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Nordic Council of Ministers  
Office in Estonia



**THE ONTOLOGY OF SUPERNATURAL ENCOUNTERS  
IN OLD NORSE LITERATURE AND SCANDINAVIAN FOLKLORE**  
*Old Norse Folklorists Network Symposium 2015 – TARTU, December 11-12*

**December 10**

20:00 Welcome reception at Tartu Townhall, Raekoja plats 1A

**December 11**

Main building of Tartu University (Ülikooli 18)

8:15-9:00 Registration and coffee

9:00-9:30 Welcome

9:30-10:15 **Keynote (room 139): John Lindow**

*The Essential Other: Continuity and Discontinuity in World View*  
Chairman Ülo Valk

10:15-10:30 Break

Session A1 (room 139):

**Dead and Buried**

Chairman Kaarina Koski

Session A2 (room 140):

**Monsters and Ghosts**

Chairman Ugnius Mikucionis

10:30-11:00

Jan Kozák  
*Burial Mound as a Projection Screen*

Arnhild Mindrebø  
*The Haugbrot in Harðar saga*

11:00-11:30

Gerður Halldóra Sigurðardóttir  
*Managing the Dead: Performances of Death in Old Norse Literature and Scandinavian Folklore*

Tommy Kuusela  
*Is the year walk (Sw. årgång) ritual a remnant from pre-Christian traditions?*

11:30-12:00

Sara Duppils & Sandra Lantz  
*The Living Dead in Folk Religion – A New Perspective*

Agneta Ney  
*Ghost Riders as Motif in Heroic Poetry and Ballads*

12:00-13:30 Lunch at restaurant Vilde (Vallikraavi 4)

Session B1 (room 139):

**Fornaldarsögur**

Chairman Maths Bertell

Session B2 (room 140):

**Bodies Big and Small**

Chairman Pasi Enges

13:30-14:00

Helen Leslie-Jacobsen  
*Coming Face to Face with Sigurd Fafnesbane in Medieval Norway*

Eva Þordís Ebenezersdóttir  
*(Super)Natural Bodies*

14:00-14:30

J.Y.H. Hui  
*The Making of Paranormal Weapons: Pointed Messages in Örvar Odds saga*

Scott T. Shell  
*Hidden Children as Represented in Germanic Folklore*

14:30-15:00 Coffee

Session C1 (room 139):

**What is natural?**

Chairman Agneta Ney

Session C2 (room 140):

**Ontology**

Chairman Mikael Häll

15:00-15:30

Csete Katona  
*Weak Magic? Some Notes on the Allegedly Supernatural Nature of Gunnar's Halberd in Njáls saga*

Frog  
*Ontologizing Integers of Supernatural Encounters: Approaching Meanings in Mythic Discourse*



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- 15:30-16:00 Fredrik Charpentier Ljungqvist *At the Edge of the Known World – Supernaturality and the Old Norse Geographical Perceptions of the World* Andreas Schmidt *Goddess, Fylgja or Fiction? Þorgerðr Hörðabrúðr, the Vanir and the Question of Mythic Structures*
- 16:00-17:30 Guided tour in Tartu in English (Krista Pisuke) and Swedish (Inkari Lindve). Start in front of the University main building
- 20:00 Conference dinner at restaurant Vilde (Vallikraavi 4)
- December 12**
- 9:30-10:15 **Keynote (room 139): Mikael Häll**  
*Carnal Spirits of Nature and Demonic Bodies of Vapour: The Ontology and Sexuality of Supernatural Beings in Early Modern Swedish Folklore and Demonology*  
Chairman Daniel Sävborg
- 10:15-10:45 Coffee
- Session D1 (room 139):  
**Reality?**  
Chairman Mart Kuldkepp
- Session D2 (room 140):  
**Otherworld Beings**  
Chairman Fredrik Charpentier Ljungqvist
- 10:45-11:15 Daniel Sävborg *Folk Belief and Fantastic Fiction in Íslendingasögur: What is What?* Julian Goodare *Visionaries and Nature Spirits in Scotland*
- 11:15-11:45 Pasi Enges *Approaching Reality and Fantasy through Belief Narratives* Ugnius Mikucionis *Recognizing a Dwarf – Myths and Facts*
- 11:45-12:15 Kaarina Koski *The Moral Grounds of Reality in Finnish Folklore and Vernacular World View* Sander Mändoja *Presentation of PhD project: Water spirits in Swedish folk legends*
- 12:15-14:00 Lunch at restaurant Vilde (Vallikraavi 4)
- Session E1 (room 139):  
**Saga Monstrosities**  
Chairman Helen Leslie-Jacobsen
- Session E2 (room 140):  
**Thresholds of Christianity**  
Chairman Frog
- 14:00-14:30 Arngrímur Vídalín *Paranormal Encounters in the Sagas* Ülo Valk *The Devil and Nature Spirits between Christianization and Nation Building*
- 14:30-15:00 Rebecca Merkelbach *Meeting the Monster: The Social Implications of Berserk Encounters in Íslendingasögur* Mart Kuldkepp *The Distress of Bárðr: Community and Christianity in Bárðar saga Snæfellsáss*
- 15:00-15:30 Kirsi Kanerva *Wonders, Apparitions, Delusions? Supernatural Phenomena in Sagas* Maths Bertell *I bumped into Thor the other day. He told me to say hi – The Idea of the Holy Pre- and Post-Conversion*
- 15:30-16:00 Coffee
- 16.30-18.00 Special Trollological Reception at Tartu Linnamuseum (Narva mnt. 23)