



Department of English Language and Literature

4th T-LitCon

February 20-21, 2027

Folk & Lore:

Stories of Yore, Stories for Posterity

CALL FOR PAPERS

Long before stories were bound between covers and archived in libraries, they travelled by voice alone. Borne by memory, repetition, and communal invention, they passed from mouth to ear, from this hearth fire to the next. Tales were told as much to entertain the present as to survive it and carry it to the future. In every shape and form they took—whether it be a lullaby, a myth, a legend, a riddle, or a fairy tale—communities entrusted fragments of themselves to those who would come after them. Folklore, in this sense, has always been an art of posterity: a way of bearing memory forward without ever leaving it untouched.

We are thrilled to announce that the theme of the fourth iteration of our online conference series is ***Folk & Lore: Stories of Yore, Stories for Posterity*** and we invite scholars to consider this ceaseless passage between narrative inheritance and narrative reinvention. The conjunction of *folk* and *lore* is intended to draw attention to the communities that make, preserve, and reshape tradition and to the stories, beliefs, customs, images, sounds, and symbols generated in the process. What comes down to us from yore does not arrive intact as every act of transmission is also an act of transformation. Myths return in novels, films, games, graphic narratives, and digital cultures. Fairy tales are recast through new political, gendered, ecological, and cultural sensibilities. Lullabies, legends, monsters, and heroes migrate into forms their earliest tellers could never have imagined. Yet beneath these transformations remains an impulse remarkably close to that of oral tradition itself:

to make a story speak again, so that it may be heard again by another generation. The medium changes, the audience changes, and the meanings change with them, but the desire for transmission persists in its barest, most primal form.

This conference therefore approaches folklore as a living and mutable archive, perpetually renewed whenever retold. We welcome presentations that explore how literary and cultural works inherit folkloric materials; how they preserve, distort, challenge, or reinvent them and how adaptation negotiates the distance between ancestral memory and contemporary life. We are equally interested in the futures of folklore: what it means to retell inherited stories now, what is gained or lost in their transformation, and how the stories we choose to preserve today may themselves become the lore of generations to come.

At its heart, *Folk & Lore: Stories of Yore, Stories for Posterity* asks a deceptively simple question: why do we continue to tell old stories? The 4th T-LitCon welcomes contributions that examine what we receive from the past, what we make of it in the present, and what, in turn, we choose to leave behind for the future.

Possible areas of inquiry include, but are by no means limited to:

- folklore, myth, legend, and fairy tale in literary texts
- literary retellings and revisions of traditional narratives
- adaptation of oral narratives into written literature
- the transformation of mythic and folkloric figures across literary periods
- rewriting inherited tales from contemporary perspectives
- folk motifs, archetypes, and narrative patterns in literature
- literary engagements with superstition, ritual, magic, and the supernatural
- children's literature and the transmission of traditional tales
- translation, adaptation, and the circulation of folk narratives across languages
- folklore, memory, and cultural inheritance in literary writing
- literary modernizations of myths, legends, lullabies, ballads, and folktales
- folklore in graphic novels, comics, and other predominantly written narrative forms
- invented traditions and pseudo-folklore in literature
- the digitalization of folklore and the future of cultural transmission

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW	
4th T-LitCon	Folk & Lore: Stories of Yore, Stories for Posterity
Conference Language	English
Venue	Online (on Zoom)
Fee	None (free of charge)
Organizer	Department of English Language and Literature at İstanbul Topkapı University
Submission Link	https://forms.gle/sbTbpRLVfmjxQbTB7
Submission Deadline	January 10, 2027 (Sun)
Conference Dates	February 20–21, 2027 (Sat & Sun)
Contact	t-litcon@topkapi.edu.tr

Organizing Committee:

Prof. Dr. Ferma LEKESİZALIN, *Chair* (İstanbul Topkapı University)

Asst. Prof. Dr. Hatice Nuray ÖNDER (İstanbul Topkapı University)

Res. Asst. Furkan TOZAN (İstanbul Topkapı University)

Res. Asst. Aslı KAYA (İstanbul Topkapı University)

Submission Guidelines

Submitted abstracts should be between 300 and 400 words and accompanied by 4–7 keywords. Individual presentations will be allocated 20 minutes in the conference program. Certificates of participation will be issued only to those who deliver their scheduled presentations.

Editorial Pre-Screening and Peer Review

All abstracts will undergo an initial editorial pre-screening by members of the Organizing Committee. As part of this process, submissions will be screened for plagiarism and AI-generated content; findings indicating either may constitute grounds for desk rejection.

Abstracts should present a clearly defined and appropriately focused scope. Titles should accurately reflect the subject and scope of the

proposed presentation and should be neither excessively broad nor unnecessarily lengthy or abbreviated.

Only abstracts that successfully pass the editorial pre-screening stage will proceed to double-blind peer review. The outcome of each submission, whether positive or negative, will be communicated by email by a member of the Organizing Committee within no more than five business days of submission.

Note for Graduate Students

MA and PhD students applying to the conference will be eligible for developmental editorial assistance during the pre-screening stage. Where a submission demonstrates academic promise but requires some further refinement, the Organizing Committee will, whenever feasible, offer guidance and invite revision.