

# The Modern Reception of Runes: 19th–21st Century

## Workshop Programme

### Wednesday, 3.12.2025

15:30–16:00	<i>Registration</i>	
16:00–16:30	Welcome & Introduction	Verena Höfig & Kerstin Majewski
16:30–17:30	<b>Keynote:</b> “Fighting Windmills? Runes and Public Communication”	Lisbeth Imer
18:00	<i>Medieval-Themed Christmas Market</i>	

### Thursday, 4.12.2025

09:00–09:45	“Children of Frya: Modern Uses of the <i>Oera Linda</i> Runic Script as a Marker of Frisian Identity”	Simon Halink
09:45–10:30	“The Role of <i>Runica Manuscripta</i> of 19th-Century Iceland: Tradition or Transformation?”	Sophie Heier
10:30–11:00	<i>Coffee</i>	
11:00–11:45	“The Functionalisation of Runes and the Long Legacy of Romanticism”	Simon Hauke
11:45–12:30	“Runes as Ideograms? A Historical-Critical Approach to Modern Magic-Esotericist Receptions of Runes”	Kerstin Majewski
12:30–14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00–14:45	“The Sensationalism of Runes: On Runes in the News and More”	Kristel Zilmer
14:45–15:30	“Bad Runology, Good Folklore”	Merrill Kaplan
15:30–16:00	<i>Coffee</i>	
16:00–16:45	“‘The Runes are the Composer and I am the Instrument’: Runes in Neo-Folk, Metal and Nordic Ritual Folk Music”	Simon Trafford
16:45–17:45	<b>Keynote:</b> “Thor’s Hammer, Vegvisir, and Runes: Use and Misuse of Graphic Symbolism in the Modern Viking Scene and Beyond”	Alexandra Pesch
19:00	<i>Dinner</i>	

### Friday, 5.12.2025

09:15–10:00	“Writing Runes in Video Games and in Reality”	Maja Bäckvall
10:00–10:45	“Carving Stories: The Magic and Aesthetics of Runes in Children’s Animation and Literature”	Daniela Hahn
10:45–11:15	<i>Coffee</i>	
11:15–12:00	“To Use or not to Use: Reception of Runes and Rune-Like Characters in Norwegian Mainstream Culture”	Karl Christian Alvestad
12:00–12:45	“From Powerlifting to Protocols: Mapping Runic Branding with the <i>NorseMap</i> Project”	Tom Birkett
12:45–13:00	<i>Break</i>	
13:00–13:45	Final Remarks	Verena Höfig & Kerstin Majewski