

James Robert Purcell

Department of History  
Columbia University  
613 Fayerweather Hall  
1180 Amsterdam Ave, MC 2527  
New York, NY 10027

## Curriculum Vitae

### Education

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|---------|---|
| Current | Ph.D. Candidate in Medieval History<br>Columbia University in the City of New York<br>Dissertation: "Parsing Truth in Merovingian Gaul: Evidence and the Early Medieval Critic"<br>Adviser: Adam Kosto<br>Examination Fields: Medieval Law and Diplomats, Medieval Religion, Identity and Ethnicity in Late Antiquity, Precolonial sub-Saharan Africa |
| 2017    | M.Phil. in History<br>Columbia University   |
| 2014    | M.A. in History<br>Columbia University<br>Thesis: "Legal Writing and Institutional Culture: A Diplomatic Analysis of the Eighth-Century Charters from Flavigny"   |
| 2012    | B.A. with Highest Honors in History & B.Music in Bassoon Performance<br>Oberlin College & Conservatory  |

### Teaching Experience

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|--------------|---|
| 2018-current | Core Preceptor in African Civilizations<br>Center for the Core Curriculum<br>Columbia University  |
| 2014 - 2017  | Teaching Assistant<br>Columbia University<br>Courses: Modern Latin America, Ancient Greek History, The Historical Jesus and the Origins of Christianity, The Later Middle Ages, World History to 1450 |

2011 Instructor of Record  
 “Rat Trials and Nun Wars: Demystifying the Middle Ages”  
 Oberlin College Experimental College

## Presentations

2018 “Anti-Skepticism and Merovingian Epistemology”  
Truth and Truthiness: Belief, Authenticity, Rhetoric, and Spin in the Middle Ages  
Barnard College

“Medieval Art in a Time of War: Transitional States and Other Inconveniences”  
Design History Society Annual Meeting  
Parsons School of Design

“Evidence, Knowability, and Truth: Elements of Merovingian Legal Style”  
Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting (delivered in absentia)  
Emory University

2017 “Selling Medieval America: Entrepreneurs and the American Afterlife of Medieval Architecture”  
Reuse Reconsidered  
Brown University

“Candid Conversations Video Dialogues: On Graduate Mentorship”  
Humanists@Work  
Pre-recorded for the 2017 American Historical Association Annual Meeting  
Emory University

2016 “Architecture to Artifact: The American Dealers of Medieval Buildings”  
Art and Cultural Heritage Crime Symposium  
New York University School of Professional Studies

Moderator, “Pop History”  
High-Stakes History: The Many Conversations of the Historian  
Columbia University

2015 “Female Monasticism as Legal Puzzle in Merovingian Gaul”  
International Medieval Congress  
University of Leeds

“Labeling Relics and Managing Doubt in Early Medieval Gaul”  
International Congress on Medieval Studies  
Western Michigan University

## **Department and Professional Service**

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|---------------|--|
| 2016          | Programs and Editorial Fellow<br>The Council for European Studies<br>New York, NY  |
| 2016          | Organizer<br>History in Action III. High Stakes History: The Many Conversations of the Historian<br>Columbia University History Department |
| 2015-<br>2016 | Contributing Editor<br><i>The Blog of the Journal of the History of Ideas</i>  |
| 2015-<br>2016 | Graduate Co-Coordinator<br>History in Action<br>Columbia University History Department   |
| 2012          | Summer Intern<br>The Center for Renaissance Studies<br>The Newberry Library  |

## **Awards and Grants**

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|---------------|--|
| 2018          | Charles Tuttle Wood Dissertation Grant<br>Medieval Academy of America                            |
| 2015,<br>2017 | History in Action Project Award for "Medieval America"<br>Columbia University History Department |
| 2013          | British History Fund Fellowship<br>Columbia University History Department                        |
| 2011          | The Beinecke Scholarship (\$34,000)<br>The Sperry Fund   |
| 2008-<br>2012 | Oberlin Conservatory Dean's Scholarship<br>Oberlin College & Conservatory                        |

## **Selected Other Writing**

2016            “In the Early 1900s, Robber Barons Bought Dozens of Centuries-Old European  
Buildings. Where Is Medieval America now?”  
with Brianna Nofil  
*Atlas Obscura*

## **Research Languages**

Latin (high reading proficiency)  
French (high reading proficiency, speaking proficiency)  
German (reading proficiency, some speaking proficiency)