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# Application for a Grant

|   |   |               |  |          |                                |   |
|---|---|---------------|--|----------|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Identification</b>   |   |               |  |          |                                |   |
| This page will be made available to selection committee members and external assessors.   |   |               |  |          |                                |   |
| Funding opportunity<br><b>Insight Grants</b>  |   |               |  |          |                                |   |
| Joint or special initiative   |   |               |  |          |                                |   |
| Application title<br><b>Mirrors of Virtue: Holy Virgins and Models for Womanhood in Early Icelandic Verse</b>   |   |               |  |          |                                |   |
| Applicant family name<br><b>Van Deusen</b>  |   |               | Applicant given name<br><b>Natalie</b> |          | Initials<br><b>M</b>           |   |
| Org. code<br><b>1480111</b>   | Full name of applicant's organization and department<br><b>University of Alberta<br/>Modern Languages and Cultural Studies</b>    |               |  |          |                                |   |
| Org. code<br><b>1480111</b>   | Full name of administrative organization and department<br><b>University of Alberta<br/>Modern Languages and Cultural Studies</b> |               |  |          |                                |   |
|   |   |               |  |          | Research Group<br><b>435-1</b> |   |
| Does your proposal require a multidisciplinary evaluation?  |   |               |  |          |                                | Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Is this a research-creation project?  |   |               |  |          |                                | Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Does your proposal involve Aboriginal Research as defined by SSHRC?   |   |               |  |          |                                | Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Does your proposal involve human beings as research subjects? If "Yes", consult the <i>Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans</i> and submit your proposal to your organization's Research Ethics Board. |   |               |  |          |                                | Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Does any phase of the proposed research or research-related activity:   |   |               |  |          |                                |   |
| A. Constitute a physical activity carried out on federal lands in Canada, as defined in sub-section 2(1), in relation to a physical work and that is not a designated project;  |   |               |  |          |                                | Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| B. Constitute a physical activity carried out outside of Canada in relation to a physical work and that is not a designated project;  |   |               |  |          |                                | Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| C. (i) Permit a designated project (listed in the CEAA 2012 Regulations Designating Physical Activities (RDPA)) to be carried out in whole or in part;  |   |               |  |          |                                | Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| C. (ii) Depend on a designated project (listed in the RDPA) that is, or will be, carried out by a third party?  |   |               |  |          |                                | Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
|   | Year 1  | Year 2        | Year 3                                 | Year 4   | Year 5                         | Total   |
| Total funds requested from SSHRC  | <u>40,623</u>   | <u>24,505</u> | <u>33,860</u>                          | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u>                       | <u>98,988</u>   |



Family name, Given name  
Van Deusen, Natalie

### Participants

List names of your team members (co-applicants and collaborators) who will take part in the intellectual direction of the research. Do not include assistants, students or consultants.

Role

Co-applicant

Collaborator

Family name

Given name

Initials

Org. code

Full organization name

Department/Division name

Role

Co-applicant

Collaborator

Family name

Given name

Initials

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Full organization name

Department/Division name

Role

Co-applicant

Collaborator

Family name

Given name

Initials

Org. code

Full organization name

Department/Division name



### Research Activity

The information provided in this section refers to your research proposal.

### Keywords

List keywords that best describe your proposed research or research activity. Separate keywords with a semicolon.

Iceland; medieval; early modern; poetry; women; sexuality; religion; saints; manuscripts; oral tradition

### Disciplines - Indicate and rank up to 3 disciplines that best correspond to your activity.

| Rank | Code  | Discipline                     | If "Other", specify |
|------|-------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1    | 52099 | Literature, Other Language and | Icelandic           |
| 2    | 70100 | Women's Studies                |                     |
| 3    | 56000 | Religious Studies              |                     |
|      |       |                                |                     |
|      |       |                                |                     |

### Areas of Research

Indicate and rank up to 3 areas of research related to your proposal.

| Rank | Code | Area          |
|------|------|---------------|
| 1    | 380  | Women         |
| 2    | 213  | Gender Issues |
| 3    | 372  | Violence      |

### Temporal Periods

If applicable, indicate up to 2 historical periods covered by your proposal.

| From  | To  |
|---|---|
| Year<br>1500<br>_____<br>_____<br>BC    AD<br><input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/><br><input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> | Year<br>1800<br>_____<br>_____<br>BC    AD<br><input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/><br><input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |



Family name, Given name  
Van Deusen, Natalie

**Research Activity (cont'd)**

**Geographical Regions**

If applicable, indicate and rank up to 3 geographical regions covered by or related to your proposal. Duplicate entries are not permitted.

| Rank | Code | Region         |
|------|------|----------------|
| 1    | 3100 | Scandinavia    |
| 2    | 1120 | Central Canada |
| 3    |      |                |

**Countries**

If applicable, indicate and rank up to 5 countries covered by or related to your proposal. Duplicate entries are not permitted.

| Rank | Code | Country | Prov./<br>State |
|------|------|---------|-----------------|
| 1    | 3103 | ICELAND |                 |
| 2    | 1100 | CANADA  | MB              |
| 3    | 1100 | CANADA  | SK              |
| 4    |      |         |                 |
| 5    |      |         |                 |



Family name, Given name

Van Deusen, Natalie

### Response to Previous Critiques - maximum one page

Applicants may, if they wish, address criticisms and suggestions offered by adjudication committees and external assessors who have reviewed previous applications.

Empty response area for addressing criticisms and suggestions.



Family name, Given name

Van Deusen, Natalie

### Summary of Proposal

The summary of your research proposal should indicate clearly the problem or issue to be addressed, the potential contribution of the research both in terms of the advancement of knowledge and of the wider social benefit, etc.

**Objective:** The proposed research project aims to catalogue, edit, and analyze Early Modern Icelandic religious poems, whose subjects are virgin martyr saints. These poems, which enjoyed widespread popularity during the centuries following the Icelandic Reformation (1550), share a focus on female virtue and, more specifically, female virginity. Judging by manuscript transmission, these poems reached the height of their popularity during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries---well after the end of Catholicism but coinciding with the widespread circulation of "Mirror for Women" works in Iceland and on the continent. The project ultimately seeks to demonstrate the critical role these poems about virgin martyrs played within Early Modern Icelandic religious and social thought as prescriptive models for female virtue and purity, and examines how they may have helped shape modern ideals of female sexuality in Iceland and, by extension, Icelandic settlements in Canada. It also considers the reception of these poems, and evidence of resistance to these restrictive models of femininity and interest in alternate interpretations. At present, there are no detailed studies of these poems (despite their apparent popularity), nor have most been properly edited. As such, the proposed project would make a major contribution to scholarly understanding of prescriptive literature for women and its reception, both in Iceland and elsewhere in Europe during the Early Modern era.

**Methodology:** Research for this project will take place over a three-year period. The first year (2016-17) will be dedicated to the production of preliminary editions and translations of the poems in question (with the assistance of graduate student assistants from the University of Alberta), and I will spend one month in residence in Iceland at the National Library in Reykjavík and in local archives throughout the country. The online catalog Handrit.is and forthcoming *The Saints in Old Norse and Early Modern Icelandic Poetry* (Wolf and Van Deusen, 2015) provide the starting points for this first step, as do the editorial conventions of the Arnarnagæan Commission (Kålund 1889-1894).

In the second year (2017-18), I will analyze the poems within their cultural and religious contexts, both within and outside of Iceland. This will be undertaken in consultation with experts from the University of Iceland, especially Margrét Eggertsdóttir, and with research support from a graduate student assistant. During this year, I will also publish three of the edited and translated poems in scholarly journals, as per the knowledge mobilization plan, and will begin a draft of a monograph.

Most of the third year (2018-19) will be spent in Iceland, during which time I expect to be on a full-year sabbatical (as per the University of Alberta's normal policy in the case of successful applicants for tenure). I will present preliminary results to a wider academic and public audience, both in presentations at the University of Iceland, the University of Alberta, and at the International Saga Conference in August 2018. I will spend the remainder of this year in intensive writing to produce a draft of the monograph to be submitted to the University of Toronto Press by the end of summer 2019.

**Outcome:** This project is the first of its kind, and as such fills a significant gap within scholarship in Early Icelandic literary studies. The results, which will be published in several articles as well as a co-edited volume (thus broadening access for students, scholars, and the general public), will also be of interest within the fields of gender, folklore, and religious studies, and in particular the study of women's roles (prescribed and actual) in Early Modern Europe.

## Detailed Description

### Overview

The proposed research project aims to examine a large body of poetry on virgin martyr saints composed and circulated in Early Modern Iceland (ca. 1500-1800), which to date has received very little scholarly attention. These poems, the majority of which were composed well after the Protestant Reformation (officially 1550 in Iceland), focus on the stories of young Christian maidens who were subject to violent torture at the hands of pagan suitors, and were willing to die before sacrificing their chastity. These poems, which are religious in scope but intended for a popular audience, were usually sung and served to provide entertainment. They reached the height of their popularity during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, but continued to be transmitted in written and oral form well into the twentieth century.

Through the production of several peer-reviewed articles and a monograph, this project will illustrate how the popularity of the poems about virgin martyr saints in Iceland well beyond the Catholic era can be explained by their exemplary function. I will argue that these poems played an important role in the prescription of ideal womanly behaviour in Early Modern Iceland, particularly within the context of sexuality. As such, they can be considered to function as a form of “Mirror for Women” works, a prescriptive genre that circulated in Iceland and throughout Europe during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. At the same time, the project will consider how variant versions of these works, responses to them, and evidence regarding their popular reception may demonstrate resistance to these ideals and interest in other, more empowering aspects of the narrative. Finally, it will consider how modern conceptions about female behaviour and purity in Icelandic religious and social thought may be traced back to the ideals promoted in these Early Modern poems, and how resistance to these restrictive ideals followed a similar continuum.

The objectives of this research project, which will take place over a three-year period (2016-2019), are as follows:

- 1.) to edit and translate orally transmitted poetry on virgin martyr saints from Early Modern Iceland, which to date have only recently been catalogued, but have not yet been formally edited, translated, or studied;
- 2.) to examine the popularity of poetry on virgin martyr saints well beyond the end of Catholicism and within the context of prescriptive literature for women in Early Modern Iceland, and to consider reception of these ideals and possible resistant interpretive strategies;
- 3.) to create an introduction to the “Mirrors for Women” works from sixteenth-, seventeenth-, and eighteenth-century Iceland, with a focus on poetry on virgin martyr saints as an important tool for prescribing ideals for female virtue, and a consideration of their reception and the broader impact of this genre on modern ideals for women in Iceland and Canada.

These objectives speak to the critical approach of the project, as well as to its multi-dimensional scope, as it incorporates gender studies, religion, and history, as well as manuscript studies, philology, and folklore. The objectives for the project are ideal for the training of students as practitioners of research, and for development of palaeographic and editing skills. Moreover, the project’s interdisciplinary nature in the analysis stage encourages versatility and new ways of thinking (i.e. beyond a single discipline), which is excellent preparation for not only their present research, but also future careers in academia and beyond.

## Context

The past few decades have witnessed a renaissance of scholarly interest in Old Norse (i.e. medieval Icelandic and Norwegian) hagiographic literature. Peter Foote (1962 and 2003), Kirsten Wolf (1997, 2000, 2003, 2013), Margaret Cormack (1994), Svanhildur Óskarsdóttir (2000, 2008), and Marianne Kalinke (1996) have produced essential works on this genre, and have demonstrated the importance of translated and vernacular literature about saints to an understanding the Icelandic Middle Ages. However, the works treated in recent scholarship are almost exclusively prose ones, and medieval Icelandic poetry on saints has received comparably little attention. Jón Þorkelsson did the field a favour with his *Om Digtingen på Island i det 15. og 16. Århundrede* (1888), which serves as an inventory of poetic texts and manuscripts from the time, and later with his *Kvæðasafn eftir nafngreinda íslenska menn frá miðöldum* (1922-1927), which provides editions of a number of poems, including poems about saints. Later, Jón Helgason published two fascicles of *Íslensk miðaldakvæði: Íslandske digte fra senmiddelalderen* (1936 and 1938).

Since the works of Jón Þorkelsson and Jón Helgason, the hundreds of extant late medieval and Early Modern Icelandic poems about saints have remained virtually untouched. Important exceptions are recent chapters by Margrét Eggersdóttir and Guðrún Nordal in *Til heiðurs og hugbótar* (2005), Kristján Eiríksson's online database BRAGI, reference summaries on the genre (labeled "Trúarkvæði") by Vésteinn Ólason in the second volume of *Íslensk bókmenntasaga*, and the unpublished university thesis project *Fimm kvæði um heilaga menn* (1981). Another important work is Jón Torfason and Kristján Eiríksson's 2000 edition of Bishop Guðbrandur Þorláksson's *Visnabók*, a collection of post-Reformation poetry originally composed in 1612.

In his 2014 chapter on what he labels "devotional poetry" from the late Middle Ages, Martin Chase outlines the present state of scholarship on this genre of Icelandic literature. He notes the absence of treatments of poetry on saints in what he calls the "two important landmarks of Old Norse scholarship" in the English language, which reflect recent scholarship in the field, Clover and Lindow's *Old Norse-Icelandic Literature: A Critical Guide*, and McTurk's *Companion to Old Norse-Icelandic Literature and Culture* (both from 2005). The latter, Chase points out, contains Shaun Hughes's very useful chapter on "Late Secular Poetry," which underlines the absence of its equivalent, "Late Christian Poetry." Chase provides an overview of important manuscripts and editions (including an outline of the planned third volume of Jón Helgason's *Íslensk miðaldakvæði*), draws attention to several popular works, and concludes: "There is much to be done with these poems: texts to be edited, manuscripts to be contextualized, poetic diction to be analyzed, and language that is neither Old Norse nor Modern Icelandic to be codified. [...] I hope that the rising generation of medievalists will take up this challenge" (p. 148).

In 2014, I received a Killam Research Foundation Operating Grant from the University of Alberta in the amount of \$6,905 to conduct archival research in Iceland for *The Legends of the Saints in Old Norse and Early Modern Icelandic Poetry*, a monograph I co-wrote with Kirsten Wolf (University of Wisconsin-Madison). The work, which is forthcoming from the University of Toronto Press, may be considered a response to Chase's call to action. Our aim was to prompt renewal of scholarly interest in a neglected genre by both presenting a catalogue of and introductory guide to all known medieval and Early Modern Icelandic poems about saints. It was also intended as a companion piece to Wolf's *The Legends of the Saints in Old Norse-Icelandic Prose*, published in 2013 by the University of Toronto, and represents the first work to introduce all known Icelandic poetry about saints, both from the medieval and Early

Modern periods. The poetry is found in handwritten manuscripts up through the mid-twentieth century, and almost all is preserved at the National Library of Iceland (Landsbókasafn), but is also found in local archives in other Icelandic towns and cities, as well as in private collections in Iceland and in Icelandic settlements in Central and Western Canada (Parsons and Gunnarsson, 2012).

While at the National Library of Iceland, I discovered a surprisingly large number of post-Reformation manuscript witnesses of poems about Catholic saints (aside from the Virgin Mary), which had not previously been properly catalogued. Even more surprising was that the majority of these poems focused on the lives of virgin martyr saints. Some were composed during the Catholic era (officially 1000-1550 in Iceland) and continued to be copied and revised beyond the Reformation; others were composed well after 1550, when Catholicism was officially abolished in Iceland. One of the most popular subjects was Saint Agnes, a late third/early fourth-century maiden who, at the age of twelve or thirteen, was martyred under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, having defended her purity to the end. Her saga was known in medieval Iceland in three versions, and three poems survive about the saint. The first, *Agnesardiktur*, is extant in thirteen manuscripts dating from the beginning of the eighteenth century. The second poem concerning Agnes is *Agnessarrímur*, or *Rímur af Agnesi píslarvotti*, and was composed by Rev. Eiríkur Hallsson í Höfða (1614-1698) for his friend's young daughter, whose name was Hólfríður Benediktsdóttir. The third, *Agnesarkvæði* (composed ca. 1725), seems to have enjoyed widespread popularity. It is extant in eighty-six manuscripts.

Agnes is by no means the only virgin martyr saint to enjoy popularity well beyond the Reformation; poetry about Saint Barbara—a third-century young secretly Christian noblewoman sought by a pagan suitor of high rank, who, when rejected, was brought to trial for her beliefs, cruelly tortured (culminating in her breasts being cut off), and eventually put to death—is also well represented in late medieval and early modern Icelandic manuscripts. *Barbárudiktur*, which appears to have been based on the Old Norse-Icelandic prose legend, is extant in seventeen manuscripts and survives in two versions, both of which are edited by Jón Helgason in his *Íslenzk miðaldakvæði*, but which survive in many more manuscript and oral witnesses than his edition presents.

Yet another virgin martyr poem that, based on manuscript transmission, appears to have been quite popular in Early Modern Iceland is that of the fourth-century Saint Ursula and her companions; the poetic telling of her legend, entitled *Úrsúlu kvæði*, is extant in 19 manuscripts dating from ca. 1700. Saint Margaret of Antioch, who died in the early fourth century, was similarly a common subject of poetry in the Early Modern period; three separate poems concentrate on the saint, and are extant in a total of over forty manuscript witnesses. Finally, three Icelandic poems survive about the fourth-century Saint Dorothy's martyrdom, whose legend was preserved in verse through the nineteenth century.

Within the broader umbrella of devotional poetry in late medieval and early modern Iceland, themes of female virtue and sexual purity are also prominent. This is evident, for example, in the popularity of the Icelandic poetic rendering of the biblical story of Susanna from the Hebrew Bible Book of Daniel. In Iceland, two poems from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries relate the biblical tale of Susanna and the elders. Their presence in multiple manuscripts speaks to the general popularity in Early Modern Iceland of stories about virtuous women who fended off the advances of dishonourable and godless men. There also survive a large number of poems about the pious woman Veronica, as well as poetry in praise of the reformed sinner Mary Magdalen, which similarly focus on the concept of female virtue and purity.

The poetry on virgin martyr saints can be seen within the broader context of “Mirror for Women” literature in Early Modern Iceland. This genre, which was common throughout Europe during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, presented expectations for proper female conduct, which dictated

women should be meek, obedient, chaste, and frugal (Margrét Eggertsdóttir 2014, p. 126 and Þórunn Valdimarsdóttir 1986, p. 43; see also Stone 1977). In Icelandic prose, this genre appears in the form of a translated treatise on women and virtue, entitled *Dyggðaspegill* [*Mirror of Virtue*], composed in 1639 by the Lutheran priest Jón Arason í Vatnsfirði, who was apparently working from a German model (Þórunn Valdimarsdóttir 1986, p. 43). Five categories of virtue are enumerated in this treatise: industriousness and cleanliness; honour and decency (chastity is included under this category); elegance; temperance and moderation in food; and frugality (Þórunn Valdimarsdóttir 1986, pp. 44-46).

Margrét Eggertsdóttir (2014) has demonstrated that certain works of poetry from Early Modern Iceland reflect this genre, such as *Kvennadans* [*Dance of Women*], composed in 1619 by the Lutheran pastor Magnús Ólafsson á Laufás (ca. 1573-1636). The poem, which exalts the virtues of biblical and famous historical women and their contribution to humankind, is extant in two versions of varying length (pp. 126-127; see also Faulkes 1993, pp. 27-82). Another poem, which has not yet been edited or studied in depth (but which will be as part of this project), serves much the same function as *Kvennadans*. The work, *Sprundahrós* [*In Praise of Women*], was composed in the early eighteenth century by Rev. Ingjalður Jónsson á Mýri (1788-1844). It enumerates a total of twenty-six noteworthy women from the Bible and recent history and praises their virtues, beginning with Mary the Blessed Virgin, and ending with the medieval Icelandic saga heroine Guðrún Ósvífrsdóttir (Jón Árnason and Ólafur Davíðsson 1894, pp. 342-343).

By editing, translating, and analyzing poetry on virgin martyr saints from Early Modern Iceland, and comparing them to poems focused on virtuous biblical women, I will demonstrate how their popularity well beyond the end of Catholicism can be explained within the context of this type of literature, and will argue that the poems about virgin martyr saints can be seen as functioning as a “Mirror for Women” work. The women of the Early Modern Icelandic virgin martyr poems are praised and rewarded for piety and, more importantly, for spurning the sexual advances of immoral men, and as such may be interpreted as prescriptive for virtuous behaviour of the type promoted in the above-mentioned treatises and poetry in praise of exemplary women. That Eiríkur Hallson í Höfða’s *Agnesarrímur* was composed for Hólmfríður Benediktsdóttir, the daughter of his friend, lends strong support to the notion that Catholic material on virgin martyr saints was repurposed to serve a prescriptive—rather than devotional—purpose for young women in Early Modern Iceland.

However, the study will do more than demonstrate how these exemplary models of womanhood served restrictive and prescriptive purposes, as they so often did in medieval and Early Modern contexts elsewhere in Western Christendom. By examining available evidence regarding composition, dissemination, and popular reception, it will consider how the poems were received, and whether there were any alternative interpretations or significant variant readings in any of the as-yet unexamined manuscript witnesses, which may reveal that the poems there less single-mindedly focused on the defense of purity and virginity. It will consider whether any variant readings of any of the poems—which are generally monolithic and uniform in their orientation—appear to have been open to resistant or liberationist interpretive strategies, focusing, for example, on the way in which the female martyrs defied political authorities on a public stage when commanded to sacrifice to the pagan gods, or how they were effective preachers and missionaries, who converted the crowds assembled to watch their torture and death.

Finally, by way of conclusion, the project will consider the ways in which ideas about female virtue and purity as articulated in the “Mirror for Women” works—among which the virgin martyr poems may be counted—may have played a role in shaping modern ideals for women’s sexuality in Iceland and Canada, where a large number of Icelanders settled in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. I will

compare the rhetoric in these works to ideas surrounding women's bodies and sexualities in contemporary Icelandic and Icelandic-Canadian society through a study of a variety of materials, from legislation to social media. In doing so, I hope to demonstrate a kind of continuum of prescriptive ideals and resistance to them, which may be linked to the production, dissemination, and reception of the poetic "Mirror for Women" works, which were preserved in written and oral form through the mid-twentieth century.

### Methodology

The methodological approach is an interdisciplinary one, and combines the fields of literature, women's and gender studies, religious studies, history, and folklore.

The support of graduate student research assistants from the University of Alberta will ensure the success of this interdisciplinary approach, and contribute to their development as researchers in their fields, particularly as editors and translators of primary texts. There are several graduate students at the University of Alberta who have trained in Old Norse and/or Modern Icelandic, and who would be well suited to this project, as detailed in the Research Team, Student Training, and Previous Output section.

I have established a set of concrete methodological steps that will enable me to reach the objectives outlined above:

*Cataloguing, editing, and translating materials.* Fieldwork in Iceland, both at the National Library in Reykjavík and in various local archives around the country, is critical for the success of this project, particularly since the majority of the poems it seeks to examine have not been properly edited or translated. This will be done during the first year of the granting period (2016-2017), during which time I will spend a month in Iceland for producing preliminary editions and translations. As such, round-trip airfare, car rental, accommodations, international per diems, and graduate student funding are necessary. The remaining time back in Edmonton will be spent analyzing manuscript images and preparing several of the editions and translations for publication, and will be undertaken with assistance from graduate student research assistants from the University of Alberta (one MA and one PhD), each of whom will focus on an edition of a single poem.

*Analyzing poems in context.* During the second year (2017-2018), after completion of the initial editing and translation of relevant poetry, I will begin to conduct research on the historical, religious, and social contexts of the poems, with a focus on their role within the genre of "Mirrors for Women" literature and in consultation with experts at the University of Iceland, especially Margrét Eggertsdóttir, who is an expert in the time period and has written previously on this type of literature. Margrét, who has previously assisted me in deciphering difficult scripts in eighteenth-century manuscripts, has indicated a strong interest in the project and, moreover, a willingness to help as needed. Once again, this will require a month in residence in Iceland, where there is access to not only manuscripts but also scholarly literature and unpublished materials not available outside of the country. A graduate assistant from the University of Alberta (PhD, and ideally, the same one mentioned above) will assist in bibliographic research.

*Publishing and presenting findings.* The project will result in three peer-reviewed articles throughout the course of the grant period, as well as a draft of a monograph by end of the third year (2018-2019). The articles will focus on individual poems, and will be editions that will allow for more thorough investigation within the context of the monograph. Articles will be submitted during the second year of

the grant period to relevant and well-known venues, as per the knowledge mobilization plan. The monograph, which will be researched in the second year of the granting period and drafted in the third year during a proposed full-year sabbatical following tenure, will serve as an introductory guide to Icelandic “Mirrors for Women” literature. More specifically, it will focus on the role of Early Modern poems about virgin martyr saints within the genre through an examination of their production, dissemination, and reception. The study will draw upon the previously mentioned editions and translations, which were published as articles, and will moreover present partial editions and translations of other poems that were preliminarily edited and translated, but not yet published. Summary results will be presented in the form of public lectures at the University of Iceland and the University of Alberta at the end of the granting period, as well as at the International Saga Conference in Reykjavík in 2018.

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## Knowledge Mobilization Plan

The knowledge outcomes of this research project will be mobilized within three categories: academic, learning, and public sector use.

Within the scholarly category, the outcomes of the project will be disseminated primarily through publication. The first category includes three article-length editions and translations, each published in top journals in the field of Scandinavian Studies. The first will be the first ever edition of and study on the early eighteenth-century “Mirror for Women” poem, *Sprundahrós*, as a prerequisite to understanding the genre more broadly and the role of the virgin martyr poems within it. I will submit this article to the University of Iceland’s journal for Old Norse and early Icelandic literature, *Gripla*, widely considered one of the best journals in the field. The second article will provide an edition of the Early Modern Icelandic poetry on Saint Agnes, one of the most popular of the virgin martyr saints following the Reformation, and will be submitted to the *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*, with which I have previously published. The third article will edit and analyze the Early Modern Icelandic poetry on Saint Ursula (another highly popular saint during the period), and will be submitted to *Arkiv för nordisk filologi*, an established journal with which I have also published previously.

The other major mode of dissemination will take the form of a monograph on the important role of virgin martyr saints in poetic forms of Early Modern Icelandic “Mirrors for Women” literature. It will draw from the aforementioned article-length editions and translations, and will present edited and translated sections of other relevant poems about virgin martyr saints and biblical women, which were preliminarily prepared in the first year of the grant period but not yet published. The monograph, which I aim to publish with the University of Toronto Press as part of their Old Norse and Icelandic Studies series, will also examine evidence of the reception of these ideals and resistance to them, and will consider more broadly how modern ideals of female virtue in Iceland and Icelandic settlements in Canada connect to these earlier models. Guest lectures at the University of Iceland and the University of Alberta, as well as the presentation of preliminary results at the International Saga Conference in Reykjavík in August 2018, will allow for further mobilization of research outcomes within the academic sector.

Within the category of learning, I intend to use the outcomes of this research project within my own classroom. It has a logical place within several of the courses I teach at the University of Alberta, especially SCAND 356: Women in Scandinavian Literature and Popular Culture and SCAND 399: Scandinavia Through Folklore. I also will propose an upper-level seminar on the topic of sex and virtue in Old Norse and Early Modern Icelandic literature, addressing the evolving views on the body and purity, both within secular and religious literature. Having translated material within the context of scholarly journals (and also in snippets in the monograph) will allow for access to a broader base of students, who need not have reading knowledge in Icelandic to read the materials.

The public sector comprises choirs in Iceland that have sung the poems, as well as individuals in Iceland and Icelandic-Canadian communities with an interest in national literature and folk traditions. Having the materials edited and translated in peer-reviewed journals—all of which are available in online format—will allow for broader public access to texts. Finally, the monograph’s publication with a major Canadian press ensures its widespread availability and accessibility, and as such has the potential to provide interested parties with a more holistic understanding of the poems’ historical significance, as well as their relevance to religious and social issues of the present—both in Iceland and in Canada.



Family name, Given name  
Van Deusen, Natalie

**Expected Outcomes**

Elaborate on the potential benefits and/or outcomes of your proposed research and/or related activities.

**Scholarly Benefits**

Indicate and rank up to 3 scholarly benefits relevant to your proposal.

| Rank | Benefit                                  | If "Other", specify |
|------|--|---------------------|
| 1    | Knowledge creation/intellectual outcomes |                     |
| 2    | Enhanced research collaboration          |                     |
| 3    | Student training/skill development       |                     |

**Social Benefits**

Indicate and rank up to 3 social benefits relevant to your proposal.

| Rank | Benefit                      | If "Other", specify |
|------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1    | Cultural outcomes            |                     |
| 2    | Technological outcomes       |                     |
| 3    | New or enhanced partnerships |                     |

**Audiences**

Indicate and rank up to 5 potential target audiences relevant to your proposal.

| Rank | Audience  | If "Other", specify |
|------|---|---------------------|
| 1    | Academic sector/peers, including scholarly associations |                     |
| 2    | Students  |                     |
| 3    | Practitioners/professional associations                 |                     |
| 4    | General public  |                     |
| 5    |   |                     |



Family name, Given name

Van Deusen, Natalie

### Expected Outcomes Summary

Describe the potential benefits/outcomes (e.g., evolution, effects, potential learning, implications) that could emerge from the proposed research and/or other partnership activities.

The proposed research fills a major gap in scholarship within the field of Old Norse and Early Modern Icelandic studies through the cataloguing and editing of a large, mostly unedited body of poetry. Moreover, it challenges existing ideas about the presumed end of medieval, Catholic influence following the Reformation (1550), and examines how devotional poetry from before the Reformation was later re-purposed to serve contemporary religious ideals. It also contributes on a broader level to scholarly understanding of women and women's roles (prescribed and actual) during the Early Modern period in Iceland and Scandinavia, and lays the groundwork for further studies on Early Modern attempts to control women's behaviour and sexuality, and the reception of and resistance to these efforts. Finally, it is a project of interest to folklorists, especially those who focus on oral narratives and their composition, performance, and preservation, since many of the poems were sung as ballads (rímur)---sometimes with accompanying dance---and were an important part of Icelandic folk tradition.

The research has implications beyond the academic sphere, and has the potential to impact how Old Norse and Early Modern Icelandic literature is taught in the university classroom in two important regards. First, due to the availability of primary and secondary source materials, undergraduate and graduate courses on pre-modern Icelandic literature tend to focus on the Middle Ages, and any literature from after the early sixteenth century and before the twentieth century generally receives little to no attention. Second, the research adds an important element to any course on women in Scandinavian literature, which does not address this period in Iceland simply due to the lack of available material. This research project will both make available this material and provide a framework for a discussion of Icelandic literature beyond the Middle Ages, which will broaden an understanding of Iceland's literary production and the critical importance of women's roles therein.

Finally, the project will be of interest to the general public in Iceland. It will be of particular interest to contemporary poets, who draw from traditional works, as well as members of local choirs who have performed several of the poems in question and, as such, have aided in the preservation of this poetry and demonstrated its enduring importance to Icelandic national identity. Icelandic immigrants to Canada, who brought with them these oral narratives, may be interested in the outcomes of the project as they relate to immigrant traditions. Making these poems more accessible through the creation of editions and translations aids in the preservation of this unique oral tradition, and encourages further contributions from individual memory and private collections.

In summary, the possible communities of practice to benefit from, or be interested in, my research outcomes are as follows:

1. Academics in manuscript studies, Old Norse, folklore, gender studies, and religion (particularly, those interested in the relationship between religion and sexuality, as well as researchers of folk narratives and oral traditions).
2. Students of medieval and early modern literature and history, especially those with a focus on Scandinavia and/or gender issues.
3. Participants in the poetic tradition itself, both in Iceland and in Canada. Members of the community who are familiar with these poems (e.g. choirs), but may not know their origins or consider their significance within a historical context.

## **Research Team**

This project will lead to three articles and a monograph, all of which will be single-authored, so the question of a research team does not arise. As such, this section includes only a description of my own qualifications and preparedness for the proposed research.

As indicated in the Research Contributions section of my CV, I have a strong research portfolio, and expertise in the area in which this project focuses. My publication output over the last six years comprises one co-authored monograph, seven articles in peer-reviewed journals, six book reviews, and numerous conference presentations. Major contributions are my most recent articles on the Dominican influence on the saga of Martha and Mary Magdalen, and female friendship in the Icelandic sagas, as well as a co-authored monograph on the saints in Old Norse and Early Modern Icelandic poetry, which is forthcoming from the University of Toronto Press. The research agenda proposed for this grant is a logical outgrowth of my previous research on Old Norse legends of and poetry on saints.

My expertise in my field has been recognized within the academic community. I presently serve on the Modern Language Association's Old Norse Discussion Group executive board, and am the Chair for the Canadian Initiative for Nordic Studies and the Vice President and Program Chair for the Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada. I am moreover the Book Review Editor for *Scandinavian-Canadian Studies*, and have served as a peer reviewer for *Scandinavian-Canadian Studies*, *Scandinavian Studies*, *Digital Medievalist*, and submissions to edited volumes. Finally, I am a Director for the Danish Canadian National Museum.

## **Previous and Ongoing Research Results**

As described in the Detailed Description, the proposed research stems from a seed-funded research project on poetry on saints in Old Norse and Early Modern Icelandic Poetry, which I undertook with Kirsten Wolf (University of Wisconsin-Madison). This project, for which I received funding from the Killam Research Foundation at the University of Alberta, yielded a concrete result, namely a published monograph, *The Saints in Old Norse and Early Modern Icelandic Poetry*, which is forthcoming from the University of Toronto Press.

The project also led to an invitation for me and my co-author to contribute a joint article, entitled "Mapping Hagiographical Literature in the Late Middle Ages," to an anthology entitled *Religiosity in Late Medieval Scandinavia*, edited by Karoline Kjesrud and Mikael Males.

It was during the course of my seed-funded research for *The Saints in Old Norse and Early Modern Icelandic Poetry* that I became interested in looking more closely at the large body of Early Modern Icelandic poetry on virgin martyr saints, and explaining their surprising popularity, which I intend to do in the research project that is the subject of this proposal.

## **Student Training and Roles**

Student supervision will be an important part of the project, and, as my CV and Research Contributions indicate, is an area in which I have experience.

The MA and PhD student research assistants with whom I will work during the first year (2016-2017) will be drawn from those with a background in Old Norse-Icelandic (a course I regularly teach at the University of Alberta) and with an interest in medieval and Early Modern literature and culture. The

training of these students will focus on manuscript reading and editorial skills. Using digitized images of manuscripts containing poetry on virgin martyr saints (obtained as part of my Killam-funded research), I will train these students to catalogue, transcribe, edit, and translate the original texts covered in the project. Each student will be given the task of editing one of the poems covered in the research, which I do not plan to publish. These will ideally be poems that only have several manuscript witnesses, since this will be the students' first experience with preparing a formal edition. I will mentor the students throughout this process, and encourage the students to submit their editions and translations for publication, once they are complete. As such, the benefit for the two students working on the project during the first year will be training in textual editing and translation through work on one poem each, and an opportunity to publish their own results in a scholarly journal.

The PhD student research assistant for the second year (2017-2018) will continue to hone her/his skills in manuscript reading and textual editing by helping prepare my three editions for publication. The poems I intend to edit, translate, and publish are extant in dozens of manuscript witnesses, many of which are in script that is difficult to read. The student will assist me in crosschecking my work against the manuscript witnesses, and ensuring the edition and translation are accurate and all variant readings are properly listed. In doing this, the student will gain experience in the production of more complex editions and translations, and be trained in, for example, the production of a stemma to demonstrate the relationship of manuscript witnesses to one another. In addition to this, the student will be involved in gathering research materials for the monograph, and will be expected to produce an annotated bibliography of results—a task to be undertaken under my guidance and supervision, and one that will help that student develop important skills in gathering and interpreting research materials, and assessing their relevance to the project in question.



Family name, Given name  
Van Deusen, Natalie

### Funds Requested from SSHRC

For each budget year, estimate as accurately as possible the research costs that you are asking SSHRC to fund through a grant. For each Personnel costs category, enter the number of individuals to be hired and specify the total amount required. For each of the other categories, enter the total amount required.

| Personnel costs                                   | Year 1 |        | Year 2 |        | Year 3 |        | Year 4 |        | Year 5 |        |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|   | No.    | Amount |
| <b>Student salaries and benefits/Stipends</b>     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Undergraduate                                     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Masters   | 1      | 17,109 | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| Doctorate   | 1      | 17,924 | 1      | 18,640 | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| <b>Non-student salaries and benefits/Stipends</b> |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Postdoctoral                                      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Other   | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| <b>Travel and subsistence costs</b>               |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|   | Year 1 |        | Year 2 |        | Year 3 |        | Year 4 |        | Year 5 |        |
| <b>Applicant/Team member(s)</b>                   |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Canadian travel                                   |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Foreign travel                                    |        | 5,590  |        | 5,865  |        | 25,860 |        | 0      |        | 0      |
| <b>Students</b>                                   |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Canadian travel                                   |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Foreign travel                                    |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| <b>Other expenses</b>                             |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Professional/Technical services                   |        | 0      |        | 0      |        | 8,000  |        | 0      |        | 0      |
| Supplies  |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| <b>Non-disposable equipment</b>                   |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Computer hardware                                 |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Other   |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| <b>Other expenses (specify)</b>                   |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|   |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|   |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|   |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| <b>Total</b>                                      |        | 40,623 |        | 24,505 |        | 33,860 |        | 0      |        | 0      |

## Budget Justification

This project does not require material supplies. The expenses requested from SSHRC are to be used for:

- 1) salaries and benefits for graduate student research assistance in years 1 and 2 of the grant;
- 2) my travel to Iceland for research purposes (three trips in total, of varying length) and for dissemination purposes to the International Saga Conference in 2018 (Reykjavik, University of Iceland); and
- 3) publication subvention for the monograph.

### Personnel Costs – Total \$53,673

Student salaries and benefits: cost of hiring one MA for one year and one PhD student for two years, based on University of Alberta institutional rates for September 1, 2015-August 31, 2016, including the payment of non-discretionary benefits, prorated for a 4% increase per year as per University of Alberta guidelines. Costs are for academic year (two four-month terms) at 12 hours/week.

*Year 1:* One MA student and one PhD student from the University of Alberta with a background in Old Norse and/or Modern Icelandic will be hired for the academic year to assist with cataloguing and transcription work. Total: \$35,033

*Year 2:* One PhD student from the University of Alberta (ideally, the same as in year 1 to ensure consistency and optimal student training) will be hired for the academic year in order to aid in finalizing the three proposed article-length editions, and to conduct bibliographic research for the monograph. Total: \$18,640

### Travel and Subsistence Costs – Total \$37,315

*Travel for Research Purposes.* It is critical for me to conduct research in Iceland, where the manuscripts are housed and the majority of the relevant literature (editions, scholarship, etc.) is exclusively found. It is also necessary to travel to Iceland at the end of the grant period to present final results, both within the academic community and to the general public. Travel costs will cover my travel to and accommodations in Iceland during two one-month periods in the first and second summers of the granting period, and during a six-month period in the third year of the granting period (coinciding with a proposed sabbatical year following the awarding of tenure). All travel costs are based on estimated current airfares and use the University of Alberta's standard per diem rate (\$66/day outside North America, 8 months total, at 30 days/month). Accommodations are calculated at \$2000/month (x8), which is average rent for a furnished one-bedroom apartment near the University of Iceland. This travel has also been calculated with \$1500 for round-trip airfare to Reykjavik (x3), and public transportation (two one-month bus passes at approx. \$110/month and two three-month passes at approx. \$240/3 month period). Total: \$37,040.

*Travel for Dissemination Purposes.* In order to disseminate the results of my work within the broader academic community outlined in the knowledge mobilization plan, I propose funding to travel to the International Saga Conference, which takes place once every three years. The 2018 conference, which will be held at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik, will take place during the second year of the granting period, and will be an ideal place to present to and receive feedback from my colleagues from North America and Europe. I plan for it to coincide with my second month-long stay in Reykjavik, and

as such, travel and accommodation costs for the conference overlap with those detailed above. However, I do request that conference registration, estimated based on previous conferences at \$275, be covered. Total: \$275.

Other – Total \$8,000

*Publication Subvention:* Costs to cover the publication of the monograph to be finalized and submitted in year 3 of the project, as per knowledge mobilization plan. Costs have been calculated according to the standard amount awarded by the SSHRC Aid to Scholarly Publications. Total: \$8,000





Family name, Given name  
Van Deusen, Natalie

### Suggested Reviewers

List Canadian or foreign specialists whom SSHRC may ask to assess your proposal.

List keywords that best describe the assessor's areas of research expertise. Please refer to the Suggested Assessors section of the detailed instructions for more information on conflicts of interest.

|  |   |                             |  |                      |  |
|--|---|-----------------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| Family name<br><b>Chase</b>                              |   | Given name<br><b>Martin</b> |  | Initials             | Title<br><b>Professor</b>                  |
| Org. code  | Full organization name<br><b>Fordham University</b>     |                             | Keywords<br><b>Old Norse; Icelandic; philology; late medieval devotional poetry</b>    |                      |  |
| Department/Division name<br><b>Department of English</b> |   |                             | Address <b>Dealy Hall W541<br/>441 E Rordham Rd</b>                                    |                      |  |
| Country code   |   | Area code                   | Number   | Extension            | City/Municipality<br><b>Bronx</b>          |
|  |   |                             |  |                      | Prov./State<br><b>NY</b>                   |
|  |   |                             |  |                      | Postal/Zip code<br><b>10458</b>            |
| Telephone number   |   |                             | Country <b>UNITED STATES</b>   |                      |  |
| Fax number   |   |                             |  |                      |  |
| E-mail <b>chase@fordham.edu</b>                          |   |                             |  |                      |  |
| Family name<br><b>Hughes</b>                             |   | Given name<br><b>Shaun</b>  |  | Initials<br><b>D</b> | Title<br><b>Professor</b>                  |
| Org. code  | Full organization name<br><b>Purdue University</b>      |                             | Keywords<br><b>Old Norse; Icelandic; late medieval poetry; early modern literature</b> |                      |  |
| Department/Division name<br><b>Department of English</b> |   |                             | Address <b>500 Oval Drive</b>  |                      |  |
| Country code   |   | Area code                   | Number   | Extension            | City/Municipality<br><b>West Lafayette</b> |
|  |   |                             |  |                      | Prov./State<br><b>IN</b>                   |
|  |   |                             |  |                      | Postal/Zip code<br><b>47907</b>            |
| Telephone number   |   |                             | Country <b>UNITED STATES</b>   |                      |  |
| Fax number   |   |                             |  |                      |  |
| E-mail <b>sfdh@purdue.edu</b>                            |   |                             |  |                      |  |
| Family name<br><b>Acker</b>                              |   | Given name<br><b>Paul</b>   |  | Initials             | Title<br><b>Professor</b>                  |
| Org. code  | Full organization name<br><b>Saint Louis University</b> |                             | Keywords<br><b>Old Norse; Icelandic; poetry; ballads</b>                               |                      |  |
| Department/Division name<br><b>Department of English</b> |   |                             | Address <b>3800 Lindell Boulevard<br/>Adorjan Hall<br/>Room 127</b>                    |                      |  |
| Country code   |   | Area code                   | Number   | Extension            | City/Municipality<br><b>St. Louis</b>      |
|  |   |                             |  |                      | Prov./State<br><b>MO</b>                   |
|  |   |                             |  |                      | Postal/Zip code<br><b>63108</b>            |
| Telephone number   |   |                             | Country <b>UNITED STATES</b>   |                      |  |
| Fax number   |   |                             |  |                      |  |
| E-mail <b>ackerpl@slu.edu</b>                            |   |                             |  |                      |  |

Personal information will be stored in the Personal Information Bank for the appropriate program.

Application WEB



Do not photocopy this page.

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| <b>Internal use</b> | CID (if known) |
| 132240              |                |

**Identification**  
Only the information in the Name section will be made available to selection committee members and external assessors. Citizenship and Statistical and Administrative Information will be used by SSHRC for administrative and statistical purposes only. Filling out the statistical and Administrative Information section is optional.

| Name        |            |          |       |
|-------------|------------|----------|-------|
| Family name | Given name | Initials | Title |
| Van Deusen  | Natalie    | M        | Dr.   |

**Citizenship** - Applicants and co-applicants must indicate their citizenship status by checking and answering the applicable questions.

|                    |                                |   |  |   |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Citizenship status | <input type="radio"/> Canadian | <input type="radio"/> Permanent resident since (yyyy/mm/dd) | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Other (country) | Have you applied for permanent residency?                     |
|                    |                                |   | UNITED STATES                                    | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No |

**Statistical and Administrative Information**

|            |  |   |   |   |
|------------|--|---|---|---|
| Birth year | Gender   | Permanent postal code in Canada (i.e. K2P1G4) | Correspondence language   | Previous contact with SSHRC? (i.e. applicant, assessor, etc.) |
| 1983       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> F <input type="radio"/> M | T6H3R7  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> English <input type="radio"/> French | <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No |

Full name used during previous contact, if different from above

**Contact Information**  
The following information will help us to contact you more rapidly. Secondary information will not be released by SSHRC without your express consent.

|                                     |           |          |           |                            |           |        |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| Primary telephone number            |           |          |           | Secondary telephone number |           |        |           |
| Country code                        | Area code | Number   | Extension | Country code               | Area code | Number | Extension |
| 001                                 | 780       | 660-8926 |           |                            |           |        |           |
| Primary fax number                  |           |          |           | Secondary fax number       |           |        |           |
| Country code                        | Area code | Number   | Extension | Country code               | Area code | Number | Extension |
| Primary E-mail vandeuse@ualberta.ca |           |          |           |                            |           |        |           |
| Secondary E-mail                    |           |          |           |                            |           |        |           |

Personal information will be stored in the Personal Information Bank for the appropriate program.

**Checked**

Web CV

2015/10/14

Identification

**PROTECTED B WHEN COMPLETED**





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Family name, Given name

Van Deusen, Natalie

|  |                          |                                |  |               |                 |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------|-----------------|
| <b>Current Address</b><br>Use only if you are not affiliated with a department at a Canadian university. (If you are affiliated with a department at a Canadian university, the department's mailing address will be used.) If you wish to use another address, specify it under the Correspondence Address. |                          |                                | <b>Correspondence Address</b><br>Complete this section if you wish your correspondence to be sent to an address other than your current address. |               |                 |
| Address  |                          |                                | Address  |               |                 |
|  |                          |                                |  |               |                 |
|  |                          |                                |  |               |                 |
|  |                          |                                |  |               |                 |
| City/Municipality  | Prov. / State            | Postal/Zip code                | City/Municipality  | Prov. / State | Postal/Zip code |
|  |                          |                                |  |               |                 |
| Country  |                          |                                | Country  |               |                 |
|  |                          |                                |  |               |                 |
| <b>Temporary Address</b><br>If providing a temporary address, phone number and/or E-mail, ensure that you enter the effective dates.   |                          |                                | <b>Permanent Address in CANADA</b>   |               |                 |
| Address  |                          |                                | Address  |               |                 |
|  |                          |                                | 4607 117 Street  |               |                 |
|  |                          |                                |  |               |                 |
|  |                          |                                |  |               |                 |
|  |                          |                                |  |               |                 |
| City/Municipality  | Prov./ State             |                                | City/Municipality  | Prov./ State  | Postal/Zip code |
|  |                          |                                | Edmonton   | AB            | T6H3R7          |
| Country  |                          |                                | Country CANADA   |               |                 |
|  |                          |                                |  |               |                 |
| Start date<br>(yyyy/mm/dd)   | End date<br>(yyyy/mm/dd) | Temporary telephone/fax number |  |               |                 |
|  |                          | Country code                   | Area code  | Number        | Extension       |
|  |                          |                                |  |               |                 |
| Temporary E-mail   |                          |                                |  |               |                 |
|  |                          |                                |  |               |                 |



**Do not photocopy this page.**

Family name, Given name

Van Deusen, Natalie

### Research Expertise (optional)

The information provided in this section refers to your own research expertise, not to a research proposal. Filling out the following 4 sections is optional. This page will not be seen by selection committee members and external assessors. This section will be used for planning and evaluating programs, producing statistics, and selecting external assessors and committee members.

#### Areas of Research

Indicate and rank up to 3 areas of research that best correspond to your research interests as well as areas where your research interests would apply. Duplicate entries are not permitted.

| Rank | Code | Area          |
|------|------|---------------|
| 1    | 380  | Women         |
| 2    | 213  | Gender Issues |
| 3    | 280  | Literacy      |

#### Temporal Periods

If applicable, indicate up to 2 historical periods covered by your research interests.

| From   | To  |
|--|---|
| <p>Year</p> <p>800 BC <input type="radio"/> AD <input checked="" type="radio"/></p> <p>1500 <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/></p> | <p>Year</p> <p>1400 BC <input type="radio"/> AD <input checked="" type="radio"/></p> <p>1800 <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/></p> |

#### Geographical Regions

If applicable, indicate and rank up to 3 geographical regions covered by your research interests. Duplicate entries are not permitted.

| Rank | Code | Region      |
|------|------|-------------|
| 1    | 3100 | Scandinavia |
| 2    |      |             |
| 3    |      |             |

#### Countries

If applicable, indicate and rank up to 5 countries covered by your research interests. Duplicate entries are not permitted.

| Rank | Code | Countries | Prov./ State |
|------|------|-----------|--------------|
| 1    | 3103 | ICELAND   |              |
| 2    | 3105 | NORWAY    |              |
| 3    | 3101 | DENMARK   |              |
| 4    | 3107 | SWEDEN    |              |
| 5    | 3102 | FINLAND   |              |



Family name, Given name

Van Deusen, Natalie

## Curriculum Vitae

### Language Proficiency

|         | Read                                | Write                               | Speak                               | Comprehend aurally                  | Other languages                                   |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| English | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Icelandic, Old Norse, Norwegian,<br>Danish, Latin |
| French  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |   |

### Work Experience

List the positions, academic and non-academic, you have held beginning with the current position and all previous positions in reverse chronological order, based on the start year.

|                                       |   |                                    |                         |  |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Current position                      |   |                                    |                         | Start date<br>(yyyy/mm)                    |
| Assistant Professor                   |   |                                    |                         | 2012/7                                     |
| Org. code                             | Full organization name                        |                                    |                         |  |
| 1480111                               | University of Alberta                         |                                    |                         |  |
| Department/Division name              |   |                                    |                         |  |
| Modern Languages and Cultural Studies |   |                                    |                         |  |
| Position type                         | <input type="radio"/> Tenured                 | <input type="radio"/> Non-tenure   | Employment status       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Full-time |
|                                       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Tenure-track | <input type="radio"/> Non-academic |                         | <input type="radio"/> Part-time            |
|                                       |   |                                    |                         | <input type="radio"/> Non-salaried         |
|                                       |   |                                    |                         | <input type="radio"/> Leave of absence     |
| Position                              |   |                                    | Start date<br>(yyyy/mm) | End date<br>(yyyy/mm)                      |
| Research Assistant                    |   |                                    | 2011/1                  | 2012/6                                     |
| Org. code                             | Full organization name                        |                                    |                         |  |
| 9939101                               | University of Wisconsin - Madison             |                                    |                         |  |
| Department/Division name              |   |                                    |                         |  |
| Scandinavian Studies                  |   |                                    |                         |  |
| Position                              |   |                                    | Start date<br>(yyyy/mm) | End date<br>(yyyy/mm)                      |
| Teaching Assistant                    |   |                                    | 2011/1                  | 2012/6                                     |
| Org. code                             | Full organization name                        |                                    |                         |  |
| 9939101                               | University of Wisconsin - Madison             |                                    |                         |  |
| Department/division name              |   |                                    |                         |  |
| Scandinavian Studies                  |   |                                    |                         |  |
| Position                              |   |                                    | Start date<br>(yyyy/mm) | End date<br>(yyyy/mm)                      |
| Visiting Researcher                   |   |                                    | 2009/8                  | 2010/3                                     |
| Org. code                             | Full organization name                        |                                    |                         |  |
| 9129101                               | University of Copenhagen                      |                                    |                         |  |
| Department/Division name              |   |                                    |                         |  |
| The Arnamagnaean Collection           |   |                                    |                         |  |



Family name, Given name

Van Deusen, Natalie

**Work Experience (cont'd)**

|                                |                                   |                         |                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Position                       |                                   | Start date<br>(yyyy/mm) | End date<br>(yyyy/mm) |
| Research Assistant             |                                   | 2006/1                  | 2009/6                |
| Org. code                      | Full organization name            |                         |                       |
| 9939101                        | University of Wisconsin - Madison |                         |                       |
| Department/Division name       |                                   |                         |                       |
| Scandinavian Studies           |                                   |                         |                       |
| Position                       |                                   | Start date<br>(yyyy/mm) | End date<br>(yyyy/mm) |
| Student                        |                                   | 2005/8                  | 2012/6                |
| Org. code                      | Full organization name            |                         |                       |
| 9939101                        | University of Wisconsin - Madison |                         |                       |
| Department/Division name       |                                   |                         |                       |
| Scandinavian Studies           |                                   |                         |                       |
| Position                       |                                   | Start date<br>(yyyy/mm) | End date<br>(yyyy/mm) |
| Teaching Assistant             |                                   | 2005/8                  | 2009/6                |
| Org. code                      | Full organization name            |                         |                       |
| 9939101                        | University of Wisconsin - Madison |                         |                       |
| Department/Division name       |                                   |                         |                       |
| Scandinavian Studies           |                                   |                         |                       |
| Position                       |                                   | Start date<br>(yyyy/mm) | End date<br>(yyyy/mm) |
| Administrator                  |                                   | 2004/8                  | 2005/5                |
| Org. code                      | Full organization name            |                         |                       |
| 1                              | Episcopal Divinity School         |                         |                       |
| Department/Division name       |                                   |                         |                       |
| Admissions and Communications  |                                   |                         |                       |
| Position                       |                                   | Start date<br>(yyyy/mm) | End date<br>(yyyy/mm) |
| Student                        |                                   | 2001/8                  | 2004/5                |
| Org. code                      | Full organization name            |                         |                       |
| 9941112                        | Concordia College                 |                         |                       |
| Department/Division name       |                                   |                         |                       |
| Scandinavian Studies; Religion |                                   |                         |                       |



Family name, Given name

Van Deusen, Natalie

| <b>Academic Background</b>  |                                |   |                         |                        |
|---|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------|------------------------|
| List up to 5 degrees, beginning with the highest degree first and all others in reverse chronological order, based on the start date. |                                |   |                         |                        |
| Degree type   | Degree name                    | Start date (yyyy/mm)  | Expected date (yyyy/mm) | Awarded date (yyyy/mm) |
| Doctorate   | Doctor of Philosophy           | 2007/12   |                         | 2012/08                |
| Disc. code  | Discipline                     | Did SSHRC support enable you to get this degree?              |                         |                        |
| 52099   | Scandinavian Studies           | <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No |                         |                        |
| Org. code   | Organization                   | University of Wisconsin - Madison                             |                         |                        |
| Country <b>UNITED STATES</b>  |                                |   |                         |                        |
| Degree type   | Degree name                    | Start date (yyyy/mm)  | Expected date (yyyy/mm) | Awarded date (yyyy/mm) |
| Master's  | Master of Arts                 | 2005/08   |                         | 2007/12                |
| Disc. code  | Discipline                     | Did SSHRC support enable you to get this degree?              |                         |                        |
| 52099   | Scandinavian Studies           | <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No |                         |                        |
| Org. code   | Organization                   | University of Wisconsin - Madison                             |                         |                        |
| Country <b>UNITED STATES</b>  |                                |   |                         |                        |
| Degree type   | Degree name                    | Start date (yyyy/mm)  | Expected date (yyyy/mm) | Awarded date (yyyy/mm) |
| BA Hon.   | Bachelor of Arts               | 2001/08   |                         | 2004/05                |
| Disc. code  | Discipline                     | Did SSHRC support enable you to get this degree?              |                         |                        |
| 52099   | Scandinavian Studies; Religion | <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No |                         |                        |
| Org. code   | Organization                   | Concordia College   |                         |                        |
| Country <b>UNITED STATES</b>  |                                |   |                         |                        |
| Degree type   | Degree name                    | Start date (yyyy/mm)  | Expected date (yyyy/mm) | Awarded date (yyyy/mm) |
|   |                                |   |                         |                        |
| Disc. code  | Discipline                     | Did SSHRC support enable you to get this degree?              |                         |                        |
|   |                                | <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No            |                         |                        |
| Org. code   | Organization                   |   |                         |                        |
| Country   |                                |   |                         |                        |
| Degree type   | Degree name                    | Start date (yyyy/mm)  | Expected date (yyyy/mm) | Awarded date (yyyy/mm) |
|   |                                |   |                         |                        |
| Disc. code  | Discipline                     | Did SSHRC support enable you to get this degree?              |                         |                        |
|   |                                | <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No            |                         |                        |
| Org. code   | Organization                   |   |                         |                        |
| Country   |                                |   |                         |                        |

Personal information will be stored in the Personal Information Bank for the appropriate program.



Family name, Given name

Van Deusen, Natalie

### Credentials

List up to 6 licences, professional designations, awards and distinctions you have received and feel would be the most pertinent to the adjudication of your application. List them in reverse chronological order, based on the year awarded.

| Category             | Name   | Source or Country  | Duration (Months) | Value / Year awarded |
|----------------------|--|--|-------------------|----------------------|
| Academic Prize       | Endowment for the Future SAS                 | University CANADA  | 1                 | \$1,183<br>2015      |
| Academic Prize       | Killiam Research Operating Grant             | University CANADA  | 12                | \$6,905<br>2014      |
| Academic Prize       | Endowment for the Future SAS                 | University CANADA  | 1                 | \$1,387<br>2012      |
| Graduate Scholarship | University Dissertator Fellowship            | University UNITED STATES   | 5                 | \$6,252<br>2010      |
| Fellowship           | Birgit Baldwin Fellowship                    | Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study<br>UNITED STATES | 12                | \$20,000<br>2009     |
| Fellowship           | Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship | Federal Government UNITED STATES                                   | 1                 | \$7,500<br>2006      |

### Research Expertise

The information provided in this section refers to your own research expertise, not to a research proposal.

#### Keywords

List keywords that best describe your areas of research expertise. Separate keywords with a semicolon.

Old Norse-Icelandic literature; medieval Icelandic culture; hagiography; religious poetry and prose; paleography; manuscript culture; women's studies; gender studies

#### Disciplines

Indicate and rank up to 5 disciplines that best correspond to your research interests. Duplicate entries are not permitted.

| Rank | Code  | Discipline                     | If Other, specify    |
|------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1    | 52099 | Literature, Other Language and | Scandinavian Studies |
| 2    | 53008 | Mediaeval Literature           |                      |
| 3    | 53016 | Mediaeval Religion             |                      |
| 4    | 61608 | Folk Literature                |                      |
| 5    | 70100 | Women's Studies                |                      |

## 1. Relevant Research Contributions Over the Last Six Years (2009-2015)

### Refereed Contributions

#### Articles in scholarly refereed journals

- “The Dominican Connection: Some Comments on the Sources, Provenance, and Authorship of *Mortu saga ok Maríu Magðalenu*.” *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 113.2 (2014): 206-221.
- “Sworn Sisterhood? On the (Near-) Absence of Female Friendship in the *Íslendingasögur*.” *Scandinavian Studies* 86.1 (2014): 52-71.
- “The Matter of *blár* in *Tristrams kvæði*.” *Arthuriana* 22.1 (2012): 109-117.
- “Stitches in the Margins: The Embroidery Pattern in AM 235 fol.” *Maal og minne* (2011-2): 26–42.
- “‘Inn besti hlutr’? Martha of Bethany and Women’s Roles in Medieval Iceland.” *Arkiv för nordisk filologi* 126 (2011): 73–91.
- “Colours, Colour Symbolism, and Social Critique in Halldór Laxness’s *Salka Valka*.” *Scandinavian-Canadian Studies / Études scandinaves au Canada* 18 (2007-2009): 56-70.

### Other Refereed Contributions

#### Thesis

- “The Old Norse-Icelandic Legend of Saints Mary Magdalen and Martha.” PhD dissertation, Department of Scandinavian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2012.

#### Conference papers

- “‘Pall postoli baudi, at konur þegdi i kirkiu’: Views on Female Preaching in Old Norse-Icelandic Religious Literature.” The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada. University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON. June 1-4, 2015.
- “National Treasures: Old Norse Manuscripts and the Medieval Past in Icelandic Crime Fiction.” The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada. Brock University, St. Catharines, ON. May 26-29, 2014.
- “‘Apostle to the Apostles’: The Old Norse-Icelandic Legend of Martha and Mary Magdalen as a (Female) *Postola saga*.” The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada. University of Victoria, Victoria, BC. June 3-6, 2013.
- “The Dominican Connection: Some Comments on the Sources, Provenance, and Authorship of *Mortu saga ok Maríu Magðalenu*.” The 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study. University of California, Berkeley, San Francisco, CA. May 2-4, 2013.
- “Birgitta Perfected? The Juxtaposition of ‘Den Unge Sienesiske Popolana’ and ‘Den Gamle Svenske Høvdingsfruen’ in Sigrid Undset’s *Caterina Av Siena*.” The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the

Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada. Wilfrid Laurier and Waterloo Universities, Waterloo, ON. May 28-31, 2012.

- “Sisterhood and Female Friendship in the *Íslendingasögur*.” The 46<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. The Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. May 12-15, 2011.
- “Women, Manuscripts, and Marginalia: The Case of AM 235 fol.” The 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study. North Park University, Chicago, IL. April 28-30, 2011.
- “The Matter of *blár* in *Tristrams kvæði*.” The *Riddarasögur* Colloquium. University of Wisconsin-Madison. October 14-15, 2010.
- “On the Production of a Digital Edition of *Mortu saga ok Maríu Magdalenu*.” The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada. Concordia University, Montreal, QC. May 28-31, 2010.
- “*Blár* and the Judgment of Ísodd svarta in *Tristrams kvæði*.” The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada. Carleton University, Ottawa, ON. May 23-26, 2009.
- “Martha vs. Mary: The ‘Sister Saints’ and Women’s Roles in Medieval Iceland.” The 44<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. The Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. May 7-10, 2009.

### **Non-refereed contributions**

#### Book reviews

- “Jackson Crawford, trans. *The Poetic Edda: Stories of the Norse Gods and Heroes*.” *Scandinavian-Canadian Studies / Études scandinaves au Canada* 22 (2014-2015): 153-155.
- “Viðar Hreinsson, *Wakeful Nights. Stephan G. Stephansson: Icelandic-Canadian Poet*.” *Scandinavian-Canadian Studies / Études scandinaves au Canada* 22 (2014-2015): 157-159.
- “Somerville, Angus A. and R. Andrew McDonald, *The Vikings and Their Age*.” *Scandinavian-Canadian Studies / Études scandinaves au Canada* 2 (2014-2015): 167-170.
- “Þórarinn Leifsson, *Bókasafn ömmu huldar*.” *Bookbird: A Journal of International Children's Literature* 51.4 (2013): 62.
- “Jónína Leósdóttir, *Upp á líf og dauða*.” *Bookbird: A Journal of International Children's Literature* 51.3 (2013): 94.
- “*Sanctity in the North: Saints, Lives, and Cults in Medieval Scandinavia*, ed. Thomas A. DuBois.” *Scandinavian-Canadian Studies / Études scandinaves au Canada* 18 (2007-2009): 110-114.

## **Forthcoming contributions**

Monograph; *The Saints in Old Norse and Early Modern Icelandic Poetry* (with Kirsten Wolf).  
University of Toronto Press. 50%. Forthcoming.

Article in scholarly journal. “‘Doubleday affaren’: On the Rejection of Sigrid Undset’s *Caterina av Siena*.” *Scandinavian Studies* 87.3. In press.

## **2. Other Research Contributions**

### Public lectures

“The Origins and Tradition of Þorrablót.” The Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton Þorrablót Celebration. Edmonton, AB. February 28, 2015.

“Remnants of Catholicism: The Saints in Early Modern Icelandic Poetry.” Miðaldastofa Háskóla Íslands, November 11, 2014.

“Vikings in Canada: Literary Sources and Archaeological Evidence.” The Scandinavian Studies Association Special Lecture Night. Edmonton, AB. April 24, 2013.

“Viking Women and the Art of War.” Danish Canadian National Museum Fund-Raising Evening. Edmonton, AB. April 13, 2013.

“Vikings in America: The Vinland Sagas.” Sons of Norway – Idun Lodge. Madison, WI. June 6, 2012.

### Non-academic publications

“Scandinavian Studies at the University of Alberta,” *Danish Heritage Book*, Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, 2015.

“Icelandic Crime Fiction,” *Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton Newsletter*, June 2014.

“The Scandinavian Program at the University of Alberta,” *Lögberg-Heimskringla*, June 2014.

“Scandinavian Studies at the University of Alberta,” *Danish Heritage Book*, Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, 2014.

## **3. Most Significant Career Research Contributions**

1. *The Saints in Old Norse and Early Modern Icelandic Poetry* (with Kirsten Wolf). Toronto: University of Toronto Press. [Forthcoming]

My first full-length monograph, co-authored with Kirsten Wolf (University of Wisconsin-Madison), and the first introductory guide to all known Old Norse and Early Modern Icelandic poetry on saints. This work serves as a foundation for any in-depth study of this genre, which has been severely neglected in scholarship.

2. “The Dominican Connection: Some Comments on the Sources, Provenance, and Authorship of *Mortu saga ok Mariu Magðalenu*.” *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 113.2 (2014): 206-221.

This article assigns an author to the Old Norse-Icelandic legend of Martha and Mary Magdalen, thereby establishing important connections between this text and other saints’ lives from the same period and contributing to the overall understanding of the author’s overall literary output.

3. “Stitches in the Margins: The Embroidery Pattern in AM 235 fol.” *Maal og minne* (2011-2): 26–42.

This study examines a large embroidery pattern in the margins of a medieval Icelandic manuscript preserving lives of saints, and establishes its significance not only for the study of women and needlework in Iceland, but also for our understanding of women’s use and ownership of manuscripts in Iceland, particularly during the early modern period.

4. “Sworn Sisterhood? On the (Near-) Absence of Female Friendship in the *Íslendingasögur*.” *Scandinavian Studies* 86.1 (2014): 52-71.

This article addresses the lack of examples of female friendship in the Sagas of Icelanders, which can be explained by classical and medieval philosophies about friendship and the connection of the relationship to the political sphere in medieval Iceland, from which women were excluded. I demonstrate that by not portraying women as friends in the sagas, the literature both reflects and perpetuates these notions.

5. “‘Inn besti hlutr’? Martha of Bethany and Women’s Roles in Medieval Iceland.” *Arkiv för nordisk filologi* 126 (2011): 73–91.

This article makes an important contribution to ongoing scholarly research on the function of saints’ lives in medieval Iceland. It establishes that the Old Norse-Icelandic legend of Martha and Mary Magdalen places an unusual emphasis on Martha, the model of the active life (*vita activa*), over the typically more popular Mary, who represented the contemplative life (*vita contemplativa*), in order to prescribe women’s roles in the agrarian culture of medieval Iceland.

#### **4. Career Interruptions and Special Circumstances**

New scholar; childbirth and parental leave (September 2013-March 2014)

#### **5. Contributions to Training**

##### PhD Supervision

Regan Treewater, Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, University of Alberta (External Examiner).

##### MA Supervision

Ashley J. Sims, Department of History and Classics, University of Alberta (External Examiner).