

Chris Chism was trained as a medievalist within an English department and has since converted to Mediterranean studies, Arabic literature, and the writings of larger Islamicate worlds. Teaching at UCLA since 2009, after holding jobs at Rutgers and Allegheny College, she is perpetually learning and relearning Arabic, while exploring the contact zones between medieval European and Islamicate cultures. Her second book, *Mortal Friends*, on the social politics of friendship in late medieval romance, is forthcoming from University of Pennsylvania press. She is revising her third book: *Romancing Islam: The Lives and Afterlives of Saladin*, which was fostered by the Mediterranean Seminar, for which she is forever grateful. She publishes and teaches Arabic and European travel narratives, frame tale narratives, and contemporary Islamic spoken-word poetry.