

# Lev Weitz

Associate Professor • Department of History  
The Catholic University of America • Washington, DC 20064 • weitz@cua.edu

## *Curriculum Vitae*

### EMPLOYMENT & TEACHING

- 2019-present Associate Professor, History, Catholic University of America  
*Undergraduate courses:* Rise of Islam • Modern Middle East • Muslims, Christians, and Jews in the Mediterranean World • Mongol Empire • Gunpowder Empires of Islam • Byzantium • Ottoman Empire • Persecution and Tolerance in the Medieval Mediterranean • Genghis Khan: World Destroyer or Civilization Builder? • Senior Thesis  
*Graduate courses:* Historiography of Medieval Islam • Interreligious Encounters in the Medieval Middle East • Gender and the Family in the Islamic World • Readings in Medieval Islam • Medieval Islam and Eastern Christianity  
*Advising:* Faculty advisor for The Olive Branch student club (since 2024)
- 2016-24 Director, Islamic World Studies Program, Catholic University of America
- 2019-22 Director of Graduate Studies, History, Catholic University of America
- 2013-19 Assistant Professor, History, Catholic University of America
- 2010 Assistant Instructor, Princeton University

### EDUCATION

- 2013 PhD, Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University
- 2006 BA, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, Music (minor), New York University

### AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024-25 Faculty Fellowship, Center for Teaching Excellence, Catholic University of America
- 2022-23 Fellowship, Byzantine Studies, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, DC, for “Egyptian Monasticism under Islam: The Arabic Documents of Dayr al-Naqlun”
- 2019 Shortlist for Best Book, Middle East Medievalists association, for *Between Christ and Caliph*
- 2018-19 Fellowship, John W. Kluge Center, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, for “Christians and Muslims in Medieval Egypt: Minorities, Rights, and the State in the Premodern World”
- 2017 Faculty Research Grant, Catholic University of America
- 2012-13 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship

### BOOKS

*Between Christ and Caliph: Law, Marriage, and Christian Community in Early Islam* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018).

- Shortlisted for Best Book, Middle East Medievalists association, 2019
- *Between Christ and Caliph* examines the multiconfessional society of early Islam through the lens of shifting marital practices of Syriac Christian communities, arguing that interreligious negotiations lie at the heart of the history of the medieval Islamic empire.

#### PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- “Fayyum Tribesmen and Country Lawyers: A 5<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> Century Arabic Sale of Guardianship Rights Concerning Talit,” *Chronique d’Égypte* 97 (2023): 337-356.
- “The Long Arm of the Provincial Law: A Custody Battle in a *Qadi* Petition from the Medieval Fayyum,” *al-Usur al-Wusta* 30 (2022): 47-78.
- “A Companion of Muhammad in the Oldest Bilingual Egyptian *Entagion*” (with Naïm Vanthieghem), *Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrology* 58 (2021): 203-214.
- “Monks, Monasteries, and Muslim Scribes: Three Parchment House Sales from the 4<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>-Century Fayyum” (with Naïm Vanthieghem), *Arabica* 67: 461-501 (2020).
- “Islamic Law on the Provincial Margins: Christian Patrons and Muslim Notaries in Upper Egypt, 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Centuries,” *Islamic Law and Society* 27: 5-52 (2020).
- “Slavery and the Historiography of Non-Muslims in the Medieval Middle East,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 49: 139-142 (2017).
- “Shaping East Syrian Law in ‘Abbasid Iraq: The Law Books of Patriarchs Timothy I and Išō ‘bar Nun,” *Le Muséon* 129 (2016): 71-116.
- “Al-Ghazali, Bar Hebraeus, and the ‘Good Wife,’” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 134 (2014): 203-223.

#### BOOK CHAPTERS

- “Christian Legal Traditions in the Islamic World: The Intellectual Background of Abdisho’s East Syrian Marriage Law,” *Christianity, Islam, and the Syriac Renaissance: The Impact of Abdisho bar Brikha*, ed. Salam Rassi and Željko Paša (Rome: Pontifical Oriental Institute, 2024), 183-212.
- “Canon Law and *Qadi* Court Documents in Medieval Egypt,” *Canon Law and Christian Societies between Christianity and Islam*, ed. Jesús Lorenzo Jiménez, Matthias Maser, Geoffrey Martin (Turnhout: Brepols, 2024), 249-68.
- “In Search of the Syriac Notarial Tradition,” *Le droit en syriaque*, Muriel Debié, Vittorio Berti *Études syriaques* 18 (Paris: Geuthner, 2023), 63-85.
- “Ghiwarghis I, *Synodal Canons*,” in *The Bloomsbury Reader in Christian-Muslim Relations*, ed. David Thomas (London: Bloomsbury, 2022), 176-78.
- “Polygyny and East Syrian Law: Local Practices and Ecclesiastical Tradition,” in *The Late Antique World of Early Islam: Muslims among Christians and Jews in the East Mediterranean*, ed. Robert Hoyland (Princeton: Darwin Press, 2015), 157-191.

#### UNDER REVIEW

“‘Religious Minorities’ in the Premodern Middle East: Modern Presumptions and Medieval Society.” Solicited for *Minoritization in Middle Eastern Geopolitics*.

“Babylonia or All the East? Patriarchal Authority in the Late Antique Church of the East.” Solicited for *Rabinization and Diversity*, ed. Eve Krakowski, Ra‘anan Boustan, Geoffrey Herman, Daniel Stökl Ben Ezra.

“Religious Toleration in Medieval Islamic Thought and Society.” Solicited for *Toleration in Comparative Perspective* sourcebook, ed. Karen Barkey, Jonathan Laurence.

“The Straight Paths of Christian Law: Reframing the Intellectual History of the Early Caliphate.” Solicited for *Christians in Middle Eastern History: Strangers No More*, ed. Christian Sahner, John-Paul Ghobrial, Jack Tannous, Michael Reynolds.

### BOOKS IN PROGRESS

*On the Edge: Global Transformations in the Medieval Egyptian Countryside*

*The History of the Patriarchs of the East: Syriac Christianity from Ancient Persia to Medieval Islam* (with Luke Yarbrough, UCLA; Salam Rassi, University of Edinburgh). Under contract with Liverpool University Press, *Translated Texts for Historians*.

### BOOK REVIEWS

T. Carlson, *Christianity in Fifteenth-Century Iraq*, *Church History* (2025).

R. Durmaz, *Stories between Christianity and Islam: Saints, Memory, and Cultural Exchange in Late Antiquity and Beyond*, *American Historical Review* 130 (2025): 461-63.

S. Gertz, *Shi‘ite Rulers, Sunni Rivals, and Christians in Between: Muslim-Christian Relations in Fatimid Palestine and Egypt*, *Church History* 93 (2024): 157-59.

J. Bruning et al, *Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean World*, *Journal of Islamic Studies* 35 (2024): 404-406, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jis/etae030>.

M. Penn et al, *Invitation to Syriac Christianity: An Anthology*, *Church History* 92 (2023): 191-92.

M. Rustow, *The Lost Archive: Traces of a Caliphate in a Cairo Synagogue*. *American Historical Review* 127 (2022): 565-66.

A. Roberts, *Reason and Revelation in Byzantine Antioch: The Christian Translation Program of Abdallah ibn al-Fadl*, *Catholic Historical Review* 108 (2022): 796-97.

M. Metselaar, *Defining Christ: The Church of the East and Nascent Islam*. *Church History* 90 (2021): 176-78

M. Mazzola, *From High Priest to Patriarch: History and Authority in the Ecclesiastical History of Bar ‘Ebroyo*. *Church History* 90 (2021): 675-77.

C. Sahner, *Christian Martyrs under Islam*. *Speculum* 95 (2020): 897-99.

J. Lassner, *Medieval Jerusalem*. *American Historical Review* 124 (2019): 1181-83.

M. Mikhail, *From Byzantine to Islamic Egypt*. *Catholic Historical Review* 1022 (2016): 379-80.

H.M. Zellentin, *The Qur‘ān’s Legal Culture*. *Review of Qur‘anic Research* 1.5 (2015).

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS & SHORT PIECES**

- “Culture, Conflict, and Convivencia: The Uniqueness of Medieval Spain,” Northeast Neighborhood Library, Washington, DC (2024).
- “Documentary Sources and Islamic Legal History” blog series, *Islamic Law Blog*, <https://islamiclaw.blog/2023/04/27/thank-you-lev-weitz/> (2023).
- “‘Game of Thrones’ and Why We Are Still ‘Dreaming of the Middle Ages,’” *Insights: Scholarly Work at the John W. Kluge Center*, <https://blogs.loc.gov/kluge/2019/05/game-of-thrones-and-why-we-are-still-dreaming-of-the-middle-ages/> (2019).
- “Christian Monks and Muslim Villagers in Medieval Egypt: A Library of Congress Story,” *Insights: Scholarly Work at the John W. Kluge Center*, <https://blogs.loc.gov/kluge/2019/06/christian-monks-and-muslim-villagers-in-medieval-egypt-a-library-of-congress-story/> (2019).
- “Creating Christian Marriage in Early Islamic Arabia,” *Ancient Jew Review*, <https://www.ancientjewreview.com/articles/2018/12/9/creating-christian-marriage-in-early-islamic-arabia> (2019).
- “Religious Diversity in the Middle East, Past and Present,” *Penn Press Log*, <https://www.pennpress.org/blog/religious-diversity-in-the-middle-east-past-and-present/> (2018).
- “Religious Minorities in the Modern Middle East,” Butcher History Institute, Foreign Policy Research Institute, <https://www.fpri.org/article/2015/11/religious-minorities-in-the-modern-middle-east/> (2015).
- “Who is Charlie?” European Studies Program, Catholic University of America (2015).
- “Prisoner of Damascus” (English translation of Yassin al-Haj Saleh’s Arabic editorial), *New York Times* 4/10/2011.

## **CONFERENCES, PAPERS, & LECTURES**

- “Saints of Dayr al-Naqlun: Fragments of Devotional Life in the Medieval Egyptian Countryside,” East of Byzantium, Hellenic College Holy Cross and Harvard University, 2025.
- “Thieves in the Temple: The Medieval Middle East through the Eyes of a Rural Bishop” (invited lecture); “On the Edge: Global Transformations in the Medieval Egyptian Countryside” (workshop paper), Center for Premodern Studies and History Department, University of Minnesota, 2025.
- “On the Edge: Muslims, Christians, and the State in the Fatimid Countryside” (invited lecture); “Arabic Documents in the Egyptian Provinces: Assembling a Dossier” (graduate workshop); “Arabicizing Syriac Legal Traditions” (graduate workshop), Princeton University, 2024.
- “From Syriac to Arabic in Near Eastern Christian Legal Traditions,” Reframing Byzantine Law: Eastern Christian Legal Traditions and the Challenge of Islam, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Germany, 2024.
- “Syriac Cosmopolitanisms,” Where Empires Meet Symposium, Center for Armenian Studies, University of Michigan, 2024.

- “Thieves in the Temple: A Rural Bishop in Medieval Egypt,” Medieval Institute, University of Notre Dame, 2023.
- “The Arabic Documents of Dayr al-Naqlun: A Preliminary Report,” International Society for Arabic Papyrology, Fayyum, Egypt, 2023.
- “Monasticism in Islamic Egypt: The Arabic Documents of Dayr al-Naqlun,” Dumbarton Oaks, 2023.
- “Legal Pluralism Reconsidered: Non-Muslim Cogs in the Islamic Judicial System,” American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, 2022.
- “Demography, Hierarchy, and Religious Minorities in the Medieval Middle East,” Minoritization in Middle Eastern Geopolitics: Histories and Theoretical Approaches, UCLA, 2022.
- “Babylonia or All the East? Patriarchal Authority in the Church of the East in Islamic Late Antiquity,” Rabbinitization and Diversity, Princeton and École Pratique des Hautes Études, 2022.
- “Confessional Law in the Syrian East: The Problem of Origins,” Société d’études syriaques, Annual Roundtable, 2021.
- Invited panel commentator, “The Late Antique in Early Islam: Pre-Islamic Heritage in Early Islamic Politics, Poetics, and Science,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, 2021.
- Invited roundtable commentator, P. Wood, *The Imam of the Christians*, Leiden University, 2021.
- “Canon Law and the Courts in Medieval Egypt,” Canon Law and Christian Societies between Christianity and Islam, Museo Arqueológico Nacional, Madrid, 2021.
- “Greek, Arabic, and a Companion of Muhammad in the Oldest Egyptian Bilingual *Entagion*,” International Society for Arabic Papyrology Annual Meeting, 2021.
- “Toleration: Thought and Practice in the Societies of the Medieval Islamic World,” Toleration in Comparative Perspective, UC Berkeley Center for Democracy, Toleration and Religion, 2021.
- “‘Worldly Judgments’ and Communal Identity: East Syrian Law in the Medieval Caliphate,” Law and Communal Identity in the Early Medieval World, UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 2020.
- “Islam and Latin Christendom in the Medieval World,” The Spiritual Journey of Transformative Encounter, Catholic University of America, 2019.
- “The ‘Straight Paths’ of Christian Law: Reframing the Intellectual History of the Early Caliphate,” Christian Layers in the History of the Middle East, Oxford, 2019.
- “Islamic Law in Abdisho, Abdisho in the Islamic World,” Syriac Christianity at the Crossroads of Cultures, Pontificio Istituto Orientale, Rome, 2018.
- “Islamic Law and Society on the Provincial Margins: Muslim Legal Authorities and Christian Patrons in Medieval Upper Egypt,” Islam and Politics: From the Margins to the Center, Cornell; Ancient Judaism Workshop, Yale, 2018.

“Syriac Christian Law and Islamic Tradition in the Medieval Middle East,” University of Hamburg, European Research Council COBHUNI Project, 2017.

“Concubinage and Christians in the Abbasid Caliphate,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, 2016.

“Islamic Thought, Islamic Culture, Islamic Society: Scholarly Categories and Medieval Middle Eastern Historiography,” Recovering the Role of Christians in the History of the Middle East, Princeton, 2016.

“Religious Minorities in the Modern Middle East,” Foreign Policy Research Institute, Philadelphia, 2015.

Conference co-organizer, Seventh North American Syriac Symposium, Catholic University of America, 2015. Paper: “Shaping Christian Law in the Abbasid Caliphate.”

Panel organizer, “Religiously Mixed Families in the Medieval Middle East: Inter-marriage and its Consequences,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, 2014. Paper: “Property, Gender, and Interreligious Marriage in Abbasid Iraq.”

“Polygamy and Christian Community in Medieval Iraq,” Center for Medieval and Byzantine Studies, Catholic University of America, 2014.

“Thinking about Law and Its Role in Society,” Shaping Legal Cultures from Late Antiquity to the Middle Ages, University of Pennsylvania, 2013.

#### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

2025 Middle East Studies Association Program Committee

2024-25 Invited faculty participant, East of Byzantium Workshop

2023-present Editorial board member, *Graphai: Writings from Byzantium and Its Neighbors*, Dumbarton Oaks Publications

2023-present Board member, International Society for Arabic Papyrology

#### **RESEARCH LANGUAGES**

Arabic (proficient), Syriac (proficient), Coptic (intermediate), German (reading knowledge), French (reading knowledge)