

Abstract

The aim of the thesis is to research the neopagan community of Ásatrú in Iceland, which was officially recognized as a state-recognized religious organization in the early 1970s. It considers itself a continuation of pagan times and seeks to revive the religious beliefs from before the year 1000, when Christianity was adopted in Iceland. The study of Ásatrúarfélagið offers a valuable opportunity to observe the ways in which traditions, rituals, and references to the past are created and utilized.

The thesis intends to examine how the movement uses Old Norse vernacular literature, particularly how it is employed in ritual practice and its legitimization.

Keywords

Ásatrú, neopaganism, Old Norse literature, saga, ritual