Conference Entry Form

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Job Title *  
ph. d. student, junior researcher

Company or Organization's Name and country *  
Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania

Short bio
Junior Researcher at the Centre for Cultural Studies at Vytautas Magnus University, doctoral student at the Department for Cultural Studies and Ethnology, Faculty of Humanities, and MA Social Anthropology (2010), Department of Sociology, Vytautas Magnus University. Her topics of interests are youth subcultures (metal subculture), historical reenactment and neopagan movements.

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Proposal Title *  
Groups of Historical re-enactment in Lithuania: case study of “Vilkatlakai” brotherhood

Abstract (500 words). Abstracts will be published on the webpage before the conference. *
Despite the fact, that subcultures are considered western phenomenon, post-socialist space offers unique field for subculture researchers. Youth subcultures in these regions differs from their western counterparts due to unique historical and political situation. Subculture were not only sites of resistance to parents culture (as seen in the west), but also as sites of cultural resistance against the oppressing regime.

The object of this presentation is historical reconstruction clubs in Lithuania. Historical reconstruction exist in many countries throughout the globe, they reconstruct different cultures and different historical periods. In Lithuania historical reconstruction movements were founded in late 90’s, after the collapse of Soviet Union and reestablishment of independence, due to availability of new knowledge and, possibly, in search of Lithuanian identity as oppose to Soviet one. Most of those clubs choose historical of Grand Duchy of Lithuania (XII-XVIII centuries), which they see as the golden age in Lithuanian history. Most clubs, dedicated to historical reconstruction, concentrate on military aspect of ancestral culture.

Members of those movements were young people who were interested in history and culture of their homeland, pagan religion and lifestyle of their ancestors. During two decades of its existence this movement have grown into unique subculture, members of it have their own worldviews, beliefs and customs, celebrate and organize various festivals. Members of these clubs try to precisely recreate clothing, jewellery, weapons, food and other areas of living of that period and present them to the public during various festivals and fairs, they also visit various historical sites like mounds and castles and recreate important battles.

Members of reconstruction clubs say, that people forget their history, their roots and that is why they need a reminder. Historical reconstruction clubs now participate in various festivals in which they are showing their crafts and warfare. In this way people can see life history as opposed to artefacts in museums.

The focus of this presentation will be construction of identity: how and why members join these clubs, what are their worldviews, their views on history, nature, religion, nationalism and contemporary society and what is their impact to the society?

The aim of this presentation is to define the identities of members of historical reconstruction clubs. What defines historical reconstructor? What are his values and worldviews? How he sees the world and society around him?

The presentation is based on ongoing fieldwork within Lithuanian historical reconstruction clubs.

Session type  
* Presentation

Additional Information

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