

Lev Weitz

Associate Professor & Director of Graduate Studies, Department of History
Director, Islamic World Studies
The Catholic University of America
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Curriculum Vitae

EMPLOYMENT & TEACHING

- 2019-present Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, History; Director, Islamic World Studies (since 2016), The Catholic University of America
Undergraduate courses: Rise of Islam; Modern Middle East; Muslims, Christians, and Jews in the Mediterranean World; Gunpowder Empires of Islam; Byzantium; Persecution and Tolerance in the Medieval Mediterranean
Graduate courses: Historiography of Medieval Islam; Interreligious Encounters in the Medieval Middle East; Gender and the Family in the Islamic World; Readings in Medieval Islam; Medieval Islam and Eastern Christianity
- 2013-19 Assistant Professor, History, The Catholic University of America
- 2010 Assistant Instructor, Princeton University

EDUCATION

- 2013 PhD, Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University
- 2006 BA, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, Music (minor), New York University

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2019 Best Book Prize shortlist, Middle East Medievalists association, for *Between Christ and Caliph: Law, Marriage, and Christian Community in Early Islam*
- 2018-19 Kluge Fellowship, John W. Kluge Center, Library of Congress, Washington, DC
- 2017 Faculty Research Grant, Catholic University of America
- 2012-13 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship
- 2010-11 Donald and Mary Hyde Academic Year Research Fellowship (Cairo, Egypt)
- 2010 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for Arabic (Cairo, Egypt)
- 2008 Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies Fellowship and Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for Arabic (Damascus, Syria)

BOOKS

- 2018 *Between Christ and Caliph: Law, Marriage, and Christian Community in Early Islam* (University of Pennsylvania Press).
Shortlisted for 2019 Best Book Prize, Middle East Medievalists association
Between Christ and Caliph examines the multiconfessional society of early Islam through the lens of shifting marital practices of Syriac Christian communities, arguing that interreligious negotiations lie at the heart of the history of the medieval Islamic empire.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Going Global in the Year 1000: The Hemispheric Connections of a Medieval Egyptian Village
An exploration of how the Muslim and Christian societies of an out-of-the-way corner of Egypt experienced global trends—including the expansion of Islam, the trans-Saharan slave trade, and merchant networks from the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean—that bound together medieval Africa, Asia, and Europe. *Going Global in the Year 1000* is based on the rich but underutilized Arabic documentary remains and archaeology of Egypt's Fayyum Oasis.

“Monks, Monasteries, and Muslim Scribes: Three Parchment House Sales from the 4th/10th-Century Fayyum.” With Naïm Vanthieghem, Centre national de la recherche scientifique, Brussels.

“The ‘Straight Paths’ of Christian Law: Reframing the Intellectual History of the Early Caliphate.”

“Christian Legal Traditions in the Islamic World: The Intellectual Background of Abdisho’s East Syrian Marriage Law.”

SCHOLARLY ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2019 “Islamic Law on the Provincial Margins: Christian Patrons and Muslim Notaries in Upper Egypt, 2nd-5th/8th-11th Centuries.” *Islamic Law and Society*. DOI: 10.1163/15685195-00260A07.
- 2017 “Slavery and the Historiography of Non-Muslims in the Medieval Middle East,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 49: 139-142.
- 2016 “Shaping East Syrian Law in ‘Abbasid Iraq: The Law Books of Patriarchs Timothy I and Išo‘ bar Nun,” *Le Muséon* 129: 71-116.
- 2015 “Polygyny and East Syrian Law: Local Practices and Ecclesiastical Tradition,” in *The Late Antique World of Early Islam: Muslims among Christians and Jews in the East Mediterranean*, ed. Robert Hoyland (Princeton: Darwin Press), 157-191.
- 2014 “Al-Ghazali, Bar Hebraeus, and the ‘Good Wife,’” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 134: 203-223.

BOOK REVIEWS

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- 2019 J. Lassner, *Medieval Jerusalem*. *American Historical Review*, forthcoming.
- 2016 M. Mikhail, *From Byzantine to Islamic Egypt*. *Catholic Historical Review* 102.
- 2015 H.M. Zellentin, *The Qur`ān`s Legal Culture*. *Review of Qur`anic Research* 1.5.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS & SHORT PIECES

- 2019 “‘Game of Thrones’ and Why We Are Still ‘Dreaming of the Middle Ages,’” *Insights: Scholarly Work at the John W. Kluge Center*, <https://blogs.loc.gov/kluge/2019/05/game-of-thrones-and-why-we-are-still-dreaming-of-the-middle-ages/>
- 2019 “Christian Monks and Muslim Villagers in Medieval Egypt: A Library of Congress Story,” *Insights: Scholarly Work at the John W. Kluge Center*, <https://blogs.loc.gov/kluge/2019/06/christian-monks-and-muslim-villagers-in-medieval-egypt-a-library-of-congress-story/>
- 2019 “Creating Christian Marriage in Early Islamic Arabia,” *Ancient Jew Review*, <https://www.ancientjewreview.com/articles/2018/12/9/creating-christian-marriage-in-early-islamic-arabia>
- 2018 “Religious Diversity in the Middle East, Past and Present,” *Penn Press Log*, <http://pennpress.typepad.com/pennpresslog/2018/07/religious-diversity-in-the-middle-east-past-and-present.html>
- 2015 “Religious Minorities in the Modern Middle East” (invited lecture), Foreign Policy Research Institute, <http://www.fpri.org/articles/2015/11/religious-minorities-modern-middle-east>
- 2011 “Prisoner of Damascus” (English translation of Yassin al-Haj Saleh’s Arabic editorial), *New York Times* 4/10/2011

SELECT CONFERENCES, PAPERS, & LECTURES

- 2019 “The ‘Straight Paths’ of Christian Law: Reframing the Intellectual History of the Early Caliphate,” *Christian Layers in the History of the Middle East*, University of Oxford
- 2018 “Islamic Law and Society on the Provincial Margins: Muslim Legal Authorities and Christian Patrons in Medieval Upper Egypt,” *Islam and Politics: From the Margins to the Center*, Cornell University; *Ancient Judaism Workshop*, Yale University
- 2017 “Syriac Christian Law and Islamic Tradition in the Medieval Middle East,” University of Hamburg, European Research Council *COBHUNI* Project
- 2016 “Concubinage and Christians in the Abbasid Caliphate,” *Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting*

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- 2016 “Islamic Thought, Islamic Culture, Islamic Society: Scholarly Categories and Medieval Middle Eastern Historiography,” *Recovering the Role of Christians in the History of the Middle East*, Princeton University
- 2015 *Seventh North American Syriac Symposium* (conference co-organizer and steering committee member), Catholic University of America
Paper: “Shaping Christian Law in the Abbasid Caliphate”
- 2014 Religiously Mixed Families in the Medieval Middle East: Intermarriage and its Consequences (panel organizer), *Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting*
Paper: “Property, Gender, and Interreligious Marriage in Abbasid Iraq”
- 2014 “Polygamy and Christian Community in Medieval Iraq,” Center for Medieval and Byzantine Studies, Catholic University of America
- 2013 “Thinking about Law and Its Role in Society,” *Shaping Legal Cultures from Late Antiquity to the Middle Ages*, University of Pennsylvania

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Historical Association
Beth Mardutho: The Syriac Institute
Middle East Medievalists
Middle East Studies Association

LANGUAGES & TRAINING

Research Languages

Arabic (proficient), Syriac (proficient), Judeo-Arabic (advanced), Greek (intermediate), Coptic (intermediate), German (reading knowledge), French (reading knowledge)

Select Arabic Training

- 2017 Intensive Course on Arabic Papyrology, Princeton University
- 2011 Abdallah Siraj Arabic Instruction, Cairo, Egypt
- 2010 International Language Institute, Cairo, Egypt
- 2010 Sibawayh Center, Cairo, Egypt
- 2008 Institut Français du Proche-Orient, Damascus, Syria