CALL FOR PAPERS

48th SSA Annual Conference
October 30–November 3, 2024
Toronto
Canada

Farouk Seif 2024

Genius Loci

Theme

The 2024 Semiotics Society of America Annual Conference theme focuses on *Genius Loci*, or the "**spirit of a place**." This concept, rooted deeply in ancient Roman tradition, refers to the unique, ineffable atmosphere or character of a location, often thought of as its protective spirit or essence. This theme has been selected to highlight and propose remedies for violence and oppression in particular locations within our semiosphere. Scholars are encouraged to suggest measures to protect those who are suffering and oppressed in war-torn regions—changing the essence of the prevailing spirit within these places. Today's semioticians are drawn to its rich implications in how humans interpret, engage with, and give meaning to specific places. From urban landscapes and sacred sites to virtual spaces in the digital realm, *Genius Loci* prompts conference participants to explore the multi-faceted symbols, signs, and narratives that define a place's identity. In doing so, the conference promises to unravel the intricate interplay between cultural memory, personal experience, and spatial semiotics, deepening our understanding of how places silently communicate and influence human thought and behavior.

Description of the Conference

"Genius Loci" is the theme of the 48th Semiotic Society of America (SSA) Annual Conference (October 30–November 3, 2024) hosted by the University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada. The 2024 SSA Conference will be in-person. The Conference will assemble a unique group of about 200 international interdisciplinary experts on a wide range of disciplines such as anthropology, biology, cognitive science, communication, cybernetics, design, fine arts, law, literary criticism, linguistics, logic, marketing, media studies, mathematics, pedagogy, philosophy, psychology, religion, sociology, and technology.

Venue

The conference will take place at the University of Toronto (St. George Campus) from Wednesday October 30 to Sunday November 3, 2024 during the U of T Fall reading week, including a pre-conference event taking place on Wednesday October 30, 2024.

Dates and Submission Requirements:

Please include the following information in your submission:
   1. Author's name
   2. Institutional affiliation
   3. Email address
   4. Title of submission with a maximum 150-word abstract in English
   5. A minimum of four and a maximum of six keywords

Important Dates:
   - Abstract Submission (final): **June 21, 2024**
   - Notification of acceptance: **August 1, 2024**
   - Full Paper submission for the Kevelson Award: **September 1, 2024**
   - Registration deadline for presenters: **September 1, 2024**
   - Draft Program Published: TBD
   - Final Program Published: TBD

20-25 minutes will be allotted for each presentation, with time for Q&A in the session. Abstracts for individual paper-presentations or panels and organized sessions (a minimum of 3 papers, maximum of 4 papers) must include all of the above information. Please indicate in your abstract submission: the title of the symposium/theme session within which you intend to present.

Send submissions to EasyChair at:
https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=ssa2024conference by **June 21, 2024**.

To join the Semiotic Society of America (required to present at the conference) and to register for the SSA 48th Annual Conference, please visit **https://www.pdcnet.org/wp/registrations/2024-ssa/**, or call Toll-Free: 1-800-444-2419 (US & Canada). We encourage early registration. Notification of acceptance of your abstracts will be sent to you by **August 1, 2024.**

Additional Conference Information

Papers presented at the SSA Conference will be considered for publication in *Semiotics 2024*, the *SSA Yearbook* of the Semiotic Society of America. The *SSA Yearbook* is an annual peer reviewed publication series sponsored by the Semiotic Society of America, providing both a timely overview of current developments in semiotic research and a regular outlet for members of the Society to publish papers on their current work. Further details and deadlines will be specified in the Annual Conference Program.

Please note that in accordance with Article 4 Section 4 of the SSA Constitution: Only Individual, Students, and Honorary members in good standing may submit papers to the *SSA Yearbook.*

Student submissions are eligible for the **Roberta Kevelson Award**, which will honor the best student paper presented at the 2024 Annual Conference. Students who wish to be considered for the Kevelson Award should indicate their interest at the time of abstract submission. Full paper submissions must be uploaded to EasyChair by **September 1, 2024**. Questions regarding the Roberta Kevelson Award should be directed to the Review Committee Chair Joseph DeChicchis at **dechicchis@alumni.upenn.edu** and André De Tienne at **adetienn@iupui.edu**

Special Events

In addition to scheduled paper sessions, there will also be keynote and plenary speakers to be announced in due time. Please check the SSA website for details.

Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be provided by several local hotels in the immediate vicinity of University of Toronto, CA. More details will be forthcoming. Check the SSA website for details.

SSA Membership and Conference Registration Fees

Membership Fees:
- SSA Membership Dues (Regular) – $75.00USD
- SSA Membership Dues (Student) – $50.00USD

Conference Registration Fees:
- Conference Registration (Regular) – $100.00USD (late registration of $125.00USD after September 15, 2024)
- Conference Registration (Student) – $40.00USD (late registration of $50.00USD after September 15, 2024)

Registration fees include a welcoming reception with appetizers and cash-bar, three lunches, coffee/tea breaks, and a dinner banquet.

Please check the SSA website for updated and further information.

We look forward to welcoming you in Toronto, Canada!

SSA 2024 Program Committee
    Donna E. West (Chair) – USA
    Prisca Augustyn – USA
    Paolo Granata – Canada
    Michael Raposa – USA
    Farouk Y. Seif – USA
    Barbara Young – USA
    Hongbing Yu – Canada/China