



## Between Integration and Vulnerability Varieties of Experience in Mudéjar Aragon

Seminar offered by Professor Brian Catlos on October 25, 2023  
Universität Konstanz, Room M 0630, 9-12 AM

Were the *mudéjares* (free Muslim subjects) of the medieval Crown of Aragon an exploited and vulnerable subaltern or a confidently integrated minority community? In this seminar we will do a close reading of two *procesos* (administrative/judicial inquiries) from the first decade of the 1300s, which demonstrate the wide-ranging experience of Muslim subjects. In one, a town's magistrate and council is investigated for allegedly executing by hanging an itinerant Muslim potter accused of theft and attempted murder. In the other, a Muslim community violently resists the Crown's efforts to impose an irregular tax on them. In both cases the Muslim communities in question were apparently socially integrated with the Christian majority. What they reveal is that the lived experience of subject Muslims was deeply informed by local conditions – and that when factors mitigated towards *conveniencia* (“Convenience”), these communities enjoyed considerable security, whereas when these conditions were not present, they were vulnerable to extrajudicial violence.

**The readings will be distributed a week or so before the seminar. Please sign up for attending the seminar at [jovo.miladinovic@uni-konstanz.de](mailto:jovo.miladinovic@uni-konstanz.de)**

Brian A. Catlos (PhD: Toronto, Medieval Studies, 2000) is Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder and Research Associate in Humanities at the University of California Santa Cruz. His work centers on Muslim-Christian-Jewish relations and ethno-religious identity in medieval Europe and the Islamic World, and the history of the pre-Modern Mediterranean. In addition to many articles, he has written *The Victors and the Vanquished: Christians and Muslims of Catalonia and Aragon, 1050–1300* (Cambridge: 2004), *Infidel Kings and Unholy Warriors: Power, Faith and Violence in the Age of Crusade and Jihad* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux: 2014), *Muslims of Medieval Latin Christendom, 1050–ca. 1615* (Cambridge: 2014) and *Kingdoms of Faith: A New History of Islamic Spain* (Basic: 2018). He has won numerous prizes and distinctions, including the MAA's Haskin's Medal and MESA's Albert Hourani Prize, and his work is translated into ten languages. *The Sea in the Middle: The Mediterranean World, 650-1650* and *Texts from the Middle: Documents from the Mediterranean World, 650-1650* (with T. Burman and M. Meyerson) were published by the University of California. His current project, *The Age of Convergence*, proposes a model (based on “Mutual Intelligibility, “conveniència” and “Dynamics of Scale”) for analyzing individual and group identity in the pre-Modern Mediterranean. He co-directs the Mediterranean Seminar, an international forum with over 2000 members world-wide, and serves on numerous journal and monograph boards.