

BNN Newsletter III 2017.

Dear members of Belief Narrative Network,

Here comes the third issue of monthly newsletter of the network. Thank you all (Mirjam, Willem, Louise!), who sent their information! Special thanks to Willem de Blécourt giving the information about the up-to-date topic in belief narrative research. This issue is informative in different sense – that calls the members not to restrict the contributions in any limits, but may everybody feel free to reflect on and share what seems interesting in any scholarly sense. Hope you enjoy the reading and let's keep in touch!

Best wishes,

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On behalf of the BNN Committee:

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

1. Announcements from the BNN

2. Current publications published by the BNN members

3. Other relevant publications

4. Calls for papers

4.1. Call for papers for joint conference of ISFNR Committee on Charms, Charmers and Charming, and the ISFNR Belief Narrative Network „**Verbal Charms and Narrative Genres**“, which will be held on **8–10 December 2017, in Hungarian Academy of Sciences, in Research Centre for the Humanities 1097 Budapest, Tóth Kálmán u.4.** 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 application form, including an abstract of 10-15 sentences and send in your submission by no later than **May 1st 2017.**

The organizers welcome proposals in the following topics:

- Verbal charms in the context of narrative genres
- Verbal charms and belief narratives – comparative aspect
- Belief narratives about charmers and charming
- A panel dedicated to the „Dreifrauensegen“ and legends about three women (fate women, three healing women etc.)
- 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.)

See the full CFP, application form and additional information from attachment.

(Contribution by Mirjam Mencej)

4.2. Call for papers for the 11th Annual Conference of the International Association for Comparative Mythology “**Creatures of the Night: Mythologies of the Otherworld and Its Denizens**”, which will be held on **June 8-10, 2017 at University of Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom.** **NB! THE DEADLINE OF ABSTRACTS HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO APRIL 5, 2017.** Please send, if you intend to participate, a short (300 words or less) abstract of your talk to this address: iacm.admin@gmail.com

(Contribution by Louise Milne)

5. News on future events and conferences

6. News on past events and conferences

6.1 Storytelling festival in Ljubljana, Slovenia, 13-17 March 2017

The 20th Ljubljana Storytelling Festival took place in Ljubljana between 13 and 17 March, 2017. The festival is an annual event, offering a wide selection of events for children and adults alike: evenings of storytelling performed by well-known Slovenian storytellers, an evening of foreign residents in Slovenia telling stories from their home countries, storytelling for children, and other events based on or inspired by various folk traditions. One of the highlights is an evening with a renowned guest storyteller from abroad; so far the festival has hosted guests from a number of European countries. In addition, the accompanying programme takes place

at the Ethnographic Museum, The Faculty of Arts, Art cinema and many other venues around Slovenia, such as libraries and cultural institutions, for instance. For more information on the history and concept of the festival see:

<http://www.pravljicedanes.si/index.php/stories-today-festival/>

(Contribution by Mirjam Mencej)

7. Useful links to websites

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

FAKE NEWS

Peter Burger who is currently involved in a project about fake news at the University of Leiden was so kind to scabble down a few notes, which I have rather freely translated into English.

Burger himself is known for his work on contemporary legends, see:

<https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/staffmembers/peter-burger#tab-1>

website (in Dutch): <http://www.gestolengrootmoeder.nl/wordpress/>

He alerts us to the work of Stephen Winick:

<https://blogs.loc.gov/folklife/2017/02/fake-news-folk-news-and-the-fate-of-far-away-moses/>

And: <http://culturedigitally.org/2017/01/putting-the-folklore-in-fake-news/>

Enthusiasm about fake news is apparently stronger among members of the International Society for Contemporary Legend Research than among the followers of the Belief Narrative Network.

Cf. the reactions Winick to Winick's call for papers for a panel on the AFS conference:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ISCLR/permalink/1558502147512466/>

Burger also points to research by political scientists. The following paper is of interest because its authors actually tried to calculate the influence of fake news on the US elections:

<https://web.stanford.edu/~gentzkow/research/fakenews.pdf>

At the moment the project in Leiden is primarily aimed at a practical impact, but it may turn into proper academic research at some future date. Two of Burger's contributions (also in Dutch):

<http://nieuwscheckers.nl/nieuwscheckers/hoax-asielzoekers-mishandelen-puppy/>

<http://nieuwscheckers.nl/nieuwscheckers/hoax-dementor-boven-winkelcentrum-in-zambia/>

So far there is no English version of the Leiden project, but Burger points to an English description of how to factcheck Facebook in general:

[https://qz.com/936503/facebooks-new-method-of-fighting-fake-news-is-making-it-hard-for-people-to-post-a-false-story-about-irish-slaves/?utm_source=Daily+Lab+email+list&utm_campaign=30e0ef08d4-](https://qz.com/936503/facebooks-new-method-of-fighting-fake-news-is-making-it-hard-for-people-to-post-a-false-story-about-irish-slaves/?utm_source=Daily+Lab+email+list&utm_campaign=30e0ef08d4-dailylabemail3&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d68264fd5e-30e0ef08d4-391320009)

[dailylabemail3&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d68264fd5e-30e0ef08d4-391320009](https://qz.com/936503/facebooks-new-method-of-fighting-fake-news-is-making-it-hard-for-people-to-post-a-false-story-about-irish-slaves/?utm_source=Daily+Lab+email+list&utm_campaign=30e0ef08d4-dailylabemail3&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d68264fd5e-30e0ef08d4-391320009)

[dailylabemail3&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d68264fd5e-30e0ef08d4-391320009](https://qz.com/936503/facebooks-new-method-of-fighting-fake-news-is-making-it-hard-for-people-to-post-a-false-story-about-irish-slaves/?utm_source=Daily+Lab+email+list&utm_campaign=30e0ef08d4-dailylabemail3&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d68264fd5e-30e0ef08d4-391320009)

(Contribution by Willem de Blécourt)

9. Other useful or interesting information related to belief narratives

10. Study programmes

11. Notes and Queries

11.1 Questions

11.2. Replies