



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COGNITIVE SEMIOTICS

## IACS 5 - 2024: SAVE THE DATE

The Fifth Conference of the International Association for Cognitive Semiotics will be hosted by the Division of Cognitive Semiotics at the Centre for Language and Literature at Lund University, Lund, Sweden, **August 15-17, 2024**, with Jordan Zlatev as Chair of the Organising Committee. Other members of the committee include Johan Blomberg, Niklas Johansson, Sara Lenninger, Alexandra Mouratidou, and Göran Sonesson. The conference theme is "Crises of Meaning", and the selection of six plenary speakers is already underway. Please save the date, and stay tuned for more information in 2023, including the official call for papers and scholarship opportunities. The IACS Board would like to express its appreciation to the Lund organising committee for welcoming the association back to the venue of the inaugural conference (IACS1-2014), following three intervening conferences over the past six years, including IACS2-2016 in Lublin, Poland, IACS3-2018 in Toronto, Canada, and IACS4-2022 in Aachen, Germany.

## NEW BOARD

The IACS Board also extends its public appreciation to [IACS4 organisers](#) for their extraordinary work in coordinating and hosting the conference in June 2022. During the IACS4 General Meeting, the membership elected the next governing board for 2022-2024. The new IACS Board includes Jamin Pelkey as President, Martin Thiering as Vice President, Esther Pascual as Immediate Past President, Todd Oakley as Secretary, Alin Olteanu as Treasurer, Alexandra Mouratidou as PR Officer, Göran Sonesson as Board Member,



*IACS 5 will be held at Lund University in August 2024 (Pictured: Lund University Library)*

and Jordan Zlatev as Conference Organiser. For further information on the IACS Board, and to read the minutes of the 2022 General Meeting or summer 2022 board meeting, please see the [IACS website](#). The new governing board would also like to express appreciation and acknowledgment to outgoing board members, Sara Lenninger, Hannah Little, Kristian Tylén, and Donna E. West for their years of dedicated service to the association.

## MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVES

Thanks to generous funding from the German Research Foundation, secured by IACS4 Conference Chair Irene Mittelberg, conference registration for IACS4 was offered free of charge. Due to pandemic constraints, the

board also voted to suspend required membership dues until registration is collected for IACS5 (2024). Anyone who would like to renew their dues ahead of the conference is welcome to do so [here](#). Membership dues are used primarily to support promising student and early career researchers in need of financial assistance to participate in the next biennial conference. In addition to gaining admission to the association's conferences, membership in the association entitles you to a 30% discount on the subscription fee to the IACS journal [Cognitive Semiotics](#) (De Gruyter Mouton) and includes you in the mailing list for our annual newsletters and communications. Members can also receive updates on relevant virtual seminars welcoming participants from

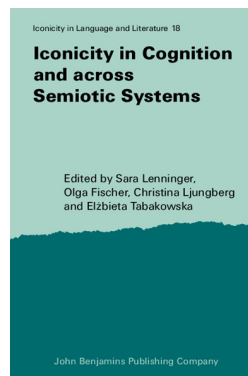
around the world free of charge. To this end, as a newly introduced initiative, the IACS website now includes a “[Seminars](#)” tab for announcing virtual seminars relevant to cognitive semiotics. Recent events include lectures by Dan Everett on “The Inferential Foundation of Human Language”, by Bodo Winter on “There’s nothing arbitrary about the linguistic sign”, by Monika Boruta-Zywiczynska on “Growing into sign use in the second year of life and beyond”, among many others. Recent virtual seminars currently linked from the IACS site feature the cognitive semiotics seminar series at Lund University. To be added to the mailing list for notifications for new talks in this series, contact [Jordan Zlatev](#). If you would like to advertise other virtual (or hybrid) lecture events relevant to cognitive semiotics, please contact IACS President [Jamin Pelkey](#) and IACS PR Officer [Alexandra Mouratidou](#).

## PUBLICATIONS

The past year has also been productive in terms of publishing initiatives in cognitive semiotics. In addition to the wide range of articles and chapters published by IACS members over the past year, here we draw attention to special journal issues, major edited collections, and monographs featuring the work of IACS members.

The IACS flagship journal [Cognitive Semiotics](#) continues to build on its strong reputation for quality research and scholarship. In addition to a regular issue this past year, the journal published a [Special Issue \(15.1\)](#) in honor of Per Aage Brandt, who passed away suddenly on November 10, 2021. The issue is edited by Peer F. Bundgaard and includes a collection of eleven articles including a memorial speech, an obituary, and an intellectual biography that capture the innovative scope, breadth, and vitality of one of cognitive semiotics’ most insightful pioneers.

Other special issues and special sections on cognitive semiotics published during the past year include [Peirce and Consciousness](#) edited by Donna E. West, in *Semiotica* 243 (Journal of the International Association for Semiotic Studies), [The New Prague School of Semiotics](#), edited by Martin Švantner in *The American Journal of Semiotics* 37.3/4 (Journal of the Semiotic Society of America), including an interview by Šárka Kadavá with Jordan Zlatev, entitled “[Cognitive Semiotics as an Emerging Discipline](#)”, and a Special Issue entitled [Semiotics and Phenomenology: New Perspectives](#), edited by Jordan Zlatev and Göran Sonesson in the journal *Philosophies*.

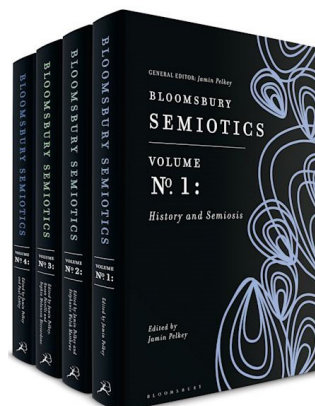
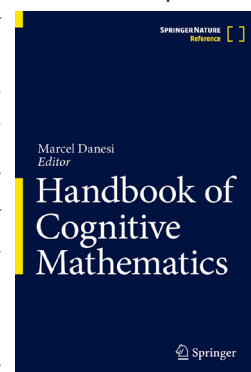


A number of key edited volumes featuring cognitive semiotics and the work of multiple IACS members were also published in the past year.

[Iconicity in Cognition and Across Semiotic Systems](#), edited by Sara Lenninger, Olga Fischer, Christina Ljungberg, and Elzbieta Tabakowska, develops research from the 12th International Symposium on Iconicity in Language and Literature, hosted by the Centre for Cognitive Semiotics at Lund University, to investigate “iconicity as to both comprehension and production of meaning in language, gesture, pictures, art and literature.” The volume “highlights iconic processes in meaning-making and interpretation across different semiotic systems at structurally, historically and pragmatically different levels of iconicity, with special focus on Cognitive Semiotics. Exploring the ubiquity of iconicity in verbal, visual and gestural communication, these contributions discuss it from the point of view of human meaning-making, examined as a phenomenon that is experienced, embodied and often polysemiotic in nature.”

The [Springer Handbook of Cognitive Mathematics](#), edited by Marcel Danesi, features work by several IACS members as both chapter authors and section editors. The book “contains a comprehensive collection of work in the growing field of cognitive mathematics, [providing] evidence that mathematical ideas are products of the same conceptual system that generates language.”

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The four-volume [Bloomsbury Semiotics](#) is a new major reference work edited by Jamin Pelkey that features the research of numerous cognitive semioticians and biosemioticians. The project provides an updated survey of the history and current state of the art in semiotics with a focus on semiotic contributions to the established academic disciplines, casting a vision for future research priorities. The four volumes cover the following major themes: Volume 1: *History and Semiosis*

Volume 2: *Semiotics in the Natural and Technical Sciences*

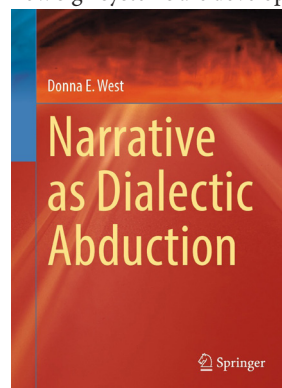
Volume 3: *Semiotics in the Arts and Social Sciences*

Volume 4: *Semiotic Movements*

Volumes 2-4 are co-edited with Stéphanie Walsh Matthews, Susan Petrilli, Sophia Melanson Ricciardone, and Paul Cobley, respectively. IACS members can receive a 20% discount off the full

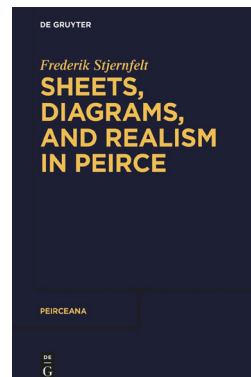
set at [bloomsbury.com](#) using these codes: GLR CA3UK (UK), GLR CA3US (USA), GLR CA3CA (Canada), GLR CA3AU (Australia).

Frederik Stjernfelt’s new book [Sheets, Diagrams, and Realism in Peirce](#) “investigates a number of central problems in the philosophy of Charles Peirce grouped around the realism of his semiotics: the issue of how sign systems are developed and used in the investigation of reality.”



The book also deals with Peirce’s special notions of propositions, diagrams, and assertions, in addition to iconicity in logic, of self-control in reasoning, and dependences between phenomena.

Finally, Donna E. West’s new book [Narrative as Dialectic Abduction](#) “shows how communicability of narratives can be improved using Peirce’s pragmatist model while offering an interdisciplinary analysis of narrative as an ontological and cultural phenomenon and facilitating the production of narratives by adults and children.”



## CONFERENCES OF INTEREST IN 2023

Several upcoming conferences of interest to cognitive semioticians in 2023 include the Cognitive Science Society Conference (COGSCI), the Gatherings in Biosemiotics (GIBS) conference, the International Association for Visual Semiotics (AIVS-IAVS) conference, the International Cognitive Linguistics Conference (ICLC), the International Pragmatics Conference (IPC), the Protolang conference on the origins of language, the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies (NASS) conference, and the Researching and Applying Metaphor (RaAM) conference. Information on these events is summarized below in chronological order of conference start date:

### NASS 13: Feeling – Skill – Knowledge

- June 7-9, 2023
- Sibelius Academy of the Uniarts, Helsinki (Finland)
- [Call for Papers](#), [Website](#)
- Extended Abstract Deadline: December 31, 2022

### RaAM 16: Metaphor in Public Discourse

- June 28-30, 2023
- Universidad de Alcalá (Spain)
- [Call for Papers](#)
- Abstract Deadline: January 31, 2023

### IPC 18: The Shape of Interaction: Pragmatics of (a)typicality

- July 9–14, 2023
- Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels (Belgium)
- [Call for Papers](#)
- Extended Abstract Deadline: November 8, 2022 (now closed)

### COGSCI 2023: Cognition in Context

- July 26–29, 2023
- Sydney (Australia)
- [Call for Papers](#)
- Abstract Deadline: February 1, 2023

### GIBS 23: In Honour of Jesper Hoffmeyer

- August 2023
- University of Copenhagen (Denmark)
- Call for Papers: [TBA](#)
- Abstract Deadline: TBA

### ICLC 16: Modeling Language and Cognition

- August 7-11, 2023
- Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf (Germany)
- [Call for Papers](#)
- Extended Abstract Deadline: January 15, 2023

### Protolang 8

- September 27-28, 2023
- Roma Tre University, Rome (Italy)
- [Call for Papers](#)
- Abstract Deadline: February 15, 2023

### AISV-IAVS 13: Visual Semiotics & Agency

- September 28-30, 2023
- Universidad de Bogotá Jorge Tadeo, Lozano, Bogotá (Colombia)
- [Call for Papers](#)
- Abstract Deadline: February 15, 2023

Hopefully many of us will be able to meet at several of these events during the next year.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Meanwhile, we wish you a restful and restorative holiday break and a vital start to 2023. We will be in touch again in the coming months with more information on IACS5-2024.

Very best to all,

Jamin Pelkey, IACS President  
on behalf of the governing board  
December 16, 2022



The International Association for Cognitive Semiotics

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