

CURRICULUM VITAE
ELISABETH I. WARD

Contact Information:

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Personal Information:

Icelandic and U.S. Citizenship
D.O.B. 5 October 1972
1 child, born 18 July 2005
www.elisabethida.blogspot.com

Education:

2012

Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley Scandinavian Languages and Literature
Dissertation: “Nested Narrative: *Þórðar saga hreðu* and Material Engagement”

2007

ABD University of California, Berkeley Scandinavian Languages and Literature
Qualifying exam subjects: Current problems in Old Norse Studies (Major); 19th century Scandinavian use of the Viking Age (Minor); Museums and Objects (Theory)

1998

M.A. George Washington University Anthropology with a Concentration in Museum Studies

1994

B.A. University of California, Berkeley Scandinavian Languages and Literature

Languages:

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| Fluent: | English, Icelandic |
| Functional: | Norwegian, Spanish (read, write, understand) |
| Academic: | Swedish, Danish, German, Latin (reading) |

Grants and Awards:

2010 Menningarráð Suðurnesja grant for outreach at Víkingaheimar
2009 Norwegian-Icelandic Cultural Cooperation grant for exhibition at Víkingaheimar
2009 Leifur Eiríksson Millennium Foundation Fellowship for dissertation research
2008 Dean’s Normative Time Fellowship for dissertation research
2007 Fullbright Fellowship (declined in favor of ASF)
2007 American Scandinavian Foundation Fellowship for dissertation research
2004 Regent’s Fellowship, University of California (provided 4 semesters of support)
2003 Distinguished Service Award, Smithsonian Institution
2002 Young Researchers Travel Award, Northern Research Forum in Novgorod, Russia.
2001 Society of American Archaeology Book Award for *Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga*
2000 Leifur Eiríksson Commission of Iceland, \$18,000 grant to Arctic Studies Center
1999 Viking Task Force, \$30,000 (gift, in-kind, and grants to Arctic Studies Center)
1997 Graduate Fellowship, George Washington University
1994 Graduated Magna Cum Laude, U.C. Berkeley

Employment History:

2006-present University of California, Berkeley Lecturer
 Department of Scandinavian

My duties first as a Graduate Student Instructor and then as a Lecturer have spanned 12 courses over 6 years. During that time, I have developed my own syllabi and curriculum for topics ranging from the Viking Age to marriage in Scandinavia. Duties include assigning readings, lecturing to students, leading class discussion, meeting with students one-on-one, providing feedback on writing style and argument content, and grading.

2004-2010 Íslendingur ehf Exhibition director
 Víkingaheimar Museum
 Reykjanesbær, Iceland

I served on a part-time basis as the exhibition and programming director for a recently opened museum in Reykjanesbær, Iceland. The museum, named Víkingaheimar, houses the Viking ship Íslendingur. My duties included: develop a 400 square meter exhibition based on the expansion of the Norse across the North Atlantic; curate an interactive computer-based exhibit about Viking ships; run public programs; maintain social media presence; and host special tours and events in the museum.

1998-2003 Smithsonian Institution Museum Specialist
 National Museum of Natural History (and Assistant Curator for
 Arctic Studies Center, Washington D.C. *Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga*)

As a member of the core team for this special traveling exhibition, I researched appropriate objects for inclusion, reviewed the exhibit design and case layouts, drafted and reviewed the script and served as the primary curator for three of the six sections of the show. In conjunction with the exhibition, Dr. Fitzhugh and I edited an exhibition catalogue; my duties included soliciting articles, editing them for content, choosing illustrations, and managing the \$80,000 budget and 26 authors. I also participated in planning for the tour of the exhibition with a task force made up of representatives of the Nordic Embassies, The White House Millennium Council, and Nordic Consulates in the six host cities. During the tour of the exhibit, I conducted media interviews and gave public lectures about exhibition topics, and took over duties of office manager for the Arctic Studies Center. This included documenting expenditures for 20 separate gifts and grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$90,000 and an annual federal budget of approximately \$100,000 and otherwise supporting a staff of six permanent employees, several contractors, volunteers, and interns. I also managed the launch of the Arctic Studies Center publication series (“Contributions to Circumpolar Anthropology”), including production, printing, and sales of the first six volumes in that series. Other duties included coordinating public outreach activities stemming from the Arctic Studies Center’s exhibition programs and commitment to serving Native Circumpolar Peoples.

1996-1997 George Washington University Graduate Teaching Assistant

I independently ran two discussion groups for three courses of Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology (6 total). I prepared short supplemental lectures, led class discussion, advised students on paper topics and oversaw revisions, graded tests and papers, and held regular office hours. Content was decided by the faculty member responsible for the course.

Professional Memberships:

American Anthropological Association
American Associations of Museums
Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies
Society for American Archaeology
World Archaeological Congress

Publications:

- 2013 “Review of *Shamanism in the North* by Clive Tolley.” *Siberica* Vol. 11 (3): 85-87.
- 2012 Nested Narrative: *Þórðar saga hreðu* and Material Engagement. Dissertation filed with University of California, Berkeley. Accessible online via Proquest/UMI.
- 2009a “Estranged Bedfellows: Saga Scholarship and Archaeological Research in Iceland.” *The 14th International Saga Conference Preprint Papers* Vol. 2: 1009-1015.
- 2009b “The Rhetorical Challenge of the Everyday Object: ‘Þjóð verða til’ at the National Museum of Iceland.” *Nordisk Museologi* 2009 (1): 5-15.
- 2004 “Medieval Tales, Modern Tourists: Exploring the Njál’s Saga Landscape of Southern Iceland.” with Arthúr Björgvin Bollason. In *Northern Ethnographic Landscapes*, National Park Service and Smithsonian Institution. Edited by Igor Krupnik and Rachel Mason. Pp. 257-278. Contributions to Circumpolar Anthropology Volume 5, Smithsonian Institution.
- 2001a “Northern Europe.” In *Peoples of the World*, edited by K.M. Kostyal. Pp. 164-174. Washington D.C.: National Geographic. With Keith E. Ward.
- 2001b “The Case of the Horned Helmet.” *Material History Review* 54 (Fall): 6–20.
- 2001c “Mythic Explorers and Warrior Poets.” *Terra Magazine* 38 (4): 3-5. Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.
- 2000 (Ed.) *Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga*. Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press. (with W. Fitzhugh)
- 2000a “Reflections on an Icon: Vikings in American Culture.” In *Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga*, W. Fitzhugh and E. Ward, eds., pp. 365-373. Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press.
- 2000b “Celebrating the Viking Millennium in America” (with W. Fitzhugh). In *Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga*, W. Fitzhugh and E. Ward, eds., pp. 351-353. Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press.
- 2000c “Vikings in America.” *Muse Magazine* Vol. 4, num 5. pp. 30-36.
- 2000d “Objects Going Places.” *The Smithsonian Material Culture Forum Grapevine* Vol. 37, pp. 5-6.
- 1999 “Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga” Website at www.mnh.si.edu/vikings

Fieldwork Experience:

Skagafjörður saga site survey, conducted independently during the summer of 2010.

Skagafjörður Archaeological Settlement Survey team member, including excavations at Glaumbaer and Stora Seyla, Northern Iceland. Principal Investigator: John Steinberg, Associate Lecturer, UCLA. Summer, 2002.

Saga Landscape Study, independent fieldwork experience focused on the Saga Centre of Hvolsvöllur, southern Iceland. Research included interviewing Saga Centre tour participants and investigating origin and function of Saga Centre. Summer, 2001.

Exhibitions and Films:

Orient North Online exhibition coordinated by the German Department, UCLA. I contributed a section focused on Icelandic manuscript production centers and assisted with overall development of the exhibit.

Sailing into the Afterlife exhibition at Víkingaheimar museum, includes a recreation of a boat burial and seven cases discussing Viking Age burial practices involving ships. I found funding for, wrote, designed, and managed installation of this exhibition.

The Miracle of the Viking Ship at Víkingaheimar museum. Includes 6 computer interactives whose content I drafted. A computer animation company in Iceland produced the final displays.

Journey of Discovery at Víkingaheimar museum. With components from the Smithsonian Viking exhibition (see below) and 8 new exhibition cases, I created the main exhibition gallery for the museum. I drafted scripts, located and borrowed objects, found images and designed the cases.

Vikings: Conquerors from the Sea exhibition at the Stave Church Gallery, Norway Pavilion, Epcot Center, Walt Disney World. I served as Guest Curator, creating the exhibition theme and content, locating appropriate objects and negotiating with lenders, drafting and reviewing script, and approving design. Exhibition opened November 2005 and was extended in 2013 for an additional year.

Vikings: Journey to New Worlds Imax Film produced by Giant Screen Films, directed by Marc Fafard, 2005. Served as a content consultant, reviewing draft scripts and offering suggestions on rough cuts.

Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga special millennium traveling exhibition produced by the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution in association with the White House Council on the Millennium. Sponsored by the Nordic Council of Ministers and Volvo, with additional funding from the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation and Phillips Petroleum Company, Norway. Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, Her Excellency Tarja Halonen, President of the Republic of Finland, His Excellency Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, President of the Republic of Iceland, His Majesty King Harald V of Norway, and His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden were Official Patrons. Exhibition opened April 2000 in Washington D.C., then toured to New York, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Ottawa, and Minneapolis/St. Paul, where it closed in May 2003. I served as Assistant Curator for the exhibition.

Leif Eriksson: The Man Who Almost Changed History documentary produced by Ward Television of Georgetown, aired on PBS stations starting May 2000. I served as one of two primary content consultants, reviewing outlines, draft scripts, and visuals.

Selected Papers and Presentations:

“Remembering and Forgetting in *Bórðar saga hreðu*” at the 15th International Saga Conference in Aarhus, Denmark, August 6-13th, 2012.

“In the Shadow of Hólar: Christian Identity in *Bórðar saga hreðu*” at the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies meeting, Salt Lake City, U.S.A, May 4th, 2012.

Session Organizer: “Landscapes of Violence, Places to Forget” at the “People, Places, Stories” conference, Linneas University, Kalmar, Sweden, September 28th 30th, 2011.

“Making ‘Vikings’ Work: *Sýningartexti og almenningskilningur*” Presentation at the University of Iceland as part of a symposium on the image of the Vikings, Reykjavík, Iceland. September 24, 2010.

“Icelandic native stone in Viking Age burial contexts.” Poster presentation at the 16th Viking Congress, Reykjavík, Iceland August 17th to 23rd, 2009.

Session Organizer: “Objects Making Meaning” at the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies conference in Fairbanks, Alaska, U.S.A April 2008.

“Manuscripts and Icelandic National Identity” at the California Lutheran University Nordic Spirit Symposium, Los Angeles, CA., April 12, 2007.

“Iceland: Small Island Nation Without a Colonial Past?” American Association of Anthropologists meeting in San Jose, California, November 17, 2006.

“Viking Journeys” Lectures as Study Leader for Life Long Learning/Smithsonian Associates aboard the Radisson’s Seven Seas Navigator voyage from Iceland to New York, giving six lectures over ten days, August 15 to 25th, 2004.

“Says Who: Saga Scholarship and Archaeology in the Creation of Iceland’s National Historic Narrative” Presentation at the Fifth World Archaeological Congress meetings in Washington D.C., June 23rd, 2003.

“Modern Interest in the Vikings in the United States and Canada” Presentation at the 2nd Northern Research Forum meetings in Novgorod, Russia on September 21, 2002.

“Engaging Scandinavian American Identity: The Smithsonian’s Viking Exhibition” Presentation at Society for American Archaeology meetings in Denver on March 21st, 2002.

“Vikings Sail into South Eastern Connecticut.” Six lectures over three days to groups ranging from 2nd graders to senior citizens in November, 2001. Sponsored by Pfizer and organized by the Smithsonian Associates.

“Humanizing the Vikings: Daily Life and Religion in the Viking Age” at Rice University, September 22nd, 2001 in Houston, TX.

“Vikings vs. Norsemen at the Smithsonian Museum Exhibition” at Vinland Ahead Conference organized by Sigurður Nordal Institute, Reykjavík, Iceland, on September 1, 2000.

“Images of the Vikings: 800 A.D. to the Present” for Smithsonian Associates Lecture Series about Vikings on July 27th. I also served as the moderator for the series.

Media/Broadcast Interviews:

Various media interviews in Iceland with Icelandic media and travel journalists in conjunction with the opening of Vikingaheimar museum during 2008, 2009, and 2010.

History's Mysteries Interviewed for a documentary on the Discovery Channel about Viking Age use of Icelandic feldspar for navigation purposes. Total on-air time is 3 minutes.

“Viking Women”, Minnesota Public Radio interview, November 2002. Follow up interview for “Viking Times” article published by the Sons of Norway, October, 2004.

“Archaeological Dig in Iceland” Audio Interview on National Public Radio with Bob Edwards for *Morning Edition* on October 3rd, 2002.

Various local live television in Denver, Houston, and Minneapolis during respective opening week publicity push.

Quoted in *New York Times* regarding the Clinton’s interests in Vikings, June 2003, the *Ottawa Citizen*, May 2001 as part of a review of the exhibition, and in *Los Angeles Times*, December 10th, 2000 and September 11th, 2004.

Television Interview for “Out and About with Roger Martin”, LA County public television, produced by Jim Lichnerowicz, aired January 2002.

Audio interview for National Public Radio *All Things Considered* segment produced by Alex Van Oss, aired March 2000.

Documentary interview for *Leif Eriksson: The Man Who Almost Changed History* produced by Ward Television (no relation) of Georgetown. My segments focused on Vikings in Popular Culture. Repeated airings on PBS stations.

References:

John Lindow, SCAS Linneanum, Thunbergsvägen 2 752 38 Uppsala or lindow@berkeley.edu
Professor of Scandinavian at UC Berkeley, and my dissertation chair (on sabbatical Spring 2013).

William W. Fitzhugh, ASC at NMNH, Washington D.C. 20013-7012. Fitzhugh@si.edu or (202) 633-1887
Director of the Arctic Studies Center, Smithsonian Institution, and my supervisor at the Smithsonian.

Karin Sanders, 6303 Dwinelle Hall, Berkeley CA 94720-2690. Ksanders@berkeley.edu or (510) 642-4484
Professor of Scandinavian at UC Berkeley, and a member of my dissertation committee.