

RELV202/302 Religions and Mythologies of the Baltic Finns Report, spring term 2019

Praktisk gjennomføring

For the first time in Norway, there was this spring term a course on Old Fennic Religions (esp. Old Finnish Religion) given at the University of Bergen. Despite the fact that only one student attended, we were allowed to give the course, but the original plan of giving lectures were changed to seminars. PhD candidate Konsta Kaikkonen were responsible for four and Prof. Håkan Rydving for five of the ten seminars; the last seminar we taught together. The themes we took up were the following: 'Introduction, research history'; 'Verbal sources; epic poetry, spells, laments and incantations'; '*Tietäjä* and other specialists, healing rituals, "shamanism"'; 'Ritual spaces, calendric rituals, hunting rituals, and masters' (Kaikkonen); 'Life cycle rituals, and the departed'; 'Conceptions of the cosmos and the human being'; 'Invisible beings in nature and at the homestead: *hiisi, haltija, tonttu*'; 'Fennic and Uralic religions'; 'Christianisation; Christian influence' (Rydving); and 'Popular culture, art and music etc.; commerce, nationalism, new religious movements' (Kaikkonen & Rydving).

Kommentar til studentevaluering

There was no evaluation of the course since it was only given once.

Studieinformasjon og dokumentasjon

Information about the course has been available at Mitt UiB and was given to the student both at the first lecture and continuously during the course.

Tilgang til relevant litteratur

The student did not have any problem in getting the literature. The books were for sale at the Akademika bookshop and were also available at the university library. All the articles were accessible via Internet or the University Library.

Faglærers vurdering av rammevilkårene

Everything worked well.

Lokaler og undervisningsutstyr

Everything worked well.

Internasjonalisering

The course was international in many respects. It was about the pre-Christian traditions of other Nordic countries (esp. Finland, Estonia) and given in English. The course literature was in English.

Bergen, 28 June 2019,

Håkan Rydving

(Course leader together with PhD candidate Konsta Kaikkonen)