

David M. Olsen

David is a fourth-year doctoral candidate of Medieval history with a concentration on the Almohad Empire (1130-1269), under the direction of Doctors Damian J. Smith and Clair Gilbert. His dissertation, “The Almohad Economy: Change agents in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Century Commercial Revolution” is in process and he expects to present in the Spring of 2025. David received his MA in history at Portland State University in 2020 in which his thesis, “The Almohad: The Rise and Fall of the Strangers” was completed under the supervision of the department chair, Doctor John Ott.

David comes to Saint Louis University after a career in General Management, Marketing, and Sales, where his experience was evenly divided between Fortune 500 companies and entrepreneurial start-ups. David received his MBA from The American Graduate School of International Management which helped prepare him for the ten years managing international businesses in Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East. His interest in history, Spain, and the Maghreb began as an undergraduate (Lewis and Clark College) when he spent six months in Seville, Spain. David has travelled extensively in the Middle East and is concurrently working on an English translation of the first Almohad chronicle of al-Baydaq: *The News of the Mahdi Ibn Tumart and the Beginning of the Almohad State*.