

# LETTER

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The newsletter of NASS normally appears twice a year (Spring and Autumn).

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## Report from NASS X (Kaunas)

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*By Lauri Linask*

The 10th conference of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies (NASS), „Nordic-Baltic links, networks and domains in semiotics and beyond“, was held in Kaunas, Lithuania, in conjunction with the 13th World Congress of Semiotics

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The 10th conference of NASS took place in Kaunas, Lithuania, June 26-30th, 2017 in conjunction with the 13th World Congress of Semiotics, an International Association for Semiotic Studies' (IASS-AIS) event that is the main meeting place for the semiotics' community in the world. The World Congress, and thus, NASS meeting as well, was organised and hosted by the International Semiotics Institute (ISI) at Kaunas University of Technology.

A major semiotic gathering of some 500 participant scholars from 50 countries, and from all continents (set aside Antarctica), The World Congress provided a broad and truly international collaborative synergy to the biannual NASS meeting, as was highly expected by the organisers. Invited keynote lectures were given by esteemed professors Basarab Nicolescu and Birute Mary Galdikas. As a country, Lithuania had previously joined NASS at its 9<sup>th</sup> meeting in Tartu, Estonia, and thus Kaunas University of Technology and ISI proved to be particularly suitable for hosting this year's conference.

During the 10<sup>th</sup> conference of NASS, 21 presentations were held in the course of four days in the designated special session of the World Congress, and the president of the NASS, Luis Emilio Bruni represented the organisation at the plenary roundtable, “The State of the Art of Semiotics”, together with Paul Cobley, president of IASS-AIS, Jose Enrique Finol, Vice-president of IASS-AIS, and Dario Martinelly, Director of ISI and the scientific director of this IASS-AIS World Congress.



*Luis Emilio Bruni (NASS President 2011–2017).*

The title of the 13th World Congress of Semiotics was "Cross-Inter-Multi-Trans-", set to cover such topics as "relations", "interactions", "contaminations" in semiotic theories as well as social and biological processes.

NASS X overlapped thematically with the 13th World Congress of Semiotics, focussing specially on the links, networks, and relations within the Nordic-Baltic semiotic communities. An emphasis was placed on semiotic clusters in the region and how they deal with the complexity of such overlapping issues. It was NASS's conviction that the seminal multifarious semiotic ideas that have originated in our region have much to offer to the debate on current social changes, technological innovations, and the relations between ecological, cognitive and techno-cultural systems.



*From one of the NASS X sessions.*

The program was run by NASS committee consisting of Aleksei Semenenko, Dario Martinelli, Inesa Sahakyan, Luis Emilio Bruni, Sara Lenninger and Morten Tønnessen. Meanwhile, the scientific committee consisted of Aleksei Semenenko, Inesa Sahakyan, Luis Emilio Bruni, Sara Lenninger and Morten Tønnessen.

Graduate student grants were awarded to support financially the participation of the NASS X to Charanjeet Singh Batra, Emelie Eriksson, Lauri Linask, Aynur Rahmanova, Daria Segal and Mattia Thibault.

The graduate student prize for the best presentation was awarded to Aynur Rahmanova (University of Tartu, Estonia) for her presentation "The Novelistic Force According to Lotman: from chronotope to semiosphere."



*Aynur Rahmanova, winner of the graduate student prize at NASS X.*

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## Report from NASS' General Assembly in Kaunas

*By Morten Tønnessen, based on minutes by Inesa Sahakyan*

The General Assembly of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies is held during the association's conferences. And so it was that the latest General Assembly was held in Kaunas on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2017. Among other things, a new board was elected.

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The General Assembly was held at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities of Kaunas University of Technology in Kaunas, Lithuania, where NASS X was held around the same time. The meeting was chaired by Luis Emilio Bruni, with minutes taken by Inesa Sahakyan. As usual, the agenda included the President's report, the Treasurer's report, election of board members, and discussion on possible venues for the next NASS conference (see final outcome reported in "Preliminary information on NASS XI (2019)" below).

In his report, Bruni reminded the audience of a recent modification of the NASS constitution, and the inclusion of Lithuania in the NASS governing board, given the significant semiotic research activity in this country. He pointed to the added value of the co-organisation of the NASS conference with the IASS congress, which contributed to giving the association international visibility. He thanked Dario

Martinelli and the local Organising Team of the World Congress for contributing to the smooth running of the NASS conference.

The financial report prepared by Treasurer Sara Lenninger was approved unanimously. In brief, it showed that as of June 30<sup>th</sup> NASS had 32.603,63 Danish Crowns in the bank. The expenses used for NASS X roughly compared to the 12-13.000 Danish Crowns earned in membership fees at NASS IX (Tartu 2015). No membership fees were earned at NASS X.

Election to the NASS board includes both country representatives and executive positions. After a new call for candidates at the general assembly, the new NASS country representatives were elected unanimously as follows:

### **Sweden**

Aleksei Semenenko – Ordinary Representative<sup>1</sup>

Sara Lenninger – Supplementary Representative

### **Norway**

Morten Tønnessen – Ordinary Representative

Daria Segal – Supplementary Representative

### **Finland**

Tommi Vehkavaara – Ordinary Representative

Juha Ojala – Supplementary Representative\* [three candidates including Juha were suggested at the General Assembly; the board was given a mandate to appoint one of them later; Juha was then confirmed]

### **Denmark**

Luis Emilio Bruni – Ordinary Representative

Søren Brier – Supplementary Representative

### **Estonia**

Lauri Linask – Ordinary Representative

Tiit Remm – Supplementary Representative

### **Iceland**

**No Suggestions for Iceland**

### **Lithuania**

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<sup>1</sup> Prior to the General Assembly, Aleksei Semenenko had given his accord to the board to be the Ordinary Representative for Sweden.

Ulrika Varankaitė - Ordinary Representative

Alin Olteanu – Supplementary Representative

Among the newly elected country representatives, the executive members were elected as follows:

Morten Tønnessen – *NASS President*

Lauri Linask– *NASS Secretary*

Sara Lenninger – *NASS Treasurer*

Furthermore, by an immediate board decision, Inesa Sahakyan was reappointed as the NASS Organisational Assistant.

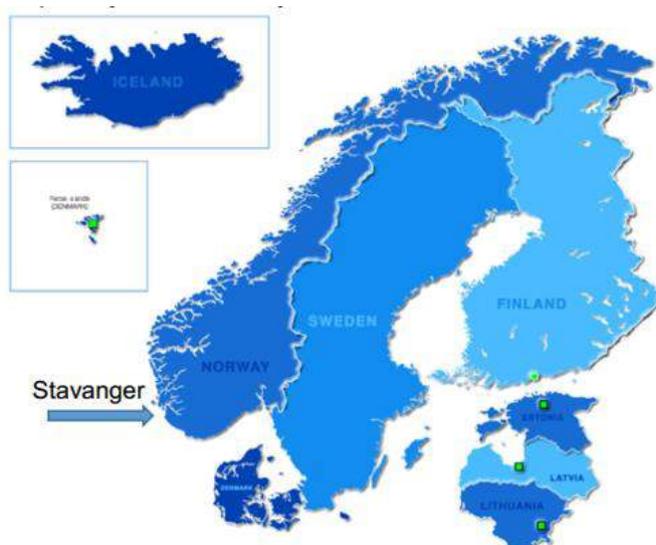
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## Preliminary information on NASS XI (2019)

*By Lauri Linask & Morten Tønnessen*

The 11<sup>th</sup> conference of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies (NASS XI) will be held at the University of Stavanger in Norway in June 2019, prospectively with the theme “Anticipation and Change – the Semiotics of Development”. This was decided by the newly elected board of NASS at its first board meeting.

At the first board meeting of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies following its General Assembly in Kaunas during the World Congress, held on November 10<sup>th</sup> 2017, it was decided that the eleventh conference of the association will be held in Stavanger, in the Southwestern part of Norway. This had been proposed by Morten Tønnessen, the new President of NASS, who will convene the conference with the University of Stavanger’s Department of Social Studies serving as host. Daria Segal will serve as conference secretary.



Stavanger is a scenic town of some 130,000 people, and not far from central points of international travel. The [University of Stavanger](#), which recently celebrated 10 years as a university, is currently organized in seven faculties plus the Museum of Archaeology. It maintains strong connections and collaboration with public and private enterprises in the region. The innovative and international profile of the university creates a dynamic hub for learning, research and entrepreneurial activities. The university has 1.400 faculty and administrative staff and about 10.700 students.

Only some initial thoughts and directions were set during the NASS board meeting. Preliminary conference dates are June 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> 2019. NASS XI will obviously cover current developments in the semiotics of the Nordic and Baltic regions, but will seek to have a broader appeal internationally as well. The draft theme for the conference is “*Anticipation and Change – the Semiotics of Development*”, and will cover research topics such as e.g.:

- Child development
- Social change
- Ontogeny
- Perception
- Learning
- Environmental Change
- Cultural Change
- The power of imagination
- Visions of Possible Futures

Both the title and the specific topics will be reviewed during the next meeting of the NASS board. Readers of this newsletter are welcome to share their thoughts and ideas concerning relevant topics associated with the main theme via email ([post@nordicsemiotics.org](mailto:post@nordicsemiotics.org)).

A Call For Papers will appear in the summer of 2018, and will also appear on the NASS webpage <http://nordicsemiotics.org>.



*The University of Stavanger and neighbourhood.*

## News

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### *NORDIC NEWS*

#### 2018 application round for University of Tartu International Master Studies in Semiotics now open!



The University of Tartu is excited to welcome new students to their 2-year international Master's programme in Semiotics. The courses are taught in English. 10 best applicants will be awarded with tuition-waiver scholarships. For further information about the programme and the application process, visit the [university website](#).

The application period runs from January 2 until **March 15 2018**.

Curriculum coordinator Ms. Liina Sieberk welcomes all your questions and inquiries via [tartusemiotics@ut.ee](mailto:tartusemiotics@ut.ee).



**Intensive course Juri Lotman and the Semiotics of Culture, 2018 – International Summer University Program at the University of Tartu**



July 2-13 2018, Tartu

The aim of the course is to give an intensive introduction to Juri Lotman's semiotic theory of culture, its theoretical background and context as well as new developments and applications of his theory in current semiotics and cultural sciences. More specific aim is to offer deeper understanding of cultural mechanisms and a set of tools for practical analysis of culture – cultural texts as well as cultural processes – that would afford new insights into contemporary cultural dynamics. Central topics are textuality of culture, different types of textual communication and forms of textual analysis, semiotic modelling

systems and processes of (total) translation in culture, inter- and transmediality, as well as cultural semiotic approaches to new media, and cultural autocommunication and cultural memory. All these aspects lead to fuller, more holistic understanding of culture as semiosphere.

The programs includes lectures, seminars, fieldwork and practical assignments, and is accompanied by diverse social program. Lecturers include Peeter Torop, Mihhail Lotman, Elin Sütiste, Tiit Remm, Maarja Ojamaa, and others.

**Application deadline: May 13, 2018**

Further information is available [here](#).

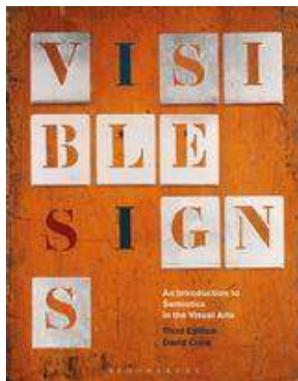
## ***INTERNATIONAL NEWS***

### **SEMIOTIC PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Books**

#### **Visible Signs : An Introduction to Semiotics in the Visual Arts *by David Crow***

Basic semiotic theories are taught in most art schools as part of a contextual studies program, but many students find it difficult to understand how these ideas might impact on their own practice. *Visible Signs* tackles this problem by introducing key theories and concepts, such as signs and signifiers, and language and speech, within the framework of visual communication.



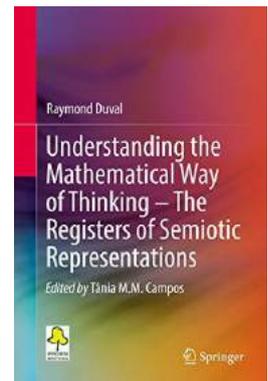
Each chapter provides an overview of a particular facet of semiotic theory, with inspiring examples from graphic design, typography, illustration, advertising and art to illustrate the ideas discussed in the text. Creative exercises at the end of the book will help exemplify these ideas through practical application.

The third edition of *Visible Signs* features new material from international designers and new creative exercises to accompany each chapter. This new edition also features a new design and layout.

Published: July 6 2017

## Understanding the Mathematical Way of Thinking – The Registers of Semiotic Representations *by Raymond Duval*

In this book, Raymond Duval shows how his theory of registers of semiotic representation can be used as a tool to analyze the cognitive processes through which students develop mathematical thinking. To Duval, the analysis of mathematical knowledge is in its essence the analysis of the cognitive synergy between different kinds of semiotic representation registers, because the mathematical way of thinking and working is based on transformations of semiotic representations into others. Based on this assumption, he proposes the use of semiotics to identify and develop the specific cognitive processes required to the acquisition of mathematical knowledge. In this volume he presents a method to do so, addressing the following questions:

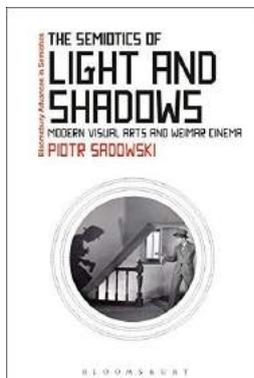


- How to situate the registers of representation regarding the other semiotic “theories”
- Why use a semio-cognitive analysis of the mathematical activity to teach mathematics
- How to distinguish the different types of registers
- How to organize learning tasks and activities which take into account the registers of representation
- How to make an analysis of the students’ production in terms of registers

Building upon the contributions he first presented in his classic book *Sémiosis et pensée humaine*, in this volume Duval focuses less on theoretical issues and more on how his theory can be used both as a tool for analysis and a working method to help mathematics teachers apply semiotics to their everyday work. He also dedicates a complete chapter to show how his theory can be applied as a new strategy to teach geometry. Published: July 18 2017

## The Semiotics of Light and Shadows: Modern Visual Arts and Weimar Cinema *by Piotr Sadowski*

Lighting and shadows are used within a range of art forms to create aesthetic effects. Piotr Sadowski's study of light and shadow in Weimar cinema and contemporaneous visual arts is underpinned by the evolutionary semiotic theories of indexicality and iconicity. These theories explain the unique communicative and emotive power of light and shadow when used in contemporary indexical media including the shadow theatre, silhouette portraits, camera obscura, photography and film.

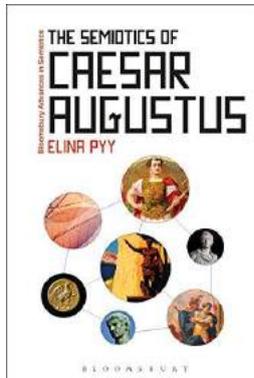


In particular, Sadowski highlights the aesthetic and emotional significance of shadows. The 'cast shadow', as an indexical sign, maintains a physical connection with its near-present referent, such as a hidden person, stimulating a viewer's imagination and provoking responses including anxiety or curiosity. The 'cinematic shadow' plays a stylistic role, by enhancing image texture, depth of field, and tonal contrast of cinematic moments. Such enhancements are especially important in monochromatic films, and Sadowski interweaves the book with accounts of seminal Weimar cinema moments.

Sadowski's book is distinctive for combining historical materials and theoretical approaches to develop a deeper understanding of Weimar cinema and other contemporary art forms. *The Semiotics of Light and*

*Shadows* is an ideal resource for both scholars and students working in linguistics, semiotics, film, media, and visual arts. Published: December 28, 2017

## The Semiotics of Caesar Augustus by Elina Pyy



*The Semiotics of Caesar Augustus* examines the meanings and significances of Augustus in Western literary and popular culture, from the 1960s until the turn of the millennium. Drawing on the theoretical background of semiotics and classical reception studies, Elina Pyy investigates the representation of Augustus in the postmodern novels of Kurt Vonnegut and Christoph Ransmayr, as well as in the genre of historical fiction, and in screen representations from both sides of the Atlantic.

Scrutinizing what Caesar Augustus stood for in the postmodern world, and the main factors that influenced (and still influence) the modern reader's interpretation of him, this book is grounded on the premise that the past, being a system of signs based on our culturally shared understanding of them, is continuously created and reconstructed by the modern audience. Arguing that the 'many faces of the emperor' can be considered to be reactions to contemporary cultural, socio-political or emotional needs, *The Semiotics of Caesar Augustus* shows how his character was recurrently utilized to explain and understand the ways in which the discourses of power, liberty, oppression and humanity operated in the postmodern world.

The book will be released on **February 22, 2018**.

## Journals

### Journal of Cognitive Semiotics

*Cognitive Semiotics*, published by Mouton de Gruyter, is a platform for the study of meaning-making writ large, as it is manifested in our interactions with the surroundings in all domains, in the natural as well as in the social world, in language and other semiotic resources, as well as in perception, and in action. All submissions which in one way or other combine the inspiration from semiotics, cognitive science and/or cognitive linguistics, broaching theoretical issues, realizing experimental studies, or anything in-between are welcomed by the journal.

Starting in 2018, the journal will publish one thematic issue each year, whereas the other issue will be open to all contributions of relevance to the study of cognitive semiotics. The second issue may however contain thematic dossiers.

### *Call for Proposals of Thematic Issues or Dossiers*

The editors of *Cognitive Semiotics* welcome proposals for special issues or dossiers that integrate perspectives, methods, and insight from cognitive science, cognitive linguistics and semiotics for its forthcoming publication schedule. If you have a particular theme of relevance to the mission of the journal, the editors are eager to discuss possibilities for running a special issue as early as the spring issue of 2018, or beyond. Please address a brief (approx. 1 page) proposal to Peer Bundgaard, Editor-in-Chief, copying Göran Sonesson and Todd Oakley, Associate Editors (addresses below). Special issue proposals should contain a description of the theme and a statement of relevance to the journals research mission, along with either 1) a list of prospective contributors with attached abstracts, 2) a plan

for soliciting contributions, or 3) some combination of confirmed contributors and abstracts and plan for solicitation.

Inquiries and proposals are to be sent to the following addresses: Peer Bundgaard [sempb@cc.au.dk](mailto:sempb@cc.au.dk)  
Göran Sonesson [goran.sonesson@semiotik.lu.se](mailto:goran.sonesson@semiotik.lu.se) Todd Oakley [todd.oakley@case.edu](mailto:todd.oakley@case.edu)

### Southern Semiotic Review

Issue 7 2016 (2) / Issue 8 2017 (1) can be found [here](#).

#### *Call for Papers*

The journal also has a call for papers on themes of “Planetary Semiotics” and “Creative Arts”. These can be found [online](#). This journal welcomes papers with general semiotic methodology and subject matter, as well as ones with special themes. It is well read, international, peer-reviewed and published in Australia. This journal has biannual online editions as well as occasional print and special themed versions.

Papers are invited for forthcoming special edition, “**Planetary Semiotics**”. Subtopics could include: dwelling in place; climate change, science and discourse as semiotic fields; the vision of earth as a whole; religious and philosophical perspectives; artistic imagining; territorialisation and colonisation; mapping; the earth from space and in space; gaia and motivated signs of nature; history of ideas of planetary consciousness.

There is also a continuing callout for papers on theme of “**Creative Arts**”. Subtopics could include: aesthetics; performatively and dialogue; multi media and multi form genre; art and meaning; art and discourse; ambiguity and interpretation; ritual and mythology; the semiosis of creative production.

### New Issues of Semiotica: in honor of A. J. Greimas

We are pleased to announce two special issues in honor of A. J. Greimas edited by Thomas F. Broden and Stéphanie Walsh Matthews and published in *Semiotica: Journal of the International Association for Semiotic Studies / Revue de l'Association Internationale de Sémiotique* (Berlin: De Gruyter):

**Issue 214:** *A. J. Greimas—Life and Semiotics / La vie et la Sémiotique d'A. J. Greimas*, special issue of *Semiotica* 214 (February 2017). XIV, 438 pages. Hard copy and electronic versions published in February 2017.

**Issue 219:** *La Sémiotique Post-Greimassienne / Semiotics Post-Greimas*, special issue of *Semiotica* 219 (November 2017). X, 586 pages. Hard copy and electronic versions published in November 2017.

Special thanks go to the editorial committee of the two special issues: Anne Beyaert-Geslin, Gérard Bucher, Jean-Claude Coquet, Marco Fiola, Jacques Fontanille, Louis Hébert, Anne Hénault, Kathleen Kellett, Jean-Marie Klinkenberg, Massimo Leone, Frank Nuessel, Paul Perron, Jean Petitot, François Rastier, and Eero Tarasti.

### Punctum – International Journal of Semiotics

Editor-in-Chief: Gregory Paschalidis

We are pleased to announce the publication of the new issue (volume 3, issue 1) of Punctum International Journal of Semiotics, the online, open access journal of the Hellenic Semiotic Society. Issue 3.1 is devoted to “**The Fugue of the Five Senses: Semiotics of the Shifting Sensorium**” The articles as well as the whole issue, can be accessed/downloaded at the journal’s [website](#).

## Sign Systems Studies

Editorial team: Kalevi Kull, Peeter Torop, Mihhail Lotman, Timo Maran, Silvi Salupere, Ene-Reet Soovik, Remo Gramigna

We are happy to announce the publication of the new issue of Sign Systems Studies **45(3-4), 2017**, this time a **Special Issue: Semiotics and history: Boris Uspenskij 80**, guest edited by *Marek Tamm*. Authors include Marek Tamm, Boris Uspenskij, Carlo Ginzburg, Mihhail Lotman, Ilya Kalinin, Tzvetan Todorov, Peeter Torop, Mikhail Trunin, Elżbieta Hałas, Taras Boyko, Ekaterina Velmezova, and Kalevi Kull.

An international journal of semiotics and sign processes in culture and living nature, the journal Sign Systems Studies was established in 1964 by Juri Lotman (initially as Труды по знаковым системам – Σημειωτική), and is thus the oldest international semiotic periodical. Originally (until 1992) a Russian-language series, it is now published in English, and has become a central institution in the semiotics of culture. The online issue is available [here](#). The print issue will soon be available [here](#).

## International Journal of Marketing Semiotics

We are pleased to inform you that the 5<sup>th</sup> volume of the International Journal of Marketing Semiotics can now be downloaded [here](#).

### *Call For Papers for Volume VI*

The **International Journal of Marketing Semiotics** is an open-source, double blind-reviewed academic journal that covers a wide spectrum of interdisciplinary marketing/semiotics research streams, spanning. The journal welcomes both conceptual and applied academic research, but also provides a forum where marketing semiotics agencies may publicize case studies of projects they have undertaken for clients. For acceptable contents and content formats see [Submission Guidelines](#).

If you wish to contribute to the **International Journal of Marketing Semiotics**, please send your content to: Dr. George Rossolatos (email: [georgrossolatos123@gmail.com](mailto:georgrossolatos123@gmail.com) )

**The closing date for submission is May 30th 2018**

## Chinese Semiotic Studies

Chief editor: Yongxiang Wang

It has been 8 years since *Chinese Semiotic Studies (CSS)* started the publication of its first issue in 2009. And it is now published by De Gruyter Mouton with 4 issues per year. *CSS* seeks to promote semiotic studies not only in China but also in the world at large in order to further mutual understanding and communication among semiotic scholars of varying cultural backgrounds. To this end, the journal publishes high quality articles from all branches of semiotics including general, existential, cognitive, cultural, dynamic, social semiotics, and biosemiotics. Also welcome are studies in the sign theories of classic foundational scholars such as Ferdinand de Saussure and Charles Sanders Peirce. The content of articles may range from theory building to the application of semiotic theories, from microanalysis to macro studies, and may draw on such fields as linguistics, literary theory, philosophy, aesthetics, communication, media, cognitive sciences and biology. To guarantee the quality of articles, all contributions will undergo a very strict procedure of anonymous peer-review.

Besides the regular sections for general semiotics, each issue of CSS contains three special thematic sections devoted to: (i) Chinese Cultural Signs and Sign Theories, (ii) Western Cultural Signs and Sign Theories, and (iii) Interactions between Chinese and Western semioticians. Contributions to these specific sections are especially welcome. The submission e-mail is [cssnnu@163.com](mailto:cssnnu@163.com).

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## UPCOMING ACADEMIC EVENTS<sup>2</sup> IN THE NORDIC-BALTIC COUNTRIES

### [The 10th Annual Lotman Conference at Tallinn University](#)

“YOU CAN STILL SURPRISE ME”

#### LOTMAN’S LATER OEUVRE: RESULTS AND RESEARCH PROBLEMS

The organisers are inviting submissions for the [10th Lotman conference](#) at Tallinn University, 8-10 June 2018

*Confirmed keynote: Prof. Daniele Monticelli (University of Tallinn)*

In 2018, the tenth anniversary annual Lotman conference will be held at the University of Tallinn. The title of the conference includes Juri Lotman’s favourite quotation from Leo Tolstoy’s unfinished novel *The Decembrists* as it vividly reflects the impression left by Lotman’s works from the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The topics and questions raised in them amaze with diversity: the concept of the semiosphere, the theory of the explosion, the study of the processes of unpredictability in historical and cultural processes. As for Lotman’s last book, *The Unpredictable Workings of Culture*, his colleague and frequent coauthor Boris Uspensky pointed out as its most poignant feature “[its] affirmation of the unity of our knowledge: the humanities and natural sciences are viewed . . . from the same angle, and this is a deliberately adopted position.”

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Lotman continued to study the culture of everyday life (monograph *High Society Dinners* (with Elena Pogosyan), series of television lectures “Conversations on Russian Culture”, later published as a book). He wrote a large number of texts for the general reader, and lectured in front of huge television audiences. What is more, in Lotman’s last texts there appear strong

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<sup>2</sup> This list of events, and the academic news presented above are indicative and do by no means pretend to be exhaustive. Therefore, our members are strongly encouraged to send their suggestions to be considered for further editions of the newsletter to the editors at [post@nordicsemiotics.org](mailto:post@nordicsemiotics.org).

autobiographical motifs. The author's tone changes: the thoroughgoing political change of the time makes him think about the place and role of the humanities in the topical historical processes.

Our conference is conceived as one among a variety of attempts to engage with Lotman's late oeuvre. There is a plan to publish a collection of articles based on the materials of the conference.

**The topics discussed at the conference include, but are not limited to the following:**

- \* literature and general culture in Lotman's work from the late 1980s and early 1990s
- \* "Clio at the Crossroads": history and semiotics
- \* "from the kitchen to the living room": problems of the study of everyday culture
- \* semiosphere, dialogue, explosion: problems of the dynamics of culture
- \* biographical and autobiographical motifs as a philological problem
- \* questions in film poetics
- \* Lotman's late works and postmodernism
- \* the epistolary heritage of a scholar
- \* biographical contexts of the late oeuvre of Lotman

The conference welcomes submissions in English and in Russian, the two working languages of the conference. Speakers shall be allocated 30 minutes in total: 20 minutes to deliver the presentation and 10 minutes for discussion.

The submissions should be sent via e-mail no later than **1 February 2018** and include:

- The title and a short abstract of the proposed presentation (up to 2000 characters with spaces)
- A short CV (name, surname, institutional affiliation, scholarly degree, description of scholarly interests — up to 1000 characters with spaces).

The organising committee will choose the presenters based on scholarly merit and thematic relevance for the conference. The results will be announced via email no later than **1 March 2018**.

The submissions in English should be sent to Piret Peiker: [piretpeiker@hotmail.com](mailto:piretpeiker@hotmail.com)

The submissions in Russian should be sent to Tatjana Kuzovkina: [tatjana.kuzovkina@gmail.com](mailto:tatjana.kuzovkina@gmail.com)

**Useful information:**

The conference will take place in the Mare building of Tallinn University, 5 Uus-Sadama Street, 10120, Tallinn, Estonia.

There is no conference fee. All conference events are free of charge for the presenters. The conference cannot offer any grants for travel or accommodation. However, please do not hesitate to turn to us, if you need advice making your arrangements. If you need our help with obtaining the Estonian visa, please let us know.

Organising committee: Rein Raud (chair), Tatjana Kuzovkina, Mihhail Lotman, Vadim Parsamov, Piret Peiker, Elena Pogosyan.

## INTERNATIONAL

**November 2017 to July 2018**

### **MONTHLY SEMINAR | CONGRESS: Morphologies and Qualitative Dynamics: an Interdisciplinary Project Knowledge of Forms | Forms of Knowledge**

**Organizers:** Isabel Marcos New University of Lisbon & Clément Morier Lyon 3 – Jean Moulin University

**The monthly seminar** will take place from **November 2017 to July 2018**, on Fridays **once a month from 16h to 19h**. Here are the dates: **17 November 2017; 15 December 2017 (speakers confirmed: Per Aage Brandt); 12 January 2018; 09 February 2018; 09 March 2018; 06 April 2018; 04 May 2018; 01 June 2018; 06 July 2018.**

**Description:** The goal is to organize a space for reflection by establishing an interdisciplinary, scientific, and philosophical culture through the work of René Thom. Within a collaborative culture, the project through its ambition could open itself up to the following research horizon: does Thom's work enable interdisciplinarity? The interrogation at the heart of the project is the following: what are the questions that we have inherited from Thom, and that he has induced us to raise in our domains? It seems to us that the encounter with Thom, or with his work, does not leave one indifferent. With which questions, in terms of fundamental science, did Thom confront us in our respective domains? What did his discoveries come to challenge or criticize as going without saying in our disciplines? This first year would thus be an introductory one, on the basis of a construction of a common language and heritage, focused on the definition of concepts that permit interdisciplinarity within Thom.

**Here are the researchers working on Thom's works and their implications who, at this date, have already confirmed their presence:**

Miguel Ariza (*Semiotics & Mathematics* | Mexico University | Mexico); Per Aage Brandt (*Linguistics, Semiotics & Cognition* | Case University | USA); Claude Paul Bruter (*Mathematics* | Paris 12 University); Jacques Demongeot, (*Biology* | Grenoble University); Miguel Espinoza (*Philosophy* | Strasbourg University); Sara Franceschelli (*Epistemology of modeling* | Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS) Lyon); Ivã Lopes (*Semiotics & Literature* | São Paulo University | Brazil); Philippe Martin (*Geomorphology* | Avignon University); José Carlos Oliveira (*Mathematics* | Évora University); Bruno Pinchard (*Philosophy* | Lyon 3 – Jean Moulin University); David Rabouin (*History & Philosophy of Mathematics* | Paris 7 Diderot University); Bent Rosenbaum (*Semiotics & Psychoanalysis*) | Copenhagen University | Denmark); Lucien Scubla (*Anthropology* | Center for Research in Applied Epistemology (CREA) of École Polytechnique); Frederik Stjernfelt (*Semiotics & Philosophy of sciences* | Copenhagen University | Denmark); Jean-Jacques Szczeciniarz (*History & Philosophy of Mathematics* | Paris 7 Diderot University); Jacques Viret (*Biology* | CRSSA (Research Center of the Army Health Service) in Grenoble); Benoît Virole (*Psychoanalysis*); Wolfgang Wildgen (*Linguistics, Semiotics & Cognition* | Brême University | Germany); other invitations in abeyance.

The **monthly seminar** will take place in Paris, at l'ISHP, **Institut des Sciences et des Humanités de Paris**, attached to l'Université Paris 7 – Diderot **Salle 888C** – Bâtiment des Grands Moulins de Paris, 8<sup>th</sup> floor (on the right hand side when leaving the lift).

The **congress** will also take place at ISHP, on **October 2018**, from Thursday to Saturday, on **4, 5, & 6 October 2018**. The exact room has yet to be determined. **A call will be made shortly.**

**May 2018**

## [CFP: XIVth Congress on Musical Signification](#)

### **Music as Cultural Heritage and Novelty**

11-15 May 2018, The “Gheorghe Dima” Academy of Music, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

**Conference directors:** Eero Tarasti & Oana Andreica

#### **First announcement and call for papers**

The International Congress on Musical Signification (ICMS) is a biennial conference on recent developments and future trends in Musical Semiotics. It is one of the major platforms and achievements of the project of Musical Signification, launched in Paris in 1984, and subsequently directed for over 30 years by Eero Tarasti.

Following the XIIIth ICMS in Canterbury, the XIVth International Congress will be held in the lively city of Cluj- Napoca, the heart of the historic region of Transylvania. It will be organised and hosted by The “Gheorghe Dima” Academy of Music, during the International Festival “Sigismund Toduță”, and under the auspices of the International Association for Semiotic Studies (IASS), the International Semiotics Institute (ISI) and the Academy of Cultural Heritages.

#### **Keynote Speakers :**

- Eero Tarasti, University of Helsinki
- Marta Grabocz, Université de Strasbourg
- Robert S. Hatten, University of Texas at Austin
- Dario Martinelli, ISI, Technological University of Kaunas
- Dan Dediu, University of Music Bucharest
- Gabriel Bebeșelea, Principal Conductor of the “Transylvania“ State Philharmonic

#### **Special attention will be paid to the following topics:**

- Topics and narrative strategies in music
- Musical heritage in the age of digitalization and media
- Semiotic theories and analyses of music
- National and Local Composers in the Integration of the European Societies in the 20th and 21st Century
- Popular music studies as the avant-garde of music analysis
- The integration of the sounds of music into the study of culture and society
- The reformation of music theory and musicology with the purpose of the adequate designation of as wide a variety as possible of musical sounds

**Call for papers:**

20-minute papers and presentations are invited on topics relating to any of the above conference themes along with those addressing broader notions of musical signification and semiotics.

**Submission guidelines:**

Abstracts of not more than 500 words (saved as MS Word or PDF file) should be emailed to oana.andreica[at]amgd.ro (under the subject heading: “ICMS 14 paper proposal”) by **15th January 2018**. Abstracts should be accompanied by a short biographical note of no more than 150 words. Please add the following information: Name, surname, institutional affiliation, title of proposal and abstract. The main language of the congress is English, but French is accepted as well.

E-mail enquiries to Oana Andreica at: [oana.andreica@amgd.ro](mailto:oana.andreica@amgd.ro)

**June 2018**

**[15th National Communication Ethics Conference](#)**



Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies  
Duquesne University – Pittsburgh, PA  
June 6–8, 2018

The 15th National Communication Ethics Conference will be held June 6–8, 2018 (Wednesday through Friday), at the Duquesne University Power Center in Pittsburgh, PA—sponsored by the Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies and the Communication Ethics Institute.

The theme for this year’s conference centres on Communication Ethics in an Age of Dispute with keynote speakers addressing four content areas: (1) Communication Ethics and Argument, (2) Communication Ethics and Semiotics, (3) Communication Ethics and Communities of Practice, and (4) Communication Ethics and Crisis. **As always, we welcome papers both consistent with and outside of the above communication ethics content themes.**

The conference features an invited speaker for each are:

- Kenneth Anderson, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign: Communication Ethics and Argument

- Susan Petrilli, University of Bari: Communication Ethics and Semiotics
- Patrick Lee Plaisance, The Pennsylvania State University at University Park: Communication Ethics and Communities of Practice
- Maria del Guadalupe Davidson, University of Oklahoma: Communication Ethics and Crisis

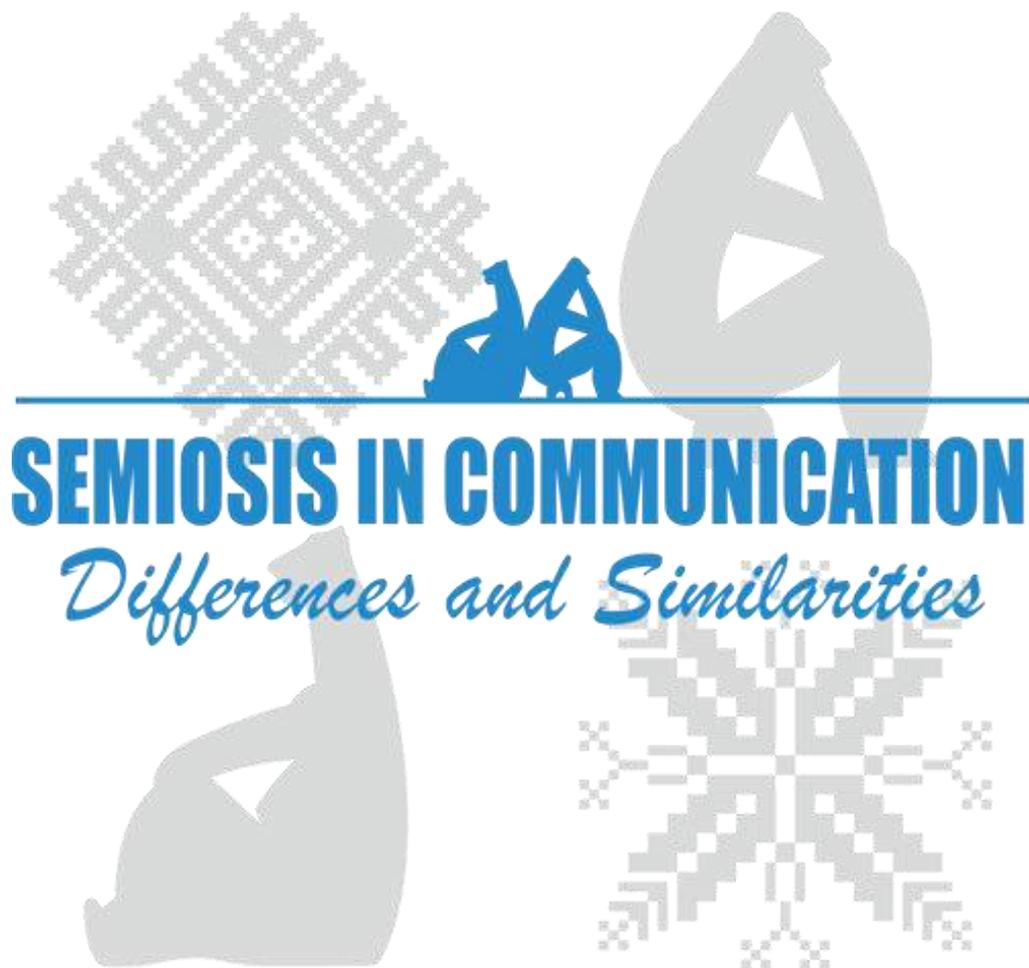
Speaker biographies are available on the [website](#).

**Papers:** We invite abstracts of 200–500 words or completed papers of a maximum of 30 pages, including references. Submissions should be double-spaced, using MLA, APA, or Chicago citation styles.

**Panel Proposals:** Panel proposals may include up to five participants. Please include a title page with a 500-word (maximum) rationale and a 200-word abstract for each presentation.

**Send all submissions to [cec@duq.edu](mailto:cec@duq.edu) by May 1, 2018.**

**[Second CFP – 2nd International Conference Semiosis in Communication:  
Differences and Similarities](#)**



This is the second Call for Papers for the 2<sup>nd</sup> International *Conference Semiosis in Communication: Differences and Similarities*, organized by the **National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (NUPSPA)**, Bucharest, Romania, in participation with **Southeast European Center**

for Semiotic Studies (SEECSS) at New Bulgarian University (NBU), Sofia, Bulgaria, **Semiotics and Visual Communication Research Lab** at Cyprus University of Technology and under the auspices of the **International Association for Semiotic Studies (IASS-AIS)**.

Here's what's new:

1. We are glad to announce that Professors **Susan Petrilli** and **Augusto Ponzio** will hold a special session – *Difference and similarity in the I-Other relationship. Between two identities or two singularities?* – as a **honorary guests**. This main session is dedicated to **Solomon Marcus**.
2. We are also pleased to announce that Professors **Susan Petrilli** and **Augusto Ponzio** will also give *keynote lectures* alongside other *keynote speakers*.
3. In addition, we are pleased to announce that [Semiotics and Visual Communication Research Lab](#) at **Cyprus University of Technology**, coordinated by Professor **Evrpidides Zantides**, joined us as a partner in organizing the event in Bucharest.

Therefore, *keynote speakers* confirmed are:

- **Susan Petrilli**, Professor of Philosophy and Theory of Languages at the Department of Lettere, LingueArti – Italianistica e Culture Comparate (Letters, Languages, Arts – Italian Studies and Comparative Cultures), University of Bari “Aldo Moro”, Bari, Italy; Visiting Research Fellow at the School of Psychology, the University of Adelaide, South Australia, and Vice President of the International Association for Semiotic Studies (IASS-AIS);
- **Augusto Ponzio**, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Theory of Languages at University of Bari “Aldo Moro”, Italy;
- **Paul Cobley**, President of IASS-AIS, International Association for Semiotic Studies, Middlesex University, U.K.;
- **Göran Sonesson**, Professor of Semiotics & Director of Centre for Cognitive Semiotics, Division of Cognitive Semiotics, Centre for Language and Literature, Lund University, Sweden;
- **Dario Martinelli**, Director of ISI, International Semiotics Institute; Scientific director of IASS-AIS World Congress Kaunas 2017, University of Technology, Lithuania;
- **Luis Emilio Bruni**, From 2011 to 2017 Bruni was president of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies (NASS) and currently sits in its Board, as well as in the board of directors of the International Society for Information Studies (ISIS), Aalborg University Copenhagen, Denmark;
- **Massimo Leone**, IFK Senior Fellow – International Research Centre for Cultural Studies, University of Art and Design Linz, Wien; Professor of Semiotics, Cultural Semiotics, and Visual Semiotics at the Department of Philosophy, University of Turin, Italy *and*
- **Kristian Bankov**, Professor of Semiotics at New Bulgarian University and Department Chair of the Southeast European Center for Semiotic Studies; Secretary General of IASS-AIS, International Association for Semiotic Studies.

**Honorary Guests:**

- **Susan Petrilli**, Professor of Philosophy and Theory of Languages at the Department of Lettere, LingueArti – Italianistica e Culture Comparate (Letters, Languages, Arts – Italian Studies and Comparative Cultures), University of Bari “Aldo Moro”, Bari, Italy; Visiting Research Fellow at the School of Psychology, the University of Adelaide, South Australia, and Vice President of the International Association for Semiotic Studies (IASS-AIS) *and*
- **Augusto Ponzio**, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Theory of Languages at University of Bari “Aldo Moro”, Italy

Please, consult the [conference homepage](#) for the call, the registration procedure, every other detail as and for regular updates.

Please also consult frequently for the latest updates of the event the [Conference Facebook Page](#).

For questions and details concerning the conference *Semiosis in Communication: Differences and Similarities*, please write to Nicolae-Sorin Drăgan at: [dragan.nicolaesorin@gmail.com](mailto:dragan.nicolaesorin@gmail.com).

## ***18th Annual Biosemiotics Gathering***

### ***Call for abstracts***

**Berkeley, California, June 17-20, 2018**

**The Scientific Advisory Committee of the 18th Gathering in Biosemiotics is pleased to invite scholars to submit abstracts on the fundamental mechanisms of meaning-making (semiosis) in living systems.**

Biosemiotics is, in the words of Jesper Hoffmeyer, “the signs of life and the life of signs.” As an interdisciplinary field, it emerged from the semiotics of Charles S. Peirce, and the theoretical biology of Jakob von Uexküll. It was finally distilled by Thomas Sebeok and many others. This Gathering, now in its eighteenth year, occurs under the auspices of the [International Society for Biosemiotic Studies](#).

Biosemioticians are biologists, philosophers, anthropologists, linguists, chemists, physical scientists, social scientists, humanities scholars, and more. We take a big tent approach to the field, and welcome thoughtful submissions based in any relevant discipline.

**We particularly welcome research in the following fields and areas:**

- Biosemiotic approaches to biology
- Biology utilizing biosemiotics
- Biosemiotics and ethology/phytology/mycology/zoösemiotics/microsemiotics
- The implications of biosemiotics to philosophy and humanities
- History and epistemology of biosemiotics
- Extended synthesis
- Semiotic approaches in theoretical biology
- Ontogeny of semiotic mechanisms
- Habits, codes and learning
- Typologies of semiosis and semiotic networks
- Modelling of semiosis
- Evolutionary anthropology & biosemiotics
- Methodology of biosemiotic research
- Umwelt research
- Biophenomenology
- Cognitive semiotics of nonhumans
- Evolution of semiosis
- Semiotic fundamentals of epigenetics and systems biology
- Semiotic thresholds
- Biosemiotics of health and disease

- Endosemiotics
- Interspecies semiosis
- Experimental biosemiotics
- Teaching biosemiotics
- Ecosemiotics

Abstracts should be **300-600 words**, in a standard word processing format or PDF and font size. One to three references (in Vancouver superscript) are permitted.

Presentations are typically 30 minutes each, although this year, we will be introducing panels and alternative formats.

Abstracts should be submitted as single-space, single page files to the following address:

**biosemiotics2018@gmail.com**

and received no later than **January 22, 2018**.

Please name the abstract file with the author's (your) surname in capital letters, for instance SEBEOK.doc.

**Notification of acceptance date: February 28, 2018**

N.B. The Host Committee is working to provide a **small number of stipends partially covering travel costs for overseas graduate students** with accepted abstracts. Those interested should indicate their desire in the body of the email containing their submission, adding one paragraph regarding need.

**July 2018**

**[CFP: Ecosemiotic Paradigm For Nature & Culture](#)**

***Transdisciplinary Explorations in the Cybernetics of Learning, Adapting, Understanding & Knowing,***

**Mikolów, Poland, July 9 (Monday)–12 (Thursday), 2018**

The theme of this convention inscribes itself into the investigative domains of biological-evolutional psychology, semiotic phenomenology of human communication, educational sociology as well as cultural anthropology. It merges two interrelated mind/brain- and actuality/virtuality-oriented research traditions, namely, epistemology as a metascientific theory of knowledge or psychophysiological theory of knowing and ecology as a theory environmental embedding of organismic and social systems. The respective topics of inquiry may include modelling systems of reality, possible worlds, mind & care, psychotherapy, medicine, and communicology. Against this background, the subject matter of the 2018 conference may focus on the living-systems development in the realm of plants, animals, and humans engaged in species-specific cognizing activities and meaningful relationships within and with their genuine and artificial environments.

University scholars, independent researchers and students, interested to take part in the “Ecosemiotic Paradigm for Nature & Culture”, will be asked to **send to the address: <ecosemiotic.festival@gmail.com> their abstracts including 200 words and a bionote including 150 words, prepared on a special form available through correspondence.** [Ecosemiotic Paradigm Abstract Template](#)

Organized working groups consisting of at least six members may send one unified abstract with bionotes. Abstracts will be peer-reviewed by two members of the Scientific and Program Committees.

IMPORTANT DATES:

**Deadline for sending the presentation/participation proposals : January 15, 2018**

**Notification of the abstract review process = directly after evaluation of the abstract**

**Early bird fee payment and registration = February 15, 2018**

**Deadline for final registration and regular fee payment = March 15, 2018**

**Be a good kid and follow NASS on Facebook:**

**<http://fb.me/NordicAssociationForSemioticStudies>**

