

Monday, June 15, 2026

09:30 Welcoming address

09:45 Lucie Korecká (Prague): »Though this be Madness, yet there is Method in't.« Some Methodological Approaches to Irrational Mental States in Saga Studies

10:15 Jessica Peters (Munich): Disability before Disability: Concepts and the Law in Iceland

11:00 Coffee break

Section 1: Processing Trauma, Loss and Violence

11:30 Jana Emily Bejdová (Prague): »Oops, He's Dead«: Descriptions and the Vocabulary of Women's Reactions to Tragedies in Poetic Edda's Heroic Lays and *Vǫlsunga Saga*

12:15-13:15 Lunch break

13:15 Lucie Doležalová (Prague): Resignation as a Psychological and Social Phenomenon: The Case of *Hávarðar saga Ísfirðings*

14:00 Any Weber (Munich): Psychological Consequences of Sexual Violence in Old Norse Literature

14:45 Coffee break

Section 2: Treating »Mad« People in the Medieval North

15:15 Marianne Menzel (Münster): *Illa eru þér at staddir, Nóregsmenn, at hafa æran konung yfir yðr.* The Strange States of Mind of King Sigurðr Jórsalafari

16:00 Luzie Pannen (Munich): Helgi and Other *Fífl*

16:45 Anastazia Astreika (Prague): Madness and Responsibility in Medieval Iceland

18:30 Informal Pub

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

Section 3: Vision, Love, and Battle Rage – Male and Female Extreme Mental Experiences

09:30 Tanja Gehring (Munich): Berserks. Strange-Minded – Powerhouses – Fictional?

10:15 Vendula Hojková (Prague): Bulging Eyes and Bared Teeth: Psychosomatic Transformations in Old Norse and Old Irish Literature

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 Ursula Bergfeld (Munich): *Seiðr*-Spinning Mad Women: The Connection Between Female-Coded Activities and Magic

12:15 Lorenz Ullman (Munich): Mind-Altering Drugs in the Magic of *Vǫlur*: A Comparison of Archaeological and Old Norse Textual Accounts

13:00-14:00 Lunch break

14:00 Samantha Hardaker (Munich): Sacred or Suspect? Female Visionaries and Madness in Medieval Europe

14:45 Daniela Graw (Munich): »Love is Madness.« Lovesickness in Old Norse Mythology and Sagas

15:30 Afternoon Walk

18:30 Conference Dinner

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

Section 4: Madness and Music from Premodern Texts to Modern Adaptations

09:30 Karolína Lišková (Prague): Revenge, Grief or No Reaction? A Comparison of Reactions to Death in Sagas of the Icelanders and their Modern Adaptations

10:15 Jasmína Rongeová (Prague): Sounds of the Otherworld: The Enchanting Power of Music in Irish Myths

11:00 Veronika de Abreu (Prague): The Price of Gold: Power, Isolation, and the Loss of Self in Modern Nibelung Narratives

11:45 Jiří Starý (Prague): Head and Helmet, Identity and Power: *Tarnhelm*, *Dernhelm* and the History of Old Norse *Ægishjálmr*

12:30 Closing Words

13:00 Optional joint lunch

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Madness, Mania and Melancholy: Insanity and Strange States of Mind in Old Norse Literature and Culture

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