

Contents

Preface — VII

1 Introduction — 1

- 1.1 Bodies and *Mediality*: Mapping Horizons — 1
- 1.2 Research Questions — 21
- 1.3 Studying Bodies in Medieval Literature: Some Remarks on Concepts and Terminology — 27
 - 1.3.1 Studying Texts as Texts — 27
 - 1.3.2 Looking Beyond Literature: Adjusting Methodology — 39
 - 1.3.3 Minor Matters — 41
- 1.4 Texts — 44

2 Speak for Yourself! *Expressive Mediality* and the *Self* — 61

- 2.1 Bodies that Speak — 61
- 2.2 *Expressive Mediality* and Social Identity — 70
 - 2.2.1 Early Irish Literature: *Reading* Cú Chulainn with(in) *The Politics of Anatomy* — 70
 - 2.2.2 A Remarkable Presence or an Unmarked Presence? Bodies and Social Status from *Rígsþula* to *Saga* — 96
- 2.3 How (not) to Be a Proper Man: *Reading* Beardless Faces — 125
 - 2.3.1 Beating a Boy? The Beardless Cú Chulainn in *TBC* — 126
 - 2.3.2 Female or No-Male? A Study of the Beardless Njál in *Brennu-Njáls saga* — 142

3 I am the *Other* – Who are You? *Expressive Mediality* and the *Other* — 155

- 3.1 *Ideas of Otherness* in Medieval Literature — 155
- 3.2 *Reading* Encounters with the *Other* — 162
 - 3.2.1 Original *ridðarasögur*: Male Heroes and Female *Others* — 162
 - 3.2.2 ‘What Manner of Man,’ asked Ailill, ‘is this Hound?’: Cú Chulainn’s *ríastrad* — 194
- 3.3 *Hamhleypa* and Metamorphosis: *Reading* the Unfixed Body — 225
 - 3.3.1 Revisiting Cú Chulainn’s Shifting Body — 227
 - 3.3.2 Crossing Boundaries: *Hamhleypa* in a *fornaldarsaga* *Norðurlanda* — 236
- 3.4 Expressing Categories, Categories of Expression — 249

VI — Contents

- 4 Scratching the Surface: *Reading Bodies in Transmissive Mediality* — 253**
 - 4.1 The Transmissive Nature of Inscribed Skin — 253
 - 4.2 Show Me Your Skin and I'll Tell You Who You Are: *Reading Scars and Wounds in Ásmundar saga kappabani and Scéla Mucce Meic Dathó* — 259
 - 4.3 And the Flesh Was Made Word: Cethern, Tuán and the Body Bearing (His-)story — 277
 - 4.4 And the Flesh Was Made Shame: Mutilated Bodies in *Sigurðar saga þøgla* — 313
 - 4.5 Inscribed Bodies before Tattoo-Theory — 322

- 5 The Need to Need: Natural Bodily Matters in *Mediality* Discourse — 326**
 - 5.1 Writing with Faeces, Writing about Faeces — 326
 - 5.2 What's the Matter with the Matter? Urinating, Defecating and Social Space — 329
 - 5.2.1 Nature and Bodily Matters: The Early Irish Tradition — 332
 - 5.2.2 Culture and Bodily Matters: The Old Norse-Icelandic Tradition — 358
 - 5.3 Bloody Women, Bleeding Men? A New *Reading* of *Fúal Medba* — 395
 - 5.4 'Human' Waste — 404

- 6 Concluding Matters — 409**
 - 6.1 *Reading Bodies* as Texts, *Reading Bodies* in Texts — 409
 - 6.2 Revisiting *Ideas* — 419
 - 6.3 Situating the Findings — 420

- 7 List of Abbreviations — 425**

- 8 Bibliography — 426**
 - 8.1 Primary Sources — 426
 - 8.2 Secondary Sources — 428
 - 8.3 Electronic Sources — 445

- Index — 446**