

## **Samantha Kelly**

Department of History  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
16 Seminary Place  
New Brunswick NJ 08901  
samantha.kelly@rutgers.edu

### **EMPLOYMENT**

- 2023 Visiting Professor, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (Paris)  
2012- Full Professor, Rutgers University-New Brunswick  
2005-2012 Associate Professor, Rutgers University-New Brunswick  
1999-2005 Assistant Professor, Rutgers University-New Brunswick  
1998-99 Lecturer, Department of History, Rice University

### **EDUCATION**

- 1993-98 Northwestern University (Evanston, IL). Ph.D in Medieval European History;  
Minor in Classical Islamic History. Thesis director: Robert Lerner.  
1990-92 Harvard University (Cambridge, MA). Post-baccalaureate coursework in  
ancient and medieval history and Latin.  
1985-89 Yale University (New Haven, CT). BA in American Studies *summa cum  
laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, Distinction in the Major.

### **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2020-21 Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton NJ, fellowship  
2017 American Council of Learned Societies, fellowship (taken Jan-Dec 2018)  
2016 Fondation des Treilles (Nice, France), grant to fund week-long seminar, co-  
organized with François-Xavier Fauvelle, “L’Éthiopie et les Éthiopiens au  
Moyen Âge: vers un synthèse interdisciplinaire et pluriconfessionnel” (held  
March 2018)  
2015 Rutgers Research Council Grant  
2011-14 Mellon Foundation, “New Directions” Fellowship  
2010 Rutgers Research Council Grant  
2003-4 Villa I Tatti, The Harvard University Center for Renaissance Studies (Florence,  
Italy), fellowship, July-June  
2000-1 Rutgers Dialogues Grant (co-investigator with C. Chism), “Cultures of the  
Middle Ages”  
1999 École Française de Rome (Rome, Italy), residential research grant, June  
1998-99 Center for the Study of Cultures, Rice University (Houston, TX), post-doctoral  
fellowship, July-June  
1998 Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, travel grant, October  
1997-98 Istituto Italiano di Studi Storici (Naples, Italy), Federico Chabod International  
Fellowship, November-May  
1997 École Française de Rome (Rome, Italy), one-month residential research grant,

October

1996-97 American Academy in Rome (Rome, Italy), Frances Barker Tracy Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Post-Classical Humanistic Studies, September-August

## PRIZES & AWARDS

- 2021 *African Studies Review* Prize for best Africa-focused anthology or edited collection, awarded to *Companion to Medieval Ethiopia and Eritrea*
- 2020 *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title, awarded to *Companion to Medieval Ethiopia and Eritrea*
- 2005 Distinguished Teaching Award, Faculty of Arts & Sciences, Rutgers University
- 2004 Howard R. Marraro Prize (American Catholic Historical Association), for the best book in Italian or Italian-American History, awarded to *The New Solomon*

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

*Translating Faith: Ethiopian Pilgrims in Renaissance Rome*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press/I Tatti Studies in the Italian Renaissance (in proofs May 2023; publication scheduled for spring 2024).

*The 'Cronaca di Partenope': An Introduction to and Critical Edition of the First Vernacular History of Naples (c. 1350)*. Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2011.

*The New Solomon. Robert of Naples (1309-1343) and Fourteenth-Century Kingship*. Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2003. Marraro Prize winner.

### EDITED VOLUMES

*Companion to Medieval Ethiopia and Eritrea*. Edited by Samantha Kelly. Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2020 (Feb). *ASR* Best Edited Collection Prize winner; *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title.

### ARTICLES

“Ethiopia and Ethiopian Languages in Renaissance Italy.” In *Languages and Cross-Cultural Exchange in Renaissance Italy*. Edited by Alessandra Petrocchi and Joshua Brown. Turnhout: Brepols, 2023, pp. 331-358.

“Ethiopian Monks in Europe.” In *Balthazar: A Black African King in Medieval and Renaissance Art*. Edited by Kristen Collins and Bryan C. Keene. Los Angeles: J. Paul Getty Museum, 2023, pp. 72-75.

“Introduction.” In *Companion to Medieval Ethiopia and Eritrea*. Edited by Samantha Kelly. Leiden: Brill, 2020, pp. 1-30.

“Medieval Ethiopian Diasporas.” In *Companion to Medieval Ethiopia and Eritrea*. Edited by Samantha Kelly. Leiden: Brill, 2020, pp. 425-453.

“Heretics, Allies, Exemplary Christians: Latin Views of Ethiopian Orthodox in the Later Middle Ages.” In *Late Medieval Heresy: New Perspectives. Essays in Honor of Robert E. Lerner*. Edited by Michael D. Bailey and Sean L. Field. York Medieval Press, 2018, pp. 195-214.

“The Two Yoḥannōses of Santo Stefano degli Abissini, Rome: Reconstructing Biography and Cross-Cultural Encounter through Manuscript Evidence” (co-authored with Denis Nosnitsin). *Manuscript Studies* 2 (2017): 392-426.

“Biondo Flavio on Ethiopia: Processes of knowledge production in the Renaissance.” In *The Routledge History of the Renaissance*. Edited by William Caferro. New York: Routledge, 2017, pp. 167-182.

“Ewostateans at the Council of Florence: Diplomatic Implications Between Ethiopia, Europe, Jerusalem, and Cairo.” *Afriques: Débats, méthodes, et terrains d'histoire* (electronic journal), published 29 June 2016, <http://afriques.revues.org/1858>.

“The Curious Case of Ethiopic Chaldean: Fraud, Philology and Cultural (Mis)-Understanding in European Conceptions of Ethiopia.” *Renaissance Quarterly* 68, 4 (Winter 2015): 1227-1264.

“The Neapolitan Giovanni Villani.” In *Renaissance Studies in Honor of Joe Connors*. Edited by M. Israels and L. Waldman. Florence: Olschki, 2013, pp. 31-38.

“Medieval Influence in Early Modern Neapolitan Historiography: The Fortunes of the *Cronaca di Partenope*, 1350-1680.” *California Italian Studies* 3 (2012).

“Intercultural Identity and the Local Vernacular: Neapolitan History as Articulated in the *Cronaca di Partenope* (c. 1350).” *Medieval History Journal* 14, 2 (2011): 259-84.

“Chronicon di Santa Maria del Principio.” In *Encyclopedia of the Medieval Chronicle*, Edited by Graeme Dunphy. Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2010.

“Monarquía y ciudad. Consciencia cívica y identidad urbana en Nápoles antes 1400.” In *Modelos culturales y normas sociales al final de la Edad Media*. Edited by Patrick Boucheron and Francisco Ruiz Gómez. Cuenca, 2009.

“La justice et la loi dans les allocutions de Robert de Naples.” In *La justice temporelle dans les territoires angevins aux XIIIe et XIVe siècles. Théories et pratiques*. Edited by Jean-Paul Boyer, Anne Mailloux, and Laure Verdon. Rome: École Française de Rome, 2005.

“Religious Patronage and Royal Propaganda in Angevin Naples: An Overview.” In *The Church of Santa Maria Donna Regina in Naples*. Edited by Cordelia Warr and Janis Elliott. London: Ashgate Press, 2004.

“Noblesse de robe et noblesse d’esprit à la cour de Robert de Naples.” In *La noblesse dans les territoires angevins*. Edited by Noël Coulet and Jean-Michel Matz. Rome: École Française de Rome, 2000.

“Robert of Naples and the Spiritual Franciscans.” *Cristianesimo nella storia* 20 (1999): 41-80.

“The *Visio fratris Johannis*: Prophecy and Politics in Late-Thirteenth-Century Italy.” *Florensia* 8/9 (1994-95): 7-42.

#### TRANSLATIONS

“Giovanni Regina on Angevin Military Success Against the Empire.” Translation from Latin manuscript, with introduction. In *Medieval Italy: Texts in Translation*, ed. Katherine L. Jansen, Joanna Drell, and Frances Andrews. Philadelphia, 2009, pp. 138-141.

“A Graduation Sermon of Robert of Anjou, King of Naples.” Translation from Latin manuscript, with introduction. In *Medieval Italy: Texts in Translation*, ed. Katherine L. Jansen, Joanna Drell, and Frances Andrews. Philadelphia, 2009, pp. 480-484.

“Chronicle of Parthenope.” Translation from Neapolitan printed text, with introduction. In *Medieval Italy: Texts in Translation*, ed. Katherine L. Jansen, Joanna Drell, and Frances Andrews. Philadelphia, 2009, pp. 521-525.

#### REVIEWS

Krebs, Verena, *Medieval Ethiopian Kingship, Craft, and Diplomacy with Latin Europe*. In *Aethiopica* 25 (2022): 261-264.

Casteen, Elizabeth, *From She-Wolf to Martyr: The Reign and Disputed Reputation of Johanna I of Naples*. In *Speculum* 92 (2017): 508-510.

Ianziti, Gary, *Writing History in Renaissance Italy: Leonardo Bruni and the Uses of the Past*. In *American Historical Review* 118, 3 (June 2013): 814-815.

Borghese, Gian Luca, *Carlo I d'Angiò e il Mediterraneo*. In *Annales. Histoire, Sciences Sociales* 66, 3 (2011).

Bertelli, Sergio, *The King's Body: Sacred Rituals of Power in Medieval and Early-Modern Europe*, trans. R. Burr Litchfield. In *Speculum* 78, 3 (July 2003): 835-7.

## PRESENTATIONS

### PLENARY AND NAMED LECTURES

“Reading Across Regions and Cultures: Challenges and Opportunities.” Plenary lecture at conference “The Western Mediterranean and the Global Middle Ages,” UCLA, October 2023.

“The Other Christians of the Late Medieval Mediterranean: Ethiopian Settlement and Exchange with Latin Christians, c.1200 - c.1550.” Annual Riggsby Lecture on Medieval Mediterranean History & Culture, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, October 2020.

“Ethiopia and the Global Middle Ages.” Public plenary at conference “Medieval Ethiopia: A Second Colloquium,” Toronto, Canada, October 2019

### INVITED LECTURES

“La communauté diasporique de Santo Stefano : une pratique éthiopienne dans une implantation romaine.” École des Hautes Études, Paris, June 2023.

“Transplantés de la foi. Les pèlerins éthiopiens comme éducateurs et évangélistes dans l'Europe de la Renaissance.” École des Hautes Études, Paris, May 2023.

“Le rôle de la race dans la réception européenne du christianisme éthiopien à la Renaissance.” École des Hautes Études, Paris, May 2023.

“Connected Histories: Ethiopia and the Global Middle Ages.” Harvard University, April 2019.

“Brothers and Others: Ethiopian-European Relations in the Later Middle Ages.” Northwestern University, April 2018.

“The Library of Santo Stefano degli Abissini: History, Culture, and Intercultural Contact.” Center for the Study of Manuscript Cultures, Hamburg (Germany), December 2015.

“Beyond Prester John: Ethiopia and Europe in the Middle Ages.” Binghamton University, NY, March 2012.

“Naples' Legendary Past: Textual Tradition and Local Knowledge in the Making of the

*Cronaca di Partenope.*” Western Michigan University, September 2008.

## PRESENTATIONS

Round table on Kelly, ed., *Companion to Medieval Ethiopia and Eritrea*, with Jean-Baptiste Eczet, François-Xavier Fauvelle, Marie-Laure Derat, Anaïs Wion, and Claire Bosc-Tiessé. Institut des Civilisations, Collège de France, Paris, June 2023.

“Ethiopians from Jerusalem, Cairo, and Rome: circulations and exchanges (15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> c)” (with Martina Ambu). At conference *Ethiopians Abroad in the Middle Ages*. Rome, Italy, May 2023.

“A New Interpretation of the Ethiopian-European Diplomacy surrounding João Bermudes.” At international workshop *Penser et écrire une histoire des connexions entre les royaumes chrétiens d’Éthiopie et de Kongo et la Méditerranée médiévale et moderne*. Rome, Italy, July 2022.

“Ethiopian Orthodox in 16<sup>th</sup>-century Rome: Promulgating Knowledge, Contesting Critics.” At conference *Between the Black Mediterranean and the Black Atlantic: Complexifying Stories of Connectivity and Resistance*, Cambridge University, May 2022.

“Ethiopian Pilgrims in Religious Diplomacy Between Rome, Portugal, and Ethiopia, 1536-49.” At conference *Horizons orientaux des savoirs romains sur la nature du monde*, Rome, Italy, November 2021.

“Periodization and Positionality.” In webinar “The Turn to the Medieval in Ethiopian Studies/The Turn to Ethiopia in Medieval Studies,” Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, March 2021.

“Gə‘əz Manuscripts as Vectors of and Witnesses to the Exchange of Catholic and Ethiopian Orthodox Religious Knowledge in 16<sup>th</sup>-century Rome.” At 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Schoenberg Symposium *Intertwined Worlds*, University of Pennsylvania, November 2017.

“Ethiopians Abroad: Pilgrims and Religious Exchange in the Christian Ecumene.” At symposium *African Christianities*, Harvard University, November 2017.

“The Ethiopians of Renaissance Europe.” At symposium *Medieval Ethiopia: A Colloquium in Honor of Michael Gervers*, University of Toronto (Canada), March 2017.

“Ethiopian Scholars in 16<sup>th</sup>-century Rome: Two Lives Lived Between Cultures.” Delaware Valley Medieval Association conference, Princeton University, December 2016.

“La bibliothèque de Santo Stefano degli Abissini: Contacts interculturels d’un monastère

éthiopien à Rome au XVI siècle.” At symposium *Éthiopie et Occident: représentations, circulations, savoirs (époques médiévale et moderne)*, Paris (France), March 2016.

“Between Two Worlds: An Ethiopian Monastic Community in Rome.” Medieval Academy of America annual meeting, Boston, MA, February 2016.

“The Ethiopian Codices of Santo Stefano degli Abissini (16<sup>th</sup> c.)” Early Book Society conference, Oxford University (England), July 2015.

“Black Africans of Medieval Italy.” Delaware Valley Medieval Association conference, Drew University, NJ, April 2014

“Civic Religion in Naples.” American Historical Association annual conference, Chicago, IL, January 2012.

“L’usage des sources dans la *Cronaca di Partenope*.” Invited paper for round table *L’écriture de l’histoire*. Université de Versailles - St. Quentin (France), May 2010

“Neapolitan Historiography and the Print Revolution.” New College Medieval and Renaissance conference, Sarasota, FL, March 2010

“The Cathedral and Communal Memory in Medieval Naples.” 44<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2009

“Continuities in Angevin-Aragonese Culture: The Development of Local Historiography.” Renaissance Society of America annual conference, Los Angeles, CA, March 2009.

“Beyond North and South: Observations on Medieval Italian Historiography.” American Historical Association annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA, January 2006.

“Legendary Founders in Fourteenth-Century Naples.” International Medieval Congress, Leeds, England, July 2005.

“The Uses of Antiquity in the *Cronaca di Partenope*.” 40<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2005.

“Monarchie et cité: conscience civique et identité urbaine à Naples avant 1400.” At conference *Modelos culturales y pautas sociales al final de la Edad Media: Estado, Iglesia y sociedad*, Madrid (Spain), April 2004.

“The Myth of Naples Before the Grand Tour.” Villa I Tatti, Florence (Italy), 2004

“La justice et la loi dans les allocutions de Robert de Naples.” At conference *La justice dans les territoires angevins*, Aix-en-Provence (France), 2002.

“Wise Kingship: A Reflection on French Influence in Late-Medieval Ruler Imagery.” At conference *Propaganda, Myth and Ideology in Medieval France*, Rutgers University, 2001.

“Robert of Naples and Fourteenth-Century Kingship.” Invited paper at meeting of International Committee of Historical Sciences, Princeton, NJ, August 2001.

“Santa Maria Donna Regina: Religious Patronage and Royal Propaganda in Angevin Naples.” 36<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, 2001.

“Sainly Relatives, Holy Countrymen, Divine Minds: Saints and Sanctity at the Court of Naples.” International Medieval Congress, Leeds (England), July 1999.

“Noblesse d’épée et noblesse d’esprit à la cour de Robert de Naples.” At conference *La noblesse dans les territoires angevins*, Angers (France), 1998.

#### CONFERENCES, WEBINARS, & PANELS ORGANIZED

*Ethiopian Studies of North America*. Online seminar series, founded and co-organized with Michael Gervers (U. Toronto) and Aaron Butts (Catholic U.): Monthly presentations, Sept-May, 2021-.

Round table on *Companion to Medieval Ethiopia and Eritrea*. Institute for Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Oct 22, 2021. Co-organized with Drs. Takele Afesa and Ahmed Hassen. [*canceled due to civil unrest*]

*Institute for Advanced Studies – Ethiopian Studies Webinar Series*. Four webinars of 4-5 panelists and roughly 180 participants each, co-organized with Suzanne Akbari, Sabine Schmidtke, and Aaron Butts: “The Beta Israel and Ethiopian Christian Views of Jews and Judaism” (November 17, 2020); “The Turn to the Medieval in Ethiopian Studies/The Turn to Ethiopia in Medieval Studies I” (Feb 19, 2021); “The Turn to the Medieval in Ethiopian Studies/ The Turn to Ethiopia in Medieval Studies II” (March 19, 2021); “Beyond Ethiopia: Islamic Intellectual History in the Horn of Africa” (May 20, 2021).

*How To Do It at Rutgers. Conference in Honor of Rudolph Bell*. Co-organized with Paul Clemens. Rutgers University, February 2020.

“Medieval Ethiopian Christian Culture in Comparative Perspective.” Panel, Medieval Academy of America annual conference, Philadelphia, PA, March 2019.

*L’Éthiopie et les Éthiopiens au Moyen Âge: vers un synthèse interdisciplinaire et pluriconfessionnel*. Co-organized with François-Xavier Fauvelle. Week-long conference, Fondation des Treilles (Nice, France), March 2018.

*Democratic Impulses. Symposium in Honor of Temma Kaplan*. Rutgers University, October 2016.



“Religion and Civic Identity in Italy.” Panel, 44<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2009.

*Refreshment of Scholars. Symposium in Honor of Robert E. Lerner.* Northwestern University, May 2008.

## **TEACHING**

### **Graduate courses:**

The Teaching of History  
Global Colloquium: Race in the Medieval Mediterranean  
Global Colloquium: Premodern Race and Slavery  
European Research Seminar (year-long)  
Problems and Directed Readings in Medieval History  
Medieval Religion  
Medieval Italy  
Medieval Texts and Interpretation

### **Doctoral students** (\*= graduated)

Advisor of R. Dansereau\*, Nigel Gillah\*  
Doctoral committee of P. Larson\*, A. Pipkin\*, F. Nave\*, M. Hill\*, A. Weller\*, M. Saltamacchia\*, A. Gaydukova, K. Pinyan\*, D. Bradley\*, D. Neighly

### **Undergraduate courses:**

Ancient and Medieval Europe (to c. 1750)  
Ancient Africa (to c. 1550)  
Medieval Kings and Queens  
Italy, 476-1300  
The Renaissance  
Senior seminar: The Renaissance State  
Senior seminar: The Medieval Book  
Honors seminar: The Myth of Rome from Augustus to Fellini

## **SELECT ACADEMIC SERVICE**

### **TO THE PUBLIC**

Profiled on podcast “History of Christianity” (90-minute interview, published October 2022) <https://open.spotify.com/show/2aQJwphG4nfEUqcwtIwP06>

Advisor to Philip Gould & Co. (Britain), catalog description of 17<sup>th</sup>-c miniature with Gəʻəz inscription

### **TO THE PROFESSION**

Co-founder and co-organizer, Ethiopian Studies of North America Seminar (2021-)  
Research team, “Ethiopian Manuscripts and the Global Textile Trade,” winner of SSHRC  
Insight Grant (2021-)  
International Scientific Editorial Board, *Aethiopica: International Journal of Ethiopian  
and Eritrean Studies* (2020-)  
Advisory Board, Cornell UP book series “Medieval Societies, Religions, and Cultures”  
(2019-)  
Foreign correspondant to the editorial board, *Médiévales* (2019-)  
Councillor, Medieval Academy of America (2014-17)  
Kalamazoo Program Committee, Medieval Academy of America (2011-14)  
Applicant reviewer, Institute for Advanced Studies (Princeton) (2021-2023)  
Applicant reviewer, National Humanities Center (2020)  
Peer reviewer of book manuscripts for Oxford UP, Cornell UP, Princeton UP, U. Penn  
Press, Brill, De Gruyter, Routledge  
Peer reviewer of article manuscripts for *Aethiopica, History in Africa, Itinerario,  
Afriques, Medieval Clothing and Textiles, California Italian Studies, Viator*

#### TO THE DEPARTMENT & UNIVERSITY

Associate Chair, History Department (2016-17, 2022-)  
Curriculum Committee, Program in Medieval Studies (2022-)  
Graduate Program Reform Ad Hoc Committee (2019-22)  
Executive Committee, Program in Medieval Studies (2013-19)  
Organizer, European Distinguished Lectures & Bonnie Smith Lectures (2019-20)  
Appointments and Promotions Committee, Humanities (2014-15)  
Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee (2014-17)  
Director, Program in Medieval Studies (2008-11)  
Faculty Advisory Board, Aresty Undergraduate Research Center (2007-09)  
Faculty Council (2005)  
Chair, University College Honors & Fellowships Committee (2004-05)

#### **OTHER**

##### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Historical Association  
Medieval Academy of America  
Renaissance Society of America  
Society of Friends of the Institute for Ethiopian Studies (SOFIES)

##### LANGUAGES

French (fluent), Italian (fluent), Latin (proficient), Gə‘əz (reading knowledge), Spanish  
(reading knowledge), German (reading knowledge), Portuguese (reading knowledge)