**Jesse L. Byock**

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**Current Positions at UCLA:**

Distinguished Professor of Old Norse and Medieval Scandinavian Studies, in the Scandinavian Section, Director, Old Norse Studies Program

Distinguished Professor, Cotsen Institute of Archaeology and Interdepartmental Program in Archaeology, Director, Mosfell Archaeological Project in Iceland

**Current Archaeological Field Project**

Director of the Mosfell Archaeological Project (MAP) in Iceland’s Mosfellsdalur (the Mosfell Valley). MAP is a multi-disciplinary study of the Viking Age and Iceland’s early centuries in the Mosfell Valley. The Project combines archaeology, history, and anthropology with the study of medieval sagas and modern forensic, medical, and environmental research. The work is international, involving researchers and laboratories from Iceland and all of the Scandinavian countries, the US, Canada, Europe, and Britain. The project began with the publication in *Scientific American* of the article, *“Egil's Bones: A Viking Warrior and Paget's Disease,”* analyzing information found in an Icelandic saga through modern medical research.

The Mosfell Valley is a rich archaeological environment. The human landscape begins with Iceland’s Viking Age settlement in the ninth- and tenth-centuries. Our multi-national team has unearthed a large chieftain’s hall, pagan and Christian burial yards, cremation site, and an early Christian stave church, and MAP is amassing a wealth of new information about society, life, health, and environment in early Iceland. The archaeology is also supplying the hard data for an invigorated understanding of the medieval sagas, several of which describe the specific sites we are excavating in the Mosfell Valley. The focus in MAP’s current field seasons is on the Viking Age harbor in Leiruvogur Bay at the mouth of the Mosfell Valley.

**Websites:**

Mosfell Archaeological Project, Iceland <http://viking.ucla.edu/mosfell_project/index.html>)

UCLA Viking Site (<http://viking.ucla.edu/>)

Viking Language (<http://www.vikingnorse.com/>)