

SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES SCAN

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NOTICE

The Scandinavian Studies Association AGM

On Sunday May 3 - 2 to 4 p.m.

At the Greenfield Community Hall located at 3803 114 St. NW in Edmonton.

Guest Speaker - Dr. John Eason, Lecturer of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Alberta, will make a presentation on Norwegian Cinema: A Cultural History on Screen.

ALL ARE WELCOME

The Scandinavian Studies Association's by-laws define Association membership on being 18 years of age or older and having completed volunteer service (such as being a casino volunteer) or having made other contributions to the Association.

Understanding Health and Welfare Through Study of Icelandic Sagas

Kylee Schmitt currently is completing a Master's Degree under the supervision of Dr. Natalie Van Deusen, Henry Cabot and Linnea Lodge Professor of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Alberta. Kylee's graduate studies combine two of her areas of undergraduate studies at the U of A, namely Old Norse Culture and Psychology. For outsiders, the two areas of study may appear to be quite distinct and separate. The *Scandinavian Scan* posed some questions to Kylee, asking her to explain her interests and reasons for study and connecting the two fields.

Q. Before discussing your graduate work, readers might appreciate knowing a bit about your pre-university days – notably where you were raised and went to school?

A. I was born and raised in Edmonton, where I attended Jasper Place High School.

Q. What brought you to the University

of Alberta and what prompted you to enroll in undergraduate Psychology and Scandinavian Studies courses? For instance, are there any family or personal connections with Scandinavia?

A. I chose the University of Alberta to stay close to home, initially enrolling in Psychology out of a fascination with human behaviour. Although I have no family ties to Scandinavia, I decided to take a Scandinavian Studies course on mythology as my very first university class. I enjoyed the subject matter so much that I continued to take all of the courses alongside my Psychology degree.

Q. What ignited your desire to pursue these fields at the graduate level?

A. My graduate project is the culmination of a deep academic interest in Old Norse culture, sparked by the extensive coursework I completed with Professor Van Deusen, and it was also informed by my undergraduate work in psychology.



Backed by the University of Alberta's Visionaries, Kylee Schmitt's has her own vision for exploring links between Norse Sagas and Psychology.

Q. Could you explain your current research in a bit more detail?

A. My current research explores the representation of women's health and illness within the Sagas of Icelanders. This interdisciplinary approach allows me to analyze saga narratives, not just as historical or literary artifacts, but as case studies in human behaviour and mental health. I am particularly interested in how "illness" is coded in

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