Conference Entry Form

Name *  
Marina Baiduzh

Job Title *  
researcher

Company or Organization's Name and country *  
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Short bio
At 2009 I graduated the Tyumen state university, Institute of history and political science. Then 2002 – 2014 I was a researcher at The Institute for Problem of Development of the North, Siberian branch of Russian Academy of science. Now I am working with the anthropologist and folklorists at the School for Actual Humanities (RANEPA) in the working group "Monitoring of the actual folklore", the Center for typology and semiotic of folklore (RSHU), the Center Applied Urban Studies (MSSES).
I have been preparing for the defense my Ph.D. thesis on the theme “Transformation of the mythological beliefs at the modern Siberian city". Also, I am researching the anthropology of re-enactment movement in Siberia and Moscow region in comparison (with my colleague – Daria Radchenko).

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Proposal Title *  
The reception of medieval and contemporary mythological beliefs in the historical re-enactment

Abstract (500 words). Abstracts will be published on the webpage before the conference. *
The historical re-enactment has a prescription – to create some artifacts or practicies absolutely «authentic». However, this notion of «the main rule» are variative enough. Different streams in the re-enactment movement are based on this variative norms: (1) sport and fighter direction, living history movements (LH), «living hipsters» (a humorous mimicry for LH by re-enactors of fifth century), etc., (2) local distinction: region of Moscow, Saint Petersburg and surrounding places vs Siberian and Ural region.
This aspect is particularly actualized when it is necessary to reconstruct some mythological or folkloric representations and practices. For example, the reproduction of medieval theatrical costume has indented to use the «historical» data and actual demonological beliefs of the modern man – re-enactor. Contemporary demonology gives a mythological model for the framing an image of demonic characters what influence the process of recreating theatrical practices of bygone eras that also provide a mythological model. So, the main aim is to analyze how this reception of medieval notions as a part of «new medievalism», exists in the historical re-enactment.
The report is based on various data: participant observation (2014 – 2016); interviews with members of the troupe, who played the role of demon or was involved in the creation of its costumes (15 pers.); interviews with some regular viewers – re-enactors (5 pers.); as well as documentation of the community – sketches, work correspondence, photos and videos.
There will be analyzed a case of one group of re-enactors who recreate medieval theater of the late Middle Ages (late 15th c.) and will be shown what mythological notions and mythological models of constructing the demonological characters are demanded; whether there is a reception of demonological medieval representations or modern ideas prevail, and how its reception is understood in the community.
The re-creation of theatrical costumes takes into account the maximum number of “authentic sources”: visual, written; works of medievalists, anwhat helps to recreate not only the demons, as they were in the 15th century, but "how medieval people were making demons [in the theater], that they represented" [Inf. 1]. And here it is possible to identify the following "medieval mythological model" of creating the image of the character. However, in the realization of this character in action – on the stage, already are used modern mythological model that combines the folk, vernacular and media elements of contemporary demonology. "Hildosina has lost her scene: it should have been there with the coin. She should have been like Gollum! Well, greed! <...> And you know – this hysteria must be, like Gollum’s" [Inf. 2].
In addition, significant influence to the reception of "medieval" mythological model on the actual representation of the humans is obvious. For example, "Russian" devils drawn towards medieval European demons. These aspects of the interaction of various mythological models and construction of demonic character that is actualized when you play according to the "norms" of historical reenactment will be illustrated in my presentation. Also, it will be shown in what circumstances and why this is happening, how it is justified by the community aimed to the most authentic reproduction of historical realities.

Session type
- Panel

Short panel description

Additional Information

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