



For Immediate Release

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MYSTIC SOUTH ANNOUNCES THIS YEAR'S PRESENTERS FOR THE NEW ACADEMIC FORUM *PAPERS*

ATLANTA, Ga. -- Mystic South, the new indoor Pagan conference to be hosted in July 2017, has announced the names of the presenters for *PAPERS*, its dedicated academic forum. *PAPERS* is an acronym for Polytheist and Pagan Education Research Symposium, and it is being run as a separate and dedicated track within the larger Mystic South conference.

"Being that this is our inaugural event, we were impressed by the submissions and the scope of the subject matter covered. It was difficult to select our finalists," said Mystic South committee member Ryan Denison.

Denison together with Sara Amis are the co-chairs for the academic track. The deadline for submissions was January 15, after which Amis and Denison reviewed the candidates and submitted material. They informed the selected presenters privately last week and will now be moving on to create the three-day symposium schedule.

The accepted presenters include Jason Ezell, Heather Greene, Tom Nowlin, Manny Tejada, Alvilldr in fägra, Humberto Perez, Amanda Lee, and Byron Ballard. Subjects range from the history of Radical Faeries and the practice of Heathenry in the Southern United States to the Yoruba origins of Hoodoo and the effects of digital technology on Neopagan practice. Ballard, who is one of Mystic South's headliners, will be presenting her research on Appalachian folk magic for *PAPERS* as well as presenting for the general conference.

"Having a dedicated academic track within Mystic South is key to building an event that is comprehensive and multi-faceted. Our team was unified in wanting to support the community in practice, play, and in theory. The work by Pagans in academia is as vital as anything else we do," explained Star Bustamonte, event coordinator for Mystic South.

PAPERS will be held within its own dedicated conference room at the July conference, which will run from July 21-23, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza Ravinia in Atlanta, Georgia. While the deadline for *PAPERS* is currently closed, the general conference is still accepting presentation applications through March 1.

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About Mystic South - *Mystic South is a new indoor conference dedicated to exploring and sharing the mystical practices of modern Pagans, Heathens, and polytheists in the United States. It is the first of its kind in the Southeastern United States. More information can be found at <https://mystic-south.com>.*