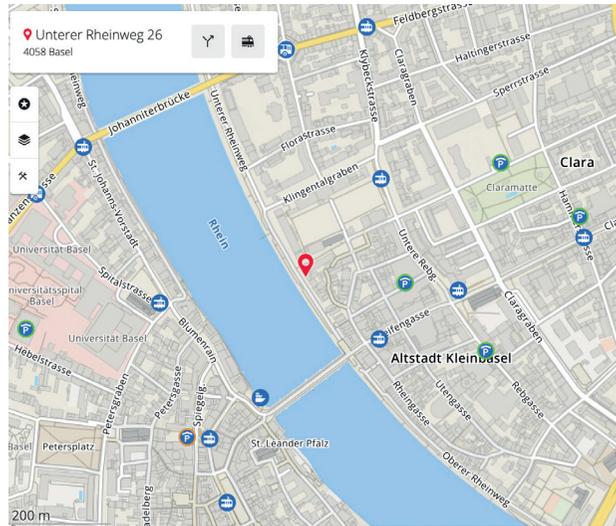


Conference Venue
Refektorium, Museum Kleines Klingenthal
Unterer Rheinweg 26, CH-4058 Basel



Contact:
University of Basel
Department of Languages and Literatures
Seminar for Scandinavian Studies
Nadelberg 6
CH-4051 Basel

For registration, please write to:
nordstikschweiz-dslw@unibas.ch

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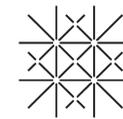
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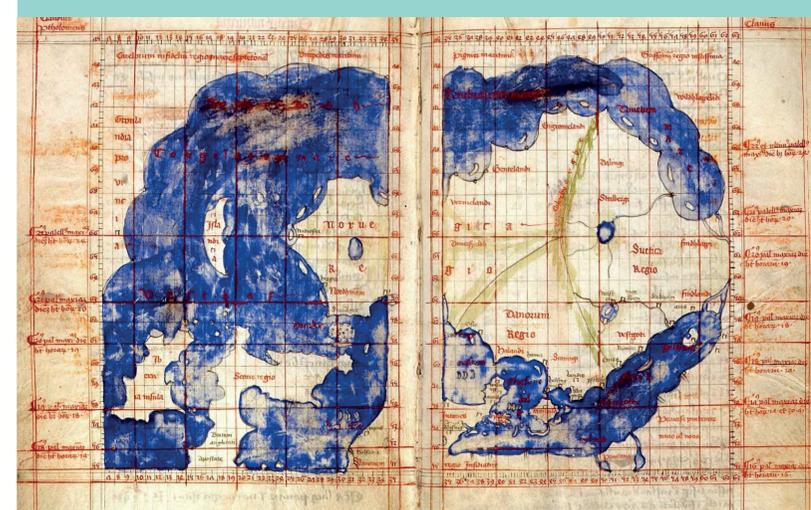


AARHUS
UNIVERSITY

This conference aims to reframe the North Atlantic as a region where the humanities can illuminate the entangled pasts and urgent futures of colonialism, by bringing together historians, literary scholars, cultural theorists, Indigenous knowledge keepers, and researchers from neighbouring disciplines. In tracing how conflict and cooperation have shaped both historical settlements and contemporary claims to land, language, and identity, we seek to foster critical conversations on the decolonial responsibilities of scholarship – and on the transformative power of narrative, memory, and cultural expression in imagining more than just North Atlantic futures.

By situating medieval and early modern settlements within this continuum of conflict and cooperation, we invite interdisciplinary dialogue – among historians, archaeologists, literary scholars, and Indigenous knowledge holders – on how colonial encounters have never been one-sided impositions but negotiated spaces of contestation and coexistence.

Illustration:
Claudius Clavus/Bibliothèque municipale de Nancy, MS 354,
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Colonialism in the North Atlantic: History, Memory, Negotiations

International conference

21–22 April 2026

Organized within the framework of
Forum Basiliense

TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2026

09.00–09.30

Welcome

Cordelia Hess: Introduction

09.30–11.00

Miriam Tveit: Sámi as legal category in medieval sources: an absent presence

Erik Wolf: Colonialism in medieval Greenland and Sápmi? Asymmetrical interaction between sources and modern narratives

11.00–11.15 Coffee

11.15–12.45

Solveig Wang: Colonialism, *Sáminess*, and Negotiation: The Entanglements of Sámi Christianity and Agency in the Medieval “North”

Janus Møller Jensen: The reconquest of Greenland. Danish colonialism and crusading in the North Atlantic 1400–1523

12.45–13.45 Lunch (for speakers)

13.45–15.15

Oula Seitsonen: Colonial Encounters and Indigenous Sámi Reindeer-Herding Responses in Northernmost Europe c. 700–1600

Isabell Schürch: Practices of Racialisation. A More-Than-Human Perspective on Medieval Race-Making

15.15–15.30 Coffee

15.30–16.15

Tim Frandy: The Wild Reindeer at Áhkobákti: Sustainability, Crisis, and Settler Colonialism in Sámi Narrative Tradition

16.30–17.00 Aperó

17.30–18.30

Science Slam – Grönland im Fokus der Studierenden

WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2026

09.00–10.30

Jonas Høibakk: Greenland and Europe in European frameworks of understanding: 1500-1721

Lucia Santercole: *Til verdens ende*: Framing Greenland into the Danish Realm in 17th-century historiography

10.30–10.45 Coffee

10.45–12.15

Michael Riebler: Centuries of research on Eastern Saami languages: Knowledge traditions, scientific practices, and their impact on linguistic vitalization of Kildin Saami (Russia) and Skolt Saami (Finland)

Anna Hodel & Thomas Fritz Maier: Rethinking coloniality from the North. Indigenous literatures and non-classical empires across the Eurasian and North Atlantic North from the perspective of Russian studies

12.15–13.15 Lunch (for speakers)

13.15–14.45

Kirsten Thisted: Narrative Reconciliation: Unfreezing the Danish-Greenlandic Colonial Past

Thea Bladt: The Plasticity of Mnemonic Efforts: Politics of Kalaallit-Danish Colonial Commemoration, 1990–2025

14.45–15.00 Coffee

15.00–16.30

Laurent Goetschel: Consequences of the current geopolitics on the North Atlantic

Martha & Natascha Cerny: Art as an Icebreaker, creating a space for dialogue

16.30–17.00

Conclusions and next steps