

Keynote presentations, HEIs International Student Conference 2020

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Moving Moments: On effective, affective uses of the past in far-right politics

What makes references to an 800-year-old document useful for politicians who campaigned for the United Kingdom to leave the European Union? What makes references to a battle between two competing empires, 400 years ago, inspirational for far-right terrorists? This paper is concerned with movements of the past. This is the emergence of particular historical moments in the present, through continued acts of what Sharon Macdonald terms 'past-presencing'. It is also a discussion of the power of the past to *move us* emotionally, to affect us, and to drive us towards particular political actions. I ask: as heritage scholars, what responsibility do we have in defining how particular pasts are used?

Marianne Moen, postdoctoral fellow, Museum of Cultural History, University of Oslo

Putting them in their place: on gendered behaviour, roles and assumptions thereon in Viking Age scholarship

The way in which gender is portrayed in the past has a profound impact on how we perceive 'natural' gendered behaviour in the past and the present.

In this lecture, I will use my recent research on gender in the Viking Age to discuss such themes as the political nature of knowledge production from a feminist perspective, how the past can act as a legitimating mirror on modern gendered behavioural expectations, and how transferring expectations of binary gender patterns to the past can obscure alternative interpretations.

Wesam Mohamed, PhD candidate, Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies, Aarhus University

Title and abstract: TBA