

JOHN LATHAM-SPRINKLE

CURRICULUM VITAE

Research Group 'Social History of
Capitalism'
Faculty of Languages and Humanities
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EDUCATION

- 2019: **Ph.D. History:** School of Oriental and African Studies, London
'Political Authority in North Caucasian Alania, 800-1300' (defence passed with no corrections)
Supervisory Committee: Dr. Teresa Bernheimer, Professor Hugh Kennedy, Dr. Derek Mancini-Lander
Examiners: Professor Peter Heather (King's College London), Professor Jonathan Shepard (University of Oxford)
- 2014: **MA Historical Research Methods** (Distinction): School of Oriental and African Studies, London
- 2012: **MA Medieval History** (Distinction): University of Leeds
- 2008: **BA History** (First): King's College London

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2024-: **Postdoctoral Fellow:** Research Group 'Social History of Capitalism', Vrije Universiteit Brussel
- 2021-4: **FWO Junior Postdoctoral Fellow:** University of Ghent, Belgium
- 2019-21: **BOF Postdoctoral Research Fellow:** University of Ghent
- 2019: **Adjunct Professor of History:** Wilbur Wright College, Chicago
- 2018-19: **Adjunct Professor of History:** Saint Xavier University, Chicago
- 2018: **Research Assistant:** Minderoo Foundation, Perth, Western Australia

- 2017-: **Visiting Research Fellow:** Center for Medieval Studies,
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
- 2016-17: **Senior Teaching Fellow:** School of Oriental and African Studies,
University of London

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

- 2026: *The North Caucasus, 800-1400* (under contract with ARC
Humanities Press)
- 2025: *The North Caucasian Kingdom of Alania, 850-1240* (Cambridge:
Cambridge University Press, in press)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2026: 'The Byzantine Empire as Segmentary Polity', *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 80 (resubmitted)
- 2023: 'The Late Mamlūk Transition of the 1380s: The View from the North Caucasus', *al-Masāq* 35/2, 143-163
- 2023: 'Il'ichevskoe gorodishche — alanskaia stolitsa Magas? Novye podkhody k staromu voprosu' (Was Il'ichevsk Hillfort the Alan Capital Magas? New Approaches to an Old Question'), *Materialy i issledovaniia po arkheologii Severnogo Kavkaza* 21, 257-273
- 2023: 'Treason and Sovereignty in the Medieval Caucasus', *Chronos* 3, 50-63
- 2022: 'The Alan Capital *Magas: A Preliminary Identification of Its Location', *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 85/1, 1-20
- Press Coverage:** VRT (Belgium), National Geographic Historia (Spain), Gazet van Antwerpen (Belgium), Ghent University employee magazine, Ghent University website
- 2018: 'One Alania or Two? The Question of a 'Dual State' in the Seventh to Thirteenth Century North Caucasus', *Archivum Eurasiae Medii Aevi* 24, 185-208
- 2016: 'Soviets and Sun-Gods: Historicising a North Caucasian Nart Saga', *Iran and the Caucasus* 20:2, 159-178

Refereed Book Chapters

- 2025: 'Bargaining with Byzantium: The North Caucasian Kingdom of Alania and the Empire', in Jonathan Shepard, Peter Frankopan, Averil Cameron (eds.), *Byzantine Spheres: The Byzantine Commonwealth Re-Evaluated* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming)
- 2025: 'Child Labour, Enslavement, and Moral Confusion in Early Medieval Georgia', in Christian Laes (ed.), *Children at Work in a Period of Transition, 400-1000 AD*, (Berlin: de Gruyter, forthcoming)
- 2022: 'The Mongol Conquest of Caucasia', in Timothy May & Michael Hope (eds.), *The Mongol World*, (London: Routledge), 213-26

Book Reviews

- 2025: Review of Richard Foltz, 'The Ossetes', *Caucasus Survey* 13, forthcoming
- 2025: Review of Alisdair C. Grant, 'Greek Captives and Mediterranean Slavery, 1260-1460', *Journal of Global Slavery* 10, forthcoming
- 2023: Review of Kathryn Franklin, 'Everyday Cosmopolitanisms: Living the Silk Road in Medieval Armenia', *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 82/2, 372-5
- 2022: Review of Lorenzo Publicci, 'Mongol Caucasia. Invasions, Conquest and Government of a Frontier Region in Thirteenth-Century Eurasia (1204-1295)', *Journal of Asian Studies* 81/4, 761-3
- 2022: Review of Ovidiu Cristea, Liviu Pilat (eds.), 'From Pax Mongolica to Pax Ottomanica: War, Religion and Trade in the Northwestern Black Sea Region', *Speculum* 97/2, 486-7
- 2016: Review of Barry Cunliffe, 'By Steppe, Desert and Ocean: The Birth of Eurasia', *Cerae* 3

Other Publications

- 2020: 'A New Proposal Regarding the Location of the Alan Capital *Magas', in Dmitry Korobov, Artur Taymazov (eds.), *XXXI 'Krupnovskie chteniia' po arkheologii Severnogo Kavkaza. Materialy Mezhdunarodnoi nauchnoi konferentsii*, (Makhachkala: Institut istorii, arkheologii i etnografii Dagestanskogo NTs RAN), 452-3
- 2020: 'A Lost City in the North Caucasus', *History Today* 70/11, 22-4
- 2020: 'Middeleuwse zijderoutstad Magas terug op de kaart', *Eos*, 17/05/2020 (trans. Julie van Bogaert)
- 2019: 'Vulnerability of Migrants to Modern Slavery: A Comprehensive Literature Review', *Walk Free Foundation* (on behalf of the International Organisation for Migration) (co-authored with Fiona David and Gareth Larsen)

Manuscripts in Preparation

- 'The Late Medieval Caucasian Slave Trade and the Genesis of the African Slave Trade in the Atlantic' (article in preparation for *Past and Present*, approx. 8,000 words)
- 'Hierarchy and Enslavement in the Late Medieval and Early Modern Mediterranean' (article in preparation for *Journal of Global History*, approx. 10,000 words)

COMPETITIVE GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2021-4: FWO Junior Postdoctoral Fellowship (€250,000)
- 2022: Universitaire Stichting Publication Grant (€750)
- 2022: FWO Grant for a Short Study Visit Abroad (€2250)
- 2020: University of Ghent Faculty Research Fund travel grant (€500)
- 2014-17: Wolfson Postgraduate Scholarship in History (£81,000)
- 2017: British Foundation for the Study of Azerbaijan and the Caucasus: Conference Organisation Grant (£2,500)
- 2017: Institute of Classical Studies: Conference Organisation Grant (£500)

- 2017: I.B. Tauris Award for Best Paper in History, Symposia Iranica (£100)
- 2017: SOAS Postgraduate Conference Travel Grant (£500)
- 2016: Tweedie Exploration Fund Fellowship (£1,000)
- 2016: SOAS Directors' Teaching Prize (nominated)
- 2013-14: SOAS Postgraduate Scholarship (£14,500)
- 2012: Marion Sharples Prize (£200)
- 2011-12: Leeds Postgraduate Scholarship (£11,000)

CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

Conference Organised

- 2026: 'Studying Non-Elites in the Medieval Caucasus', Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Panels Organised

- 2025: 'New Perspectives on the Genesis of the Circassian Regime', 11th Conference of the School of Mamluk Studies, Queen Mary University London
- 2022: 'Transregional Connection, Social Groups, and the Politics of the Black Sea Region', HistoriciDagen III, University of Rotterdam (invited panel)
- 2022: 'The Caucasus: A Region of Borders? I-II', International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds
- 2021: 'Caucasian Climates, I-III', International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds
- 2019: 'Caucasus Connections, I-III', International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds
- 2018: 'Strands of Power in Medieval Eurasia', Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference, University of Pittsburgh

2017: 'Bringing in the Alans, I- II', International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds

INVITED CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PAPERS

2025: 'The Byzantine Empire as Segmentary Polity', Caucasian Studies Workshop, Universite Catholique de Louvain

2023: Roundtable: 'Writing the History of Slavery from the Medieval Mediterranean to the Atlantic World', University of Edinburgh

2023: 'The Late Medieval Caucasian Slave Trade and the Genesis of the African Slave Trade in the Atlantic', Bonn Centre for Slavery and Dependency Studies PhD and Early Career Scholar Workshop

2023: 'Child Slavery in Early Medieval Georgia and Its Historiographical Representation', Children at Work in a Period of Transition, 400-1000, University of Bonn

2023: 'The Social Context of Northwest Caucasian Slavery, 1200-1700', Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies Ottoman Slavery Workshop, University of Bonn

2022: 'You Say Sultan Like It's a Good Thing: Hierarchy and Enslavement in the Late Medieval and Early Modern Mediterranean', Institute for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Durham University

2022: 'Re-Integrating the Caucasus. The Northwest Caucasus, the Golden Horde, and the Transformation of the Mediterranean Slave Trade, 1360-1480', Henri Pirenne Institute, Ghent University

2021: 'Slavery in the Human Economy of the Medieval North Caucasus', Europaeum Classics Colloquium 'Slavery: Antiquity and Modernity in Dialogue', St. Anthony's College, Oxford

2020: 'Novoe predpolozhenie o mestopolozhenii alanskoi stolitsy Magas' ('A New Suggestion Regarding the Location of the Alan Capital Magas'), XXXI Krupnovskie Chteniia, Makhachkala, Russian Federation

2019: 'A Tale of Two Pits: North Caucasian Slavery and Its Transregional Connections', Ancient History Postgraduate Workshop in Graeco-Roman Slavery, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

2018: 'The Power of the Foreign: Kingship Ideologies in Medieval Alania, c.875-1100', Medieval Studies Workshop, University of Chicago

- 2017: 'Statecraft as Martial Art: The Case of the Central North Caucasus', Institute of Historical Research History Lab Seminar, University of London
- 2015: 'The Transformation of Political Authority in the North Caucasus: Christianisation and its Limits in the Alan Kingdom, 890-1030 CE', The Eastern Caucasus from Late Antiquity to Early Islam, Oxford Centre for Late Antiquity, University of Oxford

CONFERENCE PAPERS PRESENTED

- 2025: 'Christianisation from Below', International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds
- 2023: 'Labour, Debt and Enslavement in the Late Medieval Northwest Caucasus', Historicising Coercive Social Processes, Masaryk Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences
- 2023: 'The Colonial Archive at the End of the World: The Mediterranean Slave Trade during the Twilight of the Genoese Black Sea Colonies', International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds
- 2022: 'Was the North Caucasus Part of the Byzantine Empire?', International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds
- 2022: 'The Social Background of North Caucasian Slavery', Premodern Unfreedoms: Comparative Perspectives on Slavery, Servitude and Captivity, Trinity College Dublin
- 2021: 'Power on the Moo-ve: Cows and Power in the Medieval North Caucasus', Virtual International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds
- 2020: 'The Alan Capital *Magas: A New Identification of Its Location', Virtual International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds
- 2019: 'The Power of the Foreign in the Medieval Caucasus', International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds
- 2019: 'The Medieval, Periodisation and Colonialism in the Caucasus', 54th International Conference on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo

- 2018: 'The Power of the Foreign in Medieval West Eurasia', Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference, University of Pittsburgh
- 2018: 'Sitting on the Throne of Yazdegird: Political Power and the Sassanian Legacy in the North-East Caucasus', International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds
- 2018: 'Alania: A State of Mind?', Interdisciplinary Approaches to Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Workshop, University of Chicago
- 2017: 'Sovereignty and Treason in the Medieval Caucasus', Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference, University of Washington, Seattle
- 2017: 'Nizhny Arkhyz: A Little-Known Holy City of Medieval Christianity', 52nd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo
- 2017: 'Shadow of Anushirvan: The North Caucasus in Medieval Iranian Sources', Symposia Iranica, Pembroke College, University of Cambridge
- 2016: 'Change and Stasis in Historiographies of the Alans and As of the Caucasus', Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference, Princeton University
- 2016: 'Sitting on the Fences of History', Dialogue and Difference, Bristol University
- 2015: 'Soviets and Sun-Gods: The Changing Uses of an 'Alan' Nart Saga', International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds
- 2012: "For Assur Comes with Them': A Reassessment of the Alan Presence in Spain, 409-18', IMBAS 2012, National University of Ireland, Galway

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2019-24: **BOF and FWO Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Ghent**
 Instructor of Record (Titularis): History of the Byzantine Empire, The Global History of Slavery

- Co-Tutor: Historical Texts (Late Medieval and Early Modern English), Critical Global Theories
- 2019: **Adjunct Professor of History, Wilbur Wright College**
Instructor of Record: US History to 1865; US History since 1865
- 2018-19: **Adjunct Professor of History, Saint Xavier University**
Instructor of Record: World Civilizations to 1500; US History since 1877
- 2018-19: **Course Tutor, School of Oriental and African Studies**
Art of Eastern Christianity (Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art Summer Course)
- 2018-19: **OnRamps Course Grader, University of Texas, Austin**
- 2015-17: **Senior Teaching Fellow, School of Oriental and African Studies**
Module Leader: Was Attila the Hun So Bad? Eurasian Nomads and their Neighbours
Graduate Teaching Assistant: Introduction to the History of the Near and Middle East, 600-1979
- 2011-12: **Dissertation Mentor, University of Leeds**

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- 2024-: Fellow, NW Posthumus Institute
- 2023-: Peer reviewer, Cogent Social Sciences
- 2019-: Co-founder and convenor, The Medieval Caucasus Network
- 2015-17: Secretary-Treasurer, British Institute of Persian Studies Student Members' Committee
- 2015: Administrative Assistant, British Institute of Persian Studies
- 2014-: Reviewer, *Networks and Neighbours* journal
- 2012: Conference Assistant, International Medieval Congress

EXTRA TRAINING

- 2025: Late Medieval Florentine Palaeography, Institute of English Studies, London
- 2022: Agile Leadership, Ghent University
- 2021: Middle Georgian Private Tuition, Université Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve
- 2020-1: Russian Private Tuition, Derzhavin Institute, St. Petersburg
- 2018: Georgian Language I, University of Malmo
- 2015-17: Professional Development in Higher Education Teaching, SOAS Academic Development Department
- 2015, 2016: Intensive Russian Language Summer Courses, Derzhavin Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia
- 2013: Intensive Persian Language Summer Course, Bactria Cultural Institute, Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- 2012: Cambridge ESOL CELTA teaching certificate, Clarendon College, Nottingham

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2018: Freelance Latin Tutoring, Wheaton, Illinois, USA
- 2013: English Teacher, Joy Language School, Hefei, Anhui, PR China
- 2012-13: Course Designer and EFL Teacher, Belong Refugee Support Organisation, Nottingham

LANGUAGES

Russian (reading: upper intermediate; speaking, listening, writing: lower intermediate)

Latin (reading: upper intermediate)

Dutch (lower intermediate)

Farsi/ New Persian (elementary)

French (reading: lower intermediate; speaking, listening, writing: basic)

German (lower intermediate)
Classical Greek (reading: basic)
Old/ Middle Georgian (reading: basic)
Arabic (read with dictionary)
Italian (read with dictionary)
Bulgarian (read with dictionary)

MEDIA AND OUTREACH

2020: Interview with 'Kings and Generals' podcast
2020: Reddit AMA on the Medieval Caucasus
2020: Press coverage of 'The Alan Capital *Magas: A Preliminary Identification of Its Location' (see above)
2017-18: Script Editor, *Ingushetia: The Speech of the Voiceless* (TV documentary)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Member, Ghent Centre for Late Antiquity
Member, Henri Pirenne Institute for Medieval Studies
Member, Economies, Comparisons, Connections Research Group, Ghent University
Member, British Institute of Persian Studies
Member, Central Eurasian Studies Society