

October 14, 2025

Trip Report Biosemiotics (GIBS) Conference 2025, Rotterdam, NL

My name is Daniel Kamp, and I study MA semiotics in the faculty of humanities at ELTE. I have been awarded a grant to attend the Biosemiotics conference that took place between the 25th and 29th of August, 2025.

At the 2025 Biosemiotics Conference, researchers from biology, philosophy, and semiotics gathered to discuss how living systems create meaning. I presented on biosemiotic principles present in Japanese gardens, and their application to economics, connecting scientific and humanistic perspectives to critique both capitalism and Marxism.

The conference was 5 days long and I presented right in the middle on wednesday before lunchtime. This gave me the chance to warm-up to the lingo of the conference, while also having enough time afterwards to connect with other participants now that they understood my research. One of the interesting aspects of the Biosemiotics community is that there is a great diversity of ages, where age groups can contribute their respective strengths (wisdom and knowledge from the older generation and innovation from the younger generation). The people in the older generation are the ones who started the discipline of Biosemiotics, so being able to interact with them in the conference and listen to their comments on the work of younger scholars, including myself, was truly valuable.

While the presentation organized the conference, I valued most the conversations I had with other scholars. Because the Semiotics program at ELTE focuses more on cultural semiotics than biosemiotics, it was valuable to me to learn more about the different approaches they use in their research. Also because I am still a master student, I found it useful to probe a bit what people do so I am more informed about later research decisions. I was happy to find out that people generally welcomed the idea of using biosemiotics for economic analysis.

Lastly, I would like to extend my gratitude to ELTE Talent Support for financially supporting my participation at this conference.

