

Research Project

Resonating networks. Discursive, spatial and personal hubs of research paradigms in Old Norse studies (1650-1950)

Third-party funded project

Project title Resonating networks. Discursive, spatial and personal hubs of research paradigms in Old Norse studies (1650-1950)

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Project Website <https://www.resonatingnetworks.com/>

Project start 01.08.2022

Probable end 31.07.2026

Status Active

The binational Weave-project (lead agency SNSF, partner agency DFG) “Nachhallende Netzwerke”, based at the

University of Basel and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, aims to examine the origins, discursive constitution,

and implications of research paradigms in Old Norse studies. With a methodological foundation in discourse

analysis and network-theoretical approaches in the tradition of Bruno Latour’s actor-network theory (ANT), it

will address how complex and interrelating networks of people, places, texts (both literary and mainly scholarly),

and discourses have created Setzungen in the discipline that resonate profoundly in later generations of scholarship

across national and linguistic boundaries and still influence recent research up to the present day. The project

will study the establishment of central research paradigms and the cross-discursive relationships between

these paradigms in Old Norse studies from the beginning of the discipline’s research history in the mid-17th century

to the mid-20th century.

Four PhD theses and one Post Doc project will provide case studies of selected research paradigms, focusing on

(P1) the protophilological beginning of textual criticism, (P2) the theorising and nationalistic discursivisation of

the concept of myth before, during, and after the Romantic period, (P3) the national appropriation and reinterpretation

of Icelandic oral tales in the construction of folktales, (P4) Konrad Maurer’s conceptualisation of the

Freistaat, and (P5) Heusler’s notion of Germanic poetry. These five studies will be complemented by the

research

of the two Principal Investigators, who will analyse the concepts of (P6) authorship and (P7) genre as metaparadigms that resonate in the scholarly discourse of Old Norse studies in both synchronic and diachronic terms.

The project will not only make an important contribution to the history of discourse and networks in the international

scientific community of Old Norse and Scandinavian medieval studies from the late premodern period to the mid-20th century. It will also provide insights into the synchronic and diachronic resonance of central research

paradigms in the field of Old Norse studies, as well as demonstrate how these paradigms, in the sense of

Setzungen, co-determine not only the discourses, but the objects of study themselves.

The project will closely cooperate with the archival institutions in Scandinavia, Germany and Switzerland who

hold the estates (Nachlässe) of the scholars studied in this project. As part of this cooperation, the project will

provide the archives and related catalogues (Kalliope, handrit.is et al.) with new metadata generated in the course

of the project work. The close cooperation with the archives will make it possible to directly convert scholarly

findings into library reference systems and thus make them available to the general public.

Four external project partners with renowned international expertise in different aspects pertaining to the project

will accompany the project work as advisors and contribute to the planned project workshops, conferences and publications.

Financed by

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

Add publication

Add documents

Specify cooperation partners