

## **CANONICAL AND NON-CANONICAL IN CHARMING TEXTS AND PRACTICES**

**The 2022 conference of the ISFNR Committee on Charms, Charmers and Charming  
6–9 September 2022, Riga (Latvia)**

### **Theme**

At various times and in various societies, there have existed, alongside the texts and practices based on the canons of science and religion, other unofficial but widely practiced traditions.

The

traditions of charms and folk medicine feature traits of both 'high' cultures and peripheral otherness,

in practices that have interacted over time. Historically, their co-existence has often been peaceful and

complementary, though at times violent as well. Traditions practiced by the masses could be banned

and persecuted. This clash was based on the values of different cultures, religions, and ethnic groups,

as well as economic considerations. At the same time, the antagonism between these values enriched

tradition, whether that be the clashes between official religion and folk religion, permitted and forbidden medicine, correct and deluded texts and practices, or so on. Priests, monks and educated

doctors have fought for the right to heal the people; church canons, prayers, and the cult of saints

have influenced folk traditions; the development of conventional medicine has changed local traditions, while local conditions have determined the regional peculiarities of official religion and

conventional medicine.

This conference aims to focus on canonical and non-canonical texts and practices, their coexistence

and interaction over time. The conference also invites discussion on terminology and methodology of the discipline, analogue and digital resources, and future perspectives.

Applicants are encouraged to focus on the following topics:

- canonical and non-canonical healing practices and texts;
- learned and lay medical texts and traditions;
- monastic and folk healing traditions;
- the transmission and dissemination of healing texts and practices;
- the dichotomy of religion and magic;
- the punishment of charmers over time;
- wrongdoing and correct practices;
- national and regional peculiarities of charms and charming;
- the framing of folk religion and vernacular;
- digital and audio-visual resources involving charm texts and tradition.

**Abstract submission:**

Please submit the title of your paper, an abstract of 250 – 350 words, together with your name, academic affiliation, and e-mail to <https://ej.uz/ChChCh2022>  
The papers must be written and presented in English.

**Deadline for proposals – 31st January 2022.****Organisers:**

Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art of the University of Latvia

<http://lulfmi.lv/en/news>

Archives of Latvian Folklore

<http://en.lfk.lv/news>

ISFNR Committee on Charms, Charmers and Charming

<http://www.isfnr.org/committee-on-charms-charmers-and-charming.php>

**Conference venue:**

The conference will take place in Riga as an in-person event and a Covid-19 vaccination certificate for

participants will be required.

National Library of Latvia

Mūkusalas street 3, Rīga

<https://www.lnb.lv/en>

**Programme:**

6 September: Conference opening at the National Library of Latvia.

7 – 8 September: Paper presentations at the National Library of Latvia. Presentations should not

exceed 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes of discussion.

8 September: Excursion and dinner in the historic centre of Riga.

9 September: Excursion to the Latvian Ethnographic Open-Air Museum (<http://brivdabasmuzejs.lv/en/>).

**Fees:**

Conference fee: 90 Euros (this includes the conference fee and dinner)

Excursion: 20 Euros

**Contact:** [aigars.lielbardis@lulfmi.lv](mailto:aigars.lielbardis@lulfmi.lv)

The organisers cannot provide any transportation, accommodation, nor preferential registration fees.