The Conference of the ISFNR Belief Narrative Network
“Nature Spirits: Continuity and Change”

October 1-4, 2014
At the Conference Hall of the Shota Meskhia State Teaching University of Zugdidi

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 01.10.2014

9:00 – 9:30 Registration (At the entrance hall of the University)

9:30 – 10:00 Welcome Speeches

10:00 – 11:00 Plenary Lecture 1

Kaarina Koski (University of Turku) Nature Spirits in Folklore Studies: An Overview

11:00 – 12:30 Session 1. Chair Ketevan Sikharulidze

Evy Johanne Håland (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens) From Ancient Greek Water Sources to the Modern Life-giving Spring

Ketevan Sikharulidze (Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University) Caucasian Beliefs on Family Patron Saints

Lina Bugiene (Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore) Water Spirits in Lithuanian Folk Belief: Do They Exist or not?

Rusudan Cholokashvili (Shota Rustaveli Institute of Georgian Literature) Evil Spirits in Georgian Fairy Epos

Louise Milne (Edinburgh College of Art, University of Edinburgh)

12:30 – 13:00 Coffee/Tea

13:00 – 16:30 Session 2. Chair: Kaarina Koski

Éva Pócs (University of Pécs) Nature Spirits and Christianity – Some East-Central European Examples

Olga Khristoforova (Russian State University for the Humanities) Between Nature Spirit and Christian Demon: Ikota in the Russian North

Tünde Komáromi (University of Pécs) The Pricolici/Prikulics – Folk Concept and Social Phenomena

Eka Chkheidze (Shota Rustaveli Institute of Georgian Literature) Images of Evil Spirits in Georgian Folklore

Sandis Laime (University of Latvia) Raganas in Latvian Folk Belief: Witches, Nature Spirits or Restless Souls?

Nino Sozashvili (Telavi State University) Reminiscences of Breaking Idols in Georgian Folklore

Mary Khukhunaishvili-Tsiklauri (Member of the British Folklore Society) Mythological Roots of the Georgian Traditional Lullaby

Nestan Sulava (Samtskhe-Javakheti Teaching University) Lion Symbol in Folk Tradition and Shota Rustaveli’s “The Knight in the Tiger’s Skin”
16:30 – 17:45 Lunch

17:15 – 17:45 The meeting of the committee of the ISFNR Belief Narrative Network (Auditorium 2)

17:45 – 20:15 Session 3. Chair Mirjam Mencej

Madis Arukask (University of Tartu) Forest Spirit as Partner and Antagonist in the Finnic/North Russian Beliefs

Zoltan Nagy (University of Pécs) The Forest: a Religious and Narrative Symbol of a Disintegrating Society

Jurate Slekonyte (Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore) Hare in Folklore: from Wood Spirit to Child-lore Character

Veronica Muskheli (University of Washington) Contrasting Forms and Functions of Forest in Northern Russian Wonder Tales and Belief Narratives

Alexander Panchenko (Institute of Russian Literature) Ancestors in the Wilderness: the “Forest Cover” and Commemoration Rituals in the Russian North

Nikita Petrov (Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration / STEPS) Visualization Mechanisms of “Petty Demons” in Mythological Tales

Nestan Ratiani (Ilia State University) In the Pursuit of Several Details – Restoring the Biography of Poseidon

20:15 Welcome Dinner for the participants

Thursday 02.10.2014

9:00–10:00 Plenary Lecture 2

Bela Mosia (Shota Meskhia State Teaching University of Zugdidi): Nature Spirits in Georgian Folklore: History of Research and Overview

10:00 – 12:30 Session 4. Chair: Ulo Valk

Julian Goodare (University of Edinburgh) Seely Wights, Fairies and Nature Spirits in Scotland

Pasi Enges (University of Turku) Led Astray by Non-human Powers, Personal and Impersonal Supernatural Misleaders in Finnish Folklore

Mirjam Mencej (University of Ljubljana) Circular Movement of Nature Spirits

Marine Turashvili (TSU, Shota Rustaveli Institute of Georgian Literature) “Chinka” (Imp) in Georgians’ Beliefs’ and Contemporary Life

Irma Kvelashvili (Shota Rustaveli Institute of Georgian Literature) The Transformation of the Evil Face-symol in Georgian Folk Legends

Sirin Yilmaz Ozkarsli (Hacettepe University) The Narratives Gathered around the Heart and Fire Cults in Turkish Culture

Alevtina Solovyeva (Russian State University for the Humanities) Nature Spirits in Modern Urban Mongolian and Chinese Cultures

12:30 – 13:00 Coffee/Tea

13:30 – 15:30 Session 5. Chair: Julian Goodare
Dmitriy Antonov (Center for Humanities of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration) Besy in late-Medieval Russian Culture: Between Demons and Nature Spirits

Stamatis Zochios (Université de Grenoble) The forests of fear and prosperity: Silvanus in medieval literature and folk traditions

Anette Kehnel (University of Mannheim) Nature spirits as “Weltentraeger” – Examples from Medieval Manuscripts

Sean Martin (Edinburg, UK) The Walking Dead: Supernatural Encounters in Medieval England

Nino Balanchivadze (Shota Rustaveli Institute of Georgian Literature) Triad of Deity of Ground

Ülo Valk (University of Tartu) Demonization and Nationalization of Nature Spirits in Estonian Traditions

16:30 – 17:45 Lunch

17:45 – 18:30 The meeting of the BNN Network (Auditorium 2)
18:30 – 20:30 Session 6. Chair: Eva Pocs

Lia Tsereteli (Shota Rustaveli Institute of Georgian Literature) Cedar Tree – “A Cedar of Lebanon”

JoAnn Conrad (California State University) Sites of Wonder, Sites of Horror

Leon Pirtskhalava (Shota Rustaveli Institute of Georgian Literature) For the Global Meaning of Amiran’s Myth in Georgia

Hee Sook Lee-Niinioja (Independent Scholar) Visual Narratives of the Midsummer Night in the 19th Century’s Scandinavian Art

Eka Vardoshvili (Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University) Folklore Basis in the Artistic Work of Aleksandre Kazbegi

Nana Abuladze (Zugdidi Ethnographical Museum) The Phenomena of “Ochokochi” in Megrelian Folklore

20:30 – 21:30 Georgian Folk Dance and Song Evening

21:30 – 22:15 Transfer from The University to the Hotel Anaklia

Friday 03.10.2014 Excursion

Saturday 04.10.2014

9:00 – 12:30 Session 7. Chair Lina Bugiene

Ergo-Hart Västrik (University of Tartu) Belief Narratives about Earth Spirits in Votian Folklore: How to Conceptualize Polymorphic Entities of Folk Religion?

Khutuna Gogia (Shota Meskhia State Teaching University of Zugdidi) The Oldest Forms of Worshiping the Mother God (the Goddess) in Georgia

Iuliia Buyskykh (National Academy of sciences of Ukraine) ‘Genius Loci’ of ‘Bad’ Places in Ukrainian Contemporary Rural Tradition

Dmitrii Doronin (Miklukho-Maklai Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the Russian) When the Spirits Are Busy with Politics: Traditional Altai Mythology in a Modern Context
Eter Intskirveli (Shota Rustaveli Institute of Georgian Literature) On the Folkloric Transformation of the Biblical Episode of Genesis

Dilip Kalita (Anundoram Borooah Institute of Language) Spirit Possession in Assam

Elene Gogiashvili (Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University) Ambivalence of Supernatural Beings in the Georgian Folktales

12:30 – 13:00 Coffee/Tea

13:00 – 15:30 Session 8. Chair: Alexander Panchenko

Luiza Khachapuridze (Shota Meskhia State Teaching University of Zugdidi) Dali and Tkashmapa and Related Beliefs According to Today’s Materials Recorded in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti

Suzana Marjanic (Institute of Ethnology and Folklore) Nature Spirits and Anti-Fashion Design: A Photo-Performance Look into the Interworld by Tajči Čekada

Gábor Vargyas (Hungarian Academy of Sciences) Nature-related Spirits of the Bru (Central Vietnamese Highlands)

Monika Kropej (Institute of Slovenian Ethnology) The Allomotifs Connected with Supernatural Female Beings Resideling in Nature


15:30 – 17:00 Lunch

17:00 – 20:00 Session 9. Chair: Bela Mosia

Lali Urdulashvili (Tbilisi Teaching University) Providence and Its Followers in Georgian Folklore and Everyday Life

Ozkul Conaboglu (Hacettepe University) Continuities and Changes in the Tradition of the Owner of the Place Spirits in the Turkish Culture

Zeinab Saria (Shota Meskhia State Teaching University of Zugdidi) Following the Steps of an Interesting Hypotheses

Jüri Metssalu (Estonian Literary Museum) Beings of Estonian Natural Sacred Sites

Ketevan Dekanozishvili (Akaki Tsereteli State University) Fictional Model of Myth Reconstruction in Nodar Dumbadze’s Short Story “Imps”

Andrey Moroz (Russian State University for the Humanities) The Dobrokhozhie (Dobrokhoty) in the Eastern Slavic Mythological System

Alina Bagishvili (Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University) One of the Arabic Lexemes in the Megrelian Folklore

20:00 Closing Remarks

Conference Dinner