

Judy Quinn

Reflexivity in eddic kennings: opening up mythological space in dialogic Exchange

Abstract: In this presentation, I will survey the use of kennings (poetic circumlocutions for nouns) in the poetry of the Codex Regius anthology (GkS 2365 4o), comparing their character and use to the kennings of skaldic poetry. Whereas in skaldic poetry, these riddling expressions are often deployed as substitutes for nouns, in eddic verse they also serve to elaborate the meaning of nouns, standing in apposition to their referent. Often they are used reflexively by speakers in eddic dialogues to open up the field of reference in order to trigger complex mythological associations.

Carolyne Larrington

Islands, Narrative and Feelings, with special reference to Sámsey

Abstract: Islands are, by definition, particularly marked-out spaces in the landscapes of Norse imaginative literature. They feature prominently in certain sagas, are absent in others, and as I will argue have a particular role in heroic and mythological poetry. Certain events happen on islands, or symbolic representations of islands, and these have particular emotional resonances for participants and readers. In this session I will present some ideas about Sámsey as one such site, and we will workshop an extension of the arguments to other islands in other Old Norse narrative forms.