



# Listening

## Conference Theme: Listening

We live in a time that emphasizes the importance of giving people their voice. But, as Heinz von Foerster noted, the listener makes the meaning, not the speaker, so it is the act of listening that transforms a stream of sounds into that meaning. The act of listening begins to make human interaction circular and creative.

As a subject, Cybernetics informs circular or recursive systems, and listening provides a key to circularity in human systems, allowing us to respond in appropriate manners, possibly leading into new territory, generating new ideas and creating choice. This is cybernetic circularity in action.

We also use the word listening "metaphorically", beyond its origin in hearing. But whichever metaphor we choose, listening requires opening up, having an open mind, and not judging until having listened properly and emphatically, not only to what is said, but also to what "what is said" does. Such heightened sensitivity, we argue, goes to the core of the idea of "caring" for and with each other.

In our conference, we will not only discuss and think about listening. We will also practise it. We intend not just to understand (and hence to position) "metaphorical" listening, but also to learn to do it better. Through listening, the idea of participation will come alive. We will enjoy each others' company, experience what we each have to contribute and leave the conference with ideas that none of us had when we arrived.

The ASC endeavors, each year, to reach out to new communities as well as those it has already established links with. Last year we welcomed artists, designers and mathematicians, This year we hope to add those in listening practices and professions—musicians, therapists, managers, educators and others—as well as our artist, designer and mathematician friends, to enrich our meeting.

Join us in exploring listening in all its glory, 11 to 13 August 2011 in Richmond, Indiana. Join us, too, in the pre-conference (9 and 10 August) and post-conference (14 and 15 August) events.

## Schedule

ASC General Business Meeting	9-Aug a.m.
ASC annual meeting	9-Aug p.m., 10-Aug a.m.
Tutorials on Cybernetics	10-Aug p.m.
Opening reception, performance	10-Aug evening
Main conference	11-13-Aug
Conference banquet	13-Aug evening
Post-conference workshop	14-15-Aug

## Venue

The conference will be held at the Quality Inn Hotel and Conference Center in Richmond, Indiana. Accommodation will be available there, too.

## 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 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. Papers will be accepted in the first instance by blind refereeing of 400 word extended abstracts. There are 2 submission dates, giving a chance to rework abstracts. Authors of accepted abstracts will be asked to post drafts on the conference website for open refereeing by conference participants. All comments and responses will be visible to all conference attendees. This is the second level of refereeing. Paper presentation consists of listening to and including benefits from comments, encouragements and criticisms made at the conference, as well as incorporating new material found by authors as a result of their participation. After the conference, authors will be invited to rework their papers. Reworked papers will be subject to rigorous, traditional blind refereeing processes, after the conference. For the latest details and submission deadlines, please visit the conference website.