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# Italian Fascism, Spiritualism and Aesthetics

a public lecture by

**Simonetta Falasca-Zamponi**

University of California

CHAIR: **Constantin Iordachi**

Professor, History Department, Co-Director, Pasts, Inc. Center for Historical Studies

In this presentation the centrality of an aesthetic approach to fascism will be argued. The aim of the talk is to reframe the relevance of spirit in fascism's self-definition and to problematize interpretations that have emphasized fascism's recourse to ethics and moral values. Fascism's appeal to spiritualism needs to be reconsidered by taking into account its anti-materialist implications, as showcased in the regime's radical attempt to transform the Italians by intervening on their bodies. The fascist regime's aesthetic rules on how to march, salute, dress and behave can be looked at as a conscious attempt at eliminating individual differences in order to create a new fascist subject.

**Simonetta Falasca Zamponi** is a professor in the department of sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She is the author of *Fascist Spectacle* (1997) and *Rethinking the Political* (2011), besides other articles on fascism, aesthetics, French social theory and Italian culture.

**October 4, 2016, Tuesday 17.30**

**Nádor 9, Popper Room**

