

Christian Raffensperger

Associate Professor of History, Wittenberg University
Associate, Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute
Series Editor – Beyond Medieval Europe
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Education

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
MA, Russian History, July 2002
PhD, August 2006 (Defended with Distinction, June 12, 2006)

Bates College, Lewiston, ME
BA, History, May 1998
Secondary Concentration: Russian Language

Teaching Experience

Wittenberg University

Associate Professor, and tenured, 2013–present

Assistant Professor, 2008–2013

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2007–2008

Courses taught: Premodern and Modern World History, Medieval Europe, Premodern and Ancient World Studies Capstone Seminar, The Viking World, Byzantium: The Mediterranean World, Visions of Byzantium, Medieval Europe on Film, Medieval Eastern Europe, Eurasian Nomads in the Ancient and Medieval World, Conversion in Medieval History, Medieval Russia, Soviet Russia, Russian History to 1796 and from 1796, Russian Revolution, Senior Seminar, Russian and Central Eurasian Studies Capstone Seminar

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2006–2007

Courses taught: Medieval European History, World Civilization to 1500, The Viking World, Graduate Directed Readings Course: The Making of Europe, Graduate Directed Readings Course: Russian/Soviet Leaders, Russian History to 1796 and from 1796

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

Reimagining Europe: Kievan Rus' in the Medieval World, 988–1146 (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2012).

Winner – 2013 Ohio Academy of History Publication Award

Ties of Kinship: Genealogy and Dynastic Marriage in Kyivan Rus' (Cambridge: Mass.: Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute Publications, 2016).

This project has parallel Digital Humanities components which may be viewed at genealogy.obdurodon.org.

The mapping portion of the project (funded by the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute and completed in collaboration with the Harvard Center for Geographical Analysis) is located at: gis.huri.harvard.edu

The Kingdom of Rus: A Modern Revision to Medieval Europe (Kalamazoo, Mich.: ARC Humanities Press, [Forthcoming 2017])

'Death by an unknown hand: Kinship, Identity, and Conflict in Medieval Eastern Europe (in process)

Political Culture in the Arc of Medieval Europe, 1000-1300 (under development)

Edited Volumes

Co-Editor with Donald Ostrowski, *Portraits of Medieval Eastern Europe, 800-1300* (Routledge [anticipated publication in 2017])

Co-Editor with Valentina Pichugina, *Twentieth Anniversary Volume – Midwest Medieval Slavic Workshop in Russian History/Histoire Russe* (2017) [in process]

Consulting Editor – Mykhailo Hrushevsky, *History of Ukraine-Rus': Volume 2, From the Eleventh to the Thirteenth Century*: trans. J. Ian Press; ed.: Paul Hollingsworth and Christian A. Raffensperger, with Tania Plawuszczyk-Stech/Marko Stech/ Uliana Pasicznyk (*tentative*). (Toronto: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press, [Forthcoming – 2017])

Consultant – Mykhailo Hrushevsky, *History of Ukraine-Rus': Volume 3, To the Year 1340*: trans. Bohdan Strumiński; ed. Robert Romanchuk, with Uliana Pasicznyk (and Marta Horban-Carynyk). (Toronto: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press, 2016)

Editor, *Festschrift in Honor of Norman W. Ingham* in *Russian History/Histoire Russe* 33:2–4 (2006). Contributed the introduction and bibliography.

Articles and Book Chapters

“Conflict and Coexistence: Kyivan Rus’ and Europe” in *Research Companion to Medieval Eastern Europe* (in process)

“Reimagining Europe: An Outsider Looks at the Medieval East-West Divide” in *Forgotten Regions* [volume under review]

“Volodimer the Bold” in *Twentieth Anniversary Volume – Midwest Medieval Slavic Workshop in Russian History/Histoire Russe* (2017) [in process]

“Iziaslav Iaroslavich’s Excellent Adventure: Constructing Kinship to Gain and Regain Power in Eleventh-Century Europe” *Medieval Prosopography* 30 (2015), 1-30.

“Identity in Flux: Finding Boris Kolomanovich in the Interstices of Medieval European History” *The Medieval Globe* 2:1 (2016), 15-39.

“Reimagining Europe: Discussing Rus’ in a Wider Context” in “Forum on Reimagining Europe: Kievan Rus’ in the Medieval World” *Russian History* 42:2 (2015), 204-216.

“The Place of Rus’ in Medieval Europe” *History Compass* 12:11, 853-865 (November, 2014)

“Mia syntome istoria tou kratous ton Ros [A brief history of the kingdom of Rus],” in P. Sophoulis and A. Papageorgiou (eds), *Mesaionikos slavikos kosmos* (Herodotus: Athens 2014), 213–248.

“The Missing Russian Women: The Case of Evpraksia Vsevolodovna.” In *Putting Together the Fragments: Writing Medieval Women’s Lives*. Ed. Amy Livingstone and Charlotte Newman Goldy (New York: Palgrave, 2012), 69–84.

“Mapping History: Using Technology to Showcase Medieval Familial Interconnectivity.” With David J. Birnbaum. Festschrift in Honor of Orysia Karapinka in *Russian History/Histoire Russe* 37:4 (2010), 305–21.

“Dynastic Marriage in Action: How Two Russian Princesses Changed Scandinavia” In *Imenoslov: Istoriiia iazyka. Istoriiia kul’tury*: 193–205. Ed. F. B. Uspenskij Moscow: Aleteja, 2010.

“Shared (Hi)Stories: Vladimir of Rus’ and Harald Fairhair of Norway” *Russian Review* 68:4 (2009), 569–82.

“Rurik and the First Rurikids,” with Norman W. Ingham. *The American Genealogist* 82:1 (2007), 1–13 (part 1); 82:2 (2007), 111–19 (part 2).

“Russian Economic and Marital Policy: An Initial Analysis of Correlations.” Festschrift in Honor of Richard Hellie in *Russian History/Histoire Russe* 34:1–4 (2007), 149–59.

“Russian Influence on European Onomastic Traditions.” In *Imenoslov: Istoricheskaia semantika imeni*. F. B. Uspenskii, ed. (Moscow: Indrik, 2007), 116–34.

“Revisiting the Idea of the Byzantine Commonwealth.” *Byzantinische Forschungen* 28 (2004), 159–74.

“Evpraksia Vsevolodovna between East and West.” *Russian History/Histoire Russe* 30:1–2 (2003), 23–34.

News Analysis

“Were Dutch Voters Right to Reject Ukraine’s EU Bid? Ukraine has been part of Europe for nearly a millennium” *Washington Post*: Monkey Cage. 4/7/2016

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/04/07/were-dutch-voters-right-to-reject-ukraines-e-u-bid-ukraine-has-been-part-of-europe-for-nearly-a-millennium/>

Encyclopedia Entries

“Russo-Byzantine Treaty of 944,” *Encyclopedia of Diplomacy*. Ed. Gordon Martel (Wiley Blackwell, 2016 [Forthcoming])

“The Byzantinized States of Eastern Europe,” *The World History Encyclopedia*. Ed. Alfred Andrea (ABC-CLIO, 2010)

“Alexander Nevsky,” *The World History Encyclopedia*. Ed. Alfred Andrea (ABC-CLIO, 2010)

“The Last of the Macedonians,” *The World History Encyclopedia*. Ed. Alfred Andrea (ABC-CLIO, 2010)

“Gender and Politics in Byzantium (1000–1500),” *The World History Encyclopedia*. Ed. Alfred Andrea (ABC-CLIO, 2010)

Book Reviews

The Medieval Review 16.06.12 (2016), Selart, Anti. *Livonia, Rus' and the Baltic Crusades in the Thirteenth Century*. Transl. Fiona Robb. (East Central Europe and Eastern Europe in the Middle Ages, 450-1450.) Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2015.

Speculum 90:3 (2015), Berend, Nora, Przemysław Urbańczyk, and Przemysław Wiszewski. *Central Europe in the High Middle Ages: Bohemia, Hungary and Poland, c. 900-1300*. (Cambridge Medieval Textbooks.) Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2013.

Russian Review 73:3 (April 2014), White, Monica. *Military Saints in Byzantium and Rus', 900-1200*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013.

Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas; jgo.e-reviews 3 (2013), A.F. Litvina and F. B. Uspenskii, *Traektorii Traditsii: Glavy iz istorii dinastii i tserkvi na Rusi kontsa XI-nachala XIII veka* (Moscow: Iazyki slavianskoi kul'tury, 2010).

Canadian American Slavonic Studies (forthcoming), "The Book of Royal Degrees" and the Genesis of Russian Historical Consciousness. UCLA Slavic Studies, New Series, Volume VII. Edited by Gail Lenhoff and Ann Kleimola. Bloomington, Ind.: Slavica, 2011.

Slavonica 19:1 (2013), Bulat Rakhimzianov. *Kasimovskoe kbanstvo (1445-1552 gg.): Ocherki istorii*. (Kazan: Tatarskoe knizhnoe izdatel'stvo, 2009).

Russian Review 71:1 (2012), Donald Ostrowski and Marshall Poe, eds. *Portraits of Old Russia: Imagined Lives of Ordinary People, 1300–1725*. (Armonk, NY: M. E. Sharpe, 2011).

Speculum 87:2 (2012), Jiří Macháček. *The Rise of Medieval Towns and States in East Central Europe: Early Medieval Centres as Social and Economic Systems*. Trans. Miloš Bartoň. (Leiden, Boston: Brill, 2010).

Speculum 87:1 (2012). Robert Romanchuk. *Byzantine Hermeneutics and Pedagogy in the Russian North: Monks and Masters at the Kirillo-Beložerskii Monastery, 1397–1501*. (Toronto; Buffalo, N.Y.; and London: University of Toronto Press, 2007)

The Medieval Review 11.06.35 (2011), Przemysław Wiszewski. *Domus Bolesłai: Values and Social Identity in Dynastic Traditions of Medieval Poland (c. 966-1138)*. (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2010).

Russian Review 67:1 (2008). Kevin Alan Brook. *The Jews of Khazaria*. (Lanham, Md.: Rowman and Littlefield, 2006)

Canadian Journal of History 42:2 (2007). Florin Curta. *Southeastern Europe in the Middle Age, 500–1250*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006)

Social History 32:4 (2007). Serhii Plokhy. *The Origins of the Slavic Nations, Premodern Identities in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006)

Canadian Slavonic Papers XLVI:3–4 (2004). Martin Dimnik. *The Dynasty of Chernigov, 1146–1246*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003)

Conferences Organized

"Portraits of Medieval Eastern Europe" [co-organized with Donald Ostrowski]
Harvard University, April 8, 2016

Sponsored by: the Committee on Medieval Studies, the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, the Early Slavists Seminar, the Early Slavic Studies Association, and the Harvard Extension School

Awards and Fellowships

Faculty Project Grant – Wittenberg University – 2015
Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute – Funding for Digital Mapping Project (part of the online Russian Genealogy at genealogy.obdurodon.org and the Mapa project at gis.huri.harvard.edu), in collaboration with the Harvard Center for Geographical Analysis
Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute – Eugene and Daymel Shklar Research Fellowship in Ukrainian Studies – 2013
2013 Publication Award (for *Reimagining Europe*) – Ohio Academy of History
Faculty Research Award – Wittenberg University – 2013
Southwestern Ohio Conference on Higher Education Excellence in Teaching Award – 2012
Omicron Delta Kappa Award for Outstanding Teaching – Wittenberg University, 2012
New Course Grant (Medieval Russia)—Wittenberg University, 2012
New Course Grant (Conversion in Medieval History)—Wittenberg University, 2010
New Course Grant (Medieval Eastern Europe) —Wittenberg University, 2008
Course Revision Grant (Russian History to 1796) —Wittenberg University, 2008
Professional Enrichment Grants—Wittenberg University, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015
Charles and Mary Caldwell Martin Grant—University of Nebraska at Omaha, May 2007
Division of Arts and Sciences Travel Fellowship—University of Chicago, November 2006
Doolittle-Harrison Fellowship—University of Chicago, November 2005
Mellon Foundation Dissertation-Year Fellowship, 2005–2006
Kunstadter Travel Grant—University of Chicago, February 2005
Dumbarton Oaks Short Term Residency Program, June 2004
Doolittle-Harrison Fellowship—University of Chicago, February 2004
University of Chicago predissertation research grant for archival research in Russia, Summer 2003
Title VI (FLAS) Fellowship, 2002–2005

Invited Lectures

“Ties of Kinship and Mapping Medieval Marriage”
Harvard University – sponsored by the Ukrainian Research Institute and Early Slavists’ Seminar, October 31, 2016

“Friends, Enemies, Kin: Constructing Kinship Webs and Situational Kinship Networks in Medieval Eastern Europe”
Cambridge University – Cambridge Center for Slavonic and East European Studies, October 25, 2016

“Kinship Networks in Action”
The Ohio State University Medieval History Seminar, September 28, 2016

“Reimagining Europe: An Outsider Looks at the Medieval East-West Divide”
Investing in the Past: Medieval Europe in the Globalized 21st Century
Sarajevo, September 9–11, 2015

“Kinship, Identity, and Conflict in Medieval Eastern Europe”
University of Michigan Russian History Workshop, January 22, 2015

“Iaroslav Sviatopolchich versus Volodimer Monomakh: Civil War, Invasion, Rebellion, or Negotiation”

Древняя Русь и германский мир в историко-филологической перспективе (Rus' and the Germanic World in Historica-Filological Perspective), Institute of Higher Economics and Russian Academy of Sciences, June 9-10, 2014

Reimagining Europe: Kievan Rus' in the Medieval World by Christian A. Raffensperger (Book Panel featuring the 2013 Ohio Academy of History Publication Award Winner)

Ohio Academy of History, The Ohio State University, April 5, 2014

Adam Davis, Denison University

Anthony Kaldellis, The Ohio State University

Stephen Norris, Miami University

Christian A. Raffensperger, Wittenberg University

Chair: Mary Ann Heiss, Kent State University

“The Forgotten Kingdom of Rus’: A Modern Revision to the Titulature of Medieval Rus’”

Harvard Early Slavists’ Seminar, Harvard University, February 21, 2014

“What is a Riurikid? Situational Kinship and Identity in Medieval Eastern Europe”

Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute Seminar Series, February 3, 2014

“Grant me a death by an unknown hand:’ Kinship and Death among the Volodimerovichi”

Harvard Early Slavists’ Seminar, Harvard University, October 11, 2013

“Who’s Afraid of Macrohistory? The Joys and Pains of Crossing Traditional Boundaries in History Research and Writing”

The Medieval Globe Symposium, University of Illinois, April 12–14, 2012

“Imagining a Larger Medieval Europe: The Unknown Kingdom of Rus’”

Speaker Series, Western Michigan University, March 29, 2012

“Marriage, Family Politics, and Identity in Medieval Eastern Europe”

Early Slavists Seminar at Harvard University, November 12, 2010

“What’s in a Name? The case of the Kingdom of Rus’”

Wittenberg University History Colloquium Series, December 3, 2009

Conference Presentations

International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, July 3–6, 2017

Panel Title: Byzantine Exceptionalism: New Perspectives

Panel Organizer

52nd International Congress on Medieval Studies, University of Western Michigan, May 11–14, 2017

Panel Title: Central European Medieval Networks

Presentation Title: “Comparative Political Development in the Arc of Medieval Europe”

Ohio Academy of History, The Ohio State University, March 31 – April 1, 2017

Roundtable Entitled: “Byzantine Exceptionalism: Reality or Historiographical Fiction?”

Panel Organizer

- Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Philadelphia, November 19–22, 2015
Roundtable Entitled: “Portraits of Rus’ and its Neighbours”
Panel Organizer
- Byzantine Studies Conference, New York City, October 22–25, 2015
Presentation Title: “Questioning Titulature and Identity: The Kingdom of Rus’”
- CARMEN – The Worldwide Medieval Network – Annual Meeting, Sarajevo, September 11-13, 2015
Round Table Participant – Memory and Identity: A Round Table
- Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Boston, November 21–24, 2013
Presentation Title: "The Lost Kingdom of Rus': A Challenge to the Traditional Translation of Kniaz'"
- Medieval Academy of America, University of Tennessee, April 4-6, 2013
Presentation Title: *The Missing Arpad Prince: Finding Boris Kolomanovich in the Interstices of Medieval Europe*
- Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, New Orleans, November 15–18, 2012
Panel Title: Reimagining Europe: Kievan Rus’ in the Medieval World: Christian Raffensperger’s Bold New Hypothesis
Roundtable Participant
Panel Title: Borderlands as a Problem for “Political Geography” of Pre-Petrine Rus’
Discussant
- Missouri Valley History Conference, University of Nebraska at Omaha, March 1-3, 2012
Presentation Title: *Arpads, Rurikids, and Komneni, Oh My!: Geza II's Kin Relations and their Consequences*
Chair and Commentator: *River and Shore: Moravians, Vikings, and Turkish Pirates in the Middle Ages*
- Byzantine Studies Conference, DePaul University, October 20–22, 2011
Presentation Title: *An Attempt at a Byzantine Hungary: The Lost Birthright of Boris Kolomanovich*
- Fourteenth Annual Winter Workshop in Medieval and Early Modern Slavic Studies, UCLA, February 18, 2011
Presentation Title: *The Unknown Queen of Chernigov*
- Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Los Angeles, November 18–21, 2010
Panel Title: War and Peace Among the Medieval Slavs
Panel Organizer
Presentation Title: *Marriage as a Prelude to War: Russian–Polish Relations in the Eleventh Century*
- Byzantine Studies Conference, University of Pennsylvania, October 8–10, 2010
Presentation Title: *The Advantages and Disadvantages of Familial Ties: Hungary Between Rus' and Byzantium in the mid-Twelfth Century*
- Thirteenth Midwest Medieval Slavic Workshop, University of Chicago, April 23, 2010
Presentation Title: *Russian–Polish Dynastic Marriages: A Consanguineous Mess*
- American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Boston, November 12–15, 2009
Panel Title: Medieval Slavic-German Relations, Real and Imagined

Panel Organizer

Presentation Title: *Rusian-German Marital Ties in the Eleventh Century: Real and Imagined*

Midwest Medieval History Conference, University of Notre Dame, September 25–26, 2009

Presentation Title: *The Forgotten Kingdom of Rus'*

Twelfth Midwest Medieval Slavic Workshop, University of Chicago, April 24, 2009

Presentation Title (w/ David Birnbaum, U. Pittsburgh): *Mapping History: Using Technology to Showcase Medieval Familial Interconnectivity*

Midwest Slavic Conference, Ohio State University, April 16–18, 2009

Presentation Title (w/ David Birnbaum, U. Pittsburgh): *Mapping History: Using Technology to Showcase Medieval Familial Interconnectivity*

American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Philadelphia, November 20–23, 2008

Panel Title: Foreign Political Influences in Rus'/Muscovy

Presentation Title: *Comparative Rulership in Rus' and Scandinavia*

Midwest Medieval History Conference, Denison University, October 3–4, 2008

Presentation Title: *The Creation of Royalty: The Foundation Story of Vladimir of Rus'*

Eleventh Midwest Medieval Slavic Workshop, University of Chicago, April 25, 2008

Presentation Title: *Shared (Hi)stories: Vladimir of Rus' and Harald Fairhair of Norway*

American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, New Orleans, November 15–18, 2007

Panel Title: Warlords, Saints, and 'Mounds' of Evidence: Comparative Perspectives on Late Pagan and Early Christian Rus' and Scandinavia

Presentation Title: *Creating Kings and Kingdoms: Harald Fairhair of Norway and Vladimir of Rus'*

42nd International Congress on Medieval Studies, University of Western Michigan, May 10–13, 2007

Panel Title: Center and Periphery Relations in Medieval Europe

Panel Organizer

Presentation Title: *Rusian-German Marital Relations in the Tenth Century*

Medieval Association of the Pacific, University of California at Los Angeles, March 2–3, 2007

Panel Title: "In partibus remotis": Fringeness and its Consequences in the Central Middle Ages

Presentation Title: *The Papacy and Rus'*

American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Washington D.C., November 16–19, 2006

Panel Title: The Creation of Medieval and Early Modern Biography

Panel Organizer

Presentation Title: *Writing Medieval Rusian Family Biography*

Professional Service

Series Editor – Beyond Medieval Europe

ARC-Medieval Press

<https://mip-archumanitiespress.org/series/arc/bme/>

Executive Council Member – Ohio Academy of History

- 2015–Present
- Governing Board Member – The Byzantine Studies Association of North America
2014–Present
- Treasurer – The Byzantine Studies Association of North America
2015–Present
- Editorial Board Member – *The Medieval Globe*
Founding member of the journal and editorial board
2013–Present
- Board Member – H-Medieval
Founding member of the board
2014–Present
- Program Committee Member: Byzantine Studies Conference 2014
Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia
- Program Chair: Byzantine Studies Conference 2013
Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
- Ohio Academy of History Dissertation Award Committee Member, 2012-2013
- Program Committee Member: Byzantine Studies Conference 2012
Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, Mass.
- Program Chair: Midwest Medieval History Conference 2011
University of Missouri at Kansas City
- Newsletter Editor: Early Slavic Studies Association
2004–2011
Duties were to collate information relevant to our membership and create a newsletter twice yearly.
- Councilor: Midwest Medieval History Conference
2008–2010
- Manuscripts reviewed for academic journals including *Historical Research*, *Russian Review*, *Russian History*,
Journal of World History, *Middle Ground*, and *The Medieval Globe*

University Service

- Director, Russian and Central Eurasian Studies Program: Wittenberg University
September 2014–Present
- Premodern and Ancient World Studies Minor Steering Committee: Wittenberg University
August 2007–Present
- Director, Premodern and Ancient World Studies Minor: Wittenberg University
August 2015–Present
June 2010–May 2013

Russian and Central Eurasian Studies Program: Wittenberg University
August 2007–Present

Faculty Development Board: Wittenberg University
August 2011–May 2013

Faculty Executive Fund Board: Wittenberg University
August 2008–May 2012

Phi Alpha Theta Advisor: Wittenberg University Chapter
2014–2016

Coordinator: History Department Colloquium Series: Wittenberg University
2015–Present
2009–2013

Faculty Advisor—Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity
2009–2013

Medieval and Renaissance Studies Minor Steering Committee: University of Nebraska at Omaha
September 2006–2007

Library Committee: University of Nebraska at Omaha
September 2006–2007

World Civilization Teaching Circle: University of Nebraska at Omaha
September 2006–2007

Languages

Fluent in Russian; Reading knowledge of Old Church Slavonic; Reading knowledge of Ukrainian; Reading knowledge of Latin; Some reading knowledge of ancient and medieval Greek; Some reading knowledge of French; Some speaking and reading knowledge of German

Professional Organizations

Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
Early Slavic Studies Association
Byzantine Studies Association of North America
Medieval Academy of America
Medieval Central European Research Network
Ohio Academy of History
American Historical Association