

Curriculum Vitae

Kristina L. Richardson

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Education

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor M.A., 2005; Ph.D., 2008 in Near Eastern Studies

- Doctoral Dissertation: "Blight Bodies: Difference and Disability in the Medieval Middle East, 1400-1550." Committee Members: Kathryn Babayan and Michael Bonner (co-advisors), Gottfried Hagen, Alexander Knysh, Tobin Siebers

Princeton University A.B., 2003, History; Certificate, Near Eastern Studies

- Senior thesis: "The Cultural Influence of Swahili Communities on 'Umânî Coastal Society in East Africa, 906-1287 AH/1500-1870 CE." Advisor: John Ralph Willis

Academic Positions

John L. Nau III Professor of the History and Principles of Democracy, University of Virginia
(August 2022-present)

Professor of History and Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Virginia¹ (August 2022-present)

Associate Professor of History, Queens College and Graduate Center, The City University of New York (2017-2022)

Assistant Professor of History, Queens College and Graduate Center, The City University of New York (2008-2017)

Administrative Position

Deputy Executive Director	Middle Eastern Studies MA Program, The Graduate Center of The City University of New York	2016-2019
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¹ I also hold affiliate status with Medieval Studies.

Research Interests

Mamluk and Ottoman Arab social history, early Islamic Basra, Romani history, early global print, race and slavery

Publications

-books (single-authored)

(1) *Difference and Disability in the Medieval Islamic World: Blighted Bodies*, Edinburgh/New York: Edinburgh/Oxford University Press, Hardcover (2012) ISBN: 978-0-7486-4507-7, Paperback (2014) ISBN: 978-0-7486-9588-1.²

(2) *Roma in the Medieval Islamic World: Literacy, Culture and History*, London, I. B. Tauris, The Early and Medieval Islamic World Series, Hardcover (2021) ISBN: 978-0-7556-3578-8. Paperback (2022) ISBN: 978-0-7556-3581-8³

- 2023 Monica H. Green Prize for Distinguished Medieval Research, awarded by the Medieval Academy of America (\$1,000)
- 2022 Dan David Prize, awarded by the Dan David Foundation (\$300,000)

(3) *Black Basra: Race, Labor, and Piety in Early Islamic History* (in progress)

- A history of the port city of al-Basra, Iraq, from its founding in 637 until c. 1000 CE. It will center the lives and experiences of free and unfree black people, who were broadly defined at that time as dark-skinned Africans and Asians.

-books (co-authored and co-edited)

(4) (with Boris Liebrecht)

Arabic title: أيام كمال الدين الحائك. حلب في أواخر القرن العاشر

English title: *The Notebook of Kamāl al-Dīn the Weaver* (Beirut: De Gruyter Verlag/Dār al-Farābī, 2021) ISBN: 978-3-11-068887-0 & 978-614-485-088-6. e-ISBN: 978-3-11-068892-4.⁴

- English-language introduction and study
- Arabic edition of the 16th-century manuscript

-refereed articles and book chapters

(5) "The Boundaries and Geographies of Medieval Blackness," In *Islam on the Margins: Studies in Memory of Michael Bonner*, ed. Robert Haug and Steven Judd (Leiden: Brill, 2023), pp. 220-234.

(6) "An Ode to an Armenian Silk Merchant in 16th-Century Aleppo," In *Art and Religion in Medieval Armenia*, ed. Helen C. Evans (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2022), pp. 76-84.

² US website: <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/difference-and-disability-in-the-medieval-islamic-world-9780748695881> ; and UK website: <http://www.eupublishing.com/book/9780748645077> . The following reviews have thus far appeared: Los Angeles Review of Books; Journal of the American Oriental Society; International Journal of Middle East Studies; Review of Middle East Studies; Early Science and Medicine; and H-Net.

³ This book has been reviewed in the Journal of the American Association of Religion.

⁴ This book has been reviewed in [Al-Quds Al-Arabi](#) (London newspaper).

(7) (with Boris Liebrecht) "A Weaver's Notebook from Aleppo (10th/16th Century)," In [A Handbook and Reader of Ottoman Arabic](#), ed. Esther-Miriam Wagner (Cambridge, UK: Open Book Publishing, 2021), pp. 193-196.

(8) "Invisible Strangers, or Romani History Reconsidered," *History of the Present* 10.2 (Fall 2020): 187-207. DOI: [10.1215/21599785-8351823](https://doi.org/10.1215/21599785-8351823)

(9) "The Holograph Notebooks of Akmal al-Dīn Muḥammad b. Muflīḥ (d. 1011/1603)," in *'In the Author's Hand': Holograph and Authorial Manuscripts in the Islamic Handwritten Tradition*, eds. Frédéric Bauden and Élise Franssen (Leiden: Brill, 2019), 260-79. DOI: [10.1163/9789004413177_008](https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004413177_008)

(10) "Domestic Violence and Medieval Disability Narratives," *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* 51.1 (February 2019): 113-115. DOI: [10.1017/S0020743818001198](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020743818001198)

(11) "Tracing a Gypsy Mixed Language through Medieval and Early Modern Arabic and Persian Literatures," *Der Islam* 94.1 (April 2017): 115-57. DOI: [10.1515/islam-2017-0006](https://doi.org/10.1515/islam-2017-0006)

- Selected as the Mediterranean Seminar's article of the month in June 2021: <http://www.mediterraneanseminar.org/2021-june-article-of-the-month>
- Professors Brian Catlos and Sharon Kinoshita interviewed me about the article: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hgCuAZw7pJg&ab_channel=TheMediterraneanSeminar

(12) "New Evidence for Early Modern Ottoman Arabic and Turkish Sign Systems," in *Sign Language Studies* 17.2 (Winter 2017): 172-92. DOI: [10.1353/sls.2017.0001](https://doi.org/10.1353/sls.2017.0001)

(13) "The Evolving Biographical Legacy of Two Late Mamluk Ḥanbalī Judges," in *History and Society during the Mamluk Period (1250-1517)*, *Studies of the Annemarie Schimmel Institute for Advanced Study II*, Mamluk Studies, vol. 12, ed. Stephan Conermann (Bonn, Germany: Bonn University Press, 2016), pp. 29-50.

(14) "Islam and Disabilities," in *Oxford Bibliographies in Islamic Studies*, ed. Andrew Rippin. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.
<<http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780195390155/obo-9780195390155-0224.xml>>

(15) "Reconstructing the Autograph Corpus of Shams al-Dīn Muḥammad Ibn Ṭūlūn," *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 135.2 (2015): 319-27.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7817/jameroriesoci.135.2.319>

(16) "Blue and Green Eyes in the Islamic Middle Ages," *Annales Islamologiques* 48 (2014): 13-29. <https://journals.openedition.org/anisl/3051>

(17) "Drug Overdose, Disability and Male Friendship in Late Medieval Cairo," *postmedieval: a journal of medieval cultural studies*, 3.2 (2012): pp. 168-81.

(18) "Disability? Perspectives on Bodily Difference from the Middle East," in *Why the Middle Ages Matter: Medieval Light on Modern Injustice*, eds. Celia Chazelle, Simon Doubleday, Felice Lifshitz, Amy Remensnyder (New York: Routledge, 2011), pp. 121-9.

(19) "Singing Slave Girls (*qiyan*) of the Abbasid Court," in *Children in Slavery through the Ages*, eds. Joseph Miller, Suzanne Miers, Gwyn Campbell (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2009), pp. 105-18.

-book review

(20) Review of Kate Franklin, *Everyday Cosmopolitanisms: Living the Silk Road in Medieval Armenia* (Oakland, Calif.: University of California Press, 2021) in *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* (forthcoming in 2023)

(21) Review of Muhsin al-Musawi, *The Medieval Islamic Republic of Letters: Arabic Knowledge Construction* (Notre Dame, Ind.: Notre Dame Press, 2015) in *Journal of Arabic Literature* 47.1-2 (July 2016): 209-13.

(22) Review of Abir Hamdar, *The Suffering Female Body: Illness and Disability in Modern Arabic Literature* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2014) in *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* 12.1 (March 2016): 96-8. doi: 10.1215/15525864-3422567

-museum exhibit text

(23) Contributed exhibit labels and historical background to the exhibit catalogue for Godwin-Ternbach Museum's [Interwoven Worlds: Exploring Domestic and Nomadic Life in Turkey](#) (2012), ISBN: 978-0-9832641-1-8

-editorial work

Co-Editor, *Der Islam* journal (2019-present)

Co-Editor, *Studies in the History and Culture of the Middle East*, a De Gruyter book series published as a supplement to the *Der Islam* journal (2019-present)

Member, Extended Editorial Board, *Cursor Mundi: Viator Studies of the Medieval and Early Modern World*, a books series from Brepols Publishers that is a companion to *Viator* journal (May 2022 – May 2025)

Member, Advisory Board, University of Virginia Press Series on “Democratic Ideals in Global Perspective”

Member, Editorial Board, Amsterdam University Press, “Premodern Health, Disease and Disability Series” (2014-present)

-public scholarship

2022 April 11 – Interview with Helen Carr on the BBC History Extra Podcast

2022 January 31 – Interview with Maggie Freeman on Digital Nomads Podcast

(<https://digitalnomads.buzzsprout.com/1639870/9980007-roma-in-the-medieval-islamic-world-interview-with-dr-kristina-richardson>)

2021 January – Interview with Professor Christopher Gratien in the “Life in the Mamluk

- Sultanate” episode of the “Making of the Islamic World” series of the Ottoman History Podcast (<https://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/2020/11/life-in-mamluk-sultanate.html>)
- 2021 March – Guest Blog Editor, Harvard Law School’s Islamic Law Blog
- “Toni Morrison, John Ralph Willis, and Black Muslim History” (1344 words) (<https://islamiclaw.blog/2021/03/11/toni-morrison-john-ralph-willis-and-black-muslim-history/>)
 - “Ibāḍism in the Medieval Sahel” (1171 words) (<https://islamiclaw.blog/2021/03/18/iba%e1%b8%8dism-in-the-medieval-sahel/>)
 - “A ‘Jabri’ madhhab of the early modern Sudan?” (1404 words) (<https://islamiclaw.blog/2021/03/25/a-jabri-madhhab-of-the-early-modern-sudan/>)
- 2019 February 22 – Participant, “Crip the Met” roundtable, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City

Recent Invited Lectures

- 2024 Sewanee University (plenary address)
- 2023 New York University; Universität Freiburg; University of Birmingham
- 2022 Barnard College (conference keynote); NYU-Abu Dhabi; University of Oxford; Princeton University; University of Chicago; Universität Freiburg; American Oriental Society Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts (conference keynote); Monash University, Melbourne, Australia; University of Tennessee, Knoxville; University of Virginia; University of Michigan; Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France
- 2021 Rutgers University; Princeton University
- 2020 University of Michigan; Arizona State University; Universität Potsdam (cancelled for COVID); Columbia University
- 2019 Brown University; CUNY Graduate Center
- 2018 Metropolitan Museum of Art; Princeton University; University of Leeds (conference keynote)
- 2017 Rutgers University; Yale University; Columbia University (2x)
- 2016 Barnard College
- 2015 Columbia University; University of Maryland, College Park; University of Chicago

Prizes and Honors

2024-25 [Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar](#)

2023 [Monica H. Green Prize for Distinguished Medieval Research](#) (\$1,000) from the Medieval Academy of America

2022 [Dan David Prize](#) (\$300,000) for “outstanding scholarship that illuminates the past and seeks to anchor public discourse in a deeper understanding of history”

Fellowships and Grants

External

Research Fellowship, RomanIslam – Center for Comparative Empire and Transcultural Studies, Universität Hamburg (Summer 2023)

NEH Award for Faculty at Hispanic-Serving Institutions (Feb 2020 – Jan 2021)

NEH Summer Stipend (2019)

Research Fellowship, Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg “History and Society during the Mamluk Era (1250-1517),” Universität Bonn (2014-15)

Marie Curie Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Gerda Henkel Stiftung/M4HUMAN Programme (2012-14)

ARTstor Research Travel Grant (2010)

National Endowment for the Humanities Seminar, “Disease and Disability in the Middle Ages,” Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine, University of London (Summer 2009)

Internal

Karsh Institute of Democracy Working Group Funding (2023-24)

PSC-CUNY Research Grant (Summer 2021)

CUNY: Scholar Incentive Award (Feb 2020-Jan 2021)

PSC-CUNY Research Grant (Summer 2019)

Mid-Career Fellowship, Committee on Globalization and Social Change, CUNY Graduate Center (2018-19)

PSC-CUNY Research Grant (Summer 2017)

Mellon Diversity Enhancement Research Grant (Summer 2016)

CUNY: Scholar Incentive Award (2012-13)

PSC-CUNY Research Grant (2010)

CUNY: Faculty Fellowship Publication Program (Spring 2010)

Languages

- classical Arabic, French, English, Sin
- Proficient: modern standard Arabic, American Sign Language, German
- Reading Knowledge: Italian, Persian

Courses Taught

Undergraduate Instruction at Queens College

Islamic Civilization, 600-1517 (Fall 2008, Fall 2009, Fall 2010, Fall 2011, Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2019, Spring 2021)

Women, Gender and Sexuality in Islam (Spring 2009, Fall 2009, Fall 2010, Fall 2015, Spring 2019, Spring 2021)

America in the Middle East (Spring 2009, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2019)

Islam in Historical Perspective (Fall 2011, Fall 2016)

Illicit Substances in Islamic History (Fall 2011)

Place, Travel and Self in the Islamic Middle East (Spring 2009)

A History of Gypsies in the Middle East and Europe (Spring 2016)

Muslim Societies in African History (Fall 2019, Fall 2021)

Printing Before Gutenberg (Spring 2021, Spring 2022)

Race and Ethnicity in Middle East and North Africa (Spring 2022)

Graduate Instruction at CUNY

Race in the Middle East and North Africa (Fall 2021, CUNY Graduate Center)

The Historical Muhammad (Fall 2018, CUNY Graduate Center)

Capstone Seminar in Middle Eastern Studies (Spring 2017, CUNY Graduate Center)

Readings in Quran Translations (Fall 2011)

Women and Gender in Islam (Fall 2010)

History of Disability and Special Education in the Middle East (Spring 2010)

Readings in Kurdistan and Turkey (Spring 2010)

Introduction to Middle Eastern History (Fall 2009)

CUNY Service

Advisory Board, Mellon Sawyer Seminar "Race and Middle East/North Africa" at CUNY Graduate Center (2020-21)

Post-Doctoral Fellowship Selection Committee Member, Mellon-Sawyer seminar, MEMEAC-GC (Spring 2021)

Member, Year of Silk Roads Committee, Queens College, CUNY (2015-16)

Member, Bruce D. Craig Mamluk Studies Dissertation Prize Committee, University of Chicago (2013, 2014)

Member, Search Committee for an Academic Program Manager, Center for Jewish Studies, Queens College, CUNY (Spring 2012)

Member, Middle East Studies Project Committee, Queens College, CUNY (2009-11)

Member, Disability Studies Advisory Committee, JFK, Jr. Institute for Worker Education, CUNY (2008-present)

Member, Music of the Muslim World Curriculum Committee, Queens College, CUNY (2008-10)

Department Service

- Personnel & Budget Committee Member, History Department, Queens College (May 2019-January 2020)
- Curriculum Committee Member, History Department, Queens College (2018-19)
- Concentration Adviser, History Department, Queens College (2009-12, 2015-2017, 2019-present)
- Webmaster, Arts of the Islamic World [artsoftheislamicworld.qc.cuny.edu]
 - o Virtual exhibition of 284 objects from the Nasser D. Khalili Collection of Islamic Art
 - o Technical expertise: MySQL, Sharepoint Servers, Flash, Adobe Photoshop
- Webmaster, Queens College History department website (2009-12, 2015-2017)
 - o <http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Academics/Degrees/DSS/History/Pages/welcome.aspx>

Professional Activities

member of:

[Bloomsbury Medieval Studies Editorial Advisory Board](#) (2022 - present)

Medieval Academy of America (2020-present)

-Teaching Association for Medieval Studies (TEAMS) Board of Directors (Spring 2021-present)

Steering Committee, BodoArXiv, an open, non-profit repository of works in medieval studies (2019-present)

Middle East Studies Association (2008-11, 2016)

Middle East Medievalists (2016-present)

-Board Member (2016-19)

K. L. Richardson

Gypsy Lore Society (2016-present)

The Islamic Manuscript Association (2015-present)

Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft (2012-2018)

Disability History Association (2006-09)