

## John David Cotts

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### Research fields

Cultural and intellectual history of the High Middle Ages; clerical culture in twelfth-century France and England; intellectual history of the Crusades; learning, spirituality and practical theology; medieval epistolography

### Teaching fields

Medieval and early modern Europe; cultural and intellectual history; history of religion; the Crusades; Western Civilization; France and England

### Education

Ph.D. (History) University of California, Berkeley, 2000

M.A. (History) University of California, Berkeley, 1995

B.A. (Classics and History) Oberlin College, 1993

### Academic appointments

- Associate Professor of History, Whitman College, 2009-
- Assistant Professor of History, Whitman College, 2004-2009
- Visiting Assistant Professor of History, Grinnell College, 2002-2004
- Lecturer in History, University of California, Berkeley, 2001-2002
- Visiting Assistant Professor of History, The Colorado College, 2000-2001

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Books

\* *Europe's Long Twelfth Century: Order, Anxiety and Adaptation, 1095-1229*  
(Basingstoke and New York: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2013)

\* *The Clerical Dilemma: Peter of Blois and Literate Culture in the Twelfth Century*  
(Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2009)

#### Articles

\* "Was Bernard of Clairvaux a Republican? The Middle Ages and the Liberal Arts College," *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Teaching* 15 (2008): 67-77.

\* "Monks and Clerks in Search of the *Beata Schola*: Peter of Celle's Warning to John of Salisbury Reconsidered," in *Teaching and Learning in Northern France Before the University*, ed. Sally Vaughn and Jay Rubenstein (Turnhout: Brepols, 2006), 255-77.

\* "Peter of Blois and the Problem of the 'Court' in the Late Twelfth Century," *Anglo-Norman Studies* 27 (2005): 68-84

- \* “Monks and Mediocrities in the Shadow of Thomas Becket: Peter of Blois on Episcopal Duty,” *Haskins Society Journal* 10 (2001): 143-61
- \* “The Critique of the Secular Clergy in Peter of Blois and Nigellus de Longchamps,” *Haskins Society Journal* 13 (2004 for 1999): 137-50

### Reviews

- \* Martina Hartmann, *Studien zu den Briefen Abt Wibalds von Stablo und Corvey sowie zur Briefliteratur in der frühen Stauferzeit*, Monumenta Germaniae Historica -- Studien und Texte, 52 (Hannover: Hahnsche Buchhandlung, 2011), *The Medieval Review* 12.11.18
- \* Franklin T. Harkins, *Reading and the Work of Restoration: History and Scripture in the Theology of Hugh of St. Victor* (Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, 2009), *Church History* 80 (2011): 857-59
- \* Thomas N. Bisson, *The Crisis of the Twelfth Century: Lordship, Power and the Origins of European Government* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008), *History: Reviews of New Books* 38 (2009):24-25
- \* Michael Reeve, ed., and Neil Wright, trans., *Geoffrey of Monmouth: The History of the Kings of Britain* (Woodbridge, UK, and Rochester, NY: The Boydell Press, 2007), *The Journal of British Studies* 77 (2009):514-16
- \* Martin Aurell, *The Plantagenêt Empire 1154-1224*, trans. David Crouch (Pearson Longman: Harlow, London and New York, 2007), [H-Albion reviews](#), April 2008
- \* David Gary Shaw, *Necessary Conjunctions: The Social Self in Medieval England* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2005), *Speculum* 82 (2007): 482-83
- \* R. W. Southern, *Scholastic Humanism and the Unification of Europe. Volume 2: The Heroic Age* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2001), *Religion and the Arts* 6 (2003): 414-16
- \* Malcolm Lambert, *Medieval Heresy: Popular Movements from the Gregorian Reform to the Reformation*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (Oxford: Blackwell, 2002), [H-Net reviews](#), October 2003

### Current Projects

- \* “Ralph de Hauterive and the Image of the Crusading Clergy,” article-length manuscript in preparation
- \* “Ralph Niger and the Paradoxes of the Crusading Ideal,” article-length manuscript in preparation

### RECENT SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

- \* “Exegesis and the Third Crusade: From Biblical Violence to Moral Reform in the Writings of the English Clergy,” presented at the annual meeting of the Medieval Association of the Pacific in San Diego, CA, March 23, 2013.
- \* Comment on “Medieval Culture in the Context of the Crusades, Part 1: Political Fictions,” a panel at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in New Orleans, LA, January 2013.
- \* Comment on “The ‘Renaissance of the Twelfth Century’: New Perspectives,” a panel at the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association in Boston, MA, January 2011.

- \*“Clerical Culture and Anti-Semitism: Peter of Blois’ *Contra perfidiam Iudaeorum* Reconsidered,” presented at the 44<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May, 2009
- \* “*Curiales* and Crusaders: Intellectuals in England and the Third Crusade,” presented at the Early Middle Ages Seminar of the Institute of Historical Research, University of London, February 25, 2009
- \*“The Practical Theology of Holy War: The English Clergy and the Third Crusade,” presented at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in New York, NY, January 3, 2009
- \*Presider, concluding roundtable, at the Twenty-Seventh International Congress of the Charles Homer Haskins Society, Washington, DC, November 9, 2008
- \*“Anxiety, Remorse, and the Twelfth-Century ‘Renaissance,’” presented at the 43<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May, 2008

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- \*Vice-President for North America and Conference Program Director, The Charles Homer Haskins Society, 2006-2011.
- \*Referee, *Journal of Medieval History*
- \*Referee, *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Teaching*
- \*Referee, *The Haskins Society Journal*
- \* Manuscript reviews for Longman Publishers and Oxford University Press

### **AWARDS**

- \* The Robert Y. Fluno Award for Distinguished Teaching in the Social Sciences, Whitman College, 2012
- \* The Bethell Prize, for the outstanding paper given by a graduate student or junior professor at the International Conference of the Charles Homer Haskins Society, 1999
- \* Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, University of California at Berkeley, 1997

### **Institutional Service**

- \* Encounters Curricular Subcommittee, Whitman College, fall 2010
- \* Assessment Committee, Whitman College, 2010-
- \* Core Curricular Committee, Whitman College, 2008
- \* General Studies Committee, Whitman College, 2007-2008 (chair, fall 2008)
- \* British Fellowships Committee, Whitman College, 2007-2008
- \* Copyright Policy Task Force, Whitman College 2007-10
- \* Library Advisory Committee, Whitman College, 2005-2008
- \*Aid to Scholarship and Instructional Development Committee, Whitman College, fall 2005
- \*Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning, University of California, Berkeley, 1999-2000

**Memberships in Professional Organizations**

- \*American Historical Association
- \*Medieval Academy of America
- \*The Charles Homer Haskins Society
- \*The American Society for Church History