



# STEVEN FELD

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## Metalogue: What is a Bell?

Saturday, April 1 at 4:00 pm | Erlicher Room (3100 North Quad)

Keynote of Resonance & Remembrance: An Interdisciplinary Bell Studies Symposium

Gregory Bateson's 1972 essay collection *Steps to an Ecology of Mind* begins with a series of "metalogues," thought experiments mapping unruly subjects in science and epistemology in the form of conversations with his daughter, Mary Catherine Bateson. These father-daughter metalogues are exercises in how subjects and objects fuse through the dialectical play of conversational structure. At their best, they exemplify how evolutionary complexities are no less emergent processes than the dialogical attempts to reveal them. Inspired by Bateson's playful excursions into knowledge production, my foray into the material and affective "what-ness" of bells—their relational ontologies—starts with a series of listening conversations with my daughter, Clochanda, and two of her good friends, Mikhail Bakhtin and Michel Foucault. Together we visit with goats and shepherds, sheep and carnivals, campanile and churches, blacksmiths and carillonners, and conclude with a live performance encounter featuring oud virtuoso **Rahim AlHaj** of Baghdad, Iraq, and the World Peace Bell of Newport, Kentucky.