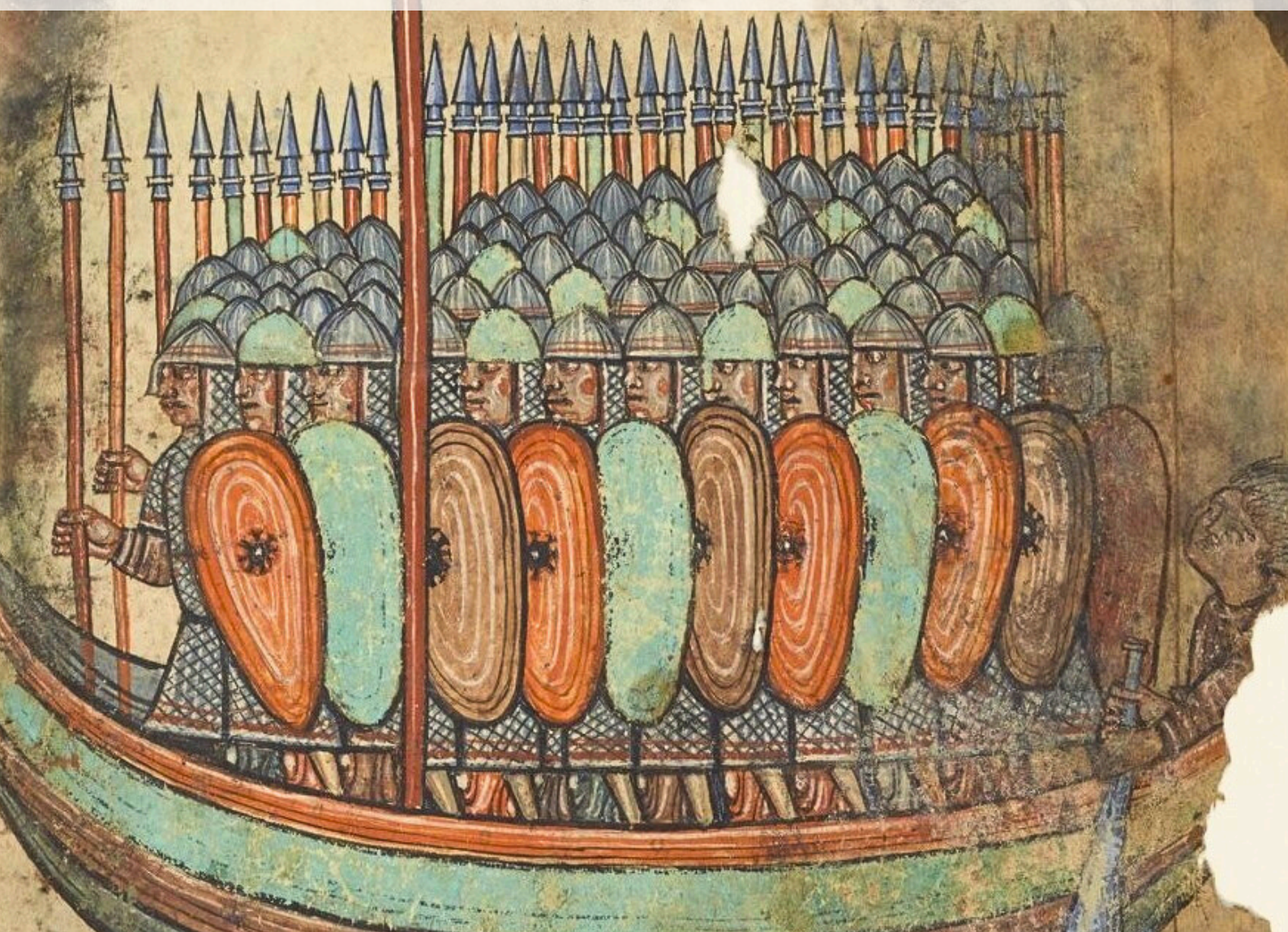
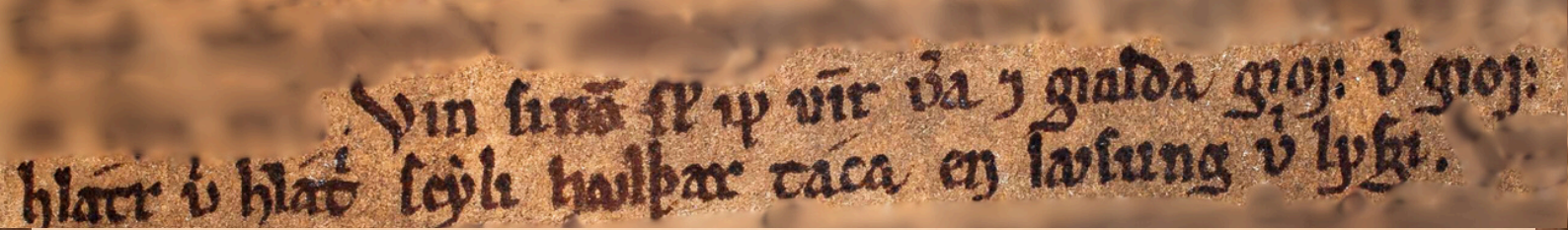


TO GIVE, TO TAKE, STEAL OR PLUNDER?

Exchange, Reciprocity, and Hierarchy in Old Norse Culture



October 8 - 11, 2025
Institute of Germanic Studies
Faculty of Arts
Charles University in Prague
Room 104, nám. J. Palacha 1/2, 116 38 Staré Město



*Vin sínum skal maðr vinn vera ok gjalda gjof við gjof;
hlátr við hlátri skyli hollðar taka en lausung við lygi.*

To his friend a man should be a friend and repay gifts with gifts;
laughter men should accept with laughter but return deception for a lie.
(*Hávamál* 42)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

Introduction

9:30 Opening Word

9:45 Daniela Hahn: Exchange, Reciprocity, and Hierarchy in Old Norse Culture

Mythical Patterns of Reciprocity

10:15 Helena Woik: The Gift of Blood

11:00 Ema Polednová: Giving and Taking in *Skírnismál*

11:45-12:15 coffee break

13:00 Matouš Holinka: Skill of Poetry - Gained from the Gods or Mastered by Men?

12:15 Franziska Gerschler: The Price of (Un)knowing - Knowledge-based Exchanges in Old Norse Literature

13:45-14:45 lunch break

Men and Women

14:45 Jana Emily Bejdová: Who Gives, Who Gains? Gender and Gifts in Old Norse Literature

15:30 Ursel Bergfeld: Entangled Relations: Hair as an Object of Reciprocity and Hierarchy

16:15 Vendula Hojková: Bloody Honour - Women's Role in Reciprocity in *Njáls saga*

18:15 Optional Dinner and Meeting

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

Reciprocity as a Narrative Pattern

9:30 Valentýna Lidická: How to Steal, to Buy and to (not) Make Peace. Different Exchanges in *Hoensa-Thoris saga*

10:15 Anastasia Astreika: Social Bonds and Gifts in *Grettis saga*: Reciprocity between Society and Individual in *Grettis saga*

11:00 Mateo Micheler: 'Hvat hefir ek misgert við þik?': Unexpected Reciprocity as a Plot-Device in *Valvers þáttr*

11:45-12:15 coffee break

Old Norse and Foreign Narratives about Reciprocity

12:15 Eva Ott: Reciprocity in the Viking Age in Scandinavia and the Viking Diaspora on the Basis of Archaeological Sources

13:00 Sebastian Pachmayr: The Varangian Guard. Reciprocity in Cultural Exchange

13:45-14:45 lunch break

14:45 Timotej Lauko: *Frean Minum Leof*: The Reciprocal Lives of Objects in Early Germanic Literature

15:30 Jiří Chytrý: Dragon's Deal: Monstrosity as Reciprocation Out of Balance in *Bēowulf*

16:15-16:30 coffee break

16:30 Václav Miller: Ernst Jünger's Forms (*Gestalten*) of the Warrior and the *Waldgänger* and their Relationship with the Society. A Comparison with Selected Icelandic Sagas

Conclusion

17:15 Jiří Starý: Where to Start and Where to Finish? The Reciprocity-Driven Approach in Old Norse Mythical Narratives and Some Other Phenomena

19:00 Non-Optional Dinner and Meeting
