

The seminar series

# Viking Phenomena: current research on late Iron Age Scandinavia

Welcoming

Christine Ekholst (UU),  
Keith Ruitter (Uni of Suffolk)  
Alexandra Sanmark (Uni of Highlands and Islands)

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2024

Time: 13.15 – 15.00

Place: Uppsala Eng/ 2-2033 – Campus Gotland Gotl/A30

## **Landscapes of Death**

### **Executions and Customary Law in the Viking Age and Middle Ages**

During this seminar we will present our interdisciplinary project that focuses on medieval executions and execution sites. This is an under researched area in which many assumptions have been made, often without solid underpinning of the medieval source material. Our work so far has shown that it is often unclear how and where executions were performed. In this project, we want to address this issue as well as shedding light on executions as a social, judicial and political tool and thereby also gain knowledge about customary law and legal practices. This is achieved by examining a variety of different source materials as well as combining written sources and archeological methods. Alex Sanmark is currently trying to locate medieval execution sites and execution cemeteries in Sweden. Christine Ekholst is using law codes and court records to establish which execution methods were used in Sweden at this time and will contrast these sources to literature, chronicles and ballads. Finally Keith Ruitter is analysing the Icelandic sagas to find information about the practice of death penalties but also to explore the boundaries between judicial violence and feuding as well as other areas.

Welcome!

Neil, John & Charlotte