

The 49th SSA Annual Conference
Charles University, Prague, Czechia, September 24–28, 2025



Featured Speakers
The 49th SSA Annual Conference

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25



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.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25



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 Pragmaticism 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.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26



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.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26



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 Snakes*; *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.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26



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).

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27



Presidential Address

Prof. Donna West

State University of New York, USA

Peirce's Habituated Musement as Cultivator of Pregenerative 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.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Special Plenary Discussion

The Future of Friendship



Special Plenary Discussion

Prof. Susan Petrilli

University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy

Identity-Relations and Friendship-relations. A Semioethical Approach

Susan Petrilli, Ph.D. is Professor of Philosophy and Theory of Languages, University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy; 7th Thomas Sebeok Fellow of the Semiotic Society of America; Fellow of the International Communicology Institute, Washington; vice-President of the International Association for Semiotic Studies (2002-2020); Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Adelaide, South Australia; honorary member of the Institute of Semiotics and Media Studies, Sichuan University, China. She is author, editor, and translator of numerous publications, including books, articles and essays relating to her studies in Philosophy of

Language, Semiotics and Translation. She has contributed to the dissemination of works by Victoria Welby, Charles Peirce, Mikhail Bakhtin, Emmanuel Levinas, Adam Schaff, Gérard Deledalle, Thomas A. Sebeok, Giorgio Fano, Thomas Szasz, Roland Barthes, Julia Kristeva, Ferruccio Rossi-Landi, Umberto Eco and Augusto Ponzio. Recent translations and edited volumes: *Diritti umani e diritti altrui* (2020); Victoria Welby, *Senso, significato, significatività* (2021); Brian Medlin, *The Level-Headed Revolutionary. Essays, Stories and Poems* (2021); *Exploring the Translatability of Emotions* (2022); *Intersemiotic Approaches to Emotions* (2023); (with Sophia Melanson) *Semiotics in the Arts and Social Sciences* (2023); *La speranza come segno / Hope as a Sign* (2024); (in collab. with Susan Mancino) *Semioethics as Existential Dialogue* (2024). Recent monographs: *Signs, Language and Listening* (2019); *Significare, interpretare e intendere* (2019); *Senza ripari. Segni, differenze, estraneità* (2021); *Oltre il significato. La Significs di Victoria Welby* (2023); (with Augusto Ponzio) *Identità e alterità. Per una semioetica della comunicazione globale* (2019), *Maestri di segni e costruttori di pace* (2021), *Semioetica. La scienza dei segni in ascolto* (2024); (with Simon Levesque) *On the Past, Present and Future of Semioethics* (2025).



Special Plenary Discussion
Prof. Farouk Y. Seif
Antioch University Seattle, USA

Friendship and Love: Persevering Through the Paradox of Interaction and Relationship

Farouk Y. Seif, Ph.D., AIA is a Professor Emeritus, Antioch University Seattle, a former President and Executive Director of the Semiotic Society of America, a registered architect, and an artist. Seif serves as the Editor of the Semiotic Society of America Yearbook, *Semiotics*. Prior to becoming an American citizen, Seif was born and raised in Egypt with a Coptic background. His main interests are design, semiotics, paradoxes, transdisciplinarity, and transmodernity. He has taught in universities and lectured at conferences worldwide. He was the recipient of the 2010 Fulbright Specialists Program at University of Sofia, Bulgaria. He has authored more than 70 articles and a dozen book chapters. His book “*De-sign*” in *the Transmodern World: Envisioning Reality Beyond Absoluteness* is a state-of-the-art integration of design and semiotics.



Special Plenary Discussion
Dr. Joseph DeChicchis
SSA Executive Director, USA

Friendship and the Future of the SSA

Joseph DeChicchis, Ph.D., F.R.S.A. has punctuated his career with language study in various parts of the world. Trained chiefly at the University of Pennsylvania in linguistics, philosophy, and mathematics, he also studied semiotics at the University of Bologna and cognitive studies at the University of Sussex. His doctoral dissertation on syntactic and phonological variation in Q'eqchi', a Mayan language spoken in Guatemala and Belize, corrected previous views of Q'eqchi' homogeneity. Postdoctoral research on the Ainu language took him to the University of Tokyo. Long interested in world heritage languages, his work in general language policy encompasses the computational encoding of texts, human-machine interface design, documentary evidence, orthography design, and international legal translation. Dr. DeChicchis is the founder of Historic Elizabeth, a founder of the Ryukyuan Heritage Language Society, and a Founding Member of the Endangered Language Fund. In addition to his service to the SSA and his organization of the Deely Project, Dr. DeChicchis is a Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce.

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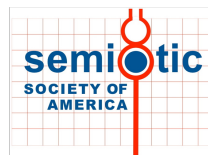
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