

Mohamad Ballan

Curriculum Vitae
 PhD Candidate, Department of History
 University of Chicago
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EDUCATION

PhD, 2018 (expected) Department of History, University of Chicago
 Dissertation: “The Scribe of the Alhambra: Lisan al-Din ibn al-Khatib, Sovereignty and History in Nasrid Granada”
 Committee: David Nirenberg (chair), John Woods, Maribel Fierro, Ahmed El Shamsy
 Comprehensive exam fields: Medieval Iberia, Pre-Modern Islamic History, and Early Modern Europe
 MA, 2010 Social Sciences, University of Chicago
 BA, 2008 History Honors, University of British Columbia

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Medieval Mediterranean; Islamic history; medieval Iberia; sectarianism and intercommunal relations; early modern Europe; intellectual networks; philosophy; historiography; Ottoman Empire; late antiquity

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

2010 “Fraxinetum: An Islamic Frontier State in Tenth-Century Provence,” *Comitatus* 41 (2010): 23–76

Book reviews

2015 Review of *Oppressed in the Land? Fatwas on Muslims Living under Non-Muslim Rule from the Middle Ages to the Present* by Alan Verskin. *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, Vol. 74, no. 1 (April 2015), pp. 169–172
 2015 Review of *Misquoting Muhammad: The Challenge and Choice of Interpreting the Prophet’s Legacy* by Jonathan A.C. Brown. *Review of Qur’anic Research*, Vol. 1, no. 3 (2015)

Works In-Progress

“‘Zafadola Amicus Mei’: A Reconsideration of the Relationship between Sayf al-Dawla Ahmad ibn Hud (d. 1146) and Alfonso VII (r. 1126-1157)”
 “The Politics of Islamic Ecumenism in the Afshārid Empire,” an edition, translation and study of ‘Abd Allāh ibn al-Ḥusayn al-Suwaydī’s account of the Council of Najaf (1743)

Web-based Publications

Blog: <https://ballandalus.wordpress.com/>

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2017–2018	ACLS-Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship
2017	Middle East Studies Association Wadad Kadi Travel Fellowship
2015–2016	University of Chicago Social Sciences Division Travel Fellowship
2015–2016	Arnaldo Momigliano Dissertation Research Travel Award
2015	Cochrane Travel Grant

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- 2015 “Lisan al-Din ibn al-Khatib and the Nasrid Dynasty: An Exploration of the Relationship between Dynastic Ideology and Historical Writing in Late 14th-Century Nasrid Granada,” Power and Institutions in Medieval Islam and Christendom, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid, November 10

Conferences

- 2017 “Competing Isma‘īlī Shī‘ī Notions of Succession in the 6th/12th Century,” The University of Chicago Shi‘i Studies Symposium, Chicago, May 13
- 2016 “A Reconsideration of the Relationship between Sayf al-Dawla Ahmad ibn Hud (d. 1146) and Alfonso VII (d. 1157),” Historians of Medieval Iberia: Enemies and Friends, Stockholm, March 16
- 2015 “The 1501 Hispano-Muslim Qasida to Sultan Bayezid II: A Reconsideration,” Middle East Studies Association Conference, Denver, November 23
- 2014 “Zafadola Amicus Mei”: Vassalage, Friendship and the Construction of Imperial Sovereignty in the *Chronica Adefonsi Imperatoris* (ca. 1148),” Middle East Studies Association Conference, Washington D.C., November 23
- 2014 *Imperator Totius Hispaniae: The Logic of Imperial Sovereignty in the Chronica Adefonsi Imperatoris* (ca. 1148),” 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies, University of Western Michigan, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 8
- 2014 ““They Shall Come to You from the West with God’s Religion”: Ibāḍī Doctrine and Berber Identity in Ibn Sallām’s ‘Book of the Origins of Islam and the Foundations of the Faith’ (ca. 885),” Spain-North Africa Project Conference: Power Relations and Religious Communities in the Western Mediterranean, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, May 2
- 2013 “Righteous Rebellion and Unjust Governance during the Reign of ‘Uthmān ibn ‘Affān (d. 656): A Reassessment of the *Risālah* of ‘Abd Allāh ibn Ibāḍ,” 28th Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago, May 3
- 2012 “Re-Imagining “al-Ghālib bi-llāh”: Lisān al-Dīn ibn al-Khaṭīb and the Construction of Naṣrid Dynastic Legitimacy in Fourteenth-Century Granada,” 27th Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago, May 5
- 2010 “Andalusī Crete: An Islamic Frontier State in the Ninth and Tenth Century Mediterranean,” 25th Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago, May 14

Workshops

- 2016 “Sayf al-Dawla ibn Hud (d. 1146): An Andalusī Muslim Prince in the Service of King Alfonso VII of Castile-León,” Medieval Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, November 4

- 2015 “Andalusi Crete, 827–961: A Reconsideration of the Medieval Arabic Literary Sources,” Workshop on Late Antiquity and Byzantium, University of Chicago, Chicago, April 28
- 2014 “‘Nec amici nec hostes’: Mavia’s Revolt (ca. 378), Saracen foederati, and the Roman-Byzantine East in the Fourth Century A.D.,” Late Antiquity and Byzantium Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, March 11
- 2014 “The Politics of Islamic Ecumenism in the Afsharid Empire: A Re-examination of ‘Abd Allāh ibn al-Ḥusayn al-Suwaydī’s (d. 1761) Account of the Council of Najaf (1743),” Early Modern Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, February 3
- 2014 “Ibāḍism in Early Islamic North Africa: A Preliminary Examination of Ibn Sallām’s ‘Book of the Origins of Islam and the Foundations of the Faith’ (ca. 885),” Islamic Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, January 23
- 2011 “Between Castilian Reconquista and Ottoman Jihad: A Reconsideration of the 1501 Hispano-Muslim Qasida to Sultan Bayezid II,” Western Mediterranean Culture and Middle East History and Theory Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, March 2

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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|-------------------------|---|
| September–December 2016 | Teaching Assistant for “Kingship in 12 th -century Europe” |
| March–June 2015 | Teaching Assistant for “Holy Roman Empire” |
| September–December 2014 | Teaching Assistant for “Islamic History and Society” |
| September–December 2013 | Teaching Assistant for “Islamic History and Society” |

SERVICE

- 2017 “Lineage, Loyalty and Legitimacy in the Medieval Iberia and North Africa, 600–1600” conference at St. Louis University during the 5th Annual Symposium of Medieval and Renaissance Studies
(<http://smrs.slu.edu/docs/SMRS2017Program.pdf>), June 19–21. Co-organizer.
- 2016–2017 Middle East Medievalists. Graduate Student Representative
- 2016–2017 Arabic Circle at the University of Chicago. Director
- 2011 Middle East History and Theory (MEHAT) conference at the University of Chicago, May 12-15
(<https://voices.uchicago.edu/mehat/files//2011/06/mehat2011program.pdf>). Co-organizer.
- 2010–2011 Middle East History and Theory (MEHAT) workshop at the University of Chicago. Co-organizer.

LANGUAGES

- Classical Arabic (advanced)
 Modern Standard Arabic (advanced)
 Spanish (advanced)
 Latin (advanced)
 French (advanced reading proficiency)
 Catalan (intermediate reading proficiency)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

American Historical Association
Medieval Academy of America
Middle East Studies Association
American Oriental Society
American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain
Spain-North Africa Project

REFERENCES

David Nirenberg. Deborah R. and Edgar D. Jannotta Distinguished Service Professor of Social Thought, Medieval History, Fundamentals, Middle East Studies, Romance Languages and Literatures, and the College, University of Chicago. Foster Hall 308, 1130 E. 59th St., Chicago, IL 60637. Contact: (773) 702-3423; nirenberg@uchicago.edu

Fred Donner. Professor of Near Eastern History, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, University of Chicago. Oriental Institute 224, 1155 E. 58th St., Chicago, IL 60637. Contact: pdqb@uchicago.edu

Ahmed El-Shamsy. Associate Professor, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, University of Chicago. Pick Hall 219, 5828 S. University Ave., Chicago, IL 60637. Contact: elshamsy@uchicago.edu

Maribel Fierro. Professor. Department of Jewish and Islamic Studies and Institute of Mediterranean and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas. 1C8, Center of Humanities and Social Sciences, Calle Albasanz, 26-28, Madrid, Spain 28006. Contact: (+34) 916022419; maribel.fierro@cchs.csic.es

Jonathan Lyon. Associate Professor of Medieval History and the College, University of Chicago. Social Science Research Building 510, 1126 E. 59th St., Chicago, IL 60637. Contact: (773) 834-0584; jlyon@uchicago.edu

Walter E. Kaegi. Professor Emeritus of History and the College, University of Chicago. Department of History, University of Chicago, 1126 East 59th Street, Chicago, IL 60637. Contact: kw@uchicago.edu