PM Seminarium 7 maj 2025

Arkeologi och antikens kultur

Signifying Physical Presence and Collective Authority in Scandinavian Monastic Seals (1150-1300).
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The medieval seal operated on several semiotic and theological levels. It signified the consent and authentic identity of institutions and individuals when interfacing with legal documents. With this, it was also experienced as an extension of the self. Due to the centrality of the Trinity and the relationship between substance, being and image, the seal presented a potent practise. As noted by medieval thinkers, the substance of the matrix and the imprint was not the image, yet the image was a transformation of the substance. That is, the imprint on the wax was not the substance of the matrix, yet cast in its image, similar to the relationship between God and man or the soul and the Holy Spirit. Hence, the choice of iconography and text on the seal was perceived an extension of the owner's essence. The seal imprint became an extension of the self, and acted with its own agency.

Accordingly, my thesis aims to analyse the self-image of medieval institutions and individuals existing in the intersection of several authoritative identities. To achieve this, I analyse how authority, presence and self-image was communicated by seals utilized by monastic communities in Scandinavia. In this talk, I will discuss the introduction of corporate bodies into the semiotic cosmos of high medieval Scandinavia, focusing mainly on Cistercian and Benedictine orders.

Onsdag 7 maj 2025
Tid: 15.00 – 17.00
Plats: Rum 334 / Zoom
Zoom
https://stockholmuniversity.zoom.us/j/66059743348