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## **Resisting War: How Communities Protect Themselves**

By Oliver Kaplan, University of Denver

19 September 2019

2pm – 4pm

G7 School of Religion, Peace Studies, Trinity College, Dublin

*In civil conflicts around the world, unarmed civilians take enormous risks to protect themselves and confront heavily armed combatants. This is not just counterintuitive - it is extraordinary. In this book, Oliver Kaplan explores cases from Colombia, with extensions to Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, and the Philippines, to show how and why civilians influence armed actors and limit violence. Based on fieldwork and statistical analysis, the book explains how local social organization and cohesion enable both covert and overt nonviolent strategies, including avoidance, cultures of peace, dispute resolution, deception, protest, and negotiation. These 'autonomy' strategies help civilians retain their agency and avoid becoming helpless victims by limiting the inroads of armed groups.*

**Oliver Kaplan** is an Associate Professor at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver. He is the author of the book, “Resisting War: How Communities Protect Themselves” (Cambridge University Press, 2017), which examines how civilian communities organize to protect themselves from wartime violence. He was a Jennings Randolph Senior Fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace and previously a postdoctoral Research Associate at Princeton University in the Woodrow Wilson School and at Stanford University. As part of his research Kaplan has conducted fieldwork in Colombia and the Philippines. His research has been funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Smith Richardson Foundation and other grants and has been published in *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, *Stability*, *The New York Times*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *CNN*, and *National Interest*. Kaplan received his Ph.D. in political science from Stanford University and completed his B.A. at UC San Diego.