

Annual report on BNN activities between Oct 2022– Sept 2023

Judit Kis-Halas

chairperson of the BNN Executive Committee



1. Membership

Between October 2022 and September 2023 four new members joined the BNN:

Sarah Iles Johnson (distinguished professor of religion, Ohio State University, USA)

Lili Benedikta Nádasy (MSc student in Computer and Cognitive Neuroscience at Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest, Hungary)

Diana Ursoi (PhD student, Doctoral School „History. Civilization. Culture”, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj Napoca, Romania)

Pryanka Bharti (PhD student, Centre of German Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India)

Currently BNN has 146 members.

2. Activities

2.1. Online lectures

We have kept organizing the lecture series, which has become a tradition by now. This season proved that the original intention of the BNN Committee to endorse both well-known scholars and promising young researchers was successful. The average number of participants at each lecture is around 20, but some occasions attracted even a higher number of audience.

Between 2022 October and 2023 June, 8 online lectures have been delivered by international scholars representing India-Estonia (1), Ireland (1), Serbia-Slovenia (1), Hungary-Spain (1), USA (1), Iceland (1), Estonia (1), and Georgia (1).

2022		
Sept	Bela Mosia	Conspiracy Theories and Georgian Reality (from ancient past to the modern life)
Nov	Dagrún Ósk Jónsdóttir	Gender-based Violence in Icelandic Folk Legends
Dec	Jenny Butler	Fairy Belief Narratives, Indigenous Knowledge and Connection to Place
2023		
Jan	Margaret Lyngdoh	Elemental Tradition Tropes in the Folklore of Water Among the Khasis of Northeast India

Feb	Kristina Radomirović Maček	Apocalyptic visions in contemporary conspiracy theories on Covid-19
March	Daisy Ahlstone	Manufacturing Cryptids
April	Andrea Kitta	God Gave Me an Immune System and that's Good Enough for Me! Religious Belief, Anti-masking, and Anti-Vaccination Sentiments During COVID-19
June	Ildikó Csepregi	"Non-medical disease causation: punishment and sin in Greek and early Christian illness narratives"

The presentations provided an exciting overview on recent trends and areas of belief narrative research. Although the pandemic was over, and people were not restricted to online socialization, the online lecture series remained a busy hub for sharing new research achievements and engaging in academic debates in belief narrative research, also an excellent opportunity for networking. For more information on the lectures, please check the website:

<https://isfnr.org/online-lectures/previous-lectures/>

2.2. Conferences, symposia

The BNN did not organize a symposium this year.