

# Preface

by Wim van Binsbergen & Eric Venbrux

The Second Annual Conference of the International Association for Comparative Mythology (IACM) was held at the former convent of Soeterbeeck near the small medieval town of Ravenstein in the Netherlands on 19-21 August 2008. This volume, entitled *New Perspectives on Myth*, contains the proceedings of the conference.

In total the work has 19 chapters. The volume consists of five parts: an introduction offering a report of the conference, a section on *The Mythology of Death and Dying*, another on *Mythological Continuities between Africa and Other Continents*, a section on *Theoretical and Methodological Advances*, and a final one on *Work-in-Progress*. Indexes of proper names and of authors have been added to assist readers in consulting the proceedings and to highlight the links between the various chapters.

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Last but not least, our thanks are due to the International Association for Comparative Mythology, and to the participants in the Second Annual Conference of that organisation, for creating the intellectual conditions towards the present book, and entrusting its realisation to us.