



# The International Association for Cognitive Semiotics

2019 Newsletter

## ***4th Conference of the International Association for Cognitive Semiotics (IACS4-2020)***

The Board has spent the last few months working closely with the conference organizers of our next conference, which will be held at RWTH Aachen University, Germany, on July 2-4. There were a few obstacles beyond the organizers' control at the start, but fortunately much has now been arranged and that further preparations are in full swing for what promises to become a terrific conference. Sincere thanks to Irene Mittelberg, and the rest of the local committee at Aachen for all their hard work organizing the conference. A word of thanks is also due to Geert Brône and Paul Sambre from The Catholic University of Leuven, who are kindly assisting the local team. The Conference theme is 'Semiotic Complexities: Theory & Analysis'. A call for papers will be announced shortly. Updated information about the conference will be posted on the IACS-4 website (<https://iacs4.signges.de>), as well as on the association's website at: <http://iacs.dk/conferences.html>.

## **Bursaries and Scholarships for New Researchers**

For those concerned about financing your trip, the IACS board is supplying generous funds to support new and early career researchers whose papers are accepted for presentation. Additional funding will be sought by the organizers from the German Research Foundation (DFG), one of the major foundations, such as Volkswagen or Thyssen, and various institutions at RWTH Aachen University. Funding applications are in preparation but can only be submitted once the proposal is more fully developed – prominently including plenary speakers. Funding allocation and amounts awarded will be based on the total funds available.

## **Membership**

The payment systems for IACS membership and conference fees are now integrated, so that your two-year membership dues are factored into the conference fee. As in the past, membership entitles you to a 30% discount on the subscription to the journal *Cognitive Semiotics*.

## **The Journal**

As was discussed at the General Assembly meeting of our last conference in Toronto in 2018, the publisher of the journal *Cognitive Semiotics*, De Gruyter Mouton, decided for the journal to appear in digital form only, due to too low yearly sales of the paper version. Concerns about this decision were expressed by a few members at the General Assembly and at later board meetings.

Esther Pascual (President) communicated these concerns to the two editorial managers at de Gruyter, and suggested in-between alternatives, but unfortunately their decision is final. Disappointment with the new layout of the digital version was also discussed at the General Assembly meeting and later board meetings. The format chosen follows the standard template for other online journals, which are quite inflexible. The publisher may however consider modifying it in the future. Fortunately, the editor-in-chief, Peer Bundgaard assures us that that the layout has not been a problem in the most recent issue of the journal and that the online proof platform works smoothly. The concern about pagination will be taken with the person responsible at de Gruyter by the editors. Matters went slower than usual, due to the fact that there was a change of staff at de Gruyter.

All members are encouraged to submit manuscripts for peer-review and possible publication in [\*Cognitive Semiotics\*](#) at any time. The Editors are also eager to consider special issue proposals of 4-5 papers or more on a relevant topic for 2021 and 2022. We'd further like to ask all members to consider requesting that your university library subscribes to the journal.

### **Publications**

In this academic year 2018-2019 a few publications on cognitive semiotics have appeared. A monograph by Piotr Konderak, entitled *Mind, Cognition, Semiosis: Ways to Cognitive Semiotics* was published in 2018. For details, please see:

<https://wydawnictwo.umcs.eu/produkt/5012/mind-cognition-semiosis--ways-to-cognitive-semiotics>. A selection of the papers presented at IACS-2 in Lublin, appeared published last March 2019 in a special issue of *Filozofia i Nauka* edited by Piotr Konderak, entitled 'Cognitive Semiotics: Perspectives on the Study of Meaning Making'. The online version is available here: <http://filozofiainauka.ifispan.waw.pl/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Filozofia-i-Nauka-7-2019.pdf>. A monograph by Piotr Konderak, entitled *Mind, Cognition, Semiosis: Ways to Cognitive Semiotics* was published in 2018. For details, please see:

<https://wydawnictwo.umcs.eu/produkt/5012/mind-cognition-semiosis--ways-to-cognitive-semiotics>. A special issue entitled 'Peirce's extended theory and classifications of signs: Perspectives on the Study of Meaning Making' was published in *Semiotica* last May. The full issue can be viewed at: <https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/semi.2019.2019.issue-228/issue-files/semi.2019.2019.issue-228.xml>.

A special Issue edited by Göran Sonesson and Peer F. Bundgaard and entitled 'The rhetoric of contemporary metaphor theory', which was primarily based a panel on Metaphor at IACS3 in Toronto, appeared published in [\*Cognitive Semiotics\*](#) last May 2019. Lastly, a themed double issue of [\*The American Journal of Semiotics\*](#) 35.1-2 (2019), entitled 'Cognitive Semiotics' and edited by Jamin Pelkey, Sophia Melanson and Richard Rosenbaum, is currently in press. This special issue includes a selection of eight peer-reviewed articles based on papers first presented to IACS3 held in Toronto in July 2018.



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Updated information on publications in our field can be found throughout the year on the newsfeed of our website's homepage (<http://iacs.dk/index.html>) as well as on the 'Publications' page (<http://iacs.dk/publications.html>).

## Past and future events

Two academic events related to cognitive semiotics took place this past academic year. These are the *12th International Symposium on Iconicity in Language and Literature*, held at Lund University, Sweden on 3-5 May 2019 (<https://konferens.ht.lu.se/ill-12/>) and the conference of *The Nordic Association of Semiotics Studies* (NASS), organized by the University of Stavanger, Norway on 13-16 June 2019 ([http://nordicsemiotics.org/?page\\_id=306](http://nordicsemiotics.org/?page_id=306)).

As for future events, the next *Tartu Summer School of Semiotics*, will take place on 17-20 August 2019 (<http://tsss.ut.ee>) and the next conference of the *International Association for Visual Semiotics* (IAVS\_AISV) will be held at Lund University on 22-24 August 2019 (<https://konferens.ht.lu.se/iavs-aisv-2019>).

Regarding the further future, the Governing Board is looking forward to reviewing proposals for sites of the next IACS conference in 2022. The Board encourages any interested parties to contact the President or any member of the Governing Board with any suggestions. As is customary, choices for the next and future conference sites will be discussed at the General Assembly at IACS4-2019 in Aachen.

## News about the community

We are sad to remember the sudden passing of esteemed and prolific British semiotician Gunther Kress (26 November 1940–20 June 2019), who contributed greatly to semiotics, as well as multimodality, pedagogy and social thought. Kress was quite fittingly participating at an international conference, and surrounded by friends, at the time of his death. A eulogy from the *International Association for Semiotic Studies* can be read at: <http://iass-ais.org/obituary-for-gunther-kress/>. An updated overview of Kress's work and life, can be found here: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gunther\\_Kress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gunther_Kress).

Esther Pascual (IACS President) and the Governing Board