

Record in the Commens Bibliography. Retrieved from
http://www.commens.org/bibliography/journal_article/queiroz-jo%C3%A3o-el-hani-charbel-n-2006-semiosis-emergent-process, 21.05.2026.

Type: Article in Journal

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Title: Semiosis as an Emergent Process

Year: 2006

Journal: Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society

Volume: 42

Issue: 1

Pages: 78-116

Keywords: Semiosis, Emergence

Abstract: The article discusses if and in what sense semiosis can be regarded as an emergent process in semiotic systems. It discusses the conditions which should be fulfilled for semiosis to be characterized as an emergent process. It first summarizes a systematic analysis of the variety of emergence theories and concepts, elaborated by Achim Stephan. A model for explaining emergence based on S. N. Salthe's hierarchical structuralism is then discussed.

ISSN: 00091774

Language: English