

Folklore Lunch Series

Interpreting culture



Kule Centre for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore

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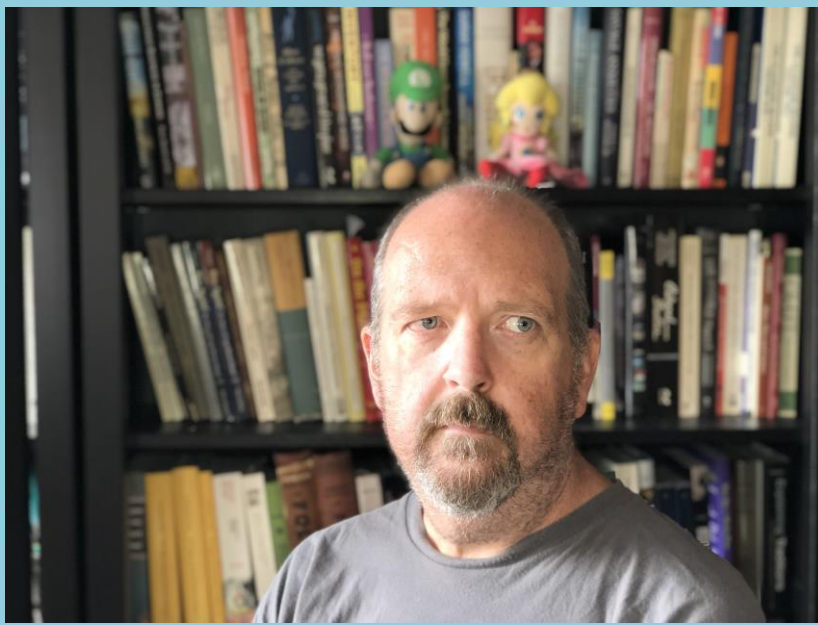
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WHO: Ian Brodie, Associate Professor, Folklore, Cape Breton University

WHEN: Friday, March 12, 2021 12:00 noon

WHERE: ZOOM Meeting Register <https://tinyurl.com/doyn76vl>

Contemporary Legend, Conspiracy Theory, and Covid-19: A year in lockdown



Ian Brodie is an Associate Professor in Folklore at Cape Breton University and is co-author of the book, *Covid-19 Conspiracy Theories: QAnon, 5G, the New World Order, and other Viral Ideas*

In moments of uncertainty and change, when official information is lacking or absent or mistrusted, people have a remarkable talent for generating answers to emergent questions. Much as nature abhors a vacuum the mind is unsettled in the cloud of unknowing. Contemporary legends hover on the border of belief because they seem credible, whether because they come from a credible (to us) source or because they conform to how we already see the world operating. Conspiracy theories are broad and all encompassing, weaving individual narratives of causation into one interrelated, disjointed but purportedly coherent metanarrative. COVID-19 introduced a host of irruptions in our daily lives: some gave rise to new contemporary legends, while others were incorporated into the larger web of conspiracy theory.