

SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUE ABOUT BELIEF NARRATIVES

We are glad to announce that the special issue of *Folklore: Electronic Journal of Folklore* (no 65) on the topic of 'Belief Narratives' is now accessible in the web under the link:

<http://www.folklore.ee/folklore/vol65/>

The introductory part of the journal gives an overview of the terminological polemics and the connections between belief narratives and believing. Several articles focus on supernatural experiences in today's world and the attempts to interpret them by experiencers-narrators.

Karin Maria Raahauge points out that even persons who don't believe that a supernatural world could exist, experience unexplainable things and try to interpret them with the help of traditional folklore, but also by using elements from TV series on haunting, ghost movies, or advertisements. Ultimately the narrated representations have the power of gradually shaping social reality, as **Reet Hiimäe**'s article about the interpretation of non-verbal communication in belief narratives also exemplifies. **Huai Bao** in his contribution about Chinese thrillers describes how traditional concepts of mediumship and foretelling find resonance in modern films and work there, in turn, as a trigger for the creative fantasy of the audience and for their new or modified beliefs and rituals. **Kaarina Koski**'s article focuses on continuities and changes in Finnish belief traditions. She points out that modern Finnish people who are confronted with out-of-the-ordinary experiences often seek to interpret them through a scientific or Christian vocabulary.

Victoria Chervaneva's contribution offers the reader a structural approach to the belief narratives, paying particular attention to the syntagmatic level, i.e. methods of introducing demonic characters and linguistic tools employed for this purpose. The questions of structure and classification are also the topic of **Vito Carrassi**'s article about fairy tales within the historical-cultural context of the Irish tradition. **Kirsten Møllegaard** combines literature and the supernatural in her case study about the rich folklore surrounding the famous writer Edgar Allan Poe. As a separate section, the journal presents a case analysis by **Elizabeth Ann Berton-Reilly** about an American Estonian woman, offering an example of how supernatural beliefs are integrated into life history narration and identity-building. The news section offers reviews of new books and recent conferences. The guest editor of this issue was Reet Hiimäe.

We hope that you will have an inspiring reading!