

HIST31522 The Comparative and Transnational History of Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany



Course outline

No period in history has been studied in more depth and detail than Nazi Germany, and global publics have been obsessed with the Third Reich. In contrast, outside Italy, Mussolini's dictatorship only appears marginally in public debates.

In this course, we will compare and contrast Nazi Germany to Fascist Italy, Europe's first fascist dictatorship. The course will help you understand the origins and dynamics of both regimes and how they related to each other. In the past, many historians, for various reasons, denied meaningful parallels between both regimes. In this course, we will discuss the extent to which there was a transfer and entanglement of ideas, policies and practices between the two regimes. Did Fascist Italy serve as a model for Nazi Germany and vice versa? And how useful is the concept of generic fascism for studying both regimes? Each session explores a key theme such as the origins and development of fascism, resistance and repression, everyday life, class, gender, and racism and imperialism. We will also examine primary sources in translation and selected film extracts and other visual sources. The course will provide you with a critical understanding of the key debates in the historiographies of Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany). Finally, you will also learn how to think critically about the (political) motives, methods and processes of research.

No German or Italian is required.

Indicative assessment

Essay	2,000 words	40%
Exam	2 hours	60%

Indicative reading

Christian Goeschel, *Mussolini and Hitler: The Forging of the Fascist Alliance* (New Haven and London, 2018), available as an eBook

Alexander J. De Grand, *Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany* (2nd edn., London, 2004); available as an eBook.

G. Eley, 'Fascism Then and Now', *Socialist Register*, 52 (2016) (eJournal)

Past dissertation topics

These have included 'The Legacies of Fascism in Italian Football'; 'Italian racial atrocities and their representation in films'; 'British Conservatism and the Rise of Fascism in Italy', 'Jewish Refugees from Nazi Germany in Manchester', 'Representations of the Holocaust in Blairite Britain'; 'British Media and the Making of the Myth of Albert Speer' and many more.

Further information

You can get in touch with Dr Christian Goeschel at Christian.goeschel@manchester.ac.uk

