

**Dr. des. Carina Damm**

Assistant Professor in History

Centre for Nordic and Old English Studies (CBNS)

Institute of History of the University of Silesia

Faculty of Humanities of the University of Silesia

Carina Damm studied History, Scandinavian studies, and Romance philology in Leipzig, Bilbao and Göttingen. From 2013 to 2017, she was a lecturer in Swedish, Norwegian and Scandinavian linguistics at Georg August University of Göttingen, Leibniz University Hannover, and Humboldt University Berlin. From 2016 to 2017, she worked as a translator, interpreter, and assistant to the ambassador at the Embassy of Mexico in Berlin. Between 2018 and 2021, she received a PhD scholarship from the Friedrich-Christian-Lesser foundation and worked as a research assistant to the director at the GWZO Leipzig, Prof. Dr. Christian Lübke. In 2023, Carina Damm completed her doctoral studies at the University of Leipzig with a thesis on the image of Polabian and Pomeranian Slavs in medieval Old Norse sources. Between 2022 and 2023, she contributed to a project on the [Saxon-Bohemian sacred space](#) at the GWZO by creating a virtual exhibition presenting the project's results. From May to December 2023, she was a research fellow at the department »Humans and Environment« at the GWZO Leipzig, contributing to the [EpiMedDat database](#) on medieval epidemics. Since January 2024, Carina Damm has been an Assistant professor and postdoc researcher at the Centre for Nordic and Old English Studies (CBNS) at the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Silesia where she is conducting a project on environmental extremes in the medieval North and their societal impact. The two-year postdoc project is funded by a Polonez BIS grant from the Polish National Science Centre (NCN).

**Research interests**

- environmental and climate history of the high and late Middle Ages in Northern Europe (c. 1000–1500)
- interconnections between Scandinavia and Slavic Europe, particularly Polabia and Pomerania, and the Islamic world in the early and high Middle Ages (c. 750–1300)
- Viking-Age economies, focusing on the trade in slaves, furs, and amber.

Academia.edu profile: <https://silesian.academia.edu/CarinaDamm>



## Publications

- 1) Carina Damm, "Honey, Bones, and Furs: The Saami and the Bjarmians as Brokers in the Early Medieval Trade between Scandinavia and the Islamic World", in: Solveig Wang et al. (eds.), *Colonial Entanglements and the Medieval Nordic World* (De Gruyter: Berlin/Boston forthcoming).
- 2) Carina Damm, "Howling Slavs and Wendish wolves: Tracing a topos between the Scandinavian and Slavic worlds", *Quaestiones Mediaevi Novae* 28 (2024), pp. 337–355.
- 3) Carina Damm, "Textually invisible? Emporia on the southern shore of the Baltic in Scandinavian medieval sources", *Studia Maritima* vol. XXXVI (2023), pp. 49–67.
- 4) Carina Damm, "(Re)constructing Sclavinia in sagas and skaldic poetry" in: Piotr Pranke (ed.), *Between East and West Studies on the History of Memory, Commemoration and Reception of Medieval Culture* (Göttingen: V&R unipress, 2023), pp. 125–144.
- 5) Carina Damm, "Of vinðr and vargar: Exploring a motif in medieval literary tradition" in: Frog, Joonas Ahola, Jesse Barber, Karolina Kouvola (eds.), *Pre-print papers of The 18th International Saga Conference "Sagas and the Circum-Baltic Arena", Helsinki and Tallinn, 7th–14th August 2022* (Helsinki: Publications in Folklore Studies 24, 2022), p. 83.
- 6) Carina Damm, "Ad insulas Baltici. Role and reception of scholia in Adam of Bremen's *Gesta Hammaburgensis Ecclesiae Pontificum*" in: Grzegorz Bartusik, Radosław Biskup, Jakub Morawiec (eds.), *Adam of Bremen's Gesta Hammaburgensis Ecclesiae Pontificum. Origins, Reception and Significance* (London/New York: Routledge 2022), pp. 96–107.
- 7) Carina Damm, "Raiding for Love: Patterns of Polygyny among the Eastern Vikings" in: Katrín Lísa L. Mikaelssdóttir et al. (eds.): *Proceedings of the 10th Háskóli Íslands Student Conference on the Medieval North* (Reykjavík: University of Iceland Centre for Medieval Studies 2021), pp. 13–14.

## Selected conference papers

02.07.2024 "The impact of the Black Death in Northern Europe and Poland: islands of immunity?", *International Medieval Congress*, Leeds (UK)

24.06.2024 "Human-environment interactions in Haralds saga Sigurðarsonar", *International Conference of the Society for the Medieval Mediterranean (SMM)*, Edinburgh (UK)

03.06.2024 "(Im)mobile Vikings: environmental stress and resilience in the medieval North", *CRIAS workshop*, Brno (Czechia)

23.05.2024 "Volcanic vulnerability in medieval Iceland", *Nordic Climate History*, Oslo (Norway)

09.11.2023 “Between Finns and furs: The collapse of trading and taxation networks in the medieval North”, *Disconnectivity. Transformation of Networks in premodern East Central Europe*, German Historical Institute in Warsaw (Poland)

04.10.2023 “v kri volša: Christianisation in medieval Polabia”, *Wang Church Symposium. Late Paganism and the Beginning of Christianisation in Scandinavia and Central Europe*, Karpacz (Poland)

20.05.2023 “Prybrode: Materialising cultural transfer in the medieval circum-Baltic”, *The 3<sup>rd</sup> Jónsborg Conference*, Wolin (Poland)

03.02.2023 “Sámi and Bjarmar as brokers in the medieval fur trade”, *Colonial Entanglements and the Medieval Nordic World*, Greifswald (Germany)

16.09.2022 “The medieval fur trade to the east in Nordic legal sources”, *Worlds of the Slavs*, Warsaw (Poland)

09.08.2022 “Of vinðr and vargar: Exploring a motif in medieval literary tradition”, *The 18<sup>th</sup> International Saga Conference*, Helsinki/Tallinn (Finland/Estonia)

08.07.2022 “Viking-Age slave trade between the Baltic and Caspian Seas”, *GWZO annual conference*, Leipzig (Germany)

25.03.2022 “Emporia in the Baltic Sea region”, *Baltic Ports. Exchange, Conflicts, Entanglements*, Kulice (Poland)

### **Awards**

- 2024–2025 Postdoc scholarship National Science Centre, Kraków
- 2023–2024 Research scholarship from the Royal Gustavus Adolphus Academy for Swedish Folk Culture
- 2022 Research start scholarship at the GWZO Leipzig to prepare a project on weather perceptions in Old Norse and medieval Rus' sources
- 2018–2021 PhD scholarship from Friedrich-Christian-Lesser foundation