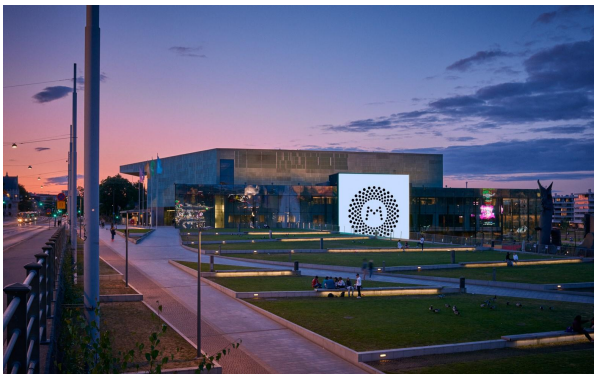


LETTER

NUMBER 20 (SUMMER 2022) – JULY 2022

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nordicsemiotics.org/

And follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

The NASS newsletter normally 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

First Call For Papers

“Feeling – Skill – Knowledge”



THE 13TH CONFERENCE OF THE NORDIC ASSOCIATION FOR SEMIOTIC STUDIES (NASS)

Helsinki, Finland, June 7-9th 2023

Venue: Sibelius Academy of the Uniarts Helsinki

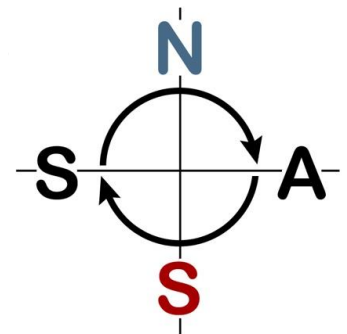
The 13th conference of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies is organized by [the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies](#) with local collaboration of the Semiotic Society of Finland and researchers from the University of the Arts Helsinki, University of Helsinki, Tallinn University, and Aalto University. The conference will be held at the Sibelius Academy of the Uniarts Helsinki. The facilities, [located](#) in the heart of the city, are easily accessible, host a [variety of halls and rooms](#), and are close to many opportunities for [accommodation](#) and [restaurants](#). [The Helsinki metropolitan area](#) has a well-functioning [public transportation system](#). The 40th-anniversary symposium of the Semiotic Society of Finland will be held in conjunction with NASS XIII.

Theme

The conference focuses on the epistemologies and ontologies of signs and minds and how the processes of signification entail different aspects of feeling, skill, and knowledge. Connecting to the systemic relationality of the subject and the world, these viewpoints on doing and being, discourse and development have been at the heart of semiotics through the diachrony in various contexts. Now, in the rapidly, even brutally changing world, understanding the dynamics and functions seems more crucial than ever, as it may impact securing how the human and their practices, their social systems and societies, cultures and the environment may flourish in whatever way the future will unfold.

The conference focuses on how theories and research into meaning and signification address knowledge, skill, and feeling. We warmly welcome theoretical and empirical papers investigating the relations of this trio or any of the three concepts that are central to semiosis. We kindly invite proposals for conference presentations and sessions of presentations in line with but not limited to the topics of:

- Semiotic theories of knowledge, skill, and feeling;
- Empirical semiotics of feeling, skill, and knowledge;
- Dynamics of relations of knowledge, skill and feeling with or in the
- Knowledge, skill, and feeling in human and non-human organisms;
- Artificial knowledge, artificial skill, and artificial feeling;
- Knowledge, skill and feeling in the arts and sciences;
- Learning and growth of knowledge, skill, and feeling;
- Decay and problems of knowledge, skill, and feeling;
- Knowledge, memory, cognition, brain, and body;
- The social in knowledge, skill, and feeling;
- Relationship of language and non-language with knowledge, skill, and feeling;
- Cross-, multi-, inter-, trans- and a- in feeling, skill and knowledge of cultures;
- Mediation of feeling, skill, and knowledge;
- Feeling, skill, and knowledge in politics and leadership.



Keynote speakers: To be announced

Abstract submission: The conference language is English. Abstracts should be submitted as a Word file attachment to nass13helsinki@uniarts.fi, with subject line "Abstract for NASS XIII".

Each abstract submission should contain: (1) The name of the author(s) (surname, given name); (2) Your affiliation (including country of residence); (3) Your email address; (4) The title of the paper; (5) An abstract of max. 500 words; (6) 3–5 keywords; (7) and a short bionote of max. 100 words. **In order to be considered for the graduate student award and grants (see below), please indicate whether or not you are a graduate student.**

Deadline for abstract submission is November 30th, 2022. Notification of acceptance will be given by January 31st, 2023.

Graduate student award and grants

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

Local organizing team:

Merja Bauters (Tallinn University)

Lily Diaz-Kommonen (Aalto University)

Aleksi Haukka (University of Helsinki)

Sari Helkala-Koivisto (secretary, The Semiotic Society of Finland)

Juha Ojala, UniArts Helsinki, supplementary NASS representative of Finland (contact person)

Vesa Matteo Piludu (University of Helsinki)

Samuli Salmi (University of Helsinki)

For further information, please visit the website nordicsemiotics.org or contact nass13helsinki@uniarts.fi

Report from the 12th conference of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies (NASS)

“Meaning in Perception and the Senses”

Vilnius, Lithuania, November 5-7, 2021



[The XII conference of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies](#) took place on November 5-7, 2021, and was hosted by the [Algirdas Julius Greimas Centre for Semiotics and Literary Theory at the Faculty of Philology of Vilnius University, Lithuania](#). The local **organising committee** included **Paulius Jevsejevas** (the conference chair), Magdalena Slavinska (conference secretary) and Alin Olteanu (chair of the scientific committee).

The **scientific committee** included Øyvind Eide (University of Cologne), Sara Lenninger (Lund University), Lauri Linask (Tallinn University), Juha Ojala (University of Oulu), Alin Olteanu (RWTH Aachen University, Kaunas University of Technology), Tiit Remm (University of Tartu), Inesa Sahakyan (Grenoble Alpes University), Morten Tønnessen (University of Stavanger)

To organize the conference, NASS received funding from the [Lithuanian Research Council](#) and Vilnius University. The theme of the conference was *Meaning and Perception in the Senses*, arguably indicating that the interest for the relation between perception and meaning is trending across semiotic theories. The conference looked into the ways the theories of meaning are positioned vis-à-vis perception and senses.

The abstract book, which includes a description of the rationale of the conference, can be found [here](#). The talks were recorded and they can be viewed on the NASS youtube channel, [here](#).

The NASS Board would like to thank again **Jacques Fontanille** (University of Limoges), **Irina Melnikova** (Vilnius University), **Irene Mittelberg** (RWTH Aachen University), **Kay O'Halloran** (University of Liverpool) and **Frederik Stjernfelt** (Aalborg University) for kindly accepting the invitations and delivering excellent and stimulating keynote talks.

Many scholars participated, most of whom attended the conference on-site, in Vilnius. Those of us who were there happily enjoyed the benefits of an on-site conference, after a long period without gathering with colleagues, because of the long-enduring Covid-19 pandemic. It was refreshing to meet other professionals in person, again. The participants carefully respected the pandemic isolation regulations set by the Lithuanian government and by Vilnius University.

As customarily, to support emerging scholars in semiotics, NASS offered 10 graduate student grants, 250 euros each, to students attending the conference. Graduate student grant winners were:

Israel Eugenio Chávez Barreto, Sophie Anne Declerck, Aleksandr Fadeev, Jacopo Frascaroli, Ausra Kundrotaitė, Amelia Lewis, Oscar Miyamoto, Muzayin, Nayaruddin, Tragel Elli Marie, Aynur Rahmanova.

Graduate student award for the best presentation:

We are pleased to announce that the NASS Graduate Student Award (a gift card worth 300 euros, and a diploma) for the best graduate student presentation was awarded to **Eugenio Israel Chávez Barreto from the University of Tartu** for his paper, *'On Modeling Systems and Semiotic Structures'*.



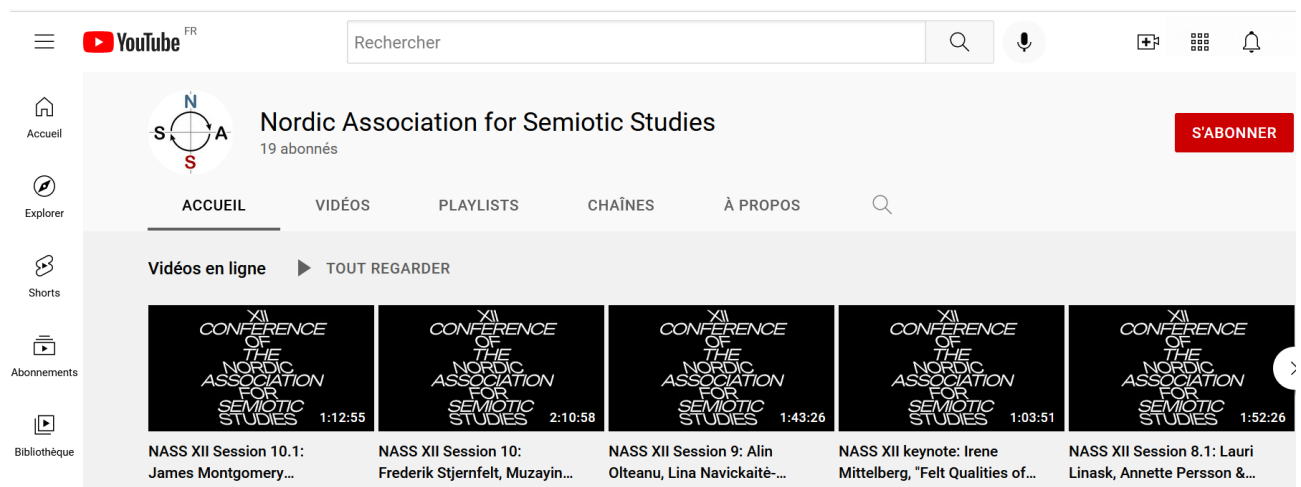
The NASS Board is grateful to Vilnius University for hosting the conference and providing excellent conditions for hybrid conferencing.

Most of all, we would like to thank all participants for making NASS XII a success.

Report prepared by Alin Olteanu

NASS YouTube Channel

To view the conference presentations and subscribe to the NASS YouTube Channel, please follow the link [here](#).



Report from the NASS General Assembly

The latest NASS General Assembly (GA) was held on Friday November 5 2021 at the Faculty of Philology, Vilnius University, Lithuania, within the framework of the 12th conference of NASS «Meaning in Perception and the Senses». All the conference participants were entitled to attend this GA. The functioning of the association and the board was explained to the new members. Brief reports from the NASS president **Morten Tønnessen** and NASS treasurer **Sara Lenninger** were presented.

Each country is represented at NASS board by two members (an Ordinary Representative and a Supplementary Representative), who are elected at the GA for a period of two years. Following the elections at the GA in Vilnius and at the recent board meeting, the current board of NASS (2021-2023) counts the following members (Ordinary Representative listed first, then Supplementary Representative):

DENMARK: ord. Luis Emilio Bruni, suppl. Peer Bundgaard

ESTONIA: ord. Lauri Linask, **NASS Secretary**, suppl. Oscar Miyamoto

FINLAND: ord. Merja Bauters, suppl. Juha Ojala

ICELAND: *no elected representatives*

LATVIA: ord. Daina Teters, *no suppl. representative elected*

LITHUANIA: ord. Paulius Jevsejevas, **NASS Treasurer** suppl. Aušra Kundrotaite

NORWAY: ord. Morten Tønnessen, **NASS President**, suppl. Øyvind Eide

SWEDEN: ord. Sara Lenninger, suppl. Aleksei Semenenko

The board appointed Alin Olteanu and Inesa Sahakyan as NASS **Organizational Assistants**.

Nordic News

2022 marks the centenary of the birth of Juri Lotman



International journal *Semiotika*
One volume per year
First issue published in 1994
Vilnius University Press
ISSN 1392-0219 | eISSN 2424-547X
<https://www.zurnalai.vu.lt/Semiotika/>



**Vilniaus
universiteto
leidykla**

Call for contributions for a special issue of *Semiotika* (2022) dedicated to Yuri Lotman

The 2022 special issue of *Semiotika* is dedicated to Yuri Lotman to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of the semiotician and cofounder of the Tartu-Moscow school of semiotics. The journal invites contributions related to the wide variety of ideas of Yuri – theory of culture – from his idea of modelling systems to issues of media poetics, memory of culture and semiosphere. **The deadline for submissions is 31 July 2022.**

Semiotika is an international open access double-blind peer reviewed multidisciplinary journal focusing on both theoretical and practical aspects of cultural semiotics, structuralism and poststructuralism, contemporary semiotic research, history and theory of semiotics, and analysis of various types of discourse. The journal accepts articles in Lithuanian, English and French and does not charge article processing charges or submission charges. As *Semiotika* moves fully online, the journal editors look forward to presenting latest research more quickly and in an environmentally friendly form. For detailed instructions on style, presentation and formatting conventions, and additional information, please see our Author Guidelines <https://www.journals.vu.lt/semiotika/about/submissions>.

UPCOMING ACADEMIC EVENTS¹

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2022



[15th World Congress of Semiotics / IASS - AIS](#)

August 30 - September 3, 2022 - Thessaloniki, Greece

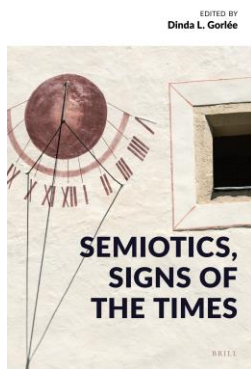
The 15th World Congress of Semiotics aims to foreground semiotics as the socially engaged, critical investigation of the sign- and meaning-making processes forming the core of human worldmaking.

Learn more about the congress [here](#).

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Forthcoming Series: Semiotics, Signs of the Times

Series Editor: Dinda L. Gorlée



Semiotics: Signs of the Times is Brill's new series devoted to the study of semiotics across disciplines. This book series starts from the general idea of semiotic signs, divided into icons, indexes, and symbols. Semiotics gives meaning to signs, sign functions, and sign processes. It is also concerned with sign-users (senders and receivers) and how signs are transmitted from one organism to another. To give meaning happens in everyday experience as well as experimentation. Semiotics seeks to discover how the signs of language, gestures, visual images, music, dance, theatre, as well as medical and psychological symptoms, architecture, and political theory embark with a theory of signs to give belief, values, and techniques which serve for theoretical foundations and interdisciplinary method in sciences and humanities.

Semiotics: Signs of the Times invites contributions on the newest trend of cultural research in linguistics, literature, fine arts, philosophy, biology, anthropology, folklore, technology, and other fields. The series is open to new synthesis of techniques of research, experiences, memories, and myth with new meanings. Proposals for single-authored monographs and edited volumes are equally welcome. All submissions are subject to a double anonymous peer-review process prior to publication. Authors are equally invited to submit proposals and/or full manuscripts to the publisher at BRILL, [Christa Stevens](#).

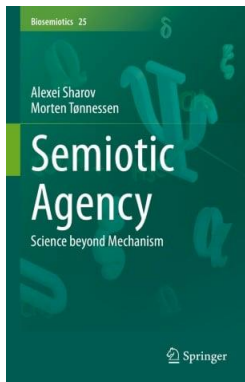
¹ This list of events, and the academic news presented above are indicative and do by no means pretend to be exhaustive. Therefore, our members are strongly encouraged to send their suggestions to be considered for further editions of the newsletter to the editors at post@nordicsemiotics.org

Semiotic Publications

Books

“Semiotic Agency: Science beyond Mechanism”

Authors: ALEXEI SHAROV, MORTEN TØNNESEN



This book invites readers to embark on a journey into the world of agency encompassing humans, other organisms, cells, intracellular molecular agents, colonies, populations, ecological systems, and artificial autonomous systems. We combine mechanistic and non-mechanistic approaches in the analysis of the function and evolution of organisms, their subagents, and multi-organism systems, and in this way offer a theoretical platform for integrating biosemiotics with both natural science and the humanities/social sciences. Agents are autonomous systems that incorporate knowledge on how to make sense of their environment and use it to achieve their goals. The functions of all agents are supported by mechanisms at the lowest level; however, the explanatory power of mechanistic analysis is not sufficient for complex agents.

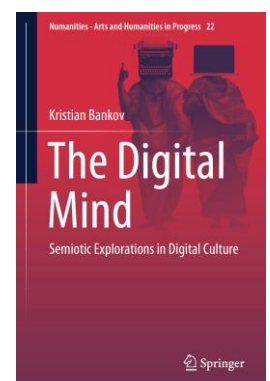
Non-mechanistic methods rely on the goal-directedness of agents whose dynamics follow self-stabilized dynamic attractors. The properties of attractors depend on stable or slowly changing factors, and such dependencies can be interpreted as sign relations if they are adaptive in nature. Agents can replace or redirect mechanisms on demand in order to preserve their functions; for performing higher-level semiotic functions, mechanisms are thus only means. We assume that mechanism and semiosis are not mutually exclusive, and that simple agents can interpret signs mechanistically. This assumption allows us to extend semiotic analysis to all agents, including ribosomes in cells, computers, and robots. This book challenges established traditions in natural science and the humanities/social sciences: semiotics no longer appears as restricted to humans and rational thinking, and biology is no longer limited to rely exclusively on mechanistic reasoning.

“The Digital Mind: Semiotic Explorations in Digital Culture”

Author: KRISTIAN BANKOV

The first book exclusively dedicated to the semiotics of digital culture, which offers theoretic insights and case studies on the major cultural transformations since the advent of the Internet.

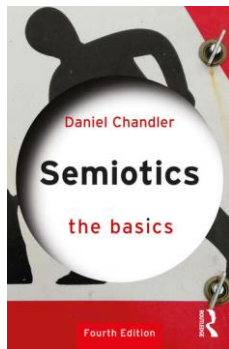
This book reveals the core features of digital culture, examined by means of semiotic models and theories. It positions commercial and market principles in the center of the digital semiosphere, avoiding the need to force the new cultural reality into the established textualist or pragmatist paradigms. The theoretic insights and case studies presented here argue for new semiotic models of inquiry that include working with big data, user experience and nethnography, along with conventional approaches.



The book develops a new concept of identity in the digital age, analyzing the digital flows of recognition and value, which led to the tremendous success of Social Media and the Web 2.0 era. Self-expression, entertainment and consumerism are seen as the major drivers of identity formation in the post-truth era, where the self can no longer be considered independently of a given person's communication devices, where a substantial part of it is stored and actualized. It will be of interest to semioticians and researchers working on digital culture.

“Semiotics: The Basics”

Author: DANIEL CHANDLER



This fourth edition of the bestselling textbook, now available in print, eBook, and audiobook, has been fully updated, continuing to provide a concise introduction to the key concepts of semiotics in accessible and jargon-free language. Demystifying what is a complex, highly interdisciplinary field, key questions covered include: what are signs and codes? What can semiotics teach us about representation and reality? What tools does it offer for analysing texts and cultural practices? The fourth edition of *Semiotics: The Basics* focuses in particular on its application to communication and cultural studies. It has been extensively revised and extended, with an entirely new section on cognitive semiotics, many more illustrations, and a new glossary. With updates to theory, further examples, and suggestions for review and further reading, this must-have resource is both the ideal introductory text and an essential reference guide for students at all levels of language and communication, media, and cultural studies.

“Bloomsbury Semiotics”

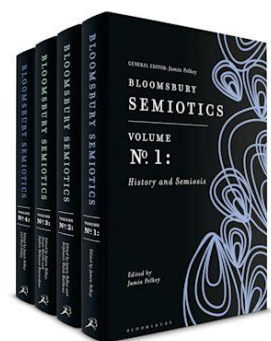
Anthology Editor: JAMIN PELKEY

Bloomsbury Semiotics offers a state-of-the-art overview of the entire field of semiotics from a wide range of disciplinary perspectives. With four volumes spanning theory, method and practice across the disciplines, this definitive reference work comprises:

- Volume 1: History and Semiosis
- Volume 2: Semiotics in the Natural and Technical Sciences
- Volume 3: Semiotics in the Arts and Social Sciences
- Volume 4: Semiotic Movements

Uniting fragmented disciplines under the framework of semiotic theory, this set emphasizes and strengthens common bonds shared across intellectual cultures, and facilitates the discovery and recovery of meaning across fields. Providing comprehensive overviews of the history and status of semiotic inquiry across a diverse range of traditions and disciplines, chapters are written by leading international experts. Together, they highlight key contemporary developments and debates before casting a vision for future research priorities, identifying unanswered questions and fresh openings for participation.

Providing the most comprehensive and united overview of the entire field for semioticians, *Bloomsbury Semiotics* enables anyone, from students to seasoned practitioners, to better understand and benefit from semiotic insight and how it relates to their own area of study or research.



JOURNALS

[Sign Systems Studies](#)



Vol. 50 No. 1 (2022)

Guest editors: Ekaterina Velmezova, Emanuele Fadda

We are pleased to announce that Sign Systems Studies' special issue **“Ferdinand de Saussure today: semiotics, history, epistemology”** (50-1), is out now.

In this special issue the guest editors publish the works of researchers from several countries (Switzerland, Estonia, Italy and the United Kingdom) who agreed to their proposal to reflect on Ferdinand de Saussure and his legacy in the framework of modern semiotics, as well as history and epistemology of ideas. **All the articles are available for free download at the journal's [website](#).**

[Southern Semiotic Review](#)

Southern Semiotic Review is a peer-reviewed journal founded in 2013, and has an established editorial team. It aims to meet a need for a dedicated English journal in the Southern Hemisphere, while maintaining an inclusive international reach. It publishes general and special issues.

Its latest **issue n°16 2022 (II)**, has now been published and can be accessed fully [here](#). The Issue includes contributions from Australia, France, Russia, Italy, Thailand, Ukraine and Singapore.



Submissions for the next general issue (17) can be made by November 2022. Information about a special issue entitled World Literatures and the Study of Intermediality, with guest editor Asunción López-Varela Azcaráte (Complutense University) will be forthcoming along with a full editorial for this issue.