

STEPHENNIE MULDER

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DEPARTMENT OF ART AND ART HISTORY | DEPARTMENT OF MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES
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EDUCATION

- June 2008 **Ph.D., History of Art, University of Pennsylvania**
Islamic Art and Architecture
Dissertation Title: "The Architecture of Coexistence: Sunnis, Shi'is, and the Shrines of the 'Alids in the Medieval Levant"
- June 2001 **M.A., Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University**
Thesis Title: "Conceptualizing Islamic Archaeology: The Case of Medieval Molded Ceramics"
- June 1997 **B.A., Anthropology, Middle East Studies minor, University of Utah**

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2015-present **Associate Professor of Art History**
Department of Art and Art History – Department of Middle Eastern Studies, The University of Texas at Austin
Affiliation: Center for Middle Eastern Studies
- 2008-2015 **Assistant Professor of Art History**
Department of Art and Art History – Department of Middle Eastern Studies, The University of Texas at Austin
Affiliation: Center for Middle Eastern Studies
- 2000-2010 **Archaeological Ceramicist**
Princeton University/Syrian Department of Antiquities
Excavations at Balis, Syria

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Books and Edited Volumes

The Shrines of the 'Alids in Medieval Syria: Sunnis, Shi'is, and the Architecture of Coexistence. (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2014; 320 pp).

"Imagining Localities of Antiquity in Islamic Societies," guest editor for special issue, *International Journal of Islamic Architecture* 6:2 (June 2017).

Books in Progress

Ceramics of Balis. A two-volume analytical study of ceramic material from Princeton University's excavations at medieval Balis, Syria, including separate studies on two little-known categories: molded ceramics and Umayyad (early Islamic) ceramics. The study will publish four to five analytical chapters and nearly 1,000 drawings and photographs from my research at medieval Balis, and will be among the first major studies of Islamic unglazed ceramics. (In preparation).

Imagining Localities of Antiquity in Islamic Societies, (an expansion of my IJIA special issue with four additional articles: in progress).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

"Beeshu's Laugh: The Arts of Satire in the Syrian Uprising." *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication*, June 2018 (in press).

"Imagining Localities of Antiquity in Islamic Societies," Editorial essay, *International Journal of Islamic Architecture* 6: 2 (June 2017), 229-254.

"A Survey and Typology of Islamic Molded Ware (9th – 13th centuries) based on the discovery of a Potter's Workshop at Medieval Balis, Syria." *Journal of Islamic Archaeology*, 1.2 (2014), 143-192.

"Abdülhamid and the 'Alids: Ottoman patronage of "Shi'i" shrines in the Cemetery of Bab al-Saghir in Damascus." *Studia Islamica*, 108:16-47 (2013).

"The Mausoleum of Imam al-Shafi'i." *Muqarnas: An Annual on the Visual Culture of the Islamic World*, 23: 15-46 (2006).

Peer-Reviewed Book Articles

"No, People in the Middle East Haven't Been Fighting Since the Beginning of Time." Nina Rowe *et al.*, eds., *Whose Middle Ages? A Reader*. New York: Fordham University Press, (in press).

"Chapter 4: War and Recovery." Bethany Walker, ed.; *Oxford Handbook of Islamic Archaeology*, 30 pp. Oxford: Oxford University Press, (in press).

"Seeing the Light: Enacting the Divine at Three Medieval Syrian Shrines." David Roxburgh, ed., *Envisioning Islamic Architecture: Essays Honoring Renata Holod*. Leiden: Brill, 2014, 89-109.

"Mosques Under the Ayyubids" in *The Cambridge History of World Religious Architecture*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (In press; accepted for publication 2011, publication delayed by press).

"Shrines in the Central Islamic Lands." *The Cambridge History of World Religious Architecture*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 9,500 words (48 pp.). (In press; accepted for publication 2011, publication delayed by press).

“Jar Stoppers, Seals, and Lids.” S.E. Sidebotham – W.Z. Wendrich (eds). *Berenike 1999-2000*. Los Angeles: Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA, 270-284 (2007).

“Trench BE0033.” S.E. Sidebotham – W.Z. Wendrich (eds). *Berenike 1999-2000*. Los Angeles: Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA, 50-54 (2007).

Reviews

Review Essay, *Rivers of Paradise: Water in Islamic Art and Culture*. Edited by Sheila S. Blair and Jonathan M. Bloom. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009). *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 131.4: 646-50 (2011).

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Project title: *The Ceramics of Balis: Toward a Comprehensive Typology of Unglazed Islamic Pottery (in progress)*

Barakat Trust Major Award, 2017-2018

International Research Fellowship, Museum für Islamische Kunst, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, 2017

German Archaeological Institute (DAI) Fellowship for Study in Berlin, 2017

Faculty Research Assignment, College of Fine Arts, The University of Texas at Austin, 2017

George A. Barton Fellowship, Albright Institute for Archaeological Research, (declined), 2008

Project title: *The Shrines of the 'Alids in Medieval Syria: Sunnis, Shi'is and the Architecture of Coexistence (Edinburgh University Press, 2014)*

World Prize for Book of the Year from the Islamic Republic of Iran, 2015

ALA *Choice* Magazine Outstanding Academic Title, 2015

Syrian Studies Association Book Prize, 2015

University of Texas Hamilton Book Award Grand Prize, 2015

John D. Murchison Fellowship in Fine Arts, College of Fine Arts, 2013

University of Texas Co-op Subvention Grant, 2013-2014

Summer Research Assignment, College of Fine Arts, 2013

College Research Fellowship, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, 2011

John D. Murchison Fellowship in Fine Arts, College of Fine Arts, 2010

Summer Research Assignment, College of Fine Arts, 2009

John D. Murchison Fellowship in Fine Arts, College of Fine Arts, 2008

Fulbright-Hays Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education, 2004-2005

Kolb Society of Fellows, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, 2002-present

TEACHING AWARDS

Junior Faculty Fellow, The University of Texas Society for Teaching Excellence, 2014-present

Nominee, Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award, Department of Art and Art History, 2012

Department of Art and Art History Teaching Excellence Award, 2009

Nominee, Friar Centennial Teaching Fellowship, 2008

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations (peer-reviewed)

December 2017 Keynote speaker at International Conference "Material Culture Methods in the Middle Islamic Periods", Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg, University of Bonn, December 7-10, 2017.

November 2017 "Some Remarks on Private and Public Art Crime and Trade in Times of War" Conference The Global Power of Private Museums: Arts and Publics – States and Markets. Forum Kunst und Markt / Centre for Art Market Studies, Institut für Kunstwissenschaft und Historische Urbanistik, Berlin, Nov. 16-18, 2017.

November 2016 "Local or Universal? Imagining Antiquity and its Localities in Islamic Societies." *Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting* [MESA] Nov. 18, 2016, Boston, MA

November 2015 "Cultural Heritage Destruction: Evidence and Emergency Responses in Syria, Iraq, and Libya." Panel discussant. *Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting* [MESA] Nov. 24, 2015, Denver, CO.

February 2015 "Abdulhamid and the 'Alids: Ottoman patronage of Shi'i Shrines in the Cemetery of Bab al-Saghir in Damascus." *College Art Association Annual Conference* New York, February 2015.

- November 2013 “May God be pleased with all the Companions of His Prophet’: Sunni Patronage of Shi’i Shrines in Medieval Aleppo,” *Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting* [MESA], New Orleans, LA.
- July 2013 “Beseech God Almighty on this Land, and I will Bear Witness for You’: Christians, Muslims, and the Generation of Sacred Topography in Medieval Syria,” *Trade, Travel and Transmission in the Medieval Mediterranean*, Churchill College, Cambridge University, UK.
- April 2010 “Seeing the Light: Polyvalent Iconographies at Three Medieval Syrian Shrines,” *British Association of Art Historians Annual Meeting* [AAH], Glasgow, Scotland.
- March 2009 “Shrines of the Prophet’s House: the Role of the ‘Alid Shrines in Medieval Syria’s Sacred Landscape,” *People of the Prophet’s House: Art, Architecture and Shi’ism in the Islamic World*, The British Museum and the Institute of Isma’ili Studies, London, UK.
- November 2007 “Eclectic Ecumenism: Sunnis and Shi’is as Patrons of the ‘Alid Shrines in Damascus,” *Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting* [MESA], Montréal, Quebec.
- November 2007 “Sharing Sanctity: Veneration of the Family of the Prophet as Non-Sectarian Social Praxis,” *Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting* [MESA], Montréal, Quebec. (Panel organizer.)
- April 2007 “On Molds and Markets: What Islamic Molded Ceramics Say about Medieval Trade and Taste,” *Conference for opening of the Jameel Gallery of Islamic Art*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK.
- February 2007 “Reinventing the *ahl al-bayt*: Shi’ite Shrines and Sunni Patrons in Medieval Aleppo,” *College Art Association Annual Conference* [CAA], New York, NY.
- November 2001 “Molded Wares from Medieval Balis, Syria: a New Typology and Diagnostic Tool for Dating Islamic Archaeological Sites,” *Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting* [MESA], San Francisco, CA.

Invited Talks

- May 2018 “Saving the Past for the People: A Critique of the ‘Universal’ Heritage Model.” Victoria & Albert Museum, London, May 3, 2018.
- “Imagining Localities of Antiquity in Islamic Societies.” Image of the Ancient City Research Group, Cambridge University, May 2, 2018.
- “*Bilderfahrzeuge* in the Twittersphere: The Viking “Allah” Saga and the Future of the Image.” The Warburg Institute, London, May 1, 2018.

- March 2018 "Saving the Past for the People: A Critique of the 'Universal' Heritage Model." German Archaeological Institute, Berlin, March 1, 2018.
- April 2017 "Saving Syria's Past: Local Heroes of Wartime Heritage Preservation." UNICEF Benefit, Houston, TX, April 24, 2017.
- November 2016 "The Limits of 'Universal' Heritage: Islam and the Preservation of the Past." Rice University, Houston, TX, Nov. 10, 2016.
- March 2016 "Making ISIS Medieval: Contemporary Responses to the Crisis of Heritage Destruction in Syria and Iraq" Burke Lecture, Indiana University, April 15, 2016.
- February 2016 "A Heritage in Peril: Saving the Past in the Cradle of Civilization." Lecture, Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA, February 24, 2016.
- September 2015 "Medieval Muslims and the Past: Imagining and Embracing Antiquity before ISIS." Conference *Erasing the Past: Da'esh and the Crisis of Antiquities Destruction*, Wellesley College, September 24, 2015.
- February 2015 "Creating an Islamic Holy Land: The Growth of 'Alid shrines in 12th century Syria," Symposium *Religious Boundaries and their Maintenance in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages*, Pomona College, February 20-21, 2015.
- July 2014 "Islamic Miniature Painting" McNay Museum of Art, San Antonio, TX.
- April 2014 "May God be pleased with all the Companions of His Prophet': Christians, Muslims, and the Generation of Sacred Topography in Medieval Syria," invited paper at the conference *Place Memory, Place Politics: Cultural Perspectives on the Local and Locality*, Donald D. Harrington Workshop, Departments of Middle East Studies and Religious Studies, University of Texas at Austin.
- November 2013 "Beeshu's Laugh: The Arts of Satire in the Syrian Uprising," invited paper at symposium "Arts of the Arab World Uprisings," University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
- May 2012 "Sharing in Piety: Sunnis and Shi'is as Patrons of the 'Alid Shrines in Damascus" Conference "Shrines of Ahl al-Bayt: Architecture, Ritual, Representation, and Education," New York University Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
- April 2011 "Word, Image, and Symbol in the Fatimid Architecture of Cairo." Sponsored by His Highness Prince Aga Khan Shia Imami Ismaili Council for the Southwestern United States, Ismaili Jamatkhana and Center, Sugar Land, TX.

- March 2011 “Miniatures for an Epic: 1001 Years of Persian Painting in Ferdowsi’s Shahnameh.” Sponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies in cooperation with His Highness Prince Aga Khan Shia Imami Ismaili Council for the Southwestern United States, University of Texas at Austin.
- November 2010 “Image/Writing? Questioning the Role of Iconography in Islamic Art and Architecture” conference “Where Does the Field of Islamic Art Stand Today?” Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA.
- November 2010 Co-organizer of workshop “Where Does the Field of Islamic Art Stand Today?” Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, organized by myself and Nasser Rabbat, Aga Khan professor of Architecture at MIT.
- November 2009 “Image and Iconography: the case of Medieval Syrian Shrines” Seminar for Late Antiquity, University of Texas at Austin.
- October 2009 “Seeing the Light: Polyvalent Iconographies at Three Medieval Syrian Shrines,” Conference *Seeing the Past-Envisioning Islamic Art and Architecture*, The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.
- May 2009 “A Clay Cup for thy Drink Assign: Medieval Islamic Molded Ceramics,” San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, TX.
- April 2009 “Persian Painting and Shahnameh Illustrations,” Conference Ferdowsi 1000 Years, The University of Texas at Austin.
- April 2008 “On Molds and Markets: What Islamic Molded Ceramics Say about Medieval Trade and Taste,” Archaeological Institute of America, Austin, TX.

Invited Discussant

- November 2015 Panel “Cultural Heritage Destruction: Evidence and Emergency Responses in Syria, Iraq, and Libya.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meetings, November 24, 2015, Denver, CO.
- April 2012 University of North Texas Graduate Student Symposium, “Nature and the Natural in the Middle Ages,” Dallas, TX and Denton, TX.

Invited Fellowship Participant

- 2014-2015 Public Voices Fellowship, The Op-Ed Project: a selective, year-long initiative sponsored by the University of Texas to train women and minority faculty in becoming public intellectuals.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Service to the Profession

- 2017-present Advisory Board member, *The Muslim World in the Age of the Crusades*, a Brill series focused on studying the impact of the Crusades on the Islamic world.
- 2015-2017 Prize Committee, Syrian Studies Association
- 2015-present Editorial Board member, *al-Usur al-Wusta: Journal of the Middle East Medievalists*
- 2015-present Board Member, ASOR's Syrian Heritage Initiative, which aims to catalogue and track losses to Syrian archaeological and heritage sites during the Syrian conflict. Founded by the American Society of Oriental Research (ASOR) with the support of the U.S. Department of State.
- 2014-present Expert Consultant for Islamic Monuments, Safeguarding the Heritage of Syria Initiative, an NSF-funded project to identify and catalog wartime heritage losses in Syria and provide immediate in-country assistance to Syrian archaeologists and museum workers. The project is a joint initiative of the Smithsonian Institution, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the University of Pennsylvania's Cultural Heritage Center.
- 2013-present Peer reviewer for the *International Journal of Islamic Architecture*
- 2010-2013 Board Member, Historians of Islamic Art Association
- 2010-2013 List Serve Editor for H-Islamart (email list serve of the main professional organization in my field, responsible for evaluation, editing, and posting of multiple daily submissions)

Media Interviews, Op-Eds, and Articles

- 2018 "What Can be Done to Protect Cultural Heritage?" *Smarthistory's ARCHES (At Risk Cultural Heritage Education Series)*, March 2018.
- 2018 "Cultural heritage 'in Crisis.'" Co-authored with Debrora Trein. Khan Academy & Smarthistory's *ARCHES (At Risk Cultural Heritage Education Series)*, March 2018.
- 2017 Interview: "Buyer Beware: Looted Antiquities Flood Online Sites Like Amazon, Facebook" *Wall Street Journal*, Nov 1, 2017.
- 2017 "The Rise and Fall of the Viking Allah Textile" *Hyperallergic*, October 27, 2017.
- 2017 Twitter thread debunking the Uppsala University "Viking Allah" textile goes viral. As a result of my thread, major media outlets changed their stories or wrote new ones: including The Guardian, The Independent, The Atlantic, National Geographic, Gizmodo, ArtNet. October 16, 2017.

- 2017 "Understanding Mosul's Rich History and What IS Destroyed" op-ed in *The Conversation*, September 2017.
- 2016 "Shrines for Saints and Sultans: On the destruction of local heritage sites by ISIS" *Archaeology Today* (Turkish popular archaeology magazine), June 2016.
- 2016 "That Wasn't a Maya Lost City, Just Another Example of the Culture of Hype." Op-ed, *Los Angeles Times*, May 20, 2016.
- 2016 "Museum of Lost Objects." BBC Radio 4, March 2016. Consulting scholar.
- 2016 "ISIS in Context." KUT Views and Brews at the Cactus Café, March 29, 2016.
- 2015 "Subverting the Script: 'Homeland' Graffiti Artists Use Same Techniques as Native Americans." Op-ed co-written with Erika Bsumek, *Huffington Post*, Oct. 26, 2015.
- 2015 "Islamic State Temple Destruction: 'Palmyra Represents Everything ISIS Would Like To Destroy'" *International Business Times* Interview, August 27, 2015.
- 2015 "Destruction of the Temple of Baal Shamin at Palmyra, Syria." *Al-Jazeera English* Interview, April 2015.
- 2015 "ISIS Takeover of Palmyra." *BBC Radio 4 News* Interview, April 15, 2015
- 2015 "Act of propaganda, heritage terror: ISIS destroying artifacts to show mastery of past." RT Television News Interview, March 26, 2015
- 2015 "Extremism at Home: Duke's Muslim Call to Prayer Reversal was a Victory for American Intolerance." Op-Ed for *US News and World Report*, Jan. 21, 2015.
- 2014 "The blood antiquities funding ISIL: Sale of Antiquities Now Being Formally Taxed by Group, and Constitutes Reliable Revenue Stream after Oil" Op-Ed for *al-Jazeera*, Nov. 12, 2014.
- 2014 "The Secret History of the Middle East." Op-ed for *US News and World Report*, Oct. 1, 2014.
- 2014 "Carved in Stone: What Architecture can Tell Us about the Sectarian History of Islam," article and interview for NOT EVEN PAST, the University of Texas at Austin's public history project, <https://notevenpast.org/carved-in-stone-what-architecture-can-tell-us-about-the-sectarian-history-of-islam/>
- 2012 "Dear Syria, Save Damascus' Old City," interview by Graeme Wood for *The New Republic* <http://www.newrepublic.com/article/111210/dear-syria-save-damascus-old-city>

2006 “Shi’ites and Shi’ism in Medieval Syria,” article on *Syria Comment*, the premier blog on Syrian politics and history, invited by Syria expert Joshua Landis.

<http://www.joshualandis.com/blog/shi%E2%80%99ites-and-shi%E2%80%99ism-in-medieval-syria-by-stephennie-mulder/>

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Archaeological Institute of America [AIA]

Syrian Studies Association [SSA]

College Art Association [CAA]

Historians of Islamic Art Association [HIAA]

Middle East Studies Association [MESA]

Middle East Medievalists [MEM]

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

Arabic: speaking – advanced, reading – advanced

French: speaking – intermediate, reading – advanced

German: speaking – beginner, reading – low intermediate