

The International Association for Comparative Mythology

19th Annual Conference

1st–5th June 2026

Visualising Mythologies

<http://www.compmyth.org>

CALL FOR PAPERS

We are happy to announce that the 19th Annual Conference of the International Association for Comparative Mythology is to be held at Edinburgh Napier University, Edinburgh, on **June 1-5, 2026**. The conference is organised by the IACM in collaboration with SACI, Edinburgh Napier University, and with the assistance of the Traditional Cosmology Society. All members are warmly invited to present papers and to participate in the discussions.

In person presentations are preferred, with a limited number of places for virtual presentations.

The final one or two days of the conference (June 4 and/or 5, 2026) will be devoted to video and film screenings, including works by the Latvian filmmaker Andris Slapiņš.

CONFERENCE TOPICS

This year we are focusing on the following areas:

1. ***Visualising Mythologies***: papers that investigate the role of visual materials and imagery in the construction, transmission, and interpretation of myth. Possible areas of focus include, but are not limited to, the following sub-topics:
 - The role of imagery and performance in the transmission of myth and folk beliefs;
 - Visualising the supernatural worlds and their inhabitants;

- Visualizing the Universe: mythological cosmologies and their descriptions and imagery;
- Comparative uses and/or histories of imagery in textual and visual media;
- Visual aspects of ritual and belief;
- Descriptions of visual features in mythological texts.

2. ***Free Topic: Current Research in Comparative Mythology***

Any other topic you would like to propose/choose for your paper will be considered.

3. ***A Special Session in Memory of Boris Oguibénine:*** we invite papers dedicated to the following possible sub-topics, as well as to the other related subjects:

- Boris Oguibénine's research in the field of Comparative Mythology; his approach, methodology, and scholarly biography;
- Tartu–Moscow school of semiotics: their methods, history, and contribution to the study of myth;
- The study of mythology in Russia in France;
- Linguistics, mythology, and Indo-European Studies;
- The study of Indian/South Asian mythology.

Additionally, we are inviting contributions for two sessions devoted to the moving image: designed for researchers who use video in their ethnographic work, and filmmakers whose work focuses on mythological imagery or subject matter (submissions for these bypass the standard selection committee and are evaluated directly by panel organizers):

- ***Ethnographic Video***, with a special emphasis on
 - Mythology in folk and ritual practice
 - Visual aspects of mythology, folklore and ritual in the contemporary world
 - Theoretical issues in interpreting visual ethnographic evidence for belief in myth and folklore

▪ ***Experimental Film***

- Visualising mythology in time-based media
- Folk and ritual practice in time-based media
- Artistic responses to mythology, folklore and/or ritual on camera

The final day of the conference will feature screenings and discussion on:

Ethnographic Film: Andris Slapiņš (1941–1991)

- *The Field of Hopes* [Cerību lauki] 1988
- *Dream Time* [Sapņu laiks] 2005

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

Please take note of the following:

ABSTRACTS

By **February 15, 2026**, 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. Please note that the number of virtual presentations is limited.

In case you need an ***early decision*** on your paper, please let us know and we will try to accommodate your deadline.

Abstracts will be reviewed by a selection committee; those selected will be published in advance 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

We hope that most participants will be able to come this year in person; we can only accept a limited number of papers to be presented virtually by Zoom and these will have to be scheduled in a single session.

CONFERENCE FEE for the participants from North America, Australia, Northeast Asia, the EU and EEA countries, UK and Switzerland participating in person is **£150**. Students and seniors can participate for a reduced fee – **£75**. Virtual participation fee is **\$20**. Displaced scholars from the regions of military conflict or humanitarian disasters 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.

IACM MEMBERSHIP

Finally, those of you who are not yet official members of IACM, please consider joining the association! The yearly fee is **\$50** (it is **\$25** for students and members from countries outside North America, Australia, the EU, EEA, Switzerland, and Northeast Asia).

Looking forward to seeing you in Edinburgh!

Yours,
19th Conference Organising 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 2026 Conference Fee button:

<https://www.compmyth.org/19th-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.