



6th International Conference of Young Folklorists 2016
V i l n i u s

Us and Them: Exploring the Margins

Place: The Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore, Antakalnio 6, LT-10308 Vilnius, Lithuania

Date: June 1-3, 2016

Abstract submission deadline: **February 29, 2016**

Organizers: The Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore in Vilnius, Lithuania;
Department of Estonian and Comparative Folklore, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia.

Partners: Lithuanian folk culture center

In 2016 the 6th International Conference of Young Folklorists “*Us and Them: Exploring the Margins*” invites folklore students and recently graduated scholars to Vilnius (Lithuania).

This conference is an international academic event, which annually brings together advanced students and recently graduated scholars from different countries to come to Estonia or Lithuania, and gives them an opportunity to present their research to an international audience. The conference aims to foster academic communication, collaboration and research in the field of folklore.

Folkloristic research is often about “us” studying “them”, nevertheless investigation takes place at home or within distant culture. The problem we want to rise in this conference is not about the ambiguous disciplinary relationship with the modernity or concept of *folk* (though, papers on this topics are welcome as well). We encourage the exploration of the peripheries of reality that folklore scholars face when they are trying to understand, explain and interpret the alien world of the “other”.

The borders which exist between individuals, families, clans, tribes, communities, nations, countries, civilizations, religions etc. are one of the most important evidences on how culture and identity works. On the other hand, the notion of the borders inevitably implicates the discussion about the margins: once the line of what supposed to be normal, rational and comprehensible is crossed – unfamiliar and sometimes dangerous spheres appear. This moving can be both physical and mental and has to be treated as identity forming process as well.

The 6th Conference of Young Folklorists 2016 “*Us and Them: Exploring the Margins*” addresses various aspects of researches related to the phenomena of the margins and borders from the folkloristic, ethnological of anthropological perspectives. We invite you to submit your abstract on one of the topics below or suggest your own option:

- ❖ Analyzing the meaning of the borders and margins from folkloristic perspective
- ❖ Constructs of otherness and stigmas

- ❖ Rethinking the understanding of majorities and minorities
- ❖ Facing the “alien” in folklore research
- ❖ Questioning the norms and deviances
- ❖ Sacral and secular; reality and supernatural
- ❖ Vernacular understanding of the death and the underworld
- ❖ The “backstage” of the great narratives
- ❖ The construction of the image of the “other” in the academic discourses
- ❖ The public space and media as a folklore source for border research

Practical information:

Abstract deadline February 29, 2016

Abstracts should be max 250 words.

Please include your name, affiliation, position and e-mail address.

Submit by email to: yofo2016@gmail.com or send your abstract by post to the Committee of YoFo 2016, Antakalnio g. 6, LT-10308 Vilnius, Lietuva

Regarding the acceptance of your proposal, the organizers will inform you by April 1, 2016.

Initiative of both the young or the senior scholars to give the keynote talks or lead the workshops are very welcome.

The working language of the conference is English. Each paper will be given 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for discussion.

The conference program will include sessions, workshops, keynote talks, excursions, etc.

There is no registration fee but we kindly ask the participants to cover their own travel and accommodation costs.

Organizing Committee: Anastasiya Astapova, Šarūnė Balandytė, Inga Butrimaitė, Lina Būgienė, Gražina Kadžytė, Lina Leparskienė, Asta Skujytė – Razmienė, Svetlana Tsonkova, Ūlo Valk.

For any questions please contact:

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