

Minutes of the ISFNR Belief Narrative Network meeting held on Feb 24 within the framework of the ISFNR interim conference in Shillong, India, Feb 22-25, 2011

Meeting chair: Ülo Valk

Secretary: Liisa Vesik

Members of the board present:

Ülo Valk, Estonia

Mare Kõiva, Estonia

Maria Ines Palleiro, Argentina

ISFNR members present: S. Sanatombi (India), Mani Meitei (India), E.-H. Västriik (Estonia), P. Siim (Estonia), M. Metsvahi (Estonia), Z. Karanovic (Serbia), J. Pöysä (Finland), J. Handoo (India), U. Marzolph (Germany), S. Sen (India), U. Palmenfelt (Sweden).

The meeting began with a brief overview from Ülo Valk about the nature of the network and an open invitation to all present and interested to join it. The statutes are available at the website <http://www.isfnr.org>

Ülo Valk recounted the minutes of the last network meeting and recent events organized by the network. The network has a new committee member: Alexander Panchenko.

The agenda of the BNN meeting:

1. future activities of the network
2. getting the network better organized: its website
3. a mailing list for network members

1. Future activities of the network

The next ISFNR congress is in 2013 in Vilnius, Lithuania. The network would like to host a symposium in the year 2012, before the next congress. The symposium is expected to be attended by approximately 20-25 scholars. It was uniformly agreed that three days would be the ideal length for the symposium.

An open call for prospective hosts produced two offers:

A. Novi Sad, Serbia, proposed by Zoja Karanovic. Est. time: August-September.

B. India, possibly Manipur, proposed by Jawaharlal Handoo. Est. time: November.

Jawaharlal Handoo made a strong argument that if the ISFNR purports to be an international organization, it must hold its events outside Europe, to harness scholars from the whole world. India with its prolific local network of narrative researchers would be ideal, though attempts should be made to reach out to Africa, China, Japan and other regions.

Zoja Karanovic outlined the scope of current folklore studies in Serbia and answered some questions on visas and practical matters relating to Serbia.

Both proposing parties will take contact with the BNN committee for further detailed information. The committee will inform the BNN members about the upcoming event(s) within one month.

2. The BNN website

The BNN needs a website to get organized and disseminate current information. The question of where to host the website was discussed. It was agreed that since BNN is a subsection of ISFNR, its home page should be on its server.

ISFNR president, Ulrich Marzolph, explained that the ISFNR pays for the hosting of the www.isfnr.org website and the web pages are updated by a manager who uploads and changes the pages as different sub-networks submit information. He promised to inquire into the possibility of giving BNN direct access to managing the content of the BNN website under www.isfnr.org. Alternatively, the network can appoint someone to compile initial material and subsequently send updates for the network home page.

3. Mailing list for BNN members

For better exchange of information and furthering of cooperation among the BNN members, the setting up of a mailing list was proposed.

Ulrich Marzolph confirmed that this is possible to run from the ISFNR server. Since ISFNR members' contact information is public (though only current for two thirds of all members), this is technically very easy to do as soon as the BNN gives a list of its members. The problem will be to get current e-mail addresses for those members who have not kept their information up-to-date.

Feb 24, 2011

NEHU, Shillong, India