

**INSTITUTE OF RUSSIAN LITERATURE,  
RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
Research Center for Literary Theory and Interdisciplinary Studies**

**EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY AT ST. PETERSBURG  
Center for Anthropology of Religion**

## **INTERPRETING BELIEF NARRATIVE**

*ISFNR BNN CONFERENCE 2010*

MAY 17–19, 2010

ST. PETERSBURG  
RUSSIA

**May 17, MONDAY**

*Institute of Russian Literature, RAS  
Naberezhnaya Makarova, 4  
Great conference hall*

**9.00 Registration and coffee**

**10.00 Opening of the conference**

**10.30–11.20 Session I: Classifying Beliefs**

**Mehri Bagheri (Iran)** A RECURRING THEME IN IRANIAN EPIC TRADITION  
**Peter Knecht (Japan)** MU-LIEN'S JAPANESE TRANSFORMATION

**Coffee break**

**11.35–12.25 Session I: Classifying Beliefs (continued)**

**Merili Metsvahi (Estonia)** ESTONIAN WEREWOLF LEGENDS IN THE CONTEXT OF  
EUROPEAN WEREWOLF TRADITION

**Tiina Vähi (Estonia / Finland)** THE WEREWOLF IN ESTONIAN FOLKLORE IN LIGHT  
OF ARCHAIC LAW AND MORALITY

**12.30–14.30 Lunch**

**14.30–16.45 Session II: Concepts of Belief**

**Alexander Lvov (Russia)** THE CONCEPT OF MIRACLE: POPULAR PRACTICE AND  
SCHOLARLY IMAGINATION

**Ulf Palmfelt (Sweden)** BELIEF ELEMENTS IN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE  
NARRATIVES

**Irma-Riitta Järvinen (Finland)** HOW DO DREAM NARRATIVES AND BELIEF LEGENDS RELATE?

**Coffee break**

**17.00–17.50 Session II: Concepts of Belief (continued)**

**Ülo Valk (Estonia)** TEMPLE LEGENDS AND THEIR DESTINATIONS: ASPECTS OF PLACE-LORE IN ASSAM

**Stanislav Rosovetskiy (Ukraine)** PARTICULAR FORMS OF EAST-SLAVIC CHRISTIAN LEGENDS

**Coffee break**

**18.00–19.00 Meeting of the ISFNR Belief Narrative Network**

**19.45 Dinner**

**May 18, TUESDAY**

*Institute of Russian Literature, RAS  
Naberezhnaya Makarova, 4  
Great conference hall*

**9.00 Coffee**

**9.30–10.45 Session III: Figures of Belief**

**Alexander Panchenko (Russia)** *LA VIOLENCE ET LE SACRÉ* IN A RUSSIAN VILLAGE: THE AQUEDA (GENESIS 22), AT 2401, AND THE LEGEND OF ST. IOANN AND IAKOV OF MENIUSHA

**Margaret Lyngdoh (India)** “VENGEANCE IS MINE”: A STUDY OF THE DEMON-DEITY OF THE KHASIS

**Zochios Stamatios (France)** THE HAG, THE CORN SPIRIT AND THE NIGHTMARE: A COMPLICATED AFFINITY

**Coffee break**

**11.00–12.45 Session III: Figures of Belief (continued)**

**Zoja Karanovic (Serbia)** PRINCE MARKO AS A CULTURAL HERO AND A DEMIURGE IN BELIEF TALES ON AGRICULTURAL TOPICS

**Sergey Shtyrkov (Russia)** DIFFERENT FACES OF A “FOLK SAINT”: THE CASE OF KSENIA THE BLESSED OF ST PETERSBURG

**Kailash Pattanaik, Giribala Mohanty (India)** THE INVISIBLE NEIGHBORS: A QUEST INTO THE WORLD OF GHOSTS THROUGH ORAL NARRATIVES

**12.45–14.30 Lunch**

**14.30–16.45 Session IV: Histories of Belief**

**Terry Gunnell (Iceland)** LEGENDS OF MAGICAL SENDINGAR SPIRITS IN ICELAND AND CONCEPTS OF ILLNESS IN EARLIER TIMES

**Mare Kalda (Estonia)** THE TOUCH OF THE SUPERNATURAL. ON TWO SIMILAR EXPERIENCES FROM DIFFERENT TIMES

**Adriana Nogueira (Portugal)** THE DEADLY SEWING NEEDLES: FROM BELIEFS TO BELIEF NARRATIVES

**Coffee break**

**17.00–17.50 Session V: Mediating Beliefs**

**Kristel Kivari (Estonia)** SICKENING AND HEALING THROUGH THE CONTACT WITH NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

**Anders Gustavsson (Norway)** EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH AND NARRATIVES ABOUT DECEASED PERSONS AND PETS AS EXPRESSED ON THE INTERNET

**19.00 Dinner**

**May 19, WEDNESDAY**

*European University at St. Petersburg  
Gagarinskaia, 3  
White conference hall*

**9.30 Coffee**

**10.00–11.45 Session VI: Practice and Representation of Belief**

**Isidore Okpewho (USA)** LEGEND AND BELIEF

**Astrid Tuisk (Estonia)** “A KIRGHIZ WILL COME...”: SIBERIAN ESTONIANS ABOUT NEIGHBORING TURKIC PEOPLES

**Tünde Komaromi (Romania)** WITCHCRAFT AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN POST SOCIALIST ROMANIA

**Coffee break**

**12.00–12.50 Session VI: Practice and Representation of Belief (continued)**

**Éva Pócs (Hungary)** “TÁLTOS” BELIEFS AND NARRATIVES – HUNGARY’S PAGAN HERITAGE?

**Ekaterina Melnikova (Russia)** FOR THE SAKE OF “BELIEF”: CHOOSING THE “CHURCH” IN THE 1990S

**13.00–14.30 Lunch**

**14.30–15.20 Session VI: Practice and Representation of Belief (continued)**

**Svetoslava Toncheva (Bulgaria)** SPIRITUALITY IN ACTION – SOCIAL AND EVERYDAY PRACTICES IN TWO RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES (THE TEACHINGS OF PETAR DUNOV AND ZOR ALEF)

**Jeanne Kormina (Russia) PRODUCTION OF SANCTITY IN CONTEMPORARY HAGIOGRAPHY**

**Coffee break**

**15.45–17.25 Session VII: Belief, Disbelief and Competing Narratives**

**Eda Kalmre (Estonia) ON THE ROLE OF HUMOUR IN THE DYNAMICS OF BELIEF LEGENDS**

**Georgiy Levinton (Russia) BELIEF / DISBELIEF AND THE MODE OF A NARRATIVE (ON NON-INDICATIVE MOTIVES)**

**Lina Bugiene (Lithuania) CATEGORIES OF BELIEF AND DISBELIEF IN FOLK NARRATIVES ABOUT CHARMERS IN EASTERN LITHUANIA**

**Ergo-Hart Västriik (Estonia) BELIEF AND DISBELIEF IN NARRATIVES ABOUT SETO PEKO CULT**

**Coffee break**

**17.35–18.30 Closing discussion; presentation of the Center for Anthropology of Religion (European University at St. Petersburg)**

**19.00 Dinner**