

# ALTHEA RANI SIRCAR

*Curriculum Vitae*  
September 24, 2023

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## EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

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### *EDUCATION*

- June 2022                      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. Political Science, UCLA
- August 2007                    M.A. in Asian Studies, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY  
Concentration in South Asian Studies  
Thesis: “The Indian National Congress and Its Self-Representation to the Colonial State: Tracing a discursive strategy’s reification from the archive to the scholarly account.”  
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

### *EMPLOYMENT*

- 2020-present                    Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track), Department of Political Science, University of Redlands, CA
- 2016-2020                      Visiting Instructor, Department of Political Science, Macalester College, Saint Paul, MN (2016-2018 as Consortium for Faculty Diversity Predoctoral Teaching Fellow)

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## RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

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Affect theory, pain, disability, and the body • Phenomenology & existential philosophy • Philosophy of environment, science, and technology • Human and non-human relations • Race & gender in visual media • Feminist/gender/queer critical disability studies • Decolonial & postcolonial theory

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## SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH

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### PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATION

- 2022 "Cunning Embodied: On Capability in Geo Maher's Anticolonial Eruptions" *Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy* [Online], Volume 30, Number 1 (10 November 2022)

### ACADEMIC CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 "(Inter-)Racial Encounters and the Politics of Collective Desire in Boots Riley's 'Sorry to Bother You'." Western Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, April, 6-8, 2023.
- 2023 "All the children of the world: challenges to ICWA and practices of trans-cultural adoption as contemporary instances of settler colonial Christianity." Invited presentation at "Distributive Justice: Contours of Crisis." San Francisco Theological Seminary/Graduate School of Theology, University of Redlands, March 9-10, 2023.
- 2022 "The Flesh of the Other (Animal): Encountering Animals as Saturated Phenomena."
  - Faculty Forum, University of Redlands
  - Western Political Science Association, Portland, OR, March 22, 2012
- 2020 "Survival is the condition of possibility of this future education," with Michael Strayer. Invited presentation at "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
- 2020 "To Live is to Suffer: Michel Henry and the Problem of Unrepresentable Experience."
  - American Political Science Association, Virtual Meeting, September 12, 2020
  - University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Political Theory Colloquium, invited speaker. February 21, 2020
  - 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
- 2017 "Resistance in the Flesh: Political Lessons from Pussy Riot"
  - 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  
 • 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
- 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

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

Panelist for:

- Author Meets Critics panel "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:

- "Politics and Popular Culture" (also as discussant). Western Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, April 5-9, 2023
- Author Meets Critics: *Anticolonial Eruptions: Racial Hubris and the Cunning of Resistance* by George Ciccariello-Maher. Western Political Science Association, Portland, OR, March 10-12, 2022
- "Identity and Sociality in French Thought." Western Political Science Association, Portland, OR, March 10-12, 2022
- "Reconciling Commerce, Justice, and the Self" (also as discussant). Western Political Science Association, Portland, OR, March 10-12, 2022
- 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:

- "Politics and Popular Culture" (also as chair). Western Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, April 5-9, 2023
- "Reconciling Commerce, Justice, and the Self" (also as chair), Western Political Science Association, Portland, OR, March 10-12, 2022
- "Democracy, Difference, and Women-Identified Organizing." American Political Science Association, Virtual Meeting, September 13, 2020
- "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 'Antigonnette': 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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## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

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### *MAJOR FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS*

- 2016-18 Consortium for Faculty Diversity Teaching Fellowship (two years), Macalester College
- 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), Duke University

### *PEDAGOGY-RELATED GRANTS*

- 2021-22 Inclusive Community and Justice Grant for Race and Politics Discussion Group, University of Redlands
- 2021 Public Policy Course Development Grant for revision of PLCY 100, University of Redlands
- 2020-21 Inclusive Community and Justice Grant for Race and Politics Discussion Group, University of Redlands
- 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

### *AWARDS & HONORS*

- 2020 Disability Services Champion, Macalester College
- 2019 Nominee for Educator of the Year, Macalester College Student Government

### *ADDITIONAL GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS*

- 2023 Teaching and Learning Conference of the American Political Science Association Travel Grant for February 2023 TLC Conference
- 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
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 research)

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## TEACHING & PEDAGOGY

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### *COURSES DESIGNED & TAUGHT*

- Who Speaks for Whom? Decolonizing Academia
- Race Theory
- Disability and Intersectionality
- Race and Ethnic Politics in the United States
- Revolutionary Political Theory
- Postcolonial Political and Social Thought
- Boundaries of Political Community: Political Theory Approaches to Humans, Animals, and Cyborgs
- Feminist Political Theory
- Queer Phenomenologies
- Introduction to American Politics
- Foundations of Political Theory
- Introduction to Public Policy Analysis

## *COURSES TA'd*

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

## *ADVISING & MENTORING*

- Chair of Honors Project Committees, University of Redlands: Stephanie Shen (Proudian Honors Program, 2021-22); Abbi Fine (Political Science, 2021-22)
- Committee member for Honors Project, University of Redlands: Alessandra Young (Proudian Honors Program, 2021-22)
- Independent Studies, University of Redlands: Kobi Stanley (Political Science, 2023); Sarah Gortler (Public Policy and Global Business, 2021-22)
- Advisees of record, University of Redlands:
  - 2022-present: 30 students
  - 2021-2022: 23 students
  - 2020-2021: 3 students
- Facilitated discussion group (Race and Politics) on issues related to race, academic work in political science, and possible graduate study, for undergraduates, University of Redlands, 2020-2023
- Faculty Advisor, Jewish Voice for Peace student organization, Macalester College (2019-2020)
- Chair, Honors Projects, Macalester College: Jeremy Chamberlin (Political Science, 2019-20); Henry Aoki (Political Science, 2018-19); Ethan Lussky (Political Science, 2017-18); Chris Pieper (Political Science, 2017-18)
- Committee Member, Honors Projects: Wanda Barradas (Sociology, 2020-2021); 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: Decolonizing Political Science (one student), Spring 2018; Advanced Critical Theory (three students), Spring 2018; Coloniality and Human-Animal Relations (one student), Spring 2020.

## *PEDAGOGICAL ACTIVITIES*

- 2021 Seminar participant: Teaching Writing Foundations (WF) for general education, Fall 2021, University of Redlands
- 2016-2019 "Teaching Race, Teaching Difference" Faculty Learning Community Participant (campus-wide working group for junior minority faculty), Macalester College, funded by 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, funded by Annan IGC/Mellon New Directions
- 2012 UCLA Campus-wide Teaching Assistant Fall Training Day, Workshop Leader

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## SERVICE

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### *CONFERENCES, MAJOR SYMPOSIA & CONFERENCE SECTIONS ORGANIZED*

- 2022 Co-chair (with Farah Godrej) of Section 15 - Political Theory: Critical and Normative. Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, March 10-12, 2022 Portland, Oregon
- 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 symposium), 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

### *COMMITTEE WORK & LEADERSHIP*

- Member, Committee on Climate Change, Western Political Science Association, 2021-2024
- Campus Interviewer, Fulbright Program, University of Redlands, 2023
- Member, Best Paper Award Committee, Section 16 - Women, Gender and Politics, American Political Science Association, 2023
- Advisory Committee Member, Program in Public Policy, University of Redlands, 2023-present
- Advisory Committee Member, Department of Race and Ethnic Studies, University of Redlands, 2021-present
- Advisory Committee Member, Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Redlands, 2021-present
- Co-convener, Faculty of Color Caucus (*ex officio* member of Faculty Governance Nominating Committee), University of Redlands, 2021-2023
- Johnston Interdisciplinary Program Emphasis Committee member, University of Redlands, 2021, 2022
- Proudian Interdisciplinary Honors Program interviewer, University of Redlands 2020-2021
- 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 organizer, Macalester College, 2016-17
- Co-President of Political Science Graduate Student Association, Dept. of Political Science, UCLA, 2011-12
- Graduate Phenomenology Reading Group organizer, UCLA, 2008-09



## *JOURNAL SERVICE*

As reviewer:

- *diacritics*, 2021
- *Political Theory*, 2018
- *New German Review*, 2010

As editorial board member/reviewer:

- *Abolition: a journal of insurgent politics*, member of organizing collective, 2016-2020

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.

## *ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PANELS 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

## *CAMPUS PANELS & TALKS ORGANIZED*

- 2021 "People Helping People: Mutual Aid by and for Communities of Color." Public Square for Social Justice Forum panel on Los Angeles-based mutual aid and unhoused advocacy organizing, University of Redlands, April 19, 2021 (as moderator)
- 2021 "The U.S. Inauguration in Context: Race, Health, Law, and Violence." Public Square for Social Justice Forum panel on American presidential inauguration, January 20, 2021 (as moderator and panelist)
- 2021 "What's Happening in U.S. Politics in January 2021?" Panel on siege of Capitol Hill, University of Redlands, January 7, 2021 (as moderator and panelist with Renée Van Vechten, Eric McLaughlin, Steven Wuhs, Kathleen Feeley, Matthew Raffety et.al.)
- 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 and panelist), Macalester College, September 27, 2017

## *CAMPUS PANEL SERVICE*

- 2021 "Understanding the Conflict over Critical Race Theory." Public Square for Social Justice Forum panel, University of Redlands, November 8, 2021 (as panelist)

- 2021 "People Helping People: Mutual Aid by and for Communities of Color." Public Square for Social Justice Forum panel on Los Angeles-based mutual aid and unhoused advocacy organizing, University of Redlands, April 19, 2021 (as moderator)
- 2021 "The U.S. Inauguration in Context: Race, Health, Law, and Violence." Public Square for Social Justice Forum panel on American presidential inauguration, University of Redlands, January 20, 2021 (as moderator and panelist)
- 2021 "What's Happening in U.S. Politics in January 2021?" Panel on siege of Capitol Hill, University of Redlands, January 7, 2021 (as moderator and panelist with Renée Van Vechten, Eric McLaughlin, Steven Wuhs, Kathleen Feeley, Matthew Raffety et.al.)
- 2016 "Current Events in Politics" organized by Macalester College chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science honor society), Macalester College, Nov 15, 2016
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### *LANGUAGES*

- English (fluent)
- French (proficient – 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
  - National Conference of Black Political Scientists
  - Association for Political Theory
  - Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy
  - American Historical Association
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### *REFERENCES*

Joshua Foa Dienstag, Professor of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
North Hall, 1050 Bascom Mall *email:* [jdienstag@wisc.edu](mailto:jdienstag@wisc.edu)  
Madison, WI 53706

Jill Locke, Professor of Political Science, Gustavus Adolphus College  
800 West College Avenue, Old Main 204G *phone:* 507.933.6226  
Saint Peter, MN 56082 *email:* [jlocke@gustavus.edu](mailto:jlocke@gustavus.edu)

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*email:* [priya\\_jha@redlands.edu](mailto:priya_jha@redlands.edu)

Lawrence Gross, Associate Professor of Race and Ethnic Studies and San Manuel Band of Mission  
Indians Endowed Chair of Native American Studies, University of Redlands  
1200 East Colton Ave  
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