

# ATDS 2024

## *Working group proposals*

Proposals to the organizers of the working groups are requested by 15.6.2024

### **1. Working Group on Ambiguity and Polyvalence in the Northern European Context**

Lukas Albrecht M.A., München, Josef Juergens M.A., Greifswald, Dr. Andreas Schmidt, München

It is not only since 'fake news' and 'alternative facts' that supposed certainties and certainties have been put to the test in recent history. Furthermore, in the recent past, uncertainty, ambiguity and polyvalence have become paradigms in the humanities, especially in literary studies, whereby concepts of ambiguity and indeterminacy have recently attracted increasing interest, especially in the neighboring medieval subjects of Scandinavian studies. Nevertheless, 'science' is primarily understood as being based on unambiguous evaluations and results.

In view of this situation, our working group focuses specifically on concepts and phenomena of ambiguity and polyvalence in Scandinavian literatures and cultures from a diachronic and cross-disciplinary perspective. This refers to ambiguous or ambivalent texts, literary figures or ambiguous material findings as well as contradictory attitudes towards (cultural) phenomena or ambiguous research results. We will therefore not only be interested in how and why ambiguity arises (linguistically/materially; intentionally or unintentionally), but also in the extent to which the cultural treatment of ambiguous signs or elements differs between periods, regions or forms of expression. In addition, we also address the question of how Scandinavian research enters into dialog with the aforementioned concepts and whether and to what extent it makes use of them. Accordingly, we welcome contributions from both Old and New Scandinavian perspectives and those devoted to theoretical and practical foundations as well as studies of individual (literary, linguistic or archaeological) cases or analyses of contemporary reception phenomena.

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### **2. Working Group Emotion in Old Norse Literature: Representation, Transmission, Reception**

Jun.Prof. Dr. Rebecca Merkelbach and Juliane Witte, M.A., Universität Tübingen

Despite the fundamental importance of emotion for human culture and society, Old Norse literature - and especially the Icelandic sagas, which are otherwise so interested in social issues - have long been described as unemotional. Seemingly objectively, they tell of the conflicts of Icelandic peasants in the saga age. Only recently, however, has it been questioned whether this depiction is so objective and unemotional, or whether emotion does not play a serious role in the conflicts and feuds of saga literature. However, this observation raises various questions: How can we approach the understanding of emotion in a past, foreign culture? How does the literary representation of emotion deviate from historical practice? And what role do genre conventions play in the already culturally specific representation and transmission of emotional experience?

The aim of this working group is to position this topic, which is currently extremely influential in international Old Norse studies, in German-speaking Old Norse studies and beyond, and to jointly develop new approaches, methodologies and readings. To this end, he not only addresses experts in Old Norse literature, but is also specifically interested in questions concerning the reception and

transformation of Old Norse emotionality in modern texts (which can be understood inclusively and thus also include films, games, music or comics), as well as the history of research on the apparent lack of emotion in Old Norse literature. Questions concerning the intersection between emotion and identity markers such as gender or ethnicity, as well as the role of the representation of emotion in the transmission of Old Norse literature or in the conception of saga genres will also be addressed. Building on current research trends, emotion should thus become a fixed and central component of German-language Scandinavian and Old Norse research.

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### **3. Linguistics Working Group**

Prof. Dr. Christer Lindqvist and Dr. des. Laura Zieseler

As at previous ATdS conferences, the Linguistics Working Group is intended to provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of topics from all areas of Scandinavian linguistics. Contributions from on-going research and qualification projects are also welcome.

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### **4. Working Group on Age and Ageing**

Dr. Patrick Ledderose and Dr. Katharina Müller, München

Age and ageing are not only central literary subjects, but have also long since become established objects of literary and cultural studies. Scandinavian (and world) literary histories provide a diverse repertoire of age typologies and topoi of age praise, age lamentation or age mockery. We are following up on these findings in our working group, asking about literary and cinematic representations and constructions of age(ing) and inviting contributions that can take up and expand on the following suggestions: - Representations of age(ing), figure-centered readings - age-related figurations and tensions of remembering and forgetting, sapientia and dementia, youth and age - motifs and archival practices of collecting, organizing, storing, bequeathing and leaving behind - self-reflexive ageing: Age as a precondition for autofictional designs - formal and aesthetic challenges: obsolescence, works of age and late style - cultural and performative constructions of age(ing): gender perspectives/ uncanniness of ageing/ doing age/ ageing trouble/ ageing bodies - age(ing) in the welfare state - reflections on age in the Anthropocene.

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### **5. Working Group The Memory of Scandinavian Literatures. Current Approaches in Memory Studies**

Prof. Dr. Lena Rohrbach and Prof. em. Dr. Jürg Glauser

In recent years, memory research with a cultural studies focus has also developed into an influential paradigm in Scandinavian studies. In the field of New Scandinavian Studies, for example, the IASS 2021 in Vilnius was dedicated to the general topic of Memory and Remembrance in Scandinavian Cultures (cf. *Scandinavistica Vilnensis* 17, 2023, online). Last but not least, Scandinavian medieval studies have for some time been intensively engaged with approaches from so-called memory studies (cf. for example the *Handbook of Pre-Modern Nordic Memory Studies*. Eds. Jürg Glauser, Pernille Hermann, Stephen A. Mitchell, I-II, 2018, or the new publication series *Memory and the Medieval North*. Eds. Jürg Glauser, Pernille Hermann, Stephen A. Mitchell, Lena Rohrbach, 2022-, of which two volumes have been published so far: Pernille Hermann, *Mnemonic Echoing in Old Norse Sagas and Eddas*, 2022; Sarah Künzler, *Memory and Remembering in Early Irish Literature*, 2024). The proposed working group "The Memory of Scandinavian Literatures. Current approaches in memory studies" takes up this wide-ranging interest and puts up for debate current possibilities of the mnemonic turn for analyses of Nordic literary culture. As the questions are particularly suitable for a discussion of theoretical aspects, the working group is deliberately designed to be open. In this way, the thematic approaches can be presented using examples from both older and newer Scandinavian literatures. The working group thus also aims to facilitate a discussion between sub-areas of the subject.

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## 6. Working Group Heroes and Knights on Parchment. Manuscript 343a 4to.

led by: Valerie Broustin M.A., Vanessa Crawford B.A., Lena Sperk B.A.

The manuscript AM 343a 4to derives from Iceland and was probably produced between 1450 and 1475 at Möðruvellir fram under the matriarch Margrét Vigfúsdóttir (c. 1406-1486) who continued to pursue the scriptorium after the death of her late husband. Today the manuscript is kept in the Stofnun Árna Magnússonar í íslenskum fræðum in Reykjavík. It is a codex which comprises 15 texts in total and is the oldest preserved and recorded manuscript that contains all four texts of the saga cycle of the Hrafnistumannasögur (*Ketils saga hængs*, *Gríms saga loðinkinna*, *Örvar-Odds saga*, *Áns saga bogsveigis*). Next to the Hrafnistumannasögur the following texts are also included which are mostly attributed to the Fornaldarsögur and the Riddarasögur: *Þorsteins þáttur þajarmagns*, *Samsons saga fagra*, *Egils saga einhenda og Ásmundar berserkjabana*, *Flóres saga konungs og sona hans*, *Vilhjálmss saga sjóðs*, *Yngvars saga víðförla*, *Sálus saga og Nikanórs*, *Halfdanar saga Eysteinssonar*, *Bósa saga*, *Vilmundar saga víðutan* and *Perus saga meistara*.

The contributions within the working group can span from discussing the production of manuscripts and manuscript transmission to talking about the sagas that are contained within this manuscript. Thereby, AM 343a 4to can also serve as an initiative to discuss other related manuscripts.

This working group is especially addressed to students and invites them to participate. The process of the working group will take place within a hybrid format in order to primarily enable the participation of both, students and lecturers of Háskóli Íslands.

Possible topics concerning contributions could be:

- Manuscripts (origin, connections, transmission, patrons)
- Genres (Fornaldarsögur, Riddarasögur).

- Reasons of production
- Structural differences amongst the sagas
- Historical context (concerning literary history) but also geographically
- Contemplating the manuscript – which characteristics- illustrations, material

Possible formats of contribution:

- Presentation
- Poster presentation
- Discussion forum
- Inclusion of film clips and documentaries
- All formats can be supported by flyers and PowerPoint presentations
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Upon request, a bibliography can be provided.

## **7. Working Group Anden Verdenskrig i den kulturelle erindring i de nordiske lande**

Prof. Dr. Torben Jelsbak and Prof. Dr. Unni Langås

Med Ruslands invasion af Ukraine er emnet krig i Europa blevet sørgeligt aktuelt igen. Krigen har ikke bare udfordret den internationale politiske orden, men har også aktualiseret et behov for viden om, hvordan krig påvirker menneskeliv, kulturer og civilsamfund. Samtidig har krigen i Ukraine også på paradoksalt og bizar vis aktualiseret mindekulturen om Anden Verdenskrig. Det er fx velkendt at Putin har brugt referencen til Anden Verdenskrig som en vigtig del af sin propaganda for invasionen i Ukraine. Men også i nordisk sammenhæng udgør Anden Verdenskrig en højst levende del af den kulturelle erindring, som løbende genforhandles i litteratur, film, tv-serier, teaterforestillinger, udstillinger m.m. Mere end nogen anden historisk periode udgør verdenskrigen en kilde til vores forestillinger om retfærdighed, om helte og skurke og om godt og ondt, ligesom den er med til at præge nationale selvforståelser i de nordiske lande. I Danmark har nogle af de mest sette film de seneste årtier været helte-dramaer om danske frihedskæmpere, mens storfilm som *Under sandet* (2015) og *Når befrielsen kommer* (2023) har sat fokus på mere problematiske sider af historien som den inhumane behandling af tyske krigsfanger og krigsflygtninge. I norsk sammenhæng har tv-serier som *Frontkjemperne* (2021) og *De siste dødsdømte* (2023) rejst fornyet debat om den norske krigserfaring, mens den kommende storfilm og tv-serie om Quisling (regi Erik Poppe) vidner om interessen og emnets aktualitet.

Med denne arbejds-kreis ønsker vi at invitere til undersøgelser af hvordan den kulturelle erindring om Anden Verdenskrig er blevet behandlet og genforhandlet i litteratur, film, teater og andre kulturelle former gennem de seneste årtier. Særligt ønsker vi at animere til komparative undersøgelser, der forsøger at drage sammenligninger mellem værker og debatter i de forskellige nordiske lande. Hvordan er krigen blevet fortolket, fortalt og iscenesat i forskellige kulturelle genrer, og hvordan hænger disse sammen med de forskelligartede nordiske krigserfaringer? Hvordan spiller specifikke nationale

erfaringer ind i forhold til de mere eksistentielle refleksioner over retfærdighed, skyld og ansvar? Og hvad betyder den særlige svenske neutralitets-erfaring for den måde Anden Verdenskrig fortælles på i svensk sammenhæng?

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## **8. Working Group Effects of Emigration on the Development of Scandinavia**

Dr. Kristina Tolinsson Ting

The implementation of the Immigration Act of 1924 in the US ended the great waves of emigration from Scandinavia. At the time, emigration was one of the most contentious issues in Scandinavian societies as evident in the public discourse and official initiatives to stem the flow of citizens leaving.

Nevertheless, research on Scandinavian emigration in the latter half of the 1800s and early 1900s has often focused on the emigrant experiences in the US or its influence on American society. An example is the influential idea that US states with a higher population of Scandinavian descendants have higher levels of social trust and associated benefits. Although the effects on the receiving country have been explored in great detail, the effects on the exiting or sending countries are less researched and often overlooked in explanations of the social democratic welfare states that emerged. However, the possibility of exit became a powerful voice of discontent that furthermore amplified the voice of those who remained and became a catalyst for political change. In the case of Sweden, as example, research shows that the exit of up to 25 % of the population impacted the establishment of early social insurance schemes and hastened the democratic development.

In the centennial year of the Immigration Act, migration is yet again a contentious topic in Scandinavia as immigration has changed the facets of Scandinavian societies. This workshop will explore how the great exodus of people contributed to the swift development of the Scandinavian countries at the turn of the last century and challenge the dominating discourse of social democratic hegemony in Scandinavian political thought. It will explore notions of emigration across disciplinary boundaries.

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## **9. Working Group on Family Ties and Elective Affinities**

Prof. Dr. Clemens Räthel, Greifswald and Sotirios Kimon Mouzakis, B.A., Zürich

In the working group, we explore the representation and negotiation of family constellations beyond the mom-dad-child paradigm in literature, theater, film and television. Read in parallel to social and political developments of the last decades, the aim is to critically question and (re)evaluate the forms of family and community of responsibility that have been conventionalized as the norm on the one hand, and to take a look at modern family relationships, their opportunities, possibilities and problems within the Northern European cultural area on the other. There are many points of reference, such as: nuclear family/bonusfamily; adoption narratives, fostering, representation of queer families, polyamorous/open relationships, single parents, pregnancy, etc.

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