

Patterns in the Locations of Belief Narratives

by Dr. John Björkman (Turku, Finland)

The 35th online lecture of the ISFNR Belief Narrative Network Online Lecture Series



Friday, 6th June, at 5 p.m. CEST



In his doctoral dissertation, John Björkman has located and studied altogether 120 natural sites mentioned in Finnish and Finland-Swedish belief narratives as locations of supernatural events or beings, or locations connected to ritualized behaviour and prohibitions. In his lecture, Björkman will present how he has been able (and sometimes unable) to trace the locations mentioned in historic narratives as well as what can be revealed through field visits to the sites and analysing their locations on historic village maps.

John Björkman (PhD) is a postdoctoral researcher in folkloristics at the University of Turku (Finland). His doctoral dissertation “*Healing Springs and Haunted Woods. Sacred sites of folk belief in Southwest Finnish village societies*” was defended in November 2024 at Åbo Akademi University (Finland), and it is available in the form of an e-publication here: https://www.doria.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/190033/bjorkman_john.pdf?sequence=1&isAlloved=y

Topic: 35th BNN Online Lecture by John Björkman

Time: Friday, June 6, 2025, 17:00 Bratislava, Budapest, Zagreb, Central European Summer Time (CEST)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://ut-ee.zoom.us/j/93135157306?pwd=rilQQLiSQNggQxiWlujPn8WhWiDZs8.1>

Meeting ID: 931 3515 7306

Passcode: BNN



A rock on Kuuvanvuori hill, known in local belief tradition as a playground of forest spirits, located in Nousiainen, Southwest Finland. (Author's photo.)