

**International Scientific Conference  
on Cultural Group Behaviour**

**Historical Re-Enactment, Contemporary Paganism  
and Fantasy-Based Movements**

**20–21 May, 2016. Kaunas, Lithuania**

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**Call for Papers**

Modern times are marked by rapid advances in technology, urbanization and globalization. The second half of the 20th century witnessed fragmentation of culture, ethnicity and religion as a reaction to disappointment in the progress of civilization. This promoted interest in natural, ethnic and indigenous aspects of localities. Orientation toward localities, as revealed in various worldviews and socio-cultural movements, has been related to the revival of traditional and nationalist ideas, orientation to nature-based spiritualities, (re)construction of local ethnicities and the need to return to ethnic and pre-Christian identities. A related trend manifests itself as return to old customs, indigenous values and attempts to reconstruct traditional pre-Christian religions. The existence of historical re-enactment groups and contemporary pagan movements, grounded in native faith, as well as fantasy-based movements raises the following questions: what drives them to look back to their roots? How and why do these groups emerge, exist and disappear? What is their social and cultural impact on society and members of historical re-enactment groups?

The conference welcomes both empirical and theoretical contributions from various disciplines, as well as interdisciplinary studies of historical re-enactment, contemporary pagan movements and fantasy-based movements. Early career researchers and students are also encouraged to participate.

We invite papers and panels including but not limited to the following topics:

Theoretical and methodological approaches to re-enactment

- Theoretical approaches to re-enactment and/or contemporary paganism;
- Fieldwork within re-enactment groups;
- Methodological implications and challenges.

Diversity of re-enactment movements

- Diversity of historical re-enactments and contemporary pagan movements;
- Past and present of the living history movement;
- Fantasy and live action role-playing (LARP) groups as a form of re-enactment;
- Historical cosplay in Western and other cultures;
- Aspects of the local and the global in re-enactment;
- Periodization and typology of re-enactment;

Worldviews and activities of re-enactors

- Identity of historical re-enactors and/or contemporary pagans;
- Authenticity and (re)construction in historical re-enactment and/or contemporary pagan movements;
- Traditionalism, nationalism and politics in re-enactment;
- Gender in historical re-enactment and/or contemporary pagan movements;
- Spirituality, religion and re-enactment;
- Culturally relevant or historically significant places within the context of historical re-enactments;
- Cultural heritage in historical re-enactment and/or contemporary pagan movements;
- Festivals, rituals and performance in historical re-enactment;

Re-enactment and society

- Influence of consumerism, globalization and the mass and social media for historical re-enactors and/or contemporary pagans;
- Historical re-enactment and/or the influence of contemporary pagan movements on the on mainstream society;
- Historical re-enactment in popular culture.

We expect individual paper proposals and panel submissions, including 3-4 presenters.

After the conference, participants are invited to observe historical re-enactment of Lithuanian history in the Hanse Day festival 2016, held on May 21–22.

Participants should complete the form at <https://tgt.wufoo.com/forms/conference-entry-form/>. Abstracts will be published on the Conference website. Each paper is allotted a time of 15 minutes, followed by up to 10 minutes for questions and discussion.

Participation fee: 40€ (for students 20€)

Travel and accommodation to attend the Conference will be at the attendee's expense.

Abstract submission deadline: March 21, 2016.

Notification of acceptance: April 4, 2016.

Working languages: English, Lithuanian

Conference website: <http://reenactment.vdu.lt/>

Organizing Committee: Agnė Kalėdienė (Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania), Rasa Pranskevičiūtė (Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania), Gintarė Dusevičiūtė (Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania), Aušra Kairaitytė-Užupė (Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania), Gintaras Jaronis (Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania).

The Scientific Committee will be announced later.

Conference participants are welcome to prepare papers to the Group and the Environments journal

<http://ejournals.vdu.lt/index.php/grupes/about/submissions#authorGuidelines>

Organizers: Center for Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Vytautas Magnus University.

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