



HUMSAM PRISEN

Green and grounded. The afterlives of Sámi religion

Abstract by Siv Ellen Kraft

I plan to do two things in this presentation. One is to suggest “afterlives” as a conceptual approach to religion making, thereby to stress the continued presence of the past, and ways in which it makes and shapes the present.

Second is to employ and explore this approach. I will do so through Sámi formations which relate to the pre-Christian Sámi religion on the one hand, and to globalizing discourses on indigeneity and indigenous religion on the other. At least three, more or less standardized versions have emerged over recent decades: Sámi shamanism, Contextual theology and Sámi spirituality. My discussion will be centered on some of the features, forms and functions of their gods, including embeddedness in nature, environmental concerns and protection of homelands. How are gods talked about and related to? What can they do, enable and afford? How are locative elements (embeddedness in a place) related to utopian features, as with the re-emergence of Máttaráhkká (an ancient Sámi goddess) as Mother Earth? How are remains connected to drift-matters, and what are some of the dynamics at play, as pasts re-emerge and come to matter in the present?