



The [International Federation for Systems Research](#)

&

[The Forum](#) on Democracy

invite you to attend

A One Day Conversation-based Systemic Co-inquiry Event

"Neither Subjective nor Objective, but Systemic"

Out of the Many, a United Voice: How Separate Systems Organizations can collaborate to Change the Institutional Landscape and Enable Governing for Transformation Systemically & Cybernetically

Why this event?

This event has arisen through the emergence of common interests between two organizations (IFSR and Forum) who have found themselves to be on common ground at a moment when the ISSS and ASC are holding their annual conferences in Washington DC. It grows out of a conversation based on common interests and concerns – that what the world needs is governance re-invention that draws on cybersystemic thought and action.

The IFSR narrative that brings it to this point is contained within the 2022, 2023 and 2024 strategic agenda series published in Systems Research & Behavioral Science.¹ In short, the challenges of the Human-induced Anthropocene were pre-empted by systems scholars in the exposition of the ‘*global problematique*’ and are now made manifest in what some systems scholars called the polycrisis. These framings alert us to our human circumstances but to date, have done little to transform our manners of being and doing, as the polycrisis is an outcome of a profound governance crisis. Widening the gaze and embracing the full capacity of the cybersystemic perspective of systems research seeks to allow IFSR members, and cybersystemic scholars more generally, to harness their understandings and praxes to bring fresh momentum to navigating the polycrisis and governing for transformation.

¹ See 2022, 2023 & 2024 Agenda Essay Series: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/sres.2827> ; <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/sres.2919> ; <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/sres.2990>

Systems, cybernetics, and systemic design require new alignments in our ‘*institutional landscape*’ and ecosystems of practice to enable future research, policy development and education to deliver the transformations our contemporary circumstances demand.

At the turn of the 21st Century Bill Clinton said, *"It's the Economy, Stupid!"* In this first quarter Century's echo chamber, we have heard *"It's Climate Change, Stupid!"* *"It's Capitalism, Stupid!"* or *"It's the Woke Left, Stupid!"* or *"It's the Far Right, Stupid!"*

No, *"It's the System, Stupid!"*

Details

When?
June 14, 2024, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM (ET) Lunch is provided. Reception, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM This event takes place on the day between the end of the ISSS Annual Meeting and the beginning of ASC Annual Meeting

Where?
Open Gov Hub https://www.opengovhub.org 1100 13th Street, NW, Suite 800 Washington, D.C. 20005 A limited number of online places are also available.

Who?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This invitation is to the Members of all IFSR Member Organizations, especially the current Board members.• It is also an invitation to all Forum Members and some guests who have keen interests and understandings in this topic.• All IFSR Member reps who receive this invitation are asked to circulate it widely within your own organizations.• Each organization may decide its own strategy of fostering participation in what is an event restricted in size.• All registrants are asked when registering to answer three short questions to provide the organizers with some background appreciation of the overall group of participants.

Registration

Registration is required as limited places are available.

No registration fees.

Priority to Members of IFSR member organizations including ISSS, ASC (check IFSR Memberships here: <http://ifsr.org>) and Forum Members.

Register via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/out-of-the-many-a-united-voice-tickets-871110975377>

Additional Background

The IFSR is the peak body of the international systems and cybernetics community working to create an enabling environment for 30+ member organizations. This initiative is a purposeful response and recasting of the [Global Problematique](#). By joining with the US based Forum for Democracy to create a day-long hybrid event on Friday 14th of June we are responding to growing awareness of the systemic failings in our governance systems in which the following elements are missing or underdeveloped.



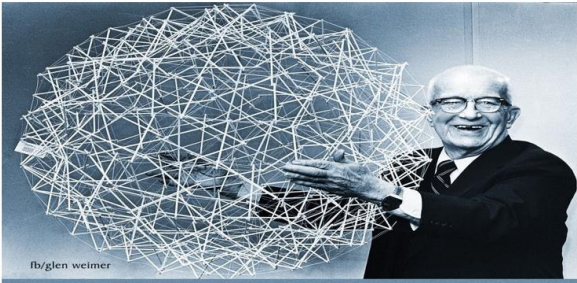
The FORUM on democracy (501(C)3), arose at a George Washington "University Seminar " where Stuart Umpleby sponsored a 20-year dialogue between practitioners from Cybernetics, Systems and Design with Federal and international agencies. In the past four years this intensified into a weekly focus with select 1) top level governmental executives who attempted to reform government and 2) those who worked with many of the founders of Cybernetics, Systems and Design. Returning to the root Greek word of Cybernetics "as a rudder or governor" we conducted a conference on "*Policy, Governance and Thinking: AS IF Democracy Matters*" in December, 2023. The focus moved from governmental reform to the necessity of seeing systemic change in the wider system of governance, identifying leverage points, and specific interventions to revitalize democracy. The FORUM on democracy in reimagining governance and government is dedicated to restarting a national conversation of, by, and for the people to reinvigorate their country's democracy. This is accomplished by creating conditions for positive change drawing on cyber-systemic thought and action.

The Importance of this Event: FORUM as a Network of Networks working with the System Organization Ecology

The FORUM sees the need for the Systems organizations to be at the decision making, policy forming, research funding, education curriculum tables influencing the way in which governments deal with complexity. If we are not at the table the power of systems thinking will be in the hands of those who do not use systems methods, customized to design of the human estate, with tragic consequences. If you are not at the table, you are NOT on the menu. From the perspective of the Forum on Democracy the image above and the slides which follow illuminate why your participation on the 14th June 2024 is important.

14 June 2024

When Whole, Ecologically Based System's Thinking Takes itself & it's Role in Society Seriously



You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.

~ R. Buckminster Fuller

Cybernetic Moment 75 Years Ago Changed our World
 Time is Now to chart the Good, the Bad & the Ugly of Systems Thinking.
 Where have We Succeeded and Failed?



GROUP PHOTO: Attendees at the 10th Macy Conference (1953)

1st row (left to right)	T.C. Schneitz, V. Gar-Höfel, Margaret Mead, Warren S. McCulloch, Jan Droogelewer-Forsyth, Yuen Ren Chao, W. Grey-Walter, Vahé E. Aramian.
2nd row (left to right)	Leonard J. Savage, Janot Freed Lynch, Gerhard von Bonin, Lawrence S. Kubie, Lawrence K. Frank, Henry Quastler, Donald G. Marquis, Heinrich Klüver, F.S.C. Northrop.
3rd row (left to right)	Peggy Kubie, Henry Brossin, Gregory Bateson, Frank Fremont-Smith, John R. Bowman, G.E. Hutchinson, Hans Lukas Teuber, Julian H. Bigelow, Claude Shannon, Walter Pitts, Heinz von Foerster.

Three Questions Navy Seal Teams Ask Themselves

- 75 years ago the Cybernetics and Systems Revolution shook institutions & technologies with a revolutionary method and different way of “thinking”
- We, the systems community, need to ask ourselves the Navy Seal 3 ?s 75 years later
What are LIMITS OF OUR THOUGHTS:
- 1. What went well? (to be repeated)
- 2. What lessons exist from what didn't go well?
- 3. How we'll modify our processes & environment going forward?



Ecosystem for Systems & Cybernetic Organizations

- 1) Map the System
- 2) Identify Barriers - Leverage Points
- 3) Design New Institutions
- 4) Road Map for Systemic Change

