

THE 14TH CONFERENCE OF THE NORDIC
ASSOCIATION FOR SEMIOTIC STUDIES ALONG
WITH THE 15TH ANNUAL LOTMAN DAYS

Creativity – Complexity – Intelligence

/ Tallinn, Estonia, June 11–13, 2025



The intricate interplay of signs with the processes of creativity, complexity, and intelligence is immersed in all varieties, modalities, and ecologies of meaning-making. Meaning-making is always creative, complex, and intelligent, in both its agreements, alignments, and continuums, as well as its incompatibilities, controversies, and contradictions.

According to Juri Lotman, one of the defining characteristics of an intelligent semiotic system is its ability to be creative, i.e. the ability to produce new and unpredictable meanings. Lotman noted that this ability is not exclusive to the human mind but can occur in various other systems and at multiple scales, where a sufficient degree of complexity is present.

The role of creativity in learning and development, be it in humans or non-humans, is integrative within patterns of emergence, reproduction, and decay in complex systems, such as nature, culture, or the individual mind. Intelligence – be it organic or artificial, individual or collective – manifests in various signs and sign systems and is in time creatively transformed through meaning-making.

We kindly invite proposals for conference presentations and sessions of presentations on the dynamic relationships between signs, creativity, complexity, and intelligence and their transformative impact within education, art or the arts, play, and scientific inquiry.

We welcome papers on the topics of interest, including but not limited to:

- Semiotic theories of creativity, complexity, and intelligence;
- The nature and culture of creativity, complexity, and intelligence;
- Semiotics, psychology, and cognitive science of creativity, complexity, and intelligence;
- Creativity, complexity, and intelligence in various modalities of meaning-making;
- Creativity, complexity, and intelligence in humans and non-humans;
- The relationships between various cognitive processes and creativity, complexity, and intelligence;
- Agency, the self, and subjectivity within creativity, complexity, and intelligence;
- Creativity, complexity, and intelligence in organic and artificial systems;
- Emergence and decay of creativity, complexity, and intelligence;
- Creativity, complexity, and intelligence in art, play, and science;
- Creativity, complexity, and intelligence in education, learning and development;
- Language and other sign systems in relation to creativity, complexity, and intelligence;

- Digital technologies in relation to creativity, complexity, and intelligence;
- Ecologies of creativity, complexity, and intelligence;
- Futures and prospects of creativity, complexity, and intelligence - expectations and anticipations.

Confirmed plenary speakers

- **Terrence Deacon**, University of California, Berkeley, USA
- **Joanna Rączaszek-Leonardi**, University of Warsaw, Poland
- **Aaro Toomela**, Tallinn University, Estonia

We invite proposals for individual presentations (20 minutes + 10 minutes for discussion). Kindly submit the abstract of your presentation (up to 350 words) by January 31, 2025. Abstracts in English can be submitted [here](#) and in Russian [here](#). For more information, please visit nordicsemiotics.org/nass-tallinn-2025 or write to nass14lotmandays2025@gmail.com

Registration

125€ early bird (March 1 to April 15, 2025)

150€ late bird (April 16 to May 16, 2025)

Important dates:

- **January 31, 2025 - Extended deadline for submitting proposals**
- February 28, 2025 - Notification of acceptance of presentation
- March 1 to April 15, 2025 - Early bird registration
- April 16 to May 16, 2025 - Late bird registration
- June 11 to June 13, 2025 - The conference

NASS Graduate Student Award and Grants

5-10 graduate students presenting a paper at NASS XIV will be supported financially by NASS. Furthermore, a prize along with a diploma for the best graduate student presentation will be awarded at NASS XIV.

NASS and The Lotman Days

The purpose of NASS is to promote the advancement of semiotics as an academic discipline and research domain in the Nordic and Baltic countries and within the international semiotic community. The **Lotman Days** are an annual conference series that has been held at Tallinn University since 2009. The aim of the Lotman Days is to provide an interdisciplinary platform for scholars who wish to examine the dynamics of our semiotic world from different perspectives and to explore together questions that were central to Juri Lotman's scholarship.

Organizing team at Tallinn University

Lauri Linask (conference chair), Merja Bauters, Tatjana Kuzovkina, Merit Maran, Daniele Monticelli, Marek Tamm, Mikhail Trunin.



TALLINN UNIVERSITY

Participating in the conference implies expressing support for the freedom and territorial integrity of Ukraine.