

The International Association for Comparative Mythology

18th Annual Conference

June 2025

**Communicating with Spirits:
Beyond the Human World**

<http://www.compmyth.org>

CALL FOR PAPERS

We are happy to announce that the 18th Annual Conference of the International Association for Comparative Mythology is to be held at [Seoul National University](#), Republic of Korea, on **June 2-5, 2025**. The conference is organized by the IACM in collaboration with Center for Folkculture Studies, Institute of Humanities, Seoul National University, Republic of Korea. All members are warmly invited to present papers and to participate in the discussions.

The conference will be held in a hybrid format allowing presentations either in-person or virtually via Zoom. The final day of the conference (June 5, 2025) is planned to be entirely online to accommodate most virtual presentations.

CONFERENCE TOPICS

This year we are focusing on the following areas:

1. **Connecting with Non-Human Worlds**, including but not limited to the following sub-topics:
 - Mythological and folk representations of interactions with spirits, demons, semi-divine beings, and animals;
 - Communication with gods;
 - Interactions with the neverworld and the realm(s) of the dead, including *katabasis*.
 - Methods of interacting with non-human worlds: pathways to other realms; communication approaches and languages of these domains, etc.

2. ***Mythology and Folklore of Korea and Eurasia***, with a special emphasis on
 - Korean mythology, folklore, and ritual practices;
 - Korean materials from a comparative perspective;
 - Mythology, folklore, and cultural interactions across Eurasia.
3. ***An Open (“Free”) Topic***, i.e., any other topic you would like to propose/choose for your paper will be considered.

Additionally, we are inviting contributions to two **special panels** (note that panel submissions bypass the standard selection committee and are evaluated directly by panel organizers):

1. ***Using Data and Sources for Mythology Research***. The panel is organized by Nataliya Yanchevskaya and will include 3-4 papers. When submitting abstracts for the panel, please consider addressing these sub-topics:
 - Ethical considerations in source selection. Should we exclude certain data sources?
 - Using potentially unethically sourced data and its implications for research conclusions;
 - Critical analysis of how different schools within comparative mythology approach data sources;
 - Computational and mathematical methods of data analysis in the study of myth.
2. ***Modern Political Uses of Mythology***. This panel, organized by Steve Farmer, will include 3-4 lectures. Before writing a formal abstract for this panel, feel free to [email Steve](#) to discuss potential ideas for your talk.

*History makes no sense without prehistory, and
prehistory no sense without biology.*

E.O. Wilson, *The Social Conquest of Earth*, 2012

Examples of a few of a wider range of possible topics include:

- The deep biological and/or cultural roots of modern hypernationalist and authoritarian mythologies;
- How premodern mythological and religious views affect modern political decisions involving migration, misogyny, racism, and genocide, etc.;
- Novel uses of large language models or other computational tools in studying the modern political uses or abuses of mythology.

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

Please take note of the following:

ABSTRACTS

By **April 5, 2025**, 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 on 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 (KRW 216.000*)**, 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 (KRW 108.000*)**. 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.

* The currency exchange rate is subject to change, therefore the amount in KRW can be different during the conference.

IACM MEMBERSHIP

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 Seoul!

Yours,
18th Conference Organizing Committee,
IACM

Payment options:

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

Please contact us at iacm.admin@gmail.com for a mailing address.

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 2025 Conference Fee button:

<https://www.compmyth.org/18th-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.