



ALEXANDRA GUERSON

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EDUCATION

PhD in History, expected date of completion: May 2011 — University of Toronto, Canada

Dissertation Title: *Coping with crises: Christian-Jewish Relations in Catalonia and Aragon, 1380-1391*

Supervisor: Mark Meyerson

Committee Members: Kenneth Mills, Joseph Goering

Comprehensive Examination Fields: Medieval 1050-1494; Europe 1400-1600; Colonial Latin America

BA Honours History, With Great Distinction, 2003 — Concordia University, Montréal, Canada

Honours Thesis: *Crusaders and Inquisitors: Elite Involvement in Catharism in the Wake of the Albigensian Crusade (1208-1229)*, awarded prize for best honours thesis in 2002/2003

Supervisor: Shannon McSheffrey

Bachelor of Law, 1999 — Universidade do Rio de Janeiro (Uni-Rio), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

CITIZENSHIP

Italian, Brazilian, and Canadian.

LANGUAGES

Fluency in Portuguese (native speaker) and English. Advanced level in French and Spanish. Good understanding of Catalan. Reading knowledge of Latin. Currently learning Hebrew.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

SOLE INSTRUCTOR, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

New College

IFP100Y - Themes in World History (Enrollment: 75). Fall/Winter 2010-11. Lecture course for international students. Responsible for all course activities, including supervision of two teaching assistants.

Department of Historical Studies - University of Toronto Mississauga

HIS495S - The Margins of Medieval Society, 1000-1500 (Enrollment: 15). Spring 2010. Seminar course. Responsible for all course activities, including final grades.

Department of History - St George Campus

HIS389H - The Margins of Medieval Society, 1000-1500 (Enrollment: 30). Summer 2009. Lecture course. Responsible for all course activities, including final grades.

TEACHING ASSISTANT, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

HIS208Y - History of the Jewish People (Enrollment: 75). Fall/Winter 2009/10. Duties: Preparing tutorials and leading discussions for five groups of up to 15 students; marking essays and exams; occasional lecture.

HIS243S - Early Modern Europe, 1450-1648 (Enrollment: 180). Fall 2007 and Fall 2008. Duties: Preparing tutorials and leading discussions for five groups of up to 15 students; marking essays and exams

INVITED GUEST LECTURER

"Medieval Jewish Religious and Intellectual Life", presented for the course HIS 208 History of the Jewish People, Department of History, University of Toronto, 21 October 2009

"The Reformation and the Jews", presented for the course HIS 309 The European Reformations, Department of History, University of Toronto, 24 March 2009

"Inquisition, Jews, and other 'Others' in the Early Modern World", presented for the course HIS 243 Early Modern Europe, 1450-1648, Department of History, University of Toronto, 19 November 2008

SPECIAL LECTURES

"Medieval Cross-Cultural Relations," public lecture presented at Salon 21, Bata Shoe Museum, Toronto, 03 June 2009

"'Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition': Debunking the Premodern Bogey Man," presented at *The Practice of History Today*, a conference for high school students at the Department of History, University of Toronto, 16 April 2009

"From eleventh-century Castile to The Age of Empires II: unpacking the history and the myth behind El Cid", presented at *The Practice of History Today*, Department of History, University of Toronto, 22 April 2008 and 20 April 2010

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS) Doctoral Scholarship - \$35,000/year
2004-2007

University of Toronto Fellowship
2003-2008

Ontario Graduate Scholarship
2003-2004; 2004-2005 (declined)

FQRSC – Fonds Québécois de Recherche sur la Société et la Culture
2003-2005

Warkentin Travel Grant, Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, Toronto
2009, 2010

Iter Fellowship, Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, University of Toronto
2007-2008

Department of History Travel Grant, University of Toronto
April 2008

Jack & Rita Cathedral Travel Grant, Massey College, University of Toronto
March 2006

O'Connor/O'Hearn Award for Academic Excellence and Contributions to University Life, Concordia University
May 2003

David Fox Memorial Prize for Best Honours Essay, Concordia University
May 2003

Arts and Science Undergraduate Research Scholarship, Concordia University
November 2002

Concordia University History Department Award
September 2002

Dean's List, Faculty of Arts and Science, Concordia University
Named to the Dean's List for the 2000-2001, 2001-2002, and 2002-2003 Academic Years.

PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS

I. PUBLICATIONS

"Seeking remission: Jewish conversion in the Crown of Aragon, c.1378-1391", *Jewish History* Vol. 24, No. 1 (2010): 33-52.

Co-author with Dana Wessell, "Inquisition," in *Encyclopedia of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity*, editor in chief, Dinah L. Shelton, New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2004.

II. CONFERENCE PAPERS

"Manipulating the courts: Christians and Jews in late fourteenth-century Catalonia," presented at a session co-sponsored by the Canadian Society for Medievalists and the Canadian Historical Association at the Canadian Historical Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, 31 May 2010

"Marriage, polygamy, and the protection of Jewish autonomy in the late fourteenth-century Crown of Aragon," presented at the international and interdisciplinary conference *To Have and to Hold: Marriage in Premodern Europe (1200-1700)* at the Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, Toronto, Canada, 16 October 2009

"Conflict among Jews in medieval Catalonia: Samuel Gracia and the Jewish consumption of Christian justice," presented at the *44th International Congress on Medieval Studies*, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2009

"Christian-Jewish relations in the Crown of Aragon: contextualizing violence during the Black Death," *Continuity and Change Student Colloquium*, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto, 26 October 2008

"Jews, conversos, and royal policy in the Crown of Aragon before the mass conversions of 1391," Pre-Modern Discussion Group, Department of History, University of Toronto. 20 October 2008.

"Seeking remission: Jews and conversos in the Crown of Aragon, 1380-1391," presented at *The Conversos and Moriscos*, IV International Conference, Segovia, Spain, 5 June 2008

"Looking for an heir: Jewish bigamy and the royal courts in the late fourteenth-century Crown of Aragon," presented at the Renaissance Society of America meeting, Chicago, IL, 3 April 2008

"The Creation of Racial Identity in Fifteenth-Century Spain", presented at the Racial and Ethnic Identities Reading Group, Department of History, University of Toronto, 12 October 2007

"Playing the ethnic card: Mestiços and Native Slavery in Sixteenth-Century Brazil," presented to Premodern Discussion Group, Department of History, University of Toronto. 10 March 2005.

III. WORKSHOP AND PANEL ORGANIZER

Panel on "Judicial Spaces", Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting, Tempe, AZ, upcoming in April 2011

"Reluctance in the classroom", organized for THATCamp (The Humanities and Technology Camp), Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto, 28 May 2010

"Using web 2.0 tools in the classroom" co-presented with Dana Wessell Lightfoot for the Teaching History Workshop Series, University of Toronto, 8 December 2009

Panel on "Social conflict in Spain and Italy", 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, USA, May 2009

"Transitioning from research into writing: getting the thesis done", a workshop presented by Profs. Alison Smith and Sarah Amato, Department of History, University of Toronto, 7 October 2008

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Member, “Exile, Expulsion, and Religious Refugees”, Jackman Humanities Institute Working Group, University of Toronto, 2010-11

Editorial Team Member, *History Current*, Department of History’s annual newsletter, 2010

Elected Academic Chair, Graduate History Society, University of Toronto, 2009-2010

Development Team, *e-Porte* [working title], A portal for collaborative research and resource-sharing for scholars of the premodern Mediterranean

Elected President, Graduate History Society, University of Toronto, 2008-2009

Graduate Fellow and Webmaster, Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, University of Toronto, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-11

Invited Workshop Presenter, “Graduate Funding Seminar: Writing Effective SSHRC & OGS Applications”, Department of History, University of Toronto, September 2004 & September 2008

Invited Workshop Presenter, “Graduate History Research Workshop: a first-hand, how-to, what-not-to-do seminar on historical research”, The Meth Labs, Department of History, University of Toronto, May 2008

Publications Committee Member, Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, University of Toronto, 2008-2009; 2009-2010

Non-Resident Junior Fellow, Massey College at the University of Toronto. 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2007-2008

Organizing Committee Member, Fourth Annual Graduate History Symposium, held at the University of Toronto, February 8th-9th, 2008

Co-organizer of the Teaching History Workshops at the Department of History, University of Toronto, 2005-2006, and 2007-2008

Co-organizer of the Premodern Discussion Group at the Department of History, University of Toronto, Spring 2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010

Elected PhD Student Member of the Graduate Program Committee, Department of History, University of Toronto, Fall 2005, 2007-2008

Iter Graduate Fellow, Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, University of Toronto, 2007-2008.

Graduate Student Member of the SGS Council, University of Toronto, elected for the 2004/2005 term

Executive Member of the Friends of the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies Library Committee, University of Toronto, 2003-2006

Elected Executive Member of the Graduate History Society (GHS), University of Toronto, 2003-2006, 2007-2009

Layout designer of *The GHS Review*, the Graduate History Students' newsletter, 2004-2009

Organizing Committee Member, Program editor *A Gathering of Pilgrims: Toronto 2005* – an international conference devoted the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela, held at the University of Toronto, May 10-17 2005

Elected President of Students of History at Concordia (SHAC – Undergraduate history student association), Concordia University, QC, 2002-2003

Undergraduate member of the African Search Committee at the History Department, Concordia University, QC, 2002

Editor of *Acta Historiae*, the Students of History at Concordia's newsletter

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

AHA – American Historical Association

RSA – Renaissance Society of America

AARHMS – American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain