Karen Pinto specializes in the history of Islamic cartography and its intersections between Ottoman, European, and other world cartographic traditions. Born and raised in Karachi, Pakistan, educated at Dartmouth and Columbia, Karen Pinto is into premodern maps of all kinds and sizes in a big way. She specializes in medieval Islamic maps and has spent the better part of three decades hunting them down in Arabic, Persian, and Turkish manuscripts around the world. She has a 3000-strong image repository of Islamic maps – many that have never been published before. Her book, Medieval Islamic Maps: An Exploration (Chicago 2016), won a Choice's 2017 Outstanding Academic Title award. Karen is also working on two monographs on the Mediterranean and al-Andalus and the Maghrib in the Islamicate Cartographic Imagination along with a smaller book on the puzzling topic of "What is 'Islamic' about Islamicate Maps?" In addition, she has published articles on medieval Islamic maps of the Maghrib ("Passion and Conflict: medieval Islamic views of the West"); Islamic cartographic connections with Ottoman Cartography ("Searchin' his eyes, lookin' for traces: Piri Reis' World Map of 1513 & Its Islamic Iconographic Connections (A Reading Through Bağdat 334 and Proust;" "The Maps Are The Message: Mehmet II's Patronage of an 'Ottoman Cluster'"); "Surat Bahr al-Rum: Possible Meanings Underlying the Forms," and, of late, her identification of a Islamic map manuscript form the late twelfth century possibly with Emperor Frederick II's signature in "Interpretation, Intention, & Impact: Andalusi Arab and Norman Sicilian Examples of Islamo-Christian Cartographic Translation."

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