

# Dale Kedwards

BA (Birmingham), MA (Nottingham), PhD (York)

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## RESEARCH EXPERTISE

Icelandic Literature (medieval and early modern)

The Planetary Turn in the Environmental Humanities

History of Cartography

History of Space Exploration

## EDUCATION

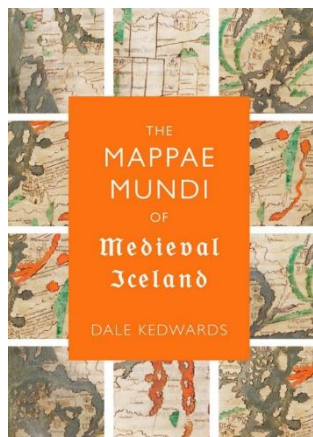
- 2011–2015    **PhD, English and Related Literature**  
University of York  
Funded by the British Arts and Humanities Research Council
- 2009–2010    **MA, Norse and Viking Studies**  
University of Nottingham (Distinction)  
Funded by the British Arts and Humanities Research Council  
Awarded the Margaret Orme Prize by the Viking Society for Northern Research
- 2008–2009    **Diploma, Modern Icelandic**  
University of Iceland (First Class with Distinction)  
Funded by the Ministry for Education, Science, and Culture
- 2005–2008    **BA, English, Department of English**  
University of Birmingham (First Class)  
Awarded the Geoffrey Shepherd Prize for Medieval Studies

## EMPLOYMENT

- 2021–        **Árni Magnússon Research Fellow**  
Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies
- 2019–2021    **HM Queen Margrethe II Distinguished Research Fellow**  
University of Iceland, the National Museum of Iceland,  
and the Museum of National History at Frederiksborg Castle  
Grant awarded by the Carlsberg Foundation.
- 2016–2018    **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**  
Centre for Medieval Literature  
Syddansk Universitet
- 2015–16      **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book



Kedwards, Dale. *The Mappae Mundi of Medieval Iceland*. Studies in Old Norse Literature vol. 6. Cambridge: D.S. Brewer, 2020. 256 pp., 23 colour illustrations.

The Icelandic *mappae mundi*, medieval maps of the world drawn in the thirteenth and fourteenth century, bore witness to fundamental changes in the landscape of vernacular literary culture, scientific thinking and regional geopolitics. This book explores the Icelandic *mappae mundi* as particularly charged sites of Icelandic self-imagining, showing how medieval Icelanders used the cartographic medium to think about their nation, their literary culture, and history.

An interview about the book on the podcast *New Books in History*, with the New Books Network, is available here: <https://newbooksnetwork.com/the-mappae-mundi-of-medieval-iceland>, published 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 (1hr 6min).

### Journal Special Issue

- 2021      Kedwards, Dale (ed.). 'Interstellar Skies: Astronomy in Literature through the Ages', *Interfaces: A Journal of Medieval European Literatures*, vol. 8 (In press, 2021).

Despite misconceptions about an incurious or unscientific Middle Ages, the literatures of medieval Europe abound in astronomical speculation and enquiry. The essays presented in this special issue explore relations between literature and astronomy to illuminate the histories of both, and bring us closer to understanding the historical construction of our own developing relationship with the universe.

### Online Exhibitions

- 2021      [\*Writing Futures\*](#)  
Curated by Dale Kedwards  
The National Museum of Iceland and the Museum of National History at Frederiksborg Castle

Since NASA named its Mars mission the Viking program in 1968, the Viking voyages of exploration and settlement have been a metaphor for the exploration of our solar system. This virtual exhibition explores the role of historical imagery in thinking about space and its exploration, from a moon of Saturn, where place-names are drawn from Arthurian legend, to a moon of Jupiter where they are drawn from Norse myth.

2021

[\*Paired Objects\*](#)

Curated by Katarzyna Anna Kapitan and Dale Kedwards  
The National Museum of Iceland and the Museum of National History at  
Frederiksborg Castle

A virtual gallery of six object pairings, bringing together an items from The Museum of National History at Frederiksborg Castle, Denmark, and the National Museum of Iceland. These creative pairings of modern and medieval objects are designed to tell stories about Viking and medieval traditions and the modern artistic movements (in the visual arts, poetry, costume, and politics) they inspired.

## Journal Articles

- 2021 Kedwards, Dale. 'Astronomy, Literary Criticism, and Medieval Literature: An Introduction', *Interfaces: A Journal of Medieval European Literatures*, vol. 8 (In press, November 2021).
- 2020 Joshua Nash, Peter Bakker, Kristoffer Friis Bøegh, Aymeric Daval-Markussen, Hartmut Haberland, Dale Kedwards, John Ladhams, Carsten Levisen, Jón Símon Markússon, Joost Robbe & Jeroen Willemsen. 'On Languages On Islands', *Acta Linguistica Hafniensia: International Journal of Linguistics* 42:1 (2020), 1-37.
- 2015 Kedwards, Dale. 'Iceland, Thule, and the Tilensian Precedent in Medieval Historiography', *Arkiv för nordisk filologi* 130: 57-78.
- 2015 Kedwards, Dale. 'Cartography and Culture in Medieval Iceland', *Imago Mundi* 67:1: 120–21.
- 2014 Kedwards, Dale. 'Wind Diagrams in Medieval Iceland', *Quaestio Insularis* 16: 92–107.

## Book Chapters

- 2021 Kedwards, Dale. 'The Compassed Earth: Maps and Diagrams in GKS 1812 4to'. *World in Fragments: Studies on GKS 1812 4to*, ed. Gunnar Harðarson, Svanhildur Óskarsdóttir and Guðrún Nordal (Reykjavík: The Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies, in press, November 2021).
- 2020 Kedwards, Dale. 'Geography'. In *A Critical Companion to Old Norse Literary Genre*, edited by Massimiliano Bampi, Carolyne Larrington, and Sif Rikharðsdóttir (Cambridge: D.S Brewer, 2020), pp. 127-44.
- 2019 Kedwards, Dale. 'Þat hafa gamlir menn mælt: The Proverbs of *Egils saga*.' In *Words by the Northern Way: The Uses of the Proverb in the Medieval Cultures of Northern Europe*, edited by Michael Cichon and Lin Yiu. Tempe, Arizona Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 2019, pp. 69–82.

- 2018 Kedwards, Dale. 'The World Image of the *Konungs skuggsjá*.' In *Speculum Septentrionale: Konungs skuggsjá and the European Encyclopaedic Tradition*, edited by Karl Gunnar Johansson and Elise Kleivane. Oslo, Novus, 2018, pp. 71–92.
- 2017 Kedwards, Dale. 'The Sun's Companions: The Heliocentric Orbits of Mercury and Venus.' In *Skandinavische Schriftlandschaften / Scandinavian Textscapes*, edited by Klaus Müller-Wille, Kate Heslop, Anna Katharina Richter, and Lukas Rösli. Tübingen: A. Francke, 2017, pp. 97-101.

### Refereed Web Publications

- 2019 Kedwards, Dale and Elena Parina. 'Elucidarium: Translation and Transmission', *Crossing Borders in the Insular Middle Ages*, ed. Aisling Byrne and Victoria Flood, <http://digitalcultures.ncl.ac.uk/projects/crossingborders>

### Public Engagement

- 2016 Kedwards, Dale. 'The World from On High.' *History Today*, May 2016: Issue 5: 3-4 (Online at <http://www.historytoday.com/dalekedwards/world-high>)

### Reviews

- 2019 Art and Optics in the Hereford Map: An English Mappa Mundi, c. 1300. By Marcia Kupfer, *Peregrinations: Journal Of Medieval Art And Architecture* 7:1, 172-79.
- 2017 *The Vikings and their Age*. By Angus A. Somerville and R. Andrew McDonald, *Saga-Book* 61: 153-155.
- 2016 *The Viking Experience*. By Marjolein Stern and Roderick Dale, *Saga-Book* 60: 117-119.

## CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

- 2021 Virtual Seminar of the HM Queen Margrethe II Distinguished Research Project on the Danish-Icelandic Reception of Nordic Antiquity: Conference and exhibition launch, Þjóðminjasafnið Íslands and Det Nationalhistoriske Museum at Frederiksborg Castle.
- 2018 *Interstellar Skies: The Lunar Passage in Literature through the Ages*, Centre for Medieval Literature, University of Southern Denmark. Keynote speakers: Matthew Francis (TLS/Blackwell's Prize-winning poet) and Lisa R. Messeri (Yale).
- 2017 *Crossing Borders in the Insular Middle Ages, 2nd Biennial Conference*, University of Birmingham. Keynote Speakers: Professor Keith Busby (Wisconsin), Professor Máire Ní Mhaonaigh (Cambridge), and Professor Carolyne Larrington (Oxford).
- 2012 *Norse in the North: Norse Culture and Latin Learning*, University of York. Keynote Speaker: Dr Elizabeth Ashman Rowe (Cambridge).

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 'Norse Myth in the Space Age: Place-Names Derived from Old Norse on Jupiter's Moon Callisto', *Landnám örnefna – um heima og geima*, Húgvísindafing Hákóla Íslands 2020. Watch online: <https://youtu.be/d5oktJjXgb8> (23:37-44:28)
- 2020 'From Iceland to the Moon: Iceland and the Scientific Study of the Moon, 1634 to Apollo,' Stofnun Vigdísar Finnbogadóttur, Reykjavík, January 2020
- 2018 'Place and Planet in Medieval Literature', Science Imagination and Wonder – Robert Grosseteste and His Legacy, Pembroke College, Oxford, April 2018
- 2017 'The Egocentric World Map: the self-centred world now, and in the Middle Ages,' Lecture in the Danish Institute for Advance Studies IDEAS series, Odense, October 2017. Watch online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ow3UggTBS6E>
- 2017 'The Icelandic *Völundarhús* and Legendary Smiths in Medieval Literature,' Lecture in the MEMORI series, Cardiff University, March 2017
- 2016 'An Icelandic world map and the Ark treatises of Hugh of Saint Victor,' *Alfræði Íslenzk*, Háskóli Íslands, Reykjavík, October 2016
- 2016 'Sites of Transformation in the medieval Icelandic encyclopaedia,' Space in Old Norse literature and culture, Charles University, Prague, March 2016
- 2015 'Maps and Geopolitics in Medieval Iceland,' Address to the Schweizerischen Gesellschaft für Skandinavische Studien, Zürich, December 2015
- 2015 'Why did the sea boil in medieval Iceland? The Old Norse translation of medieval tidal science,' Travelling Wisdom: Medieval Science in the North c. 1000-1500, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, May 2015
- 2015 'Crossing Borders on Medieval Maps,' Crossing Borders in the Insular Middle Ages, c. 900-1500, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany, April 2015
- 2014 'Forty Icelandic Priests and a Map of the World,' Medieval Church and Culture seminar series, Harris Manchester College, Oxford University, November 2014
- 2014 'An Icelanders' Guide to Planetary Astronomy: Maps and Diagrams in GkS 1812 4to (s. XIV),' UCL Scandinavian Studies Seminar, University College London, October 2014
- 2014 'Maps in Words,' Colloque d'histoire de la cartographie, École pratique des hautes études, Paris, July 2014
- 2014 'Iceland in Europe: The Uses of World Maps in Medieval Iceland,' Medieval Philology Research Group, University of Bergen, April 2014
- 2014 'A View from the North? The Medieval Maps of Iceland,' The 23rd Maps and Society Lecture Series, Warburg Institute, University of London, February 2014

#### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND PRESS COVERAGE

- 2021 News item on RÚV (The Icelandic National Broadcasting Service) [https://www.ruv.is/frett/2021/10/01/vinlandskortid-er-falsad?fbclid=IwAR1r3nGW73oAl3rF7-quoAnO8tZ\\_UUqgWEGNW01mAe6ey6aDUFCezbASwDY](https://www.ruv.is/frett/2021/10/01/vinlandskortid-er-falsad?fbclid=IwAR1r3nGW73oAl3rF7-quoAnO8tZ_UUqgWEGNW01mAe6ey6aDUFCezbASwDY)
- 2021 Interview in the *New York Times* about the Yale Vinland map forgery: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/30/us/yale-vinland-map-fake.html>
- 2020 Interview (1hr 6mins) with the New Books Network, *New Books in History*: <https://newbooksnetwork.com/the-mappae-mundi-of-medieval-iceland>
- 2020 Feature on my book by the Carlsberg Foundation, 'Mappae Mundi: Islands Tidligste Verdenskort Under Lup': [https://www.carlsbergfondet.dk/da/Nyheder/Nyt-fra-fondet/Nyheder/Mappae-Mundi\\_Islands-tidligste-verdenskort-under-lup](https://www.carlsbergfondet.dk/da/Nyheder/Nyt-fra-fondet/Nyheder/Mappae-Mundi_Islands-tidligste-verdenskort-under-lup) (20<sup>th</sup> Oct 2020).

- 2017 Feature on my research in German newspaper *Flensburg Avis* (27<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017)
- 2017 Feature on my research in Danish newspaper *Jyllands Posten* (24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017),  
<http://jyllands-posten.dk/nyviden/EC9311850/allerede-i-middelalderen-troede-man-at-jorden-var-rund/>
- 2017 Interview with *videnskab.dk* (22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2017) about the popular misconception that medieval people thought the world was flat <http://videnskab.dk/krop-sundhed/middelalderens-skandinaver-troede-at-jorden-var-rund>
- 2016 Article for *History Today* about medieval imaginings of the Earth from space, stimulated by British astronaut Tim Peake's tweet of the Hereford map (c.1300) from aboard the International Space Station (online at <http://www.historytoday.com/dale-kedwards/world-high>)
- 2013 Voice work in Old Norse for audio-visual display by Triquetra, Illuminating York 2013, Clifford's Tower (online at <https://vimeo.com/78942896>)

## DIGITAL AND TEXT ENCODING

- TEI – Cataloguing of items in the Árni Magnússon Collection, recognised as part of the UNESCO memory of the world, consistent with best practice laid out by the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI).
- Digital Cataloguing – Cataloguing of Icelandic manuscripts in North American libraries and private collections, especially Icelandic and Norwegian-Danish language manuscripts in Canada
- Omeka – Development of online exhibitions on Omeka, cataloguing of museum artefacts consistent with best practice laid out by Dublin core.
- HTML/XML – Experience in digital transcription and description of medieval texts.

## LECTURING AND TEACHING

### Undergraduate

- 2016 **Thirteenth-Century Europe** (second-year module)  
 Guest Lecturer  
 Department of History, University of Southern Denmark
- 2012-14 **Old Norse Literature** (third-year module).  
 Primary Instructor  
 Department of English and Related Literature, University of York
- 2013 **High Medieval Literature** (third-year module)  
 Primary Instructor  
 Department of English and Related Literature, University of York
- 2012 **Global Literature** (first-year module)  
 Teaching Assistant  
 Department of English and Related Literature, University of York

### Postgraduate

- 2021 **Race and Indigeneity in Medieval Literature** (Graduate Course)  
 Guest Lecturer  
 University of Alberta
- 2019 **Major Works of Scandinavian Literature** (MA module)  
 Guest Lecturer

2012–14

Faculty of Languages and Cultures, University of Iceland  
**Old Norse-Icelandic Language** (MA and PhD skills module)  
Primary Instructor  
Centre for Medieval Studies, University of York