



WARWICK

GLOBAL RESEARCH PRIORITIES
CYBER SECURITY

The Human Story of Cybernetics

A short course

By

Colin Williams



About:

Professor Colin Williams

As both a businessman and as an academic, Professor Williams is a leading figure in the international cyber security community with twenty years of experience in enterprise IT, Information Assurance and cyber security.

As a director of SBL, he develops and leads the business development strategy of a wholly UK owned and controlled market leading provider of vendor independent cyber security solutions to central government, blue light services and the wider public sector.

Professor Williams was a member of the founding cohort of CLAS consultants. He has been involved in initiating and delivering some of the largest software volume licence public sector procurement projects in the world.

As an academic, he is developing a body of work around the human, intellectual, cultural, societal and historical context of computing which he is delivering across a series of lectures, seminars and papers.

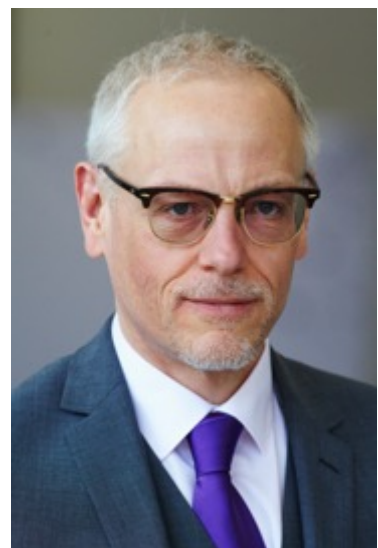
Professor Williams consults and speaks on cyber, cyber security and strategic enterprise IT procurement in the UK and internationally.

He is editor in chief of “CyberTalk”, a new journal for the promotion and development of fresh and interdisciplinary thinking about cyber and the human relationships with computers.



@CyberTalkUK

www.softbox.co.uk/cybertalk





About:

The Course: CONTEXT

We are inhabitants of the Cyber domain. Citizens of Cyberspace. Actors in the Information Age.

Soon, we will share the realms of our existence with Others. Machines; robots that move and act autonomously amongst us, with us, and upon us.

Some will look like us, others will not. Some will teach and heal us. Some will kill and imprison us.

Soon, we will see humans, and humanity, reinvented as Cyborg.

Soon, we will birth the dream, whispered by J. B. S. Haldane in 1923. And, by the conquest of evolution through science and technology we will create a new species of life: Homo Sapiens Cyber; Humanity V2.0.

We marvel in bewildered awe at the unfathomable complexity of our Cyber creation. Our attempts at comprehension repeatedly confounded by untraceable and indeterminate vortices of non-linear cause and effect.

We tremble at the burgeoning realisation of our existential dependence upon vast interconnected networks of machines and systems; creations wrought by our own hands but yet effortlessly surpassing our understanding.

We tell ourselves stories of the transformations and of the dark terrors to come.

The Singularity is nigh! The robots will rise! The AI will enslave us! The machine will fail! We are all doomed! Certitude and civilisation alike crumbling to chaos around us.

Continued...

To register your interest, please contact cyber.grp@warwick.ac.uk



About:

The Course: CONTEXT

Entropy is at the gates! Our best hope? The puny human bred as living food for its greatest creation; organic batteries for the Matrix. At least then we will have the consolation of the consensually subjective steak.

Cyber has become the definitional and the transformative context for the humans and the humanity of the twenty first century.

Where, and when, and how, did this chapter of the human story start?

What are the relationships in history and in contemporary actuality between Cyber and Cybernetics?

What is Cybernetics? How did the narratives of Cybernetics and Cyber coalesce?

From what yarns have the fabrics of our discourses been woven?

When, and how, and why did Cybernetics contract and reduce to Cyber?

Did all of this arise as a serendipitous consequence of a haphazard cascade of happenstance, or is there a teleology of Cyber and Cybernetics at play?

If so, from whence did the purpose arise? What then is the *telos* toward which we are bidden?

Our fate at the hands of our greatest creation is far from being the inevitable consequence of our hubris or the ineluctable outcome of an irresistible technological determinism. Our fate will be determined by our choices and by our actions. The purpose of this course therefore is to make a contribution to the improvement of the quality of our thoughts and deeds in relation to Cyber.

To register your interest, please contact cyber.grp@warwick.ac.uk



About:

The Course: **OUTLINE**

What is this course?

The Human Story of Cybernetics ...

... is a 9 lecture course on the cultural and intellectual history of cybernetics delivered by Colin Williams. Colin is an Honorary Fellow of the University of Warwick at the Cyber Security Centre within WMG.

Why attend?

This course presents an opportunity to develop a fresh perspective on the origins and nature of the phenomenon we have come to know as Cyber through an exploration of its hitherto obscured and ignored history.

When and where?

Commencing on the 13th of October 2016, the course will run regularly on Thursday each week during the 2016/2017 winter term in the IDL Auditorium/Lecture Room IMC0004. All sessions will start at 16:00. You will find a schedule overleaf.

To register your interest, please contact cyber.grp@warwick.ac.uk



About:

The Course: WHEN & WHERE?

Term Week	Date (Thursday)	Time	Location	Topic
2	13/10/16	16:00 – 17:00	IDL Auditorium	When Minds Explode
3	20/10/16	16:00 – 17:00	Lecture Room IMC004	Cauldrons of Fire and Crucibles of Ice
4	27/10/16	16:00 – 17:00	IDL Auditorium	The Intergalactic Computer Network Meets the Memex ... and Turing's Brain
5	03/11/16	16:00 – 17:00	IDL Auditorium	It Lives! Fear, Flesh, Freud ... and Frankenstein
6	10/11/16	16:00 – 17:00	IDL Auditorium	Meat the Machine
7	17/11/16	16:00 – 17:00	IDL Auditorium	"This is the voice of world control"
8	24/11/16	16:00 – 17:00	IDL Auditorium	"We are such stuff ..."
9	01/12/16	16:00 – 17:00	Lecture Room IMC004	Darwin's Children
10	08/12/16	16:00 – 17:00	TBC	From Cybersyn, to Cyber Sin, to Cyber Cities ... and Beyond

To register your interest, please contact cyber.grp@warwick.ac.uk



Episode 1

When minds explode: The birth and early childhood of Cybernetics

This week focuses on the intellectual history of the initialisation and early development of Cybernetics.

Date: 13/10/2016, 16:00-17:00

Location: IDL Auditorium

Episode 2

Cauldrons of Fire and Crucibles of Ice: the historical context to the birth and early childhood of cybernetics

This week focuses on cybernetics as a product, and a tool, of wars: hot and cold.

Date: 20/10/2016, 16:00-17:00

Location: Lecture Room IMC004

To register your interest, please contact cyber.grp@warwick.ac.uk



Episode 3

The Intergalactic Computer Network Meets the Memex... and Turing's Brain: the creation of the central nervous system for cybernetics

This week focuses on the early development of computers and computing set in its intellectual and historical context.

Date: 27/10/2016, 16:00-17:00

Location: IDL Auditorium

Episode 4

It Lives! Fear, Flesh, Freud ... and Frankenstein: Manifestations of the Frankenstein Complex in fiction and fact

Human reactions to computers and robots viewed through the lens of a received discourse moulded by Abrahamic monotheisms.

Date: 03/11/2016, 16:00-17:00

Location: IDL Auditorium

To register your interest, please contact cyber.grp@warwick.ac.uk



Episode 5

Meat the Machine: cyborg and bionics

This week focuses on the metaphorical, and literal, intermingling of the biological and the Cybernetic elements of the system.

Date: 10/11/2016, 16:00-17:00

Location: IDL Auditorium

Episode 6

**“This is the voice of world control”: the singularity is nigh! The robots will rise!
To your knees, puny humans!**

This week focuses on autonomous robots, self-adaptive non-human intelligences, sapient and sentient machines. Why the non-human other as killer and destroyer?

Date: 17/11/2016, 16:00-17:00

Location: IDL Auditorium

To register your interest, please contact cyber.grp@warwick.ac.uk



Episode 7

“We are such stuff...”: the narratives of robots, cybernetics and of cyber – facts or fictions?

This week focuses on the reciprocally transformative relationships between the stories that humans tell themselves and the actualities in the world they create.

Date: 24/11/2016, 16:00-17:00

Location: IDL Auditorium

Episode 8

Darwin’s Children: transhumanism, cybernetics and the human conquest of evolution

In 1957, Julian Huxley foresaw a time when through science the “human species can, if it wishes, transcend itself – not just sporadically, an individual here in one way, an individual there in another way, but in its entirety as a humanity”. Cybernetics has made a prediction of a prophesy.

Date: 01/12/2016, 16:00-17:00

Location: Lecture Room IMC004

To register your interest, please contact cyber.grp@warwick.ac.uk



Episode 9

From Cybersyn, to Cyber Sin, to Cyber Cities... and Beyond: cybernetics, information, anthropology and society

The machines of the Machine Age augmented human muscle. The machines of the Information Age augment the human mind. Mind and information are interdependent. Humanity depends on society. Society and information are interdependent. Cyber and Cybernetics are about information within complex, non-linear, self-adaptive and self-regulating systems in which humans and machines have parity of functional significance. Societies are systems. For as long as humans exist there will be history. History is about change. Everything is contingent, and everything is ephemeral; it's simply a matter of the scale applied to the time series.

Date: 08/12/2016, 16:00-17:00

Location: TBC

To register your interest, please contact cyber.grp@warwick.ac.uk



WARWICK

GLOBAL RESEARCH PRIORITIES
CYBER SECURITY



WARWICK

GLOBAL RESEARCH PRIORITIES
CYBER SECURITY