

O. Robert Miller

rmiller@warren-wilson.edu

EDUCATION

Columbia University

Ph.D. – International and Global History 2015
Sasun 1894: Mountains, Missionaries and Massacres at the End of the Ottoman Empire
Chair: Richard Bulliet

M.Phil. – International and Global History 2010
Passed oral examination with distinction

M.A. – International and Global History 2009

University of California, Santa Cruz

B.A. – World History 2003
Magna cum laude
Thesis: *Camus' Algeria: Identities, Ambiguities and Imagined Communities*

AWARDS

Core Preceptor Award for undergraduate teaching, *Columbia University* 2014
Boren Fellowship, Turkey (Declined) 2012
Summer Merit Award, *Columbia University* 2011
Evelyn Walker Fellowship, *Columbia University* 2010 – 2011
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (Turkish) 2007
Richard J. Hofstadter Fellowship, *Columbia University* 2006 – 2011

AREAS OF RESEARCH

World History, Middle East, Mountain communities, Refugees, and Constructions of Race around the World

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

<p>Assistant Professor of History, Warren Wilson College “Global History, 1400-1982” “Ottoman History” “Uplands, Colonialism, Genocide” “Senior Project II: Art History” “Antiquity to Medieval Era” “Modern Middle East, 1800-2000 CE” “A Global History of Capitalism”</p>	<p>2022 – <i>present</i></p>
<p>Assistant Professor of History, Bilkent University “History of Civilization 102” “History of Civilization 101” “Modern Middle East since 1800” “Economic History, the Rise of Capitalism” “History of Migration in the Ottoman Empire” “The World Transformed (1789-1914)” “History of the United States to Reconstruction” “History of the United States since Reconstruction”</p>	<p>2018 – 2022</p>
<p>Postdoctoral Fellow - Consortium for Faculty Diversity, Union College “A People’s History of the Middle East” (Fall) “World History of Capitalism” (Winter) “Refugees in World History” (Spring)</p>	<p>2017 – 2018</p>
<p>Affiliated Faculty, Emerson College “Non-Western World History” 170 students (over 5 classes), average evaluation 4.5 out of 5</p>	<p>2016 – 2017</p>
<p>Lecturer, Columbia University “Contemporary Civilization” (Core Curriculum) 23 students, average evaluation 4.8 out of 5</p>	<p>2015 – 2016</p>
<p>Visiting Instructor, Pratt Institute of Art and Design “World History 1200-1800”</p>	<p>Spring 2015</p>
<p>Visiting Lecturer, Cornell University “The History of Women in the Modern Middle East” 14 students, average evaluation 4.9 out of 5</p>	<p>Fall 2014</p>

Preceptor, Columbia University 2012 – 2014
 “Contemporary Civilization” (Core Curriculum)
Core Preceptor Award for undergraduate teaching

Teaching Assistant, Columbia University 2008 – 2012
 “History of the Modern Middle East” (three semesters), Rashid Khalidi
 “History of Latin American Civilization” (two semesters), Caterina Pizzigoni
 “History of the World to 1500 CE” (one semester), Richard Bulliet

MONOGRAPHS AND PAPERS

- Monograph forthcoming with Cambridge University Press, *The Ottoman Conquest of the Mountains: State Violence, Technology, and Authoritarianism*. (Forthcoming)
- Co-editor of volume tentatively titled *Global Migration History* with Columbia University Press. (Forthcoming)
- “‘Back to the Homeland’ (Tebi Yergir): or, How Peasants became Revolutionaries in Mush,” *Journal of Ottoman and Turkish Studies* (November 2017)
- “Rethinking the Violence in the Sasun Mountains (1893-1894),” *Études arméniennes contemporaines* (September 2018)
- with co-writer, Kamal Soleimani, “The Sheikh and the Missionary: Notes on a Conversation on Christianity, Islam and Kurdish Nationalism,” *The Muslim World* (August 2019)
- “Uplands, Lowlands and Mass Violence in Ottoman Cilicia,” in Ümit Kurt and Ara Sarafian edited volume, *Armenians and Kurds in the Late Ottoman Empire: A Social History* (California State University, Fresno, 2020)
- Two articles (co-written with Jelle Verheij and Ümit Kurt respectively) are to be included in a *Handbook of the Late Ottoman Empire* (edited by Hans-Lukas Kieser and Khatchig Mouradian) and published by I.B. Tauris (Forthcoming)
- with co-writer Ibrahim Halil Kalkan, entitled, “How the powerful maintained their power: Land, violence and identity in fin de siècle Palu” (May 2023)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES (BY INVITATION)

- *The Goodell family in Global History* at the American Society of Church History (ASCH) conference in Philadelphia (January 2023) on a panel chaired by David Hollinger, Preston Hotchkis Professor of History, emeritus, and president of the Organization of American Historians in 2010-11.
- *How the powerful maintained their power: Land, violence and identity* at the Middle East Studies Association in Denver (December 2022) on a panel entitled “Translating Status and Privilege in (post-)Ottoman Moments of Transition” (Discussant: Mostafa Minawi)
- *Violence at the Ends of Empire: The Catastrophes of the Circassians and Armenians*, at a conference entitled, “How International, Transnational, and Global History Conquered the World,” at Columbia University, November 30-December 1, 2018. (Discussant: Mae Ngai)
- *The Ottoman Colonization of the Mountains, 1876-1909*, at a conference entitled, “Abdul Hamid II Era and Beyond: Massacres and Reform, Rupture, and Continuity,” Clark University, October 25-26, 2018. (Chair: Ani Ohanian)
- *From a Shared Religious Space to Rubble: The Monastery of Surb Garabed, 1849-1915*, at the annual conference of the American Society of Environmental Historians on a panel entitled, “Nature and Empire in Upland Frontiers, 1850-1950,” U.C. Riverside, March 18, 2018. (Chair: John McNeil)
- *Rev. George Perkins Knapp of Bitlis and the Massacres of 1895* at the annual conference of the Middle Eastern Studies Association, on a panel entitled, “The Great Fear of 1895: Armenian Reform, Rumor and Violence across the Ottoman Empire,” Washington D.C., November 19, 2017. (Discussant: Edhem Eldem)
- *The Colonization of the Mountains: Sasun, Zeytun and Dersim at the End of the Ottoman Empire*, at the conference “Armenians, Greeks, and Kurds: A People’s History of the Ottoman Empire,” California State University, Fresno, September 22, 2017. (Organized by Ümit Kurt and Barlow Der Mugrdchian). The articles produced for this conference will be published.
- *The Massacre in the Sasun Mountains (1894): Interpretations of Violence at the End of the Empire*, at conference, *New Directions in Armenian Ottoman Studies*, UC Berkeley, April 8, 2017.
- *The Age of Fedayi in the plain of Mush and the mountains of Sasun*, at the conference, “The Age of the Komitadji,” University of Basel, January 22, 2015.
- “*Interpreting Violence in Ottoman Cilicia*,” at the annual conference of the Middle Eastern Studies Association on a panel entitled, “Reframing Refugees: Immigrants and Settlement Policies in the Late Ottoman Empire and Early Republican Turkey,” Washington D.C., November 25, 2014. (Chair: Michael Reynolds)

PUBLIC TALKS (BY INVITATION)

- “*The Goodells: Toward a Global History of a Missionary Family*,” The American Studies Association of Turkey, Hacettepe University, November 20, 2019.
- “*The Ottoman Colonization of the Mountains, 1876-1909*,” University of Hamburg, October 30, 2019.
- “*Hawaii, Ottoman Anatolia and the US South: Toward a Global History of a Missionary Family (1820-1895)*,” Institute of Oriental Studies, University of Bamberg, July 17, 2019.
- “*Roma Identity: Orientalism Transposed*,” Bilkent University, March 28, 2019.
- “*The Ottoman Empire through the Lens of the American Civil War: Slavery and the 1890s’ Armenian Massacres in comparative perspective*,” at Clark University, Worcester, February 21, 2018.
- “*The Massacre in Sasun (1894) and the Ottoman Colonization of the Mountains*,” Ararat-Eskijian Museum, December 3, 2017.
- “*The Goodells: Toward a Global History of a Missionary Family*,” at the German Historical Institute, Washington D.C., June 28, 2017.
- “*History Matters Series – Missionary Backstories: The Civil Rights Movement in the United States*,” at the Congregational Library (Boston), March 30, 2017.
- “*The Massacre in the Sasun Mountains (1894): Interpretations of Violence at the End of Empire*” at the National Association for Armenian Studies (NAASR), Boston, March 16, 2017.
- “*History Matters Series – Missionary Backstories: The Imperial Annexation of the Kingdom of Hawai’i*,” at the Congregational Library (Boston), February 16, 2017.
- “*History Matters Series – Missionary Backstories: The Peace Corps in the Ottoman Empire*,” at the Congregational Library (Boston), January 19, 2017.

SERVICE

Co-founder and member of the *Organization for the Advancement of Studies of Inner Asian Societies* (OASIES), 2008 – 2015

OASIES members put on panels, conferences, brown bags and film screenings focusing on underrepresented communities (Kurds, Uyghurs, etc.). We also endeavored to bring together scholars across Middle Eastern, South Asian, Eastern European and East Asian area studies programs. Over the course of seven years, I organized conferences, faculty panels and brown-bag discussions.

Co-founder and member of *History Across Borders Workshop* (HABW), 2012 - 2015

HABW was designed to connect graduate students from the history department to historians from across Columbia University and the community around it. Our focus was on peer reviewing papers, educating ourselves about archival research and grants, and building a community around transnational, international, and global history projects

At Union College, I was active in organizing a series of speakers to discuss the plight of refugees (Rohingya, Syrian, and Colombian). The goal is to understand the broader structures of inequality and violence that are driving so many people around the world out of their homes. I was also involved in the Next Step Retreat, “a forum to develop knowledge and skills to become better change agents, leaders, and activists in regard to diversity, equity, power, privilege, prejudice, and discrimination.”

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Middle East Studies Association
American Society of Church History

LANGUAGES

Advanced reading: Turkish, Spanish, Persian
Intermediate reading: French, Ottoman Turkish, German
Beginning reading: Arabic, Romanian, Western Armenian