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## Radiant Circles—Cybernetic Musings on Resonant Forms

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Relating Systems Thinking and Design  
2022 Symposium  
University of Brighton, Brighton, UK,  
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## **Radiant Circles—Cybernetic Musings on Resonant Forms**

### **Virtual studio**

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Through resonance, works of art and design are centring. In openness to expansion, they grant agency. They create closure and consummation but never stasis. They are circular.

This session explores how Gordon Pask's 'conversation' as aesthetic experience initiates ontogenetic resilience via processes that devalue established hierarchies of oppression. In the process, new ecological values are instigated and cultivated.

**KEYWORDS:** pandemics, wicked challenges, second-order cybernetics, systemic change, ontological security, conversation, ontogenetic resilience, recursive feedback.

**RSD TOPIC(S):** Methods & Methodology, Socioecological Design, Sociotechnical Systems

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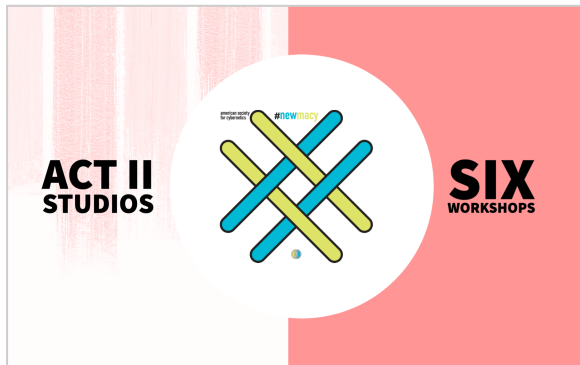
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cyberneticforests.com>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.litra-design.com>

## Description

In the Radiant Circles workshop, we explore how Gordon Pask's *conversation* (Pask, 1975; Pask, 1976) as aesthetic experience initiates ontogenetic resilience via processes that devalue established hierarchies of oppression and how, in the process, new ecological values are instigated and cultivated. Via an excursion to the Chinese classical gardens and an installation that involves mushrooms making electronic music, we introduced what could be called technologies for floating (Westermann, 2020; Westermann, 2022b; Bockowski & Salvaggio, 2022; Salvaggio et al., 2022). Becoming comfortable with floating is what every embedded observer/agent needs to learn. It is essential for conversation in the Paskian sense. How could we conceive of technologies so they assist us with learning to float? As discussed in the workshop, the Chinese classical gardens and the mushroom installation perform as 'radiant circles.' Expanding, so you may seek the yet-unknown, they nevertheless provide orientation. In their expansion, they re-confirm their centre. This process is the basis for floating. Its dynamics are circular and guide us in a cybernetic approach to ontogenetic resilience (Salvaggio, 2022; Westermann, 2022a).

The workshop encourages participants to develop ideas for the design of 'technologies for floating' that are inherently circular and foster a sense of openness to the permutations of the systems we are embedded in.



## #NewMacy ACT II, Studios

### Redefining Stability

At RSD11, six #NewMacy Studios created opportunities to engage with interdisciplinary approaches to systemic design through conversations for action

### Contributors

Pille Bunnell, Carlos Castellanos, Damian Chapman, Kate Doyle, Xiao Zoe Fang, Tim Gasperak, Mikal Giancola, Michael Lieber, TJ McLeish, Paul Pangaro, Eve Pinsker, Larry Richards, Eryk Salvaggio, Fred Steier, Mark Sullivan, Claudia Westermann, and Daniel Wolk

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