from multiple perspectives. We come from many disciplines but have common roots including cybernetics, circularity, reflexivity, language, culture and systems. For many of us these roots are enmeshed with biology, information, pattern, design, art, aesthetics, ethics and more.

In a world rife with factionalism and disenchantment, we will engage in conversations to integrate disciplines of knowing while taking into account our histories and considering our futures. We will regard both the parts and the whole that arises from the relations between the parts — and thus becomes the context for all the parts. We are concerned with the world that arises from how we live our ideas.

THREE THEMES

- **Paradigm**: What do our current paradigms determine or enable, and what would changes to these imply? How could we guess what other things would change along with the changes we desire? How would we implement a shift in an ethical and socially acceptable manner?
- **Recursion**: Recursion (like its fellow concepts, self-reference and reflexivity) is open to many interpretations depending on who you are, and the context you are interested in. We are interested in both what is held in common between these different interpretations, and what is particular to each. We wish to explore not only the implications of acting based on how we understand these ideas, but also what happens when we proceed unaware of the differences.
- **Praxis:** Why are praxis and theory often separated; and how can they better be brought together? In what ways are the ideas of cybernetics and systems inherently concerned with practice? Does the phrase "the paradox of praxis" evokes a resonance?

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb-15-2012 Early Bird Registration opens
Apr-30-2012 Proposals for Abstracts (papers and workshops) due
May-10-2012 Early Bird Registration closes
May-10-2012 Referees respond to proposals
May-20-2012 Any Revisions to Abstracts due
May-30-2012 Abstracts published online
May-30-2012 Program details published online
July-09-2012 Conference starts

SUBMISSION

Abstracts should be about 250-300 words in length. All submitted abstracts should relate explicitly, and as central concerns, to at least two of the three themes of this conference. Following the Title of your paper, please indicate which of these three themes you are explicitly addressing.

Please submit your abstract as an email attachment to the Conference Committee at conferencesuggestions@asc-cybernetics.org

REFEREEING

Papers published in the proceedings will be refereed to the highest standards. Papers are accepted on the basis of a review of extended abstracts by the conference committee augmented by critical comments from other attendees in an open online refereeing process. At the conference, papers will be presented in an environment where extensive discussion is the norm. After the conference, papers, reflecting the benefit of all previous discussion, will be double blind reviewed. Publication will be in the in the major international peer-reviewed journal, Kybernetes.

WEBSITE

For more information visit: http://www.asc-cybernetics.org/2012