



Balkan Ethnology Department,
Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies
Bulgarian Academy of Science

Call for papers

International Conference “BETWEEN THE WORLDS: MAGIC, MIRACLES AND MYSTICISM”

Sofia, Bulgaria

October 29-31, 2020

Balkan Ethnology Department (IEFSEM) at the Bulgarian Academy of Science is pleased to announce its forthcoming international conference “Between the Worlds: Magic, Miracles and Mysticism” due in October 29-31st 2020 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

The magical world still has a hold on the modern reality whether it is through the saga of Harry Potter and the wizardry world, the zombies of “Walking Dead” or the Vampires of the “Vampire Diaries”. Baba Vanga’s prophesies are frequently part of the media and pop-culture takes on current political events not only on the Balkans, but Europe, and even US and Russia. The miracles of natural areas, sacred places, icons, monuments are still bringing together a multitude of believers each year to different parts of the world. This comes as a testimony of the fact that the human still desires to know the unknown and reaches out for what cannot be seen, touched, felt and often accounted for.

The magical and mystical perceptions, experiences, views, beliefs and practices have become more visible in the contemporary globalized world. The contact spaces between people and supranatural forces have various social aspects which set the wide thematic range of the conference.



After the first successful conference of the “Between the worlds“ (BEW) series the Balkan Ethnology Department at IEFSEM – BAS organizes its second international academic forum under the title “**Between the Worlds: Magic, Miracles and Mysticism**” (BEW 2020). We invite scholars and researchers from all areas of humanities and social sciences for an inter- and multi-disciplinary discussion of their research results on the place and role of magic, miracles and mysticism into the traditional and modern societies and communities.

Despite that we remain open to a variety of topics, our intent is to encourage debate in the following broad thematic fields:

- Magic and Its Place in The Local, Regional and Global Cultures;
- Miracles and Sacred Places;
- Magic, Festivities and Rituals;
- Magic/ Mysticism/ Miracles as Coping Mechanisms for Individuals and Societies;
- Explaining the Modern World Events Through Magic and/or Miracles;
- Magic/ Miracles/ Mysticism and Their Role During Mobility and Migration;
- Miracles and Mysticism in the Virtual and Media Space;
- Magic/Miracles/Mysticism and New Subcultures and Identities;
- Wizardry, Magic, Mysticism in Literature;
- Music and Mysticism;
- Gender and Magic/ Mysticism/Miracles.

IMPORTANT DATES

31st of January 2020 – abstract (up to 250 words) deadline to: conferenceworlds2020@gmail.com;

no later than **15th of February 2020** – notification of the Organizing Committee selection results.

31st of May 2020 – deadline for submission of full manuscripts for publication in the online conference proceedings.

Further information can be found on the [conference website](#).

Working language of the conference is **English**.

Abstracts (between 200 – 250 words) along with proposed paper's title, five key words, author's full name, e-mail, institutional and disciplinary affiliation and short biography should be send by the **January 31st 2020** to the following email: conferenceworlds2020@gmail.com.

Participants will be informed about the outcome of the Organizing Committee selection process **no later than 15th of February 2020**.

Following the established during our previous conference of the “Between the worlds” Series initiative, we invite selected authors to submit their manuscripts **before 31 May 2020 for publication**. After double-blind peer-reviewing they will be published in an open access e-collection at the web-site of the conference: <https://conferenceworlds.wordpress.com/publications/>

Please note that while there is **no participation fee**, the Organizing Committee **does not cover travel and accommodation** fees. Selected participants are expected to cover their own expenses. In relation to this we strongly advise the future participants to search for potential financial support from their respective institutions, academic exchange programs, etc.

We are looking forward to your proposals!

Organizing Committee of BEW2020:

Prof. Dr. Elena Marushaikova (Bulgaria, UK), Prof. Dr. Fotini Tsibiridou (Greece), Prof. Florentina Badalanova-Geller (UK, Germany), Prof. Dr. Mare Kõiva (Estonia), Prof. Dr. Veselin Popov (Bulgaria, UK), Prof. DSc. Rachko Popov (Bulgaria), Assoc. Prof. Desislava Naydenova (Bulgaria), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Iveta Todorova - Pirgova (USA), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mila Maeva (Bulgaria), Assist. Prof. Dr. Magdalena Slavkova, (Bulgaria), Assist. Prof. Dr. Yelis Erolova (Bulgaria), Assist. Prof. Dr. Plamena Stoyanova (Bulgaria), Dr. Behrin Shopova (Bulgaria), Mina Hristova (Bulgaria), Yuliya Popcheva (Bulgaria)