

The Viking experience in the North Atlantic differs significantly from the popular image of violent raids and destruction that characterized the Viking Age in Britain and France. In Iceland, Scandinavian seafarers discovered and settled a vast uninhabited land, where they adapted to their new environment and built an unusual society.

This conference is organized by Professor Jesse Byock (MAP Director, Scandinavian Section and Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA) and Dr. Davide Zori (MAP Field Director, CMRS, UCLA) with the participation of the Zentrum für Baltische und Skandinavische Archäologie, Schloß Gottorf. It examines current research on the Viking Age in the North Atlantic, and focuses on the discoveries and excavations of the Mosfell Archaeological Project (MAP) in the Mosfell Valley of western Iceland.



Directed by Professor Byock, MAP brings together scholars and researchers from Iceland, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany, and the United States working in the disciplines of archaeology, history, saga studies, anthropology, forensics, genetics, environmental science, and historical architecture. MAP's goal is to understand how the Mosfell Valley developed from a ninth-century settlement of Norse seafarers into a powerful Icelandic chieftaincy of the Viking Age.

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THE CMRS AHMANSON CONFERENCE SERIES

University of California, Los Angeles  
Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies

# VIKING ARCHAEOLOGY: THE MOSFELL ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT



May 6 – 7, 2011



# VIKING ARCHAEOLOGY

## THE MOSFELL ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2011 - UCLA, ROYCE HALL 314

8:30 Coffee, pastries

9:00 Welcoming Remarks

**Brian P. Copenhagen** (Director, UCLA CMRS)

**Jesse Byock** (Director, MAP) introduces the short film  
“Viking Landscape”

9:30 **SESSION I: Mosfell Archaeological Project and  
Interdisciplinary Archaeology**

**Jesse Byock** (Scandinavian and Archaeology, UCLA)  
“The Mosfell Archaeological Project: Archaeology, Sagas,  
and History”

**Jon Erlandson** (Anthropology, and Director of Museum of  
Natural and Cultural History, University of Oregon)  
“Egil’s Grave?: A Possible Intersection between Archaeology  
and an Icelandic Saga at Kirkjuhóll”

**Davide Zori** (MAP Field Director, CMRS, UCLA)  
“Viking Age and Medieval Settlement in the Mosfell Valley”

11:00 Break

11:15 **SESSION II: Bioarchaeology, Human Health, and Diet**

**Per Holck** (Anatomy, University of Oslo)  
“Infectious Disease in Viking Age Iceland”

**Jacqueline T. Eng** (Anthropology, Western Michigan University)  
“Bioarchaeological Evidence of Stress and Activity in the  
Medieval Icelandic Cemetery at Hrisbrú”

**Vaughan Grimes** (Archaeology, Memorial University)  
“Diet and Migration at Mosfell: the Isotopic Evidence”

12:45 Lunch

2:15 **SESSION III: Viking Life: Artifacts and Faunal Record**

**Sigríð Hansen** (MAP)  
“Artifacts from the Viking Age Longhouse at Hrisbrú”

**Elín Hreiðarsdóttir** (Institute of Archaeology, Iceland)  
“Viking Age Beads from Hrisbrú and Their Wider  
Icelandic Context”

**Thomas Wake** (Archaeology, UCLA)  
“Viking Foodways at Mosfell”

3:45 Reception

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2011 - UCLA, ROYCE HALL 314

8:30 Coffee, pastries

9:00 **SESSION IV: Landscape, Soil Science, and Ecology**

**Rhonda Bathurst** (Anthropology, University of Western  
Ontario)  
“Bioindicators in Archaeology: Recognizing Human Changes  
to the Landscape”

**Steve Martin** (Archaeology, UCLA)  
“The Recovery and Analysis of Macrobotanical Remains  
from Hrisbrú”

**Egill Erlendsson** (Life & Environmental Sciences,  
University of Iceland)  
“The Late-Holocene Environment of the Mosfell Valley,  
SW Iceland”

10:30 Break

10:45 **SESSION V: The Wider Viking World and MAP’s Impact**

**Sven Kalmring and Volker Hilberg** (Zentrum für Baltische  
und Skandinavische Archäologie)  
“Communication, Long-Distance Trade and Production:  
Viking Period Hedeby and Its Relations with Iceland and  
the North Atlantic”

**Björn Þráinn Þórðarson** (Director of Culture and Education,  
Mosfellsbær, Iceland)  
“A Government’s Partnership with MAP: the Archaeological  
Research as a Foundation for a Museum on the Viking Age  
and the Icelandic Sagas”

12:00 Concluding Remarks

**Davide Zori** (MAP Field Director, CMRS, UCLA)

### REGISTRATION

Advance registration is not required. No admission fee.  
Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

### PARKING

Please use the Self Service Pay Stations in UCLA Lots 2, 3 and 5.  
More parking information and maps are available online at  
<http://map.ais.ucla.edu/go/portal/1002187>

### NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Contact the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies  
by email at [cmrs@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:cmrs@humnet.ucla.edu) or phone at 310-825-1880.

### LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MOSFELL ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

[www.viking.ucla.edu/mosfell\\_project](http://www.viking.ucla.edu/mosfell_project)  
[www.viking.ucla.edu](http://www.viking.ucla.edu)

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*In cooperation with Arcadia and the Zentrum für Baltische und Skandinavische  
Archäologie directed by Prof. Dr. Claus von Carnap-Bornheim.*

Cover: Egill Skallagrímsson from a 17th-century manuscript. Fold-over: A skull  
excavated from the Hrisbrú churchyard. Background this page: the excavated  
Viking longhouse at Hrisbrú. Below: Standing at the excavation site, from the  
left Davide Zori, Jon Erlandson, and Jesse Byock.

