

## Jamie Kreiner

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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Georgia    Professor of History, Graduate Faculty, 2021-present  
Associate Professor of History, Graduate Faculty, 2017-2021  
Assistant Professor of History, Graduate Faculty, 2012-2017

Stanford University    Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities, 2011-2012

### EDUCATION

Princeton University    Ph.D. in History, 2011 (advisor: Peter Brown)  
M.A. in History, 2007

University of Colorado    B.A. in History, *summa cum laude*, 2004  
B.A.-Music, high honors, 2004

### COURSES TAUGHT

*freshman-year Odyssey*

Medieval Mind Games

*surveys*

A History of Western Civilization to 1500  
The Middle Ages  
Christianity and Society from Constantine to Luther

*undergraduate seminars*

The Animal and the Human in the Middle Ages  
Economy and Society before Capitalism  
The Medieval Mind: Cognition, Media Culture, Ethics  
Saints in the Middle Ages  
The Barbarian Kingdoms (senior thesis seminar / HIST 4990)

*graduate seminar*

Theory and Practice of History

### AUTHORED BOOKS

*The Wandering Mind: What Medieval Monks Tell Us About Distraction* (New York: Liveright/Norton, 2023), xiv + 274 pp.

Reviews: *Plough* (11 July 2023), *Times Literary Supplement* (30 June 2023), *Tradition: A Journal of Orthodox Jewish Thought* (19 June 2023), *Miller's Book Review* (27 May 2023), *Law & Liberty* (14 April 2023), *The New Yorker* (30 January 2023), *Wall Street Journal* (20 January 2023), *New York Times*

*Book Review* (29 January 2023), *Open Letters Review* (9 January 2023), *Inside Higher Ed* (6 January 2023), *Shepherd Express* (6 January 2023), *Kirkus Reviews* (1 December 2022), *Publisher's Weekly* (11 November 2022)

Translations: Italian (2025), Russian (2025), Polish (2024), Chinese (2024), Korean (2023). Also available as an audiobook.

*Legions of Pigs in the Early Medieval West*, Yale Agrarian Studies Series (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2020), xxii + 340 pp.

Reviews: *Early Medieval Europe* 30 (2023): 127-31; *Speculum* 97.4 (2022): 1220; *Studies in Late Antiquity* 6.4 (2022): 740-41; *Historische Zeitschrift* 315 (2022): 481-82; *Agricultural History* 96 (2022): 304-306; *American Historical Review* 127 (2022): 532-33; *CHOICE* 59.2 (2021); *Comitatus* 52 (2021): 271-73; *The Medieval Review* (September 2021); *Quaestiones Medii Aevi Novae* 25 (2020): 438

*The Social Life of Hagiography in the Merovingian Kingdom*, Cambridge Studies in Medieval Life and Thought, Fourth Series 96 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014), xii + 329 pp.

Reviews: *Cahiers de recherches médiévales et humanistes* (June 2014, [crm.revues.org/13237](http://crm.revues.org/13237)); *The Medieval Review* (March 2015), <https://tinyurl.com/3eb4e57z>; *Francia-Recensio* (2015/1, <https://tinyurl.com/mvtcav3z>); *Rheinische Vierteljahrsblätter* 79 (2015): 272-273; *American Historical Review* 121 (2016): 306-7; *The Mediaeval Journal* 6 (2016): 125-32; *Early Medieval Europe* 25 (2017): 399-401

#### CO-EDITED VOLUME

*Motions of Late Antiquity: Essays on Religion, Politics, and Society in Honour of Peter Brown*, ed. with Helmut Reimitz, Cultural Encounters in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages 20 (Turnhout: Brepols, 2016), x + 350 pp.

Reviews: *The Medieval Review* (17.01.2017); *Parergon* 34.2 (2017): 227-229; *Al-Masaq* (2018); *Intellectual History of the Islamicate World* 6 (2018): 247-8; *The Classical Review* 68 (2018): 193-5; *Journal of Roman Studies* 108 (2018): 293-5; *Speculum* 93 (2018): 1221-22

#### TRANSLATIONS

*How to Focus: A Monastic Guide for an Age of Distraction* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2024), xxx + 257 pp. Selections from John Cassian's *Collationes*. Also available as an audiobook.

English translation, with Helmut Reimitz, of *Lebenswelten des frühen Mittelalters in 36 Kapiteln*, ed. Peter Erhart (Lindenberg: Josef Fink and Stiftsarchiv St. Gallen, 2019) = *Life in the Early Middle Ages in 36 Chapters* (2021)

#### JOURNAL ARTICLES

"Agricultural Brokers," *Early Medieval Europe* 28 (2020): 425-43

Co-author, with Merle Eisenberg, David J. Patterson, Ellen F. Arnold, and Timothy P. Newfield, "The Environmental History of the Late Antique West: A Bibliographic Essay," *Journal of Late Antique Archaeology* 11 (2018): 31-50

“Pigs in the Flesh and Fisc: An Early Medieval Ecology,” *Past & Present* 236 (2017): 3-42

“Autopsies and Philosophies of a Merovingian Life: Death, Responsibility, Salvation,” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 22 (2014): 113-52

“About the Bishop: The Episcopal Entourage and the Economy of Government in Post-Roman Gaul,” *Speculum* 86 (2011): 321-360

#### CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

“Merovingian Hagiography,” in *Oxford Handbook of the Merovingian World*, ed. Bonnie Effros and Isabel Moreira (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020), 508-30

“Gaul’s Insiders: Hagiography and Entitlement,” in *Hagiography and the History of Latin Christendom, 500-1500*, ed. Samantha Kahn Herrick and Paul Antony Hayward (Leiden: Brill, 2020), 211-31

“A Generic Mediterranean: Hagiography in the Early Middle Ages,” in *East and West in the Early Middle Ages: The Merovingian Kingdoms in Mediterranean Perspective*, ed. Stefan Esders, Yaniv Fox, Yitzhak Hen, and Laury Sarti (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019), 202-17

“Romanness in Merovingian Hagiography: A Case Study in Class and Political Culture,” in *Transformations of Romanness in the Early Middle Ages: Regions and Identities*, ed. Walter Pohl, Clemens Gantner, Cinzia Grifoni, and Marianne Pollheimer-Mohaupt (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2018), 309-23

Introduction (co-authored with Helmut Reimitz) to *Motions of Late Antiquity: Essays on Religion, Politics, and Society in Honour of Peter Brown*, Cultural Encounters in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages 20 (Turnhout: Brepols, 2016), 1-16

#### COMMENTS AND REVIEW ESSAYS

“Our Pigs, Ourselves,” *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences* 51 (2021): 553-65, review essay of J. L. Anderson, *Capitalist Pigs*; Alex Blanchette, *Porkopolis*; Thomas Fleischman, *Communist Pigs*; Tiago Saraiva, *Fascist Pigs*

Co-author with Henry Cowles, “Another Claim for Cognitive History,” *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 43 (2020), doi: 10.1017/S0140525X19001547, comment on Falk Lieder and Thomas L. Griffiths, “Resource-Rational Analysis: Understanding Human Cognition as the Optimal Use of Limited Computational Resources”

Co-author, with Henry Cowles, “A Claim for Cognitive History,” *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 42 (2019), doi:10.1017/S0140525X19000256, comment on Nicolas Baumard, “Psychological Origins of the Industrial Revolution”

#### POPULAR MEDIA

“On Concentration,” in *Fifty Ideas for a Better World*, The Monocle Companion 3, ed. Josh Fehnert (London: Monocle Books, 2023)

“The Best Books about Medieval Brainiacs,” *Shepherd*, 15 May 2023, <https://shepherd.com/best-books/medieval-brainiacs>

“The Medieval Monk’s Guide to New Year’s Resolutions,” *Time*, 5 January 2023, <https://time.com/6244155/medieval-christian-monks-new-years-resolutions/>

“Pigs at Work,” *Yale University Press Blog*, 22 October 2020, <http://blog.yalebooks.com/2020/10/22/pigs-at-work/>

“How to Reduce Digital Distractions: Advice from Medieval Monks,” *Aeon*, 24 April 2019, <https://aeon.co/ideas/how-to-reduce-digital-distractions-advice-from-medieval-monks>

“The Pig[er] Picture,” *Past & Present Blog*, 4 August 2017, <http://pastandpresent.org.uk/the-piger-picture/>

“Kidding / Not Kidding: A Medieval Sense of Humour,” *BBC History Extra*, 23 March 2016, <http://www.historyextra.com/article/feature/kiddingnot-kidding-medieval-sense-humour>

“Dark Humor in the Dark Ages,” *fifteeneightyfour*, the blog of Cambridge University Press, 3 September 2014, <http://www.cambridgeblog.org/2014/09/dark-humor-in-the-dark-ages/>

“Pig Data,” *Scope Notes: The Blog of the Special Collections Research Center at the University of Chicago Library*, 24 October 2013, <http://lib.typepad.com/scrc/2013/10/pig-data-.html>

## BOOK REVIEWS

Hans-Ulrich Wiemer, *Theoderic the Great: King of Goths, Ruler of Romans* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2023), *New York Times Book Review*, 25 July 2023

Alexander O’Hara and Ian Wood, eds., *Jonas of Bobbio: Life of Columbanus, Life of John of Réomé, and Life of Vedast*, Translated Texts for Historians 64 (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2017), *The Medieval Review*, February 2018, <https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/tmr/article/view/24467/30033>

Lisa Kaaren Bailey, *Religious Worlds of the Laity in Late Antique Gaul* (London: Bloomsbury, 2016), *Journal of Late Antiquity* 10 (2017): 527-29

*Chlodwigs Welt: Organisation von Herrschaft um 500*, ed. Mischa Meier and Steffen Patzold (Stuttgart: Steiner, 2014), *Early Medieval Europe* 25 (2017): 544-46

Constance Bouchard, *Rewriting Saints and Ancestors: Memory and Forgetting in France, 500-1200* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015), *American Historical Review* 122 (2016): 1009-10

*Le Légendier de Turin: Ms. D.V.3 de la Bibliothèque Nationale Universitaire*, ed. Monique Goulet and Sandra Isetta (Florence: SISMEL / Edizioni del Galluzzo, 2014), *sehpunkte: Rezensionjournal für die Geschichtswissenschaften* 15, no. 6 (2015), <http://www.sehpunkte.de/2015/06/26260.html>

*Sermo doctorum: Compilers, Preachers, and Their Audiences in the Early Medieval West*, ed. Maximilian Diesenberger, Yitzhak Hen, and Marianne Pollheimer (Turnhout: Brepols, 2013), *The Medieval Review*, January 2015, <https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/tmr/article/view/18771/24884>

*Visions of Community in the Post-Roman World: The West, Byzantium, and the Islamic World, 300-1100*, ed. Walter Pohl, Clemens Gantner, and Richard Payne (Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2012), *The Medieval Review*, March 2013,  
<https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/tmr/article/view/17783/23901>

*An Age of Saints? Power, Conflict and Dissent in Early Medieval Christianity*, ed. Peter Sarris, Matthew Dal Santo, and Phil Booth (Leiden: Brill, 2011), *The Medieval Review*, March 2012,  
<https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/tmr/article/view/17500/23618>

#### SELECT PRIZES AND FELLOWSHIPS

Jerome E. Singerman Prize for a second book in any area of medieval studies, Medieval Academy of America, 2024

Creative Research Medal in the Humanities and Arts, University of Georgia, 2022

George Perkins Marsh Prize for the best book in environmental history, American Society for Environmental History, 2021

William Koren, Jr. Prize for most outstanding article on any period of French history, Society for French Historical Studies, 2018

Wayne D. Rasmussen Award for the best article on agricultural history published outside of *Agricultural History* in 2017, Agricultural History Society, 2018

Institute for Advanced Study Mellon Fellowship for Assistant Professors, 2017-2018

*Declined 2017-2018*: Stanford Humanities Center External Faculty Fellowship, Yale Program in Agrarian Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship, National Humanities Center Fellowship

Michael F. Adams Early Career Scholar in the Arts and Humanities Award, University of Georgia, 2017

Van Courtlandt Elliott Prize for outstanding first article in the field of medieval studies, Medieval Academy of America, 2013

Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Fellowship in the Humanities, Princeton University, 2009-2010

#### RECENT INVITED TALKS (PAST FIVE YEARS)

“Pigs and Their Partners in the Early Middle Ages,” Journées internationales d’histoire de Flaran, Le porc dans tous ses états dans l’Europe médiévale et moderne, October 2023

“How to Focus: Medieval Lessons for an Age of Distraction,” Otey Scruggs Memorial Lecture, Department of History, Syracuse University, April 2023

“Premodern Pigs and Their People: A Conversation about Life, Death, and the Divine Order,” Department of History, University of Tennessee Chattanooga, April 2023

“The Meaty Mind: Eating and Thinking in Early Christian Monasticism,” University of Maine, History Department Symposium Series, March 2023

“Meditating Monks and the Meandering Mind,” guest seminar with the Friends of Attention (an international network of artists, writers, activists, and academics), February 2023

“The Cognitive Culture of Monasticism,” Institute for Advanced Study / Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, Reflections on Byzantium from a Global Perspective Symposium, November 2022

“John Cassian,” Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, Knowledge and the Sciences of Improving the Mind Workshop, August 2022

“The Early Medieval Metaverse,” University of Kentucky, World Religions Program, February 2022 [pandemic = virtual]

“Fattening Agents in the Early Middle Ages,” Cornell University, Medieval Studies Lecture Series, February 2022 [pandemic = virtual]

“From the Mud to the Cosmos: Pigs in the Early Medieval West,” Loyola University Chicago, Medieval Studies Lecture Series, February 2021 [pandemic = virtual]

“Pig History and Big History,” Institute of Historical Research (London), Earlier Middle Ages Seminar, December 2020 [pandemic = virtual]

“Pig Work in the Early Middle Ages,” University of Toronto, Labour and Humanities Seminar, December 2019

“The Hoof of Destiny,” University of Michigan, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies Lecture, April 2019

#### RECENT PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT / COMMUNICATIONS (PAST FIVE YEARS)

Featured podcast guest, *Many Minds*, May 2023, <https://disi.org/medieval-monks-on-memory-meditation-and-mind-wandering/>

Featured podcast guest, *In Search of Wisdom*, May 2023, <https://searchwisdom.transistor.fm/episodes/jamie-kreiner-the-wandering-mind-how-to-avoid-distraction-like-a-monk>

Featured radio and podcast guest, *Diverse Voices Book Review*, KAZI 88.7 FM (Austin), April 2023, [https://www.podomatic.com/podcasts/hbhpodcasts/episodes/2023-04-24T04\\_42\\_50-07\\_00](https://www.podomatic.com/podcasts/hbhpodcasts/episodes/2023-04-24T04_42_50-07_00)

Featured podcast guest, *I Dare You*, April 2023, <https://darrin-johnson.mykajabi.com/podcasts/i-dare-you-podcast/episodes/2147908521>

Featured podcast guest, *New Books Network*, March 2023, <https://newbooksnetwork.com/the-wandering-mind-what-medieval-monks-tell-us-about-distraction>

Featured radio and podcast guest, *RadioWest*, KUER Radio (Salt Lake City), February 2023, <https://radiowest.kuer.org/show/radiowest/2023-02-16/jamie-kreiner-on-what-monks-teach-us-about-distraction>

Featured radio guest, *Letters and Politics*, KPFA Radio (SF Bay Area), January 2023,  
<https://kpfa.org/episode/letters-and-politics-january-26-2023/>

Featured podcast guest, *Then Again*, Northeast Georgia History Center, May 2022,  
<http://www.thenagainpodcast.com/episode/2f39d18b/how-pigs-transformed-the-early-medieval-west>

Featured radio guest, *Constant Wonder*, BYURadio (Provo, UT), October 2021,  
<https://www.byuradio.org/WON-2021-10-14-Rewriting-the-Pig-Connotation>

Featured podcast guest, *New Books Network*, June 2021, <https://newbooksnetwork.com/legions-of-pigs-in-the-early-medieval-west>

Featured podcast guest, “The Three Little Pigs,” *Ma mère l’oie*, April 2021,  
<https://soundcloud.com/mamereleie-502826172/3littlepigs>

Featured radio and podcast guest, “How to Reduce Digital Distraction: Advice from Medieval Monks,” *Relevant or Irrelevant?*, KALA Radio (Davenport, IA), February 2021,  
<https://soundcloud.com/kalaradio/roi-397>, <https://soundcloud.com/kalaradio/roi-397-podcast>

Featured podcast guest, “The Humble Medieval Pig,” *The Medieval Podcast*, January 2021,  
<https://www.medievalists.net/2021/01/medieval-pig-jamie-kreiner/>

Public lecture, “Beer in Antiquity and the Middle Ages,” Authentic Brewing Company (Athens, GA), October 2019

Radio interview, “Distracted Monks,” *The World*, Public Radio International, April 2019,  
<https://www.pri.org/file/2019-04-25/distracted-monks>

#### SELECT PROFESSIONAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE (PAST FIVE YEARS)

Manuscript review for *Agricultural History Review*, *Archaeological Journal*, Brepols, Cambridge University Press, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *Early Medieval Europe*, *Journal of Late Antiquity*, *Journal of Religious History*, Oxford University Press, *Speculum*, *Traditio*

Co-convenor of the Medieval History Seminar for the German Historical Institutes (D.C. and London), 2022 to present

Member of UGA’s Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), 2022 to present

Member of the Humanities Council, 2022 to present

Creator and organizer of Lunchtime Time Machine, the Department of History’s undergraduate lecture series, 2014-2019

Administrative appointments: Senior Associate Dean (2023-present), Associate Dean (2021-2023), Department Head of History (2019-2021), Director of Undergraduate Studies (2015-2017, 2018-2019)