



Editor's Note

The Retrospective Methods Network

RMN

Newsletter

RMN Newsletter 17 (2022): 5

Rounding the Turn

A curious aspect of the changing situations in the world is that the *status quo* of the past seems to simply blur into a *status quo* of the present and the transition between them gets lost in between. Change is so deeply entangled with stability that it is often easily overlooked. This is no less true for the present journal than for the social and geopolitical situations among which we live and work.

The Retrospective Methods Network (RMN) formed around 'retrospective methods', which became conceived along three dimensions:

- The synchronic dimension: gaining perspectives on a tradition or cultural phenomenon behind limited sources
- The diachronic dimension: evaluating potential connections between traditions in one period and culture in another period
- Analogical comparison: the value and limits of comparison between living or extensively documented traditions and traditions for which evidence is extremely limited

Although *RMN Newsletter* was conceived as a 'newsletter', people engaged it as a venue for articles. It became a *de facto* journal, an identity that was soon formalized with the introduction of peer-review and establishment in journal ranking systems.

Centers of activity for the journal have been daughter networks, among which the Austmarr Network remains the most active branch. The 2022 meeting of the Austmarr Network

converged with the 18th International Saga Conference on the theme of "Sagas and the Circum-Baltic Arena" (Helsinki and Tallinn, 7th–14th August 2022). The volume based on an Austmarr meeting, *Crossing Disciplinary Boundaries in Studies of the Viking Age*, edited by Daniel Sävborg (Brepols, 2022), has just appeared. Austmarr XI: "Blurred Boundaries and Hybridizations of Magic, Religion and Authorized Knowledge or Practice in the Baltic Sea Region" will be held 8th–9th December 2023.

We have also formed ties with the annual Aarhus Mythology Conference. The most recent event was held on the theme of "Hybrids and Metamorphoses" (Prague, 24th–26th November 2022), on which a conference report appears in this volume. The conference will now return to its birthplace in Aarhus, Denmark, organized around the theme "Runes in Mythology, Ritual, Literature" (23rd–24th November 2023).

These connections and the engagements with our broader readership have structured the profile of the journal. Now, the world around us is rapidly changing and *RMN Newsletter* is changing as well. Gwendolyne Knight is taking over as Editor-in-Chief as Frog steps down. Gwendolyne will shape the journal's trajectory in the emerging era.

Frog and Gwendolyne Knight