



The UC Davis Bookstore presents

Joshua E. S. Phillips

In a talk about his book

**None of Us Were Like This Before
American Soldiers and Torture**



(Verso Books, ISBN 9781844675999)

March 2, Wednesday, Noon to 1:00pm

The Bookstore Lounge, Memorial Union, UC Davis campus

Free and open to the general public.

The presentation will be followed by a Q&A period and a book signing.

Sergeant Adam Gray made it home from a year's tour in Iraq only to die in his barracks. For more than three years, reporter Joshua Phillips—with the support of Adam's mother and the cooperation of his Army buddies—investigated Adam's death. What Phillips uncovered was a story of American veterans psychologically scarred by the abuse they had meted out to Iraqi prisoners.

How did US forces turn to torture? Phillips's narrative recounts the journey of a tank battalion—trained for conventional combat—as its focus switches to guerrilla war and prisoner detention. It tells of how a group of ordinary soldiers, ill-trained for the responsibilities foisted upon them, descended into the degradations of abuse. The location is far from CIA prisons and Guantánamo, but the story captures the use and nature of detainee abuse in the U.S. armed forces that was once widespread.

Based on firsthand reporting from Jordan, Syria and Afghanistan, as well as interviews with soldiers, their families and friends, military officials, and the victims of torture, *None of Us Were Like This Before* reveals how soldiers, senior officials, and the US public came to believe that torture was both effective and necessary. The book illustrates that the damaging legacy of torture is not only borne by the detainees, but also by American soldiers and the country to which they've returned.

Read reviews and interviews at: <http://noneofuswerelikethisbefore.com/>

Joshua E. S. Phillips has reported from Asia and the Middle East. His work has appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *Salon*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, among other publications. His radio features have been broadcast on NPR and the BBC. In 2009, Phillips received the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award and the Newspaper Guild's Heywood Broun Award of Substantial Distinction for his American Radio Works documentary *What Killed Sergeant Gray*.

To schedule an interview with the author, please contact Joshua Phillips directly via email at contact@noneofuswerelikethisbefore.com

For a review copy of the book, please contact Julie McCarroll, 718.246.8160 or julie@versobooks.com

For more information about this event, please contact:

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