

An Ecology of Mind for a Complex World

with

Nora Bateson

11/12 March 2015

"The major problems in the world are the result of the difference between how nature works and how people think."

Gregory Bateson

We feel excited and fortunate to be inviting you to join us for this rare opportunity to spend two days learning with the wonderful Nora Bateson. Nora is the daughter of Gregory Bateson, one of the most influential thinkers of the 20th Century and is a leading thinker on complex systems in her own right.

The connectivity and complexity of the world in which we live, and work, is increasing. Wherever we turn we are facing challenges that are not lending themselves easily to answers and solutions.

We can all see and experience this, in healthcare, business, wealth distribution, education, environment, social justice and personal wellbeing.

What is our way forward? How do we help ourselves, our clients, our organisations and our world to more effectively address these pressures and challenges?

One key is to move away from our historical reliance on linear thinking and a seemingly simplistic hope for solution, to develop our capacity for working and being with complexity. This in truth is an essential shift for our times.

Nora will guide us to take a different look at how to approach those seemingly intractable problems that we face personally and as a society. She will take us on a journey exploring the art and science of complexity, asking such questions as:



"Zoom in – zoom-out. Look closely, from a distance, see the details, feel the pattern. The globe we walk on is not inert. It is intelligent. It is an ecology of ideas in process...with us, through us, in us."

Nora Bateson

How can a better understanding of the dynamics of complex systems inform our capacity to respond to the world we live in?

How are we going to make the shifts we need to make, to embrace the inter-relationships of systems?

Nora will inspire us to see our lives within a larger system - glistening with symmetry, play, and metaphor. An invitation to ask the kinds of questions that, as she says, could help thread the world back together from the inside.

Comments about Nora

Brilliant .

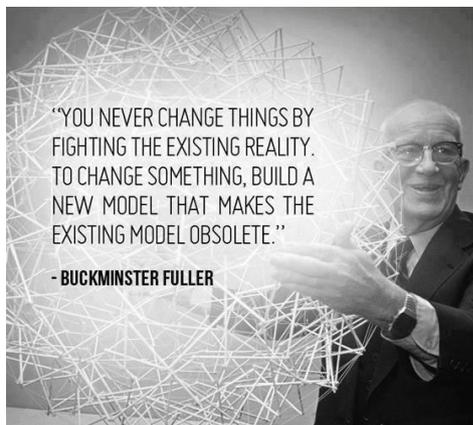
Awesome! Really delightful and inspiring. Exceptional, extraordinary, excellent, fantastic. Important message re systems being alive; relationships and me in the middle.

Good to go to the source.

I liked the stories, especially personal ones.

Wonderful on so many levels.

Thought provoking and challenging..... about keeping relationship sacred.... encouraging (us) to look under for connections/impact.



Nora's father, Gregory Bateson, explored the interrelationships of the complex systems in which we live. His way of thinking reveals practical approaches to the enormous challenges confronting the human race and the natural world.

His theories, such as 'the double bind' and 'the pattern which connects', significantly influenced NLP and continue to impact the fields of anthropology, information science, cybernetics, urban planning, biology, and ecology; challenging people to think in new ways.

For many of us Gregory Bateson's ideas can be difficult to apprehend directly. However, Nora offers an accessibility that can help all of us draw on this rich work to address our challenging problems and the limiting edges of the metaphors and paradigms by which we live. She has a deep, one might say, embodied understanding of Gregory's work.

Our explorations will include the relationship between three phases of change.

The first phase is the condition of stuck-ness (personal, economic, global, political, and ecological) in which there appears to be no means of making adjustments.

The second, is the subsequent chaos or entropy.

The third is the release through improvisation as a ladder to another level of understanding of our contextual engagement.

We will approach 'double bind' as a depiction of how polarities that have stabilized at one level create destabilization at others, (trust/fear, economy/ecology, left/right politics).

We will look to the patterns in the natural world for models on how to utilize entropy which is rich with evolutionary possibility toward improvisation (using models of jazz, acting, and biological fecundity).

Ecology prefers diversity, and an ecology of ideas prefers multiple perspectives in the process of mutual learning. Instead of focusing on how to "fix" the problem, we will ask, "how do we destabilize the toxic patterns and find new approaches?"

Nora Bateson

Nora is a filmmaker, lecturer, writer, as well as director & producer of the award-winning documentary film, *An Ecology of Mind*, a portrait of her father Gregory Bateson's way of thinking.

Nora describes herself as an "interdisciplinary interloper" she travels between conversations in different fields and with different audiences bringing multiple perspectives into view to reveal larger patterns.

She teaches internationally, leading conversations and seminars with international change-makers, ecologists, anthropologists, psychologists and designers. Currently she is developing her next film and writing a book about the practical application of systems thinking and complexity theory in everyday life.

Currently she is developing her next film and writing a book about the practical application of systems thinking and complexity theory in everyday life, entitled, "Small Arcs of Larger Circles".

Nora is the president of the International Bateson Institute, (IBI), in Stockholm Sweden. The IBI brings together the sciences, arts and vocational wisdoms, to projects from around the world, that require interdisciplinary research reaching into and beyond the academic frame.

Fee

Early Bird (Payment by 11 February 2015)

£375+VAT

Standard Fee (Payment after 11 February 2015)

£425+VAT

We will be arranging an optional group dinner for the middle evening at a cost of £25+VAT. When booking let us know if you would like to join us.

Venue

Wiltshire area -tba

Booking

There are a limited number of places available on this workshop. To book please email or call us with your address and other contact details:

Email: info@thebeyondpartnership.co.uk

Tel: 01380 859106

See also: www.thebeyondpartnership.co.uk