

# SIDDHANT ISSAR

200 Hicks Way • Amherst, MA 01003  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst • 917.618.8703  
[sissar@polsci.umass.edu](mailto:sissar@polsci.umass.edu) • [siddhantissar.com](http://siddhantissar.com)

---

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2021- **Rising Scholar Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Virginia**  
Department of Politics
- 2017-2018 **Visiting Scholar, St. Louis University**  
Department of Philosophy

## EDUCATION

- 2021 **Ph.D., Political Science, University of Massachusetts, Amherst**  
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**

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2021 Issar, S. "Theorizing 'Racial/Colonial Primitive Accumulation': Settler Colonialism, Slavery, and Racial Capitalism." *Race & Class*, 63(1), 23-50.  
<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” (to be submitted to *Political Theory*)

## **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 due to Covid-19)

### **St. Louis University**

Theoretical Foundations of the Movement for Black Lives (Fall 2018, Fall 2020 online due to Covid-19)

### **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**

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**

2021 “Rosa Luxemburg and the Primitive Accumulation of Whiteness” Creolizing Rosa Luxemburg panel, Rosa Luxemburg at 150: Revisiting Her Radical Life and Legacy, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Berlin, Germany (March 5, online due to Covid-19)

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 due to Covid-19)

2020 “Reflecting on Black Lives Matter: Visions of Abolition-Democracy” Center for Ethics, University of Toronto (June 23, online due to Covid-19)

2019 “What is Capitalism?” Presentation in Radical Design: Making Civic Experiences, Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts, Washington University in S. 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*; *Research in Social Movements*; *Conflicts and Change*

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](mailto:xenos@polsci.umass.edu)

Sonia E. Alvarez

Leonard J. Horowitz Professor of Latin American Politics

Distinguished University Professor of Political Science

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

[soniaa@polsci.umass.edu](mailto:soniaa@polsci.umass.edu)

Adam Dahl

Associate Professor of Political Science

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

[adahl@umass.edu](mailto:adahl@umass.edu)

Keith Feldman

Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies

University of California, Berkeley

[kpfeldman@berkeley.edu](mailto:kpfeldman@berkeley.edu)