

P.E. Moskowitz

Writer, author, annoying person, etc.

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-----MOST RECENT THING (UPDATED NOVEMBER 2021)-----

I'm writing a book!!!!!!!!!!!!!! It's called Rabbit Hole, and it'll be a fun, crazy journey through drugs and our brains. Deal announcement below.

Non-fiction: General/ Other

Today

P.E. Moskowitz's *RABBIT HOLE*, a braided work of memoir, history, research, theory and cross-country reportage reckoning with the role that drugs, both illicit and prescription, play in society and investigating how we can break free of our modern despair using drugs and other tools, to [Stephanie Hitchcock](#) at [Atria](#), at auction, by [Melissa Flashman](#) at [Janklow & Nesbit](#) (NA).

Rights also to [Alexis Kirschbaum](#) at [Bloomsbury UK](#), by [Claire Paterson Conrad](#) at [Janklow & Nesbit UK](#) on behalf of Melissa Flashman.

Translation: nicole.bond@simonandschuster.com

-----OTHER RECENT THINGS (UPDATED JUNE 2021)-----



-I wrote an essay for New York Magazine's June 7th issue on playing tennis and learning to feel comfortable in my body. It felt important to put a personal perspective on the issue of trans people playing sports, as states are currently banning trans kids from playing sports with other kids of their gender.



-I wrote an essay on Carmela Soprano and my trans identity for Vulture/NYMag, which went a little viral and was featured in New York Magazine's One Great Story and the front page of Apple News. It was great to see so many people, especially other trans people, relate to my essay on the flawed women we idolize.



-I wrote a long, partially personal, partially reported essay on ketamine for Medium. In it, I detail how ketamine helped save me from depression, and why the dissociative drug is so popular right now: we're all overwhelmed with information, with death, with governmental failure. And ketamine scrambles the code of our algorithmically hopeless society.

-----Bio-----

I'm P.E. Moskowitz. I'm a writer, author, nice person in real life, mean person on Twitter, trans thing, Jewish thing, dog owner....the list goes on. I was born and raised and live in New York City.

I've written for places like The Nation, Vice, Mother Jones, Wired, Out Magazine, BuzzFeed, The New Yorker, The New Republic, and others.

My ongoing project, Mental Hellth, is a newsletter focused on challenging popular, pro-individualist views on depression, diagnosis, and our emotional lives in modern times. You can [subscribe here](#).

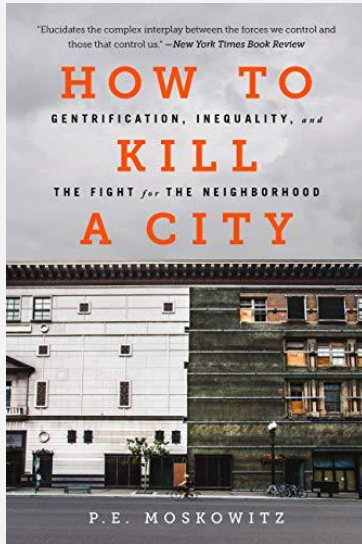
I wrote a book about gentrification called How to Kill a City, which was published by Bold Type Books/Hachette and reviewed positively in The New York Times Book Review, The Washington Post, The Atlantic, The New Republic and elsewhere.

My second book, The Case Against Free Speech: The First Amendment, Fascism, and the Future of Dissent, was released in August 2019, also by Bold Type Books/Hachette.

I've taught classes at Purchase College on media, democracy, free speech, fascism, and more.

I co-founded Study Hall, a media organization with over 5,000 members that's working to build a sustainable model for journalism, as well as build labor power within the media.

I have lots of experience giving talks and lectures: I've traveled the country talking to college students, nonprofit leaders, politicians and others about issues of race, inequality, gender, urbanism, and democracy.

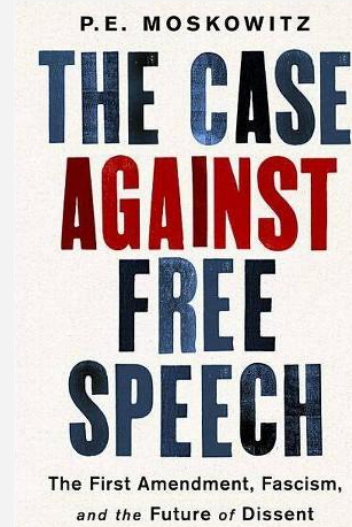


HOW TO KILL A CITY: GENTRIFICATION, INEQUALITY AND THE FIGHT FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD

"Poignantly conveys how gentrification grows out of a legacy of racial discrimination.....Valiantly captures the human dimension of a crisis." (The Washington Post).

"[An] exacting look at gentrification...How to Kill a City elucidates the complex interplay between the forces we control and those that control us." (The New York Times)

How to Kill a City is a book about gentrification in four cities: New York, San Francisco, New Orleans, and Detroit. The book takes readers on a narrative journey through each city, meeting the residents, activists, and politicians battling out for the future of their cities. It's meant to give readers a compelling and digestible way to understand a complex, pressing issue.



THE CASE AGAINST FREE SPEECH: THE FIRST AMENDMENT, FASCISM, AND THE FUTURE OF DISSENT

There's a critical debate taking place over one of our most treasured rights: free speech. We argue about whether it's at risk, whether college students fear it, whether neo-Nazis deserve it, and whether the government is adequately upholding it.

But as *The Case Against Free Speech* shows, the term has been defined and redefined to suit those in power, and in recent years, it has been captured by the far-right to push their agenda. What's more, our investment in the First Amendment obscures an uncomfortable truth: free speech is impossible in an unequal society where a few corporations and the ultra-wealthy bankroll political movements, millions of voters are disenfranchised, and our government routinely silences critics of racism and the state. Weaving together history and reporting from Charlottesville, Skokie, Standing Rock, and the college campuses where student protests made national headlines, I argue that these flash points reveal more about the state of our democracy than they do about who is allowed to say what.

-----Selected magazine and feature writing-----

[[This is a curated selection, not a comprehensive list]]

New York Magazine -- Picking up a Racket Made My Body Mine: A personal essay on finding my body through tennis, and the anti-trans sports bills being passed throughout the country (June 2021 issue).

New York Magazine -- Parking Wars: An exploration of how a simple parallel parking tweet set off a maelstrom of controversy (June 2021 issue).

The Nation -- Organizing Without a Union: Target workers are taking on bosses themselves. Is this the future of radical organizing?

Mother Jones -- True Crime Is Cathartic for Women. It's Also Cop Propaganda: Why are so many women gravitating toward true crime at a time of protest against the police? A personal, reported essay on anxiety, capitalism, and the fantasy of good policing (June 2020 Issue).

Vulture (New York Magazine) -- I Couldn't Imagine Being Happy. But I Could Imagine Being Carmela: A personal essay on coming to terms with womanhood through the Sopranos.

Elemental / Medium -- A Good Drug for a Bad World: A long, reported essay on the ketamine zeitgeist.

The New Yorker -- The Anger and Joy of a Native American Poet in Brooklyn: A profile of Tommy Pico.

BuzzFeed -- How One of Katrina's Feel-Good Stories Turned Bad: When Kathy Phipps was relocated to a suburban Utah neighborhood after the storm, she was hailed by the media as an example of how the tragedy could turn into an opportunity. But 10 years later, Kathy is back in Louisiana, and scarred by what happened after the cameras went away.

New York Magazine -- Oprah's Angels -- A look at the community at the edge of Houston funded by Oprah Winfrey after Katrina, and how, ten years later, people are still struggling to get by.

Pacific Standard -- Inside the Mind of America's Favorite Gun Researcher: John Lott is a one-man pro-gun research machine whose work has been cited nearly 200 times by the National Rifle Association. The problem? Many of his peers have major misgivings about his methods.

Splinter -- It Was Never Going to Be a Normal Protest. They Came Ready to Fight: The dark future Charlottesville foretold.

Racked -- The Bizarre Story of Melania Trump's Skincare Line: A deep dive into a failed skincare line that reveals Melania may have lied under oath, and made up part of her personal history,

Out Magazine -- Back on Christopher Street -- A semi-personal, reported feature on the gentrification of Christopher Street, a few blocks from the apartment I grew up in, and how that's affected LGBTQ people in New York.

The Outline -- Who Will Speak for the Geese: New York City has made a habit, and a business, of massacring geese. One Brooklyn man is trying to save them.

Splinter -- Inside the Secret Gay Movement at one of America's Most Homophobic Colleges: Wheaton is a conservative Christian school that disallows same-sex relationships. Students are secretly organizing to change that.

-----Commentary-----

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OneZero -- In Defense of The Small Social Network: Ditch Facebook. Log off Twitter. The path to a better internet is going small.

The Nation -- Everything You Think You Know About Free Speech Is a Lie: How far-right operatives manufactured the "crisis" of free speech with books, think tanks—and billions of dollars.

The Nation -- Give Drugs to Drug Users: The best way out of our overdose crisis is to hand out drugs, for free, to opioid users. Science backs this up.

The Outline -- The Nanette Problem: Comedy is at its best when it helps audiences understand their relationship to trauma, not when it makes them feel comfortably woke.

The Washington Post -- Why do social media sites still give hate a pass?: Their executives say it's about free speech, but they're perfectly willing to censor other content.

The Outline -- Evict the Rich: The one neat trick to solving the housing crisis? Give the things owned by the rich to the poor.

WIRED -- Crowdfunding for the Public Good Is Evil: How a slew of startups are trying to solve what should be a government responsibility.

The New Inquiry -- Light a Fire Under the DNC: If it doesn't catch, then let it burn.

-----Talks, interviews, recordings, etc.-----

I've given lectures in approximately 20 states in the U.S., as well as at conferences internationally. Here are some of my favorite media appearances and talks.

Citations Needed -- The mythical, bygone glory days of free speech.

On the Media -- Sticks and stones.

What a Hell of a Way to Die -- The case for radical empathy.

Champagne Sharks -- Free speech, gentrification, fascism, and more.

This is Hell! -- What does free speech even mean?

KERA's Think -- The trouble with the First Amendment.

Vancouver Roddan Jubilee Lecture on gentrification.

-----Contact information -----

Email: p.e.moskowitz [at] gmail.com

Twitter: [@_pem_pem](#)

[Subscribe to my Substack](#)

Check out [Study Hall!](#) Become a member!

My literary agent is [Mel Flashman](#) at Janklow & Nesbit. mflashman [at] janklow.com

Here's my dog Remi, the official mascot of this website:



Here is my face, in case you care:

