

**JENNIFER R. DAVIS**

Department of History  
The Catholic University of America  
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**EDUCATION**

**Harvard University**, Cambridge, Massachusetts

**PhD**, History, June, 2007

**AM**, History, June, 2001

Dissertation Title: “Patterns of Power: Charlemagne and the Invention of Medieval Rulership”

Dissertation Committee: Professor M. McCormick, chair. Professor Emeritus T. Bisson (Harvard University); Professor M. Kishlansky† (Harvard University); Professor R. McKitterick (The University of Cambridge)

**University of Cambridge**, Cambridge, UK

**MLitt**, History, January, 2000

MLitt Thesis: “Conceptions of Kingship under Charlemagne”

Adviser: Professor R. McKitterick; Examiners: Professor M. Innes and Professor Emerita J.L. Nelson

Course work in palaeography, codicology, diplomatic, and medieval chronology

**Harvard University**, Cambridge, Massachusetts

**AB** *summa cum laude*, History, June, 1997

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

**The Catholic University of America**, Washington, D.C.

Associate Professor of History

August, 2016–present

Assistant Professor of History

September, 2008–August, 2016

**California Institute of Technology**, Pasadena, California

Postdoctoral Instructor in History

September, 2007–June, 2008

**Wellesley College**, Wellesley, Massachusetts

Visiting Lecturer in History

Spring term, 2007

**CURRENT RESEARCH**

I am currently working on a book about Frankish capitularies that reconceptualizes why this characteristic Frankish legal genre appeared and then disappeared in the early Middle Ages. Depending extensively on the manuscript evidence, the book will begin by examining the invention of the capitulary form by the Merovingians, will next explore the use of capitularies as a primary tool of rulership by the Carolingians,

and will end by analyzing how and why capitularies continued to be copied in the changed circumstances of eleventh and twelfth-century Europe.

## SELECT PUBLICATIONS

### *Books*

*Per Capitularios Nostros: Law and its Uses in the Frankish Kingdoms*, book manuscript in progress

*Charlemagne's Practice of Empire* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015; paperback, 2017)

*The Long Morning of Medieval Europe: New Directions in Early Medieval Studies*, ed. J.R. Davis and M. McCormick (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2008)

### *Journal Articles and Book Chapters*

"Crime in the Carolingian World," in *A Cultural History of Crime*, ed. K. Shoemaker (London: Bloomsbury, 2023), 7–42

"Book Composition and the Law in the Wandalgarius Codex," with Beatrice Kitzinger, in *I Franchi*, Settimane di studio del centro italiano di studi sull'alto medioevo 69 (Spoleto, Centro italiano di studi sull'alto medioevo, 2023), 1319–1354

"Cross-Referencing in the Capitularies of Charlemagne," in *Die Sprache des Rechts. Karolingische Kapitularien und Historische Semantik*, ed. B. Jussen and K. Ubl (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, forthcoming, 2022), 229–260

"Reframing the Carolingian Annals," *The Medieval Chronicle* 14 (2022), 184–216

"Western Europe: Charlemagne's Empire in Global Perspective," in *A Companion to the Global Early Middle Ages*, ed. E. Hermans (Kalamazoo, MI and Leeds: Arc Humanities Press, 2020), 349–392

"Inventing the *Missi*: Delegating Power in Late Eighth-Century Francia," in *The 'Abbāsīd and Carolingian Empires: Comparative Studies in Civilisational Formation*, ed. D.G. Tor, Islamic History and Civilization Series (Leiden: Brill, 2018), 13–51

"Charlemagne's Portrait Coinage and Ideas of Rulership at the Carolingian Court," *Source: Notes in the History of Art* XXXIII (2014), 19–27

"Charlemagne's Settlement of Disputes," in *Streit am Hof im frühen Mittelalter*, ed. M. Becher and A. Plassmann, *Super alta perennis. Studien zur Wirkung der Klassischen Antike* 11 (Bonn: Bonn University Press, 2011), 159–173

"The Problem of King Louis IX of France: Biography, Sanctity, and Kingship," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* XLI (2010), 209–225

"A Pattern for Power: Charlemagne's Delegation of Judicial Responsibilities," in *The Long Morning of Medieval Europe: New Directions in Early Medieval Studies*, ed. J.R. Davis and M. McCormick (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2008), 235–246

"The Early Middle Ages: Europe's Long Morning," with Michael McCormick, in *The Long Morning of Medieval Europe: New Directions in Early Medieval Studies*, ed. J.R. Davis and M. McCormick (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2008), 1–10