

William S. Murrell  
Curriculum vitae  
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## EDUCATION

- 2018 (Expected) **Ph.D. (Candidate), History, Vanderbilt University**, Nashville, TN  
Dissertation: “Dragomans and Crusaders: the Role of Translation and Translators in the Medieval Eastern Mediterranean, 1098-1291”  
Advisor: David Wasserstein  
General Research Interests: Medieval Islam, Muslim-Christian Relations, Mediterranean History, Translation Studies, History of Religious Violence
- Written and Oral Examination Fields:  
Medieval Islam, 632-1453, David Wasserstein  
The Eastern Mediterranean, 1100-1300, William Caferro  
Intercultural Encounter in the Islamic World, Leor Halevi
- 2011 **M.St. in Medieval History, University College, University of Oxford**, UK  
Thesis: “Aimery’s Antioch: Reevaluating Intellectual Activity and Exchange in Frankish Northern Syria in the Twelfth and Early Thirteenth Centuries”  
Supervisor: Christopher Tyerman
- 2009 **B.A., History and French, Lipscomb University**, Nashville, TN  
*Summa cum laude*
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## PUBLICATIONS

- In Progress**
- 2017 “Interpreters in Crusade Diplomacy: Peripheral or Central?”  
Under review with *Crusades* (September 2017).
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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2014-2017 **Teaching Assistant**, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN  
HIST 1190: History of Islam (Fall 2014 & 2016)  
HIST 2190: The Last Islamic Empire (Spring 2015)  
[Note: Assumed full course responsibility during Professor Cohen’s maternity leave]  
HIST 1470: History of Exploration (Spring 2017)
- 2012 **Instructor of Record**, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN  
HI 3013: Historiography (Spring 2012)
- Guest Lectures**
- 2014 “The Crusades: Islam and Christianity in the Medieval Mediterranean” in History of Islam, (Fall 2014 & 2016)

- 2015 “The Armenian Genocide” in *The Last Islamic Empire* (Spring 2015)  
2016 “Coins and Castles” in *Islam and the Crusades* (Spring 2016)  
2017 “Islamic Exploration” in *History of Exploration* (Spring 2017)
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## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

### Invited Talks

- 2016 “Death and Taxes: the Role of Interpreters in Local Administration in Frankish Syria,” *Cultures of Translation in the Medieval Mediterranean—a Mini-Conference* under the auspices of the Fourth Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, St. Louis University; St. Louis, MO; June 20-22, 2016.

### Presentations

- 2015 “Death and Life are in the Power of the Tongue: the Role of Interpreters in War and Peace in the Crusader Period,” *Sewanee Medieval Colloquium*, The University of the South; Sewanee, TN; April 10-11, 2015.
- 2016 “The Role of Frankish Interpreters in Muslim-Frankish Diplomacy,” *Diversity of Crusading: the Ninth Quadrennial Conference of the SSCLE*, Odense, Denmark; June 27 – July 1, 2016.
- “Objects of Translation in the Crusader Period: the Curious Case of the Saracen Bezant,” *Place and Power: the Southeastern Medieval Association Annual Conference*, Knoxville, TN; October 6-8, 2016.
- 2017 “Imitation or Translation?: the Curious Case of the Saracen Bezant,” *Sewanee Medieval Colloquium: Borders and Margins*, The University of the South; Sewanee, TN; March 10-11, 2017.
- “The Footprints of the Prophet: Pilgrimage and Translation in Crusader Jerusalem,” *Knowledge Production in Premodern Europe: A Vanderbilt History Seminar Conference*, Nashville, TN; April 14, 2017.
- “Translating the Holy Land: Interpreters and Pilgrimage during the Crusader Period,” 52<sup>nd</sup> *International Congress on Medieval Studies*, Kalamazoo, MI; May 11-14 2017.

## UPCOMING

- “Translators in the Diwan: Facilitating Cross-Cultural Trade in the Eastern Mediterranean in the Crusader Period,” *Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Meeting*, Washington, D.C.; November 18-21, 2017.
- 2018 “From Foreign Commodity to Local Currency: the Transformation of the Saracen Bezant in the Era of the Crusades,” 93<sup>rd</sup> *Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America*, Atlanta, GA; March 1-3, 2018.
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## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2015 Discussant - Vanderbilt History Seminar Workshop: "Rituals of Belonging," Nashville, TN; January 16, 2015.
- 2016 Panel Chair - Vanderbilt Graduate History Association Conference: "Margins: Action and Upheaval from the Periphery," Nashville, TN; March 18, 2016.
- Panel Chair - 17th International Conference of the Society for Judaeo-Arabic Studies: "History II," Nashville, TN; August 18, 2016.
- 2017 Panel Chair - 52<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies: "The Crusades at Home," Kalamazoo, MI; May 11-14 2017.
- Panel Chair – Andrew W. Mellon Sawyer Seminar Conference: "Space and Speech: Discursive Environments Across non-Arab Islam," Nashville, TN; September 7-9, 2017
- Seminar Organizer – Interdisciplinary Islamic Studies Seminar, Vanderbilt University; September 2017 - April 2018.
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#### **FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS**

- 2015-16 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar Fellow at the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities (Year-long fellowship with \$2000 summer research funding)
- 2014 Weaver Award (awarded for summer Arabic study), Vanderbilt University
- 2013 Critical Language Scholarship (Arabic), Amman, Jordan (Summer 2013)
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#### **CLASSES TAUGHT OR PREPARED TO TEACH**

##### **General Topics**

History of Islam: From Muhammad to Osama bin Laden

Medieval Europe

Global History of Christianity

##### **Specialized Topics**

Christianity and Islam in the Medieval Mediterranean, 637-1492

Jihad and Crusade: A History of Religious Violence

Translators and World History

Travel and Pilgrimage in the Medieval Mediterranean

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#### **LANGUAGES**

French (Fluent: reading, speaking, writing)

Arabic (Advanced: reading, speaking, writing)

Latin (Competent: reading)

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**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Historical Association

Middle East Studies Association

The Medieval Academy of America

The Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East

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**REFEREES**

**Dr. David Wasserstein**, Professor of History, Vanderbilt University:

david.wasserstein@vanderbilt.edu

**Dr. Leor Halevi**, Associate Professor of History, Vanderbilt University:

leor.halevi@vanderbilt.edu

**Dr. William Caferro**, Professor of History, Vanderbilt University:

william.caferro@vanderbilt.edu

**Dr. Richard McGregor**, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Vanderbilt University:

richard.mcgregor@vanderbilt.edu