

SIDDHANT ISSAR

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EDUCATION

- 2021 **Ph.D., Political Science, University of Massachusetts, Amherst**
(Expected May 2021)
Fields: Contemporary Social and Political Theory; History of Political Thought
Dissertation: *Thinking with Black Lives Matter: Towards a Critical Theory of Racial Capitalism*
Committee: Nicholas Xenos (Chair), Adam Dahl, Sonia Alvarez, Keith Feldman
- 2015 **M.A., Liberal Studies, The Graduate Center, City University of New York**
- 2012 **B.A., Philosophy, Wesleyan University, CT**

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2017-2018 Visiting Scholar, Department of Philosophy, St. Louis University

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2021 Issar, S. "Theorizing 'Racial/Colonial Primitive Accumulation': Settler Colonialism, Slavery, and Racial Capitalism." *Race & Class*. (Online First)
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0306396821996273>
- 2021 Issar, S. "Listening to Black Lives Matter: Racial Capitalism and the Critique of Neoliberalism." *Contemporary Political Theory*, 20(1), 48-71.
<https://doi.org/10.1057/s41296-020-00399-0> (Online First: April 2020)

Book Chapters

- 2021 **Issar, S.**, Brown, R., McMahon, J. "Rosa Luxemburg and the Primitive Accumulation of Whiteness." In J.A. Gordon & D. Cornell (Eds.), *Creolizing Rosa Luxemburg* (343-370). Rowman & Littlefield International.

Invited Book Review

- 2018 Issar, S. "Class, Race, and Marxism by David R. Roediger." *The Black Scholar*, 48(4), 75-78.

Interviews

- 2020 **Issar, S.**, Padlioni Jr., J. "To Address Black Suffering is to Destroy the World?: An Interview with Frank B. Wilderson, III on *Afropessimism*." *Interfere: Journal for Critical Thought and Radical Politics*, 1(1), 92-113.

Manuscripts in Progress

Issar, S. "Conceptualizing Abolition-Democracy: From Reconstruction to Neoliberalism"

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

American Political Thought (Teaching Assistant, Spring 2021, online)

The Politics of Black Lives Matter (Fall 2020, online)

Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Identity in Politics (Spring 2018, Winter 2018-2019, Summer 2019, Winter 2020-2021, online)

Introduction to Comparative Politics (Teaching Assistant, Fall 2015, Fall 2016)

Washington University in St. Louis

Theoretical Foundations of the Movement for Black Lives (Fall 2020 & Spring 2021 online)

St. Louis University

Theoretical Foundations of the Movement for Black Lives (Fall 2018, Fall 2020 online)

Harris-Stowe State University

Political Theory (Spring 2020)

TEACHING INTERESTS

Modern and contemporary political theory; Black political thought; race-making, empire, and capitalism; racial politics in the U.S.; American social movements; nationalism and identity

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, & GRANTS

External

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| 2020 | Honorable Mention, Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship |
| 2020 | Conference Support Funding (\$350), Race and Capitalism Graduate Student Conference, University of Chicago |
| 2019 | Conference Support Funding (£900), University of Brighton, UK, and International Consortium of Critical Theory Programs |
| 2018 | Workshop Support Funding (\$400), "Subversive Theories of the Political" Workshop, The Academy of Global Humanities and Critical Theory |
| 2018 | Travel Grant (\$200), American Political Science Association |
| 2018 | Conference Support Funding (\$350), Race and Capitalism Graduate Student Conference, University of Chicago |
| 2018 | Selected Winter School Participant (~ €1750), "Inherited Inequality and the Formation of the Modern World," University of Göttingen, Germany |

Internal

- 2020 Political Science Summer Research and Writing Grant (\$2500), UMass Amherst
- 2019 Political Science Summer Research and Writing Grant (\$2500), UMass Amherst
- 2019 Political Science International Conference Travel Grant (\$500), UMass Amherst
- 2018 Political Science Summer Research and Writing Grant (\$2500), UMass Amherst
- 2017 Political Science Conference Travel Grant (\$300), UMass Amherst
- 2017 Political Science Summer Research and Writing Grant (\$2500), UMass Amherst
- 2015-present Fellow, The Amherst Program in Critical Theory

INVITED TALKS

- 2020 “Listening to Black Lives Matter: Racial Capitalism and the Critique of Neoliberalism” Presentation in Marx and Marxism course, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota Twin Cities (November 16, online)
- 2020 “Reflecting on Black Lives Matter: Visions of Abolition-Democracy” Center for Ethics, University of Toronto (June 23, online)
- 2019 “What is Capitalism?” Presentation in Radical Design: Making Civic Experiences, Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts, Washington University in St. Louis (January 28)
- 2018 “Understanding Capitalism” Presentation in Radical Design: Making Civic Experiences, Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts, Washington University in St. Louis (September 26)

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

Papers Presented

- 2020 “Rosa Luxemburg and the Primitive Accumulation of Whiteness” (co-authored), American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (September 10-13)
- 2020 “Democratize Now! The Movement for Black Lives’s Fight Against Racial Capitalism,” Race and Capitalism Graduate Student Conference, University of Chicago (February 28)
- 2019 “Rethinking Primitive Accumulation with Black Lives Matter,” Workshop on Politics, Ethics, and Society, Washington University in St. Louis (April 26)
- 2019 “Theorizing ‘Racialized Primitive Accumulation,’” “Critical Theories in a Global Context” Conference, University of Brighton, UK (January 23-25)

- 2018 “Rethinking Primitive Accumulation with Black Lives Matter,” “Subversive Theories of the Political” Workshop, Colorado College (October 25-26)
- 2018 “The Primitive Accumulation of Whiteness: Catalyzing Racial Capitalism” (co-authored), Association for Political Theory Annual Conference (October 18-20)
- 2018 “Moving Beyond the ‘Imperial’ and ‘Neoliberal’ Turn in Political Theory,” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (August 30-September 2)
- 2018 “Theorizing Racial Capitalism in the Era of Black Lives Matter,” Race and Capitalism Graduate Student Conference, University of Chicago (May 18)
- 2018 “Listening to Black Lives Matter: Racial Capitalism and Critiques of Neoliberalism,” Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting (March 29-31)
- 2017 “Listening to Black Lives Matter: Racial Capitalism and Critiques of Neoliberalism,” Abolish Border Imperialism Conference (October 6-8)
- 2016 “Decolonizing Liberal Metaphysics,” Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting (March 24-26)

Roundtables Organized

- 2019 “Teaching Climate Change Radically,” Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting (April 18-20)

Roundtable Participation

- 2019 “Theorizing Racial Capitalism,” Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting (April 18-20)
- 2018 “Teaching White Supremacy: Pedagogical Reflections After Charlottesville,” Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting (March 29-31)

Discussant

- 2019 “Why Not Uncivil Disobedience?” by William Scheuerman, Workshop on Politics, Ethics, and Society, Washington University in St. Louis (September 27)

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- 2018-present Co-Host, Always Already Podcast: A Critical Theory Podcast

SERVICE TO PROFESSION AND DEPARTMENT

Journal Manuscript Reviewer, *American Political Science Review*, *Constellations*, *Economy and Society*, *Radical Philosophy Review*

Political Science Representative, Graduate Student Senate (2016-2017)

LANGUAGES

English (native); Hindi (native); Bengali (proficient); German (beginner)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association
Western Political Science Association
Association for Political Theory

REFERENCES

Nicholas Xenos
Professor Emeritus of Political Science
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Director, The Amherst Program in Critical Theory
xenos@polsci.umass.edu

Sonia E. Alvarez
Leonard J. Horowitz Professor of Latin American Politics
Director, Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
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Adam Dahl
Assistant Professor of Political Science
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
adahl@umass.edu

Keith Feldman
Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies
University of California, Berkeley
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