



Annual Conference of the American Society for Cybernetics 28 July to 3 August 2013 in Bolton, UK **Acting - Learning - Understanding** reflecting, collaborating, conversing, doing

Premise

This conference is designed around the exploration of understanding and acting as circularly conjoined. Acting and understanding will be given equal weight, with each framing the other. The processes of learning are a major means of moving between the two, and take place in an environment, often framed as formal or informal education. Discussion of these processes and context provide a means of relating practical proposals for interventions and theoretical debate.

Theme

The fundamental position of the conference is based in circular causality, which was at the heart of the concerns of the Macy Conferences where cybernetics took its contemporary form. We see the old simplification that acting is located in understanding and operates through linear causality, as providing inadequate explanation for lived experience.

Contact Email

Please direct email inquiries to secretary@asc-cybernetics.org

American Society for Cybernetics

Founded in 1964 and by now completely international, the ASC has long been particularly associated with so-called Second Order Cybernetics. Our conferences are often experimental and attempt to capture the spirit and understandings of cybernetics in how we behave. Our members come from many backgrounds, and we have a strong commitment to relating to both arts and sciences. See more at: <http://www.asc-cybernetics.org>

Venue and Co-Organizer

The conference is hosted by the Institute for Educational Cybernetics, University of Bolton, UK, whose goal is to develop better understandings of how information and communication technologies affect the organization of education at all levels.

See more at: <http://www.bolton.ac.uk/IEC>



Activity

As a collaborative venture between participants, the conference is intended to generate proposals for ways of acting and to develop understandings in the context of the environment within which the conference takes place. The challenges faced by the participants in their learning activities (and, of course, experiences), as well as by the University which is hosting the conference will provide rich opportunities to reflect on socioeconomic, technological, political, historical, designerly and educational concerns in a unique, delightful and exciting way. How does understanding shape acting? How does acting shape understanding?

Style

The conference will be a conversational conference. We will work together (collaborate) in small groups and through plenary sessions, to improve understanding and acting, explored together.

Paper Refereeing and Proceedings

Although this is a conference that values conversation between participants above all, we have made arrangements for those who need or want to submit papers. This conference is expected to generate a set of proceedings published after the conference by one of several high quality journals and publishers with which the ASC is well connected. The process of refereeing and publishing is a cumulative one that allows for continuous improvement of each paper, especially in reflecting discussions at the conference.

Important Dates

03-May-2013	Early bird registration deadline 1
28-May-2013	Open reviewing begins
31-May-2013	Extended Abstract due
14-Jun-2013	Returned with comments to authors
21-Jun-2013	Early bird registration deadline 2
28-Jun-2013	Revised Extended Abstracts due
28-Jul-2013 and 29-Jul-2013	Pre-conference
30-Jul-2013 to 01-Aug-2013	Main conference
02-Aug-2013 and 03-Aug-2013	Post-conference

More detailed information is available from the conference web site, which is in a constant state of improvement:

<http://asc-cybernetics.org/2013>