



Christian Keller

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Christian Keller is a Nordic archaeologist, (an underwater archaeologist turned terrestrial), who has worked in Norway, in Scandinavia, Svalbard (the real one, in the Barents Sea), Norse Greenland and Iceland. These days he is mostly doing landscape archaeology, especially visual landscape analyses and comparative studies. He has a special interest in comparing archaeological sites (graves, churches, farms, communication lines) across the North Atlantic, looking for similarities and (in particular) differences.

He is interested in the 'cultural default' of the Norse who settled in the North Atlantic, i.e. their social organization, economy, technology, and their concept of justice – seeing these as essential to the understanding of their adaptation to and manipulation of the local environment (trying to move the focus on from the 'how?' to 'why?').

He likes to see the course of history of the North Atlantic in a wider, European perspective. The history of Norse Greenland, for instance, cannot be seen as a discrete strain of history, but is part of the history of Iceland, the Faeroes, Orkneys, Hebrides, Scandinavia, and of larger Europe. Changes that can be detected archaeologically may be local, but more often than not they represent impacts of remote changes in climate, trade or politics (but he admits it is much more comfortable to maintain a local perspective).

The challenge lies in understanding the interplay between the local, the regional, and the global.

For the Maine conference he has selected one published paper and two manuscripts:

1. Andrew J. Dugmore, Christian Keller, and Thomas H. McGovern: Norse Greenland Settlement: Reflections on Climate Change, Trade, and The Contrasting Fates of Human Settlements in the North Atlantic Islands. *ARCTIC ANTHROPOLOGY*, Vol. 44, No. 1, pp. 12–36, 2007 ISSN 0066-6939 © 2007 by the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System
2. Christian Keller: Furs, Fish and Ivory – Medieval Norsemen at the Arctic Fringe. Manuscript submitted for the *JONA* (Journal of the North Atlantic). It has been reviewed, but the comments from the review process have not yet been worked in (arrived just before start of field-season of 2009).
3. Christian Keller: The Northern Frontier - North Atlantic Farming. First version of manuscript to be published by *EARTH – Early Agricultural Remnants and Technical Heritage* – an EFS (European Science Foundation) working group. The paper has received comments and will be subject to a much needed revision (before the Maine workshop, but after the deadline for it).