A Fairy Tale for Boys and Men

A presentation by George A. Bekey, Cal Poly Research Scholar in Residence

Tuesday, April 7, 4:00pm
Cal Poly Kennedy Library, Bldg. 35, Room 202A

Traditional fairy tales, such as those collected by the Grimm brothers in villages throughout Europe in the early 19th century, were “teaching stories.” They were told around the campfire by wise old men to children, to help them cope with the difficulties of growing up to adulthood. Many of these stories are hundreds or thousands of years old. In this seminar you will hear an old story for boys (and men) about a wild man known as “Iron John.” Hopefully, the audience will help the speaker interpret the story.

George A. Bekey is Professor Emeritus of Computer Science at the University of Southern California (USC) and a Research Scholar in Residence at Cal Poly. He has worked in robotics for about 30 years. He is the founder of the Robotics Research Laboratory at USC, author or co-author of over 250 published technical papers in robotics and several books, including Autonomous Robots (MIT Press, 2005). Jointly with colleagues in the Philosophy Department at Cal Poly, he edited and published a book entitled Robot Ethics, (MIT Press, 2012). In recent years he has become interested in myths and fairy tales and their psychological significance. He resides in Arroyo Grande with his wife, Shirley, and their dog, Amber.