Küttel, Claudia, University of Klagenfurt, Austria

Fantasy vs. Reality. The Construction of a "Real World" in Pen & Paper Role Playing Games

Talking about role playing games, most people automatically think about digital games like *World of Warcraft*. But role playing games do not necessarily have to be linked to a computer. The origins of almost all digital role playing game lie in so called "pen & paper-role playing games", where the players create a fantasy-world just by using their imagination. For a short period of time, reality changes into a fantastic world in which the gamers (or better, their heroes) in fact „live".
On the example of "*Das Schwarze Auge*" (The Dark Eye), the most popular role playing game in german-speaking countries, I will question the difference between the constructed world in role playing games and our so-called "reality". Therefore, I will focus on differences between and similarities of society and social structures as well as on identity constructions "here" (in real life) and "there" (the fantasy world) and raise the question if fantasy and reality can really always be separated.