**Norbert Wiener in the 21st Century**  
A celebration of his life and work on the 50th anniversary of his death  
**Boston March 2014**

Some books of the past 15 years that focus on Norbert Wiener’s work

- **From Newspeak to Cyberspeak: A history of Soviet cybernetics** (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2002, S. Gerovitch). Given the parallel between Wiener and Kolmogorov’s mathematical work, it is interesting to see that cybernetics was entwined with the opening up of Soviet science from the mid-1950s.
- See also the list of biographies in the March 2012 newsletter, most recently **Dark Hero of the Information Age: In Search of Norbert Wiener, the Father of Cybernetics** (New York: Basic Books, 2006, F. Conway & J. Siegelman)

**NW in the news:** Recent examples (no content endorsement):

- **Peripheral visionaries who can inspire your marketing strategy**, Richard Madden, 3 May 2012 [http://www.marketingweek.co.uk/opinion/peripheral-visionaries-who-can-inspire-your-marketing-strategy/4001465.article](http://www.marketingweek.co.uk/opinion/peripheral-visionaries-who-can-inspire-your-marketing-strategy/4001465.article)
- ‘The Kuramoto Model (1000 Fireflies)’ To Coordinate Citywide Synchronized LED Light Network Via Bicycle, Priscilla Frank, 21 May 2012 [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/21/1000-fireflies_n_1532946.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/21/1000-fireflies_n_1532946.html)

Volunteering opportunities (this list will be updated each month)

- **Conference theme leads:** We are looking for volunteers with good subject matter knowledge to work on conference themes related to NW’s work: mathematics, ethics, biosciences, cybernetics, education (others welcome).
- **Conference logistics:** Volunteers with conference planning experience.

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**Who was Dr Norbert Wiener?**

During his life Dr Norbert Wiener influenced mathematics, philosophy, science, technology, ethics, biology, prosthetics, education, manufacturing and other fields. Cyberspace is named after his multidisciplinary approach, "cybernetics". He was an early practitioner of diversity and social inclusion, and an advocate of social responsibility in the development of technology. This conference will look at his ideas and the influence they have today.

It is part of a renewed interest in Dr Wiener’s work, an interest that is being reflected in research, writing and practice, and in both old and new media.

Learn more and get involved: In the coming months we are preparing academic, professional and organizational committees for the conference, alongside project teams in particular areas to ensure the conference reflects the range of activities and influences of Dr Wiener.

**Conference supporters include**

- Dr Amar Bose, CEO, Bose, former student and colleague of Dr Wiener
- Dr Vint Cerf, VP and Chief Internet Evangelist, Google
- Dr Robert Vallée, chair World Organization of Systems and Cybernetics
- Dr Mary Catherine Bateson, writer and cultural anthropologist
- Vernor Vinge, mathematician and multi-award winning science fiction writer
- Dr Richard Stallman, President, Free Software Foundation
- Dr Rafael Capurro, chair, International Centre for Information Ethics
- Flo Conway and Jim Siegelman, authors, *Dark Hero of the Information Age: In Search of Norbert Wiener, the Father of Cybernetics*

This is one of a series of conference newsletters. To be added to the mailing list e-mail information@21stcenturywiener.org.

[http://www.21stcenturywiener.org](http://www.21stcenturywiener.org)

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