

LETTER

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“Creativity – Complexity – Intelligence”

The 14th NASS conference along with the 15th Annual Lotman Days was held in

Tallinn, Estonia, June 11–13, 2025

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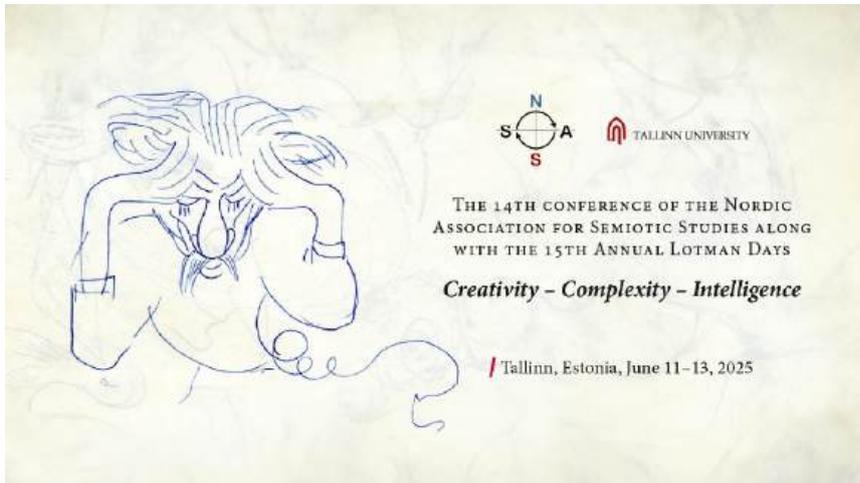
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Report from the 14th NASS conference, held in conjunction with the 15th Annual Lotman Days



[The 14th conference of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies](#) (NASS) was held in conjunction with the Annual Lotman Days at Tallinn University in the Estonian capital. The event was hosted by the Tallinn University School of Humanities [and the Juri Lotman Semiotics Repository](#).

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 broader international semiotic community. [The Lotman Days](#), held annually at Tallinn University since 2009, provide an interdisciplinary platform for scholars examining the dynamics of our semiotic world from diverse perspectives, addressing questions central to Juri Lotman's scholarship. The conference was conducted primarily in English, with some sessions in Russian. The conference addressed the intricate interplay of signs in processes of creativity, complexity, and intelligence across diverse varieties, modalities, and ecologies of meaning-making. Meaning-making is inherently creative, complex, and intelligent—both in its agreements, alignments, and continuities as well as in its incompatibilities, controversies, and contradictions.

According to Juri Lotman, one defining characteristic of an intelligent semiotic system is its capacity for creativity, i.e., the ability to produce new and unpredictable meanings. Lotman noted that this capacity is not exclusive to the human mind but can occur in other systems and at multiple scales where sufficient complexity is present. The role of creativity in learning and development, whether in humans or non-humans, plays an integrative role in patterns of emergence, reproduction, and decay in complex systems such as nature, culture, and the individual mind. Intelligence, whether organic or artificial, individual or collective, manifests in signs and sign systems and is creatively transformed over time through meaning-making.



Conference opening session

The conference was somewhat larger than NASS meetings usually are, with 140 registered participants and 118 presentations distributed across 30 sessions in five parallel tracks. The call for papers can be downloaded [here](#). The conference program can be [downloaded here](#), and the full book of abstracts – [here](#).

Plenary Speakers



Joanna Rączaszek-Leonardi (University of Warsaw, Poland) delivered a plenary talk titled *“Timescales and tensions for creativity in language.”* Professor Rączaszek-Leonardi suggested that language is best understood not as an individual skill but as a dynamic, creative process in which people jointly create and negotiate meaning in real-time interaction. She argued that studying language, therefore, requires methods that analyse both the evolving interaction (e.g., via dynamical systems tools) and participants’ lived experiences within a semiotic framework.

Terrence Deacon (University of California, Berkeley, USA) presented *“The semiotic emergence of nucleotide information – or how RNA got its aboutness.”* He proposed that the Last Universal Common Ancestor (LUCA) represents a bottleneck in which life converged on one shared genetic “language.” Professor Deacon emphasised that this convergence occurred not primarily through the evolution of RNA sequences but through the evolution of ribosome-like interpretive machinery, which made nucleotide sequences function as meaningful information, via a series of plausible evolutionary steps.



Aaro Toomela (Tallinn University, Estonia) gave a talk entitled *“How and why we create signs?”*, Building on Juri Lotman’s idea that new meanings (signs and “texts”) are generated when two different, mutually untranslatable ways of modelling reality are brought into a translation process, Professor Toomela further supported this idea by linking cultural semiotics to biological and psychological principles, as well as to evidence from developmental stages of image-making in individuals and cultures.

Conference chairs & organisational committee

The conference chairs were Lauri Linask and Merit Maran, and the local organising committee included Merja Bauters, Tatjana Kuzovkina, Daniele Monticelli, Marek Tamm, and Mikhail Trunin. The scientific committee comprised Merja Bauters, Øyvind Eide, Paulius Jevsejevas, Tatjana Kuzovkina, Sara Lenninger, Lauri Linask, Merit Maran, Tanya Menise, Daniele Monticelli, Juha Ojala, Alin Olteanu, Inesa Sahakyan, Aleksei Semenenko, Morten Tønnessen, Siiri Tarrikas, Daina Teters, and Mikhail Trunin.

NASS Student Grants and Awards

In line with NASS tradition, ten graduate student grants were awarded to support emerging scholars in semiotics. The grant recipients were: Shazia Anwer, Du Qiao, Mark Allen Holm, Kristina Kõrver, Hélène Levasseur, Alexandra Mouratidou, Eléa Jessica Pertusati, Peter Salvucci, Jun Yu, and Vladislav Zlov.

Certificates of Excellence for Best Student Presentation were awarded to:



Certificate of Excellence for the Best Student Presentation

The 14th conference of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies (NASS) in conjunction with the 15th Annual Lotman Days, "Creativity – Complexity – Intelligence" Tallinn, Estonia, June 11–13, 2025

Granted to **Heidi Campana Piva & Michele Cerutti** for the presentation: *Everything is connected: Signs of a conspiracy*

On behalf of NASS,
President of NASS,
Lauri Linask



Certificate of Excellence for the Best Student Presentation

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Granted to **Karl Joosep Pihel** for the presentation: *Musical semiotics in a major key: Between Deleuze and topic theory*

On behalf of NASS,
President of NASS,
Lauri Linask



- **Karl Joosep Pihel** (University of Tartu, Estonia) for "*Musical semiotics in a major key: Between Deleuze and topic theory*"
- **Heidi Campana Piva** (University of Turin, Italy) and **Michele Cerutti** (University of Turin, Italy, and University of Tartu, Estonia) for "*Everything is connected: Signs of a conspiracy.*"



From left to right: **Heidi Campana Piva** (University of Turin, Italy) and **Michele Cerutti** (University of Turin, Italy, and University of Tartu, Estonia)

Outcomes and Future Plans

As an outcome of the conference, a peer-reviewed collection of essays based on the conference presentations is currently planned, with expected publication in 2027. Recent NASS conferences have similarly resulted in edited volumes.

The next conference of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies is in early planning stages and is expected to be held at **Lund University and Kristianstad University** in June 2027.

Highlights from the NASS GA

Date: June 13, 2025

Location: Tallinn University

1. NASS President Lauri Linask highlighted a productive term for the board:

- Key communication channels, including the website, newsletter, and social media, have actively supported the Nordic semiotics community.
- The NASS conference in Tallinn saw strong participation, though Denmark was not represented; further outreach is planned.

2. NASS finances

The NASS account is currently balanced and managed transparently by the Treasurer, Secretary, and President.

3. Elections of Representatives

The assembly elected ordinary and supplementary representatives for each member country. Key results:

Country	Ordinary Representative	Supplementary Representative
Denmark	No nominations. Suggestions to be sent to the board.	No nominations. Suggestions to be sent to the board.
Estonia	Lauri Linask	Siiri Tarrikas
Finland	Juha Ojala	Merja Bauters
Iceland	No nominations. Suggestions to be sent to the board	No nominations. Suggestions to be sent to the board
Latvia	Daina Teters	Tatiana Menise
Lithuania	Paulius Jevsejevas	Vytautas Tumėnas
Norway	Morten Tønnessen	Øyvind Eide
Sweden	Sara Lenninger	Aleksei Semenenko

4. Election of Board Officers (Executive Positions)

Following the representatives' election, the assembly unanimously confirmed:

President: Lauri Linask

Secretary: Morten Tønnessen

Treasurer: Paulius Jevsejevas

Organisational Assistants: Alin Olteanu and Inesa Sahakyan were appointed for 2025–2027.

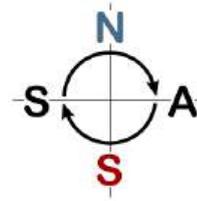
5. Miscellaneous & Announcements

NASS XV Venue: Lund University (main) and Kristianstad University proposed for NASS conference in June 2027.

All NASS members are encouraged to actively contribute to NASS initiatives and tasks.

Organizational news

NASS ON SOCIAL MEDIA



The Nordic Association For Semiotic Studies (NASS) is now posting weekly on LinkedIn! Follow us [here](#).

If you're not already a follower, you are also more than welcome to follow us on [our Facebook page](#) as well as on [x](#) (FKA Twitter).

IASS MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

IASS Identity Card



The International Association for Semiotic Studies (IASS) is a global scholarly organization comprising researchers who study the processes and systems of signification and communication, not only in social life and everyday worlds but also in bio-zoological contexts. Semiotics is a discipline that cares about how meaning and communication are created and understood in the natural and cultural environments of all beings — both human and non-human. Semioticians employ rigorous methods and tools that enable them to investigate meaning, propose explanatory models and highlight the diverse possible interpretations of any given phenomenon. As such, semioticians act as “mediators” between disciplines, professions and individuals interested in the significance of life and the world around them.

The International Association for Semiotic Studies was established on 21-22 January 1969, in Paris. Its founding members included prominent scholars such as Algirdas J. Greimas, Roman Jakobson, Julia Kristeva, Émile Benveniste, André Martinet, Roland Barthes, Umberto Eco, Thomas A. Sebeok, and Juri Lotman. Since its inception, the Association has been the world's leading organization for the study of semiotic phenomena. The IASS incorporates both individual and collective members. Among the latter are international and multinational organizations and interest assemblies, national semiotics associations, regional groups, and research centers, among others, which are spread across all continents. The IASS's official working languages are English, French, Spanish, and German.

Over the decades, semioticians have refined their theories and methodologies while collaborating with private and public institutions, companies and political administrations in consulting roles. Their work has led to significant investigations across many fields. Today, a substantial part of their efforts is dedicated to addressing critical contemporary transitions. Semiotics has also demonstrated a strong commitment to social engagement. Semioticians play a key role in tackling shared issues by analyzing power dynamics, media representation and identity formation. Through collaboration with local communities and institutions, semiotic research has contributed to movements for social justice, the defense of indigenous cultures and the promotion of ethnic, racial and gender equality. This work has helped to amplify diverse voices and perspectives, as well as to generalize that approach, especially in the context of marginalized groups, and fostering a deeper reflection and understanding of an increasingly complex world.

www.iass-ais.org

By joining or re-joining the IASS, you will contribute to the uniting of our astonishing endeavours across continents, transcending disciplinary and national boundaries.

JOIN THE IASS!
BE PART OF THE WORLD'S LEADING SEMIOTICS ORGANIZATION



MERGE WITH OUR MISSION FOR GLOBAL CONNECTION TO

- Receive our Newsletter
- Highlight Networking Possibilities and International Contacts
- Participate in our Congresses, Symposia, Schools and Seminars
- Receive Information about Semiotic Journals and Publishing Opportunities
- Share Information on Semiotic Activities
- Take Part in Early-Career Researcher Programs or Fellowships
- Become a Member of the Global Mapping of Semioticians



Membership entitles you to participate and/or spectate such events as the Early Career Researchers seminars, plus a number of events with preferential rates which occur ‘under the auspices’ of the IASS.

In addition, members of the Association, especially early career researchers, will have immediately at their disposal the services of the IASS Collegium, a specially assembled panel of global semiotics’ leaders ready to provide support for job applications, promotions, grant

applications and organization of international semiotic publications reviewing, as well as the forthcoming mentoring scheme.

For further information on how to become a member, please visit the IASS [website](#).

Semiotic news

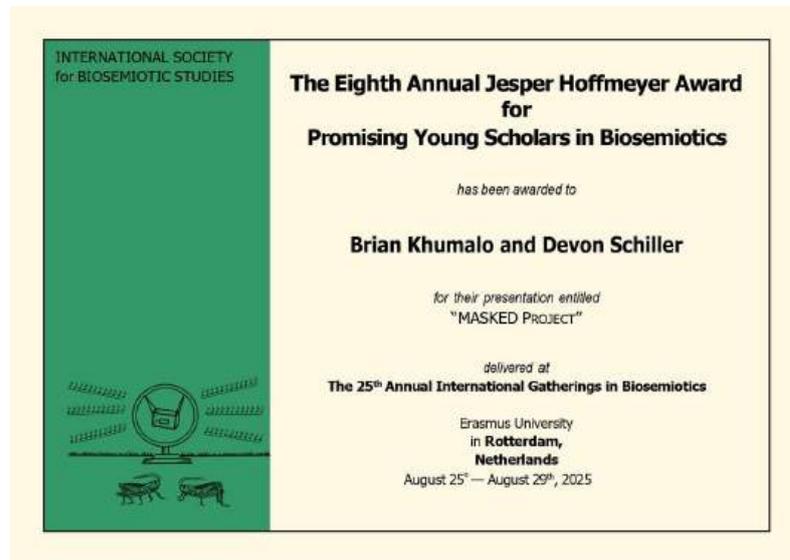
Paul Cobley appointed Honorary Doctor of University of Tartu



From left to right: Tiit Remm, Kalevi Kull and Paul Cobley.

On December 1st 2025, professor emeritus Paul Cobley was conferred the degree of Honorary Doctor at University of Tartu (Estonia) in recognition of his outstanding achievements in semiotics, literary, media, and communication studies, and his contributions to promoting and supporting Estonian semiotics internationally. The next day he delivered a public lecture in Tartu titled “Thinking: Close and distant” which you can watch online [here](#).

The Jesper Hoffmeyer Award for Promising Young Scholars in Biosemiotics



The Jesper Hoffmeyer Award for Promising Young Scholars in Biosemiotics has been awarded to Brian Khumalo and Devon Schiller.

See [here](#) for more info on the MASKED project (Motor Health and Semiotic Function in the Kinesthetic Expressivity of Neurodegenerative Disease).

Upcoming Academic Events¹

May 2026

International Conference SEMIOSIS IN COMMUNICATION



Medical Humanities: Bridges between Embodiment of Signs and Embodied AI

Târgu-Mureș, May 21-23, 2026

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

The CFP is now open.

Deadline for abstract submissions: **February 16th, 2026**

The 5th edition of the International Conference *Semiosis in Communication: Medical Humanities: Bridges between Embodiment of Signs and Embodied AI* will be organized by the **Petru Maior Faculty of Science and Letters, George Emil Palade University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science and Technologies of Târgu-Mureş** (UMFST) - in participation with: Balkan Association for Semiotic Studies (BASS); *SemioLab* - Semiotics Laboratory affiliated with Aristotle University in Thessaloniki (Greece); *Southeast European Center for Semiotic Studies* (SEECSS) at New Bulgarian University (NBU), Sofia (Bulgaria); *Semiotics and Visual Communication Research Lab* at Cyprus University of Technology; *The Department Department of Sciences and Letters from the Petru Maior Faculty of Science and Letters, Târgu-Mureş* (RO); The Faculty of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences, Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca (RO) and under the auspices of the *International Association for Semiotic Studies* (IASS-AIS).

This conference explores the role of semiosis in communication. Objects of interdisciplinary knowledge par excellence, semiotics and communication are complementary ways of world mastery, of the *big game*, just like Solomon Marcus (2011) would say. The main objective of the International Conference *Semiosis in Communication* is to emphasize the importance of semiotic type queries in the communication sciences and to stimulate the exchange of ideas in these fields and areas of academic research. The main theme proposed for this fourth edition of the international conference *Semiosis in Communication* is *Medical Humanities: Bridges between Embodiment of Signs and Embodied AI*.

Basically, the organisers propose to participants a return to the origins of the discipline, to the ancient roots of semiotics, to explore and have insightful exchanges of ideas about the new practices of meaning construction that the digital revolution offers us. This allows us to explore how the human capacity to produce signs is rooted in perceptual, affective, and intersubjective experience (Violi 2008, Sonesson 2007, Nöth 2006). Meaning emerges only from this foundation? Are semiosis and cognition grounded in embodied experiences, resulting from the position of the human body at the center of the world of common sense? In the digital age, new practices of meaning-making brought by AI challenge us to reflect (Leone 2022). We must consider whether, and how, AI can participate in semiosis or only emulate its observable outputs through computational embodiment.

The conference is organized in several panels, which will address specific topics, that explore how digital transformations and AI shape the interdisciplinary dialogue between medicine and the humanities, but also with other complementary fields, such as:

- *Semiotic of Culture/Cultural Semiotics;*
- *Semiotics and Communication;*
- *Semiotics, Cultural Diversity & Intercultural Dialogue;*
- *Medical Humanities;*
- *Social Semiotics & Multimodality;*
- *Visual Semiotics and AI Imagery;*
- *Mediation and Multimodal Meaning Making in Digital Environments;*
- *Semiotic approach of Fake News and Digital Disinformation;*
- *Political Semiotics;*
- *Semiotic Approaches to the Role of Information and Social Influence in Strategic Competition;*
- *Semiotics of Artificial Intelligence;*
- *Meaning-Making Practices and Creativity in the Digital Age;*
- *Semiotics, Culture & Brand Communications;*
- *Applied Semiotics, etc.*

Confirmed Keynote Speakers: Paul Cogley; Julieta Haidar; Massimo Leone; cMaria Giulia Dondero ; Kristian Bankov

Paper submission

Applications for presentations consist in only one document: Title and abstract (max. 300 words followed by 3-5 keywords) with short and relevant *bionote* (do not exceed 150 words, please) in MS Word format (.doc, .docx). We highly appreciate short, schematic texts. Co-authored papers are welcome.

Papers are delivered in 30 minutes presentations (20 minutes talk followed by 10 minutes of debate).

Please, submit your proposal to dragan.nicolaesorin@gmail.com, or sorin.dragan@umfst.ro, within **February 16th, 2026**. Only one paper for each participant (as a first author) will be accepted.

The official language of the conference is English, but there will also be sessions in which the papers can be presented in Spanish.

A volume with the best papers presented at the conference that will be published at a prestigious international publishing house. For further information concerning the conference, please write to Nicolae-Sorin Drăgan at: dragan.nicolaesorin@gmail.com; or sorin.dragan@umfst.ro.



Semiofest Warsaw, 2026 | 20-23 May 2026

Theme: Viscosity

Viscosity belongs to the language of physics, but it also offers a way to think about contemporary culture – neither solid nor liquid, neither fluid nor fixed, but characterized by thickness and stickiness. In this event viscosity will be explored as an open theme in relation to applied semiotics, and how it manifests itself in marketing, branding, culture, education, creativity, natural life and more.

"Inheriting Eco. Umberto Eco, the University of Bologna and all the knowledge in the world"
26-29 May 2026



The year 2026 will mark the 10th anniversary of Umberto Eco's death on 19 February 2016. Ten years during which Eco himself had asked not to organise any conferences about him, so as to better determine and appreciate what to forget, what to keep, and what to build on.

This conference on the 10th anniversary of Eco's death, which the Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna is promoting through its Centro internazionale di Studi umanistici "Umberto Eco", aims to make Umberto Eco's intellectual legacy visible, inviting participants to shape the conference with the ambition of developing a scientific event that is genuinely close to Umberto Eco's way of thinking.

More info [here](#).

16th International Congress on Musical Signification (ICMS 16)

2–6 June 2026, Sibelius Academy of the University of Arts Helsinki

Music as a Meaningful Art

Musical Signification Project is an international research project founded at the French Broadcasting company in 1984 by seven scholars in the field: Marcello Castellana, Francois Delalande, Costin Miereanu, Gino Stefani, Daniel Charles, Luiz Heitor Corrêa de Azevedo, and Eero Tarasti. It includes now over 500 members all over the world. It aims to study music through semiotics, hermeneutics, phenomenology, history and aesthetics, and ethnomusicology. It has so far arranged international congresses as follows:

ICMS 1	Imatra	1986	ICMS 9	Roma (Tor Vergata)	2006
ICMS 2	Helsinki	1988	ICMS 10	Vilnius & Kaunas	2008
ICMS 3	Edinburgh	1992	ICMS 11	Kraków	2010
ICMS 4	Paris (U. Paris VIII)	1994	ICMS 12	Leuven / Louvain	2013
ICMS 5	Bologna	1996	ICMS 13	Canterbury & London	2016
ICMS 6	Aix-en-Provence	1998	ICMS 14	Cluj-Napoca	2018
ICMS 7	Imatra	2001	ICMS 15	Barcelona	2022
ICMS 8	Paris (Sorbonne)	2004			

The papers of the congresses have been published by leading international publishing houses such as Mouton de Gruyter, CLUEB (Bologna), Sorbonne, and Acta Semiotica Fennica. The project has also served as a pedagogical tool educating young doctoral researchers in the field, seminars being held in Helsinki, Imatra and Syros (Greece), fifteen altogether. Since the foundation of the project, its administrative center has been at the University of Helsinki and its director prof. Eero Tarasti.

The congress will be organized by the [Sibelius Academy](#) of the [University of the Arts Helsinki](#) in collaboration with the [University of Helsinki](#).

The location is the [traditional building of the Sibelius Academy](#), situated at the heart of the city, [Pohjoinen Rautatiekatu 2](#).

Please save the dates 2–6 June 2026!
Looking forward to meeting you in Helsinki!

Contact email: icms16helsinki@uniarts.fi

Deadline for proposals: **31 January, 2026**

For more information see [here](#).



16th Annual Lotman Days

10–12 June 2026, Tallinn University, Estonia

THE 16TH ANNUAL LOTMAN DAYS

The End: Finality and Renewal in Culture

| Tallinn University, Estonia, June 10–12, 2026

The Lotman Days conference “**The End: Finality and Renewal in Culture**” will take place at Tallinn University on **10–12 June 2026**. The submission of paper proposals is invited until **15 February**.

The call for papers and further information is available here: <https://www.tlu.ee/en/lotman-days-conference2026>

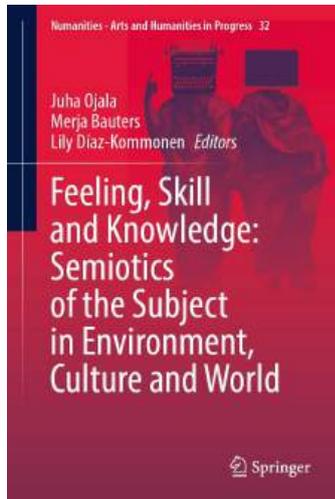
The plenary speakers are **Stef Craps** (Ghent University, Belgium), a literary scholar and researcher of cultural memory whose work focuses on trauma theory, ecocriticism and the environmental humanities, as well as postcolonial and decolonial theory; **Dolly Jørgensen** (University of Stavanger, Norway), an environmental historian whose research explores human–environment relations, environmental restoration, extinction, and the cultural histories of nature and sustainability; and **Eelco Runia** (Netherlands), a cultural historian and philosopher of history whose work addresses temporality, presence, and the role of discontinuity in historical processes.

Semiotic Publications

Books

Feeling, Skill and Knowledge: Semiotics of the Subject in Environment, Culture and World

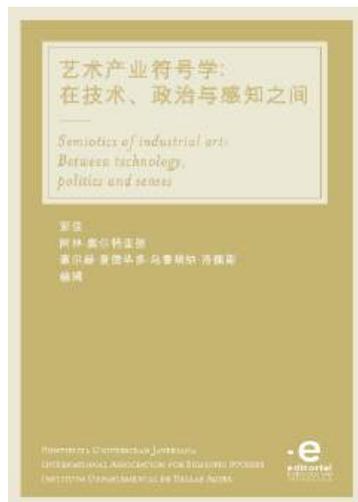
Editors : **Juha Ojala, Merja Bauters, Lily Díaz-Kommonen**



We are proud to announce that a selection of papers from the Helsinki NASS XIII Conference, edited by **Juha Ojala, Merja Bauters, Lily and Díaz-Kommonen**, has been published as part of the book series: [Numanities - Arts and Humanities in Progress](#) (NAHP, volume 32) under the title *Feeling, Skill and Knowledge: Semiotics of the Subject in Environment, Culture and World*.

This edited volume addresses deep-rooted and central phenomena that are critical in understanding the world that is rapidly changing. It includes contributions from scholars worldwide addressing how feeling, skill, and knowledge are present in the processes of signification, the subject's life, environment, and culture. Understanding signs, signification and their dynamics are now more crucial than ever as meaning affects how human beings flourish in social systems and societies. This text focuses on how theories and research into meaning and signification address knowledge,

skill, and feeling – three concepts that are central to semiosis. **The book can be found [here](#)** and is primarily of interest to scholars and students working in psychology, philosophy, communication, cultural studies, the arts – and semiotics.



Five Early Career Researchers books from IASS

The International Association for Semiotic Studies (IASS) in collaboration with Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Columbia) has published five books related to its Early Career Researchers initiative, in five languages:

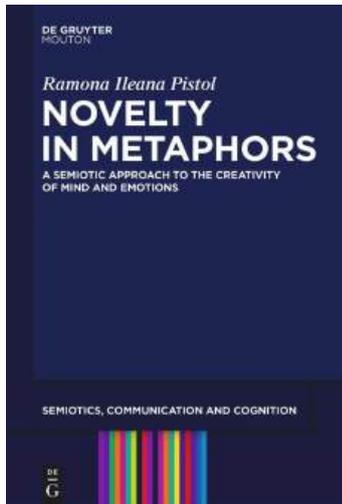
- Pluriversos en la semiótica Latinoamericana (in Spanish)
- Semiótica da Comunicação: novas perspectivas sobre mídia e linguagens (in Portuguese)
- 艺术产业符号学：在技术、政治与感知之间 (in Chinese)
- Semiotica, vita, ecologia e sostenibilità: Critici biosemiotici (in Italian)
- Remodelling narrative spaces: Semiotic insights (in English)

Here is a link to further info about these books, which are all Open Access and available for download: <https://iass-ais.org/category/semiotic-publications/ecrs-publications/>

Novelty in Metaphors: A Semiotic Approach to the Creativity of Mind and Emotions

Author: **Pistol, Ramona Ileana**

This [book](#) offers a groundbreaking semiotic exploration of metaphor as a fundamental cognitive process shaping how individuals experience and understand the world. Moving beyond traditional frameworks, it examines metaphor as a mode of creative discovery where meaning emerges through the interplay of perception, emotion, and imagination. Drawing on Peirce's semiotics, phenomenology, and

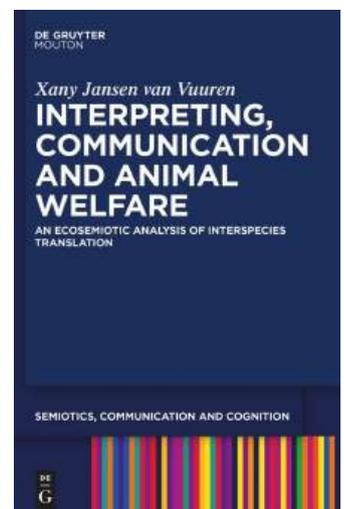


neuroscience, the book demonstrates how metaphorical thinking enables navigation of ambiguity and creates new perspectives across domains, from art and literature to science and everyday reasoning. By integrating embodied cognition with aesthetic experience, it illuminates how metaphors operate at the intersection of logical reasoning and emotional response, revealing them as instruments of inquiry that transform engagement with reality. The volume will be essential reading for scholars across disciplines seeking to understand the creative foundations of human cognition and meaning-making.

Interpreting, Communication and Animal Welfare. An Ecosemiotic Analysis of Interspecies Translation

Author: **Vuuren, Xany Jansen van**

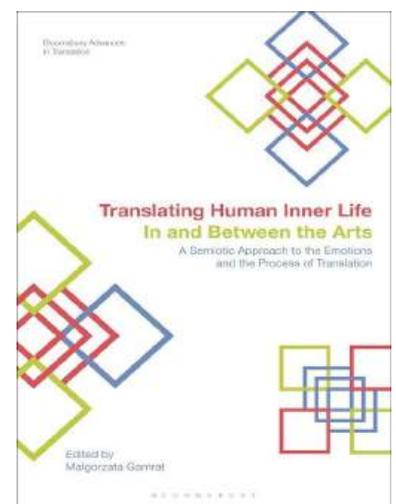
Animal welfare work is, arguably, the key locus of interspecific communication and offers a most valuable opportunity to understand what is involved in intersemiotic transmutations. As such, this [book](#) introduces the reader to an in-depth understanding of such transmutations by supplementing relevant semiotic and translation theory with data obtained from equine-focused animal welfare outreach events in South Africa. By acknowledging the influence of biosemiotics and ecosemiotics on translation and interpreting studies, this book, in a non-anthropocentric manner, explores the social and cultural construction of living beings and the impact of this construction on their treatment by a particular society. As a result, it sheds light on instances of not only interlingual, intralingual and intersemiotic translation, but also interspecies translation, organisms' agency, and translational aids that allow for translation to take place



Translating Human Inner Life in and between the Arts : A Semiotic Approach to the Emotions and the Process of Translation

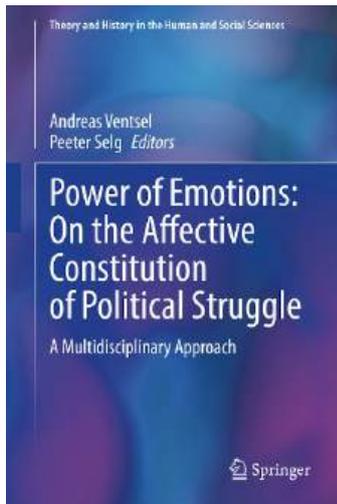
Editor: **Gamrat, Małgorzata**

The [book](#) examines how so-called human inner life – feelings, emotions, sentiments and self-reflection – permeates different forms of art. The methodological perspective is multidimensional covering translation studies and semiotics studies, including semiotics of passion, semiotics of culture, existential semiotics and biosemiotics, as well as different arts' fields – music, literature, film, visual arts, multimedia and video games. The book combines these approaches and tools for each field in order to create a new approach that permits an examination of the process of translation in various arts connected to human inner life. In this way, the reader can see the complexity of human inner life from an interdisciplinary perspective.



Power of Emotions

Editors: **Andreas Ventsel and Peeter Selg**



This book:

- Analyzes political conflicts based on emotion and affect
- Presents emerging perspectives and developments in affect theory
- Contributes to the understanding polarizing communication through a semiotic, discursive, and cultural psychological lens

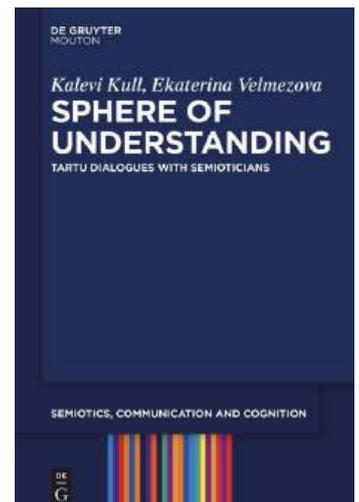
More info [here](#).

"Sphere of Understanding: Tartu Dialogues with Semioticians"

Authors: **Kalevi Kull, Ekaterina Velmezova**

The book presents dialogues with fourteen highly influential semioticians: Juri Lotman, Vyacheslav Ivanov, Boris Uspenskij, Umberto Eco, Paolo Fabbri, Myrdene Anderson, Winfried Nöth, Gunther Kress, Roland Posner, Stuart Kauffman, Jesper Hoffmeyer, Terrence Deacon, Paul Cobley, and Jaan Valsiner. They have all made a remarkable impact on contemporary research in the Tartu centre of semiotics. As well as these remarkable dialogues, the first part of the volume features an illuminating sequence of chapters on topics including the importance of dialogues, the historical roots and context of semiotics in Tartu since the 19th century, plus the main principles formulated in Jakob von Uexküll's and Juri Lotman's works.

More info [here](#).



Wittgenstein & Semiotics

Editor: **Dinda L. Gorfée**



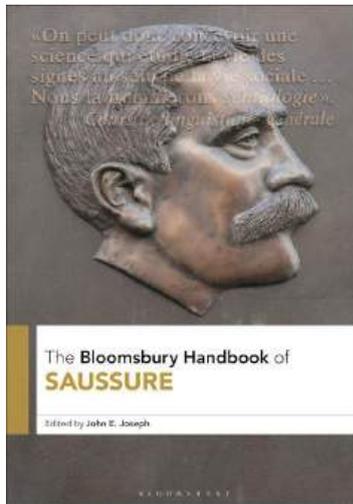
Wittgenstein's philosophy is directly related to the semiotic discipline to understand the signs, their processes, and signalling. Wittgenstein's nervous system was a semiotic model of control and power to make choices. To examine this critical question, *Wittgenstein & Semiotics* discusses the cultural climate of Wittgenstein to follow (or not) the classics, Saussure and Peirce. His word-play reflects historically how modern society transfigured the disasters of two World Wars into belief and action to meet with Wittgenstein's linguistic reaction. Wittgenstein's polemical style reflected the Zeitgeist of a new structure of writing philosophy based on the special force of semiotics. By coding and decoding one message to another, Wittgenstein saw how the exchanges of signs are carried out to renew cultural society. His linguistic sign functions in direct speech to interpret the structure of signs

into the signification to the readers. Wittgenstein’s use of semiotics contributed to the cultural technique of the growth of interdisciplinary fields in scholarly disciplines, both humanistic and scientific, which Wittgenstein’s “free” speech enjoys today.

More info including front matter (free to download) [here](#).

The Bloomsbury Handbook of Saussure

Editor: **John E. Joseph**



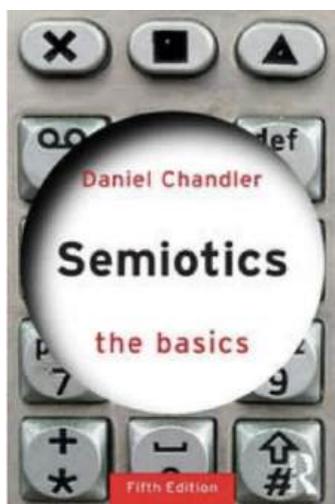
For linguistics, Ferdinand de Saussure is the defining figure of its modern period. For semiotics too, he is the founding figure within Europe, alongside Peirce in America. Yet Saussure's influence reaches far beyond linguistics and semiotics, through the structuralism which his teaching inspired in the decades following his death, and even the post-structuralism which followed it. With chapters written by leading scholars from across the world, this detailed and comprehensive volume charts the significance of Saussure's work across the wide range of fields in which it had an impact, providing a thorough understanding, and the definitive guide to, his ideas and legacy. Divided into four parts, the book first explores Saussure's life and career, including his published and unpublished work. Part Two is devoted to the *Course in General Linguistics*, which is dissected across five chapters to offer a highly detailed account of the most

important book within modern linguistics. Part Three traces the *Course* and its leading ideas across the ensuing decades, as Saussure became the acknowledged founding figure not just of modern linguistics and semiotics, but of a structuralism which was not limited by academic field. Lastly, Part Four highlights key themes and topics for close attention, offering an even greater depth of insight into the life, work and reception of Saussure.

More info [here](#).

5th Edition Semiotics: The Basics

Author: **Daniel Chandler**



This fifth edition of the bestselling textbook is a major new revision, 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? *Semiotics: The Basics* focuses on its application to communication and cultural studies. The latest edition features a greatly extended treatment of core concepts, in particular traditional historical models of the sign, the semiotic triangle, and distinctions between ‘natural’ and conventional signs. There is also a greater emphasis on ‘the social life of signs’. With an extensive index, a comprehensive glossary, suggestions for review and for further reading, and a list of online resources, this must-have guide is both the ideal introductory

text and an essential reference for students of language, communication, media, and cultural studies at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

More info [here](#).

JOURNALS

SEMIOTICA



We are pleased to announce the publication of the latest issue of *Semiotica* (International Semiotics since 1969), Volume 2025, Issue 266, which is available [here](#) with full access.

See also [issue 263](#) (a regular issue), [issue 264](#) (a regular issue) and [issue 265](#), a special issue on “Mystique et politique : Tension sémiotique entre l’être et le faire”.

Semiotica is the journal of the International Association for Semiotic Studies / Revue de l'Association Internationale de Sémiotique

Editors-in-chief: Stephanie Walsh Matthews, Massimo Leone, Jamin Pelkey

It is published in six annual issues, in two languages (English and French). From time to time, Special Issues, devoted to topics of particular interest, are assembled by Guest Editors. The journal welcomes papers reporting results of research in all branches of semiotic studies. Research articles, in-depth reviews, guest editorials, and reports are the accepted formats.

Starting with Volume 2024 (Issue 256), *Semiotica* is transformed into a Diamond Open Access journal thanks to their subscribers participating in the Subscribe to Open (S2O) project. All current content will be published under a Creative Commons License (CC-BY 4.0) at no cost to authors and will be freely available to readers.

Sign Systems Studies

The latest issue of [Sign Systems Studies](#) on **Deleuze & Guattari and semiotics** has been released! Its guest editor is **Ott Puumeister**.

This special issue is now available for free download [here](#).



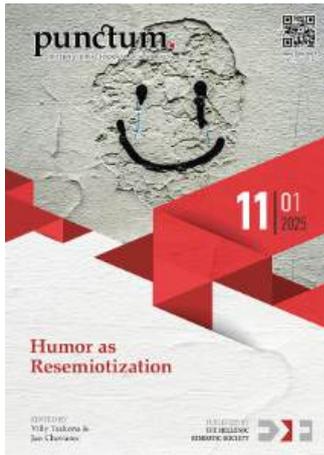
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INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SEMIOTICS

Volume 11: Issue 01: 2025

HUMOR AS RESEMIOTIZATION

Edited by: **Villy Tsakona & Jan Chovanec**



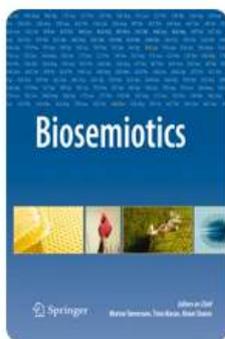
The full issue can be downloaded [here](#).

Punctum. is a blind peer-reviewed, on-line journal dedicated to the semiotic study of contemporary cultural texts, practices and processes, published by the Hellenic Semiotic Society, member of the International Association for Semiotic Studies (IASS).

Aspiring to provide a venue for the advancement of international semiotic scholarship, the journal is published twice a year (July & December) in English, although submissions in French and German will be accepted as well. **Punctum.**'s Editorial Board reflects both its international scope and the diversity of contemporary semiotic research and theory.

Punctum. invites submissions (original research papers, review articles, book reviews) across a wide range of semiotic fields and methodologies on an on-going basis, and regularly puts out calls for special issues with guest

editors. The journal's contents are registered with **CrossRef** and indexed in **Scopus** and **EBSCO**.



Journal

Biosemiotics

Biosemiotics is a peer-reviewed journal focusing on the study of signs, communication, interpretation, and cognition in living organisms.

Editor-in-Chief : Yogi H. Hendlin

Co-Editor-in-Chief : Jana Švorcová

The latest issue of the **Biosemiotics** journal, Volume 18, Issue 2 (August 2025) has now been released and can be found [here](#).

Biosemiotics is a peer-reviewed journal focusing on the study of signs, communication, interpretation, and cognition in living organisms.

- Traces the growth and evolution of the discipline of biosemiotics.
- Bridges biology, philosophy, linguistics and communication sciences.
- Encourages both methodology development and application of theory in empirical case studies.
- Affiliated with the International Society for Biosemiotic Studies (ISBS).
- Challenges traditional assumptions on the nature of life and suggests alternative perspectives.

Cognitive Semiotics

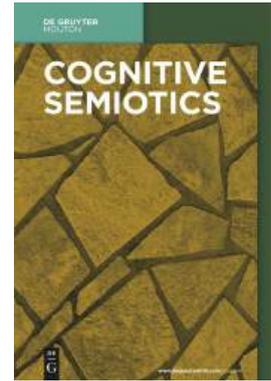
Editor-in-Chief: **Peer F. Bundgaard**

Volume 18, Issue 1 (May 2025) is now out and can be accessed [here](#).

Cognitive Semiotics is a peer-reviewed, multidisciplinary journal devoted to high-quality research, integrating perspectives, methods and insight from cognitive science, cognitive linguistics and semiotics, placing meaning-making into the broader context of cognitive, social, and neurobiological processes. The journal is a platform for the study of meaning-making writ large: in our interactions with the surroundings in all domains, in the natural as well as in the social world, in language and other sign vehicles, as well as in perception, and in action.

Starting 2025, *Cognitive Semiotics* will be transferred to Gold Open Access on a

year-by-year basis. All articles will thus immediately appear under the Creative Commons license CC-BY. There will be no publication costs for the authors. The Open Access transformation is based on [Subscribe-to-Open](#), an alternative model that enables the full Open Access transformation of journals through the continuation of existing subscriptions. The prerequisite for successful transformation is that subscriptions are continued to the same extent as before. The editors of *Cognitive Semiotics* and the publisher De Gruyter would therefore like to thank all subscribers for their support, which has made the transformation to Open Access possible.



Actes Sémiotiques



The Editor of Actes Sémiotiques, Juan ALONSO ALDAMA, is pleased to announce the publication of issue 133 (02/2025) available [here](#).

This issue contains a monographic dossier entitled « Le chaînon manquant entre langue et parole. Pour une sémiotique des normes », edited by Giuditta Bassano and Tiziana Migliore, many other texts and a series of reading notes on recently published works in semiotics.

Southern Semiotic Review

Southern Semiotic Review is focused on the Southern Hemisphere while maintaining an inclusive international reach. The latest issue 22 2025 (ii) is now out and is freely available [here](#).

In addition to general submissions, the journal invites papers focused on three continuing themes – creative arts and intermediality, semio linguistics, and structuralism today. Submissions on these themes can be made at any time, and will be published individually in a general issue. When there is an aggregate number they will be collected into a special issue online and it is planned in print. The themes are continuing. Over time there can be more than one special edition or issue on each.

Send submissions to: southernsemioticreview@gmail.com

syn-thèses

Syn-Thèses

The latest issue of *Syn-Thèses* 16 (2025) « La didactique de la terminologie dans l'espace universitaire francophone: approches innovantes et outillées » is now available [here](#).

Syn-Thèses is a yearly, peer-reviewed academic e-journal, published by the School of French at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. A former print publication, from 2008 to 2012, *Syn-Thèses* aspires to publish eminent quality papers in the fields of Linguistics, Literature and Translation. The journal welcomes submissions in Greek, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and occasionally in other languages. Each year, the journal deals with one of the three aforementioned disciplines, following a call for papers. From 2024, each issue consists of a themed feature and « Varia » papers. The journal also features interviews and book reviews.

The **Call For Papers** for *Syn-Thèses* 18 (2027) « Standard languages and geographical varieties of Europe at the crossroads of contact linguistics and historical dialectology » can be found [here](#).



JOURNALS OF SEMIOTICS IN THE WORLD REVISITED

The overview article “Journals of semiotics in the world revisited” by Bent Sørensen, Torkild Thellefsen and Amalia Nurma Dewi is a couple of years old but still useful, listing 66 active semiotics journals.

Full article [here](#).

CALL FOR PAPERS



**Societas
Ethica**

**Call for Papers
Crisis & Recovery:
Ethics in Interdisciplinary Dialogue**

**Societas Ethica's 62nd Annual Conference
At the University of Tartu, Estonia
August 20–23, 2026**

Interdisciplinary Dialogue” (August 20–23, 2026, University of Tartu, Estonia) warmly welcomes semioticians to join the discussion and explore how signs, meanings, and cultural communication shape ethical responses and recovery in such crises. One of the keynote speakers is Susan Petrilli. The conference languages will be English, German, and French.

For more info and the full CFP see [here](#).

Call for Semiotics Scholars! We live in troubled times. The refugee crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the crisis of liberal democracies deeply affect individuals, societies, and the environment. Societas Ethica's 62nd Annual Conference 2026, “Crisis & Recovery: Ethics in

***Digital Age in Semiotics and Communication, Vol. IX (2026) – Artificial VS Natural
Creativity: semiotic and interdisciplinary perspective***
Submission deadline: December 31, 2025

The full CFP can be found [here](#).

Researchers and practitioners are invited to contribute to the 9th issue of Digital Age in Semiotics and



Communication, devoted to the theme **AI vs Natural Creativity**. This volume aims to explore the rapidly evolving landscape of creativity and creative labour in the age of Artificial Intelligence from both **theoretical-semiotic** and **interdisciplinary-applied** perspectives.

Two primary directions frame the call:

1. **The semiotic analysis of creativity** — examining how creativity functions as a textual and cultural strategy in AI-driven content interpretation and generation.
2. **The implications for creative practice and labor** — considering how automation reshapes the professional and existential realities of creative workers.

As AI technologies increasingly permeate artistic and cultural production — from writing and visual arts to design, media, and performance — creative professionals face unprecedented challenges to their roles and technique. The tendency of AI systems to **replace rather than augment** human creativity raises pressing ethical, social, and legal questions.

Critical and interdisciplinary contributions that engage with the following questions are welcome:

- Can machines replicate the nuanced, context-dependent, and affective dimensions of human creativity?
- What is lost when artistic and intellectual labor is devalued or displaced by automated systems?
- How can we reaffirm the irreplaceability of human creativity as a cornerstone of a democratic and pluralistic cultural sphere?

The editors particularly welcome papers that study AI creativity, assess the intrinsic and societal value of creative work, explore the transformation of labour markets under AI-driven automation, and propose conceptual, ethical, or policy frameworks to **safeguard and empower human creativity** in the digital era.

punctum.

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SEMIOTICS

Punctum 12/1 (2026) – The Semiotics of Dancing

Special issue of Punctum. International Journal of Semiotics 12:1 (2026)

Guest editor: **Valeria De Luca**

Submission deadline: **December 30, 2025**

The full CFP is available [here](#).