

**Helena Knyazeva**

**Biosemiotics as a Bridge between Life Sciences and the Humanities<sup>1</sup>**

Biosemiotics is an interdisciplinary (or transdisciplinary) field of scientific research. It can be seen as a platform on which life sciences and the humanities, the study of living beings and the study of humans can meet each other. Human beings are in many respects similar to natural living organisms: they are a part of nature and the result of biological evolution; they adapt and seek to preserve and to continue life. Animals, in their turn, are rational, they behave as if they have intelligence and mind. This is especially noticeable when studying some intelligent mammals and birds. Biosemiotics is a combination of the science of signs (semiotics) and life sciences. At first glance, it might seem that the sign reality is a prerogative of humans: social and cultural reality is filled with signs and symbols. A human is a symbolic being (*homo symbolicus*). But the founders of biosemiotics, first of all J. von Uexküll, demonstrated that living organisms perceive the world around them selectively, they choose from their environment only something meaningful for their life and actions. The paper reveals the essence of such a biosemiotic turn in life sciences and how, on the basis of biosemiotics, life sciences and the humanities can converge and come closer together.

---

<sup>1</sup> Annual Conference of the School of Philosophy NRU HSE “The modes of thinking, the ways of speaking”, October 7-10, 2020.