

Conference Entry Form

Conference entry form for participants of the 3rd international conference "Interdisciplinary Cultural Group Research: Youth Subcultures, Worldviews and Lifestyles".

Name *

Marina Baiduzh

Job Title *

Senior Researcher

Company or Organization *

Centre for Folklore Studies, School of Advanced Study for the Humanities, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration

Contry *

Russian Federation

Short bio

Email *

amentie@gmail.com

Proposal Title *

“Other Middle ages”: diversification within the society of XV century reenactors in Russia

Abstract (500 words). Abstracts will be published on the website before the conference. *

"#got_no_other_xv_century_left_for_u" [rus. #ДругойПятнахиУнасДляВасНет] – this is phrase appeared at the end of the Living history event "L`Ultima Frontiera Taurica 2016". At that time this phrase had a direct meaning - although everyone was tired, it was the only living history event in 2016 in the medieval re-enactment. In 2017 this hash tag became especially popular, but it acquired a new meaning. There were alternative events of this format and re-enactment direction, so it started to mean: "Our fifteenth century is the only correct one, and all alternatives are not worthy for existence". So, the meme has become a marker of the internal boundaries of the community.

This is due to the natural process of constructing the identity and authenticity of a local community or subculture, which is especially important for re-enactors' movement. It happens as historical re-enactment has a principal prescription – to create some artifact or practice absolutely «authentic». However, this notion of «main rule» is variative enough. The following variative norms are the basis for diversity in the re-enactment movement such as functional differences (sport and fighter direction; living history movements) or local distinction (Moscow and surrounding places; Saint Petersburg; Siberia and Ural region). Despite the fact that the community of XV century re-enactors appeared in the early 2000s as an alternative to the sport direction, where the emphasis of living history is the scrupulously recreating all things, from a costume to a staff. The form of presentation of their historical research and experimentation is presented in a set of non-profit events made by "re-enactors for re-enactors". In this regard, a halo of elitism of this community immediately emerged. It began look like a «private club».

In the report we will focus on two questions:

1. Comparison of different communities within the society of XV century re-enactors in Russia («Renaissance Unity», «Ratobortsy», Saint Thomas Guild 1470-1480, community from Saint Petersburg and Siberia, etc.). It should be noted that such associations are not re-enactment "clubs" or other formal structures in their strict meaning.
2. Revealing the factors according to which there is a diversification, as well as the analysis of mythological models for constructing of the image of the Alien and the Other in the society of XV century re-enactors in Russia.

The data of this research is a number of cases – the living history events of the XV century re-enactors at 2016-2017. In addition, a participants observation was conducted, and a row of spontaneous and planned interviews were recorded. The main case for this report is the festival "Jäger" (17-23.08.2017, Karelia, Russian Federation). At this event the diversification in a team of 50 people during the week of residence in the forest was the most clearly realized.

Moreover, online -materials (posts, discussions, disputes, etc.) were used. Texts of participants in the observed communities are involved.

So, the constant diversification and constructing a new inner limits – is the basic characteristic for the society of the XV century re-enactors in Russia. That is why the this cases was analyzed with help of anthropological approach (by Victor Turner and its

processual understanding of the community as a struggle between communitas and the structure) and structural-typological analysis of cultural and mythological models, in accordance with which the internal borders and the image of the Aliens are built.

Session type

Presentation

Panel

Workshop

Panel Title

Short Panel Description

Planned Presenters (3-4 people)

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