The Department of Scandinavian Studies
at Tartu University

Scientific Activity at Skandinavistika
1.9 2011-31.8 2012

A Report
Introduction

Two years have passed since the chair of Skandinavistik was re-established after a pause of five years. The purpose from the side of Tartu University was to raise Skandinavistik from a pure teaching unit to an institution with both high-level education and research. A description and evaluation of the activity of the first year was given in Scientific Activity at Skandinavistik 1.9 2010-31.8 2011: A Report, which was presented in October 2011. Here is new report for the activity of the academic year 2011-2012 and for the situation two years after the re-establishment of the chair.

Professor Daniel Sävborg has at several occasions after his arrival presented four main goals for the development of Skandinavistik:

1) *Internationalization*. Skandinavistik should be an internationally oriented department.

2) *Interdisciplinarity*. Skandinavistik should conduct and initiate interdisciplinary research and interdisciplinary cooperation with scholars at other departments of Tartu University.

3) *A vital scholarly milieu*. Skandinavistik should not only be a place where individual scholars conduct research in isolation but rather a place where all the academic staff regularly meet to discuss their own research and the research of others and participate in scientific activities.

4) *A scientifically leading department*. Skandinavistik should not only keep an acceptable level of its research, but strive to be leading in its scholarly profile fields and initiate new research fields.

These goals should be seen in a long term perspective, but the ambition has also been that a lot of this should be realized already on an earlier stage. Two years after the re-establishment of the chair, an evaluation should be made to assess to what degree it has been possible to achieve the goals. This will be done by the end of this report.
Arrangements at Skandinavistika

Scientific conferences

During the year, Skandinavistika has organized four international conferences/symposia. All of them have, fully or partially, taken place at the library of Skandinavistika.

- "Gustav Adolf, Estland och Tartu universitet – En svensk-estnisk historia”, a symposium 4 November 2011. The organizing committee included Daniel Sävborg, Mart Kuldkepp, Siiri Tomingas-Joandi and Niklas Henriksson. Four scholars, two from Sweden and two from Estonia, contributed with lectures. The symposium also served as a celebration of Skandinavisika’s 20th Anniversary, and it was opened with speeches by the rector of Tartu University Alar Karis, the ambassador of Sweden Jan Palmstierna, and the director of the Nordic Council of Ministers Berth Sundström. Students from Skandinavistika recited 17th century Swedish poems written in Estonia, and the baroque ensemble Grupeto performed 17th century music. Ca 75 persons attended the event.

- “Source-Criticism and Sagas”, a symposium 17-18 November 2011. The symposium was organized by Daniel Sävborg. At the symposium five scholars from Gothenburg, Tartu and Bergen presented papers. As conclusion of the first day of the symposium one of the speakers, Professor Thomas Lindkvist, gave a lecture for the whole Skandinavistika. The second day of the symposium was devoted to discussions about a joint project application to Riksbankens jubileumsfond. The application was submitted in January.

- “1st Meeting of Old Norse Folklorist Network – Symposium and Workshop”, 1-3 December 2011. The symposium was organized by Professor Daniel Sävborg in cooperation with PhD Karen Bek-Pedersen, University of Aberdeen. Twenty-nine scholars from Estonia, Iceland, Denmark, Norway, Scotland, England, Finland, Sweden and the USA took actively part in the symposium. From Skandinavistika Professor Daniel Sävborg, the PhD students Mart Kuldkepp and Siiri Tomingas-Joandi, the MA students Kait Lubja and Annika Kupits and BA student Olga Kudajeva took part. The symposium was a part of the research project Old Norse Folklorist Network, financed by The Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation.

- “Supernatural Places – 6th Nordic-Celtic-Baltic Folklore Symposium”, 4-7 June 2012. The conference was organized by Professor Daniel Sävborg from Skandinavistika and Professor Ülo Valk from the Department of Folklore. The symposium was a part of the comprehensive cooperation between Skandinavistika and the Department of Folklore. PhD student Siiri Tomingas-Joandi from Skandinavistika was one of the two conference secretaries and MA student Kait Lubja and BA student Olga Kudajeva worked for the conference as volunteers. At the conference three scholars from Skandinavistika gave scholarly contributions: Professor Daniel Sävborg gave a plenary lecture, PhD student Mart Kuldkepp gave a lecture and PhD student Siiri Tomingas-Joandi gave a poster presentation. 68 papers were presented and 92 scholars
from Estonia, Russia, USA, Latvia, India, Scotland, Poland, Lithuania, England, Ireland, Iceland, Finland, Romania, Turkey, Sweden, Georgia, Croatia, Netherlands, China, and Japan attended the conference.

The four conferences, with 131 participants from 22 countries, confirm the conclusion from 2011 that Skandinavistika has become an established forum for meetings and discussion between leading scholars in the international scholarly world. Skandinavistika has become an institution where the most excellent scholars go to meet the new initiatives and research.

**Scientific seminars and guest lectures**

An important part of the attempt to make Skandinavistika a vital scholarly milieu was the establishment of the Research seminar of Skandinavistika in autumn 2010. This seminar has since then worked as the backbone for the scientific discussion at the department. Here the scholars of Skandinavistika have presented and discussed the research of their own and of others, here current research problems have been discussed and here invited scholars from abroad have presented their ongoing projects. During the first year 11 research seminars were held, and during this year 14 seminars were held in this series, five with presentations by Skandinavistika’s own scholars and nine with presentations by visiting scholars from abroad:

- PhD student Helena Mihkelson gave on 29 September a presentation of her PhD project “Luckor som ett uttryck för modernisms formförnyelser i Lars Ahlins, Tage Aurells, Stig Dagermans och Gösta Oswalds författarskap.”
- Professor Rolf Thejl from the University of Oslo gave on 6 October a presentation in the topic “Nokre synspunkt på norske samansetningar.”
- Associate Professor Kristel Zilmer from the University of Bergen gave on 13 October a presentation on the topic “Kristen tro og identitet i lys av skandinaviske runeinnskrifter fra ca. 900-1200.”
- Lecturer Niklas Henriksson gave on 26 October a presentation on the topic “Textstruktur och referens till tid i tyska nyhetsnotiser” [first part].
- Professor Thomas Lindkvist from the University of Gothenburg gave on 17 November a presentation on the topic “Den medeltida statens framväxt i Sverige.”
- Professor Daniel Sävborg gave on 24 November a presentation on the topic “Codex Upsaliensis gåta – om handskrifterna till Snorra Edda.”
- PhD student Topi Lapplainen from the University of Helsinki gave on 8 December a presentation on the topic “Henrika Ringboms roman Martina Dagers längtan & två intertexter.”
- Researcher Maiu Elken gave on 1 March a presentation on the topic “Ordboksprojektet på Skandinavistika 1994-2012.”
- PhD Arnaq Grove from the University of Copenhagen gave on 16 March a presentation on the topic “Den grønlandske fortælletteradition – indsamlingstradition og grønlændernes verdensbillede med lydklip, håndskrifter og illustrationer fra samlinger fra 1800-tallet.”
• Lecturer Niklas Henriksson gave on 29 March a presentation on the topic “Den temporala struktureringen av nyhetsnotiser.” [second part of the lecture given on 26 October]
• PhD Johanna Akujärvi from the University of Lund gave on 12 April a presentation on the topic “Braket av klassikerna: Några nedslag i svenska översättningar av antik litteratur från 1600- och 1700-talet.”
• Professor Björn Meidal from the University of Uppsala gave on 19 April a presentation on the topic ”Strindbergs världar.”
• Professor Else Ryen from the University of Oslo gave on 14 May a presentation on the topic “Læring av et nytt språk i en fremmedspråks- vs. andrespråkskontekst.”
• PhD Nicolai Pharao from the University of Copenhagen gave on 17 May a presentation on the topic “At få ordene galt i øregange.”

Apart from the Research seminars, Skandinavistika has during the year organized 3 guest lectures by scholars from abroad:

• PhD Esbjörn Nyström from the University of Stockholm gave on 8 March the lecture “Filmanuskriptet – fiktionsnivåer och genrefrågor.”
• Professor Björn Meidal from the University of Uppsala gave on 18 April the lecture “Strindberg – O so unswedish!” at Tartu kirjanduse maja.
• Anna Jungner from Finlands svenska folkting gave on 2 May the lecture “Svenskans ställning i Finland.”

Interdisciplinary cooperation is one of the main goals for the development of Skandinavistika after the re-establishment of the chair. In the autumn 2010 Skandinavistika therefore took the initiative to create a scientific network for pre-modern studies at Tartu University and called to a several meetings with representatives from other departments at the university: The Interdisciplinary Seminar for Pre-Modern Studies at the Skandinavistika Department. The seminars are arranged by Skandinavistika and let invited scholars from Tartu University as well as from other universities present and discuss current parts of their research for the members of the seminar. The seminars are chaired by Daniel Sävborg and take place at the library of Skandinavistika. The language is English. Scholars from Skandinavistika as well as the other departments of Tartu University have participated at the meetings. During this year 6 seminars were held in the series:

• Professor Pärtel Piirimäe gave on 24 October a presentation on the topic “Academia Dorpatensis and early modern history of ideas: Perspectives for research.”
• PhD student Mart Kuldkepp gave on 14 November a presentation on the topic “Einarr Gilsson’s Selkolluvísur as a meeting point of traditions.”
• PhD student Svetlana Tsonkova gave on 13 February a presentation on the topic ”Medieval and Early Modern Verbal Magic – Crisis Management and Fachliteratur.”
• Professor Roman Voitekhovich gave on 2 April a presentation on the topic “Russian Frost and Russian National Character.”
• PhD Tõnno Jonuks gave on 16 April a presentation on the topic “Christianity before the Christianity in Estonia.”
• Professor Daniel Sävborg and MA Ragnar Saage and MA Kristo Siig gave on 21 May presentations on the common topic “The Salme Excavations – Archaeology and Sagas.”

Scientific seminars are the backbone for the scientific discussion and presentation at a university department. This is where the status of the department as a scientific milieu is decided: through the scientific seminar a living and continual discussion about research problems is initiated, and the scientific seminar gives inspiration to new research. Skandinavistika has arranged 23 scientific seminars during the year, in two different series. These dimensions mean that the scientific seminar activities again have permeated the whole work at Skandinavistika during the year. The development of Skandinavistika into a vital scholarly milieu that started in 2010 has continued.

The conferences as well as the seminars and guest lectures have meant that a lot of scholars from several countries have come to Skandinavistika to present their research and take part of the scientific discussion. This has given the department an abundance of scholarly contacts, and this has also made Skandinavistika as a scholarly milieu well known in the international scholarly world.

Research projects at Skandinavistika

During the year four funded research projects have been running at Skandinavistika. One of them is new, the result of two successful applications, and the three others continue from the year 2010-2011.

• Skandinavistika’s applications for funding of the research project ERLEKS, Estnisk-svensk ordbok (the Estonian-Swedish Dictionary), was successfully granted 230 000 SEK by Vitterhetsakademien and Magnus Bergvalls stiftelse. The project runs from spring 2012 to autumn 2013. Project leader is Daniel Sävborg, and Maiu Elken and Katrin Maandi are employed as researchers at Skandinavistika at the project.
• In March 2011 Skandinavistika’s application for funding of research initiation for the project Old Norse Folklorist Network was awarded 235 000 SEK by The Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation. The project runs from 11 March 2011 to 31 December 2012. Project leader is Professor Daniel Sävborg and assistant coordinator is Dr Karen Bek-Pedersen from the University of Aberdeen. At Skandinavistika PhD students Siiri Tomingas-Joandi and Mart Kuldkepp as well as MA students Kait Lubja and Olga Kudajeva are participants in the project.
• The collaborative application of Skandinavistika and the Department of History at Gothenburg University for funding of research initiation for the research project
"Källkritik och sagor – Hundra år av tveksamhet” was awarded 150 000 SEK by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond in the spring 2011, and the work continued during the autumn 2011. On November 17-18 2011 a symposium followed by a project meeting was held at Skandinavistika as a part of the project. Professor Daniel Sävborg and Docent Kristel Zilmer participate in the project as representatives for Skandinavistika.

- The collaborative research project between Skandinavistika and the Department of Religion at the University of Stockholm “Myth, transformation and context: Religious environment in Northern Europe from the Middle Ages to pre-Modern Times” was awarded 100 000 SEK from The Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation in the spring 2011, and it has continued during this year. Two meetings were held in Stockholm in November 2011 and January 2012. Daniel Sävborg represents Skandinavistika in the project.

Other initiatives by Skandinavistika

- In 2011 Daniel Sävborg took the initiative to the interdisciplinary Higher Education network "Folklore-Philology – The Encounter with the Other World – Supernatural and Fantastic in Pre-modern Scandinavia”. In June 2011 the network was awarded 5000 euro by Nordplus (financed by The Nordic Council of Ministers). It has during the year been proved to be an important possibility to support the mobility of excellent scholars to teach and lecture at the universities of the Nordic and Baltic countries and for MA students to get top-level advice at the other member departments. Skandinavistika applied in February 2012 for a continuation, and in June 2012 the network was again awarded 5000 Euro for the following year. Project leader is Professor Daniel Sävborg and the project is administrated by Skandinavistika. This year the network has expanded and it now includes 15 departments in Tartu, Reykjavík, Aarhus, Copenhagen, Bergen, Stockholm, Vilnius, Turku, the Mid-Sweden University, and Riga.

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Altogether, this shows that Skandinavistika during the year has continued the development into a centre for the research and educational activities concerning the Pre-modern field in the Nordic-Baltic region. The initiatives taken have given results. The department has applied for several grants which have been awarded. Symposia have been organized. An extensive seminar activity has taken place. The department has become the centre for higher education mobility in the field of Old Norse Philology and Folklore. All the activities have attracted a lot of new scholars who have heard about the activities and become interested. The collaborative work has continued and developed.
Various events at Skandinavistika

In April 2012 Professor Daniel Sävborg took the initiative to the Network for the International Staff at Tartu University. The purpose of the network is both to make sure that the international employees are included in the work and development at the university and to increase the interdisciplinary cooperation. The Network was founded at a meeting at Skandinavistika on May 8. Daniel Sävborg is the leader of the network, which during the spring 2012 organized three more meetings. On May 22 the rector candidate Mart Ustav visited the network, on May 23 the rector candidates Toivo Maimets and Volli Kalm came to a similar meeting. On June 5 rector Alar Karis visited the network. All the meetings were held at the library of Skandinavistika and chaired by Daniel Sävborg. The discussions did to a high degree concern the possibilities of the international staff members to contribute in making Tartu University into a top-level western research institution.
Individual contributions by Skandinavistika scholars

Scientific contributions

During the year, scholars at Skandinavistika have published 9 scientific works:


During the year, scholars of Skandinavistika have given 10 scientific lectures at international conferences:

- Daniel Sävborg, “King Ingvar’s Campaign: The Old Norse Sources and the Salme Finds”, keynote lecture at Transcultural Contacts in the Circum-Baltic Area”, Helsinki 8 June 2012.
- Mart Kuldkepp, “Distance as a Heuristic Concept in the Study of Old Norse Literature”, at: Transcultural Contacts in the Circum-Baltic Area. 2nd Meeting of the Austmarr Network Helsinki 8th-10th June 2012, Helsinki, Finland.

During the same time, scholars of Skandinavistika have given 12 scientific lectures at other larger scholarly events:

- Daniel Sävborg, “Old Norse Literature and Religion”, at the meeting of the research project “Myth, Transformation and Context”, University of Stockholm, 8 November 2011.
- Daniel Sävborg, “The Post-Classical Íslendingasögur”, lecture for the research seminar at Nordische Institut at The University of Munich, June 20th 2012.
- Daniel Sävborg, “Efterklassiska och klassiska islänningasagor”, lecture at Svenska litteraturtsällskapet i Finland, Helsinki, August 30th 2012.
- Mart Kuldkepp, ”Läänemereidentiteet Eesti rahvusluses”, Ökosemiootika suveseminar, Küünimetsa, Estonia, 3-4 August, 2012.
• Mart Kuldkepp, "Aktivismen som begrepp i finsk historieskrivning”, lecture at Svenska litteratursällskapet in Finland, Helsinki, August 30th 2012.
• Niklas Henriksson, "Textstruktur och referens till tid i nyhetsnotiser”, lecture at Svenska litteratursällskapet in Finland, Helsinki, August 30th 2012.
• Helena Mihkelson, "Luckor som ett uttryck för modernismens formförnyelser i Lars Ahlins, Tage Aurells, Stig Dagermans och Gösta Oswalds författarskap”, lecture at Svenska litteratursällskapet in Finland, Helsinki, August 30th 2012.

During the same time, scholars of Skandinavistika have given 7 scientific lectures at research seminars at the University of Tartu:

• Daniel Sävborg, “The Salme Excavations – Archaeology and Sagas”, lecture for the Pre-modern seminar at the University of Tartu, May 21st 2012.
• Niklas Henriksson, “Textstruktur och referens till tid i tyska nyhetsnotiser”, lecture for the Research seminar at Skandinavistika, University of Tartu, October 26th 2011.
• Niklas Henriksson, “Den temporala struktureringen av nyhetsnotiser”, lecture for the Research seminar at Skandinavistika, University of Tartu, March 29th, 2012 [second part of the lecture given on 26 October].
• Mart Kuldkepp, “Einarr Gilsson’s Selkolluvísur as a meeting point of traditions”, lecture for Pre-modern seminar at the University of Tartu, November 14th 2011.

One poster presentation has also been made by a scholar from Skandinavistika at a scientific conference:


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To sum up, this means 10 scientific publications, 29 scientific lectures and 1 scientific poster presentation. Altogether scholars from Skandinavistika have during the year given 40 scientific presentations of their research.
Varia

One of the goals Skandinavistika has set for its development concerned the international attractiveness of the department. It should be mentioned that several of the scholarly lectures listed above connected with invitations from abroad of scholars from Skandinavistika, where the lecture was only one part that was combined with high-level teaching by the visiting Skandinavistika scholar and discussions about research cooperation. The expertise of Skandinavistika has obviously become interesting for international academic institutions. It is about three cases of invitations for week-long visits:

- Daniel Sävborg, University of Bergen 19-23 March.
- Daniel Sävborg, University of Iceland 14-18 May.
- Daniel Sävborg, Munich, 18-22 June.

In several cases scholars from Skandinavistika have been invited to meetings abroad about scholarly cooperation:

- Daniel Sävborg, Gothenburg 22 August 2011
- Daniel Sävborg, Stockholm 8 November 2011
- Daniel Sävborg, Reykjavík 15 and 16 May 2012
- Daniel Sävborg, Aarhus 7 August 2012

In two cases during the year scholars of Skandinavistika have been engaged as expert reviewer for the leading research foundations of Scandinavia:

- Daniel Sävborg, Expert reviewer for the Icelandic Research Fund, October 2011.

Research subjects at Skandinavistika

Daniel Sävborg, professor of Scandinavian Studies, has during the year conducted research about Old Norse philology and folkloristics. He works with four major projects, concerning the manuscripts of Snorra Edda, the post-classical Old Norse literature, the use of folkloristic methods in the study of saga literature, and the possibilities and methods of combining Old Norse texts with archaeology. He has also worked with a minor study about the ideology and mentality in the Icelandic sagas. Daniel Sävborg has during the year presented parts of this research in publications and at conferences, seminars and meetings, as has been mentioned above.
Mart Kuldkepp, PhD student, has during the year worked on his doctoral thesis "The Shared Dream of Heroic Sweden: Swedish Baltic Sea Activism and the Construction of Estonia’s Nordic Identity 1905-1940". As a part of this work, he conducted research in the libraries and archives of Lund and was involved in discussions with colleagues at the University of Lund in January 2012 (financed by a DoRa scholarship). He has also conducted research in another, methodologically innovative, project about the distance in old Norse literature. Mart Kuldkepp has during the year presented parts of these two research projects in publications and at conferences, seminars, and meetings, as has been mentioned above.

Siiri Tomingas-Joandi, PhD student, has during the year worked on her doctoral thesis about changelings in Estonian and Swedish folk belief. She has also participated in a research project at the Department of Folklore at Tartu University, “Vernacular Religion, Genres and the Social Sphere of Meanings”, Estonian Science Foundation grant No. 7516. She has further participated in Skandinavistika’s project Old Norse Folklorist Network, funded by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond. She has, as mentioned above, presented parts of her research in a poster presentation at a scientific conference.

Helena Mihkelson, PhD student, has during the year worked on her doctoral thesis "Luckor som ett uttryck för modernismens formförnyelser i Lars Ahlins, Tage Aurells, Stig Dagermans och Gösta Oswalds författaraproduktion.” As a part of this work, she conducted research in the libraries of Stockholm 7-26 May 2012 (financed by an Archimedes scholarship). She has, as mentioned above, presented parts of her research at seminars both at Skandinavistika and abroad.

Anu Laanemets, PhD student, has during the year worked on her doctoral thesis about the passive in the Scandinavian languages.

Maiu Elken, researcher, has during the year been employed on a research position at Skandinavistika (financed by Vitterhetsakademien and Magnus Bergvalls stiftelse) and worked on the project ERLEKS Estnisk-svensk ordbok. She has, as mentioned above, presented her research at a research seminar at Skandinavistika.

Niklas Henriksson, lecturer in Swedish, has during the year started working on a research project about the temporal structure of news discourse. He has, as mentioned above, during the year presented parts of his research at seminars both at Skandinavistika and abroad.
Summary and conclusion

An evaluation of the scientific activity during the academic year 2011-2012 may have as the starting point the four goals listed in the introduction.

Internationalization.

A large proportion of Skandinavistika’s scientific activity during the year has been internationally oriented.

- Skandinavistika has during the year arranged four international conferences/symposia with scholars from 22 countries.
- Skandinavistika has arranged research seminars and scientific lectures with 11 scholars from abroad.
- Scholars from Skandinavistika have given 17 scientific lectures at universities abroad.
- Skandinavistika leads one international collaborative research project and participates in two others.
- Skandinavistika is the founder of the Nordplus project Folklore-Philology with 15 member departments from 8 countries.

Interdisciplinary cooperation at Tartu University

Skandinavistika is founder and leader of the only interdisciplinary research seminar that comprises the whole University of Tartu, the Pre-modern seminar. By this Skandinavistika has come to serve as a meeting-place for interdisciplinary research with participation by scholars and students from the whole university. Further, Skandinavistika has developed a close cooperation with the Department of Folklore, which among other things resulted in the collaborative organization of the conference Supernatural places, but also in the participation of three scholars from that department at the Old Norse Folklorists Network symposium at Skandinavistika. During the spring 2012 a collaboration was also carried out with the Department of German philology in connection with a common application to the Estonian Research Agency under leadership of Daniel Sävborg at Skandinavistika.

Skandinavistika as a vital scholarly milieu

The efforts to make Skandinavistika a vital scientific milieu that stimulates research on a high level with participation of all the staff members has been carried out in several ways. The four international conferences held at Skandinavistika were open for everybody at the department, and many, both staff members and students, did also visit these arrangements. The most
important part of these efforts are, though, the establishment of regular research seminars, where the staff members of the department present and discuss their ongoing research and where invited guests present and discuss their research with Skandinavistika’s staff. During the year 14 such seminars were held at Skandinavistika, which were supplemented by 3 guest lectures and 6 Pre-modern seminars, also at Skandinavistika. They all contributed to the effect that scientific activities permeated the daily work at Skandinavistika during the year. Also those staff members who have not conducted research themselves have taken part in the seminars, and some of those who lack research experience have given contributions that point to the possibility that they may begin regular research.

A scientifically leading department

This ambition should be seen in a long-term perspective of development. Skandinavistika should not only hold an acceptable level of its research, but the goal is to be leading in the profile fields of the department. Skandinavistika should not only keep up with what is happening in the international research, but also be the one that takes initiatives to new research fields, new theories and new methods. Skandinavistika should not only receive guest lecturers to improve the teaching and take part of new research, but also become so attractive that its teachers and researchers are invited to universities abroad to improve their teaching and raise their scientific level. Skandinavistika’s scholars should not only visit conferences abroad where the interesting scholarly discussion takes place, but also arrange conferences which are so interesting that they attract scholars from the whole world. At Skandinavistika, the most interesting research for the future should be presented at the first time. Before the re-establishment of the chair, Skandinavistika’s international activity was limited. Impressive attempts were made by individual staff members, but they were isolated and few. Skandinavistika got support from Svenska litteratursällskapet i Finland, who without costs sent teachers to Skandinavistika, so that the teaching of the department could hold an acceptable academic level. But it was not about research exchange and not about mutual cooperation at all. Skandinavistika was in its international contacts generally receiving, not giving.

This situation has changed during the two years after the re-establishment of the chair. Skandinavistika is now the giving part in a lot of international contacts. The scholars and the activity of the department have proved to be attractive. Examples of this are of course the requests from departments abroad that Skandinavistika should contribute with its expertise in research projects, as well as the invitations about lecturing at conferences, seminars and courses. The nine scientific conferences that Skandinavistika has arranged during these two years also mean that the department has become established as a well-known place where new research is conducted and presented, and where the international scholars gather.

What is even more important in this respect is the fact that Skandinavistika in some cases also has taken initiatives that have changed the international research and its direction. The Austmarr Network, which was founded in 2011 by Skandinavistika, meant that the research about the early medieval contacts across the Baltic Sea, and especially the relations between Scandinavia and the Finno-Ugric and Baltic cultures, for the first time got
an interdisciplinary forum. The network has lived on and grown during the year. After the first Austmarr symposium at Skandinavistika in April 2011 a second Austmarr symposium was held in Helsinki in June 2012, and a third one is planned to take place at the Mid-Sweden University in April 2013. Skandinavistika’s initiative has in this case affected the international research and initiated new scientific issues, projects and activities of other scholars. Another influential initiative taken by Skandinavistika is the effort to bring folkloristics and Old Norse philology closer together. This started when Skandinavistika founded the Old Norse Folklorists Network in the autumn 2010, and it was followed up by Skandinavistika’s research project with the same name, which in March 2011 was granted support by The Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation, with the symposium at Skandinavistika in December 2011 as the main event so far. Before and during this event Skandinavistika and the network members developed new methods for examining the Old Norse literature from the double-perspective of the project. These methods and these new perspectives live on among other scholars, for example at the University of Iceland. The initiative was further followed up when Skandinavistika founded the Higher Education network Folklore-Philology, financed by Nordplus, whose 15 member departments actively conducts competence exchange within the field originally defined by Skandinavistika.

Conclusion

The relation between the goals mentioned in the beginning and the achieved results seems positive. The development of Skandinavistika has proceeded in accordance with the plan. There is reason to believe that this trend will continue.