

Documenting Enslaved Lives in the Icelandic Sagas

TrUE Transformers

This project traced the lives of enslaved peoples in the stories created by medieval Icelanders to see how they lived, worked, and died.

Team

Faculty: Jacob Bell
Students: Richard Cismas, Lauren Hamilton, Jose Barrett

Top 3 Transformative Priorities

1. Support more than one undergraduate student
2. Intentionally Recruited Underrepresented Students
3. Strong potential for continuation post-grant;

Student Voice

“I sought to gain experience researching niche topics, a crucial skill for my future career, whether in law or history. This project provided a unique opportunity to expand my knowledge and skillset, preparing me for either graduate or law school. Being part of this research helped me understand what will be expected in my chosen field and enhanced my abilities, offering insights and experiences that I couldn’t acquire through other means.”

-- Lauren Hamilton

To Date Progress

Lauren, Richard, and Jose compiled the first exhaustive list of enslaved people in Icelandic sagas, an unprecedented accomplishment. Jose has submitted abstracts to present at the Texas Medieval Association conference (January 2025) and the University of Illinois (November 2024). He plans to turn his conference paper into a journal article for Illinois' Undergraduate History Journal (Spring 2025). The project’s first stage is now complete, with promising potential for continuation.



Faculty Voice

"This project has been transformative, as it marks the first work of its kind. With Jose's upcoming presentations and potential journal publication, and the team's successful completion of the initial stage, we are paving the way for groundbreaking research that could inspire future studies in the field."

-- Jacob Bell

