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***ABERDEEN
MEDIEVAL AND
EARLY MODERN
CONFERENCE 2025***

**READING THE
MARGINAL IN
MEDIEVAL
AND EARLY
MODERN
WORLDS**

31st May

09:00: REGISTRATION

09:45: WELCOME

Erin Benton, University of Aberdeen

10:00: VIKINGS IN THE WILDERNESS

Chair: *Seluvaia 'Ita, University of Aberdeen*

The Forest Margins: Encountering the Forest in Erex saga

Mary O'Connor, University of Oxford

“Be water, my friend (Bárðr)” - Liminalities and Waterscapes in Bárðar saga Snæfellssáss

Miguel Diogo Andrade, University of Lisbon

The Island-Fetter and the Whale-Road: An Examination of the Sea and its Role as Both Barrier and Highway in the Viking Age

Jacob Travers, Independent Scholar

11:15: BREAK

11:30: EARLY MODERN MARGINAL STATES

Chair: *Dr Samuel Hume, University of Aberdeen*

Theatrum Scotiae: Soldiers on the Margin of Post-Revolutionary Scottish Visual Culture

Cameron Flint, University of Aberdeen

Ambiguities of Power: Religious Dissent and Civil Military Relations in the Reign of James II

Joshua Racey, University College London

Choosing Scotland: Dynasty and Diplomacy between France and Scotland (1513–1515)

Pauline Van Thienen, Institut national du Patrimoine (Paris)

12:45: LUNCH

13:45: MARGINAL MONSTERS IN MEDIEVAL ENGLAND

Chair: *Avery DeMarco, University of Aberdeen*

* Of Monsters and (Wo)men: Sympathy and Anxiety for the Other in two Old English Epics

Maria Chiara Di Francesco, Independent Scholar

“Beowulf, just who are you calling a pagan beast?” - *Grendel* (1971) and *The Mere Wife*

(2018) Counter-Cannibalize Western Identities

Vivienne Taylor, Claremont Graduate University

“Why would anyone want to solve it?” - Puzzles, Pleasures and Polyfocalism in the Margins of

York Minster Chapter House

Cathy Jamieson, Independent Scholar

Note – “ * ” signifies the presentation is online

31st May cont.

15:00: KEYNOTE LECTURE

Marginal centrality - the contradictory lens of materiality and text in examining the

Viking settlement of the Norther Isles

Dr Charlotta Hillerdal, University of Aberdeen

16:15: SOCIAL

18:00: CONFERENCE DINNER

1st June

10:00: EARLY MODERN LITERATURE AND PERFORMANCE

Chair: *Cameron Flint, University of Aberdeen*

Spinoza on Natural and Divine Law as a Source of Hospitality

Sava Ristic, University of Aberdeen

* The Significance of the Body: Mutilated Bodies and Rewriting Body Functions in *Titus Andronicus*

Min Li, China University of Petroleum-Beijing at Karamay;

Shanghai International Studies University

* Performance, Youth and Reform in the Tudor Boy Bishop Sermons

Benjamin Hoover, Indiana University

11:15: BREAK

11:30: OLD NORSE AND SCANDINAVIAN MEDIEVAL BODIES

Chair: *Erin Benton, University of Aberdeen*

* Bear with me: an analysis of familial human-bear relationships in Finno-Ugric oral tradition and archaeological material.

Rune Cherednikov, Independent Scholar

* Gods but no gyðingr: (Not) Reading Jews in Medieval Norse Literature

Colin Beowulf Mostert Fisher, University of Iceland

12:45: LUNCH

13:45: ST MACHAR CATHEDRAL TOUR

14:45: BREAK

15:00: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

with *Maryann Pierse, University of Aberdeen*

18:00: ST MACHAR BAR SOCIAL