

Mohamad Ballan

Curriculum Vitae
 Assistant Professor
 Department of History
 Stony Brook University
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2019–present Assistant Professor of History, Stony Brook University
 2018–2019 Junior Fellow, Dartmouth Society of Fellows. Dartmouth College

EDUCATION

PhD, 2019 Department of History, University of Chicago
 Dissertation: “The Scribe of the Alhambra: Lisan al-Din ibn al-Khatib, Sovereignty and History in Nasrid Granada”
 Committee: David Nirenberg (chair), John Woods, Maribel Fierro, Ahmed El Shamsy
 Comprehensive exam fields: Medieval Iberia, Pre-Modern Islamic History, and Early Modern Europe
 MA, 2010 Social Sciences, University of Chicago
 BA, 2008 History Honors, University of British Columbia

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Medieval Mediterranean; borderlands and frontier history; political thought; Islamic history; medieval Iberia; sectarianism and intercommunal relations; early modern Europe; intellectual networks; philosophy; historiography; Ottoman Empire; late antiquity

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

2010 “Fraxinetum: An Islamic Frontier State in Tenth-Century Provence,” *Comitatus* 41 (2010): 23–76

Book reviews

2015 Review of *Oppressed in the Land? Fatwas on Muslims Living under Non-Muslim Rule from the Middle Ages to the Present* by Alan Verskin. *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, Vol. 74, no. 1 (April 2015), pp. 169–172
 2015 Review of *Misquoting Muhammad: The Challenge and Choice of Interpreting the Prophet’s Legacy* by Jonathan A.C. Brown. *Review of Qur’anic Research*, Vol. 1, no. 3 (2015)

Web-based Publications

Blog: <https://ballandalus.wordpress.com/>

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2017–2018	ACLS-Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship
2017	Middle East Studies Association Wadad Kadi Travel Fellowship
2015–2016	University of Chicago Social Sciences Division Travel Fellowship
2015–2016	Arnaldo Momigliano Dissertation Research Travel Award
2015	Cochrane Travel Grant

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

2019	“Beyond 1492: Conversion, Expulsion, and the Jewish and Muslim Communities of Late Medieval Spain,” Jewish Studies, Dartmouth College, Hanover, July 23
2018	“Lord of the Sword and Pen: Professional Rivalry and Urban Politics in Nasrid Granada,” Middle Eastern Studies, Dartmouth College, Hanover, October 4
2015	“Lisan al-Din ibn al-Khatib and the Nasrid Dynasty: An Exploration of the Relationship between Dynastic Ideology and Historical Writing in Late 14 th -Century Nasrid Granada,” Power and Institutions in Medieval Islam and Christendom, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid, November 10

Conferences

2019	“An Ansari Caliphate? Court Secretaries and the Articulation of Dynastic Ideology in the Nasrid Kingdom of Granada (1238–1492),” American Oriental Society, Chicago, March 15
2019	“Genealogy and Lineage in Fourteenth-Century Nasrid Granada,” De sangre y leche. Raza y religión en el mundo ibérico (final de la Edad Media - inicios de la Moderna)/Of Blood and Milk: Race and Religion in the Late Medieval and Early Modern Iberian Worlds, Madrid, February 8
2018	“The Sword and the Pen in Late Medieval Granada, 1250-1400,” Urban History, ca. 1200-1500: Comparative Perspectives, University of Chicago, Chicago, May 16
2018	“Philosophy in Late Medieval Nasrid Granada: Lisan al-Din ibn al-Khatib and his Intellectual Network,” Medieval Academy of America, Atlanta, March 2
2017	“Sectarianism and Violence in Zirid Ifriqiyah: A Reinterpretation of the Massacres of 407/1016,” Middle East Studies Association Conference, Washington D.C., November 23
2017	“Competing Isma‘īlī Shī‘ī Notions of Succession in the 6th/12th Century,” The University of Chicago Shi‘i Studies Symposium, Chicago, May 13
2016	“A Reconsideration of the Relationship between Sayf al-Dawla Ahmad ibn Hud (d. 1146) and Alfonso VII (d. 1157),” Historians of Medieval Iberia: Enemies and Friends, Stockholm, March 16
2015	“The 1501 Hispano-Muslim Qasida to Sultan Bayezid II: A Reconsideration,” Middle East Studies Association Conference, Denver, November 23
2014	“Zafadola Amicus Mei”: Vassalage, Friendship and the Construction of Imperial Sovereignty in the <i>Chronica Adefonsi Imperatoris</i> (ca. 1148),” Middle East Studies Association Conference, Washington D.C., November 23
2014	Imperator Totius Hispaniae: The Logic of Imperial Sovereignty in the <i>Chronica</i>

- Adefonsi Imperatoris (ca. 1148),” 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies, University of Western Michigan, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 8
- 2014 “They Shall Come to You from the West with God’s Religion”: Ibādī Doctrine and Berber Identity in Ibn Sallām’s ‘Book of the Origins of Islam and the Foundations of the Faith’ (ca. 885),” Spain-North Africa Project Conference: Power Relations and Religious Communities in the Western Mediterranean, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, May 2
- 2013 “Righteous Rebellion and Unjust Governance during the Reign of ‘Uthmān ibn ‘Affān (d. 656): A Reassessment of the Risālah of ‘Abd Allāh ibn Ibād,” 28th Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago, May 3
- 2012 “Re-Imagining “al-Ghālib bi-llāh”: Lisān al-Dīn ibn al-Khaṭīb and the Construction of Naṣrid Dynastic Legitimacy in Fourteenth-Century Granada,” 27th Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago, May 5
- 2010 “Andalusī Crete: An Islamic Frontier State in the Ninth and Tenth Century Mediterranean,” 25th Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago, May 14

Workshops

- 2019 “Captivity and Social Mobility in Nasrid Granada: The Case of Abu Nu‘aym Ridwan (d. 1359),” Captivity and Ransom (Mediterranean Seminar Workshop), Brown University, Providence, May 4
- 2019 “Genealogy, Ethno-Cultural Identity and Regionalism in Late Medieval Granada, ca. 1250–1500,” Turning Points (Mediterranean Seminar Workshop), Princeton University, Princeton, March 2
- 2017 “What is ‘convivencia,’ and what are its limits?,” Ethnicity, Faith and Communal Relations (Mediterranean Seminar Workshop), University of Colorado, Boulder, November 4
- 2016 “Sayf al-Dawla ibn Hud (d. 1146): An Andalusī Muslim Prince in the Service of King Alfonso VII of Castile-León,” Medieval Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, November 4
- 2015 “Andalusī Crete, 827–961: A Reconsideration of the Medieval Arabic Literary Sources,” Workshop on Late Antiquity and Byzantium, University of Chicago, Chicago, April 28
- 2014 “Nec amici nec hostes?: Mavia’s Revolt (ca. 378), Saracen foederati, and the Roman-Byzantine East in the Fourth Century A.D.,” Late Antiquity and Byzantium Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, March 11
- 2014 “The Politics of Islamic Ecumenism in the Afsharid Empire: A Re-examination of ‘Abd Allāh ibn al-Ḥusayn al-Suwaydī’s (d. 1761) Account of the Council of Najaf (1743),” Early Modern Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, February 3
- 2014 “Ibādism in Early Islamic North Africa: A Preliminary Examination of Ibn Sallām’s ‘Book of the Origins of Islam and the Foundations of the Faith’ (ca. 885),” Islamic Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, January 23
- 2011 “Between Castilian Reconquista and Ottoman Jihad: A Reconsideration of the 1501 Hispano-Muslim Qasida to Sultan Bayezid II,” Western Mediterranean Culture and Middle East History and Theory Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, March 2

SERVICE

- 2017 “Lineage, Loyalty and Legitimacy in the Medieval Iberia and North Africa, 600–

- 1600” conference at St. Louis University during the 5th Annual Symposium of Medieval and Renaissance Studies
(<http://smrs.slu.edu/docs/SMRS2017Program.pdf>), June 19–21. Co-organizer.
- 2016–2018 Middle East Medievalists. Graduate Student Representative
- 2016–2017 Arabic Circle at the University of Chicago. Director
- 2011 Middle East History and Theory (MEHAT) conference at the University of Chicago, May 12-15
(<https://voices.uchicago.edu/mehat/files//2011/06/mehat2011program.pdf>). Co-organizer.
- 2010–2011 Middle East History and Theory (MEHAT) workshop at the University of Chicago. Co-organizer.

LANGUAGES

Arabic (fluent reading and speaking), Spanish (advanced reading and intermediate speaking), Latin (reading), French (reading), Catalan (reading)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

American Historical Association
 Medieval Academy of America
 Middle East Studies Association
 American Oriental Society
 American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain
 Spain-North Africa Project
 Mediterranean Seminar