

MELISSA E. VISE

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, HISTORY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

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Education

2015 Ph.D., Medieval and Early Modern History, Northwestern University

2008 M.T.S., History of Christianity, University of Notre Dame, Comprehensive exams passed with distinction

2006 B.A., Philosophy and Religion, Boston University, *summa cum laude*, *PBK*

Academic Positions

Washington and Lee University, History

Assistant Professor of Medieval Mediterranean History, History Department, Fall 2018-Present

Harvard University

Lauro De Bosis Fellow in Italian Civilization, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Spring 2019

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Solmsen Fellow, Institute for Research in the Humanities, 2017-2018

New York University, Italian Studies

Visiting Assistant Professor of Medieval Studies, 2015-2017

Publications

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

“*Compositio*: Horizons of Truth in *The Decameron*, the Notarial Register, and Civic Peace Pacts” (accepted for publication by *Viator* 2022)

“The Women and the Inquisitor: Peace-making in Bologna, 1299” *Speculum* 93, no. 2. (April, 2018): 357-386.

“To the Podestà or the Inquisitor? Adjudicating Blasphemy in Medieval Bologna, 1250-1450” in *Justice and Violence: Bologna 1250-1700*. ed. Sarah Blanshei (Lexington Press, 2018)

Manuscripts under Review

“The Matter of *Personae* in Medieval Italy” (Under review with *American Journal of Legal History*)

Manuscripts in Preparation

The Unruly Tongue: Speech and Violence in Medieval Italy, 1250-1450 (book project)

The Book of Consolation and Counsel by Albertano da Brescia (translation project)

Listen to Your Wife: The Life and Afterlife of an Italian Notary (book project)

“Acting Out: Holy Fraud from Story to the Archive” (article project)

Zanetti Domingues, Lidia Luisa, *Religion, Conflict, and Criminal Justice in Late Medieval Italy: Siena, 1260–1330*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021. ISBN: 978-0-1928-4486-6. (Invited review for *Speculum*)

“Legal Rhetoric and the Incarnation: Everyday Miracles and Theory of Law in Albertano of Brescia” (article project)

Book Reviews

“Jill Moore, *Inquisition and its Organisation in Italy, 1250-1350* (York Medieval Press, 2019)” Review for H-Net Italy

External Fellowships and Grants

Jan. 2019	Lauro de Bosis Fellowship in Italian Civilization, Department of Romance Languages and Literature, Harvard University
Sept. 2017	Solmsen Fellowship, Institute for Research in the Humanities, University of Wisconsin-Madison
May 2014	Charlotte Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson Foundation
May 2013	Fellowship with the Mellon Academy for the Advanced Study of the Renaissance (Oxford, Rome, Procida and Florence)
July 2009	Scholarship to <i>Seminario di formazione di storia religiosa e studi francescani (sec. XIII-XIV)</i> run by the Società internazionale studi francescani. Assisi, Italy.

Internal Fellowships and Grants

- September '21 Teacher-Scholar Cohort Grant (Junior Humanists Write), Washington and Lee University
- June 2021, '20 Summer Research Scholar Grant, Washington and Lee University
- June 2021, '20, '19 Lenfest Summer Research Grant, Washington and Lee University
- December 2019 Digital Humanities Incentive Grant, Washington and Lee University
- March 2012 Northwestern University Presidential Fellowship (2012-2014)
- Jan. 2012 Dissertation Research Fellowship, Andrew W. Mellon Distinguished Achievement Award (Edward Muir, Northwestern University)
- Sept. 2009 Fellowship for the Art History Summer Seminar Abroad with Jesus Escobar, Northwestern University. Madrid, Spain.

Honors and Awards

- March 2017 Olivia Remie Constable Award, Medieval Academy of America
- Nov. 2016 New York University GIS Day 2016 Mapping Competition, Second Place for "Medieval Mysticism: Freshman Seminar Interactive Mapping Project"
- June 2009 George Romani Prize for Best First Year Research Paper, History Department, Northwestern University: "Witnessing Inquisition: Laywomen in Bologna, 1299"
- 2006 *On graduating from Boston University:*
 College Prize for Excellence in Religion
 Richard Ellis Katz Memorial Award
 Matchette Award for Excellence in Philosophy
 Elected to Phi Beta Kappa
 Invited speaker at graduation

Conferences and Presentations

Upcoming: "Acting Out: Holy Fraud from Story to Archive" American Society for Church History Annual Conference. January 2023.

'Extinctis candelis': Science by Religion and Metaphor in Taddeo Alderotti's Commentary on the *Isagoge iohannitii ad tegni galieni*. Medieval Academy of America. March 2022.

"From Speaking to Writing Crime: Patterns of Prosecution in the Late Medieval Italian City" The Multilingual City, c. 1250-1800: Historical Approaches. November 2021

"Taddeo Alderotti and a Medieval Anthropology for Hearing" Sewanee Medieval Colloquium. April 2021.

“Bureaucratic Middlemen as Arbiters of Culture: Crimes of Speech in Medieval Italy” Speech as Protest: Being Heard and Taking up Space in the Premodern World, Newberry Library, Chicago, IL. 22-28 October 2020.

Cancelled: “Legal Rhetoric and the Incarnation: Everyday Miracles and Theory of Law in Albertano of Brescia” Medieval Academy of America, UC Berkeley, 26-28 March 2020.

“Blasphemy in Medieval Italy” Bates College, February 23, 2020.

“The Matter of Personae in Medieval Italy” Mediterranean Seminar. University of Toronto, Canada. Oct. 4-5, 2019.

“Legal and Religious Concepts of Medieval *persona*: Blasphemy at the Limits” “Status, Religion and the Law.” Washington and Lee University. Lexington, VA. Nov. 3-5, 2019.

“Gabriele Pedullà and the Machiavellian Tumult.” Video interview conducted with Prof. Gabriele Pedullà. Harvard University. Online (shortly) at *La Voce di New York*, by Harvardiana. April 22, 2019.

“The Matter of Personae in Medieval Italy” Sewanee Medieval Colloquium. Sewanee: University of the South, April 12-13, 2019.

“Verbal Violence in Tales and Acts: The Decameron and the Notarial Register” Lauro De Bosis Lectureship. Harvard University. Cambridge, MA. April 16, 2019.

“In the Courtroom of the Poets: Verbal Violence, Justice, and *The Decameron*” Mason Taylor New Room, Payne Hall, Washington and Lee University. 8 November 2018.

“In the Courtroom of the Poets: Verbal Violence in Decameron I.1” Chicago Seminar on Medieval Culture and Intellect. Chicago, IL. 10 March 2018.

“Social Filth: An Interdisciplinary Roundtable on Medieval Obscenity.” Presider and Co-organizer with Carissa Harris, Assistant Professor, English Department, Temple University. International Congress of Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, MI, May 2018.

Invited speaker. “Crimes Against Art: Blasphemy in Fourteenth-Century Bologna” *Visual Perspectives* at “Languages of Injury in Late Medieval Italy, International Symposium.” Pembroke College, Cambridge University. April 30-May 1, 2018.

Invited speaker. “Relevance in the Humanities.” Institute for Research in the Humanities, Opening Panel. University of Wisconsin-Madison. 11 September 2017.

Invited speaker. “Violenza contro Dio nei tribunali: blasfemia e la forza del linguaggio nell'età comunale.” « Les registres de la justice pénale (*libri maleficiorum*) et les sociétés de l'Italie

communale à la fin du Moyen Âge (XIIIe-XVe siècle) » Ecole Française de Rome, Piazza Navona. 6-8 June 2017.

“Punishing the Blasphemous in the Time of Dante: In Canto and in the Courtroom” International Congress of Medieval Studies. Panel Title: “Persecution, Punishment, and Purgatory I: Historical Explorations” Kalamazoo, MI, May 2017.

Invited speaker. “Medieval Europe: Courtrooms, Language, Violence.” 30 January 2017, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX.

Invited speaker. “Medieval Europe: Courtrooms, Language, Violence.” 25 January 2017, St. Mary’s College, Notre Dame, IN.

Invited speaker. “Medieval Europe: Courtrooms, Language, Violence.” 1 December 2016, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD.

“Speech, Orality, and Communication in Early Modern Europe.” Invited panelist. Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, April 2016. Boston, MA.

Invited speaker. “The Prick of the Tongue: The Ethics of Speech and Violence in Medieval Italy,” SUNY Geneseo, 29 January 2016, Geneseo, New York.

“Whence the Rise of The Secular? Towards a New Reading of Renaissance Republicanism and Moral Order.” Presented at the Cambridge Graduate Conference in Political Thought and Intellectual History, May 2015, Cambridge, UK.

“Free Speech, the Law, and Republican Ethics: The Medieval Case.” Presented at the Chabreja Center for Historical Studies conference, “Law in Action.” April 18, 2014. Northwestern University.

“Blasphemy in Bologna: Creating an Ethics of Speech in Late Medieval Italy.” Presented at winter quarter Presidential Fellows dinner. January 30, 2014. Northwestern University.

“Blasphemy in the Commune: Linguistic Violence and a Republican Ethics of Speech.” Invited paper, presented at the Notre Dame Medieval Studies Interdisciplinary Working Group. January 16, 2014. University of Notre Dame.

“From Meretrix to Putana: Translating Speech Crimes in the Medieval Italian Court.” Presented at the Mellon Symposium on Translation at Northwestern University, July 15, 2013.

“Peace-making with the Inquisitor: Bologna, 1299.” Presented at the International Congress of Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, MI on May 16, 2011 as part of a panel entitled “Inquisition.”

“Peace-making with the Inquisitor: Bologna, 1299.” Presented at the Medieval Intellectual History Seminar, Newberry Library in Chicago, IL on December 4, 2010.

Teaching Experience

Washington and Lee University

Lexington, VA

Assistant Professor, Medieval Mediterranean History (Fall 2018-present)

- Undergraduate courses: “European Civilization, 325-1492”
 - “Plague: A Medieval Pandemic”
 - “Crime and Punishment in Medieval and Early Modern Europe”
 - “Speech and Censorship in the Middle Ages”
 - “Pillage, Peddling, and Piety: Medieval Travel”
 - “The World of the *Decameron*”
 - “Senior Thesis Proseminar: Medieval and Renaissance Studies”
 - “Violence in Premodern Europe”

New York University

New York, NY

Visiting Assistant Professor, Italian Studies (Academic Years 2015-2017)

- Undergraduate courses: “Medieval Italy”
 - “Violence in Medieval and Early Modern Italy”
 - “Seeing and Hearing Things: Medieval Mystics”
 - “Crime and Punishment in Medieval and Early Modern Europe: A Digital Approach”
- Graduate courses: “Italian Notary: Poets, Politicians, and Paper-pushers”
 - “Medieval Italy Survey”
 - “Italian Studies Research Seminar”
 - “Obscenity: Between Literature and Law” (with Rebecca Falkoff)
- Organize Medieval Latin Reading group

Northwestern University

Evanston, IL

Research Assistant to Edward Muir (Academic Year 2011–12)

History Writing Center Tutor (Winter 2011)

Teaching Assistant to Yohannen Petrovsky-Shtern (Fall 2010)

- Course: European Civilization, I: 1096-1750

Teaching Assistant to Peter Hayes (Spring 2010)

- Course: History of the Holocaust

Teaching Assistant to Kenneth Alder (Fall 2009)

- Course: History of Modern Western Science and Medicine

University of Notre Dame

Notre Dame, IN

Teaching Assistant to Ann Astell (Spring 2008)

- Course: Intro to Theology, “The Drama of Scripture”

Teaching Assistant for Richard McBrien, Theology Department (Fall 2007)

- Course: “Catholicism”

Professional and Community Service

Washington and Lee University

Committee Work

Junior Humanists Write Cohort, 2021-present, Head, a writing group for junior humanists at W&L

University Library Committee, 2020-present

Digital Humanities Committee, 2019-present

Phi Beta Kappa Committee, 2018-present

Rockbridge Teacher Education Advisory Council, 2018-present

Italian Studies Cohort, 2018-present, Head from May 2019-present developing a minor in Italian Studies; Study Abroad Program in Bologna, Italy; coordinate Works-in-Progress presentations; coordinate Speaker Series

Medieval and Renaissance Studies Cohort, 2019-present

Mudd Center for Ethics, Faculty Fellow, 2018-19 “Ethics of Identity”

LGBTQ+ on Campus, Faculty working group to improve student experience

Professional Affiliations

Medieval Academy of America

Renaissance Society of America

American Historical Association

Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship

Foreign Languages

Latin (Toronto Level One)

German (reading)

Italian (speaking and reading)

Spanish (reading)

French (reading)