



**Alessandro PALUMBO (Université d'Oslo), Latinisation et (re)vernacularisation de l'épigraphie médiévale scandinave. ([CV d'Alessandro Palumbo](#)).**

L'introduction de l'alphabet latin en Scandinavie s'est opérée dans le contexte d'une culture épigraphique déjà bien établie, utilisant les langues vernaculaires et l'alphabet runique. Dans la sphère épigraphique, ce contexte particulier a créé des conditions de diffusion de la culture écrite latine qui différaient sensiblement de celles qui régissaient la production manuscrite. En l'absence d'une tradition manuscrite préexistante, l'introduction du latin a engendré en Scandinavie des pratiques de *literacy* entièrement nouvelles. En revanche, les pratiques épigraphiques issues de l'introduction du latin étaient, d'une part, tributaires de modèles européens contemporains et, d'autre part, contraintes de s'inscrire en dialogue avec la tradition vernaculaire runique préexistante. Malgré les implications profondes de ce changement de langue et de système graphique, plusieurs questions centrales demeurent largement sans réponse, notamment en ce qui concerne les modalités temporelles et géographiques de la diffusion de l'épigraphie latine en Scandinavie, ses relations avec la tradition vernaculaire existante, ainsi que les circonstances dans lesquelles les langues vernaculaires ont été réintroduites comme médium de l'écrit dans l'espace public – cette fois en alphabet latin plutôt qu'en runes. Ces processus complexes sont étudiés dans un nouveau projet intitulé « Epigraphic Centres of Medieval Scandinavia » (ERC, 2025-STG, EpiCentres, 101221245). Le projet vise à retracer la latinisation et la revernacularisation de l'épigraphie scandinave, ainsi qu'à analyser la coexistence prolongée de plusieurs langues et systèmes graphiques au sein du paysage linguistique scandinave entre 1100 et 1500. Dans cette communication, je présenterai le projet et ses travaux en cours, et j'aborderai plusieurs aspects clés des transformations linguistiques qu'a connues l'épigraphie scandinave à la fin du Moyen Âge.



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The introduction of the Latin alphabet in Scandinavia took place against the background of an already established epigraphic culture using the vernacular languages and the runic alphabet. In the epigraphic sphere, this particular context created preconditions for the spread of Latin written culture that differed markedly from those governing the production of manuscripts. In the absence of a pre-existing manuscript culture, the introduction of Latin generated entirely new literacy practices in Scandinavia. By contrast, the epigraphic practices arising from the introduction of Latin were, on the one hand, indebted to contemporaneous European models, while on the other hand they had to engage with the pre-existing vernacular runic tradition. Despite the far-reaching implications of this shift of language and script, several central questions remain largely unanswered, for example with regard to when and where Latin epigraphy spread in Scandinavia, how it related to the existing vernacular tradition, and under what circumstances the vernacular languages were reintroduced as a medium for writing in the public space – this time in the Latin script rather than in runes. These complex processes are investigated in a new project entitled “Epigraphic Centres of Medieval Scandinavia” (ERC, 2025-STG, EpiCentres, 101221245). The project aims to retrace the Latinization and re-vernacularization of Scandinavian epigraphy, as well as to investigate the prolonged coexistence of multiple languages and scripts within the Scandinavian linguistic landscape between 1100 and 1500. In my lecture, I will introduce the project and its ongoing work, and address key aspects of the linguistic transformations undergone by Scandinavian epigraphy during the late Middle Ages.



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