

FARAH GODREJ

Department of Political Science
University of California-Riverside
900 University Ave
Riverside, CA 92521
godrej@ucr.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Prisons and punishment, meditative and yogic traditions of South Asia, Indian political thought, cosmopolitanism, global political thought, environmental political thought, incarceration studies, critical criminology, qualitative-interpretive methods.

EDUCATION

2006	Georgetown University Ph.D., Government (distinction)
1997	University of Chicago M.A., International Relations
1994	Clark University B. A., Government and International Relations <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2023-present	University of California-Riverside Department of Political Science Professor
2022-present	University of California-Riverside <u>UCR LIFTED</u> Prison Bachelor's degree program, CRC campus Founding Co-Director
2012-2023	University of California-Riverside Department of Political Science Associate Professor
2006-2012	University of California-Riverside Department of Political Science Assistant Professor

2005-2006

Georgetown University
Department of Government
Visiting Assistant Professor

AWARDS, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS

- 2025 \$325,000 [ECMC Foundation](#) grant for UCR LIFTED
- 2024-25 \$200,000 Seed Funding for UCR LIFTED, awarded by UC Irvine
- 2023 [Charles Taylor Book Award](#)
- 2023 Honorable Mention, [Lee Ann Fujii Award for Innovation in the Interpretive Study of Political Violence](#)
- 2023 Honorable Mention, Association of American Publishers [PROSE Award](#)
- 2018 Campus [Distinguished Teaching Award](#), University of California-Riverside
- 2017 Best Paper Award, Environmental Political Theory Section, Western Political Science Association
- 2017-2020 Center for Ideas and Society, University of California-Riverside, Senior Fellowship
- 2013-2014 UC President's Research Faculty Fellowship in the Humanities
- 2013-2014 Center for Ideas and Society, University of California-Riverside, Residential Fellowship (declined)
- 2011 Best Paper Award, Foundations of Political Theory Section, American Political Science Association
- 2009 Regents' Faculty Fellowship, University of California-Riverside
- 2008-2009 Center for Ideas and Society, University of California-Riverside, Residential Fellowship
- 2007 Harold N. Glassman Dissertation Award in the Social Sciences, Georgetown University

PUBLICATIONS

Books

[*Contemplative Praxis and Politics*](#) (with James Rowe and Shannon Mariotti), forthcoming, Routledge, 2026.

[*Freedom Inside?: Yoga and Meditation in the Carceral State*](#) (New York: Oxford University Press, 2022).

Winner of the 2023 [Charles Taylor Book Award](#)

Honorable mention for the 2023 Association of American Publishers [PROSE Award](#)

Honorable Mention for the 2023 [Lee Ann Fujii Award for Innovation in the Interpretive Study of Political Violence](#)

[*Fred Dallmayr: Cross-Cultural Theory, Post-Secularity, Cosmopolitanism*](#), Routledge Innovators in Political Theory Series (London and New York: Routledge, 2017).

Cosmopolitan Political Thought: Method, Practice, Discipline (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011). Reviewed in: *Perspectives on Politics, Theory & Event*.

Articles

“The Diasporic Researcher and Contemporary Gandhian Ashrams: An Affective, Feminist Autoethnography,” revise and resubmit, *Feminist Studies*.

"A Juneteenth Collection: Examining the Structure and Consequences of the Carceral State," *American Political Science Review*, June 19, 2022.

“Yoga, Meditation and Neoliberal Penalty: Compliance or Resistance?” *Political Research Quarterly*, 75 (1), 2022, 47-60.

“The Tales We Tell: Bombay, Mumbai and I,” *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*, 25 (5) 2022, 703-722.

“Gandhi, Foucault, and the Politics of Self-Care,” *Theory & Event* 20(4), October 2017, 894-922.

“The Neoliberal Yogi and the Politics of Yoga,” *Political Theory* 45(6) 2017, 772-800.

“Orthodoxy and Dissent in Hinduism’s Meditative Traditions: A Critical Tantric Politics?” *New Political Science* 38 (2), 2016, 256-271

“Ascetics, Warriors and a Gandhian Ecological Citizenship,” *Political Theory* 40 (4), 2012, 437-465.

“Spaces for Counter-Narratives: The Phenomenology of Reclamation,” *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies* 32 (3), 2011, 111-133.

“Gandhi’s Civic *Ahimsa*: A Standard for Public Justification in Multicultural Democracies,” *International Journal of Gandhi Studies*, 1 (2011), 75-106.

“Towards a Cosmopolitan Political Thought: The Hermeneutics of Interpreting the Other,” *Polity*, 41(2), 2009, 135-165.

“Response to ‘What is Comparative Political Theory?’” *Review of Politics*, 71 (2009), 567–582.

“Nonviolence and Gandhi’s Truth: A Method for Moral and Political Arbitration,” *Review of Politics* 68 (2), 2006, 287-317.

Book Chapters

“Powerful Institutions, Vulnerable Participants and Transgressive Research: Lessons From Research In and Around Prisons,” forthcoming in Brooke Ackerly, Genevieve Fuji Johnson, Luis Cabrera, Monique Deveaux, Fonna Forman, Antje Wiener (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Engaged Political Theory* (New York, Oxford University Press, forthcoming in 2026)

“Secularism in India: A Gandhian Approach,” in Mark Bevir and Richard Ashcroft, (eds.), *Multiculturalism in the British Commonwealth: Comparative Perspectives on Theory and Practice* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2019)

“Culture and Difference: Non-Western Approaches to Defining Environmental Issues,” in Teena Gabrielson, Cheryl Hall, John M. Meyer and David Schlosberg (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Environmental Political Theory* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015).

“The Universalist Aspirations of Nationalist Dissent: Lessons from the Debates Between Gandhi and Tagore,” in Tamara Caraus and Camil Alexandru Parvu (eds.), *Cosmopolitanism and the Legacies of Dissent* (New York: Routledge, 2015), pp. 111-133.

“Neoliberalism, Militarization and the ‘Price’ of Dissent: Policing Protest at the University of California,” in Piya Chatterjee and Sunaina Maira (eds.), *The Imperial University: Academic Repression and Scholarly Dissent* (University of Minnesota Press, 2013).

Book Reviews

“*The Poorer Nations: A Possible History of the Global South*, by Vijay Prashad,” *Perspectives on Politics* 13 (1), 2015.

“*Political Theories of Decolonization: Postcolonialism and the Problem of Foundations*, by Margaret Kohn and Keally McBride,” *Theory and Event* 14 (4), 2011.

“*The Clash Within: Democracy, Religious Violence and India’s Future*, by Martha C. Nussbaum,” *Politics and Religion* I (2008), 317-320.

Reference Entries (Invited)

“Cosmopolitan Political Thought.” In *Oxford Bibliographies in Political Science*. Rick Valesly, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

“Comparative Political Thought.” In *Encyclopedia of Political Thought*. Michael Gibbons ed. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, forthcoming.

“Mohandas K. Gandhi.” In *Cambridge Dictionary of Political Thought*. Terence Ball, ed. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

INVITED LECTURES AND COLLOQUIA

“Toward an Engaged Abolition in Theory and Practice: Reflections from Prison Pedagogy,” University of Amsterdam, November 2025

“Freedom Inside? Yoga and Meditation in the Carceral State,” Duke University, February 2023

“Freedom Inside? Yoga and Meditation in the Carceral State,” California State University Fresno, March 2023

“Freedom Inside? Yoga and Meditation in the Carceral State,” California State Polytechnic University Pomona, November 2022

“[Freedom Inside? Yoga and Meditation in the Carceral State](#),” SOAS University of London (School of Oriental and African Studies), Centre for Yoga Studies, London, U.K., May 2022.

“Freedom Inside? Yoga and Meditation in the Carceral State,” University of Connecticut, February 2022.

“[Freedom Inside? Yoga and Meditation in the Carceral State](#),” Loyola Marymount University, Yoga Studies program, Los Angeles, CA, April 2021.

“Prison Yoga and Meditation: South Asian Text and Practice in the U.S. Carceral Context,” University of California, Los Angeles, CA February 2017

“Prison Yoga and Meditation: South Asian Text and Practice in the U.S. Carceral Context,” Texas A & M University, Doha, Qatar, December 2016

“Gandhi, *Yogic* Self-Control and Food Justice,” Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, April 2016.

“The Materialist Mahatma: Gandhi, Diet and Food Justice,” University of California, San Diego, CA, Political Theory Colloquium, November 2013.

“Rights, Duties and Religious Pluralism: A Gandhian Secularism,” University of California, Berkeley, Center for British Studies, January 31, 2014.

“Thinking Across Boundaries: Comparative Political Thought in Practice,” School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, U.K., June 2013

“Gandhi’s Secularism: Religion in ‘Private’ and in ‘Public,’ ” Rethinking Religion in India Conference IV, Sri Dharamasthala Manjunatheshwara (SDM) Law College, Mangalore, India, November 24-27, 2012

“Bombay, Mumbai and Political Identity,” Rethinking City and Identity Interdisciplinary Workshop, Jiaotong University, Shanghai, China, May 15-18, 2012

“The Foundations of Gandhian Nonviolence: The Moral Logic of Civil Disobedience,” Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, Yerevan, Armenia, July 26, 2011

“*Hind Swaraj* and its Implications for Contemporary Environmental Thinking,” Plenary Address, Association for Political Theory, October 23, 2010

“Non-Western Traditions and Gandhian ‘Ascetic’ Environmental Ethics,” Annual John C. Maraldo lecture in Comparative Philosophy, University of North Florida, April 15, 2010

“Transcultural Learning in a Cosmopolitan Political Thought: Destabilizing Eurocentrism and Reframing Political Inquiry,” Comparative Political Thought Workshop, Princeton University Center for Human Values, October 2009.

“Toward a Cosmopolitan Political Thought: A Canonical/Traditionalist Approach?” University of California-Santa Barbara, March 2009.

“Gandhi’s Civic Virtue of Nonviolence: A Public Philosophy for India?” Indo-Canadian Institute, Symposium on “Gandhi and a Public Philosophy for India,” Calgary, Canada, October 2007.

“Toward a Gandhian Hermeneutic of Existential Understanding: Reflections on Anthony Parel’s Gandhi’s Philosophy and the Quest for Harmony,” Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, Monterey, CA, June 2007.

“Interpreting the Other: The Hermeneutics of Comparative Political Theory,”
University of California-Los Angeles, Political Theory Colloquium, February 2007.

“Interpreting the Other: The Hermeneutics of Comparative Political Theory,”
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Political Theory Colloquium, October 2006.

MEDIA

[New Books in Interpretive Political and Social Science podcast](#), hosted by New Books Network, May 2023.

“[Contemplating Incarceration](#),” *Against the Grain*, KPFA-Berkeley 94.1 FM, Berkeley, CA, September 2022.

[8 O’Clock Buzz](#), WORT-Madison 89.9 FM, Madison, WI, July 2022

“[Freedom Inside? Yoga and Meditation in the Carceral State](#),” SOAS University of London (School of Oriental and African Studies), Centre for Yoga Studies, London, U.K., May 2022.

“[Freedom Inside? Yoga and Meditation in the Carceral State](#),” Loyola Marymount University, Yoga Studies program, Los Angeles, CA, April 2021.

“[Tantra’s Subversive Potential](#),” *Against the Grain*, KPFA-Berkeley 94.1 FM, Berkeley, CA, September 6, 2017.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND PARTICIPATION

Roundtable Participant, “New Books in Interpretive Political Science,” American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA, September 2024.

Roundtable Participant, “Educational and Abolitionist Interventions in the Carceral State,” American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA, September 2024.

Author-Meets-Critics, *Freedom Inside? Yoga and Meditation in the Carceral State*, Western Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, April 2023.

Author-Meets-Critics, *Freedom Inside? Yoga and Meditation in the Carceral State*, Western Political Science Association, Portland, OR, March 2022.

“Volunteering to Offer Yoga and Meditation in U.S. Prisons: ‘Rehabilitation’ or Revolution?” Western Political Science Association, San Diego, CA, April 2019.

“Prison Yoga and Prison Meditation: “Rehabilitation” or Revolution?” Prison University Project, Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reform Conference, San Quentin, CA, October 2018

“Prison Yoga and Meditation: South Asian Text and Practice in the U.S. Carceral System,” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 2018.

“Prison Yoga and Meditation: South Asian Text and Practice in the U.S. Carceral System,” Western Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, April 2018.

“Prison Yoga and Meditation: South Asian Text and Practice in the U.S. Carceral System,” American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, September 2017.

“Yoga and Meditation in the U.S. Carceral Context,” Western Political Science Association, Vancouver, BC, April 2017.

“Yoga and Meditation in the U.S. Carceral Context,” American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA, September 2016.

“Gandhi, *Yogic* Self-Control and Food Justice,” Western Political Science Association, San Diego, CA, March 2016.

“The Politics of Yoga: The Neoliberal Yogi and the Question of Yogic ‘Authenticity,’”
Western Political Science Association, Las Vegas, NV, April 2015

Roundtable Participant, “Conceptualizing the Empirical,” American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, August-September 2013

Respondent, “*Cosmopolitan Political Thought: Method, Practice, Discipline* by Farah Godrej, Author Meets Critics” Western Political Science Association, Hollywood, CA, March 2013

“The Moral, Strategic and Performative Elements of Gandhian Nonviolence,”
Western Political Science Association, Hollywood, CA, March 2013

Seminar in Experimental Critical Theory VIII: Spaces of Resistance, UC Humanities Research Institute, American University of Beirut, Lebanon, July-August 2012

“Rights, Duties and Religious Pluralism: A Gandhian Secularism,” Western Political Science Association, Portland, OR, March 2012

“Rights, Duties and Religious Pluralism: A Gandhian Secularism,” American Political Science Association, Seattle, WA, September 2011

Roundtable participant, “Alternatives in Political Theory: Intersectionality, Comparativism, Creolization,” Western Political Science Association, San Antonio, TX, April 2011

“Gandhi’s Body: Asceticism, Pain and Suffering in Environmental Political Discourse,” American Political Science Association, Washington DC, September 2010

“Toward a Cosmopolitan Political Thought: The Hermeneutics of Interpreting the Other, Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, Monterey, CA June 2009.

“Gandhi’s Political Thought: De-Sanitizing and Re-Embodying Politics,” Association for Asian Studies, Chicago, IL, March 2009.

“Other Texts, Our Contexts: Transcultural Learning in a Cosmopolitan Political Thought,” American Political Science Association, Boston, August 2008

“Cosmopolitanism Beyond the West: Toward a Comparative Political Theory,” presented at “Thinking With(out) Borders: International Political Theory in the 21st Century,” University of St. Andrews, Scotland, June 2008.

“Gandhi’s Civic Virtue of Nonviolence,” Southern California Political Theory Colloquium, Conference for the Study of Political Thought (CSPT) Regional Meeting, Riverside, CA, February 2008

Panel organizer, *Rationality Reconsidered through Encounters with South Asian Thought*, American Political Science Association (APSA), Chicago, IL, September 2007.
Paper presentation: “Gandhi’s Political Thought: De-Sanitizing and Re-Embodying Politics.”

“Toward a Cosmopolitan Canon: New Directions in the Methods of Political Theory,” Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, Theme Panel, June 2007.

Panel organizer, *Modernity, Globalization and Comparative Political Theory: Western and Non-Western Approaches to "Progress" and "Development"*, American Political Science Association (APSA), Washington, DC, September 2005.
Paper presentation: “Globalization and The “Developed” Human Life: Non-Western Approaches to Human Flourishing and Development”

Panel organizer, *Beyond the Western Canon: Methodological Approaches to Comparative Political Thought*, American Political Science Association (APSA), Chicago IL, September 2004.

Paper presentation: "Interpreting the 'Other': The Hermeneutics of Comparative Political Thought"

"Toward a Cosmopolitan Political Theory: The Canon and Cross-Cultural Interpretation," panel on *The Methodological Difficulties of Interpretation, Metaphor, and Survey Response*, Western Political Science Association (WPSA), Portland, OR, March 2004

"Spaces for Counter-Narrative: The Phenomenology of Reclamation," *Gender and Political Theory* panel, Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Chicago, IL, April 2003.

Panel organizer, *Nonviolence and Civilizational Conflict: Gandhi in the 21st Century*, American Political Science Association (APSA), Boston, MA, August 2002.
Paper: "Gandhi's Truth: Nonviolence as Epistemological Arbiter"

"The Political Economy of U.S. Military Presence in Southeast Asia," International Studies Association (ISA), Chicago, IL, February 1995.

Discussant/Roundtable Participant: American Political Science Association 2006, 2013, 2020, 2021; Western Political Science Association 2008, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018; Association for Political Theory, 2019.

"Methods Café" Table Leader, American Political Science Association 2008, Western Political Science Association 2008

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Professional Societies

Program Chair, Interpretive Methods and Methodologies Related Group, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, September 2022.

Program Co-Chair, Normative and Critical Political Theory Section, Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, March 2022.

Program Co-Chair, Normative Political Theory Division, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, 2018.

Western Political Science Executive Council, Member, 2018-2021.

Political Science Research Committee, Center for Global Nonkilling, 2011-present

Editorial Board Membership (past)

American Political Science Review

Journal of Politics

Journal of the History of Ideas

International Journal of Gandhian Studies

Manuscript Reviewer

Oxford University Press, American Political Science Review, Political Theory, Journal of Politics, Political Research Quarterly, Polity, Review of Politics, History of Political Thought, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of International Political Theory, International Journal of Gandhian Studies, Political Studies, Citizenship Studies, Constellations, Journal of Political Ideologies, Modern Asian Studies, Punishment & Society

Conference Working Groups/Workshops

Co-Chair, “Embodied Social Change and Healing Justice,” Virtual Community, Western Political Science Association, 2020-21.

Co-Chair, “The Politics of the Mindful Revolution,” Mini-Conference, Western Political Science Association, 2019 and 2020.

Co-Chair, Working Group on Comparative Political Theory, American Political Science Association (2007, 2008)

Presenter/Co-organizer, Southern California Political Theory Colloquium, Conference for the Study of Political Thought (CSPT), 2008

Presenter/Co-Organizer, Environmental Political Theory Workshop, Western Political Science Association (2013)

University of California-Riverside Campus

Committee Member, Race and Immigration Postdoctoral Fellow Search (2007)

Committee Member, International Scholar Advisor Search (2007)

Committee Member, Race and Ethnic Politics Faculty Search (2007-8)

Committee Member, Global Community and Social Transformation Faculty Search (2012-13)

Affirmative Action Officer, Global Community and Social Transformation Faculty Search (2012-13)

Committee Member, American Politics Faculty Search (2014)

Committee Member, American Politics Faculty Search (2015)

Faculty Advisor, UCR Urban Garden, Cultivate R'Space

Faculty Mentor, UCR Guardian Scholars Program

Campus Advisor: Cal PIRG, Alpha Phi Omega, Academic and Professional Council
Chair, Riverside Faculty Association

Chair, Undergraduate Committee, Department of Political Science (2014-2016)

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Political Science (2016-present)
Member, Committee on Campus Distinguished Teaching Award (2021-22)
Founding Co-Director, UCR [LIFTED](#)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Political Science Association
Western Political Science Association
Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy

TEACHING

Undergraduate

Introduction to Political Theory
Modern Political Ideologies
Environmental Political Thought
Gandhi's Political Thought
Political Thought of Rabindranath Tagore
Political Theory of Globalization
The Yogic and Meditative Traditions of South Asia
The Carceral State

Graduate

Qualitative-Interpretive Research Methods
Mass Incarceration
Methods of Political Theory
Gandhi's Political Thought
Environmental Political Thought
Food Politics and Food Justice

LANGUAGES

English (native)
Hindi (native)
Gujarati (native)
French (proficient)
Sanskrit (proficient)
Japanese (elementary)
Spanish (elementary)

REFERENCES

[Lisa Ellis](#)

Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of Otago
Dunedin, NZ
lisa.ellis@otago.ac.nz
+64 3 479 8727

[Joe Soss](#)

Professor
Hubert Humphrey School of Public Affairs
University of Minnesota
jbsoss@umn.edu
612-626-9865

[Lawrie Balfour](#)

Professor
Department of Politics
University of Virginia
klb3q@virginia.edu
434 924-4631

[Rochana Bajpai](#)

Professor
School of Oriental and African Studies
University of London
rb6@soas.ac.uk
+44(0)207898 4750

[David Schlosberg](#)

Professor
Director, Sydney Environmental Institute
University of Sydney
david.schlosberg@sydney.edu.au
+61 2 9351 7743

[Peregrine Schwartz-Shea](#)

Professor Emeritus
University of Utah
u0030948@utah.edu