Alexandra Montero Peters

Curriculum Vitae

Department of History, Northwestern University | Harris 104, 1881 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60208
ampeters@northwestern.edu

Academic Appointments

Northwestern University
Assistant Professor of History 2025-present
Affiliated Faculty, Middle East North Africa Program

Texas State University
Assistant Professor of History 2023-2025

Bowdoin College
Visiting Assistant Professor of History 2022-2023

Education

The University of Chicago
Ph.D. in History with distinction 2022

Dissertation: "Representations of Power: Alfonso X, the *Book of Games*, and the Islamic Tradition"
Committee: David Nirenberg (chair), Jonathan Lyon, and Laura Fernández Fernández (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

Exam Fields: Medieval Iberia with David Nirenberg, Islamic Origins with Fred Donner, Renaissance Italy with Ada Palmer

The University of Chicago
M.A. in History 2016

The University of Chicago
Bachelor of Arts in History and Medieval Studies with honors 2014

Non-Degree Programs
Middlebury Summer Language Immersion in high intermediate Arabic, 2016.
Erasmus+ student and researcher in Art History at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, spring 2019.
Art course on medieval illumination techniques in Paris, summer 2025.

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

Contributing researcher, Libros y mapas medievales en la esfera cultural contemporánea: recortes, exposiciones y facsimiles/Medieval Books and Maps in the Contemporary Cultural Sphere: Cuttings, Exhibitions and Facsimiles (LIMAREF). Financed by the EU, the Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades, and the Agencia Estatal de Investigación, Spain. 2026-2030.

Research Enhancement Program, *Texas State University* Fall 2024
Inclusivity & Diversity Travel Grant, *Medieval Academy of America* Winter 2024
Edwards Memorial Travel Award, *International Congress on Medieval Studies* Fall 2023
RaceB4Race Mentorship Network 2023-2024 cohort

Faculty Development Committee grant, *Bowdoin College*	Spring 2023
AAUW American Dissertation Fellowship	Academic year 2021-2022
CAS Graduate Student Research Grant, *The University of Chicago*	Spring 2021
Graduate Studies Innovation Grant, *The University of Chicago*	Autumn 2020
Erasmus+ Scholarship, *Universidad Complutense de Madrid*	Spring 2019
Graduate Student Enhancement Grant, *SSRC-Mellon Mays*	Summer 2018
Cochrane Travel Grant, *The University of Chicago*	Summer 2018
Predoctoral Research Development Grant, *SSRC-Mellon Mays*	Winter 2017
FLAS Summer Language Grant for Arabic	Summer 2016
Phi Beta Kappa	Inducted Spring 2014
St. Margaret of Scotland Prize for best B.A. on a medieval topic	Spring 2014
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, *University of Chicago*	Spring 2012

Publications

Peer-Reviewed:

Peters, Alexandra Montero. "Race, Chess, and Thirteenth-Century Court Culture in the Western Mediterranean." *Medieval Encounters* 32, no. 3 (2026): 240-292. https://doi.org/10.1163/15700674-12340247.

Fernández Fernández, Laura and Alexandra Montero Peters. "Esos curiosos jugadores de ajedrez en Sevilla. Mongoles en la corte del rey sabio." In *Mongoles en el Oeste. Noticias de la integración euroasiática en los reinos ibéricos,* edited by Antonio Garcia Espada and Bruno de Nicola, pp. 188–225. Brill, 2025. https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004747807_009.

Book Reviews:

Peters, Alexandra Montero. Review of *Visual Histories from Medieval Iberia: Arts and Ambivalence* by Jerrilynn Dodds. *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* 178, no. 1 (2025): 191-193. https://doi.org/10.1080/00681288.2025.2533561.

Public Scholarship:

"*Cantigas de Santa María*," a contribution to the Teaching Medieval Slavery and Captivity website. Published online February 19, 2025. Link.

Under Review:

Chapter contribution to an edited volume entitled, "Arabic-to-Castilian Translation in the Thirteenth Century: Abū ʿUbayd al-Bakrī, His *Kitāb al-Masālik wa-l-Mamālik*, and the *General estoria* of Alfonso X the Learned of Castile."

In Preparation:

Monograph entitled *Representations of Power: Alfonso X, the* Book of Games*, and the Islamic Tradition.*

Article entitled, "Imagining India, Imagining Race: Arabic Geographies and Castilian Histories as Sources for Medieval Muslim-Christian Intellectual Exchange." Projected submission 2028.

Chapter contribution to an edited volume entitled, "White Indians or Black Indians? Tensions between Text and Image in Medieval Castilian Manuscripts." Projected submission 2027.

Chapter contribution to an edited volume entitled, "The Spanish Forger and Medievalism in Europe and the United States: Three Miniatures from the Northwestern University Special

Collections Library." Projected submission 2027.

Historical simulation manual (short monograph length) for 25+ students, tentatively entitled *A Succession Crisis in the Medieval Mediterranean*.

Selected Conference Papers and Talks

Invited Talks

January 22-23, 2027
"Futures: A RaceB4Race Symposium," Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, ASU.
Invited participant

November 21, 2026
"Thinking with Medieval Images," the Index of Medieval Art, Princeton University.
Invited paper: "Blackness, Race, and the Medievalist's Challenge: Case Studies from the *Scriptorium* of Alfonso X."

October 22, 2026
Grambling State University
Invited talk: "Race, Chess, and Thirteenth-Century Court Culture in the Western Mediterranean."

October 8-10, 2026
Rice University, "Across Two Seas: Black Lives and Visual, Literary, and Archival Histories in the Medieval to Early Modern Mediterranean and Indian Ocean."
Invited paper: "White Indians or Black Indians? Tensions between Text and Image in Medieval Castilian Manuscripts."

October 30, 2025
Amherst College
Invited talk: "Race, Chess, and Thirteenth-Century Court Culture in the Western Mediterranean."

April 12-13, 2025
"Muslim-Christian Interaction in the Later Medieval Mediterranean," Waseda University, Tokyo.
Invited paper: "A Muslim Authority on Kingship in a Christian Royal Court: Al-Bakrī, His *Kitāb al-Masālik wa'l-Mamālik*, and a Castilian History of the World."

November 5, 2024
"Race in the Medieval Mediterranean," part of *The Medieval Mediterranean: Local and Global Perspectives* webinar series, sponsored by the Society of the Medieval Mediterranean, Woolf Institute (Cambridge), IMF-CSIC (Barcelona), Medieval Studies Research Group at the University of Lincoln, Henri Pirenne Institute for Medieval Studies (Universities of Ghent), and the Universities of Liege, Exeter and Edinburgh.
Invited organizer and presenter of a panel discussion on the webinar topic. Link.

May 16-18, 2023
"Mongoles en el Oeste. Noticias de la integración euroasiática en los reinos ibéricos," CSIC, Madrid.
Invited paper with Dr. Laura Fernández Fernández (UCM): "Esos curiosos jugadores de ajedrez en Sevilla. La escena del folio 20v del *Libro del axedrez, dados e tablas* (RBME T-1-6)."

March 28, 2022
History Department, Bowdoin College
Invited talk: "Representations of Power: Alfonso X, the *Book of Games*, and the Islamic Tradition."

November 22-24, 2021

Alfonso X y el poder de la literature. Congreso internacional at the University of Salamanca, Spain
Invited paper: "Las *qiyān* en el *Libro de los juegos* de Alfonso X: una conexión con las cortes islámicas."

Conference Papers

June 22-25, 2026
9th International Conference of the Society for the Medieval Mediterranean, Lisbon
Paper delivered: "Representing Power through Diversity: Muslims, Christians, Mongols, and Indians in Alfonso X's *Book of Games*."

March 19-21, 2026
101st Annual Meeting, Medieval Academy of America, UMass Amherst and Amherst College
Paper delivered: "Race, Women Entertainers, and the Mediterranean Context of Alfonso X el Sabio's *Book of Games.*"

February 27-March 1, 2026
Boundaries, Crossings, and Crossroads in the Medieval Iberian Worlds (500-1600), Fordham University
Paper delivered: "Crafting Race in Castilian Histories and Arabic Geographies of India: A Study of Intellectual Exchange in the Medieval Mediterranean."

March 20-22, 2025
100th Annual Meeting, Medieval Academy of America, Harvard University
Paper delivered: "Arabic Geographies and a Thirteenth-century Castilian History of the World: Reading al-Bakrī's *Kitāb al-Masālik wa-l-Mamālik* to Understand Alfonso X's *General estoria*."

January 31-February 1, 2025
Texas Medieval Association 34th Annual Conference, University of Texas at Austin
Paper delivered: "Imagining India, Imagining Race: Arabic Geographies and Castilian Histories as Sources for Medieval Muslim-Christian Intellectual Exchange."

December 6-7, 2024
Emerging Scholars in Premodern Critical Race Studies Virtual Symposium, Newberry Library
Paper delivered: "A New Approach to Reading and Seeing Black Characters in the Text and Illuminations of Castilian Manuscripts." Link.

June 24-27, 2024
8th International Conference of the Society for the Medieval Mediterranean, University of Edinburgh
Paper delivered: "*Qiyān,* Courtly Prestige, and Muslim-Christian Exchange: Reexamining Women and Race in the *Libro de los juegos* (RBME Ms. T-I-6) of Alfonso X *el Sabio.*"

May 9-11, 2024
59th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University
Paper delivered to sponsored session *Global Culture*: "Chess, Power, Race, and Thirteenth-Century Court Culture in the Western Mediterranean." **Awarded the Archibald Cason Edwards, Senior, and Sarah Stanley Gordon Edwards Memorial Travel Award.*
Presided over the panel "Holy Iberians: Holy People and Hagiography in Medieval Iberia."

March 14-16, 2024
99th Annual Meeting, Medieval Academy of America, University of Notre Dame
Paper delivered: "Imagining India, Imagining Race: Arabic Geographies and Castilian Histories as Sources for Medieval Muslim-Christian Intellectual Exchange." **Awarded the Inclusivity & Diversity Travel Grant for an accepted presentation on the study of diversity and inclusivity in the Middle Ages.*

September 23, 2023
Texas Medieval Association 33rd Annual Conference, Southern Methodist University

Paper delivered: "The *Qiyān* in the *Libro de los juegos* (RBME Ms. T-I-6) of Alfonso X *el Sabio*: Castilian Connections with Muslim Courts in the Thirteenth Century."

June 12-14, 2023
Saint Louis Conference on Manuscript Studies, part of the Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, St. Louis University
Paper delivered: "North Africa and its Peoples in the Book of Games by Alfonso X: Reimagining Thirteenth-Century Court Culture in the Western Mediterranean."

May 15, 2021
International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University
Paper delivered, "Bangles, Lutes, and Chess: The Muslim Women of the *Libro de los juegos* and the Representation of Wise Kingship."

November 9, 2018
Jornada Alfonsí: Reflexiones en torno a Alfonso X el Sabio, the UNAM, México
Paper delivered, "Las representaciones de los musulmanes en la obra alfonsí."

Workshops

October 22, 2025
Northwestern University, Medieval Colloquium
Paper delivered: "Crafting Race in Arabic Geographies and Castilian Histories of India: A Study of Intellectual Exchange in the Medieval Mediterranean."

January 18, 2023
Bowdoin College, Medieval and Early Modern Faculty
Paper delivered: "Race, Chess, and Thirteenth-century Court Culture in the Western Mediterranean."

March 4, 2022
The Islamic Studies Workshop, The University of Chicago
Paper delivered: "The Wisdom of Kings: India, Games, Race, and the Alfonsine Definition of Wisdom."

January 26, 2022
Early Modern and Mediterranean Worlds Workshop, The University of Chicago
Paper delivered: "In the Defense of Games: Comparing the Islamic Tradition on Leisure to the *Book of Games* of Alfonso X of Castile."

May 30, 2014
The Medieval Studies Workshop at the University of Chicago, B.A. Theses Presentations
Paper delivered: "Evolution through Edits, Erasures, and Emendations: Alfonso X, the *Estoria de Espanna* Manuscripts, and the Creation of a Political Ideology in Thirteenth-century Castile-León."

Public Engagement

February 17, 2026
Invited lecture to the Lake Forest Academy freshman class on "The Art of the Medieval Book: Manuscripts, Their Scribes, and Their Patrons."

February 2022 (Recorded May 2021)
Medievalists.net Graduate Student Podcast invited interview: "Medieval Chess: Alfonso X's Book of Games." Link.

Teaching Fields and Experience

Fields

Medieval Mediterranean	Medieval and Early Modern Iberia	Premodern Race
Early Islamic History	The Craft of Historical Research	Renaissance Italy
Intellectual History	Manuscript Studies (Codicology)	Muslim-Christian-Jewish Relations

Courses Taught at Northwestern

"Europe in the Medieval and Early Modern World": A'25, W'27
"Thieves and Collectors: Medieval Objects in Modern Hands": W'26
"From Marrakesh to Madrid: Spain and North Africa, 700-1600": W'26
"Spain of the Three Religions: Muslims, Jews, and Christians in Medieval Iberia": S'27
"'Here Be Dragons': Medieval Travel": W'27
"Rulers of the Medieval World: Queens, Emperors, and Caliphs": S'27

Syllabi in Development:

Introductory class: "Medieval Manuscripts, Scribes, and Translators"
Upper-level seminar: "The Middle Ages through Art and Object"
Graduate seminars: "Race and Race Craft before 1650"; "Medieval Field Seminar"

Courses Taught at Other Institutions

Texas State University (2023-2025):

"Reframing Medieval Power: Rulers of the Mediterranean World"; "Spain of the Three Religions: Muslims, Jews, and Christians in Premodern Iberia"; "Race in the Middle Ages: Exclusion and Belonging in the Mediterranean"; "Problems in Historical Research" (graduate-level independent studies); "Western Civilization to 1715"

Bowdoin College (2022-2023):

"Race Before Modernity"; "Reframing Medieval Power: Rulers of the Mediterranean World"; "Medieval Europe: 500-1500"; "Spain of the Three Religions"

University of Chicago (2018-2021):

Preceptor and Instructor: "MMUF Summer Research Training Program"
Teaching Assistant: "The Italian Renaissance"; "Dracula: History and Legend"; "Censorship, Information Control & Revolutions in Information Technology from the Printing Press to the Internet"; "History of Skepticism"; "King Arthur in Legend and History"

University Service

At Northwestern University:

2026: Winter Quarter Afternoon Advisor, History Department
2026: Co-organizer, spring Boyce Lecture, History Department
2026: Organizer, spring facsimile event for medieval faculty at the library with vendor

At Texas State University:

2023-2025: Member, Library Committee
2025: Director, Medieval and Renaissance Studies Minor

Professional Service

2026-8: Member, Advocacy Committee, Medieval Academy of America
2026: Invited participant, "Academic Job Market Roundtable: Reflections and Advice from Medievalists," organized by the Society for Medieval Feminist Studies and Medievalists of Color

Article and book manuscript reviewer/referee for the following:
Al-Masāq: Journal of the Medieval Mediterranean
Brepols Publishers
Springer Nature
Instituto de Investigaciones Históricos-UNAM Press
Hispanic Review
Postmedieval: A Journal of Cultural Studies
Digital Philology: A Journal of Medieval Cultures
Journal of the British Archaeological Association
Public Humanities

Selected Employment History

June 2017-June 2018
Medieval Studies Workshop Coordinator, *University of Chicago*

Aug. 2014-June 2015
Communications Assistant, *The Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, University of Chicago*

Languages

Spanish: near-native fluency, heritage speaker

Research languages: Modern Standard and Classical Arabic, Latin, Portuguese, Catalan, French, Italian

Professional Affiliations

Medieval Academy of America
International Center of Medieval Art
American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain
Society for Iberian Global Art
Medievalists of Color
Mediterranean Seminar
Spain-North Africa Project