

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

NASS XV

Semiosis and Meaning in Motion

Semiotic Epistemologies and Experience

The 15th Conference of the Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies
Kristianstad University, Sweden | 16-18 June 2027

The Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies (NASS) invites proposals for the 15th NASS conference, to be held at Kristianstad University in Sweden in June 16 -18, 2027. The conference brings together researchers working across the many traditions and domains of semiotic inquiry.

The 2027 NASS Conference invites scholars to explore semiotic processes as dynamic relations of responsiveness, knowing, and experience, and to reflect critically on semiotic epistemologies and the foundations of semiotic inquiry itself.

Under the theme “Semiosis and Meaning in Motion: Semiotic Epistemologies and Experience,” the conference addresses how semiosis and meaning emerge, stabilize, and transform through embodied, cognitive, cultural, biological, and educational processes, and how different semiotic traditions investigate and conceptualize these movements.

Semiosis and meaning are inherently dynamic, yet they may designate different aspects of change. Semiosis concerns the ongoing establishment, maintenance, disruption, and reorganisation of relations across biological, cognitive, and cultural domains. Such processes may stabilise relations as much as transform them. Meaning, emerging within and through these processes, unfolds in experience, interpretation, and social negotiation, where even subtle shifts may reconfigure how worlds are perceived, inhabited, and shared. Motion, change, and rest

therefore characterise semiosis and meaning, from biological adaptation and cognitive development to artistic creation, cultural practice, and education.

This also points to a distinctive epistemological contribution of semiotics. Semiotic inquiry approaches knowledge not only as a relation between a knowing subject and an object, but as something formed, articulated, and made available for evaluation within sign-mediated relations. It thereby offers conceptual tools for examining how objects of knowledge are delimited; how evidence, representation, and interpretation are related; and how claims to truth acquire force in embodied practices, cultural traditions, and institutions. At the same time, it invites reflection on the semiotic conditions of inquiry itself: how models, concepts, and methods participate in shaping the phenomena they render knowable.

Confirmed keynote speakers

Dan Zahavi, University of Copenhagen | Cintia Rodríguez, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid | Barend van Heusden, University of Groningen | Piotr Konderak, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin

Topics

- Semiotic epistemologies and theories of semiosis
- Motion, stabilisation, sedimentation, habit, memory, and transformation in semiotic dynamics
- Relations between semiosis, experience, knowing, interpretation, mediation, and inquiry
- Embodiment, affect, perception, and interaction in semiotic processes
- Semiotics of learning, education, and developmental processes
- Human and non-human semiosis across biological, ecological, and technological environments
- Truth, ideology, and the politics of meaning and interpretation
- Semiotics of motion, change, and transformation in art, performance and aesthetics
- Linguistic, non-linguistic, and multimodal forms and processes of motion and change
- Digital mediation, artificial intelligence, and algorithmic cultures
- Semiotic methods and interdisciplinary approaches to experience and knowledge formation

Abstract format and submission date

We welcome theoretical, empirical, methodological, and practice-based contributions that engage with the conference theme from diverse semiotic perspectives. Conference language is English.

Individual presentations will be scheduled in two-hour sessions. Each presentation will be allocated 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for discussion.

Please submit an abstract for an individual presentation of up to 350 words, excluding keywords and references and a brief author biography, by **15 January 2027**. Abstracts may include a maximum of ten references. Please use the abstract **template**.

For further information, please visit nordicsemiotics.org/nass-kristianstad-2027.

We also welcome proposals for self-organised symposia and thematic student workshops. A symposium or workshop should bring together four to five researchers around a shared topic or question. Complete proposals must be submitted by **15 January 2027**.

Self-organised symposia and student workshops will be allocated two hours per symposium or workshop. The order of presentations and the allocation of time within the session will be determined by the symposium or workshop organisers.

Each symposium proposal is organised by a symposium chair, who submits one consolidated document containing an overarching abstract (up to 350 words) presenting the symposium's theme, relevance and concept;

an abstract for each individual presentation, following the same **template** as other abstracts; and a brief biography for each author.

Symposia will be reviewed as a whole, while the individual presentation abstracts will also be reviewed separately.

Submission and registration

Submit your abstract or symposium proposal as odt, word or pdf-file at: nass15@hkr.se

Submission and registration instructions will be published at nordicsemiotics.org/nass-kristianstad-2027/.

NASS Graduate Student Award and Grants

NASS has a long tradition of supporting participation of early career scholars. Accordingly, 5-10 graduate students presenting a paper at NASS XIV will be supported financially by NASS (250 € each). Furthermore, a prize along with a diploma for the best graduate student presentation will be awarded at NASS XV (350 €).

Important dates

15 January 2027	Deadline for individual presentation abstracts, and the full submission of abstracts for self-organised symposia.
20 February 2027	Notification of abstract from the committee
To be announced	Deadline for the regular conference fee
To be announced	Late date for conference fee
16-18 June 2027	The conference

Kristianstad and Kristianstad University

Located in the vibrant town of Kristianstad in southern Sweden, about 80 kilometers from Lund and 100 kilometers from Malmö, with direct commuter trains from Copenhagen Airport (Kastrup), Kristianstad University offers an inspiring setting for academic exchange and collaboration.

The university is known for its strong commitment to high-quality education, interdisciplinary research, and close connections with society. Kristianstad itself is a charming and welcoming city, combining a rich cultural heritage with beautiful natural surroundings, including nearby beaches, wetlands, and nature reserves. With its relaxed atmosphere, excellent accessibility, and renowned Scandinavian hospitality, Kristianstad provides an ideal environment for scholars to connect, exchange ideas, and enjoy a memorable conference experience.

The call for papers can be downloaded in PDF format **here**.