

The Biosemiotics of Waste

July/August 2023 Special Issue of *Biosemiotics*

Edited By Yogi Hale Hendlin & Tyler James Bennett



→ Call for papers ←

With the symbolic shadow of colonial efficiency looming large on the semiotic landscape of all life, pollution occupies and influences the agency of (nearly) all organisms on our planet. The Anthropocene has meant for all living beings (to varying degrees) contamination with detritus – the afterthoughts of civilization. With a pointed interest in the interdependence of different kinds of waste, Michael Marder’s *Dump Philosophy* has suggested that today, “the meaning of being is being dumped” (p. 88)

Dumping, and the waste which is both driver and product of dumping, shows up in countless ways for biosemiotics. It can be a tsunami of manipulation in popular media; biosemiosis inhibited, when the songbirds are drowned out by urban noise; fragile ecosystems coping with degraded landscapes and biodiversity loss; or it can drive adaptation in the face of anthropogenic climate change. Only through examining the state of waste infiltrating biosemiotics can we raise a response adequate to the magnitude of this dump.

The editors welcome contributions along any of these (and other) lines of inquiry.

Environmental philosopher and phenomenologist Michael Marder has agreed to respond to the contributions, a coda to biosemiotic reflections on life in the age of the dump.

Timeline

Abstracts Due 28 November, 2022

Full Papers submitted to SI Editors 30 March, 2023

Editor Comments back to Authors by 15 April, 2023

Final Papers submitted to the journal online 5 May, 2023

Peer Review between May and June 2023

Published Issue July/August 2023

Abstracts between 500-1,000 words can be sent to *both* hendlin@esphil.eur.nl and tyler.bennett1984@gmail.com

Final contributions of up to 9,000 words (inclusive) are welcome.

Biosemiotics is the official journal of the International Society of Biosemiotic Studies (ISBS) and publishes peer-reviewed interdisciplinary research investigating the myriad forms of communication and signification found in and between living systems. The journal provides a forum for discussions at the intersection of philosophy, semiotics, and biology, synthesizing semiotic and linguistic methodologies with natural scientific methods and findings to publish diverse theoretical and empirical research into the questions of how living organisms communicate and making meaning in their environments. The journal has a 1.735 IF (2021) and is ranked 20/63 in History & Philosophy of Science, and 108/830 (top 13%) in Language and Linguistics. <https://www.springer.com/journal/12304>