



LETTER

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

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Please visit our webpage
nordicsemiotics.org/

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The newsletter of NASS
appears twice a year
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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

Two special issues of *Sign Systems Studies*

[*Sign Systems Studies*](#), based in Tartu, Estonia, has published two special issues: *Semiotics of verse* (volume 40.1/2, guest-edited by Mihhail Lotman and Maria-Kristiina Lotman) and *Semiotics of Translation and Cultural Mediation* (volume 40.3/4, guest-edited by Elin Sütiste, Terje Loogus and Maarja Saldre).

NASS VII publication in process

The publications to appear in the wake of the [Seventh Conference of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies](#) (Lund, Sweden, May 6-8 2011) are still in process. It will still take some time before the publication appears. Those who have submitted papers will be notified by the convenor of NASS VII, Göran Sonesson, about the selection of publications made.

International News

[*Southern Semiotic Review*](#) – new journal initiative

We are pleased to announce that the planning for a new journal on semiotics, to be titled *Southern Semiotic Review*, has progressed. The journal will have online and print versions. The initial online version will offer a progressive and dynamic approach to publication. As well as peer-reviewed papers, comments, reviews, abstracts and work in progress, less formal contributions will be welcome from all international scholars and writers. Where possible, faster publication schedules for individual papers will be encouraged, and the journal will mix the need for archival services as well as scheduled special issues. Expressions of interest for both contributions and editorial assistance are now welcome. For further details read <http://www.iass-ais.org/>

[*Signs and Society*](#) – a new journal of semiotics published by the University of Chicago Press

The University of Chicago Press announces the launch of a new open-access journal focusing on the study of sign processes (or semiosis) in the realms of social action, cognition, and cultural form. The journal is now accepting submissions for a supplementary issue, “Representing Transcendence” (Winter 2014). This supplementary issue will be co-edited by Massimo Leone at the University of Turin (massimo.leone@unito.it) and Richard J. Parmentier at Brandeis University (rparmentier@brandeis.edu). Scholars from various disciplines in the social sciences and humanities are encouraged to contact either of the co-editors to discuss a possible contribution.

CFP [here](#). The deadline for submitting completed manuscripts is **August 15**.

NASS: Call for General Assembly

The board of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies (NASS) hereby calls for a general assembly, to be convened during the Eighth Conference of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies (NASS) at Center for Semiotics, Aarhus University, Denmark (May 29th – 31st, 2013). All members – i.e., everybody who registers for the conference – are welcome to attend.

Time: *Thursday May 30th at 16:30 – 17:30*

Proposed agenda

- 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) Approval of the new constitution*
- f) The President's report
- g) The Treasurer's report
- h) Election of six board members + six supplementary representatives
- i) Election of President, Secretary and Treasurer (among the representatives elected under h)
- j) Optional topics and announcements

* [The constitution of NASS](#) 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. At this board meeting, which was convened via telephone conference, it was decided that “[a]t the next NASS conference in Aarhus in May 2013 the constitution will be treated by the General Assembly of NASS. However, it is already from August 31st 2012 to be considered as being in effect.”

Proposals for amendments to the constitution

Proposals for amendments to any aspect of [the constitution](#) are to be sent to the Governing Board (post@nordicsemiotics.org) no later than four weeks before the General Assembly. The deadline for such proposals is thus May 2nd, 2013. 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 (cf. §7c in NASS' constitution).

Call for individual nominations of candidates to the board of NASS

According to [NASS' constitution](#) §5e, “[i]ndividual 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.” Nominations may be sent to the board via post@nordicsemiotics.org.

UPCOMING ACADEMIC EVENTS

IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES INCLUDING ESTONIA¹

- Six of the eight *research seminars* this spring at Aarhus University's [Center for Semiotics](#) have already been held. Two, however, remain to be held: *What predicts text comprehension in children? Taking a look from the perspective of complex systems* (Sebastian Wallot, May 2) and *From artificial life to living technologies* (Steen Rasmussen, May 16).
- [The Eighth Conference of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies \(NASS\)](#) is to be held at the Center for Semiotics, University of Aarhus, Denmark, May 29– 31. For further details, see elsewhere in this issue.
- [The Founding Meeting of The International Association for Cognitive Semiotics](#), May 29th at Aarhus University, Denmark.

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.org).

- The founding meeting of the International Association for Cognitive Semiotics will be held in connection with the [Eighth Conference of The Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies, NASS VIII](#), May 29th, 2013 at Aarhus University, Denmark.
- The purpose of the International Association for Cognitive Semiotics is to advance research in cognitive semiotics and facilitate scholarly discussion and exchange in what is a growing field, as well as organizing conferences and other academic events.
- The founding of the association coincides with the re-launch of the peer-reviewed *Journal of Cognitive Semiotics*, which from 2014 will be published by de Gruyter-Mouton. Though the journal is independent of the association, the two will maintain a close collaboration. Members of the association will benefit from an attractive subscription discount among other envisioned benefits.
- The founders of the association – Peer Bundgaard, Todd Oakley, Göran Sonesson, Kristian Tylén and Jordan Zlatev – invite all scholars interested in meaning-making – linguists, philosophers, anthropologists, and psychologists, among others – to attend the meeting, which main purpose will be to elect a board. The board will be tasked with drafting a constitution and initiating the work of the association.
- [Tartu Summer School of Semiotics 2013](#) will be arranged August 18-23 at the Kääriku Leisure and Sports Center in Southern Estonia. This year's Summer School is dedicated to the 40th anniversary from the publication of *Theses on the Semiotic Study of Cultures*, which first appeared in 1973 and which has been foundational for the so-called Tartu-Moscow school. Tartu Summer School of Semiotics is a new series of 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 revives the tradition of Kääriku Summer Schools of Semiotics held by Tartu-Moscow School of Semiotics. *Keynote speakers*: Edna Andrews, Paul Cobley, Barend van Heusden, Alexandros Lagopoulos, Mihhail Lotman, Ann Shukman, Marek Tamm and Peeter Torop.
- [The 28th international Summer School for Semiotic and Structural Studies](#) will be held in Imatra, Finland, June 8-12. This year's program includes six symposia: 1) 32nd Annual Meeting of the Semiotic Society of Finland: Signs in the Human Existence: Theories and Analyses; 2) 9th International Imatra Symposium on Semiotics and Translation (SemTRA2013); 3) Symposium on Semiotics of Cultural Heritages: Remembering, Renewing, Restoring; 4) Semiotics for Education: Transforming Theories and Practices; 5) Anthro-Semiotics of Funerary Practices and 6) Challenge of the Disabled: Sounds and Signs of Difference.

INTERNATIONAL

- [Intersemiotic Translation Conference 25-27th September 2013](#): The Intersemiotic Translation Conference will take place at the University of Lodz (Poland), on 25-27th of September, 2013. The aim of the conference is to present and discuss the most recent research on intersemiotic translation, understood broadly here as comprising transfer from

one semiotic mode to another, but also as interaction between the different modes. Contributions are invited from linguists, literary scholars, arts and media scholars, translation specialists. *Invited plenary speakers include:* Sabine Braun, University of Surrey; Kiene Brillenburg Wurth, University of Utrecht; Alan Cienki, VU University Amsterdam; Lars Elleström, Linnaeus University, Sweden; Charles Forceville, University of Amsterdam; David Kennedy, University of Hull; Elżbieta Tabakowska, Jagiellonian University, Cracow. Deadline for abstract submissions: 15th of May.

- **[10th International Conference on Semiotics](#)**, 4-6th October, Volos, Greece. Theme: *Changing worlds & Signs of the times*. The 10th International Conference on Semiotics of the Greek Semiotic Society along with the University of Thessaly (School of Humanities and Department of Architectural Engineering) will be held in Volos (Greece), on the 4th, 5th and 6th of October, 2013. For full call for papers visit http://semio2013.uth.gr/call_proposals. *Keynote speakers:* Jean-Marie Klinkenberg, Professor Emeritus of Semiotics and Rhetoric at the University of Liege, Alexandros-Phaidon Lagopoulos, Professor Emeritus at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki; Massimo Leone, Research Professor of Semiotics and Cultural Semiotics at Department of Philosophy, University of Turin. Deadline for abstract submissions: 15th of May.
- **[Is it real? Structuring reality by means of signs](#)**, Ankara, Turkey, October 8-10. The International Semiotic Conference “Is it real?” will take place October 8-9-10, 2013, at Çankaya University, Faculty of Architecture in Ankara, Turkey. The conference will essentially focus on the question of “real” and scrutinize what the “reality” is. You are invited to submit abstracts for paper, poster or video presentations. Read more at <http://www.is-it-real.cankaya.edu.tr/course.php?page=index>. *Keynote speakers include:* Prof. Dr. Eero Tarasti, Helsinki University, Finland (President of the IASS/AIS (International Association for Semiotic Studies)); Prof. Dr. V. Doğan Günay, Dokuz Eylül University, Turkey; Prof. Dr. Massimo Leone, University of Turin, Italy. Deadline for abstract submissions: June 3.
- ***38th Annual Meeting of the Semiotic Society of America***, Dayton, Ohio, 24-27th October. Theme: *Why Semiotics*. The Semiotic Society of America invites the submission of abstracts for presentation at its 38th Annual Meeting to be held on October 24th through October 27th 2013 in Dayton, Ohio. For the full Call for Papers, visit <http://semioticsocietyofamerica.org/>. Deadline for abstract submissions: June 1.



- [*The Charles S. Peirce International Centennial Congress: Invigorating Philosophy for the 21st Century*](#), University of Massachusetts Lowell, July 16-19, 2014. In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the death of C. S. Peirce, The Charles S. Peirce Society and The Peirce Foundation invite the submission of new papers and panel proposals for The Charles S. Peirce International Centennial Congress, to be held on July 16-19, 2014 at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. The general theme of the congress is ‘Invigorating Philosophy for the 21st Century’. Confirmed plenary speakers include Douglas Anderson, Vincent Colapietro, Susan Haack, Christopher Hookway, Nathan Houser, Ivo Ibri, Cheryl Misak, Nicholas Rescher, Claudine Tiercelin, and Fernando Zalamea. Deadline for papers, short contributions, and posters: September 1.
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The Eighth Conference of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies (NASS):

Sign evolution on multiple time scales

at Center for Semiotics, Aarhus University, Denmark, May 29th – 31st, 2013

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

Registration

Registration is now open. Take advantage of the early bird discounted conference fee and **register before May 1st** at the [webshop of the conference](#). Registration fee includes coffee, lunches and conference materials for all three days as well as NASS membership fee (the latter amounts to 35 EUR for faculty and 15 EUR for students). Prices, early bird registration: 600 DKK (ca. 75 EUR) for students & PhD students; 1200 DKK (ca. 155 EUR) for faculty. Conference dinner is an additional 300 DKK (ca. 40 EUR).

New plenary

Unfortunately professor Luc Steels has had to cancel and will not be giving a plenary at the conference. However, we are happy to announce that professor [Nicolas Fay](#) (University of Western Australia) will replace him. Professor Fay is doing intriguingly interesting experimental work on the emergence of signs and sign systems so we are very happy that he has accepted to jump in.

Conference publication

There will not be a conference proceeding proper coming out of NASS VIII. However, we invite conference participants to submit contributions to a special double issue of *Sign System Studies* guest edited by Kristian Tylén and Luis Bruni on the theme of the conference: “the emergence of signs on multiple time scales”. Deadline for full manuscript submissions will be in fall 2013 and manuscripts will go through regular peer review (call for papers will follow soon).

Founding Meeting of The International Association for Cognitive Semiotics

In connection with the NASS conference we also call the Founding Meeting of The International Association for Cognitive Semiotics. All attendees of NASS VII is invited to join the meeting and participate in the launching of this new association (see [this pdf](#) – and “Upcoming academic events” – for details).

Preliminary program

Wednesday May 29th 2013

8:30 – 9:00	Arrival and registration		
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome and practical announcements (Auditorium 1482-105)		
9:15 – 10:15	1 st Plenary (Auditorium 1482-105): Susan Goldin-Meadow (University of Chicago): <i>From homesign to sign language: Creating language in the manual modality</i> Chair: Kristian Tylén		
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee break		
Parallel sessions	General session 1 (aud. 1482-105). Chair: tba	General session 2 (aud. 1483-251). Chair: tba	Theme session (aud. 1483-244): Experimental Semiotics. Chair: Göran Sonesson
10:30 - 11:00	Luis Emilio Bruni: <i>On the embeddedness of sign-function</i>	Francesco Bellucci: <i>The Growth of Symbols</i>	Göran Sonesson & Sara Lenninger: <i>The Mirror Image, the Video Clip, and the Real World. A Study in</i>

			<i>Experimental Semiotics.</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Len Olsen: <i>Pointing a Finger to the Theory of Notation: On the Evolution of Signs and the Search for Meaning</i>	Igor Zatsman: <i>Sign emergence and propagation during interactive processes of knowledge creation by experts</i>	Peeter Tinitis: <i>Application of semiotic experiments in linguistic research</i>
11:30 – 12:00	Piotr Konderak: <i>On "mutual enlightenment" of Cognitive Semiotics and cognitive modeling</i>	Salmiah Abdul Hamid: <i>Intersections between Geosemiotics and Human Mobility in the Study of Road Traffic Signs</i>	Gregory Mills: <i>Making and breaking procedural conventions: partner-specific effects</i>
12:00 – 12:30	Justin William Bernard Sulik: <i>Cognition at the Symbolic Threshold</i>	Tae Kunisawa: <i>Cultural and Cognitive Perspectives on sign emergence and development an ontogenetic time scale</i>	Peer Christensen & Kristian Tylén: <i>Representing event structure in gestural communication</i>
12:30 – 13:20	Lunch		
13:20 – 13:30	Announcements (aud. 1482-105)		
13:30 – 14:30	2 nd Plenary (aud. 1482-105): Nicolas Fay (University of Western Australia): <i>The evolution of sign systems: Transitions from icon to symbol</i> Chair: Riccardo Fusaroli		
14:30 – 14:45	Coffee Break		
Parallel sessions	General session 1 (aud. 1482-105). Chair: tba	General session 2 (aud. 1483-251). Chair: tba	Theme session (aud. 1483-244): Experimental Semiotics. Chair: Göran Sonesson
14:45 – 15:15	Vytautas Tumėnas: <i>Patterns of Geometric Diagonal Ornament: Historical</i>	Jui-Pi Chien: <i>Can we play with nature? A semiotic inquiry into the hidden links between Hegel's and</i>	Daniel Barratt & Anna Cabak Rédei: <i>Does the Kuleshov effect really exist?</i>

	<i>Transformations of Signification from Baltic Perspective</i>	<i>Alexander von Humboldt's aesthetics</i>	
15:15 – 15:45	Esteban Fredin-Ortiz: <i>Ernst Cassirer and Charles S. Peirce's import on the semiotic modeling of language evolution</i>	Mohammad Tavallaei: <i>The Orientalist Discourse and the Oriental Signs</i>	Monica Tamariz, Gabriella Vigliocco, David Vinson & Julio Santiago: <i>The emergence and spread of iconicity</i>
15:45 – 16:15	Alin Olteanu: <i>Learning as discovery of relations of signification: hunger for knowledge as a result of evolution</i>	Vikash Kumar: <i>Revolutionary Roads: Violence versus Non-violence - A comparative study of The Battle of Algiers (1966) and Gandhi (1982)</i>	Kristian Tylén & Riccardo Fusaroli: <i>Neurocognitive trails of collective meaning construction</i>
16:15 – 16:30	Coffee break		
16:30 – 17:30	Founding Assembly of the International Association for Cognitive Semiotics (Auditorium 1482-105)		
17:30 -	Poster Session (see below) and reception		

Poster Session (Wednesday May 29th 17:30):

Bujar Hoxha:	<i>On a Semiotics of Precision and Imprecision</i>
Drude von der Fehr:	<i>Being, Consciousness and Virtuality</i>
Elisabet Malmström:	<i>A semio-cognitive reconstruction of the sign</i>
Gabi Lipede:	<i>The end of aesthetic evolution: toward a macroevolutionary model of adaptive and null intersexual selection mechanisms</i>
Gunnar Sandin:	<i>Art and the evolvement of culture. The altering capacity of institutional critique</i>
Larisa Taranenko:	<i>Cognitive Mechanisms of the queries emerging in a child's consciousness while comprehending a fairy tale</i>
Catarina Isabel Grácio Moura:	<i>From Sign to Design</i>
Niels Bandholm:	<i>Excavating the final sign in Royal Jelling – musing on semiotic epistemology</i>

Thursday May 30th 2013

8:50 – 9:00	Announcements (Auditorium 1482-105)		
9:00 – 10:00	3 rd Plenary (Auditorium 1482-105): Fatima Cvrčková (Charles University, Prague): <i>Do cells speak creole?</i> Chair: Peer Bundgaard		
10:00 – 10:15	Coffee break		
Parallel sessions	General session 1 (aud. 1482-105). Chair: tba	General session 2 (aud. 1483-251). Chair: tba	Theme session (aud. 1483-244): Biosemiotics. Chair: Kalevi Kull
10:15 - 10:45	Esa Itkonen: <i>Isomorphism, iconicity, analogy</i>	Lene Rachel Andersen: <i>The evolution of the semantic network of a pair of fashionably</i>	Kalevi Kull: <i>Evolution of signs as evolution of types of learning: Emonic signs between index and symbol</i>

		<i>holed jeans</i>	
10:45 – 11:15	Gisela Bruche-Schulz: <i>About an inner process and outward signs</i>	María Restrepo: <i>The graphic design production: a sign in itself</i>	Søren Brier: <i>The expanded ontology of Peircean biosemiotics</i>
11:15 – 11:45	Joel Parthemore: <i>Conceptual Development on Multiple Time Scales</i>	Marianela Campos: <i>Evolution of Symbols in Contemporary Popular Music and Underground Cultures</i>	Sebastian Gaub: <i>Semiogenesis: The Epigenesis of Semiosis</i>
11:45 – 12:15	Peter Bakker: <i>New languages: cognitive aspects of emerging grammars</i>	Johanna Arffman: <i>Development of the semiotic system in the history of Christianity</i>	Mette Miriam Rakel Böll: <i>Brain, Body, Behavior: Integrative Semiotics</i>
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch		
13:15 – 13:30	Announcements (aud. 1482-105)		
13:30 – 14:30	4 rd Plenary (Auditorium 1482-105): Bruno Galantucci (Yeshiva University & Haskins Laboratories): <i>Experimental Semiotics: an engine of discovery for understanding human communication</i> Chair: Svend Østergaard		
14:30 – 14:45	Coffee Break		
Parallel sessions	General session 1 (aud. 1482-105). Chair: tba	General session 2 (aud. 1483-251). Chair: tba	Theme session (aud. 1483-244): Biosemiotics. Chair: Kalevi Kull
14:45 – 15:15	Peer Bundgaard & Svend Østergaard: <i>What are text genres? The double feedback loop and the parameter theory of genres</i>	Dinda L. Gorlée: <i>Kenneth L. Pike and Science Fiction</i>	Morten Tønnessen: <i>The ontogeny of the embryonic, fetal and infant human Umwelt</i>

15:15 – 15:45	Mats Andréén: <i>A Comparative Approach to Conventionality in Gesture</i>	Werner Schäfke: <i>Challenges and Methods of Cognitive Historical Lexicology of Old Norse</i>	Riin Magnus: <i>The development of sign usage in the cooperation of the blind person and guide dog team</i>
15:45 – 16:15	Giuditta Bassano & Silvia Viti: <i>Saying Almost The Same Thing: Evolutionary Perspectives on Sign Language</i>	Inesa Sahakyan: <i>The evolution of signs in The Voynich Manuscript</i>	Barend van Heusden: <i>Semiotic cognition and lateralization</i>
16:15 – 16:30	Coffee break		
16:30 – 17:30	General Assembly of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies, NASS		
18:00 -	Conference Banquet (Nobel Salen, building 1485, ground floor)		

Friday May 31st 2013

9:50 – 10:00	Announcements (Auditorium 1482-105)		
10:00 – 11:00	5 th Plenary (Auditorium 1482-105): Winfried Nöth (University of Kassel): <i>The growth of signs</i> Chair: Peer Bundgaard		
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break		
Parallel sessions	General session 1 (aud. 1482-105). Chair: tba	General session 2 (aud. 1483-251). Chair: tba	Theme session (aud. 1483-244): Dynamical Systems approaches to semiotics. Chair: Riccardo Fusaroli
11:15 - 11:45	Marilyn Mitchell: <i>A pragmatic perspective on the sign system of</i>	Ekaterina Velmezova & Kalevi Kull: <i>Signs and concepts of</i>	Svend Østergaard: <i>Three mechanisms in biological systems working on three time</i>

	<i>genealogical diagrams</i>	<i>signs evolving: A view from the “Tartu-Moscow semiotic tradition”</i>	<i>scales</i>
11:45 – 12:15	Peter Musaeus, Søren Læssøe Mathiesen & Mads Ronald Dahl: <i>The semiosis of students’ conceptual understanding of biochemistry</i>	Aleksei Semenenko: <i>The Semiosphere, Cognition and the Emergence of Sign Systems</i>	Riccardo Fusaroli & Kristian Tylén: <i>Words, Actions and Heart Beats: how five people become one Lego-model-constructing system</i>
12:15 – 12:45	Waldmir Araujo-Neto & Rosangela Silva: <i>Semiotic aspects on the sign evolution of chemical structural representation between the late nineteenth and early twentieth century</i>	...	Sebastian Wallot: <i>Understanding as a constraint on behavior: The dynamics of reading reveal a slow process in text comprehension</i>
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch		
13:45 – 14:00	Announcements (aud. 1482-105)		
14:00 – 15:00	6 th Plenary (Auditorium 1482-105): Jordan Zlatev (Lund University): <i>Three key factors in human cognitive-semiotic evolution: bodily mimesis, alloparenting and multimodality</i> Chair: Svend Østergaard		
15:00 – 15:15	Concluding remarks and goodbye		