Timothy J. Fitzgerald

History Department, MSC 2001
James Madison University
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EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, History Department, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA (Fall 2017-); Assistant Professor (Fall 2010-Spring 2017)
Lecturer, History Department, Rice University, Houston, TX (Fall 2008-Spring 2010)

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Ph.D., History and Middle Eastern Studies (June 2009)
Examination Fields: Ottoman Empire, Modern Middle East, Modern France
The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA
B.A., *summa cum laude*, History and Government (1998)

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

"A Sufi Mirror: Shaykh Alwan al-Hamawi's (d. 1530) Advice for the Ottoman Ruler," in *Crafting History: Essays on the Ottoman World and Beyond in Honor of Cemal Kafadar*, edited by Rachel Goshgarian, Ilham Khuri-Makdisi, and Ali Yaycıoğlu, 104-116. Brookline, MA: Academic Studies Press, 2023.

"Shedding Blood Justly: Perceptions of Violence in Early Ottoman Syria," in *The Mamluk-Ottoman Transition: Continuity and Change in Egypt and Bilād al-Shām in the Sixteenth Century*, Vol. 2, edited by Stephan Conermann and Gül Şen, 201-218. Göttingen: Bonn University Press, 2022.

"Rituals of Possession, Methods of Control, and the Monopoly of Violence: The Ottoman Conquest of Aleppo in Comparative Perspective," in *The Mamluk-Ottoman Transition: Continuity and Change in Egypt and Bilād al-Shām in the Sixteenth Century*, edited by Stephan Conermann and Gül Şen, 249-273. Göttingen: Bonn University Press, 2017.

"Murder in Aleppo: Ottoman Conquest and the Struggle for Justice in the Early Sixteenth Century," *Journal of Islamic Studies* 27, no. 2 (2016): 176-215.

"Reaching the Flocks: Literacy and the Mass Reception of Ottoman Law in the Sixteenth-Century Arab World," *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association* 2, no. 1 (2015): 5-20; reprinted in *Law and Legality in the Ottoman Empire and Republic of Turkey*, edited by Kent F. Schull, M. Safa Saraçoğlu, and Robert Zens, 9-25. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2016.

"Bibliography of the Published Works of Abdul-Karim Rafeq" in *Syria and Bilad al-Sham under Ottoman Rule: Essays in Honour of Abdul-Karim Rafeq*, edited by Peter Sluglett and Stefan Weber, 47-56. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2010.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

"Ibn al-Hanbali, *Pearls of Dew in the History of Aleppo's Notables*: Sultan Selim Conquers the Mamluk Sultanate, 1516-1517," introduction, translation, and study questions in *Reading Ottoman History: A Sourcebook*, edited by Linda T. Darling and Matthew Lubin. Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

A Fearful State: Violence, Insecurity, and the Paradoxes of Empire in the Ottoman-Arab World (book manuscript in preparation)

BOOK REVIEWS

Managing Paperwork in Mamluk Cairo: Archives, Waqf and Society, by Daisy Livingston (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2025) in *American Historical Review*, forthcoming.

Peerless Among Princes: The Life and Times of Sultan Süleyman, by Kaya Şahin (New York: Oxford University Press, 2023) in *History: Reviews of New Books* 52, no 3 (May 2024), 41-42.

The Administration of Justice in Medieval Egypt: From the Seventh to the Twelfth Century, by Yaacov Lev (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2020) in *Journal of Islamic Studies* 34, no. 3 (September 2023): 414-417.

Aleppo and Its Hinterland in the Ottoman Period / Alep et sa province à l'époque ottomane, edited by Stefan Winter and Mafalda Ade (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2019) in *Der Islam: Journal of the History and Culture of the Middle East* 99, no. 1 (April 2022): 275-279.

The Crucible of Islam, by G. W. Bowersock (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2017) in H-Empire, an H-Net network (June 2019).

A History of the `Alawis: From Medieval Aleppo to the Turkish Republic, by Stefan Winter (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016) in *The English Historical Review* 134, no. 566 (February 2019): 168-170.

Legal Pluralism and Empires, 1500-1850, edited by Lauren Benton and Richard J. Ross (New York: New York University Press, 2013) in *Journal of World History* 26, no. 4 (December 2015): 897-901.

Living in the Ottoman Ecumenical Community: Essays in Honour of Suraiya Faroqhi, edited by Vera Constantini and Markus Koller (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2008) in *Al-Masaq: Islam and the Medieval Mediterranean* 24, no. 2 (2012): 215-17.

The Politics of Interventionism in Ottoman Lebanon, 1830-1860, by Caesar Farah (London and New York: I. B. Tauris, 2000) in *Arab Studies Journal* 9/10, no. 2/1 (Fall 2001-Spring 2002): 127-30.

CONFERENCE PAPERS, INVITED LECTURES, COMMENTARY

"Deportation as an Expression of State Power in the Ottoman Empire," paper to be presented at the American Historical Association annual meeting, on a co-organized panel, "The Legacy of Weber's 'Monopoly of Legitimate Violence' in Early Modern History" (January 2026)

"Pierre Belon (d. 1564), A French Naturalist in Early Ottoman Syria," paper to be presented at the 4th Ottoman Studies Congress (OSARK), Ca' Foscari University, Venice (October 2025)

"Inside Outsiders: Two Europeans in 16th-Century Ottoman Syria," paper presented at the 5th Mid-Atlantic Ottomanist Workshop, University of Richmond (March 2025)

"An Unexpected Knock on the Door: Rethinking Ottoman Population Transfers in the 16th Century," paper presented at the Middle East Studies Association annual meeting (November 2023)

"Of Renegades and Renaissance Men: Ludovico di Varthema (d. 1517) in Late Mamluk Damascus," paper presented at the Middle East Studies Association annual meeting (November 2019)

"Shedding Blood Justly: Perceptions of Violence in Early Ottoman Syria," invited paper presented at the University of Bonn's "The Mamluk-Ottoman Transition: Continuity and Change in Egypt and Bilad al-Sham in the Sixteenth Century," Part 2, conference (April 2019)

Commentary on Emin Lelić's "Ordering an Empire of Difference: Physiognomy at the Early Modern Ottoman Court," at the inaugural meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Ottoman Studies Workshop, at Salisbury University, Maryland (March 2019)

"Sovereignty and Self-Control: Shaykh `Alwan al-Hamawi's (d. 1530) Advice for the Ottoman Ruler," paper presented at the Middle East Studies Association annual meeting (November 2017)

"Varthema's Damascus: Oppression and Opportunity in a Moorish City," paper presented at the International Medieval Congress, Leeds (July 2017)

"Rituals of Possession and Institutions of Control: The Ottoman Conquest of Aleppo in Comparative Perspective," invited paper presented at the University of Bonn's "The Mamluk-Ottoman Transition: Continuity and Change in Egypt and Bilad al-Sham in the Sixteenth Century" conference (March 2015)

"Reaching the Flocks: The Mass Reception of Ottoman Law in the 16th-Century Arab World," paper presented at the Middle East Studies Association annual meeting (October 2013)

"The Mamluk-Ottoman Transition: The End of Legal Pluralism?" paper presented at the Institut Français du Proche-Orient, Beirut's "Pluralisme judiciaire et interactions institutionnelles dans l'Islam médiéval et moderne" conference (May 2012)

"Negotiated Fiat: Ottoman Provincial Law Codes and Governance in Theory and Practice," paper presented at the International Society for Islamic Legal Studies's "Islamic Law and the State: Doctrine and History" conference (May-June 2012)

"Law and Empire: The Ottoman Conquest of the Arab World," invited presentation to the Corcoran Department of History, University of Virginia (January 2012)

"The Qadi is Not Alone: The Diffusion of Justice in Early Ottoman Aleppo," paper presented at the Institut Français d'Etudes Anatoliennes, Istanbul's "Justice in Ottoman Society: Institutions, Actors, and Practices" conference (January 2012)

"Literacy, Law, and Empire in the 15th-16th-Century Eastern Mediterranean World," paper presented at the Middle East Studies Association annual meeting (December 2011)

"To Kill a Judge: The Struggle to Make Mamluk Justice Ottoman in 16th-Century Aleppo," paper presented at the Middle East Studies Association annual meeting (November 2008)

"A New Legal Order: Waqf and the Ottoman Conquest of Aleppo," paper presented at the Harvard Law School's "The Law of Waqf: Origins to Ottoman-Era Maturity" conference (May 2006)

"Ali al-Shaybani, His Waqf, and One Family's Encounter with a Change in Empire," paper presented at The American University of Cairo's Annual History Seminar (March 2004)

"Ibn al-Hanbali's *Durr al-Habab fi Ta'rikh A`yan Halab* and the Ottoman Conquest of Aleppo," paper presented at The American University of Cairo's Annual History Seminar (March 2002)

TEACHING

Associate Professor, James Madison University, History Department
- "History of the Ottoman Empire, 1453-1922"
- "Our Better Angels? The World History of Violence"
- "Premodern Middle East: Themes and Intersections"
- "Modern Middle East"
- "World History to 1500"
- "Early Modern Islamic Empires" [seminar]
- "Putting History Skills to Work" [career preparation course for History majors]
- "History Seminar" [writing intensive research methods seminar for History majors]
- "Violence in World History" [graduate seminar in world history]
- "Comparative Middle Empire" [graduate seminar in world history]
- "Seminar in Historical Research Methods" [introductory graduate seminar]

Lecturer, Rice University, History Department
- "History of the Ottoman Empire: 1453-1918"
- "Great Journeys: From Marco Polo to Mark Twain" [seminar]
- "Premodern Middle East History"
- "Islam and the West: A Clash of Civilizations?" [seminar]
- "The Ottoman Empire and Its Legacy"
- "From Ancient Greece to Medieval Islam: Introduction to Western Literature, History, and Philosophy"
- "Introduction to Ottoman History"

THESIS ADVISING

Director of Master's Theses
- Brian David, "Inventing Saladin: The Role of the Saladin Legend in European Culture and Identity" (May 2017)
  (recipient of the Carlton B. Smith Award for best graduate history thesis)
- Joseph Wilson, "In Search of Askia Mohammed: *The Epic of Askia Mohammed* as Cultural History and Songhay Foundational Myth" (May 2016)
- Israa Alhassani, "Basra's High Hope: An American Missionary School in Iraq during the World War Era" (May 2014)
  (recipient of the Carlton B. Smith Award for best graduate history thesis)

Reader of Master's Theses
- Giuseppe Vitale, "The Ubiquitous Path to War: A British Perspective on Their Relationship with the Spanish Empire from 1734-1739" (August 2023)
- R. Matthew Luther, "The Students' Army Training Corps in Virginia," digital exhibit (May 2023)
- Jamie Bone, "Military Religions in Roman Dacia: Patterns of Epigraphic Dedications in Urban Centers" (May 2021)
- Saman Nasser, "Arab Nationalism in Interwar Period Iraq: A Descriptive Analysis of Sami Shawkat's al-Futuwwah Youth Movement" (December 2018)

Christopher Gallagher, "Citizens of Empire: A Molding of Victorian Childhood Identity" (May 2013)

Jacob Fox, "The Wrong Track: The U.S. Army's Errors in Tank Development During WWII" (May 2013)

Kimberly Wharton, "Formulaic Women: The Disparity Between the 12th Century Reality of Noblewomen in England and the 12th Century Chronicles Regarding the Depiction of English Noblewomen" (May 2013)

Jawan Shir, "Nationalism in Afghanistan: Colonial Knowledge, Education, Symbols, and the World Tour of Amanullah Khan, 1901-1929" (May 2012)

Director of Undergraduate Honors Theses

Lauren Palmieri, "Emancipation Through a Domestic Education: How One Magazine Inspired a Female Literary Renaissance in the Nineteenth-Century Middle East" (May 2020)

Marko Popovic, "Lebanon: A Permanent Home for Syrian Civil War Refugees?" (May 2015)

Joseph Wilson, "Black Banner and White Nights: The World of Ibn Fadlan" (May 2014)

Reader of Undergraduate Honors Theses

Rilie Bass, "'I am a poor old heartbroken mother. I am asking for your help.'; Humanization, Coping, and Community During the Jim Crow Era" (May 2024)

Sophia Laila Cabana, "A Bridge Between Earth & Sky: How the Natural World Shaped the Civilizations of Ancient and Early-Modern Persia" (December 2019)

Hannah Facknitz, "Performing Authentic Savagery: National Myth-Making and Indigenous Survival at American World's Fairs, 1893-1904" (May 2018) (recipient of the Phi Kappa Phi Award for best undergraduate honors thesis)

Jae Ho Kim, "Cinderella: The Study of Cross-Cultural Encounters in Pre-Modern Societies" (August 2015)

Andrew Legan, "The Medical Response to the Black Death" (May 2015)

Kathleen Waters, "Polygamy East and West, What Difference Does Geography Make?: The Influence of National Relationship, Race and Language in the Travel Accounts of Victorian Women in Egypt and Utah" (May 2013)

OTHER OUTREACH

"Dracula: Legendary Impaler, Ottoman Captive," presentation for the James Madison University Alumni Association's "Back to Class: Faculty Talks" Homecoming series (November 2020), and for the History Department's *Wonders of Wilson* open house event (October 2019)

"Syria Now: Understanding Conflict, Migration and Refugee Status," presentation at Mary Baldwin University's Spencer Center for Civic and Global Engagement, Staunton, VA (April 2017)

"Paths to God: Islamic Law and Mysticism," presentation and discussion for the Harrisonburg Unitarian Universalists (November 2016)

"What Was Syria?," book talk event moderator at the Pale Fire Tap Room, Harrisonburg (September 2016)

"From Allah to Oil: What Everyone Needs to Know about the Middle East," extension course at James Madison University's Lifelong Learning Institute (March-April 2016, 2013, 2011)

"Listening to the Deep Past: An Introduction to World Literature through 1500 C.E.," extension course at James Madison University's Lifelong Learning Institute (March-April 2014)

"Middle East Update," panel presentation for the Interfaith Initiative for Peace and Justice at Eastern Mennonite University (September 2013)
"The Arab Spring: An Update," panel presentation for the Interfaith Initiative for Peace and Justice at the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren (June 2012)
"The Modern Middle East Through Its Literature," extension course at James Madison University's Lifelong Learning Institute (March-April 2012)
"What is the Middle East?" international-week panel presentation at James Madison University (September 2011)
"Reel Bad Arabs," film discussant at James Madison University (September 2011)
"The Spread of Literacy in the Classical Ottoman World," brown-bag research presentation at James Madison University (October 2011)
"A Total History of the Middle East," keynote address at Bridgewater College's Phi Alpha Theta annual initiation ceremony and banquet (May 2011)
"Passing Around the Cup: Coffee's Middle Eastern Origins," invited lecture at Rice University's Glasscock School of Continuing Studies, Houston, TX (April 2010)
"The Rise of the Ottoman Empire: From Statelet to Global Empire," invited lecture at Rice University's Glasscock School of Continuing Studies, Houston, TX (March 2010)
"Oil," presentation given as part of "Un-muddling the Modern Middle East" workshop for K-12 educators, Watertown, MA (August 2006)
"The Ottoman Empire," guest lecture in "The Formation and Development of Islamic Civilization" course, Framingham State College, MA (November 2005)
"Oil's Well in the Middle East," presentation given as part of "Contemporary Issues in the Middle East: Society, Culture, and Politics" workshop for K-12 educators, Dedham, MA (August 2005)
"An Update on the Center for Historical Documents in Damascus," report in the *Syrian Studies Association Newsletter*, Vol. 11, No. 1, Spring 2005
"Middle Eastern Community Awareness Discussion," presentation at J. P. Morgan Chase Bank, New York, NY (November 2002)
"The Rise of the Ottomans to Suleyman" and "The Ottomans and Europe: Relations and Perceptions," guest lectures for *The Education Cooperative*, Wellesley, MA (August 2002)
"The End of Muslim Sicily: An Examination of Muslim-Christian Relations in High Medieval Europe," senior history thesis with highest honors, The College of William and Mary, VA (1998)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

External book manuscript reviewer, *University of Toronto Press* (2022-)
External article/chapter reviewer, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Journal of Mediterranean Studies*, *Journal of Early Modern History*, *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association, Journal of Islamic Studies,* and *Diyâr: Journal of Ottoman, Turkish and Middle Eastern Studies* (2014-)
Editor, *Harvard Middle Eastern and Islamic Review* (1999-2002)

SERVICE AT JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

University Service

First Year Advisor for History, Sociology and Anthropology, Philosophy and Religion, and Justice Studies (2013-)
First Year Advisory Board (2017-)
General Education, Arts and Humanities area committee (2023-)
Ad Hoc Committee on the Core Curriculum (2025-)
Professor in Residence at William Fleming High School, Roanoke, VA (2018-2022)
Middle Eastern Students Association, Faculty Advisor (2021-)
JMU Quiz Bowl Team, Faculty Advisor (2019-)
Madison Disability Inclusion Group, Faculty Advisor (2018-2022)
Middle Eastern Communities and Migrations minor program committee (Acting Coordinator, Spring 2012, Spring 2015)
Medieval and Renaissance Studies minor program committee
Faculty reader for the *Madison Historical Review* and the *James Madison Undergraduate Research Journal*
General Education Student Conference nominator and panel chair
Freshman Orientation "Preface" instructor, and "It's Complicated" facilitator
Middle Eastern Communities and Migrations Student Research Paper Series editor
Provost Award for Excellence in Faculty First Year Advising selection committee (2021)
Honor Council hearing board member

History Department Service

Advising Coordinator (2026-)
Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society, Faculty Advisor (2022-)
Curriculum committee (2022-2025)
Artificial Intelligence committee (2023-2024)
Student Experience/Advising committee (2019-2022)
Personnel Advisory committee (2019-2022)
Department Head search committee (2018-2019)
Academic Program Review committee (2017-2018)
Public/US History search committee (2011-2012)
World History committee
Faculty Leave committee
History Master's Degree oral examiner
National History Day judge
Graduate German, French, and Arabic Language Reading Exam assessor

HONORS AND GRANTS

JMU Shirley Hanson Roberts '56 and Richard D. Roberts Endowment for Faculty Excellence award (2020)
JMU Provost Award for Excellence in Faculty First Year Advising (2020)
JMU Carl Harter Distinguished Teacher Award finalist (2018, 2017)
JMU Provost Faculty Development Support Award (2018)
Institute of Turkish Studies Dissertation Writing Grant (2005-2006)
Harvard Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Fellowship (2005-2006)

Harvard Center for Middle Eastern Studies Travel and Research Grant (Fall 2004, Summers 2002-2005)
Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship, Syria (2003-2004)
Institute of International Education Cultural Exchange Fulbright Fellowship, Syria (2003-2004) [declined]
Harvard Merit Fellowship (2003-2004) [declined]
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (2000-2001, 2003-2004 [declined], Summers 1999-2001)
Harvard Graduate Society Summer Fellowship (2000)
Harvard University, History Department, *Certificate of Distinction in Teaching*

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Arabic, Ottoman and modern Turkish, French, German

SUPPLEMENTARY TRAINING

Harvard-Koç Intensive Ottoman and Turkish Summer School, Cunda, Türkiye (Summer 2001)
TÖMER Turkish language program, Trabzon, Türkiye (Summer 2000)
Middlebury College: The Arabic Language School (Summer 1999)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Middle East Studies Association
American Historical Association
Syrian Studies Association
Middle East Medievalists

(Last Revised: September 2025)