

Janina M. Safran

Employment

Penn State University

Associate Professor of History

2002-Present

Assistant Professor of History

1996-2002

Education

Ph.D. History and Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University

M.A. Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University

B.A. Social Studies (magna cum laude), Harvard University

Publications

Monographs

Defining Boundaries in al-Andalus: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Islamic Iberia (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2013)

The Second Umayyad Caliphate: The Articulation of Caliphal Legitimacy in al-Andalus (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2000)

Articles and Book Chapters

"A House of Worship for Every Religious Community: The History of a Mālikī Fatwā." *Islamic Law and Society* 30 (2023): 179-218.

"A Tunisian Jurist's Perspective on *Jihād* in the Age of the *Fondaco*," *Interfaith Relationships and Perceptions of the Other in the Medieval Mediterranean: Essays in Memory of Olivia Remie Constable*, eds. Sarah C. Davis-Secord, Belén Vicéns, and Robin J. E. Vose (Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021), 283-304.

"Cultural Memories of the Conquest of al-Andalus between the Ninth and Twelfth Centuries" *Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies*, 11 (2019): 359-377.

"Comments on 'Romanization in the Middle of Nowhere: The Case of Segobriga' from a Historian of Islamic Iberia," *Fragments: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Ancient and Medieval Pasts* 8 (2019) (on-line publication)

"The Politics of Book Burning in al-Andalus," *Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies* 6 (2014): 148-168.

"The Sacred and Profane in Islamic Cordoba," *Comparative Islamic Studies* 1 (2005): 21-41.

"Rules of Purity and Confessional Boundaries: Maliki Debates about the Pollution of 'the Christian'", *History of Religions* 42 (2003): 197-212.

"Identity and Differentiation in Ninth-Century al-Andalus," *Speculum* 76 (2001): 573-598.

"From Alien Terrain to the Abode of Islam: Landscapes of the Conquest of al-Andalus," *Inventing Medieval Landscapes: Senses of Place in the Latin West*, eds. John Howe and Michael Wolfe (University Press of Florida, 2002), 136-149.

"Ceremony and Submission: The Symbolic Representation and Recognition of Legitimacy in Tenth Century al-Andalus," *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 58 (1999): 191-201.

"The Command of the Faithful in al-Andalus: A Study in the Articulation of Caliphal Legitimacy," *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* 30 (1998): 183-198.

Forthcoming

"The Community of the Biographical Dictionary: Qāḍī 'Iyāḍ's *Ghunya*," Special Edition, *Medieval Encounters* (Accepted and copyedited).

"Legal Interpretation and Practice in Umayyad Seville" chapter in *Companion to Medieval and Early Modern Spain*, edited by Ryan Szpiech, Camilo Gómez-Rivas, Maya Soifer Irish (Submitted).

Recent Awards and Fellowships

The American Historical Association Premio del Rey for a distinguished book in English in the field of early Spanish history awarded January 2015 to *Defining Boundaries in al-Andalus: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Islamic Iberia*

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, July 2014- December 2014

Institute for the Arts and Humanities (Penn State, College of the Liberal Arts and College of Art and Architecture) January 2014-July 2014

Recent Service

Service to the Profession

American Historical Association: Premio del Rey Prize Committee (2018-2022)

Paper proposal review for annual Middle East Studies Association conference (2018)

National Endowment for the Humanities: Application Review Committee (2016)

Manuscript Reviews for University of Michigan Press, University of Pennsylvania Press, Westview Press, Routledge Taylor, *Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies*, *La Coronica*, *Religion*, *Journal of Religion in Africa*, *Islamic Law and Society*, *Mizan: Journal for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations*

Service to the University

Reader Penn State Schreyer Honors College Applications (2020)

Committee for Academic Standards/Petitions (2016-2021)

Faculty Senate (2013-2018)

Ad Hoc General Education Assessment Committee (2015-2016)

Service to the College of the Liberal Arts

Director of the Middle East Studies program (2010-2019); co-director (2019-Present)

Faculty Advisory Committee (2021-2022)

Search Committee for position in Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies and Jewish Studies (2021-2022)

Teaching Faculty Advisory Committee (2016-2018)

Undergraduate Teaching Awards Committee (2015)

Service to the Department

Associate Department Head (2012-2022)

Promotion and Tenure Committee (2019-2020, 2017-2018)

Chair African History and African Studies Search Committee (2015)

Search Committee McCourtney Chair, Global South (2019-2020)

Undergraduate Awards Committee (2020-2022)

Graduate Student Application Reviewer (2021-2022)

Recent Papers and Invited Talks

"Abu Asbagh ibn Sahl (1022/23 - 1093) and the promotion of Islamic legal norms in eleventh century al-Andalus and the far Maghrib," Conference: "The Histories of Ibn Gabirol: Jews, Muslims, and Christians in Eleventh-Century al-Andalus, New Perspectives and Directions," Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv, Israel (Virtual Event), (March 14, 2022).

"The Community of the Biographical Dictionary: Qadi Iyad's Ghunya," Conference, "Ties of Kinship and the Early Islamic Empire," Embedding Conquest Team, Leiden University, Virtual Event (December 8, 2021).

"Reading Fatwas into History: "Let Every Religious Community Have its House of Worship," Medieval Studies Seminar, University of Leeds, Institute for Medieval Studies, University of Leeds, Virtual Event (February 23, 2021).

"The Authority of a Fatwa: Ibn al-Hajj's Opinion on the Construction of New Houses of Worship," University of Chicago, Farouk Mustafa Memorial Friday Lecture Series, University of Chicago, Virtual Event, (January 22, 2021).

"Sovereign Boundaries in al-Andalus in the Umayyad Era", Boundaries and Authority Workshop II, RomanIslam - Center for Comparative Empire and Transcultural Studies," Hamburg University, Virtual Event (July 15, 2020).

"Americans in the Middle East in the 19th Century: A Course and a Site," Bucknell University Digital Scholarship Conference, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, " (October 12, 2019).

"Transnational Social Networks and the Conquest of al-Andalus," Leiden University Centre for the Study of Islam and Society, Leiden University, " (September 12, 2019 - September 14, 2019).

"Interfaith Marriage, Conversion, and Cultural Transmission by Women in Medieval Islamic Iberia," Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri, March 2019.

"Reimagining Your Syllabus: A discussion of ways we can de-center the geographies of our fields and disciplines, using the theme of travel and travelers as an example." Workshop: Diversifying Medieval Studies, University of Missouri-Kansas City, March 2019.

"A Tunisian Jurist's View of Jihad in the Fifteenth Century," Austin, Texas, Middle East Studies Association annual conference, November 2018.

"Agents of Conversion in al-Andalus (Islamic Iberia)," Center for the Study of Conversion, Ben Gurion University, Beersheva, Israel, May 2017.

Fragments Workshop, University of Michigan: Comments on Carlos Noreña, "Romanization in the Middle of Nowhere: The Case of Segobriga," Ann Arbor, Michigan, October 2016.

"The Maliki Promotion and Practice of Usul al-Fiqh in al-Andalus and the Maghrib in the Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries," Denver, Colorado, Middle East Studies Association annual conference (organized panel on the theory and practice of Maliki law), November 2015.

"Linked States of Knowledge in the Islamic West (c. 800-1150)," Amherst, Massachusetts for Sawyer-Mellon Seminar, October 2015.

"Ibn Zarb Was Asked About a Jewish Boy...," Tauber Institute, Brandeis University, March 2015.

"Book Burning in Islamic Cordoba," New Orleans, Louisiana, Middle East Studies Association annual conference, October 2013.

"Fiqh Discourse and Legal Practice in al-Andalus: The Religion of the Children Follows the Father," Rabat, Morocco, for seminar, "Rethinking Classical Islamic Law," sponsored by the Institut de Recherches et d'Histoire des Textes of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, November 2013.

Recent Courses

001-200 LEVEL

World History

Islamic Societies and Cultures to 1500

Introduction to the Middle East

Introduction to the Middle East, Honors

The Crusades

300-400 Level

Undergraduate Seminar: Women, Gender, and Sexuality in the Middle East

Undergraduate Seminar: Americans in the Middle East in the 19th Century

Islamic Civilization (Writing-Intensive)

Islamic Civilization, Honors (Writing-Intensive)

Modern Middle East

World Campus (Web): Created and Taught

Introduction to the Middle East

Islamic Societies and Cultures to 1500

