

Spenser R. Rapone

Graduate Student, Department of History, University of Texas at Austin
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Student in History, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX **2020 –**

Graduate Portfolio in the Study of Religion

Dissertation: “The Professor, the Teacher, and the Leader: Mid-Twentieth Century Arab Intellectuals and Their Quest for Selfhood”

Comprehensive Qualifying Examinations: Modern Arab Intellectual History (major field), History of the Self and the Secular in Modern Europe (minor field), History and Theory of Violence (minor field)

M.A., Historical Studies, The New School for Social Research, New York, NY **2020**

Graduate Minor in Capitalism Studies

Thesis: “Michel ‘Aflaq and Political Metaphysics: The Integral Experience of the Ba‘th”

B.S., International History w/ Thesis (Honors), United States Military Academy, West Point, NY **2016**

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“The Metaphysical Universe of Michel ‘Aflaq and His Party: A Reappraisal of the Ba‘th.” *Modern Intellectual History* (2023): 1-25. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S147924432300015X>.

Book Reviews

“The Syrian Crisis in Longer View: A Review of *Fragile Nation, Shattered Land*.” James A. Reilly, *Fragile Nation, Shattered Land: The Modern History of Syria*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2019. *Public Seminar*, October 28, 2019, <http://www.publicseminar.org/2019/10/the-syrian-crisis-in-longer-view-a-review-of-fragile-nation-shattered-land/>.

Encyclopedia Entries

“Crow, Fred Trammell.” *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/crow-fred-trammell>.

“Lowe, James Emmett, Jr.” *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/lowe-james-emmett-jr>.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Professional Development Award, Graduate School, University of Texas at Austin, Fall 2023

Center for Arabic Study Abroad, CASA I Fellowship, 2022-2023, Qasid Arabic Institute (Amman, Jordan)

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, Summer 2021, Qasid Arabic Institute (Amman, Jordan)

PRESENTATIONS

“On the New and the Eternal in the Intellectual Tapestry of Michel ‘Aflaq: Religion, the Sacred, and the Secular.” Middle East Studies Association 57th Annual Meeting. Montréal, Québec, Canada. November 5, 2023.

“Michel ‘Aflaq and Political Metaphysics: The Integral Experience of the Ba‘th.” Brown Bag Lecture Series, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin. Austin, Texas. December 3, 2020. Online.

“Consciousness and Alienation: A Theoretical Dialogue Between Lukács, Fanon, and ‘Aflaq.” 14th Annual University of Maryland History Graduate Student Association Conference, *Bodies at Work, Bodies at Play*. College Park, Maryland. March 29, 2019.

“The Kings’ Crusade: Saladin, Richard the Lionheart, and the Worth of Jerusalem.” Orlando, Florida. Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society Biennial Convention. January 9, 2016.

TEACHING ASSISTANT AND OTHER GRADUATE WORK

University of Texas at Austin

Globalization: A Modern History (Teaching Assistant, Spring 2024)

History of the Black Power Movement (Teaching Assistant, Fall 2023)

The United States, 1492-1865 (Teaching Assistant, Summer 2023)

A History of Eugenics and Genetics (Grader, Spring 2022)

Graduate Research Assistant (Texas State Historical Association, Spring 2022)

The United States Since 1865 (Teaching Assistant, Fall 2021)

The New School

Global 1919: World-Making After World War One (Teaching Assistant, Fall 2019)

LANGUAGES

Arabic (advanced), French (reading proficiency), Italian (in progress)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

Middle East Studies Association

Syrian Studies Association

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA

Articles

“An Open Letter to Active Duty Soldiers: Don’t Deploy to the Southern US Border.” Co-author with Rory Fanning. *The Nation*, 2018. <https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/open-letter-migrant-caravan-soldiers/>.

“West Point Can’t Hide Its Reverence for the Confederacy.” *Truthdig*, 2018. <https://www.truthdig.com/articles/west-point-cant-hide-its-reverence-for-the-confederacy/>.

“The West Point Soldier Who Called It as He Saw It.” *Truthdig*, 2018. <https://www.truthdig.com/articles/the-west-point-soldier-who-called-it-as-he-saw-it/>.

“The Syrian Revolution of 1925: A Gramscian Redemption.” *The Hampton Institute*, 2017. <https://www.hamptonthink.org/read/the-syrian-revolution-of-1925-a-gramscian-redemption>.

“Commentary on the Concept of Enlightenment.” *The Hampton Institute*, 2017. <https://www.hamptonthink.org/read/commentary-on-the-concept-of-enlightenment>.

Interviews

“Afghanistan Papers with Spenser Rapone.” Interview by Chris Hedges. *On Contact*. RT, December 21, 2019. https://youtu.be/k7Ie73PLyfw?si=Muw_BVXb7_u2f7mi.

“We Were Terrorizing Some of the Most Exploited People on Earth.” Interview by Rory Fanning. *Jacobin*, October 19, 2018. <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2018/10/spenser-rapone-interview-communist-army>.

“A Soldier’s Tale of Bravery and Morality.” Interview by Chris Hedges. *On Contact*. RT, September 30, 2018. <https://youtu.be/GPJcJ8G5ayM?si=n9WXKEYb2zJrjg4B>.

“The Soldier’s Tale.” Interview by Chris Hedges. *Truthdig*, June 24, 2018. <https://www.truthdig.com/articles/the-soldiers-tale/>.