

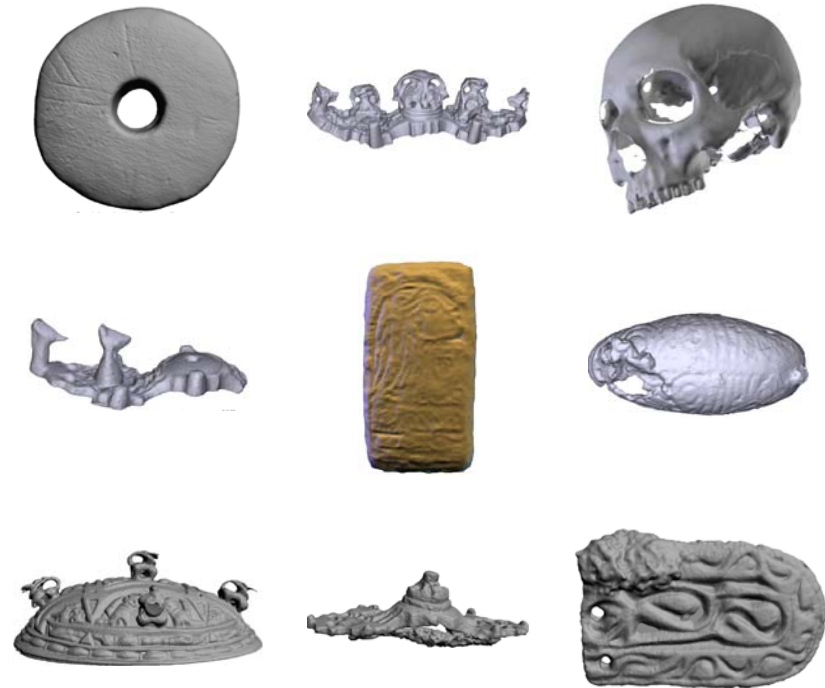
3D scanning as a tool for Viking Age studies

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Until recently, 3D scanning was a tedious and rather expensive business. But as the technological revolution progresses, the equipment is becoming cheaper and more manageable. It is therefore natural to consider the possibility of using 3D laser scanning as an everyday tool in archaeology. Within our pilot study, a broad variety of Scandinavian Viking Age brooches has been digitalized with two portable laser scanners. Using 3D software, the digital models were then analysed with methods not feasible for the originals – such as digital assembling of broken objects, distance measurements between selected brooch landmarks, comparisons of size, investigations of tool marks and false colour imaging for the purpose of pattern reconstruction. As a result of our study, 3D analysis has proven itself an effective tool for reconstructing Viking Age workshop traditions and mapping the typological development of a certain artefact type.



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