

# ALTHEA RANI SIRCAR

*CURRICULUM VITAE*  
*FEBRUARY 15, 2020*

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## *EMPLOYMENT*

- 2016-present      Visiting Instructor, Department of Political Science, Macalester College,  
Saint Paul, MN
- 2016-2018      Consortium for Faculty Diversity Predoctoral Teaching Fellow,  
Department of Political Science, Macalester College, Saint Paul, MN

## *EDUCATION*

- June 2020  
(expected)      Ph.D. in Political Science, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)  
Major fields: Political Theory and Race, Ethnicity, and Politics  
Dissertation: “Affective Political Community: Michel Henry and the  
ontological subject.”  
Dissertation Committee: Joshua Foa Dienstag (chair), Giulia Sissa, Davide  
Panagia, and John McCumber
- June 2013      C. Phil. in Political Science, UCLA
- August 2007      M.A. in Asian Studies, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY  
Concentration in South Asian Studies  
Thesis Committee: Mary Fainsod Katzenstein (chair) and Durba Ghosh
- May 2005      A.B. in Political Science, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina  
Major fields: Comparative Politics and International Relations;  
Minor in Economics
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## **FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS**

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### *MAJOR FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS*

- 2016-18      Consortium for Faculty Diversity Teaching Fellowship
- 2009-10      Graduate Research Mentorship, UCLA (full tuition and stipend)

- 2008-09 Chancellor's Prize and Fellowship, UCLA (full year tuition and stipend plus two summer stipends)
- 2005-07 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowships (two years) for Bengali (US Title VI) Cornell University (full tuition and stipend)
- 2001-05 Angier B. Duke Memorial Scholarship (four years, full-tuition) including President's Research Fellowship (short term research) and full scholarship for summer study at New College, Oxford, funded by Duke Foundation, Duke University

*TEACHING-RELATED GRANTS & HONORS*

- 2019 Nominee for Educator of the Year, Macalester College Student Government
- 2019 New Course Development Grant for "Intersectionality and Disability", Mellon Foundation New Directions Grant/Annan Institute for Global Citizenship, Macalester College
- 2018 New Course Development Grant for "Who Speaks for Whom? Decolonizing Academia", Mellon New Directions/Annan Institute for Global Citizenship, Macalester College

*ADDITIONAL GRANTS & AWARDS*

- 2019 Wallace Grant for Conference Travel, Macalester College
- 2018 Wallace Grant for Summer Research, Macalester College
- 2017 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting Travel Grant
- 2017 Women of Color in Political Science Travel Grant (for APSA pre-conference)
- 2015-16 Pauley Fellowship, UCLA (full year tuition and stipend)
- 2015 Summer Stipend, Department of Political Science, UCLA
- 2014 Summer Stipend, Department of Political Science, UCLA
- 2013 Tuition Grant, School for Criticism and Theory, Cornell University (six weeks partial tuition grant)
- 2013 Summer Language Training Stipend (French) Center for European and Eurasian Studies, UCLA
- 2012-13 Regents'/Pauley Fellowship, UCLA (full tuition and stipend)

2012	Summer Language Funding (French), Department of Political Science, UCLA
2011	Summer Language Training Stipend (German), Center for European and Eurasian Studies, UCLA
2006	International Research Travel Grant, Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, Cornell University (short term for research)

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## **TEACHING & PEDAGOGY**

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### *COURSES DESIGNED & TAUGHT*

- "Who Speaks for Whom?: Decolonizing Academia"
- "Intersectionality and Disability"
- "Boundaries of Political Community: Political Theory Approaches to Humans, Animals, and Cyborgs"
- "Contemporary Politics of Race and Racialization in North America"
- "Feminist Political Theory"
- "Revolutionary Political Theory"
- "Postcolonial Political and Social Thought"
- "A Mirror for Power: Revolutionary Voices, Revolutionary Thought from the 18th to 20th Centuries"
- "The Political Animal and Its Nonhuman Others: Animals, Cyborgs, and People in the History of Modern Thought"
- "Foundations of Political Theory"

### *COURSES TA'D - UCLA*

- "The History of Modern Thought"
- "Continental Political Thought"
- "Contemporary Political Thought"
- "Introduction to Political Theory"
- "The Evolution of American Regulatory Institutions"

### *TEACHING INTERESTS*

- Critical theories of race, gender, disability, indigeneity, and colonialism
- Comparative Modernisms/Postmodernisms (Black Atlantic/Asia/Americas)
- Decolonizing Education in theory and practice
- South Asian political thought
- Philosophy and ethics of environment, science, and technology
- Politics and culture (film, literature, art, new media)

- Religion, law, and the state in US and India
- Philosophical foundations of social and physical sciences
- 20th and 21st century Francophone theory

### *PEDAGOGICAL ACTIVITIES*

- 2016-present "Teaching Race, Teaching Difference" Faculty Learning Community Participant (campus-wide working group for junior minority faculty) Macalester College, Annan IGC/Mellon New Directions
- 2018 "Internationalism and Multiculturalism," Faculty Learning Community (competitively selected for campus-wide working group on general education requirements Macalester College, Annan IGC/Mellon New Directions

### *ADVISING & MENTORING*

- Faculty Advisor, Jewish Voice for Peace student organization, Macalester College (2019-2020)
- Chair, Political Science Honors Projects: Jeremy Chamberlin (2019-20); Henry Aoki (2018-19); Ethan Lussky (2017-18); Chris Pieper (2017-18)
- Committee Member, Honors Projects: Alya Ansari (Media & Cultural Studies, 2018-19); Liza Michaeli (English, 2017-18); Maggie Poulos (Political Science, 2017-18); Jacob Besson (International Studies, 2016-17)
- Supervisor, additional tutorials and independent studies on Decolonizing Political Science (one student), Spring 2018; Advanced Critical Theory (three students), Spring 2018; Coloniality and Human-Animal Relations
- Guest speaker, Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, Macalester College, October 2016.

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## **SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH**

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- Pluralism, conflict, and difference in political communities
- Race, ethnicity, and feminist/gender/queer theory and politics
- Affect theory, pain, disability, love, belonging, and embodiment in politics
- Critical university studies and the politics of knowledge production
- Uses of art, literature, and film in political activism and social movements
- Postcolonial and decolonial theory and practice
- Phenomenological methods

## CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 "Teaching as Self-Care: Resiliency and Healing in the Classroom." National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Atlanta, GA, March 11-14, 2020 (planned participation)
- 2020 "To Life is to Suffer: Michel Henry and the Problem of Unrepresentable Experience." University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Political Theory Colloquium, invited speaker. February 21, 2020 (planned participation)
- 2019 "To Life is to Suffer." Macalester College Political Science Workshop, Saint Paul, MN, October 22, 2019
- 2019 "Repressed Blackness and the Living Nightmare of Passing in Boots Riley's 'Sorry to Bother You.'" American Political Science Association, Washington, DC, August 29-September 1, 2019
- 2018 "On the Altar of White Democracy: Sacrifice and Subjectivity in 'Get Out'." American Political Science Association, Boston, MA, August 30-September 2, 2018 (manuscript solicited for *National Political Science Review*)
- 2017 "Resistance in the Flesh: Political Lessons from Pussy Riot" (manuscript in preparation for submission)
- Association for Political Theory, Ann Arbor, MI, October 12-14, 2017
  - American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, August 31-September 3, 2017
- 2016 "Acting as a Body or Acting in Concert? Michel Henry Contra Hannah Arendt"
- American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA, September 1-4, 2016
  - Western Political Science Association, San Diego, CA, March 24-26, 2016
- 2015 "Politics of Life: Individual suffering and collective survival."
- Political Theory Workshop, UCLA, February 26, 2016
  - "Politics of Life: Individual suffering and collective survival." American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, September 4, 2015
- 2014 "A community of the anguished: interior suffering and political cohesion." Association for Political Theory, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 2014
- 2014 "Suffering and action: Affective existence under capitalist conditions in Michel Henry's reading of Marx." Western Political Science Association, Seattle, WA, April 19, 2014
- 2013 "The Power of Eros in Political Community: Love's Ontological Place under Conditions of Plurality." Association for Political Theory, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, October 12, 2013
- 2013 "Being and Eros." American Comparative Literature Association, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada, April 4-7, 2013

- 2013 “Being a Community: The politics of Michel Henry’s vision of life with others.” Western Political Science Association, Hollywood, CA, March 23, 2013
- 2012 “Peril and Possibility: Wittgensteinian Political Theory.” Wittgenstein among the Disciplines. Symposium (also co-organizer) at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, April 21, 2012
- 2012 “The Flesh of the Other (Animal): Encountering Animals as Saturated Phenomena.” Western Political Science Association, Portland, OR, March 22, 2012 (manuscript in preparation for submission to *Contemporary Political Theory*)
- 2011 “Ontology and Community after the Death of God?: Jean-Luc Nancy and Jean-Luc Marion on Being-with-Others and the (Un)Certainty of the Divine.” Western Political Science Association, San Antonio, TX, April 21, 2011
- 2010 “Provincializing Arendt?: Postcolonial temporalities and the concept of history.” Western Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, April 3, 2010
- 2009 “Strategies of interpretation and resistance in the archive: Indian nationalism and the problem of ‘the source’.” American Comparative Literature Association, Cambridge, MA, March 28, 2009

#### *INVITED LECTURE*

- 2018 "Political Life beyond Abstraction: Michel Henry's Critique of Politics." 6th Annual Critical Theory Symposium, "Critical Theory against Authoritarianism," Macalester College, Saint Paul, MN, April 6, 2018

#### *CONFERENCES & MAJOR SYMPOSIA ORGANIZED*

- 2019 "Collaborative Research and the Future of Higher Education: Building Diverse Campus-Community Partnerships;" "Bringing Critical University Studies to the Small Liberal Arts College Context;" "Taking Interpretive Research Outside the Institution - grassroots research and collaborative study" (multi-day panel and workshops), Macalester College, February 22-23, 2019
- 2017 Co-chair of organizing committee, "Abolish Border Imperialism." 2017 Abolition Convergence in Minneapolis-Saint Paul, October 6-8, 2017
- 2012 Co-organizer of "Wittgenstein among the Disciplines" Symposium. Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, April 21, 2012

### *CAMPUS PANELS & TALKS ORGANIZED*

- 2020 "Political Dreams in Asian-American and Diasporic Art" panel and events feature Jennifer Moon, Kavior Moon, and Althea Sircar. Macalester College, April 2020 (planned)
- 2018 "Representing Indigenous Voices: Art, History, and Activism" panel and events featuring Hock E Aye Vi Edgar Heap of Birds, Kate Beane, Katrina Phillips and John Little, Macalester College, April 17-18, 2018
- 2017 "Reimagining Engaged Scholarship: Learning from Abolition" (also as moderator), Macalester College, September 27, 2017

### *CONFERENCE PANELS & TALKS ORGANIZED*

- 2019 "Liberating Popular Aesthetics: Race & Revolution in Film, TV & Literature" (also as presenter); American Political Science Association, 2019
- 2018 "Critical Interpretations of 'Get Out': Race in the Frightgeist" (also as presenter); American Political Science Association, 2018
- 2016 Roundtable on "Higher Education as a Terrain for Decolonial/Abolitionist Struggles and Resistance" (also as panelist and co-chair) Western Political Science Association Conference within a Conference on Abolitionist/Decolonial Politics, San Diego, CA, March 24-26, 2016

### *ROUNDTABLE, DISCUSSANT & PANEL CHAIR SERVICE*

Panelist for:

- "Abolitionist Political Theory" Roundtable. Western Political Science Association, Los Angeles, CA, April 9, 2020 (planned participation)
- "The University After Globalization: Are There Democratic Futures for Universities?" International Consortium of Critical Theory Programs Conference, University of California, Santa Barbara, March 4-6, 2020 (planned participation)
- Author Meets Critics panel titled "Movement Engaged Political Theory: *Beyond Education* by Eli Meyerhoff and *Cooking Up a Revolution* by Sean Parson." American Political Science Association, Washington, DC, August 29-September 1, 2018
- "Current Events in Politics" organized by Macalester College chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science honor society), Nov 15, 2016
- "Critical Pedagogy, Co-Research, and the Communizing University: Provocations and Discussion With Organizers of the MLA Subconference." Cultural Studies Association Annual Conference, Riverside, CA, May 21, 2015
- Roundtable "Higher Education as a Terrain for Decolonial/Abolitionist Struggles and Resistance" (also as co-chair), Western Political Science Association, San Diego, CA, March 26, 2016

Chair, Co-chair, or Moderator for:

- Roundtable "Higher Education as a Terrain for Decolonial/Abolitionist Struggles and Resistance" (also as panelist), Western Political Science Association, San Diego, CA, March 26, 2016
- "Decolonial Strategy" Panel, Western Political Science Association, San Diego, CA, March 24, 2016
- "Political Theory of the Black Atlantic" Panel, Western Political Science Association, Las Vegas, NV, April 2, 2015
- The Renaissance of the Passions Panel: "Emotional Communities: Doings and Undoings." Life! Conference: Motions, Motives, Emotions. November 18, 2011, UCLA

Discussant for:

- "Political Cultures, Erotic Cultures: Gendered Politics in Ancient Societies." EUGESTA Conference at UCLA, January 11, 2016
- Steven Bilakovics, "Dramatizing Democracy: Crisis, Civic Education and the Common Good." UCLA Political Theory Workshop, December 6th, 2013
- Sina Kramer, "Derrida's 'Antigonanette': On the Quasi-Transcendental." UCLA Political Theory Workshop, May 24, 2013
- Damian Stocking: Occidental College, "Sophocles' 'Antigone': Auto-Immunity, Community, and Song." UCLA Political Theory Workshop, June 3, 2011
- Susan McWilliams, "Leading by Leaving: Tocqueville's New Science of Democratic Leadership." UCLA Political Theory Workshop, April 9th, 2010

### *PUBLIC TALK*

Garden (Contemporary Art Gallery), Los Angeles, CA - Dialogue for "Entangled Matter", with Kavior Moon, on sympoiesis, matter, form, and politics; March 22, 2019

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## **SERVICE**

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### *JOURNAL SERVICE*

- As reviewer:
  - Political Theory*, 2018
  - New German Review*, 2010
- As editor/board member:
  - Abolition: a journal of insurgent politics*, member of organizing collective, 2016-present
- As translator:
  - French into English, Article abstracts for *Émulations* n° 12 (Printemps, 2013)
  - "Anthropologie historique des violences de masse," Eds. Ilan Lew and Daniel Bonnard. Presses Universitaires de Louvain.



## *ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES*

- Advisory Council Member, Jan Serie Center for Scholarship and Teaching, Macalester College, 2019-2020
  - Facilitator, "What IS a College?" Reading Group on critical higher education studies for Faculty, Staff, and Students at Macalester College, 2019-2020
  - Women of Color Writing Group, Macalester College (organizer), 2016-17
  - Grassroots Humanities Collaboration (co-founder), 2013-present
  - UCLA Campus-wide Teaching Assistant Training Day, Workshop Leader, Fall 2012
  - Political Science Graduate Student Association (co-president), Dept. of Political Science, UCLA, 2011-12
  - Elections Committee, UAW Local 2865 (UCLA member), 2012
  - Graduate Phenomenology Reading Group, UCLA (organizer), 2008-09
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## *LANGUAGES*

- English (native)
- French (fluent - last tested at Common European Framework level C2 in 2018)
- German (intermediate - last tested at Common European Framework level B1 in 2012)
- Bengali (beginning spoken/written - three years coursework 2004-2007)

## *PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS*

- American Political Science Association
- Western Political Science Association
- Association for Political Theory
- National Conference of Black Political Scientists

## *REFERENCES*

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