

NEWS IN BRIEF

9TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN ESTONIAN STUDIES

The 9th annual conference of the Centre of Excellence in Estonian Studies under the heading “Perception and Performativity in Arts and Culture in the Age of Technological Change” took place at the Estonian Literary Museum in Tartu, Estonia, from the 5th to the 7th of September 2019.

Contemporary society is affected by technology on all levels of our lives and it is an important topic for a number of research fields. In culture, digitalisation is visible not only through the different uses of technology by artists and the audience, but also by the new ways of communicating and creating socio-cultural contexts. The conference focused on these changes in our culture, more precisely in theatre, literature, film, music, and folklore.

The keynote speakers of this interdisciplinary conference were Professor Mieke Bal, cultural theorist and academic critic from the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, Professor of literary theory Marina Grišakova from the University of Tartu, Estonia, and Professor Władysław Chłopicki from Jagiellonian University, Poland.

The exact schedule of the conference as well as the theses of the presenters can be found at <https://www.folklore.ee/CEES/2019/performance>.

There were presenters from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, India, Russia, Bulgaria, Belarus, Poland, Germany, Austria, Romania, and Ireland.



*Conference participants after the first plenary session.
Photograph by Alar Madisson 2019.*

The conference was organised by the working group of the Centre of Excellence in Estonian Studies on narrative studies and PUT1481 (“The Role of Imaginary Narrative Scenarios in Cultural Dynamics”).

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Piret Voolaid

SYMPOSIUM DEDICATED TO THE 80TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF ACADEMICIAN ARVO KRIKMANN AT THE ESTONIAN LITERARY MUSEUM

In July 2019, the renowned folklorist, academician Arvo Krikmann (1939–2017), would have turned 80. To celebrate this as well as to honour him and acknowledge the donation of Krikmann’s library to the Estonian Literary Museum, a symposium was organized at the Estonian Literary Museum on Saturday, September 7, under the auspices of the annual conference of the Centre of Excellence in Estonian Studies.¹

The programme of the symposium consisted of opening words by Liisi Laineste, a plenary session, presentations as well as a books display, and photographs depicting Krikmann’s academic life. There were many Krikmann’s colleagues and former students among the participants of the symposium. The papers were based on Krikmann’s main fields of research as a folklorist: jokes, proverbs, phraseology, and riddles, to name just the main subjects. He also had many other interests. On the methodological side, the Finnish method (the historical-geographic method) is worth mentioning, which he adapted and applied to the Estonian material. Later on, when computers became available, his method to supplement the results with cartographic tables and statistical summaries added new dimensions to the study of the material. An overview of Arvo Krikmann’s publications and academic activities is available at https://www.etis.ee/CV/Arvo_Krikmann/est.

In her opening words Liisi Laineste emphasized that Arvo Krikmann’s research was internationally widely known and highly appreciated. His extensive research was mainly dedicated to the short forms of folklore and their sources, folk humour, semantics of phraseology, and the theory of figurative speech.

As the plenary speaker, Władysław Chłopicki from Jagiellonian University, Poland, concentrated on various aspects of the creative mind that link folklore studies and humour studies. He pointed out how humour in general and stand-up comedy in particular share the basic speaker-stimulus-audience contextual triad with language in general, focusing on a specific case of an improvised outdoor performance by a Polish comedy group, which was organised on the birth anniversary of Jan Kochanowski, a Polish Renaissance poet who contributed to the growth of modern Polish with the power of his talent and creative imagination.

Liisa Granbom-Herranen from the University of Turku, Finland, took a glance at paremiology and the unique position Estonia has gained as one of the leading countries in paremiological theories and methodologies largely thanks to academician Arvo Krikmann.