

JOHN LATHAM-SPRINKLE

CURRICULUM VITAE

Department of History
Ghent University - University Forum
Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 35
BE-9000 Gent

+32 460 94 63 56
John.LathamSprinkle@ugent.be

EDUCATION

- 2019: **Ph.D. History:** School of Oriental and African Studies, London

 ‘Political Authority in North Caucasian Alania, 800-1300’ (viva
 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

- 2021-: **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,
 USA
- 2018-19: **Adjunct Professor of History:** Saint Xavier University, Chicago,
 USA
- 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

- 2025: *The North Caucasus, 800-1400*, (under contract with ARC
Humanities Press)
- 2024: *The North Caucasian Kingdom of Alania, 850-1240*, (under
contract with Cambridge University Press)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2023: ‘The Late Mamlūk Transition of the 1380s: The View from the
North Caucasus’, *al-Masāq* 35/1 (forthcoming)
- 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 (forthcoming)
- 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, Facebook, Twitter
- 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

2013: 'For Assur Comes with Them': A Reassessment of the Alan Presence in Spain, 409-418', *History Review* 21 (accepted for publication)

Refereed Book Chapters

2023: '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)

2022: 'The Mongol Conquest of Caucasia', in Timothy May & Michael Hope (eds.), *The Mongol World*, (London: Routledge), 213-26

Book Reviews

2023: Review of Kathryn Franklin, 'Everyday Cosmopolitanisms: Living the Silk Road in Medieval Armenia', *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 82/2 (forthcoming)

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)

2020: 'A Lost City in the North Caucasus', *History Today* 70/11

- 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 Byzantine Empire as Segmentary Polity' (article, approx. 15,000 words)
- 'The *Reges Alanorum* and the Disappearance of Alan Ethnicity in Western Europe' (article, approx. 8,000 words)

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- 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)

INVITED CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PAPERS

- 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, 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 alanskoj stolitsy 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 PARTICIPATION

Panels Organised

- 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

Panels Chaired

- 2020: 'On the Borders of Christendom, I & II', Virtual International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds
- 2018: 'Early History and Archaeology', Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference, University of Pittsburgh
- 2018: 'Integrating the Sassanians, III', International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds

Papers Presented

- 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 Mooov-e: Cows and Power in the Medieval North Caucasus', 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

Invited Career Talks

- 2016: 'Teaching in the UK Higher Education Environment', Teaching the Premodern Workshop, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2019-: **BOF and FWO Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Ghent**
 Instructor of Record: Global Histories of Slavery, History of Byzantium
 Co-Tutor: Critical Global Theories, Historical Texts (Older English)
- 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: US History since 1877; World Civilizations to 1500
- 2018-19: **OnRamps Course Grader, University of Texas, Austin**
- 2018-19: **Course Tutor, School of Oriental and African Studies**
 The Art of Eastern Christianity (Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art Summer Course)
- 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

2023-: Peer reviewer, Cogent Social Sciences

2019-: Co-founder, 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

2022: Agile Leadership, Ghent University

2018: Georgian Language I, University of Malmo

2015-17: Professional Development in Higher Education Programme, 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 Georgian (beginner)

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, American Research Institute in the South Caucasus

Member, British Institute of Persian Studies

Member, Central Eurasian Studies Society

REFERENCES

Eric Vanhaute
Professor of Economic and Social History and of World History
Department of History
Ghent University – University Forum
35 Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat
BE- 9000 Gent
eric.vanhaute@ugent.be

Jonathan Shepard
Professor of History
Oriental Institute, University of Oxford
Pusey Lane
Oxford
OX1 2LE
nshepard@easynet.co.uk

Matthew Costello
Professor of Political Science
Chair, Department of History and Political Science
Warde Academic Center, Saint Xavier University
3700 W 103rd Street
Chicago, Illinois, 60655, United States of America
costello@sxu.edu