

# Lev Weitz

Associate Professor, Department of History • Director, Islamic World Studies  
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## *Curriculum Vitae*

### **EMPLOYMENT & TEACHING**

- 2019-present Associate Professor, History; Director, Islamic World Studies (since 2016),  
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  
• Genghis Khan: World Destroyer or Civilization Builder? • Senior Thesis  
*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
- 2019-22 Director of Graduate Studies, History, Catholic University of America
- 2013-19 Assistant Professor, History, 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**

- 2022-23 Fellowship, Byzantine Studies, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, DC
- 2019 Shortlist for Best Book, Middle East Medievalists association, for *Between Christ and Caliph*
- 2018-19 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

### **BOOKS**

- 2018 *Between Christ and Caliph: Law, Marriage, and Christian Community in Early Islam* (University of Pennsylvania Press).  
Shortlisted for Best Book, Middle East Medievalists association, 2019  
*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**

*On the Edge: Global Transformations in the Medieval Egyptian Countryside*  
An exploration of how the Muslim and Christian communities of an out-of-the-way corner of medieval Egypt experienced hemispheric trends—the expansion of Islam, the rise of Arabic, trade and slavery across the Sahara, and burgeoning state power—that transformed Afro-Eurasia

on either side of the year 1000. *On the Edge* is based on the rich but underutilized Arabic documentary remains and archaeology of Egypt's Fayyum Oasis.

*Dayr al-Naqlun: Arabic Documents* (with Naïm Vanthieghem, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris)

*The History of the Patriarchs of the East: Syriac Christianity from Ancient Persia to Medieval Islam* (with Luke Yarbrough, UCLA; Salam Rassi, University of Edinburgh). Under contract with Liverpool University Press, *Translated Texts for Historians*.

#### **FORTHCOMING**

“Fayyum Tribesmen and Country Lawyers: A 5<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> Century Arabic Sale of Guardianship Rights Concerning Talit,” *Chronique d'Égypte*.

“Canon Law and *Qadi* Court Documents in Medieval Egypt,” *Canon Law and Christian Societies between Christianity and Islam*, ed. Jesús Lorenzo Jiménez, Matthias Maser, Geoffrey Martin.

“In Search of the Syriac Notarial Tradition,” *Études syriaques 18: Le droit en syriaque*, ed. Muriel Debié, Vittorio Berti.

#### **PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES**

- 2022 “The Long Arm of the Provincial Law: A Custody Battle in a *Qadi* Petition from the Medieval Fayyum,” *al-Usur al-Wusta* 30: 47-78.
- 2021 “A Companion of Muhammad in the Oldest Bilingual Egyptian *Entagion*” (with Naïm Vanthieghem), *Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrology* 58: 203-214.
- 2020 “Monks, Monasteries, and Muslim Scribes: Three Parchment House Sales from the 4<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>-Century Fayyum” (with Naïm Vanthieghem), *Arabica* 67: 461-501.
- 2020 “Islamic Law on the Provincial Margins: Christian Patrons and Muslim Notaries in Upper Egypt, 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Centuries,” *Islamic Law and Society* 27: 5-52.
- 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.
- 2014 “Al-Ghazali, Bar Hebraeus, and the ‘Good Wife,’” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 134.2: 203-223.

#### **BOOK CHAPTERS**

- 2022 “Ghiwarghis I, *Synodal Canons*,” in *The Bloomsbury Reader in Christian-Muslim Relations*, ed. David Thomas (London: Bloomsbury, 2022), 176-78.
- 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.

#### BOOK REVIEWS

- 2023 M. Penn et al, *Invitation to Syriac Christianity: An Anthology*. *Church History* 92.
- 2022 M. Rustow, *The Lost Archive: Traces of a Caliphate in a Cairo Synagogue*. *American Historical Review* 127.
- 2022 A. Roberts, *Reason and Revelation in Byzantine Antioch*. *Catholic Historical Review* 108.
- 2021 M. Metselaar, *Defining Christ: The Church of the East and Nascent Islam*. *Church History* 90.
- 2021 M. Mazzola, *From High Priest to Patriarch: History and Authority in the Ecclesiastical History of Bar 'Ebroyo*. *Church History* 90.
- 2020 C. Sahner, *Christian Martyrs under Islam*. *Speculum* 95.
- 2019 J. Lassner, *Medieval Jerusalem*. *American Historical Review* 124.
- 2016 M. Mikhail, *From Byzantine to Islamic Egypt*. *Catholic Historical Review* 1022.
- 2015 H.M. Zellentin, *The Qur`ān's Legal Culture*. *Review of Qur`anic Research* 1.5.

#### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS & SHORT PIECES

- 2023 “Documentary Sources and Islamic Legal History” blog series, *Islamic Law Blog*, <https://islamiclaw.blog/2023/04/06/documentary-sources-and-islamic-legal-history-the-view-from-the-provinces/>
- 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,” Butcher History Institute, 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

#### CONFERENCES, PAPERS, & LECTURES

- 2023 “The Arabic Documents of Dayr al-Naqlun: A Preliminary Report,” International Society for Arabic Papyrology, Fayyum, Egypt.

- 2023 “Monasticism in Islamic Egypt: The Arabic Documents of Dayr al-Naqlun,” *Dumbarton Oaks*.
- 2022 “Legal Pluralism Reconsidered: Non-Muslim Cogs in the Islamic Judicial System,” American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting.
- 2022 “Demography, Hierarchy, and Religious Minorities in the Medieval Middle East,” *Minoritization in Middle Eastern Geopolitics: Histories and Theoretical Approaches*, UCLA.
- 2022 “Babylonia or All the East? Patriarchal Authority in the Church of the East in Islamic Late Antiquity,” *Rabbinization and Diversity*, Princeton and École Pratique des Hautes Études.
- 2021 “Confessional Law in the Syrian East: The Problem of Origins,” *Société d’études syriaques*, Annual Roundtable.
- 2021 Invited panel commentator, “The Late Antique in Early Islam: Pre-Islamic Heritage in Early Islamic Politics, Poetics, and Science,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting.
- 2021 Invited roundtable commentator, P. Wood, *The Imam of the Christians*, Leiden University.
- 2021 “Canon Law and the Courts in Medieval Egypt,” *Canon Law and Christian Societies between Christianity and Islam*, Museo Arqueológico Nacional, Madrid.
- 2021 “Greek, Arabic, and a Companion of Muhammad in the Oldest Egyptian Bilingual *Entagion*,” International Society for Arabic Papyrology Annual Meeting.
- 2021 “Toleration: Thought and Practice in the Societies of the Medieval Islamic World,” *Toleration in Comparative Perspective*, UC Berkeley Center for Democracy, Toleration and Religion.
- 2020 “‘Worldly Judgments’ and Communal Identity: East Syrian Law in the Medieval Caliphate,” *Law and Communal Identity in the Early Medieval World*, UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.
- 2019 “Islam and Latin Christendom in the Medieval World,” *The Spiritual Journey of Transformative Encounter*, Catholic University of America.
- 2019 “The ‘Straight Paths’ of Christian Law: Reframing the Intellectual History of the Early Caliphate,” *Christian Layers in the History of the Middle East*, Oxford.
- 2018 “Islamic Law in Abdisho, Abdisho in the Islamic World,” *Syriac Christianity at the Crossroads of Cultures*, Pontificio Istituto Orientale, Rome.
- 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; *Ancient Judaism Workshop*, Yale.
- 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.
- 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.
- 2015 “Religious Minorities in the Modern Middle East,” Foreign Policy Research Institute, Philadelphia.

- 2015 Conference co-organizer, Seventh North American Syriac Symposium, Catholic University of America. Paper: “Shaping Christian Law in the Abbasid Caliphate.”
- 2014 Panel organizer, “Religiously Mixed Families in the Medieval Middle East: Intermarriage and its Consequences,” 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.

#### **AFFILIATIONS**

Board member, International Society for Arabic Papyrology

Editorial board member, *Graphai: Writings from Byzantium and Its Neighbors*, Dumbarton Oaks Publications

#### **RESEARCH LANGUAGES**

Arabic (proficient), Syriac (proficient), Coptic (intermediate), German (reading knowledge), French (reading knowledge)