Methodological approaches to discursive networks in Old Norse scholarship and beyond

International workshop organised by the SNSF-/DFG-project "Resonating networks. Discursive, spatial and personal hubs of research paradigms in Old Norse studies (1650–1950)"

University of Basel, 27/28 June 2024

The binational Weave project "Resonating Networks" ("Nachhallende Netzwerke"), based at the University of Basel and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation and the German Research Foundation in the period 2023–26, aims to examine the origins, discursive constitution, and implications of research paradigms in Old Norse studies. With a methodological foundation in discourse analysis and network-theoretical approaches in the tradition of Bruno Latour's actor-network theory (ANT), it will address how complex and interrelating networks of people, places, texts (both literary and mainly scholarly), and discourses have created *Setzungen* in the discipline that resonate profoundly in later generations of scholarship across national and linguistic boundaries and still influence recent research up to the present day. The project will study the establishment of central research paradigms and the cross-discursive relationships between these paradigms in Old Norse studies from the beginning of the discipline's research history in the mid-17th century to the mid-20th century.

The aim of this first workshop at the beginning of the project period is to bring together colleagues from related disciplines and research projects working with network theories to discuss different approaches to the study of discursive networks. We wish to explore the applicability of ANT and related theories to the study of synchronic as well as diachronic networks of knowledge and scholarship. Contributions might include discussions of ANT in relation to other network approaches, ANT in dialogue with other theories (ANT and discourse analysis, media theory, material philology …), or also methodological questions related to the concrete usage of ANT and other approaches to networks in different contexts (including the use of DH methods).

For more information on the research project, see: https://www.resonatingnetworks.com/.