



Sunday, January 23, 2022, 6pm cst
JOIN FASM FOR VIRTUAL SOCIAL HOUR
Featuring “Tonttu, Haltia and other (mostly) helpful household creatures”

Presented by Hilary-Joy Virtanen, PhD.

Ghost. Brownie. Skinwalker. Elf. Troll. Golem. Tonttu. Around the world, cultures have traditionally developed and maintained their own assortments of folktale beings--some humanlike, others animal-like, though bound to a specific place, some had a spirit and will of their own, while others appeared to only serve a human master. While modernity has led to reduced belief in these figures, they served important functions among the people who believed in them. In this talk, we will explore the Finnish family tree of folktale beings, learning what we can about their origins, purposes, and the stories told about them. At the center of this world of imagination and belief is the tonttu, a sort of gnome, but as we will see, such beings come in many forms and are part of a diverse and interesting gang. From upholding social norms of proper behavior to explaining away the unexpected good fortunes of others, folktale beings served important social functions at the same time they served to entertain and teach.

Hilary-Joy Virtanen is an assistant professor of Finnish & Nordic Studies at Finlandia University, in Hancock, Upper Michigan, USA. In this position, she teaches a variety of interdisciplinary courses in folklore, anthropology, history, literature, language, and area studies.

Join FASM Virtual Social Hour! All Finns and Finns at heart are invited to join us. Share with a friend!

FASM members will be sent the zoom link Sunday, January 23, 2022, at 5:30pm cst. Others interested should Email: info@fasm.us and the link will be sent to you on Sunday.

