

BNN Newsletter IV 2017.

Dear members of Belief Narrative Network,

Here comes the fourth issue of monthly newsletter of the network. Thank you all (Mirjam Mencej, Willem de Blécourt, Robert Miller, Sabine Wienker-Piepho!), who sent their information!

Now ISFNR has announced its interim conference which will be held in Ragusa, Italy from from 12th to 16th June, 2018. BNN will soon launch the Call for its own conference which is going to take place within the ISFNR congress.

Hope you enjoy the reading and let's keep in touch!

Best wishes,

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On behalf of the BNN Committee:

Mirjam Mencej, Willem de Blécourt, Terry Gunnell, Anders Gustavsson, Desmond Kharmawphlang, Fumihiko Kobayashi, Mare Kõiva, Kaarina Koski, Dilip Kumar Kalita, Mirjam Mencej, Maria Ines Palleiro, Tok Thompson and Ülo Valk.

1. Announcements from the BNN

A letter from the Sadhana Naithani, president of ISFNR

Dear ISFNR Member,

The dates for the next ISFNR meeting have now been announced on our website www.isfnr.org

As you might already know, the next conference is going to be held in the University of Catania in Ragusa, Sicily, Italy. The dates are June 12-16, 2018. The local organizing committee will be sending out the CFP and deadline in the due course of time. I hope that you will be able to participate in the proceedings. It shall be our effort to offer some travel assistance to a few younger colleagues. More information will be available in the near future.

This is my first message to you since I was entrusted with the task to lead the Society along with some new and some old members on the executive board during the 17th Congress of the ISFNR in Miami in October 2016. As I strive to carry on the good work done by the former presidents of the Society, I also wish to add to it. We are keeping the ISFNR website updated with regards to our forthcoming conferences as also those of our working groups, like the Belief Narrative Network. Relevant news from H-Folk is also communicated through our website. I would like to urge you to send information regarding folklore/folk narrative conferences and other events from your part of the world to the ISFNR Secretary Nidhi Mathur. These may be of interest to our members elsewhere and some may wish to participate in them. The information you send may also include publications, and folklore/folk narrative festivals as these constitute research fields for your fellow members. The information will be uploaded on the website.

ISFNR is truly a global body, but we will experience our globality only through sharing of information. In these times, when more and more academic societies are transforming into corporation-like bodies, we are striving to keep ISFNR a simple academic society that functions on the basis of the commitment and engagement of its members. Our membership fee remains modest and our conferences continue to be hosted in academic institutions with the efforts of our member colleagues. The success of our society depends on our engagement, including participation in the conferences.

There had been some requests to make the list of ISFNR members available on the website. This is not possible due to privacy laws. However, if you wish to get in touch with ISFNR members in a certain place, please ask and we will try to connect you up with those willing to be contacted.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with your requests, suggestions and queries.

I look forward to seeing you in Ragusa.

Yours sincerely,

Sadhana Naithani
President, ISFNR.

2. Current publications published by the BNN members

Dr. Robert Miller (Catholic University of America) has published “**The Witch at the Navel of the World,**” in *Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft* 129 (2017): 98-102. This brief note explains why the author of 1 Samuel in the Hebrew Bible placed the so-called “Witch of Endor” at the foot of Mount Tabor, because of the mythic associations of that mountain.

<https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/zatw.2017.129.issue-1/zaw-2017-0008/zaw-2017-0008.xml?format=INT>

3. Other relevant publications

4. Calls for papers

NB! The deadline for application is extended to May, 2nd The application form is attached to this letter too. Call for papers for joint conference of ISFNR Committee on Charms, Charmers and Charming, and the ISFNR Belief Narrative Network „**Verbal Charms and Narrative Genres**“, which will be held on 8–10 December 2017, in Hungarian Academy of Sciences, in **Research Centre for the Humanities** 1097 Budapest, Tóth Kálmán u.4. Please send your application by email to Éva Pócs (pocse@chello.hu), or to Mirjam Mencej (mirjam.mencej@ff.uni-lj.si) by filling out the application form, including an abstract of 10-15 sentences and send in your submission by no later than **May 2nd 2017**.

The organizers welcome proposals in the following topics:

- Verbal charms in the context of narrative genres
- Verbal charms and belief narratives – comparative aspect
- Belief narratives about charmers and charming
- A panel dedicated to the „Dreifrausegen“ and legends about three women (fate women, three healing women etc.)
- A panel dedicated to baby stealing and killing demons: **charms against them** (*Lilith Charm, Sisynnios Charm, Diebsegen* etc.) and legends about them (changeling legends etc.)

See the full CFP, application form and additional information from attachment.

5. News on future events and conferences

5.1. Colleagues from the narrative scholars in Germany inform us about the *Ringvorlesung* „**Märchen**“ that will take place in Institut der Kulturanthropologie und Europäische Ethnologie Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg. Please see the themes and dates: <http://www.kaee.uni-freiburg.de/maerchenvorlesung>

5.2. **Symposion „Märchenerzählen und musikalische Begleitung“**, organised by Märchen-Stiftung Walter Kahn (president prof. Dr. Sabine Wienker-Piepho) is taking place in Waldhof, Akademie für Weiterbildung, Freiburg at **May, 5.-7**. For more information, please look <http://www.waldhof-freiburg.de/veranstaltungen/themen/vortraege/573-maerchen-symposium>

6. News on past events and conferences

7. Useful links to websites

For more information about **Märchen-Stiftung Walter Kahn**, its activities, publications and events, please visit <http://www.maerchen-stiftung.de/>

8. Information on belief narratives and scholars of belief narratives in the media

9. Other useful or interesting information related to belief narratives

Willem de Blécourt has prepared a review on the book of **Bryan Senn**, *The Werewolf Filmography: 300+ Movies* (Jefferson NC:McFarland & Company, 2017).

A teaser from his article:

My interest in werewolf films stems from a fascination with the magic of shapeshifting rather than the horror genre. Yet through the gore and the blood, this book forced me to return to the "real" world of self-interest, power games and greediness. Let me be fair: there is no doubt that the *Filmography* will prove very helpful to the student of werewolf films. It has 158 entries in its main section on films that are accessible to the Anglophone viewer, 135 entries in the section "Pseudowolves" which deals with multi-narrative films (or anthologies) and foreign films, and a smaller section on "Other Were-Beasts" (which will not concern me much here), a rating system that classifies the films from nil to five and extensive descriptions of each film.

Please read his full article from the attachment.

10. Study programmes

11. Notes and Queries

11.1 Questions

11.2 Replies