

# Perspectives On Contemporary Legend

## 40th Conference - 26th - 30th June 2023

Sheffield Hallam University, South Yorkshire, England, UK.

### Conference Schedule

#### MONDAY 26th JUNE

##### Panel 1.1 – ‘Nag, Nag, Nag’: Politics, Fake News and Rumour

CHAIR: MATT CHEESEMAN

**John Bodner:** Conspiracy theories as vernacular political theory

**Ian Brodie:** Legend and Politics: A General Approach

**Henrik Olander:** When citizens trust rumours more than authorities – a crisis communication perspective

##### Panel 1.2 – ‘Doctor! Doctor!': Crime and Moral Panics

CHAIR: SOPHIE PARKES-NIELD

**Joel Best:** Halloween Sadists with Rainbow Fentanyl: Media, Politics, and Newsworthy Variants

**Theo Meder:** Whatever happened to Dutch needle spiking?

##### Panel 1.3 – ‘I Bet That You Look Good on the Dancefloor’: Monsters

CHAIR: BEN RADFORD

**Christopher Bader, Joseph Baker and Tom Clark:** Alien Big Cats, Nessie, and the British Bigfoot:

Prevalence and patterns of belief in British cryptids

**Tommy Kuusela:** Attack of the killer werewolves (and a mummy) in Sweden

**Mikel Koven:** When Werewolf Met Wendigo ... : a colonial love story

#### TUESDAY 27th JUNE

##### Panel 2.1 – ‘Sing It Back’: Nation and Indigenous Legend

CHAIR: ANDREW ROBINSON

**Matt Cheeseman:** English Nationalism, Folklore and Indigeneity

**Tom Mould:** Tall Tales, Romantic Legends, and Deadly Conspiracies:

Bleeding Genres and Poe's Law in Indian Country

**Diane Rodgers:** Monstrous Megaliths: spooky stones in British folk horror

**Film Showing** – Animations based on Custom and Folklore produced by SHU BA Illustration Students

##### Panel 2.2 – ‘Don't You Want Me?': Body Horror

CHAIR: MIKEL KOVEN

**Megan Kenny:** Like Pulling Teeth: The History and Contemporary Relevance of Vagina Dentata Folklore

**Victoria Newton:** ‘It can actually make you infertile’: Contemporary Legend and Vernacular Knowledge about Contraception

##### Panel 2.3 – ‘Black Widow’: Haunted Houses

CHAIR: TOM CLARK

**Betty Aquino:** Cash Crop: Agritainment and American Folk Horror at Haunted House Attractions

**Gunnella Þorgeirsdóttir:** In Ghostly Japan: legend tripping in the 21st century

**Mare Kalda:** ‘A house with creepily blackened window openings’:

Narrating a supernatural experience in a digital community

**EVENING** – City Tour & Ghost walk including GRENOSIDE SWORD DANCE

#### WEDNESDAY 28th JUNE

##### Panel 3.1 – ‘Poison Arrow’: Social Media

CHAIR: THEO MEDER

**Kristina Downs:** From Meme to Conspiracy: Public Responses to the Dallas Zoo Animal Thefts

**Rachelle Saltzman:** Anti-hero with a thousand faces: tinker, tailor, soldier, spy, drag queen

**Patricia Sawin:** Book Tok: (Partially) Circumventing Book Bans One Sixty-Second Video at a Time

##### Panel 3.2 – ‘Disco 2000’: Digital Legends

CHAIR: IAN BRODIE

**Perry Carpenter:** Postcards from the Intersection of Cybersecurity and Folklore

**John Laudun:** Legends as Vernacular Discourse as Large Language Models

**Marta Pavelková:** Evolution of Czech Kinderschrecks and its function in contemporary society

##### Panel 3.3 – ‘Standing at the Sky's Edge’: X-Files and UFOs

CHAIR: DIANE RODGERS

**David Clarke and Andrew Robinson:** In The Eye of the Beholder: the Calvine UFO photograph

**Jeanmarie Rouhier-Willoughby:** Cold War Politics and Conspiracy in the X-Files

##### Panel 3.4 – ‘With a Little Help From My Friends’: Furrries and Ghosts

CHAIR: JEANMARIE ROUHIER-WILLOUGHBY

**Dan Compora:** Ghost Bikes: Somber Memorials with a Warning [online]

**Gail de Vos:** Furrries in Canadian Schools and Beyond

**Elizabeth Tucker:** ‘Almost Like the Shape of People's Bodies’: Campus Legends in the Era of COVID-19 [online]

**EVENING** – Conference Banquet – Showroom Cafe

#### THURSDAY 29th JUNE

Peak District Excursion to Castleton and Eyam.

#### FRIDAY 30th JUNE

##### Panel 4.1 – ‘Temptation’: Conspiracy and Belief

CHAIR: MEGAN KENNY

**Brandon Barker:** Bell Witch Legendary in Middle Tennessee: Folk Psychology and the Nature of Belief?

**Aphrodite-Lidia Nounanaki:** (Re)inventing a national myth: a new narrative

on the origin of the Greek nation through conspiracy thinking

**Zuzana Panczová:** Conspiracy theories and revelations – discourses on the edge

Short presentation by Ashley Powel member of Grenoside Sword Team

##### Panel 4.2 – ‘Rock of Ages’: Legend Scholarship

CHAIR: GUNNELLA ÞORGEIRSDÓTTIR

**Patricia Turner:** Through the Legend Lens: A Case Study of Arthur Ashe

**Petr Janeček:** ‘New Czech Legends’: Research of contemporary

legends during the Prague Spring in the 1960s

##### SPECIAL PANEL – ‘Do You Remember the First Time?’:

CHAIR: DAVID CLARKE

**Paul Smith, John Widdowson and Doc Rowe**