

CUMULATIVE REPORT 2013-2021

In the following is a brief summary of the BNN activities that have taken place during the two mandates (between 2013 and 2021) of the present Committee, consisting of the following members: Willem de Blécourt, Terry Gunnell, Anders Gustavsson, Desmond Kharmawphlang, Fumihiko Kobayashi, Mare Kõiva, Kaarina Koski, Dilip Kumar Kalita, Mirjam Mencej (*chair*), Maria Ines Palleiro, Tok Thompson (since 2016) and Ülo Valk.

MEMBERSHIP

Altogether, the number of BNN members has increased significantly since 2013, from 32 to now reaching a total of **140** members.

CONFERENCES

Since 2013, the newly established BNN Committee has organised **six** and co-organised **two** conferences:

2014

Nature Spirits: Continuity and Change, Zugdidi, Georgia, 1-4 October 2014.

(co-organiser) *Sacrifice and Divination*, Pécs, Hungary, 12-14 December 2014.

2015

Beliefs in Discussion at the interim ISFNR conference, Ankara, Turkey, 1-6 September 2015.

2016

BNN conference at the ISFNR/ AFS congress in Miami, Florida, USA, October 2016.

2017

(co-organiser) *Verbal charms and narrative genres*, a joint conference with the Committee on Charms, Charmers and Charming, Budapest, Hungary, 12-15 October 2017.

2018

Human-Animal Relationships in Belief Narratives at the ISFNR interim conference, Ragusa, Italy, 12-16 June 2018.

2019

Belief Narratives in Folklore Studies: Narrating the Supernatural, Guwahati, Assam, India, 6-8 February 2019.

2021 (postponed from 2020 due to the pandemic)

Fear of the Other at the ISFNR congress in Zagreb, Croatia, 5-9 September 2021.

2022 (work in progress)

The next BNN conference is planned to take place in the Folklore Archives in Uppsala, Sweden, in 2022.

BNN e-NEWSLETTER

In January 2017, BNN Committee has launched the BNN e-Newsletters. While the first year the Newsletters were published every month, since January 2018 the BNN Newsletters have been issued only four times a year (in January, April, June, and October).

AN AWARD FOR THE BEST STUDENT'S PAPER

In 2017, the BNN Committee has launched **an award for the best student's paper** in the field of belief narratives, granted every second year. In 2018, the Committee has decided to slightly change the rules of the competition for the best student paper award. i.e., to grant **two awards** every second year: one for the best paper written by a PhD student, and one for the best paper written by an undergraduate (BA) or graduate (MA) student. So far, two awards have been granted.

BNN FACEBOOK GROUP

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/625573241323757/about/>)

In April 2020, during the first wave of the corona pandemics, the BNN Committee decided to open a BNN Facebook account the aim of which was, and continues to be, to gather and share

Corona/ Covid folklore of all kinds (jokes, memes, conspiracy theories, “myths” about wonder cures, (personal) experience narratives and so on) etc. When the pandemic is over, we hope that the Facebook page will continue to be a site in which immediate exchange can take place among BNN scholars on other subjects as well.

THE ISFNR BELIEF NARRATIVE NETWORK ONLINE LECTURES

In September 2020, the ISFNR Belief Narrative Network Committee decided to launch a new series of monthly events: online presentations entitled “The ISFNR Belief Narrative Network Online Lectures”. Since then, on the first Friday of each month at 5 p.m. CET (except in July and August), members of the ISFNR have been able to watch a pre-recorded lecture given by a scholar working in the field of belief narratives, dealing with her or his research. The recorded lectures are then made available on the ISFNR web site. Up until the present ISFNR congress, a total of ten lecturers have presented their online lectures, the schedule for future lectures now already being full up until February 2022.

PUBLICATIONS

In the period 2013-2021 the BNN has been involved in the publication of **five** books or special issues.

2015

The book of conference papers from the BNN conference *Nature Spirits: Continuity and Change*, which took place in Zugdidi in 2014 were published in English by the Shota Meskhia State Teaching University of Zugdidi in 2015 (ed. Bela Mosia). The book is available online on the website of the ISFNR / BNN: <http://www.zssu.ge/zssu2/node/809> .

2018

The conference papers presented at the conference on *Sacrifice and Divination*, organised in cooperation with the BNN, which took place in Pécs, Hungary, in 2014, were published in a book *Áldozat, divináció, istenítélet*, ed. by _Éva Pócs, Budapest: Balassi Kiadó.

<https://www.lira.hu/hu/konyv/ismeretterjeszto-1/mitologia-vallas/aldozat-divinacio-istenitelet>

2019

The publication of proceedings from the joint BNN and Charms, Charmers and Charming Committees' conference on *Verbal Charms and Narrative Genres* which took place in Budapest, on 8-10 December 2017, was published in *Acta Ethnographica Hungarica* 64 (2) in December 2019.

The special guest editors of this issue were Éva Pócs and Maria Ines Palleiro.

<http://eastwest.btk.mta.hu/images/pdf/PALLEIRO-M.-PCS.-ed.-Verbal-Chamrs-and-Narrative-Genres-ACTA-ETHN-642.pdf>

Papers presented at the BNN conference on *Human-Animal Relationships in Belief Narratives* (held as part of the ISFNR interim conference in Ragusa, 12-16 June 2018), were published in a special edition of *Folklore. Electronic Journal of Folklore* (Tartu) (ed. Mare Kõiva; Mirjam Mencej, guest editor) in December 2019, and are available in digital form at:

<https://www.folklore.ee/folklore/vol77/>

2021

Papers presented at the BNN conference on *Belief Narratives in Folklore Studies: Narrating the Supernatural*, held in Guwahati, Assam, India, on 6-8 February 2019, were published in the book entitled *Belief Narratives in Folklore Studies Narrating the Supernatural*, ed. by Dilip Kumar Kalita, Guwahati: Anundoram Borooah Institute of Language, Art and Culture. See: www.abilac.org

WEBSITE

(<http://www.isfnr.org/belief-narrative-network.php>)

In 2014, we established a special BNN webpage within the ISFNR website which has been renovated as part of the renovated ISFNR webpage. Here one can find the CVs, contact details, a list of main research interests and personal bibliographies of BNN members, which are available to all those interested, and Calls for Papers which are regularly uploaded. In addition, the website contains details about online publications based on BNN conference papers, annual reports, the BNN Newsletters, the recordings of the BNN online lectures, as well as a list of European folklore archives.