

Curriculum Vitae

Maya Soifer Irish

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RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Medieval Europe, Medieval Iberia, Kingdom of Castile in the High to Late Middle Ages, Jewish-Christian and Jewish-Muslim Relations in Pre-Modern Europe and the Mediterranean, Inter-religious Polemics, Medieval Borderlands

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor, History Department, Rice University: May 2018 – present
Assistant Professor, History Department, Rice University: July 2010 – May 2018

Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Introduction to the Humanities Program (IHUM),
Stanford University: 2007-2010

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Department of History, Princeton University, 2007
M.A.	Department of History, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, 2000
B.A.	Department of History, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, 1995 <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> , with Highest Distinction in History

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Jews and Christians in Medieval Castile: Tradition, Coexistence, and Change
(Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2016)

Refereed Articles

“Toward 1391: the anti-Jewish preaching of Ferrán Martínez in Seville.” Ed.
Jonathan Adams and Cordelia Hess. *The Medieval Roots of Antisemitism: Continuities*

and Discontinuities From the Middle Ages to the Present Day. Routledge, 2018, 306-319

"The Problem of Old Debts: Jewish Moneylenders in Northern Castile (Belorado and Miranda de Ebro, ca. 1300)." *Sefarad* 74 (2), 2014, 279-303

"*Tamquam domino proprio*: Contesting Ecclesiastical Lordship Over Jews in Thirteenth-Century Castile." *Medieval Encounters* 19 (2013), 534-566

"The Castilian Monarchy and the Jews (11th to 13th Century)." Ed. Katherine L. Jansen, G. Geltner, and Anne E. Lester. *Center and Periphery: Studies on Power in the Medieval World in Honor of William Chester Jordan*. Leiden: Brill, 2013, 39-49

"Beyond *Convivencia*: Critical Reflections on the Historiography of Interfaith Relations in Christian Spain." *Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies* 1 (2009), 19-35

*Listed as the "most read" and "most cited" article on *JMIS* website:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/ribs20/current#cited> [date accessed: March 14, 2017]

"'You say that the Messiah has come...': the Ceuta Disputation (1179) and Its Place in Christian Anti-Jewish Polemics of the High Middle Ages." *The Journal of Medieval History* 31 (2005), 287-307

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Books

Toward 1391: Jews and the Making of Christian Seville

Articles

"Massacres of Jews in Medieval Western Europe (1096-1391)." *The Cambridge World History of Genocide*, Volume I, *Genocide in the Ancient, Medieval and Premodern Worlds*. Eds. Ben Kiernan, Tracy Maria Lemos, and Tristan Taylor.

"Landscapes of Salvation, Landscapes of Power: Jews, Christians, and Urban Space in Fourteenth-Century Seville." *Iberia, the Mediterranean, and the World in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods* [tentative title]. Ed. Thomas Barton, Marie Kelleher, Zrinka Stahuljak, and Antonio Zaldivar

"Persecuting Society in Fourteenth-Century Seville?: R.I. Moore's thesis revisited." *New Directions in Medieval Iberian History: The Contribution and Legacy of Simon Barton's Scholarship* [tentative title]. Ed. Antonella Liuzzo Scorpo

BOOK REVIEWS

Lucy K. Pick. *Her Father's Daughter: Gender, Power, and Religion in the Early Spanish Kingdoms* (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2017). *The Historian*, Volume 80, Number 4, 1 December 2018, 859-861

Benjamin R. Gampel. *Anti-Jewish Riots in the Crown of Aragon and the Royal Response, 1391-1392* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2016). *AJS Review* 41 (2), 2017, 483-485

Thomas W. Barton, *Contested Treasure: Jews and Authority in the Crown of Aragon* (The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2014). *American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain*, May 2017:
https://aarhms.wildapricot.org/New_Book_Reviews/4854367#4854367

Antonella Liuzzo Scorpo, *Friendship in Medieval Iberia: Historical, Legal and Literary Perspectives* (Ashgate, 2014). *Bulletin of Spanish Studies* 94 (5), 2017, 891-892

James Todesca, ed. *The Emergence of León-Castile c. 1065-1500: Essays Presented to J. F. O'Callaghan* (Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing Company, 2015). *The Medieval Review*, 2016:
<https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/tmr/article/view/22493/28396>

Karina F. Attar and Lynn Shutters, eds., *Teaching Medieval and Early Modern Cross-Cultural Encounters* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014). *Speculum* 91 (4), 2016, 1066-1067

Ryan Szpiech, *Conversion and Narrative: Reading and Religious Authority in Medieval Polemic* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013). *The Journal of Religion* 95 (1), 2015, 125-127

Anne Marie Wolf, *Juan de Segovia and the Fight for Peace: Christians and Muslims in the Fifteenth Century* (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2014). *Bulletin for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies* 39 (1), 2014, 140-141

Janna Bianchini, *The Queen's Hand: Power and Authority in the Reign of Berenguela of Castile* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012). *Bulletin of Spanish Studies* 91 (7), 2014, 1084-1085

Carolina Carl, *A Bishopric Between Three Kingdoms: Calahorra, 1045-1190* (Brill, 2011). *Bulletin of Spanish Studies* 91 (3), 2014, 454-455

Paola Tartakoff, *Between Christian and Jew: Conversion and Inquisition in the Crown of Aragon, 1250-1391* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012). *American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain*, 2014:
http://aarhms.wildapricot.org/New_Book_Reviews?mode=MessageList&eid=1430979&tpg=2

Joseph Montville, ed. *History As Prelude: Muslims and Jews in the Medieval Mediterranean* (Lexington Books, 2011). *Intertwined Worlds*, 2012:
<http://intertwinedworlds.wordpress.com/2012/10/22/review-history-as-prelude-muslims-and-jews-in-the-medieval-mediterranean/>

Carmen Caballero-Navas and Esperanza Alfonso, eds. *Late Medieval Jewish Identities: Iberia and Beyond* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010). *The Medieval Review*, 2011:
<https://scholarworks.iu.edu/dspace/bitstream/handle/2022/13363/11.06.43.html?sequence=1>

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

(forthcoming) "Material and Symbolic Significance of Synagogues in 14th-Century Castile"

International Medieval Congress, Leeds, England, July 2, 2019

"Landscapes of Salvation, Landscapes of Power: Jews, Christians, and Urban Space in Fourteenth-Century Seville"

Iberia, Mediterranean, and the World in the Medieval and Early Modern Period: Conference at the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, University of California, Los Angeles, October 3, 2018

"Power, Salvation, and Anti-Judaism in Seville, 1369-1391"

The Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, April 6, 2017

"Religious Reform and Antisemitism in Late Fourteenth-Century Castile"

Religion and (the Master) Narrative: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Medieval and Early Modern Belief and Practice; Boulder, CO, October 2015

"Ferrán Martínez in Seville: Toward Understanding the Pogroms of 1391"

"New Research Directions: Medieval Iberia." Roundtable discussion in Memoriam of Olivia Remie Constable

International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, MI, May 2015

"Ferrán Martínez and the Social Anti-Judaism of Fourteenth-Century Castile"

10th Congress of the European Association for Jewish Studies: "Jewish and Non-Jewish Cultures in Contact: New Research Perspectives," Paris, France, July 2014

"The Castilian Monarchy and the Jews (11th to 13th Century)"

The Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting, Knoxville, TN, April 2013

"Anti-Jewish Legislative Discourse in Castile"

Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Boston, MA, January 2011

"Convivencia": A Mediterranean Mode of Coexistence?"

"Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies: The Inaugural Issue." Roundtable Discussion

International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, MI, May 2009

“The Bishop and his Jews in Medieval Palencia”

Sewanee Medieval Colloquium. The University of the South, Sewanee, TN, April 2009

“Negotiating 'Convivencia': Intercommunal Conflicts and Cooperation in Medieval Castile”

Annual Meeting of the Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies, Fort Worth, TX, April 2008

“Negotiating Jewish-Christian Coexistence”

California Medieval History Seminar, Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, March 2008

“Papal Reform and the Jews in Thirteenth-Century Castile”

International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, MI, May 2007

“*Los judíos todos son del rey:*’ The Origins of Jewish ‘Servitude’ in Medieval Castile (Eleventh to Thirteenth Centuries)”

Annual Meeting of the Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies, Lexington, KY, April 2006

“From Royal *fueros* to *Fuero real* (1256): *servi regis* and the Jews’ Legal Status in Castile (12th –13th Centuries)”

Convivium Interdisciplinary Conference “Children of Abraham: Christians, Jews and Muslims in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Era,” Siena College, NY, October 2005

INVITED TALKS

“Jews and Christians in Medieval Castile”

Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, January 23, 2017

“Was there a *convivencia* in medieval Spain?”

Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO, October 2015

“Toward 1391: the Anti-Jewish Preaching of Ferrán Martínez in Seville”

The Medieval Roots of Anti-Semitism: an Interdisciplinary Workshop, The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History, and Antiquities, Stockholm (Sweden), February 11, 2015

“Jewish Moneylending in Northern Castile: The Problem of Old Debts”

Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, Madrid (Spain), June 3, 2014

“Crypto-Jewish Women and the Spanish Inquisition”

Jewish Theological Seminary's "Jewish Women's University for a Day," Rice University, October 27, 2013

*"Convivencia in the Archives: The Jews of Medieval Castile"
Lamar University, Phi Alpha Theta Banquet, March 6, 2013*

*"The Legal Status of Religious Minorities in the Medieval Mediterranean"
Texas A&M University, Religion and Culture Working Group, April 16, 2012*

*"Convivencia Between Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Medieval Spain"
Jewish Community Center of Houston, September 26, 2011*

AWARDS AND HONORS

Fellowship at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Michigan, Spring 2019

Humanities Research Center Teaching Release Fellowship, Rice University, Spring 2015

Whiting Fellowship in the Humanities, 2006-2007

Research and Travel Grants, 2003-2005, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ: Dean's Fund for Scholarly Travel; Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies; Department of History; Program in Judaic Studies

Davis Prize, Princeton University Department of History, Princeton, NJ, 2002-2003

Rollins Prize, Princeton University Department of History, Princeton, NJ, 2003-2007

Andrew Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies, 2002-2003

Outstanding Graduate Student, Department of History, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, CO, 2002

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Rice University

Undergraduate:

"Jews and Christians in Medieval Europe," "Medieval Civilizations," "Coexistence in Medieval Spain," "Medieval Borderlands," "Religious Violence and Tolerance in the Middle Ages," "Medieval Violence," "Medieval Mediterranean World," "Christian Holy Wars, 1095-1492"

Undergraduate advising:

History Honors Thesis: Abigail Panitz, "Invocations of the Medieval Past in 21st Century Disputes on Mosque Development," 2018-2019 (co-adviser with Dr. Lora Wildenthal)

History Honors Thesis: Robert Williamson, "The English Knight as an Expert in Arms: A Case Against the Early Military Revolution," 2018-2019 (co-adviser with Dr. Aysha Pollnitz)

Graduate:

Qualification Committee for José L. Candelaria, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Art History, Rice University

Stanford University (as a Teaching Fellow)

"Mass Violence From Crusades to Genocide," "Laws and Orders," "Visions of Mortality," "Human History: A Global Approach," "Jews Under Islam and Christianity in the Middle Ages"

COMMITTEE WORK

Undergraduate Committee, History Department, Rice University, September 2010 – May 2013; August 2015 – August 2016; August 2018 – present

Brown Bag Lunch Talks Coordinator, History Department, Rice University, May 2013 – May 2015; August 2016 – May 2018

Committee on Fellowships and Awards, Rice University, September 2012 – present

Medieval and Early Modern Studies Advisory Board member, Rice University, August 2015 – present

Postdoctoral Fellow Search Committee, Jewish Studies Program, Rice University, January-February 2015

Ad hoc Faculty Advisory Committee on Communication in the Curriculum, Rice University, Spring 2011

IHUM Interdisciplinary Research Colloquium Organizing Committee, 2007-2009

Course Coordinator for IHUM 4A Mass Violence, 2009

SERVICE WORK

President, American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain (AARHMS)

President, The Fourteenth Century Society

Panel organizer and presider, "What Do Iberianists Have To Say About Race?" The Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, March 9, 2019

Sessions co-organizer, "Women, Power, and Gender in Medieval Iberia (I and II)," "Iberia in the Fourteenth Century," "Doing More with Less: Methodological Creativity with Medieval Castilian Sources," "Bureaucracy and Document Culture in the Fourteenth Century" (sponsored and co-sponsored by AARHMS and The Fourteenth Century Society), International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, MI, May 2019

Bishko Prize committee member for the best article published in the field of medieval Iberian history by a North American scholar

Session organizer, "Interfaith relations in the fourteenth century" (sponsored by the Fourteenth Century Society), International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, MI, May 2016

Medieval history textbook reviewer for Routledge, University of Toronto Press, and Cambridge University Press

Manuscript reviewer for Palgrave Macmillan and Broadview Press

Article reviewer for *Speculum*, *Viator*, and *European Journal of Jewish Studies*

Co-Organizer, Undergraduate Conference in Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Rice University, 2011-present

Divisional Advisor for Humanities, Baker College, Rice University, 2013-2014

Faculty Associate, Baker College, Rice University, 2013-present

First-year Mentor, Baker College, Rice University, 2013-14 and 2015-16

Faculty Sponsor, Rice Hillel, Rice University

Faculty Sponsor, COLL 195: Scotland (Hurst Williamson, instructor), Hanszen College, Rice University, Spring 2013

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Medieval Academy of America

American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain
American Historical Association
The Fourteenth Century Society
Association for Jewish Studies
Texas Jewish Studies Research Triangle

LANGUAGES

Modern: Russian (native), Spanish, French, Hebrew, and German. Medieval: Latin and Castilian