

## **Sara McDougall**

John Jay College of Criminal Justice & the Graduate Center, City University of New York  
smcdougall@jjay.cuny.edu

### **Academic Positions:**

Professor, History, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, 2022-present

Medieval Studies Coordinator, CUNY Graduate Center, 2020-2023.

Member of the Graduate Faculty in French, History, Biography & Memoir, and Medieval Studies, Graduate Center of the City University of New York, 2014-present

Associate Professor, History, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY 2014-2022.

Assistant Professor, History, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY 2010-2014.

### **Visiting Appointments, Awards, and Fellowships:**

Visiting Professor in Legal History, University of Paris II Panthéon-Assas, December 2022.

Astor Visiting Lectureship, Oxford University, Trinity term, 2022.

Norman Freehling Visiting Professor, University of Michigan Institute for the Humanities, spring 2020.

Mellon Fellow, Member, School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton NJ. 2014-2015.

Golieb Fellow in Legal History at New York University School of Law, 2009-2010.

### **CUNY Teaching and Research Awards:**

Futures Initiative Faculty Fellow, "Consent: Medieval Legacies from Europe and the Islamic Worlds in Comparative Perspective" with Prof. Anna Akasoy, CUNY Graduate Center, 2022-2023 & "Mothers-in-Law," co-taught with Prof. Julie Suk, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, 2019-2020.

John Jay College Scholarly Excellence Award, 2019-2020, 2013-2014, 2018-2019.

Distinguished CUNY Fellow, Advanced Research Collaborative, The Graduate School of the City University of New York, spring 2017.

### **Education:**

Yale University, New Haven, CT. Ph.D. in History, May 2009.

### **Books:**

-*Royal Bastards: the birth of illegitimacy, 800-1230* (Oxford University Press, Oxford Studies in Medieval European History, 2017).

-*Bigamy and Christian Identity in Late-Medieval Champagne* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012).

### **Editorial Projects:**

-with the late Clive Emsley, *A Global History of Crime and Punishment*, 6 volumes. Bloomsbury Press (forthcoming, 2023).

-with Felicity Turner, Forum: "Rethinking the Criminalization of Childbirth: Infanticide in Premodern Europe and the Modern Americas," *Law & History Review* 39:2 (May 2021).

-with Sarah Pearsall, *Gender & History Special Issue: Marriage's Global Past* (November 2017).

- with Thomas Barton, Susan McDonough, and Matthew Wranovix, *Boundaries in the Medieval and Wider World. Festschrift in Honour of Paul Freedman*, Europa Sacra 22 (Brepols, 2017).
- with John Witte and Anna di Robilant, *Texts and Contexts in Legal History: Essays in Honor of Charles Donahue*, Robbins Collection, UC Berkeley (October 2016).

### Journal Articles and Book Chapters:

- "Judging Sexy Women in Late Medieval France," *postmedieval*, August 2022.
- with Merle Eisenberg and Laura Morreale, "Middle Ages for Educators," *New Chaucer Studies: Pedagogy and Profession*, 3:2 (2022).
- "Canon Law and Marriage," in the *Cambridge History of Medieval Canon Law*, eds. Anders Winroth and John Wei (CUP, January 2022).
- "Singlewomen and Illicit Pregnancy in Late Medieval France: The Case of Marie Ribou (1481)" *French Historical Studies*, 44:3 (August 2021).
- "Pardoning Infanticide in Late Medieval France," *Law & History Review* 39:2 (May 2021).
- "The Chivalric Family" in *Knighthood and Society in the High Middle Ages*, eds. David Crouch and Jeroen Deploige, (Leuven University Press, 2020).
- "Bastard Priests: Illegitimacy and Ordination in Medieval Europe," *Speculum: A Journal of Medieval Studies* 94/1 (January 2019).
- with Sarah Pearsall, "Marriage's Global Past: Introduction," in *Gender & History Special Issue: Marriage's Global Past* (November 2017).
- "The Monk-King and the Abbess-Countess: Dynastic Lineage in Twelfth Century Aragon and Boulogne" in *Boundaries in the Medieval and Wider World. Festschrift in Honour of Paul Freedman*, Europa Sacra 22 (Brepols, 2017).
- with Charles Donahue, Jr. "France and Adjoining Areas," in *History of Courts and Procedure in Medieval Canon Law* eds. Kenneth Pennington and Wilfried Hartmann (Catholic University Press, November 2016).
- "Enclosure as Punishment for Adultery," in *Proceedings of the Fourteenth International Congress of Medieval Canon Law*, Toronto 3-9 August 2012, eds. Joseph Goering, Stephan Dusil, and Andreas Thier, Monumenta Iuris Canonici, Series C: Subsidia (Vatican City: Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, 2016).
- "À la recherche des enfants illégitimes dans les archives de l'officialité de Troyes au xv<sup>e</sup> siècle. Un exemple atypique?" in *Bâtards et bâtardises dans l'Europe médiévale et moderne*, ed. Carole Avignon (Presses universitaires de Rennes, 2016).
- "Fiction and Lies: Adultery and Spousal Homicide Accusations in Fifteenth Century France" in *Imagining Early Modern Histories*, eds. Allison Kavey and Elizabeth Ketner (Ashgate, 2016).
- "The Transformation of Adultery in France at the End of the Middle Ages," *Law and History Review* 32:3 (August 2014).
- "The Opposite of the Double Standard: Gender, Marriage, and Adultery Prosecution in Late Medieval France," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 23:2 (May 2014).
- "Women Before the Officiality of Troyes in the Fifteenth Century," in *Les officialités dans l'Europe médiévale et moderne: Des tribunaux pour une société chrétienne* eds. Véronique Beaulande-Barraud and Martine Charageat, (Brepols, 2014).
- "The Making of Marriage in Medieval Europe," *Journal of Family History* 38:3 (July 2013).
- "Women and Gender in Medieval Canon Law," in the *Oxford Handbook of Women and Gender in Medieval Europe*, eds. Ruth Karras and Judith Bennett (July 2013).

- “Bigamy: A Male Crime in Medieval Europe,” *Gender and History* 22:2 (August 2010).
- “The Punishment of Bigamy in Late-Medieval France,” *Imago Temporis Acti. Medium Aevum* 3 (2009).
- “The Prosecution of Sex in Late Medieval Troyes,” in *History of Sexuality in the Middle Ages and Renaissance*, ed. Albrecht Classen (De Gruyter: 2008).

### **Forthcoming Publications:**

- with Emily Hutchison, “Pardonable Sodomy: Uncovering Laurence’s Sin and Recovering the Range of the Possible,” *Medieval People* 2 (December 2022)
- “Sex with Nuns in Medieval France,” *Essays in Honor of Charles Donahue, Jr.* eds. Saskia Lettmaier and Elizabeth Papp Kamali (Brill Press, under consideration).

### **Selected Public Writing/Media:**

- for *Slate*, with David Perry, "[In the Middle Ages, Botched Executions were a Sign.](#)"
- "[Women Who Hurt Women](#)," & "[Thieves and Harlots' Matt Damon's Last Duel mullet had its reasons](#)" & "[What's Fact and What's Fiction in The Last Duel?](#)" & "[Mind Your Neighbor: What's Happening in Texas isn't Medieval, it's Worse](#),"
- New York Times*, "[Catholic Bishops Agree: Anything But a Woman.](#)"
- The Washington Post, "[When the Catholic Church's prohibition on scandal helped women.](#)"
- Perspectives: the newsmagazine of the American Historical Association*, with Brian Connolly and Hans Hummer, "[WEIRD Science: Incest and History.](#)"
- Ms. Magazine online*, with Felicity Turner: "[Qatar and Us: The Violation of Women's Bodies Has a Long History Among Western Nations.](#)"
- The Docket: Law and History Review, with Mireille Pardon and Karl Shoemaker, "['Abortion Was a Crime'?](#)"
- WNPR's Colin McEnroe show: "[Bastards and Game of Thrones.](#)"
- Medievalists.net podcast: "[Bastards and Priests in the Middle Ages.](#)"

### **Future Presentations:**

- “The Priest's Mistress as Neighbor: Sex, Sin, and Society in Late Medieval France,” Portland State University History Faculty Colloquium, February 3, 2023.
- Respondant and organizer, “Consent and Sex in Law and Legal Practice in the Middle Ages,” and Roundtable, with Emily Hutchison, “Women, Sex, and Work in Medieval France,” Medieval Academy of America, February, 2023.

### **Selected Presentations:**

- “L'accouchement hors mariage à la fin du Moyen Âge : L'enseignement des actes judiciaires relatif aux expériences individuelles (Dijon, 1472)” Institut d'Histoire du Droit Jean Gaudemet, Pantheon-Assas, Université Paris, December 8 2022.
- “The Bishop's Wife,” Conference: Priests’ Wives and Concubines in the Medieval West (800-1200), Stanford University, Oct. 27-28, 2022.
- “Extramarital Pregnancies in Legal Sources from Late Medieval France,” Postpartum Mental Distress in Late Medieval Europe research group, Tel Aviv University, June 26, 2022.
- “Surviving Illicit Pregnancy in Late Medieval France,” Oxford Medieval Studies Lecture, Worcester College, May 24 2022.

- "Sex with Nuns in Medieval France," in "On the Borders of the Realm: Aristocratic Culture and the Making of France, 1100-1300," Princeton University, April 29-30, 2022.
- Invited Keynote "Encounters with Jehanne from Lorraine in Late Medieval Dijon," Society for the Study of French History, Annual Conference, "Encounters" Oxford, April 10-13, 2022.
- "Women and Sex in Medieval France and Beyond," in Roundtable: The Past and The Future of Medieval Women's History: 34 years after *Women in Medieval History and Historiography*, Medieval Academy of America, Charlottesville, VA, March 10-13, 2022.
- "Gender and Justice in Medieval France," Oxford University, Oxford Centre for Gender, Identity and Subjectivity, June 3, 2021.
- "Une concubine à Dijon à la fin du XV<sup>e</sup> siècle," Sexualités ecclésiastiques. État des lieux et perspectives, Université Grenoble-Alpes, June 3, 2021.
- Workshop on Medieval Kinship, George Mason University, May 17, 2021.
- "#MeToo 1472: telling a survivor's story from Late Medieval Dijon," for the Women Writing Women's Lives Biography Seminar, Center for the Study of Women and Society, CUNY Graduate Center, May 3, 2021.
- "Abducted Nuns, Pregnant Nuns, and Consent in Valois France," Consent Workshop, Oxford University, April 23-26, 2021.
- "Telling the Truth About Illicit Pregnancy in Medieval France," in "Women and Truth Telling," Medieval Academy of America, April 16, 2021.
- "Judging Sex in Late Medieval France," Oxford University Medieval History Research Seminar, January 25, 2021.
- Panel, "Women and Work in the Middle Ages," University of Nevada at Reno, January 28, 2021.
- "Judging Sex Crimes: Pregnancy and Punishment in Medieval France," Legal History Workshop, University of Pennsylvania Law School, October 29, 2020.
- "Middle Ages for Educators: Online Resources and Strategies for Teaching the Pre-Modern," with Laura Morreale and Merle Eisenberg, American Historical Association [Teaching Webinar](#), July 23, 2020.
- "Down and Out and Pregnant in Medieval France," FellowSpeak, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan, January 28, 2020.
- "Infanticide in the Middle Ages: Cross-Perspectives from Canon Law, the Courts, Health Care, and the Confessional," in session "The Law's Two Bodies. Legal Corpus and Marginalized Bodies in Medieval Europe and the New World," American Historical Association, January 3-6, 2020.
- "Punishing and Pardoning Infanticide in Late Medieval France," in session "Infanticide and Illegitimate Pregnancies in Premodern Europe and the Modern Americas," American Society for Legal History, November 21, 2019.
- "La grossesse, l'accouchement et la protection des nourrissons et des enfants dans les statuts synodaux français" Legal Diffusion in the Late Medieval Church: Local Ecclesiastical Legislation, 1215-1500, Metz, France, June 13-14, 2019.
- "Illicit Pregnancy and Synodal Statutes in France," Legal Diffusion in the Late Medieval Church: Local Ecclesiastical Legislation in France and its Neighbors, 1215-1500, Stanford University, April 26-27, 2019.
- "The Family post-1000," Re-envisioning Kinship in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages" Princeton University, April 7, 2019.

- "A Roundtable on Reproductive Choice: Abortion and Infanticide in Premodern Europe and the Modern Americas" American Historical Association, Chicago, IL, January 4, 2019.
- "Autour de la mère sans mari: droit et pratique au moyen-âge," Société d'Histoire du Droit, Université Paris II Panthéon-Assas, November 17, 2018.
- "Les bâtards au Moyen Âge: Naissance de l'illégitimité," Sorbonne Université Lettres-École nationale des Chartres, October 11, 2018.
- "Bringing up Bastards in Late Medieval Paris" Sewanee Medieval Studies Conference, April 13-14, 2018.
- "Down and Out and Pregnant in the Thirteenth Century: Law and Practice," Medieval Studies Conference "Gothic Arts," University of Pennsylvania, March 23-24, 2018.
- "La maternité et les enfants illégitimes dans nos sources," workshop "Legal Diffusion in the Late Medieval Church: Local Ecclesiastical Legislation in France and its Neighbors, 1215-1500," organized by Christine Barralis and Rowan Dorin, Metz, 18 December, 2017.
- "Bastards and their Families in the Twelfth Century," Symposium Families in Law: Social Contexts 200-1200, Manchester University, UK, July 8-9, 2017.
- "Bastard Priests and their Families in Medieval Europe," Workshop, Family in the Premodern World, Princeton University, April 8-9, 2017.
- "Bastards and their Families in Medieval Europe," Advanced Research Collaborative Spring Workshop Series, CUNY Graduate Center, February 23, 2017.
- "Like Father Like Son? Clerical Celibacy and Priestly Office in Medieval Europe," Yale Law School Legal History Colloquium, Yale Law School, New Haven, CT, February 2, 2017.
- "Bastards!" Medieval History Colloquium, Harvard University, January 31, 2017.
- "Bastards and Thrones in Medieval Europe c.800-c.1230," Legal History Colloquium, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, November 7, 2016.
- "Canon Law, Priests' Children, and Disinheritance," Fifteenth International Medieval Canon Law Congress, Paris, France, July 17-23, 2016.
- "Bâtards et succession, ix<sup>e</sup>-xiii<sup>e</sup> siècle" Seminar: La Bâtardise et autres "taches" de naissance, Charles de Miramon and Sylvie Steinberg, Ecole des Hautes Etudes et Sciences Sociales, Paris, June 20, 2016.
- "Bastards and Illegitimacy in the Christian Mediterranean" in "Individuals and Legal Institutions Around the Medieval Mediterranean," Center for Jewish Studies, Duke University, March 7-8, 2016.
- "Illegitimacy and the Children of Illegal Marriages" in "Legitimacy, Illegitimacy, and Succession in Medieval Europe" Medieval Academy of America, Boston, February 25-27, 2016.
- "Women and their bastards in medieval Europe (11th-13th centuries)" in "Gender and Illicit Sex in Premodern Europe" American Society for Legal History, Washington D.C., Nov. 1-2, 2015.
- "The Canon Law of Bastards," Stephan Kuttner Medieval Canon Law Conference, Yale University, New Haven, CT, May 21, 2015.
- "What was a bastard in Medieval Europe?" School of Historical Studies Lunchtime Colloquia, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton NJ, December 4, 2014.
- "Money, Marriage, and the Illegitimate Children of Royalty," Invited Lecture, Program in Medieval Studies, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, October 23, 2014.
- "Reforming Marriage in France" Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, New Orleans, October 16-19, 2014.
- "Adulterous Murderesses and Royal Pardon in Late Medieval France" in: "Spousal Homicide and Adultery in Comparative Perspective" Berkshire Conference on the History of Women,

Toronto, Canada, May 22-24 2013.

- "Illicit Sex, Illicit Progeny: Family Law and the Regulation of Illegitimate Children in Medieval France" in session "Law and Lineage: Comparative Histories of Children and Families as Legal Subjects," American Society for Legal History, Miami, FL, November 7-10, 2013.

- "Sexual Misbehavior in 14th- and 15th-Century France," Sexual Pleasure and Medieval Canon Law - Law in Action, International Medieval Congress, Leeds, England, July 2, 2013.

- "Les enfants adultérins," in *Filiation illégitime et bâtardise dans les sociétés médiévale et moderne*, Université d'Angers, June 10, 2013.

- "Reforming Adultery in Late Medieval France," Stanford University Law School, Legal History Colloquium, February 11, 2013.

- "Adultery and the Law in Fifteenth Century France," Boston University Law School, Legal History Colloquium, November 14, 2012.

- "Husbands, Wives, and Adultery in Late-Medieval France," University of Chicago Law School Workshop on Regulating Family, Sex and Gender, Chicago, IL, April 11, 2012.

- "Husbands, Wives, and Adultery in Late-Medieval France," University of Michigan Law School Legal History Workshop, Ann Arbor, MI, April 10, 2012.

### **Teaching Experience:**

Professor, CUNY Graduate Center, Medieval Studies and French, and John Jay College History Department, Humanities and Justice, and Gender Studies Programs, (2022-present)

Associate Professor, CUNY Graduate Center, Medieval Studies and French, and John Jay College History Department, Humanities and Justice, and Gender Studies Programs, (2015-2022)

Assistant Professor, History Department, Humanities and Justice Program, and Gender Studies Program, John Jay College (2010-2015)

Teaching Fellow, History Department, Yale University (Spring 2009, 2005-2006)

### **University Service:**

Medieval Studies Certificate Program Coordinator, CUNY Graduate Center, 2020-2023.

Executive Committee, Admissions, and Graduate Council, Biography and Memoir MA Program, CUNY Graduate Center, 2019-2023.

Graduate Admissions, French Department, CUNY Graduate Center, 2015-2017, 2022.

CUNY Justice Academy experiential learning course development and 200-level transfer seminar course development, John Jay College, 2020-2021.

Assessment Committee John Jay History Department, 2021.

Five Year Review and Assessment Committee, Humanities and Justice, John Jay, 2019-2020.

Graduate Admissions Committee, History Department, CUNY Graduate Center, 2018-2019, 2021-2022.

Curriculum Committee, French Department, 2019.

Minor Coordinator, History and Law Minor, John Jay College, 2021-2022, 2018-2019.

Five-Year History Major Review Report Committee, John Jay, 2017-2018.

Deputy Executive Officer, French Department, CUNY Graduate Center, 2016-2017.

Medieval Studies Certificate Program Advisory Committee, CUNY Grad. Center, 2016-present.

Dissertation supervision of three PhD candidates in History, CUNY Grad. Center, 2014-present.

PhD thesis committee member for Julián González de León Heiblum, History, CUNY Grad. Center, 2017-2021.

PhD thesis committee member for Anna Soo-Hoo, French literature, CUNY Grad Center, 2015-2021.

Student Advising, Grade Appeals Committee, History Department, John Jay, 2015-2016, 2019.

Departmental Personnel and Budget Committee, History Department, John Jay, 2012-2014.

General Education Curriculum Committee, 2012-2014.

History Department Curriculum Committee, 2011-2014, 2016-2017.

History Department Assessment Committee, 2011-2014, 2021.

Student Research Travel Committee, fall 2013.

Major Coordinator, Global History, 2011-2013.

At-Large Representative, Faculty Senate and College Council, 2011-2012.

History Department Representative, Faculty Senate and College Council, Spring 2011.

### **Public Engagement:**

Board Member, Libraries Without Borders USA, Washington, DC.

Board, Association of Members of the Institute for Advanced Study (AMIAS) Princeton, NJ.

Co-Founder and Project Editor, Middle Ages For Educators

[www.middleagesforeducators.princeton.edu](http://www.middleagesforeducators.princeton.edu)

### **Recent Co-organized Conferences:**

with Arnaud Fossier, Workshop "Gender on Trial/Genre en procès," Université de Bourgogne, December 14-15, [2022](#).

with Bonnie Wheeler and Nancy Wu, "Paradigms and Personae: A Symposium in Honor of Elizabeth A. R. Brown," Skylight Room, CUNY Graduate Center, March 16, 2018.

with Abigail Firey and Conrad Leyser, "Families in Law: Social Contexts 200-1200," Manchester University, Rylands Library, July 7-9, 2017.

with Lee Mordechai, "The Family in the Premodern World," Princeton University, April 7-8, 2017.

with Sarah Pearsall, "Marriage's Global Past," Cambridge University, April 6-7, 2016.

### **Recent Related Professional Experience:**

K-12 Committee, Medieval Academy of America, 2021-2023.

Baldwin Dissertation Prize Committee, Medieval Academy of America, 2017-2022.

Berkshires Women's History Conference Program Committee, 2020.

External examiner, Oxford University, PhD thesis of Lucia Akard, June 2022.

Dissertation jury, University of Poitiers, France, Dr. Charlotte Pichot, December 2020.

Women Writing Women's Lives, CUNY Graduate Center, 2020-

Board of Directors, American Society for Legal History, 2015-2018.

Peter Stein Book Prize Committee, American Society for Legal History, 2016-2017.