

## David Kieran

### Brief Bio

David Kieran is the Colonel Richard R. Hallock Distinguished University Chair in Military History at Columbus State University and the 2024-25 Harold K. Johnson Chair of Military History at the US Army War College. He is the author of *Signature Wounds: The Untold Story of the Military's Mental Health Crisis* (NYU, 2019) and *Forever Vietnam: How a Divisive War Changed American Public Memory* (Massachusetts, 2014). He is the editor of *The War of My Generation: Youth Culture and the War on Terror* (Rutgers, 2015); the co-editor, with Edwin A. Martini, of *At War: The Military and American Culture in the Twentieth Century and Beyond* (Rutgers, 2018); and with Rebecca A. Adelman *Remote Warfare: New Cultures of Violence* (Minnesota, 2020). His articles have appeared in *Modern American History*, *American Studies*, *The Journal of American Studies*, *War & Society*, and the *Journal of War & Culture Studies* and in eleven edited collections. He is currently writing a history of organizational change in the U.S. Army after Vietnam, *How the Army Saved Itself: Maxwell R. Thurman and the Army's Post Vietnam Metamorphosis* (advance contract, North Carolina) and co-editing, with Beth Bailey, *The US Army and Social Change*. He earned PhD at The George Washington University. He has received fellowships from Washington University in St. Louis, the University of Utah, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Mississippi State University. He has served on the Social Media Committee of SMH and as the co-director of the SMH Summer Seminar.

## Personal Statement

David Kieran

I am eager to serve as a trustee of the Society for Military History because my experience and perspective will contribute to the Society's forward progress. Previously, I have served the Society on the Social Media Committee and as a visiting historian (2023) and co-director (2024) of the Summer Seminar.

An interdisciplinary historian with interests ranging from organizational history to historical memory, I have a capacious view of what constitutes military history and will continue efforts to make the Society a place where a diverse range of scholars can find intellectual engagement.

I have been a department chair at a Small Liberal Arts College, hold an endowed chair at a comprehensive state university, and am this year's Harold K. Johnson Chair at the US Army War College. I am thus familiar with the diverse constituencies that our members serve and will advocate for their professional development through funded research, support for graduate and undergraduate research, and pedagogical development. I also have extensive experience partnering with public history organizations, and I will work to strengthen partnerships with these organizations, support our colleagues who work in them, and encourage us to think broadly about military historians' role in civil discourse.

I am open-minded, collaborative, and collegial. I am mindful of tradition but seek to drive change. I have experience managing an endowment, individual and corporate fundraising, and capacity building. I will be a voice for balancing responsible stewardship with creative growth.

# David Kieran

Colonel Richard R. Hallock Distinguished University Chair in Military History  
Columbus State University

## EDUCATION:

- 2009 The George Washington University, Ph.D., American Studies  
2000 Connecticut College, BA, English  
Summa Cum Laude with Honors and Distinction, Phi Beta Kappa

## FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS:

- 2022- *Columbus State University*, Columbus, GA  
Colonel Richard R. Hallock Distinguished University Chair in Military History and Associate Professor of History
- 2016-2022 *Washington & Jefferson College*, Washington, PA  
2021-2022: Associate Professor of History and Chair, History Department  
2016-2021: Assistant Professor of History
- 2014-2015 *Skidmore College*, Saratoga Springs, NY  
Visiting Assistant Professor of History
- 2011-2014 *Franklin & Marshall College*, Lancaster, PA  
Visiting Assistant Professor of American Studies

## RESIDENTIAL FELLOWSHIPS:

- 2024-2025 Harold K. Johnson Professor of Military History, United States Army War College, Carlisle, PA
- 2015-2016 *Tanner Humanities Center, University of Utah*, Salt Lake City, UT  
Obert C. and Grace A. Tanner Visiting Research Fellow
- 2009-2011 *Washington University in St. Louis*, St. Louis, MO  
Post-Doctoral Fellow in American Culture Studies

## SHORT-TERM RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS:

- 2024 G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Research Fellowship, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS.
- 2019 Travel Grant, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library Foundation, Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2015 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend

## PUBLICATIONS:

### Books:

- U.C. *How the Army Saved Itself: Maxwell R. Thurman and the Army's Post Vietnam Metamorphosis* (Advance Contract, University of North Carolina Press, anticipated 2026)
- 2019 *Signature Wounds: The Untold Story of the Military's Mental Health Crisis* (New York University Press).
- 2014 *Forever Vietnam: How a Divisive War Changed American Public Memory* (University of Massachusetts Press (*Culture, Politics, and the Cold War Series*)).

### Edited Collections and Special Issues:

- 2025 *The U.S. Army and Social Change*, co-edited with Beth Bailey. Proposal under consideration at Cornell University Press.
- 2020 *Remote Warfare: New Cultures of Violence*. Co-Edited with Rebecca A. Adelman, University of Minnesota Press.
- 2018 *Re-Conceptualizing Cultures of Remote Warfare*, special issue of *The Journal of War and Culture Studies* 11.1 (2018). Co-edited with Rebecca A. Adelman.

- 2018 *At War: Militarism and U.S. Culture in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and Beyond*. Co-Edited with Edwin A. Martini. Rutgers University Press
- 2015 *The War of My Generation: Youth Culture and the War on Terror*, Rutgers University Press.

#### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles (Last 3 years):

- U.C. “‘A Very Fragile Business: The Army, Congress, and the Fate of the GI Bill in the 1980s,'” Under Consideration.
- 2024 “‘I Don’t Have To Do That Anymore Because I Got Therapy’: Recuperated Veterans and the Complexity of Mental Health Discourse at the End of the Forever War,” *Modern American History*, 7:2 (2024).

#### Chapters in Edited Volumes (Last 3 years):

- ND “Putting Students on the Front Lines: Nine Thoughts on Public-Facing Projects in Military History Classes,” for *Teaching Military History*, ed. Beth Bailey and Andrew Preston (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), Accepted/Forthcoming.
- 2025 “‘A Perpetual War on Terror’: Debating Policy, Strategy, and Service in the Twenty-First Century,” for *The Cambridge History of War and Society in America*, ed. Andrew Huebner and Jennifer Keene (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2025 / Forthcoming).
- 2022 “The ‘Patriot Penalty’: National Guard and Reserve Troops, Neoliberalism, and Manufactured Precarity During in the Era of Perpetual Conflict” for *Marginalized Veterans in American History*, ed. John Kinder and Jason Higgins (University of Massachusetts Press, 2022).

#### Reviews (Last 3 years):

- 2024 Review of Nadia Abu El-Haj, *Combat Trauma: Imaginaries of War and Citizenship in Post-9/11 America* for *International Sociology Review*.
- 2024 Review of William A. Taylor, *The Advent of the All-Volunteer Force: Protecting Free Society*, for *History: Reviews of New Books*
- 2023 Review of Gregg Martin, *Bipolar General: My Forever War With Mental Illness*, for *Army Magazine*, December 2023.
- 2023 Review of Marilyn Young, *Making the Forever War*, for *Home Front Studies*, Vol 2 (2023).
- 2023 Review of Amanda Demmer, *After Saigon Fell: Refugees and U.S.-Vietnamese Relations, 1975-2000* for *Texas National Security Review*. August 24, 2023.
- 2023 Review of Michael D. Gambone, *The New Praetorians: American Veterans, Society, and Service From the Vietnam War to the War on Terror*, for *Journal of Social History* 57:1 (2023), 210-112.
- 2022 Review of Joseph Darda, *How White Men Won the Culture Wars: A History of Veteran America*, for *Journal of Social History* 56:4 (2023), 899-901.
- 2022 Review of Nancy K. Bristow, *Steeped in the Blood of Racism: Black Power, Law and Order, and the 1970 Jacksonville State Shootings* for *The Journal of American History*.

#### Other Work In Progress:

- The Long War: American Experiences During the Iraq War*, co-edited with Michael Denehy
- Moral Aftermath: The Amnesty Debate and the End of the Vietnam War*.
- “What One Helmet Tells Us About War and Society in U.S. Culture,” *The Cambridge Handbook of Material Culture*, ed. Kristin Ann Hass, Cambridge University Press, submitted.

#### INVITED TALKS (Last 3 years):

- 2024 “Signature Wounds: The Untold Story of the Military’s Mental Health Crisis,” Cornell University, November 20, 2024.
- 2024 “‘A Very Fragile Business: The Army, Congress, and the Fate of the GI Bill in the 1980s,'” 2024 G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Lecture, Mississippi State University, November 14, 2024.
- 2024 “‘The Culture of the Army Wasn’t Ready’: Stigma, Access, and the Politics of Organizational Change,” University of Missouri Humanities Center, November 8, 2024.

- 2024 Roundtable participant, "Climbing Alternate Peaks: Reintegration After Traumatic Brain Injury," San Diego State University, October 17, 2024.
- 2022 Roundtable participant, "Why the Vietnam War Still Matters," San Diego State University, November 10, 2022.
- 2022 "'Keeping it on the Table:' Behavioral Health Lessons at the end of the Forever Wars," New Psychology of War / War and Psychology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conference, Danish Institute for International Studies (Copenhagen, DK), 12-13 October, 2022.
- 2022 Roundtable participant, "The Costs of War," LCPL Benjamin W. Schmidt Symposium on War, Conflict, and Society, Texas Christian University, March 18-19, 2022.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (Last 3 years):**

- 2024 "'The Army and Our Soldiers Need This Vehicle:' The Army, Congress, and the 'Save the Bradley' Campaign," Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History, Washington, DC.
- 2023 "'Smart Guys Are Able To Kill': Army Recruitment and the Production of Violence After Vietnam," Society for the History of War Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, November 23, 2023.
- 2023 "'Putting Students on the Front Lines: Nine Thoughts on Public-Facing Projects in Military History Classes," Teaching Military History Symposium, University of Kansas, October 14, 2023.
- 2023 "'Very Beneficial to the Units and the Individual Soldier': The Army's Reimagining of its Civilian Workforce After Vietnam," Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Los Angeles, CA, March 31, 2023.

**ROUNDTABLES (Last 3 years):**

- 2023 Roundtable: "The All-Volunteer Force at Fifty: Historical Challenges and Perspectives For the Future," Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History, San Diego, CA.
- 2022 Roundtable Participant, "Imagining Military Service from Vietnam to Iraq," Annual Meeting of the Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations, New Orleans, LA.