



LETTER

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NASS AWAKES FROM SLUMBER

The Seventh Conference of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies (NASS) took place in Lund, Sweden, May 6-8 2011.

This was the first NASS conference for years. A General Assembly was arranged, and a new board elected. The current board, which was after the GA supplemented with representatives from Iceland and one more from Finland, is working towards formally re-founding NASS as an organization.

See pages 2-3 for presentation of the new board

25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM:

WHERE DO COGNITIVE, BIO- AND EXISTENTIAL SEMIOTICS MEET?

A symposium at the 27th International Summer School for Semiotic and Structural Studies (Imatra, Finland – June 8-12, 2012)

Participants presenting papers must register by April 15th.

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The eighth conference of NASS is to be arranged in Aarhus, Denmark, in May 2013.

Please visit our webpage nordicsemiotics.org/

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

To subscribe (for free), or to contribute with content (e.g. academic news, upcoming events, country report, subfield report) write to post@nordicsemiotics.org.

THE BOARD OF NASS 2011-2013

The current board of NASS counts the following members (OR = Ordinary Representative, SR = Supplementary Representative):

- **DENMARK:**

- OR: **Luis Emilio Bruni**
(Associate professor, Aalborg University) – [homepage](#)



- SR: **Kristian Tylén** (Postdoc, Aarhus university) – [homepage](#)

- **ESTONIA:**

- OR: **Timo Maran** (Senior research fellow, University of Tartu) – [homepage](#)



- SR: **Riin Magnus** (Research fellow, University of Tartu) – [homepage](#)

- **FINLAND:**

- OR: **Ahti-Veikko Pietarinen**
(Professor of semiotics, University of Helsinki) – [homepage](#)



- SR: **Tommi Vehkavaara**
(University of Tampere) – [homepage](#)

- **ICELAND:**

- OR: **Bergljót Kristjansdóttir**
(Professor of Icelandic literature, University of Iceland) – [homepage](#)



- SR: **Sigrún Margrét Guðmundsdóttir** (doctoral student, University of Iceland)

- **NORWAY**

- OR: **Morten Tønnessen**
(Associate professor at University of Stavanger) – [homepage](#)



- SR: **Torill Strand** (Professor, Østfold University College, University of Oslo) – [homepage](#)

- **SWEDEN**

- OR: **Göran Sonesson** (Professor of semiotics, Lund University) – [homepage](#)



- SR: **Sara Lenninger** (doctoral student, Lund University) – [homepage](#)

The board has appointed **Inesa Sahakyan** (University of Perpignan, IUT) as NASS' **Organisational Assistant**. She can be contacted via inesa.sahakyan@univ-perp.fr.



Special positions are further designated as follows:

- **President:** Luis Emilio Bruni
- **Secretary:** Morten Tønnessen
- **Treasurer:** Göran Sonesson
- *NASS representatives in The International Association for Semiotic Studies – Association Internationale de Sémiotique (IASS-AIS):* Luis Emilio Bruni and Morten Tønnessen

UPCOMING ACADEMIC EVENTS

IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES INCLUDING ESTONIA

- Experimental diagrammatology: One-day workshop on experimental studies on diagram development and use (Aarhus, Denmark, May 11 2012). Arranged by [Joint Diagrammatical Reasoning](#)
- [27th International Summer School for Semiotic and Structural Studies](#) (Imatra, Finland, June 8-12 2012)
- [Language and Life](#) (Tartu, Estonia, July 15 2012)
- [Biosemiotics and the Study of Culture](#) (Tartu, Estonia, July 16 2012)
- [Gatherings in Biosemiotics 12](#) (Tartu, Estonia, July 17-22 2012)

NORDIC SEMIOTIC PARADIGMS – NASS 25 YEARS:

WHERE DO COGNITIVE, BIO- AND EXISTENTIAL SEMIOTICS MEET?

A symposium at the 27th International Summer School for Semiotic and Structural Studies (Imatra, Finland – June 8-12, 2012)

Within the days June 8-12, 2012, the symposium “Nordic Semiotic Paradigms – NASS 25 years: Where do Cognitive, Bio- and Existential Semiotics Meet?” will be arranged in Imatra, Finland, as part of the 27th International Summer School for Semiotic and Structural Studies. NASS’ president Luis Emilio Bruni will chair the anniversary symposium, which will take place at Hotel Valtionhotelli.

The Imatra ISI symposium marks the 25 year anniversary of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies (NASS). The venue of the anniversary symposium, Imatra, is appropriate given that it was at a meeting in this Finnish town that NASS was founded in the summer of 1987. The first Executive Committee of NASS counted representatives from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The current board, elected at the Seventh Conference of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies in Lund in May 2011, involves Ordinary Representatives and Supplementary Representatives from these five countries and further Estonia.

The theme of the NASS anniversary symposium draws on the work of several notable Nordic scholars in the fields of cognitive semiotics, biosemiotics and existential semiotics. These are all promising, novel, dynamic subfields in contemporary semiotics. Neither of them are but *regional* paradigms – rather, Nordic researchers have been instrumental in establishing and consolidating them at an international level, with a sphere of influence which by far exceeds the Nordic region. How has Nordic semiotics come to be so influential? And, as the title of the symposium asks: Where do these fields meet? A number of scholars are

involved in both cognitive semiotics and biosemiotics, and there is clearly a thematic overlap in-between the two. And what of existential semiotics – on what points does it overlap with biosemiotics, and with cognitive semiotics? Furthermore, how can these various Nordic paradigms acquire informative inspiration from each other, and find common ground to cultivate further? Despite differing inclinations and academic taste, such a project should not be unattainable, given that cognitive semiotics, biosemiotics and existential semiotics are all concerned with the semiotics of life.

The symposium/research seminar will consist of papers presented by both invited lecturers and participants. The aim of the summer school is to offer the participants both up-to-date research and an opportunity to discuss their projects with leading specialists in various fields. The duration of presentations will be 30 minutes, and the working languages of the seminars are English, French and German. **Active participants – i.e., participants presenting papers, must register by April 15th.** Passive participants can register until April 30th. Active participants must send a short Curriculum Vitae and a one-page abstract of his/her paper to info@isisemiotics.fi and submit the [registration form](#) online. Passive participants must submit the [registration form](#) online by April 30, 2011. Participation fee for the whole summer school is 200 EUR (this covers lunch and two coffees a day June 9–12 and an elegant evening reception and buffet on June 9th). For payment instructions and information about accommodation, see the pages of [The International Semiotics Institute \(ISI\)](#).