

LETTER

NUMBER 2 (AUTUMN 2012) – OCTOBER 2012

EDITORS: INESA SAHAKYAN AND MORTEN TØNNESEN (POST@NORDICSEMIOTICS.ORG)

Call for papers: NASS VIII

Sign evolution on multiple time scales

Aarhus May 29-31, 2013

Deadline for paper abstracts is January 31st 2013, for theme session proposals December 31st 2012. Plenary speakers will include Jordan Zlatev (Lund), Fatima Cvrckova (Prague), Bruno Galantucci (New York) and Susan Goldin-Meadow (Chicago).

See pages 13-15

Report from anniversary symposium in Imatra

See page 5

New NASS constitution

The new NASS constitution was approved by the board on August 31st 2012 (with two paragraphs, §2 and §8, finalized in hindsight) on mandate from the General Assembly of NASS in Lund, Sweden, in 2011, and is in effect from now onwards. However, the constitution will also be presented for approval at the 2013 General Assembly in Aarhus.

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Regular sections:

News *p.* 2-8

Upcoming academic events *p.* 11-12

Please visit our webpage
nordicsemiotics.org/

The newsletter of NASS appears 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.

NEWS

Nordic News

NASS new logo

NASS has adopted a new logo, designed by Timo Maran. You can see the new logo on [our homepage](#) and on the front page of this newsletter, in the title. This is how the designer himself explains the rationale of the new logo:

Used simple shapes and clear colours following the general principles of Nordic design and mentality.

1. Circularly arranged NASS letters produce compass-like N(orth)-S(outh) structure, that is accentuated by chosen colours – reference to academic exploration and international relations.
2. Thin crossing lines refer to structural or typological methodologies, e.g. Greimas' square.
3. Circular arrows stand for dynamical processes and methodologies, e.g. Uexküll's Funktionskreis, Schramm's cyclical communication model, referring also to the communication and exchange of ideas in NASS.
4. 2 and 3 together produce target-like structure as used in viewfinders and in print area marks, standing for being focused, precision, and exactness.

Nordic participation in Nanjing

As this newsletter goes to press, the 11th World Congress of Semiotics is being arranged in Nanjing, China, with the overall theme "Global Semiotics: Bridging Different Civilizations". The NASS board is represented by President Luis Emilio Bruni, Treasurer Göran Sonesson and Finnish Ordinary Representative Ahti-Veikko Pietarinen. Nordic session organizers include Sonesson and Pietarinen and further Eero Tarasti and Dario Martinelli (Finland), Frederik Stjernfelt (Denmark), and Kalevi Kull, Mihhail Lotman, Marina Grisakova and Maarja Lõhmus (Estonia), a total of 9 scholars based in the NASS home area.

The ISBS re-founded at first ever General Assembly in Tartu, Estonia

The [International Society for Biosemiotic Studies \(ISBS\)](#) held its first ever General Assembly in Tartu, Estonia on July 20th 2012 during the 12th Gathering in Biosemiotics. The society was established in 2005, and was formerly registered in Singapore. It will now be based in Denmark.

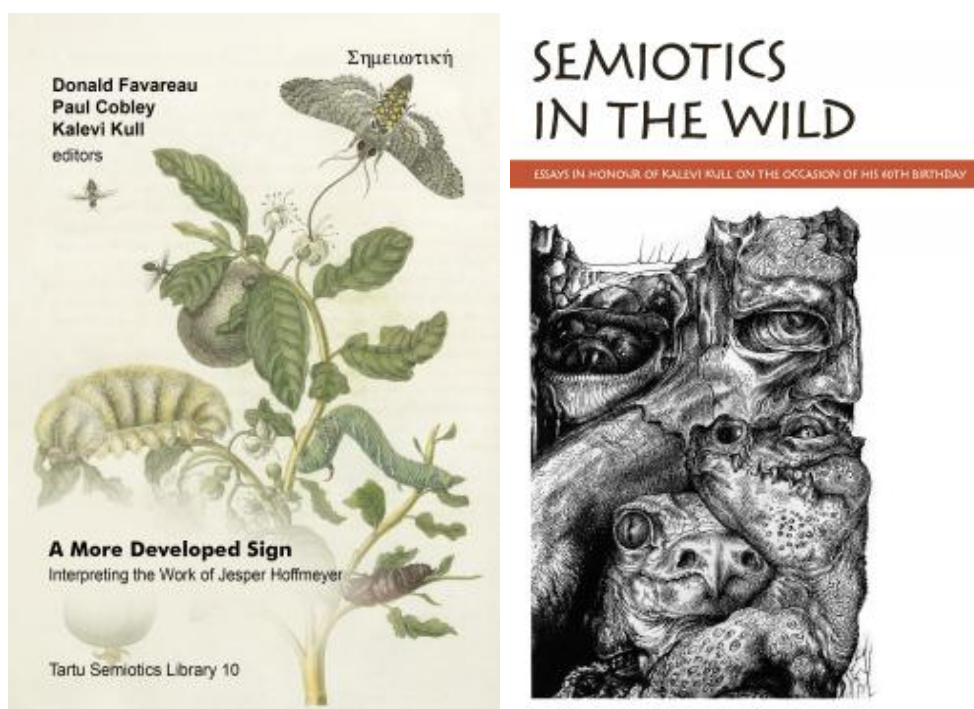
The Interacting Minds Centre, Aarhus University

Aarhus University has established the *Interacting Minds Centre* as a new interdisciplinary initiative, 2012-16. The Centre brings together researchers from all four main academic areas in experimental studies of cognition, communication and choice. The Centre opened on August 24, 2012 with an academic workshop. To view the full seminar program of the centre visit [the centre's seminar page](#).

ISSILC founded in Odense, Denmark

The International Society for the Study of Interactivity, Language and Cognition (ISSILC) was founded at its first ever General Assembly, and founding meeting, in Odense, Denmark, on September 12th 2012. The society lists semiotics in general and biosemiotics in particular as relevant disciplines. Sune Vork Steffensen is one of the initiators of the society, and central in the work of the [Distributed Language Group \(DLG\)](#), coordinated by Stephen Cowley (UK). The resident address of ISSILC is C/O [Institute of Language and Communication](#), University of Southern Denmark (Odense). Another central DLG scholar who took part in Odense is Paul Thibault, who is based in Kristiansand, Norway at University of Agder. ISSILC was founded during the 1st International Conference on Interactivity, Language & Cognition (Odense, September 12-14), which attracted some 80 participants from the language sciences and beyond.

Festschrifts to Jesper Hoffmeyer and Kalevi Kull



Two Festschrifts have been published this year, the first celebrating the 70th anniversary of biosemiotician Jesper Hoffmeyer (Denmark), and the second celebrating the 60th anniversary of biosemiotician Kalevi Kull (Estonia). Both Festschrifts include bibliographies of Hoffmeyer's and Kull's work respectively, and a number of contributions from biosemiotic and other scholars (in Hoffmeyer's case more than 80 contributions). The Festschrift to Hoffmeyer is titled [*A More Developed Sign: Interpreting the Work of Jesper Hoffmeyer*](#), edited by Donald Favareau, Paul Cobley and Kalevi Kull and published in Tartu University Press' Tartu Semiotics Library (as no. 10). The Festschrift to Kull is titled [*Semiotics in the Wild: Essays in Honour of Kalevi Kull on the Occasion of His 60th Birthday*](#), edited by Timo Maran, Kati Lindström, Riin Magnus and Morten Tønnessen and is also published by Tartu University Press. A full content list of the Festschrift to

Hoffmeyer is available [here](#). Content list and the introduction to the Festschrift to Kull are freely available [here](#).

***Journal of Cognitive Semiotics* re-launched**

The Managing Editor of the *Journal of Cognitive Semiotics*, Joel Parthemore, informs us that this academic journal has recently been re-launched with an electronic edition available at <http://www.cognitivesemiotics.com>. Nordic scholars have been and remain central to the journal. The latest issue, published online, is Vol. IV, No. 1: *The Intersubjectivity of Embodiment*, guest edited by Riccardo Fusaroli, Paolo Demuru, and Anna Borghi, with contributions by Colwyn Trevarthen, Patrizia Violi, Michael Kimmel, Maurizio Gentilucci, Claudia Gianelli, Giovanna Cristina Campione, Francesca Ferri, Mats Andren, Liesbet Quaeghebeur, Paul Sambre, Leon de Bruin and Sanneke de Haan. The complete issue can be [downloaded free of charge](#) (to download individual papers, see the journal homepage). Over the course of the next year the journal will be transitioning from its present electronic-only publication back to print form hosted by a new publisher.

Semikolon

Semikolon announces the publication of its Issue no. 23: *Laughter* on 05 June 05, 2012. ; *Semikolon* is a journal at Aarhus University run by students, and can be consulted at <http://www.semikolon.au.dk/>.

Signs

Signs is an international peer-reviewed electronic journal on the semiotics of mind, consciousness, language and culture as well as living and inanimate nature, and possible connections between them. Its current issue can be accessed [here](#). Please note that *Signs* also has a Scandinavian section (Signs Scandinavian Section, Royal School of Library and Information Science, Denmark ISSN: 1902-8822).

Introductory Course in Semiotics

By Sara Lenninger

The systematic study of meanings is central to semiotic theory. From the autumn of 2012 we start a new course in semiotics at the faculty of humanities at Lund University. The aim of the course is to provide an introduction to semiotics as an interdisciplinary research area.

Different semiotic theories and methods are presented and discussed. We study how linguistic meanings differ from, and interact with, visual meanings, such as, for example, pictures, gestures and spectacles. The course will offer lectures and guided exercises implementing semiotic analyses.

The 25 year anniversary symposium of NASS held in Imatra

On June 9th the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies (NASS) marked its 25 year anniversary in Imatra, Finland, as part of the 27th International Summer School for Semiotic and Structural Studies (June 8-12), arranged by the [International Semiotics institute \(ISI\)](#). The venue of the anniversary celebration was very much appropriate, given that NASS was founded in Imatra in 1987 – while its first conference was held in Lund, Sweden, in 1992. Eero Tarasti, who served as NASS' first President, currently heads both the ISI and [The International Association for Semiotic Studies \(IASS\)](#). At the opening of the anniversary symposium Tarasti congratulated NASS, and recalled its founding. Further remarks were given in plenum by NASS' former President Göran Sonesson and current President Luis Emilio Bruni.

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, altogether 12 scholars.

The theme of the NASS symposium was “Where do Cognitive, Bio- and Existential Semiotics Meet?”. Cognitive semiotics, biosemiotics and existential semiotics are all promising, novel, dynamic subfields in contemporary semiotics. Neither of them is but a *regional* paradigm – 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. Nordic semiotics has come to be very influential – and as Tarasti acknowledged in his opening remarks, the region remains a stronghold in contemporary semiotics internationally. The presenters of the symposium addressed similarities and differences between cognitive semiotics, biosemiotics and existential semiotics, in search of common ground and informative inspiration. The assumption was that despite differing inclinations and academic taste such a project should not be unattainable, given that the three fields are all somehow concerned with the semiotics of life.

The symposium program consisted of six talks. Luis Emilio Bruni (Aalborg/Copenhagen, Denmark) presented on “Embedded semiotics systems: Bridging bio- and cognitive semiotics”, while Göran Sonesson (Lund, Sweden) gave the talk “From the window to the movie by the way of the mirror: A phenomenologically inspired approach to the cognitive semiotics”. Morten Tønnessen (Stavanger/Kristiansand, Norway) presented “Existential universals: A link between biosemiotics and existential semiotics” and also “Introducing semiotic economy”. Timo Maran of Tartu, Estonia, presented on “Biosemiotics and its applications to the study of culture”, whereas Lauri Linask, also of Tartu, asked: “Is Vygotskian perspective suitable for describing the emergence and development of sign?”

Morten Tønnessen, Secretary of NASS [press release issued June 22nd 2012]

Three new PhDs from NASS scholars

During the last year three scholars affiliated with the NASS board have defended doctoral theses. These are:

- Sara Lenninger (alternative representative for Sweden). She defended the PhD thesis “When similarity qualifies as a sign. A study in picture understanding and semiotic development in young children” at Centre of Language and Literature, Lund University, Sweden, on October 1st 2012. Göran Sonesson was her supervisor, Frederik Stjernfelt was opponent.
- Inesa Sahakyan (NASS’ organizational assistant). She defended the PhD thesis “Imagerie et connaissance: étude sémiotique des fondements cognitifs de ‘l’Orbis Sensualium Pictus’ de Comenius” [Imagery and Knowledge: a semiotic study of the cognitive basis of Comenius’s *Orbis Sensualium Pictus*] at University of Perpignan Via-Domita, France, on October 8th 2011. Tony Jappy was her supervisor, while Göran Sonesson (Lund University), Jaime Nubiola (University of Navarre, Spain) and Joëlle Réthoré (University of Perpignan Via-Domita) were opponents.
- Morten Tønnessen (NASS’ secretary). He defended the PhD thesis “[Umwelt transition and Uexküllian phenomenology: An ecosemiotic analysis of Norwegian wolf management](#)” at Institute of Philosophy and Semiotics at University of Tartu, Estonia, on October 24th 2011. His supervisor was Kalevi Kull, while Winfried Nöth (Universität Kassel – Germany; Catholic University of São Paulo – Brazil) served as consultant supervisor. Jesper Hoffmeyer (University of Copenhagen) and Dominique Lestel (Ecole Normale Supérieure of Paris, France) were opponents.

International News

The Public Journal of Semiotics

The Public Journal of Semiotics (PJOS) announces the release of its issue IV.1, which can be found at: <http://pjos.org/issues/pjos-4-1.pdf>. The aim of The Public Journal of Semiotics (PJOS) is to publish original research articles in domains relating to semiotics. It welcomes substantial articles reporting the results of empirical inquiries, theoretical reflections developing consistent arguments, introduction of innovative models and methods of investigation, and essays based on meta-analyses of reliable databases. The site is accessible through <http://www.pjos.org> and welcomes new members.

European Semiotics

The book series [European Semiotics](#) is the result of an initiative taken by a group of researchers in semiotics from Denmark, Germany, Spain, France and Italy, inspired by the innovative impulse

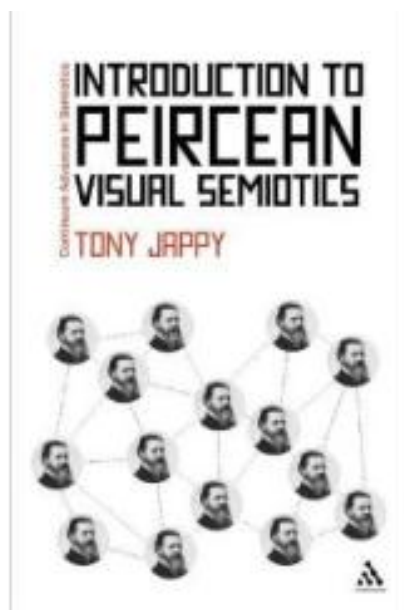
given by René Thom and his "sémiophysics". The purpose of this collection is to provide a broad European platform for all those interested in research in the field of semiotics, with a particular emphasis on the dynamics of semiotics and combining different perspectives, such as cultural, linguistic and cognitive. This approach, combining various sources, such as phenomenology, Gestalt psychology, philosophy of culture and structuralism assumes that semiosis is essentially a cognitive process that underlies all human culture and structure. Semiotics is thus considered as the discipline capable of creating a bridge between the fields of Cognitive Sciences and the sciences of Culture.

European Semiotics welcomes both monographs and anthologies and conference proceedings of a high level of research, preferably written in English and French.

***Essential Peirce* now in Spanish**

For our Spanish speaking semiotic community, we are pleased to [announce](#) the recent publication of the Spanish translation of the two volumes of the *Essential Peirce*.

***Introduction to Peircean Visual Semiotics*, by Tony Jappy**



Introduction to Peircean Visual Semiotics (Advances in Semiotics), by Tony Jappy, Emeritus Professor of English Linguistics and Semiotics at the University Perpignan Via-Domita, France. The book is published by A&C Black Bloomsbury Academic (release date: January 17, 2013).

Contemporary culture is as much visual as literary. This book explores an approach to the communicative power of the pictorial and multimodal documents that make up this visual culture, using Peircean semiotics. It develops the enormous theoretical potential of Peirce's theory of signs (semiotics) and the persuasive strategies in which they are employed (visual rhetoric) in a variety of documents. Unlike presentations of semiotics that take the written word as the reference value, this book examines this particular rhetoric

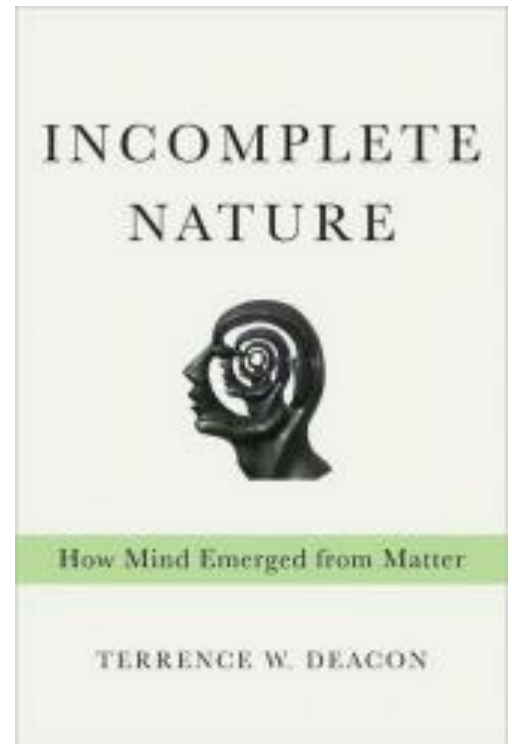
using pictorial signs as its prime examples. The visual is not treated as the 'poor relation' to the (written) word. It is therefore possible to isolate more clearly the specific constituent properties of word and image, taking these as the basic material of a wide range of cultural artefacts. It looks at comic strips, conventional photographs, photographic allegory, pictorial metaphor, advertising campaigns and the huge semiotic range exhibited by the category of the 'poster'. This is essential reading for all students of semiotics, introductory and advanced.

***Incomplete Nature: How Mind Emerged from Matter*, by Terrence W. Deacon**

Incomplete Nature: How Mind Emerged from Matter, by Terrence W. Deacon, Norton, November 21, 2011. Terrence W. Deacon, the author of *The Symbolic Species*, is a professor of biological anthropology and neuroscience and the chair of anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley.

A radical new explanation of how life and consciousness emerge from physics and chemistry.

Incomplete Nature begins by accepting what other theories try to deny: that, although mental contents do indeed lack the material-energetic properties, they are still entirely products of physical processes and have an unprecedented kind of causal power that is unlike anything that physics and chemistry alone have so far explained. Paradoxically, it is the intrinsic incompleteness of these semiotic and teleological phenomena that is the source of their unique form of physical influence in the world. *Incomplete Nature* meticulously traces the emergence of this special causal capacity from simple thermodynamics to self-organizing dynamics to living and mental dynamics, and it demonstrates how specific absences (or constraints) play the critical causal role in the organization of physical processes that generate these properties.



Editorial Reviews:

“[Deacon] demonstrates how systems that are intrinsically incomplete happen to be alive and meaning-making. The crux of life – and meaning – is solved. It was worthwhile to wait for this book. The twenty-first century can now really start.” (*Kalevi Kull, professor, Department of Semiotics, Tartu University*)

“A stunningly original, stunningly synoptic book. With *Autogenesis*, *Significance*, *Sentience*, seventeen insightful and integrated chapters turn our world upside down and finally, as in the Chinese proverb, lead us home again to a place we see anew. Few ask the important questions. Deacon is one of these.” (*Stuart Kauffman, author of Investigations*)

“This is a work of science and philosophy at the cutting edge of both that seeks to develop a complete theory of the world that includes humans, our minds and culture, embodied and emerging in nature.” (*Bruce H. Weber, coauthor of Darwinism Evolving*)

NASS Constitution

§ 1: Name and home area of the Association

- a) The name of the association is the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies (abbreviated NASS).
- b) NASS home area is constituted by the following countries: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden.

§ 2: The purpose of the Association is ...

- a) To promote the advancement of semiotics as an academic discipline and research domain in the Nordic countries and within the international semiotic community, fostering academic cooperation and highlighting Nordic contributions to the field. For this aim, to endorse contact and cooperation between its members, to provide information on Nordic and international academic activities within the field of semiotics, and to facilitate the development of research collaboration and projects across institutional and national borders.
- b) To organize a regular, biennial conference in a Nordic country. The official conference language is English for the convenience of communication.

§ 3: Members

Anyone interested can become a member. Membership follows from paying the conference fee for a NASS conference, which includes a specified membership fee. Membership is valid until the next NASS conference is held.

§ 4: The General Assembly

The General Assembly is constituted by all members of the association and is the highest authority in the association. It is convened in concomitance with the NASS conference. Mandatory agenda items include:

- a) Election of a chair for the meeting
- b) Election of a keeper of the minutes
- c) Election of three members to check the minutes
- d) Approval of the agenda
- e) The President's report
- f) The Treasurer's report
- g) Election of six board members + six supplementary representatives (see § 5 for details)
- h) Election of President, Secretary and Treasurer (among the representatives elected under § 4g)
- i) Optional topics and announcements

§ 5: The Governing Board

- a) Responsibility for setting up and administering the Association falls to the Governing Board.
- b) The Governing Board consists of the six Ordinary Representatives each representing a Nordic country (i.e. Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden) and six Supplementary Representatives (one for each of the regular board members and

- representing the same country).
- c) The board can also appoint an Organizational Assistant to help with practicalities on a regular basis.
 - d) The Governing Board is elected by members of the association for a term lasting until the next conference at the General Assembly to be held in connection with the regular conference organized by NASS.
 - e) Individual nominations of candidates (oneself or someone else) are called in the last NASS letter preceding the General Assembly and on the General Assembly itself. The Governing Board must inform current members and all persons registered for the upcoming conference about incoming nominations for being elected a board member no later than two weeks before the General Assembly.
 - f) In the event that the executive positions (President, Secretary, Treasurer) cannot be filled at a General Assembly, the General Assembly may give the board a mandate to constitute itself.
 - g) If not all Nordic countries are represented at the Assembly, the General Assembly can grant the Governing Board mandate to post hoc recruit additional members from these countries to complete the board.
 - h) The President, Secretary and Treasurer may be re-elected only for three subsequent terms in the same position.
 - i) Authorized to sign for the association as a legal entity are the President, the Treasurer and the Secretary.

§ 6: The Governing Board is charged with the following responsibilities:

- a) Engaging in and developing collaboration with other Nordic (national) and international organizations promoting research on semiotics,
- b) Deciding on the location of the Association's conferences and supporting the local organizers (see § 8 below concerning the distribution of responsibilities in relation to the organization of NASS conferences).
- c) Deciding on and collecting the membership fee to ensure the continuing activities of the Association.
- d) Approving an annual Treasurer's report in years where no NASS conference is held.
- e) Publishing a newsletter twice a year, distributed to members and others who sign up as subscribers (free of charge) by email.
- f) Maintaining a website (www.nordicsemiotics.org) in order to promote the interests of the Association.
- g) Deciding next term's membership fee in due time before each upcoming NASS conference, and communicate the decision to the local organizers of the conference.

§ 7: The constitution

- a) Proposals for amendments to any aspect of the constitution are to be sent to the Governing Board no later than four weeks before the General Assembly. Proposals will then be prepared by the Governing Board for a vote at the meeting. The Governing Board must inform current members and all persons registered for the upcoming conference about incoming proposals (including any proposal from the Board) no later than two weeks before the General Assembly.
- b) Amendments to the constitution are to be approved by a qualified majority (two-thirds) of the members present at the General Assembly.
- c) If the organization of an actual physical members' meeting is not feasible, voting may be

performed electronically.

§ 8: The Conferences

The Governing Board allocates the responsibility for the local organization of the regular NASS conferences to a member/institution in the NASS home area. The local organizers appoint a contact person who maintains contact with the Governing Board during the conference organization. They draft the theme of the NASS conference and the details of the organization (which might include proposals for keynote speakers, etc.), in collaboration with the Governing Board. The following responsibilities, among others, may be transferred to the local organizers:

- a) Inviting the keynote speakers, if such there will be.
- b) Applying for and managing funding for the full budget of the conference.
- c) Collecting the NASS membership fee together with a potential conference fee and transferring membership fees to the NASS bank account.
- d) Managing publication of conference proceedings etc.

§ 9: Dissolution of NASS

If no General Assembly has been called in a continuous period of five years the association is technically dissolved and it will be the duty of the Treasurer to hand over any financial assets to existing national semiotic associations in the Nordic region, or to any semiotic cause decided by the Governing Board.

This Constitution was approved by the board of NASS on August 31st 2012 with mandate from the General Assembly of NASS in Lund, Sweden, May 7th 2011.

UPCOMING ACADEMIC EVENTS¹

IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES INCLUDING ESTONIA

- *Eighth Conference of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies (NASS)* is to be held at the Center for Semiotics, University of Aarhus, Denmark, May 29th – 31st, 2013. For further details and the Call for Papers, see below.

¹ This list of events, and the academic news presented above are indicative and does 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.or).

- *14th International Conference on Informatics and Semiotics in Organisations (ICISO 2013)*, March 25-27, 2013 Stockholm, Sweden. For further information on conference theme and topics, as well as the call for papers, see <http://www.orgsem.org/2013>.
- **The Eleventh International Symposium on Intelligent Data Analysis (IDA 2012)** is held between 25th and 27th October, 2012 in Helsinki, Finland. The symposium seeks *first look* papers that might elsewhere be considered preliminary, but contain potentially high impact research. The IDA Symposium, which is A-ranked according to ERA, is open to all kinds of modeling and analysis methods, irrespective of discipline. It is expected to be an interdisciplinary meeting that seeks abstractions that cut across domains. See <http://ida2012.org/>.

INTERNATIONAL

- *Seminar Series on Cognitive Semiotics*: delivered by Jordan Zlatev in Paris, France, Fall 2012. Jordan Zlatev, Professor of general linguistics and Deputy Director of the Centre for Cognitive Semiotics at the University of Lund, Sweden, will present a seminar as a visiting professor at the ENS (École Normale Supérieure), Paris, during the fall of 2012 (from October 1 to November 26 (except October 29)). The general theme of the lectures is the emerging field of cognitive semiotics (CS), which combines methods and theories from cognitive science, semiotics and linguistics in investigations of the multifaceted concept of meaning. For a detailed description and program of the seminar see <http://www.lattice.cnrs.fr/Seminaire-de-Semiotique-Cognitive>.
- *The 25th European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information (ESSLLI 2013)* will be held at Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf, Germany, August 5-16, 2013. See <http://esslli2013.de/>.
- *The Charles S. Peirce International Centennial Congress*: Invigorating Philosophy for the 21st Century, University of Massachusetts Lowell, July 16-19, 2014 <http://www.peirce-foundation.org/2014.html>.
- *Conference: “Communication of the symbolic and the symbolic of communication in the modern and postmodern societies”*. The conference is organized by ESSACHESS and Open Research Center for International Applied Research Studies of Innovations in Communication (ORC IARSIC) at The Techno sciences Institute for Information and Communication (ITIC), Paul Valéry University of Montpellier 3, November 8-9, 2012, Béziers, France. For further information and call for papers, see <http://www.iarsic.com/news/>.

First Call for Papers and Theme Sessions of the *Eighth Conference of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies* (NASS):

Sign evolution on multiple time scales

We hereby invite submission of abstracts for oral or poster presentations for the **Eighth Conference of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies (NASS)** to be held at the Center for Semiotics, University of Aarhus, Denmark, May 29th – 31st, 2013

The theme of this year's conference is the evolution of signs, and will thus – among many others – address the following questions:

- *What are the basic mechanisms and conditions for the emergence of new signs and sign systems (such as codes, notational systems, verbal and sign languages, gesture, graphical symbols, pictorial expression, etc.)?*
- *To which extent should we search for these mechanisms at the level of biology, culture, cognition, phenomenological experience or interaction?*
- *And what are the relevant features of signs themselves making them emerge, survive and propagate in contexts of communication?*

The conference brings together international scholars from a range of disciplines each addressing these questions in relation to particular time scales ranging from biological and cultural evolution to ontogeny and online social interaction.

Presentations should address aspects of how signs and sign systems emerge and develop on different time scales. Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Sign emergence and development on an evolutionary time scale
- Sign emergence and development on a cultural historical timescale
- Sign emergence and development on an ontogenetic time scale
- Sign emergence and development on online interactive time scale
- Cultural perspectives on sign emergence and development
- Cognitive perspectives on sign emergence and development
- Dynamical systems perspectives on sign emergence and development
- Phenomenological perspectives on sign emergence and development
- Neurological perspectives on sign emergence and development
- Biological perspectives on sign emergence and development

Invited Plenary Speakers:

Jordan Zlatev (Lund University)

Fatima Cvrckova – (Charles University, Prague)

Bruno Galantucci (Yeshiva University, NY)

Susan Goldin-Meadow (University of Chicago)

Winfried Nöth (University of Kassel)*

Luc Steels (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)*

* NB: Not yet confirmed

Paper submissions:

Abstracts should be no more than 300 words and should be sent as an attachment to kristian@nordicsemiotics.org in doc, docx, ort or pdf format. Please do not include name or contact details in the text file. Specify in a cover mail your Title, Name, Affiliation, and whether the abstract is intended for oral or poster presentation. Please also indicate if your abstract should be considered part of a theme session (if you are taking part in organizing one) and if you would be willing to present a poster if the abstract is not accepted for oral presentation.

Deadline: January 31

Theme Sessions proposals:

Proposals for thematic sessions should contain an abstract of no more than 300 words describing the theme. It should also specify the name and affiliation of the organizer(s) and a list of people that would potentially like their presentation to be part of the theme session (IMPORTANT: each participant should still submit her own individual paper abstract that will go through regular peer review). The theme session proposal should be sent to kristian@nordicsemiotics.org as an attachment in doc, docx, ort or pdf format. Please specify in a cover mail the Title, Name(s) and Affiliation(s) of the theme session organizers and the title of the theme session proposal. Theme session organizer(s) may be contacted about the potential inclusion of additional papers from general submission if these seem to fit the proposed theme.

Deadline: December 31

Important Dates

- October 15: First Call for Papers and Theme Session Proposals
- December 1: Second Call for Papers and Theme Session Proposals

- December 31: Deadline for theme session proposals
- January 31: Deadline for abstract submission
- March 15: Notification of acceptance
- May 29 – May 31: Conference

Scientific Committee:

Luis E. Bruni (Aalborg University)

Jordan Zlatev (Lund University)

Göran Sonesson (Lund University)

Sara Lenninger (Lund University)

Torill Strand (University of Oslo)

Morten Tønnessen (University of Stavanger)

Inesa Sahakyan (Université of Perpignan Via Domitia)

Riin Magnus (University of Tartu)

Ahti-Veikko Pietarinen (University of Helsinki)

Tommi Vehkavaara (Tampere University)

Bergljot Kristjansdottir (University of Island)

Sigrún Margrét Guðmundsdóttir (University of Island)

Svend Østergaard (Aarhus University)

Riccardo Fusaroli (Aarhus University)

Frederik Stjernfelt (Aarhus University)

If you have any questions or comments related to the conference organization, please email Kristian Tylén: kristian@nordicsemiotics.org