

SIDDHANT ISSAR

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2022- University of Louisville
Assistant Professor of Political Science
Co-Director, Center for Asian Democracy (July 2026-)
- 2021-2022 University of Virginia
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Politics
- 2017-2018 Saint Louis University
Visiting Scholar, Department of Philosophy

EDUCATION

- 2021 Ph.D. Political Science, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- 2015 M.A., Liberal Studies, The Graduate Center, City University of New York
- 2012 B.A., Philosophy, Wesleyan University, CT

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2026 Issar, S. *Reckoning with Racial Capitalism: Settler Colonialism, Anti-Blackness, and Left Critique Beyond Neoliberalism* (Columbia University Press)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2025 Issar, S. "Contesting the Racial Contract: Liberalism, Property, and Abolition." *Political Theory*, 53(1), 34-61. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00905917241292638> (Online First: December 2024)
- 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.

Community-Engaged Scholarship

- 2023 Jamison, F., **Issar, S.**, Fosl, C., et. al. (2023). "[The History of Policing in Louisville: A Fact-Finding Report on Institutional Harms.](#)" Report commissioned by and submitted to Louisville Metro Government.

Review Essays and Book Reviews

- 2026 Issar, S. “Setting the Record Straight: Racism, Empire, and the Neoliberal Project.” *Racial and Ethnic Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2026.2625379>
- 2023 Issar, S. “Agrarian Labor, Property, and Locke: Fashioning a Transnational Political Theory of Colonization.” *Political Theory*, 51(1), 262-270. (50th Anniversary Issue)
- 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

Issar, S. “Expanding Contemporary Abolition: Intellectual Property Rights and Contemporary Racial, Colonial, and Economic Domination” (under review)

Issar, S. “The Two Bhagats: The Fraught Politics of Race and Caste in the Interwar Period” (in preparation)

Issar, S., Grimsely, E. “Beyond the Racial Wealth Gap: Reparations and the Problem of Racial Capitalism” (in preparation)

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, & GRANTS

- 2023 Co-PI, “History of Policing in Louisville” (\$10,000), Louisville Metro Government
- 2022 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

2026	Distinguished Speaker, <i>Reckoning with Racial Capitalism</i> (book talk), Department of Political Science, University of British Columbia, Canada (November 20)
2026	“Authoritarianism and Data,” 2026 Othering & Belonging Conference in Louisville, Othering & Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley (October 9)
2025	Invited Speaker, Book launch for <i>Neoliberalism and Race</i> by Lars Cornelissen, University College London, UK (December 9)
2025	“Labor,” Racial Politics Summer School, Johns Hopkins University (June 5)
2025	“Theoretical Foundations of the Movement for Black Lives,” Presentation in Black Lives Matter course, Macalester College, (April 11, online)
2024	“Thinking with Social Movements,” Workshop on “Organic Theory,” University of Vienna, Austria (October 7)
2024	“Contesting the Racial Contract: Liberalism, Property, and Abolition,” Keynote speaker, “Counterstrategies to Authoritarianism” conference, University of Vienna, Austria (October 4)
2024	“Engaging the Louisville Community with History: Policing in Context,” Arts and Sciences Town Hall on Community Engagement, University of Louisville (April 12)

- 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*,” 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

- 2026 “Expanding Contemporary Abolitionism: Intellectual Property Rights and Contemporary Racial, Colonial, and Economic Domination,” American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Boston (September 4)
- 2026 “Expanding Contemporary Abolitionism: Intellectual Property Rights and Contemporary Racial, Colonial, and Economic Domination,” Western Political Science Annual Conference, San Diego (April 2)
- 2026 “Updating Abolition: Intellectual Property Rights and Contemporary Racial, Colonial, and Economic Domination,” Minnesota Political Theory Colloquium, University of Minnesota (February 27)
- 2025 “Financialization, Property, and Racial/Colonial Expropriation: (Re)Examining the Great Recession,” “Race, Gender, and Capitalism in the Present Conjuncture” workshop, organized by the Independent Social Research Foundation and held at King’s College, London, UK (December 9)
- 2025 “Follow the Property: Intellectual Property Rights and Contemporary Racial, Colonial, and Economic Domination,” “Racial Capitalism in the History of Political Thought” workshop, Princeton University (February 22)
- 2023 “Rethinking the Racial Contract: Liberalism, Property, Abolition,” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (*panel cancelled in solidarity with Unite Here Local 11 Strike)
- 2022 “Mapping the Logics of Contemporary Racial Capitalism: Financialization, Property, and Racial/Colonial Expropriation,” UVA Political Theory Colloquium, University of Virginia (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, Abolition Collective, Minneapolis (October 6-8)
- 2016 “Decolonizing Liberal Metaphysics,” Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting (March 24-26)

Author Meets Critics

- 2026 *Unbecoming Persons* by Ladelle McWhorter, Western Political Science Annual Conference, San Diego (April 3)
- 2026 *Sunbelt Capitalism* by Kirstine Taylor, Western Political Science Annual Conference, San Diego (April 2)

Roundtables Organized

- 2025 “Contesting Racial Capitalism, Imperialism, and Fascism,” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (September 11)
- 2023 “Contesting Racial Capitalism, Imperialism, and Fascism,” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (*panel cancelled in solidarity with Unite Here Local 11 Strike)
- 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

- 2025 “Remembering Nicholas Xenos,” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (September 12)

- 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)

Invited Manuscript Workshops

- 2026 Book workshop for Viktoria Huegel, September 17
- 2025 Book workshop for Jennifer Rubenstein, May 9

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,” Louisville Metro Government
- 2018-present Co-Host, Always Already Podcast: A Critical Theory Podcast

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Louisville

Race, Empire, and the Struggle for American Democracy (Fall 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2022)

Introduction to American Politics (Summer 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025)

Racial Capitalism (Fall 2025, Spring 2024)

Theoretical Foundations of the Movement for Black Lives (Spring 2026, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023)

American Political Thought (Spring 2026, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022)

Early Political Thought (Spring 2023)

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)

THESIS, DIRECTED RESEARCH, AND INDEPENDENT STUDY

Fall 2026	Garth Noble (Independent Study, Political Science MA program)
Summer 2026	Mallory Rigot (Directed Research, Political Science MA program)
Spring 2026	Azriel Williams (Directed Research, Political Science MA program)
Fall 2025	Wanda Canton (External Examiner, PhD Philosophy, Politics, and Ethics, University of Brighton, UK)
Spring 2025	Ethan Blemeel, Philile Dlamini (Directed Research, Political Science MA program)
Fall 2024	Ethan Blemeel (Independent Study, Political Science MA program)
Spring 2024	Abigail Ray (Thesis Committee, WGSS MA program)
Spring 2023	Jamica Solomon (Directed Research, Political Science MA program)

SERVICE

Departmental Service

2026-2027	Brennan-Haley Committee (Chair); Graduate Studies Committee
2025-2026	Brennan-Haley Committee (Chair); Community and Culture Committee
2024-2025	Brennan-Haley Committee; Community and Culture Committee
2023-2024	Brennan-Haley Committee; Community and Culture Committee
2022-2023	Graduate Studies Committee; Brennan-Haley Committee

Service to the Profession

2024-2025	Section Chair, Critical and Contemporary Political Theory, Midwest Political Science Association Meeting
2022-2026	Member, Special Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the Association for Political Theory

Reviewer

American Political Science Review; Contemporary Political Theory; Constellations; Economy and Society; Emancipations; Radical Philosophy Review; Research in Social Movements, Conflicts and Change; Souls; Philosophy and Global Affairs; Globalizations; Politics, Groups, and Identities; Journal of Applied Philosophy; Political Theory; American Journal of Political Science

LANGUAGES

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

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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

