

RUTH BEN-GHIAT

Departments of History and Italian Studies, New York University
rb68@nyu.edu, www.ruthbenghiat.com, [@ruthbenghiat](https://twitter.com/ruthbenghiat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Professor of History and Italian Studies, New York University. Author. Political Commentator. Board and academic administrator experience. Historical Consultant for Film & Television. Advisor, Protect Democracy. Publisher: [Lucid](#): A Newsletter about Threats to Democracy. Literary Agent: Sarah Burnes, The Gernert Co. Speaking Agent: Billy Hallock, CAA.

FIELDS OF EXPERTISE

Fascism; Authoritarianism; Democracy; Propaganda; World War Two; Empire; Modern and Contemporary Europe and Italy.

EDUCATION

PhD, Comparative History, Brandeis University.
BA, History, *magna cum laude*, University of California, Los Angeles.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS

Institute for Advanced Study, Andrew W. Mellon Member,
School of Historical Studies, Spring 2020.
Edinburgh Gadda Prize for Best Book on 20th Century Italian Culture, 2019.
Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Award for Best Unpublished Manuscript in Italian Studies.
Modern Language Association, 2014 (for *Italian Fascism's Empire Cinema*).
John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, 2004-2005.
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 2004-2005.

APPOINTMENTS

Franklin Henry King Stanford Distinguished Professor, University of Miami,
September 2023.
Dan and Maggie Inouye Distinguished Chair of Democratic Ideals,
University of Hawai'i, 2023.
Resident (Director's Invitation), American Academy in Rome, Spring 2022.
Board of Advisors, Protect Democracy, 2017-present.
Visiting Scholar, Center for Media at Risk, Annenberg School of Communications,
University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2019.

CONSULTING AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Hitler and the Nazis: Evil on Trial, Netflix, 2024 (Joe Berlinguer).
Pinocchio, 2022 (Guillermo del Toro).
Advisor, House Select Jan. 6 Committee (two interviews and wrote a report), 2022..
Advisor, Protect Democracy, 2017-present.

PUBLICATIONS

Authored Books

Strongmen: From Mussolini to the Present

(New York, 2020; paperback, with new epilogue, 2021)

UK Edition: *Strongmen: How They Rise, Why They Succeed, How They Fall*

(London, 2020).

Italian Fascism's Empire Cinema (Bloomington, 2015). *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title, 2015, Edinburgh Gadda Prize for 20th Century Italian Culture.

Fascist Modernities: Italy, 1922-45 (Berkeley, 2001, 2004). Trans. *La cultura fascista* (Bologna, 2000, 2004).

Edited Books

Italian Mobilities, co-edited with Stephanie Malia Hom (New York, 2015, 2019).

Gli imperi: dall'antichità all'età contemporanea (Bologna, 2009).

Italian Colonialism, co-edited with Mia Fuller (New York, 2005, 2008).

Book Chapters

"What is Fascism?" in *Did It Happen Here? Perspectives on Fascism and America*, ed. Daniel Steinmetz-Jenkins (New York: Norton, 2024),

"Epilogue," *Fascism in America*, eds. Janet Ward and Gavriel Rosenfeld (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2024).

"Faschismus," in *Sprach Gewalt: Missbrauchte Wörter und andere politische Kampfbegriffe*, ed. David Ranan (Bonn: Dietz Verlag, 2021), 233-245.

"Five Faces of Fascism," in *Visualizing Fascism*, eds. Geoff Eley and Julia Adeney Thomas (Durham, 2020), 94-110.

"Narrating War in Italian Fascist Cinema," in *M. Mondini – M. Rospoche (eds.), Narrating War. Perspectives from the XVI – XX centuries*, (Berlin and Bologna, 2013), pp.249-268.

"A Lesser Evil? Italian Fascism in/and the Totalitarian Equation," in *The Lesser Evil: Moral Approaches to Genocide Practices*, eds. Helmut Dubiel and Gabriel Motzkin (New York, 2004), pp.137-153.

OPINION PIECES AND ESSAYS

"The Permanent Counterrevolution," *New Republic*, May 16 2024. [link](#)

"Denial about Donald Trump is deeper than ever," *MSNBC*, May 26, 2024. [link](#)

"How Netanyahu is Following the Authoritarian Playbook," *Haaretz*, August 14, 2023. [link](#)

"The Return of Fascism in Italy," *Atlantic*, September 23, 2022. [link](#)

"Florida Becomes a Dangerous Laboratory of Autocracy," *Sun Sentinel*, March 20, 2022. [link](#)

"Putin Thinks He's the Hero of Russia's Story. He Couldn't Be More Wrong," *MSNBC*, Feb 25, 2022.

"Ruth Ben-Ghiat on the danger of strongmen leaders and how to rein them in," *The Economist*, July 2, 2021. [link](#)

"An American Authoritarian," *Atlantic*, August 10, 2016.

SELECTED RECENT INTERVIEWS

TELEVISION

Becky Anderson, CNN International, June 14, 2024.
Jim Sciutto, CNN. June 10, 2024.
Jessica Dean, CNN, May 25, 2024.
Nicolle Wallace, Deadline White House, MSNBC, May 8, 2024.
Stephanie Ruhle, MSNBC, April 18, 2024.
Jim Acosta, CNN, April 1, 2024.
Jonathan Capehart, MSNBC, March 31, 2024.
Ali Velshi, MSNBC, March 31, 2024.
Ayman Mohyeldin, MSNBC, March 30, 2024.
Alisyn Camerota, CNN, March 30, 2024.
Ari Melber, MSNBC, March 28, 2024.
Jim Acosta, CNN, March 20, 2024.

PODCASTS

Pivot, Kara Swisher and Scott Galloway, April 9, 2024.
The Bulwark Podcast, April 4, 2024.
The Just Security Podcast, "Attack from Within: How Disinformation is Sabotaging America,"
March 7, 2024. [link](#)
All Things Considered, NPR, January 4, 2024.
Defending Democracy with Malcolm Turnbull, August 15, 2023.

RECENT LECTURES

"Authoritarianism and How to Defend Against It,"
World Council of United Methodist Bishops, Charlotte, NC, April 24, 2024.
"What Fuels Far-Right Populism?" Columbia University, April 17, 2024.
"Strongmen and the Assault on Democracy," Arizona State University, May 2, 2024.
"How to Protect Democracy," Vote Vets Florida, November 11, 2023.
"Strongmen and How to Combat Them," University of Miami, September 20, 2023.
Amerikahaus, Munich, October 19, 2022.
American Academy in Berlin, October 20, 2022.
Festival della Storia, Forli, October 27-28, 2022.
Festival of Dangerous Ideas, Sydney, September 17-18, 2022.

LANGUAGES

English, native; Italian, excellent; French, very good; Spanish (speaking, fair;