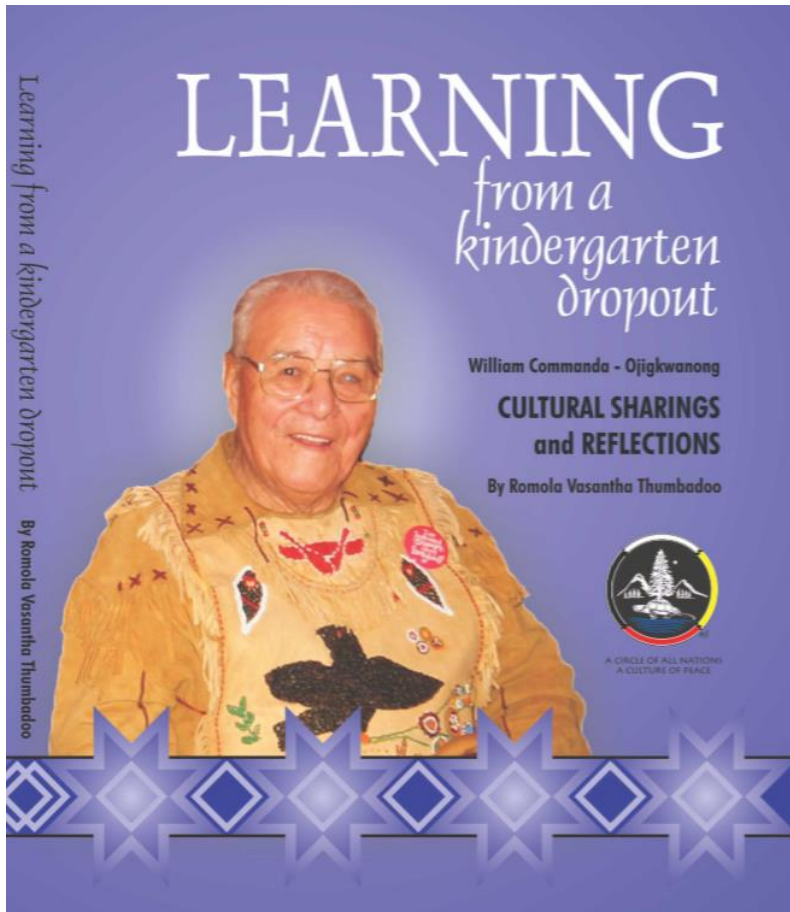


# Derivative Photoatlas Part 1



## Semiotic Analysis of the Book „ Learning from a Kindergarten Dropout“

Romola V. Thumbadoo (Ottawa)  
and  
Alexander Wolodtschenko (Dresden)

Dresden-Ottawa  
2022

# Table of contents

1 Introduction	3
2. About Authors and Book „Learning from a Kindergarten Dropout“	4
3. Semiotic Analysis of Book	5
3.1. Book Contents	6
3.2. Syntactic Construction Model (Face-Core-Appendix)	7-8
3.2.1. Slide-related Syntactic Structure of Face Profile	9
3.2.2. Slide-related Syntactic Structure of Core Profiles	10-11
3.2.3. Slide-related Syntactic Structure of Appendix Profile	12
3.3. Semiotic Analysis of Core-related Contents	13
3.3.1. Semantic Chronological Blocks of 13 Days	14
3.3.2. Photo-Semantic Models of 13 Days	15-21
3.3.3. Slide Profile Structural Model	22
3.3.4. Photogallery of 13 Day Title Pages	23
3.3.5. Photogallery of 13 Day Focus Illustrations	24
3.4. Structural Model of Book (Semiotic Potential)	25-26
4. Conclusion	27
5. References and Imprint	28
6. Short Dictionary	29
7. Collaborators	30

# 1. Introduction

- Our new photoatlas "Semiotic Analysis of the Book "Learning From a Kindergarten Dropout“ is based on the new method of semiotic evaluation. This analysis has been used in European carto/atlassemiotics since the 2000s (Wolodtschenko 2007).
- The analysed Book is a mini biography of Indigenous Elder William Commanda, founder of the “Circle of All Nations” (CAN) global eco peace community, and his work, activities, passions and perspectives.
- The photoatlas presents selected syntactic features, conceptual ideas and the semiotic potential of the book. From a semiotic angle, our investigations receive new methodological approaches for photo atlasgraphy.
- The authors have introduced a “Circle of All Nations” photoatlas series, which includes the following four photoatlases:
  - - William Commanda CAN TEACH Calendar 2022. Memory-Semiotic Photoatlas. Dresden-Ottawa, 2022
  - - From Circle of All Nations Landing Page to Derivative Photoatlas. Derivative Photoatlas. Dresden-Ottawa, 2022
  - - From Day One to Day Thirteen. Derivative Photoatlas from Book. Dresden-Ottawa, 2022.
  - - NATURE CAN TEACH The Animal Gaze South African Wildlife Photoatlas
- They are available from: <https://atlas-semiotics.jimdofree.com/bild-atlantothek/> Rubric: 2022; and <https://circleofallnations.ca/new/gallery/photoatlas-series/>
- Our new photoatlas expands on the photoatlas series “Circle of All Nations”.

## 2. About Authors and Book „Learning from a kindergarten dropout“

The Book “Learning from a Kindergarten Dropout” is collaborative effort dedicated to sharing the work, activities, passions and perspectives of Indigenous Elder William Commanda, founder of the Circle of All Nations (CAN).

It was written and produced in 2005 by Romola Vasantha Thumbadoo, Volunteer Coordinator of the Circle of All Nations.



The Book is based on the training materials used in a 13 day cross cultural education session offered at Indian and Northern Affairs, Canada, from October 24 to November 5, 2004. (13 is an important number to Indigenous peoples, primarily because there are 13 moons in a year - and the moon is a key timekeeper). The Book (193 pages) reflects on the 13 themes presented in the training, and additional narrative and photos complement the materials and topics.

It is a collaborative project of William Commanda and Romola Vasantha Thumbadoo.

Graphic Layout and Cover by Karen Bisson ([www.DestinyByDesign.ca](http://www.DestinyByDesign.ca)).

Photograph by Monica S. Thumbadoo.

### **3. Semiotic Analysis of Book**

The method of semiotic evaluation (predominantly quantitative analysis) has been used in cartosemiotics since the 2000s at Dresden University of Technology. Such an analysis is based on a new methodology in carto/atlassemiotics, a methodology of topic/thematic and module-related (T-M) evaluation and interpretation of diverse atlases with cartographic and non cartographic traditions (Wolodtschenko 2006, 2007).

The analysis includes focus on selected syntactic features (e. g. face-core-appendix profiles, conceptual ideas (in chronological blocks of 13 days), and the semiotic potential of the Book. Syntactic page/slide profiles are a graphical constructions (diagrams of the number of pages or slides) on topics or sections taken from the table of contents of a particular semiotic model; there are profiles of atlases and books (e.g. monographs, lexicons, encyclopedias)

The thematic or chapter-related structure of the Book includes 13 parts (days) named in the table of contents. A biggest informational part of the book is its core with 177 slides. Its analysis includes diverse syntactic (graphical) and semantic (conceptional) models.

The 13 photo-semantic models of the Book are interesting hybrid (theme-photos) models, which characterize every day's key thematic focus with complementary photo focuses.

## 3. 1. Book Contents

CONTENTS		CONTENTS	
<b>DAY ONE</b>	Sunday, October 24, 2004 ..... <i>The Nomad - Mamiwinini Energy</i> Key Focus – The Journey	<b>DAY EIGHT</b>	Sunday, October 31, 2004 ..... 121 <i>Strengths Inherent in Traditional Values</i> Key Focus – Reflecting on A Few Fundamental Indigenous Values
<b>DAY TWO</b>	Monday, October 25, 2004 ..... 19 <i>The Grounding Ideology</i> Key Focus – A Brief Overview of Some Indigenous Concepts	<b>DAY NINE</b>	Monday, November 1, 2004 ..... 127 <i>A Place for All</i> Key Focus – The Indigenous Peace-Building Centre and the Visionary Architect
<b>DAY THREE</b>	Tuesday, October 26, 2004 ..... 29 <i>The Historical Context</i> Key Focus – Mini Backgrounders on William Commanda and his Peoples	<b>DAY TEN</b>	Tuesday, November 2, 2004 ..... 139 <i>The Transformative Value</i> Key Focus – Some Thoughts about Forgiveness and Healing
<b>DAY FOUR</b>	Wednesday, October 27, 2004 ..... 47 <i>Breathing Life into Mythological History</i> Key Focus – Animating the Seven Fires Prophecy within a Circle of All Nations	<b>DAY ELEVEN</b>	Wednesday, November 3, 2004 ..... 149 <i>A Grounding Prayer</i> Key Focus - Finding Strength in the Spirit of this Land
<b>DAY FIVE</b>	Thursday, October 28, 2004 ..... 69 <i>Ideological Differences</i> Key Focus – Differing Perspectives on a Child Raising and Moon Cycles	<b>DAY TWELVE</b>	Thursday, November 4, 2004 ..... 163 <i>Racial Harmony</i> Key Focus – Taking One’s Rightful Place
<b>DAY SIX</b>	Friday, October 29, 2004 ..... 89 <i>Organizing Principles</i> Key Focus – The Law of Nature and Planning the Medicine Wheel Way	<b>DAY THIRTEEN</b>	Friday, November 5, 2004 ..... 173 <i>Living in the Moment</i> Key Focus – Almost 91 and Still Working
<b>DAY SEVEN</b>	Saturday, October 30, 2004 ..... 109 <i>Dreamcatcher Network</i> Key Focus – Reflecting on Aboriginal Justice	<b>APPENDIX</b>	Chronology of William’s Key Activities ..... 187 The Circle of All Nations Vision for a Culture of Peace William Commanda’s 90th Birthday Posters
		<b>INDEX</b>	..... 192

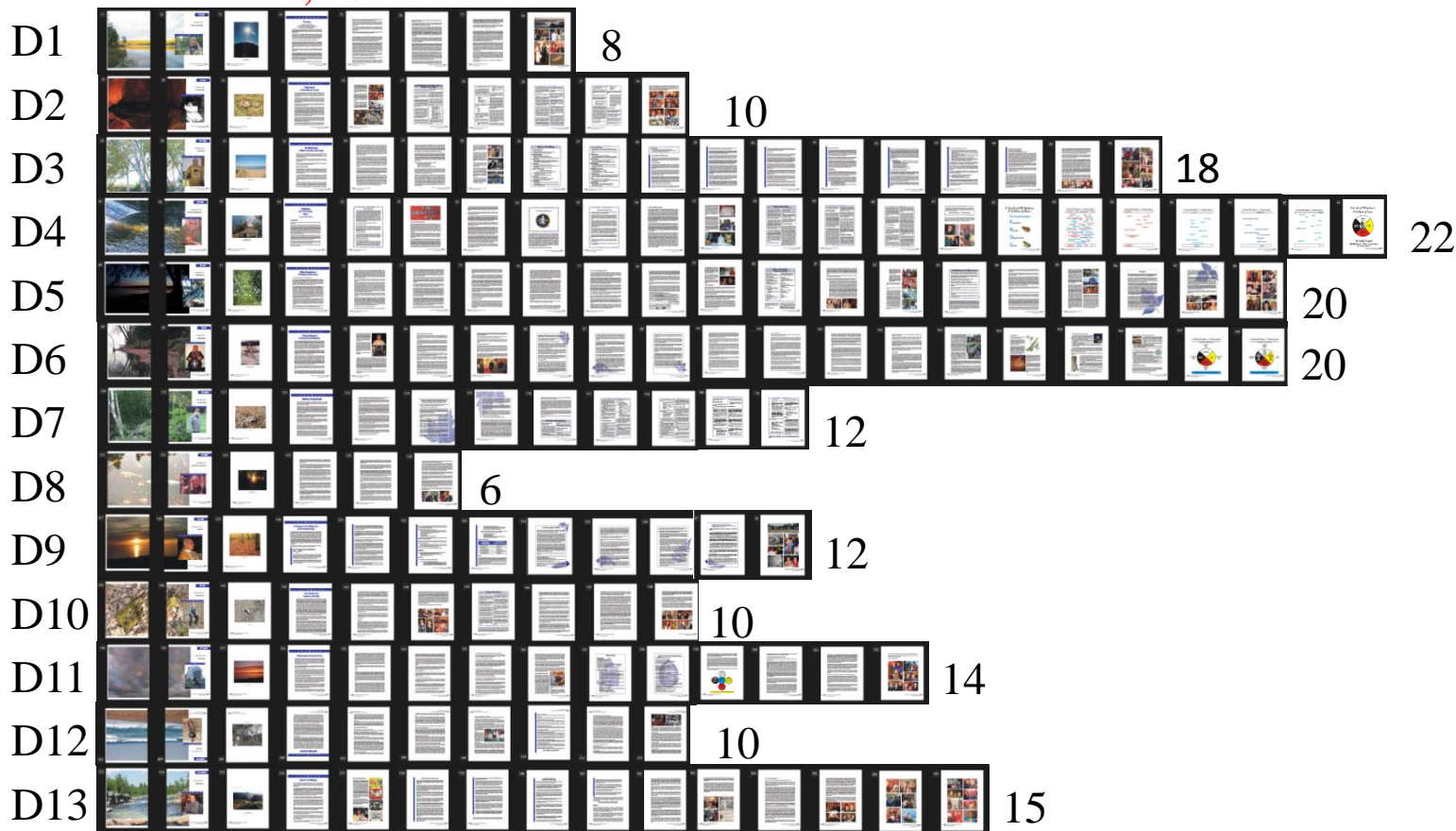
The table of contents of the Book do not include the first 10 slides (cover and slides 1- 9); it is based on slides from 10 to192.

### 3.2. Syntactic Construction (Face-Core-Appendix Profiles)

Face = 5,2 %



Core = 91,7 %



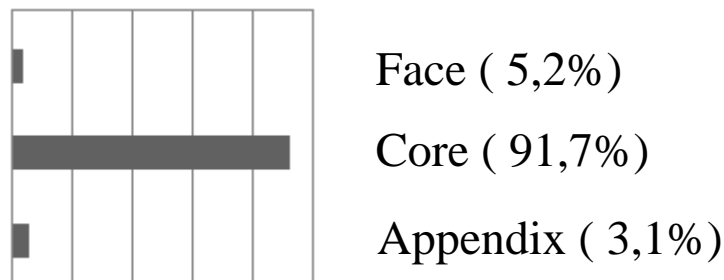
Appendix = 3,1 %



### 3.2. Syntactic Construction (Face-Core-Appendix Profiles)

The Face-Core-Appendix Profiles are formal syntactic page/slide related graphical construction (diagram of the number of pages or slides) on topics or sections taken from the table of contents of a particular semiotic model. There are profiles of diverse atlases or books (monographs, lexicons, encyclopedias) or their parts, etc.

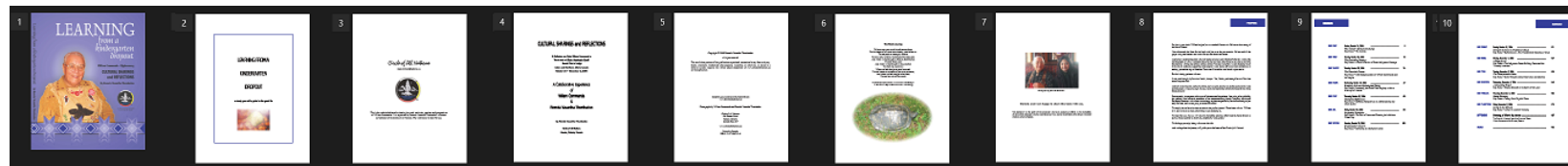
The formal construction as profile one of the Book “Learning from a Kindergarten Dropout“ includes three parts: face (9 slides with cover or 5,2%), core (177 slides or 91,7%) and appendix (6 slides or 3,1%). The core of the Book includes 13 day-related compositions of text and photo/illustrations.



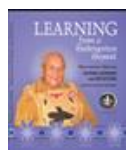
Profile structure model of the book



### 3.2.1. Slide-related Syntactic Structure of Face Profile



Face profile (slides 0-9)



cover (0)



6 illustrations (slides 1-6)



preamble  
(7)



Book contents  
(8-9)

The face as slide-related syntactic construction is an introduction to the Book, and includes a cover, 6 illustrations, a preamble and the Book contents.

### 3.2.1. Slide-related Syntactic Structure of Face Profile

Core profile (Example for Day 1 with 8 slides)



double cover



photo



4 text slides (storytelling)

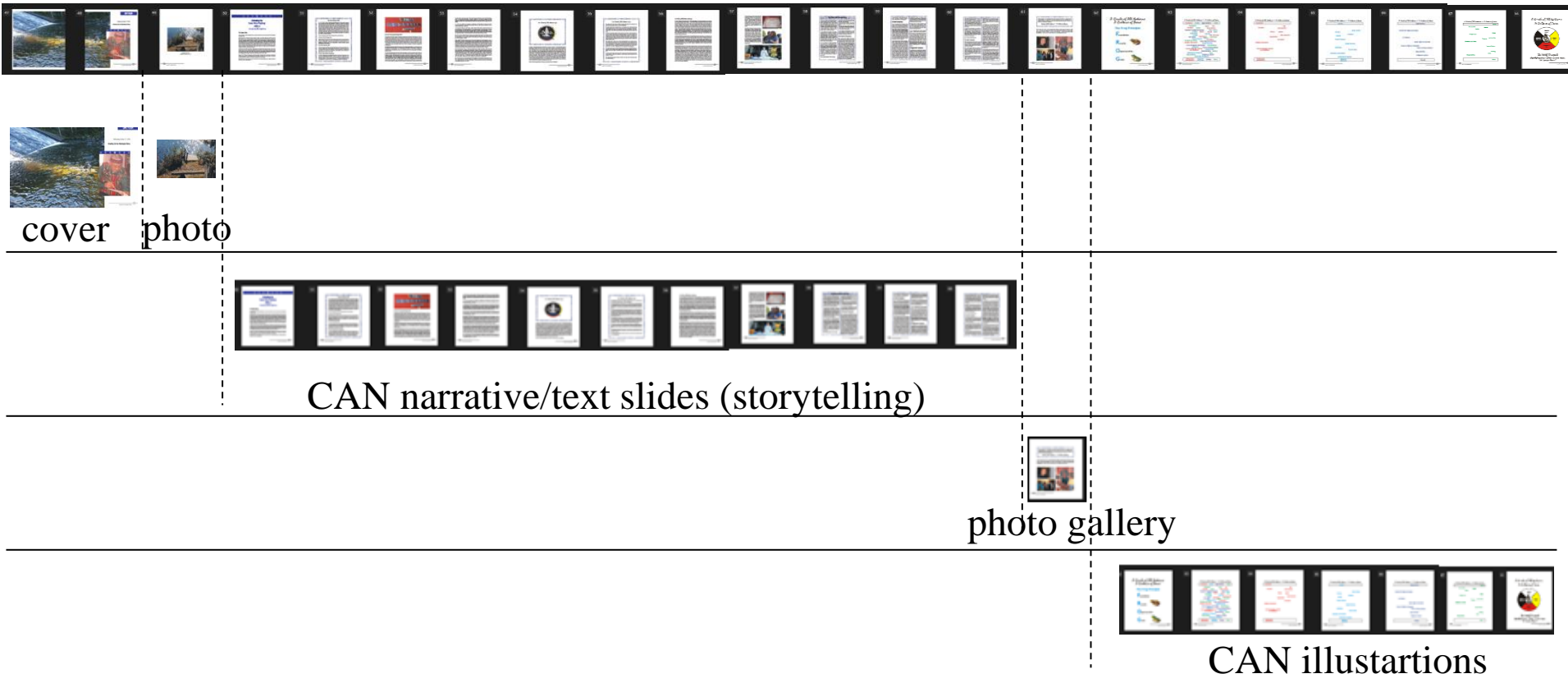


photo gallery

The example for Day 1 with 8 slides is typical one of slide-related syntactic construction of Book. Each Day syntactic construction includes a double cover, focus photo, a storytelling section with text and photos, and a photo gallery as concluding part of the profile.

### 3.2.2. Slide-related Syntactic Structure of Core Profiles (Day 4)

Core profile (Example for Day 4 with 22 slides)



The example for Day 4 with 22 slides is a biggest slide-related syntactic construction of Book. The syntactic construction includes a double cover, focus photo (1), CAN narrative/text (11) or storytelling part with text and photos, photo gallery (1) and CAN illustrations (7).

### 3.2.3. Slide-related Syntactic Structure of Appendix Profile

Appendix profile (slides 188-193)



Key activities of W. Commanda

(188-189)



CAN narrative/illustrations (190-192)



Index (193)

The slide-related syntactic construction of appendix profile (6 slides) includes “Key activities of W. Commanda” (2 slides), CAN narrative/illustrations (3) and index (1).

### 3. 3. Core-related Analysis

The core of Book with 177 slides is the largest informational part of the book. Its analysis includes diverse syntactic (graphical) and semantic (conceptional) models:

- Semantic Chronological Blocks of 13 Days
  - Photo-Semantic Model of 13 Days
  - Slide Profile Structural Model
  - Photogallery of 13 Day Title Pages
  - Photogallery of 13 Day Focus Illustrations
- etc.

### 3.3. 1. Semantic Chronological Blocks/Chains of 13 Days

D1	October 24	The Nomad - Mamiwinini Energy	Key Focus – The Journey
D2	October 25	The Grounding Ideology	Key Focus – A Brief Overview of Some Indigenous Concepts
D3	October 26	The Historical Context	Key Focus – Mini Backgrounders on William Commanda and his Peoples
D4	October 27	Breathing Life into Mythological History	Key Focus – Animating the Seven Fires Prophecy within a Circle of All Nations
D5	October 28	Ideological Differences	Key Focus – Differing Perspectives on a Child Raising and Moon Cycles
D6	October 29	Organizing Principles	Key Focus – The Law of Nature and Planning the Medicine Wheel Way
D7	October 30	Dreamcatcher Network	Key Focus – Reflecting on Aboriginal Justice
D8	October 31	Strengths Inherent in Traditional Values	Key Focus – Reflecting on A Few Fundamental Indigenous Values
D9	November 1	A Place for All	Key Focus – The Indigenous Peace-Building Centre and the Visionary Architect
D10	November 2	The Transformative Value	Key Focus – Some Thoughts about Forgiveness and Healing
D11	November 3	A Grounding Prayer	Key Focus - Finding Strength in the Spirit of this Land
D12	November 4	Racial Harmony	Key Focus – Taking One’s Rightful Place
D13	November 5	Living in the Moment	Key Focus – Almost 91 and Still Working

### 3.3.2. Photo-Semantic Models of 13 Days

The photo-semantic models of the book is based on the Key Thematic Focus (Day Theme) for each day, with cover and his name and one complementary photo (the focus photo) with his name. Every Day has this semantic model. For example, Day 1 has following semantic chain:  
**Day 1/The Nomad – Mamiwinini Energy //The Journey/// Light Exploding**

In this section, all 13 Days will be presented as photo-semantic models.

---

**Double Photo Cover  
with Name:**

**Key Thematic Focus**

**Focus Photo  
with his Name**

---

Day 1



The Journey



The Nomad – Mamiwinini Energy

Light Exploding

---

### 3.3.2. Photo-Semantic Models of 13 Days

**Double Photo Cover  
with Name:**

**Key Thematic Focus**

**Focus Photo  
with his Name**

---

Day 2



The Grounding Ideology

A Brief Overview  
of Some Indigenous  
Concepts



Keeping Watch

---

Day 3



The Historical Context

Mini Backgrounders  
William Commanda  
and his Peoples



Earth, Sea and Sky

---



### 3.3.2. Photo-Semantic Models of 13 Days

**Double Photo Cover  
with Name:**

**Key Thematic Focus**

**Focus Photo  
with his Name**

---

Day 4



Breathing Life into  
Mythological History

Animating the Seven  
Fires Prophecy  
within a Circle of All  
Nations



Glinting Star Water Dance

---

Day 5



Ideological Differences

Differing Perspectives  
on a Child Raising and  
Moon Cycles



Pretty Weeds

---

### 3.3.2. Photo-Semantic Models of 13 Days

**Double Photo Cover  
with Name:**

**Key Thematic Focus**

**Focus Photo  
with his Name**

Day 6



The Law of Nature  
and Planning the  
Medicine Wheel Way



Organizing Principles

Nature Watches Me

Day 7



Reflecting on Aboriginal  
Justice



Dreamcatcher Network

Entangled

### 3.3.2. Photo-Semantic Models of 13 Days

**Double Photo Cover  
with Name:**

**Key Thematic Focus**

**Focus Photo  
with his Name**

---

Day 8



Strengths Inherent in  
Traditional Values

Reflecting on A Few  
Fundamental  
Indigenous Values



Beyond

---

Day 9



A Place for All

The Indigenous Peace-  
Building Centre and  
the Visionary Architect



A Promise of Fall

---

### 3.3.2. Photo-Semantic Models of 13 Days

**Double Photo Cover  
with Name:**

**Key Thematic Focus**

**Focus Photo  
with his Name**

---

Day 10



The Transformative Value

Some Thoughts about  
Forgiveness and  
Healing



Transformation

---

Day 11



A Grounding Prayer

Finding Strength  
in the Spirit of this Land



Quiet Strength

---

### 3.3.2. Photo-Semantic Models of 13 Days

**Double Photo Cover  
with Day Name:**

**Key Thematic Focus**

**Focus Photo  
with his Name**

Day 12



Racial Harmony

Taking One's  
Rightful Place



Moment and Rootedness

Day 13



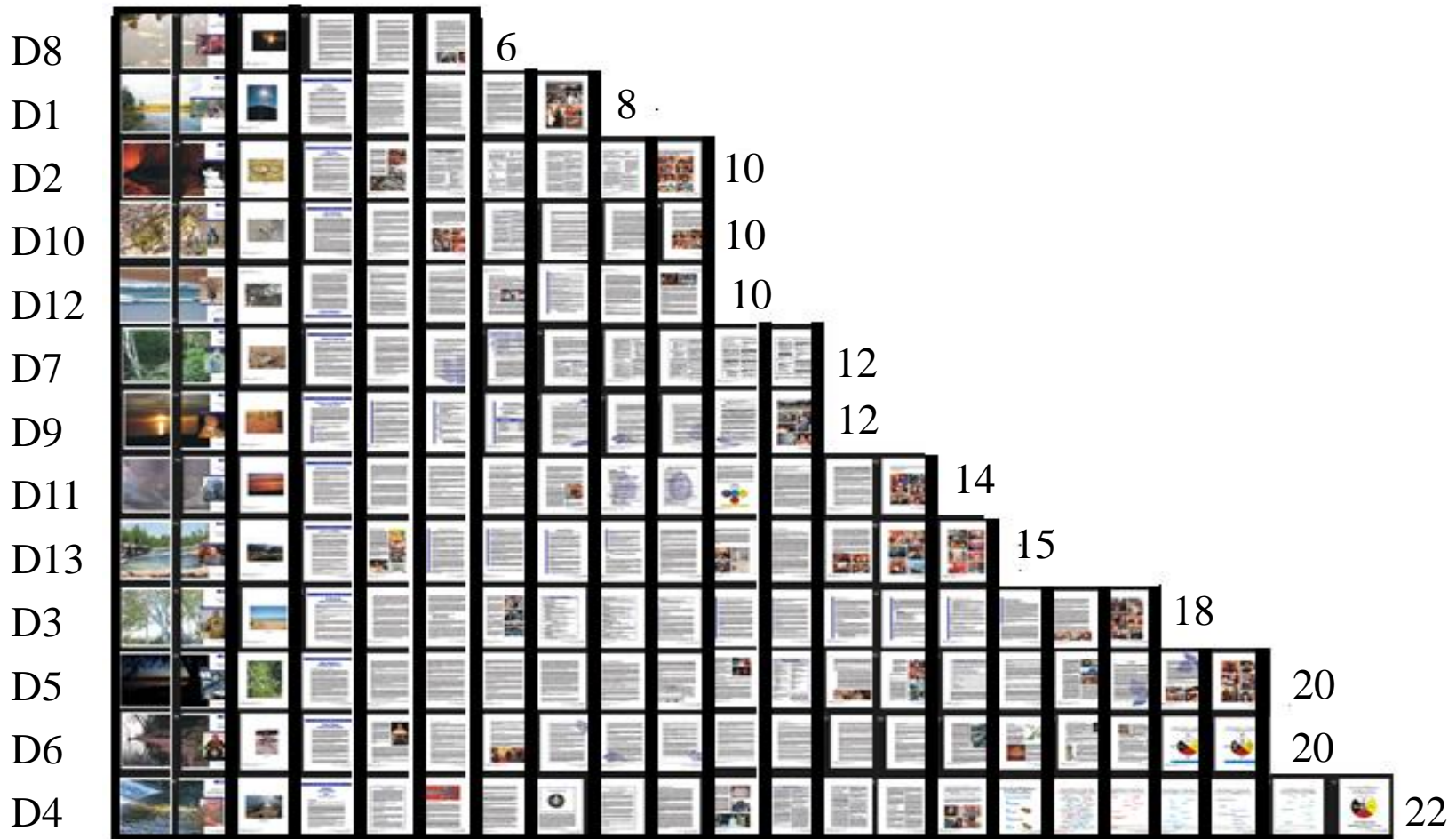
Living in the Moment

Almost 91 and Still  
Working



Transcendence

### 3.3.3. Slide Profile Structure Model



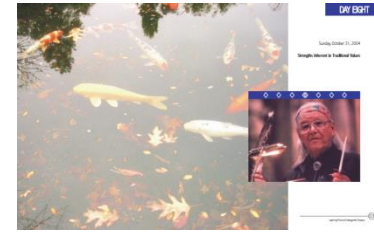
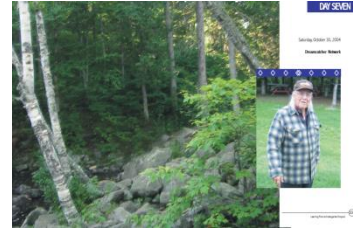
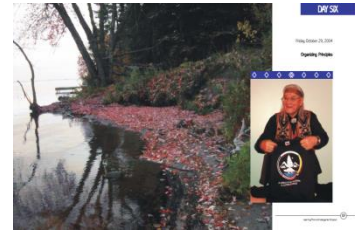
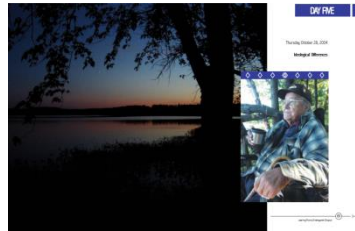
The core of the Book is formed of 13 slide-related profiles of 13 Days. The structure model shows a slide profile of graphic core information from minimum (D8 profile with 6 slides) to maximum (D4 profile with 22 slides).

### 3.3.4. Photo Gallery of 13 Day Title Pages

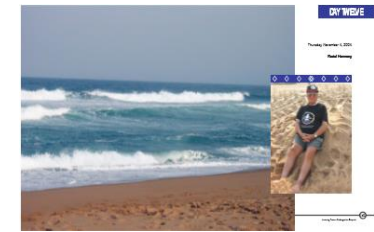
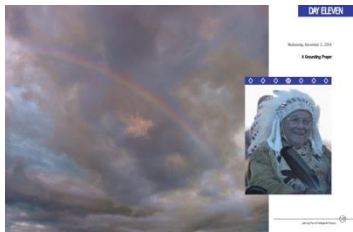
D 1-4



D 5-8



D 9-12

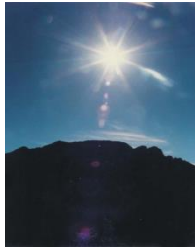


D 13



### 3.3.5. Photo Gallery of 13 Day Focus Illustrations

D 1-4



D 5-8



D 9-12



D 13





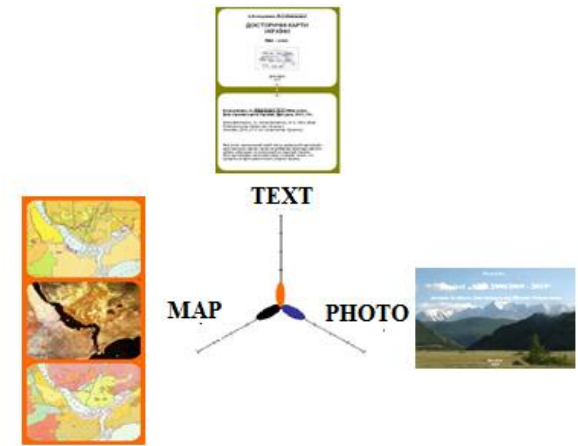
### 3.4. Semiotic Potential of Book

Semiotic "portraiting" of atlases is a new form of semiotic study, thematic-modular-slide (T-M-S) analysis and presentation of any individual atlas or series of atlases.

The semiotic potential of an atlas or a book is a quantitative and graphic (modular, page-by-page or in %) characteristic in terms of its medial features, which are expressed through metavariables (text, photo/image, map).

This potential is calculated using information-semiotic metavariables (text, photo/illustration, map) in a conditional three-axis semiotic "coordinate system" (Wolodtschenko 2007).

By conceptual, thematic and medial features, one can characterize the potential of any atlas or book.



Three metavariables

All pages/slides of book or atlas are 100% of information.

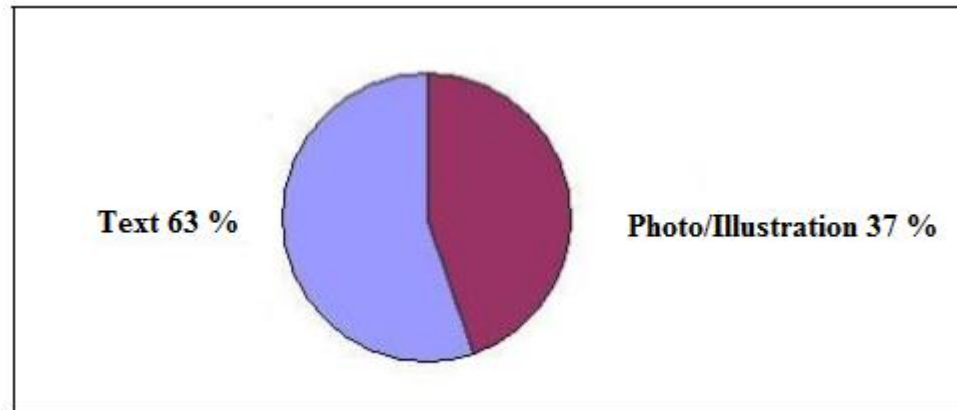
Counting of text-photo-map information is carried out from the first to the last page.

Each page /slide of atlas or book represents one information unit.

### 3.4. Semiotic Potential of Book

The Book “Learning from a Kindergarten Dropout“ has 193 pages, in which the text occupies 121 pages or 63%, the photo/illustration – 72 pages or 37%. There are no maps in the Book.

The Semiotic Potential of Book is presented in diagram.  
The Book is dominated by text/narrative with 63%.



## 4. Conclusion

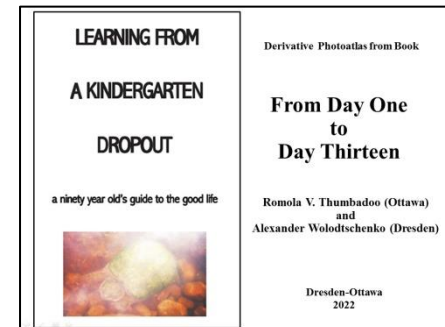
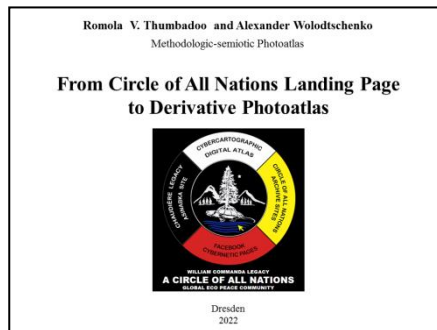
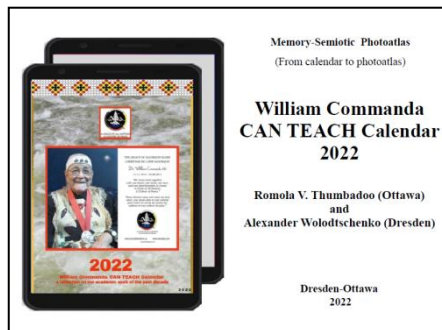
Our fifth project aims (like the other three photoatlases) to create a storytelling, methodical and commemorative photoatlas series dedicated to the Circle of All Nations work of Indigenous Elder William Commanda. The methodical focus is a semiotic analysis of book “Learning from a Kindergarten Dropout”

They are all derivative photoatlases.

The first photoatlas, a memory photoatlas “William Commanda CAN TEACH Calendar 2022” is based on the William Commanda Calendar 2022.

Our second project, the photoatlas “From Circle of All Nations Landing Page to Derivative Photoatlas” is based on the innovative Circle of All Nations Landing Page which introduces the new website and other online work.

The thematic photoatlases “From Day One to Day Thirteen” is our third project which deals with creation of derivative photoatlases. The photoatlas includes 13 illustrative title pages from the e-book „Learning from a Kindergarten Dropout“. The current photoatlas (part 1) complements it.



## 5. References and Imprint

Slides 1, 4, 15-21, 23, 24,: Photo archive of William Commanda and Romola V. Thumbadoo

Slide 4: Photo archive of Monica S. Thumbadoo

Slide 30: Photo archives Romola V. Thumbadoo and Alexander Wolodtschenko

Wolodtschenko A.(2006): Atlasnaia kartosemiotika. Dresden 2006.

Wolodtschenko A.(2007): Nationalatlas Deutschland: ein kartosemiotisches Porträt. Dresden 2007.

Selected web-addresses:

<https://www.facebook.com/circleofallnations>

<https://www.facebook.com/circleofallnations>; [www.circleofallnations.ca](http://www.circleofallnations.ca)

[https://gcrccarleton.ca/index.html?module=module.gcrccatlas\\_atlases](https://gcrccarleton.ca/index.html?module=module.gcrccatlas_atlases)

<https://atlas-semiotics.jimdo.com/>

Romola V. Thumbadoo and Alexander Wolodtschenko

**Semiotic Analysis of the Book „Learning from a kindergarten dropout“ (Part 1)**

Derivative Photoatlas

Dresden-Ottawa 2022

## 6. Short Dictionary

**Circle of All Nation (CAN)** is a global eco-peace community founded by late North American Indigenous Elder William Commanda, in collaboration with Romola V. Thumbadoo; it is dedicated to advancing environmental stewardship and racial harmony.

**Derivative photoatlas** – is one of the atlas types, which is created on the basis of another, origin atlas or series of atlases or atlas-like models e. g. a calendar, photo album, infographics, book, etc.

**Photoatlas** is one of the types of semiotic models dominated by various photos/illustrations. A distinction is made between photoatlases with cartographic and without cartographic traditions.

**Semiotic potential** (of atlas/book/photo album) is a quantitative characteristic of atlas/book or /photo album content in number of pages/slides or in % and presented as graphic model (e. g. diagram or profile) in conditional three-axis semiotic "coordinate system"(text-photo-map).

**William Commanda (1913-2011)** – North American Indigenous Elder, Carrier of the Algonquin Sacred Wampum Heritage, Political and spiritual Algonquin leader, Supreme Chief of the North American Indigenous Nations Government, Founder of the Circle of All Nations, a global eco-peace community dedicated to advancing environmental stewardship and racial harmony, Canoe Builder, Officer of the Order of Canada and recipient of two honorary doctorate degrees.

## 7. Collaborators

Author – Learning from a kindergarten dropout  
Romola V. Thumbadoo, PhD Geography,  
SSHRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
CEO and Coordinator, Circle of All Nations,  
Legacy Work of Indigenous Elder William Commanda, OC, PhD  
[www.circleofallnations.ca](http://www.circleofallnations.ca); [Romola@circleofallnations.ca](mailto:Romola@circleofallnations.ca)  
Executive Assistant to The Director, Dr. D. R. Fraser Taylor  
Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre (GCRC)  
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies  
Carleton University  
[www.gcrc.carleton.ca](http://www.gcrc.carleton.ca); [rvthumbadoo@gcrc.carleton.ca](mailto:rvthumbadoo@gcrc.carleton.ca)



Conceptualization of the Bildatlas – Derivative Photo Atlas  
Dr. Dr.h.c. Alexander Wolodtschenko  
Member of Scientific Advisory Board of the German Society  
for Semiotics (DGS)  
Co-chairman, Section "Umwelt- und Karto/Atlassemiotik"(DGS)  
<http://www.semiotik.eu/Oeko-und-Kartosemiotik>  
Co-editor: DKTK, Meta-carto-semiotics  
<http://ojs.meta-carto-semiotics.org>  
ERASMUS-Docent of the TU Dresden (since 2006)  
Email: [alexander.wolodtschenko@mailbox.tu-dresden.de](mailto:alexander.wolodtschenko@mailbox.tu-dresden.de)