Pre-conference seminar

**Biosemiotics and the study of culture**

The research interests of biosemiotics - sign processes in and between biological organisms — go far beyond the human cultural sphere. At the same time there are noticeable historical and cross-disciplinary relations between biosemiotics and several humanities such as anthroposemiotics, linguistics, philosophy and human communication studies. To discuss connections and cross-influences between biosemiotics and the disciplines that study human culture, the Department of Semiotics at the University of Tartu organises an one-day seminar that precedes the conference “Gatherings in Biosemiotics 12” (Tartu, Estonia 17–22 July 2012).

The seminar takes as points of departure the following questions: 1) how does biosemiotics influence the study of culture, given the biosemiotic understanding that human culture is surrounded by a multitude of other semiotic systems; 2) how can biosemiotic theories and methods be applied in various humanities; 3) in which ways is biosemiotics encumbered by its terminological and historical roots in the humanities; 4) is biosemiotics a global or a local science, considering the local peculiarities of cultural and natural environment; 5) what are the potentials and dangers of transdisciplinary hybridization, as expressed in biosemiotic criticism or literary biosemiotics, biohermeneutics, biosemiotic ethics, a.o.

The pre-conference seminar will include individual presentations and a round-table. Working language of the seminar is English. In the case of interest, please contact timo.maran@ut.ee. As to the accommodation, travel and participation in the conference "Gatherings in Biosemiotics 12" please consult the webpage: