

Debunking Viral Story, Art Historian Says 'Allah' Does Not Appear on Ancient Viking Garment

From [Independent](#), who covered the original story with some relish last week.

Islamic art historians and archaeologists are calling into question a Swedish medieval textile expert's claim that the word "Allah" has been found on a 10th century Viking funeral garment discovered in Sweden.

Annika Larsson, a textile archaeologist at the University of Uppsala, published an article on the Swedish university's website announcing the discovery. The story quickly went viral, largely because it seemed to counteract a far right-wing narrative that the Vikings represent a uniform Master Race.

Stephennie Mulder, an associate professor of Medieval Islamic art and archaeology at the University of Texas, was among the first academics to question the findings publicly in a series of [Breitbart's definition of 'Fake News'](#) deter them from a nice bit of re-writing history.

Responding to the dispute, Ms Larsson told *The Independent*: "These finds are with no doubt from the Viking Age. They are found in several of the Birka graves and Viking Age boatgraves north of Gamla Uppsala. The geometrical Kufi is also to be found in similar textile ribbons from Spain. "Even if the characters should be interpreted as "Illah" it is still Kufic, and as I have understood from the arabic experts it still refers to 'Allah'."

This is like the BBC who notoriously emphasised during a history programme about Hadrian's Wall, which was garrisoned for some years by legions from Syria and North Africa, that "Africans lived in England before the English". None of these SJW historians ever emphasise that Christianity was the religion of North Africa and the Middle East before the Islamic conquest of the 8th century.

Or, more important to my mind, Greeks, Christians and Jews lived in Turkey long before the Turks arrived. The original Turks were a nomadic people who lived in central Asia (cf Turkmenistan). Many of them converted to Islam during the Muslim conquests of the 8th century. Some moved east towards China and are now the Uyghurs, others west through Persia to conquer Anatolia (a Greek and Christian land) after 1071. The name Turkey – land of the Turks came into use by the 12th century. So Turkey has been Turkish for 5 centuries less than England has been English.