

# W1 Prof. Dr. Verena Krebs, FRHistS

W1 Professorship “Medieval Cultural Realms and their Entanglements”  
Historical Institute, Department of History, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany  
Universitätsstraße 150  
Gebäude GA, 4/136  
44801 Bochum

[Verena.B.Krebs@rub.de](mailto:Verena.B.Krebs@rub.de) <http://www.verenakrebs.com> <http://www.rub.de/realms>

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

---

### Current

- ❖ **W1 / Junior Professor, History Department, Ruhr-University Bochum** (Oct 2017–Sept 2024)
  - Junior Professorship (fixed-term, non-tenure track) “Medieval Cultural Realms and their Entanglements” at the Ruhr-University Bochum.
  - successful mid-appointment review (“Zwischenevaluation”) / *Habilitation*-equivalency in September 2020.
  - on leave for the academic year 2022-23 for a sabbatical at the Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton, USA.
- ❖ **Assistant Executive Director, Centre for Mediterranean Studies (ZMS), Ruhr-University Bochum** (since January 2019)
  - Member of the Board of Directors and Assistant Executive Director of the ZMS, a leading interdisciplinary research centre focussing on research on the Mediterranean in Germany.

### Previous

- ❖ **Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Martin Buber Society of Fellows in the Humanities, Hebrew University of Jerusalem** (Oct 2014–Sept 2017)
  - Post-doctoral 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)
  - Associate research fellow in the project ‘Jews and Christians in the East: Strategies of Interaction between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean (JewsEast)’, funded by the European Research Council, 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), awarded with highest honours (“summa cum laude”)
  - 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). Thesis title: ‘Windows onto the World: Culture Contact and Western Christian Art in Ethiopia, 1400–1550’.

- ❖ **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)
  - awarded with distinction.
- ❖ **Bachelor of Arts (Major: Literature, Art, and Media Studies, Minor: History), University of Konstanz** (Oct 2004–Jul 2007)
  - awarded with distinction.

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Monographs

- ❖ [\*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.

#### **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

#### **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

Anais 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

Andrew Kurt, [Speculum](#) 97.4 (2023): 1218–1221

- ❖ [‘Ethiopia’ and the World, 330–1500](#), co-authored with Dr Yonatan Binyam, UCLA, for Cambridge University Press’ *Global Middle Ages Series* (ed. by Geraldine Heng and Susan Noakes), manuscript submitted.

A handbook conceived as an accessible introduction for non-specialist historians and other interested readers to the history the Ethiopian-Eritrean highland plateau between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries CE.

- ❖ [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 Jan 2022.

This monograph expands on the topics first explored in *Medieval Ethiopian Kingship*. It mines the object histories of dozens of diptychs and triptychs painted in Solomonic Ethiopia, imported icons and even commissions from the Eastern Mediterranean, Flanders, Germany, Northern Italy, and France to tell a larger story about the dispersal and assertion of power in an African Christian kingdom at the turn of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

### PhD Thesis (published on microfiche)

- ❖ Krebs, V. 2018. [‘Windows onto the World: Culture Contact and Western Christian art in Ethiopia, 1402–1543’](#), [Dissertationschrift 2014, Universität Konstanz & Mekelle University]. Konstanz: University of Konstanz KOPS Repository.

### **Journal Articles and Book Contributions**

- ❖ Krebs, V. 2023. '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, in press.
- ❖ Krebs, V. 2023. 'Ethiopian-Italian entanglements in the late Middle Ages', in *Ethiopia at the Crossroads: An Exhibition Catalogue*, ed. Christine Sciacca, Baltimore: The Walters Art Museum Publications, in press.
- ❖ 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 Asserate, 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 Asserate, Dettelbach: H.J. Röhl Verlag 189–227.
- ❖ Krebs, V. 2021. '[Die Plünderung von Mäqdäla](#)', in *Beute. Eine Anthologie zu Kunstraub und Kulturerbe*, ed. by Isabelle Dolezalek, Bénédicte Savoy & Robert Skwirbli, 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. DOI: 10.1017/S0041977X19000697.
- ❖ 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 ʿĪsraʿel \(Ethiopian Jewish\) 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. DOI: 10.13154/er.v6.2018.309-344.

### **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.

### **Contracted Contributions**

- ❖ Krebs, V. and Hewan Solomon Marye. 'Kebra Nagast', in *National Epics*, ed. by David J. Wallace, Oxford: Oxford University Press, to be published 2024.
- ❖ 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, to be published 2024.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

---

- 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      *Förderpreis* for [best PhD thesis completed at University of Konstanz](#) in the academic year 2014/15, awarded by the *Stiftung Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft*
- 2014–16      Fellowship at the [Martin Buber Society of Fellows](#) in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

## ELECTED ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIPS AND COMMITTEES

---

- since 2021      —Fellow of the Royal Historical Society  
—Editorial Board Member of *Zeitschrift für Mittelmeerstudien*.  
—Editorial Board Member of *postmedieval. a journal of medieval cultural studies*.  
—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.

## 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Gondarene-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)*

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 07/2023 | <i>'So, Who Killed the Elephant?' - Tracing African-European Entanglements in the Age of the 'Global Middle Ages'</i> , International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, Keynote Lecture, Leeds, UK. |
| 02/2023 | <i>Becoming Solomon's Heirs: Kingship, Power and the Refashioning of Antiquity in Late Medieval Ethiopia</i> , Medieval Academy of America, Annual Meeting Plenary, Washington, DC.                       |

- 05/2022 *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, XVe – 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*, 11<sup>th</sup> 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)**

- May 2023 *All the King's Men. Italians as Solomonic Ethiopian ambassadors in the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Medieval Ethiopia Conference, University of Toronto, Canada, October 2019.
- April 2019 *Venetian-Ethiopian relations in the very early 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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)

---

- 2023 *International Medieval Congress 2021, 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 *97<sup>th</sup> 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 12-16<sup>th</sup> 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 *94<sup>th</sup> 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’
- 20<sup>th</sup> 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 *19<sup>th</sup> 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 *9<sup>th</sup> 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

## TEACHING (SELECTION)

---

### **Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany, academic years 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/20, 2020/21**

*In my capacity as W1 professor at Bochum, I have taught in English and German, in all formats, at BA and MA level (Hauptseminar, Oberseminar, Vorlesung, Übung Methoden und Theorien, Übung für Fortgeschrittene), often partnering with colleagues in adjacent specialisations (American History, Ottoman History) and neighbouring disciplines (Art History, Archaeology, Literature, Religious Studies).*

- ❖ 'Egypt, Nubia and Ethiopia in the high and late Middle Ages'
- ❖ 'Material History of the Sacred: Icons in the extended Mediterranean the late Middle Ages and Early Modern Period'
- ❖ 'Der Körper der Anderen: Mittelalterliche Diskurse über "Rassen", Religionen und Geschlechter — 'Other' Bodies: medieval discourses on 'race', religion, sex and gender'
- ❖ 'Jenseits des ,Goldenen Rhinoceros'. Geschichten Afrikas im Mittelalter — Beyond the ,Golden Rhinoceros'. Histories of Africa in the Middle Ages'
- ❖ 'Die Seidenstraße des Meeres im Mittelalter — The medieval Maritime Silk Road'
- ❖ 'Pandemie! Die Pest im 14. Jahrhundert in globaler Perspektive — Pandemic! Global perspectives on the Black Death in the 14th century'
- ❖ 'Ibn Battuta: Reisen zu den Enden der Welt im 14. Jahrhundert — Ibn Battuta: Travels to the edge of the world in the 14th century'
- ❖ 'Africa/America: Transepochal Perspectives on the Transatlantic Slave Trade, 1400–1800 — Afrika/Amerika: Transepochale Perspektiven auf den Transatlantischen Sklavenhandel, 1400–1800'
- ❖ 'Desperately Searching for Prester John. Readings on the History of a Myth'
- ❖ 'Transkulturelle Verflechtungen zwischen Mittelmeer und Indischem Ozean im Mittelalter — Transcultural Entanglements between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean in the Middle Ages'
- ❖ 'West Afrika, 1000 BCE–1500 CE'
- ❖ 'Elfenbein — Ivory. A medieval History'
- ❖ 'Exkursion nach Äthiopien — 2-week student Field trip to Ethiopia'
- ❖ 'Äthiopier, Osmanen und Portugiesen: Das Horn von Afrika im Spannungsfeld imperialer Machtpolitik, 14–16. Jahrhundert'

- ❖ 'Genua, Timbuktu, Aden — Handel zwischen Indien, Afrika und dem Mittelmeer im Mittelalter'
- ❖ 'Sachquellen für Mediävisten'
- ❖ 'Ibn Battuta: Reisen zu den Enden der Welt im 14. Jahrhundert'
- ❖ 'Ein geschichtsloser Kontinent? Zugänge zu Afrika im Mittelalter'

### **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.
- ❖ '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.

### **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.)

## **GENERAL PUBLIC OUTREACH, TV, AND MEDIA APPEARANCES**

---

- ❖ 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 (2012–2021).
- ❖ Contributor and advisor to ARD/WDR (German Public Service TV Broadcasters), German and international news outlets, including the [Washington Post](#) (2012-2018).
- ❖ Consultant for Swiss National Radio SRF, Programme on '[Pre-modern African History](#)', (2020).
- ❖ 30-minute 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).

## **LANGUAGES**

---

Fluent in German (native speaker) and English, proficient in French, proficient reading skills in (medieval) Italian, (medieval) Spanish, (medieval) Portuguese and (medieval) Latin; basic-intermediate Arabic; basic reading knowledge of Gə'əz and Hebrew, basic speaking knowledge of Amharic, Tigrigna as well as Modern Hebrew.