

14<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Young Folklorists

Humble Theory and the Power of the Vernacular

Conference Programme

Day 1

September 25, 2025 (Thursday)			
09:00 – 09:30 Registration (University of Tartu Library, W. Struve 1, Tartu)			
09:30 – 09:45 Opening of the Conference (Conference Hall)			
09:45 – 11:00 Keynote Lecture by <b>Dorothy Noyes</b> on topic – <i>The Vernacular Ground and the Field of Folklore</i> (Conference Hall)  Moderated by <b>Ülo Valk</b>			
11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break			
Session 1: Folkloristic Theories I (Conference Hall) Chair: Lodewyk Barkhuizen		Session 2: Human-Animal Interactions (Seminar room Tõstamaa) Chair: Margaret Lyngdoh	Session 3: Performance and (un)tellability (Seminar room Kodavere) Chair: Marje Ermel
11:30 – 12:00	<b>Evgeniya Litvin</b> , University of Salento, <i>Humble Theory in Minority Language Literature Research</i>	<b>Haozhen Li</b> , University of Tartu, <i>Between Religious Revival and Reinvention: Three Strategies of Revitalisation for Shamanism in Northeast China</i>	<b>Jaana Ahtiainen</b> , University of Helsinki, <i>Beyond Institutional Lenses: Rethinking Sex Work Research Through Folklore Studies</i>
12:00 – 12:30	<b>Digne Ūdre-Lielbārde</b> , University of Latvia, <i>Academic Endeavours and Popular Imaginations: The Question of Lay and Academic Voices in Folklore Studies</i>	<b>Jasmina Rejec</b> , Institute IRRIS for Research, <i>Animal Folk Tales as Vehicles of Moral Values and Social Critique</i>	<b>Pema Choedon</b> , Independent scholar, <i>Gorshey: An Expression of Resilience and a Unified Identity through Tibetan Folk Dance</i>
12:30 – 13:00	<b>Ivan Praštalo</b> , University of Belgrade, <i>Between Grand and Humble Theory: What Can We Learn from the History of the Discipline through Sima Trojanović</i>	<b>Chloe Lundrigan</b> , Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador, <i>“It’s Tradition, but also Breaking Tradition”: Performing Multi-species Environments in Newfoundland</i>	<b>Yun Dai</b> , University of Tartu, <i>Bear Grandmother: Hearthside Storytelling</i>
13:00 – 14:30 Lunch Break			
Session 4: Folkloristic Theories II (Conference Hall) Chair: Alina Oprelianska		Session 5: Narrative Reflections (Seminar room Tõstamaa) Chair: Pihla Maria Siim	Session 6: Vernacular Expressions (Seminar room Kodavere) Chair: Haozhen Li
14:30 – 15:00	<b>Abhirup Sarkar</b> , University of Tartu, <i>Some Notes on the Viability of the ‘Humble Approach’ in Folkloristics</i>	<b>Iida Rätty</b> , University of Turku, <i>Illness Narrative as an ‘in Between’ Category</i>	<b>Dan Zhou</b> , Kwansei Gakuin University, <i>Reframing ‘Vernacular’: The Localisation of a Global Concept in Japanese Folkloristics</i>
15:00 – 15:30	<b>Li Feng</b> , Fudan University, <i>Why Is Chinese Folkloristics Theory Still Not So Humble?</i>	<b>Mikhail Popov</b> , Hebrew University of Jerusalem, <i>“A Ruse Occurred, a Tale Was Born”: The Transmission, Transformation and Social Background of One Folklore Plot in Chulym Turkic Folklore</i>	<b>Anja Mlakar</b> , Institute IRRIS Slovenia, <i>Folklore as Contested Knowledge and the Struggle for the Vernacular</i>

15:30 – 16:00	<b>Mar'yana Svarnyk</b> , University of Tartu, <i>Sustainability: A Concept without a Theory?</i>	<b>Mirjami Sipilä</b> , University of Turku, <i>Exploring Livonian Counting Rhymes and Their Presentation in the Volkslieder der Liven (1936) Collection</i>	<b>Susanna Jurvanen</b> , University of Helsinki, <i>Bridging Theory and Ethnography: Multimodality in the Study of the Finnish Helka Festival</i>
<div><b>18:00-21:00</b> Reception at <b>University Cafe (Ülikooli 20)</b> for Registered Participants</div> <div>Musical Performance by Estonian flute duo <b>Kuula Hetke (Kärt Pihlap &amp; Katariina Tirmaste)</b></div>			

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Day 2

September 26, 2025 (Friday)			
09:45 – 11:00 Keynote Lecture by <b>Mariya Lesiv</b> on topic – <i>Folklore of Anger in the Precarity of War: Humble Theory and the Unhumble Vernacular</i> (Conference Hall)			
Moderated by <b>Anastasiya Astapova</b>			
11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break			
Session 7: Placelore (Conference Hall) Chair: <b>Kikee Doma Bhutia</b>		Session 8: Social Media and AI (Seminar room Tõstamaa) Chair: <b>Andrus Tins</b>	Session 9: Belief Narratives (Seminar room Kodavere) Chair: <b>Kristel Kivari</b>
11:30 – 12:00	<b>Lachlan Bell</b> , University of Tartu, <i>The Sõrve Bunyip: Reimagining a Colonial Cryptid in an Australian-Estonian Context</i>	<b>Jasmine Aavaranta Hansén</b> , Åbo Akademi, <i>Listening Objects: AI-enhanced Museum Exhibitions Aided by Humble Theory</i>	<b>Roope Kotiniemi</b> , University of Helsinki, <i>Navigating Contradictions: Analysing Magical Pouches in Finnish and Karelian Belief Narratives</i>
12:00 – 12:30	<b>Linda Saraswati Klausner</b> , University of Tartu, <i>When Trees Wear Saris: Ritual Dressing and Sacred Power</i>	<b>Hanna-Kaisa Lassila</b> , University of Turku, <i>The Everyday Entertainment of Vernacular Disciplining on Social Media</i>	<b>Anete Saulīte-Stačkune</b> , University of Latvia, <i>Personal Insight as an Aid, Not the Enemy: An Example on Latvian Folk Belief Research</i>
12:30 – 13:00	<b>Pallavi Dutta</b> , Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya, <i>Mohan Phador: A Sacred Stone of the Tiwa Community, North East India</i>	<b>Joan Jürgens</b> , University of Tartu, <i>‘Timeless Reading’: Fortune Telling with Tarot Cards in Estonian-speaking Social Media Channels</i>	<b>Hanna Dudkowiak</b> , University of Warsaw, <i>Our Lady and the Golden Foam: Tracing the Medieval Polish Magical Charm</i>
13:00 – 14:30 Lunch Break			
Session 10: Ritual Practice (Conference Hall) Chair: <b>Alevtina Solovyeva</b>		Session 11: Material Folklore (Seminar room Tõstamaa) Chair: <b>Digne Üdre-Lielbārde</b>	
14:30 – 15:00	<b>Nataliia Rygovska</b> , University of Tartu, <i>The Invisible Front: Vernacular Spiritual Practices in Contemporary Ukraine</i>	<b>Mila Santala</b> , University of Turku, <i>From Tradition to Modernity: The Enduring Legacy of Kalevala Jewellery and the Kalevala Women's Association</i>	
15:00 – 15:30	<b>Lodewyk Barkhuizen</b> , University of Tartu, <i>Existential Weakness as Method in the Spiritual Teachings of South African Traditional Healers</i>	<b>Edgar Mirjamsdotter</b> , Åbo Akademi University, <i>Following the Threads – Exploring the Aibo Tapestry though Ethnography</i>	
15:30 – 16:00	<b>Baobao</b> , University of Tartu, <i>Sutṣywu and Sutṣywumini of Misfortune Transferability in the Eastern Minyag Community</i>	<b>Kikee Doma Bhutia</b> , University of Tartu, <i>Thensay Yaksay and the Burden of Ritual Gift-Giving in Sikkimese Villages</i>	
16:00 – 16:30 Closing of the Conference			