

# 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](mailto:semiotics@ut.ee)

## Contacts:

[www.flfi.ut.ee/summer\\_school](http://www.flfi.ut.ee/summer_school) | [semiotics@ut.ee](mailto: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**.