

# Call for Papers: Austmarr XI



## Blurred Boundaries and Hybridizations of Magic, Religion and Authorized Knowledge or Practice in the Baltic Sea Region: From Etic Theories to Emic Materialities

Stockholm University, 8-9 December 2023

Austmarr XI is devoted to the theme of 'Blurred Boundaries and Hybridizations of Magic, Religion and Authorized Knowledge or Practice in the Baltic Sea Region'. Magic and religion are central concepts both in a wide range of research disciplines and in popular culture. Although these concepts play a fundamental role in our construction of cultures and practices of the past, they are sometimes used heuristically with vague and intuited meanings, sometimes analytically, with various and potentially incompatible definitions, and sometimes correlated with the terms and categories of a vernacular or render relevant distinctions invisible. These issues concern each term individually and also their relationships to one another. The variety of usages both within and across disciplines can lead to confusion, misunderstandings, misrepresentations and misinterpretations. Austmarr XI brings these issues into focus by considering both the etic (i.e. of the researcher) and emic (i.e. of the culture concerned) concepts and how we engage with these and relate them to what we study.

We invite papers addressing topics of religion and/or magic, whether the emphasis is theoretical or empirical or some combination thereof. Whatever the presentation's specific topic, we urge participants to bring into focus magic and religion as concepts, the fraught relationships between them and to the cultures and traditions we study. We also promote reflexive consideration on how our own positions as researchers and the positionality of our sources and key literature in the history of research can impact on our own investigations. Our aim is to make the event a nexus for the discussion of these topics that we can explore together through texts, language, physical objects, landscapes and other media.

The Austmarr meetings have been a venue to present and discuss ideas and research in progress and to test and evaluate findings in a multidisciplinary environment where these may be illuminated by complementary perspectives. We therefore feel that the eleventh Austmarr symposium is an ideal setting to respond to the recently resurgent interest in premodern magic and the current concern is that such interests easily to become ensconced within particular disciplinary or regional/national boundaries, which creates confusion and a lack of clarity when advancing into multidisciplinary international discussions.

**Please submit abstracts of up to 250 words, as well as a short bio, to Gwendolyne Knight ([gwendolyne.knight\[at\]historia.su.se](mailto:gwendolyne.knight@historia.su.se)) by 30 June 2023.**