

Belief Narratives International Symposium

Organizer: Manipur University in collaboration with the International Society for Folk Narrative Research (ISFNR)

Theme: Local Legends in the Global Context

The Manipur University in collaboration with the International Society for Folk Narrative Research (ISFNR) is going to organize the Belief Narratives International Symposium at Manipur University, Imphal, Manipur from 6-8 February 2012.

The International Society for Folk Narrative Research is an international academic body whose objective is “to develop scholarly work in the field of folk narrative research and to stimulate contacts and the exchange of views among its members”. The research interest of ISFNR members around the world includes a number of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, “covering all aspects of narrative as representing the pivotal category of human communication”.

The Symposium theme: **Local Legends in the Global Context**

Sub-themes:

- I. Belief Narratives and Society
- II. The Supernatural and the Rhetoric of Truth
- III. Demonology as a Doctrine and a Belief System
- IV. Urban Legends
- V. Belief Narratives and Cultural Validity
- VI. Genres of Belief: Emic and Etic Categories
- VII. Local Legends and Contemporary World
- VIII. Myths, Legends, and Religion

The Rationale of the Symposium

The purport as well as the academic viability of such a symposium is to discuss the shared views and folk narratives about a realm outside of human intelligence ranging from supernatural beings to super-civilizations in cognate and non-cognate cultures and societies from the ancient times to the present post-industrial, globalized world. Scientific rationalism and logical thinking have not been able to dismiss the presence of a shadowy world within/outside the visible world baffling the enlightenment thinking and scientific rationalism. Beliefs in the supernatural are considered the oldest archetypal collective human consciousness, primarily the basis of animistic faith. But they are also expressed in other religions. Interestingly, in many societies, literate or otherwise they are still held true and transmitted in different channels of communication, including oral narrating and mass media. International folkloristics has designated narratives about encountering the supernatural in everyday life as legends and distinguished them from myths that talk about grand events in distant past and about fundamental religious truths. Although modern/Western education has long abandoned the existence of supernatural phenomena as gross irrationalism and

superstition, such belief tales and occult lore are widely spread and tend to draw the attention of academics - folklorists, literary and social science scholars the world over for serious and critical discussions and debates at the local, regional, national and international levels. The Imphal Symposium on Belief Narratives will basically address the social, cultural and religious aspects of such all-pervading tales of ghosts, spirits, mysterious encounters, witchcraft, demons, angels and super civilizations towards framing the dynamics of academic approaches through involved dialogues and deliberations in cross-cultural and global context wherein the peculiarities of local legends of various places will be subsumed.

Registration: [Deadline: 30 October 2011]

Please submit your registration by e-mail:

1. mm_meitei@yahoo.co.in
2. sanasoram@yahoo.in

or

By mail:

Prof M. Mani Meitei
Organizing Secretary
Belief Narratives International Symposium
Head: Department of English
Manipur University, canchipur, Imphal – 795003 (India)

Submission of Abstracts:

[Deadline: 10 November 2011]

Maximum word limit: 300 words

Format: RTF, Rich Text Format

Typed: Times New Roman, 12 point.

Space: single [double space between title/subtopic/author/address and the body of the abstract]

Paper presentation time: 20 minutes plus 10 minutes of discussion.

Participation cost:

Regular Registration for foreign participants: \$150 [can be paid in Imphal on arrival]

Accompanying person [foreign: limited, & prior information needed]: \$100

Indian participant: Rs.1200/- [Deadline: 15 November 2011]

Late Registration [Indian participant]: Rs.1500/-

Money transmission & remittance: Account No.31877960360 [in favour of Organizing Secretary: Belief narratives Symposium]; SBI, Manipur University Campus; Branch Code: 5320; e-mail: sbimu@sancharnet.in; DD in favour of the Organizing Secretary: BNI Symposium, Imphal accepted.

Registration fee covers food and Hotel/Guest house accommodation [from the evening of 5-8 February 2012]. There will be a free trip to the Loktak lake in Moirang, the original place of the Romantic cycle and Khamba-Thoibi folk epic.

Neither the organizers of the BNIS nor the host University will be able to provide you with travel expenses. Therefore, we recommend that you apply for the same to your institution, university or any other agencies.

Imphal is the capital city of Manipur, a small state in the Northeast India sharing a common border with Myanmar. Surrounded by lush green and blue mountain ranges. Manipur is the land of rooted traditional arts, art forms and rich cultural heritage. It is the hub of trade and commerce between India and South East Asian countries through the border town of Moreh. It is amply connected with other states of India by air and by road.

International Advisory Committee Members of the Symposium

Prof Ulrich Marzolph (Germany), President, ISFNR

Prof Ulo Valk (Estonia), Vice President, ISFNR

Prof Willem de Blecourt (UK), Chair, BNN

Further information: The second circular including further information will be issued in Dec. 2011.

Response Form
Local Legends in a Global Context
6-8 February 2012

Please send this form back to:

Fax: 0385-2435197/2435849

e-mail: mm_meitei@yahoo.co.in; sanasoram@yahoo.in

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|---------------------|--|
| Name | |
| Title | |
| Institution | |
| Address | |
| City, State, Zip | |
| Telephone | |
| Fax | |
| E-mail | |

I would like to register to attend the BNIS: -----

Signature of the participant