



Seminar

**SOFIA LODÉN**

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*Travelling through the Arthurian  
Landscapes in Search of Europe*

Tuesday, 12 March, 2019, 2:15 p.m.

In the Thunberg Lecture Hall  
SCAS, Linneanum, Thunbergsvägen 2, Uppsala  
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## ABOUT SOFIA LODÉN

Sofia Lodén graduated in French, Latin, Literature, Nordic Languages, and Philosophy at Stockholm University and the University of Poitiers. She wrote her doctoral dissertation on medieval French literature (entitled *Le chevalier courtois à la rencontre de la Suède médiévale: Du Chevalier au lion à Herr Ivan*) as a *cotutelle* between Stockholm University and the University of Provence and received her PhD in 2012. After that, she has taught French language and literature and been a Postdoctoral Research Fellow, funded by the Swedish Research Council (“International Postdoc”), at Ca’ Foscari University of Venice and Stockholm University.

Lodén has published several articles on medieval French and Scandinavian courtly literature. She has co-edited the books *The Eufemiavisor and Courtly Culture: Time, Texts and Cultural Transfer* (with Olle Ferm, Ingela Hedström, Jonatan Pettersson, and Mia Åkestam, 2015) and *L’expérience des frontières dans les littératures de l’Europe médiévale* (with Vanessa Obry, forthcoming). She has organized international workshops and conferences on medieval literature and is a board member of the Nordic Branch of the International Arthurian Society. She is also co-directing (with Vanessa Obry) an international research project on the European tradition of *Floire and Blancheflor*.

During her Pro Futura Scientia Fellowship, Lodén will work on the project “The Europeanization of Culture in the Middle Ages: Moving Borders and Landscapes in Arthurian Romance,” in which she will explore the natural world of the Arthurian romance and what it can tell us about borders in medieval Europe. She will consider the romance in a pan-European perspective and take into account texts written in several different vernaculars.

## ABSTRACT

T. S. Eliot’s poem *The Waste Land* (1922) picks up on the Arthurian legend through the theme of the wasteland, a motif of possible Celtic origin that relates the fertility of the land to the condition of its king or leader, often known as the Fisher King. After a short overview of the development of the Arthurian legend, I will discuss the theme of the wasteland and the associated landscape of the forest in different European contexts of the Arthurian romance. I am interested in what the descriptions of these landscapes can tell us about the Europeanization of medieval culture. I will take my starting point in the twelfth century French poet Chrétien de Troyes and his fifth and unfinished romance *Le Conte du Graal* and then discuss some of the translations and adaptations that were made of this romance in the Middle Ages: Wolfram von Eschenbach’s Middle High German *Pazival*, the Old Norse *Parcevals saga* and the Middle English *Sir Perceval of Galles*.