



## Summer School 2015

### **SEMIOTIC (UN)PREDICTABILITY**

hosting the IX Conference of Nordic Association for Semiotic  
Studies

#### Call for Participants

The paradoxical co-presence of predictability and unpredictability is a fundamental aspect of the dynamics of the semiotic world. Abduction, **habit**, explosion, (artistic) modelling, code, interaction, meaning-making, signification, **innovation**, uncertainty, change, order and disorder, entropy, translation, interpretation – there are numerous concepts that reflect this tension in different kinds of semiotic systems and processes.

Predictability and unpredictability are processual notions that have been used for the description and analysis of different forms of **creativity** and freedom on both the psychological and the social level. They were also key concepts for Juri Lotman. He considered every act of communication and understanding as involving elements of unpredictability, and every dialogue as being not only about language use, but involving language creation as well. From the perspective of cultural dynamics, every revolution, but also every new fact or event within culture and society is an **explosion** – a tension between predictability and unpredictability. Underlying these conceptions is an understanding of predictability and unpredictability as it pertains to the different models we use for conceiving and changing reality: scientific as well as artistic. In order to sustain itself, every society needs both.

The conference will explore the functioning of semiotic mechanisms that mediate order and change in cultural, social, and biological systems from both theoretical and empirical perspectives. (Un-)predictability is also of utmost practical value in **cognition** – for simpler forms of life, for human everyday life, for scientific inquiry, and in practically oriented applications of semiotics.

We invite presentation and session proposals that investigate the processes and structures that facilitate predictability and unpredictability in **meaning-making**, their particular forms, mechanisms and functions, as well as the role, value and nature of (scientific) predictability in the object domain

and disciplinary tasks of semiotics. Proposals that approach the issues of predictability and unpredictability from theoretical as well as applied perspectives are welcome.

## Submission and deadlines

We invite 300-600 word proposals for

- **discussion panels and sessions** by **December 15, 2014**
- **individual papers** by **February 16, 2015**.

Individual papers can be related to a specific session to be announced in January or to the conference theme in general.

Decisions regarding acceptance will be made by **April, 2015**.

All proposals and questions should be sent to **semiotics@ut.ee**

## About the Summer Schools

**Summer School 2015** is four-day event taking place from **August 17 to 20** in Tartu, Estonia.

**Tartu Summer School of Semiotics** is a new series of gatherings that brings together representatives of semiotics and related disciplines with the aim to provide an environment to converse about core issues in semiotics that are of disciplinary as well as transdisciplinary relevance. It revives the [tradition of Kääriku Summer Schools of Semiotics](#) held by Tartu-Moscow School of Semiotics. As its forerunner, the Tartu Summer School of Semiotics is a gathering that aspires to promote dialogue between scholars and synthesis between approaches.

In 2015 the Summer School hosts the IX conference of Nordic Association for Semiotic Studies.

## CONTACT

**E-mail:** [semiotics@ut.ee](mailto:semiotics@ut.ee)

**Postal address:** Tartu Summer School of Semiotics

Department of Semiotics, University of Tartu

Jakobi 2

Tartu 51014

Estonia