

I.F. GONZALES

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Tenure-Track

University of Virginia – Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies – 2026-present

Rising Scholars Postdoctoral Fellow

University of Virginia – Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies – 2024-2026

Assistant Professor, General Faculty (Equivalent to Visiting Assistant Professor)

University of Virginia – Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies – 2022-2024

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Science – June 2022

University of California, Irvine – Department of Political Science

Subfields: Race and Ethnicity (Critical Race Theory), American Politics

Dissertation: “*And if the World Should End Tonight...: Sexual Mythmaking, Racial Capitalism, and Tumblr’s Queer-of-Color Worlds of Resistance*”

Committee: Claire Kim (Chair), Davin Phoenix, Tiffany Willoughby-Herard

Graduate Feminist Emphasis (Equivalent to Certificate in Feminist Studies) – June 2022

University of California, Irvine – Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies

M.A., Political Science – December 2021

University of California, Irvine – Department of Political Science

Subfields: Race and Ethnicity (Critical Race Theory), Queer and Feminist Theory, American Politics

B.A., Political Science – December 2015

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville – Department of Political Science

Minors: Peace and International Studies, Women’s Studies

PUBLICATIONS & WRITING

Journal Articles

“Policing Asian Women: Space, Safety, and Surveillance in Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya’s *I Still Believe in Our City* and Meesha Goldberg’s *Empire is Over*” for the *Journal of Visual Culture*. Forthcoming.

“*When I Grow Up, I Want to be Nothing at All: Opacity, Friction, Refusal, and Third-Wave Emo’s Performances of Nonbinary.*” *Continuum* 40(3): 424-436. (Special issue, “Futures of Nonbinary”) Published May 2026.

“Banishing the Boogeyman: Cedric Robinson’s Radical Critique of ‘The Political.’” *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 13(5): 1197-1208. (Special issue, “Flowers for the Founders: A

Contemporary Revisiting of Canonical Black Politics Scholarship ") Coauthored article with Stephanie D. Jones and Chaz Briscoe. Published May 2025.

Book Chapters

"LGBTQIA+ Assimilation vs. Liberation" for *The SAGE International Encyclopedia of Politics and Gender*, ed. Lia K. Roberts. Sage Publications. Published November 2025.

"Transgender Liberation Movement" for *The SAGE International Encyclopedia of Politics and Gender*, ed. Lia K. Roberts. Sage Publications. Published November 2025.

"In the Shadow of the Shield: Assessing the MCU's Framing of Identity and Oppositional Ideology as Terrorism in *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier*" for *Terrorism in Youth Popular Culture: Teaching the Next Generation from the Cold War to the Present*, eds. Martin Claar and Clint Jones. Lexington Books. Co-Authoring with Davin Phoenix. Published November 2024.

"(White) Boys in White Dresses: Racial Capitalism and the Limits of Gender-Disruptive Fashion" to be published in the *Palgrave Handbook of Fashion and Politics*, eds. Karen M. Kedrowski, Candice Ortals, Lori Poloni-Staudinger and J. Cherie Strachan. Published October 2024.

Single-Author Journal Articles Under Review

"Queer Archipelagic Elsewheres: Mark Aguhar's 'LITANIES TO MY HEAVENLY BROWN BODY' and Dreaming Beyond the Edge of the World" for *Lateral*. Revise and Resubmit.

Chapters and Articles in Progress

Invited chapter for edited volume in conversation with the work of Dylan Rodríguez. Ed. Stephanie D. Jones.

"Killjoys Never Die: Transformation and Nonbinary Genre in *The True Lives of the Fabulous Killjoys* Ecosystem."

Book Manuscripts in Progress

ALL THE BELOVED I COULDN'T DESCRIBE: Queer-of-Color Illegibility and the 21st Century Crisis of Identity. Book proposal and manuscript in preparation.

Published Book Reviews

"Differing Not Merely in Degree but Also in Kind: A Review of Lorna N. Bracewell's *Why We Lost the Sex Wars*." *Theory & Event* 25(3): 2022.

"*Transforming Prejudice: Identity, Fear, and Transgender Rights*, by Melissa R. Michaelson and Brian F. Harrison. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2020. 256 pages. \$29.95 (paper), ISBN: 9780190068899." *National Review of Black Politics* 2(3-4): 2021.

Public Writing

“Ancestral Shadows Looking for Date to the End of US Empire: A Review of Body Island (2024) by White Boy Scream” for Fruitslice Magazine x Noise Made By. Published September 2026. <https://thefruitslice.com/issue-12-the-haunting-of-fruitslice-in-collaboration-with-noise-made-byfall-2026/>.

Invited essay for *Afterlife: A My Chemical Romance Zine*. To be published Fall 2026.

“Ripple on Through Me: Aye Nako’s ‘Unleash Yourself’ and Moving Toward the Feeling of Queer-of-Color Freedom” for *You’ve Gotta Check This Band Out* essay anthology. Ed. Merlin Sabal. Forthcoming.

“Isn’t it Messed Up How I’m Just Dying to Be Him?: Fall Out Boy Has Always Been Trans Culture” for *Our Lawyer Made Us Change the Name of This Book So We Wouldn’t Get Sued: An Art Book Dedicated to Fall Out Boy’s Music Videos*. Published Summer 2024.

“AFTER EXTERMINATION, or: My Chemical Romance is Dead! Long Live My Chemical Romance!” for *SWARM Zine: A My Chemical Romance Anthology*. Published November 2023.

“Good is a Thing You Do: Feminism as Action, Rather Than Identity” For the SIUE Women’s Studies Program blog. November 2, 2015.
<https://siuewmst.wordpress.com/2015/11/02/good-is-a-thing-you-do-feminism-as-action-rather-than-identity-3/>.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Awards Won

Bayard Rustin Award for Best LGBTQ+ Student Paper, National Conference of Black Political Scientists – March 11, 2022.

Graduate Student Award, American Political Science Association Sexuality and Politics Section – June 2021.

Fellowships, Grants, and Travel Awards Won

APSA Early Career Researchers Grant, American Political Science Association – July 2025.

APSA Status of LGBTQ Individuals Travel and Accessibility Grant, American Political Science Association – August 2023.

LGBTQ+ Studies Fellowship, Graduate Division, University of California, Irvine – Academic Year 2021-2022.

Associate Dean’s Fellowship, School of Social Sciences, University of California, Irvine – Fall Quarter 2019-2020.

Associate Dean’s Fellowship, School of Social Sciences, University of California, Irvine – Winter Quarter 2018-2019.

Graduate Student Caucus Travel Award, Northeast Modern Language Association – March 2020.

Award Nominations

APSA Sexuality and Politics Section Best Dissertation Award – 2022-2023 Award Year.

Teaching Awards and Acknowledgments

Featured acknowledgement in University of Virginia Arts & Sciences Appreciative Farewells Video, Class of 2026: <https://as.virginia.edu/news/appreciative-farewells-video-class-26-thanks-mentors> – June 2, 2026.

INVITED TALKS & GUEST LECTURES

Invited Talks

“Zine Your Research” roundtable speaker. For *Zines Now!* initiative, facilitated by Erin Dickey. University of Virginia – March 25, 2026.

Guest speaker as part of a conference keynote roundtable. For *Mothership Connection: Sites of Contention*. University of California, Riverside – May 1, 2023.

“Growing Up Gay on the Internet: Tumblr’s Queer-of-Color Worlds in the Era of Marriage Equality.” Guest speaker for the Hampden-Sydney College Unity Alliance. Hampden-Sydney College – March 31, 2023.

Arts Workshops Facilitated

“Zines for Change.” Zine-making workshop and associated lecture. For Wellness and Youth Social Action (WAYS) Lab, facilitated by Irène Mathieu – May 19, 2025.

“Fugitive Prints: A Zine Primer.” Zine-making workshop and associated lecture. For Transnational Feminism (WGS 3125), instructed by Tiffany Lethabo King – November 25, 2024.

Guest Lectures

“BLESSED IS THE SPECTRUM: Embracing Illegibility as Resistance.” For Introduction to Asian American Literature (ASAM 160), instructed by Toni Hays – November 8, 2024.

“Queer and Trans Politics and Histories as Racial Politics and Histories.” For Intro to Black Politics (AFPR 10000), instructed by Chaz Briscoe. Hunter College – October 21, 2024.

Guest lecture for Social Justice in the Everyday (LNGC 2210), instructed by Theodore (Ted) Kerr. The New School – October 14, 2024.

“*WHAT WOULD IT MEAN TO DESIRE A FUTURE THAT WE CAN’T EVEN IMAGINE?*”: Trans Politics & Histories as Racial Politics and Histories.” For WGSS 120 (Women of Color in the United States), instructed by Larissa M. Mercado-López. Fresno State University – February 7, 2024.

“*WHAT WOULD IT MEAN TO DESIRE A FUTURE THAT WE CAN’T EVEN IMAGINE?*”: Trans Politics & Histories as Racial Politics and Histories.” For GWST 2730 (Gender in Society), instructed by Lindsey Feitz. University of Denver – January 22, 2024.

Guest lecture on queer politics and Deborah Miranda’s “Extermination of the Joyas.” For the UCI Ethics Center Summer Mentoring Program, instructed by Jenilene Fransisco. University of California, Irvine – July 9, 2021.

“Metronormativity and its Unsettling.” For Queer Studies (GEN&SEX 20), instructed by Dan Bustillo. University of California, Irvine – April 21, 2021.

“Always Here: A Brief Overview of Queer and Trans History.” For Summer Search Bay Area program, coordinated by Xavier Soto. July 22, 2020.

“*What Would It Mean to Desire A Future That We Can’t Even Imagine?*”: Trans Politics and Histories as Racial Politics and Histories.” For Intro to Race and Politics (POLI1900), instructed by Rachel Torres. University of Iowa – April 22, 2021.

“*What Would It Mean to Desire A Future That We Can’t Even Imagine?*: Trans Politics and Histories.” For Gender and American Politics (POLI SCI 129), instructed by Danielle . University of California, Irvine – October 20, 2020.

“Critical Race Theory.” For Deconstructing Diversity (SOC SCI 189), instructed by Teresa Neighbors. University of California, Irvine – November 20, 2019.

Other Speaking Engagements

Introductory speaker for the film *Hummingbirds* (dir. Contreras and Castaños) at the 2023 Virginia Film Festival – October 29, 2023.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Paper presentations

“Born This Way: Sexuality, Meaning-Making, and Gays Against Groomers.” Presented at the American Political Science Association 2026 meeting: September 2026.

“*Everything I Learned About Gender, I Learned From My Chemical Romance*: Illegibility, Opacity, and Trans/Queer Worldmaking Through the Permacrisis.” Presented at the inaugural 2026 Emo Studies Conference: April 2026.

“*Everything I Learned About Gender, I Learned From My Chemical Romance*: Opacity, Ambiguity, and Another Kind of Queer Politics.” Presented at the Western Political Science Association 2026 meeting: April 2026.

“Perverts, Predators, and White Sexual Innocents: Anti-Migrant Logics and the Long Shadow of ‘Born This Way,’” for the Queer Migration roundtable. Presented virtually at the Western Political Science Association 2025 meeting: April 2025.

“Chronic Suicidality and Queer/Trans/Nonbinary Filipinx Kinship,” for the Queer/Trans/Crip Filipinx Mad Studies roundtable, facilitated by Stef Torralba. Presented virtually at the 2025 Association for Asian American Studies meeting: February 2025.

“Serving an Eviction Notice to the United States: Meesha Goldberg’s EMPIRE IS OVER and the Neoliberal Fragility of #StopAsianHate.” Presented at the 15th Association for the Study of Arts in the Present Conference: October 2024.

“The Body Achieves What the Mind Believes: Loves Lies Bleeding, Androgenizing Compounds, and Different Kinds of Becoming.” Presented virtually at the Second International Trans Studies Conference: September 2024.

“*When I Grow Up, I Want to be Nothing at All*: Towards a Nonbinary Without Non-Binary.” Presented at the *Shared Horizons: Queer, Trans and Feminist Politics in the Time of Fascism* Kohler Seminar symposium at the University of Virginia: February 2024.

“Neither/nor/Both and Me: Theorizing a Nonbinary Politics beyond Identity.” Accepted to the American Political Science Association 2023 meeting: September 2023. Conference participation withdrawn in solidarity with Unite Here Local 11.

“More ‘Non,’ Less ‘Binary, or: Nonbinary Politics Without Nonbinary Identity.” Presented at the Western Political Science Association 2023 meeting: April 2023.

“Solidarity Beyond Geography: #StopAsianHate and Reckoning with ‘Filipino.’” Coauthored with Jenilene Fransisco. Presented at the Western Political Science Association 2023 meeting: April 2023.

- “Cultivating White Trans Worlds: Keffals, Kiwifarms, and the Violence of Visibility.”
Coauthored with Josh Falek. Presented at the Northeast Modern Language Association 54th Annual Convention: March 2023.
- “...*I Had A Crazy, Classic Life*: Mark Aguhar, Blake Brockington, Janelle Monáe’s “Crazy, Classic Life” and the Many Ends of Many Queer Worlds.” Presented at the American Studies Association Annual Meeting: October 2021.
- “*Ain’t No Glory in the West*: Racial Capitalism and Theorizing Anti/Metronormativity.”
Presented at the Northeast Modern Language Association 52nd Annual Convention: March 2021.
- “BREAK THE BINARY: Blake Brockington, Transmedicalism, and the ‘Antagonistic Differences’ of Racial Capitalism.” Presented at the National Conference for Black Political Scientists 52nd annual meeting: March 2021. [Miscredited as Isabel Gonzalez].
- “...*And if the World Should End Tonight*: Sexual Mythmaking and Queer-of-Color Resistance Against Racial Capitalism.” Presented at the UC Riverside Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium (UCR PRIEC) meeting: October 2020. [Miscredited as Isabel Felix].
- “BLESSED IS THE SPECTRUM: Sexual Mythmaking and Mark Aguhar’s Radical Politics of Refusal.” Presented at the American Political Science Association 2020 meeting: September 2020.
- “Queen Mark and King Blake at the End of the World: Tumblr, the End of Queer Worlds, and Kinship As/Beyond Aperture.” Presented at the UCI Critical Race Theory Workshop 2nd annual meeting: June 2020.
- “*See the Boys as they Walk on By*: Orville Peck’s Masked Gaze and Queer Genealogies of Resistance.” Presented at the Northeast Modern Language Association 51st Annual Convention: March 2020.
- “Racial Capitalism & Sexual Mythmaking: Excess, Acceptability, and Queer Possibilities of Resistance” [Formerly: Racial Capitalism and Erotic Mythmaking: On Excess and Acceptability]. Presented at the Association for Political Theory 2019 Conference: October 2019.
- “It Has Everything’: Racial Capitalism, Sexual Mythmaking, and Tumblr Communities as Critical Sites of Resistance.” Presented at the UCI Critical Race Theory Workshop 1st annual meeting: June 2019.
- “Political Freeloaders or Protectors of Freedom: On the Discourses Surrounding Black Women’s Political Participation as Political Labor.” Presented at the Western Political Science Association 2019 meeting: April 2019.
- “Can the Subaltern Weep? Power, Positionality, and White Women’s Tears as Epistemic Violence.” Presented at the Northeast Modern Language Association 50th Annual Convention. March 2019.
- “No, You Move: Captain America, Divergent Narratives, and Contentions Over the American Idea.” Presented at the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association 39th Annual Conference. February 2018.
- “Soldiers and Spies: The Complicated Gender Politics of “Captain America: The Winter Soldier.” Presented at the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association 37th Annual Conference, February 2016.

“Police Brutality, Solidarity, and Social Media: A Common Experience Among Black and Palestinian Youth in the Twenty-First Century.” Presented at the International Studies Association 57th Annual Convention, March 2015.

Panel chair/discussant

“WPSA Queer Caucus Roundtable - Where Will Queer Go?” Co-chair roundtable discussant. Presented at the Western Political Science Association 2026 meeting: April 2026.

“Presidential Task Force on Equity and Access: Strategizing Equity and Access Amid Backlash.” Invited roundtable discussant. Presented at the Western Political Science Association 2026 meeting: April 2026.

“Foundations of Racial Capitalism.” Invited panel discussant. Presented at the American Studies Association 2024 meeting: November 2024.

“Queer Migrations, Queer Movements.” Invited panel discussant. Presented at the American Political Science Association 2024 meeting: September 2024.

“Toward Theorizing Asian American Politics.” Invited panel discussant. Presented at the American Political Science Association 2024 meeting: September 2024.

“Who Has Agency After Dobbs? Gender, Sexuality, Autonomy and Surveillance.” To be presented at the American Political Science Association 2023 meeting: September 2023. Conference participation withdrawn in solidarity with Unite Here Local 11.

“Queer Migrations, Queer Movements.” To be presented at the American Political Science Association 2023 meeting: September 2023. Conference participation withdrawn in solidarity with Unite Here Local 11.

“Establishing a Caucus for Queer Political Science” at the Western Political Science 2023 meeting: March 2023.

“Still Life: Reflecting on Five Years of *Black on Both Sides* by C. Riley Snorton” at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists: March 2022.

“New Directions: LGBTIQ Scholarship in Political Science” at the Western Political Science Association 2022 meeting: March 2022.

“Trauma-Informed Approaches to Graduate School” at the Northeast Modern Language Association 52nd Annual Convention: March 2021.

“*Beyond this Town Lies a Life Much Sadder*: Thinking Queer Rural Resistance” at the Northeast Modern Language Association 52nd Annual Convention: March 2021.

INTERVIEWS & PODCASTS

Interviews

Quoted in Lucien, Amelia. 2025. “The Zine Revolution in the Age of the Internet.” *The Virginia Review of Politics*. May 9, <https://virginiapolitics.org/interviews/2025/5/9/the-zine-revolution-in-the-age-of-the-internet>.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Positions Held

Co-founder, Queer Emo Studies Working Group. 2026-present.

Co-founder and co-chair, Queer Status Committee, Western Political Science Association – 2024-present.

Organizing member, LGBTQ Status Committee/LGBTQ Caucus exploratory committee,
Western Political Science Association – 2023.
At-large member, Executive Board, Sexuality and Politics Section, American Political Science
Association – 2022-2024.
Mentor/Volunteer, Pi Sigma Alpha – 2022-2023.
Graduate student representative, Sexuality and Politics Section, American Political Science
Association – 2020-2021

Journal Manuscripts Reviewed

Manuscript #ETN-23-0130 submitted to *Ethnicities*. 2023. (Reviewer)
Manuscript #APSR-D-23-01145 submitted to *American Political Science Review*. 2023.
(Reviewer)
“Queering Black Feminism: The Political Thought of Cathy J. Cohen.” *National Review of Black
Politics*. 2019. (Reviewer)
“Between the Discipline and Me.” *National Political Science Review* 19.2. 2018. (Reviewer)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Committee Service

Chair, Summer Teaching Committee, Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, University
of Virginia – Forthcoming Spring/Summer 2027.
Organizing member, Intellectual Life Committee, Department of Women, Gender, and
Sexuality, University of Virginia – 2024-present.

Conferences Organized

Critical Race Theory Workshop 3rd Annual Conference, “Black Ecologies and the Black
Anthropocene,” University of California, Irvine – May 20, 2022.
Critical Race Theory Workshop 2nd Annual Conference, “MOTHERSHIP CONNECTION:
Queer Injustice/Queer Utopias,” University of California, Irvine – May 15, 2020
Critical Race Theory Workshop 1st Annual Conference, “Thinking Critically in 2019,”
University of California, Irvine – July 21, 2019.
Association for Political Theory Annual Conference – October 24-26, 2019.

Reading Groups Organized

Music and the Map to the Black Radical Tradition Collaborative Working Group – 2022-2024.
Racial Capitalism Teach-In Event – University of California, Irvine – July 19, 2021.
Critical Race Theory Workshop – University of California, Irvine – 2018-2022.

Undergraduate Student Mentees

Jacob T. Hobbs, UVA Class of '25. Distinguished Majors Thesis, Department of Computer
Science. “Theories of ‘Sexuality’ in Natural Language Processing Bias Research.” High
Distinction.

SELECTED CREATIVE WORKS

“we stand for our flag.” Four pieces incorporating repurposing discarded and overstock Pride flags and plastic ephemera. For New City Arts’ *through this, to that* fellowship show. September 2025.

“VOID THEORY.” Collage of digital illustration and art from the Boxer Codex, with an accompanying poem. For *MALA LECHE x Sound Justice Lab: Our Bodies, Our Futures*. Published May 2025.