

Center for
Medieval & Renaissance Studies
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

SYMPOSIUM ON CRUSADE STUDIES
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
APRIL 10-11, 2026



CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS OF
THE CRUSADE STUDIES FORUM
APRIL 10-11, 2026

Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies

Saint Louis University
3800 Lindell Boulevard
Saint Louis, Missouri 63108
smrs@slu.edu | smrs-slu.org



Dear Symposium Participants,

Twenty years ago, a group of Saint Louis University graduate students formed what would later become the Crusades Studies Forum. Subsequent generations of graduate students continued to pour efforts and energy into maintaining the CSF as a vibrant intellectual activity, making it the oldest such program dedicated to crusade studies in the world. This year we celebrate the work of those many students (many now professors!) across two decades as well as those scholars at other institutions who participated in the CSF's many conferences, sessions, and publications.

It all began in February 2006 with the First International Symposium on Crusade Studies, which hosted giants like Jonathan Riley-Smith, Carole Hillenbrand, John France, and Jaroslav Folda. It was funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and attracted standing-room-only audiences. The Symposium was so successful that we decided to repeat it every four years. The 2010 Symposium featured Ronnie Ellenblum, Jonathan Phillips, John Pryor, and Marina Rustow, among others. In 2014, the Symposium hosted Christopher Tyerman and Adrian Boas. With some pandemic disruptions, this year marks the Sixth Symposium. It is important to note, though, that between these high-profile symposia, the CSF continued to organize external lectures, round tables, and reading groups almost every month. It became a powerhouse of crusade scholarship, bringing visibility to the resources at Saint Louis University.

It was my privilege to be there as the CSF began and to do my small part to support it along the way. But this has always been a student-run initiative. May it remain so well into the future.

Thomas F. Madden
Director of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
Saint Louis University

The Symposium on Crusade Studies is sponsored by the Saint Louis University Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and the Crusade Studies Forum.

Director: Thomas F. Madden

Administrative Assistant: Teresa Harvey

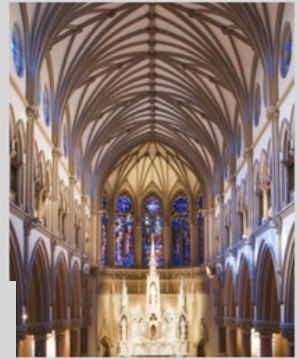
Symposium Coordinator: Evan S. McAllister

Crusade Studies Forum Advisory Board:
Glauber Wisnewski, PhD Student (History)
Paul M. Smith, PhD Candidate (History)
Evan S. McAllister, PhD

Center for
Medieval & Renaissance Studies
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies coordinates, supports, and promotes the wealth of resources and opportunities at Saint Louis University for scholars and students of the medieval world. These include:

- **NEH Research Fellowships.** Residential fellowships are available throughout the academic year for those who can make use of Saint Louis University resources such as the Vatican Film Library, the Rare Book and Manuscript Collections, or the general collections.
- **Ph.D. Programs** in Medieval History, Medieval Literature, Medieval Philosophy, and Christianity and Antiquity
- **Conferences, Lectures, and Symposia.** Each year the Center sponsors dozens of events of interest to medievalists. These include the Annual Saint Louis Conference on Manuscript Studies, the CMRS Annual Lecture, and the Crusades Studies Forum.



*St. Francis Xavier College Church,
Saint Louis University*



**The Annual Symposium on
Medieval and Renaissance Studies**
Our annual conference in June offers a convenient summer venue in North America for scholars in all disciplines to present papers, organize sessions, and participate in roundtables. For more information go to smrs-slu.org.

To learn more visit us online at slu.edu/cmrs

RESEARCH AT THE SYMPOSIUM

Attendees are invited to combine their time in Saint Louis with research in the extensive collections of Saint Louis University's **Pius XII Memorial Library**. A picture ID and conference badge is required to gain access and you will need to enter from the east entrance (see map). In addition to the regular collections, attendees may also wish to take advantage of the Saint Louis University Libraries Special Collections, whose **Knights of Columbus Vatican Film Library** contains approximately 40,000 medieval and Renaissance manuscripts-on-microfilm (principally from the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana) and offers one of the most extensive reference collections for manuscript studies in the country. **Rare Books** in Special Collections holds about 30,000 volumes and is particularly strong in philosophy, theology, and Church history. Special Collections is regularly open Monday–Friday, 9 am–5 pm. Making an appointment is required for guest researchers.

Adjacent to the university is the **Jesuit Archives & Research Center**, a new facility housing the collective memory of sixteen past and current administrative provinces of the Society of Jesus in the United States. They are open for use as a general study space from 10 AM to 3 PM, Monday through Friday.

Contact Information:

libraries.slu.edu (314-977-3580)

libraries.slu.edu/special_collections/vfl (vfl@slu.edu | 314-977-3096)

libraries.slu.edu/special_collections/rare_books (rbk@slu.edu | 314-977-5070)

jesuitarchives.org (314-376-2440)

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

**6 – 9 p.m. Opening Reception – the Rooftop at the Element Hotel
(3763 Forest Park Ave)**

**** Drinks and heavy *hors d'oeuvres* served.**

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026

ALL SYMPOSIUM EVENTS WILL BE HOSTED AT IL MONASTERO 3050
OLIVE STREET, ST. LOUIS, MO 63103

8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Registration Desk Open
St. Louise Room in Il Monastero

8:30 a.m. Coffee in the St. Louise Room in Il Monastero

BLOCK 1: 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Muslim Perspectives and Intellectual Exchange in the Crusading Era

Location: St. Rose, Il Monastero

Chair: David Olsen, Saint Louis University

“Averroes in the Crusading Mediterranean: Intellectual Exchange and the Dynamics of Conflict.”

- Shumalia Firdos, University of Education, Lahore, Pakistan, and Iffat Tehseen Amjad, Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing

“Christian Kingship through Arab Eyes: Frederick II as Imagined in Ibn Sabʿīn's Sicilian Questions”

- Kay Hart, Saint Louis University

Political and Social Agency of Religious–Military Orders in Frontier Crusades

Location: St. Madeline, Il Monastero

Chair: Evan S. McAllister, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

“A Fight Beyond the Battlefield: The Jurisdictional and Judicial Conflicts of the Order of Avis in the Mid-Forteenth Century”

- João Alves, NOVA University of Lisbon

“The Importance of Jewish Presence for the Templar Occupation of the Aragonese Frontier: The Case of Lleida (12th Century).”

- Glauber Wisniewski, Saint Louis University

“Serving Two Masters: The Templars in Ireland”

- Paul M. Smith, Saint Louis University

10:30-11:00 am. Coffee Break

Room: St. Louise in Il Monastero

BLOCK 2: 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Labor, Exchange, and Coexistence in the Crusading Mediterranean

Location: St. Rose, Il Monastero

Chair: Martina Saltamachia, University of Nebraska at Omaha

“On the Shoulders of Shepherds: Herders at the Heart of the Christian Expansion in al-Andalus during the Almohad Period (542-646/1147-1248).”

- David Olsen, Saint Louis University

“The Crusades as Multifaceted Encounter: War, Words, and the Exchange of Goods and Ideas.”

- Feyza Uzunoglu, Ibn Haldun University

Materiality, Imagery, and Devotion in the Crusading World

Location: St. Madeline, Il Monastero

Chair: Edith Lagarde Babich, University of Notre Dame

“Images of Crusading in the Sermons of Stephen Langton.”

- Jessalynn Bird, Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, IN

“Modern Encounters with Merchants, Women, and Military Orders through Crusader Material Culture.”

- Cathleen Fleck, University of Missouri-Columbia

“Between the Holy Land and the Angevin Mediterranean: Rethinking the Origins of the Madonna of Humility.”

- Nan Han, Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing

LUNCH BREAK: 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Room: St. Louis, Il Monastero

BLOCK 3: 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

The Cambridge History of the Crusades...at long last.

Room: Il Monastero Sanctuary

Chair: Thomas F. Madden, Saint Louis University

Speakers:

- M. Cecilia Gaposchkin, Dartmouth College
- Andrew Jotischky, Royal Holloway, University of London;
- Thomas F. Madden, Saint Louis University;
- Jonathan Phillips, Royal Holloway, University of London

Plenary Address: 4:30–6:00 p.m.

“Crusading and the Written World”

Professor Nicholas Paul, Fordham University

Location: Il Monastero Sanctuary

Moderator:

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026

8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Registration Desk Open

St. Louise in Il Monastero

8:30 a.m. Coffee in the St. Louise in Il Monastero

BLOCK 1: 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Italian Religious and Political Authority

Room: St. Madeline, Il Monastero

Chair: George Summers, University of Mary

““But these Sheep, What Have They Done?": Crusading, Interdict, and Corporate Spirituality in Medieval Verona.”

- Jennifer Stiles, University of Akron:

“The Crusader Principality of Antioch and Its Cultural, Commercial Relations with the City-States of Venice, Pisa, Genoa, and Sicily (1098–1161 A.D.)”

- Gurhan Bahadir, Independent Scholar

“Martyrdom in the Kingdom of Jerusalem?: The Murder of Albert of Vercelli, Patriarch of Jerusalem, 1214.”

- Andrew Jotischky, Royal Holloway, University of London:

Reception, Memory, and Modern Uses of Crusades

Room: St. Rose, Il Monastero

Chair: Glauber Wisnewski, Saint Louis University

“Deconstructing the Templar in Gotthold Ephraim Lessing’s “Nathan the Wise” (1779)”

- Jochen Burgtorf, Cal State University, Fullerton

“Teaching the Crusades in the Age of Generative AI.”

- Martina Saltamacchia, University of Nebraska at Omaha

“Like Moses Slaying the Egyptian: Ignatius the Soldier in Pedro de Ribadeneyra’s Vitae.”

- Sam Conedera, Saint Louis University

10:30–11 am. Coffee Break

Room: St. Louise, Il Monastero

BLOCK 2: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Maritime Republics and Later Crusades: Genoa and Venice

Room: St. Madeline, Il Monastero

Chair: David Parnell, Indiana University Northwest

“The Demographics of Genoese Soldiers in the Officium Guerrae of Genoa During the Later Crusades, 1300–1400.”

- Thomas Morin, St. Charles Community College

“Enclosing the Maritime Commons: the Genoese and the Later Crusades”

- Padraic Rohan, Quincy University:

“The used ships rather than horses.”: Mobilizing Venetian naval power in the 12th and 13th centuries.”

- Mark Nicovich, William Carey University

Kings, Knights, and Chroniclers: Defining the Latin Crusading Experience

Room: St. Rose, Il Monastero

Chair: C. Matthew Phillips, Concordia University, Nebraska

“A Payment Plan for the Fourth Crusade: Boniface of Montferrat and the Diversion Question.”

- Stephan Knott, University of Minnesota

“Piety in Arms: Knighthood and Narrative Moralization in the Gesta Francorum.”

- Daniel Carlin, Rochester Christian University:

“Language and Perception: “Richard The Lionheart in Crusade Narratives of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries.”

- Tess Janish, Oakland University

LUNCH BREAK: 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

St. Louise, Il Monastero

BLOCK 3: 2:30 – 4:00

Preaching, Papacy, and Pilgrimage

Room: St. Madeline, Il Monastero

Chair: Jessalynn Bird, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN

“Peter Comestor and the Preaching of the Cross.”

- C. Matthew Phillips, Concordia University, Nebraska

“Crusading for Unity: The Papacy and Ecclesiastical Contacts with the Armenian Church during the Twelfth and Thirteenth Century.”

- Edith Lagarde Babich, University of Notre Dame

“Barefoot Crusaders: The Symbolism of Bare Feet in the First Crusade.”

- Serpil Çılğın, Stockholm University

Men of Power and Political Strategies in the Crusades

Room: St. Rose, Il Monastero

Chair: Jochen Burgdorf, Cal State University, Fullerton.

“New Evidence on the Venetian Hospitaller Fantino Querini (d. 1452/1453).”

- George Summers, University of Mary

“The Military Policies of Alexios Komnenos that Affected his Response to the First Crusade.”

- David Parnell, Indiana University Northwest

Plenary Address: 4:30–6:00 p.m.

**“The Context of the Third Crusade: Relations
between the West and the Latin East prior to the
Battle of Hattin”**

Professor Jonathan Phillips, Royal Holloway, University of London

Location: Il Monastero Sanctuary

Moderator:

Closing Banquet: 6:30–9:00

Thirteenth
Annual
Symposium on

Medieval & Renaissance Studies

JUNE 8-10, 2026
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

KATHRYN
STARKEY

STANFORD
UNIVERSITY

ROBERT
PASNAU

UNIVERSITY of
COLORADO - BOULDER

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PLENARY LECTURES

Nicholas Paul
Fordham University

Jonathan Phillips
Royal Holloway, University of London



Cover Image adapted from:
Les Grandes chroniques de France
London, BL, Royal 16 G VI f. 415v



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