

# David Spreen

Curriculum Vitae

---

Postdoctoral Fellow · Department of History · Harvard University  
Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies · 27 Kirkland Street · Cambridge, MA 02138  
✉ dspreen@fas.harvard.edu ☎ +1 (773) 678-8187 🌐 davidspreen.com | Updated: October 6, 2020

---

## EDUCATION

2019 Ph.D., Department of History, University of Michigan

Dissertation: “Dear Comrade Mugabe: Decolonization and Radical Protest in Divided Germany, 1960-1980”

Exam Fields: Modern European History; Modern German History; Intellectual History: Theorizing the Globe; Methods in the Social Sciences

2010 M.A. in the Social Sciences, University of Chicago

2008 M.A. in Social Sciences with First-Class Honors in Politics and Sociology, University of Glasgow

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2020– Harvard University, Department of History  
PRES. Postdoctoral Fellow

2019– Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies,  
2020 Postdoctoral Fellow

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book and Conference Reviews

2020 Review of *What Remains: Everyday Encounters with the Socialist Past in Germany*, by Jonathan P. G. Bach. *H-Socialisms*, August, <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=52342>

2020 Review of *Internationale Solidarität: globales Engagement in der Bundesrepublik und der DDR*, edited by Frank Bösch, Caroline Moine, and Stefanie Senger. *German History*, June 13, <https://doi.org/10.1093/gerhis/ghaa040>

2019 Review of *Mao Zedong. “Es Wird Kampf Geben”: Eine Biografie*, by Helwig Schmidt-Glintzer. *Arbeit, Bewegung, Geschichte: Zeitschrift für Historische Studien* 18:3

2017 Conference Report: “Transatlantic Summer School: A Century of Communism, 17.07.2017 - 21.07.2017,” *H-Soz-Kult*, October 10, <http://www.hsozkult.de/conferencereport/id/tagungsberichte-7351>

2017 Review of *Death in the Shape of a Young Girl: Women’s Political Violence in the Red Army Faction*, by Patricia Melzer. *H-Socialisms*, September, <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=47851>

2014 Review of “Between Dictatorship and Dissent: Ideology, Legitimacy, and Human Rights in East Germany, 1945-1990,” by Ned Richardson-Little. *Dissertation Reviews*, November 6, <http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/10364>

### Manuscripts in Preparation

2020 “Signal Strength Excellent: Radio Tirana, Maoist Internationalism and its Disintegration in the Global Seventies” (under review for *European Review of History/Revue européenne d’histoire*)

2020 “Radical Protest or Shadow Diplomacy? West German Maoists and the Zimbabwe African National Union” (submitted for edited volume *Social Movements after 1968*)

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018 Transatlantic Doctoral Seminar, German Historical Institute, Washington DC
- 2018 Sweetland/Rackham Dissertation Writing Institute, University of Michigan
- 2017 Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies Graduate Student Research Fellow, University of Michigan
- 2017 Central European History Society Research Grant
- 2017 History Department Summer Research/Travel/Study Grant, University of Michigan
- 2016 Visiting Fellow, Center for Contemporary History, Potsdam, Germany
- 2016 Rackham Humanities Candidacy Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2015 German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Short-Term Research Grant (declined)
- 2015 Rackham International Research Award, University of Michigan
- 2015 John H. D'Arms Spring/Summer Fellow, University of Michigan
- 2014 Archival Summer Seminar in Germany, German Historical Institute, Washington DC
- 2014 Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia Summer Research and Internship Grant, University of Michigan
- 2013 History Department Summer Research/Travel/Study Grant, University of Michigan
- 2013 International Institute Individual Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2013 Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, University of Michigan
- 2011 J. Frederick Hoffman Award, Department of History, University of Michigan

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

### Papers Presented

- 2020 "Iranian Students and the MfS: Political-Ideological Diversion, Decolonization, and the Global Cold War," 44th Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Washington DC (October 1-4)
- 2019 "From Bochum to Albania and Around the World: West Germans and the Production of Radio Tirana," 43rd Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Portland (October 3-6)
- 2019 "Making European Solidarities: Spaces of Maoist Internationalism in the Global Seventies," Beyond Transnationalism: Mapping the Spatial Contours of Political Activism in Europe's Long 1970s, Maas-tricht, The Netherlands (July 11-12)
- 2019 "Class War with a Map: Anti-Capitalism and Space," The Legacy of Moishe Postone, University of Chicago, Chicago (February 15-16)
- 2018 "No Retreat to 'Single-Issue' Politics: West German Maoists and the Zimbabwe African National Union," Social Movements after 1968, Rutgers University, New Brunswick (November 7-9)
- 2018 "Prospectors of Everyday Life? European Maoists and the Search for the Life of the Masses in the People's Republic of China," Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies Friday Workshop: The Boundaries of Everyday Life, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (October 26th)
- 2018 "Decolonizing the West German 1968: Maoism, 'Foreign Extremism,' and Political Violence in the Global Seventies," 42nd Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Atlanta (September 28-30)
- 2018 "In the Shadow of Ostpolitik: Mao's China, West German Conservatives, and the Far Left in the Global Seventies," Berlin Program for Advanced German & European Studies Summer Workshop, Berlin (June 27-29)

- 2018 “Cold War Imaginaries: Mao’s China and the Making of a Postcolonial Left in Divided Germany,” German Historical Institute Transatlantic Doctoral Seminar, Berkeley (May 30-June 3)
- 2017 “‘Es lebe der Bewaffnete Befreiungskampf der Völker des Südlichen Afrikas:’ West German Maoists and the Zimbabwean War of Liberation, 1975-1980,” 41st Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Atlanta (October 5-8)
- 2017 “Maoism in Cold War Germany: The Making of a Postcolonial Far Left,” Transatlantic Summer School: A Century of Communism, Center for Contemporary History, Potsdam, Germany (July 17-21)
- 2017 “Decolonization, China, and the ‘Third World:’ Geopolitical Anti-Capitalism in Cold War Germany,” Cold War Geographies Symposium, Eccles Center for American Studies, British Library, London (January 18)
- 2016 “Oral History and the New Left,” 40th Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, San Diego (September 29-October 2)
- 2016 “The Geopolitics of Class War: West German Communists and the ‘Third World,’” Centers and Peripheries: Vanderbilt University Graduate Student History Conference, Nashville (March 18)
- 2014 “Weimar Communism, the Nation, and Stalin in the 1970s West German Left,” European History Workshop, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (November 25)
- 2014 “In the Spirit of Ernst Thälmann: Weimar Communism, the Nation, and the 1970s West German Left,” Social Theory Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, (October 23)
- 2014 “The Curious Transformations of the Postwar Left: Pleasure or Politics as Explanation,” Midwest German History Workshop, University of Indiana, Bloomington (October 10-12)
- 2014 “In the Spirit of Ernst Thälmann: How German Students of the 1970s became Weimar Proletarians and rediscovered the Nation,” Labour and Race in Modern German History Conference, Birkbeck, University of London, London (March 27-29)
- 2013 “Resurrecting German Communism: Postwar German Activists and the Weimar KPD,” 21st International Conference of Europeanists, Washington DC (March 14-16)
- 2013 “In the Spirit of Ernst Thälmann: West German Marxist-Leninists Discover the Nation,” European History Workshop, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (February 25)
- 2013 “From Political Economy to Politics: West German Marxist-Leninists and the 1973 Oil Crisis,” 38th Social Science History Association Conference, Chicago (November 21-24)
- 2013 “The Class Enemy Across the River Jordan: Anti-Fascism, Anti-Capitalism and Place in the West German New Left 1965-1970,” Social Theory and Evidence Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago (January 31)
- 2012 “Ghosts Past and Present: Anti-Fascism and Spatial Anti-Capitalism in the West German New Left,” Hauntings: Graduate Student Conference, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (November 2)
- 2012 “Anti-Capitalism and Space in the West German New Left,” Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies Graduate Student Workshop, Ann Arbor (September 28)

### **Discussant**

- 2018 “East Germany,” The German Historical Institute’s Transatlantic Doctoral Seminar, Berkeley (May 30-June 3)

### **Panels Organized**

- 2020 With Lauren Stokes, “Stasi Surveillance and Race in the Global Cold War,” 44th Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Washington DC (October 1-4)

2019 With Katharine White, “East and West Germans’ Transnational Trajectories and Alternative Solidarities,” 43rd Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Portland (October 3-6)

2017 With Johanna Folland, “Africa and German Communisms in the Cold War,” 41st Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, Atlanta (October 5-8)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **University of Michigan, Instructor of Record**

The Writing of History: Political Violence in the Twentieth Century (Winter 2018)

### **University of Michigan, Graduate Student Instructor**

German Fairy Tales (Fall 2018)

History of Western Medicine since the 18th Century (Winter 2015)

Europe in the Era of Total War (Fall 2014)

History of the Holocaust (Winter 2014)

The Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1880-2012 (Fall 2013)

The Origins of Nazism: Culture and Politics in Germany, 1918-1945 (Winter 2013)

History of American Radicalism: From the Abolitionists to Occupy Wall Street (Fall 2012)

## **MEDIA COVERAGE**

### **Radio Interviews**

2018 Interview “Zur Geschichte der K-Gruppen,” *Radio Corax*, 95.9 FM, Halle, Germany (July 3rd)

2016 Interview on “Das Samstagsmosaik,” *Radio Tirana*, 7465 khz, Tirana, Albania (June 11th)

### **Podcast Appearances**

2019 “Evidence of Absence: Lilli Segal, the KGB, and the AIDS Crisis,” Podcast Audio, *Reverb Effect* 1:3, November 7, <https://lsa.umich.edu/history/reverbffect/episode3.html>

## **DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Co-Coordinator, European History Workshop, University of Michigan, 2014-2015

History Department Steward, Graduate Employee Organization, University of Michigan 2013-2014

## **LANGUAGES**

English: fluent

German: native

French: reading knowledge

## **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

Programming Languages: R, Python, Lisp

Other: Linux, macOS, Windows

## **REFERENCES**

Available upon request