

RICHARD L. KEYSER

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Academic Positions

Senior Lecturer, Legal Studies Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Aug., 2011—present.
Associate Professor, History Department, Western Kentucky University, Aug., 2009– May, 2011.
Assistant Professor, History Department, Western Kentucky University, 2002–2009.
Visiting Assistant Professor, History Department, University of Nebraska at Omaha, 2001–2002.

Education

Ph.D. Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, History, 2001.
M.A. Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, History.
B.S. College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA, Biology.

Publications: Articles

- “Agreement Supersedes Law, and Love Judgment: Legal Flexibility and Amicable Settlement in Anglo-Norman England.” *Law and History Review* 30.1 (Feb., 2012): 37-88. Available at: <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=8486724&fulltextType=RA&fileId=S0738248011000599>
- “The Transformation of Traditional Woodland Management: Commercial Sylviculture in Medieval Champagne.” *French Historical Studies* 32 (2009): 353-84. Available at: <http://fhs.dukejournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/32/3/353>
- “La transformation de l’échange des dons pieux: Montier-la-Celle, Champagne, 1100-1350.” *Revue Historique* 628 (2003): 793-816. Available at: <http://www.cairn.info/revue-historique-2003-4-p-793.htm>.
- “Du don au contrat: la transformation médiévale des transactions foncières. L’exemple de Montier-la-Celle.” *La Vie en Champagne*, n.s. 35 (2003): 4-11.
- “Les archives de l’abbaye de Montier-la-Celle jusqu’en 1350.” *La Vie en Champagne*, n.s. 1 (1995):35-41.

Work in Progress

First Book Project: *From Gift to Contract: The Transformation of Medieval Property Dealings, Champagne, France, 1100-1350*. My book, a revision and expansion of my dissertation, examines how formal property rights became consolidated in the medieval West by focusing on transactions and disputes concerning landed property in the region of Champagne, in eastern France. I argue that in this period, property dealings became more stable, more precisely defined, and less dependent on the parties’ social relations. My book illuminates a key period in European history, before the emergence of capitalism or the modern state, when something like the modern notions of property and contract became embedded in social and cultural practices.

Second Book Project: *Grounding Power: Property, Common Rights, and Lordship in Medieval French Woodlands*. This book will explore how rights to use, own, and control woodlands were articulated over the high Middle Ages (ca. 1050-1350) in northern France. My research shows that intensive, closely regulated, and sustainable woodland management emerged within a decentralized system of common property over uncultivated land, in which multiple uses and many overlapping rights persisted. This

regime of “shared private property” was neither purely private nor public, but rather an original social and legal hybrid.

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Alice Hamilton prize from the American Society for Environmental History for the best article of 2009
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 2007-8
Western Kentucky University, Faculty Summer Scholarship, 2007
Friedrich Solmsen Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2006-7
Western Kentucky University, Faculty Summer Scholarship, 2006
Society for French Historical Studies, Research Travel Award, Summer 2004
Western Kentucky University Junior Faculty Fellowship, Summer 2003
National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend, Summer, 2002
Faculty Research Grant, Univ. of Nebraska at Omaha, Martin Fund, Summer, 2002
Dean's Teaching Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University, Spring 1998
Fulbright Fellowship for Dissertation Research, France, 1992

Conference Papers and Scholarly Presentations since 2009

“Wood for Burning: Firewood Production and Collection in Medieval and Early Modern France.” Second World Conference on Environmental History, Guimarães, Portugal, July 8-12, 2014.
“A Long Durée of Legislation: Firewood Collection and Usage in Medieval and Early Modern France.” 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 8-11, 2014.
“Common Rights and Intensive Silviculture in Medieval Champagne.” Première École d'Été d'Histoire Rurale (Université de Toulouse & European Society for Environmental History), June 28-30, 2012, Flaran, France.
“The Peasant and Customary Basis of Traditional Woodland Management in Europe's Deciduous Forest Zone.” American Society for Environmental History, Madison, WI, March, 27-30, 2012.
“Peaceable Power: Civil Law and the Limitations of Lordship, Champagne, France, 1150-1300.” 46th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 12-15, 2011.
“The Keys to Sustainability in Premodern European Woodlands.” American Society for Environmental History, Phoenix, AZ, April 13-17, 2011.
“Common Rights, Eminent Domain, and Sustainability in Medieval Woodlands.” Medieval Academy of America, New Haven, CT, March 20, 2010.
“The Roots of Eminent Domain in Natural Resources: Under and Over the Ground in Medieval France.” First World Congress of Environmental History, Copenhagen, Denmark, Aug. 4-8, 2009.

Courses Taught at UW

American Legal History I and II (Legal Studies/History 261-262), 2011-present
Law and Environment (Legal Studies/Environmental Studies 430), 2012-present
Environmental History of Europe (History/Environmental Studies 328), 2013-present

Public and Professional Service

Article Submission Reviewer, *French Historical Studies*, 2011-2012
Alice Hamilton Essay Prize Committee, American Society for Environmental History, 2011
Reviewer, NEH Summer Stipend Panel, European History, 2009

Professional Associations

American Society for Environmental History
American Society for Legal History