

5<sup>th</sup> October 2016Dear 

I am writing to you in application for the Postdoctoral Editorial Fellowship at *Speculum* advertised on the Medieval Academy's website. Editorial work is a vital part of lively academic discourse, and I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the scholarly conversation that *Speculum* makes possible. I am presently a PhD Fellow at the University of Aarhus in Denmark, where I am working on a doctoral degree – including a dissertation on early-medieval religious practice in Scandinavia – under the direction of Prof. Jens Peter Schjødt, which is due for completion by March 2017.

This fellowship would be an excellent next step in my career as a junior academic, preparing me for future work both within and supporting the medieval scholarly milieu. The opportunities to not only further develop my editorial skills and knowledge of academic publishing, but also establish a network in North American academia and pursue a personal research project are highly attractive. I am keen to explore academic life in the Boston Area, and would welcome the chance to collaborate with fellows at the Medieval Academy (such as Frank on the social effects of poetry) and staff at Harvard University (particularly Mitchell on magic and shamanism in medieval Scandinavia and Johnson on early nationalism and identities). I anticipate participating in not only the Medieval Academy's Annual Meetings, but also the Medieval Studies Interdisciplinary Workshops and Nordic Studies Network at Harvard, to which I would contribute early-medieval and history-of-religions perspectives. The stability inherent in the fellowship's two-year duration also offers the opportunity for me to continue publishing the findings of my PhD, as well as pursuing the presentation and publication of the results of my next research project – which I anticipate would build on my dissertation by applying those findings to non-Germanic cultures in medieval Scandinavia.

The editorial experience I can offer the Medieval Academy includes working closely with a Commissioning Editor at Brepols Publishers in Turnhout, where I gained practical experience of the administrative side of academic publishing – from data management to author-wrangling – and attained a strategic overview of the entire publication process from series commissioning to printing. I have also dealt with the different demands and expectations of writers (many working in a second language) and publishers in fields outside my own speciality, having worked as a freelance proof-reader and copy-editor on projects including academic journal manuscripts, teaching materials in multiple languages, and even a series of science-fiction novels. My

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knowledge of editing from an academic perspective comes not only from my own research (which I have submitted to journals and a miscellany), but also from my time as Project Coordinator for the international Pre-Christian Religions of the North research project, where I helped organise the (forthcoming) publication of multiple edited volumes, liaising between authors, editors, and series editors. Having also contributed to the *Durham English Review* as a peer reviewer, I have direct experience of every step of the publication process from start to finish – experience I would like to develop by working at *Speculum*.

My academic work has been thoroughly international (with activity in three countries) and interdisciplinary (covering Literature, Philology, History, Archaeology, History of Religion, and Medieval Studies), including contributions to the interdisciplinary journals *Viking and Medieval Scandinavia* and the *RMN Newsletter*. The ability this has given me in meaningfully engage with scholarship from a range of national and disciplinary backgrounds is complemented by my linguistic abilities, which have familiarised me with a range of academic and linguistic traditions, including those I employed when publishing a book review in Danish. The work I performed at Brepols and Snorrastofa included the overseeing of large quantities of digital data (including, but not limited to, bibliographies), and the latter position – like the majority of my editorial experience – was performed alongside full-time postgraduate study, demonstrating my strong work ethic, organisational skills, and ability to prioritise. My contribution to the medieval milieu in Boston would not be limited to academic presentations (of the type I have given at invited talks in Iceland, Germany, and Scotland), but also my practical experience organising events and seminars, as I have demonstrated at both the University of Iceland and Aarhus University.

Please find enclosed the required application documents. I would very much appreciate the opportunity to discuss the fellowship with you in the coming months, and should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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