NEW BULGARIAN UNIVERSITY
Southeast European Center for Semiotic Studies
EFSS Early Fall School of Semiotics
ERUA European Reform University Alliance
Co-funded by the European Union

With the support of the STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT FUND of New Bulgarian University

XXX EFSS' 2026 "BETWEEN SELVES: HUMAN AND AI SUBJECTIVITY in SEMIOTIC AND INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES"

4-7 SEPTEMBER 2026, SOZOPOL, BULGARIA

Conference venue: Lazur Summer Holiday House, 7, Lazuren bryag str., 8130 Sozopol

4/9 Friday

15:30 – 16:00 Registration

16:00 – 16:30 Kristian Bankov (ERUA): How the EFSS works and introduction of the participants

16:30 – 17:30 Plenary lecture (chair K. Bankov)

Claudio Paolucci: Language Endowed Machines

17:30 – 18:00 Coffee break

18:00 – 18:20 **Marek Debnár and Lucia Spálova**: Never Say (A)I: The Enunciation of Subjectivity between Humans and Artificial Intelligence in Detroit: Become Human and The Medium

18:20 – 18:40 **Flavia Politi**: Making Judgements about Creativity: On Eco, Kant, and the New Platypuses

18:40 – 19:00 **Philippe Boisnard** (ERUA): Allogenetics and Transvergence: The Emergence of Non-Anticipable Ontologies in Generative Systems

5/9 Saturday

09:30 – 10:30 Plenary lecture (chair Violeta Vekova)

Massimo Leone: Humannerisms

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 11:30 **Kristian Bankov** (ERUA): Plato, Kant, Bergson, Ricoeur and AI: Who's smart subject?

11:30 – 11:50 **Tigran Simyan**: Creative subject vs AI, or the problem of modes of subjectivity (using the examples of the Armenian epic David of Sassoun and the Armenian artist Martiros Saryan)

11:50 – 12:10 **Maria Ilia Katsaridou**: An evaluative voice without a subject: generative systems reading and writing the value of cause-driven interactive media

12:10 – 12:30 **Behnam Ramezanpour** (ERUA): Simulated Selves and Distributed Subjectivity: A Semiotic Analysis of Human–AI Enunciation in Creative Systems

12:30 – 12:50 **Eduard Marinov** (ERUA): Artificial Intelligence and International Economic Communication: New Sources of Competitive Advantage in International Trade

12:50 – 13:00 Discussion



13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

Chair: Metodi Metodiev (ERUA)

15:30 – 16:00 **Gabriele Marino and Andrea Peressini**: Maupassant 4.0 – Or, the Death of the Semiotician (at the Hand of Generative AI)

16:00 – 17:00 **Angel Iskrev**: Workshop "The New Creative Athlete"

17:00 – 17:20 Coffee break

17:20 – 17:40 **Ivaylo Saraliyski** (ERUA): Synthetic Subjectivity and Visual Generativity. AI Images, Symbolic Systems and the Semiotics of Hybrid Creativity

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17:40 – 18:00 **Filip Samuilov** (ERUA): The Illusion of the AI Subject: Legal Liability and Human Oversight

18:00 – 18:20 **Hristo Panchugov**: TBD

18:20 – 18:40 **Violeta Vekova** (ERUA): Between Signs and Worlds

18:40 – 19:00 **Metodi Metodiev** (ERUA): The two selves of History: Subjectivity and Objectivity in the study of history in the age of AI



20:00 Welcoming reception (**Antea Hotel lobby**)

6/9 Sunday

09:30 – 10:30 Plenary lecture (chair George Tsonev)

Simona Stano: One Body, No Body, One Hundred Thousand Bodies: Corporeality, Identity and Subjectivity in AI Systems

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 11:20 **Pietro Perconti:** The Self Is Between Selves: Enunciative Effects and First-Person Commitment

11:20 – 11:40 **Peter Andrew Mantello**: Artificial Symbionts of the Afterlife: Negotiating Presence of Absence in the Posthuman Umwelt

11:40 – 12:00 **Victoria Villalobos**: The uncanny's playground: mind, machine and magic at the new frontiers of semiotic inquiry

12:00 – 12:20 **Heidi Campana Piva**: Application of Large Language Models to Semiotic Analysis of Conspiracy Theories

12:20 – 12:40 **Andriana Bartziou**: Encounters of the Enunciated Kind: Sci-Fi Imaginaries and the Semiotics of Hybrid Subjectivity in Human-AI Communication

12:40 – 13:00 **Discussion**

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

Chair: Violeta Vekova

15:30 – 16:30 **Momchil Alexiev**: Workshop "Avatar Tango"

16:30 – 16:50 **Christo Kaftandjiev:** Subjectivity and Its Semiotic and Narrative Aspects In Traditional and AI-Generated Communication

16:50 – 17:10 **Mansi Singh** (ERUA): AI and String Theory

17:10 – 17:20 Discussion

17:20 – 17:40 Coffee break

17:40 – 18:00 **Georgios Damaskinidis**: Military Translation as Enunciative Assemblage: Semiotics, Agency, and Generative AI

18:00 – 18:20 **George Tsonev** (ERUA): Is the Machine Dyslexic? A Semiotic Comparison of LLM Outputs and Adult Dyslexic Text

18:20 – 18:40 **Eesha Aditi Gupta** (ERUA): Semiotic Register Drift

18:40 – 19:00 Discussion



20:00 International Talent Night

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7/9 Monday

10:00 – 11:00 Plenary lecture (chair Evangelos Kourdis)

Maarja Ojamaa: Lotman's 'Thinking Device' and Hybrid Forms of Subjectivity

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 11:50 **Paola Tabanelli**: The Institutional Voice of AI: Enunciation and Subjectivity in Public Administration–Citizen Communication

11:50 – 12:10 **Maliheh Mozayan** (ERUA): Who Speaks When AI Gives Legal Advice? Authorship, Creativity, and the Hybrid Self

12:10 – 12:30 **Ioannis Floros**: AI and Philology: The case of the Greek Philologist depiction

12:30 – 13:00 Discussion

13:00 – 14:00 Closing lunch :-)

Contact and information: Kristian Bankov

efss_XX@nbu.bg; kbankov@nbu.bg



