



**Pennsylvania Communication Association Pre-conference:**

***“Patterns of Connection: Gregory Bateson, American Pragmatism and European Philosophy”***

**Penn State York**

**October 8 – 9, 2015**

**Submission Deadline: July 1, 2015**

Working from Bateson's interest in “patterns which connect,” the pre-conference theme interrogates Bateson's relevance to contemporary philosophy of communication. These connections could include phenomenology, hermeneutics, semiotics, feminist theory, psychoanalysis, etc. Focus need not be exclusively on specific writings by Bateson but should address aspects of his ideas that tie into philosophy of communication. For example, though Bateson (and Jurgen Ruesch) did not explicitly build on the works of William James, C. S. Peirce or John Dewey, it could be asked whether Bateson's concepts of mind, nature, and society are outgrowths of pragmatism. Though Bateson was not, per se, a phenomenologist, hermeneut or semiotician, to what extent are his ideas compatible with these philosophical perspectives? Are there connections to be made between Bateson and Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Michel Foucault, Emmanuel Levinas, Jean Luc Nancy, Richard Rorty, Richard Bernstein, Kenneth Gergen, or others? Is the “ecology of communication” that evolved from Bateson's ideas in the early 1980s relevant to postmodernity? What are the implied ethics of Bateson's work? Are there contemporary human science or social science applications of the double-bind concept that could inform current communication inquiry? How does Bateson's work inform or provide grounds for critique in or of cultural studies? What is Bateson's philosophy of governance? Connections may be made to *any area of communication inquiry*.

**Keynote Speakers**

Dr. Klaus Krippendorff, The Gregory Bateson Professor for Cybernetics, Language, and Culture, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Vincent Colapietro, Liberal Arts Research Professor, Department of Philosophy, Pennsylvania State University.

**Special conference events:**

The conference will include a screening of Nora Bateson's film “An Ecology of Mind: A Daughter's Portrait of Gregory Bateson.”

Panel of Respondents who will address conceptions of Mind and problematics of communication.

Scholars from related disciplines are invited to submit papers, extended abstracts, and panel proposals for possible inclusion in the conference to Dr. Deborah Eicher-Catt ([dle4@psu.edu](mailto:dle4@psu.edu)) and Dr. Isaac E. Catt ([icatt309@comcast.net](mailto:icatt309@comcast.net)).

## Full Papers

Papers no longer than 25 pages in length are preferred. Extended abstracts (including Works Cited) will be considered. Submissions should include:

- A detachable title page with the title of the paper and the author's affiliation, mailing address, telephone number, email address, and institutional affiliation
- The word "student" for all graduate or undergraduate authored papers
- A one-page abstract on the second page
- A Statement of Professional Responsibility (see below) on the second page
- If the paper has multiple authors, please indicate who will be presenting at the conference

## Panel Proposals

Submissions of panel proposals should include:

- A thematic title for the panel
- Names of the chairs and respondent (if applicable)
- Names, mailing addresses, telephone number, email address, and institutional affiliations of all participants
- Titles and abstracts of no more than 250 words for each paper or presentation
- A Statement of Professional Responsibility (see below)
- A detailed rationale for the program or panel

## STATEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Please include the following Statement of Professional Responsibility under the paper or panel abstract:

"In submitting the attached paper or proposal, I/We recognize that this submission is considered a professional responsibility. I/We agree to present this panel or paper if it is accepted and programmed. I/We further recognize that all who attend and present at PCA's annual meeting or pre-conference MUST REGISTER and pay required fees."

## Audio-visual Equipment

There will be access to AV equipment at the pre-conference. Please submit special AV requests at the time of notification of acceptance to present at the pre-conference.

## REGISTRATION

All attendees must register for the pre-conference. Registration information will be posted soon on the PCA website at [www.pcasite.org](http://www.pcasite.org)

## Accommodations

A block of rooms is reserved at the historic *Yorktown Hotel* (<http://www.yorktowne.com>) in downtown York. The hotel has reserved rooms for October 8 (Thursday), October 9 (Friday), and October 10 (Saturday). The discounted rate is only \$89.00/night. This does not include local tax (9%) or the \$10 daily parking fee with in/out privileges. The cut-off date to book rooms is September 8, 2015. Please call the hotel directly (800-233-9324) to book. Be sure to mention PCA to secure the discounted rate.

## Contacts:

For more information, contact Dr. Deborah Eicher-Catt ([dle4@psu.edu](mailto:dle4@psu.edu)) and Dr. Isaac E. Catt ([icatt309@comcast.net](mailto:icatt309@comcast.net)), Pre-conference Program Organizers.