

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COMPARATIVE MYTHOLOGY  
&  
KOKUGAKUIN UNIVERSITY, TOKYO, JAPAN**

**SEVENTEENTH  
ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON  
COMPARATIVE MYTHOLOGY**



**THE ORIGINS OF MYTHOLOGY**

**In Honor of Michael Witzel  
on the Occasion of His 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS**

**August 27-30, 2024**

**Kokugakuin University, Shibuya Campus  
Bldg. 6, Room 6B13 (Basement Floor),  
Tokyo, Japan**

# PROGRAM

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

**09:00 – 09:30** PARTICIPANTS WELCOMING & REGISTRATION

**09:30 – 10:00** OPENING ADDRESSES

### TUESDAY MORNING SESSION: JAPANESE MYTHOLOGY IN A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

CHAIR: KAZUO MATSUMURA

**10:00 – 10:30** MICHAEL WITZEL  
*Harvard University, USA*  
ARCHAIC JAPANESE SUN AND MOON DEITIES

**10:30 – 11:00** PAOLO BARBARO  
*Lille University, France*  
REFLECTIONS ON THE MULTIPLE LAYERS IN JAPANESE  
MYTHOLOGICAL HISTORIES OF THE 8TH CENTURY AND ON THEIR PROTO-  
HISTORIC EDITING

**11:00 – 11:30** *Coffee Break*

**11:30 – 12:00** TAKESHI KIMURA  
*University of Tsukuba, Japan*  
JAPANESE MYTHS BETWEEN COMPARATIVE STUDIES AND INDIGENOUS  
PERSPECTIVES

**12:00 – 12:30** MARKO PIŠEV  
*University of Belgrade, Serbia*  
THE JAPANESE “OTHER” IN CONTEMPORARY SOUTH KOREAN HORROR  
CINEMA

**12:30 – 14:00** *Lunch Break*

**TUESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION**

**CHAIR:** NATALIYA YANCHEVSKAYA

**MYTHOLOGY OF ANCIENT EGYPT, MESOPOTAMIA, AND TIBET**

- 14:00 – 14:30** KEIKO TAZAWA  
*The Ancient Orient Museum, Tokyo, Japan*  
SNAKE, SHOOTING STAR AND ORDER: MYTHICAL INTERPRETATIONS OF  
THE TALE OF THE SHIPWRECKED SAILOR
- 14:30 – 15:00** VLADIMIR V. EMELIANOV  
*Saint Petersburg State University, Russia*  
SUMERIAN ABU AND SHAMANIC OBO  
(A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF SUMMER FESTIVALS)
- 15:00 – 15:30** IWAO ISHIKAWA  
*Nakamura Hajime Eastern Institute, Japan*  
THE ETYMOLOGY OF A TIBETAN WORD *PHYVA*: THE TRANSMISSION OF  
THE CULT OF FUXI (伏羲) TO TIBET

**15:30 – 16:00**      **Coffee Break**

**JAPANESE AND KOREAN MYTHOLOGY IN A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE**

- 16:00 – 16:30**      DANILO TRBOJEVIC  
**[via Zoom]**      *The Institute of Ethnography SASA, Belgrade, Serbia*  
NATURE, TECHNOLOGY, IMAGINATION:  
TRACING THE CONFLUENCE OF DEMONIC LORE AND POSTMODERN  
SHIFTS IN HAYAO MIYAZAKI'S FILMS AND SERBIAN VILLAGE FOLKLORE
- 16:30 – 17:00**      MIYUKI ONOE  
*Toho High School, Attached to Toho University, Japan*  
THE LEGEND OF YONORAN AND SEONYO IN KOREA
- 17:00 – 17:30**      KLAUS ANTONI  
**[via Zoom]**      *Tübingen University, Germany*  
JAPANESE "SONGS OF ANTIQUITY" (*KODAI-KAYŌ*) AND LAFCADIO  
HEARN'S ROMANTIC NATIONALISM

**17:30 – 18:00**

**[via Zoom]**

APRIL QUIN

*Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, Ireland*

'LOVE FROM THE OTHER SIDE': A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE  
JAPANESE MYTH OF IZANAGI AND IZANAMI AND THE GREEK MYTHS OF  
HADES AND PERSEPHONE, AND ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE

**18:30 – Reception**

**Restaurant Capricciosa**

**150-0011 Tokyo, Shibuya City,**

**Higashi, 1-chōme-3-1**

## **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28**

### **WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION**

**CHAIR: DAVID WEISS**

#### **MYTHOLOGY OF SOUTH ASIA**

**09:00 – 09:30**

KYOKO AMANO

*Kyoto University, Japan*

WHY AND WHEN DID THE GODS GO TO HEAVEN?

THE LINEAGE OF MYTHOLOGY IN VEDIC INDIA AND THE BACKGROUND  
OF HEAVENLY ORIENTATION

**09:30 – 10:00**

**[via Zoom]**

YAROSLAV VASSILKOV

*Front Royal, USA*

MAIDENS' RITE OF DIVINATION WITH A MIRROR IN THE  
MAHĀBHĀRATA: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

**10:00 – 10:30**

**[via Zoom]**

SIGNE COHEN

*University of Missouri, USA*

THE RBHUS' CUP, THE BUDDHA'S BOWL, AND THE HOLY GRAIL

**10:30 – 11:00**

EIJIRŌ DŌYAMA

*Osaka University, Japan*

ANOTHER INDO-IRANIAN MYTH OF THE HIDDEN SUN: SALVAGING THE  
FALLEN SUN AND TRITA AS A PRIEST

11:00 – 11:30      *Coffee Break*

**INDO-EUROPEAN MYTHOLOGY IN A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE**

**11:30 – 12:00**      KRZYSZTOF TOMASZ WITCZAK  
*University of Lodz, Poland*  
JAPANESE KAPPA AND GREEK KAMPE: TWO WATER MONSTERS IN  
COMPARISON

**12:00 – 12:30**      MARCELLO DE MARTINO  
*Inalco-CeRMI, France*  
THE GOD OF THE ARYĀH

12:30 – 14:30      *Lunch Break*

*Business Lunch for the IACM Board of Directors  
and Conference Organizers*

**WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION:**

**INDO-EUROPEAN MYTHOLOGY: COMPARATIVE STUDIES, SCHOOLS, AND METHODOLOGY &  
POSTERS DISCUSSION SESSION**

**CHAIR:** STEVE FARMER

**14:30 – 15:00**      GREGORY HAYNES  
*Mother Tongue Journal, Cambridge, MA, USA*  
NATURAL PHENOMENA IN MYTHICAL INTERPRETATION

**15:00 – 15:30**      BORIS OGUIBÉNINE  
*Strasbourg University, France*  
TRIADS IN COMPARATIVE MYTHOLOGY

15:30 – 16:00      *Coffee Break*

**16:00 – 16:30**      HASMIK HMAYAKYAN & TIGRAN MIKAYELIAN  
**[via Zoom]**      *Institute of Oriental Studies, National Academy of Sciences,  
Armenia*  
THE SYMBOLIC MYTHOLOGICAL ROLE OF DRAGONS IN THE

ICONOGRAPHY OF SOME ARMENIAN AND CHINESE CARPETS

**16:30 – 17:00**

**[via Zoom]**

MISLAV JEŽIĆ

*University of Zagreb &  
Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Croatia*

THE MYTH OF THE CREATION THROUGH THE SACRIFICE OF THE  
PRIMORDIAL MAN: ITS MEANING AND ITS IMPACT

**17:00 – 17:30**

**[via Zoom]**

EMILY LYLE

*University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK*

A STUDY OF FOUR MYTHOLOGICAL THEFTS WITHIN THE LAURASIAN  
STORY LINE THROUGH COMPARISON OF DIFFERENT INDO-EUROPEAN  
SOURCES

**17:30 – 18:10**

**POSTERS DISCUSSION SESSION:**

ANA R. CHELARIU

*Independent Researcher, New Jersey, USA*

THE MYTH FORMATION AND THE SILENT GODDESS

MARKÉTA DVOŘÁKOVÁ

*Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic*

THE PHENOMENON OF TRANSCENDENCE IN THE NOVELS OF FRANZ  
WERFEL

TIAGO GARCIA FERRER

*Independent Researcher, UK*

*HE WHO DEVOURS MEN*, A NOVEL APPROACH TO THE STUDY OF  
DRAGONS

REHUEL NIKOLAI SORIANO

*Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines*

WHEN EAST MEETS WEST: THE SPIRITUAL QUEST AND ASIAN SPIRIT IN  
CAPCOM'S DRAGON'S DOGMA SERIES

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

### THURSDAY MORNING SESSION: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES, EXPERIMENTAL INTERPRETATIONS, AND THE LARGE-SCALE COMPARISONS

CHAIR: KIKUKO HIRAFUJI

**09:00 – 09:30**

[via Zoom]

ALEKSANDAR BOŠKOVIĆ

*UFRN, Natal, Brazil*

HERO'S JOURNEY: FROM SARGON TO BLADE RUNNER

**09:30 – 10:00**

[via Zoom]

MAXSON MCDOWELL, JOENINE ROBERTS & ALEXANDRA ROTH

*C. G. Jung Foundation for Analytical Psychology, USA*

EXPERIMENTAL EVIDENCE FOR THE MEANING OF THE MYTH OF SATURN

**10:00 – 10:30**

LOUISE S. MILNE

*Edinburgh Napier University & University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK*

FIGURATION AND TEMPORALITY IN THE ENTANGLED PREHISTORIES OF MYTH AND DREAMS

**10:30 – 11:00**

STEVE FARMER

*The Systems Biology Group, Palo Alto, CA, USA*

THE WITZELBOT AND BEYOND: LARGE CONTEXT-WINDOW LLMs IN HISTORICAL, PREHISTORICAL, AND SCIENTIFIC-MEDICAL RESEARCH

**11:00 – 11:30**

**Coffee Break**

**11:30 – 12:00**

DAVID WEISS

*Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan*

THE VIENNA SCHOOL IN JAPAN: CULTURE CIRCLE THEORY AND ITS IMPACT ON THE STUDY OF JAPANESE MYTHOLOGY

**12:00 – 12:30**

KAZUO MATSUMURA

*Wako University, Tokyo, Japan*

A PERSONAL ASSESSMENT OF ATSUSHIKO YOSHIDA'S MYTHOLOGICAL THEORY

12:30 – 14:00      Lunch Break

**THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION**

**CHAIR:** LOUISE MILNE

**THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES & MICHAEL WITZEL'S WORK**

- 14:00 – 14:30**      KRZYSZTOF GUTOWSKI  
*Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland*  
COGNITIVE AND EVOLUTIONARY READING OF MICHAEL WITZEL'S 'THE ORIGINS OF THE WORLD'S MYTHOLOGIES'
- 14:30 – 15:00**      NATALIYA YANCHEVSKAYA  
*Princeton University, USA*  
PROBING THE BOUNDARIES OF COMPARATIVE MYTHOLOGY:  
ADDRESSING BRUCE LINCOLN'S CRITIQUE OF MICHAEL WITZEL'S  
APPROACH AND THE FIELD OF COMPARATIVE MYTHOLOGY
- 15:30 – 16:00**      YURI BEREZKIN  
**[via Zoom]**      *Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography,  
St. Petersburg, Russia*  
TOWARDS THE WORLD-WIDE DATABASE OF MYTHOLOGY AND  
FOLKLORE: A UNIQUE STORY

16:00 – 16:30      Coffee Break

**MYTHOLOGY OF EURASIA: SIBERIA, URAL, AND CHINA**

- 16:30 – 17:00**      MARE KÕIVA & RAHEL LAURA VESIK  
*Estonian Literary Museum, Tartu, Estonia*  
THE ANIMAL PROTECTORS
- 17:00 – 17:30**      ELWIRA KACZYŃSKA & KRZYSZTOF TOMASZ WITCZAK  
*University of Lodz, Poland*  
ALEXANDER GWAGNIN ON THE GOLDEN WOMAN AND BELIEFS OF THE  
URALIC NATIONS



- 17:00 – 17:30** JINGHUA HUANG  
*Yunnan University, China*  
THE GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE OF LOCAL MYTHOLOGY: EXPLORING  
VARIOUS MYTHOLOGIES IN YUNNAN, CHINA FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF  
HISTORICAL COMPARATIVE MYTHOLOGY
- 17:30 – 18:00** CHUJING YANG  
*Yunnan University, China*  
THE ORIGIN MYTH OF LISU WRITING: WANG RENBO AND THE LISU  
SYLLABIC SCRIPT HE CREATED IN THE 1920S
- 18:00 – 18:10** CONCLUDING IN-PERSON SESSIONS

**19:00 – Conference Banquet**

**Yebisu Beer Hall**  
**150-0022 Tokyo, Shibuya City,**  
**Ebisuminami, 1-chōme-1-1**

## **FRIDAY, AUGUST 30**

**All papers are presented online via Zoom**

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION: MYTHOLOGY AROUND THE WORLD**

**MODERATOR: NATALIYA YANCHEVSKAYA**

- 15:00 – 15:30** NATALIA KORNEEVA  
*Independent Researcher, Moscow, Russia*  
MADHUPARKA AT THE RITUAL OF RECEIVING KING SOMA AS A GUEST  
OF HONOR (*ATITHI /ĀTITHYEṢṬĪ*) DURING SOMA-SACRIFICES:  
TEXTS AND VIDEO RECORDINGS OF ON-SITE PERFORMANCES
- 15:30 – 16:00** MHACHANI OVUNG  
*Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Pune,*  
*Maharashtra, India*

MYTH AND ORAL TRADITIONS AMONG PRELITERATE INDIGENOUS  
COMMUNITY OF NAGALAND, IN NORTHEAST INDIA: A SUPPLEMENTARY  
TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

**16:00 – 16:30**

SUNTHAR VISUVALINGAM

*Independent Researcher*

TRANSGRESSIVE SACRALITY AND THE SEMBLANCE OF HUMOR:  
REPPRESSED LAUGHTER IN AMERINDIAN MYTHOLOGY

**16:30 – 16:45**

**Coffee Break**

**16:45 – 17:15**

FRANCESCO BRIGHENTI

*Independent Researcher, Italy*

TIGROANTHROPY IN MONSOON ASIA: TIGER SPIRITS, SHAMANS,  
ANCESTORS, AND SHAPESHIFTERS IN SOUTH AND MAINLAND  
SOUTHEAST ASIAN TRADITIONS

**17:15 – 17:45**

JULIETA ROTARU

*Institut National des Langues et Littératures Orientales,  
École Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Paris, France*

THE ORIGINS OF GYPSY OATHS

**17:45 – 18:15**

MARCIN LISIECKI

*Nicolaus Copernicus University, Torun, Poland*

DEMONOLOGY AND FOLK MAGIC IN THE FOLKLORE IN NORTHERN  
MAZOVIA. THE CASE OF THE CITY OF NASIELSK

**18:15 – 18:30**

CONFERENCE CLOSING REMARKS