

## Rivista "Costellazioni" n. 34

### Call for Papers

#### **Title**

*Echoes of Medieval Nordic Themes in Contemporary Culture and Literary History: Myths, Runes and Rewritings*

#### **Editors**

Letizia Vezzosi, Università degli Studi di Firenze

Andrea Meregalli, Università degli Studi di Milano

#### **Description**

The rediscovery of Nordic literatures and cultures has influenced European culture since the Seventeenth Century, thus fostering a Medievalism whose development has increased over time. Especially in the last decades, the relevance and prominence of medieval Nordic themes have become so visible in popular culture that television series, movies and video games inspired by this tradition may be said to have transformed, in one way or another, into a global phenomenon. This in turn keeps generating a kind of collective imagination that on the one side expands its accessibility, but on the other cannot be said to always respect the authenticity of the sources.

Since the early modern era, medieval Nordic culture has been continually reinterpreted and adapted to diverse cultural and historical contexts, according to the occasion.

Although much has been said about this subject, the early stages of the reception of the Nordic Middle Ages show phases, areas and strategies largely unexplored. Furthermore, we are missing what should be a reflection on the mechanisms underlying the contemporary transposition of Nordic themes across various fields, such like mass culture, cinema, games and marketing.

For this issue, we invite scholars and researchers to submit contributions reflecting on the relationship between cultural authenticity, historical transmission and contemporary usage of Nordic culture and themes, including all the aspects linked to the function of

runes. Since the contemporary representations are very often rooted in previous practices and traditions, we welcome research that involves the representing of Nordic culture and literature since the beginnings of the Modern Age.

### **Suggested Areas of research**

- Early editions, translations and readings of sagas and other medieval Nordic texts
- Resumption and rewriting of medieval Nordic literature since the Seventeenth Century
- Contemporary reinterpretation of mythological and historical sources for a political, ideological or artistic end
- Rewritings and adaptations of Nordic sagas, myths, legends: for literature, cinema, television, cartoons, videogames
- Diffusion and reinterpretation of runes as symbolic, linguistic or artistic elements to be inserted into modern contexts
- Medieval Nordic culture influence on authors, artists, modern and contemporary intellectuals
- Analytical interdisciplinary models for reception studies on medieval Nordic themes

### **Deadlines**

- January 31st 2026: Abstract submission (450 words, including bibliography and short CV)
- February 28 2026: Notification of acceptance or refusal of the submitted proposal
- October 30th 2026: Handing in finished papers to editors, written according to given editorial rules
- October 1st 2027: *Costellazioni* issue no. 34 published

Proposals (title, abstract and short bibliography and CV) to be sent to the following:

[rivistacostellazioni@gmail.com](mailto:rivistacostellazioni@gmail.com)

[letizia.vezzosi@unifi.it](mailto:letizia.vezzosi@unifi.it)

[andrea.meregalli@unimi.it](mailto:andrea.meregalli@unimi.it)

### **Article extensions and formats**

The article may be written in English, German or Italian. It must not exceed 40,000 characters including spaces, titles, English abstract, keywords, notes and bibliography. The paper will be subject to double blind peer review. The editorial rules to be applied can be consulted at:

[https://www.rivistacostellazioni.org/files/ugd/76cf18\\_b2e2cd8fa3b4436d99a46d178e00bd92.pdf](https://www.rivistacostellazioni.org/files/ugd/76cf18_b2e2cd8fa3b4436d99a46d178e00bd92.pdf)