

Memory Studies: Past and Present in the Medieval Saga (10 ects) (Scandinavian languages and Literature, IÆK)

Pernille Hermann

The course will introduce students to concepts of memory and the field of memory studies. During the course, various types of memory will be presented and discussed, including collective memory (Halbwachs), cultural memory and communicative memory (Assmann). The course will also deal with individual memory, that is, memory techniques and memory training. Examples will be given of culturally based perceptions of memory, and an exploration will be made of how memory is expressed not only in explicit discourse, but also metaphorically in imagery. The course will concentrate on Old Norse and medieval material; Old Norse culture was immensely preoccupied with the preservation of the past and, for example, the Medieval Saga and the Eddas, with their highly traditional character, offer a neat case for studies of memory. However, the course will provide also students with knowledge of theoretical aspects of memory which will be of general relevance, especially with regard to how groups and individuals of all times approach their pasts, and the processes of transmission and storage that are used as part of this. Students will be encouraged to apply the ideas and theories they encounter to other material they know. Language of instruction is English; Course plan will be available in August.

Selected readings:

Erll A. and A. Nünning, *Cultural Memory Studies. An Interdisciplinary and International Handbook*, A. Walter de Gruyter, 2008

Nora, P. 'Between Memory and History', *Representations* 26 (1989), pp. 7-24.

Roediger H., and J. V. Wertsch, 'Creating a New Discipline of Memory', *Memory Studies* 1 (2008), pp. 9-22.