



## American Society for Cybernetics

The Wiener Gold Medal of the American Society for Cybernetics  
is awarded to

**Ranulph Glanville**

for outstanding and profound lifelong contributions to the nurturing of cybernetics.

Ranulph Glanville's work in cybernetics is exemplified by how his leadership in the "Black Box" of the American Society for Cybernetics made its inner whiteness observable to many of its members. Glanville's contributions to the field of cybernetics began with his thesis work at the Architectural Association in London in 1970 and 1971 under the supervision of Gordon Pask. Glanville significantly developed, refined and clarified Pask's Conversation Theory while developing his own Theory of Objects, which together in the form of "the black box" changed constructivist understandings of how logical arguments are used in discussion. Glanville's constructivist theory of circularly-causal relationships became a philosophical framework which informs art, design, architecture, epistemology, education and other fields.

Glanville's contributions to cybernetics include a refined specification of the Law of Requisite Variety, as well as a communication model which is grounded in conversation without coding, and in which error and misunderstanding are valued. Glanville also contributed a practice-based, self-referential research philosophy with an emphasis on human values, playfulness, delight and generosity.

Many of Glanville's numerous publications contribute directly to cybernetics, or introduce cybernetics to various other fields. His columns for the journal *Cybernetics and Human Knowing* and his other writings became the Black Boox trilogy. This trilogy represents the culmination of his work and is a key reference for scholars who study second-order cybernetics not only now, but for generations to come.

Michael Lissack  
President of the American Society for Cybernetics  
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