

Kirun Sankaran

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy

University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

sankaran.kirun.k@gmail.com | <https://kirunsankaran.github.io>

Areas of Specialization

Social and Political Philosophy; History of Social and Political Philosophy; Philosophy of Social Science

Areas of Competence

Ethics; Applied Ethics; Environmental Ethics; Philosophy of Law; Early Modern Philosophy; Wittgenstein

Academic Appointments

University at Buffalo — Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Philosophy (2026–)

Dartmouth College — Postdoctoral Fellow, Political Economy Project, and Lecturer, Department of Philosophy (July 2023–2026)

University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill — Teaching Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, and Core Faculty, PPE Program (July 2020–July 2023)

Brown University and Wheaton College (MA) — Brown/Wheaton Faculty Fellow (January 2020–May 2020)

Education

PhD, Philosophy, Brown University (May 2020)

Dissertation: “Essays on Justice and Social Structure”

Committee: Charles Larmore (director), David Estlund, Sharon Krause, Gerald Gaus (University of Arizona)

Visiting Graduate Student, University of Arizona (Spring 2018)

M.A., Philosophy, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (June 2014)

B.A., Philosophy and Economics, The Ohio State University (June 2012)

Research

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Forthcoming. “Stasis Undermines Equality: Or, What’s Wrong with Urban Growth Controls?” *Philosophical Perspectives*.

2025. “Cash Rules Everything Around Me: In Defence of Housing Markets.” *Economics and Philosophy* 41(3), 581–599.

2025. “Putting the ‘Structural’ Back in ‘Structural Injustice.’” *Ethics* 135(3), 545–559. (with Jake Monaghan; Discussion of Estlund, “What’s Unjust About Structural Injustice?”)

2025. “The Body Politic Has Private Parts: Market Creation as a Policymaking Tool.” *Economics*

and *Philosophy* 41(2), 340–356.

2021. “Structural Injustice and the Tyranny of Scales.” *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 18(5), 445–472.

2021. “Structural Injustice as an Analytical Tool.” *Philosophy Compass* 16(10), 1–12. [invited]

2020. “What’s New in the New Ideology Critique?” *Philosophical Studies* 177(5), 1441–1462.

Book Reviews

2023. Review of Scott Ashworth, Christopher Berry, and Ethan Bueno de Mesquita, *Theory and Credibility. Economics and Philosophy*.

2022. Review of Michelle Schwarze, *Recognizing Resentment: Sympathy, Injustice, and Liberal Political Thought*. *Journal of Scottish Philosophy* 20(3), 283–286.

Public-Facing Writing

Forthcoming. “Philosophical Perspectives on Affordable Housing,” for the Murphy Institute, Tulane University.

Works in Progress

1. “Alienation Arguments” (revise and resubmit, *American Political Science Review*)
2. “Scaling the Impartial Spectator” (with Keith Hankins) (complete draft)
3. “Counting Like a State: Epistemic Public Goods and the Infrastructure of Cooperation” (with Akshath Jitendranath) (in preparation)
4. “Bounties, Impartially: Market-Making and Capture in Hamilton’s *Report on Manufactures*” (in preparation)
5. “This Land is Our Land: The Critique of Gentrification in the Defense of Blood and Soil” (in preparation)
6. “Solidarity Doesn’t Scale” (in preparation)
7. “Political Philosophy is Not Metaphysics” (in preparation)
8. “There is No Such Thing as Gentrification” (with Violet Victoria) (in preparation)
9. “A Market for Liens” (on hold)

Research Presentations

“There is No Such Thing as Gentrification” (with Violet Victoria)
Philosophy, Politics and Economics Society, 13 November 2025

“Stasis Undermines Equality”
Philosophy, Politics and Economics Society, 15 November 2025

“Is Social Ontology Continuous with Social Science?”
Social Ontology 2025, August 2025

“On the Epistemic Role of the Administrative State” (with Akshath Jitendranath)
Association for Social and Political Philosophy, July 2025
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society London, July 2025

“Immigration and Gentrification”
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, 19 April 2025

“Alienation Arguments”
University of Southern California, 3 December 2025 [invited]
Chapman University, 2 December 2025 [invited]
MIT, 24 November 2025 [invited]
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society, 14 November 2025
Brandeis University, 24 October 2025 [invited]

Midwest Political Science Association, 3 April 2025

“Political Philosophy is Not Metaphysics”

Binghamton University, 7 February 2025 [invited]

“What’s the Point of Ideal Theory?”

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society, 15 November 2024

“Cash Rules Everything Around Me: In Defense of Housing Markets”

Southern Methodist University, 18 January 2024 [invited]

University at Buffalo, 1 February 2023 [invited]

Zicklin Workshop in Normative Business Ethics, Wharton School of Business, 28 October 2022

“Conceptual Consequences of Empirical Methods”

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society, 3 November 2023

“De-Commodifying Housing?”

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society, 3 November 2022

“Political Philosophy is Not Applied Ethics”

Tulane University, 12 December 2022 [invited]

Philosophy of Science Association, 10 November 2022

Political Theory In/And/As Political Science, Stanford University, April 2022

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society, February 2022

Rust Belt PPE Workshop, 5 May 2021 [invited]

“Democracy and Discretion in the Administrative State”

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society, February 2022

“Rosenberg’s Smith: An Appreciation”

International Adam Smith Society Meeting, 16 October 2021

“Against Trolleyology”

Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, 10 August 2019 (poster presentation)

“What Is Structural Injustice?”

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society, 28 March 2019

“Smith on Blame and Resentment in Structural Contexts”

International Adam Smith Society Meeting, 19 January 2019

Social Ontology 2018, 24 August 2018

Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, 11 August 2018 (poster presentation)

“Roger Williams: A Historical Case Study in Public Reason”

Philosophy, Politics and Economics Society, 15 March 2018

“What’s New in the New Ideology Critique?”

Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable, 12 April 2019

European Congress of Analytic Philosophy, 24 August 2017

North American Society for Social Philosophy, 13 July 2017

New England Political Science Assoc., 21 April 2017

Philosophy, Politics and Economics Society, 17 March 2017

Princeton Workshop in Social Philosophy, 9 March 2017

“Neo-Republicanism Needs a Criterion of Reasonableness”

Northwestern University Society for the Theory of Ethics and Politics, 19 May 2016

“Brandom on Moral Reasons”

Wisconsin Philosophical Association, 20 April 2013

Comments

Comments on Maeve McKeown, *With Power Comes Responsibility*

American Political Science Association, September 2025

Comments on Ben Jones, “Distributive Justice and Police Deadly Force,” and Adam Hosein, “What is at stake in seeking social cohesion through inclusion or through control?”

Midwest Political Science Association, 7 April 2024

Teaching

Instructor, Dartmouth College

- Winter 2026 — Building Big Things: The Politics of Infrastructure; Independent Study, Evolutionary Foundations of Morality (with Caroline Finn)
- Fall 2025 — Introduction to Moral Philosophy; Independent Study, Evolutionary Foundations of Morality (with Caroline Finn)
- Spring 2025 — Building Big Things: The Politics of Infrastructure (with Russ Muirhead)
- Winter 2025 — Environmental Ethics
- Spring 2024 — Wittgenstein
- Winter 2024 — Environmental Ethics

Instructor, UNC–Chapel Hill

- Spring 2023 — PPE Minor Capstone Seminar: Reasoning with Models (2 sections)
- Fall 2022 — Morality and Business; Justice, Rights, and the Common Good
- Spring 2022 — Honors Practical Ethics (Colloquium for Robertson Scholarship Program); PPE Minor Capstone Seminar: Reasoning with Models
- Fall 2021 — PPE Minor Capstone Seminar: Reasoning with Models (2 sections)
- Spring 2021 — PPE Minor Capstone Seminar: Reasoning with Models (2 sections)
- Fall 2020 — Justice, Rights, and the Common Good; PPE Minor Capstone Seminar: Reasoning with Models

Undergraduate Reading Groups, UNC–Chapel Hill

- Spring 2023 — Mancur Olson, *The Rise and Decline of Nations*
- Fall 2021 — Thorstein Veblen, *The Theory of the Leisure Class*

Instructor, Wheaton College (MA)

- Spring 2020 — Violence, Inclusion and Freedom

Instructor, Brown University

- Fall 2017 — Philosophy of Social Science

Teaching Assistant, Brown University

- Fall 2019 — Ancient Philosophy (Emily Kress)
- Spring 2019 — Philosophy of Law (David Estlund)
- Spring 2017 — Marxism (Charles Larmore)
- Fall 2016 — Philosophy of Science (David Christensen)
- Spring 2016 — Philosophy of Quantum Mechanics (Nina Emery)
- Fall 2015 — Modern Science and Human Values (Nina Emery)

Instructor, SUNY–Brockport

- Summer 2014 — Introduction to Ethics (Online)

Teaching Assistant, UW–Milwaukee

- Spring 2014 — Modern Ethical Theories (Stanislaus Husi); Philosophy of Law (Andrea Westlund)
- Fall 2013 — Political Philosophy (Blain Neufeld); Environmental Ethics (Elizabeth Silverstein)
- Spring 2013 — Introduction to Philosophy (Luca Ferrero)
- Fall 2012 — Introduction to Philosophy (Edward Hinchman)

Academic Honors and Awards

- 2022 — James Buchanan Fellowship, Mercatus Center, George Mason University (\$4,500)
- 2020 — Brown/Wheaton Faculty Fellowship
- 2014 — Richard and Edna Salomon Endowed Fellowship, Brown University
- 2012 — Bingham Award: Best undergraduate essay in philosophy, Department of Philosophy, The Ohio State University

Departmental and Professional Service

Refereeing

Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Journal of Scottish Philosophy, Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy, Erkenntnis, Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy, Philosophical Studies, European Journal of Philosophy, Synthese (×4), Social Theory and Practice, Social Epistemology, Contemporary Political Theory, Philosophers' Imprint, American Political Science Review (×2), Constellations, Philosophia, Journal of Social Philosophy

Guest Lectures

Political Science 0011, Introduction to Political Thought, on John Stuart Mill, 3 April 2019

Research Assistantships

- Department of Philosophy, Spring–Summer 2019 (David Estlund)
- Department of Political Science, Fall 2017 (Sharon Krause)

Events

- Co-Organizer, Mark L. Shapiro Graduate Conference, Fall 2016
- Organizer, Graduate Political Philosophy Workshop, Fall 2015, Fall 2016
- Colloquium Committee, Brown University, 2015–2016

Other

Judge, National High School Ethics Bowl

Rhode Island Regional, 2017, 2019; North Carolina Regional, 2022, 2023; National Competition, 2023

References

Updated letters are available through Interfolio.

Charles Larmore — W. Duncan MacMillan Family Professor of Humanities and Professor of Philosophy, Brown University — charles_larmore@brown.edu

David Estlund — Lombardo Professor of Humanities and Professor of Philosophy, Brown University — david_estlund@brown.edu

Abraham Singer — Associate Professor, Quinlan School of Business, Loyola University Chicago — asinger2@luc.edu

Russell Muirhead — Robert Clements Professor of Democracy and Politics, Dartmouth College — russell.muirhead@dartmouth.edu

Joseph Heath — Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto — joseph.heath@utoronto.ca