

## Medieval Encyclopedic Learning in Norse Manuscript Culture

This semester the course in Current Issues will focus on the learned literature of medieval Iceland and Norway in a European perspective. The students will work with aspects of origin, tradition and transmission in oral and written form and the interaction between oral and written traditions. Texts from various times and contexts will be introduced from the Norwegian *Konungs skuggsjá* and the Biblical erudition of *Stjórn* to Icelandic compilations found in multi-text manuscripts. In the course the manuscript contexts of the texts as well as the manuscript tradition for individual texts will be presented to the students which will open for a comparative approach to editions and manuscripts. This in order to challenge the edition as a modern re-construction of the medieval tradition and provide new understanding of the material culture of medieval manuscripts.

The course will work as a research seminar where the students are expected to contribute by searching for and establishing a bibliography of relevant literature, investigating the manuscript transmission and discuss critically the implications of the source situation. The students are expected to learn how to approach a research material, form research questions, and carry out investigations in order to further their insights. The seminar will further offer training in working in a team to achieve the results of a research project. In order to reach this goal the students will be expected to present their individual research tasks in the seminar throughout the semester. The course will be examined in the form of a trial lecture. In the preparation of this lecture the students are also required to write a conference abstract presenting their planned lecture as a part of the examination.

### Course Literature

The students will read parts of the following works according to the teacher's instructions:

Franklin-Brown, Mary. 2012. *Reading the World. Encyclopedic Writing in the Scholastic Age*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Gunnar Harðarson et al., ed. *A World in Fragments. Studies in the Encyclopedic Manuscript GKS 1812 4to*. Reykjavík: Stofnun Árna Magnússonar í íslenskum fræðum.

Johansson, Karl G. & Elise Kleivane, eds. 2018. *Speculum septentrionale. Konungs skuggsjá and the European Encyclopedia of the Middle Ages*. (Bibliotheca Nordica 10). Oslo: Novus forlag.

Kedwards, Dale. 2020. *The Mappa Mundi of Medieval Iceland*. Cambridge: D.S. Brewer.

Pratt, Karen, Bart Besamusca, Matthias Meyer & Ad Putter with the Assistance of Hannah Morcos. *The Dynamics of the Medieval Manuscript. Text Collections from a European Perspective*. Utrecht: V&R Unipress.