Northern Worlds: Landscapes – Interactions – Dynamics

An international conference on the first interdisciplinary research initiative at the National Museum of Denmark with contributions from archaeology, history, ethnology, anthropology, preservation and the natural sciences

The Conference will take place in ‘Festsalen’ at the National Museum 28-30 November 2012

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Final Program

**Wednesday 28 November**

**Northern Worlds – Landscapes**

The landscapes of the Northern Worlds constitute the frame of reference for the research initiative’s studies of agricultural use and traces, of features connected to cosmos and the perception of land and rights, and of environment and change.

8.00-9.00 Registration in the Entrance Hall

9.00-9.15 Opening talk by Per Kristian Madsen, director of the National Museum of Denmark

9.15-10.00 Keynote address

Peter Emil Kaland, Department of Biology, University of Bergen  
*The Coastal Heathlands of Europe – farming history and management*

Questions

Session: Use and Traces (Chair Bjarne Grønnow, The National Museum of Denmark)

10.00-10.20 Ditlev L. Mahler, Danish Prehistory, The National Museum of Denmark  
*The Neolithic Components: Shetland Islands 4000-3000 BC*

10.20-10.40 Coffee/tea break at the Restaurant

10.40-11.00 Alison Sheridan, National Museums Scotland  
*Shetland’s earliest farming communities, c. 3700–1500 BC: an overview*

11.00-11.20 Christian Koch Madsen, Danish Middle Ages and Renaissance, The National Museum of Denmark  
*Norse Settlement and Pastoral Farming in Vatnahverfi, South Greenland*

11.20-11.45 Discussion

11.45-13.00 Lunch at the Restaurant
Session: Cosmos and Perception (Chair Peter A. Toft, The National Museum of Denmark)
13.00-13.20 Flemming Kaul, Danish Prehistory, National Museum of Denmark
The northernmost rock carvings belonging to the Scandinavian Bronze Age tradition, Norway

13.20-13.40 Lars Jørgensen, Danish Prehistory, National Museum of Denmark
Norse religion, rites and ritual sites in Scandinavia in the 6th-11th century. A research project 2010-15

13.40-14.00 Ulla Odgaard, Ethnographic Collection, National Museum of Denmark
Archaeology of the hunt – Hunting rights, hunting ethics and “waste”

14.00-14.30 Discussion

14.30-14.50 Coffee/tea break in ‘Festsalen’

Session: Environment and Change (Chair Henning Matthiesen, The National Museum of Denmark)
14.50-15.10 Morten Fischer Mortensen, Danish Prehistory, Unit of Environmental Archaeology, The National Museum of Denmark
Colonizing the unknown: early man in Denmark and the environmental preconditions

15.10-15.30 Kevin J. Edwards, Departments of Geography & Environment and Archaeology, School of Geosciences, University of Aberdeen
Early farming, cereals and landscape impacts from northern Europe to the North Atlantic: conundrums

15.30-15.50 Noémie Boulanger-Lapointe, University of British Columbia
From Tundra to Forest? Impacts of Current Climate Changes on High Arctic Vegetation

15.50-16.10 Richard Oram, Department of History, University of Stirling
From ‘Golden Age’ to Depression: land, lordship and environmental change in the medieval Earldom of Orkney

16.10-16.45 Discussion
Thursday 29 November

Northern Worlds – Interactions

Interactions in the Northern Worlds between societies in particular and nature and culture in general have been in focus for the research initiative’s studies of networks and communication, of objects and exchange, and of preservation and decay.

9.00-9.45 Keynote address

Charlotte Damm, Department of Archaeology, National University of Ireland, Galway

When people meet

Questions

Session: Networks and Communication (Chair Bjarne Grønnow, The National Museum of Denmark)

9.45 – 10.05 Christina Folke Ax, Open Air Museum, The National Museum of Denmark

Good connections – Networks in the whaling and sealing community on Rømø in the 18th century

10.05-10.25 Anne Lisbeth Schmidt, Department of Conservation, Science, The National Museum of Denmark

Skin Clothing from the North – Results from the research

10.25-10.45 Coffee/tea break at the Restaurant

10.45-11.05 Peter Andreas Toft, Ethnographic Collection, The National Museum of Denmark

Small things forgotten – Inuit reception of European commodities in the Historic Thule Culture

11.05-11.25 Einar Østmo, Collection of National Antiquities, Museum of Cultural History, University of Oslo

Shipbuilding and aristocratic splendour in the North, 2400 BC-1000 AD

11.25-11.50 Discussion

11.50-13.00 Lunch at the Restaurant

Session: Objects and Exchange (Chair Peter S. Henriksen, The National Museum of Denmark)

13.00-13.20 Anne Pedersen, Danish Middle Ages and Renaissance, The National Museum of Denmark

Skagerrak and Kattegat in the Viking Age – border and connecting link


Gold imitations of Roman coins produced in European Barbaricum

13.40-14.00 Gitte Tarnow Ingvarsson, Bornholms Museum

Nørremølle – the largest Viking silver hoard of Bornholm
14.00-14.20  Lisbeth Imer, Danish Middle Ages and Renaissance, The National Museum of Denmark
*Greenlandic runic inscriptions*

14.20-14.50  Discussion

14.50-15.10  Coffee/tea break in ‘Festsalen’

**Session: Preservation and Decay** (Chair Morten F. Mortensen, The National Museum of Denmark)

*Conservation and drying methods for archaeological materials modified for use in northern areas*

15.30-15.50  Jørgen Hollesen, The National Museum of Denmark & Centre for Permafrost, Department of Geography and Geology, University of Copenhagen
*Kitchen-middens and climate change – the preservation of permafrozen sites in a warm future*

15.50-16.30  Discussion
Northern Worlds – Dynamics
Social and organizational dynamics in the Northern Worlds have been elucidated by studies within the terms of continuity and discontinuity, of mobility and organization, and of techniques and environment.

9.00-9.45 Keynote address
Christian Wichmann Matthiessen, Department of Geography and Geology, University of Copenhagen
Scandinavian Links: Regional development perspectives

Questions

Session: Continuity and Discontinuity (Chair Lisbeth Imer, The National Museum of Denmark)
9.45-10.05 Bjarne Grønnow, Ethnographic Collection, The National Museum of Denmark
Signatures in Stone

10.05-10.25 Peter Steen Henriksen, Danish Prehistory, Unit of Environmental Archaeology, The National Museum of Denmark
Norse Farming in Greenland: Agriculture on the edge

10.25-10.45 Discussion

10.45-11.05 Coffee/tea break at the Restaurant

Session: Mobility and Organization (Chair Peter S. Henriksen, The National Museum of Denmark)
Settlements policy in a colonial context

11.25-11.45 Jette Arneborg, Danish Middle Ages and Renaissance, The National Museum of Denmark
Subsistence and Settlement Patterns in Norse Greenland

11.45-13.00 Lunch at the Restaurant

Session: Mobility and Organization (continued)
13.00-13.20 Lasse Sørensen, Danish Prehistory, The National Museum of Denmark
Farmers on the move… The expansion of agrarian societies during the Neolithic and Bronze Age in Scandinavia

13.20-13.40 Christopher Prescott, Department of Archaeology, Conservation and History, University of Oslo
The transformation of third millennium north western Scandinavia

13.40-14.00 Discussion

14.00-14.20 Coffee/tea break in ‘Festsalen’
Session: Techniques and Environment (Chair Peter A. Toft, The National Museum of Denmark)

*The battle of the Weather*

14.40-15.00  Niels Bonde, Danish Prehistory, Unit of Environmental Archaeology, The National Museum of Denmark
*Timber houses in Greenland – diffusion and innovation*

15.00-15.20  Discussion

15.20-15.30  Break

15.30-16.30  General discussion
Northern Worlds in time and space: a narrative or a frame of reference for research?
Moderator – Ditlev Mahler, The National Museum of Denmark