

Call for papers

Phobias and Folklore

Do cultural stereotypes affect the formation of individual phobias and vice versa? Are there “folklore bases” to contemporary “moral panics”? The upcoming issue of the interdisciplinary academic journal *Urban Folklore and Anthropology* will discuss cognitive and social mechanisms of fear and their “folklore models”. How do individual phobias relate to collective models of “scary” and which methods of studying of such phenomena could be of use to researchers of contemporary culture? Individual fears often accompany personality disorders and mental issues; therefore, they are usually tackled by psychologists, therapists and psychiatrists who pay little attention to stereotypy of such fears and to abundance of ideas that they are based on. Mass phobias and panics, closely tied to a persistent worldview, translate into cliché texts and collective actions, thus going into the “realm” of sociologists, anthropologists and folklorists, who are mostly interested in the conventional forms behind the phobias, not in the fears *per se*.

We invite researchers in these (but not exclusively these) disciplines to reflect upon the possible common basis (if not upon the common language, which would probably prove hard to achieve) for discussion of the following problems:

- Languages of describing fear in psychiatry and anthropology: similarities and differences.
- Cognitive mechanisms leading to emergence of fears.
- “Anthropology of emotions”: what is fear, and can it be “assessed”?
- “Folklore bases” of “moral panics”.
- Folklore texts about the “scary”: therapeutic or provocative?
- Ritual forms of confronting fears.
- “Children’s scary”: texts and practices.
- “The neo-Luddites”: what are the collective and individual fears of technologies?

We welcome submissions of papers (up to 60000 characters) based both on fundamental and applied research; of translations of seminal works (up to 80000 characters); field and archival materials with comments (from 1 page to 40000 characters), themed reviews (up to 40000 characters) and also reviews of conferences and other notes for the “chronicles of academic life” dwelling on the abovementioned and closely related topics.

We will be happy to receive your applications (paper title and theses) till November 20, 2019, and will be waiting for the full papers and materials till January 5, 2020 at UFA-ion@ranepa.ru. After the papers are discussed with the editorial board, they will undergo external peer review.

See more about the UFA journal (editorial staff, submission guidelines, publishing ethics, previous issues, etc.) at: <http://ufajournal.ranepa.ru>

Yours sincerely,
Editors for the issue

O.B. Khristoforova, PhD in Philology, Lead Research Fellow in the Laboratory for Theoretical Folklore Studies, SASH ISS RANEPА; Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for Urban Folklore and Anthropology Studies, MSSSES

M.I. Baiduzh, Senior Research Fellow in the Laboratory for Theoretical Folklore Studies, SASH ISS RANEPА; Research Fellow in the Centre for Urban Folklore and Anthropology Studies, MSSSES