

Dear BNN members,

In accordance with the rules of the BNN, it is the duty of the chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, to submit an annual report on the activities of the BNN over the previous year to the other members of the BNN. The following is the report for 2016-2017.

1. First of all, I am happy to inform you that since the congress in Miami **the number of BNN members** has once again increased, now reaching a total of 105 members. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to welcome all of our new members! As usual, we encourage all members to continue to share information about the BNN with their colleagues: Everyone interested in belief narratives of any kind is welcome to join the Network!
2. With regard to **publications**, we are still awaiting the publication of the conference papers presented at the conference on *Sacrifice and Divination* organised in cooperation with the BNN by Éva Pócs of the University of Pécs, which took place in Pécs, Hungary, in 2014, and in which many of our members participated. As has been already announced, the publication will appear in Hungarian at the end 2017.
3. With regard to other **conferences**, over the course of the year, the BNN Committee members have been actively involved in organising the joint BNN and Charms, Charmers and Charming Committees' conference *Verbal Charms and Narrative Genres* which will take place in Budapest, 8-10 December 2017. It is my pleasure to acknowledge that we received a total of 44 submissions, many of them from BNN members. The programme should be ready to be announced by the end of September.

In addition, the BNN Committee has launched the Call for Papers for the BNN conference *Human-Animal Relationships in Belief Narratives* to be held within the ISFNR interim conference in Ragusa, 12-16 June 2018. Please remember that the deadline for the submission of abstracts to the organisers is 1 November 2017!

The BNN Committee is now commencing work on the Call for Papers for the *BNN conference* to be held in *February 2019 in Assam, India*. You shall hopefully receive this by the end of the year.

4. We have continued with updating the **BNN page of the ISFNR website**. The website can be visited at <http://www.isfnr.org/index2.html>. As before, we encourage all those who still have not yet sent in data, to send us their CVs (including name and surname; degree; present professional status and affiliation; e-mail address and contact details - if you are happy for these to be published on the Internet), along with *a list of main research interests* (in the form of key words - please add such information at the end of your CV) and a *personal bibliography*, including works related to belief narratives (that is books written in one of the major languages or with a summary in one of these languages; and papers written in one of the major languages). As of now, the number of CVs that have been sent in is still rather limited. The data should be sent to Kaarina Koski (kaakos@utu.fi) who will be updating the BNN website regularly.
5. This year, the BNN Committee also launched the **monthly BNN e-Newsletter**, which was being issued since January 2017. We would like to thank Kristel Kivari who kindly took over the distribution of the Newsletter! Please continue to send information to be included to the Newsletter to Kristel (kristel.kivari@utu.ee; kristelkivari@hotmail.com).
6. For the first time, the Committee has also decided to launch **an award for the best student's paper** in the field of belief narratives. The award will be made every second year, that is at the interim ISFNR conference and at the ISFNR congress. Mare Kõiva, Kaarina Koski and Tok Thompson have prepared the Call for Applications, along with details about the award, that is the requirements, criteria, profile of the students involved, nature of the award, and so on, which can be found at the ISFNR/BNN website, under no. 4: (<http://www.isfnr.org/files/beliefnarrativenetwork.html>). We would appreciate it if you would encourage your students to submit their papers, related to belief narratives, for evaluation. Please note that the deadline is 31 December 2017!

If you are aware of any scholar who is interested in belief narratives and wishes to become a member of BNN, please remind them that they should contact the chairperson (mirjam.mencej@ff.uni-lj.si or mirjam.mencej@guest.arnes.si) in order to receive information about all future BNN activities. Potential members should be informed that they need to join both the ISFNR and the BNN. If any of you has not yet become a member of the ISFNR, please bear in mind that in accordance with our statute, the BNN forms part of the ISFNR and that official membership is only open and free to those who are members of the ISFNR. If you are not yet a member of ISFNR, you can nonetheless receive information about our activities, and participate in our conferences and meetings, nonetheless, you will not have the right to vote for members of the BNN Committee or be able to become a member yourself. Everyone is therefore encouraged to join the ISFNR. Should anyone wish to cease being a BNN member, and receive no further information about our activities, please let us know.

As always, all BNN members are most welcome to suggest their own ideas about the future activities of the BNN and to comment on the decisions taken by the BNN Committee members. We will be happy to hear from you!

Best wishes,

Mirjam,

on behalf of the BNN Committee (2016-2020):

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.