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## CFP: Panel „Object use as semiotic process in „real“ and virtual worlds: How actions turn into gestures“

15<sup>th</sup> International Conference 2017 of the German Society for Semiotics (DGS) e.V.  
„Borders and Boundaries. Contact – Communication – Contrast“ (Passau, 12. – 16.  
September 2017)

In order to fulfill its goals, the DGS organizes conferences, colloquia, workshops, courses, and lecture series according to its particular thematic sections. Additionally, the DGS hosts an international conference every three years. For the 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference 2017: „Borders and Boundaries. Contact – Communication – Contrast“ (Passau, 12. – 16. September 2017), the sections ‘linguistics’ (Jana Bressemer, Ellen Fricke and Roland Posner) and ‘bodily semiotics’ (Irene Mittelberg) invite submissions to the panel.

### Call for Papers

This panel discusses how actions turn into gestures and how different forms of object use and their levels of abstraction may be analyzed as semiotic processes from various disciplinary perspectives. Starting with questions from the interdisciplinary research project MANUACT ([www.manuact.org](http://www.manuact.org), project leader: Ellen Fricke) that is funded by the BMBF from 2015 until 2018, first results of the project along with other relevant contributions on the topic will be presented in the panel.

In contrast to natural objects, cultural ones are not just discovered but are subject to adaptive processes, in which the human hand plays a crucial role. Objects and hands develop against each other, functions of the hand are expanded through tools or replaced in manual or machine production processes. Contrary, in product design objects are made manageable for the user and traced back to elementary basic actions as recently for the development of touch-sensitive surfaces of computers and mobile devices, for instance. Such basic actions are linguistically preserved in the lexical semantics of motion and action verbs and in typified gestures describing actions. The demarcation of gestures and actions and possible intermediate stages poses a

particular problem for different scientific contexts: In work-studies, physical manipulation of virtual objects is considered gestural. From a linguistic-semiotic perspective such movements of the hands are usually understood as actions. New technologies and Interfaces refuse traditional classifications and pose a particular challenge for semiotic analyses. For the further discussion within the panel, two central questions are suggested: 1. To which extent are specific semiotic approaches suited to capture the spectrum of gesture and object use in face-to-face communication and furthermore in the context of new technologies, as for instance, in the contact-free object manipulation with LEAP MOTION or the behavior of avatars in virtual worlds? 2. What effects result from the consideration of such technologies for existing concepts of “embodiment” in Cognitive Linguistics and Semiotics that have been developed based on face-to-face communication?

### **Information on the organization and the course of the event**

The conference takes place from September 12-16 at the University Passau (Germany). Please send your abstract ideally as a Word Document (as far as possible unformatted) to: Dr. Jana Bressemer ([jana.bressemer@phil.tu-chemnitz.de](mailto:jana.bressemer@phil.tu-chemnitz.de)). Deadline for abstracts is November 18, 2016. Your abstract should contain the following information: Title of the talk, name of the author, description of the talk (max. 300 words), home institution, E-Mail address, short vita (as running text) and up to five relevant publications.

Talks should not exceed more than 20 minutes. A publication of selected talks is planned.

### **Contact information**

In case of questions, please contact one of the following persons:

For the panel „Object use as semiotic process in „real“ and virtual worlds: How actions turn into gestures“ and submission of abstracts: Dr. Jana Bressemer ([jana.bressemer@phil.tu-chemnitz.de](mailto:jana.bressemer@phil.tu-chemnitz.de))

Concept of the conference: Prof. Dr. Jan-Oliver Decker ([Jan-Oliver.Decker@uni-passau.de](mailto:Jan-Oliver.Decker@uni-passau.de))

Organization of the conference: Dr. Stefan Halft ([Stefan.Halft@uni-passau.de](mailto:Stefan.Halft@uni-passau.de))

Further information on the conference will be available from fall 2016  
<http://www.semiotik.eu/Kongresse>.

Please also take a look at the call for papers of the other sections of the DGS, available at  
<http://www.semiotik.eu/Kongresse>.