



A Daughter's Portrait of Gregory Bateson

# *An Ecology Of Mind*

REMEMBER THE FUTURE

*a film by nora bateson*

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

*Gregory Bateson*

60 min. ~ 2010 ~ USA ~ Not Rated

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*AN ECOLOGY OF MIND*

A daughter's portrait of Gregory Bateson

*BRIEF SYNOPSIS*

An Ecology of Mind is a film portrait of Gregory Bateson, celebrated anthropologist, philosopher, author, naturalist, systems theorist, and filmmaker, produced and directed by his daughter, Nora Bateson.

*SYNOPSIS*

An Ecology of Mind is a film portrait of Gregory Bateson, celebrated anthropologist, philosopher, author, naturalist, systems theorist, and filmmaker, produced and directed by his daughter, Nora Bateson.

The film includes footage from Bateson's own films shot in the 1930s in Bali (with Margaret Mead) and New Guinea, along with photographs, filmed lectures, and interviews. His youngest child, Nora, depicts him as a man who studied the interrelationships of the complex systems in which we live with a depth motivated by scientific rigor and caring integrity.

Nora Bateson's rediscovery of his work documents the vast – and continuing – influence Bateson's thinking has had on the work of an amazingly wide range of disciplines. Through contemporary interviews, along with his own words, Bateson's way of thinking reveals practical approaches to the enormous challenges confronting the human race and the natural world.

Gregory Bateson's theories, such as "the double bind" and "the pattern which connects", continue to impact the fields of anthropology, psychiatry, information science, cybernetics, urban planning, biology, and ecology, challenging people to think in new ways.

Until now, his work has been largely inaccessible to most of us. Through this film, Nora Bateson sets out to show that his ideas are not just fodder for academic theory, but can help instruct a way of life. She presents his thinking using a richly personal perspective, focusing on the stories Bateson used to present his ideas and how the beauty of life itself provided the framework of his life's pursuits.

This film hopes to inspire its audience to see our lives within a larger system - glistening with symmetry, play, and metaphor. An invitation to ask the kinds of questions that could help thread the world back together from the inside.

*DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY*

Nora Bateson is a media producer and educator. Her work includes documentaries, multimedia productions, magazine columns, and developing curriculum for elementary and high school students. Central to all her pursuits is the idea of utilizing media and storytelling to encourage cultural understanding, social justice, and environmental awareness.

Ms. Bateson currently lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, where she is developing a curriculum to accompany the film (centering on epistemology and systems thinking), as well as compiling a book of her father's unpublished works. These projects, along with public speaking engagements, have been part of a renewed interest in Gregory's work, which has until now been largely inaccessible to those outside the academic community. She travels internationally giving lectures and workshops on her father's work, and recently published three pieces in *Kybernetes*, a cybernetics and systems journal.

Ms. Bateson has a steadfast dedication to the possibilities of human evolution, starting with encouraging young children to see the interrelatedness of the natural world with that of the "human-made" world using all media. She developed curricula for several schools in Northern California focused on the formation of teenage identity. Her curriculum, *Human Relations*, for 7th-12th grade students, integrates self-discovery, relationships, social justice, mythology, environmentalism, and sex education through accountability, interconnectedness, and personal evolution. One principal wrote, "Nora's Human Relations course gave our students an opening to an unshakable sense of belonging in a profound and sacred world. Not only was this one of the most important courses they will ever take, but they also loved it..."

Her degrees are in Southeast Asian Studies and filmmaking, bringing a cross-cultural perspective to her filmic voice. Her other work includes research and development for a documentary about legendary jazz musician Dave Brubeck; creative direction of the acclaimed CD-ROM *4 Paws of Crab* (a narrative Thai cookbook), about which Mark Potts of the *Washington Post* wrote, "One of the best looking new products at Mac World... an example of how good CD-ROM design can create a new medium that's hard to categorize in traditional terms". Ms. Bateson also developed a series of storytelling videos, entitled *Stories Across Generations*; and a series of columns for *Seventeen Magazine*.

## **CREDITS**

### **Director & Executive Producer:**

Nora Bateson

### **Co-Producer & Editor:**

David Sieburg

### **Scriptwriter & Narrator:**

Nora Bateson

### **Production Studio:**

The Impact Media Group

### **Artwork & Animations:**

Carl Prescott

### **Motion Graphics:**

Mitch Temkin

David Sieburg

### **Online Editor:**

Donald Eldridge

### **Associate Producer:**

Matt Borer

### **Cinematographers:**

Eric Thiermann

Eric Goldstein

Nora Bateson

Kai de Fontenay

Gregory Bateson

Sarah McCleod

David Sieburg

### **Assistant Camera:**

Trevor Brubeck

Sahra Brubeck

Nina Mullen

Romilly Starr Grauer

Julia Angus

### **Photographers:**

Barry Schwartz

Gregory Bateson

Nora Bateson

Stewart Brand

Sahra Brubeck

Savannah Goldstein

Margaret Mead

David Sieburg

Horst Mayer

**Sound Engineers:**

Anders Steele  
Magic Sound Studios  
Riverside Recording Studios  
Justin Wong  
Rick Kilbourn

**Interviewees:**

Ralph Abraham  
Lois Bateson  
Mary Catherine Bateson  
Stewart Brand  
Jerry Brown  
Fritjof Capra  
Terry Deacon  
Tim Keanini  
William Thompson

**Archival Footage:**

Kai de Fontenay  
Milton Berger  
The Naropa Institute

Footage of Gregory Bateson directed  
in 1976 and 1977 by Robert Snyder  
© Masters & Masterworks Productions, Inc.  
[www.mastersmasterworks.com](http://www.mastersmasterworks.com)

**Archival Restoration:**

Monaco Labs  
Video Arts

**Music:**

“An Ecology of Mind”  
Original music composed and performed by:  
Dan Brubeck, Miles Black, Jack Duncan,  
Rick Kilbourn, and Nora Bateson

Aqualactica:  
“Fractal Nativo”  
“El Anillo del Tiempo”  
“Canones”

Parry Music Library:  
“Gamelan Theme No.1”

**Research and Development:**

Nora Bateson  
Nina Mullen  
Megan MacIver  
Indiana Vatakiotis-Bateson  
Malia Vatakiotis-Bateson

**Content Consultants:**

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John Bateson  
Lois Bateson  
Daniel Brubeck  
Mark Engel  
Phillip Guddemi  
Tim Keanini  
The Lindisfarne Fellows  
Santa Cruz Special Collections  
Bateson Idea Group  
Bateson Archive Group  
Alfonso Montuori  
Wade Graham  
Steven Nachmanovich

**Transcriptions:**

Kathy Jackson

**Special Thanks:**

Mary Lou Addor, Charlie Andison, Jose Barcelona,  
Lois Bateson, Gary Bloom, Rachel Boughton,  
John Brockman, Daniel Brubeck, Dave & Iola Brubeck,  
D Lynn Bush, Hans Butenschon, Dani Capri,  
Shauna Cepela, Center for Creative Inquiry, Jim Cochran,  
Bateson Idea Group, Mark Engel, Esalen Institute,  
Larry Farb, Gordon Feller & The Urban Age Institute,  
Lorenzo Fortunati, Toni Garret, Bryan Gates,  
Molly & David Governor, Stan & Christina Grof,  
Jan Hearthstone, Barry & Cyd Heisler,  
Al Huong, Institute for Intercultural Studies,  
Jeanie Iams, Sofia Georgiadou, Peggy Goodale,  
Carol Jaffe, Richard & Rose Jeweler, Sean Kearney,  
Pauline Kirby, Dong Ku Kim, Rebecca King,  
Timothy Kockanski, Howard Kornfeld, Doug Kramer,  
Stephen Schoen, Romilly Starr Grauer,  
James & Sharon Krause, Nina & Jo Lambert,  
Jonathan Larson, David Leventhal, Allison & Jeff Lux,  
Jason Magna, Seth Miller, Tom Munnecke,  
Michael Murphy, Dulce Murphy, Sybil Meyer,  
Justin Nolan, Pelican Point Inn, Barbara Pesavento,  
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Anton Stellamans, Leesley Stoller, Giles Taylor,  
Mahavi Tembe, Skip Thomas, Jeremy Trombley,  
San Francisco Zen Center & Tassajara, David Walden,  
Mark Watts, Carol Wilder, Aleksandra Wolska

Thank you to all of the countless people  
who made this project possible.

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