

# SIDDHANT ISSAR

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2022- **Assistant Professor, University of Louisville**  
Department of Political Science
- 2021-2022 **Rising Scholar Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Virginia**  
Department of Politics (Mentor: Lawrie Balfour)
- 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*  
  
Co-Winner of the American Political Science Association's Leo Strauss Award for Best Dissertation in Political Philosophy (2022)
- 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 Review Essay

2023 Issar, S. "Agrarian Labor, Property, and Locke: Fashioning a Transnational Political Theory of Colonization." *Political Theory*, 51(1), 262-270. (50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue)

### **Invited Book Reviews**

2022 Issar, S. "Unsettling the Politics of Race: A Review of Kevin Bruyneel's *Settler Memory*." *Theory & Event*, 25(4), 954-958.

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.

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

### **Monograph**

Issar, S. *Theorizing Racial Capitalism in the Era of Black Lives Matter* (in preparation)  
Manuscript workshop held at University of Virginia in June 2022 (Participants: Lisa Lowe, Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, Kevin Bruyneel, Lawrie Balfour, and Kevin Duong)

### **Articles**

Issar, S. "The Two Bhagats: The Fraught Politics of Race and Caste in the Interwar Period"

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

Issar, S. "Rethinking the Racial Contract: Liberalism, Property, Abolition"

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **University of Louisville**

Theoretical Foundations of the Movement for Black Lives (Spring 2023)

Early Political Thought (Spring 2023)

American Political Thought (Fall 2022)

Race, Empire, and the Struggle for American Democracy (Fall 2022)

### **University of Virginia**

Race, Empire, and the Struggle for American Democracy (Spring 2022)

### **University of Massachusetts, Amherst**

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

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

### **Washington University in St. Louis**

Theoretical Foundations of the Movement for Black Lives (Spring 2021 & Fall 2020, both online due to Covid-19)

**St. Louis University**

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

**Harris-Stowe State University**

Political Theory (Spring 2020)

**Teaching Interests**

Black and Indigenous political thought; race, empire, and the struggle for American democracy; politics of race, class, and inequality

**AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, & GRANTS**

- 2022 Co-Winner, American Political Science Association's Leo Strauss Award for Best Dissertation in Political Philosophy
- 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
- 2019 Political Science International Conference Travel Grant (\$500), UMass Amherst
- 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
- 2017-2020 Political Science Summer Research and Writing Grant (\$10,000), UMass Amherst
- 2015-2021 Fellow, The Amherst Program in Critical Theory

**INVITED TALKS**

- 2023 "Rethinking the Racial Contract: Liberalism, Property, Abolition," Department of Philosophy, University of Louisville (April 12)

- 2022 “Theorizing Contemporary Racial Capitalism,” Department of Political Science, Boston University (November 4)
- 2022 “Analyzing Contemporary Racial Capitalism: Financialization, Property, and Racial/Colonial Expropriation,” Department of African and African American Studies, Washington University in St. Louis (October 6)
- 2022 “Stretching *Black Marxism*,” Presentation for colloquium, “Black Marxism 40 years on: Current and Interdisciplinary Engagement with Cedric J. Robinson,” Department of Global Histories, Cultures, and Politics, University of Bologna, Italy (April 21, online)
- 2022 “Racial Capitalism: A History of the Present,” Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (March 15)
- 2022 “Towards a Structural Understanding of Anti-Black Racism,” Black History Month Lecture Series, University of Virginia’s College at Wise (February 28)
- 2021 “Conceptualizing the Triad: Settler Colonialism, Anti-Blackness, and Capitalist Exploitation,” Presentation in Settler Colonialism and Multiculturalism course, University of Virginia (November 2, online due to Covid-19)
- 2021 “Mapping the Logics of Contemporary Racial Capitalism,” Recent Work on Race and Ethnicity in Contemporary Politics Lecture Series, Reed College (October 27, online due to Covid-19)
- 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 PARTICPATION

## **Papers Presented**

- 2022 “Mapping the Logics of Contemporary Racial Capitalism: Financialization, Property, and Racial/Colonial Expropriation,” UVA Political Theory Colloquium (April 22)
- 2021 “Reproducing Racial Domination: Financial Expropriation, the Great Recession, and the Covid-19 Crisis,” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (September 30-October 3)
- 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**

- 2022 “On Racial Capitalism,” (co-organized with Lucas Pinheiro) American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (September 15-18)
- 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**

- 2023 Co-PI, History of Policing in Louisville, Proposal submitted to Louisville Metro Council
- 2018-present Co-Host, Always Already Podcast: A Critical Theory Podcast

### **DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

- 2023-2024 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and Brennan-Haley Committee
- 2022-2023 Graduate Studies Committee and Brennan-Haley Committee

### **SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

- 2022- Member, Special Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the Association for Political Theory

Ad Hoc Reviewer, *American Political Science Review*; *Contemporary Political Theory*; *Constellations*; *Economy and Society*; *Emancipations*; *Radical Philosophy Review*; *Research in Social Movements, Conflicts and Change*; *Souls*

### **LANGUAGES**

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

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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

### **REFERENCES**

Available upon request