

# Robin S. Reich

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218 Beverly Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577

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## Education

- October 2022 Ph.D. Department of History, Columbia University, New York, NY  
Dissertation: *Materials of Science in Norman Sicily: Translation, transmission, and trade in the central Mediterranean corridor* (Supervisors: Adam Kosto, Avinoam Shalem)  
Fields: Medieval Mediterranean, Pre-Modern Science, Material Culture, Modern Islam
- May 2017 M.A. Department of History, Columbia University, New York, NY  
Thesis: “Nearly Gold and Nearly Perfect?: The Cathedral Doors of Monreale”
- May 2015 M.A. Department of History, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA  
Fields: Medieval Mediterranean, Medieval Islam
- AY 2012-2013 Special Student and Student Researcher, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- June 2012 B.A. Carleton College, Northfield, MN  
Major: History  
Minors: Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Archaeology
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## Appointments

- F’23-Present Assistant Professor of Medieval Mediterranean History, Department of History, Seattle University, Seattle, WA
- F’22-Sp’23 Visiting Medieval Fellow, Fordham University, New York, NY
- F’21-Su’23 Associate Faculty, Department of World Languages and Cultures, Classical Studies, Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis (Online)
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## Publications

### Chapters in Edited Volumes

- “Medicine as Aesthetic: Medievalizing tradition in the modern wellness movement” in Ailén Cruz and Lauren Beck, eds. *Neomedievalism* [Under Review, University of Toronto Press].
- “The Fantasy of Medieval Medicine: Orientalizing experiential and textual traditions in the imagined medieval past” in Lucy Barnhouse and Winston Black, ed. *Beyond Cadfael: Medieval medicine in popular culture* [Forthcoming in 2023 Trivent Medieval].

### Journal Articles

- “Nearly Gold and Nearly Perfect? Meaning and Materiality of Copper-alloy in Norman Sicily”, *Haskins Society Journal* 30 (2018), 79-106.

### Digital Publications

- “Dragon’s Blood.” In *Secrets of Craft and Nature in Renaissance France. A Digital Critical Edition and English Translation of BnF Ms. Fr. 640*, edited by Making and Knowing Project, Pamela H. Smith, Naomi Rosenkranz, Tianna Helena Uchacz, Tillmann Taape, Clément Godbarge, Sophie Pitman, Jenny Boulboulle, Joel Klein, Donna Bilak, Marc Smith, and Terry Catapano. New York: Making and Knowing Project, 2020. [https://edition640.makingandknowing.org/#/essays/ann\\_037\\_sp\\_16](https://edition640.makingandknowing.org/#/essays/ann_037_sp_16).
- “Theory and Practice in a Flask,” Featured medieval researcher post for the *Wellcome Medieval Research Cluster* [Wellcome Trust internal research site] (July 2020).
- “Summary Geodatabase of Shipwrecks AD 1-1500, Status 2013”. In Michael McCormick, Guoping Huang, Kelly Gibson et al. ed, *Digital Atlas of Roman and Medieval Civilizations*. [https://drive.google.com/file/d/oBx\\_UaHlWtoLuR1g3SjNfvkFjRmM/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/oBx_UaHlWtoLuR1g3SjNfvkFjRmM/view)

### Public-facing Digital Media

- Robin Writes (2018-Present) <http://robinwrites.blog>
- Guest post: “Making sense of medieval medicine: Humors, weird animal parts, and experiential knowledge” *A Collection of Unmitigated Pedantry* (April 2021).
- Video: “Archaeology and the Black Death.” *The Study of Antiquity and the Middle Ages* (August 2020) <https://youtu.be/Clob9bueNIA>

Video: "Did the Black Death Affect Medieval Religion?" *The Study of Antiquity and the Middle Ages* (May 2020) <https://youtu.be/46uoxmtAG6w>

Video: "How did medieval people respond to the Black Death?" *The Study of Antiquity and the Middle Ages* (May 2020) [https://youtu.be/6ukeiQ\\_il\\_U](https://youtu.be/6ukeiQ_il_U)

Video: "Multiculturalism and Convivencia in Medieval Sicily." *The Study of Antiquity and the Middle Ages* (April 2020) <https://youtu.be/lhXbvo4PL7I>

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## Honors and Awards

Sp'23	<i>Notes and Records Essay Award</i> , Royal Society for the History of Science, London
Sp'22	<i>Community Building Award</i> , Graduate Student Committee, Medieval Academy of America (as <i>The Medievalist Toolkit</i> )
Sp'21	<i>Digital Humanities Award</i> , Lehman Center, Columbia University
March 2018	<i>Best Graduate Student Paper</i> , Medieval Academy of America
October 2017	<i>Denis Bethell Prize</i> , The Haskins Society
May 2015	<i>Distinction in Comprehensive Oral Examination</i> , Department of History, Boston College
May 2012	<i>Magna Cum Laude</i> , Carleton College
May 2012	<i>Distinction in Major</i> , Carleton College
April 2012	<i>Distinction in Senior Integrative Exercise</i> , Carleton College

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## Grants and Fellowships

Sp'21	<i>Doris K. Quinn Dissertation Completion Fellowship</i> , Columbia University
F'19, Summer 2017	<i>GSAS Conference Travel Grant</i> , Department of History, Columbia University
AY 2018-2019	<i>International Dissertation Research Fellowship</i> , Social Sciences Research Council
AY 2018-2019	<i>Huntington Fellowship</i> , Huntington Library
F'18	<i>Ahmanson Research Fellowship and Visiting Graduate Researcher</i> , Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, UCLA
F'18	<i>Barbara Rootenberg Library Research Fellowship</i> , UCLA
Summer 2017, F'15	<i>Brebner Travel Fund</i> , Department of History, Columbia University
Summer 2016	<i>Pre-Dissertation Research Grant</i> , Department of History, Columbia University
Summer 2016	<i>Stigler Grant for Archaeology</i> , Department of Anthropology, Columbia University
AYs 2015-2020	<i>Richard Hofstadter Fellowship</i> , Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University

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## Invited Talks

May 2023	"Making medicines and textiles in medieval southern Italy", Consortium Medievalists 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Symposium: "Sensory Experiences Across Medieval Communities", Fordham University.
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## Conferences

### Conference Organizer

April 2023	<i>Modern Extremism and the Medieval World</i> , (Public lecture and undergraduate research workshop) <i>The Medievalist Toolkit</i> , Cornell University.
March 2022	<i>History in a Time of Polarization</i> , (Public roundtable symposium) <i>The Medievalist Toolkit</i> , Columbia University.

### Panel Organizer

October 2020	"Medieval Toolkit: Rethinking Outreach and Medieval Narratives", Haskins Society Fall 2020 Online Conference.
March 2020	"The Medievalist Toolkit: Graduate students against misuses of the Middle Ages" [Cancelled due to COVID-19], 95 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Berkeley, CA.

### Presenter

September 2023	"The Many Lives of (Sal) Ammoniac in the Medieval Central Mediterranean", <i>Visualizing Drugs &amp; Dyes: Art and Pharmacology in (Early) Medieval Worlds (600-1400)</i> , Basel, CH.
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May 2023	“Academics but not Activists: The Medievalist Toolkit for building bridges between disciplines”, <i>International Conference for Environmental and Social Justice</i> , Fordham University.
September 2022	“The paratextual image: Urine flask illustrations as a mode of interlingual transmission in late medieval Latin Europe”, <i>The Medical Paratext</i> , University of Edinburgh.
March 2022	“Destructive editing and inventing race in twelfth-century Salernitan medical manuscripts”, 97 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, University of Virginia.
November 2020	“Materia Medica into Spices: Between literary and tacit exchange”, <i>California Medieval History Seminar</i> , Fall 2020 Quarterly Meeting, Huntington Library/UCLA.
March 2020	“The Articella and the Urine Flask: Inventions in Response to Medieval Mediterranean Medicine” 95 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America [Convened Virtually due to COVID-19].
November 2019	“Was there a Translation Movement in the Norman Kingdom of Sicily?: Revisiting the Work of Charles Homer Haskins”, 38 <sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Haskins Society, Duke University.
March 2018	“Nearly Gold and Nearly Perfect? Meaning and Materiality in Siculo-Norman Copper Alloys”, 93 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Emory University.
November 2017	“New Research Forum: Copper in Medieval Sicily”, 36 <sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Haskins Society, Duke University.
June 2017	“Nearly Gold and Nearly Perfect: Meaning and Materiality in Siculo-Norman Copper Alloys”, <i>The Normans in the South: Mediterranean Meetings in the Central Middle Ages</i> , St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford.
November 2015	“The Lion and the Camel: The Mantle of Roger II and Siculo-Norman Relations with the Islamicate Mediterranean”, 34 <sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Haskins Society, Carleton College.

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### Campus Talks

October 2022	“The many lives of (sal) ammoniac: Finding the tacit tradition of materia medica in eleventh- and twelfth-century Sicily”, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Fordham University.
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### Teaching and Research Interests

Cultural and intellectual exchange in the medieval Mediterranean; Intellectual and practical histories of medicine, science, and technology; Translation; Material culture; Orientalism; Medievalism; Women and Gender.

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### Courses Taught

#### **Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (Online)**

Sp’23, F’22, Sp’22, F’21      *Ancient Medicine and Modern Terminology*

Su’23, Su’22                      *The Black Plague*

#### **Columbia University (Teaching Fellow)**

Sp’18                                 *Immigrant New York*, Rebecca Kobrin

F’17                                    *History of the Modern Middle East*, Rashid Khalidi

Sp’17                                 *Romans and their Empire*, Nathan Pilkington

F’16                                    *Laws of War in the Middle Ages*, Adam Kosto

#### **Boston College (Teaching Assistant)**

AY 2014-2015                      *Globalization I & II*, Matthew Shauer

AY 2013-2014                      *Globalization I & II*, Jonathan Kuiken

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### Service to Profession

2017-Present                      *Project Manager*, Medievalist Toolkit. <https://www.medievalisttoolkit.org/>

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### Material Culture Training and Experience

Sp’19                                 *Curatorial Intern*, San Mateo County History Museum

Su' 2016 *Dig Participant*, Sicily in Transition, PIs Martin Carver and Alessandra Molinari  
Sp'16 *Contributing Researcher*, The Making and Knowing Project, PI Pamela Smith  
September 2015 *Participant*, Paleoclimate-dendroclimatology Workshop, Princeton  
Su' 2015 *Research Intern*, The MET Cloisters, PI Barbara Boehm,  
June 2014 *Participant*, Islamic Manuscripts and Early Qur'ans Course with Dr. Francois  
Deroche, Princeton

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### **Languages**

Medieval Latin (Advanced Reading Ability)  
Classical Arabic (Advanced Reading Ability)  
Classical and Medieval Greek (Proficient Reading Ability)  
Italian (Advanced Reading Ability, Some Speaking Ability)  
French (Advanced Reading Ability, Some Speaking Ability)  
German (Some Reading Ability)

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### **Professional Societies**

Middle East Studies Association (Since 2019)  
Mediterranean Seminar (Since 2018)  
Haskins Society (Since 2017)  
Medieval Academy of America (Since 2015)  
MedMed-L (Since 2015)

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