



CALL FOR PAPERS

Since the turning point in 1960s and 1970s, when folklorists went from the study of archive materials to that of live performances, an inalienable part of folklorists' work is getting to know the lives of their informants, listening to personal details, memories, documenting living traditions. Therefore folklorists' work has been accompanied by ethical dilemmas ever since. The discussion on ethical standards in folkloristics has been raised multiple times. The *American Folklore Society* published their *Statement of Ethics* in 1988; the *International Society for Folk Narrative Research* in 1998 instituted a special committee on ethics to spearhead international debate on ethics from a folkloristic perspective; the *Folklore Fellows*, an international network of folklorists, has also addressed the issue several times. But the ethical challenges are still present, whether it be a fieldwork carried out in remote rural villages, or the urban environment of modern cities or dealing with digital informants in the virtual world. Even in the Digital Age it is nevertheless "people studying people" still.

Are there situations when personal engagement can get in the way of truthful reporting? To whom the folklorist should be responsible more – the scholarly truth or the informant? What are the researchers' responsibilities to those being studied? Are there any fields of research too sensitive and ethically too difficult to be addressed at all? What are the principles of ethically correct work with archived material and its representation in the digital tradition archives? What are the new ethical challenges introduced by the Digital Age? How the research is going to affect the lives of informants and should such influence be exerted by the results of the research? Can researchers have too much

empathy? Some questions regarding the ethics in folkloristics might never be answered, but nevertheless: with this conference we would like the young folklorists to join the international debate.

The topics of interest for the conference include, but are not limited to the following:

- Ethical challenges in folkloristics: research, fieldwork, archives
- Overcoming stereotypes and authorities
- Professional responsibility to informants: informed consent, communication, problems of patronizing the community
- Folklore within media and creative industries
- Controversial and sensitive topics: personal information, gender issues, ownership of folklore
- Problems of defining, preserving and communicating the intangible cultural heritage
- Ethical issues of the Digital Age

The 8th Conference of Young Folklorists aims to foster academic communication and collaboration in the field of folkloristics, inviting students, as well as recently graduated scholars and anyone who considers themselves to be a young folklorist to join this annual event to share experience and present their research to international audience addressing the question of ethics in the folkloristics.

The applicants are invited to email the preliminary title of their presentation by **March 1, 2018**, and to submit their abstracts (max 250 words) by **May 2, 2018**, to yof2018@gmail.com. Please include your name, institutional affiliation, position, and contact information. All prospective presenters will be notified by e-mail by June 1, 2018.