

Buffett Undergraduate Research Fellowship Opportunity

Children of the Revolution

Faculty Mentor: Zayd Dohrn, Professor, RTVF (Evanston campus)

Project Synopsis: My book, *Children of the Revolution*, is a follow-up to my Tribeca-winning podcast *Mother Country Radicals*, which tells the true story of the Weather Underground and the Black Liberation Army—and how a group of young people, practically kids themselves, went to war against their own country to fight racism and try to change the world.

These organizations were profoundly influenced by international resistance movements; The Weather Underground modeled itself on Ho Chi Minh and the National Liberation Front, the Tupamaros in Uruguay, and Che Guevara and Fidel Castro’s Cuban Revolution. This international lens will broaden the focus of the book beyond the U.S., to explore what domestic radicals saw in the wave of revolutionary struggle then sweeping the globe. It will examine international solidarity and movement building, both then and now—why American radicals have so often looked beyond our own borders to find models of what might be possible.

The specific goals of the research project are to find what the international press of the 1960s and 70s made of of these American revolutionaries; what ties, if any, existed between domestic and foreign revolutionary movements at the time (as in the connection between the Black Panthers and the Algerian government); and how those connections continue to inform relations between nations today (i.e. the Cuban embargo and its ties to American fugitive Assata Shakur).

Project Term: Summer only

Project Location: Remote/virtual

Ideal Applicant: I am looking for a research assistant capable of using international news databases and domestic sources (i.e. FBI files) to compile historical material on the international footprint of the Weather Underground, the Black Liberation Army, the Young Lords, and associated revolutionary militant groups. The primary goal will be to assemble a comprehensive dossier of press coverage from the time - both domestic press about the international connections of these groups and foreign press coverage showing their global impact (i.e. press coverage of American revolutionary groups in Cuban or Vietnamese media).

A secondary goal will be to research the U.S. government assessment of the connections that existed between domestic revolutionary groups and foreign governments (for example in declassified FBI files). Some reading ability in Spanish (or Vietnamese) a plus, but not a necessity. The primary qualifications are excellent research skills, organization, and curiosity.

Number of Available Positions: One