

BRETT EDWARD WHALEN

UNC-Chapel Hill
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EDUCATION

12 June 2005 PhD in History, Stanford University

Dissertation: *Christendom Divided and Restored: The Latin and Greek Churches in the Historical Imagination of the Middle Ages (868-1274)*, supervised by Philippe Buc

17 June 2000 MA in History, Stanford University

10 May 1998 MA in History, University of Vermont

12 May 1994 BA, History Major, University of Vermont

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021-present Professor, UNC-Chapel Hill

2011-2021 Associate Professor, UNC-Chapel Hill

2005-2011 Assistant Professor, UNC-Chapel Hill

Fall 2003 Adjunct Professor, Menlo College

Fall 2001 Lecturer, San Jose State University

1998-1999 Instructor, University of Vermont

GRANTS AND HONORS

Spring 2023 Borden Fellow, Institute for Arts and Humanities, UNC-CH

Fall 2022 Research and Study Leave, UNC-CH, College of Arts and Sciences

Fall 2021 IAAR-SLATE (Student Learning to Advance Truth and Equity) Teaching Fellowship, UNC-CH

2017-20 Abbey Fellow (for excellence in undergraduate mentoring), UNC-CH

2017 Integrated Curriculum Course Development Grant for *Time and the Medieval Cosmos*, with Chris Clemens (Physics), UNC-CH

Spring 2017 Honors Collaborative Research Grant, with Garland Kennedy (Class of 2018), Institute for Arts and Humanities, UNC-CH

2015 Elected to the Fellowship, Royal Historical Society

Fall 2014 Chapman Teaching Fellow, Institute for Arts and Humanities, UNC-CH

2014 American Philosophical Society Reach & Travel Grant

2013-14 Kingdon Fellow, Institute for Research in the Humanities, University of Wisconsin, Madison

2013 Chapman Family Teaching Award, UNC-CH

2011 Phillip and Ruth Hettleman Prize Scholarly Achievement, UNC-CH

2009 Donald Gilman Research Award, MEMS Program, UNC-CH

2008 Kenan Fellow, Institute for Arts and Humanities, UNC-CH

2007 MEMS Travel Grant, UNC-CH

2007 Junior Faculty Development Grant, UNC-CH

2006 Course Development Grant, Christian Studies, UNC-CH

2005 University Research Council Research Grant, UNC-CH
2004-05 Geballe Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Stanford Humanities Center
2002 Medieval Academy of America Research & Travel Grant

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Books

The Two Powers: The Papacy, the Empire, and the Struggle for Sovereignty in the Thirteenth Century. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2019.

The Medieval Papacy. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2014.

Pilgrimage in the Middle Ages: A Reader. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2011.

Dominion of God: Christendom and Apocalypse in the Middle Ages. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2009.

Refereed Articles

“Joachim of Fiore, Honorius Augustodunensis, and the Liturgical Concordance of History,”
Recherches de Théologie et Philosophie Médiévales 89 (2022): 279-304.

“Political Theology and the Metamorphoses of *The King’s Two Bodies*.” *The American Historical Review* 125 (2020): 132-45.

“Antichrist as (Anti)Charisma: Reflections on Weber and the ‘Son of Perdition’.” *Religions: Special Issue - Charisma, Medieval and Modern* 4(1) (2013): 77-95.

“Corresponding with Infidels: Rome, the Almohads, and the Christians of Thirteenth-Century Morocco.” *The Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 41 (2011): 487-513.

“Joachim of Fiore, Apocalyptic Conversion, and the ‘Persecuting Society.’” *History Compass* 8 (2010): 682-91.

“Rethinking the Schism of 1054: Heresy, Authority, and the Latin Rite.” *Traditio* 62 (2007): 1-24.

“Joachim of Fiore and the Division of Christendom.” *Viator* 34 (2003): 89-108.

“The Discovery of the Holy Patriarchs: Relics, Ecclesiastical Politics and Sacred History in Twelfth-Century Crusader Palestine.” *Historical Reflections* 27 (2001): 139-76.

Additional Publications

Remembering the Black Death: Lessons from the Medieval Plague for the Modern Pandemic. Amazon, 2020. Under the name B. E. Whalen.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Fully Proficient in Medieval Latin

Fluent in French

Professional Knowledge of Middle English, German, Spanish, and Italian

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

History Department, UNC-CH

2023- Director of Departmental Outreach
2017-22 Director of Undergraduate Studies
2018-21 Departmental Liaison for Office of Undergraduate Research
2017-18 Project Leader: Departmental Website Redesign
2009-13 Graduate Studies Committee
2010-11 Search Committee, Modern U.S. Intellectual/Religious History
2010-11 Project Leader: Departmental Website Redesign
2006-09 Committee on Teaching

Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS), UNC-CH

2023- Member of the MEMS Advisory Board
Fall 2018 Organizer, Compact Seminar, "Imagining the Apocalypse: Premodern
Apocalypticism and the Digital Humanities" 15-17 February
2013-16 Director, MEMS Program
2009-12 Supervisor, MEMS Minor
2009-12 Member of the MEMS Advisory Board
2009-10 Chair, committee for the development of MEMS major
2007-08 Conference Organizer, *Global Encounters: Legacies of Conflict and Exchange in
the Medieval and early Modern Worlds*
2005-08 Medieval Studies Committee

Other Service

2010-22 Convener, Triangle Medieval Studies Seminar (TMSS)
Fall 2018 Polanyi Lectureship in History and Philosophy of Science Selection Committee
2017-18 Integrated Curriculum Course Proposal Review Committee
2017-18 General Education Curriculum Committee: Student Learning Outcomes
2015-17 Committee on Fix-Term Faculty
2015-17 Faculty Advisory Board, Institute for Arts and Humanities, UNC-CH
2010-17 Faculty Advisory Board, UNC-CH Program in Humanities and Human Values
2016 Robinson Fellowship Review Committee
2015-16 Nominating Committee, Medieval Academy of America

RECENT ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Medieval Jesus: A Life

University of Maine, History Symposium Series (1/31/22)

The Doctors and the Black Death: Reconsidering Expertise in an Age of Pandemic

Bullitt Club Lecture, UNC-Chapel Hill Medical School (2/23/21)

Reflections on the Black Death: Rethinking the Medieval Plague during a Modern Pandemic
HNAC and History: The Historical Roots of Our Times, UNC-Greensboro (2/19/21)

Plague Years: Remembering the Black Death in the Era of COVID-19
Somers Lecture, Georgia State University (2/5/21)

Studying the Black Death in the Era of COVID-19: An Exercise in Humanistic Humility
Dunlevie Honors Colloquium, UNC-Chapel Hill (2/1/21)

The Black Death: Lessons from the Medieval Plague for the Modern Pandemic
Carolina Public Humanities, UNC, Chapel Hill (10/21/2020)

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Guest on [The Early Medieval Papacy](#), BBC podcast *You're Dead to Me* (accessed 2/17/23)

Interviewed for ["A Restored Medieval Depiction of the Crusades Shows How England Embraced Islamic Culture,"](#) *Word and Way* (1/11/2023)

[Remembering the Black Death: Lessons from the Medieval Plague for the Modern Pandemic](#)
Public Lecture Delivered for Carolina Public Humanities (10/21/20)

Interviewed for the Aaron Keck Show, Chapelboro Radio 89.7 FM, ["The Plague and COVID-19"](#)
(accessed 4/15/20)

Interviewed for ["Notre Dame's Fire, Restoration Illustrative of its History, Faculty Say"](#) *University Gazette* (accessed 5/1/19)

Five-Part Lecture Series, "Scripture and History from Genesis to Revelation," delivered at the Church of the Holy Family, Chapel Hill, NC (March-April 2019).

Interviewed on NPR, *Morning Edition*, ["Will Cuba Meeting of Pope and Patriarch Heal of 1000-Year Rift?"](#) (accessed 2/12/16)

Public Lecture, "The Papacy and Medieval Politics," *Flyleaf Books: UNC Faculty in Focus Lecture Series*, Program in Humanities (6/6/13)

"History, Politics, and the End of the World: Medieval and Modern Antichrists," talk delivered at the Chapel Hill Rotary Club (2/3/12)

Radio interview, ["The End of the World,"](#) on *The State of Things* (WUNC) (accessed 1/27/12)

"Social Justice and the Revelation of Saint John," talk delivered at St. Philips Church, Durham, NC (12/11/11)

Op-Ed, *Raleigh News and Observer*, "Really, the Crusades Don't Fit Our Politics" (4/17/11)

Interviewed on *The Dark Ages*, The History Channel (initial air-date 9:00 PM, 3/4/07)