

**The 49<sup>th</sup> SSA Annual Conference**  
Charles University, Prague, Czechia, September 24–28, 2025



**Featured Speakers**  
**The 49<sup>th</sup> SSA Annual Conference**



**Keynote Speaker**

**Prof. Claus Emmeche**  
University of Copenhagen, Denmark

**Eco-Friendly Modelling Friendship in Translation**

**Claus Emmeche** is Associate Professor at the history and philosophy of science section of the Department of Science Education, University of Copenhagen. He teaches philosophy of science to biology, biochemistry, chemistry, and nanoscience students. After receiving a Ph.D. in the philosophy of biology and doing postgraduate work on artificial life, emergence, and complex systems at the Niels Bohr Institute, he collaborated with his former supervisor Jesper Hoffmeyer on developing the field of biosemiotics to account for the origin and dynamics of meaning in the living world. As he slowly began to wonder about the nature of friendship and institutionally defined professional relations like those between colleagues, teachers, and students, he started to follow friendship research across disciplines to see how to represent or conceptually map its invisible interdisciplinarity and semiotic phenomenology of affection, love, normativity, knowledge and conviviality.



**Presidential Address**

**Prof. Donna West**  
State University of New York, USA

### **Peirce's Habituated Musement as Cultivator of Progenerative Thirdness**

**Donna West** is Professor Emerita (State University of New York) with an international profile. She has published more than 90 articles/chapters on Peirce's semiotic, and has served on several international boards: the International Association for Cognitive Semiotics, and the Semiotic Society of America. She has authored three books: *Deictic Imaginings: Semiosis at Work and at Play* (investigating the ontogeny of indexical signs); *Consensus on Peirce's Concept of Habit*; and *Narrative as Dialectic Abduction* (narratives as scaffold toward Peirce's retroductive logic). She has likewise edited several guest journal volumes and book sections: the *Handbook on Cognitive Mathematics* (Springer, 2022), and two issues (2021) for *Cognitive Semiotics* and *Semiotica* (focusing on Peirce and consciousness). Currently, she is contributing a chapter to an anthology on the *Late Peirce* (Routledge). Her next book with Bloomsbury, *Dialectic Operation and Transcendental Dialogue: Living on the Edge of Abductive Virtue* constitutes her latest endeavor.



**Plenary Speaker**

**Prof. Anton Markoš**  
Biologist and Biosemiotician, Czech Republic

### **Symbiosis, Mutual Understanding Among Biosphere (and Semiosphere) Denizens**

**Anton Markoš** is a cell biologist by training (energy metabolism; signal transduction, host-parasite relationships), he later moved towards evolutionary biology and biosemiotics. His main interest is aimed at extending anthroposemiosis (especially that of John Deely) to all biosphere, by drawing analogies from human experience with interpretation of language, bodily processes, or history. To achieve this, he restricts interpretive capacities to life only (no pansemiotic or hylozoic speculations), with life defined as phenomenon based in the presence of cells. Living and interpretative appearances, then, can be defined as (1) those concerning cells only, i.e. forms characterized by uninterrupted continuity with primeval life forms, and cumulating for ages the memory and experience of a given lineage; and (2) multicellular assemblages of cells (from bacterial mats, bodies, up to nations and similar communities) who are born and will die. In the second case symbiotic relationships (and affinities) based on mutual understanding of different cell lineages will take place to a great extent.



**Plenary Speaker**

**Prof. Elize Bisanz**  
Texas Tech University, USA

### **The Promise of a Future Beyond Death: A Conversation Between Peirce and Derrida**

**Elize Bisanz** is the Charles S. Peirce Interdisciplinary Professor, Chair, and Director of the Institute for Studies in Pragmatism at Texas Tech University. She specializes in Communication Science and Image Studies. Her research and teaching focus on cross-disciplinary research methods that connect Art History, Cognitive Science, Semiotics, History of Culture, Architecture, Anthropology, Mass Media, and Digital Media, as well as emerging fields at the intersection of multiple disciplines. Among her main publications are "The Logic of Interdisciplinarity: Charles S. Peirce. The Monist Series" (2009), and "Prolegomena to a Science of Reasoning: Phaneroscopy, Semeiotic, Logic" (2016). She is the editor of the "Peirce Studies" book series.



**Plenary Speaker**

**Prof. Daniel L. Everett**  
Bentley University, USA

### **The Semiotics of Relationships Among the Pirahãs of the Brazilian Amazon**

**Daniel L. Everett** is originally from Southern California. He completed his Sc.D. in Linguistics at the Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Brazil in 1983 on Pirahã syntax. He has published some twenty books, translated into more than 20 languages. These books include *Don't Sleep, There Are Snake*; *Language: The Cultural Tool*; *Dark Matter of the Mind*; *How Language Began*; and, just submitted to Princeton University Press: *Charles S. Peirce: The Life and Mind of the American Aristotle*. He has given more than 200 invited lectures and has published more than 200 articles. His current project is Peircean Linguistics: A Chapter in the History of Pragmaticist Thought, for Oxford University Press.



**2025 Sebeok Fellow Address**  
**Prof. Lucia Santaella**  
**Pontifical Catholic University, Brazil**

### **Bloomington Was My World Omphalos**

**Lucia Santaella** is Professor at the Ph.D. in Communication and Semiotics at the Pontifical Catholic University in Brazil and the founder of the Ph.D. program in Technologies of Intelligence and Digital Design (PUC-SP). She published 57 books and organized 34, in addition to publishing almost 500 articles in Brazil and abroad. Santaella has been an invited Professor at several universities in Europe and Latin America. She received the Jabuti awards (2002, 2009, 2011, 2014), the Sergio Motta award (2005), and the Luiz Beltrão award (2010).

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