

Call for Posters

International Conference on Organisational Semiotics ICOS2007

Background

The annual International Conference on Organisational Semiotics, ICOS 2007, will take place this year from Tuesday 24 July to Thursday 26 July (inclusive), in Sheffield, UK. The main theme of ICOS 2007 will be: **Complexity in Organisational and Technological Systems**. ICOS 2007 is the tenth in a series of international events devoted to the latest research in Organisational Semiotics. It is to be held at Sheffield Hallam University, which is situated in the county of Yorkshire in the mid-north of England. The conference in 2007 will continue the efforts of the international research community in the development of the emergent discipline of Organisational Semiotics (OS). It will focus not only on advancing the theory of OS but also on sharing the practical benefits gained so far through applications of methods and techniques derived from various OS approaches.

Call for Posters

The organisers would welcome Poster contributions from those who are engaged in research in Organisational Semiotics or in related and relevant areas, such as other branches of Semiotics, or fields in which human-oriented issues (including social, organisational and/or commercial considerations) need to be reconciled with the constraints of computer-based technology. For further information, please see below.

Aims of the Conference

The conference will continue the efforts of the international research community in the development of the emergent discipline of Organisational Semiotics (OS). It will focus not only on advancing the theory of OS but also on sharing the practical benefits gained so far through applications of methods and techniques derived from various OS approaches. Contributors to the conference may present theoretical investigations and/or address practical problems from a range of perspectives, such as the following (not an exhaustive list): Topics of interest include but are NOT LIMITED to the following:

- Organisational Semiotic theory, concepts, methods and techniques.
- Fundamental notions in Organizational Semiotics and their practical applications.
- Semiotically based analysis of problems and of data.
- Semiotically motivated approaches to information and communication systems.
- User-centred approaches to information systems and information management.
- Semiotics of interactions and user interface design.
- Language-action paradigms.
- Organisational Semiotics and Systems Theory.
- Semiotically based methods for systems development: requirements, design, implementation, evaluation, maintenance, and the documentation of these activities.
- Semiotically inspired approaches to the management of knowledge and of documented information.
- Semiotically based approaches to multimedia.

As the main theme of ICOS 2007 is Complexity in Organisational and Technological Systems, papers related to this theme are particularly welcome. However, contributions on other subjects are also acceptable, as long as they are of potential interest to those who work in the field of OS.

All Poster contributions will be subjected to a light-touch review. Authors should submit a short paper (approximately 1000 words), containing the main points of their Poster presentation. It is intended to include revised versions of these short papers in the Conference Proceedings, which will bear an ISBN number and will be

distributed to delegates at ICOS 2007. Research students or others in the early stages of a research project, whose work has progressed to the point where they have something substantive to share, may be interested in this opportunity. Students can register for half price!

Submission of Papers

Contributors are requested to submit their short paper, in pdf format and contained in a zip file, which should reach the Conference Secretary by Monday, 14 May 2007. The address is: w.rong@reading.ac.uk. Final, camera-ready versions of accepted papers should be produced in Word, with at least 1.5-line spacing, and submitted along with a pdf version. These documents, contained in zip files, should reach the Conference Secretary by Monday, 9 July 2007.

Important Dates

Full paper submission: 14 May 2007.
Notification of acceptance: 28 May 2007.
Camera-ready version: 9 July 2007.
Conference: 24 - 26 July 2007.

Conference Committee

Co-Chairs

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Conference secretary and webmaster

Wenge Rong (w.rong@reading.ac.uk)
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Conference Event

The technical and social programme of ICOS 2007 will occupy the whole of Tuesday-Thursday 24-26 July, including the conference excursion to and banquet at Chatsworth House on the Wednesday afternoon and evening. For further information, see the conference web-site <http://www.orgsem.org/2007.htm>

**** Bonus ****

On this occasion the International Conference on Organisational Semiotics is being held at the same time and place as the 15th International Conference on Conceptual Structures, ICCS 2007, and it is planned that some keynote lectures will be shared by both conferences.

The 15th International Conference on Conceptual Structures will include workshops and an Industry Day. These will take place on Sunday and Monday 22-23 July. Participants in the International Conference on Organisational Semiotics may attend the Workshops and Industry Day if they wish. This is included in the ICOS 2007 fee, and there is no need to register separately.

In addition, ICOS 2007 delegates are welcome to attend any of the co-located ICCS 2007 conference presentations, again at no extra cost (subject to one proviso; see the section on BCS Members below). As the ICCS 2007 conference runs from Tuesday 23 July to Friday 26 July, ICOS 2007 delegates have an extra day's conference activity available on the Friday, if they wish.

Delegates who attend on Sunday, Monday and/or Friday will, of course, incur additional costs in relation to accommodation and living expenses.

Connection with Computing and Information Systems

Delegates with an interest in Computing and Information Systems are always welcome at ICOS conferences. The application of Semiotics to Computing is treated in detail in Peter Andersen's book 'A Theory of Computer Semiotics' (Cambridge University Press, 1997), while a semiotically based approach to Information Systems, incorporating some key concepts from the work of Ronald Stamper, is found in Kecheng Liu's book 'Semiotics in Information Systems Engineering' (Cambridge University Press, 2000). This approach has much to offer to those concerned with areas such as domain analysis, requirements specification and system design, and gives prominence to the relationship between humans and the technology that they use, within both formal and informal organisations.

Furthermore, Semiotics is an important consideration in the study of Human-Computer Interaction, and Clarissa S. de Souza's recent book 'The Semiotic Engineering of Human-Computer Interaction' (MIT Press, 2005) represents an important advance in this area. In addition, there are, of course, shared interests between the OS and Conceptual Structures communities, hence the co-location of the two conferences this year.

Thus, there is much to attract professionals with an interest in Computing and Information Systems to the work of the Semiotics community.

BCS Members

In the light of this, we are happy to announce that a discount on the ICOS 2007 conference fee is offered to BCS (British Computer Society) members (other than student members, since students already enjoy a substantial discount). BCS members who avail themselves of the discount may attend the whole of the technical and social programme of ICOS 2007, as well as the workshops and the Industry Day. However, the discounted fee does not cover entry to the ICCS main conference presentations, and therefore excludes any events on the Friday.