



Cultural and Medieval Centre in Reykholt

**Harald Hardrada, the Mediterranean, and the Nordic World  
between the late Viking Age and the Eve of the Crusades**

**Textual and material primary sources**

The First Symposium of the  
International Network *A “Viking” in the Sun*

29-31 May 2023

**Program:**

Monday 29 May

17:00 Departure from BSÍ – Reykjavík Bus Terminal

18.30–19.00: Arrival in Reykholt

19.00–21.00: Dinner

21.00-21.30: Geir Waage and James Cave: **Recitations from Snorri Sturluson’s Harald Saga in Norse and English.**

Tuesday 30 May

07.00: Breakfast

9.00: Registration

9.30: **OPENING OF THE SYMPOSIUM** (The Library of Snorrastofa):

- Welcome by Bergur Thorgeirsson, Director of Snorrastofa, Cultural and Medieval Centre in Reykholt
- Welcome and practical information by Gianluca Raccagni, University of Edinburgh, Chair of the international network *A “Viking” in the Sun*

10.00-10.45: **KEYNOTE LECTURE**

David Abulafia (University of Cambridge): **The Black Sea and the Viking road to Byzantium**

10.45–11.15: Coffee Break

11.15–12.45: **TEXTUAL SOURCES 1: HARALD’S NARRATIVES**

- Sverrir Jakobsson (University of Iceland): **King Harald of Varangia and the Great Game of the eleventh century**
- Jan Alexander van Nahl (University of Iceland): **“You have managed everything in the worst possible way” – Anthropological findings on the Old Norse sagas of Harald Sigurdsson**
- Carina Damm (Leipzig University): **Haraldr the ‘Far-Traveller’? Following the víðförla to Serkland**

12.45–14.00: Lunch

14.00–15.30: **TEXTUAL SOURCES 2: MEDITERRANEAN ENCOUNTERS**

- Yannis Souraitis (University of Edinburgh): **At the emperor’s service: Harald Hardrada in Byzantine sources**
- Harriet Clark (University of Nottingham): **The Sicilian Campaign: The Making of a King**
- Marek Jankowiak (University of Oxford): **A Viking and the Crescent: Harald Hardrada’s Islamic encounters**

15.30–16:00: Coffee Break

16.00–17.00: **MATERIAL CULTURE AND LEGACIES 1**

- Glaire Anderson (University of Edinburgh): **On Visualising Islamic-Viking Age Encounters: Material Evidence and Visual Culture Perspectives**
- Svein Harald Gullbekk (Museum of Cultural History in Oslo): **Harald Sigurdsson / Harald Hardrade and His Coinage Revisited**

18.00–19.00: **KEYNOTE LECTURE AND CONCERT**

Supriya Nagarajan and James Cave: **Field of Broken Ice: Creative Responses to the World of Harad’s Saga**

19.00–20.00: Reception Sponsored by the municipality of Borgarbyggð (in the Exhibition under the Church). Bergur Þorgeirsson: An introduction to the Snorrastofa.

20.00–22.00: Gala dinner at Fosshótel Dining Hall

Wednesday 31 May

07.00: Breakfast

08.30–9:30: Business Meeting of The International Network *A “Viking” in the Sun*  
(Library)

9.30–10:30: **MATERIAL CULTURE AND LEGACIES 2**

- Caitlin Ellis (Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies): **A changed man? Souvenirs, sovereignty and the Mediterranean in Scandinavia**
- Lisa Mahoney (DePaul University): **St. Olaf and the Painted Legacy of Harald Hardrada**

11.00: Checkout from Hotel

11.30–12:20: Lunch

12.30: Departure from Reykholt to the waterfall Hraunfossar and the national park Thingvellir, the site of the Icelandic parliament from 930 to 1798. Also, a visit to a museum at the site.

17.00: Arrival in Reykjavík