Research seminar:

Conspiracy Theories in Eastern Europe and Beyond

24.04.2019
Jakobi 2–114
Department of Estonian and Comparative Folklore

This interdisciplinary seminar brings together the scholars working in the international COST project “Comparative Analysis on Conspiracy Theories” as well as other researchers doing work on this topic. Concentrating primarily on conspiracy theories in Eastern Europe, we will investigate the most recent and popular conspiracy theories and observe how the socialist past and populism-infused present impact their emergence and dissemination. The papers delivered by scholars from Estonia, Finland, Romania, and Russia will flag the perspectives ethnology, folklore, semiotics, and history disciplines have on various conspiracy theories. The seminar does not require prior registration.

Programme

10:00 Opening words

10:15 Corneliu Pintilescu (The Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca), Attila Kustán Magyari (Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca)
Soros conspiracy theories and the rise of populism in post-socialist Romania and Hungary

10:45 Mari-Liis Madisson, Andreas Ventsel (University of Tartu)
Attention-grabbing function of conspiracy theories

11:15 Anastasiya Astapova (University of Tartu)
In Pursuit of nationhood vis-à-vis Russia: the search for lost manuscripts in post-Soviet countries

11:45–12:30 Coffee break

12:30 Alexander Panchenko (European University in Saint-Petersburg, Russian Academy of Sciences)
“Conspirituality” in Russia: how and why late Soviet and post-Soviet New Age culture was related to conspiratorial thinking

13:00 Onoriu Colacel (University of Suceava)
Politics on Moldovan TV: conspiracy theories and disinformation

13:30 Toni Saarinen (University of Helsinki)
How New World Order narratives explain our world

14:00–14:15 Discussion and conclusion

The organizer: Anastasiya Astapova, anastasiya.astapova@ut.ee

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