MERLE EISENBERG

Department of History Oklahoma State University Social Sciences and Humanities Stillwater, OK 74078 merle.eisenberg@okstate.edu

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2021-	Assistant Professor, Department of History, Oklahoma State University Cluster Appointment in the Oklahoma Pandemic Center for Innovation and Excellence
2021-2022	Postdoctoral Fellow, Humanities Institute, Pennsylvania State University
2019-2021	Postdoctoral Fellow, National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC), National Science Foundation, University of Maryland
2018-2019	Lecturer and Post Graduate Research Associate, Department of History, Princeton University
EDUCATION	
2018	Princeton University, Ph.D., History <u>Dissertation Title</u> : Building Little Romes: Christianity, Identity, and Governance in Late Antique Gaul Committee: Helmut Reimitz (Adviser), William Chester Jordan, Jack Tannous, Jonathan Conant (Brown University)
2018	<u>Dissertation Title</u> : Building Little Romes: Christianity, Identity, and Governance in Late Antique Gaul Committee: Helmut Reimitz (Adviser), William Chester Jordan, Jack Tannous,
	<u>Dissertation Title</u> : Building Little Romes: Christianity, Identity, and Governance in Late Antique Gaul Committee: Helmut Reimitz (Adviser), William Chester Jordan, Jack Tannous, Jonathan Conant (Brown University)

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Merle Eisenberg and Paolo Tedesco, "Seeing the Churches like the State: Taxes and Wealth Redistribution in Italy, c. 400-600 CE," Early Medieval Europe, 29 (4), Forthcoming, November 2021

Merle Eisenberg, "Uses of History during the first Nine Months of Covid: Lessons, Experience, and Transforming Realities," in *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine*, 64 (3): 421-435, (Link)

Merle Eisenberg and David Jenkins, "The Philosophy of Constantine the Philosopher of Nicaea," *Byzantinische Zeitschrift*, 114 (1): 139-162, (<u>Link</u>)

2020 **Merle Eisenberg** and Lee Mordechai, "The Making of the Plague Concept: The Justinianic Plague and Global Pandemics," *The American Historical Review*, December, 2020, 124 (5): 1632-1667, (Link)

Merle Eisenberg, "The Council of Carthage of 525 and the Making of Post-Imperial Episcopal Authority," *The Journal of Late Antiquity*, 2020, 13 (2): 258-284, (<u>Link</u>)

Lee Mordechai, **Merle Eisenberg**, Tim Newfield, Adam Izdebski, and Janet Kay, "Quantitative Analysis and Plagued Assumptions: A Response to Mischa Meier," *Medizinhistorisches Journal*, 55 (3): 290-293, (Link)

Lee Mordechai and **Merle Eisenberg**, "Plague, Paleogenetics, and the Boundaries of the Discipline of History," *Arcadia: Explorations in Environmental History*, Summer 2020, no. 30, (Link)

John Haldon, **Merle Eisenberg**, Lee Mordechai, Adam Izdebski, and Sam White "Lessons from the Past, Policies for the Future. Resilience and Sustainability in Past Crises," in *Environment Systems and Decisions*, 40 (2): 287-297, (<u>Link</u>)

2019 Lee Mordechai, **Merle Eisenberg**, Tim Newfield, Adam Izdebski, Janet Kay, and Hendrik Poinar "The Justinianic Plague: An Inconsequential Pandemic?" *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, 116 (51): 25546-25554, (<u>Link</u>)

Merle Eisenberg and Lee Mordechai "The Justinianic Plague: An Interdisciplinary Review," *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies*, Vol. 43 (2): 156-180, (Link)

Lee Mordechai and **Merle Eisenberg**, "Rejecting Catastrophe: the Case of the Justinianic Plague," *Past & Present*, 244: 3-50, (<u>Link</u>)

2018 **Merle Eisenberg,** David J. Patterson, Jamie Kreiner, Ellen F. Arnold, and Timothy P. Newfield. "The Environmental History of the Late Antique West: A Bibliographic Essay." *Late Antique Archaeology* 11: 31–50, (<u>Link</u>)

Rev. & Resub. **Merle Eisenberg**, "Naturalists, Catastrophic Pandemics, and the End of Rome in the Age of Re-Emerging Infectious Diseases, *Przegląd Historyczny* (Historical Review)

Book Chapters

- Merle Eisenberg, "Experiments in Visigothic Rulership: Monetary Reforms and Minting under Alaric II," in *Rome, Byzantium and the Visigothic Kingdom*, eds.

 Damian Fernandez, Molly Lester, and Jamie Wood, (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press), Forthcoming Fall, 2021
- John Haldon, Annelise Binois-Roman, **Merle Eisenberg**, Adam Izdebski, Lee Mordechai, Tim Newfield, Phil Slavin, Sam White, Konrad Wnęk, "Between Resilience and Adaptation: A Historical Framework for Understanding Stability and Transformation of Societies to Shocks and Stress," in *COVID-19: Systemic Risk and*

Resilience, Linkov I., Keenan J.M., and Trump B.D. (eds.), 255-268 (Cham: Springer) (Link)

2019 **Merle Eisenberg,** "A New Name for a New State: The Construction of the Burgundian *Regio,*" in *The Fifth Century: Age of Transformation,* Jan Willem Drijvers & Noel Lenski (eds.), 157-167, (Bari: Edipuglia)

Under Review **Merle Eisenberg** and Lee Mordechai, "The Short and Long Term Effects of an Early Medieval Pandemic," in *What sort of the past does the future need? Policy lessons and the historical imagination*, Piotr Filipkowski, John Haldon and Adam Izdebski (eds).

Book Reviews

Review of Stefan Esders, Yitzhak Hen, Pia Lucas, and Tamar Rotman, (eds.) *The Merovingian Kingdoms and the Mediterranean World: Revisiting the Sources* for *Journal of Late Antiquity*, Vol. 14, (1): 166-167, (Link)

Review of Stefan Esders, Yaniv Fox, Yitzhak Hen, and Laury Sarti, (eds.) *East and West in the Early Middle Ages: The Merovingian Kingdoms in Mediterranean Perspective* in *Studies in Late Antiquity*, 3 (4): 631-635, (Link)

Public Writing

2021 **Merle Eisenberg,** "The Middle Ages for Educators and a Future for Medieval Studies," in Journal for Princeton Studies in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages (Forthcoming)

Merle Eisenberg and Lee Mordechai, "Why do we think Ancient Pandemics Changed the World?" *Society for Classical Studies Blog* (May 28, 2021)

2020 **Merle Eisenberg,** "Dangerous Comparisons: Historical Pandemics and Covid-19," in 13 Perspectives on the Pandemic: Thinking in a State of Exception, in De Gruyter Humanities Pamphlet, (June 2020)

Merle Eisenberg, Lee Mordechai, and Robert Alpert, "Why treating the coronavirus like the Black Death is so dangerous," in the *Washington Post* (February 6, 2020)

Reprinted as: "Black Death? Maybe not," in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette (February 7, 2020)

"Treating the coronavirus like the Black Death is dangerous" in the Savannah Morning News (February 8, 2020)

2019 **Merle Eisenberg** and Lee Mordechai, "Contextualizing Catastrophe: Plague, Societal Collapse, and the Zombie Apocalypse," in *Past & Present Blog* (July 15, 2019)

Media Appearances

"If you could meet and interview one person from Byzantine history, who would it be and why? (Part II)," Byzantium & Friends Anthony Kaldellis Host (June 29, 2021)

"How can historians use new media to disseminate ideas?," <u>Byzantium & Friends</u>, Anthony Kaldellis Host (February 25, 2021)

"The Infectious Historians: Podcasting the History of Medicine," <u>Covid Calls</u>, Scott Gabriel Knowles Host (February 23, 2021)

"Middle Ages for Educators," <u>Medievalists.net</u>, Danièle Cybulskie Host (February 4, 2021)

"Learning from the Plague," Radio Ecoshock, Alex Smith Host (January 6, 2021)

"Merle Eisenberg and Lee Mordechai on the Plague Concept," <u>AHR Interview</u>, John McNeill Host (January 1, 2021)

2020 "Pandemic History in the Premodern world," <u>Covid Calls</u>, Scott Gabriel Knowles, Host (June 25, 2020)

"Treating Covid-19 Like Past Pandemics Is Dangerous: Cultural Scripts and Plague Narratives," Policy Punchline Podcast, Tiger Gao, Host, (May 29, 2020)

"Past plagues offer lessons for society after the coronavirus pandemic," <u>Science News</u> Bruce Bower (May 18, 2020)

"Virus following Similar Path of 14th Century Plague," <u>CNN International</u>, John Vause Host, (March 5, 2020)

2019 Coverage of "The Justinianic Plague: An Inconsequential Pandemic?" (PNAS) 88 News Stories Including:

"The plague probably didn't wipe out the Roman Empire and half the world's population, new study suggests," <u>CNN</u>.

"Did first plague kill half of late Roman Empire? Evidence may be exaggerated, study says," <u>USA Today</u>.

"Ancient bubonic plague outbreak might have been exaggerated, study shows," <u>Fox News.</u>

"Study suggests ancient bubonic plague outbreak was exaggerated," NY Post.

"Roman Empire did not fall because of plague, study claims," Telegraph.

"The Justinianic Plague's Devastating Impact Was Likely Exaggerated," Smithsonian.

FELLOWSHIPS

2021-2022	Wallace Johnson Program for First Book Authors, Medieval Institute, Western
	Michigan University
2020-2025	Balzan Seminar Fellowship: Formation, maintenance, and failure of states in the
	Muslim world prior to 1800, International Balzan Foundation (\$10,000)
2019-2021	SESYNC Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Maryland (\$193,000)
2019-2022	Mandel Scholion Interdisciplinary Research Institute in Humanities Postdoctoral
	Fellowship, Hebrew University (Finalist)
2019-2021	William J. Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Haifa (Declined)
2017-2018	Princeton Graduate School Dean's Completion Fellowship (\$13,500)
2017-2018	Center for the Study of Religion Graduate Fellow, Princeton University (\$6,500)

2017	Mercer County Community College-Princeton University Teaching Fellow
2017	The Adolph G. Rosengarten, Jr. '27 Graduate Fellowship in History, Princeton
	University
2015-2016	Committee for the Study of Late Antiquity Fellowship, Princeton University
2015-2016	Program in the Ancient World Fellowship, Princeton University
2014-2015	Teagle Teaching Fellow at the McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, Princeton
	University
2014	The Adolph G. Rosengarten, Jr. '27 Graduate Fellowship in History, Princeton
	University
2012-2017	Princeton University Graduate Fellowship

AWARDS & HONORS

Peter R. Brown Prize (Best Late Antique Paper), Princeton University
Shelby Collum & Kathryn Davis Fellowship, History Department, Princeton
University
Phi Beta Kappa, National Honor Society
Jack Foner Prize for best history thesis, Colby College
William J. Wilkinson Memorial History Award (Highest History GPA, Colby College)
Graduated with Honors in History, Colby College
Graduated with Distinction in History, Government, Colby College
Pi Sigma Alpha, Political Science Honor Society
Colby College Dean's List all Semesters

GRANTS

2020	Covid-19 Public History Grant for <i>Infectious Historians</i> Podcast, Albert Lepage
	Center for History in the Public Interest, Villanova University (\$2,500)
2017	Dean's Fund for Scholarly Travel Grant, Princeton University
2017	Shifting Frontiers XII Conference Grant, Yale University
2016	Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies Summer Grant,
	Princeton University
2016	Princeton Center for Digital Humanities Travel Grant, Princeton University
2015	Dissertation Research Grant, History Department, Princeton University
2015	Stanley J. Seeger Summer Grant, Center for Hellenic Studies, Princeton University
2014	Greek Summer Language Funding, History Department, Princeton University
2013	Latin Summer Language Funding, History Department, Princeton University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

Fall 2018	Lecturer (Princeton University), HIS 400: The Fall of Rome and its Aftermath
Fall 2017	Adjunct Assistant Professor (Mercer County Community College), HIS 101: History
	of Western Civilization to 1648

Teaching Assistant

Spring 2015 Preceptor (Princeton University), HIS 210: The World of Late Antiquity (Professor Jack Tannous)

DIGITAL MEDIA PROJECTS

2020- <u>Co-Editor and Co-Host</u>, <u>Infectious Historians Podcast</u>

Weekly podcast with academic guests that has episodes on pandemics in history, such as the Black Death and the Third Plague Pandemic, and thematic episodes of interest during Covid-19, such as quarantine and the unequal impact of the virus on different communities.

2020- Co-Founder and Co-Editor, *Middle Ages for Educators*

Middle Ages for Educators is a comprehensive site that offers both teaching and research resources to help educators during the Coronavirus Pandemic. Our site provides video lectures, various linked teaching resources, and a resource exchange for researchers.

2018- <u>Project Investigator</u>, <u>PLAGUE</u> (Plague in Late Antiquity: Gathering the Uncertain Evidence)

Funded through Princeton's Center for Digital Humanities and the Climate Change and History Research Initiative to compile, collate, and contextualize all data on the outbreak of the Justinianic Plague (c. 541-750). Goal is to produce an interactive, public, and open-access website of all plague outbreaks.

2013- Contributor, <u>FLAME</u> (Framing the Late Antique and Early Medieval Economy Project)
FLAME investigates economic change through an analysis of coin minting and
monetary circulation in the Mediterranean. Goal is to produce an open-access
website of all coinage circulation from c. 350-750.

INVITED TALKS

2021	"Pandemics and the Collapse of Civilization: the Case of the Justinianic Plague," Humanities Speaker series, Valencia College (Florida), September 29, 2021
2021	"Pandemics and Catastrophe: The Justinianic Plague and the Origins of the Middle Ages," History Department, College of Staten Island, CUNY, March 5, 2021
2020	"Modern Implications of Late Antique Stories: The Justinianic Plague and the Plague Concept," Centre for Late Antique and Medieval Studies, King's College London, November 17, 2020 (Zoom)
2020	"Pandemics and History: the Plague Concept, Disease, and the End of Antiquity," Late Antique Seminar, Institute of History, University of Warsaw, October 29, 2020 (Zoom)
2020	"Middle Ages for Educators: Online Resources and Strategies for Teaching the Pre- Modern," American Historical Association, Online Teaching Forum, July 23, 2020 (Zoom)
2020	"Dangerous Comparisons: Historical Pandemics and Covid-19," De Gruyter Humanities Annual Lecture, Berlin, Germany, July 16, 2020 (Zoom)
2020	"The Justinianic Plague," Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main/Römisch- Germanisches Zentralmuseum, July 7, 2020 (Zoom)

2020	"The Justinianic Plague: Apocalypse or Overblown?" Pandemics in the Past: from
2022	Prehistory to (almost) the Present, Princeton University, June 18, 2020 (Zoom)
2020	"The Story of Pandemics in Scholarship and Popular Culture, 1890-2020,"
	Pandemics in the Past: from Prehistory to (almost) the Present, Princeton
	University, May 21, 2020 (Zoom)
2020	"Making a Pandemic: the Justinianic Plague, the End of Antiquity, and the Conquest of Disease," History Department, University of Maryland, April 27, 2020 (Zoom)
2020	"Pre-Modern Pandemics in History, Science, and Popular Media," Late Antique,
	Medieval, and Byzantine Studies Colloquium, Princeton University, April 7, 2020
	(Zoom)
2020	"The New Sciences of History: Paleogenetics and Paleoclimatology," Medieval
	Studies, Princeton University [Canceled due to Covid-19]
2019	"How the Justinianic Plague was Built: Climate Change, Pandemics, and the End of
	the World," History Department, Georgetown University, November 13, 2019
2019	"Constructing and Interpreting Medieval Datasets: the Justinianic Plague Case
	Study," University of Nevada, Reno, April 16, 2019
2019	"The First Plague Pandemic and the End of the Ancient World," University of
	Nevada, Reno, April 15, 2019
2018	"Re-Visiting the Justinianic Plague and its Impacts," Climate Change and History
	Research Initiative Project, Princeton University, May 25, 2018
	"Episcopal and Monastic Jurisdiction without State Support in Late Antiquity,"
	Property and Medieval State-Building, Princeton University, February 5, 2018
2017	"Changing Coinage: Transformations of Governance in the Early Medieval West,"
	Second International Congress on History of Money and Numismatics in the
	Mediterranean World, Suna & İnan Kıraç Research Centre on Mediterranean
	Civilizations, Koç University, January 8, 2017
2015	"The Politics of Consensus in Fifth Century Southern Gaul: Faustus of Riez and the
	Fusing of Communities," Historisches Seminar, Universität Zürich, November 2015
2014	"Disappeared Groups in the Late Roman World: The Alans in Fourth and Fifth
	Century Gaul," On the Margins of Textual Tradition, Princeton University, February
	21, 2020
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CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Conferences Organized

2016	"Bishops and Generals, Rulers and Monks: Office-holding and the Transformation of Power at the End of Antiquity," International Conference, Princeton University, April
	9, 2016
2015	"Rulers, Kingship, and Legacies of Power," Princeton University Graduate
	Conference in Medieval Studies, Princeton University, April 10, 2015

Conference and Workshop Panels Convened

2020	"Pandemics in the Past: from Prehistory to (almost) the Present," 6 Talks at
	Princeton University (Zoom), May-June, 2020
2019	"The Justinianic Plague: An Interdisciplinary Discussion (A Roundtable), 54th
	International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI
2019	"Transnational Traditions: Local and Global Canon Law in the Early Medieval
	World," 94th Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Philadelphia, PA

2014-2015 Convener, "Late Antique, Medieval, and Byzantine Workshop," Princeton University

Papers Presented

2022	"Teaching Disease Histories through Middle Ages for Educators," American Historical
0004	Association Annual Meeting, January 6-9, 2022, New Orleans, LA
2021	"The Justinianic Plague: From Macro to Micro and Back Again," Shifting Frontiers Shifting Frontiers XIV: Scale and the Study of Late Antiquity, June 3-5, 2021 (Zoom)
2020	"From Outbreak to Pandemic: Making the Justinianic Plague a Global Catastrophe,"
	History of Science Society Annual Meeting (October 2020, Canceled due to Covid-19)
2020	"How do pandemics affect early medieval societies?" Lessons from the past? Terms of the Debate and Some Examples, Climate Change and History Research Initiative
	Seminar, Princeton University (Zoom)
2020	"Where Did the Church Go? Methods of Governing in the Early Medieval Burgundian
2010	State," 27th International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds (Zoom)
2019	"The Local Origins of Visigothic Coinage" Coinage and Economy of the Early Medieval Mediterranean: A Colloquium, American Numismatics Society
2019	"The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly Imitations: The Creation of Visigothic Coins," 54th
	International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI
2019	"Copy and Paste? Imitative and Pseudo-Roman Coinage in the Visigothic Kingdom,"
2019	Rome, Byzantium and the Visigothic Kingdom, Princeton University "Rejecting Catastrophe: The Justinianic Plague and the End of Antiquity," Shifting
2017	Frontiers in Late Antiquity Thirteenth Biennial Conference, Claremont McKenna
	College
2019	"Adultery across Borders: The Making of Early Medieval Precedent on Illicit
	Sexuality," 94th Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Philadelphia, PA
2018	"Theological Debates and the Practice of Orthodoxy in the Burgundian State," 53rd
	International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI
2018	"Burgundy after the Burgundians: The Making of New Identities in the Early Middle
2017	Ages," Colonialism and Imperialism Workshop, Princeton University "Make Carthage Great Again: The Council of Carthage of 525, Episcopal Authority,
2017	and Monastic Privileges," 52 nd International Congress on Medieval Studies,
	Kalamazoo, MI
2017	"The Burgundian Revolution and the Transformation of Governance in the Late
	Antique West," Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity Twelfth Biennial Conference, Yale University
2016	"The Council of Carthage in 525 and the Creation of Monastic Privileges at the end of
	Rome," Program in the Ancient World Seminar, Princeton University
2016	"All Episcopal Politics are Local: Strategies of Creating Communities in Late Antique
2017	Gaul," 22 nd International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds
2016	"Valerian of Cimiez and Local Christianness," Princeton-Oxford-Vienna Graduate Exchange, Princeton University
2016	"Money Never Sleeps: A Transformation in Southern Gaul's Coinage?" 51st
	International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI
2016	"Money as Governance: The Burgundian Revolution of 500 C.E.," Framing the Late
2016	Antique and Early Medieval Economy Conference, Princeton University "An Unremarkable Bishop: Valerian of Cimiez's Sermons to his Community in Fifth
_010	Century Gaul," Late Antique, Medieval, and Byzantine Workshop, Princeton
	University

2015	"Exhortations for Orthodoxy: Bishops and the Construction of Religious and Roman Identity in Southern Gaul," 21 st International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds
2015	"Saints' Lives and the (Re)-Making of Local Communities in Fifth Century Southern Gaul," Princeton-Oxford-Vienna Graduate Exchange, Institut für
	Mittelalterforschung der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Vienna
2015	"Coinage of Late Antique Southern Gaul," Framing Early Medieval Coinage, Princeton University
2014	"Creating New Communities at the End of Empire: Roman, Religious, and Ethnic Identity in Southern Gaul, c. 400-600," Late Antique, Medieval, and Byzantine Workshop, Princeton University
2013	"Money and the Economy in Late Antiquity," Readings in Capitalism and History, Princeton University
2013	"Alans, Steppe Nomads, and Ethnicity in late Roman Gaul," Princeton-Oxford Graduate Classics Colloquium, Oxford, England
2012	"Romans or Isaurians: Internal Encounters in the Late Roman Empire," Catholic
	University of America Graduate Medieval Studies Conference, Catholic University
2011	"Assimilation and Malleable Identity in Isauria during Late Antiquity," King's College London-York-University of East Anglia, Annual Postgraduate Medieval Conference,
	King's College London
2011	"Conquest, Domination, and Re-Emergence: The Isaurians in Late Antique Asia Minor," Conquest & Expansionism: University of York History Research Society
2011	Annual Conference, University of York
2011	"Vanished Barbarians: The Isaurians in the Later Roman Empire" at "Historical
	Perspectives," University of Glasgow Annual Postgraduate History Conference,
2011	University of Glasgow
2011	"Shared Usage and Common Ground? Ideology and Realpolitik in the 12th Century
	Church of St. George at Lydda," Occidens Meets Oriens: St. Andrews Postgraduate History Conference, St. Andrews
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UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2017-18	Organizer, Graduate Child Assistance Program (GCAP) Reform Committee, Princeton University
2016-17	Member, Princeton Graduate Housing Advisory Board
2014-15	President, Princeton Graduate History Association
2013-14	Co-Chair & Convener, Princeton Medieval Latin Reading Group
2012-13	Social Chair, Princeton Graduate History Association
2009-10	Graduate Student Representative, King's College History Teaching Committee
2009-10	Graduate Student Representative, King's College History Student Liaison Committee
2004-5	Undergraduate Representative, Colby College Academic Affairs Committee

PEER REVIEW

Reviewed Articles for: Early Medieval Europe, Journal of Late Antiquity, Studies in Late Antiquity, Journal of Early Christian Studies, Vox Patrum, Atmosphere, Genealogy, Journal of Multidisciplinary Healthcare, article in Heirs of Roman Persecution (Routledge, 2019)

LANGUAGES & SKILLS

Latin, French, German, Italian, Spanish Medieval Latin Paleography Ancient, Medieval & Byzantine Numismatics

AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Climate Change and History Research Initiative (CCHRI), cchri.princeton.edu Medieval Academy of America American Historical Association