FORMING AND FASHIONING EARLY SCANDINAVIAN SANCTITY: LITURGY AND ITS NARRATIVE CONTEXT

Sara E. Ellis Nilsson

Abstract: This paper explores how local saints were constructed in early medieval Scandinavia. Focussing on the eleventh to the thirteenth centuries, it specifically considers how four female saints fit into the new narratives which were created in the process of the Christianization of Scandinavian society. What made female Scandinavian saints unique? How did they fit into the larger, over-arching Christian narrative? By studying the composition of new, unique liturgical texts, this study suggests that mythopoetic moments can instead be seen as movements. The textual communities which authored these texts and their interconnectivity are thus related to the active and permanent establishment of emerging cults.