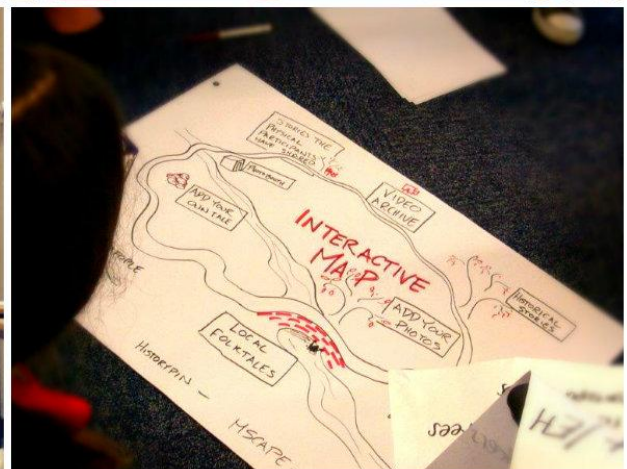


Tales Beyond Borders was held from the 23rd to the 25th of April 2015 at the University of Leeds. The event, organized by Dr Christine Chettle (School of English), Dr Sarah Dodd (LCS), and Ikhlas Abdul Hadi (LCS) from [Reading the Fantastic](http://readingthefantastic.wordpress.com), comprised of [a two-day conference](#) and preceded by a one-day [postgraduate/early career researcher workshop](#). Funded by the School of Languages, Cultures, and Societies, the Literary Studies Research Group, and the Leeds Humanities Research Institute, *Tales Beyond Borders* aimed to bring together fellow academics and artists who worked with fairy tales, folktales, and fantasy literature in order to study and discuss this emerging field of research from a cross/multi – cultural and interdisciplinary perspective. Some of the questions that guided the formation of the conference were:

- 1) How do different cultural backgrounds affect the study or work in fairy tale, folktale, and fantasy studies?
- 2) What are the current trends in this field of study?
- 3) How can academics and artists alike engage with the wider community using fairy tales, folktales, and fantasy literature?

These questions were explored through various mediums: the workshop worked as a point in gathering different experts on community, digital, and pedagogical engagements and facilitating participants in group-work activities. During the workshop, participants learned about and wrestled with the processes of organizing a community engagement project, the ethics and steps towards creating a more effective online presence, as well as the different ways to set up a course or class on fantasy studies.

With [four keynote speakers](#) and two parallel sessions during the *Tales Beyond Borders* conference, there was plenty of room for new questions to emerge and new ideas to be shared. Issues of ethics in Japanese manga, exploring the creation of ‘truth’ in cyberspace, as well as the study of politics through the realm of ‘Game of Thrones’ – these were among a few of the thought-provoking papers that were presented during the event. Due to the large number of high-quality papers given, the organizers are currently exploring publishing opportunities as part of the conference proceedings. *Tales Beyond Borders* received encouraging and positive feedback from the delegates and it is hoped that the connections made and the ideas shared will continue to be developed in the future, especially as there has already been a great deal of interest in a future conference.



From left (clockwise): **Siddharth Pandey** (University of Cambridge) presenting his paper “Crafting Magic: Towards a Materialist Understanding of Fantasy”; **Dr Sarah Copeland** (University of Bradford) and **Heather Robbins** (Sussex Centre for Folklore, Fairy Tales and Fantasy) answering questions during the workshop on ‘Digital Engagement’; **Anya Benson** (University of York), **Bill Hughes** (University of Sheffield), and **Siân Hughes** (University of Leeds) during the Q&A session for ‘Tales Beyond Ages’; a presentation being made for the development of a community engagement project during the workshop.