

I am grateful to have received a travel grant to be able to participate at the sixth International Association of Cognitive Semiotics conference.

At the 2026 IACS conference, researchers gathered to present on topics like AI large language models, gestures, cognitive linguistics, and the relationship between knowledge, meaning, and cognition. The field of cognitive semiotics emerged in the 90s and is a growing interdisciplinary approach bringing together cognitive science, semiotics, linguistics, and philosophy. I am of course biased, but cognitive semiotics is the most exciting sub-field of semiotics as it aims to provide insights on topics that are important today. With the recent introduction of artificial intelligence and large language models, society needs to think about what constitutes meaningful communication. It is a question about what makes humans human, as we ourselves do not fully know what consciousness is.

I met important researchers and authors of the field that I have read in some of my classes, an experience that was extremely motivating. Having made personal connections, the conference was an invaluable opportunity to network with other researchers in my field. In addition, it was a joy to see so many young researchers at the conference and it has encouraged me to dream of future work in this field.

Given the timing of the conference and the end of my studies, I was able to present on my thesis and gain valuable feedback regarding the relevance and impact of my research topic from external evaluation. My topic aligned directly with the theme of the conference: “(In)determinacy of Meaning”, as I examined the role of uncertainty in political economic discourse. Below is a picture of my talk:

