

Onur Ulas Ince

SOAS, University of London
10 Thornhaugh St, London WC1H 0XG

E-mail: ulas.ince@soas.ac.uk
Website: www.ulasince.com

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

SOAS, University of London

Associate Professor of Political Theory, Department of Politics and International Studies,
2022- present

British Academy/Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellow, 2024-2025

Singapore Management University

Associate Professor of Political Science with Tenure, School of Social Sciences, 2021-2022

Assistant Professor of Political Science, School of Social Sciences, 2016-2020

Koç University

Assistant Professor of Political Theory, Department of International Relations, 2013-2016

FELLOWSHIPS

Princeton University

Fung Global Fellow, Institute for International and Regional Studies, 2019-2020

Brown University

Visiting Research Fellow, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Spring 2019

National University of Singapore

Postdoctoral Fellow of Global Studies, Department of Political Science, 2015-2016

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Cornell University, Department of Government, 2013

- Awarded the 2014 Janice and Milton Esman Prize for Distinguished Scholarship

M.A. Cornell University, Department of Government, 2010

M.A. University of British Columbia, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, 2006

RESEARCH AND TEACHING AREAS

Political Theory

History of political thought; intellectual history of empire; Marxism; postcolonial theory

Political Economy

Global political economy; intellectual history of capitalism; history of political economy

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Before the Color Line: Empire, Capital, and Race in Asia (under contract with Oxford University Press; complete manuscript under clearance review; due out 2027)

- Awarded the British Academy/Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowship
- Finalist for the Independent Social Research Foundation, Mid-Career Fellowship

Colonial Capitalism and the Dilemmas of Liberalism (Oxford University Press, 2018)

- Winner of the 2020 Spitz Prize for the best book in democratic and/or liberal theory, International Conference for the Study of Political Thought
- Honorable Mention, 2020 C. B. Macpherson Prize for the best book published in political theory, Canadian Political Science Association
- Academic reviews: *Intellectual History Review* (2023); *Political Theory* (2021); *Contemporary Political Theory* (2020); *The Review of Politics* (2019); *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* (2019); *Perspectives on Politics* (2018); *Canadian Journal of Political Science* (2018).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“Saving Capitalism from Empire: Uses of Colonial History in New Institutional Economics,” *International Relations* 38:4 (December 2024): 589-614. Open Access.

DOI:[10.1177/00471178221104699](https://doi.org/10.1177/00471178221104699).

“From ‘Chinese Colonist’ to ‘Yellow Peril’: Capitalist Racialization in the British Empire,” *American Political Science Review* 118: 4 (November 2024): 1748-62. Open Access.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055423001260>

- Honorable Mention, Outstanding Article Award in International History and Politics, American Political Science Association, 2025

“Deprovincializing Racial Capitalism: John Crawford and Settler Colonialism in India,” *American Political Science Review* 116:1 (February 2022): 144-160. Open Access.

DOI:[10.1017/S0003055421000939](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055421000939).

- Outstanding Authorship Award, SOAS University of London, 2022

“Adam Smith, Settler Colonialism, and Limits of Liberal Anti-Imperialism,” *The Journal of Politics* 83:3 (July 2021): 1080-1096. DOI:[10.1086/711321](https://doi.org/10.1086/711321).

“Empire and Its Afterlives,” with Inder Marwah, Jennifer Pitts, Robert Nichols, Timothy Vasko, *Contemporary Political Theory* 19:2 (2020): 274-305. DOI:[10.1057/s41296-020-00391-8](https://doi.org/10.1057/s41296-020-00391-8)

“Between Equal Rights: Primitive Accumulation and Capital’s Violence,” *Political Theory* 46:6 (December 2018): 885-914. DOI [10.1177/00905917177484](https://doi.org/10.1177/00905917177484).

“Between Commerce and Empire: David Hume, Colonial Slavery, and Commercial Incivility,” *History of Political Thought* 39:1 (Spring 2018): 107-134.

“Bringing the Economy Back In: Hannah Arendt, Karl Marx, and the Politics of Capitalism,” *The Journal of Politics* 78:2 (April 2016): 411-426. DOI:[10.1086/684596](https://doi.org/10.1086/684596).

“Friedrich List and the Imperial Origins of the National Economy,” *New Political Economy*. 21:4 (April 2016): 380-400. DOI: [10.1080/13563467.2016.1115827](https://doi.org/10.1080/13563467.2016.1115827).

“Primitive Accumulation, the New Enclosures, and Global Land Grabs: A Theoretical Intervention,” *Rural Sociology* 79:1 (March 2014): 104-131. DOI: [10.1111/ruso.12025](https://doi.org/10.1111/ruso.12025).

“Not A Partnership in Pepper, Coffee, Calico or Tobacco: Edmund Burke and the Vicissitudes of Colonial Capitalism,” *Polity*, 44:3 (July 2012): 340-372. DOI: [10.1057/pol.2012.7](https://doi.org/10.1057/pol.2012.7).

“Enclosing in God’s Name, Accumulating for Mankind: Money, Morality, and Accumulation in John Locke’s Theory of Property” *The Review of Politics*, 73:1 (Winter 2011): 29-54. DOI: [10.1017/S0034670510000859](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0034670510000859).

Chapters in Handbooks

“Development,” in *Concepts in International Law: Contributions to Disciplinary Thought*, ed. Jean d’Aspremont & Sahib Singh (Edward Elgar, 2019).

“Property,” in *Encyclopedia of Political Thought*, ed. Michael Gibbons (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014): 3008-3017.

Symposia and Review Essays

“Political Economy and Edmund Burke’s (Il)Liberal Logic of Empire” (book symposium), *Political Science Reviewer*, 42:1 (2018): 254-259.

“Imperial Pasts, Imperial Presents” (review essay), *European Journal of Political Theory*, 16:4 (2017): 470-480. DOI: [10.1177/14748851166386](https://doi.org/10.1177/14748851166386)

Book Reviews

Inés Valdez, *Democracy and Empire: Labor, Nature, and the Reproduction of Capitalism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023), *Political Theory* (June 2025), online first

Olufemi Taiwo, *Reconsidering Reparations* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2021), *Contemporary Political Theory* 23 (2024): 352-355.

Eric Helleiner, *The Neomercantilists: A Global Intellectual History* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2021), *Perspectives on Politics* 20:3 (August 2022): 1155-1156.

Duncan Bell, *Reordering the World: Essays on Liberalism and Empire* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016), *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* 30:5-6 (2018): 580-583.

Or Rosenboim, *The Emergence of Globalism: Visions of World Order in Britain and the United States, 1939-1950* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017), *Perspectives on Politics* 16:2 (July 2018): 508-509.

Daniel O’Neill, *Edmund Burke and the Conservative Logic of Empire* (Oakland: University of California Press, 2016), *Review of Politics* 79:4 (Fall 2017): 726-729.

HONORS AND AWARDS

British Academy/Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowship, 2024

Britain and Ireland Association for Political Thought, 2024 Mid-Career Prize

International Conference for the Study of Political Thought, 2020 David and Elaine Spitz Prize, awarded for the best book in democratic and/or liberal theory

Canadian Political Science Association, Honorable Mention for the 2020 C. B. Macpherson Prize, awarded for the best book in political theory

Princeton University, Fung Global Fellowship, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, 2019-2020

American Political Science Association, Honorable Mention for Outstanding Article Award in International History and Politics, 2025

SOAS University of London, Outstanding Authorship Award (Article), 2022

Cornell University, Janice N. and Milton J. Esman Prize for Distinguished Scholarship, 2014

Cornell University, Mellon Foundation Completion Fellowship, 2010-2011

Cornell University, Polson Institute for Global Development, New Enclosures Research Working Group Grant, 2010

Cornell University, Russell Sage Graduate Fellowship, 2006-2007

Harvard Law School, The Institute for Global Law and Policy, Conference and Travel Grant 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018

Singapore Management University, Lee Kong Chian Fellowship, 2020-2021

Singapore Management University, D. S. Lee Foundation Fellowship, 2018-2019

Singapore Management University, Finalist for the Most Promising Teacher Award, 2018

INVITED LECTURES AND SEMINARS

University of Tokyo, Institute for Future Initiatives (July 2025), “Political Economy of the Color Line.”

University of Kyoto, School of Asian and African Area Studies (July 2025), “Before the Color Line.”

Princeton University, Racial Capitalism in the History of Political Thought Workshop (February 2025), “From Great Specialization to Great Differentiation”

Britain and Ireland Association for Political Thought, 2025 Annual Conference Keynote

(January 2025)

University of Edinburgh, CRITIQUE Lecture Series (November 2024), “Empire, Capital, and Race in Asia”

University of Cambridge, Contemporary Political Theory Seminar Series (November 2024)
“From Racial Capitalism to Capitalist Racialization: A Marxist View”

University College London, Legal and Political Theory Colloquium (October 2024) “From Racial Capitalism to Capitalist Racialization: A Marxist View”

Queen Mary University of London, Centre on Labour, Sustainability and Global Production (October 2024), “From Racial Capitalism to Capitalist Racialization: A Marxist View”

Queen Mary University of London, Global Theory Forum Launch Conference (October 2024)
“Theorizing the Global”

Harvard University, Association for Global Political Thought (September 2024), “Colonial Capitalism and Racialization in Asia”

Brown University, Political Theory Colloquium (September 2024), “Before the Color Line.”

Panthéon Sorbonne, Colonization in the History of Economics and Social Science Conference (June 2024)
“From ‘Civilization’ to ‘Race’: The Political Economy of Imperial Subjecthood”

Sciences Po Law School, Utility, Colonies, and Empire Conference (June 2024)
“From ‘Civilization’ to ‘Race’: The Political Economy of Imperial Subjecthood”

University of California, Santa Barbara, Inaugural Conference in Celebration of the Cedric J. Robinson and Elizabeth P. Robinson Archive (May 2024), “Whither Racial Capitalism Now?”

University of Cambridge, History and International Relations Annual Conference (May 2024)
“Capitalism and Race in Imperial Perspective: Beyond Methodological Atlanticism”

University of Glasgow, Racial Capitalism and Its Discontents Conference (April 2024)
“Before the Color Line: Capital, Empire, and Race in Asia, 1800-1850”

University of Warwick, Annual IPE Debate (March 2024)
“Coloniality and Capitalism”

King’s College London, Politics Departmental Seminar (January 2024)
“Capitalism and Race in Imperial Perspective: Beyond Methodological Atlanticism”

University of Oxford, Political Theory Workshop (October 2023)
“From ‘Civilization’ to ‘Race’: The Political Economy of Imperial Subjecthood”

University College Dublin and Australian Catholic University, Subjecthood in the Nineteenth-Century Anglosphere Workshop (August 2023)
“From ‘Civilization’ to ‘Race’: The Political Economy of Imperial Subjecthood”

Johns Hopkins University, Arrighi Center for Global Studies (May 2023)
“Before the Color Line: Capital, Empire, and Race in Asia, 1800-1850”

University of Chicago, Empires Workshop (May 2023)
“Before the Color Line: Capital, Empire, and Race in Asia, 1800-1850”

University of Oxford, Interdisciplinary Seminar on Empire (October 2022)
“Before the Color Line: Capital, Empire, and Race in Asia, 1800-1850”

University of Chicago, “Intellectual Histories of Global Capitalism” Conference (June 2022)
“Capital, Race, and Chinese Migration in Nineteenth-Century Southeast Asia”

University of Sussex, Center for Advanced International Theory (November 2021)
“Locating Racial Capitalism: Insights from a Transimperial Frame”

University of Chicago, British and Imperial History Workshop (June 2021)
“Deprovincializing Racial Capitalism: John Crawfurd and Settler Colonialism in India”

Northwestern University, Political Theory Workshop (January 2020)
“Saving Capitalism from Empire: Uses of Global History in New Institutional Economics”

University of Massachusetts, Economic History and Development Workshop (November 2019)
“Gentlemanly Capitalists, Imperial Frontiersmen: Rethinking Primitive Accumulation”

Cornell University, Department of Government (April 2019)
“The Challenge of Colonial Capitalism: A Materialist Approach to Political Theory and Empire”

Johns Hopkins University, Department of Political Science (April 2019)
“Capitalism Disavowed: Political Economy, Colonies, and the Problem of Violence”

University of Chicago, Historical Capitalisms and Social Theory Workshop (April 2019)
“The Wealth of the Colonies: Settler Capitalism and Adam Smith's Political Economy”

University of Tokyo, Institute for Advanced Global Studies (March 2019)
“Colonial Capitalism and the Dilemmas of Liberalism” (book panel)

Yonsei University, Underwood International College (October 2018, Seoul)
“The Scottish Enlightenment and the British Empire: David Hume and Adam Smith in Atlantic Contexts”

University of Otago, Department of Politics (June 2018)
“Colonialism, Capitalism, and Liberalism: Towards a New Social History of Political Thought,”

Yale University, Global Encounters and the Archives: Britain's Empire in the Long Eighteenth Century Conference (February 2018)
“Imperial Economy and Intellectual History: Capitalism and Liberalism in the British Empire”

Brown University, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs (February 2018)
“Colonial Capitalism and the Dilemmas of Liberalism” (book panel)

Columbia University, Political Theory Workshop (February 2018)
“Adam Smith, Settler Colonialism, and Cosmopolitan Overstretch,”

Tel Aviv University, Buchmann Faculty of Law (December 2016)
“In the Beginning, All the World Was America: John Locke’s Global Theory of Property”

Harvard Law School, The Institute for Global Law and Policy (October 2016)
“Liberalism, Empire, and Capitalism: Rematerializing A Research Agenda”

National University of Singapore, Department of Political Science (March 2016)
“Between Commerce and Empire: David Hume on Slavery, Political Economy, and Commercial Incivility”

University of Alberta (September 2013)
“Primitive Accumulation, the New Enclosures, and Global Land Grabs: A Theoretical Intervention”

COURSES OFFERED

SOAS University of London

“Introduction to Political Theory” (UG)
“Introduction to Global History” (UG)
“Political Theory, Race, and Empire” (PG)
“International Political Economy” (PG)

Singapore Management University

“Political Theory” (UG)
“Global Political Economy” (UG)

National University of Singapore

“Global Political Economy” (UG)

Koç University

“Graduate Seminar in Political Theory” (PG)
“Introduction to Political Science” (UG)
“History of Political Economy” (UG)
“Thinking About the Economy” (UG)

Cornell University

“Capitalism and Democracy: A Critical Inquiry” (UG)
“War, Peace, Terror, and the Law” (UG)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Prize Committee:

American Political Science Association, Outstanding Article Award in International History and Politics (Section 34)

Anonymous Journal Review:

American Journal of Political Science
American Political Science Review
Comparative Studies in Society and History
Critical Historical Studies
Constellations
European Journal of Political Theory
History of Political Thought
International Relations
Journal of British Studies
Journal of Global History
Journal of Political Philosophy
Journal of Politics
Leiden Journal of International Law
Perspectives on Politics
Political Theory
Political Research Quarterly
Political Studies
Polity
Review of International Political Economy
Review of Politics
Rural Sociology
Theory and Event
Settler Colonial Studies

Academic Press Review:

Cornell University Press
McGill-Queen's University Press
Oxford University Press

Conference and Workshop Organization:

Member of Advisory Council, Association for Global Political Thought, Harvard University

Organizer, "Globalizing Political Economy," SOAS University of London (April 2025, London)

Program Co-Chair, Association for Political Theory Annual Conference (October 2018, Haverford, Bryn Mawr, PA).

Co-Organizer, Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAIL) Conference, National University of Singapore (July 2018, Singapore)

Faculty Member, Teaching and Mentoring Team, Harvard Law School, the Institute for Global Law and Policy (2014, 2015, 2017, 2018; Doha, Qatar; Bangkok, Thailand)

Organizer, Cornell Political Theory Workshop, (2012-2013, Ithaca, NY)

Co-organizer, Cornell Graduate Conference: “From *Meydan Tahrir* to Wisconsin: Rethinking Revolution, Democracy and Citizenship” (April 2012, Ithaca, NY)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

SOAS University of London

Program Convenor, Politics and International Studies, BSc Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, 2025-2026

Program Convenor, Politics and International Studies, MSc Global Political Economy, 2025-2026

Politics and International Studies, Departmental Research Committee, 2023-2024

Politics and International Studies, Departmental Seminar Series, 2022-2024

Singapore Management University

Faculty Senate (School of Social Sciences), 2021-2022

University Digital Learning Strategy Committee, 2021-2022

University Core Curriculum Committee, 2018-2019

Singapore Teaching and Academic Research Talent (START) Program Committee, 2018-2020

Koç University

Program Coordinator, Philosophy, Politics and Economics Certificate, 2013-2015

University Core Curriculum Committee, 2014-2016