

Prof. Dr. Verena Krebs

Professor of the History of Medieval Cultural Realms and their Entanglements
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Current

- ❖ **Professor of the History of Medieval Cultural Realms and Their Entanglements**, Department of History, Ruhr-University Bochum (*from July 2025*)
- ❖ **Deputy Executive Director**, Centre for Mediterranean Studies (Zentrum für Mittelmeerstudien, ZMS), Ruhr-University Bochum (*since January 2019*)
 - Member of the Board of Directors and Deputy Director of one of Germany's leading interdisciplinary centres for Mediterranean Studies

Previous

- ❖ **W1 Professor (Junior Professor)**, Department of History, Ruhr University Bochum (*Oct 2017 – June 2025*)
 - Fixed-term professorship “Medieval Cultural Realms and Their Entanglements”
 - Successfully passed major midterm review (*Zwischenevaluation*), Habilitation-equivalent, Sept 2020
 - Sabbatical leave 2022–2023, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, USA
- ❖ **Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Martin Buber Society of Fellows in the Humanities, Hebrew University of Jerusalem** (Oct 2014–Sept 2017)
 - Full-time research position in a bi-national research foundation promoting excellency in independent research projects within the humanities, financed by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and located at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
- ❖ **Associate Research Fellow, Centre for Religious Studies, Ruhr-University Bochum** (Sept 2015–August 2018)
 - Member of the project ‘Jews and Christians in the East: Strategies of Interaction between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean’, funded by the European Research Council
 - Designated specialist for Ethiopia and digital outreach

- ❖ **Truman Research Fellow, Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2016–2017)**
 - Associate research fellowship for the project: ‘Africounters: Encountering sub-Saharan Africa, Encounters in sub-Saharan Africa’

EDUCATION

- ❖ **Dr. phil. / PhD in History, University of Konstanz, Germany, and Mekelle University, Ethiopia (Oct 2010–Dec 2014)**
 - Thesis title: ‘Windows onto the World: Culture Contact and Western Christian Art in Ethiopia, 1400–1550’
 - Bi-national degree (*co-tutelle*) supervised by Prof. Dr. Dorothea Weltecke (Medieval History and History of Religion, Konstanz) and Prof. Dr. Wolbert Smidt (Ethiopian History and Ethnohistory, Mekelle)
 - Awarded with highest honours (“summa cum laude”)
- ❖ **Master of Arts (History and Medieval History), University of Konstanz, Germany (Oct 2007–April 2010, visiting student at the University of York, UK, between October 2008–May 2009)**
 - Thesis title: „Das christliche Königreich Äthiopien. Kontakt zur westlichen christlichen Welt” [‘The Christian Kingdom of Ethiopia. Contact with the Western Christian world’]
 - Awarded with distinction
- ❖ **Bachelor of Arts (Major: Literature, Art History, and Media Studies, Minor: History), University of Konstanz (Oct 2004–Jul 2007)**
 - Awarded with distinction

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

- ❖ Krebs, V. [*Medieval Ethiopian Kingship, Craft, and Diplomacy with Latin Europe*](#), Chur: Palgrave Macmillan 2021, 319 pages. ISBN: 978-3-030-64933-3, DOI 10.1007/978-3-030-64934-0. Also published in paperback in 2022.
 - Manuscript fully translated into Tigrinya by Bereket Okubatsion Gebremariam in 2023, to be published with Shama Books (Mekelle, Ethiopia).
 - Manuscript translation into Amharic by Mitiku Gabrehiwot Tesfaye is currently ongoing and expected to be concluded in summer 2024, to be published with Shama Books (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia).

Reviews

Peter Brown, [*New York Review of Books*](#), October 2021 Issue
 Dag Herbjørnsrud, [*Ny Tid*](#), Winter 2021/22 Issue

Sam Kennerley, [Journal of Early Modern History](#) 25.6 (2021): 573–576
 Samuel Rubenson, [res. Review of Ecumenical Studies](#) 13.3 (2021): 544–546
 Matteo Salvatore, [Orientalistische Literaturzeitung](#) 116.4–5 (2022): 418–421
 Anaïs Wion, [African Studies Review](#) 65.1 (2022): 1–4
 David Abulafia, [Al-Masāq — Journal of the Medieval Mediterranean](#) 34.1 (2022): 1–3
 Samantha Kelly, [Aethiopica](#) 25 (2022): 261–264
 Benjamin Weber, [Médiévales](#) 82 (2022): 237–242
 Earnestine Jenkins, [African Studies Review](#) 66.3 (2023): 1–3
 Andrew Kurt, [Speculum](#) 97.4 (2023): 1218–1221
 Felege-Selam Solomon Yirga, [The Catholic Historical Review](#) 109.4 (2023): 792–793

Media Coverage and Interviews

[BBC History](#) | [Smithsonian Magazine](#) | [Al Jazeera China](#) | [The Medieval Podcast #110](#)
[Spiegel Geschichte #4.2021](#) | [Diverse Voices Book Review](#) | [Recollect Podcast](#) |
 Christian Century 138/15

- ❖ Krebs, V. and Yonatan Binyam, *'Ethiopia' and the World, 330–1500 CE*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2024. DOI 10.1017/9781009106115.
- ❖ *Africa Collecting Europe: Patronage, Religious Material Culture and the Assertion of Local Power in Ethiopia, 1470–1530*, under contract with University of Pennsylvania Press since January 2022.

Journal Articles and Book Contributions

- ❖ Krebs, V. 2025. “People and Things Have Always Been Mixed Up”: Notes on the So-Called Global Middle Ages’, in *Journal of Medieval History* 51/4, DOI 10.1080/03044181.2025.2522745.
- ❖ Krebs, V. 2025. „Ein Reiseführer zum Ende der Welt: Spuren venezianischer Reisender im äthiopischen Hochland im frühen 15. Jahrhundert in einer Quelle der Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze“ [“A travel guide to the ends of the earth: traces of Venetian travellers to the Ethiopian highlands in the early 15th century preserved in a source held by the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze”], in *Erythraea Äthiopistische und äthiosemitische Beiträge für Rainer Voigt zu seinem 80. Geburtstag*, ed. by Klaus Geus, Shabo Talay and Zeus Wellnhofer. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 127–142.
- ❖ Krebs, V. 2024. ‘Space, Time, and Power in an Ethiopian Icon, ca. 1500’, in [The Routledge Companion to Global Renaissance Art](#), ed. by Stephen J. Campbell and Stephanie Porras, New York: Routledge, 464–483.
- ❖ Krebs, V. 2024. „Der Drachentöter und der Lokalheilige. Gedanken zur Rekonstruktion der Objektgeschichte einer äthiopischen Ikone des späten Mittelalters“ [“The dragon slayer and the local saint. Thoughts on the reconstruction of the object history of an Ethiopian icon of the late Middle Ages”], in *Festschrift für Stefan Weninger zum 65. Geburtstag*, ed. by Michael Waltisberg, Nils Heeßel and Vera Tsukanova. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1–26.
- ❖ Krebs, V. 2023. ‘Ethiopia’s Connections with Late Medieval Europe’, in [Ethiopia at the Crossroads](#), ed. by Christine Sciacca, Baltimore: The Walters Art Museum Publications, 253–259.

- ❖ Krebs, V. 2021. '[Fancy Names and Fake News: Notes on the Conflation of Solomonic Ethiopian Rulership with the Myth of Prester John in Late Medieval Latin Christian Diplomatic Correspondence](#)', in *Orbis Aethiopicus* XVII, ed. by Walter Raunig & Asfa-Wossen Assefate, Dettelbach: H.J. Röhl Verlag, 87–121.
- ❖ Krebs, V. 2021. '[A Preliminary Catalogue of Post-Byzantine Icons in Late Medieval Solomonic Ethiopia](#)', in *Orbis Aethiopicus* XVII, ed. by Walter Raunig & Asfa-Wossen Assefate, Dettelbach: H.J. Röhl Verlag 189–227.
- ❖ Krebs, V. 2021. „[Die Plünderung von Mäqdäla](#)“ [[The sack of Mäqdäla](#)], in *Beute. Eine Anthologie zu Kunstraub und Kulturerbe*, ed. by Isabelle Dolezalek, Bénédicte Savoy & Robert Skwirblies, Matthes & Seitz, Berlin 2021, 206–214.
- ❖ Krebs, V. 2020. '[Stanley: Coomassie and Magdala \(1874\), commented by Verena Krebs](#)', in *Translocations. Anthologie: Eine Sammlung kommentierter Quellentexte zu Kulturgutverlagerungen seit der Antike*.
- ❖ Krebs, V. 2019. '[Re-Examining Foresti's Supplementum Chronicarum and the 'Ethiopian' Embassy to Europe of 1306](#)', *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 82/3, 493–515.
- ❖ Krebs, V. 2019. '[Crusading threats? Ethiopian-Egyptian relations in the 1440s](#)', in *Crusading in Africa*, ed. by Benjamin Weber, Toulouse: Presses Universitaires du Midi, 245–274.
- ❖ Krebs, V. and Kribus, B. 2018. '[Betä ʾĪsraʾel \(Ethiopian Jewish\) Monastic Sites North of Lake Tana: Preliminary Results of an Exploratory Field Trip to Ethiopia in December 2015](#)', *Entangled Religions. Interdisciplinary Journal for the Study of Religious Contact and Transfer*. Special issue “Historical Engagements and Interreligious Encounters — Jews and Christians in Premodern and Early Modern Asia and Africa”, 6, 309–344.

Encyclopaedia and Art Catalogue Entries

- ❖ Krebs, V. 2021. '[Christianity, Ethiopian](#)', in *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History: Asia and Africa*. Wiley.
- ❖ Krebs, V. 2022. '[European Travelers in Medieval Northeast Africa](#)', in *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History: Asia and Africa*. Wiley.
- ❖ Krebs, V. 2022. 'Ethiopian Virgin and Child and Saint Joseph with the Archangels Gabriel and Michael', in *Heavenly Beings — Icons of the Christian Orthodox World*, ed. by Sophie Matthiesson, Auckland: Auckland Art Gallery — Toi o Tāmaki, New Zealand.

Academic Book Reviews

- ❖ Krebs, V. 2018. [Review of: Fauvelle, François-Xavier: Das goldene Rhinoceros. Afrika im Mittelalter](#), München 2017, in *H-Soz-Kult*.
- ❖ Krebs, V. 2022. [Review of: Stanislau Paulau, Das andere Christentum. Zur transkonfessionellen Verflechtungsgeschichte von äthiopischer Orthodoxie und europäischem Protestantismus](#), Göttingen 2021, in *Historische Zeitschrift* 314.3: 708–710.
- ❖ Krebs, V. 2022. [Review of: Samantha Kelly \(ed.\), A Companion to Medieval Ethiopia and Eritrea](#), Leiden 2020, in *English Historical Review* 137.588: 1497–1498.

***Forthcoming Journal Articles and Book Contributions* (submitted, accepted for publication)**

- ❖ Krebs, V. and Hewan Solomon Marye. 'Kebra Nagast', in *National Epics*, ed. by David J. Wallace, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2027 (expected).
- ❖ Krebs, V. 'Ethiopian Royal Missions to Renaissance Europe', in *Cambridge History of the African Diaspora, Volume I: Africans and Antiquities*, ed. by Solange Ashby, Dan-El Padilla Peralta and Eve M. Troutt Powell, 2027 (expected).

Public Scholarship

- ❖ "[Afrikanische Gesandte im Mittelalter – Wie Äthiopier Europa entdeckten.](#)" *SPIEGEL Geschichte* 3/2025, 100-104.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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| 2022 | Dan David Prize (award sum: USD 300.000) |
| 2022/23 | Member and Gerda Henkel Fellow at the School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study , Princeton, USA |
| 2016 | <i>Förderpreis</i> for best PhD thesis completed at University of Konstanz in the academic year 2014/2015, awarded by the <i>Stiftung Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft</i> |
| 2014–16 | Fellowship at the Martin Buber Society of Fellows in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Hebrew University of Jerusalem |
| 2014 | Pre-Doc Fellow at the "Cultural Foundations of Integration" Exzellenzcluster [Center of Excellence], University of Konstanz |
| 2010-13 | Graduate Fellow of the State of Baden-Württemberg |

ELECTED ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIPS AND COMMITTEES

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| since 2021 | —Fellow of the Royal Historical Society —Editorial Board Member of <i>Zeitschrift für Mittelmeerstudien</i> . —Editorial Board Member of <i>postmedieval. a journal of medieval cultural studies</i> . —Member of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee of the Renaissance Society of America (Chair: Cécile Fromont, Yale University) |
| since 2019 | —Member of the Advisory Committee, National Endowment for the Humanities, Exhibition Planning Grant "Ethiopia at the Crossroads", The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, USA. —Member of the Board of Directors of the ZMS – Centre for Mediterranean Studies, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany. |

—Advisory Board Member, Routledge Series “Global Histories before Globalisation”, edited by Nicholas Morton (Nottingham Trent) and Kristin Skottki (Bayreuth).

since 2018 —Advisory Board Member, Princeton’s Ethiopian Miracles of Mary project (PEMM), Princeton University, USA.
—Member of the Zentrale Wissenschaftliche Einrichtung CERES – Center for Religious Studies, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany.

RESEARCH MEMBERSHIPS AND EXPERT ACTIVITIES (SELECTION)

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| since 2022 | Member, German Medieval Association Reviewer, <i>Gesta</i> Reviewer, <i>Early Music History</i> |
| since 2021 | Reviewer, European Research Council Reviewer, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Reviewer, <i>The Journal of African History</i> Reviewer, Routledge <i>Medieval and Early Modern History</i> Series |
| since 2020 | Reviewer, <i>Medieval History Journal</i> Reviewer, <i>Aethiopica</i> Reviewer, <i>Medieval Encounters</i> |
| since 2018 | Member, Medieval Academy of America Member, Renaissance Academy of America Member, Research Network <i>African RUB</i> , Ruhr-University Bochum Member, Centre for Religious Studies, Ruhr-Universität Bochum Reviewer, Israel Science Foundation |

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

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| since 2021 | Member of the selection committee "Study Scholarships" of the International Office, Ruhr-University Bochum Member of the "Commission for Structure and Finances", Faculty of History, Ruhr University Bochum |
| since 2019 | Deputy Executive Director, Centre for Mediterranean Studies (Zentrum für Mittelmeerstudien, ZMS), Ruhr-University Bochum |
| since 2018 | Member of the Board of Directors, Centre for Mediterranean Studies (Zentrum für Mittelmeerstudien, ZMS), Ruhr-University Bochum Internationalisierungsbeauftragte [Department officer in charge of |

departmental international cooperation] of the Institute of History, Ruhr University Bochum

since 2017 Service posts in the self-administration of the Department of History at Ruhr-Universität Bochum, serving on the Professorial Board, Habilitation Committee, various Appointment Committees of the History Department and the Faculty of Historical Sciences

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND RESEARCH FUNDING (SELECTION)

- ❖ **School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, USA (2022)** USD 78.000 Full membership for the academic year 2022/23, covered the Gerda Henkel Foundation fellowship grant.
- ❖ **PROMOS / H!BO Funding (2019)** EUR 8.500 total awarded by the BMBF program PROMOS and the Historical Institute, Bochum, to support a student Excursion to Ethiopia as part of a course taught in the Winter Semester 2018/19 at Ruhr-University, Bochum.
- ❖ **Special Departmental Fund for the Preparation of Third Party-Funding Applications Type “B” (2018)** EUR 5.000 awarded by the Department of Historical Sciences, Ruhr-University Bochum, to conduct preliminary stable isotope testing of medieval German ivories (in cooperation with Elizabeth Yohannes of the Stable Isotope Group, University of Konstanz).
- ❖ **Interdisciplinary Collaborative Project Grant (2017)** EUR 10.000 awarded by the Zukunftskolleg Konstanz, University of Konstanz, for the Project *Embracing “Otherness”: Medieval Africa — An Interdisciplinary Collaborative Project*, with Felix Girke and Christof Rolker, Konstanz.
- ❖ **DAAD Lecture Tour Travel Grant (2017)** EUR 500 awarded by the DAAD German Academic Exchange Service to give an invited lecture at Princeton University, USA, 2nd March 2017.
- ❖ **Truman Research Grant (2016–18)** USD 10.000 awarded by the Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace, Hebrew University of Jerusalem to lead the project: ‘Africounters: Encountering sub-Saharan Africa, Encounters in sub-Saharan Africa’ to organize a lecture and workshop series on sub-Saharan Africa and the Western World.
- ❖ **European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grant (2015–2020)** EUR 2.000.000 research funding for the project “Jews and Christians in the East: Strategies of Interaction between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean” (JewsEast), won by Alexandra Cuffel (PI) with Barbara Roggema, Zara Pogossian, Istvan Perczel, Sophia Dege-Müller and Ophira Gamliel and me as part of the application team.

- ❖ **Martin Buber Society of Fellows Scholarship** (2014–17) ILS 468.000 total / ILS 156.000 annually as part of a three-year post-doctoral fellowship at the Martin Buber Society of Fellows in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.
- ❖ **EXC16 “Cultural Foundations of Integration” Centre of Excellence at the University of Konstanz** (Jan–April 2012) EUR 15.000 in funding for a fieldwork research trip, leading a research team through the highlands of Ethiopia for four months.
- ❖ **DAAD German Academic Exchange Service** (2011–2012) EUR 3.800 travel grant for research in Ethiopia.
- ❖ **Landesgraduiertenförderung Baden-Württemberg** (2010–2013) EUR 33.000 total as part of a PhD scholarship programme.

RESEARCH AND FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE (SELECTION)

- ❖ **Project leader, *Investigating the Bete Israel monasteries of Ethiopia*** (Nov–Dec 2015)
Led a five-person research team as part of the ERC-funded research project JewsEast in the North Gondar region of Ethiopia.
- ❖ **Material Culture specialist, *“ETHIO-SPARE: Cultural Heritage of Christian Ethiopia: Salvation, Preservation, Research*** (2012–2015)
Visiting scholar/research fellow at the Hiob Ludolf Centre for Ethiopian Studies, University of Hamburg; specialist for object and artwork description for the European Research Council research project “ETHIO-SPARE: Cultural Heritage of Christian Ethiopia: Salvation, Preservation, Research” (Denis Nosnitsin, Hamburg).
- ❖ **Project leader, *Documentation of rural medieval Ethiopian material culture sources*** (Jan–April 2012)
Led a four-person fieldwork research team in Tigray and Amhara regions of Ethiopia, documenting artefacts from 100 rural churches and monasteries, producing 20 floor plans of medieval rock-hewn churches in Tigray region. Also inventoried and documented objects in the Yohannes IV Museum in Mekelle, Təgray; 35 medieval rock-hewn and 15 Gondärine-era churches.
- ❖ **Visiting researcher** (Oct–Dec 2011) at the Department of History and Cultural Studies, Mekelle University, Ethiopia and at the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia (March–April 2011).

KEYNOTES, INVITED TALKS & RESEARCH PAPERS

Plenaries & Keynotes (Selection)

- July 2023 *'So, Who Killed the Elephant?' - Tracing African-European Entanglements in the Age of the 'Global Middle Ages'*, International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, Keynote Lecture, Leeds, UK.
- February 2023 *Becoming Solomon's Heirs: Kingship, Power and the Refashioning of Antiquity in Late Medieval Ethiopia*, Medieval Academy of America, Annual Meeting Plenary, Washington, DC.
- May 2022 *Entangled Medieval Worlds*, Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Culture Study Day: "Identity, culture and language in the pre-modern world (c. 500-1700): interactions and exchanges", University of Southampton, UK.
- October 2021 *Monasteries, Might, and Marriage: Viewing a late medieval world from the Christian Horn of Africa*, Texas Medieval Association, Annual Meeting Plenary (online).
- June 2017 *Strange and wonderful things from distant lands: a material history of Ethiopia's contacts with Western Christianity in the late Middle Ages*, Fifth CEMS International Graduate Conference "Building, Bending, and Breaking Boundaries in the Eastern Mediterranean World," Central European University, Budapest.
- March 2016 *The Ethiopian Exploration of Europe. Reconsidering late medieval intercontinental contacts between the Horn of Africa, the Holy Land and Western Europe on the eve of the "European Age of Expansion"*, Africa-Israel Conference 2016, 7.-9. March 2016, Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace, Jerusalem.
- November 2015 *Royal Ethiopian patronage and hybrid 'färäng' styles: A new approach to art and patronage in Ethiopia, 1470—1530*, 10th International Conference on the History of Arts & Architecture in Ethiopia (ICHAAE), Mekelle University, 30. November–4. December 2015, Mekelle, Ethiopia.

Invited Talks (Selection)

- June 2023 *Es trafen sich zwei Heilige. Raum, Zeit und Macht in einer spätmittelalterlichen äthiopischen Ikone*, lecture series 'Afrika und Europa. Interaktionen in einem globalen Mittelalter', Universität Heidelberg.
- September 2022 *When St. George met abba Gäbrä Mär'awi: encounters in space and time in an Ethiopian icon, ca 1500*, invited talk at the Early Modern Studies/African Studies Colloquium at Yale University; also presented at the Ethiopian Studies in north America workshop (February 2023).

- May 2022 *Salomos Erben: Das äthiopische Christentum zwischen Spätantike und Mittelalter*, invited talk in the series „Christen in Ostafrika und Westasien – Alte Traditionen und neue Herausforderungen“, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt.
- February 2022 *Africa Collecting Europe? Thoughts on Patronage and Power in Christian Ethiopia, 1470–1530*, Journée d'étude “Arts, et pouvoirs en contact christianisme Ethiopie, Kongo et mondes méditerranéens, XIVE – XVIIe siècles”, MSH Alpes, Université de Grenoble Alpes.
- October 2021 Discussion of *Medieval Ethiopian Kingship, Craft, and Diplomacy with Latin Europe*, Religious Pluralism Working Group, Medieval Institute at Notre Dame, Indiana, USA, (online); also presented at colloquia at the University of Sheffield (November 2021), Goethe-Universität Frankfurt (December 2021) and Catholic University of America, Washington DC (February 2022).
- October 2021 [#Slaveryarchive](#) Book Club on *Medieval Ethiopian Kingship, Craft, and Diplomacy with Latin Europe*, hosted by Ana-Lucia Araujo (Howard University), Jessica John (Johns Hopkins University), Vanessa Holden (University of Kentucky), and Alex Gil (Columbia University), ([online](#)).
- May 2021 *Medieval Ethiopian Kingship, Craft, and Diplomacy with Latin Europe*, Book Lunch hosted by HUMA - Institute for Humanities in Africa, University of Cape Town. Respondent: Hewan Semon (Hamburg University), ([online](#)).
- Afrika, das Europa sammelt: Königliche Frauen und elitäre Patronagepraktiken am äthiopischen Hof, 1480 – 1530*, Forumsvortrag, Kunsthistorisches Seminar der Universität Basel (online).
- April 2021 *Medieval Ethiopian Kingship, Craft, and Diplomacy with Latin Europe*, Book Launch hosted by the Anglo-Ethiopian Society, London. Respondents: Felege-Selam Yirga (UT Knoxville) and David Spielman (UCLA), ([online](#)).
- March 2021 *Ethiopian Medieval Diplomacy & Kingship*, Princeton IAS Ethiopian Studies Series: The Turn to the Medieval in Ethiopian Studies – The Turn to Ethiopia in Medieval Studies ([online](#)).
- November 2019 *Appropriating the Foreign: Material Culture Imports and Patronage Practices at the late medieval court of Solomonic Ethiopia*, 11th German–Israeli Frontiers of Humanities Symposium, Israeli Academy of Sciences, Israel.
- November 2018 *Solomon's Heirs: Courtly Patronage and Diplomatic Contacts with the Christian Mediterranean in late medieval Ethiopia*, Polish Academy of Sciences, Krakow, Poland.
- March 2017 *Art Not War: African Embassies in Latin Europe in the Late Middle Ages*, Center for African Studies, Princeton University.

July 2016 *Die Klöster der Bete Israel. Archäologisch-historische Feldforschung nördlich des Tanasees (Äthiopien)*, 4. Volkmar-Fritz-Vortrag, Freundeskreis Biblische Archäologie, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz.

Research Papers and Presentations (Selection)

June 2025 *Of Miraculous Byzantines and Mass-Produced Cretan Icons: The Many Afterlives of 'Rome' in Late Medieval Ethiopian Art*, Mainz-Princeton Symposia — Reflections on Byzantium from a Global Perspective III: Byzantium, Africa and the Far East, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, USA.

May 2023 *All the King's Men. Italians as Solomonic Ethiopian ambassadors in the 15th century*, Ethiopians Abroad Conference, Rome, Italy.

May 2022 *Ethiopia and the World, 500-1530 CE*, Panel: The Global Middle Ages II, organised by Geraldine Heng, International Congress on Medieval Studies, Medieval Institute at Western Michigan University (with Yonatan Binyam, UCLA).

May 2019 *Echoes of Exotic Others: Flemish Panel Paintings, Madre della Consolazione Icons, and Limoges Painted Enamels at the Late Medieval Ethiopian Royal Court*, Crossroads Africa: African Engagement in the Making of Early Modernity, Villa I Tatti –The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies, Florence, Italy.
 - also given at the 2nd Medieval Ethiopia Conference, University of Toronto, Canada, October 2019.

April 2019 *Venetian-Ethiopian relations in the very early 15th century*, Crossing Boundaries? Trade and Connections on the Medieval Mediterranean Conference, University of Cambridge, England.

March 2019 *Local Politics, Long-Distance Diplomacy: Solomonic Ethiopia and Latin Christianity in the 15th Century*, 2019 Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Philadelphia, USA.

May 2018 *Venetian Traders in Ethiopia, ca. 1410*, at the international workshop *Liminal Trade: Merchants and Their Markets beyond Geographical and Methodological Boundaries in Africa and across the Atlantic Ocean (1350–1600)*, German Historical Institute, Rome.

March 2018 *The Builder Kings of Ethiopia: Solomonic and Latin Christian Contacts in the Fifteenth Century*, The Renaissance in Africa II, Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, 23.–25. March 2018, New Orleans.

June 2016 *European Religious Material Culture in Medieval Ethiopia, and the Study of History*, Beyond the Written Word Conference at the Hebrew University, 31 May–1 June, Jerusalem.

October 2015 *Bete Israel Monasticism* (mit Sophia Dege-Müller und Bar Kribus), *Der Vordere Orient und die Islamische Welt im Spiegel der Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften. Gemeinsame Jahres- und Fachtagung der Deutschen Arbeitsgemeinschaft Vorderer Orient und der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft*, 24.–26. September 2015, Bochum.

CONFERENCE AND PANEL ORGANIZATION EXPERIENCE (SELECTION)

- 2024 *International Medieval Congress 2024*, University of Leeds, UK, 1–4 July 2024
Seven sessions on ‘Medieval Africa’ (with Solomon Gebreyes, University of Hamburg, Andrea Myers Achi, Metropolitan Museum NYC, Abidemi Babatunde Babalola, British Museum)
— Medieval Ethiopia I, II, III & IV
- 2023 *International Medieval Congress 2023*, University of Leeds, UK, 3–6 July 2023
Seven sessions on ‘Medieval Africa’ (with Felege-Selam Yirga, University of Knoxville, Solomon Gebreyes, University of Hamburg, Andrea Myers Achi, Metropolitan Museum NYC, Abidemi Babatunde Babalola, British Museum)
— Medieval African Networks I, II, III & IV
— Medieval African Entanglements I, II & III
- 2022 *97th Annual Meeting, Medieval Academy of America*, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, 10–13 March 2022
Two panels on ‘Reinventing or Remembering? Memory and Myth of Christian Aksum in Ethiopia between the 12–16th centuries’ (with Felege-Selam Solomon Yirga, University of Tennessee, Knoxville).
- 2021 *International Medieval Congress 2021*, University of Leeds, UK, 5–9 July 2021
Three sessions on ‘Medieval Africa’ (with Adam Simmons, Nottingham, Solomon Gebreyes, University of Hamburg)
— Frontiers and Connections in North-East Africa
— Shaping Medieval Africa, Abroad
— Sovereignty and Kingship in North-East Africa
- 2019 *94th Annual Meeting, Medieval Academy of America*, University of Pennsylvania, USA, 7–9 March 2019
Two panels on ‘Medieval Africa’ (with Sarah M. Guérin, University of Pennsylvania)
— ‘Imbrications: Africa and the World in the Middle Ages’
— ‘Compelling Objects: Approaches to Medieval African Art History’

International Medieval Congress 2019, University of Leeds, UK, 1–4 July 2019
Four sessions on ‘Medieval Africa’ (with Adam Simmons, Lancaster, Solomon Gebreyes, University of Hamburg)
— Medieval Ethiopia, I: Symbolism, Objects, and Depictions in the Solomonic Period
— Material Africa, I: Trade and Production
— Material Africa, II: Remains and Echoes of the Medieval
— Medieval Ethiopia, II: Materiality and Manuscript Studies
- 2018 *International Medieval Congress 2018*, University of Leeds, UK, 2–5 July 2018
Five sessions on ‘Medieval Africa’ (with Adam Simmons, Lancaster, Mesereet Oldjira,

Princeton and Vincent van Gerven Oei, punctum books), sponsored by the Faculty of History, Ruhr-University Bochum

- ‘Reclaiming the Middle Ages for Africa, I: From Nubia to Ethiopia’
- ‘Reclaiming the Middle Ages for Africa, II: Medieval Mali and the Indian Ocean’
- ‘Medieval Ethiopia, I: Muslims and Jews’
- ‘Medieval Ethiopia, II: Christians and Pagans’
- ‘Medieval Ethiopia, III: Religious Material Culture in Ethiopia’

20th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Mekelle University, Ethiopia, 1–5 October 2018

- ‘Trade, Routes and Travel: Ethiopia in the Pre-Modern World’
- ‘Entangled Histories and Traditions: Pre-modern Ethiopia and the World’ (with Wolbert Smidt, Mekelle, and Zara Pogossian, Bochum)

- 2017 *International Medieval Congress 2017*, University of Leeds, UK, 3–6 July 2018
Five sessions on ‘Ethiopia in the Middle Ages’ (with Christof Rolker, Konstanz)
- ‘From Egypt to Ethiopia I: Religious plurality in medieval Ethiopia’
 - ‘Egypt to Ethiopia II: Gospel books and chronicles’
 - ‘Egypt to Ethiopia III: History, archaeology and the mythical Prester John’
 - ‘Egypt to Ethiopia IV: The Red Sea as Center and Periphery’
 - ‘From Egypt to Ethiopia V: Art, religion and apocalypse’
- 2016 *International Conference ‘Beyond the Written Word: Doing History with Non-Traditional Sources’*, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, 31 May – 1 June 2016
Main organiser (with Daphna Oren-Magidor, Jerusalem)
- 2015 *19th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies*, Warsaw University, Poland, 24–28 August
- ‘Untold Ethiopian histories: Finding and filling vexing gaps in the academic record’ (with Felix Girke, Konstanz, full funding for participants acquired)
 - ‘Hidden agents? The role of women in Ethiopian history’ (with Margaux Herman, Debre Birhan, and Sophia Dege-Müller, Hamburg)
- 2012–13 *9th International Conference of the History of Art and Architecture in Ethiopia*, 2–6 September 2013, in Vienna, Austria
Organising Committee and International Conference Committee Member

GENERAL PUBLIC OUTREACH, TV, AND MEDIA APPEARANCES (SELECTION)

- ❖ TV documentary ‘Weltreisen – Felsen des Glaubens’, initially broadcast nationally on ARD (German Public Broadcasting Television) in 2012, 1.5 million viewers, rebroadcast regularly on German public TV (2012–2023).
- ❖ Contributor and advisor to ARD/WDR (German Public Service TV Broadcasters), German and international news outlets, including the [Washington Post](#) (2012–2018) and [Deutsche Welle](#) (2022).

- ❖ Consultant for Swiss National Radio SRF, Programme on '[Pre-modern African History](#)', (2020); radio interview on 'Medieval Ethiopia' for the program 'Past Perfect' at CEU Medieval Radio and Civil Rádió FM98 (2015/2018).
- ❖ Speaking engagements at High Schools in Germany and the UK (2017-2021).
- ❖ Historical advisor for Paradox Interactive's 'Europa Universalis IV — Origins' (2021)
- ❖ '[Kings of Medieval Ethiopia](#)' — Extended Interview on HistoryHit's popular podcast 'Gone Medieval' hosted by Dr. Eleanor Janega (2023)
- ❖ Historical advisor for Etan Comics — African Comics by African Creators (since 2024)

TEACHING

Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany, academic years 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25

In my capacity as W1 professor at Bochum, I have taught in both English and German, in all formats, at BA and MA level, engaging written as well as material culture and visual sources at equal measure throughout (Hauptseminar, Oberseminar, Vorlesung, Übung Methoden und Theorien, Übung für Fortgeschrittene), often partnering with colleagues in adjacent specialisations (American History, Ottoman History) and neighbouring departments (Art History, Archaeology, Literature, Religious Studies).

Undergraduate level courses and seminars

- ❖ 'Transkulturelle Verflechtungen zwischen Mittelmeer und Indischem Ozean im Mittelalter — Transcultural Entanglements between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean in the Middle Ages'
- ❖ 'Der Schwarze Tod im späten Mittelalter — Histories of the Black Death in the Late Middle Ages'
- ❖ 'Ein geschichtsloser Kontinent? Zugänge zu Afrika im Mittelalter — A continent without history? Approaches to Africa in the Middle Ages'
- ❖ 'Sachquellen für Mediävisten — Visual and Material Culture Sources for Medievalists'

Advanced undergraduate courses and graduate level seminars

- ❖ 'Material History of the Sacred: Icons in the extended Mediterranean the late Middle Ages and Early Modern Period'
- ❖ 'Die Seidenstraße des Meeres im Mittelalter — The medieval Maritime Silk Road'
- ❖ 'Jenseits des ,Goldenen Rhinoceros'. Geschichten Afrikas im Mittelalter — Beyond the ,Golden Rhinoceros'. Histories of Africa in the Middle Ages'
- ❖ 'Egypt, Nubia and Ethiopia in the high and late Middle Ages'
- ❖ 'West Afrika, 1000 BCE–1600 CE — West Africa, 1000 BCE-1600 CE'
- ❖ 'Ibn Battuta: Reisen zu den Enden der Welt im 14. Jahrhundert — Ibn Battuta: Travels to the edge of the world in the 14th century'
- ❖ 'Versklavung im Mittelalter — Histories of Enslavement in the Middle Ages'
- ❖ 'Desperately Searching for Prester John. Readings on the History of a Myth'

- ❖ 'Genua, Timbuktu, Aden — Handel zwischen Indien, Afrika und dem Mittelmeer im Mittelalter'
- ❖ 'Äthiopier, Osmanen und Portugiesen: Das Horn von Afrika im Spannungsfeld imperialer Machtpolitik, 14–16. Jahrhundert — Ethiopians, Ottomans and the Portuguese: The Horn of Africa in the Age of Imperial Power Politics, 14-16th Century'
- ❖ 'Elfenbein — Ivory. A History'
- ❖ 'Exkursion nach Äthiopien — 2-week student Field trip to Ethiopia'

Advanced graduate level courses and seminars

- ❖ 'Der Körper der Anderen: Mittelalterliche und Frühneuzeitliche Diskurse über "Rassen", Religionen und Geschlechter — 'Other' Bodies: medieval and early modern discourses on 'race', religion, sex and gender'
- ❖ 'Pandemie! Die Pest im 14. Jahrhundert in globaler Perspektive — Pandemic! Global perspectives on the Black Death in the 14th century'
- ❖ 'Africa/America: Transepochoal Perspectives on the Transatlantic Slave Trade, 1400–1800 — Afrika/Amerika: Transepochoale Perspektiven auf den Transatlantischen Sklavenhandel, 1400–1800'
- ❖ 'Methoden der Geschichtswissenschaft für Mediävisten — Historical Methodology of Medieval Studies'
- ❖ 'Die Kunst Äthopiens — The Art of Ethiopia'

Teaching at International Summer Schools, academic years 2016–2017

- ❖ 'Jews and Christians between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean: Co-existence and Conflict 600–1800 CE' (July 2017), Central European University, Hungary, summer 2017
Co-Instructor and Guest Lecturer at a 10-day summer school on religious interaction aimed at advanced MA and PhD students, responsible for teaching the summer school units on material sources and visual culture.
- ❖ 'Eurasian Religions in Contact (ERiC) Summer School', Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany, summer 2016 and 2017
Guest Lecturer at a 5/10-day summer school on religious interaction aimed at advanced MA and PhD students, teaching units on material and visual culture.

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, academic years 2015–17

- ❖ 'Global Medieval History? Africa and Europe in the Middle Ages' (Spring 2015)
- ❖ 'Medieval History and Material Culture' (Spring 2016)
- ❖ 'Medieval Ethiopia: Religious Encounters' (Spring 2017, with Bar Kribus, M.A.)

LANGUAGES

Fluency

German (native speaker), English

Proficiency

French

Proficient Reading Skills

Latin, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch

Basic-Intermediate Reading Skills

Gə'əz

Basic Reading and Speaking Knowledge

Hebrew, Arabic

Basic Speaking Knowledge

Amharic, Tigrigna