

# Svartárkot, Culture – Nature / The Wright Ingraham Institute:

Icelandic Field Stations 2023

## Preliminary Reading List

This annotated reading list contains materials from each of the instructors, with a focus on the different disciplines that will be merged in a transdisciplinary manner. The final reading list with further instructions and information about accessibility will be posted after deadline.

### A: General interest, useful historical overviews etc:

Gunnar Gunnarsson (1940). *The Good Sheperd*. Bobbs-Merrill Co. A gem of a novella that takes place in the Mývatn/Bárðardalur area. Recommended. Usually available cheap on amazon.com but there is also a new edition with an Introduction by Jón Kalman Stefánsson, one of the best modern writers in Iceland. Seems not to be on amazon.com but here is a link to an Icelandic bookstore (too expensive): <https://www.penninn.is/is/book/good-sheperd>

Gunnar Karlsson (2000). *The History of Iceland*. Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press.

Sigurður Gylfi Magnússon (2010). *Wasteland with Words: A Social History of Iceland*. Reaktion Books, London. An interesting approach to Icelandic (cultural) history: [https://www.amazon.com/Wasteland-Words-Social-History-Iceland-ebook/dp/B008YUV2AK/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1524579898&sr=8-1&keywords=Magnusson+wasteland+with+words&dpID=51h5MzXlpjL&preST=SY445QL70&dpSrc=srch](https://www.amazon.com/Wasteland-Words-Social-History-Iceland-ebook/dp/B008YUV2AK/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1524579898&sr=8-1&keywords=Magnusson+wasteland+with+words&dpID=51h5MzXlpjL&preST=SY445QL70&dpSrc=srch)

Daisy Neijman ed. (2007). *A History of Icelandic Literature*. University of Nebraska Press. An overview for those who might want to orient themselves in the literary history of Iceland.

Viðar Hreinsson (2012) *Wakeful Nights. Stephan G. Stephansson: Icelandic-Canadian Poet*. Benson Ranch Inc. Calgary, 2012. A biography of a poet who lived in the Bárðardalur valley three years prior to his emigration to North America in 1873. The first c. 100 pages are informative about life and conditions in Iceland in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century: [https://www.amazon.com/Wakeful-Nights-Stephan-Stephansson-Icelandic-Canadian-ebook/dp/B00N9I9UL0/ref=tmm\\_kin\\_swatch\\_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1524580038&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Wakeful-Nights-Stephan-Stephansson-Icelandic-Canadian-ebook/dp/B00N9I9UL0/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1524580038&sr=8-1)

Sverrir Jakobsson and Guðmundur Hálfðanarson (2016). *Historical Dictionary of Iceland* (3<sup>rd</sup>. ed). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Lanham. Expensive but

probably useful.

## B. Pertaining to the main subjects of the course.

Arnalds, O., Gísladóttir, F.A. & H. Sigurjónsson. 2001. "Sandy deserts of Iceland: an overview." *Journal of Arid Environments* (2001) 47: 359–371.

doi:10.1006/jare.2000.0680, available online at

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0140196300906803> (pdf).

Arnþór Garðarsson 1979. Waterfowl populations of Lake Mývatn and recent changes in numbers and food habits. *Oikos* 32: 250-270.

[https://www.jstor.org/stable/3544231?seq=1#page\\_scan\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/3544231?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents)

Axel Kristinsson and Árni Daníel Júlíusson. „Adapting to Population Growth: The Evolutionary Alternative to Malthus“. *Clodynamics* 7(1) 2016.

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/8xp4b5g3>

Árni Daníel Júlíusson: "Two famines in 17th and 18th century Iceland: An introduction." Paper presented at the COMPOT Workshop, Turku, Finland, January 2017 Forthcoming in *Scandinavian Economic Historical Review*.

Árni Daníel Júlíusson, Anna Guðrún Þórhallsdóttir, Helga Ögmundardóttir. "The Sheep, the Soil and the Market." *Northscapes*. Ed. Dolly Jørgensen and Sverker Sörin. Vancouver 2013.

[https://www.academia.edu/16415276/The\\_Sheep\\_the\\_Market\\_and\\_the\\_Soil.\\_Environmental\\_destruction\\_in\\_the\\_Icelandic\\_highlands\\_1880-1910](https://www.academia.edu/16415276/The_Sheep_the_Market_and_the_Soil._Environmental_destruction_in_the_Icelandic_highlands_1880-1910)

Árni Daníel Júlíusson, Megan Hicks, Astrid Ogilvie, Ragnhildur Sigurðardóttir, Viðar Hreinsson (2017): "Successions: The case of Mývatnssveit in Iceland 1801-1930." Paper presented at the Succession Workshop, Rural History Conference, Leuven Belgium, 12. September 2017

Árni Einarsson, Gerdur Stefánsdóttir, Helgi Jóhannesson, Jón S. Ólafsson, Gísli Már Gíslason, Isamu Wakana, Gudni Gudbergsson and Arnthor Gardarsson 2004. The ecology of Lake Myvatn and the River Laxá: variation in space and time. *Aquatic Ecology* 38: 317-348. <https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1023%2FB%3AAECO.0000032090.72702.a9.pdf>

BIODICE: Promoting greater awareness and understanding of biodiversity in Iceland (A manifesto on the BIODICE website: <https://biodice.is/> - containing useful references).

Davíð Ólafsson (2012). "Vernacular Literacy Practices in Nineteenth-Century Icelandic Scribal Culture" *Att läsa och att skriva Två vågor av vardagligt skriftbruk i Norden 1800–2000*, ed. by Ann-Catrine Edlund, Umeå Universitet og Kung. Skytteanske Samfundet, Umeå, pp. 65-85. Pdf online: <https://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:534711/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

Dugmore, Andrew J., Ian A. Simpson, Amanda Thomson, Orri Vésteinsson 2001:

- “Crossing the thresholds: human ecology and historical patterns of landscape degradation”. *Catena*, vol. 42, p. 175-192.  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0341816200001375>
- Dugmore, Andrew, Rowan Jackson, David Cooper, Anthony Newton, Árni Daníel Júlíusson, Richard Streeter, Viðar Hreinsson, Stefani Crabtree, George Hambrecht, Megan Hicks og Tom McGovern. „Continuity in the Face of a Slowly Unfolding Catastrophe: the Persistence of Icelandic Settlement Despite Large-Scale Soil Erosion“ í F. Riede and P. Sheets (ritstjórar): *Catastrophes in Context: Archaeological Perspectives on Socio-ecological Crisis, Response, and Collapse*. Berghahn Books: New York, Oxford 2020: 162-199.
- Seth Brewington, Megan Hicks, Ágústa Edwald, Árni Einarsson, Kesara Anamthawat-Jónsson, Gordon Cook, Philippa Ascough, Kerry Sayle, Símun V. Arge, Mike Church, Julie Bond, Steve Dockrill, Adolf Friðriksson, George Hambrecht, Arni Daníel Júlíusson, Viðar Hreinsson, Steven Hartman, Thomas H. McGovern. „Islands of Change vs. Islands of Disaster: Managing Pigs and Birds in the Anthropocene of the North Atlantic“ í Arlene Rosen (ritstjóri) *The Anthropocene in the Longue Duree special issue of The Holocene*, DOI: 10.1177/0959683615591714. 2015.
- Gísli Pálsson (2020). *The Human Age: How we caused the climate crisis*. Welbeck Publishing Group.
- Gísli Pálsson (2020). *Down to Earth: A Memoir*. Punctum Books
- Guðmundur St. Sigurðarson, Guðný Zoëga, and Sigríður Sigurðardóttir (2017). Reading the landscape. Skagafjörður Heritage Museum Booklet XXIII. English version by Nancy Marie Brown. Akureyri.  
<https://rafhladan.is/handle/10802/20085>
- Zoëga, G. (2015). A family revisited - The medieval household cemetery of Keldudalur, North Iceland. *Norwegian Archaeological Review*. Vol. 48 no. 2. pp. 105-128. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00293652.2015.1104382>
- Zoëga, G. and Murphy, K. Life (2019). Northern Frontier - bioarchaeological reconstructions of 11th century households in North Iceland. *The Bioarchaeology of Frontier* (edited volume). Martin, D and Tica, C (eds). pp. 161-183. Florida University Press. <https://doi.org/10.5744/florida/9781683400844.003.0008>
- Hartman, S., Ogilvie, A.E.J., Ingimundarson, J.H., Dugmore, A.J., Hambrecht, George, McGovern, T.H. 2017. “Medieval Iceland, Greenland, and the New Human Condition: A case study in integrated environmental humanities”, *Global and Planetary Change* 156, 123-139, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloplacha.2017.04.007>
- Hicks, Megan, Árni Einarsson, Kesara Anamthawat-Jónsson, Ágústa Edwald, Ægir Þór Þórsson, Thomas H. McGovern. 2016. “Community and Conservation: Documenting Millennial Scale Sustainable Resource Use at Lake Mývatn Iceland”. In *Oxford University Press Handbook of Historical Ecology and Applied Archaeology*. Christian Isendahl & Daryl Stump (eds.) Oxford University Press,

New York.

- Hicks, Megan. 2014. "Losing Sleep Counting Sheep: early modern dynamics of hazardous husbandry in Mývatn, Iceland" in *Human Ecodynamics in the North Atlantic: a Collaborative Model of Humans and Nature through Space and Time*. Harrison and Maher (Eds). Lexington Publishers, Lanham Maryland.  
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/290437542>  
[Losing Sleep Counting Sheep early modern dynamics of hazardous husbandry in Myvatn Iceland](#)
- Hicks, Megan, Viðar Hreinsson, Árni Daniel Júlíusson, Astrid Ogilvie, and Ragnhildur Sigurðardóttir. 2017. Grassroots Modernization: Pastoral Economies, Climate, and Political Change in Iceland's Eighteenth through Twentieth Centuries. Presented for the 82nd Annual Society for American Archaeology Meeting, Vancouver, BC. Symposium: Historical Archaeology for Applied Archaeology: Climate Change, Resource Management, and Governance.
- Hlín Porkelsdóttir 1999. Sediment transport in rivers, with example from the Kráká-River in North Iceland. Diplomarbeit, University of Karlsruhe.  
<http://www.ramy.is/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Sediment-transport-in-rivers.pdf>
- Holm, Bill "The Music of Failure" in *Music of Failure*, The University of Minnesota Press 2010 (A classical essay with important roots in the Bárðardalur Valley. Also printed in a book entitled *The Heart can be filled Anywhere on Earth*, Milkweed Editions; Revised edition (February 27, 2001))
- Ives, A.R., Árni Einarsson, V.A.A. Jansen & Arnþór Garðarsson 2008. "High-amplitude fluctuations and alternative dynamical states of midges in Lake Myvatn". *Nature* 452: 84-87 (pdf in dropbox). <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/5528880>  
[High-amplitude fluctuations and alternative dynamical states of midges in Lake Myvatn](#)
- Jón Ólafsson 1979. Physical characteristics of Lake Mývatn and River Laxá. *Oikos* 32: 38-66. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/275884993>  
[Physical Characteristics of Lake Myvatn and River Laxa](#)
- McGovern, Thomas H., Orri Vésteinsson, Adolf Fridriksson, Mike Church, Ian Lawson, Ian A. Simpson, Arni Einarsson, Andy Dugmore, Gordon Cook, Sophia Perdikaris, Kevin Edwards, Amanda M. Thomson, W. Paul Adderley, Anthony Newton, Gavin Lucas, Oscar Aldred: "Landscapes of Settlement in Northern Iceland: Historical Ecology of Human Impact & Climate Fluctuation on the Millennial Scale, invited paper in special issue on the archaeology of global change", *American Anthropologist*, 2007,109(1):27-51.  
<https://anthrosource.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1525/aa.2007.109.1.27>
- Ogilvie, A.E.J. and Jónsson, Trausti. 2001. "Little Ice Age" research: A perspective

- from Iceland'. *Climatic Change* 48, 9-52.
- Ogilvie, A.E.J. and Pálsson, Gísli. 2003. "Mood, magic and metaphor: Allusions to weather and climate in the Sagas of Icelanders". (In) *Weather, Climate, Culture*. (Ed. by S. Strauss and B. S. Orlove). Berg Publishers, 251-274.  
[https://www.academia.edu/34214630/Mood Magic and Metaphor Allusions to Weather and Climate in the Sagas of Icelanders 1](https://www.academia.edu/34214630/Mood_Magic_and_Metaphor_Allusions_to_Weather_and_Climate_in_the_Sagas_of_Icelanders_1)
- Ogilvie, A.E.J., Woollett, J.M., Smiarowski, K., Arneborg, J., Troelstra, S., Pálsdóttir, A. and McGovern, T.H. 2009. "Seals and sea ice in medieval Greenland", *Journal of the North Atlantic* 2, 60-80. <https://www.geos.ed.ac.uk/~nabo/meetings/glthec/materials/ogilvie/OgilvieetalSealsPaper.pdf>
- Ogilvie, A.E.J. 2010. Historical climatology, *Climatic Change*, and implications for climate science in the 21st century, *Climatic Change* 100, 33-47.  
<https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2Fs10584-010-9854-1.pdf>
- Ragnhildur Sigurðardóttir, Ogilvie, A.E.J., Júlíusson, Árni Daníel, Hreinsson, Viðar, Hicks, Megan T. 2016. "Water and Sustainability in the Lake Mývatn Region of Iceland: Historical Perspectives and Current Concerns". In (Shroder, J.F. and Greenwood, G.B., eds), *Mountain Ice and Water: Investigations of the Hydrological Cycle in Alpine Environments*, 155-192.  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/B9780444637871000044>
- Ragnhildur Sigurðardóttir, Anthony Newton, Megan T. Hicks, A.J. Dugmore, Viðar Hreinsson, A.E.J. Ogilvie, Árni Daníel Júlíusson, Árni Einarsson, Steven Hartman, I.A. Simpson, Orri Vésteinsson, T.H. McGovern. „Trolls, Water, Time, and Community: Resource Management in the Mývatn District of Northeast Iceland“, í Ludomir Lozny & T.H. McGovern (ritstjórar). *Managing the Commons: an Interdisciplinary Perspective*, Springer Volumes in Historical Ecology, Springer Press, NY. 2018.
- Ragnhildur Sigurðardóttir, Anthony Newton, Megan T. Hicks, A.J. Dugmore, Viðar Hreinsson, A.E.J. Ogilvie, Árni Daníel Júlíusson, Árni Einarsson, Steven Hartman, I.A. Simpson, Orri Vésteinsson, T.H. McGovern. „Trolls, Water, Time, and Community: Resource Management in the Mývatn District of Northeast Iceland“, í Ludomir Lozny & T.H. McGovern (ritstjórar). *Managing the Commons: an Interdisciplinary Perspective*, Springer Volumes in Historical Ecology, Springer Press, NY. 2018.
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<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1191/0959683602h1531rp>
- Sigríður Sigurðardóttir (2012). Traditional Building Methods. Skagafjörður Heritage Museum Booklet no. XVI. English translation by Anna Yates:  
<https://rafhladan.is/handle/10802/9062>
- Sigurður Gylfi Magnússon and Davíð Ólafsson (2017) *Minor Knowledge and Microhistory*. Routledge, New York and London. Recommended, to a large extent

about the manuscript culture. The book is very expensive, but the Introduction is available online:

[https://www.academia.edu/29279545/Minor\\_Knowledge\\_and\\_Microhistory.\\_Manuscript\\_Culture\\_in\\_the\\_Nineteenth\\_Century\\_2016](https://www.academia.edu/29279545/Minor_Knowledge_and_Microhistory._Manuscript_Culture_in_the_Nineteenth_Century_2016)

Simpson, I.A., Guðmundsson, G., Thomson, A.M. & Cluett, J. 2004. Assessing the role of winter grazing in historic land degradation, Mývatnsveit, northeast Iceland. *Geoarchaeology* 19: 471-502.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/gea.20006>

Viðar Hreinsson (2008). "The Resurrection and Crucifixion of the Sheep" © *The Provincialists*. Ed. Eivind Reierstad. Torshavn (Faroe Islands): 74-82.

Viðar Hreinsson (2014). „Cultural Amnesia – and Sustainable Development.“ *Κυλτjρα/Culture* 7.

<http://cultcenter.net/journals/index.php/culture/article/view/26>

Viðar Hreinsson (2022) "Rough Seas in Tattered Manuscripts" in *Paper Stories: Paper and Book History in Post-Medieval Europe*. Ritstjórar: Silvia Hufnagel, Þórunn Sigurðardóttir og Davíð Ólafsson. De Gruyter (forthcoming).