



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COGNITIVE SEMIOTICS

IACS 6 - 2026: ROME

The Sixth Conference of the International Association for Cognitive Semiotics will be hosted by the Department of Philosophy at the Sapienza University of Rome, Italy with Filomena Diodato as Chair of the Organizing Committee. Conference dates will be announced on the IACS website and other venues in early 2025, with the first call for papers and more information on plenary speakers and conference website links by mid-year. The IACS Board would like to express its appreciation to Prof. Diodato and the local organizing committee for welcoming the association to Rome, building on five biennial conferences over the past ten years, including IACS1-2014 in Lund, Sweden, IACS2-2016 in Lublin, Poland, IACS3-2018 in Toronto, Canada, IACS4-2022 in Aachen, Germany, and IACS5-2024 in Lund, Sweden.

NEW BOARD

The IACS Board also extends its public appreciation to IACS5 organizers Jordan Zlatev (Chair), Niklas Erben Johansson, and Alexandra Mouratidou and other local staff and volunteers for their extraordinary work in coordinating and hosting the conference in August 2024. During the IACS5 General Assembly, the membership elected the next governing board for 2024-2026. The new IACS Board includes Jamin Pelkey as President, Elena Cuffari as Vice President, Esther Pascual as Past President, Todd Oakley as Secretary, Alin Olteanu as Treasurer, Auli Viidalepp as PR Officer, Marta Sibierskaas Board Member, and Filomena Diodato as Conference Organiser. For further information on the IACS Board, and to read the minutes of the 2024 General Assembly or the



IACS 6 will be held at Sapienza University of Rome in 2026 (Pictured: Sant'Ivo alla Sapienza)

minutes of the Fall 2024 board meeting, please see the [IACS website](#). The new governing board would also like to express appreciation and acknowledgment to outgoing board members, Martin Thiering, Donna West, Alexandra Mouratidou, and Jordan Zlatev for their years of dedicated service to the association.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

Thanks primarily to membership dues paid over the past few years by IACS members, the IACS Board was able to award eight scholarships to support participation from emerging and Global South scholars for IACS5. Scholarship awardees included Tamara Crasto, Eleni Georgakopoulou, Gabriele Giacosa, Theresa Matzinger, Šárka Kadavá, Federica Ruggie-

ro, Esther Sampson, and El Habib Darkaoui Soufi. Anyone who would like to support emerging scholars for IACS6 can renew their dues ahead of the next conference [here](#). In addition to supporting promising student and early career researchers in need of financial assistance to participate in the next biennial conference, membership dues qualify you for a discount on conference registration. Membership in the association also 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.

SEMINARS IN COGNITIVE SEMIOTICS

The “[Seminars](#)” tab on the IACS website curates a wide range of hybrid and virtual seminars relevant to cognitive semiotics, including no less than twenty one Lund Cognitive Semiotics seminars during the past year. Seminar topics over the past year have ranged from “Deictic gestures and justification of choices based on preference” (Alexandra Mouratidou, LU, Mats Andrén Linköping University), to “New Tools for Music Analysis: Cognitive Semiotics and Triangulation” (Gabriele Giacosa, University of Cologne), to “Spectators’ Experience of Watching Dance without Music: A cognitive semiotic exploration of kinesthetic empathy” (Katja Woxell, Jordan Zlatev, Joost van de Weijer, LU), to “The sensory semantics of ideophones: methodological, typological, and historical perspectives” (Bonnie McLean, Uppsala 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 [Auli Viidalepp](#).

PUBLICATION NEWS

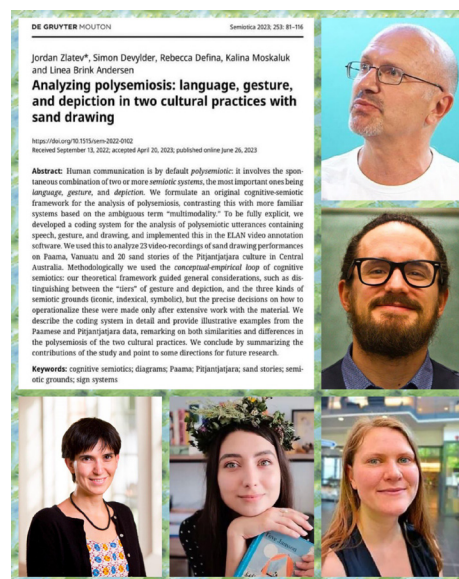
The past year of publishing in the IACS flagship journal *Cognitive Semiotics* continues the journal’s 17-year reputation as a venue for quality research and scholarship working to move the study of meaning to center-stage in cognitive science. As part of the De Gruyter open access initiative [Subscribe to Open](#), the journal will be published open access from the first issue of 2025. In addition to a regular issue this past year (17.2), the journal published a [Special Issue \(17.1\)](#) on “Image, Mind, and Culture” in honor of Göran Sonesson, who passed away in 2023. The issue, edited by Sara Lenninger, includes an editorial introduction and a collection of nine articles that highlight and develop numerous research themes and innovations of one of the founders and mainstays of cognitive semiotics. Another special issue dedicated to the work of Göran Sonesson appeared in *Semiotica*, journal of the International Association for Semiotic Studies. The [special issue \(260\)](#) is entitled “How to build a lifeworld: In-between relevance and the encyclopedia” and includes an editorial introduction by Jan Strassheim and ten articles by scholars and researchers around the world developing some of Sonesson’s most fecund themes in cognitive semiotics.



discipline. A fitting tribute to Kristian’s life and work is published on the [Aarhus University website](#).

KRISTIAN TYLÉN IN MEMORIAM

Sadly, another mainstay of cognitive semiotics passed away in 2024: Kristian Tylén, an IACS founder and leading researcher in the evolution of human symbolic behavior, died of cancer on November 19, 2024. In addition to a prominent research and teaching career as Full Professor at Aarhus University, Denmark, including numerous grants and publications advancing cognitive semiotics, Kristian served as Treasurer and founding board member of the IACS for ten years. Kristian’s influence and spirit of collaboration will continue to resonate in the



SEMIOTICA MOUTON D'OR AWARD

In January of the past year, one of the most prestigious international awards in semiotics was presented to a team of cognitive semioticians as the winners of the 2023 Mouton d’Or Prize for the best article in *Semiotica*. The jury (composed of Donna West, Kristian Bankov, and Ekaterina Velmezova) selected a publication by Jordan Zlatev, Simon Devylder, Rebecca Defina, Kalina Moskaluk and Linea Brink Andersen entitled “Analyzing polysemiosis: language, gesture, and depiction in two cultural practices with sand drawing” from [Issue 253: 81–116](#) as the recipient of the award. The jury cited numerous strengths of the article that are also features of cognitive semiotics itself: *This study utilizes empirical findings via the authors’ own research to demonstrate the interplay between gesture and depictive skills. The findings indicate how indexical and iconic reference together give rise to communicative competence. The paper is important because it elaborates on an entirely new analytic approach – the cognitive-semiotic framework – in a very detailed and systematic way. Building on earlier work by the first two authors, here the research is presented in a most accomplished version. On one hand, the framework is more exact for analytical purposes than the hyper-popular multimodal analysis. On the other hand, it constitutes via case studies the inner workings of polysemiotic communication; and it does so by illustrating responses to sand drawings from Australia and Vanuatu – a subject rarely considered in semiotic research. Finally, the article is interdisciplinary in the best sense of the word, showing the possibility, in semiotics, for the cooperation of diverse disciplines.*

This study utilizes empirical findings via the authors’ own research to demonstrate the interplay between gesture and depictive skills. The findings indicate how indexical and iconic reference together give rise to communicative competence. The paper is important because it elaborates on an entirely new analytic approach – the cognitive-semiotic framework – in a very detailed and systematic way. Building on earlier work by the first two authors, here the research is presented in a most accomplished version. On one hand, the framework is more exact for analytical purposes than the hyper-popular multimodal analysis. On the other hand, it constitutes via case studies the inner workings of polysemiotic communication; and it does so by illustrating responses to sand drawings from Australia and Vanuatu – a subject rarely considered in semiotic research. Finally, the article is interdisciplinary in the best sense of the word, showing the possibility, in semiotics, for the cooperation of diverse disciplines.

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!

Since research in cognitive semiotics is relevant across disciplines, we hope to see you at related conferences later this year, such as the [17th International Cognitive Linguistics Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina](#), July 14-18 (abstract deadline, January 30). Meanwhile, we wish you a happy new year with a vital start to 2025 and will be in touch again in the coming months with more information on IACS6-2026.

Jamin Pelkey, IACS President, on behalf of the governing board
December 31, 2024