

## Call: Biosemiotic issue on Information in Biosemiotics

Editors: [Søren Brier](#) and [Cliff Joslyn](#)

In this special issue of Biosemiotics, we solicit papers which seek to explicate the relationships, scientific, conceptual, methodological, philosophical, or historical, between the concepts of “information” proper, and those of “semiotics” proper, in the context of biology and living systems.

We can express to the research community a collection of challenges for which we solicit debate:

- In non-biotic, proto-semiotic systems, what is the nature and operation of "information content" or "information processing"? Is it simply that semiotics requires information, but not vice versa?
- What does it mean, if anything, to store, process, or transmit information without semiosis and with?
- In evolutionary history, where does information storage and processing first occur? Or are information, signification, and interpretation just synonyms?
- To the extent that life and meaning are coextensive, must it be the case that life and information use also are?
- How can a code can exists as objective phenomena in the form of a thing like a molecule that connects the two different areas in such a way that molecules come to 'mean' something?
- How are the syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic senses of “information” implicated in this debate? If, on the standard view, information is simple difference, while meaning is a difference that makes a difference, is simple rhetorical rigor sufficient to gain illumination and clarity? What about differences which may, but need not, make a difference?
- How are the physical, biological, cognitive, and computational uses of “information” coextensive or entrained in each other, and how should they be invoked to gain coherence?
- Similarly, how are the physical, biological, cognitive, and computational uses of “semiosis” coextensive or entrained in each other, and how should they be invoked to gain coherence?
- Are externalist vs. internalist perspectives and the invocation of an epistemic cut useful or distractions?
- To what extent does a departure from the standard view result in proto-semiosis or pan-semiosis, and what is at stake in that movement?
- Can biosemiotics present a compromise where life and semiosis co-inside, but without explaining the emergence of life and mind through pre-biotic semiosis in nature in some sort of pan-semiotics?

Submit manuscripts of length no more than 30 pages to [Søren Brier](#) at [sb.ikk@cbs.dk](mailto:sb.ikk@cbs.dk) and [Cliff Joslyn](#) at [cjoslyn@pnl.gov](mailto:cjoslyn@pnl.gov) by October 30, 2010.