"Joachim of Fiore: Crusade, Islam, and the Middle Ages' Greatest Prophet"

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Thursday, April 19th
4:00 pm, 1210 Heller Hall

Abstract: At the end of the twelfth, the Calabrian Abbot Joachim of Fiore reinvented medieval conceptions of prophecy and history in ways that seemed to downplay the importance of crusading and Islam in God's plans for salvation. His thought has even suggested tolerance toward Muslims, if not complete acceptance. A reexamination of his overall prophetic schema, however, suggests that Islam remained for Joachim Christendom's most fearsome opponent, with wars in and around Jerusalem expected to continue till the end of time.

Biography: Professor Jay Rubenstein is the Alvin and Sally Beaman Professor of History at the University of Tennessee and the Riggsby Director of the Marco Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. A MacArthur Fellow, his publications include Armies of Heaven: The First Crusade and the Quest for Apocalypse and Guibert of Nogent: Portrait of a Medieval Mind.