1. The new series of events: ISFNR Belief Narrative Online Lectures

Dear friends and colleagues, dear Belief Narrative Network members,

The ISFNR Belief Narrative Network Committee has decided to launch a new series of monthly events: online presentations entitled the "**ISFNR Belief Narrative Network Online Lectures**". On the first Friday of each month at 5 p.m. CET (except in July and August), members will be able to watch a pre-recorded 20-30 minute lecture by a scholar working in the field of belief narratives, dealing with her or his research. This will be followed by a live on-line discussion with the lecturer in which members can take part, ask questions and discuss various aspects of the talk. Members will be sent an email with the invitation to listen to the lecture and take part in the discussion on Zoom about a week before each lecture is going to take place. The first online lecture will be given on <u>Friday, September 4th</u> by **Prof. Timothy Tangherlini** of UC Berkeley who will be talking about *Conspiracy in the time of Corona*. The Committee would like to express their gratitude to Eva Þórdís Ebenezersdóttir for kindly offering to assist us with technical issues! All lectures will be later available on the ISFNR/BNN website: http://www.isfnr.org/belief-narrative-network.php and we would like to thank Nidhi Mathur and Sadhana Naithani for their support in that too.

Should any of you like to give a lecture, or have a promising student who you would like to suggest, please send the Committee a title and a short abstract of the lecture for evaluation to the following address: mirjam.mencej@guest.arnes.si .

We hope you find this new feature of BNN of interest (to you and your students), and encourage you all to participate in the online discussions!

Yours Sincerely,

Mirjam,

on behalf of the Belief Narrative Network Committee: 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 and Ülo Valk.

2. Belief Narrative Network Facebook page on Corona/Covid folklore: https://www.facebook.com/groups/625573241323757/

Bearing the present situation in mind, the present aim of BNN Facebook account is to gather and share **Corona/ Covid folklore** of all kinds (jokes, memes, conspiracy theories, "myths" about wonder cures, (personal) experience narratives and so on). Any contextual information, observations (for instance on attitudes towards foreigners on the streets), photos and more will be much appreciated, as will links to other Facebook accounts or relevant web sites dealing with the same topic. As we know, many people all around the world are already collecting such folklore. Our hope is that our Facebook page can become a hub for all this international material, allowing comparison and further research. Everyone will, of course, be welcome to use the data that will hopefully be available here as a form of archival base for their own research. Indeed, it may even become the heart of a future project. Beginning in 2021 or 2022, we anticipate pulling together some of our diverse and global data on this subject in a then-historical view. We encourage members who are researching this to engage on our Facebook page for the purposes of organizing our future response, posting links and the like, and to begin to think and discuss what forms this presentation could take. When present crisis is over (hopefully soon), we hope that the Facebook page can continue to be a site where immediate exchange can take place among the BNN scholars on other subjects.

1. Call for submissions for the 2020 BA / MA student prize for best student paper in the field of belief narratives

The Belief Narrative Network of the International Society for Folk Narrative Research invites submissions for a student prize for the best BA or MA student paper in the field of belief narratives.

The award will be given every second year, that is, at the interim ISFNR conference and at the ISFNR congress. The winning paper will be selected for publication in *Folklore, Electronic Journal of Folklore (Tartu)* (the journal reserves the right to request improvements before publication).

Additionally, the ISFNR and/or BNN conference participation fee will be waived, and an offer of scholarly books is anticipated to be awarded as well. Submissions: All research papers by BA or MA students, in English, written after January 1, 2018, unpublished at the time of submission, and written on belief narratives (broadly construed) are eligible. Entries should be a minimum of 5,000 words.
Interested applicants should submit the following:
· 1. An electronic copy to the evaluation committee. For 2020, please send materials to Mirjam Mencej, at mirjam.mencej@guest.arnes.si for distribution. To ensure blind judgment of papers, please remove the author's name from the paper. Papers should be sent as Microsoft Word document attachments or pdf.
· 2. A short (100-word) biographical statement about the author, including the author's current graduate or undergraduate status, and about the research. Confirmation of receipt for electronic submissions will be sent. One submission per person, please. The committee is under no obligation to award any winner, and reserves the right to decide upon another division of the prize, depending on the papers. The online deadline for the submissions is normally 30 June each year.

However, note that due to current delays in conferences, scholarly organizations, and student life, this deadline has been extended to Dec 5, 2020.

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2. Call for submissions for the 2020 PhD student prize for best student paper in the field of belief narratives
The Belief Narrative Network of the International Society for Folk Narrative

Research invites submissions for a student prize for the best PhD student paper in the
field of belief narratives. The award will be given every second year: that is, at the interim ISFNR conference and at the ISFNR congress.

The winning paper will be selected for publication in *Folklore, Electronic Journal of Folklore (Tartu)* (the journal reserves the right to request improvements before publication). The winner will receive 300 euros of honorarium for the participation in the ISFNR and/or BNN interim conference or congress. Additionally, the conference participation fee will be waived.

Submissions: All research papers by PhD students, in English, written after January 1, 2018, unpublished at the time of submission, and written on belief narratives (broadly construed) are eligible. Entries should be a minimum of 5,000 words.
Interested applicants must submit the following:
· 1. An electronic copy to the evaluation committee. For 2020, please send materials to Mirjam Mencej, at mirjam.mencej@guest.arnes.si for distribution. To ensure blind judgment of papers, please remove the author's name from the paper. Papers should be sent as Microsoft Word document attachments or pdf.
· 2. A short (100-word) biographical statement about the author, including the author's current graduate status, and about the research.
Confirmation of receipt for electronic submissions will be sent. One submission per person, please. The committee is under no obligation to award any winner, and reserves the right to decide upon another division of the prize, depending on the papers. The online deadline for the submissions is normally 30 June.

However, note that due to current delays in conferences, scholarly organizations, and student life, this deadline has been extended to Dec 5, 2020.

http://www.isfnr.org/files/beliefnarrativenetwork.html