## Foreword

This volume presents the results from the international workshop 'Narrating Law and Laws of Narration in Medieval Scandinavia' which was held at the Georg-August-Universität in Göttingen in March 2017. The meetings took place at the Historical University Library adjacent to the Paulinerkirche, thereby connecting to the noble history of the institution, as Jacob Grimm was professor and law librarian at Göttingen between 1830 and 1837. Not only did the workshop coincide with the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the constitutionalist protestation by the Göttingen Seven and the subsequent end of Grimm's career in the Kingdom of Hanover, but it also tied in with Grimm's interests and the beginnings of Scandinavian Studies at Göttingen. Jacob Grimm was one of the first scholars who systematically combined legal and narrative texts, including sagas, in order to reconstruct 'Germanic' law in his 'Deutsche Rechtsalterthümer'. While his concept of a 'Germanic' continuum proved to be problematic indeed and does not provide a frame of reference for this book, his idea of analysing both law books and narrations of disputes and legalities makes his work a distant forerunner of legal anthropology and the way 'law' is conceptualised and discussed in the following contributions.

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Roland Scheel, May 2019