

Thorir Jonsson Hraundal — Curriculum Vitae



Thorir Jonsson Hraundal, Phd.
Lecturer & Dir. of studies
Middle Eastern Studies
University of Iceland
thorir@hi.is
Tel: +354 5255988
Mob: +354 8693704

POSITIONS, EDUCATION, DEGREES

- 2019-** Full-time lecturer of Middle Eastern Studies and Arabic at the University of Iceland.
- 2017-** Adjunct, and dir. of studies of Middle Eastern Studies at the department of Cultures and Languages, University of Iceland.
- 2014-2016** Post-Doc. at the Historical Institute, University of Iceland. Research project: *Eastern Vikings in Arabic Sources*. Director of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Iceland from 2015.
- 2008-2013** PhD at the Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Bergen. Dissertation title: "The Rus in Arabic Sources: Cultural Contacts and Identity". Supervisor Dr Ildar Garipzanov.
- 2002-2005** M.Litt. Middle Eastern Studies at the Faculty of Oriental Studies (now Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies). Research subject: Expansion of Islam in Central Asia and Russia in the ninth and tenth centuries. Dissertation title: "The Islamization of the Volga Bulgars". Supervisor Dr James Montgomery.
- 1998-2001** Semitic studies (Arabic and Hebrew) at the University of Salamanca, Spain.
- 1995-1998** B.A. General Linguistics at the University of Iceland.

PUBLICATIONS

"Með Víkingum við Volgubakka: ferðabók Ibn Fadlan", in *Milli Mála – Journal of Languages and Culture*, vol. 11 (2019), Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute of Foreign Languages at the University of Iceland (VFI), pp. 156–162.

"Frásögn Ibn Fadlan af víkingum við Volgubakka árið 922", in *Milli Mála – Journal of Languages and Culture*, vol. 11 (2019), Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute of Foreign Languages at the University of Iceland (VFI), pp. 151–155.

"Ibn Fadlan on the middle Volga", in Proceedings from the conference 'Ibn Fadlan and the Great Unwashed', held in Oxford, March 2016 (forthcoming 2021).

"Rus". Forthcoming in the *Encyclopedia Iranica* (forthcoming 2021).

"Vikings in Arabic Sources", in *Pre-Christian Religions of the North*, ed. by John McKinnell et al. (forthcoming 2021).

"New Perspectives on Eastern Vikings/Rus in Arabic Sources", *Viking and Medieval Scandinavia*, vol. 10 (2014), 65–97.

"Rus in Arabic Sources: Cultural Contacts and Identity", doctoral thesis, University of Bergen (2013).

"Integration and Disintegration: The 'Norse' in descriptions of the Rus." In *Norman Tradition and Transcultural Heritage: Exchange of Cultures in the 'Norman' Peripheries of Medieval Europe*, ed. by S. Burkhardt and T. Foerster, proceedings from the conference held in Heidelberg April 2010 (Ashgate, 2014), pp. 279–293.

"When and How did the Rūs/Rhos Enter Written Sources?" In *North and South, East and West: Movements in the Medieval World. Proceedings of the 2nd Postgraduate Conference of the Institute for Medieval Research*, University of Nottingham. Edited by Judith Mills and Marjolein Stern (2010), 1–8.

REVIEWS

Pierre Bauduin and A. E. Musin, eds., *Vers l'Orient et vers l'Occident: Regards croisés sur les dynamiques et les transferts culturels des Vikings à la Rous ancienne*. Turnhout: Centre de Recherches Archéologiques, 2014.
In *Speculum* 91 (3):753-754 (2016).

István Zimonyi, *Muslim Sources on the Magyars in the Second Half of the 9th Century: The Magyar Chapter of the Jayhānī Tradition*. (East Central and Eastern Europe in the Middle Ages, 450–1450, 35.) Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2016.
In *Speculum* (forthcoming 2018).

TEACHING**University of Iceland:****Courses taught:**

MAF204G Arabic II (spring 2020)

MAF102G Arabic I (autumn 2019)

MAF101G History of the Middle East I (autumn 2019)

MIS808F Vikings in the East (autumn 2019)

MAF204G Arabic II (spring 2019)

MAF207G Al-Andalus: Muslims in Spain 711-1492 (spring 2019)

AMV105G Non-Indoeuropean language I: Turkish (autumn 2018)

MAF204G Arabic II (spring 2018)

MAF103G History of the Middle East II (spring 2018)

MAF102G Arabic I (autumn 2017)

MAF101G History of the Middle East I (autumn 2017)

SAG335G The Early centuries of Islam (autumn 2017)

MAF204G Arabic II (spring 2017)

MAF104G Arabic III (autumn 2016)

MAF102G Arabic I (autumn 2016)

MAF101G History of the Middle East I (autumn 2016)

AMV105G Non-Indoeuropean language I: Turkish (autumn 2016)

SAG036G Introduction to the History of Iceland (w/E.K. Björnsson, autumn 2016)

MIS808F Vikings in the East (spring 2016)

MAF204G Arabic II (spring 2016)

MAF102G Arabic I (autumn 2015)

MAF101G History of the Middle East I (autumn 2015)

SAG036G Introduction to the History of Iceland (w/E.K. Björnsson, autumn 2015)

SAG036G Introduction to the History of Iceland (w/E.K. Björnsson, autumn 2014)

AMV101G Non-Indo-European language I: Arabic (autumn 2014)

MIS702F The Medieval North (autumn 2013)

AMV101G Non-Indoeuropean language I: Arabic (autumn 2007)

University of Bergen:

HIS120 Fordjupingsoppgåve i historie (autumn 2011): *"Scandinavian Far-farers 9th-11th c."*

HIS113 Fordjuping i eldre historie (autumn 2010)

HIS304 Teknikkar i historiefaget (spring 2011)

ISL101 Islandsk språk (autumn 2009)

ISL101 Islandsk språk (autumn 2010)

ISL103 Islandsk språk I (autumn 2011)

Note:

Alongside my studies at Cambridge University I taught modern Icelandic all three years from 2002-2005. In August 2013, 2014 and 2015 I was a resident instructor of Icelandic at the University Centre for the West Fiords.

PAPERS AND TALKS

2020

"Arabísk orð í íslensku og öðrum Evrópumálum", þriðjudagsfyrirlestrar Vigdísarstofnunar, 4. febrúar.

2019

"Arabic sources on Vikings in the Mediterranean and beyond", Vikings In The Mediterranean conference, Athens 27-30 November.

„Vikings and Muslims in Medieval Times“, Arabiska Bokmassan, Malmo, 28 April 2019.

„Vikings and Muslims in Medieval Times“, Det Syriska Kulturinstitut in Danmark, 29 April.

„Rus in Arabic Sources“, Kulturmöten i nordisk vikingatid at Upplandsmuseet, Uppsala, 25-26 mars.

“Arabic Sources on Eastern Vikings”, Aarhus University, 27 February.

"Arabískukennsla: aðferðir og áskoranir", fyrirlestraröð Stofnun Vigdísar Finnbogadóttur, Veröld, 5. febrúar.

2018

"New Perspectives on Eastern Vikings/Rus in Arabic Sources", research seminar at the department of Ethnology, Religion and Gender Studies, University of Stockholm, 17 Oct 2018.

"Eastern Vikings in Arabo-Islamic sources", public lecture at the department of Ethnology, Religion and Gender Studies, University of Stockholm, 17 Oct 2018.

"Literature and Culture of Iceland", ", lecture at the Azerbaijan University of Languages, Baku, 10 October 2018.

"History of Iceland", lecture at the Azerbaijan University of Languages, Baku, 9 October 2018.

"History of Morocco", lecture at the The Reykjavik School of Visual Arts, 26 September 2018.

"Medieval Arabo-islamic geography and maps", lecture at the Iceland Academy of the Arts, 4 September 2018.

"Teaching Middle Eastern Studies in Scandinavia: Challenges and Opportunities", Beijing Foreign Studies University, 4 June.

"Turkic loanwords in Old Norse", Conference on Icelandic and Nordic grammar, Saint Petersburg, 28–29 May 2018.

"New Perspectives on Eastern Vikings", MA student workshop held by the Nordic Society of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Copenhagen, March 2018.

2017

"Al-Maghrib in Early Arabo-Islamic Geographies", seminar in Marrakech, 30 June–2 July 2017.

"Northmen in the Caucasus and the Caspian 9th–11th Centuries", paper at the seminar *On the Edges of Christianity: Iceland and Armenia in the Middle Ages*, University of Iceland, 8 June 2017.

"New Perspectives on Eastern Vikings in Arabic sources", workshop at Kuwait University, 24 May 2017.

"Eastern Vikings in Arabic Sources", lecture at the American University of Kuwait, 23 May 2017.

"Vikings and Arabs in Medieval Times", lecture at the Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah (Islamic heritage house), Kuwait, 22 May 2017.

"Vikings in Arabic sources", lecture at Azərbaycan Dillər Universiteti (Azerbaijan University of Languages), 13 March 2017.

Saga Ísrael (The history of Israel). Lecture at Actavis Pharmaceuticals, February 2017.

2016

"Ibn Fadlan on the Middle Volga", paper at the conference 'Ibn Fadlan and the Great Unwashed', University of Oxford, March 2016.

"Eastern Vikings in Arabic Sources", paper at the Viking World conference, Nottingham University, July 2016.

2015

"Islamophobia", paper at Equality Days, hosted by the University of Iceland, 6.10.2015.

"Refugees, multiculturalism and prejudice", paper at Equality Days, hosted by Flensburg College, Hafnarfjordur, 1.10.2015.

"Arabs and Vikings in Medieval Times" - Multaqa literary salon at the Abu Dhabi Book Fair, May 2015.

"Arabs and Vikings in Medieval Times" - Sea of Culture salon at the Abu Dhabi Book Fair, May 2015

Arabs and Vikings in Medieval Times". Session at the Abu Dhabi Book Fair, May 2015.

"Multiculturalism: Everyone is responsible", paper at the 'Dialogues on Society' colloquium, held at Gerðuberg Cultural Institute, Reykjavik.

"Muslims and Islam", paper at Equality Days , hosted by Kopavogur College, 6.3.2015.

"Translating medieval Arabic texts: Ibn Fadlan and his Vikings", paper at the annual humanities congress, University of Iceland, 14.3.2015.

2014

"Images of Muhammad, terrorism and western perspectives", paper at the 'Pen and the Sword' colloquium, hosted by the Ethics Institute, University of Iceland, and the Media Committee of Iceland, 20.1.2014.

"Nordic peoples in medieval Arabic texts", paper at the Medieval Seminar, University of Iceland, 16.1.2014.

2013

"Khazar, Byzantine and Muslim Relations in the Eighth to Tenth Centuries", PhD trial lecture at the University of Bergen, 27.6.2013.

2012

"Trade as Cultural Contact: Modern Approaches for a Medieval Case", University of Bergen 24.8.2012.

2011

"The Earliest Arabic Reference to the Rus: Al-Khwarazmi or Ibn Khurradadbeh?", *The Beginnings of Rus: 1100 years of the Russo-Byzantine Treaty of 911*, Kiev, 30.9.2011.

"The Rus: Arabic Sources and the Material Evidence of Cultural Contacts", Work in Progress Seminar University of Bergen, 3.11.2011.

2010

"Integration and Disintegration: The 'Norse' in descriptions of the Rus.", *Norman Tradition and Transcultural Heritage*; 2010-04-14 - 2010-04-16 UiB

2009

"Arabic Sources on the Rus", CMS Research School Seminar, University of Bergen 9.12.2009.

"When and How did the Rs/Rhos Enter Written Sources?", North and South, East and West: Movements in the Medieval World, Nottingham, 30.5.2009.

"The Power of Ritual among Ibn Fadlan's Rus", *Power and Powerlessness*, Balestrand, Norway, 15.4.2009.

2008

"Cultural contacts and Identity in times of conversion: Northmen in the East/The case of the Rus". HF Startseminar for PhD Students; 2008-10-09 - 2008-10-10 UiB

"Vikings in the East", CMS Internseminar, Nordheimsund, Norway, 21.1.2008.

POSITIONS & AWARDS

2014 Rannís (Icelandic Research Fund) grant for a three-year post-doc to be carried out at the University of Iceland. Project name: Eastern Vikings in Arabic Sources.

2012 Research grant from the Centre Franco-Norvegienne for one month at the Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (FMSH), Paris.

2002/3 Chevening Scholarship grantee (the UK government's global scholarship programme, funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) for study at the Faculty for Oriental Studies at the University of Cambridge.