

LETTER

NUMBER 8 (AUGUST 2015) – JULY 2015

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Please visit our webpage
nordicsemiotics.org/

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

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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.

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



See the [conference website](#) for program and other updated information.

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

NASS IX is convened by Tiit Remm.

NASS graduate student grants and prize

As announced in the previous issue of the newsletter, the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies (NASS) has allocated funds to support graduate students in the field of semiotics, in particular through 150 euro *student grants*. Thus up to 10 students will be supported financially to attend the IX NASS conference in Tartu. A NASS committee consisting of Luis Emilio Bruni (President of NASS), Morten Tønnessen (Secretary of NASS), Sara Lenninger (Treasurer of NASS) and Inesa Sahakyan (NASS Organisational Assistant) has been established to select winners of graduate student grants. The same committee will also select a winner of the NASS graduate student prize, for best presentation at the conference. The prize winner will receive a symbolic premium along with a letter from NASS acknowledging the participant's merit.

- **Graduate student grants:** We are pleased to inform you that the abovementioned NASS committee is about to finish its work. Grant winners will be notified directly shortly. The names of grant winners will be announced publicly during NASS IX.
 - **Graduate student prize:** The winner of the graduate student prize will be announced during the closing session of the conference.
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Call for General Assembly

Call for the General Assembly of NASS

The board of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies (NASS) hereby calls for a general assembly, to be convened during the Ninth Conference of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies hosted by Tartu Summer School, Tartu, Estonia (August 17th – 20th, 2015). All members – i.e., everybody who registers for the conference – are welcome to attend.

Time: Wednesday August 19 at 18:30

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) **Proposals for amendments to the constitution***
- f) Approval of the new constitution
- g) The President's report
- h) The Treasurer's report
- i) Election of six** Ordinary representatives + six** Alternative representatives
- j) Election of President, Secretary and Treasurer (among the representatives elected under i)
- k) Miscellaneous 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.*

*** Or seven, if the board's proposal to include Lithuania in NASS (see below) is accepted by the General Assembly.*

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 July 22nd, 2015. 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

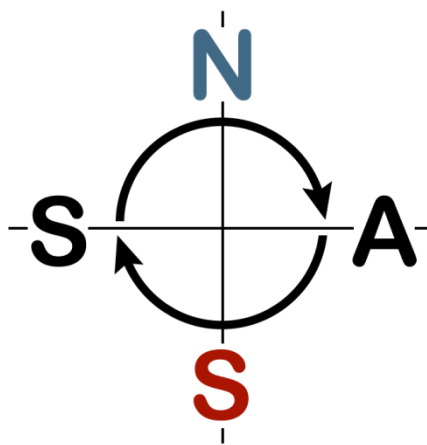
incoming nominations for being elected a board member no later than two weeks before the General Assembly.”

Thus we hereby call for individual nominations of candidates. These must be sent to the board via post@nordicsemiotics.org. You may nominate yourself or someone else. All nominations should be for a specific position. Executive functions include President, Secretary, and Treasurer. National functions include Ordinary Representative and Alternative Representative for Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. If the board’s proposal to include Lithuania in NASS (see below) is accepted by the General Assembly, nominations can also be made for Lithuania. Executive functions must be performed by national representatives (Ordinary or Alternative).

NASS board proposes to include Lithuania in NASS

At its board meeting on July 8th, the board of NASS decided that it proposes to amend the organization’s constitution during its General Assembly in Tartu August 19th. The change would consist in including Lithuania in NASS. The International Semiotics Institute (ISI), now headed by Dario Martinelli, has recently moved from Finland to Lithuania – or more specifically to Kaunas, where ISI is hosted by Kaunas University of Technology.

In technical terms, the NASS board’s proposal is to add “Lithuania” to [NASS’ constitution](#)’s paragraphs 1b and 5b, and in the latter paragraph to change “six” representatives to “seven”.



NEWS

Nordic News

15th Gathering in Biosemiotics held in Copenhagen

The 15th annual gathering in biosemiotics was organized in Copenhagen, Denmark, June 30 – July 4th by Luis Emilio Bruni, at Aalborg University, campus Copenhagen. The conference was quite well attended, and also included a pre-conference workshop.

Kalevi Kull new President of the ISBS

At its General Assembly during the 15th gathering in biosemiotics (see above), Kalevi Kull (Tartu, Estonia) was elected President of the International Society for Biosemiotic Studies (ISBS). Jesper Hoffmeyer (Denmark) stepped down, after having been the ISBS' President for the first ten years of its existence.

International News

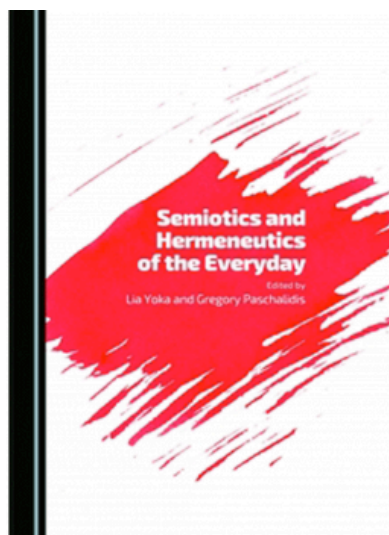
SEMIOTIC PUBLICATIONS

Books

New Book: Semiotics and Hermeneutics of the Everyday

New publication of the Hellenic Semiotic Society: **Semiotics and Hermeneutics of the Everyday**

Editors: Lia Yoka, Gregory Paschalidis



The linchpin of the momentous paradigm shift that produced the new hermeneutics of everyday life was a focus on people as active agents in various cultural contexts, uses and practices, the merging of the conventional distinctions between the private and the public, the local and the global, the material and the symbolic, and the bridging of the agency/structure divide marking grand historical and cultural narratives. In their place, a wealth of new kinds of narratives were produced out what was traditionally taken for granted, condemned or discarded, unmarked, and overlooked as mundane, trivial and inconsequential.

Upon concluding *The Structures of Everyday Life*, whereby he introduced the everyday into the domain of modern historiography, Fernand Braudel admits that “to encompass all the many and varied constituents of material life would require close and systematic research, followed by much synthesis and analysis. All that is still lacking. What the text says calls for discussion, addition and extension”. Despite the wide range of contributions that have advanced the study of the everyday in the decades that followed, Braudel’s suggestion is still pertinent. The volume at hand is both a response to the need for more “close and systematic research”, for more “synthesis and analysis”, and a call for more “discussion, addition and extension”.

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ISBN-10: 1-4438-7192-3

Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Date of Publication: 01/03/2015

Pages / Size: 315 / A5

Price: £52.99

Website:

<http://www.cambridgescholars.com/semiotics-and-hermeneutics-of-the-everyday>

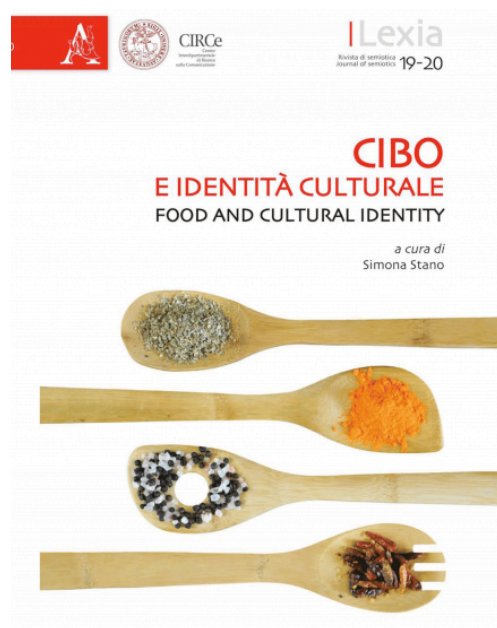
Biography

Lia Yoka is Assistant Professor of Art History at the School of Architecture of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. She has edited three volumes on museum studies, and has published on the history of modern art, cultural history and the critique of technoscience.

Gregory Paschalidis is Associate Professor of Cultural Studies at the School of Journalism and Mass Communications of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He is the author of *The Poetics of Autobiography* (1993), *Introduction to Culture* (2002), *The Meanings of Photography* (2012), and various edited volumes on semiotics, cultural studies and mass media. He generally publishes in the fields of cultural and media theory, visual culture, semiotics and cultural policy.

Journals

LEXIA – New issue 19-20 of *Lexia – Journal of Semiotics*



Presentation PDF [in Italian] can be downloaded [here](#).

CFP: *Lexia* no. 23

The Meaning of Conspiracy

Lexia, the international, peer-reviewed journal of CIRCE, the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Communication of the University of Torino, Italy, invites contributions to be published in issue no. 23 of the new series. The topic of the forthcoming issue is “The Meaning of Conspiracy”.

Expected publication schedule of the volume:

December 15, 2015: deadline for contributions

January 15, 2016: deadline for referees

March 15, 2016: deadline for revised versions of contributions

June 15, 2016: publication of *Lexia* no. 23.

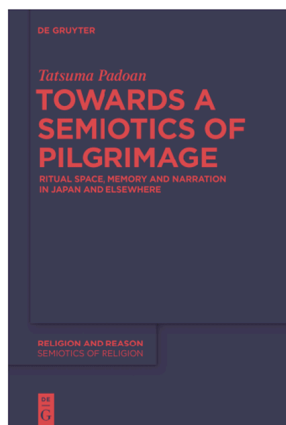
Contributions, 30,000 characters max, MLA style sheet, with a 500 words max English abstract and 5 English keywords, should be sent to massimo.leone@unito.it

Download Complete Call for Papers:

[Lexia 23 – Call for Papers – The Meaning of Conspiracy](#)

New Series: Semiotics of Religion

Editors: Massimo Leone, Fabio Rambelli, Robert Yelle



Cross-fertilizing the areas of religious studies and language studies, this new series publishes works that deal with the symbolic patterns of religious cultures. While stressing the theoretical reading of religious phenomena, the series emphasizes placing religious beliefs and expressions in their historical and socio-cultural contexts, as well as establishing well-documented comparisons among different religious traditions.

The series is interdisciplinary and welcomes contributions from researchers in all subfields of semiotics – including cultural, cognitive, structural, and visual semiotics, as well as semiotic anthropology and semiotics of the arts – and from adjacent disciplines such as linguistics, discourse analysis, performance studies, communications, and rhetoric as well as religious studies, cultural studies, literary studies, gender studies, post-colonial studies, and material culture. The series

considers proposals on every religious culture, provided that the methodological focus bears on the understanding of religion as a form of signification and communication.

UPCOMING ACADEMIC EVENTS

IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES INCLUDING ESTONIA¹

See also information on NASS IX (Tartu, August 17–20th 2015), page 2.

17–19 SEPTEMBER, 2015, STAVANGER, NORWAY

ANIMALS IN THE ANTHROPOCENE: HUMAN–ANIMAL RELATIONS IN A CHANGING SEMIOSPHERE

Organised by the Norwegian research group of the Norwegian-Estonian research project “Animals in Changing Environments: Cultural Mediation and Semiotic Analysis” (EEA Norway Grants/Norway Financial Mechanism 2009–2014 under project contract no. EMP151). The research project is carried out in cooperation between [University of Stavanger](#) (Norway) and [University of Tartu](#) (Estonia). For further information see the conference [web site](#).

Deadline for conference registration: August 30th 2015

All inquiries should be sent to anthropoceneanimals@uis.no.

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).

NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 4, 2015, AALBORG UNIVERSITY, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

ICIDS 2015 – The ICIDS 2015 – The 8th International Conference on Interactive Digital Storytelling



Final deadline July 10th, 2015

Due to numerous requests for a few days more to finish the ICIDS 2015 papers, the organisers have decided to extend the final deadline to the 10th of July. Please submit your full, short, demo or poster paper [here](#).

First Keynote speakers confirmed: [Chris Crawford](#) and [Paul Mulholland](#)

This year, the Eight International Conference on Interactive Digital Storytelling (ICIDS 8) will take place in Denmark at **Aalborg University's campus in central Copenhagen**. The conference will be hosted by the Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology in collaboration with the Center for Applied Game Research, the Augmented Cognition Lab, and the ReCreate Center.

ICIDS has its origin in [a series of related international conferences](#) that ran between 2001 and 2007. Since 2008, ICIDS became the premier annual venue that gathers researchers, developers, practitioners and theorists to present and share the latest innovations, insights and techniques in the expanding field of interactive storytelling and the technologies that support it.

The field regroups a highly dynamic and interdisciplinary community, in which narrative studies, computer science, interactive and immersive technologies, the arts, and creativity converge to develop new expressive forms in a myriad of domains that include artistic projects, interactive documentaries, cinematic games, serious games, assistive technologies, edutainment, pedagogy, museum science, advertisement and entertainment, to mention a few.

The conference has a long-standing tradition of bringing together academia, industry, designers, developers and artists into an interdisciplinary dialogue through a mix of keynote lectures, long and short article presentations, posters, workshops, and very lively demo sessions. Additionally, since 2010, ICIDS has been hosting an international art exhibition open to the general public.

The refereed proceedings of ICIDS 2015 will be published as a volume in the Springer Lecture Notes in Computer Science ([LNCS](#)) "Interactive Storytelling" series.



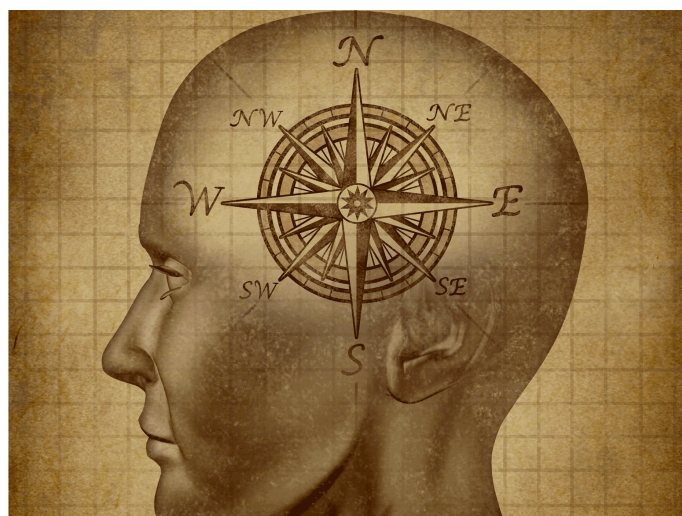
If you are interested in arranging a workshop, please take a look [here](#). Finally, there is also the option to contribute with your artwork at the International Art Exhibition on Interactive Digital Storytelling [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES & CALLS FOR PAPERS

5-13 SEPTEMBER 2015, SOZOPOL, BULGARIA

XXth International Early Fall School of Semiotics (EFSS) 2015 “Ways of Semiotic Research”

After the successful XII World congress of the International Association for Semiotic Studies held in Sofia in September 2014, the Southeast European Center for Semiotic Studies is renewing its main international event – the Early Fall School of Semiotics (EFSS). This year the organisers celebrate the XX edition and will dedicate the school to the young emerging semioticians – advanced MA students, PhDs, post docs. The theme of the school will be “Ways of Semiotic Research” and the main program will consist in seminars, lectures, workshops, fieldwork and different other forms of sharing experience on the most academically acknowledged approaches. Participants will have the chance to present their own projects and receive valuable feedback from affirmed scholars during the PhD Marathon.



Among the lecturers there will be **Paul Cogley, Jordan Zlatev, Eero Tarasti, Dario Martinelli, Kristian Bankov, Massimo Leone** and others. All major semiotic methods will be presented, included structural and interpretative semiotics, cognitive semiotics, sociosemiotics, zoosemiotics, qualitative and quantitative methods in semiotics, philosophical and theoretical investigations, search engines and big data analysis. The new generation of semioticians should be aware of the whole spectrum of research possibilities which the semiotic approach offers!

The school has a limited number of places, advantage will have students from acknowledged semiotic programs, PhDs and post docs with research topic in semiotics. The school is under the auspices of the International Association for Semiotic Studies (IASS/AIS), for its members there will be only a **40 Euro fee** (and **25 Euro** for those who have already taken part in the EFSS previous years).

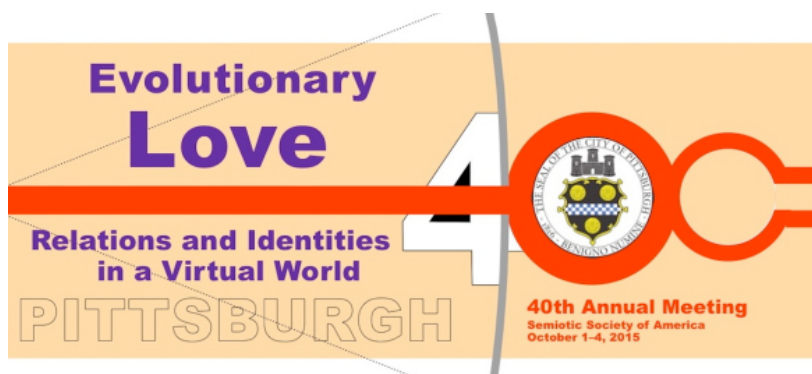
The XX. EFSS “Ways of Semiotic Research” is an excellent occasion for the new generation of semiotic students and researchers to meet, to exchange experience, to receive support from affirmed scholars and institutionally by IASS/AIS, to form an international network for future projects and solidarity. [Sozopol](#) is an ancient town and a picturesque resort on the Black sea coast, the beginning of September is still in the active season, there are a lot of cultural activities going on there, nevertheless the prices for accommodation and allowance start from 22 Euro per day.

[REGISTRATION FORM](#)

For more information infosociosemiotics.net

OCTOBER 1-4, 2015, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Semiotic Society of America 40th Annual Meeting



Evolutionary Love: Relations and Identities in a Virtual World

Charles Sanders Peirce's concept of evolutionary love is behind the theme of this year's conference, which prompts an exploration into the digital age of virtual relationships and identities. How have these relationships grown, or changed, in our new worlds of digital communication, multimedial art, and virtual realities? Who are we now, in this new environment, and how are we to know ourselves? How have we changed in our new modes of connectedness, of friendship, of love? Where is our center, and where is that Other with whom we have dialogue? Have we discovered, or slipped into, a newly digitalized, more extensively virtual, postmodern, and intertextual web of subjectivity? What are the consequences for authentic encounter in this world? What is preserved, what is lost, what is transformed into something radically new? And where are we heading, as individuals, families, societies, communities?

The deadline for proposals has expired.

Special Events

In addition to a distinguished keynote, plenary speakers, and the Presidential Address by Marcel Danesi, SSA 2015 will include:

- **Pre-Conference Marketplace of Semiotics** (Thursday morning, Oct. 1) – Stimulating seminars and workshops led by well-known semiotic scholars in various disciplines. Students and more experienced scholars will have the opportunity to select one or two from among eight distinctive seminars. More information and further details will be provided in the Program.

19-20 NOVEMBER 2015, MEKNES, MOROCCO

IV International Congress Trauma and Memory in Moroccan Culture 19th and 20th November, 2015 School of Arts and Humanities, Meknes

The Moroccan Group of Semiotics (GMS) of Meknes University and the Moroccan Association of Semiotics in collaboration with TraMe, the Interdisciplinary Center on Memories and Cultural Trauma of Bologna University and LIRCES, the Interdisciplinary Center on Narratives, Cultures and Societies of Nice University organize:

IV International Congress *Trauma and Memory in Moroccan Culture* 19th and 20th November, 2015 School of Arts and Humanities, Meknes

Increasingly in vogue, researches on memory have shown their importance and usefulness not only for understanding how individuals, cultures and developed and emerging societies manage and negotiate their relationship to the past, but also, and especially, how they live their present and project themselves into the future. Being constantly in action and motion in the present life of society, the past continues to be shaped in accordance to the present and the future: it is constantly manipulated, and redesigned to better understand the present and support, prevent, or take action in the future.

When it comes to a traumatic past, things become more complicated but more interesting too. Scholars, historians, psychologists and semioticians, particularly, those who are interested in memory and its construction are called to use their knowledge to help better understand the management and negotiation of this traumatic past, its metamorphosis and its influences on the present and the future.

Favoring a very recent past, the choice fell on the period called the Lead Years. Since some decades, we have important literature at our disposal: Prison literature, testimonies, studies, articles, movies, TV programs, etc. what is important in the approach of these corpora is to show how, according to the specificities of each of the mentioned media, memory processes can be studied because they reveal trauma construction dynamics as a cultural fact, as a faculty or as a document.

The location of memory, a term which is both prolific and vague and which includes physical and intellectual places, is one of the elements of memorization. It is about seeing how in Morocco – as in other countries or societies – these places are conserved marked, or in contrast, non-existent, without any spatial inscription of values of the traumatic past, due to lack of time, of maturity or political will. And it is important to assess the state and examine the causes.

For trauma narrative, whatever the medium is, it is important to ask these questions: how the trauma is represented? According to which point of view? According to which narrative form, which perspective, and which focalization?

It is also about seeing how representation of the trauma, in media in general and cinema in particular, modify limits of the event by moving it to others stopwatch topical axes which may reduce or extend its limits. And it is, finally, about considering these media as an activator of the spatial and temporal dislocation of the event.

The deadline for proposals has expired.

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”.