

# **Native American** Studies Center

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA LANCASTER

## W. Brent Burgin Lunch and Learn Lecture Series 2024

**“The Bogeyman at Christmas? The Background  
and History of Krampus and Knecht Rupprecht,  
‘Companions’ of Saint Nicholas/Father Christmas”**

**Friday, December 13  
2024  
Noon**

**Claudia Heinemann-Priest, USC Lancaster Instructor  
of English, Catawba, and Native American Literature**



The figure of Krampus originally comes – like many other demonic figures of the Alpine region – from pre-Christian times, while his milder counterpart, Knecht Rupprecht, is the assistant of Saint Nicholas, who in the traditions of the northern and central German-speaking area comes on the eve of December 6th.

Both serve as corrective figures that accompany Saint Nicholas. As he deals out treats, they deal out coals and rod beatings for naughty children.

This presentation will delve into the myths and legends of the Krampus/Knecht Rupprecht and similar figures.

This program will be held virtually and in person at 119 South Main St. in downtown Lancaster. To attend via Zoom, scan the QR code or register via the link in upcoming events on [nativeamericanstudies.org](https://nativeamericanstudies.org). Please direct any questions or comments to the Center at 803-313-7172 or [usclnasp@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:usclnasp@mailbox.sc.edu).



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