

The Medieval Studies program is sponsoring a presentation.

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Monday, 23 January 2017, 12:00 PM in HSSB 2041

***St. George in Combat: The Furuסיyya Dagger's Icon  
and the Art of Religious Contest in the Eastern  
Mediterranean***



**DAGGER AND SCABBARD, Syria or Palestine, Furuסיyya Art Foundation, Vaduz**

During the Crusader era, religious contest and military conflict in the eastern Mediterranean fueled devotion to the warrior saints: a class of saints depicted as soldiers armed and ready for combat. Invested with divine power, warrior saints' icons were at once signs of Christian victory and efficacious objects that assumed an active role at the spiritual frontlines. Paradoxically, these exemplars of militant devotion also facilitated interfaith exchange, thematizing the distinctive merging and redefinition of contradictory visual forms, religious practices, and theological concepts that took place at the frontier. Icons played a central role in the military practices and weaponry that created this culture. In this talk, we will explore how a thirteenth-century dagger combines Islamic motifs with an image of St. George to create a visual discourse of military power, religious piety, and magical efficacy that could operate across religious divides.

If you have any questions, please contact [english@history.ucsb.edu](mailto:english@history.ucsb.edu)