

# Michael Clevenger

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## EDUCATION

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### **University of California, Irvine, in Progress**

*Ph.D. in Global and International Studies*

### **University of Chicago, Master of Arts, 2021**

*MA in Social Sciences, Concentration: Anthropology, summa cum laude*

Thesis Title: Democratic Confederalism in North and East Syria (Rojava): The Contradictions of Non-State Sovereignty

Advisor: Ryan Jobson

### **New College of Florida, Bachelor of Arts, 2020**

*BA in Political Science (with Honors)*

Thesis Title: Democratic Confederalism as a Decolonial Model for Stateless People

Advisor: Frank Alcock

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

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### **Parsons New School of Design, New York, NY**

Infographics and Data Visualization Certificate, January 2023

### **Middlebury Language School, Middlebury, VT**

Summer Immersion Program, Arabic; August 2021

### **University of Chicago, Arabic Language Institute, Chicago, IL**

Summer Immersion Program; August 2020

### **Qasid Arabic Institute**

MSA Foundations; February 2020

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

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Agrarian Change, Comparative Anti-Systemic Movements; Critical Development Studies; Economic Geography; Energy, Infrastructure, and Extractivism; Global Political Economy; Historical Sociology; Modern Middle East; Philippines; Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAIL); World-Systems Theory

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### **Teaching Assistance**

#### **University of California, Irvine, CA**

Global Inequalities – Phil McCarty, Summer II 2023

Intro to Global Studies – Phil McCarty, Spring 2023

Global Political Economy – Yousuf, Al-Bulushi, Winter 2023

Global Cultures and Society – Tom Douglas, Fall 2022

#### **University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.**

American Grand Strategy, John Mearsheimer, Winter, 2020

#### **New College of Florida, Sarasota, FL**

American History: 1865 to Present – Brendan Goff, Fall 2019

U.S. in the World – Brendan Goff, Fall 2019

Teacher's Assistant

Transitions from War to Peace – Nat Colletta, Fall 2018

Teacher's Assistant

Conflict, Security, Development – Nat Colletta, Spring 2018

Teacher's Assistant

## METHODOLOGICAL TRAINING

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- Ethnographical Methods (Qualitative, NVivo, ATLAS.ti)

- Historical Methods (Archival)
- Political Science Methods, Quantitative Political Analysis (SAS, STATA, SQL)
- Data Visualization and UX Design (Illustrator, Tableau)

## PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

*Graduate Researcher/Thesis Researcher, October 2020 – August 2021*

- Design and manage an independent multi-methods research project engaging stateless peoples in the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria
- Collect sensitive data via ethnographic methods and semi-structured interviews

### Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy, Washington DC

*Intern, January 2018*

- Consulted for Sovereignty First and the Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy; Helped further develop a data visualization tool utilizing open-source intelligence representing 98 key actors involved in the Syrian Civil War using the Adobe suite and Stata

## INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### The World Race, Diverse International Locations

*Logistics Coordinator, July 2011-July 2012*

- Operated with NGOs, IGOs, Research Centers and farms in India, Nepal, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Latvia, Lithuania, England, and Ireland.

## SELECTED GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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### Language Grant for Middlebury Language Institute

Middlebury's Arabic Language Institute, June 24 – August 20<sup>th</sup>

### Pheonix Research Award

University of Chicago for 2020-2021

### Director's Scholarship

University of Chicago for 2020-2021

### Student Research and Travel Grant

New College of Florida, December 2017 – February 2018

### Millennial Leaders Project

Union Theological Seminary, July 2017

### Re: Generate Fellow

Wake Forest Divinity, January 2016

## SELECTED PAPERS

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- The National-Agrarian Question in North and East Syria (Rojava): 1980-2020, Accepted and under review with *Middle East Critique* for a special issue on U.S. Imperialism in the West Asia Region, forthcoming.

## PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, AND SYMPOSIUMS

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- Pedagogy of the Oppressed: A Space for Radical Discourse on How We Learn & Teach, guest lecture for four classes, July 4, 6, 11, 13, 2023, California Institute of the Arts
- International Initiative for Promoting Political Economy Conference, September 7-9, 2022, Bologna, Italy
- Political Economy Summer Institute 2022 Fellow at George Mason University and sponsored by the Arab Studies Institute.
- "The Political Economy of North and East Syria (Rojava) from a World-Systems' Perspective" presented at the Institute of Political Economy 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Graduate Conference, Carleton University, March 3-4, 2022.
- Sam Moyo African Institute for Agrarian Studies (SMAIAS-ASN) Summer School January 17-21, 2022

- South-South Decolonial Dialogues: Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean at the Center of Study and Investigation for Decolonial Dialogues (Barcelona) from January 10-14, 2022
- “Democratic Confederalism in North and East Syria (Rojava): The Contradictions of Non-State Sovereignty” presented at the 2021 Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference at the University of Chicago on June 25, 2021

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

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- American Anthropology Association, 2021-2022
- American Sociology Association, 2021-2022
- American Association of Geographers, 2021-2022

## **LANGUAGE**

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- Arabic – Intermediate Advanced
- Spanish – Intermediate Advanced
- Filipino - Novice