

Short Biography

Yaniv Fox is a historian of the late antique and early medieval West, focusing primarily on Gaul. His first book, *Power and Religion in Merovingian Gaul: Columbanian Monasticism and the Frankish Elites*, published with Cambridge University Press in 2014, examined the development of the 'Columbanian' monastic congregation and its ties of patronage with elite Frankish families.

Fox's next project looked at the portrayal of the Merovingian period in historiographical works composed between the sixth and sixteenth centuries. Authors working in the Merovingian era used its kings to impart a range of moral lessons to their readership. During the Carolingian period, the Merovingians were caricatured as a mirror image of Carolingian political ideology, while from the tenth century, the Merovingians were rehabilitated and re-enlisted to prop up the dynastic designs of the Capetian kings of France. This process is examined in his new book—*The Merovingians in Historiographical Tradition, c.6 – c.16*—which is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press.

Presently, Fox's research focuses on the rhetoric of purity and pollution in exegetical and homiletic literature, particularly in the works of two bishops—Caesarius of Arles and Justus of Urgell. In September 2021, the research group he has organized on the topic received a fellowship at the Israel Institute of Advanced Studies in Jerusalem.