

Beliefs and Behaviours in Education and Culture

25.-27. June 2015, Universitatea de Vest (West University of) Timișoara, Romania

Session on 26. June 2015: *The Place of Dracula: (De)constructing stereotypes*

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Abstract 1

To determine psychological, biographical and life style parameters in a large, active, real-life vampyre subculture, we used an internet- based questionnaire with special features, including strict inclusion criteria, missing outgroup and proof of existence of all participants. We discuss to what extent the characteristics of identity groups — especially in the context of two former studies (*Atlanta Vampyre Alliance* (since 2006): Vampirism & Energy Work Research Study; Joseph Laycock (2010): *Nova Religio* 14(1):4-23) — are matched since we found no coherence in possible trauma, economical and job status, but high coherence in the time interval of personal “awakening”.

Keywords:

Subcultures, Vampyres, Blood Drinking, Identity Groups, Quantitative Study

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Presenter:

Ines FISCHER (transl. Mark BENECKE)

Title:

Statistical details concerning the current, large-scale subculture study about central european real-life vampyre identity groups

Name / Affiliation:

Abstract 2

Stereotypes about Vlad Țepeș annoy many Romanians, yet misconceptions about Bram Stoker's work may inspire literature and film research. A hidden manifestation of the interest in vampire-related imagery is the subcultural group of "vampyres" who feel that they share similarities with darkness-prone creatures. We present a highly standardized study among central European participants of the largest active 'sanguinarian' vampyre group, i.e., a group including blood drinkers and donors. All participants were personally known and identified. Results show that participants lack religion-like mindsets but share many character traits and biographical similarities including sleep patterns, blood drinking (or giving) and unusual identities.

Paper:

Fischer & Benecke (2015) Vampyres among us!: Volume III - A scientific study into vampyre identity groups and subcultures. Roter Drache eds., ISBN 978-3939459958.

Type of presentation:

Oral / Slides