Luhmann Conference 2026

Meaning. Observed with social systems theory

Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik

14-18 September 2026

	Monday 14.09.	Tuesday 15.09.			Wednesday 16.09.			Thursday 17.09.			Friday 18.09.		
Tracks		Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 1	Track 2	Track 3
Chairs		K. Žažar & L. Clausen			*L. Clausen*	*M. Neisig*	*K. Zazar*	*V. Lien*	*O. Romaniuk*	*R. Pretorius*	*F. K. Krönig*	*L. Clausen*	*Kaczmarczyk*
09:00 09:40		**Introduction** Main Auditorium			S. Körner B. Bonn M. Staller	C. Steindor	M. Terenzi R. Godinez	G. Markier S. Watson E. Brezovec	L. Lavanderos	S. Y. Park	A. Sales V. Valentinov	S. Petroccia	L. Jakubczyk G. Kortenbruck
09:50 10:30		Keynote: S. Roth & M. Kaczmarczyk **The question of observation. Expanding the dimensions of meaning in Niklas Luhmann's theory programme** Main Auditorium			E. Brezovec	Y. Becker	E. Zabarskaitė	Keynote: F. K. Krönig & Florian Dobmeier **Toward a Post-Transcendental Concept of Meaning** Main Auditorium			S. Lohmann	M. Nielsen	A. Stawicki
10:30		COFFEE BREAK											
Chairs		*F. K. Krönig*	*L. Clausen*	*V. Valentinov*	*V. Lien*			*V. Lien*	*O. Romaniuk*	*R. Pretorius*	*V. Lien*	*L. Clausen*	*V. Valentinov*
11:00 11:40		R. Pretorius	Schünemann	A. Aparsi	Panel: S. Roth, V. Lien, M. Kaczmarczyk, & E. Brezovec **When programmes disagree about programmes. Systems theory and the problem of programme-programme communication** Main Auditorium *(transition to the field trip)*			D. Havrancsik	M. Wamke	M. Kaenders	O. Romaniuk	A. Higuchi	A. Saratxaga
11:50 12:30		D.-H. Kim	V. Klitgaard	Z. Garai				T. Lindacher	B. Shedleski	M. Umemura	Keynote: K. Žažar **Meaning of Academic Freedom in the 21st Century – Observations from the Systems Theoretical Perspective** Main Auditorium		
12:30		LUNCH BREAK											

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Chairs		*M. Neisig*	*M. Kaczmarczyk*		*K. Žažar*	*L. Clausen*	*K. Žažar*	*L. Clausen*	*V. Valentinov*
14:40 15:20		J.-I. Jönhill	V. Lien		N. Hayoz	M. Neisig	K. Sakai K. Tani	C. Steindor	M. Blaževičius G. Skučaitė
15:30 16:10		G. Harste	E. Tortia	Departure 13:00 Pile Gate	M. Uygur G. Skučaitė	E. Šerá L. Grochová E. Svobodová	J. Räwel	M. McMillan	S. Rudman J. Lück
16:20 17:00		J. Tække		**FIELD TRIP** to the city of Trebinje *(Bosnia and Herzegovina)*	K. Gadowska M. Kaczmarczyk	Y. Li	**Final remarks by the convenors** Main Auditorium		
17:00		COFFEE BREAK			COFFEE BREAK				
Chairs		*M. Neisig*	*V. Valentinov*		*M. Kaczmarczyk*	*K. Žažar*			
17:30 18:10		E. Noe	R. Rogowski	Return 23:00-23:00 Pile Gate	M. Staller S. Koerner	M. Knudsen			
18:20 19:00		N. Å. Andersen	D. Osher		G. Nooke	E. Tortia			
19:00++	PRE-CONFERENCE DINNER Restaurant Orhan	DINNER IN TOWN #selforganization			DINNER IN TOWN #selforganization				

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Presenters	Presentation Titles
Alexander Arpasi	Meaning Becomes Fragile: The Fragility Paradox of Doubly Closed Communication
Andrzej Stawicki	Making the Future Observable: Anticipatory and Probabilistic Dimensions of Sense-Making in Public Policy Programmes.
Arantzazu Saratxaga	The Unveiling of Recursion: Niklas Luhmann and His Gorgon
Augusto Sales, Vladislav Valentinov	Strategy Without Plans: Meaning, Observed Organizationally
Ayumi Higuchi	The Evolution of Organizational Semantics: Observed with the Distinction of System/Environment
Benjamin Bonn, Swen Koerner, Mario Staller	Forms in Movement and Motor Learning
Brian Shedleski	Silent Avoidance: A Systems-Theory Explanation of Advisor Behavior Under ESG Ambiguity
Christopherus Steindor	Meaning without Alternatives?Functional Absurdity and the Procedural Stabilization of Democracy
Christopherus Steindor	Stabilization through Instability: Ganymed as an Epistemic Instrument for Observing Meaning
Dániel Havrancsik	Verstehen as second-order observation
David Osher	Deficiency as Guiding Distinction: How Dominant Approaches in Behavioral and Developmental Science Reduce Complexity, Encode Power, and Displace the Meaning-Making of Those They Purport to Study
Dong-hyu Kim	Evaluative Sovereignty: Standards, Ideology and Differentiated State Positionality in Sovereign AI
Egon Noe	Meaning, identity, and the futures of the present
Elena Jolanta Zabarskaitė	Language as an Entropy Reduction System in Digital Reality
Erik Brezovec	Meaning in the Interaction System
Ermanno Tortia	The objectives, potentials and drawbacks of worker cooperatives: observed by social systems theory
Eva Šerá, Ladislava Issever Grochová, Eliška Svobodová	Making Animal Welfare Payable, Legitimate and Measurable: Paradoxes of Subsidies and Phenomics in Communication. Observed with Luhmann's system theory.
Franz Kasper Krönig, Florian Dobmeier	Toward a Post-Transcendental Concept of Meaning
Günter Nooke	Meaning and Semantics in Quantum Theory Compared to Systems Theory and Some Conclusions
Gustavo Markier, Steven Watson, Eric Brezovec	Programs as Media of Meaning: Re-specifying Observation in Sociosemiotic and Autopoietic Ecological Perspectives
Gorm Harste	Form-dependencies of meaninglessness. A systemic analysis of disrupted sense in Russia/Ukraine and Palestine
Jakubczyk Lukas, Gereon Kortenbruck	Decision as Distinction: Artificial Agents and the Second-Order Regulation of Observation Forms
Jan I. Jönhill	Meaning and the meaninglessness. On Luhmann's paradoxical concept of meaning
Jannika Schünemann	The Fading Away of the Meaning of Love in Contemporary Europe
Jesper Tække	From Spontaneity to Reflexivity: Observation, Meaning, and Generative AI in Sociomedia Evolution
Jörg Räwel	The medium of addressability. On the consequences of the increasing decoupling of social addressing from individual consciousness
Kaja Gadowska, Michal Kaczmarczyk	Defending Luhmann with the Ontological Turn: From Epistemological Constructivism to Systemic Realism
Kosuke Sakai, Kenichi Tani	When Meaning Blocks Itself
Krešimir Žažar	Meaning of Academic Freedom in the 21st Century – Observations from the Systems Theoretical Perspective
Leonardo Lavanderos	Triferentiation as a Minimal Condition of Meaning: Beyond the Expansion of Luhmann's Dimensions
Mantas Daniel Blaževičius, Gabija Skučaitė	Meaning Without Passage: Narrative Rupture and Aporetic Suspension Observed with Systems Theory
Margit Neisig	From "What" to "How" and "Why": The Twin Transition and the Reprogramming of Meaning

Martin Warnke	The deficient dimensions of meaning in the Large Language Models. Or: How semantics and hallucinations emerge from syntax
Massimo Terenzi, Rafael Quintero Godinez	Reflexive Opacity and the Visibility of Platform Regulation: Meaning Configurations of the Digital Services Act on Social Media
Maximilian Kaenders	Being(s), Metastable. Scientific Meaning as Asymmetrical, Complexity-Equivalent Feedback (from Beyond Meaning).
Mehmet Recai Uygur, Gabija Skučaitė	Organizational Neutrality as the Deparadoxification of Political Meaning
Michael Charlton	Information, Systems, and Information Systems Revisited
Michał Kaczmarczyk	Meaning and the Paradoxes of Modernity
Mogens Grosen Nielsen	AI, Decisions and Responsibility in Organisations: Meaning, Contingency and the Organisational Processing of Artificial Communication
Moira McMillan	Legal Liability: Meaning, Vaporization, and Distillation in the Information Society
Morten Knudsen	Soil Semantics – on the meaning of soil
Mugio Umemura	Deadline as a Modern Temporal Form
Niels Åkerstrøm Andersen	Affectivized Conflict and the Weakening of Law: The Operational Turn in Public Administration
Olena Romaniuk	Sustainability Meaning, Observed with Brand-Consumer Structural Coupling
Prof. Nicolas Hayoz	The war in Ukraine as a clash of opposing semantics
Ralf Rogowski	The Meaning of Reflexive Law
Richard Pretorius	Meaning, risk and danger in quantum computing
Sara Petroccia	Meaning observed with communicative translatability: Health Communication and the reconfiguration of digital inequalities in later life
Sharon Rudman, Jacqui Lück	Meaning and the observation of identity: A systems-theoretical approach to discourse and reflexivity via a multilingual pedagogical encounter
Soon Yawl Park	Protest as Meaning Production: From Appeals to Equality and Balance toward the Observability of Cruelty
Steffen Roth, Michal Kaczmarczyk	The questions of observation. Expanding the dimensions of meaning in Niklas Luhmann's theory programme
Susanne Lohmann	Universities, systems theory, and polycontexturality: The crisis of college disability accommodations
Swen Körner, Benjamin Bonn, Mario Staller	The Meaning of Lyfe: Considering Self-Referential Systems Theory as a General Theory of Lyfe
Tanja Lindacher	Inclusive education and dimensions of meaning
Vibeke Klitgaard	Interpenetration and psychiatric patients
Vincent Lien	Reconstructing Educational Observation: A Systems-Theoretical Approach to Meaning and Dialogic Reflexive Practice
Yisu Li	Meaning, Observed with LLMs: Generative AI as a Medium of Second-Order Observation
Yuval Becker	Meaning Observed through Operational Catalysts: Autopoietic Social Movement in Israel
Zsolt Garai	Sinn as Inter-Systemic Resonance