

**The International Society for Folk Narrative Research (ISFNR),
Interim Conference
Shillong – Meghalaya, India
22nd – 25th February, 2011.**

The International Society for Folk Narrative Research (ISFNR), Interim Conference was held at Shillong, Meghalaya, from 22nd – 25th February, 2011. The Department of Cultural and Creative Studies, North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong was awarded as the host of the Interim Conference through a decision of the General Body of the ISFNR decided by vote on 27th June 2009 in Athens, Greece after Professor. Desmond L Kharmawphlang of NEHU made his bid through a presentation.

The sub-themes of the conference included but were not limited to:

1. Ethnicity and Cultural Identity
2. Identity and Belonging in a Transnational Setting
3. Identity in the History of Folkloristics
4. Places and Borders
5. Belief Narratives and Social Realities
6. Revisiting Colonial Constructs of Folklore
7. The Making and Mapping of Urban Folklore
8. North-East India and South-East Asia: Inter-Cultural Dialogue
9. Critiquing the Paradigm of “Folklorists’ Paradise”: A North-East India Perspective.

In this Interim conference, there were participants from different parts of the world representing Europe, North America, Latin America and Asia. Papers presented in the Interim Conference covered narratives on identity of individual and folk communities.

This conference also hosted a Special Symposium on the sub-theme No. 5 entitled ‘Belief Narratives and Social Realities’. The symposium discussed traditions of belief narratives in their social, ethnic and generic variations. Altogether, there were 28 stimulating papers which touched upon many issues such myth and reality, folk narratives and socio-cultural beliefs, demonic and magic legends as well as urban legends and other aspects of belief narratives.

The title of the papers and paper reader that were presented in the symposium is given below:

1. Trickster Narratives and Social Realities in East Africa by Remmy Barasa Shiundu
2. Jusong: A hill that foretell the Royal deaths by G. Badaiasuklang L. Nonglait
3. Belief Narratives and Social Realities by Mebanda Blah
4. The invisible neighbours: A quest into the world of ghosts through oral narratives by Kailash Pattanaik
5. *Teer*, dreams and their impact on family and society as reflected in the song ‘*La Shet u 57*’ by Roplynedo Lyngdoh.

6. Memorates, the authority of tradition and vernacular theories of belief by Ülo Valk.
7. Telling identities: Images of society and the individual in the narrative of The Old Man and His Daughter-in-Law by Anil Kumar Boro.
8. Some new insights on the oral narratives about U Sajar Nangli by Betty Laloo.
9. Mormon belief narratives and the humour of Mormon reality by Jacqueline S. Thursby.
10. Discourse on subjugation and marginalization in the tribal narratives of Wayanad, Kerala by B. Francis Kulirani.
11. Ralngam: Narrative of the nuclear clan of the Koren community by T. Neishoning Koireng.
12. Werewolf narratives in Estonian folk tradition by Merili Metsvahi.
13. Saints legends in discursive and cultural context by Kishore Bhattacharjee.
14. Belief and traditional life of a Khasi are 'Two faces of the same coin' by L.M.K. Lynrah.
15. "The Lady ghost in internet: Fiction and believes in virtual' folk narrative" by Maria Inés Palleiro.
16. Performance narrative of Deodhani: A ritual performance of Assam N. E. India by Purabi Baruah and P. Jhingan.
17. Mizo women in myth by Vanlalveni Pachuau.
18. Baba Jitto and Bua Kodi: Transition from peasant to peasant deities by Mrinalini Atrey.
19. Virgin Mary and Seto Identity: On the role of virgin Mary in Seto women's Belief Narratives by Andreas Kalkun.
20. Belief tales about "Flying Churches" in Serbian folk tradition by Zoja Karanović.
21. Believing Local History by Ulf Palmenfelt.
22. Folkloric perspective in Indira Goswami's novels by Pritima Sharma.
23. Individual, communities and social realities by Giribal GM.
24. Reading of myth as telling communal identity by Mridusmita Mahanta.
25. From Moon to the great Wain by Andreas Kuperjanov.
26. Serva Ell-how folk stories reflect the actions of a famous folk healer by Mare Koiva.
27. Telling identities in transition: Self, community and the cultural poetics in Chinua Achebe's folk narratives by Sarat Kumar Jena.
28. Folklore as cultural narrative: A semiotic study of selected Naga folklore by Nonlih Chohwanglim.

In the course of the symposium, the BNN (Belief Narrative Network) committee meeting was held on Thursday, February 24, 2011 in the Conference Room of the New Guest House, North-Eastern Hill University from 9.15 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. The conveners of the BNN committee meeting were Ülo Valk, Mare Koiva and Desmond L. Kharmawphlang.