

Spenser R. Rapone

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

University of Texas at Austin Austin, Texas
College of Liberal Arts — Department of History
Ph.D. Student in History, August 2020 – Present

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

- o Graduate Minor in Capitalism Studies
- o Thesis: “Michel ‘Aflaq and Political Metaphysics: The Integral Experience of the Ba‘th”

United States Military Academy West Point, New York
B.S., International History w/ Thesis (Honors), May 2016

Academic Employment and Teaching History

University of Texas at Austin — College of Liberal Arts — Department of History Austin, Texas
Teaching Assistant, August 2021 – Present

- o Attended all required lectures and assisted discussion as needed
- o Read and graded 80 students’ required essays and group projects
- o Held weekly office hours to provide academic assistance for individual students
- o Provided administrative assistance with adjusting assignment due dates as needed
- o Abided by all university academic and personnel policies and guidelines

The New School for Social Research — Department of Historical Studies New York, New York
Research Assistant, August 2019 – May 2020

- o Supported ongoing academic research projects of faculty
- o Assisted with substantive academic tasks associated with course work and/or faculty research
- o Organized relevant research and course materials of faculty
- o Utilized Arabic skills in order to support research of Prof. Aaron Jakes

Publications (Academic)

Articles:

“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>.

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/>.

Awards and Fellowships

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

Presentations

“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.

Research and Teaching Interests

Modern Middle East and North Africa, Modern Arab intellectual history, Arab nationalism, Pan-Arabism, Ba‘thism, Arab Socialism, colonialism/imperialism, metaphysics, theology, temporality, consciousness, alienation, violence, critical theory, Modern South Asia

Courses Taught/TA Work

University of Texas at Austin

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

The New School

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

Foreign Research Languages

Arabic

- Intermediate
- Successfully passed departmental language proficiency exam

French

- Intermediate

Publications (Non-Academic)

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/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/>.

Interviews and Other Media:

“Afghanistan Papers with Spenser Rapone.” Interview by Chris Hedges. *On Contact*. RT, December 21, 2019. <https://youtu.be/gv7avVECAIA>.

“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/YwCbARsO9lQ>.

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