



# GASTVORTRAG

**Prof. Gerhard Fischer**  
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***Meta-Design and Social Creativity.  
Frameworks for Understanding and Fostering  
Cultures of Participation***

Montag, 20.07.2009, 16.30-18.00 Uhr  
im **Center for Advanced Studies**, Seestraße 13, München

**Abstract:**

The shift from *consumer cultures* grounded in an industrialized information economy (specialized in producing finished goods to be consumed passively) to *cultures of participation* in a *networked information economy* (in which all people are provided with the means to participate actively in personally meaningful problems) represents unique and fundamental opportunities and challenges for research in human-centered computing. Our research in the Center for LifeLong Learning & Design (L3D) explores theoretical foundations and designs and assesses socio-technical environments for this transformation. We have explored several major frameworks over the last decade including:

- *meta-design*, focused on “design for designers”, and aimed at defining and creating social and technical infrastructures in which new forms of collaborative design can take place by allowing users to become co-designers; and
- *social creativity*, focused on transcending the individual human mind by exploiting transdisciplinary collaboration and diversity.

The presentation will illustrate these objectives and frameworks with specific examples and articulate their relevance for understanding and fostering cultures of participation

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Gerhard Fischer is a Professor of Computer Science, a Fellow of the Institute of Cognitive Science, and the Director of the Center for Lifelong Learning and Design (L3D) at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He is a member of the Computer Human Interaction (CHI) Academy. His research is focused on: (1) learning, working, and collaborating with new media; (2) human-computer interaction; (3) cognitive science; (4) assistive technologies; and (5) transdisciplinary collaboration and education.