This is the inaugural conference of the project ‘Myths about Language in the Middle Ages’, which begun on 1 August 2017. The project adopts a comparative perspective on the important but understudied topic of medieval myths about language. All across Europe, people told myths about their language in order to describe its place in the world. They did so to understand its origin and character, but also to argue that their native language was an equally worthy medium of literature as the dominant languages, such as Latin. These myths are rarely studied, but they were a crucial component in the development of the languages of modern Europe and beyond. Rita Copeland and Albert Russell Ascoli will serve as respondents during the conference.

**Wednesday**

10:00-10:30  Opening: Myths about Language in the Middle Ages  
Mikael Males (University of Oslo)

10:30–11:00  The Reception of Inspired Greek in the West  
Mikael Males (University of Oslo)

11:00–11:30  Break

Chair: Klaus Johan Myrvoll

11:30–12:15  The First Inventors of Language in Byzantine Thought  
Eric Cullhed (Uppsala University)

12:15–14:00  Lunch

Chair: Jens Erland Braarvig

14:00–14:45  ‘In the Armenian Idiom’: The Translation of the Bible and ‘Myths’ of Linguistic Identity  
Sergio La Porta (Fresno State University)

14:45–15:30  The Dual Nature of Late Medieval Hebrew: Between Literary Vernacular and Mythical Language of Creation  
Yossef Schwartz (Tel Aviv University)

15:30–16:00  Break

Chair: Amund Bjørsnøs

16:00–16:45  The Wind of Babel: Mytho-Poetic Origins of Arabic Linguistic and Ethnic Difference in Medieval Spain  
Michelle M Hamilton (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities)

19:00  Dinner
Thursday

Chair: Jan Erik Rekdal
10:00–10:45 Divisio linguarum and origo litterarum Narratives among the Slavs
Julia Verkholantsev (University of Pennsylvania)

10:45–11:15 Break

11:15–12:00 National Self- Assertion and the Medieval Irish Myth of Language Origins
Michael Clarke (National University of Ireland, Galway)

12:00–14:00 Lunch

Chair: Jon Gunnar Jørgensen
14:00–14:45 Irish Glosses and Linguistic Mythography
Nicolai Engesland (University of Oslo)

14:45–15:30 The Anglo-Saxon Mission at Fulda and (Re)Creation of a Common Germanic Past
Anna Grotans (The Ohio State University)

15:30–16:00 Break

Chair: Karl G. Johansson
16:00–16:45 The Quest for the Primordial Script of the Gods in Early Modern Japan
Mark Teeuwen (University of Oslo)

No evening program

Friday

Chair: Unn Falkeid
10:00–10:45 Making Language
Albert Russell Ascoli (University of California, Berkeley)

10:45–11:15 Break

11:15–12:00 Biblical Myths, Original Narratives, and the Making of the vulgare illustre in Dante’s De vulgari eloquentia
Paolo Borsa (University of Milan)

12:00–14:00 Lunch

Chair: Elise Kleivane
14:00–14:45 Old Books and quis boc: Thirteenth-Century Anglophones Mythologizing Themselves
Tom O’Donnell (Fordham University)
14:45–15:30  The Language of the Gods and norræna inusitata
             Jonas Wellendorf (University of California, Berkeley)

15:30–16:00  Break
             Chair: Karoline Kjesrud

16:00–16:45  The Runes Restored: Philology, Faith, and Myth in Johannes Bureus’ Research on the
             History of Writing
             Matthew Norris (Lund University)

16:45–17:30  Conclusion

17:30        Reception at Professorboligen

19:00        Dinner