

# Cambridge Elements

Elements in New Religious Movements

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## SHAMANIC MATERIALITIES IN NORDIC CLIMATES

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## Shamanic Materialities in Nordic Climates

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**Abstract:** This Element takes its starting point in shamanism in the Nordic countries and explores expressions and the lives of shamanic materialities in contemporary Finland and Norway. Shamans interact with spiritual powers and beings, but their religious practices unfold in a material reality. This Element begins with the materiality of shamanism and focuses on how the drum, the sacrificial site, the power animal, and a mushroom bridge the gap between the profane and the divine and create networks and dynamics in a shamanic worldview as well as in the wider society. Throughout its sections, this Element inquires into the ways the construction of the category shamanism makes shamanic materialities come to life. And, in contrast, it examines how shamanic materialities form shamanism and facilitate constantly formative exchanges and dynamics between the local and global, past and present, secular and spiritual, time and space.

**Keywords:** shamanism, drums, power animals, sacred places, Saami

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