

# Receptions of Old Norse Mythology since the Middle Ages

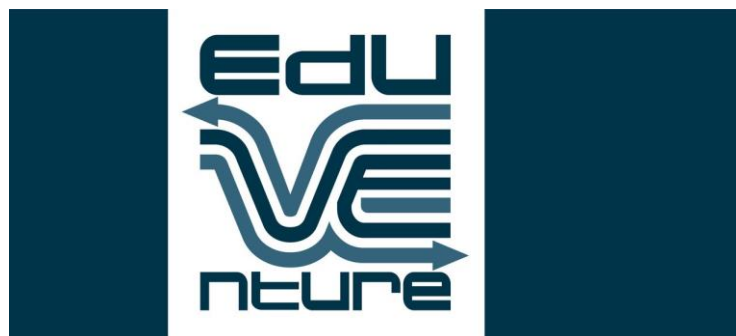
a course by j o l n e s –

Joint Learning in Northern European Studies

Winter term 2021/22



An interview with **Zsófia Németh** (University of Strasbourg – Student at the Department of Scandinavian Studies)



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## **Transcript**

### **Zsófia Németh**

[Introduction in French. English follows.]

And now in English. Hi, my name is Zsófia Németh. Currently I am a last year student in North European Bachelor Studies at the University of Strasbourg in France. And basically, this bachelor programme includes a view on Scandinavian culture, history, literature, also gives some linguistic skills and apprenticeships of a chosen Scandinavian language basically.

### **DOES THIS COURSE COMPLEMENT YOUR STUDIES WELL OR IS IT AN EXTRA COURSE?**

Actually, this lesson officially takes part of my bachelor studies. But to be honest, I was very glad, that it was a mandatory lesson for me, because I could be part of something more than a normal class, I would say. I was always very interested in literature and this lesson gave me the opportunity to not only treat Scandinavian texts and manuscripts from the Middle Ages, but to discuss all these ideas and questions with students from abroad. So, basically this class was a weekly occasion to learn something new, and not only from the great two teachers we had, but also from each other, from other universities, from other students.

### **WHAT WERE YOUR EXPECTATIONS AND HAVE THEY BEEN MET?**

So, to be honest, I did not have any specific expectations, only to learn something new, because medieval literature was never really my favourite literary period. But as the classes passed, my expectations have grown, because the lesson was interesting and very well prepared. But I think I got real expectations, when we learned that the German students from the University of Cologne will visit us in Strasbourg and we will all participate in some seminars together and discuss what we learned so far in this semester personally. So, I believe that was the moment, when I got real high expectations. And they definitely have been met at the end of our course, because we met each other and we had some great times together in Strasbourg.

**WHAT WERE YOUR IMPRESSIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF THE COURSE?**

As we know today, it is so easy to be connected and follow lessons virtually, but I think there is a huge amount of work behind the scenes to make everything work and to give the students an interesting and interactive lesson. So, definitely I have the feeling, that the students got this good experience in the online space – they felt equally present, because our lesson was a hybrid lesson, and also in the classroom in Strasbourg we felt included in the online classroom. So, there is this kind of connection between the people, even if we are separated geographically.

**WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF WORKING WITH STUDENTS FROM OTHER CITIES AND COUNTRIES?**

Right, so, this is the question which I could talk about for, like, hours. But, to put it shortly, I think the biggest advantage of working with students from other universities from abroad is that we can learn so much from each other, because everyone has other interests, every person who participates has other lessons in their own university. And all this different knowledge and experience makes the class so diverse. So, you are not only listening to the ideas of the students of your own university, but to others, who have a different education or who can give you a new point of view. And for me, I think, this was very, very important.

**ARE SUCH COURSES AN OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH COURSES ABROAD?**

I would say, that the lesson is a very, very good start to create contact with students and even with teachers abroad. I believe, the big turning point could be the personal meeting at the end of the course, where you finally meet in real life with all the people, who you were talking with in the online space all semester. And from this moment on everything depends on the two people who are present and want to establish this contact between countries, between friends, people. So, I would say this is a good start.

**WOULD YOU PARTICIPATE IN SUCH AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING COURSE AGAIN?**

Definitely. Actually, I am going to participate in the same lesson in the second semester, which will concentrate more on the late literature in Scandinavia. So, I am really looking forward to it.

## Credits

The interview was conducted on January 25 2022 via Zoom.

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