



COGNITIVE SEMIOTICS SEMINARS

Center for Semiotics, Aarhus University

UPDATED: JANUARY 15 !



AARHUS UNIVERSITY

Spring Semester 2009

Seminar on General Cognition (MA)

Mikkel Wallentin | **Tuesdays in seminar weeks, 10:00 - 12:00. Building 1.467, room 415**

This course treats aspects of the individual's cognition: perception, attention, imagery, imagination, memory, and the relation between perception and motor behaviour. We will lay stress on the neurological foundation of the different cognitive faculties and certain neurobiological models will be presented, such as the theory of mirror neurons. We will also lay stress on the connection between the different cognitive faculties and language.

Seminar on Text Analysis (BA)

Svend Østergaard | **Tuesdays in seminar weeks, 13:00 - 16:00. Building 1.467, room 415**

In this course we are applying the principles from cognitive linguistics on text analysis. We will study how metaphors, word meaning, figure/ground structure and deixis/viewpoint are used to achieve specific effects in the reader. We will also treat the different coherence principles for textual meaning. In regard to this we will examine some general principles for what is explicitly profiled in the text and what is left for the reader to infer, thereby touching upon Grice's principles, presuppositions, implicatures and window of attention. Furthermore, we will study the sentence structure from the point of view of construction grammar, and get an understanding of how dynamic relations are described in a fictive text and how the different dynamic schemas combined to yield a coherent understanding of a narrative text.

Seminar on Aesthetic Cognition (BA)

Peer Bundgård | **Wednesdays in seminar weeks, 9:00 - 12:00. Building 1.467, room 415**

The inscription of meaning in the work of art. The course introduces to the formal means artists dispose of to inscribe meaning in the work of art. Some of these means are genuinely aesthetic, other are not; the latter exploit features that are intrinsically significant in perception. Therefore the course introduces to some of those properties of everyday perception and the visual system that artists use to produce specific meaning effects in their paintings. The course aims at demonstrating that artworks are accessible to rational description and that it is possible to provide with (partial) objective determinations of how and why a given artwork means what it means. Recurrent references are Rudolf Arnheim, Roman Ingarden, Gestalt Theory, Donald D. Hoffman, Michael Leyton and others.

Seminar on Text Linguistics (MA)

Svend Østergaard | **Wednesdays in seminar weeks, 12:00 - 14:00. Building 1.467, room 415**

In this course we are applying the principles from cognitive linguistics on text analysis. We will study how metaphors, word meaning, figure/ground structure and deixis/viewpoint are used to achieve specific effects in the reader. We will also treat the different coherence principles for textual meaning. An important aspect of this is that what is explicitly mentioned in the text is only a small portion of the overall meaning the reader constructs while reading, we will therefore examine some general principles for what is explicitly profiled in the text and what is left for the reader to infer. Furthermore we will study the sentence structure from the point of view of construction grammar, and get an understanding of how dynamic relations are described in a fictive text and how the different dynamic schemas combined to yield a coherent understanding of a narrative text.

Practical Exercises (MA)

Svend Østergaard & Peer Bundgård | **Wednesdays in seminar weeks, 14:00 - 16:00. Building 1.467, room 415**

For the practical exercises the students prepare small papers on visual cognition and text theory. For each session they have to analyse the linguistic structure of a small text, using the methods presented in the course Text Linguistics. They will also have to analyse a painting using the methods presented in the course Visual Art.

Seminar on Diagrammatology (BA/MA)

Frederik Stjernfelt | **Wednesdays in seminar weeks, 16:00 - 18:00. Building 1.467, room 415**

The course presents and discusses the book “Diagrammatology. An Investigation on the Borderlines of Phenomenology, Ontology, and Semiotics”. The book compares the doctrine of “Diagrammatic Reasoning” developed in Charles Peirce’s mature work and compares it with central themes of Husserl’s early phenomenology (around concepts like part-whole and “categorical intuition”). The basic idea is to develop these doctrines so as to form a theoretical basis for cognitive semiotics - Peirce’s notion of “diagram” functioning as a general concept covering “scripts”, “schemas”, “frames”, “models” and related terms in different branches of cognitive semiotics. On this basis, it develops diagrammatical issues in three fields of applied semiotics, biosemiotics, picture semiotics, and literary semiotics, respectively. The fall term covered chapters 1-3; the spring term will begin with the book’s central chapter 4 and cover chapters 4-10.

Seminar on Visual Art (MA)

Peer Bundgård | **Thursdays in seminar weeks, 10:00 - 12:00. Building 1.467, room 415**

The inscription of meaning in the work of art. The course introduces to the formal means artists dispose of to inscribe meaning in the work of art. Some of these means are genuinely aesthetic, other are not; the latter exploit features that are intrinsically significant in perception. Therefore the course introduces to some of those properties of everyday perception and the visual system that artists use to produce specific meaning effects in their paintings. The course aims at demonstrating that artworks are accessible to rational description and that it is possible to provide with (partial) objective determinations of how and why a given artwork means what it means. Recurrent references are Rudolf Arnheim, Roman Ingarden, Gestalt Theory, Donald D. Hoffman, Michael Leyton and others.

Practical Exercises (BA)

Svend Østergaard & Peer Bundgård | **Thursdays in seminar weeks, 13:00 - 15:00. Building 1.467, room 415**

In the practical exercises the students will have to present analysis of texts and paintings using the methods presented in the courses Text Analysis and Aesthetic Cognition.

Research Seminar

Svend Østergaard, Peer Bundgård & Frederik Stjernfelt | **Thursdays in seminar weeks, 16:00 - 18:00. Building 1.467, room 415**

Center researchers present new ideas and draft papers in an informal way, open to discussion by other scholars and students. This also forms the forum for presenting guest lecturers by international and Danish visiting scholars fueling further discussion.

Structuralism in the Humanities

Svend Østergaard, Peer Bundgård & Frederik Stjernfelt | **Fridays in seminar weeks, 10:00 - 12:00. Building 1.467, room 415**

In these exercises we discuss the role of structuralism in semiotics: During the semester we will read texts by *Lévi-Strauss*, *Greimas*, *René Thom*, *Petitot*, *Cassirer*, *Husserl*, and *Saussure*.

Student Symposia

Organized by the students | **Fridays in seminar weeks, 13:00 - 15:00. Building 1.467, room 415**

The Friday symposia offer the students the opportunity to present their current research interests within the diverse field of Cognitive Semiotics, and hereby try themselves on an oral presentation among fellow students. With issues ranging from Cognitive Semantics, Interface Design, Visual Art and Musicology, to Cognitive Psychology, Neuropsychology, Neurolinguistics and Neuroaesthetics, the Student Symposia always give rise to fruitful discus-

sions triggered by the application of theory to real-life phenomena. Through open discussions, the students are here allowed to share their research interests, readjust their theoretical focus and, most importantly, develop new ideas for future papers.

Visiting professor PATRICK COLM HOGAN

Patrick Colm Hogan | **May 11-15, 2009**

Professor in the Department of English, the Program in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies, and the Program in Cognitive Science, University of Connecticut, Storrs will be our visiting professor in May 11-15. Colm Hogan is an author and editor of a considerable amount of works, among which *Cognitive Science, Literature, and the Arts: A Guide for Humanists*. (New York: Routledge, 2003), ix + 244 pp.

The Mind and Its Stories: Narrative Universals and Human Emotion. (Cambridge: Cambridge UP and Paris: Editions de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme [Studies in Emotion and Social Interaction Series], 2003), xii + 302pp. He will be lecturing on Literature and Emotion and on Narrative Structure.

Symposium on Biosemiotics

Symposium | **May 15, 2009**

The years since 1990 have seen the gradual growth of biosemiotics - the discipline studying sign use on all levels of biology. Since 2007 a "Journal for Biosemiotics" is now steadily appearing at Springer, and an annual "Biosemiotic Gathering" is organized every summer (this year in Prague early July: <http://www.natur.cuni.cz/filosof/gatherings2009/>).

Danish semioticians have played a pivotal role in this development, and there is even talk about a "Copenhagen-Tartu" school with leading members Jesper Hoffmeyer, Claus Emmeche, and Kalevi Kull. The Center for Semiotics has the pleasure of introducing the Danish pioneers of biosemiotics Hoffmeyer and Emmeche for a Biosemiotic Day at the Center May 15th 2009.

SEMINAR CALENDAR SPRING SEMESTER 2009

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 3	10-12: General Cognition (MA)	13-16: Text Analysis (BA)	
Wed 4	9-12: Aesthetic Cognition (BA) 16-18: Diagrammatology (BA/MA)	12-14: Text Linguistics (MA)	14-16: Practical Exercises (MA)
Thursday 5	10-12: Visual Art (MA)	13-15: Practical Exercises (BA)	16-18: Research Seminar
Friday 6	10-12: Structuralism in the Humanities (MA)	13-15: Student Symposium (BA/MA)	
Tuesday 17	10-12: General Cognition (MA)	13-16: Text Analysis (BA)	
Wed 18	9-12: Aesthetic Cognition (BA) 16-18: Diagrammatology (BA/MA)	12-14: Text Linguistics (MA)	14-16: Practical Exercises (MA)
Thursday 19	10-12: Visual Art (MA)	13-15: Practical Exercises (BA)	16-18: Research Seminar
Friday 20	10-12: Structuralism in the Humanities (MA)	13-15: Student Symposium (BA/MA)	

MARCH

Tuesday 3	10-12: General Cognition (MA)	13-16: Text Analysis (BA)	
Wed 4	9-12: Aesthetic Cognition (BA) 16-18: Diagrammatology (BA/MA)	12-14: Text Linguistics (MA)	14-16: Practical Exercises (MA)
Thursday 5	10-12: Visual Art (MA)	13-15: Practical Exercises (BA)	16-18: Research Seminar
Friday 6	10-12: Structuralism in the Humanities (MA)	13-15: Student Symposium (BA/MA)	
Tuesday 17	10-12: General Cognition (MA)	13-16: Text Analysis (BA)	
Wed 18	9-12: Aesthetic Cognition (BA) 16-18: Diagrammatology (BA/MA)	12-14: Text Linguistics (MA)	14-16: Practical Exercises (MA)
Thursday 19	10-12: Visual Art (MA)	13-15: Practical Exercises (BA)	16-18: Research Seminar
Friday 20	10-12: Structuralism in the Humanities (MA)	13-15: Student Symposium (BA/MA)	
Tuesday 31	10-12: General Cognition (MA)	13-16: Text Analysis (BA)	

APRIL

Wed 1	9-12: Aesthetic Cognition (BA) 16-18: Diagrammatology (BA/MA)	12-14: Text Linguistics (MA)	14-16: Practical Exercises (MA)
Thursday 2	10-12: Visual Art (MA)	13-15: Practical Exercises (BA)	16-18: Research Seminar
Friday 3	10-12: Structuralism in the Humanities (MA)	13-15: Student Symposium (BA/MA)	
Tuesday 14	10-12: General Cognition (MA)	13-16: Text Analysis (BA)	
Wed 15	9-12: Aesthetic Cognition (BA) 16-18: Diagrammatology (BA/MA)	12-14: Text Linguistics (MA)	14-16: Practical Exercises (MA)
Thursday 16	10-12: Visual Art (MA)	13-15: Practical Exercises (BA)	16-18: Research Seminar
Friday 17	10-12: Structuralism in the Humanities (MA)	13-15: Student Symposium (BA/MA)	
Tuesday 28	10-12: General Cognition (MA)	13-16: Text Analysis (BA)	
Wed 4	9-12: Aesthetic Cognition (BA) 16-18: Diagrammatology (BA/MA)	12-14: Text Linguistics (MA)	14-16: Practical Exercises (MA)
Thursday 5	10-12: Visual Art (MA)	13-15: Practical Exercises (BA)	16-18: Research Seminar

MAY

Friday 1	10-12: Structuralism in the Humanities (MA)	13-15: Student Symposium (BA/MA)	
Tuesday 12	10-12: General Cognition (MA)	13-16: Text Analysis (BA)	
Wed 13	9-12: Aesthetic Cognition (BA) 16-18: Diagrammatology (BA/MA)	12-14: Text Linguistics (MA)	14-16: Practical Exercises (MA)
Thursday 14	10-12: Visual Art (MA)	13-15: Practical Exercises (BA)	16-18: Research Seminar
Friday 15		BIOSEMIOTICS - Symposium	

Center for Semiotics

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