

CLIFFORD R. BACKMAN



Department of History
Boston University
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Born: 23 July 1957 in Duluth, Minnesota.
Citizenship: USA.

Education:

Ph.D. in History, UCLA, 1989.
Dissertation: The Government of Sicily in the Reign of Frederick III, 1296-1337.
M.A. in History, UCLA, 1985.
Thesis: Three Studies in Mediterranean History.
M.A. in History, University of Minnesota, 1983.
Thesis: Private Law in Fourteenth-Century Montpellier: The Notarial Register of Guillaume Nogaret, 1305-1327.
B.A. in History, University of Minnesota, 1980.

Specialized Field: Mediterranean society in the late Middle Ages, with emphasis on the Crown of Aragon territories.

Languages: Arabic, Catalan, French, German, classical Greek, Italian, Latin, Spanish.

Doctoral Examination Committee:

Robert I. Burns, S.J. (Medieval Mediterranean History).
Robert L. Benson (Medieval Constitutional History).
Speros Vryonis (Byzantine History).
Ronald Mellor (Roman History).
Bengt T. Löfstedt (Medieval Latin).
Andrew Dyck (Classical Greek).

Posts Held:

Associate Professor of History, Boston University, 1995-present.
Assistant Professor of History, Boston University, 1989-1995.
Research Assistant, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, UCLA, 1988-1989.
Research Assistant and Archival Assistant for Medieval Manuscripts, J. Paul Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities, 1985-1988.
Teaching Associate, UCLA, 1984-1986.
Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota, 1980-1983.

Professional Affiliations:

American Academy of Religion.
American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain.
American Historical Association.
Medieval Academy of America.
Society for Italian Historical Studies.
Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East.

Grants and Fellowships Awarded:

American Philosophical Society, 1995.
Humanities Foundation Junior Fellowship, Boston University, 1992.
National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Stipend, 1991.
Boston University Seed Grant, 1990.
Graduate Fellowship, UCLA, 1988.
Comité Conjunto Grant, from the Government of Spain, 1986.
Del Amo Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 1986.
Del Amo Foundation Graduate Fellowship, 1983.

Courses Taught at Boston University:

CC 101: Core Curriculum, Humanities I (The Ancient World).
CC 102: Core Curriculum, Humanities II (The Medieval World).
CC 201: Core Curriculum, Humanities III (The Renaissance).
CC 202: Core Curriculum, Humanities IV (The Modern World).
HI 100: History Writing Seminar.
HI 101: Western Civilization, part I.
HI 102: Western Civilization, part II.
HI 203: History of Medieval Europe.
HI 301: Critical Reading in History.
HI 308: History of the Crusades.
HI 318: Medieval England.
HI 327: Medieval Spain.
HI 331: Medieval France.
HI 406: Monks, Friars, and Saints.
HI 491: Directed Study in Medieval History.

HI 714: Topics in Medieval History. }
HI 719: Readings in European History. }
HI 808: History of the Crusades. }
HI 818: Medieval England, 407-1485. }
HI 827: Medieval Spain. }
HI 831: Medieval France. }
HI 902: Directed Study in Medieval History. }

Graduate level.

Abstract of Administrative Service:

(* = chairmanship)

- 2002-2003 [On-leave, Fall Semester.]
University Board on Student Conduct.
Committee on Promotion and Tenure, Faculty Council.
Departmental Library Coordinator.
Secretary-Treasurer, American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain. Also Editor of Newsletter.
- 2001-2002 University Board on Student Conduct.
Committee on Promotion and Tenure, Faculty Council.
Executive Committee, Department of History.
Curriculum Committee, Department of History.
Departmental Library Coordinator.
Secretary-Treasurer, American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain. Also Editor of Newsletter.
- 2000-2001 University Promotion and Tenure Committee.
Committee on Promotion and Tenure, Faculty Council.
Executive Committee, Department of History.
Curriculum Committee, Department of History.
Departmental Library Coordinator.
Secretary-Treasurer, American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain. Also Editor of Newsletter.
- 1999-2000 Departmental Library Coordinator.
Secretary-Treasurer, American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain. Also Editor of Newsletter.
Award and Citation Committee, Society for Italian Historical Studies.
Search Committee for Historian of Medieval Christianity, Department of Religion.
- 1998-1999 Director of Undergraduate Studies.
Departmental Curriculum Committee.
University Promotion and Tenure Committee.
College of Arts and Sciences Nominating Committee.
Departmental Library Coordinator.
Secretary-Treasurer, American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain. Also Editor of its Newsletter.
Award and Citation Committee, Society for Italian Historical Studies.
- 1997-1998 Special Faculty Assistant to the Dean.
Director of Undergraduate Studies.
Departmental Curriculum Committee.
Presidential University Graduate Fellowship Committee.
Departmental Library Coordinator.
Secretary-Treasurer, American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain. Also Editor of its Newsletter.
Award and Citation Committee, Society for Italian Historical Studies.
- 1996-1997 Director of Undergraduate Studies.
Departmental Curriculum Committee (*).
Presidential University Graduate Fellowship Committee.
Departmental Library Coordinator.

Secretary-Treasurer, American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain. Also Editor of its Newsletter.
Award and Citation Committee, Society for Italian Historical Studies.

- 1995-1996 [On leave, Fall 1995.]
Search Committee for Medievalist, Art History Department.
Departmental Library Coordinator.
Editor, Newsletter of the American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain.
- 1994-1995 Director of Graduate Studies.
Departmental Curriculum Committee.
Departmental Library Coordinator.
- 1993-1994 Academic Policy Committee (Secretary).
Search Committee for Chairman of Art History Department.
Departmental Library Coordinator.
- 1992-1993 Academic Policy Committee.
Departmental Library Coordinator.
- 1991-1992 Social Science Curriculum Committee.
Academic Policy Committee.
Presidential University Graduate Fellowship Committee.
Departmental Library Coordinator.
- 1990-1991 Social Science Curriculum Committee (*).
Presidential University Graduate Fellowship Committee.
Undergraduate Prize Committee (*).
Departmental Library Coordinator.
- 1989-1990 Social Science Curriculum Committee.
Presidential University Graduate Fellowship Committee.

Papers Presented:

1. "The Compleat Angevin Noble: Girois de Beaupréau."
18th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, 1983.
2. "The Legal Background of Notarial Acts."
20th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, 1985.
3. "Personal Relations between James II of Aragon and Frederick III of Sicily."
100th Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, New York, 1985.
4. "Women in Catalan Sicily."
23rd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, 1988.
5. "Frederick III of Sicily and the Franciscan Spirituals."
American Association of Research Historians of Medieval Spain, held at 103rd Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Cincinnati, 1988.
6. "The Reception of Arnau de Vilanova's Religious Ideas."
NEH-sponsored conference on "Christendom and its Discontents: Exclusion, Persecution, and Rebellion, 1000-1500," UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Los Angeles, 24-26 January 1991.
7. "The Sicilian Slave Trade ca. 1300."
Festschrift conference on "Medieval Spain in the Western Mediterranean: A Conference in Honor of Robert I. Burns, S.J.," UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Los Angeles, 25-26 October 1991.
8. "Piracy and the Kingdom of Sicily."
Conference on "European Expansion before Columbus: 1250-1492," Fordham University, 27-28 March 1992.
9. Response to paper.
"Predatory Friendship: Evidence from Medieval Norman Histories," by Emily Hanawalt. Boston University Institute for Philosophy and Religion, 14 April 1993.
10. Response to papers, and Session Chair.
"Muslim Sicily between Cross Cultural Encounter and Conflict," by William Granara (Harvard University); "Frederick II and the Sicilian Muslim Rebellion," by James M. Powell (Syracuse University); and "The Encounter of Venice and Byzantium on the Island of Crete," by Maria Georgopoulou (Yale University). At conference on "Dissonance and Diversity in Medieval Cultures," Brown University, 5-6 October 1996.
11. Response to papers, and Session Chair.
"Chronological Eschatology and the Rabbis," by Oded Irshai (Hebrew University); "Europe, AD 1200-1233," by Gary Dickson (University of Edinburgh); "Europe, AD 1500-1533," by Denis Crouzet (Université de Paris, Sorbonne); and "Anti-Judaism and the Venetian Ghetto, 1510," by Elisabeth Crouzet-Pavan (Université de Lille, III). At conference on "The Apocalyptic Year 1000," Boston University, 3-5 November 1996.
12. "What Did It Mean to be the 'Admiral of the Church'?"
Paper presented to the Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies at the 113th Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Seattle, January 1998.

13. "The Two Italies and the Three (Maybe Four) Sicilies."
Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America. Washington DC, April 1999.
14. "Arnald of Villanova and Prophetic History."
Paper presented at "Prophets and Prophecy," New England Medieval Association annual meeting. Boston University, December 1999.
15. "Naval Force and Naval Forces under James II of Catalonia-Aragon."
Paper presented at conference on "Naval Forces in the Middle Ages and Renaissance," at Arrabida, Portugal. February 2000.
16. "Arnau de Vilanova and the Reign of Justice in Catalan Sicily."
Paper presented at conference on "Swords into Plowshares: Mass Enthusiasms, Peace Movements, and Transformational Millennialism," Boston University, October 2000.
17. "The Virtue of a Vice: Toleration in the Medieval Notional Universe."
Center for Medieval Studies. Harvard University. November 2001.

Public Lectures:

1. Twelve-part series of lectures on "The Development of Christianity: From the Catholic Reform to the Protestant Reformation." Adult Education Program, Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Boston. September-November 1994.
2. Four-part series of lectures on "Dissent and the Christian Tradition." Adult Education Program, Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Boston. February 1995.
3. "The Italies and the Inquisitions."
Public lecture at Boston University, sponsored by the Program for Interdisciplinary Italian Studies. November 1996.
4. "On the Pleasures of Being a Slow Learner."
Invited lecture at Phi Beta Kappa Induction Ceremony, Boston University. March 1997.
5. "The Inquisition in Italy, and Papal Reluctance to Prosecute Heresy."
Public lecture at the Newton Free Library, Newton MA, under the auspices of the Center for Italian Culture. December 1998.
6. "Arnau de Vilanova and the End of the World."
The Michael Freedman Lecture, Roger Williams University. Bristol, Rhode Island. May 1999.
7. "Arnau de Vilanova and the End of the World: A Reprise."
The Michael Freedman Lecture, Roger Williams University. Bristol, Rhode Island. May 2000.
8. "Tolerating Christianity."
Public lecture at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Boston. October 2002.

Publications:

Books:

1. The Decline and Fall of Medieval Sicily: Politics, Religion, and Economy in the Reign of Frederick III, 1296-1337 (Cambridge Univ., 1995). Pp. xxiii, 347. [Paperback version, Cambridge Univ., 2002.]
2. The Worlds of Medieval Europe (Oxford Univ., 2002). Pp. xiv, 462.

Book Chapters:

1. "The Reception of Arnau de Vilanova's Religious Ideas," in Christendom and Its Discontents: Persecution, Exclusion, and Rebellion, 1000-1500, ed. Scott L. Waugh and Peter D. Diehl (Cambridge Univ., 1995) pp. 112-131.
2. "Arnau de Vilanova and the Body at the End of the World," in Last Things: Death and Apocalypse in the Middle Ages, ed. Caroline Walker Bynum and Paul Freedman (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1999) pp. 140-155.

Journal Articles:

1. "Mudejars in the Criminal Laws of the 'Furs de València' under Jaume I," Sharq al-Andalus: estudios árabes 4 (1987), 93-99.
2. "Arnau de Vilanova and the Franciscan Spirituals in Sicily," Franciscan Studies 50 (1990), 3-29.
3. "The Papacy, the Sicilian Church, and King Frederick III, 1302-1321," Viator 22 (1991), 229-249.

Book Reviews:

1. Book Illumination in the Middle Ages, by Otto Pächt, in Visual Resources 5 (1988), 343-346.
2. The Muslims of Valencia in the Age of Fernando and Isabel: Between Crusade and Coexistence, by Mark Meyerson, in Al-Masaq: Studia arabo-islamica mediterranea 5 (1991), 82-83.
3. Saint Louis: Crusader King of France, by Jean Richard, in Journal of Interdisciplinary History 25 (1994), 123-126.
4. A Mediterranean Emporium: The Catalan Kingdom of Majorca, by David Abulafia, in Studies in Medieval and Renaissance History 15 (1995), 263-265.
5. Consent and Coercion to Sex and Marriage in Ancient and Medieval Societies, ed. Angeliki Laiou, in Journal of the History of Sexuality 6 (1995), 322-324.
6. Family Power in Southern Italy: The Duchy of Gaeta and Its Neighbours, 850-1139, by Patricia Skinner, in Speculum 73 (1998), 262-263.

7. Roger II. von Sizilien: Herrscher zwischen Orient und Okzident, by Hubert Houben, in Speculum 75 (2000), 198-200.
8. Vicente Castell Maiques, Proceso sobre la Ordenación de la Iglesia Valencina, 2 vols. (Valencia, 1996); M^a. Milagros Cárcel Ortí and José Vicente Boscá Codina, Visitats Pastorales de Valencia: Siglos XIV-XV (Valencia, 1996), Facultad de Teología San Vicente Ferrer, Series Valencina, vol. 38; and Vicent Lluís Simó Santonja, Les Corts Valencianes: 1240-1645 (Valencia, 1997), in the Journal of Religious History 24 (2000), 320-321.
9. Charles I of Anjou: Power, Kingship, and State-Making in Thirteenth-Century Europe, by Jean Dunbabin, in the Journal of Ecclesiastical History 51 (2000), 617-618.
10. Saba Malaspina, Die Chronik des Saba Malaspina, ed. Walter Koller and August Nitschke (Hanover, 1999) MGH Scriptores, vol. 35, in Speculum 77 (2002), 593-595.

Miscellaneous:

1. "The Crusades" and "The Albigensian Crusade," in Medieval France: An Encyclopedia, ed. William W. Kibler and Grover A. Zinn (New York, 1995).
2. "Sardinia," in Encyclopedia of the Renaissance, ed. Paul F. Grendler (New York, 2000).
3. "Sicily," in Encyclopedia of Medieval Iberia, ed. E. Michael Gerli (New York, 2002).

Works in Press:

1. Sicilian Society in the Early Catalan Period: Selected Acts from Barcelona and Palermo. Edition of archival records from Catalonia and Sicily; submitted for publication.

Works in Progress:

1. A biography of James II, ruler of the confederated Crown of Aragon territories from 1291 to 1327. Remembered as "the wily Catalan" and the most fully European of the Aragonese rulers, James, curiously, has never received full-length treatment. His reign marks the high-point of Catalonia-Aragon's political, economic, and cultural development--the time when the Crown emerged as the dominant state in the western Mediterranean. In planning stages.
2. A critical edition of the Opus tripartitum and the treatise De predicatione sancte crucis by Humbertus de Romanis, the thirteenth-century Minister-General of the Dominican Order.
3. An article, "St. Peter Damian and the Two Redactions of His Liber Gratissimus." The second version of this work by Peter Damian (a position-paper commissioned by the Church to aid in resolving the issue of the legitimacy of simoniacal sacraments) appeared after the passage of the papal legislation of 1060. Scholars have long assumed that the changes Damian made in the text (omitting seven chapters and appending a new conclusion) resulted from the need to put his book in accord with the new decrees on simony. Close attention to the changes, however, reveals a very different motive, one that necessitates a reconsideration of Damian's entire relationship with the Holy See. Initial draft complete.

4. A monograph on Arnau de Vilanova and the Idea of Tolerance. This will be the first full-length analysis of the reformist-cum-apocalyptic religious program put forth by the famous Catalan visionary and physician. As personal physician to a succession of popes beginning with Boniface VIII, Arnau was very much in the center of the religious currents of his age, and his life and work present a unique case-study of the extent to which tolerance for dissenting ideas was or was not characteristic of late medieval society. Using Arnau as a narrative framing device, I intend to examine the evolution of the notion of tolerance itself, from the eleventh through the fourteenth centuries.

1 May 2003 // CRB