

VERBAL CHARMS AND NARRATIVE GENRES

A three-day international conference
8–10 December 2017, Friday–Sunday

Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Research Centre for the Humanities
1097 Budapest, Tóth Kálmán u.4.

Organized by:

International Society for Folk Narrative Research – Committee on Charms, Charmers and Charming

International Society for Folk Narrative Research – Belief Narrative Network Committee

“East–West” Research Group (ERC project № 324214: Vernacular religion on the boundary of Eastern and Western Christianity: continuity, changes and interaction)

Call for papers

Dear Colleague,

We have the honour to invite you to our international conference and would be honoured if you contributed to its success by sharing your research findings. The conference is the 11th event within the series organized by the *ISFNR Committee on Charms, Charmers and Charming*, and the first event organized together with the *ISFNR Belief Narrative Network Committee*, in which scholars working on both territories will meet to exchange ideas from an interdisciplinary perspective. We would be very happy to meet folklorists, anthropologists, medievalists, literary historians and historians of religion, researchers working in the fields of ethnopsychiatry and the history of medicine, as well as representatives from scholars working in Germanic, Slavic, Baltic, Byzantine, Balkan etc. studies. Through collaboration we would like to conduct a parallel examination of Eastern and Western European folklore from the Middle Ages to the present, and also to examine phenomena from Christian and non-Christian, elite and popular, literary and oral traditions.

We welcome proposals in the following topics:

1. Verbal charms in the context of narrative genres

Charms in the wider context of folk belief narratives

Belief narratives, saint legends and myths as charms

Belief narratives, saint legends and myths as amulet texts

Belief narratives, saint legends and myths as historiolas of charms

Verbal charms incorporated in belief narratives, fairy tales, epic songs etc.

Etiological legends of charms, charmers and charming

Etiological legends of a charm-text incorporated in the same charm-type (e.g. in Lilith Charm)

2. Verbal charms and belief narratives – comparative aspect

Interconnection between charms and belief narratives

How particular personages and themes of belief narratives operate in charms and vice versa (saints, demons, witch, Satan, other world, etc.)

In what different ways do belief narratives and verbal charms evoke the supernatural?

Ritual contacts with the other world in charms and belief narratives

3. Belief narratives about charmers and charming

Belief narratives about learning/inheriting verbal charms

Belief narratives about the use of verbal charms (prescriptions, taboos, etc.)

Belief narratives about healers and about healing with verbal charms
Belief narratives about diviners and divining using verbal divination methods
Belief narratives about midwives and childbirth – in connection with verbal charms
Belief narratives about any other magical practices using verbal charms (love magic, treasure hunting, theft magic etc.)
Charmers in witch-trials; belief narratives about charms and charmers in the court discourses of witchcraft accusations

4. A panel dedicated to the „Dreifrauensegen” and legends about three women (fate women, three healing women etc.)

5. 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.)

The languages of the conference will be English; the projected length of talks is 20 minutes. There won't be any registration fee, but costs of accommodation and meals will have to be covered individually. We will be able to pay for the travel and accommodation of 4-5 persons (members of both committees have priority).

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 following application form, including an abstract of 10-15 sentences and send in your submission by no later than May 1st 2017. In our second circular in May, we will inform all applicants whether their application has been accepted or, possibly, rejected (for this decision we need an abstract of sufficient detail). At the same time, we will also be sending you information about more practical details of the conference.

We look forward to hearing from you,
best regards,

Éva Pócs
professor emeritus
PI of the “East-West” ERC project

Mirjam Mencej
professor
President of the ISFNR Belief Narrative Network

Application form for the conference VERBAL CHARMS AND NARRATIVE GENRES

Name:
Occupation, position, title, employer:
Postal address:
Telephone:
E-mail:
Title of paper:
Abstract (10-15 sentences):