

# MATTHEW KOVAC

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## EDUCATION

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**University of Oxford, Keble College** 2017-18  
Master of Studies, British & European History  
Thesis: "Traitors to the Crown: British Military Veterans in the IRA, 1918-23"

**Northwestern University, Medill School of Journalism** 2010-14  
Bachelor of Science, *summa cum laude*, Journalism. History double-major.

## HONORS

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- Feminist and Women's Studies Association, Best Essay Shortlist 2018
- Keble College Graduate Study Award, Oxford University 2018
- Fulbright U.S. Student Award to Ireland, Semi-Finalist 2017
- Driehaus Foundation Award for Investigative Reporting, Honorable Mention 2014
- William H. Exum Award for best essay on race, NU Sociology Department 2014
- National Finalist, Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence Award in Online Opinion and Commentary 2013

## EXPERIENCE

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**Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights SF, Communications Manager** Sept. 2018 – Present

- Developed and executed earned media and digital strategies
- Organized press conferences and media interviews
- Wrote press releases, op-eds, emails, and website copy
- Managed Facebook and Twitter presence

**Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, Asia Researcher** April – July 2018

- Analyzed paramilitary activities in Thailand and Bangladesh
- Created trend-tracking data visualizations with Tableau

**Progress Michigan, Digital Media Coordinator** Sept. 2014 – July 2017

- Managed digital side of Flint Water Crisis campaign to hold state officials accountable
- Wrote and edited op-eds, press releases, and blogs on human rights issues
- Produced videos and graphics with Photoshop, Premiere Pro, and iMovie

**RESIST, Contributing Writer** Jan. – April 2017

- Wrote critical commentary on U.S. foreign policy, human rights, and social movements
- Researched human rights violations including mass incarceration and drone warfare

- The Youth Project, Reporter/Columnist** June – Sept. 2014
- Wrote op-eds on youth policy issues including police violence
  - Analyzed immigration reform and DREAM Act legislative proposals
- Chicago Innocence Center, Web & Investigative Intern** June 2013 – June 2014
- Identified likely wrongful conviction cases through court records
  - Managed day-to-day web operations and published news updates
- The Chicago Reporter, Full-Time Journalism Residency** Sept. – Dec. 2013
- Investigated military programs in Chicago Public Schools
  - Wrote about race and poverty issues and drafted public records requests

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

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### **Journals**

Kovac, Matthew. “Red Amazons’? Gendering Violence and Revolution in the Long First World War, 1914-23” in *Journal of International Women’s Studies* (forthcoming, 2019).

### **Book Chapters**

—. “Continuing the Mission’: World War I and the Roots of Red Scare Violence, 1919-21” in *Communication and the Great War*, ed. John Griffiths (Routledge, forthcoming 2019).

### **Book Reviews**

—. Review of *Colonial Violence: European Empires and the Use of Force*, Dierk Walter. *Hong Kong Review of Books*, Nov. 30, 2018. <https://hkrbooks.com/2018/11/30/colonial-violence/>.

—. “Revolutionary Year.” Review of *1916: A Global Anti-Imperial Moment*, eds. Enrico Dal Lago, Róisín Healy, and Gearóid Barry. *Dublin Review of Books*, April 1, 2018. <http://www.drbb.ie/essays/revolutionary-year>.

—. Review of *Gender and the Great War*, eds. Susan R. Grayzel and Tammy M. Proctor. *LSE Review of Books*, Sept. 25, 2017. <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsereviewofbooks/2017/09/25/book-review-gender-and-the-great-war-edited-by-susan-r-grayzel-and-tammy-m-proctor/>.

### **Popular Articles**

—. “SIPRI Report: U.S. Biggest Arms Exporter Globally.” Al Bawaba News, March 28, 2018. <https://www.albawaba.com/news/sipri-report-us-biggest-arms-exporter-globally-1108900/>.

—. “Is the Flint Water Crisis a Crime Against Humanity?” CounterPunch, July 21, 2017. <https://www.counterpunch.org/2017/07/21/is-the-flint-water-crisis-a-crime-against-humanity/>.

—. “How Mainstream Privilege Discourse Actually Bolsters the Status Quo.” Truthout, June 4, 2017. <http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/40798-how-mainstream-privilege-discourse-actually-bolsters-the-status-quo/>.

—. “Did Detroit Mayor’s Office Suppress Damaging Water Shutoffs Study?” Great Lakes Beacon, July 11, 2017. <http://greatlakesbeacon.org/2017/07/11/did-detroit-mayors-office->

suppress-damaging-water-shutoffs-study/.

- “Michigan’s 1 Percent Just Endorsed the Flint Water Crisis.” *AlterNet*, April 7, 2016.  
<http://www.alternet.org/water/michigan-1-percent-elite-flint-michigan-water-crisis/>.
- “The Michigan GOP’s War on ‘A People’s History.’” *Common Dreams*, September 3, 2015.  
<http://www.commondreams.org/views/2015/09/03/michigan-gops-war-peoples-history/>.
- “Bowe Bergdahl and America’s Anti-War Hypocrisy.” *Antiwar.com*, August 1, 2014.  
[http://original.antiwar.com/Matthew\\_Kovac/2014/08/01/bowe-bergdahl-and-americas-antiwar-hypocrisy/](http://original.antiwar.com/Matthew_Kovac/2014/08/01/bowe-bergdahl-and-americas-antiwar-hypocrisy/).
- “In the Line of Duty – and Death.” *The Chicago Reporter*, January 7, 2014.  
<http://chicagoreporter.com/chicago-schools-junior-rotc-programs-some-see-troubling-trend/>.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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- “Traitors to the Crown: British Military Veterans in the IRA, 1918-23.” Harvard University, Nov. 15, 2018; Free University Berlin, June 10, 2018; University of Zurich, Feb. 1, 2018.
- “‘That Shell Bursting in Your Head’: Great War Trauma in the IRA, 1914-34.” King’s College London, April 23, 2018; McGill University, March 2, 2018.
- “‘Continuing the Mission’: World War I and the Roots of Red Scare Violence, 1919-21.” Princeton University, May 13, 2017; Meredith College, April 8, 2017; University of Edinburgh, March 18, 2017.

## **GRANTS AWARDED**

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- Oxford Faculty of History, Clark Fund Award 2018
- Keble Association Study Grant, Griffiths Award 2017
- Society for Army Historical Research, Minor University Research Grant 2017

## **ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

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<b>Member</b> , Oxford International Relations Society	2017-18
<b>Treasurer</b> , Peace Project	2012-13
<b>Co-Founder</b> , Northwestern Social Justice Coalition	2012
<b>Editor-in-Chief</b> , <i>The Protest</i> magazine	2011-13
<b>Member</b> , Northwestern Living Wage Campaign	2010-11

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

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British Association for Irish Studies	2018-Present
American Historical Association	2017-Present
First World War Network	2017-Present
Society of Professional Journalists	2014-Present