

Lauren Poyer

Curriculum Vitae

17 May 2024

Associate Teaching Professor

University of Washington

[Department of Scandinavian Studies](#)

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Education

2023 Ph.D. Scandinavian Studies-philology
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Dissertation defended December 11, 2023
Dissertation title: *Salvation and the Sea: Literary Representations of Revelations at Sea in Five Sagas of Icelanders*

2018 Ph.C. Scandinavian Studies-philology
University of Wisconsin-Madison
GPA: 3.96 (of 4)

2016 M.A. Scandinavian Studies-philology
University of Wisconsin-Madison
GPA: 3.94 (of 4)

2014 B.A. English with Linguistics
University of Alabama at Birmingham
GPA: 4.0 (of 4), summa cum laude

Certificates

2017 International Summer School in Manuscript Studies - Advanced Group
Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies, Arnamagnæan Institute at the University of Copenhagen, & National and University Library of Iceland

2016 International Summer School in Manuscript Studies - Basic Group
Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies, Arnamagnæan Institute at the University of Copenhagen, & National and University Library of Iceland

2015 International Summer School (ISS) - Norwegian Trinn III & Nynorsk
University of Oslo

2012 Summer Course in Modern Icelandic
Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies & University of Iceland

Awards, Honors, & Grants

2021 Faculty Reading Group: Death, Dying, and the Afterlife in Recent Premodern Studies

Faculty Lead: Annegret Oehme
Simpson Center for the Humanities, one-time grant for summer research

- 2020 Edwin J. Vickner Endowed Fund Research Grant
University of Washington, one-time grant for summer research
- 2018 Future Faculty Partner of the UW-Madison Teaching Academy
- 2017 Wisconsin Idea Award
University of Wisconsin-Madison, one-time award for community outreach service
- 2016 Department of Scandinavian Studies Travel Grant
University of Wisconsin-Madison, one-time grant for summer study in Iceland
- 2015 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship
University of Wisconsin-Madison, one-time grant for summer study [in Norway]
- 2014 Mellon Foundation Area and International Studies Research Fellowship
University of Wisconsin-Madison, one-time grant; *used for research summer 2017*
- 2014 University Fellowship
University of Wisconsin-Madison, two-year fellowship

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- 2017 “North American Doctoral Dissertations on Old Norse-Icelandic.” with Kirsten Wolf. *Scandinavian Studies*, vol. 89, no. 1, Spring 2017, pp. 1-86.

Reviews

- 2025 *Forthcoming*. Review of *Werewolves in Old Norse-Icelandic Literature: Between the Monster and the Man*, by Minjie Su. *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*.
- 2024 *Forthcoming*. Review of *Poetry in Sagas of Icelanders*, by Margaret Clunies Ross. *Scandinavian Studies*.
- 2023 Review of *Margins, Monsters, Deviants: Alterities in Old Norse Literature and Culture*, edited by Rebecca Merkellbach and Gwendolyne Knight. *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*, vol. 122 no.4, pp. 563-65.

Conference Papers & Presentations

- 2023 “Give a man a fishing hook, feed him for eternity’: Fishing miracles across genre in the Old Norse corpus.”
15 MAY Roundtable for Global Literary Studies: Let There Be Lit!
University of Washington
- 2023 “You will get this wrong’: Burying the lede in Old Norse group translation.”
9 MAY Colloquium on Language Teaching
University of Washington

2022 “*Sapientia et fortitudo* in the Old Icelandic *Flóamanna saga*: Folk knowledge & flatfish.”
Session 1135: Comparative Studies of Medieval England and Iceland, II: Literature
International Medieval Congress (IMC) 2022, Leeds, UK

2021 “Seattle’s NHL Kraken: When Science Fails to Understand Myth.”
13 MAY Panel: Transmedial Ecologies, Moderator Ida Johnson
SASS 2021, [Seattle], USA

2021 Invited Respondent on The Future of Global Literary Studies
30 APR Symposium on Global Literatures & Global Literacies: Teaching Texts, Old and New
University of Washington

2019 “Hashtag not my Hero: Teaching the Mythology and Literature of Medieval Scandinavia.”
22 FEB Praxis Conference 2019: Anti-Racist Pedagogy: Visions and Practices for Institutional Change
University of Washington

2018 “Vernacular Christianity and the Book of Jonah in *Ljósvetninga saga*.”
Track 3a: Ideas and Worldview: Cultural Contact and Multiculturalism
Saga Conference 2018; 17th Annual International Saga Conference, Reykjavík, Iceland

2018 “White Nationalism and the Net: Observations on ‘A Nid on Nazis.’”
4 MAY “Ethics of Transmission: Neo-Nazis, White-Nationalists, and the Role of the Academic.”
SASS 2018, Los Angeles, USA Roundtable Panel Co-Organizer & Participant

2018 “Rauðr should have the worst death: Recasting Kingship and Conversion
in *Óláfs saga Tryggvasonar*.”
7 APR Panel: Legal Power and Practice, Moderator Ilana Schroeder
5th Annual Medieval Studies Colloquium, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2018 “Medievalism and White Nationalism: A Roundtable.”
24 FEB Madison Graduate Conference on English Language and Literature (MadLit)
University of Wisconsin-Madison

2017 “Tökum annað ráð: Vernacular Christianity & the Book of Jonah in *Ljósvetninga saga*.”
Panel: Survival and Afterlife, Moderator Matthew Boutilier
4th Annual Medieval Studies Colloquium, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2016 “On the Edge of the World: Iceland Moving East in the Vinland Sagas.”
SASS 2016, New Orleans, USA

Public-Facing Lectures and Published Pieces

2024 with Colin Connors. “Skalds and Songs in *The Return of the King*”
14 MAR National Nordic Museum, [Fact & Fiction Film Series](#)

2024 “Landscapes and Land-spirits in *The Fellowship of the Ring*”
18 JAN National Nordic Museum, [Fact & Fiction Film Series](#)

2023 Expert on Old Norse descriptions of *hafgufa*
23 FEB Interviews for [Live Science](#) and [Popular Science](#)

2023 “Pórr Facts for *Thor: Ragnarok*”
20 JAN National Nordic Museum, [Fact & Fiction Film Series](#)

2022 Panelist for “[What Are We Afraid Of?](#)”
28 OCT Humanities Washington, moderated by Sarah Faulkner

2022 “[The Northpeople w/ Lauren Poyer](#)” (29:24-1:35:21)
13 MAY *American Prestige* podcast, hosted by Daniel Bessner and Derek Davison

2022 “Norse mythology in a nutshell: Beginnings and ends”
16 MAY Judson Park, College of Intellectual Inspiration (CII) Series

2020 --
14 OCT Osher Lifelong Learning Institute - UW

2022 “Release the Kraken: A History of Scandinavian Sea Monsters”
24 MAR Temple Beth El

2021 --
8 SEP Sons of Norway: Leif Erikson Lodge
30 JUL Franke Tobey Jones: Lillian Pratt
19 APR Monday Study Club

2020 --
19 NOV PitchBook Data
10 NOV Lifelong Learning at Heron’s Key
21 OCT Swedish Club of Seattle

2021 “Sources for Norse Mythology: Some Images of the Gods”
25 JUN Himmelbjerget Danish Camp

2020 Resident expert on the Seattle Kraken
16 DEC [Interview in NHL Seattle Kraken series *SightSEAing with Fitz*](#)
JUL-AUG [UW News article](#), [KIRO 7 interview](#), [KUOW interview](#)

2019 “Viking Y2K: Doomsday, Ragnarok, and the End of the World [as we know it]”
12 DEC National Nordic Museum, [Scandinavian 30 Lecture Series](#)

2019 “[Facing the Future in Frozen II](#)”
NOV University of Washington Alumni Association Newsletter

2019 “‘Draconian Conversion’: Dragons and executions in medieval Scandinavia”
3 OCT Daughters of Norway, Embla Lodge #2
10 OCT Sons of Norway, Normanna Lodge #2

2018 with Colin Connors. “The Nordic countries: Iceland”
23 FEB Hamilton Middle School International Night, Madison, WI

2018 with Colin Connors. “Untended trails: Southern Greenlandic saga sites”
 17 FEB Public Lecture at the Wallström Nordic Workshop
 Norden Folk: The Midwest Institute of Scandinavian Culture

2017 “Practical Icelandic Language” at the Scandinavian Festival in New Berlin, WI
 7 OCT Nordic Council of Wisconsin

Campus Guest Lectures

University of Washington

2023 “Medievalism & Ingmar Bergman’s *The Seventh Seal*”
 23 MAY Scandinavian Auteurs, Asst Professor Amanda Doxtater

2023 “Norske folkeviser fra middelalderen: *Bendik og Årolilja*”
 11 APR Second-Year Norwegian 3, Asst Teaching Professor Andy Meyer

2022 “Eurovision and the ‘sound’ of Iceland”
 1 DEC *Introduction to Scandinavian Culture*, Assoc Professor Guntis Šmidchens

2022 “Halldór Laxness: The Nobel Prize in Literature 1955 & *Kristnihald undir jöklum*”
 19 OCT *Nobel Prize in Literature*, Professor Andrew Nestingen

2022 with Colin Connors. “Viking-Age fashion: artifacts, iconography, and reconstructions”
 13 OCT Second-Year Norwegian 1, Andy Meyer; *The Vikings*, Lecturer Colin Gioia Connors

2022 “An Old Norse Primer and Modern Norwegian comparisons”
 26 APR First-Year Norwegian 3, David Whitlock

2022 “The Kensington Runestone: Forgery and Folk Religion in 20th-century America”
 18 APR *Immigrant and Ethnic Folklore*, Lecturer Colin Gioia Connors

2022 “The Midgard Serpent: Eco-horror and medieval Scandinavian myth”
 1 FEB *Topics in Danish Literature & Culture*, Visiting Lecturer of Danish Morten Bøje Stensgaard Larsen

2021 “Manuscripts and maritime travel in the *Vinland sagas*”
 5 OCT *Masterpiece of Scandinavian Literature*, Professor Marianne Stecher

2021 “Thor’s Wedding: Gendered Expectation in a Modern Retelling of Medieval Myth”
 3 MAY *Sexuality in Scandinavia*, Asst Professor Olivia Gunn

2020 --
 9 NOV *Introduction to Scandinavian Culture*, Asst Professor Olivia Gunn

2021 “Defining the Viking Age” + “A Skaldic Poetry Primer”
 29 APR *Origins Of The Germanic Languages*, Asst Professor Annegret Oehme

2021 “*Kumlbúa þáttr* and the Edge of Time”
 15 APR *Introduction to Scandinavian Culture*, Asst Professor Amanda Doxtater

2020 “*Völsunga saga* & the *Nibelungenlied*”
13 FEB Graduate Seminar: *Power & Doom: Medieval Epics*, Asst Professor Annegret Oehme

2020 “Family planning in medieval Scandinavia”
21 JAN *Sexuality in Scandinavia*, Asst Professor Olivia Gunn

2020 “Pop Culture Vikings”
16 JAN *Introduction to Scandinavian Culture*, Lecturer Kristian Næsby

2020 “Love and marriage in Medieval Scandinavia”
14 JAN *Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature*, Professor Marianne Stecher

2019 --
9 JAN *Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature*, Professor Marianne Stecher

2019 “The long history of foeticide”
15 APR *Sexuality in Scandinavia*, Asst Professor Olivia Gunn

2019 “Norse cosmology: The world according to Snorri”
13 FEB *The Universe and the Origin of Life*, Professor Bruce Balick

2019 “Iceland in (and after) the Viking Age: The Icelandic saga”
7 FEB *Introduction to Scandinavian Culture*, Lecturer Liina-Ly Roos

2018 “Did you try adjusting the margins? Making manuscripts in medieval Iceland”
8 FEB *History of the Vikings*, Professor Emeritus Terje Leiren

University of Wisconsin-Madison

2017 “There’s something about Vinland”
10 OCT *History of Scandinavia*, Asst Professor Dean Krouk

2016 “The Vinland sagas: *Grænlendinga saga* & *Eiríks saga rauða*.”
Celtic-Scandinavian Cultural Interrelations, Professor Thomas A. DuBois

Employment

2023-pres Associate Teaching Professor of Scandinavian Studies
University of Washington (full-time, competitive hire)

2018-23 Assistant Teaching Professor of Scandinavian Studies
University of Washington (Lecturer, full-time, competitive hire)

2016-18 Teaching Assistant in Scandinavian Studies
University of Wisconsin-Madison

2016-17 Graduate Language Program Coordinator (GLPC) for Norden House
University of Wisconsin-Madison

2015-16 JEGP Project Assistant (PA) under Professor Kirsten Wolf
University of Wisconsin-Madison & JEGP

Courses Taught

University of Washington

Humanities First: Foundations: “Journeys” (Au20 **new course**)

Humanities First: Foundations: “Dreams and Nightmares” (Au23 **new course**)

Introductory Norwegian, First-Year series (2018-19)

Introduction to Scandinavian Culture (Au19, Au21, Wi23)

Study Abroad: Justice in the Nordic Region (Su20 **new course** canceled - COVID-19, Su22)

Study Abroad: Art & Activism in the Nordic Region (Su24 **new course**)

Old Norse Language (Wi20 **new course**, Sp21, Sp22, Sp23, Sp24)

Norwegian Literary and Cultural History (Sp23)

Independent Study: Readings in Old Norse (Wi19, Wi21, Sp21, Sp22, Wi23)

Sagas of the Vikings (Sp19, Wi20, Wi21, Wi22, Wi24)

Scandinavian Mythology (Au18, Wi19, Au19, Sp20, Wi21, Wi22, Au22, Au23)

Scandinavian Studies Senior Capstone (Sp21, Au21, Wi22, Sp23, Sp24)

Vikings in Popular Culture (Sp20 **new course**, Au20, Sp&Su21, Au21, Sp&Su22, Su23, Sp24)

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Introductory Modern Icelandic, First-Year series (2017-18; Instructor of Record)

Lit Trans 275: The Tales of Hans Christian Andersen (2017; TA)

Independent Study: Women in the Viking Age & Old Norse Literature (2017; TA)

Norden Seminar: Scandinavian Literature & Culture (2016-17; Instructor of Record)

Public & Department Service

University of Washington

2024-pres Graduate faculty in the Department of Scandinavian Studies

2023-24 Lead faculty developer for digital course development of SCAND 100
Introduction to Scandinavian Culture, in collaboration with [UWC2](#)

2023-24 SASS 2024 Seattle Conference: Program Committee lead

2022-present Undergraduate adviser of Scandinavian Studies

2022-present Global Literary Studies (GLITS), Steering Committee Member

2021-2023 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, co-chair

2023 Authenticity reader for Henry Holt Books for Young Readers,
an imprint of MacMillan Children’s Publishing Group

2020-22 UW PreModern Workgroup, Member

2020-22 Scandinavian Studies Language Huddle, Participant

2020 SASS 2021 Seattle Conference: Community Engagement Committee Lead
University of Washington, Department of Scandinavian Studies

2020 Peer-reviewer for Bloomsbury Publishing

2019-present [H1 Humanities First Program](#) Committee Member, Instructor
University of Washington, Humanities Division

2019 Content Consultant for Capstone Press
Gagne, Tammy. *Freya: Norse Goddess of Love*. Capstone Press, 2019.

2018-present Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee Member
University of Washington, Department of Scandinavian Studies

University of Wisconsin-Madison

2017-18 Social & Outreach Committee Member, Space Committee Member
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of German, Nordic, Slavic (GNS)

2017 Peer-Reviewer for *Cross Section*, Undergraduate Journal of Scandinavian Studies
University of Wisconsin-Madison

2016-17 University Organizer for the Wallström Nordic Workshop
(formerly the Annual Midwest Scandinavian Retreat)
Norden Folk: The Midwest Institute of Scandinavian Culture

2016
26 SEP Organized brown-bag lunch lecture for [Dario Bullitta](#) on research methods in his
2017 VSNR publication; lecture entitled, “*Páls leizla*: Sources,
Provenance, and Christology of the Old Norse Vision of St. Paul”
University of Wisconsin-Madison

2016-17 GNS Liaison Committee Leader, Nordic Unit Graduate Student Representative
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of German, Nordic, Slavic (GNS)

2015-16 Web & Media Committee Leader, Website Manager
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Scandinavian Studies

2014-15 Colloquium Committee Member
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Scandinavian Studies

Professional Organizations

2016-23 Nordic Graduate Student Association ([NGSA](#))
University of Wisconsin-Madison

2016-17 Primary Representative, GNS Liaison

2015-23 Graduate Association of Medieval Studies ([GAMS](#))
University of Wisconsin-Madison
2016-18 Vice President
2017-18 53rd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Organizer

2014-present Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies (SASS)

Languages

High Proficiency: English, Icelandic, Norwegian

Intermediate Proficiency: German

Reading Knowledge: Gothic, Latin, Old English, Old High German, Old Norse, Old Saxon

Limited Proficiency: Finnish