

Curriculum Vitae

MAYA SOIFER IRISH

History Department
Rice University MS 42
6100 Main Street
Houston, TX 77005
maya.s.irish@rice.edu

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Medieval Europe, Medieval Iberia, Mediterranean history, Jewish history, Antisemitism, 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
Summa Cum Laude, 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)

The Politics of Persecution in Medieval Spain: Toward the Anti-Jewish Riots of 1391 (forthcoming)

Companion to Medieval and Early Modern Seville (Leiden: Brill). Ed. Camilo Gomez-Rivas, Maya Soifer Irish, and Ryan Szpiech (forthcoming)

Articles

"The Kingdom of Castile Is Our Shield: Castilian kings and their Jewish officials." *A Plural Peninsula: Studies in Honour of Professor Simon Barton* (Brill, The Medieval Mediterranean series). Ed. Antonella Liuzzo Scorpo (forthcoming)

"Preface to 'The Early Reconquest' in Yitzhak Baer's *A History of the Jews in Christian Spain. Convivencia: The History of an Idea* (Lockwood Press, *Resources in Arabic and Islamic Studies* series). Ed. S.J. Pearce (forthcoming)

"Massacres of Jews in Medieval Western Europe (1096-1392)." *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 (in press, 2022)

"Landscapes of Salvation, Landscapes of Power: Jews, Christians, and Urban Space in Fourteenth-Century Seville." *Iberia: Worlds of Communication and Conflict* (Brepols, *Cursor Mundi* series). Ed. Thomas Barton, Marie Kelleher, Zrinka Stahuljak, and Antonio Zaldivar (in press, 2022)

"How Jewish Were the Jewish Courtiers of Medieval Christian Spain?" *Sephardic Identities, Medieval and Early Modern* (Ann Arbor, MI: Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, 2019), 34-36

"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: October 27, 2020]

"'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

TRANSLATION AND COMMENTARY

"Ferrán Martínez's Speech at the *Tribunal del Alcázar* in Seville, February 18, 1388" (from Castilian)

Open Iberia/América Teaching Anthology 2020

<https://openiberiaamerica.hcommons.org/>

BOOK REVIEWS

Joseph O'Callaghan, *Alfonso X, The Justinian of His Age: Law and Justice in Thirteenth-Century Castile* (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2019). *History: Review of New Books*, 48:3, 2020, 73-74

Susan Einbinder, *After the Black Death: Plague and Commemoration Among Iberian Jews* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018). *The American Historical Review* 125 (2), April 2020, 707-708

Brian Catlos, *Kingdoms of Faith: A New History of Islamic Spain* (New York: Basic Books, 2018). *Bulletin of Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies* Vol. 44 (1), 2019, Article 11

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

“Medieval Perspectives on Modern Crises, Part I: Teaching Medieval Crises in the Modern Classroom.” Roundtable discussion

The American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, January 7, 2022

“*Liber Iudiciorum* and the legal status of Jews in 12-13th c. Castile”

The Dawn of the Hispanic Legal Tradition: A Conference on the Liber Iudiciorum
Yale University Law School, November 14, 2021 (online)

“From al-Andalus to Andalusia: Jewish Administrators in a Frontier Christian Kingdom”

International Medieval Congress, Leeds, England, July 9, 2021 (online)

“Material and Symbolic Significance of Synagogues in 14th-Century Castile”

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

“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

SELECTED INVITED TALKS

"Ferrán Martínez's Speech at the *Tribunal del Alcázar*,"
Research Seminar, Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, December 1, 2020 (on Zoom)

"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*

"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*

SELECTED PUBLIC LECTURES

"The Life and Times of King Alfonso XI of Castile"
*The Arts of Intimacy: a celebration of art, music, and poetry at the crossroads of culture,
identity, and faith in 14th century Castile, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, January 16, 2020*

"Better Under Edom Than Ishmael: Jewish Migrations from Islamic to Christian Spain in the
Middle Ages"
Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center, Houston, September 11, 2019

"The Vanished Synagogues of Medieval Seville"
Jewish Community Center of Metro Detroit, Detroit, MI, February 20, 2019

AWARDS AND HONORS

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

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

Whiting Fellowship in the Humanities
2006-2007

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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Rice University

Undergraduate courses:

Medieval Civilizations
Medieval Mediterranean World
Medieval Violence
Conflict and Coexistence in Medieval Spain
Medieval Borderlands
Jews and Christians in Medieval Europe
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 committees:

Ph.D. Dissertation Committee for Carolyn Van Wingerden, "The Turbaned Heads, Each Wrapped in Twisted Folds of the Whitest Silk': Images of Muslims in Netherlandish Art, 1400-1700," defended May 11, 2021
Department of Art History, Rice University

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Board Member, *medievalJewishStudiesNow!*, a blog for news and current events for medieval Jewish Studies research today, 2021 – present

President, Texas Medieval Association (TEMA), 2020-2021

President, American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain (AARHMS), 2018 – 2021

President, The Fourteenth Century Society, 2018 – 2020

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

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*, *Journal of Jewish Identities*, and *European Journal of Jewish Studies*

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Director, Medieval and Early Modern Studies Program (MDEM), Rice University, July 2020 – present

University Committee on Teaching, August 2021 – present

Jewish Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship committee, February 2021

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 – May 2020

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

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Medieval Academy of America

American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain

American Historical Association

The Fourteenth Century Society

Texas Medieval Association

Texas Jewish Studies Research Triangle

LANGUAGES

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