

ALU conference follow up

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I promised a follow up with details of the points I raised as we came towards the end of the ASC's ALU main conference in Bolton, 1 August. I will also post this on the conference web site: look to the pane on the right for a link. Here are the points.

Publication: proceedings

Please consult the website www.asc-cybernetics.org/2013 and look under the publication tab.

We will publish proceedings in the journal "Kybernetes". Details, including a schedule, will be published in September after Dai Griffiths, Philip Baron (who has agreed to join us) Magnus Ramage (editor of Kybernetes) and I have had a chance to communicate. I anticipate that publication will be in late 2014. For the moment:

- anyone who attended the conference may submit a paper. We expect that those who submitted abstracts and who presented at the conference will want to rework their papers in the light of the responses they were given.
- all papers will be double blind reviewed, according to the procedures on the web site.
- papers should relate to the conference theme, Acting, Learning, Understanding.
- we will probably ask for drafts to arrive with us around the new year, for reviewing.
- assume a word limit of 3000 words to include references. We do on occasion allow some leeway, but you should not assume this. Grossly overlength papers will be rejected.
- assume a limit of 8 black and white illustrations. Please do not pack a lot of illustrations together and call them one.

2014 conference(s)

The ASC conference will be held between 3 and 9 August, 2014, in the Washington DC area. The theme is "Living in Change". This is our 50th birthday conference, and we hope to mark it in various ways, including presentations by currently surviving ASC presidents about the ASC in their period of office. We will also invite others to contribute to this "living history".

The dates I give should be taken as indicative, for planning. They might shift a day or so one way or the other. We are, of course, also open to suggestions and ideas.

We have as a probable focus to work on together the development of a strategy for the inclusion of cybernetics, as subject matter and as a way of acting, in education across the full spectrum, including kindergarten and up to and including adult education and what the British call “the university of the third age” — education for the elderly.

We anticipate that the conference will have more formal input than our conversational conferences, though there will still be an important conversational element.

We plan on encouraging members to hold local meetings to prepare for the main conference.

I hope to make a fuller announcement in the autumn/fall, Meanwhile, please register interest at www.asc.cybernetics/2014.

Other conferences

2014 is a busy conference year. You may be interested in the following:

- European Meeting on Cybernetics and Systems Research, Vienna, Austria April 22–5.
URL

The organisers are generously exploring how best to involve the ASC.

- Norbert Wiener Memorial Conference (Norbet Wiener in the 21st Century), Boston, US 24–6 June 2014. <http://21stcenturywiener.org>

The ASC is proposing a workshop panel on Cybernetics Now.

- RC51 conference (on many themes), Yokohama, Japan, July 13–19 2014. <http://sociocybernetics.wordpress.com/2013/07/05/abstract-submission-for-yokohama-conference-is-now-open/> or <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/>
- World Multi-Conference on Systems, Cybernetics and Informatics, July 15–18, 2014, Orlando, USA. <http://www.iiis2014.org/wmsci/website/default.asp?vc=1>
- ISSS conference on Learning Across Boundaries: Exploring the Variety of Systemic Theory and Practice, US East Coast, 27 July to 1 August 2014. <http://iss.org/world/node/597>

I anticipate that there will be another deal extending the way we collaborate on and share our conferences, in 2014.

- WOSC conference on Our self-organising world: from disruption to reparation, Santiago de Chile, Chile, October 15–17 2014. <http://wosc.co/2013/06/02/wosc-2014/>

We have developed friendly relations with most of these and hope for their support of our anniversary.

The IFSR publishes details of systems conferences. I suggest contacting the secretary general, Prof Dr Gerhard Chroust, at gerhard.chroust@jku.at

Further points

As stated at the conference, we assume that all conferees are willing to act as referees. *If you are unwilling please write now to tell us.*

Below you will find a message from Phillip Guddemi, managing editor of Cybernetics and Human Knowing. Please respond directly to Phillip at pguddemi@me.com

“If the recent ASC conference in Bolton inspired you to think anew or make new connections about some matter of cybernetic interest, or if anything else has had this effect, the journal Cybernetics and Human Knowing is soliciting contributions for the ASC column. The ASC column usually comes to about 1600 words and is edited only by our editing staff, not by a lengthy peer review process. It is a wonderful opportunity for cybernetic self-expression and for the development of embryonic ideas. And we always need contributions for subsequent issues. Please send them to, Phillip Guddemi, Managing Editor, at pguddemi@well.com .”

Finally, if you are not a member of the ASC, please consider becoming one. We want your company, and your money! Actually we need them. If you think that what we offer is valuable and you want us to go on providing it and more, please support us. Visit us at www.asc-cybernetics.org and click on the membership button. While filling in the details, do consider choosing the repeat payment option. Thank you.