

Dear BNN members,

Here comes the first issue of the monthly BNN e-Newsletter. We are happy to announce that we received a number of interesting and useful pieces of information from our members. We are also happy to inform you that Kristel Kivari has volunteered to take over the management of the future BNN e-Newsletters. The BNN Committee would like to thank Kristel for offering her help! In the future, therefore please, send any information you wish to have included to the BNN e-Newsletters directly to Kristel ([kristel.kivari@ut.ee](mailto:kristel.kivari@ut.ee) ; [kristelkivari@hotmail.com](mailto:kristelkivari@hotmail.com) ). We hope that you will find the e-Newsletter interesting and worthy of continuation. We await your contributions for future issues of the e-Newsletters, all of which will be placed regularly on the ISFNR/BNN website.

We are looking forward to hearing from you!

Best wishes,

Mirjam,

On behalf of the BNN Committee:

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

## BNN e-NEWSLETTER – January 2017

### **1. Announcements from the BNN**

#### ***1.1 Updates to the International Annotated Belief Narrative Bibliography***

In 2014, BNN started to gather information on all scholars interested in belief narratives, and a collection of belief narrative scholars' bibliographies was published on the ISFNR / BNN website

(<http://www.isfnr.org/files/beliefnarrativenetwork.html>). Now it is time to update the information. We ask you to send us your personal CVs and bibliographies related to belief narrative research. Your data should include:

- CV including name and surname; degree; present professional status and affiliation; e-mail address and contact details (if you agree to publish them on Internet);
- list of main research interests (in form of key words). Please add this information at the end of your CV;
- personal bibliography, related to belief narratives (books written in one of the major languages or with a summary in one of these languages; papers written in one of the major languages).

Attached you will find an example of how your data should be formatted (see [Attachment 1](#)). Please send your data to Kaarina Koski ([kaakos@utu.fi](mailto:kaakos@utu.fi)) by the end of February 2017!

[contributed by Kaarina Koski]

### **2. Current publications published by the BNN members**

**2.1** A special issue of *Folklore: Electronic Journal of Folklore* **65**, dedicated to the topic *Belief Narratives*, edited by **Reet Hiimäe**, has been published and is available online at: <http://www.folklore.ee/folklore/vol65/>

For summaries of the papers, see [Attachment 5](#).

[contributed by Reet Hiimäe]

## **2.2 Willem de Blécourt (2014) [=2016]: 'The Werewolf Pack: A Cinematic**

**Metamorphosis'**, *Contemporary Legend*, series 3, vol. 4, 59-74.

[contributed by Willem de Blécourt]

## **2.3 Willem de Blécourt, ed. 2015: *Werewolf Histories*. Palgrave Historical Studies in Witchcraft and Magic. London: Palgrave Macmillan.**

summary:

*Today, werewolves are primarily known through films: as humans who change into wolves under the influence of the full moon. Although this is a recent image, werewolves have a long, fragmented and discontinuous history. Werewolf Histories is the first academic book in English to address European werewolf history and folklore from antiquity to the twentieth century. On the basis of mostly new source material, varying from archaeological finds, demonological tracts, witchcraft trials, slander suits and nineteenth- and twentieth-century legends, its contributors cover the most important European werewolf territories, ranging from Scandinavia to Germany, France and Italy, and from Croatia to Estonia. Werewolf Histories calls for a more sophisticated, contextualised, and differentiated approach and hopes to be contagious enough to spawn more of its kind.*

<http://www.palgrave.com/us/book/9781137526335>

Introduction (p.1-24) by Willem de Blécourt available online at:

<http://historicalanthropologist.eu/publication/the-differentiated-werewolf>

[contributed by Willem de Blécourt]

## **2.3 Mirjam Mencej 2017: *Styrian Witches in European Perspective: Ethnographic***

***Fieldwork***. Palgrave Historical Studies in Witchcraft and Magic. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

summary:

*The book provides a comprehensive exploration of witchcraft beliefs and practices in the rural region of Eastern Slovenia. Based on field research conducted at the beginning of the twenty-first century, it examines witchcraft in the region from folkloristic, anthropological, as well as historical, perspectives. Witchcraft is presented as part of social reality, strongly related to misfortune and involved in social relationships. The reality of the ascribed bewitching deeds, psychological mechanisms that may help bewitchment to work, circumstances in which bewitchment narratives can be mobilised, reasons for a person to acquire a reputation of the witch in the entire community, and the role that unwitchers fulfilled in the community, are but a few of the many topics discussed. In addition, the intertwinement of social witchcraft with narratives of supernatural experiences, closely associated with supernatural beings of*

*European folklore, forming part of the overall witchcraft discourse in the area, is explored.*  
<http://www.palgrave.com/in/book/9781137372499>

[contributed by Willem de Blécourt]

### **3. Other relevant publications**

#### **4. Calls for papers**

**4.1** Call for Papers for the *Regional folklore conference for the Western states*, which will be held at University of Oregon, Eugene, on 21-22 April 2017. This is the annual conference for the Western States Folklore Society (WSFS), which also publishes the journal *Western Folklore*. There are always panels and papers welcomed on belief narratives at this annual conference. Abstracts are due February 15, 2017!

<http://www.westernfolklore.org/Meetings.html>

[contributed by Tok Thompson]

#### **5. News on future events and conferences**

**5.1** International conference: *Present and Past: Contemporary and historical perspectives in the anthropological study of religious life*, Budapest, Hungary, 5–7 May 2017.

See preliminary programme in [Attachment 2](#).

[contributed by Éva Pócs]

**5.2** National conference: *Verbal Art: Exploring the ethnography of speaking strategies*, Shillong, Meghalaya, India, 23-24 February, 2017.

See programme in [Attachment 3](#).

[contributed by Desmond Kharmawphlang]

**5.3** A conference on the history of witchcraft: *Interdisziplinäre Ansätze in der Hexenforschung*, Stuttgart, Germany, February 2017

See programme in [Attachment 4](#).

[contributed by Willem de Blécourt]

**5.4** A conference on *Deities, Spirits and Demons in Vernacular Beliefs and Rituals in Asia*: Tartu, Estonia, 9-10 November 2017:

<http://www.ut.ee/folk/index.php/en/events/524-cfp-conference-spirits-and-demons-nov-2017>

[contributed by Ülo Valk]

## **6. News on past events and conferences**

**6.1** A symposium on *Places and Processes of Pilgrimage, Past and Present* was held in Tartu, Estonia, on 11 January, 2017:

<http://www.ut.ee/folk/index.php/en/events/531-eaus-i-ettekandepaeev-qplaces-and-processes-of-pilgrimage-past-and-presentq11-jaanuaril-2017>

[contributed by Ülo Valk]

## **7. Useful links to websites**

**7.1** The *Religious studies project* website:

<http://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/podcast/>

[contributed by Mirjam Mencej]

**7.2** The *Sagnagrunnur* website for a database of 11,000 Icelandic legends (with distribution maps):

<http://sagnagrunnur.com/en/>

[contributed by Terry Gunnell]

**7.3** The *Jón Árnason* website (still under construction) on the background of the first major Icelandic folk tale collection (mainly legends):

<http://www.jonarnason.is/english/>

[contributed by Terry Gunnell]

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

### **8.1 Yet more on *Icelandic elves*:**

<http://www.icenews.is/2016/07/15/construction-disrupted-by-elves-or-hidden-people-in-iceland/#axzz4X9Gam4mo>

## **9. Other useful or interesting information related to belief narratives**

### **10. Study programmes**

**10.1 *Masters in Folkloristics and Applied Heritage Studies*** at the University of Tartu, Estonia. Applications are due on 15 March, 2017.

Information about the programme can be found at: <http://www.flku.ut.ee/en;folkandheritage@ut.ee>

For more see [Attachment 6](#).

## **11. Notes and Queries**

### **11.1 *Questions***

- Is anyone aware of literature on **narratives about *shahids*** (also *shehids*), i.e. Islamic martyrs who died for their faith? [question put by Mirjam Mencej]

### **11.2. *Replies***