

## **Meeting Minutes**

*International Association for Cognitive Semiotics*

Skype Meeting of the Governing Board

Monday, 24 June 2019

Participants: Esther Pascual, Todd Oakley, Kristian Tylén, Irene Mittelberg,

Jamin Pelkey, and Paul Sambre

Minutes by Jamin Pelkey

Minutes corrected by Esther and Irene

### **1. Journal: *Cognitive Semiotics***

Todd, reporting as Associate Editor on behalf of Peer, notes that publishing is proceeding according to schedule, with a new issue in the works. Manuscripts come in on a regular basis (monthly) and more submissions are declined than accepted.

Esther provided an update on the status of discussion with De Gruyter, requesting a return to the standard layout, with pagination. The publisher still has not provided a final response to this request, but they have indicated a clear unwillingness to return the publication to a print format. Board members agreed that the print issue was unimportant compared to the formatting issue, and Irene offered to contact Birgit S., the publisher in the General and Theoretical Linguistics division, directly to ask that the issue be resolved. Esther will also email the new person responsible for this issue, David S., who promised to inquire about this soon.

### **2. IACS4-2020: General Plans**

Irene and Paul confirmed that the conference will now be held exclusively in Aachen instead of traversing between Aachen and Leuven, but two Leuven colleagues will join Irene as members of the organizing committee, enabling the conference to benefit from their experience and a more adequate distribution of responsibilities.

The conference date is set for 2-4 July 2020, at RWTH Aachen University, with plans underway for a pre-conference workshop (or several workshops) on July 1. Irene noted that the university is gearing up to celebrate its 150th anniversary next year, making booking arrangements more challenging than usual. Even so, the organizing committee has already secured space for the main lecture hall and catering area in a favourable location (SuperC building, central campus), with views onto the cathedral and rooms for parallel sessions in the works.

The local/regional organizing committee will consist of Irene Mittelberg (Aachen), Geert Brône (Leuven), Paul Sambre (Leuven), Gabriele Gramelsberger (Aachen), plus team members (Phd, PostDoc) and volunteers, with funding already set aside to support student assistants.

Irene reported on the organizing committee's proposal for a conference theme "Semiotic Complexities: Theory & Analysis". This report was followed by board discussion and approval. Funding applications are in preparation but can only be submitted once the proposal is more fully developed – prominently including plenary speakers.

### **3. IACS4-2020: Plenary Speakers and Announcement**

Discussion of plenary speakers was primarily based on two compiled lists. The first was initiated by Esther with contributions compiled by multiple other committee members in a Google Sheets database over the past three months. The second list was created by Irene and the local organizing committee for IACS4 and proposed via email on June 24, 2019. These two lists overlapped with the name of only two candidates, making for a total of 29-30 plenary candidates under discussion.

In addition to research quality and relevance to the conference and theme, other considerations included gender parity, disciplinary breadth, age distribution and geographic distribution. Discussions converged on a list of ten possible invitees, including a priority list of five speakers and a reserve list of five additional speakers.

Members of the board agreed that Irene and the local organizing committee should take these deliberations into consideration, sending invitations to their top six candidates out of this list and then working down the list to include others depending on availability, as done previously.

Members of the board agreed that once this is in place – preferably no later than July 8 – that Irene will circulate a "Hold the Date" announcement (inclusive of basic description, theme, confirmed plenary speakers, url to a conference splash page, and other information) to members of the board for announcing on their respective listservs (e.g., Irene announcing to Cognitive Linguistics, ISGS (Gesture Studies), Funknet, Esther to Spanish and Chinese Cognitive Linguistics associations, etc.; Jamin announcing to LinguistList, LingAnth, SSA, IASS, etc. Kristian announcing to Cognitive Science list, Paul announcing to BeNECLA, the Cognitive Linguistics association of Belgium and the Netherlands).

Irene reported that she would meet with a local graphic designer and a programmer (from the Center for Sign Language and Gesture) on June 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss the basics of the Website design. The goal is to have a basic website ready when the CfP will be sent out.

### **4. Other Business**

Kristian confirmed that funding will be available for another round of bursaries to support emerging scholars traveling to present papers at IACS4.

Jamin provided an update on publishing activity for the cognitive semiotics thematic double issue of *The American Journal of Semiotics*, including eight revised papers from IACS3, being co-edited with two York University PhD students who participated with papers in the conference (Richard Rosenbaum and Sophia Melanson). The issue will be published this summer.

Esther reported on planning for the upcoming newsletter and noted the sudden passing of esteemed British semiotician Gunther Kress (26 November 1940 – 20 June 2019). The board agreed that a eulogy would be in order for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter.