

ABIGAIL AGRESTA
Curriculum Vitae
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Department of History
George Washington University
Columbian College of Arts and Sciences
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EDUCATION

Yale University

Ph.D., History, 2016
M.Phil., History, 2013
M.A., History, 2013

Oxford University

M.St. (Master of Studies), Medieval History, 2010 (Distinction)

Swarthmore College

B.A., Medieval Studies, 2009 (Highest Honors)

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

The George Washington University

Assistant Professor, Department of History, 2019-present

Queen's University

Marjorie McLean Oliver Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of History, 2016-2019

PUBLICATIONS

Book

The Keys to Bread and Wine: Faith, Nature, and Infrastructure in Late Medieval Valencia (Cornell University Press, 2022)

Winner of 2023 Turku Book Award for best book in environmental history
(European Society for Environmental History)

Finalist for 2023 George Perkins Marsh Prize for best book in environmental history
(American Society for Environmental History)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“From Purification to Protection: Plague Response in Late Medieval Valencia,” *Speculum* 95:2 (April 2020), 371-395

“Unfortunate Jews’ and Urban Ugliness: The 1391 Assault on the *Jueria* of Valencia,” *Journal of Medieval History* 43:3 (2017), 1-22

Winner of 2017-2018 Bishko Memorial Prize for best article in medieval Iberian history (Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies)

“The Doctor and the Notary: A Jewish Latinate Will from Fourteenth-Century Catalonia,” *Viator* 46:1 (2015), 229-247

Book Chapters

“The Nourishment of Infections: Disease and Waterscape in Late Medieval Valencia,” in *Disease and the Environment in the Medieval and Early Modern Worlds*, ed. Lori Jones (New York: Routledge, 2022)

“Humans and Environment in Medieval Iberia,” in *Routledge Companion to Medieval Iberia*, ed. E. Michael Gerli and Ryan Giles (New York: Routledge, 2021)

Reviews

Defiant Priests: Domestic Unions, Violence, and Clerical Masculinity in Fourteenth-Century Catalunya by Michelle Armstrong-Partida. *The English Historical Review* (June 2021)

A Cold Welcome: The Little Ice Age and Europe’s Encounter with North America by Sam White. *Marginalia Review of Books* (December 2019)

To Live Like a Moor: Christian Perceptions of Muslim Identity in Medieval and Early Modern Spain, by Olivia Remie Constable. *Marginalia Review of Books* (August 2018)

Manuscripts in Preparation

“Plague Prevention, Care, and Infrastructure in Valencia, 1450-1520” in *Dynamic Balances: Public Health in the Preindustrial World*, eds. Guy Geltner, Janna Coomans, and Ronit Yoell-Tlalim

“Accounts of the Anti-Jewish Riot in Valencia, July 1391,” [Open Iberia/América Teaching Anthology](#), ed. David Wacks

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Turku Book Award for best book in environmental history, European Society for Environmental History, 2023

Finalist for George Perkins Marsh Prize for best book in environmental history, American Society for Environmental History, 2023

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Impact Award, George Washington University, 2023

George Washington University Humanities Center Fellow, 2020-2021

RSA Short-Term Research Fellowship, Renaissance Society of America, 2019

Bishko Memorial Prize for best article in the field of medieval Iberian history by a North American scholar, Association for Spanish & Portuguese Historical Studies, 2018

Olivia Remie Constable Award, Medieval Academy of America, 2017

European Society for Environmental History Research Grant, European Society for Environmental History, 2017

Mellon Fellowship in Urban Landscape Studies, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, Spring 2017 (declined)

Travel Grant for American Society for Environmental History 2016 Conference, National Science Foundation, 2016

Latin American and Iberian Studies Summer Travel Grant, Council on Latin American and Iberian Studies, Yale University, 2015

U.S. Student Fulbright Award, Fulbright Commission, Spain, 2013-2014

International Dissertation Research Grant, MacMillan Center, Yale University, 2013-2014

Summer Research Fellowship, Program in Agrarian Studies, Yale University, 2012

Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship, MacMillan Center, Yale University, 2012

Latin American and Iberian Studies Summer Travel Grant, Council on Latin American and Iberian Studies, Yale University, 2012

Clarendon Scholarship, Clarendon Fund/Oxford University Press, Oxford University, 2009-2010.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Conference Papers

“Plague Tracking, Communication, and Trust in the Late Medieval Crown of Aragon,” Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting, 2023

“Contact, Contagion, and Enslavement in Late Medieval Valencia,” Mechanisms and Trajectories of Ethno-Religious Interaction in Later-Medieval Iberia Conference, UCLA, 2022

“Anti-Jewish Violence and Christian Civic Ritual in Late Medieval Valencia,” Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting, 2022

“Teaching Plague During COVID,” American Historical Association Annual Conference, 2022 (delivered in absentia)

“‘The Frequency of Successive Droughts in the City’: Infrastructure and Natural Disaster Perception in Fourteenth-Century Valencia,” 56th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, 2021 (originally scheduled for 2020)

“Crisis and Climate: The Fourteenth Century and the Little Ice Age,” 56th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, 2021 (originally scheduled for 2020)

“Towards Environmental Histories of Medieval Iberia,” American Historical Association Annual Conference, 2020

“‘Bring[ing] the disease into the house’: Enslaved women, mobility, and plague in late medieval Valencia,” Society for the Medieval Mediterranean Biennial Conference, Institut d’Estudis Catalans, 2019

“Plague, Health, and Civic Order in Late Medieval Valencia,” 54th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, 2019

“‘That For Which the King of Kings Sent the Flood’? Flood Prevention in Late Medieval Valencia,” Renaissance Society of America Annual Conference, 2019

“Minds in the Gutter: Corruption in Late Medieval Valencia,” European Association for Urban History Conference, 2018

“Minds in the Gutter: Plague, Sin, and Blame in Late Medieval Valencia,” 53rd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, 2018

“Indecent Animals in Late Medieval Valencia,” 53rd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, 2018

“Guards and Guardian Angels: The Shift to Contagion-Based Plague Response in Late Medieval Valencia,” Medieval and Renaissance Center Annual Conference, New York University, 2018

“‘Improvements, by God's Mercy’: Natural Disaster Response and the Islamic Past in Late Medieval Valencia,” European Society for Environmental History Conference, 2017

“Many Waters: Governing the Environment of Late Medieval Valencia,” 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, 2016

“From Heaven or ‘Out of the Earth’?: Locusts in Late Medieval Valencia,” American Society for Environmental History Conference, 2016

“Disorder and the Christian City: Crafting a Narrative of the 1391 Assault on the *Juheria* of Valencia,” International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, 2015

“Corruption in a Human Landscape: Efforts to Eliminate Stagnant Water in Medieval Valencia,” 50th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, 2015

“God, Humans and Nature in Late Medieval Valencia,” New Perspectives in Environmental History, Yale University, 2015

“Telling the Riots of 1391: An analysis of the attack on the *Juheria* of Valencia,” International Medieval Meeting, Universitat de Lleida, 2014

“The Doctor and the Notary: A Jewish Latinate Will from Fourteenth-Century Catalonia,” 47th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, 2012

“Appropriate Piety in Castelló d’Empúries,” New England Medieval Studies Consortium Graduate Conference, Yale University, 2012

“Meaning and Social Use of an Urban Garden: The Wedding Feast of Lorenzo de’ Medici,” International Association for the Study of Environment, Space, and Place, Southern Connecticut State University, 2011

“Salvation and the Notary: Pious Choices in Castelló d’Empúries, 1286-1363,” Revealing Records II, King’s College London, 2010

Invited Talks

“The Lessons of Experience? Plague Quarantine in the Late Medieval Crown of Aragon,” 12^e Seminari: Crisis e cicles en la Història, Universitat de Lleida, 2023

“Faith, Nature, and Infrastructure in Late Medieval Valencia,” Instituto Interuniversitario López Piñero, Universitat de València, 2023

“The Keys to Bread and Wine,” The Greenhouse Environmental Humanities Book Talk Series, Greenhouse Center for Environmental Humanities, University of Stavanger, 2023

“The Plague Hospital and Public Health Infrastructure in Late Medieval Valencia,” Public Health and the Preindustrial World Conference, University of Amsterdam, 2022

“Persecution in the Age of the Black Death,” Salisbury University, 2021

“Living with Plague in Medieval Cities: Cleanliness and Quarantine,” Medical Humanities Lecture Series, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, 2020

“From Healthscaping to Disease Tracing: Plague and Public Health After the Black Death,” Pandemics in the Past: From Prehistory to (almost) the Present, Program in Medieval Studies/Climate Change and History Research Initiative, Princeton University, 2020

“From Corrupt Sinners to Contagious Strangers: Plague in Late Medieval Valencia,” History of Pre-Modern Medicine Seminar, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto, 2016

Campus and Departmental Talks

“The Keys to Bread and Wine,” History Department Seminar, George Washington University, 2023

“Natural Disaster, Sin, and Blame in Late Medieval Valencia,” History Department, Queen’s University, 2018

“From Sinners to Strangers: Plague Prevention in Late Medieval Valencia,” Queen's University Medieval Seminar, 2017

“Corrupt Air and Contagious Bodies: Plague in Medieval Valencia,” Yale Environmental History Colloquium, 2015

“The Doctor and the Notary: A Jewish Latinate Will from Fourteenth-Century Catalonia,” Medieval Lunch, Yale University, 2012

“Meaning and Social Use of an Urban Garden: The Wedding Feast of Lorenzo de’ Medici,” Medieval Lunch, Yale University, 2011

Public Outreach

[“The Black Death,”](#) *Infectious Historians* (podcast hosted by Lee Mordechai and Merle Eisenberg), April 2020.

[“The Black Death,”](#) *The History Café* (podcast hosted by Adam Franklin-Lyons), April 2020.

[“Anti-Jewish Riots in Valencia, Spain 1391,”](#) *The History Café* (podcast hosted by Adam Franklin-Lyons), March 2015.

TEACHING**Courses Taught**

George Washington University

Environmental History

The Black Death and Medieval Medicine

Medieval Cities

Medieval Spain

Europe and its World Context to 1715

The Middle Ages (500-1500)

Queen's University

Plague and Medieval Medicine

The Early Middle Ages

The Later Middle Ages

The City in Medieval Europe

The Middle Ages

Other

[“Black Death and Medieval Public Health”](#) teaching module for undergraduates (with Guy Geltner)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Bishko Prize Committee Member, Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies, 2023

Co-founder and organizer, Premodern Iberianists of the Mid-Atlantic (PIMA), 2019-2020

Postdoc Advisory Committee, Office of Post-Doctoral Training, Queen’s University, 2018-2019

Vice-President of Postdocs, Public Service Alliance of Canada Local 901, 2017-2019

Honors Examiner, Swarthmore College, Spring 2017

Treasurer, Public Service Alliance of Canada Local 901, 2016-2017

Organizer, Inaugural Harvard-Yale Graduate Conference in Medieval History, 2013

Coordinator, Yale Lectures in Medieval Studies, 2010-2013

Coordinator, Pre-Modern Gender and Sexuality Working Group, 2010-2013

LANGUAGES

Primary Research Languages: Catalan, Spanish, Latin

Other Languages: French, Italian, German

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain

American Historical Association

American Society for Environmental History

Association for Spanish & Portuguese Historical Studies

European Society for Environmental History

Medieval Academy of America

Renaissance Society of America

Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship