

The International Association for Comparative Mythology

17th Annual Conference

August 2024

The Origins of Mythology

In Honor of Michael Witzel

on the Occasion of His 80th Birthday

<http://www.compmyth.org>

CALL FOR PAPERS

We are happy to announce that the 17th Annual Conference of the International Association for Comparative Mythology is to be held at [Kokugakuin University, Tokyo, Japan](#) on **August 27-30, 2024**. The conference is organized by the IACM in collaboration with Kokugakuin University, Japan. All members are warmly invited to present papers and to participate in the discussions.

This year's conference is dedicated to the 80th birthday of Michael Witzel, the founder and for many years the president of the IACM. The conference will be held in hybrid format: we will accept papers to be presented either in person or virtually by Zoom. The last day of the conference (August 30) will be held entirely online, therefore it will accommodate most of the papers presented virtually.

This year we have the following topics:

1. ***A Special Topic: History of Research and Methodology in Comparative Mythology and Michael Witzel's Contribution to the Field***, including but not limited to the following sub-topics:
 - Work and research methodology of Michael Witzel;
 - Approach, ideas, and methods of specific researchers and schools in the study of mythology;
 - Major categories used in comparative mythology;
 - Archaeology and genetics in the study of mythology;
 - Work of Yoshida Atsuhiko;
 - Critique of comparative mythology, its schools, and methods;

- General history of the field.
2. ***About Japan (in the Eyes of Foreigners): From Gishi Wajinden's Wa People in Yamatai to Marco Polo's Zipangu to Lafcadio Hearn's Kwaidan.***
 3. ***Mythology in Asia***, with a special emphasis on
 - Japanese mythology & comparative study of Japanese myths in the context of the Indo-European and World mythology;
 - Mythology of South Asia, its comparative study and reception in other regions;
 - Mythology and cultural interactions within the Sinosphere.
 4. A "free topic", i.e., any other topic you would like to propose/choose for your paper will be considered.

A list of prospective talks will be published on our website.

Please take note of the following:

ABSTRACTS

By **May 15, 2024**, please send, if you intend to participate, a short (300 words or less) abstract of your talk to this address:

iacm.admin@gmail.com

Please indicate if you would like to present your paper in person or virtually. The abstracts will be reviewed by a selection committee; the selected abstracts will be published on our website (<http://www.compmyth.org>)

PAPER LENGTH

Each speaker will be allotted a 30 min. time slot. The expected paper length is 20 minutes plus 10 minutes discussion.

The language of the conference is English.

CONFERENCE FORMAT

While the conference will be held in hybrid format, we hope that most participants will be able to come this year in person; however, we will also accept a limited number of papers to be presented virtually by Zoom and will allow virtual participation of the audience. Most of the papers presented virtually will be scheduled for the last, 'online' day of the conference.

CONFERENCE FEE for the participants from North America, Australia, Northeast Asia, the EU and EEA countries, UK and Switzerland participating in person is **\$150 (JP¥ 22.700)**, which will cover the conference dinner and reception. Students from the aforementioned countries and participants from other regions can participate for a reduced fee – **\$75 (JP¥ 11.350)**. Virtual participation fee is **\$15**. Scholars from Ukraine can participate in the conference **free** of charge.

For the payment options please see below.

EXCURSIONS

We plan an excursion after the conference. All the details will be announced after the selection of papers.

Finally, those of you who are not yet official members of IACM, please consider joining the association! The yearly fee is \$40 (it is \$15 for students and members from countries outside North America, Australia, the EU, EEA, Switzerland, and Northeast Asia).

Looking forward to seeing you in Tokyo!

Yours,
17th Conference Organizing Committee,
IACM

Payment options:

1. By check or money order made out to International Association for Comparative Mythology.

IACM, Attn. Nataliya Yanchevskaya
Harvard University
Department of South Asian Studies
1 Bow Street
Cambridge MA 02138

However, this will do only for checks in US \$, issued by an American bank. Checks in other currencies will incur hefty exchange fees, so please avoid this: your contribution will entirely be swallowed by bank fees here. Instead, please use PayPal (see below).

2. By PayPal.

Due to bank fees, it is much better and easier to use PayPal, now available for you at our website. For the conference fees please follow the link below and use the IACM 2024 Conference Fee button:

<https://www.compmyth.org/17th-conference/>

Membership fee can be paid here:

<https://www.compmyth.org/membership/>

You can directly deposit your amount, without fees for you, and we lose just a nominal amount on our side. In most countries a variety of credit card options or a direct deposit from your bank account are available for payment. Please select your country and wait while your browser refreshes. Then, enter the amount, your personal data, etc. (This is a secure site.)

3. Payment in cash can be made onsite, before the beginning of the conference.