

Mohamad Ballan (PhD, University of Chicago, 2019) is currently an Assistant Professor of Medieval History in the Department of History at Stony Brook University in New York. He received his PhD in History at the University of Chicago in 2019 and held an appointment as a Junior Fellow at the Dartmouth Society of Fellows in 2018-2019. Mohamad's research focuses on the intellectual, political and cultural history of the medieval and early modern Mediterranean world, with a particular emphasis on medieval Iberia and North Africa between 1250 and 1500. His current book project, tentatively titled *Lord of the Pen and Sword*, examines the phenomenon of the "scholar-statesman"—litterateurs, physicians, and jurists who ascended to the highest administrative and executive offices of state—in Islamic Spain and North Africa. It focuses on the career and writings of Lisān al-Dīn ibn al-Khaṭīb (1313–1374), the preeminent historian, philosopher and chancellor of the Nasrid Kingdom of Granada, situating this figure within a vast intellectual-political network of scholars, functionaries and statesmen across the late medieval Mediterranean world. The book seeks to provide a new reading of the history of late medieval Spain by exploring the manner in which the professional rivalry between the scholar-officials and nobility in Nasrid Granada reshaped the political culture, social hierarchies and conceptions of sovereignty.