

Eugene Smelyansky

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Wilson-Short Hall 301, Department of History
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EDUCATION

- 2015 – Ph.D., History, University of California, Irvine, CA
Dissertation: “Self-Styled Inquisitors: Heresy, Mobility, and Anti-Waldensian Persecutions in Germany, 1390-1404,” supervised by James B. Given
Fields: Medieval Europe, Early Modern Europe, World History
- 2009 – M.A., History, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA
Fields: Ancient Rome, Late Antiquity, Medieval Europe
- 2007 – B.A., History, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA
- 2004 – A. A., Liberal Arts, Skyline College, San Bruno, CA

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2023 – present Assistant Professor (Career Track), Department of History, Washington State University
- 2018 – 2023 Teaching Postdoctoral Fellow, The Roots of Contemporary Issues Program, Department of History, Washington State University
- 2017 – 2018 Humanities Research Associate, History Department, University of California, Irvine (UC Irvine)
- 2016 – 2017 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History and Geography, Lindenwood University, St. Charles, MO
- 2015 – 2016 Visiting Assistant Professor, History Department, St. Thomas University, Fredericton, NB, Canada
- 2014 – 2015 Instructor, History Department, UC Irvine
- 2012 – 2014 Summer Session Instructor, History Department, UC Irvine (during Summer Sessions only)
- 2010 – 2015 Teaching Assistant, School of Humanities, UC Irvine

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Research interests include religious persecution, marginalization and toleration in medieval cities; history of medieval popular religion and heretical movements; environmental history; history of gender and sexuality; history of medievalism (reception of medieval history in later periods).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Introductory Surveys:

- The Roots of Contemporary Issues (introductory history course with a semester-long research component)
- Ancient, Medieval, and Early Modern Europe

World History to 1650
World History since 1500

Upper-Division Surveys:

The Rise and Fall of Ancient Rome
History of the Early Middle Ages
History of the High and Late Middle Ages
Early Modern Europe, 1450–1815
History of the Islamic World to 1500

Special Topics:

Witches, Nuns, Merchants, and Queens in Europe, 1200–1800
Persecution in Medieval Europe and the Islamic World
Intolerance and Persecution in Medieval Europe

Undergraduate Seminars:

History Workshop: Plague in the Medieval World
Travel, Trade, and Mobility in Medieval Europe and the Mediterranean
The Renaissance: Art, Violence, and Early Globalization

AWARDS AND HONORS

2020 – The Roots of Contemporary Issues Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, Washington State University
2014 – Chancellor’s Club for Excellence Fellowship, UC Irvine
2014 – Charles & Ann Quilter Graduate Student Award in History, UC Irvine
2013 – Travel Grant, German Historical Institute, London, UK
2013 – Alternate Candidate, Fulbright Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad for Germany
2012 – IICAS Thyssen Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship, Institute of International, Comparative, and Area Studies, UC San Diego
2011 – Faculty Mentor Program Fellowship, UC Irvine (honorable mention)
2010 – Summer Language Study Scholarship, School of Humanities, UC Irvine
2009 – Incoming Graduate Student Scholarship, History Department, UC Irvine

PUBLICATIONS

Books

The Routledge Handbook of Global Medievalism (co-editor). Routledge, in preparation.
Medievalisms and Russia: The Contest for Imaginary Pasts. Arc Humanities Press, 2024.
<https://doi.org/10.1515/9781802702408>.
Heresy and Citizenship: Persecution of Heresy in Late Medieval German Cities. Studies in Medieval History and Culture. Routledge, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780367815059>.

The Intolerant Middle Ages: A Reader. Readings in Medieval Civilizations and Cultures. University of Toronto Press, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.3138/9781487533335>.

Articles and Chapters

“Medieval Science, the Spanish Inquisition, and Religious Violence in 1492: Conquest of Paradise (1992),” in *Law, Justice, and Society in the Medieval World: An Introduction through Film*, eds. Esther Liberman Cuenca, M. Christina Bruno, and Anthony Perron, 265-278. Fordham University Press, 2025. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/book.131032>.

“Heretical Refugees and Persecution of German Waldensians, 1393–1400,” *Journal of Medieval History* 48, no. 3 (2022): 396-416, <https://doi.org/10.1080/03044181.2022.2073463>

“Enemies at the Gate: Political Medievalism, Russian Style,” *The Public Medievalist*, April 15, 2021, <https://www.publicmedievalist.com/medievalism-russia-nevsky/>

“COVID, Compassion, Connection: Pedagogy in the Long 2020,” *EuropeNow*, December 8, 2020, <https://www.europenowjournal.org/2020/12/07/covid-compassion-connection-pedagogy-in-the-long-2020>

“Urban Order and Urban Other: Anti-Waldensian Inquisition in Augsburg, 1393,” *German History* 34, no. 1 (2016): 1-20, <https://doi.org/10.1093/gerhis/ghv143>

“Self-Styled Inquisitors: Heresy, Mobility, and Anti-Waldensian Persecutions in Germany, 1390–1404,” *Mittelalter. Interdisziplinäre Forschung und Rezeptionsgeschichte*, November 18, 2015, <http://mittelalter.hypotheses.org/6979>

Book Reviews

Review of Nancy S. Kollmann, *Visualizing Russia in Early Modern Europe in Ab Imperio: Studies of New Imperial History and Nationalism in the Post-Soviet Space* 1/2025 (May 2025): 251-55, <https://doi.org/10.1353/imp.2025.a960618>.

Review of Ellen F. Arnold, *Medieval Riverscapes: Environment and Memory in Northwest Europe, c. 300–1100* in *Environmental History* 30, no. 1 (January 2025): 185-187, <https://doi.org/10.1086/733342>.

Review of Delfi I. Nieto-Isabel and Laura Miquel Milian, eds. *Living on the Edge: Transgression, Exclusion, and Persecution in the Middle Ages* in *Francia-Recensio* 2023/4, *Mittelalter – Moyen Âge (500–1500)*, <https://doi.org/10.11588/frrec.2023.4.101298>.

Review of Marie von Lüneburg, *Tyrannie und Teufel. Die Wahrnehmung der Inquisition in deutschsprachigen Druckmedien im 16. Jahrhundert* in *Central European History* 55, no. 4 (December 2022): 606-608, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0008938922001315>.

Review of Reima Välimäki, *Heresy in Late Medieval Germany: The Inquisitor Petrus Zwicker and the Waldensians* in *History: The Journal of the Historical Association* 105, no. 368 (December 2020): 863-865, <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-229X.13070>.

Review of Eliana Corbari, *Vernacular Theology: Dominican Sermons and Audience in Late Medieval Italy* in *Comitatus: A Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies* 45 (2015): 228-229, <https://doi.org/10.1353/cjm.2014.0066>.

Review of Carmen Nocentelli, *Empires of Love: Europe, Asia, and the Making of Early Modern Identity* in *Comitatus: A Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies* 45 (2015): 297-300, <https://doi.org/10.1353/cjm.2014.0080>.

Review of Christian Raffensperger, *Reimagining Europe: Kievan Rus' in the Medieval World* in *Comitatus: A Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies* 44 (2013): 324-326, <https://doi.org/10.1353/cjm.2013.0070>.

Review of Lawrin D. Armstrong and Julius Kirshner, eds. *The Politics of Law in Late Medieval and Renaissance Italy: Essays in Honour of Lauro Martines* in *Comitatus: A Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies* 43 (2012): 155-157,
<https://doi.org/10.1353/cjm.2012.0075>.

PAPERS PRESENTED

- 2026 – “Mapping Trade and Travel in Ancient Afro-Eurasia,” Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association 119th Meeting, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV
- 2026 – “Expect the Inquisition: Heresy and Its Persecution in Modern Popular Culture,” International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, UK
- 2026 – “Ruling the Unruly: Popular Responses to Sanitation Measures and Social Discipline in Late Medieval Cities,” Medieval Academy of America 101st Annual Meeting, Amherst, MA
- 2025 – “From Words to Acts: Incitement, Violence, and Persecution of Heresy,” International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, UK
- 2025 – “Medievalisms at War: The Russo-Japanese War, Propaganda, and the Pursuit of Usable Past,” 45th Annual Medieval and Renaissance Forum, Keene State College, Keene, NH
- 2024 – “From Dissent to Reaction: Medievalism in Soviet and Russian Science Fiction,” 59th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI
- 2023 – “A Strange Brew: Russia’s Neo-Medievalism Meets Global White Supremacy,” Medieval Academy of America 98th Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
- 2022 – “Saving the Forest in Order to Burn It: Manufacturing, Deforestation, and Forest Planting in Late Medieval Nuremberg,” Medieval Academy of America 97th Annual Meeting, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
- 2021 – “Making the Forest Grow Again: Industry and Forest Management in Late Medieval Nuremberg,” Brown Bag Research Series, Department of History, University of Melbourne
- 2020 – “Nuremberg: Towards an Environmental History of a Late Medieval City,” The Roots of Contemporary Issues Research Brown Bag Series, History Department, Washington State University
- 2020 – “Waldensians on the Run: Refugees and Persecution of Heresy in Germany, 1390-1404,” 55th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (conference cancelled due to COVID-19)
- 2019 – “Heresy as Pretext: Elite Identity, Urban Competition, and the Inquisition in Rothenburg ob der Tauber, 1394-1395,” International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, UK
- 2019 – “A Rich City on Poor Soil: Late Medieval Nuremberg and the Rhetoric of Need,” 54th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI [presenter and panel co-organizer]
- 2019 – “Inquisition Comes to Town: Persecution of Heresy in Late Medieval Germany, 1390-1404,” The Roots of Contemporary Issues Research Brown Bag Series, History Department, Washington State University
- 2018 – “Networks of Heresy and Persecution: German Waldensians, 1390-1404,” California Medieval Seminar, Huntington Library, San Marino, CA

- 2016 – “Grassroots Heresy: Towards Social Mapping of German Waldensian Communities, 1390-1400,” 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI
- 2016 – “Heretics, Informants, Priests: Conversion, Information, and Persecution of Heresy in Germany, 1391-1403,” University of New Brunswick Tri-Campus Colloquium
- 2015 – “Heretics, Informants, Priests: Conversion, Information, and Persecution of Heresy, 1391-1403,” 50th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI [presenter and panel organizer]
- 2015 – “‘Preachers in the Corners’: Antifraternalism, Persecution of Heresy, and Reform in Late Medieval Germany,” Medieval Association of the Pacific Annual Conference, University of Nevada-Reno, NV
- 2014 – “Conversion, Repression, Reform: Peter Zwicker and German Waldensians, 1391-1404,” California Medieval Seminar, Huntington Library, San Marino, CA
- 2014 – “Between Compulsion and Conversion: Itinerant Inquisitorial Activity in Germany, 1390-1400,” Medieval Studies Graduate Student Conference, UC Santa Barbara
- 2014 – “Urban Order and Urban Other: Anti-Waldensian Inquisition in Augsburg, 1393,” History Department, UC Irvine
- 2013 – “‘A Self-Styled Inquisitor’: Itinerant Inquisitors and Anti-Waldensian Persecutions in Germany, 1390-1400,” Medieval History Seminar, German Historical Institute, London, UK (October 11, 2013)
- 2013 – “‘A Self-Styled Inquisitor’: Itinerant Inquisitors and Textual Authority, 1390-1400,” Medieval Studies Graduate Student Conference, UC Santa Barbara (May 18, 2013)
- 2013 – “*Per mundum gyrante*: Anti-Waldensian Persecutions and Itinerant Inquisitors in Germany, 1390-1407,” Medieval Association of the Pacific Annual Conference, University of San Diego (March 22, 2013)
- 2012 – “Inquisition Comes to Town: Itinerant Inquisitors and Urban Heretics,” Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, Germany (August 13, 2012)
- 2012 – “The Rhineland Cities and Inquisition: Mainz and Strasbourg,” California Medieval Seminar, Huntington Library, San Marino, CA (May 12, 2012)
- 2012 – “The Rhineland Cities and Inquisition: Heresy, Persecution and the Contours of Urban Politics in Mainz and Strasbourg, 1390-1400,” Medieval Association of the Pacific Annual Conference, Santa Clara University (March 31, 2012)
- 2010 – “Found in Translation: Medieval Translation Movements and the Rise of Hebrew Science in Provence,” *Vagantes*: Medieval Graduate Student Conference, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque (March 12, 2010)

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- 2025 – present – Global History Program Committee, Department of History, Washington State University
- 2023 – 2025 – Internship Coordinator, Department of History, Washington State University
- 2018 – present – Annual Program Assessment, The Roots of Contemporary Issues Program, Department of History, Washington State University
- 2024 – 2025 – Search Committee Member: Teaching Postdoctoral Fellow, The Roots of Contemporary Issues, Washington State University
- 2024 – UCORE recertification: HIST 341 The Rise and Fall of Ancient Rome, Department of History, Washington State University

2016 – Member of the World History Textbook Selection Committee, Dept. of History and Geography, Lindenwood University

2016 – 2017 – Reader, Senior History Examinations, Dept. of History and Geography, Lindenwood University

2014 – Tenure Review Committee, Graduate Student Representative, History Department, UC Irvine

2013 – 2014 – History Job Search Committee: Europe and the World, Graduate Student Representative, History Department, UC Irvine

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2024 – present – Scholarship Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, Washington State University

2018 – present – Faculty participant, First-Year Focus Program, Washington State University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2025 – present – Advisory Board Member, “The Urban World in the Middle Ages” series, Boydell & Brewer Press

2019 – Panel Co-Organizer, “For Communal Health and the Common Good: Social Control and Political Authority in Late Medieval Towns,” 54th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI

2015 – 2016 – Fellow, World History Institute, St. Thomas University, Fredericton, NB

2015 – Panel Organizer, “Religious Persecution and Heretical Identities in Medieval Europe,” 50th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI

2010 – 2014 – Editor, *Trans-Scripts: An Interdisciplinary Online Journal in the Humanities and Social Sciences at UC Irvine*.

2011 – History Graduate Student Conference Co-Organizer, History Department, UC Irvine

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2023 – Teaching Writing to History Students Workshop, Writing Program and WSU Pullman Writing Center, Washington State University

2021 – 2022 – Core to Career Faculty Fellowship, Washington State University

2021 – “Medieval Africa and Africans” Professional Development Course, National Humanities Center and Medieval Academy of America

2020 – Distance Delivery Mastery Certificate, Washington State University

2019 – LIFT Faculty Fellowship, Washington State University

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

2026 – Guest Contributor, “Russian Medievalisms with Eugene Smelyansky,” *American Medieval*, podcast. March 4, 2026. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/russian-medievalisms-with-eugene-smelyansky/id1849547102?i=1000753024635>.

2025 – Panelist, “Resilience in Writing: Inspiration, Overcoming the Writer’s Block and ‘Things I Wish I Had Known,’” *Crimson Reads 2025*, Washington State University. March 27, 2025.

2024 – Guest Contributor, “Imaginary Byzantiums in modern Russia, with Eugene Smelyansky,” *Byzantium and Friends*, podcast. April 18, 2024.
<https://www.podbean.com/ew/pb-i5uih-15eb7ea>.

2020 – Public Lecture: “Learning from the Past: Intolerance and Diversity in the Middle Ages,” First United Methodist Church, Lewiston, ID. September 27, 2020.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association

Medieval Academy of America

LANGUAGES

Latin (research level), German (research level), French (reading level), Russian (native level), Ukrainian (fluent)