UPPSALA UNIVERSITET

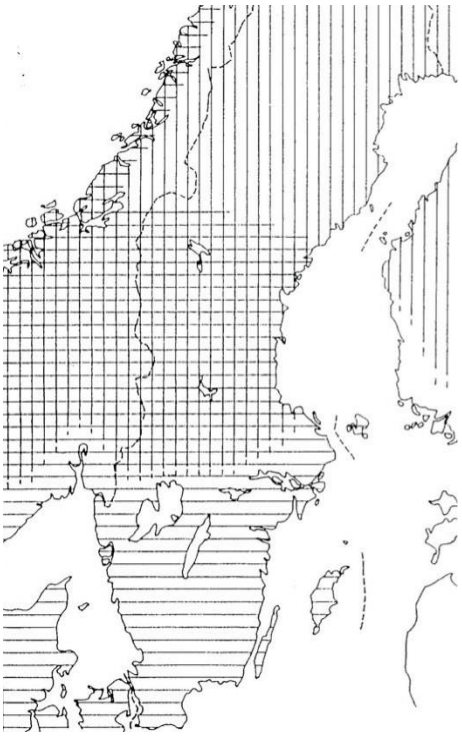
WELCOME TO AN OPEN LECTURE

South Saami prehistory in Mid-Scandinavia:

from invisible or questioned, to diversity and genetics. Sources, criteria and culture fixation

Wednesday October 19, 18 - 20
Hugo Valentin Centre, room 2-1077, House 2, Thunbergsvägen 3H, Engelska parken

In the Nordic countries there were from at least the Late Stone Age two great cultural traditions, the early Saami and the Scandinavian, one in the north-east and the other in the south-west. Archaeologists in Norway now want to use a more diversified model. The new project «Atlas of prehistoric peoples' genome in Sweden» studies core DNA in skeletal remains, combining archaeology, osteology and isotope analysis, into a new contextual framework. The archaeological, written and linguistic materials of Mid-Scandinavia from AD 1-1300 show increasing contacts between Saami people and Scandinavians. I will discuss the different criteria for ascribing material to the South Saami, as well as the fixation of Saami culture to the Viking Age, and what it indicates.



Map by Zachrisson (1997) representing Scandinavia around the year 1000 A.D.The centre of the Scandinavian Peninsula is a meeting zone for Saami and Nordic cultural influences. The vertical lines represent Saami culture, the horizontal represent Nordic or Germanic culture.

Inger Zachrisson is Associate Professor of Archaeology at Uppsala University and Curator (now emerita) at the Historical Museum, Stockholm. From 1970, she has worked on Saami archaeology and history from the Iron Age onwards. She initiated and carried through the South Saami project (1984-1998), resulting in the interdisciplinary publication *Möten i gränsland. Samer och germaner i Mellanskandinavien* (Encounters in Border Country: Saami and Germanic peoples in central Scandinavia), 1997.

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