

Austin R. Cooper  
Curriculum vitae

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**PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

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- 2023–        **Purdue University**  
Assistant Professor, Department of History
- 2022–23     **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**  
Stanton Nuclear Security Postdoctoral Fellow  
Security Studies Program

**EDUCATION**

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- 2022        **University of Pennsylvania (Penn)**  
Ph.D., History and Sociology of Science  
Dissertation: *Saharan Fallout: French Explosions in Algeria and the Politics of Nuclear Risk during African Decolonization (1960–66)*
- 2021–22     **SciencesPo Paris**  
Visiting Ph.D. Student, Nuclear Knowledges Program
- 2020–21     **Stanford University**  
Predoctoral Fellow, Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC)
- 2014        **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**  
B.A., Comparative Literature and French, Highest Distinction, with Honors  
Exchange student, SciencesPo Paris, Fall 2012

**FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**

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**External Fellowships and Grants**

- 2022–23     Postdoctoral Fellowship in Technology and International Security, University of California Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation in Washington, D.C.  
(declined)

- 2021–22 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship in France
- 2021 Chateaubriand Fellowship from French Embassy in Washington, D.C. (declined)
- 2020–21 MacArthur Nuclear Security Predoctoral Fellowship, CISAC, Stanford University
- 2020 U.S. Critical Language Scholarship in Tangier, Morocco for Arabic (cancelled)
- 2019 Wilson Center Nuclear History Boot Camp in Italy
- 2019 LBJ Foundation Moody Research Grant
- 2019 Eisenhower Foundation Travel Research Grant
- 2015–16 Fulbright U.S. Student Program Research Fellowship in France
- 2015–16 Ertegun Scholarship at University of Oxford (declined)

### **Penn Fellowships and Grants**

- 2016–22 Benjamin Franklin Graduate Fellowship
- 2022 Merkel Fund and Janice and Julian Bers Graduate Research Fellowship
- 2020 Merkel Fund and Annenberg Fund for Summer Research
- 2020 School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Research Fellowship
- 2020 Provost’s Graduate Fellowship for Interdisciplinary Innovation
- 2019 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship in Arabic
- 2019 School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Research Fellowship
- 2018 Jack Pressman Fund for Summer Research
- 2017 Graduate Research Travel Grant
- 2017 School of Arts and Sciences Travel Subvention
- 2016 Graduate Research Travel Grant
- 2016 School of Arts and Sciences Travel Grant

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

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- 2017–18 Penn Peter & Geri Skirkanich Graduate Fellow

### **INVITED TALKS**

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- 2023 “France and Global Nuclear History (1960–66).” Wilson Center Nuclear History Boot Camp. Roma Tre University. Rome, Italy. June.
- 2022 “Radiation Exposure and Global Nuclear Weapons Governance.” Stanton Seminar. Washington, D.C. Oct 20.
- 2021 “Underground Compromises: French Nuclear Explosions under Saharan Mountains after Algerian Independence.” Decolonization-in-Progress Seminar. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University. Boston, MA. Nov 10. (cancelled)
- 2021 “La mesure des essais nucléaires français au Sahara: diplomatie, coopérations, et tensions transnationales.” Seminar on Transnational History of Nuclear Testing. Maison des Sciences de l’Homme du Pacifique, Centre de recherche sur les économies, les sociétés, les arts, et les techniques, and Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales. Paris, France. Apr 15. (online)

## DEPARTMENT TALKS

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- 2022 “Paris for Dakar? French Nuclear Assurances during African Decolonization and Extended Deterrence.” Security Studies Working Group, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Cambridge, MA. Dec 6.
- 2022 “‘Particularly Dangerous’: Radiation Protection and European Governance of French Nuclear Weapons.” Nuclear Knowledges Research Seminar, SciencesPo. Paris, France and online. Nov 8.
- 2021 “Between the Cold War Arms Race and African Decolonization: Fallout Risks from French Nuclear Weapons Tests in Algeria (1960–66).” Stanford CISAC Research Seminar. Palo Alto, CA. Mar 3. (online)
- 2020 “‘Radiation Atrocity’ Stories and Popular Protests against Saharan Testing in 1960s Morocco.” Penn Department of History and Sociology of Science Workshop. Philadelphia, PA. Oct 12. (online)

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

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### Conferences Organized

- 2023 “Nuclear Issues in the Middle East and North Africa.” Penn Middle East Center. Philadelphia, PA. Apr 27–29.

### Panels Organized

- 2022 “Nuclear Ecologies: Islands, Deserts, Rivers, Mines.” American Society for Environmental History. Eugene, OR. Mar 23–27.
- 2021 “Spatial Experiments and Imperial Experts in the Middle East and North Africa.” Society for the History of Technology. New Orleans, LA. Nov 18–21. (online)

### Papers Presented

- 2023 “Underground Negotiations: French Weapons Testing After Algerian Independence and Ahmed Ben Bella’s Nuclear Policy.” Nuclear Issues in the Middle East and North Africa. Penn Middle East Center. Philadelphia, PA. Apr 28.
- 2023 “All About Proliferation? Chinese Nuclear Policy and Afro-Asian Solidarity.” After Bandung: Africa and China in a New Era. International Security Studies, Jackson School of Global Affairs, Yale University. New Haven, CT. Apr 21.
- 2022 “Measuring Radiation, Measuring Expertise: Unexpected Trajectories for Radioactive Debris and Scientific Careers in West Africa.” Negotiating Radiation Protection Book Workshop. Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg. Erlangen, Germany and online. Oct 21.
- 2022 “The Argentella Scandal: Why France Abandoned Plans to Make Corsica a Nuclear Test Site in 1960.” Conference on “Tests in the Desert?” Maison des

Sciences de l'Homme du Pacifique, Centre de recherche sur les économies, les sociétés, les arts, et les techniques, and Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales. Paris, France. Jan 19.

- 2021 “Saharan Fallout and Radioactive Metrics for Postcolonial Sovereignty in 1960s Tunisia.” Society for the History of Technology. Nov 19. (online)
- 2021 “Saharan Fallout, U.S. Assistance, and Meteorological Diplomacy in North Africa around 1960.” Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. June 19. (online)
- 2020 “A French Cloud Out of Place: Measuring Saharan Fallout and Scientific Identities in 1960s West Africa.” Negotiating Radiation Protection Webinar. Technical University Berlin. Berlin, Germany. Dec 17. (online)
- 2020 “An ‘Old-Time Fall-Out Collector’ at the U.S. Embassy and the Cold War Politics of Radiation Detection in 1960s Tunisia.” Nuclear Proliferation International History Project Webinar. Wilson Center. Washington, D.C. Nov 12. (online)
- 2020 “Saharan Fallout, U.S. Assistance, and an ‘Old-Time Fall-Out Collector’ in 1960s Tunisia.” 75 Years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki: Science and the Contested Histories of Radiation Exposure Workshop. Oregon State University Downwinders Project. Corvallis, OR. Aug 7. (online)
- 2020 “‘An Impossible Moral Situation’: Jules Moch and the Afro-Asian Challenge to Saharan Testing at the United Nations.” Institut d’études de stratégie et de défense. Université Jean Moulin Lyon III. Lyon, France. May 12. (online)
- 2020 “Biopolitical Anticolonialism: Radiation Effects and the 1959 Debate over Saharan Testing at the United Nations.” Joint Atlantic Seminar for the History of Biology. Johns Hopkins University. Baltimore, MD. Mar 28. (cancelled)
- 2020 “The Nuclear Sahara: French Testing and Radiation Risk in Africa.” Multidisciplinary Workshop on Radiation Protection and the Linear Non-Threshold Model of Exposure, Georgetown Environmental Initiative. Georgetown University. Mar 25. (online)
- 2018 “Muslim Migrations, Scientific Circulations: Training Doctors and Nurses from North Africa at the Hôpital Franco-Musulman.” Situating Empire Conference on the Great War and Its Aftermaths. Harvard University. Cambridge, MA. Nov 15–16.
- 2017 “Bedside Care for Muslim Migrants: Training Nurses at the Hôpital Franco-Musulman Between the Wars.” History of Education Society Conference. Little Rock, AR. Nov 2.
- 2017 “The Rapport Laroque – Ollive Revisited: Managing Migration from North Africa in Interwar France.” The Susman Graduate Conference at Rutgers University. New Brunswick, NJ. Mar 31.
- 2017 “‘Culture Conquérante’: Citrus, Science, and Society in French Colonial Algeria (1930 – 1962).” Joint Atlantic Seminar for the History of Biology. Drexel University. Philadelphia, PA. Mar 25.

- 2016 “The Rapport Laroque–Ollive, Public Assistance for North Africans, and the Birth of Integration Policy in the Metropole (1937 – 1938).” ‘Which Citizens for Empire?’ International Conference. Paris, France. Dec 9.
- 2016 “Strategies for Social Science Research Abroad.” Fulbright Organization 39th Annual Conference. George Washington University. Washington, DC. Nov 12.
- 2016 “The Hôpital Franco-Musulman and the Governance of Muslim Difference in Colonial France.” Fulbright France Mid-Year Meeting. George Marshall Center. Paris, France. Feb 2.

### **Discussant**

- 2022 “John Krige on Writing Transnational History of Science and Technology.” History of Science Society. Chicago. Nov 19.
- 2022 “Les sciences humaines et sociales au défi des armes nucléaires.” Book launch for *Repenser les choix nucléaires* by Benoît Pelopidas. Center for International Studies, SciencesPo Paris. Jan 28. (online)
- 2021 “Safeguards become Technical” by Anna Weichselbraun. Nuclear Proliferation International History Project Webinar. Wilson Center. Washington, D.C. Feb 5. (online)
- 2019 “Algeria Protests: Why Now?” Penn Middle East Center. Philadelphia, PA. Sep 17.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Teaching Assistantships**

- 2019 Comparative Medicine, for Prof. Projit Mukharji, Penn (Spring)
- 2018 Science, Technology, War, for Prof. Susan Lindee, Penn (Fall)
- 2018 The People’s Health, for Prof. David Barnes, Penn (Spring)
- 2017 Comparative Medicine, for Prof. Projit Mukharji, Penn (Fall)

### **Guest Lectures**

- 2021 “Decolonization and Nuclear Weapons,” for Undergraduate Course on International Nuclear Politics, Prof. Jayita Sarkar, Boston University, Oct 14. (online)
- 2021 “Nuclear Fallout and Postcolonial Politics during the Early Cold War,” for Undergraduate Course on Global Radiation History, Prof. Susan Lindee, Penn. Feb 9. (online)
- 2020 “Nuclear Testing and Decolonization in North Africa,” for Undergraduate Course on History of North Africa, Prof. Heather Sharkey, Penn. Apr 27. (online)
- 2019 “Researching Cold War Science,” for Graduate Course on Cold War Science, Prof. Susan Lindee, Penn. Sep 18.

2018 “Proving Grounds: Nuclear Testing in the Era of Decolonization (1954–66),”  
for Undergraduate Course on Science, Technology and War, Prof. Susan Lindee,  
Penn. Nov 5.

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## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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2019 Archival work for Dr. Sebastián Gil-Riaño’s book project on anti-racist science in  
twentieth-century Latin America. Documents consulted in French and Spanish  
at the Bibliothèque Claude-Lévi-Strauss in Paris. Nov–Dec.

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## SERVICE TO PROFESSION

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### Manuscript Review

*Technology and Culture, International Review of Environmental History*

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## LANGUAGE TRAINING

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2019 Summer Immersion Arabic. Arabic, Persian, and Turkish Language Immersion  
Institute. University of Wisconsin-Madison. Madison, WI. June 15–Aug 9.

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## LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

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English (native)  
French (fluent)  
Spanish (intermediate)  
Italian (basic)  
Arabic (basic)