

SIEF is an international scholarly organization founded in 1964.

The major purpose of SIEF is to facilitate cooperation among scholars working within European Ethnology, Folklore Studies and adjoining fields.

Spring 2024

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Gate of King's College, University of Aberdeen, Scotland, UK.

EDITORIAL

DEAR SIEF MEMBERS,

This newsletter provides you with information on several upcoming events, including SIEF 2025 in Aberdeen, taking place June 3–6, 2025.

We are delighted to welcome the new working group *Cultural Perspectives on Education and Learning* and announce their first event, the seminar “Mapping the field – Ethnologists, anthropologists and folklorists in education and learning”. Other exciting news is that *Ethnologia Europaea* has moved to the publisher Berghahn and that SIEF is launching its own publication series, the *SIEF Series in Ethnology and Folklore* (Berghahn Books). Please feel invited to respond to the Call for a Series co-editor.

Enjoy reading, Sophie Elpers



University of Aberdeen.

1 LETTER OF THE PRESIDENT

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

As already communicated, the SIEF2025 Congress will regrettably not take place in Bucharest as previously announced. We thank our esteemed Romanian colleagues for their efforts and SIEF hopes to visit Romania in the future. SIEF remains committed to the mission of organizing biennial international congresses in cooperation with local hosts at academic institutions across Europe, from South to North and East to West, while promoting diversity, equity, and inclusivity. For the past months, enquiries have been made, and we are pleased to announce that the Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen, Scotland, is able to host the SIEF2025 Congress, June 3–6, 2025. We send a warm thank you to the Elphinstone Institute and the local partners for their great flexibility and hospitality. A call for panels will be released at the end of the summer, so stay tuned.

SIEF is delighted to be launching the *SIEF Series in Ethnology and Folklore: New Directions in the Study of Everyday Life, Past and Present* with Berghahn Books, starting this year. The



SIEF Book Series is dedicated to presenting cutting-edge research in the fields of European ethnology, folklore studies and related fields by publishing rigorous peer-reviewed monographs and edited collections showcasing a wide range of everyday life practices, cultural traditions, and belief systems from around the world in the past and present. With this exciting new initiative, SIEF’s intent is to support the publishing of research monographs and edited volumes at the highest level alongside with peer-reviewed research articles as we already do in the SIEF journals *Ethnologia Europaea* and *Cultural Analysis*. The launch of the SIEF Book Series thus aligns with

the move of *Ethnologia Europea* to Berghahn and complements the efforts of our sister organization EASA's Book Series and journals at Berghahn. Hande Birkalan-Gedik is the first co-editor of the series, and we are currently seeking a second co-editor. Please [read the call here](#). With *Ethnologia Europaea* joining Berghahn, I think the journal, steered by the joint editors-in-chief, will be in the very best of hands. Sincere thanks to outgoing co-editor Laura Stark and former production manager Magdalena Tellenbach, and welcome to the new co-editor Patrick Laviolette, who will be working with continuing co-editor, Alexandra Schwell. The journal will continue its open access journey (started in 2019) as a part of the [Berghahn Open Anthro – Subscribe to Open \(S2O\)](#) initiative.

Of further happy news is the launching of SIEF's new Working Group on Cultural Perspectives on Education and Learning. This new working group is open for scholars interested in all forms of education and learning, from formal educational institutions (pre-school, school, higher education etc.) to everyday settings and contexts where education and learning may play an integral part (such as museums, organizations etc.). For further information, please have a look at the [website](#) and contact the chairs and secretary of the working group, Maria Zackariasson, Erika Lundell and Nadine Wagener Böck.

Many doctoral and advanced master's students have reacted on the call for our upcoming SIEF Summer School Postscapes Matter, September 23–27, 2024, in Zagreb, Croatia. The local organizer is the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, supported by a range of cultural organizations and scientific institutions located in Zagreb. The organizers propose to think of Zagreb as a diverse postscape ranging from post-industrial capitalism in motion, deindustrialization and ruination of economic lifeworlds, to post-catastrophe life after pandemics and natural disasters, post-neoliberal political citizenship after the 2015 migration crisis of humanity, the post-socialist politics of aesthetics and the post-carbon city government and urban planning for the future.

Much to look forward to, much to appreciate. Take the opportunity to read the recent reports from our SIEF working groups, new issues of *Cultural Analysis* and *Ethnologia Europaea*, and much more. Enjoy!

Yours cordially, Marie Sandberg, President of SIEF

SIEF 2025
ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND

SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 3–6, 2025



**UNIVERSITY
OF ABERDEEN**

ELPHINSTONE INSTITUTE

2 SIEF SERIES IN ETHNOLOGY AND FOLKLORE NEW DIRECTIONS IN THE STUDY OF EVERYDAY LIFE, PAST AND PRESENT & CALL FOR A SERIES CO-EDITOR

SIEF is pleased to be launching the *SIEF Series in Ethnology and Folklore: New Directions in the Study of Everyday Life, Past and Present* with Berghahn Books in 2024.

The *SIEF Book Series* is dedicated to presenting cutting-edge research in the fields of ethnology, folklore studies and related areas by publishing rigorous peer-reviewed monographs and edited collections. It aligns with one of SIEF's flagship journals *Ethnologia Europea's* transition to Berghahn and complements the efforts of our sister organization EASA's Book Series and journals at Berghahn. Hande Birkalan-Gedik (Frankfurt am Main) is the first co-editor of the series.

SIEF is currently seeking a second co-editor to share the following tasks:

1. Procuring and assessing potential book manuscripts, evaluating proposals, selecting appropriate reviewers, and introducing potential book projects to Berghahn.
2. Assisting submitting authors throughout the publication process, such as in submitting their new book proposals or preparing book manuscripts for submission and offering support, feedback, and expertise, especially to those in the early stages of their careers.
3. Acting as a liaison between SIEF and Berghahn and communicating updates to the SIEF-Board regarding the Series.

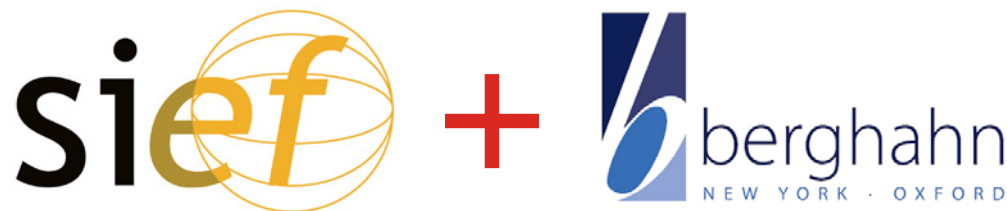
The ideal candidate should possess the following qualifications:

- A demonstrated dedication to the fields of contemporary Folklore Studies and/or European Ethnology, with extensive knowledge of these disciplines across various geographies and time periods.

- The ability to think critically and evaluate scholarly work within these fields and discuss with prospective authors about their ideas for their book projects.
- A solid experience with editorial processes, including manuscript evaluation and acquisition, and the ability to navigate the peer-review system efficiently.
- The ability to devote significant time to identifying field experts for manuscripts under consideration for our series, in collaboration with Berghahn.
- Exceptional communication skills to ensure effective interactions with potential authors, SIEF and Berghahn, and to facilitate cooperation with copy editors and proofreaders.

Considering our mission of enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion, SIEF wishes to encourage everyone with the above qualifications to apply to this post. Interested candidates should submit a one-page CV detailing their recent publications, teaching, and research activities, their involvement with publishing along with a one-page letter of interest regarding the position by **May 31, 2024** to sief@meertens.knaw.nl.

This position is honorary and runs for a period of 3 years with the possibility of prolongation for another 3 years (max 6 years in total). A small editorial board will be appointed to support the Series' editors. Shortlisted candidates are likely to be invited for an online interview by the end of June 2024.



3 NEW WORKING GROUP

WG ON CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES ON EDUCATION AND LEARNING

The SIEF Working Group Cultural Perspectives on Education and Learning is directed at researchers and PhD students within ethnology, folkloristics and anthropology who are active in or interested in research concerning various aspects of education and learning in institutional contexts as well as in everyday life.

It is open for scholars interested in all forms of education and learning, within formal educational institutions (pre-school, school, higher education etc.) as well as everyday settings and contexts where education and learning may play an integral part (museums, archives, organizations etc.), including scholars active within teacher education. Ethnological, folkloristic and anthropological researchers have through the years contributed with valuable research and knowledge related to the context of education and learning, bringing in important perspectives related to issues around e.g. school cultures, learning in museums and archives, children and youth culture, interaction, intersectionality, interculturality, identity, power relations, norms and cultural conceptions etc. to the multidisciplinary educational research context. The working group aims to build a common ground for networking and sharing expertise, research results and knowledge within the field, to further strengthen this research in an international context.

The working group arranges regular activities consisting of meetings/seminars/discussions/workshops with themes related to the working group's focus on cultural perspectives on education and learning, including ethnologists', folklorists' and anthropologists' role in and contribution to teacher education. Activities will mainly be arranged digitally, due to travel/sustainability reasons. In addition, the working group aims to arrange joint panels at the SIEF conferences, and/or link relevant SIEF panels arranged by its members to the working

group. The working group may also serve as a network and starting point for collaborations on thematic journal issues or anthologies on education and learning from a cultural perspective, and for finding partners for research grant applications etc.



Taborsbergs förskola, Haga, Norrköping Wikimedia commons Hunt.

BOARD

Chairs

- Maria Zackariasson, professor in Ethnology, Södertörn University, Sweden, maria.zackariasson@sh.se.
- Erika Lundell, lecturer in Ethnology, Malmö University, Sweden, erika.lundell@mau.se.

Secretary

- Nadine Wagener Böck, research associate (post doc) in European Ethnology, University of Kiel, Germany, wagener@volkskunde.uni-kiel.de.

4 NEWS OF WORKING GROUPS

4.1 WORKING GROUP ON CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES ON EDUCATION AND LEARNING

Seminar announcement “Mapping the field – Ethnologists, anthropologists and folklorists in education and learning”, May 31, 2024, 1:00-3:00 PM CET. Digital on Zoom.

Deadline for registration: May 24, 2024.

The SIEF Working Group Cultural Perspectives on Education and Learning is welcoming you to its first seminar. The main idea of the seminar is to map the field and get a better view of ethnological, anthropological, and folkloristic research on education and learning, both within formal education such as schools, pre-schools and higher education, and within informal education taking place for instance in museums, archives and organizations.



The seminar will take place on Zoom. It will start with a short introduction of the new working group. The participants will then be given the opportunity to in groups present their own experiences as ethnologists/anthropologists/folklorists within the field of education and learning, with the aim of getting to know each other and sharing experiences, interests and expertise. The discussions will include questions

such as: How does ethnological/anthropological/folkloristic research contribute to the field of education and learning? What are the most important (potential) research issues related to education and learning in the various national and local contexts we belong to? How can we strengthen our positions and competencies through this new working group?

All participants are expected to prepare a short (3 minutes) presentation of their own experiences, expertise and position as scholars within the field and say something about the

role of anthropological/ethnological/folkloristic research on education and learning in their own local/national contexts.

In the next seminar of the working group, in the autumn 2024, we plan to further discuss the role and contribution of ethnologists, anthropologists and folklorists as educators in various settings, such as teacher education, museums and archives etc.

Please send an email by May 24 to the working group secretary Nadine Wagener-Böck, wagener@volkskunde.uni-kiel.de, if you want to participate in the seminar. You will then receive the Zoom-link. Welcome!

Maria Zackariasson, co-chair

Erika Lundell, co-chair

Nadine Wagener-Böck, secretary

4.2 WORKING GROUP ON ARCHIVES

Conference recordings available: “Turning the Wheel: Access to Archives – Tradition and Variation”, May 2023, University College Dublin, Ireland.

Last year marked the 10th anniversary of the SIEF Working Group on Archives. To celebrate this milestone, the WGoA collaborated with the Section on University and Research Institution Archives of the International Council on Archives (ICA-SUV) to organize a conference in May 2023 in Dublin, Ireland, hosted



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by the University College Dublin. Within its theme “Turning the Wheel: Access to Archives – Tradition and Variation” the conference explored different aspects and innovative approaches to providing access to archival materials in archives, including specifics of tradition archives. Many conference presentations were recorded and are now [available online](#) with the hashtag #ICASUV23. You may consult the [conference programme](#) if you would like to explore the presentations.

4.3 WORKING GROUP ON CULTURAL HERITAGE AND PROPERTY

The SIEF Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Property was established at the 2008 Derry congress, to address the growing interest in the field of cultural heritage, its symbolic and economic power, as well as contingent political implications. Its interests and activities encompass issues of heritage policy, theory, and practice.

Any SIEF member is welcome to join our working group. To join, send an email to [Carley Williams](#) or [Robert Baron](#), and make sure to [register for the Working Group mailing list online](#).

◆ **First Conference of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies Central and Eastern European Chapter, November 29–30, 2023; Ljubljana, Slovenia**

CHP members are as busy as ever participating in other conferences and authoring publications. *Heritage on the Margins? Central and Eastern European Perspectives* was the provocative theme of the [1st Conference](#) of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies (ACHS) Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) Chapter, which occurred at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences (ZRC SAZU) in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on November 29–30, 2023. It was organized by the interdisciplinary research group [Heritage on the Margins](#) and the [Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences](#). The conference addressed themes of marginality vs. centrality, the profound impacts of World Wars I and II, displace-

JOINT MESSAGE FROM WG ON ARCHIVES & WG ON CULTURAL HERITAGE AND PROPERTY

Conference announcement: “Archives of Traditional Culture: 100 + 10”, October 29–31, 2024; Riga, Latvia and online; Deadline for registration: tbc.



The Cultural Heritage and Property (CHP) and Archives (WGoA) working groups were delighted to receive funding of € 2000,- from SIEF for its support for digital streaming and other expenses of the Archives of Latvian Folklore’s conference, Archives of Traditional Culture: 100 + 10, to be held October 29–31, 2024 in Riga as a hybrid in-person and online convening. The conference is also supported by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia, the State Culture Capital Foundation, Latvian National Commission for UNESCO, and Riga City Council. The conference, which celebrates the Archive’s 100th anniversary, will deal with both historical and contemporary documentation and address a diverse range of issues relating to the past, present, and future of archives of traditional culture. Maryna Chernyavska, co-chair of the WGoA, will be one of the keynote speakers. She will discuss the role of folklore archives in shaping societal memory about past and present. The other keynoter will be Sanita Rainsone, who will focus on the collaborative aspects of folklore archives and their digital futures in the emerging era of artificial intelligence.

The organizing committee can be reached [by email](#). Registration is currently open for individuals presenting at the conference, and more details on the programme and general registration will be available in due course.

ments of people, and the enduring legacies of socialism and post-socialism on heritage processes.



First Conference of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies (ACHS) Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) Chapter, November 2023. Photo: Marko Zaplatil.

It featured keynote speakers David C. Harvey from Aarhus University (Denmark), and our CFP board member Alessandro Testa from Charles University (Czech Republic), who presented insights into the dynamic heritage-borders complexes and negotiations among diverse heritage actors. A special highlight was the roundtable discussion “Pain, but shame no more” following the screening of the documentary “The Museum of Madness,” which sparked an engaging debate on the heritagization of former psychiatric institutions.

Case studies illustrated the fluid and socially constructed nature of what is deemed worthy of preservation as heritage. The discussions underscored the importance of moving beyond national frameworks, revealing the mechanisms by which certain narratives are

excluded from heritage processes and exploring non-discursive practices of remembering. The conference showcased the pivotal role that Central and Eastern Europe can play in understanding the discontinuous sequence of past heritage processes, emphasizing the region’s central role due to its dissonant heritage of socialism.

◆ **Conference “Appropriations and Instrumentalizations: Intangible Cultural Heritage in Rural Heritage”, March 20–22, 2023; Bamberg, Germany**

Problematic heritage was examined in the conference [Appropriations and Instrumentalizations – Intangible Cultural Heritage in Rural Heritage](#) held in the World Heritage city of Bamberg, Germany, March 20–22. It included a presentation by CFP board member Helmut Groschwitz and Annette Schneider-Reinhardt on ‘UNESCO, Mythologische Schule und Neue Rechte – Zum Umgang mit einem heiklen Erbe’ (‘UNESCO, the Mythological School and the New Right – coping with a difficult heritage’). They discussed how the interpretations of the ‘mythological school’, i.e. statements that festivals, customs or places are ‘actually’ pagan, create points of reference for the New Right. Contending that Germany’s support of bearer groups through its national implementation procedure of the ICH Convention is inadequate, Groschwitz and Schneider-Reinhardt asked how the heritage communities can be helped in this problematic field.

◆ **Conference “Übersehen, vergessen, stillgestellt? Zur Latenz kulturellen Erbes”, April 9–10, 2023; Leipzig, Germany**

A conference held April 9–10, 2023 in Leipzig, [Übersehen, vergessen, stillgestellt? Zur Latenz kulturellen Erbes](#) (Overlooked, forgotten, silenced? On the latency of cultural heritage) dealt with the phase before or alongside heritagization.

◆ Official Opening of the UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Public and Global Governance



The members of the working group are excited that the UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Public and Global Governance was established at the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies of the University of Warsaw on March 14, 2024. More information: see below (“ICH and UNESCO”).

◆ Publication of Special Issue Winter 2024 *Journal of American Folklore* “Folklore, Heritage and the Public Sphere”

The Winter 2024 special issue of the [Journal of American Folklore on Folklore, Heritage and the Public Sphere](#) included contributions by a number of SIEF members. This special issue, which draws from a 2021 webinar, includes six articles along with salon discussions on the webinar topics which included 85 participants from 11 different countries. The issue explored the negotiation of power dynamics among heritage stakeholders, integrating intangible and tangible heritage with environmental sustainability, interventions to sustain traditions through heritage productions, transformations of form, content, and cultural meanings as cultural practices are recontextualized through heritage, the coalescence of local knowledge and academic expertise in community collaborations and how heritage can be used to advance social justice as well as how it is used divisively as an instrument of oppression. Articles in the issue included: ‘Folklore and Cultural Heritage: Reflecting on Change’, by Valdimar Tr. Hafstein; ‘Won’t You Help to Sing These Songs of Freedom? Sharing Authority, Co-curation, and Supporting Community-Driven Heritage Work’, by Diana Baird N’Diaye; ‘Towards Sustainable Visits’, by Owe Ronström; ‘Culinary Tourism as Public Folklore: Heritage in Negotiating Competitiveness and Sustainability’, by Lucy M. Long;

‘Folklife, Heritage, and the Environment: A Critique of Natural Capital, Ecosystem Services, and Settler Ecology’, by Jeff Todd Titon; and ‘Anticipatory Heritage’, by Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett. Salon discussion topics included ‘Mutual Engagement, Co-Creation, and Yielding Authority for Representation: Strategies and Practices’; ‘Public Folklore, Heritage and Social Justice’; ‘Tourism through Folklore: Challenges and Opportunities’; ‘Sustainabilities and Anticipatory Heritage’.

◆ Intergovernmental Committee Meeting of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, December 3–9, 2023; Kasane, Botswana

Many SIEF members attended the 18th annual Intergovernmental Committee Meeting (18. COM) of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Culture Heritage, held December 3–9, 2023 in Kasane, Botswana. As an accredited NGO to the Convention, SIEF is a member of the ICH NGO Forum. The Forum organized a symposium and poster presentations on December 3 which explored the past, present and future of safeguarding collaborations involving multiple stakeholders. Presentations featured NGOs discussing their collaborations with other NGOs, governments, and the private sector. During the Forum’s meetings in Botswana, SIEF’s representative on the Executive Board of the Forum, Robert Baron, was elected its President for 2024.

You can see the recordings and outcomes of the Intergovernmental Committee meeting [online](#). The biennial meeting of the ICH General Assembly will be held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, June 11–13, 2024. Any SIEF member can register to attend the General Assembly and the next Intergovernmental meeting, which will be held in Asuncion, Paraguay, December 1–7, 2024. Registration forms for both meetings will appear at least a month in advance of the meeting on the UNESCO ICH website.

The ICH NGO Forum is once again publishing its [newsletter](#) and has an active Facebook group, ‘[Intangible Cultural Heritage and Civil Society](#)’ and LinkedIn group, ‘[ICH NGO Forum](#)’.

4.4 WORKING GROUP IN FEMINIST APPROACHES TO ETHNOLOGY AND FOLKLORE

Workshop announcement: “‘Woman’ on the Edge”, August 23–25, 2024; Hólmavík, Iceland; Deadline for registration: May 15 (early registration), June 15 (late registration).

Interim meeting announcement: August 25, 2024; Hólmavík, Iceland and online.

The SIEF working group in Feminist Approaches in Ethnology and Folklore will host a workshop and its interim meeting on August 23–25, 2024 in Hólmavík Iceland. The theme of the workshop is “‘Woman’ on the Edge”, and the program is based on presentations of concept pieces and working papers, which will be contributed before the workshop so we can have fruitful, in-depth discussions on the papers in Hólmavík. The program also includes a variety of activities such as visits to the museums in the area, a dip into the pool, beer tasting at the local brewery, troll hunting, and more.

Please note that the workshop will not be accessible online, however, the interim meeting itself will be held on Sunday August 25 and will be hybrid (both on Zoom and in person).

Early registration for the workshop is open until May 15 and all information on the program, fees, and what is included can be found on the [registration page here](#).

The workshop is supported by SIEF, the Dutch Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage, and the Westfjords Regional Development Office, for which we are very grateful. Our hosts in Hólmavík are the University of Iceland’s Research Centre in Folkloristics, the Museum of Sorcery and Witchcraft, and the Sheep Farming Museum.

Zoom meetings invitation: Invitation to join the Feminist Approaches to Ethnology and Folklore zoom reading sessions. Next session: May 7, at 9.00 pm CET.

The Working group Feminist Approaches to Ethnology and Folklore invite all who are interested to join our zoom reading sessions. Every two months, we get together via zoom to discuss an article dealing with feminist theory and/or feminist approaches to the study of

folklore, ethnology and/or anthropology. So far, we had fruitful discussions on a variety of topics and articles including for instance strategies of feminist coding in folklore and literature and theories of embodiment. We also talked about how to incorporate feminist theory into the way in which we structure our texts and narratives: how can we write *differently*? For an overview of the texts that we discussed check out our [Facebook page](#) where you can also find session [reports](#).



Hólmavík, Iceland.

Our next session is scheduled to take place on May 7 at 9.00 pm CET when we will discuss “The Female Complaint” by Lauren Berlant (the link to the article will be posted on Facebook). We also invite suggestions for readings on our Facebook page so feel free to add any text or article dealing with feminist theory that you think would be interesting to discuss in the future. If you want to join the next zoom session, please contact JoAnn Conrad – jac5353@aol.com – and she will send you the zoom link. We hope to welcome many of you there!

4.5 WORKING GROUP ON HISTORICAL APPROACHES IN CULTURAL ANALYSIS

◆ **Conference and interim meeting announcement: “Reimagining Europe: De-colonizing Historical Imaginaries, Disciplinary Narratives in Folklore and Ethnology and Beyond”, June 13–14, 2024; Marburg, Germany and online**

The SIEF Working Group Historical Approaches in Cultural Analysis is organizing its conference Reimagining Europe: De-colonizing Historical Imaginaries, Disciplinary Narratives in Folklore and Ethnology and Beyond and its Working Group Interim Meeting between June 13–14, 2024 in Marburg, Germany as a hybrid event. The conference is jointly organized and supported by SIEF and the Herder Institut für historische Ostmitteleuropaforschung. More information [can be found here](#) with an update on the conference program soon.



Philipps University of Marburg.

◆ **Conference report: “Doing Histories, Imagining Futures”, December 4–7, 2023; online**

The First International Conference of the Histories of Anthropologies, titled Doing Histories, Imagining Futures, was held online from December 4-7, 2023. The conference was supported by the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) and was organized by the History of Anthropology Network (HOAN) conveners Fabiana Dimpflmeier and Hande Birkalan-Gedik.

As the first event of this kind, the conference allowed historians of anthropologies from around the world to meet with one another, share their personal and disciplinary experiences, and enhance their ability to address current debates in anthropology. The conference provide participants with an open and friendly environment to discuss the state of the art in the histories of anthropologies and closely examine theories, methodologies, and teaching approaches as well as to discuss the ethical contributions of our research to current and future anthropological practices. As global historians of anthropologies, we aim to foster ethical relationships among anthropologists, encourage wider participation of scholars from the Global South, and support the research of emerging scholars. The conference brought together several key stakeholders in the field of histories of anthropologies, including SIEF with its Working Group - Historical Approaches to Cultural Analysis.

Convened by Hande Birkalan-Gedik, Susanne Österlund-Pötzsch, and Katre Kikas, the Panel Disciplinary Histories and Archives in Anthropology, Folklore, and Oral History: Actors, Formats, and Mediality in Knowledge Production took place in two sessions on Monday, December 4, 2023.

Hande Birkalan-Gedik

4.6 WORKING GROUP ON THE RITUAL YEAR



The Ritual Year Seasonal Webinar

Día de los Muertos in Mexico / Hingedepäev in Estonia

2. november on **hingedepäev**. Tähistame seda Kirjandusmuuseumi seminaride sarjas ettekannekoosolekuga, kus kuulame hingedepäevaga seotud kujutelmia ja tegevusi peamiselt täiesti erinevates kultuurides – Eesti ja Mehhiko traditsioone võrreldes. Moderatsioon Tõnno Jonuks, ettekannetega esinevad:

On Thursday, 2 November 2023, at 12 noon (time in EET), a seminar dedicated to All Souls' Day will be held in the 4th floor seminar room of the Estonian Literary Museum, Tartu. Chaired by Tõnno Jonuks. The meeting will take place in English and will be accessible via TEAMS link which you are welcome to share with any interested parties

Liseth Pedroza Fuentes: "Day of the Dead in Mexico, a shared heritage"
Mare Kõiva: "The soul in Estonian tradition"
Reet Hiemäe: "Gendered and located communication with the souls"

Feel free to come and participate in the seminar!

02.11.2023, at 12 (time in EET)
Seminar toimub Eesti Kirjandusmuuseumi teadusprojekti EKM 8-2/20/3.

The SIEF Ritual Year WG

The 10th Ritual Year seasonal webinar

After a long break, our RY seasonal webinar series continued on November 2, 2023, in a hybrid format (online and at the Estonian Literary Museum, in Tartu). In tune with the season, the theme of the meeting was "Día de los Muertos in Mexico / Hingedepäev in Estonia". Liseth Pedroza Fuentes introduces the participants to the current festivities in Mexico and the various traditions they are built on (pagan, pre-Hispanic; catholic Hispanic, etc.), while Mare Kõiva and Reet Hiemäe focused on the notion of the soul in Estonian folklore, customs and traditions in connection with the souls of the deceased and communication with the souls. The meeting was moderated by Tõnno Jonuks.



The Ritual Year Seasonal Webinar

The Catalan Nadal / Belarusian Kalyady

Christmas celebrations in Catalonia are heavily influenced by the Catholic rite and have therefore many shared features with surrounding countries such as Italy or Spain. Nevertheless, some of the traditions have an eschatological penchant that make them rather singular.

Belarusian Christmas and New Year celebrations are combined into a two-week cycle of ritual activities. They incorporate both pagan and Christian elements, and have been among the most important celebrations of the year.

Guillem Castañar, Research Fellow, Institute of Cultural Research (University of Tartu): "The Catalan Nadal: Common and unique"
Anastasiya Fiadotava, Senior Research Fellow, Estonian Literary Museum: "Belarusian Kalyady: Celebrating the New Year for two weeks"

Feel free to come and participate in the seminar!

22.01.2024, at 16 (time in EET)
Seminar toimub Eesti Kirjandusmuuseumi teadusprojekti EKM 8-2/20/3.

The SIEF Ritual Year WG

The 11th Ritual Year seasonal webinar

We started the new year with yet another hybrid event from our RY seasonal webinar series, on January 22, 2024, on the theme of "Christmas and New Year Celebrations in Catalonia and Belorussia". The two speakers, Guillem Castañar and Anastasiya Fiadotava, visiting Research Fellows at the University of Tartu and the Estonian Literary Museum, introduced us to some winter customs of their homelands. The meeting was moderated by Mare Kõiva.

◆ The Ritual Year seasonal webinar continues:



March 25, 2024 13:00 (GMT+2) Webinar, SIEF-WG The Ritual Year [Link to join](#)

Nikolay Kuznetsov
Estonian Literary Museum, TD

Folk celebrations and komi folklore

In different places in Komi, several folk festivals are held every year. Some of them are an older tradition, neglected during the Soviet period and restored at the end of the 20th century, organized in the same way as earlier times. Some have a specific profile and/or celebrations with obvious regional socio-economic specificities, such as e.g. reindeer herder or hunter days. The specifics of others lie in something else, e.g. branding some local folk parties, has also been used place-making. Briefly introducing the komi festival scenes, I look at in the presentation, whether and to what extent komi folklore has been used for creating an image of folk celebrations.

Irina Sedakova
Institute of Slavic Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences

ЧЕСТИТО БЛАГОВЕЩЕНИЕ!

Bulgarian festive March: christianity and paganism, culture and nature

March is a unique month in Bulgaria regarding the abundance of rituals, feasts and folklore allusions. The major motifs of the festivity will be under analysis: walking of the nature and the Christian Ordores notions, purity and fires, gender aspects, etc. A special attention is paid to the ritual numeral motif of the celebration of the 40 Marys of Sebastia (March, 9).

FO

The SIEF Ritual Year WG

The 12th Ritual Year seasonal webinar

Our spring webinar took place on March 25, 2024. The online event welcomed two speakers: Nikolay Kuznetsov introduced the audience to contemporary komi festivals, highlighting their connection to the local folklore, while Irina Sedakova, talked about rituals, feasts and folklore references in connection with the month of March, in Bulgaria. The meeting was moderated by Mare Kõiva and Irina Stahl. At the end, we had a brief anniversary moment, dedicate to Mare Kõiva and Irina Sedakova as well as to our WG, who celebrates this year 20 years of active existence.



April 11, 2024 16:00 (GMT+3) Lecture [Link to join](#)

Aleida Bertran

International folk festivals, nation-building and transnationalism: A comparative study between Latvia and Northern Catalonia

The rise of cultural nationalism across many regions of Europe between the late 18th and 19th century led to new forms of national and cultural identity expression and self-definition, including folk festivals. This presentation draws parallels on the cultural nationalism pathways between Latvia and Northern Catalonia (Eastern Pyrenees) to develop a basis for understanding the role of postmodern international folk festivals with a political agenda in the regions from the mid-20th century until contemporary times. It examines the International Folklore Festival Patocha and the International Sardana Festival of Coret through the lens of transnationalism and the emerging field of Cultural Border Studies. The presentation also offers an insight into the potential of this festival typology as an instrument for the rapid building of national sentiment in periods of high socio-political activity and an area of collective memory and commemoration in more stable phases. The study is grounded on fieldwork and archival research undertaken as doctoral research at the Latvian Academy of Culture between 2012 and 2021.

FO

The SIEF Ritual Year WG

The 13th Ritual Year seasonal webinar

In our second 2024 spring webinar, which took place on April 11, 2024, we welcomed Aleida Bertran, visiting lecturer at the Latvian Academy of Culture, who gave a talk on folk festivals in Latvia and Northern Catalonia (Eastern Pyrenees). In her presentation, the speaker compared the pathways of cultural nationalism in the two regions, since the 1950s, with the explicit goal of understanding the role of international postmodern folk festivals with a political agenda. The meeting was organized in a hybrid format: online and at the Estonian Literary Museum (Tartu), and was moderated by Mare Kõiva.

The recordings of all the RY WG seasonal webinars are available on [our SIEF webpage](#) | Irina Stahl

◆ Working Group Celebrations

In 2024, “The Ritual Year” WG celebrates several anniversaries. First of all we mark 20 years from the foundation of our group according to the ideas and under the president-hood of Dr Emily Lyle. This event was in the program of the conference “As above so below: Explorations in myth and ritual throughout the world” held in Edinburgh in April 5–8.

We also celebrate the birthdays of two scholars who have been members of the WG since its creation:



Mare Kõiva (born February 26, 1954) is a corresponding member of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, a member of Academia Europea, the Head of the Center of Excellence in Estonian Studies and the Editor-in-chief of the ‘Folklore: Electronic Journal of Folklore’ (1996–) and *Mäetagused* (1996–), The Yearbook of Balkan and Baltic Studies (2018–). Mare is a great

scholar and an organizer of scholarly meetings and publications, she has taken part in, organized and hosted hundreds of conferences, congresses and round tables. In 2010, in Tallinn, she organized our WG’s (then yearly) 6th conference and afterwards publishes a great volume of the proceedings *The Ritual Year 6. The Inner and the Outer* (Tartu, ELM Scholarly Press, 2011). The array of Mare’s scientific interests is very vast. It comprises ritual calendar, incantations and folk healers, folk religion, the language of the Estonian diaspora, mythology and contemporary folklore.

Dr. of Ethnology and cultural anthropology, **Jurij Fikfak** (born April 17, 1954) is a research fellow at the Institute of Slovenian Ethnology of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences. The scope of his research interests is endless, he combines the traditional disciplines and methods with the new ones. Just to mention some of the areas of his studies: qualitative and discourse research, ritual practices, semiotics of culture, urban and rural anthropology, intangible cultural heritage. Jurij is an internationally acknowledged scholar, he participates in many projects dedicated the notion of border, entrepreneurship, ecology, images of heroes in their representation, etc. He edits the journals *Traditiones* and the series *Opera ethnologica Slovenica*. Being a very creative person, Jurij inputs into his studies a lot of innovative ideas. In 2011, he was the chair of the organizing board for the 7th conference of the WG The Ritual year under the title *Researchers, Performance, Researcher. Co-Designing Heritage, Co-Designing Performance*. He edited a thematic issue of *Traditiones* (vol. 41, #1, 2012) and the volume *The Interplay of Performances, Performers, Researchers, and Heritages (Yearbook of the Ritual Year, 7. Ljubljana, 2012, together with Laurent Sébastien Fournier)* with the proceedings of this event.



We wish Mare and Jurij... and our working group, many more years to come!

◆ The 15th Conference of the SIEF Ritual Year WG: Food, Feasts, Festivities, & Folklore

The 15th Conference of the Ritual Year Working Group (RYWG) will be held at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, the Philippines from December 11-13, 2024. For the conference, RYWG partners with the Folklore Studies Program of the College of Social Sciences & Philosophy of the University of the Philippines Diliman.

The theme revolves around the importance and meaning of food. The conference aims to highlight the centrality of gustatory experiences and gastronomical practices in various ethnolinguistic groups around the world. Papers that relate to food production, food preparation, food consumption, and their connection to feasts, festivities, folklore, taboos, rituals, deities, legends, magic, homeopathy, heritage, and religion, among other things are welcome at the conference. The target date of the conference is on December 11-13, 2024. The conference will be composed of paper presentations, exhibits of heritage food items, demonstrations, and *kwentuhan* (story telling) with food culture bearers.


Call for Abstracts

We invite scholars, researchers, educators, students, and other interested parties to submit an abstract for the conference. Considerations are open to topics that revolve around the theme, “Food, Feasts, Festivities, & Folklore,” under (but not limited to) the following domains: anthropology & human society studies, folklore & cultural studies, indigenous foodways, and tourism & heritage studies. As the theme aims to highlight the meanings ascribed and values attributed to food, the conference welcomes presentations and panel proposals that relate to food production, food preparation, food consumption, and their connections to feasts, festivities, folklore, taboos, rituals, deities, legends, magic, homeopathy, heritage, religion, and other related fields.

Submission Instructions

- Abstracts should be submitted in English
- Should not exceed 300 words (excluding the title and list of references)

- The name of the author/s must not appear on the abstract
- Include 3-5 keywords
- A maximum of 3 abstracts may be submitted per person, whether as a sole author or co-author



Food, Feasts, Festivities, & Folklore Conference

Important Dates

- Conference Date: December 11-13, 2024
- Abstract Submission Deadline: July 14, 2024

[You can submit an abstract here.](#)

4.7 WORKING GROUP ON SPACE-LORE AND PLACE-LORE

Call for Papers: “Lost Places and Abandoned Landscapes”, October 29–30, 2024; Szeged, Hungary. Deadline for submissions: July 1, 2024.



University of Szeged.

Cultural landscapes across the globe have experienced rapid and profound transformations. Throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, economic, political and climatic shifts have compelled various communities to leave their homelands and adapt to new environments. As a result, numerous areas have been depopulated and, local landscape management and practices vanished. Economic downturns and political upheavals have led to the closure of mining sites and industrial centers, as well as military spaces. Our focus is on the phenomena of abandonment and disappearance. We are interested in researching residual elements, both tangible and intangible as well as in histories of abandonment and in practices of re-presenting the past.

We invite scholars from diverse disciplines such as ethnology, anthropology, folklore, history, art history, geography, ecology, and beyond. We seek contributions interested in lost

places and abandoned landscapes including:

- heritagization, memorialization and ritualization strategies of and in abandoned places and landscapes
- socio-economic and environmental factors behind the abandonment, the effects to bio- and cultural diversity
- abandoned places and landscapes as tourist attractions
- phenomenological questions of abandoned landscapes
- nature conservation and rewilding practices, adaptation of traditional landscape management
- newcomers and their cultural practices in abandoned landscapes
- wartime and postwar landscapes – abandonment and rediscovery
- images and visualization of abandoned places and landscapes

Further Details

- > Applications (name, institution, title of the presentation, abstract) should be submitted by July 1, 2024 to László Mód (modlaci@gmail.com)
- > Length of papers: 20 minutes of presentation, to be followed by 10 minutes of discussion. Participants are required to cover their own travel and accommodation costs. We cover conference meals (one lunch and one dinner) and excursion.
- > Information on [accommodation in Szeged](#).
- > The organizers reserve the right to accept or reject papers submitted. We are planning to publish the papers.

Organizers: László Mód (Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Szeged); Karolína Pauknerová (Centre for Theoretical Study, Charles University Prague) and Alice Bower (University of Iceland)

Organized by Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Szeged; SIEF Working Group Space-lore and Place-lore; Holocaust Memorial Center; Hungarian Ethnographic Society

Funded by: Cultural Foundation of Szeged, Solymossy Sándor Association

5 ICH AND UNESCO

Opening of the UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Public and Global Governance at the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, University of Warsaw.

On March 14, 2024, at the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, University of Warsaw, the official opening of the UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Public and Global Governance took place. The aim of the UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Public and Global Governance at the University of Warsaw is to reflect on the question of what is considered – under what conditions and by whom – as constituting effective, ethical and sustainable governance of ICH. The interdisciplinary team within the department aims to investigate fundamental questions such as: how should a given community – including international community – govern heritage resources? When heritage resources are considered to be public goods or the commons – and when they are not? What are the criteria for effective and ethical heritage governance? What will be the most appropriate tools and methodologies to address these issues, including those stemming



from artificial intelligence? Examination of the challenges and opportunities surrounding the public and global governance of intangible cultural heritage, contextualized within frameworks such as the MONDIACULT 2022 Declaration, Agenda 2030 and UNESCO's Mid-term Strategy 2022–2029, and recommendation Ethics in AI will be of special focus.

All interested parties are invited to follow the further activities of the UNESCO Chair on ICHgovernance.com, on [Facebook](#) or [LinkedIn profile](#).

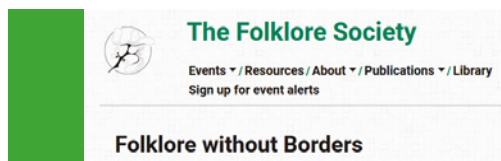
6 OTHER NEWS

6.1 NEW RESEARCH NETWORK ANNOUNCEMENT: FOLKLORE WITHOUT BORDERS

The UK's Arts and Humanities Research Council have funded a research network aiming to embed greater equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) within UK folklore. Led by Matthew Cheeseman (University of Derby) and Paul Cowdell (University of Hertfordshire) and running through 2024, the network is hosting an international knowledge exchange on folklore theory, method, and creative and curatorial practices. You are invited to join it!

The network is focused on the UK and has already begun. Most of its initial members are from England, with participants from Wales, Scotland, Norway, and the United States. Currently, it includes SIEF members Nicolas Le Bigre (University of Aberdeen), Tina Paphitis (University of Bergen) and Simon Poole (University of Chester). The network conceives of UK folklore as an assemblage collecting researchers, practitioners, creative industry professionals, entrepreneurs, and communicators, all working across three domains: academia (researchers, teachers), independent stakeholders (practitioners, artists, writers; entrepreneurs) and cultural industries (museums, galleries, archives, media).

All of its participants recognize diversity issues in folklore. Some are systemic to Higher Education (HE), creative arts practice and entrepreneurship in the UK (the erasure or under-representation of the minoritized; whether racially, disabled, LGBTQ+, female, particularly at senior career stage), some are specific to the discipline (such as advocacy, representation and agency within folklore research), and some take heightened form in the UK, where interest and involvement in folklore is overwhelmingly white, with an absence of disability, urban, working class voices, diverse genders, races and sexualities.



To facilitate knowledge exchange, the network has two Learned Societies as partners: the Folklore Society and the American Folklore Society. The latter's Cultural Diversity Committee has, since

1994, developed practice and research in diversifying folklore. There are three further partners, the Folklore Library and Archive, the Folklore Museums Network and Bloc Projects, a contemporary art gallery. The network would like to reach out to SIEF members, from any country, for their involvement and perspectives.

The network seeks to understand and share the cultural value of folklore. How can the perception of folklore as something available to and practiced by all groups enter the practice of those who work with folklore in the UK? A series of six digital meetings and three two-day events have been designed to stimulate discussion and generate collaborations. Membership of the network is open to anyone, and all physical events are blended to make attendance possible by digital means.

If you'd like to join, please email m.cheeseman@derby.ac.uk or p.cowdell@herts.ac.uk for more information.

Tina Paphitis, University of Bergen

6.2 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: FELLOWSHIPS AT INTERCULTURAL INSTITUTE OF COMPARATIVE MUSIC STUDIES, VENICE

The **Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venice** has issued a new call for applications addressed to PhDs and postdocs aged 40 and under, for two-month residential fellowships dedicated to interdisciplinary research projects relevant to materials held in the archives of the Foundation and Venice.

The deadline for applications is **June 30, 2024**.

Founded by Alain Daniélou in 1969, the [Intercultural Institute of Comparative Music Studies – IISMC](#) has been promoting courses, seminars, conferences and performances since its inception that relate to different world music and an intercultural approach to music studies. This activity also includes the documentation of its activities and the acquisition of archival funds of particular relevance pertaining to the study of oral tradition music, Italian, European and non-European.



Island of San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice, home of the Fondazione Giorgio Cini.

Funds Held at the Institute:

- Documentation of events organized by the IISMC in Venice since 1979
- Fund of edited LPs and CDs relating to world music, including the collection of LPs published by UNESCO in collaboration with the IISMC under the direction of Alain Daniélou in the 1970s
- Collection of paper documents concerning the activities of the IISMC between the years 1969 and 1979 when the Institute promoted meetings between European festival organizers interested in promoting world music

- Daniélou Fund: donated by Alain Daniélou to the Cini Foundation in 1971 consisting of a library collection devoted to the music, philosophy, arts and religions of India, a collection of more than three hundred manuscript copies of Indian treatises on music from various libraries in India, and about 300,000 catalog cards compiled on topics related to Indian music, philosophy and culture
- Marcello Conati Fund, with recordings, dating from the 1970s, of folk songs from the provinces of Verona, Parma and Reggio Emilia
- 400 books and journals of an ethnomusicological nature

For further [information see here](#).

For questions: musica.comparata@cini.it.



Library of the Fondazione Giorgio Cini.

6.3 ANTHROPOLOGY OF KINSHIP

Award winning paper at the Marie Curie Alumni Association Annual Conference and General Assembly.

The Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) is a community that brings together members of all career stages from all scientific disciplines. It encourages networking and collaboration across disciplines, making the MCAA a forum of debate between researchers and a wider society. This year, the Marie Curie Alumni Association Annual Conference and General Assembly took place at the University of Milano-Bicocca in Milan, Italy in March 2024.

The conference panels addressed a wide variety of topics, including the sustainability of research culture and researchers' careers, science diplomacy, science communication, and how to draft a narrative CV, among others.

Dr. Sabina Cveček, a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellow at the Field Museum in Chicago, Illinois, attended the MCAA annual conference in two roles. First, as a MCAA North America Board Member and the Midwest Coordinator. Second, as an anthropologist. She promoted the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration between socio-cultural anthropology, archaeology, and archaeogenetics on topics such as kinship. She is exploring prehistoric kinship from socio-cultural anthropological perspectives in her Marie Curie-funded X-KIN project with which she is based at the Field Museum in Chicago until October 2025.



Dr. Sabina Cveček presenting her award-winning lightning talk in Milan.

Photo: Joaquín Capablo.

For her talk titled “Making Kin with or Without Shared Genetic Ancestry in European Pre-history,” Cveček received the best lightning talk award in the section Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, Career Development, Sustainable Research Practice, and Science Policy. If you are curious to learn more about “[Why Kinship still needs anthropologists in the 21st century](#),” read Cveček’s article recently published in Anthropology Today or an interview with her titled “[Dialog als Schlüssel zur Urgeschichte](#), [Dialogue as the Key to Prehistory],” conducted by the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

6.4 CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

6.4.1 PUBLIC EVENT: MAKING IT HOME

“Making it Home: Re-Configuring Migrant Homemaking Together”, May 22, 2024;
Kingston University London, UK.

Organizers: MaHoMe Project – Kingston University, Lund University, Roskilde University.
Booking essential via: [Eventbrite page](#). The event is free and all are welcome.

This is an open event that focuses on how we can intervene to challenge dominant narratives and perceptions of migration and integration by presenting and discussing new ways of re-thinking and re-configuring migrant and refugee home-making amidst divergent integration politics in Denmark, Sweden and the UK.



Centering on migrant and refugee homemaking in the intertwined areas of policy-making, art, and the making of home in the every-day, the event presents a series of innovative aesthetic methodologies resulting from the MaHoMe project, “Making it Home”. Led by Kingston University, in

partnership with Lund University in Sweden and Roskilde University in Denmark, the project worked with NGOs and migrant and refugee participants as co-researchers.

The programme has a diverse range of formats, including interactive talks, screenings, visual presentations, panel discussions, a Long Table and an accompanying exhibition.

- For a detailed programme, see the [Eventbrite page](#).
- For further information about this event please contact: mahome@kingston.ac.uk.

The Event is supported by NordForsk as part of “Making it Home: An Aesthetic Methodological Contribution to the Study of Migrant Home-Making and Politics of Integration - MaHoMe, project number 94893”.



‘Home’ by Lina Hakim, 2023.

6.4.2 CONFERENCE UOHA 2024

“Oral history in wartime: academic knowledge and the researcher’s Responsibility”,
June 13–15, 2024; Uzhhorod, Ukraine.



Organizers: Ukrainian Oral History Association (UOHA), Uzhhorod National University, Zakarpattia Museum of Folk Architecture and Life (Uzhhorod, Ukraine), the Huculak Chair in Ukrainian Culture and Ethnography, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta (Edmonton, Canada), and the Ukrainian Institute of National Memory (Kyiv, Ukraine).

Unfortunately, the Call for Papers is closed, but participants can still register.

The Conference is called to address and provide answers to the following questions. What is the difference between the academic standards of oral history and other initiatives that gained popularity with the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine? What challenges of documenting events in the context of an ongoing war do the researchers face in their work? How should one address the questions of safety and adhere to ethical norms during interviewing? What are the personal, legal and professional responsibilities of researchers pursuing the oral history of the unfolding war? What are the best practices for sharing scholarly accomplishments and academic output of Ukrainian oral historians on the international stage?

[More information.](#)

6.4.3 CONFERENCE RE-WRITING (AGAINST) CULTURE

“Re-writing (against) Culture. Ethnographic Writing in Educational Ethnography: Practices, Approaches, Innovations, and Positionings”, June 27–29, 2024; Zurich University of Teacher Education, Switzerland.

For all those who are concerned with ethnography, we would like to invite you to our upcoming conference from June 27–29, 2024 at the Zurich University of Teacher Education, Switzerland.

**Re-Writing
(against) Culture**

8. Internationale erziehungswissenschaftliche Ethnographiekonferenz

27.–29. Juni 2024
Pädagogische Hochschule Zürich

Deadline for registration:
August 1, 2024

[More information](#)

The conference will be held in German and English (no translation)

Conference fee: 170 CHF regular, 85 CHF reduced.

The public evening lecture by Prof. Dr. Didier Fassin, Collège de France (Paris, F) and Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton, USA) about “Where is the Truth? On the Ethnography of Disputed Facts” can be attended without participation in the conference and is free of charge.

Thank you very much for circulating the relevant information to other interested researchers. We are looking forward to welcoming you in Zurich.

With warm greetings, the Organizing Committee:
Simone Brauchli, Felizitas Juen, Georg Rißler, Tobias Röhl,
Anja Sieber Egger, Gisela Unterweger, Bettina Wohlfender

6.4.4 WORKSHOP ETHNOGRAPHY AND EXPERIENCE

The workshop “Ethnography and Experience” will be held August 29 – September 1, 2024; Stana, Romania. Deadline for applications: May 31, 2024.



“Anthropology teaches us to seek out unseen faces of the world at hand, to confront its openness through experience and encounter, and to take these openings as seeds of a humanity to come.”

Anand Pandian

Experience could be dismissed as subjective, personal, and as something that – due to its ephemeral nature – should be let go of, rather than elaborated upon in scientific endeavor. However, a growing interest in phenomenological anthropology and the sensory turn emancipated the concept of (personal) experience, which has now become a fundamental concept in anthropological research and theory. As a counterpoint to the distancing visual and textual intellectualism of some anthropological approaches, embodiment and embodied experience have become key pillars for anthropological knowledge production, something that impacts our disciplinary awareness, redefining how we envision anthropology as a social science, how we treat such core concepts as culture and society, and how we carry

out fieldwork. A shift from data to experience, from dichotomies to fluxes and flows, from a general present tense to concrete momentary happenings, from the culturally enclosed world of interlocutors to experiences shared with friends, are just a few examples of how such a turn might impact research and modes of knowledge production in our discipline. The present call is an invitation to engage with these broadly defined and potentially dispersive approaches. We propose to think together within the wider framework of phenomenological anthropology, where we will be led by scholars, whose work is grounded in and contributes to this framework. We invite applications from PhD students and early career researchers with a background and/or trajectory in anthropology, whose interests align or tap into this broad horizon. The workshop will be held in Stana, near Cluj-Napoca, Romania, between August 29 – September 1, 2024.

We welcome applications interested in the following topics:

- fieldwork and sensory experiences
- the different fields and kinds of sensory knowledge
- theoretical contributions to phenomenological anthropology
- explorative methodological models in sensory ethnography
- critical evaluations of interpretative approaches

To apply for the workshop, please send a short abstract of your research/proposed presentation (ca. 300 words), a short motivational letter and your cv. Until **May 31, 2024** applications should be sent to imola.puesoek@stud.uni-goettingen.de. Applicants will be notified within two weeks regarding their acceptance.

Accommodation and meals will be provided by the organizers, but travelling costs to Cluj-Napoca will be borne by the participants.

Conveners: Áron Bakos, Babeş-Bolyai University
Imola Püsök, Georg August University of Göttingen



6.4.5 CONFERENCE FRH 2024

The 2024 FRH Conference: “Religious Heritage in Transition: Challenges and Solutions”, September 22–24, 2024; Krakow, Poland.

Unfortunately, the Call for Papers is closed, but participants can still register.



Religious Heritage in Transition
Challenges and Solutions

FRH CONFERENCE | 22-24 September 2024 | Krakow, Poland

Organised by: **FRH** Future for Religious Heritage

In partnership with: **GALICIA JEWISH MUSEUM**

Co-funded by the European Union

Religious heritage must respond to the changes brought about by the emergence of new digital technologies, the effects of climate change and the way we understand, relate to and value our historic buildings and intangible heritage in 21st-century Europe. The conference will explore existing initiatives and possible future solutions so that the various actors involved in religious heritage, including heritage professionals, academics, policymakers at all levels, religious bodies and European citizens, do not fall behind in this triple transition (green, digital and social). Registration will be open in April.

[More information.](#)

6.4.6 CONFERENCE KNOWING THE VERNACULAR

“Knowing the Vernacular: Critical Reflections and Future Directions”, October 26–27, 2024; Oxford Brookes University, UK. Deadline for registration: October 25, 2024.

Vernacular architecture refers to locally specific forms of architecture, which are rooted in community, place and tradition, and that have been made without the involvement of architects. The international and interdisciplinary field of vernacular architecture studies aims to document, safeguard, apply or advocate for the knowledge embodied in the vernacular traditions of the world. This conference reflects on the current state of play: to critically question what we think we know about the subject, how we got where we are, and the methods and concepts we use; to identify shortcomings, gaps and biases in our studies, and to identify new areas of research and new ways of engaging with vernacular architecture; and to explore ways to make the knowledge embodied in vernacular traditions more widely available beyond academia.

[More information.](#)



Aerial view of a Baoule Village.

6.4.7 CONFERENCE NEFK 2025

“Nordic 2.0 and Beyond”, June 11–14, 2025; Turku/Åbo, Finland. Call for Papers: September 2024.

Save the date!

It is time to meet again at the Nordic Ethnology and Folklore Conference.

The 36th edition of the conference aims to reconnect with the roots of NEFK. We therefore invite all Nordic scholars, and scholars of the Nordic, to Turku/Åbo in Finland to expand our horizons once more.

We invite proposals for panels, posters, workshops, and roundtable discussions that explore contemporary perspectives on culture, cultural identities, representations, and socio-cultural changes in the Nordic region and beyond. How do we approach everyday life, traditions, history, and futures in times of migration, fluctuating borders, environmental change, and artificial intelligence? What is the role of academic scholarship, archives, museums, and art in problematizing identity policies, heritage, and power in contemporary societies? What kind of methodological challenges are we facing as we analyze society, including its values, conflicts, and inconsistencies?

The Nordic region is frequently viewed as a model welfare society. However, what is meant by referring to the Nordic, both historically and presently? Is it a geographic region, an imagined community, a way of life, or a theoretical framework? Finally, what could *Nordic 2.0 and Beyond* be and become? Let us explore these and other questions together!

The call for panels and papers will be announced in September 2024!

Conference language	Scandinavian and English
Workshop for doctoral students	June 10
Excursions	June 14
Contact	etnofolk@abo.fi
Organizers	Åbo Akademi University and Turku University

[More information.](#)



Left: student life in Turku. Photo: Hanna Oksanen & right: city of Turku.

7 SIEF JOURNALS

7.1 CULTURAL ANALYSIS

Vol. 22(1) 2024. [Cultural Analysis 2024 \(berkeley.edu\)](#).

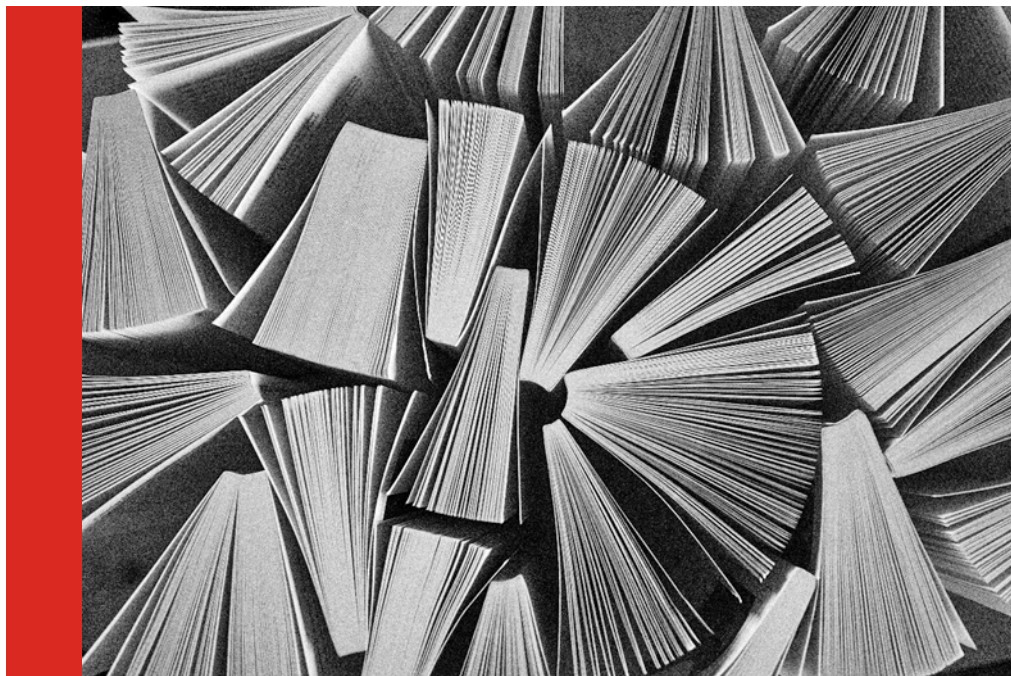


Image by Mirko Stödter from Pixabay.

The New Mixed Issue Contains:

- Stephen Olbrys Gencarella: [Folk Research: A Query and a Critique](#)
Responses by: [Simon J. Bronner](#) and [Anthony Bak Buccitelli](#)
- Sarita Ray Chaudhury: [“Laugh like Surpanakha:” Modern Literary Re-Imagining of a Famous Villainess in Indian Folkloric Traditions](#)
Response by: [Sritama Maitra](#)

- Tiago Pires: [Ethnopsychiatry of the Devil: Demonic Possession as a Cultural Language for Subjective Suffering in Contemporary Italy](#)
Responses by: [Joseph P. Laycock](#) and [Sean McCloud](#)
- Book reviews by Gregory Hansen, Mary L. Sellers.

Call for Papers

We are currently accepting research articles, reviews, scholarly responses (to previous articles), and shortform essays for our new section. The journal encourages submissions from a variety of theoretical standpoints from different disciplines, including, but not limited to, anthropology, cultural studies, folklore, media studies, popular culture, psychology, and sociology. Please visit our website for additional information about the journal and for [submission guidelines](#).

Call for Ongoing Submissions

Forum Series 1: Pandemic & Politics

Each installment in the Cultural Analysis Forum Series remains open for subsequent submissions in the form of original Research Articles, Essays, Scholarly Responses (to published Series contributions), Author Addendums, and Reviews of literature and media relevant to the Forum Series topic(s). For further inquiries and submissions contact Cultural Analysis Editors at caforum1@gmail.com.

About the Journal

Cultural Analysis is an interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed, open-access journal dedicated to investigating expressive and everyday culture. The journal features analytical research articles, reviews, and cross-disciplinary responses. Established in 2000 in the Berkeley Folklore Archives, Cultural Analysis has published 22 volumes and hosts a global editorial board and collective.

7.2 ETHNOLOGIA EUROPAEA: VOL. 54(1) 2024

Dear SIEF colleagues,

we are pleased to announce the imminent publication of *Ethnologia Europaea's* Volume 54, Issue 1. This features four independent articles on a range of fascinating topics.

We kick off the issue with a piece by Valdimar Hafstein et al. on the Icelandic dairy production of skyr and its relationship to women and gender. Historically, this produce was quite diverse and the authors chronicle how technological innovations and market standardization procedures have impoverished its microbial diversity over the past century.

Oliwia Murawska then examines the folklore of Poland's Southern Kashubian region in terms of giving voice to an unorthodox agent – sand. Her visual article demonstrates how sand is more than just a matter of tuning, but is equally an attuned matter, whereby sand is situated in haptic experience and everyday knowledge.

We then turn to the Northern Caucasus Republic of Dagestan. Here Iwona Kaliszewska and Iwa Kołodziejska investigate some of the skepticism that surrounded COVID-19 vaccination. Their article reveals how the quasi-colonial status of this former Russian State contributed to a generalized hesitancy over getting vaccinated. This resulted in anxieties routed from both the colonial past and an insecure current situation.

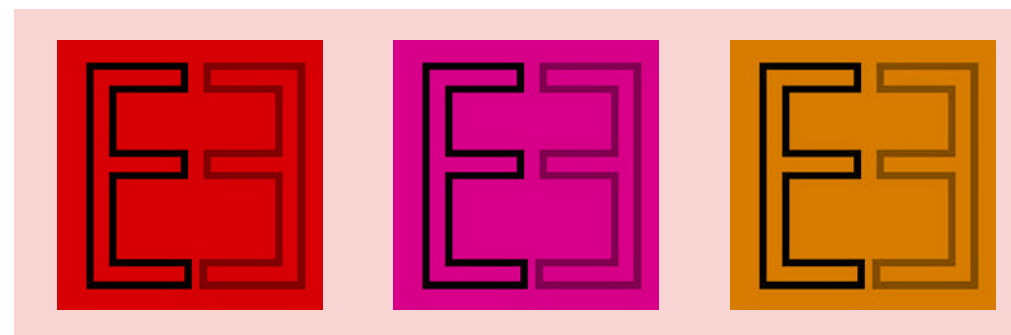
The final article of this issue of *EE* is by Tobias Boos. It explores the notion of 'playground' in the context of the Italian celebration and competition Palio di Siena. The author uncovers an intertwining of intimacy and publicness which takes place in specific festive spaces. The articles also consider what contemporary role global contexts have in spatial community building processes.

[Ethnologia Europaea](#) | [Berghahn Journals](#).

CHANGES

The publication of the newest issue of *Ethnologia Europaea* coincides with a series of changes to the journal's editorship as well as its structure. Firstly, with this her last issue, Laura Stark steps down as co-editor and Patrick Laviolette takes over from her. Patrick has been the editor-in-chief of the two sister periodicals: *AJEC*, since 2019, and previous to that, he was involved with EASA's *SA/AS*. He thus brings a great deal of experience to the position, joining Alexandra Schwell, who continues in her co-editorship post. Another change is that Agnieszka Pasięka, from *EE's* Editorial Board, will now be in charge of the short 'ethnographic snapshots' contributions. So, a warm welcome to Aga and Patrick; many thanks to Laura for her excellent work; and thanks also to Alexandra for ensuring continuity.

We will also very much miss Magdalena Tellenbach, who has been *EE's* Production Manager and Publication Editor and the longest-serving person working on *EE* in the recent past. She worked on the journal for over 15 years and was the one who ensured the excellent format and language, as well as the finished and elegant look of our printed and online issues. We deeply thank Magdalena and wish her all the best in the future. She will be much missed.



Another significant change is that *EE* has just moved to a new publisher at the start of 2024. Berghahn Journals will now be our home for the foreseeable future and we are already enjoying the professional atmosphere of this independent, progressive, and social science-

friendly publishing house. With this switch from OHL, *EE* now becomes part of Berghahn's [Open Anthro model](#) / and internet pages below.

We feel this change will usher in a bright new future for the journal because it will give it much more visibility as we will be part of a collection of high-ranking journals, including *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale (SA/AS)* and the *Anthropological Journal of European Cultures (AJEC)*. Please, do recommend the OpenAnthro collection to your libraries; it is library subscriptions that make this “open model” possible.

With this move to Berghahn, *EE* has become a fully-fledged SIEF journal, also in terms of ownership, with full editorial freedom. Despite these changes, we will obviously continue to strive to publish high-quality research from the fields of ethnology, anthropology, and folklore studies, as well as from relevant cogent fields. So please do consider sending us your guest-edited SI proposals, full-length articles and more concise ethnographic snapshot contributions.

We wish all our readers a more peaceful and hopeful spring/summer than we've recently experienced during these disturbing times.

Laura Stark, Alexandra Schwell, Aga Pasioka & Patrick Laviolette



Berghahn is delighted to be the new publisher of *Ethnologia Europaea* in 2024! Volume 54 will be open access using the Subscribe-to-Open (S2O) model.

The addition of the journal to the [Berghahn Open Anthro](#) collection reinforces the benefits of S2O, an ever-strengthening model that provides equitable open access through the ongoing support from the library community.

SIEF members have an important role to play in ensuring that the journal remains open access in the coming years. Please support *Ethnologia Europaea* and the S2O mission of equity and sustainability by encouraging your institution's library to subscribe.

S2O benefits include:

- An opportunity for authors to publish without paying APCs which promotes equity and diversity in scholarly research.
- Uses existing workflows for seamless ordering and access logistics for libraries and publishers.
- Provides open content to researchers with limited access to scholarly resources
- Full backfile access for supporting libraries with a current subscription. View full [FAQ's](#).

View full [details about the journal here](#).

Please contact Young Lee with any questions: young.lee@berghahnbooks.com.

8 CALLS FOR PUBLICATIONS

8.1 CALL FOR PAPERS: ETHNOLOGIA FENNICA 1/2025

“Methods in Contemporary Ethnology”

Writing about and opening up methodological choices can be challenging in empirical research. Ethnologists who study the everyday life may turn to other disciplines to find concepts and methodological tools to grasp the issues that are difficult to see, perceive and



This picture is taken in the project “The planned, experienced and sensed socio-materiality of well-being in the Castle Town of Turku”. Photo: Päivi Leinonen, 2023.

verbalize. On the other hand, ethnologists have the capability to utilize and develop creative methodological tools.

This issue of *Ethnologia Fennica* focuses on tools and methods in ethnology and related disciplines. What constitutes ethnological research in the 2020s and which methods have been applied to create ethnological knowledge? Which methods are useful, how are they applied, and what kinds of new perspectives do they bring to contemporary discussions on research practices?

We call for research and review articles which address methodological choices and practices as well as connections between methods, concepts, and theoretical thinking. We are interested, for example, in how and why researchers apply close or distant reading, different ethnographical variations such as creative and participatory approaches, or digital tools and AI. We encourage discussions on reasons behind methodological and practical choices as well as case studies which have been challenging or rewarding from the perspective of methodology. We also welcome texts about applications of new digital possibilities in ethnological and ethnographic research.

Ethnologia Fennica is a peer-reviewed, international open access journal. The journal publishes original scholarly articles, review articles, conference reports and book reviews written in English. The articles undergo double-blind peer review. The Finnish Publication Forum classifies *Ethnologia Fennica* as a leading academic journal at Level 2, on a scale of 0 to 3.

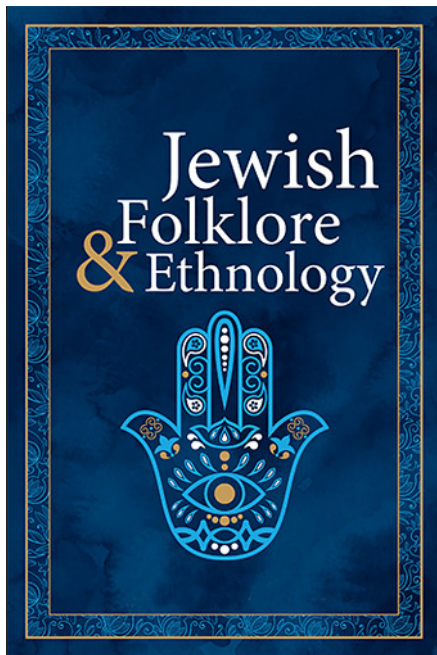
Important Dates

- Please submit your abstracts by May 31, 2024
- Please submit the article manuscript by of October 31, 2024
- The deadline for reviews, reports, and commentary texts is February 28, 2025
- The issue will be published in June 2025

8.2 CALL FOR PAPERS: JEWISH FOLKLORE AND ETHNOLOGY

“The Folklore and Ethnology of Antisemitism, Old and New”

The editors of *Jewish Folklore and Ethnology (JFE)* invite submissions for a special issue on “The Folklore and Ethnology of Antisemitism, Old and New.” *JFE* is a peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary annual journal published and distributed internationally in print and online versions by [Wayne State University Press](#). It features innovative, original analytical studies, essays, and commentaries in English on the diverse ways in which Jewishness is expressed, conceived, transformed, and perceived by Jews and non-Jews through folklore, tradition, material/visual culture, and sociocultural practice.



Reports of the rise of antisemitic incidents in the twenty-first century frequently link hate speech, desecration of Jewish sites, and violence toward Jews to the emergence, and in many cases resurgence, of beliefs, sayings, and narratives that can be categorized as folklore. Folklore functions frequently to persuade public culture to racialize/demonize Jews but can also serve to defend Jews. Although scholarship has analyzed older folkloric patterns both attacking Jews (e.g., blood libel legends, wandering Jew beliefs) and defending them (e.g., Golem legends, Cossack jokes), critical discourse has arisen in the twenty-first century regarding a “new antisemitism” and the sociocultural practices that manifest it.

Under the rubric of the new cultural antisemi-

tism, scholars discuss concepts of anti-Zionism, anti-Americanism, Holocaust denial, pan-Russification, structural discrimination/racism, and neo-Nazism. New social platforms that

invite ethnographic attention to the invention and spread of rituals, beliefs, and narratives include social media, college campus organizations, protest rallies as media events, and professional societies. The editors seek studies that use the evidence of folklore and ethnology to analyze the platforms, practices, processes of material/visual culture, and contents of cultural antisemitism in recent and historic situations.

Guidelines for the Submission of Manuscripts

Analytical essays in English (6,000–8,000 words, double-spaced, in MS Word) should be submitted through the [Digital Commons platform](#) before December 1, 2024. *JFE* follows the in-text citation style with a reference list at the end according to the guidelines of the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 17th edition.

Prospective authors can send advance queries directly to the editor, Simon J. Bronner at bronnners@uwm.edu.

9 NEW PUBLICATIONS

9.1 JOURNALS

Journal of Ethnology and Folkloristics 17:2 (2023)



The *Journal of Ethnology and Folkloristics* is the joint publication of the Estonian Literary Museum, the Estonian National Museum, and the University of Tartu. *Journal of Ethnology and Folkloristics* (JEF) is a multidisciplinary forum for scholars. Addressed to an international scholarly audience, JEF is open to contributions from researchers worldwide. JEF publishes articles in the research areas of ethnology, folkloristics, museology, and cultural and social anthropology. It includes studies focused on the empirical analysis of ethnographic and folkloristic cases and those more theoretically oriented.

JEF is a multidisciplinary forum for creative, inspiring, and cutting-edge academic contributions. We encourage discussion in a thought-provoking, imaginative, and experimental scholarly spirit.

Recently, we published the volume of the *Journal of Ethnology and Folkloristics* 17 (2), including a discussion of the concept of ‘vernacular’ by Professor Ülo Valk in our “Inspirational Insights” section. Besides, the volume includes contributions that discuss the war experiences of the Ukrainians, violence in the post-socialist residential schools, using faith to overcome trauma in Romani communities, spiritual aspects of extermination of wolves in Yakutia, Kazakh pregnancy, childbirth, and childcare traditions, half-human beings in the Karbi people’s imaginations, and other folk narratives and humor from different parts of

the world. The journal’s last issue illuminates the journal’s global reach and diverse objectives rather perfectly.

[See the whole issue here.](#)

9.2 SERIES

New series from University of Exeter Press, edited by scholars Simon Young, University of Virginia (CET, Siena) and Davide Ermacora, (University of Turin).

Exeter New Approaches to Legend, Folklore and Popular Belief provides a venue for growing interest in folklore narratives, supernatural belief systems and the communities that sustain them. Global in scope, the series encompasses milieus ranging from ancient to contemporary times and encourages empirically grounded, source-rich studies.

30% discount code on all existing and forthcoming [books in the series](#), details of the discount can be found here:

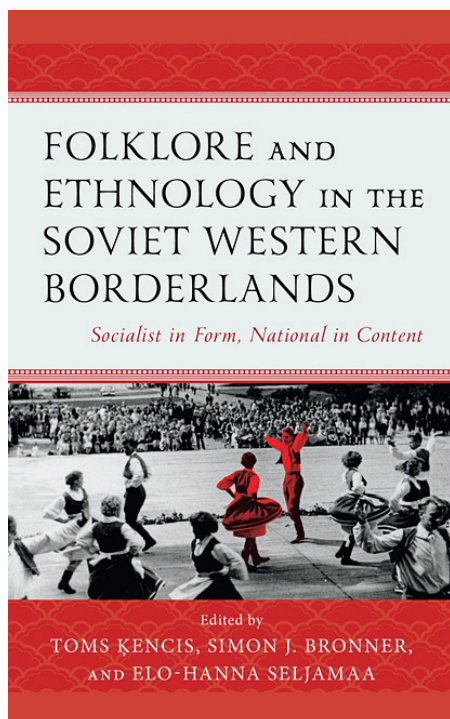
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9.3 BOOKS

FOLKLORE AND ETHNOLOGY IN THE SOVIET WESTERN BORDERLANDS: SOCIALIST IN FORM, NATIONAL IN CONTENT



Fourteen international scholars assess the profound impact of Soviet-era movements to study, apply, and perform folklore as a priority in socialist policy-formation and culture-building. Representing generations who lived through and after Soviet occupation, they reflect on the consequences of state-supported promotion of folk arts in a region called the Western Borderlands that include Baltic countries, Ukraine, Poland, Hungary and other Central European states. In their incisive analyses, authors present original archival materials and ethnographic data to understand academic research as well as folklore revivals under the socialist regime. The volume prominently presents postsocialist postcolonial theory.

Capping the volume is a timely consideration of Soviet orchestration of folkloristic work on

present developments in conflicts of Russia with its neighbors and alignments with Western folkloristics and ethnology.

“This book is a comprehensive introduction to the history of folkloristics and ethnology in Europe behind the Iron Curtain – on the Western fringes of the Communist empire, once ruled from Moscow. It offers a close and critical analysis of research traditions in the countries, ranging from the Baltic states to Central Europe and Ukraine – all affected by Marxist-Leninist ideology. As a work on folklore, politics, and nationalism, on resilience and submis-

siveness, it is also a systematic study of Soviet colonialism and a critical reflection of its legacies today.” — Ülo Valk, University of Tartu

Toms Ķencis, Simon J. Bronner and Elo-Hanna Seljamaa (eds.), *Folklore and Ethnology in the Soviet Western Borderlands: Socialist in Form, National in Content*. Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books, 2024. ISBN 978-1-66690-653-0, 302 pages.

[More information.](#)

Use Discount code LXFANDF30 for a 30% discount offer - For individual use only and may not be combined with other offers and discounts.

LATVIEŠU BURAMVĀRDI. TEKSTI, TRADĪCIJAS, KONTEKSTI

The publishing house of the Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art (University of Latvia) recently published Aigars Lielbārdis’ monograph “Latvian Charms. Texts, Traditions, Contexts”.

With this study author proposes to look at our past, cultural heritage, and aspects of language and identity through the lens of a single tradition, focusing on the different contexts and cultural and socio-economic processes that have shaped the content and form of the charm tradition in the past and create a demand for alternative medicine in today’s society. The object of this research is Latvian charms, charming and healing traditions, and the various contexts that shape and influence these texts and traditions: religious, social, cultural, institutional,



personal, research, etc. The study is in Latvian with an extensive summary and translation of the introduction, conclusion, and closing remarks into English.

The author is a Latvian folklore researcher whose scholarly interests are related to folk and vernacular religion, the verbal charms, visual ethnography, and folk music. The book has been prepared within the post-doctoral project of the European Regional Development Fund “Digital Catalogue of Latvian Charms” (No. 1.1.1.2/ VĪAA/1/16/217) and published with the financial support of the State Culture Capital Foundation of Latvia.

Aigars Lielbārdis, *Latviešu Buramvārdi. Teksti, Tradīcijas, Konteksti*. Rīga: Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art University of Latvia, 2024.

[More information.](#)



**SPILL MED AGISKE SIRKLER.
EN UTFORSKING AV LEK-RITUAL-KONTINUUMET**

A new anthology on the relations between play and ritual was published this autumn at Academiae Regiae Gustavi Adolphi.

The interrelations, as well as the differences, between play and ritual have long been discussed in folkloristics and neighboring disciplines. In this volume, the question is investigated anew. The purpose is to demonstrate contrasts as well as intersections through a close examination of practices that are both/ and or neither/or. The twelve chapters delve into festivities of the life

and year cycle, such as wedding proposals, student initiations, April 1st pranks and national holidays. The volume also deals with rituals in mass media, Viking games, lutefisk parades, fandom, and ritualized play and playful rituals in political protests as well as in sport and entertainment.

The authors discuss previous theoretical contributions and explore old and new empirical material. They offer a variety of perspectives, which should be of use to anyone interested in, studying, or working with the rituals of human life and the human being at play.

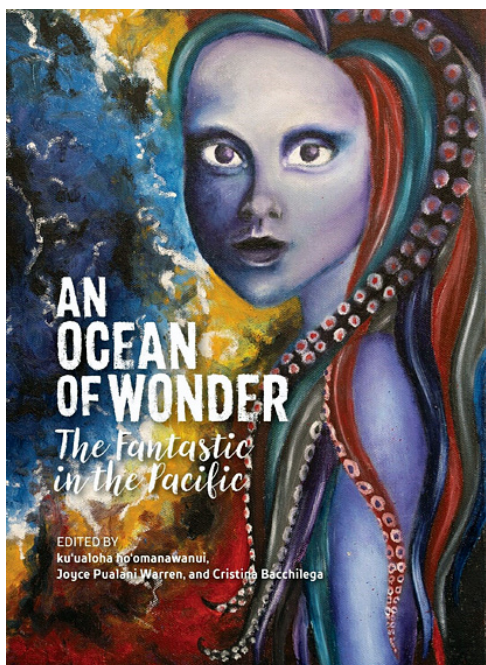
The volume’s articles are written in Scandinavian languages, with one contribution in English. It has been edited by four experienced folklorists: Audun Kjus, Fredrik Skott, Ida Tolgensbakk and Susanne Österlund-Pötzsch.

Audun Kjus, Fredrik Skott, Ida Tolgensbakk & Susanne Österlund-Pötzsch (eds.), *Spill med Magiske Sirkler. En Utforsking av Lek-ritual-kontinuumet*. Uppsala: Academiae Regiae Gustavi Adolphi, 2023. ISBN 978-91-87403-47-7, 280 pages.

[Download \(free\) or purchase here.](#)

AN OCEAN OF WONDER: THE FANTASTIC IN THE PACIFIC

An Ocean of Wonder: The Fantastic in the Pacific brings together some 50 writers and artists from across Moananuiākea working in myriad genres of the fantastic across media, ranging from oral narratives and traditional wonder tales to horror, science fiction, and fantasy as well as scholarly essays about them. Collectively, the anthology features the fantastic as present-day Indigenous Pacific worldbuilding that looks to the past in creating alternative futures, and in so doing reimagines relationships between peoples, environments, deities, nonhuman relatives, history, dreams, and storytelling. As artistic, intellectual, and culturally based expressions that encode Indigenous knowledge, the creative writing, visual artwork, and scholarly essays in this collection upend monolithic, often ex-



oticizing, and demeaning stereotypes of the Indigenous Pacific and situate themselves in conversation with critical understandings of the global fantastic and Indigenous studies. Oceanic stories, ideas, and images embodying the realities of the fantastic in this collection surround and connect to Hawai'i, which is for the three co-editors, in different ways, a piko (center); at the same time, building on both juxtaposition and association as navigational practices, the collection seeks to articulate pilina (relationships) across genres, locations, time, and media and to celebrate the multiplicity and relationality of the fantastic in Oceania.

ku'ualoha ho'omanawanui, Joyce Pualani Warren, Cristina Bacchilega (eds.), *An Ocean of Wonder: The Fantastic in the Pacific*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2024. ISBN 9780824897352, 370 pages.

[More information.](#)

LE NÉO-CHAMANISME: UNE RELIGION QUI MONTE?

Neo-Shamanism in France. Is it possible to study such a phenomenon without falling into judgment, derision, or apologia? Anthropologist Denise Lombardi decided to explore this multifaceted micro-universe in contemporary France.

French society's fascination with shamanism shows no signs of diminishing. Seminars, publications, festivals films, travel, meetings, training courses: everything is developing at a dizzying speed. To the discerning eye, this desire for exoticism and the enchantment of the world illustrates the evolution of beliefs in an increasingly secular landscape. Contemporary shamanism, or neo-shamanism, as it is known in the West, portrays and reproduces a mythologized elsewhere that sees the shaman as the highest possible expression of otherness. As a cultural phenomenon, it deserves to be analyzed in the same way as other phenomena.



Neo-Shamanic seminars should be regarded as spiritual practices with a therapeutic objective using so called "indigenous" knowledge. They spread all over the world from 1980-1990. Participants in neo-shamanism sessions in France are often looking for individual therapeutic paths. The accessibility, exotic imagery, literary fascination, the hypothesis of conversion from the East to the spiritual colonization of the West, the possibility of tracing the permanence of an ancestral form of healing, an aesthetic primitivism, and above all a constant reference to nature, are all elements that contribute to creating and standardizing the concept of healing in this complex system of thought.

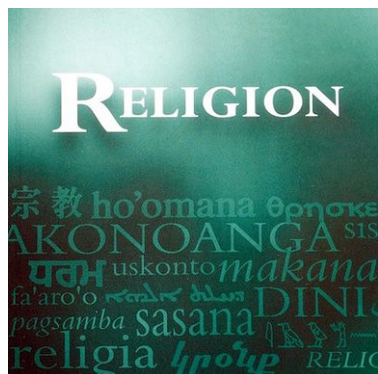
NEW PUBLICATIONS

An anthropologist of Italian origin, Denise Lombardi is a researcher at the Sociétés Religions et Laïcités Laboratory in Paris. She is the author of numerous scientific articles on neo-shamanism.

Denise Lombardi. *Le Néo-chamanisme: Une Religion qui Monte?* Paris: Editions du Cerf, 2023. ISBN 9782204153966, 216 pages.

[More information.](#)

RELIGION 54: “RE-ENCHANTMENT” AND RELIGIOUS CHANGE IN FORMER SOCIALIST EUROPE



This thematic issue tackles the question of religious change in former socialist Central and Eastern European countries by combining anthropological, ethnological, historical, and sociological approaches. The publication intends to revisit the validity of the so-called “post-socialist religious question” and its time and regional frame. The various articles focus on a number of emergent religious practices as well as on shifts in traditional religious experiences in Bulgaria, Hungary,

Bulgaria, Serbia, and Slovakia - although frequent comparative insights are also drawn from other countries, such as Czechia, Poland, and Romania. The publication offers both fresh empirical evidence as well as substantial new theorization, and it stands as one of the main outcomes of the research project “The Re-Enchantment of Central-Eastern Europe”, which was led by Alessandro Testa at Charles University, Prague, between 2020 and 2022.

Alessandro Testa, Zuzana Bártová, István Povedák (Guest eds.), *Religion 54* (2024).

Abingdon, UK: Taylor & Francis. SSN (online) 1096-1151.



Turku Castle. Photo: Mika Kurkilahti.

In Turku the Nordic Ethnology and Folklore Conference takes place, June 11-14, 2025.

COLOPHON

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