

## Jamie Kreiner

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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

UCLA Robert and Dorothy Wellman Chair in Medieval History, 2024 – present

University of Georgia Professor of History, 2021-2024  
Associate Professor of History, 2017-2021  
Assistant Professor of History, 2012-2017

Stanford University Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities, 2011-2012

### EDUCATION

Princeton University Ph.D. in History, 2011 (advisor: Peter Brown)  
M.A. in History, 2007

University of Colorado B.A. in History, *summa cum laude*, 2004  
B.A.-Music, high honors, 2004

### AUTHORED BOOKS

*The Wandering Mind: What Medieval Monks Tell Us About Distraction* (Liveright/Norton, 2023), xiv + 274 pp.

*Legions of Pigs in the Early Medieval West*, Yale Agrarian Studies Series (Yale University Press, 2020), xxii + 340 pp.

*The Social Life of Hagiography in the Merovingian Kingdom*, Cambridge Studies in Medieval Life and Thought, Fourth Series 96 (Cambridge University Press, 2014), xii + 329 pp.

### CO-EDITED VOLUME

*Motions of Late Antiquity: Essays on Religion, Politics, and Society in Honour of Peter Brown*, ed. with Helmut Reimitz, Cultural Encounters in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages 20 (Brepols, 2016), x + 350 pp.

### TRANSLATIONS

*How to Focus: A Monastic Guide for an Age of Distraction*, Ancient Wisdom for Modern Readers (Princeton University Press, 2024), xxx + 257 pp. Translated selections from John Cassian's *Collationes*.

With Helmut Reimitz, *Life in the Early Middle Ages in 36 Chapters* (Josef Fink and Stiftsarchiv St. Gallen, 2021), 187 pp. Translation of *Lebenswelten des frühen Mittelalters in 36 Kapiteln*, ed. Peter Erhart (2019).

### PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Composing and Criticizing Music in Late Antique Christianity: A Psychological History,” *Journal of the American Musicological Society* 80 (forthcoming 2027)

“Agricultural Brokers,” *Early Medieval Europe* 28 (2020): 425-43

Co-author with Merle Eisenberg, David J. Patterson, Ellen F. Arnold, and Timothy P. Newfield, “The Environmental History of the Late Antique West: A Bibliographic Essay,” *Journal of Late Antique Archaeology* 11 (2018): 31-50

“Pigs in the Flesh and Fisc: An Early Medieval Ecology,” *Past & Present* 236 (2017): 3-42

“Autopsies and Philosophies of a Merovingian Life: Death, Responsibility, Salvation,” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 22 (2014): 113-52

“About the Bishop: The Episcopal Entourage and the Economy of Government in Post-Roman Gaul,” *Speculum* 86 (2011): 321-360

### CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

“Merovingian Hagiography,” in *Oxford Handbook of the Merovingian World*, ed. Bonnie Effros and Isabel Moreira (Oxford University Press, 2020), 508-30

“Gaul’s Insiders: Hagiography and Entitlement,” in *Hagiography and the History of Latin Christendom, 500-1500*, ed. Samantha Kahn Herrick and Paul Antony Hayward (Brill, 2020), 211-31

“A Generic Mediterranean: Hagiography in the Early Middle Ages,” in *East and West in the Early Middle Ages: The Merovingian Kingdoms in Mediterranean Perspective*, ed. Stefan Esders, Yaniv Fox, Yitzhak Hen, and Laury Sarti (Cambridge University Press, 2019), 202-17

“Romanness in Merovingian Hagiography: A Case Study in Class and Political Culture,” in *Transformations of Romanness in the Early Middle Ages: Regions and Identities*, ed. Walter Pohl, Clemens Gantner, Cinzia Grifoni, and Marianne Pollheimer-Mohaupt (De Gruyter, 2018), 309-23

Co-author with Helmut Reimitz, Introduction to *Motions of Late Antiquity: Essays on Religion, Politics, and Society in Honour of Peter Brown*, Cultural Encounters in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages 20 (Brepols, 2016), 1-16

### COMMENTS, REVIEW ESSAYS, ETC.

Co-author with Charlotte Eubanks, “The Watermill and the Water Buffalo: Monastic Thoughts on Distraction and Mind,” *postmedieval* 17 (2026), <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41280-026-00410-8>

Co-author with Paula Lemons, “Pilot Project: Equity in Service Workloads,” white paper report, University of Georgia, 2024

“Our Pigs, Ourselves,” *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences* 51 (2021): 553-65, review essay of J. L. Anderson, *Capitalist Pigs*; Alex Blanchette, *Porkopolis*; Thomas Fleischman, *Communist Pigs*; Tiago Saraiva, *Fascist Pigs*

Co-author with Henry Cowles, “Another Claim for Cognitive History,” *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 43 (2020), doi: 10.1017/S0140525X19001547, comment on Falk Lieder and Thomas L. Griffiths, “Resource-Rational Analysis: Understanding Human Cognition as the Optimal Use of Limited Computational Resources”

Co-author with Henry Cowles, “A Claim for Cognitive History,” *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 42 (2019), doi: 10.1017/S0140525X19000256, comment on Nicolas Baumard, “Psychological Origins of the Industrial Revolution”

### MAJOR PRIZES AND FELLOWSHIPS

2026-2027	Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences Fellowship, Stanford University
2026	Guggenheim Fellowship, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation
2025	Max Planck-Humboldt Medal, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation / Max Planck Society
2025	John Gilmory Shea Prize, American Catholic Historical Association
2024	Distinguished Research Professorship, University of Georgia
2024	Jerome E. Singerman Prize, Medieval Academy of America

2022	Creative Research Medal in the Humanities and Arts, University of Georgia
2021	George Perkins Marsh Prize, American Society for Environmental History
2018	William Koren, Jr. Prize, Society for French Historical Studies
2018	Wayne D. Rasmussen Award, Agricultural History Society
2017-2018	Institute for Advanced Study Mellon Fellowship for Assistant Professors
2017	Michael F. Adams Early Career Scholar Award, University of Georgia
2013	Van Courtlandt Elliott Prize, Medieval Academy of America
2009-2010	Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Fellowship in the Humanities, Princeton University

#### INVITED TALKS (LAST FIVE YEARS)

2026	“Trash Talk,” University of Michigan, Conference in Honor of Paolo Squatriti
2026	“Starting and Forgetting about Fires in Late Antiquity,” Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich, Cultures of Vigilance Collaborative Research Center
2026	“How to Focus: Medieval Lessons for an Age of Distraction,” Portland State University, Friends of History Lecture
2025	“Demonizing Distraction in Early Christian Monasticism,” Columbia University, Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life, Distraction and Devotion series
2025	“On Monks, Minds, and Motivation,” Stanford University, Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies Annual Roundtable
2025	“Battles of the Brain: Early Christian Monks vs. Distraction,” Porterville College, Cultural and Historical Awareness Program
2025	“Early Christian Monks and the Problem of Distraction,” Spirit of the Senses, Phoenix [virtual]
2025	“How to Deal with Distraction: Early Medieval Monks and the Modern Quest for Cognitive History,” Northwestern University, Gray Boyce Lecture in Medieval History
2025	“Dealing with Distraction: The Strategies and Struggles of Early Christian Monks,” University of Southern California, Center for the Premodern World
2025	“Minds on Fire: Thinking with Lamps in the Early Middle Ages,” Colgate University, Arts and Humanities Colloquium
2024	“Sweetness and Poison: Musical Tastes in the Early Middle Ages,” Hebrew University, Israeli Forum for the Early Middle Ages
2024	“Cognitive Vigilance in the Early Middle Ages,” Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich, Cultures of Vigilance Collaborative Research Center
2023	“Good Music and Bad Music in Late Antiquity,” Princeton University, Committee for the Study of Late Antiquity Lecture
2023	“Pigs and Their Partners in Early Medieval Europe,” Journées internationales d’histoire de Flaran, Le porc dans tous ses états dans l’Europe médiévale et moderne
2023	“How to Focus: Medieval Lessons for an Age of Distraction,” Syracuse University, Otey Scruggs Memorial Lecture, Department of History
2023	“Premodern Pigs and Their People: A Conversation about Life, Death, and the Divine Order,” University of Tennessee Chattanooga, Department of History
2023	“The Meaty Mind: Eating and Thinking in Early Christian Monasticism,” University of Maine, History Department Symposium Series
2023	“Meditating Monks and the Meandering Mind,” guest seminar with the Friends of Attention (an international network of artists, writers, activists, and academics)
2022	“The Cognitive Culture of Monasticism,” Institute for Advanced Study / Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, Reflections on Byzantium from a Global Perspective Symposium
2022	“The Early Medieval Metaverse,” University of Kentucky, World Religions Program [virtual]
2022	“Fattening Agents in the Early Middle Ages,” Cornell University, Medieval Studies Lecture Series [virtual]

#### COURSES TAUGHT

##### *UCLA*

History of Science: The Middle Ages (lower-division survey)

The Early Middle Ages (upper-division survey)  
Medieval Los Angeles (senior capstone and graduate seminar)  
Premodern Ecologies (graduate seminar)

#### *UGA*

A History of Western Civilization to 1500 (lower-division survey)  
The Middle Ages (upper-division survey)  
Christianity and Society from Constantine to Luther (upper-division survey)  
The Animal and the Human in the Middle Ages (upper-division seminar)  
Economy and Society before Capitalism (upper-division seminar)  
Saints in the Middle Ages (upper division seminar)  
The Medieval Mind: Cognition, Media Culture, Ethics (split-level seminar)  
The Barbarian Kingdoms (senior thesis seminar)  
Theory and Practice of History (graduate seminar)  
Medieval Mind Games (First-Year Odyssey)

#### ADMINISTRATION / LEADERSHIP

##### **Vice Chair for Undergraduate Affairs, Department of History, UCLA, 2025-2026**

Major responsibilities:

- Coordination with department chair, student affairs team, and undergraduate affairs committee on initiatives and routine business related to undergraduate education
- Enrollment analysis and strategy

Major achievements:

- With the undergraduate affairs committee, launched and organized Teaching Talks, a quarterly workshop series dedicated to history pedagogy
- With the undergraduate affairs committee, developed an introductory workshop for students embarking on senior honors thesis projects

##### **Senior Associate Dean, Franklin College, UGA, 2023-2024**

Major responsibilities:

- Leadership of twelve humanities units comprising 200+ faculty, 1000+ majors and grad students, and 125,000+ credit hours
- Oversight of faculty affairs for 1000+ faculty in the college (hiring and retention, promotion and tenure, grievances, faculty recognition, reappointments and searches for department heads)
- Leadership development for faculty and administrators in the college
- Strategic budget planning (>\$130M) with the Dean and the Senior Director of Finance and Administration

Major achievements:

- With fellow Associate Dean Marshall Shepherd: submitted NEH proposal to establish a Center for Data Criticism at UGA, involving twenty-three faculty in the humanities, social sciences, computer science, and law (\$1M project, ultimately unfunded)
- With fellow Associate Dean Paula Lemons: developed and ran a two-year pilot program for service workload equity to make service more transparent, accountable, and rewarded among faculty in the college (involving thirteen departments in the arts, humanities, social sciences, life sciences, and physical and mathematical sciences)
- Coordination of operations among dean's office leadership for strategic review and reform of (among other things) indirect cost return, cost-share for startup funding, compensation of faculty administrators, supporting mid-career faculty, and program development in the School of Computing and Institute for Artificial Intelligence
- Developed program for research-intensive semesters for college faculty

### **Associate Dean, Franklin College, UGA, 2021-2023**

Major responsibilities:

- Leadership of humanities units (as above)
- Management of the college's international portfolio: review of study abroad and field study programs, review of partnership proposals and student study abroad scholarship applications, coordination with Office of Global Engagement on seed-grant programs for international short-term exchanges, oversight of international operating budget and foundation accounts for international education
- Oversight of Experiential Learning, SACSCOC accreditation compliance, Academic Program Reviews, and student learning outcomes for the college

Major achievements:

- Established the UGA Humanities Seminar, a two-year pilot program for mid-career faculty to foster cross-disciplinary thinking and humanities advocacy (internal funding: \$50,000 per FY)
- Created and supervised the college's first administrative position for internship and career coordination for students, targeting the humanities

### **Head of the Department of History, UGA, 2019-2021**

Major responsibilities:

- Leadership of ~30 faculty members, 4 administrative staff, 40 grad students, 300 majors, 100 minors
- Coordination with directors of undergraduate and graduate studies and regular communication with the department's policy, personnel, travel, and search committees
- Authority over department's operating budget (\$50,000), travel budget (\$20,000), instructional budget (\$630,000), discretionary account (\$150,000), and 27 endowed accounts (\$100,000, excluding professorships); cultivation of relationships with donors
- Oversight of hiring, promotion, and tenure processes at the departmental level; annual evaluation of faculty and business manager

Major achievements:

- Guided the department through the peak pandemic years, while maintaining continuity in instruction and communication as protocols shifted
- Oversaw the successful promotion of six faculty members in two years (four to Associate Professor, two to Professor) and the successful hire of three Assistant Professors
- Coordinated department-wide DEI initiatives (workshops for grad students on time management and self-care, funding for summer writing workshop to support grad students finishing their theses, elimination of GRE requirement for applicants to grad program, analysis of major/minor demography to inform program development, hiring in underrepresented fields on the faculty, incorporation of DEI work and CDI training into annual evaluations, new race and history reading library)

### **Director of Undergraduate Studies, UGA, 2015-2017, 2018-2019**

Major responsibilities:

- Program and curriculum development, including data collection and analysis
- Development and oversight of recurring series aimed at undergraduates
- Publicity and promotional materials, website development (undergraduate and alumni sections)

Major achievements:

- Launched and coordinated annual programming for Black History Month in the department, emphasizing student-oriented opportunities (book clubs, student-driven collective research projects, walking tours, accessible talks by guest faculty)
- Launched and organized the Lunchtime Time Machine lecture series, featuring accessible talks by faculty members geared toward undergraduates of all majors
- Launched and organized History at Work programming to promote the many potential uses of a history degree. Included authorship of an online guide to the benefits and applications of historical analysis in post-college careers, working with alumni to feature their own career trajectories on the department site, and hosting workshops featuring alumni and humanities advocates to speak with students about their experiences and offer advice.