

Håndbok for masteroppgaven i historie

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<u>Garipzanov, Ildar</u> (Professor)	Europeisk historie i tidlig middelalder (ca. 300–1000) med særlig vekt på kulturell historie, politisk kultur og autoritets- og trossymboler, det karolingiske riket, og vikingtiden.
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Early Medieval Cultural History

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Many European cultural traits appeared and were consolidated during the early Middle Ages, which makes the study of this historical period highly relevant to our understanding of modern Europe, its cultural habitus, and the patterns of interaction with the rest of the world. For this reason, early medieval cultural history has remained a popular academic subject in the past decades, especially after the development of the New Cultural History in medieval studies from the 1990s. Research on early medieval cultural history has also been characterized in the past two decades by a high level of interdisciplinarity and international collaboration across Europe and North America. The larger subfields for MA projects suggested below are representative of these new academic developments. Precise MA projects are to be defined in collaboration with the supervisor.

Late antique and early medieval culture

Growing research on late antique and early medieval cultural and social history has become a noticeable feature in modern early medieval studies. The new understanding of late antiquity and the early Middle Ages benefits from new theoretical approaches to well-known textual sources, most of which have been translated into English, and from their juxtaposition with constantly growing corpus of material and visual evidence, some of which has become accessible to researchers via various digital databases. MA thesis can be written on various aspects of late antique and early medieval political and court culture, early Christian culture and the cult of saints, Christianization, early medieval magic, symbolic rituals and public display as strategies of social power, the late antique and early medieval visual symbols of identity, social power, and religious faith.

Carolingian history

Carolingian history has traditionally been the most popular field in early medieval studies with much interaction and collaboration among historians from the UK, the USA, Canada, Germany, France and Italy. Such academic interaction resulted in that many new historical methods and theoretical approaches have been developed within this field in the past two decades. Recent studies in this field have shown that many European social and cultural phenomena the origins of which were traditionally attributed to the high Middle Ages derive from the Carolingian period (c. 750–900). This period is thus often described nowadays as the time when Europe as a societal phenomenon and cultural construct was born. On a practical side, there is a great number of critical textual editions as well as English and German translations of Carolingian texts available for researchers, which allows potential students to develop their MA projects in accordance with their linguistic skills and specific research interests as well as to share their results with a larger international academic audience.

Scandinavia and Europe in the Viking Age

The Viking Age was a historical time when Scandinavia and Scandinavians were actively interacting with the rest of Europe not only militarily but also socially and culturally. Some of these interactions were recorded in written sources composed in the Frankish and Ottonian realms, the British Isles, and Byzantium in the ninth and tenth centuries. Such written sources are much less explored by Scandinavian scholars compared to enormous corpus of later narrative sources written after the Viking Age both in Latin and Old Norse. Meanwhile such contemporaneous sources from neighboring countries offer rich information about social life and cultural perception of Scandinavians in those formative centuries. Were Scandinavians perceived at that time much differently from modern days? Below are a few suggestive examples showing the ways in which this broad question can be applied to MA projects:

1. Scandinavians in Carolingian Francia: Patterns of Accommodation
2. The Image of Scandinavia in the *Cosmographia* by Anonymous of Ravenna
3. The image of Scandinavia in the *Cosmographia* by Aethicus Ister
4. The patterns of self-identification and differentiation in Viking Age Norway
5. From Northmen to Norwegians: The Viking Age origins of Norwegian-ness
6. Oaths and Peace Making: Patterns of Symbolic Communication in Viking Age Europe