Call for papers: Time and Temporality in the Viking Age.
Conference held at the University of Oslo, January 24.–26. 2018.

This conference is organized by the research project Using the Past in the Past. Viking Age Scandinavia as a Renaissance? and aims at examining the use of the past, temporality, and deep time in Viking Age Scandinavia. Notions of deep time and the accumulation of time may be identified in settlements, central places, in burial contexts as well as in hoards, through the construction of monuments, in the raising of rune stones, or in changes in artefact typologies.

The conference will investigate how past monuments and artefacts were recycled materially and referentially in this period; the different strategies of constructing places for commemoration; and the choice of objects to be preserved through the centuries, in order to enhance new interpretational frameworks of utilizing the past in the past.

Locations with long continuity and reuse of past structures during the Viking Age demonstrate the importance of deep time. The conference invites papers that present some of the many sites where the social elite of the Viking Age actively used the past in order to legitimize power, including the diverging strategies of using the past. Many of these sites were not merely part of a political strategy, but were also deeply related to mentality, religion, and self-perception – fundamental aspects of Viking Age ontology. Furthermore, in the production of artefacts, objects are often made with reference to other artefacts. The conference welcomes papers that examine temporality and referentiality in Viking Age society. This includes studies of potential heirlooms, and of the continuation and reinventions of object types through time.

In the Carolingian Empire, texts and objects of the 3rd and 4th century Christian Roman Empire were being reused and reinterpreted materially. The conference welcomes speakers focusing on the resemblance and differences between the Carolingian Renaissance and the use of the past in Viking Age Scandinavia. Even outside Scandinavia, in places where there were no Scandinavian settlers prior to the Viking Age, Viking settlements and graves are founded in and on older structures. These structures bear witness to a profound need in the Viking Age to create places through actions that root them in the past, even when this past hardly could be used to legitimise power through claims of genealogical relationships. In order to examine social aspects of using the past in the Viking Age, we must include the varying ways in which the past is used by different social groups.

One way of creating a sense of belonging and proclaiming ownership is through reusing past structures when constructing a new place. Places with great time depths may have affected the inhabitants and visitors with notions of continuity. As the conference seeks to investigate the experience of time in the Viking Age, papers examining the emotional experience of temporality in relation to place are invited. Thus, the conference seeks to explore effects and affects of the relation to the past in the Viking Age.

**Deadline for submission of abstract: 20.12.2017**

The abstracts should include a title and a short summary of the paper in English (up to 300 words). Abstracts are to be sent attached as a PDF in an email to: isak.roalkvam@iakh.uio.no
Use the subject heading Abstract – Time and Temporality.

Each paper will be allotted 20 minutes for presentation.

The conference will organize and cover accommodation and travel expenses for participants with accepted papers.