

LETTER

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Regular sections:

News

Upcoming academic events

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nordicsemiotics.org/

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

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to contribute with content
(e.g. academic news,
upcoming events, country
report, subfield report)
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post@nordicsemiotics.org.

August 17-20, 2015
SUMMER  **SCHOOL**
of semiotics
hosting the IX Conference of Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies

innovation culture
dialogue mediation MEANING-MAKING mechanisms
artistic modelling explosion synthesis
habit **Semiotic (un-)predictability**
scientific transatability COGNITION creativity
ABDUCTION biological systems society
interaction REVOLUTION

Deadline for roundtable proposals: December 15th 2014

See page 2 & 14

NASS IX (Tartu, August 17-20th 2015): Semiotic (un-)predictability



Deadline for roundtable proposals: December 15th 2014

We invite roundtable proposals inquiring processes and structures that enable semiotic predictability and unpredictability, particular mechanisms of these as well as the role, value and nature of (scientific) predictability in the research field of semiotics. Proposals can focus on theoretical issues, case studies and also the practical value of semiotic (un-)predictability.

Deadline for individual abstract proposals: February 16th 2015

Preliminary information on participation fee: The conference organisers have decided to operate with an early and late fee, and lower fee for students. The fee includes conference participation with materials, reception, coffee, and NASS membership for two years. Payment details will appear on the [conference webpage](#).

- Registration before June 1: 180 euro (full)/120 euro (students)
- Registration after June 1: 200 euro (full)/150 euro (students)

NASS graduate student support

At the General Assembly of NASS in Aarhus in 2013, several ideas related to making use of funds from the NASS membership fee for developing and organising new NASS activities were brought up (see the minutes from the General Assembly in [NASS newsletter #4](#)). In [NASS Newsletter #5](#), it was announced that the NASS board had decided that in relation to NASS IX, funds would be allocated to two measures:

- **Graduate student grants:** The participation of up to 10 graduate students will be supported financially by NASS, with 150 Euro each.
- **Graduate student prize:** A prize will be awarded for the best graduate student presentation at the conference.

Up to 10 grants of 150 euros will be granted to support graduate students' participation at the NASS 2015 conference. Nominees for student grants will be selected and notified shortly after abstract acceptance.

1 symbolic prize with the value of maximum 200 euros accompanied by a letter from NASS acknowledging the participant's merit will be attributed to the best graduate student presentation.

At the NASS board meeting in November 2014, Luis Emilio Bruni, Morten Tønnessen, Sara Lenninger and Inesa Sahakyan were elected as members of the NASS committee which will be in charge of deciding whom the grants (up to 10) and the prize should be attributed to.

NEWS

Nordic News

NASS representatives reelected at IASS General Assembly

The current NASS representatives in the Executive Committee of the International Association for Semiotic Studies (IASS), Luis Emilio Bruni and Morten Tønnessen, were reelected at the IASS General Assembly held in Sofia during the 12th world congress of semiotics.

International News

The 12th world congress held in Sofia

[The 12th world congress of semiotics](#) was arranged September 16-19th in Sofia, Bulgaria at New Bulgarian University. Convenor Kristian Bankov was repeatedly acknowledged for a successful conference organisation.



Group photo from the 12th world congress of semiotics

IASS General Assembly held in Sofia

During the 12th world congress of semiotics, the International Association for Semiotic Studies (IASS) General Assembly was held (a General Assembly is organised every 5th year, to occur at every second world congress). Paul Cobley was elected President of IASS, and Kristian Bankov Secretary General.



From the left: Paul Cobley (President of IASS), Kristian Bankov (Secretary General of IASS).

40th Anniversary Annual Meeting of the Semiotic Society of America (SSA)



The 40th Anniversary Annual Meeting of the SSA will take place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 1-4, 2015. The event will be hosted by the Duquesne University. More information and details will be provided in the next issue of our newsletter.

Roberta Kevelson Award

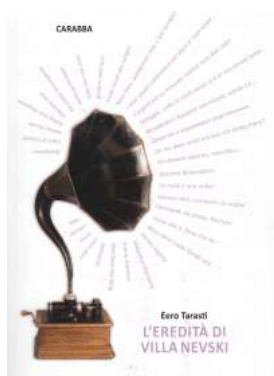
Each year, the Semiotic Society of America (SSA) features the [Roberta Kevelson Award](#) for best student paper presented at its annual meeting. This year's Kevelson Award recipient is **John Tredinnick Rowe**, a third-year Ph.D. student in medical studies at the University of Exeter Medical School's European Centre for Environment and Human Health. Tredinnick Rowe delivered an outstanding presentation entitled "The Paradox of Giving: Insights into the Gift Economy". A published version of his paper will become available in the forthcoming 2014 [SSA Yearbook](#).

The Semiotics Institute Online

The Semiotics Institute Online offers advanced courses in a variety of topics relevant to semiotics. You can browse the list of courses or use the tags to select any topic of your interest.

SEMIOTIC PUBLICATIONS

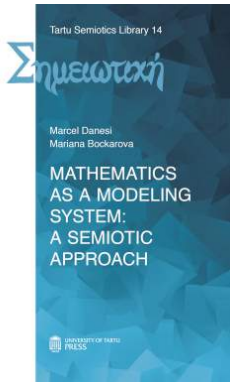
BOOKS



“L'eredità di Villa Nevski”, Eero Tarasti (novel in Italian)

The second novel by Eero Tarasti has appeared in Italian, entitled *L'eredità di Villa Nevski*. The novel is translated from the Finnish by Vesa Matteo Piludu and is edited by Paolo Rosato (466 p.) Casa Editrice Rocco Carabba, Lanciano.

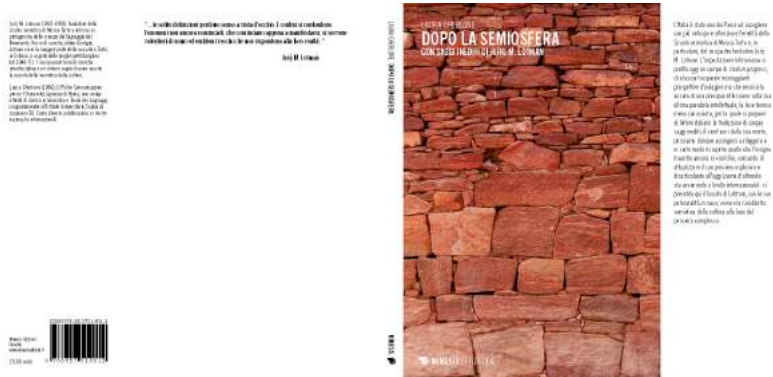
Mathematics as a Modeling System: a Semiotic Approach by Marcel Danesi and Mariana Bockarova



“Serendipity, inference, and abduction present opportunities for solutions to the puzzles appealing to humans, mathematicians included. When successful, these intuitive semiotic leaps find pattern, even when the pattern may not be explained beyond the frame of the puzzle. In foregrounding abduction, Danesi and Bockarova refresh ancient queries about any distinctions between discovery and invention. The abductive process cannot be taught in a prescriptive fashion, as it resists reduction to the simpler linear logics of our ordinary pedagogies. The authors’ semiotic perspective integrates recognized patterns of conceptual learning styles with the pervasive patterns in both living and inert realms, revealed through Fibonacci, Zipf, and fractals, and the cognitive power in diagrams, schemes, and graphs. The authors consider how it is that modelling seems to be tied to symbolism, metaphor, and optical processing. This volume will refresh practitioners from both pure and applied realms of mathematics, as well as other semioticians, pedagogues, and scholars generally.” — Myrdene Anderson

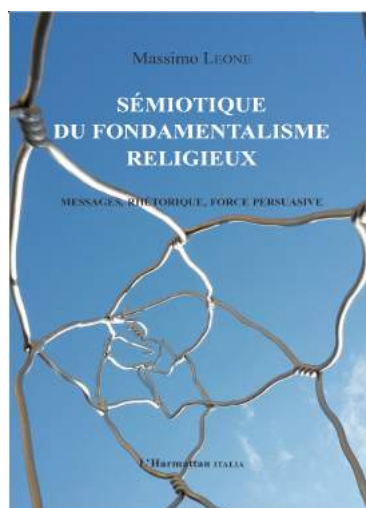
Dopo la semiosfera – Laura Gherlone

New book from Laura Gherlone, Dopo la semiosfera. (Con saggi inediti di Jurij M. Lotman) [After the Semiosphere. (With Unpublished Essays By Yu. M. Lotman)], Mimesis Publishing.



Sémiotique du Fondamentalisme Religieux – Massimo Leone [in French]

English description of the book is not available.



JOURNALS

Cognitive Semiotics

Editor-in-Chief: *Bundgaard, Peer F.*

We are pleased to announce the publication of Volume 7, Issue 2 (December 2014) of the journal of Cognitive Semiotics is. All back issues of the journal are freely available under [read content](#) of the journal website.

International Journal of Marketing Semiotics, vol. II

Editors: *Ana Côrte-Real, Angela Bargenda, Bent Sørensen*

The *International Journal of Marketing Semiotics* is an open-source academic journal that aims to cover a wide spectrum of interdisciplinary marketing/semiotics research streams. Its mission is to constitute a reference point in state-of-the-art academic research in the field of marketing semiotics, by enhancing the relevance of semiotic theories and methodologies across the entire marketing mix, with a dual orientation towards furthering existing theory, while safeguarding managerial saliency. Vol. 2 can now be downloaded [here](#).

CFP: To see the full call for papers for vol.3, visit the journal [web site](#).

The closing date for submission is **May 30th 2015**

Lexia Journal of Semiotics [in Italian]

Editor: *Massimo Leone*

The Lexia Journal of Semiotics is an international, peer-reviewed journal of CIRCE, the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Communication of the University of Torino, Italy. The journal has published a new issue n° 17-18 “Efficacious images.” Click here to [download](#) the PDF presentation.

CFP: Lexia invites contributions to be published in issue n. 19. The topic of the forthcoming issue is “Food and Cultural Identity”. Click [here](#) to download the full CFP.

Deadline for contributions : **December 15, 2014**

Punctum – International Journal of Semiotics

Editors: *Gregory Paschalidis, Lia Yoka, Evangelos Kourdis*

Punctum is a blind peer-reviewed, on-line journal dedicated to the semiotic study of contemporary cultural texts, practices and processes, published under the auspices of the Hellenic Semiotic Society. The journal is published twice a year (July & December) in English, although submissions in French and German will be accepted as well.

CFP: *Special issue of Punctum – [Semiotics of the Web](#)*

Deadline for abstracts: **January 15, 2015**

SemiotiX New Series, XN-I2 (2014)

Editor-in-chief: *Paul Bonissac*

SemiotiX New Series is a global information bulletin. Its aim is to provide periodic snapshots of the situation of semiotic research in the world, with photos, editorials by, and profiles of, active semioticians, mini-reviews of books, state-of-the-arts at a glance, and selective publicizing of scholarly events.

Semiotic Review

Editors: *Paul Manning, Kane X. Faucher*

CFP: Thematic Issue “Im/materialities”: The editors of *Semiotic Review*, along with guest editors, *Alexander Bauer* and *Zoe Crossland*, invite essays, articles, and book review essays for this special issue on the semiotics of im/materiality. The first set of papers was reviewed on September 7, 2014. However, the issue will remain open to new essays and interventions, with no final deadline as the editors will continue publishing new contributions in an ongoing dialog for at least a year. Submissions are to be sent to the editors at SemioticReview@gmail.com.

Signs and Society, vol. 2, No.2, Fall 2014-II-30

Editors: *Richard J. Parmentier, Paig-Ki Kim*

The latest issue of *Signs and Society*, the journal of semiotics of the University of Chicago Press, is now available [online](#) with free access to the full content.

Southern Semiotic Review- Issue 4 (July 2014)

Editor: *Geoffrey Sykes*; Associate Editor: *Paul Ryder*

Issue 4 (July 2014) of the *Southern Semiotic Review* is now published and available online. This journal welcomes papers with general semiotic methodology and subject matter, as well as ones with special themes. Current themes include 'Structuralism' and 'Performativities' - click [\[here\]](#) for further details. Papers on social and digital media are welcome at any time. Book reviews, artistic production, notes and commentaries can also be submitted.

UPCOMING ACADEMIC EVENTS

IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES INCLUDING ESTONIA¹

See also information on NASS IX (Tartu, August 17-20th 2015), p. 2 & 14.

¹ 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).

DECEMBER 5–6, 2014 IN TARTU, ESTONIA

Creative Continuity: 50 Years of Sign Systems Studies



Department of Semiotics at the University of Tartu continues the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the world oldest international journal of semiotics – Sign Systems Studies – with international, bilingual two-day conference “Creative Continuity” taking place in December 5-6, 2014 in Tartu.

15th International Doctoral and Postdoctoral Seminar of Musical Semiotics, March 2–6, 2015

Organizer: Musicology at the Institute for Philosophy, History, Arts and Culture, University of Helsinki, Finland

The traditional international seminar convenes under direction of Professor Eero Tarasti; co-directors are Prof. Marta Grabocz (Strasbourg) and Prof Jean-Marie Jacono (Université Aix-Marseille).

The participants present their research projects; languages are English and French. There is no participation fee, but attendants have to provide their travels, room and board.

Applications to seminar with a short CV (half a page), affiliation, title of the project and its abstract (one page) should be sent to eero.tarasti@helsinki.fi and irma.vierimaa@helsinki.fi by Feb. 1st, 2015.

INTERNATIONAL

Tenth Symposium on Iconicity in Language and Literature, 26-28 March 2015, Eberhard-Karls University of Tübingen, Tuebingen

The tenth in a series of biennial international and interdisciplinary symposia organized by the Iconicity Research Project since 1997, this meeting will once again focus on iconicity – understood as form miming meaning and form, and meaning miming form and meaning – in language and in literature. It will especially welcome proposals for papers dedicated to the issues of literary linguistics. This may comprise semantic, pragmatic and cognitive dimensions of iconicity and will also establish a link with the Tübingen research projects on ambiguity (www.ambiguitaet.uni-tuebingen.de) and on interpretability (as part of the collaborative research center “The Construction of Meaning” www.sfb833.uni-tuebingen.de). Check the [event website](#) for more details.

2nd International Congress of Numanities

The 2nd International Congress of Numanities "ICoN", is organized by the International Semiotics Institute in Kaunas, Lithuania, from Monday 25 to Friday 29 May, 2015. This year's theme is "Creativity, Diversity, Development". More information at the [conference website](#).



2nd International Conference & Exhibition on Semiotics and Visual Communication, 2–4 October 2015, Cyprus University of Technology, Lemesos/Cyprus



The conference is organized by the Cyprus Semiotics Association together with Cyprus University of Technology. It will be accompanied by an Art and Design exhibition with the theme ‘Culture of Seduction (the seduction of culture)’. This inclusive conference and exhibition aims to investigate the broad subject field of semiotics in its widest context, celebrating the exploration of connections, tensions, contradictions and complementarity between the diversity of outputs. The event seeks to bring together researchers, scholars and practitioners who study, evaluate and reflect upon the means by which semiotic theories can be analysed, perceived and articulated within the context of the various forms of theoretical and practice based visual communication. The conference welcomes papers from a broad interdisciplinary and theoretical spectrum, such as different semiotic paradigms, post-structural and postmodern approaches, social semiotics, theories of culture and visual communication.

Keynote speakers: Paul Copley, Miltos Frangopoulos, Göran Sonesson

Deadline for abstract submissions: 15th of January 2015

Papers will be accepted in Greek & English.



Invitation to be listed on NASS webpage

At the General Assembly of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies (NASS) in Aarhus, Denmark, on May 30th 2013, it was suggested that the NASS webpage should be used to list the contact info etc. of the association's members (for those who want such info to appear on <http://nordicsemiotics.org>). So far three members have sent their info – you can see it [here](#).

Member info may include:

- Contact info
- A brief bio-note
- A brief overview of relevant publications (with links where applicable)

If you wish to be listed on the NASS webpage, write to post@nordicsemiotics.org using the subject line “Re: Invitation to be listed on NASS webpage”.

August 17-20, 2015
SUMMER



Tartu
SCHOOL
of semiotics

hosting the IX Conference of Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies

Semiotic (un-)predictability

The paradoxical co-presence of predictability and unpredictability is a fundamental aspect of the dynamics of the semiotic world. Abduction, **habit**, explosion, (artistic) modelling, code, uncertainty, change, order, entropy, translation, interpretation, **innovation** – there are numerous concepts that reflect this tension in different kinds of semiotic systems and processes.

Predictability and unpredictability are processual notions that have been used for the description and analysis of different forms of **creativity** and freedom on both the psychological and the social level. They were also key concepts for Juri Lotman. He considered every act of **communication** and understanding as involving elements of unpredictability, and every dialogue as a process of language creation as well as language use. From the perspective of cultural dynamics, every revolution, but also every new fact or event within culture is an **explosion** – a flux between predictability and unpredictability. Underlying these notions is an understanding that predictability and unpredictability pertains to the different models we use for conceiving and changing reality: scientific as well as artistic. In order to sustain itself, culture needs both.

The conference will explore the semiotic mechanisms that mediate **order and change** in cultural, social, and biological systems from both theoretical and empirical perspectives. (Un-)predictability is also of utmost practical value in **cognition** – for simpler forms of life, for human everyday life, for scientific inquiry, and its applications.

We invite presentation and session proposals that investigate the processes and structures that facilitate predictability and unpredictability in **meaning-making**, their particular forms, mechanisms and functions, as well as the role, value and nature of (scientific) predictability in the object domain as well as in disciplinary framework of semiotics. Both theoretical and applied perspectives are welcome.

Submissions and deadlines

We invite 300-600 word proposals for

› **discussion panels** and **sessions** by **December 15, 2014**

› **individual papers** by **February 16, 2015**

Individual papers can be related to a specific session to be announced in January or to the conference theme in general.

All proposals and questions should be sent to semiotics@ut.ee

Contacts:

www.flfi.ut.ee/summer_school | semiotics@ut.ee
Jakobi 2, 51014 Tartu, Estonia

Organized by:

Department of Semiotics, University of Tartu
Estonian Semiotics Association
Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies



Tartu Summer School of Semiotics is a series of scholarly gatherings that brings together representatives of semiotics and related disciplines with the aim to provide an environment to converse about core issues in semiotics that are of disciplinary as well as transdisciplinary relevance. It follows the tradition of Kääriku Summer Schools of Semiotics held by the Tartu-Moscow School of Semiotics. In 2015 the Summer School hosts the **IX conference of Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies**.