IACS Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 1 October 2026
Time: 14:00–15:00
Format: Online
Present: Filomena Diodato, Carlos H Guzman, Codruța Hainic (for point 2), Piotr Konderak, Daiya Kuryu, Alexandra Mouratidou, Jamin Pelkey, Paul Sambre, Jordan Zlatev
Apologies: Jamin Pelkey
Minutes: Paul **To be checked by:** Jordan and Daiya

1. Administrative and communications matters

- The membership name list is to be updated.
- A newsletter is to be prepared.
- The transition to Bluesky was discussed. Alexandra continues to manage the Facebook presence.
- Piotr sent Daiya and the Board a one-line announcement concerning the next conference in Lublin for inclusion on the IACS website. No further discussion was recorded.
- Daiya's new YouTube channel and the possibility of posting a short promotional video were noted.

2. IACS Mid-Term Symposium 2027, Cluj-Napolca

The Board reviewed the progress made by the Cluj-Napoca organizing team. A four-page call for papers, 3 proposed and confirmed plenary speakers (Filomena Diodato, Claudio Paolucci, Jordan Zlatev) and an outstanding conference website awaiting launch have been prepared IACS Mid-Term Symposium 2027, entitled Minds Without Bodies? Bridging Perception, Semiosis, and Intelligence: Humans, Animals, Machines. Some practical information

Item	Date / details
Symposium dates:	9–11 September 2027.
Venue:	Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.
Abstract submission deadline:	31 January 2027.
Notification of acceptance:	30 April 2027.
Registration opens:	15 May 2027.
Payment of registration fee due:	31 July 2027.

The Board expresses its appreciation for the organizers' work and notes how well earlier recommendations have been implemented. The initiative is considered a strong and well-developed project. The order of plenary speakers should be preferably in alphabetical order (recommendation followed in the current state of the webpage). The principal concern was that the event could become too large and resemble a full IACS conference rather than a focused mid-term symposium. The intended format is a smaller-scale, more frequent meeting centered on current developments and the future of cognitive semiotics, with a programme that all participants can attend in full.

Programme and thematic scope

- The proposed format broadly follows the Board's recommendations and includes oral presentations and a poster session.
- Oral slots will last 20 minutes: 15 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for focused questions and discussion.
- Keynotes will comprise 30 minutes of presentation followed by 15 minutes of discussion.
- The nine proposed topics of interest were considered potentially too broad. They should function as indicative lines of inquiry rather than as separate parallel strands.
- All abstracts should state explicitly how the proposed contribution relates both to the symposium theme and to cognitive semiotics.
- The organizers are planning capacity for approximately 50 posters.
- The question "Can there be minds without bodies?" was noted in connection with the symposium's thematic framing.
- The possible involvement of the Bologna school of semiotics was discussed, particularly the degree of interaction with cognitive-semiotic approaches.

Invited speakers and submissions

- The invited speakers discussed were Filomena Diodato, Claudio Paolucci and Jordan Zlatev. Their names should appear in alphabetical order: Diodato, Paolucci, Zlatev.
- Invited speakers should be asked to remain for the full symposium.
- Early-career participation should be explicitly encouraged in the call.
- Each participant may submit only one abstract as first author.
- Selected papers may be invited for submission to thematic issues of peer-reviewed journals.

Scientific committee and reviewing

The composition of the scientific committee has not yet been finalized. Filomena will send the committee list from the IACS conference in Rome. If approximately 200 submissions are received and each abstract is reviewed twice, a committee of at least 40 reviewers may be needed (including board members), assuming three to five reviews per person. The committee may therefore need to be enlarged. Scholars in biosemiotics should be considered, since biosemiotic approaches and methodological questions are included in the call.

Decision and follow-up

The Board unanimously approved a Zoom meeting with Codruța to discuss the scope and format of the symposium and to provide consolidated feedback. Codruța will keep the Board informed. Daiya will publish the approved information on the IACS website and coordinate the short YouTube video.

3. Possible IACS participation in the 2027 Congress in Cali

Carlos H Gyzman reported on three possible participation formats: symposia and research panels; research-creation activities; and encounter labs for participatory experimentation. A panel on the current role of cognitive semiotics was identified as a promising option. Juan Mendoza-Collazos is already proposing a workshop on intersemiotic translation.
Relevant thematic areas include semiotics of symbolic resistance; discursive, media and communication semiotics; semiotics of digital and algorithmic environments; and semiotics of corporealities and sensibilities. Carlos will circulate information to the Board and ask interested members to propose a topic. Carlos and Jamin, as the Board members expected to attend, were invited to consider proposing a cognitive-semiotics panel and to inform the Board so that it can be announced on the IACS website.

4. Action points

- **Paul:** finalize meetings.
- **Jordan and Daiya:** check the minutes before publication.
- **Paul:** update the membership
- **Jordan and Alexandra:** prepare the newsletter (for early 2027).
- **Alexandra:** continue managing the IACS Facebook presence.

- **Daiya:** publish approved symposium information on the website and coordinate a short YouTube video.
- **Filomena:** send the scientific committee list from the Rome IACS conference.
- **Codruța:** arrange the approved Zoom discussion and keep the Board updated on the Cluj symposium. Prepare call message to be published on IACS website, Linguist and other relevant lists (issue to be discussed by mail) and sent out to member list.
- **Carlos:** circulate information about the Cali congress and solicit topic proposals from Board members.
- **Carlos and Jamin:** consider proposing a cognitive-semiotics panel for Cali and notify the Board.