

Fascism and the far-right in twentieth-century Europe, 1890-1950

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The only major new ideology that emerged in the twentieth century was that of fascism, emerging first in Italy after the First World War which had inaugurated a new era of mass politics and mass democracy in the wake of total war. Fascism soon spread globally in various forms, with Nazism as a particularly notable variant. Fascist movements came to exercise power first in Italy and then Germany, but also grew to great size and/or played notable roles in government in Austria, Spain, Romania, Hungary, Croatia, and elsewhere. Even where fascist movements did not grow to any significant size or seized power, like Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, France, Britain, or Belgium for instance, fascism could have a disproportionate influence either through public debate or influence in elite circles. At the same time it must be remembered that fascism was only one part of a much broader universe of New Right movements that had become possible in the new political systems of interwar Europe. Fascists were frequently seen rubbing shoulders with a constellation of other Rightists including conservatives, aristocratic reactionaries, counter-revolutionaries fighting the outcomes of the Russian Revolution, forming alliances and other political projects to reach their various goals.

I am happy to supervise dissertations on a range of topics dealing with far-right organisations, individuals, and networks in the interwar period, as well as their antecedents in the late nineteenth century and descendants in the immediate postwar period. Dissertations can be written in either English or Norwegian. The secondary literature on this topic is tremendous and comprehensive, which offers indicators for many directions in which a dissertation dealing with the modern European far-right can deal with, with the transnational turn in the past decade having particularly opened up new venues for research. Topics which I would be comfortable supervising may include but are not limited to:

- the role of violence in fascist or other far-right groups
- political cultures, be it in discourse or performance
- transnational connections and international rightist networks
- the counter-revolution: paramilitaries and strike-breakers
- fascist ideas and their circulation in Europe
- relationships between fascists and conservatives
- political tactics, organisations, and aesthetics of the interwar far-right
- continuities between fascism and neo-fascism