Lucia M. Rafanelli

The George Washington University
Department of Political Science
Monroe Hall
2115 G St. NW, Suite 440
Washington, DC 20052
lmrafanelli@gwu.edu
LuciaMR.com

Employment

2026-Present
Associate Professor of Political Science & International Affairs
The George Washington University

2019-2026
Assistant Professor of Political Science & International Affairs
The George Washington University

2018-2019
Research Associate in Philosophy
The Smith Institute for Political Economy & Philosophy at Chapman University

Education

2018
Ph.D. – Politics, Princeton University
Major Subfield: Political Theory; Minor Subfields: Public Law, Comparative Politics
Dissertation Committee: Charles Beitz (chair), Anna Stilz, Stephen Macedo

2015
M.A. – Politics, Princeton University

2013
B.A – Government and Philosophy, Cornell University
Honors: *magna cum laude* in Government, distinction in all subjects

Primary Research Interests

Human rights & global justice; contemporary political theory; the ethics of resistance; collective agency & collective personhood; ethics & artificial intelligence

Publications

Books

– *Promoting Justice Across Borders: The Ethics of Reform Intervention* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2021)

- **Symposium in *Politeia*** (contributions by Ugur Bulgan and Francesca Pasquali, 2025)
- **Invited panel**, the University of Milan (discussants Ugur Bulgan, Francesca Pasquali, and Andrea Ruggeri, chaired by Giulia Bistagnino), January 2025
- **Symposium in the *European Journal of Political Theory*** (contributions by Michael Blake (organizer), Matthew Lister, and Minh Ly, 2024)
- **Reviewed in *Nationalities Papers*** (Christopher J. Finlay, 2024)
- **Symposium in the *Critical Review of International Social & Political Philosophy*** (contributions by Shuk Ying Chan (editor), Arash Abizadeh, Paulina Ochoa Espejo, David Owen, and Jennifer Rubenstein, 2023)
- **Reviewed in *Ethics & International Affairs*** (James Pattison, 2022)
- **Author Meets Critics panel**, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2022

Peer-Reviewed Articles

– "The Spectre of Statelessness," *International Theory* 17, 2 (2025): 238-67, doi: 10.1017/S175297192500003X

– "Not Just War by Other Means: Cross-Border Engagement as Political Struggle," *Constellations: An International Journal of Critical and Democratic Theory* 31, 4 (2024): 661-77, doi: 10.1111/1467-8675.12719

– "Justice, Injustice, and Artificial Intelligence: Lessons from Political Theory and Philosophy (Commentary)," *Big Data and Society* 9, 1 (2022): 1-5, doi: 10.1177/20539517221080676

– "Promoting Justice Across Borders," *Political Studies* 69, 2 (2021): 237-56, doi: 10.1177/0032321719875402

– "A Defense of Individualism in the Age of Corporate Rights," *The Journal of Political Philosophy* 25, 3 (2017): 281-302, doi: 10.1111/jopp.12112

Invited Contributions & Book Reviews

– "Reflections on Global Citizenship in a Turbulent World," *International Economic Justice in a Troubled Era*, a special issue of the *Journal of Global Ethics* 22, 2 (2026): 133-42, doi: 10.1080/17449626.2026.2663763

– "Political Obligations Toward NGOs," in George Klosko ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Obligation* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2026): 342-54, doi: 10.1093/9780191968488.003.0035

– "Intentionality, Scope, and the Natural Duty of Justice: Further Reflections on Reform Intervention," *Politeia* 41, 160 (2025): 115-20

  - Response to critics as part of a book forum on my *Promoting Justice Across Borders: The Ethics of Reform Intervention* (Oxford University Press, 2021)

– "Reflections on Reform Intervention: A Reply to Critics," *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy* 28, 7 (2025): 1312-21, doi: 10.1080/13698230.2023.2295760

  - Response to critics as part of a book forum on my *Promoting Justice Across Borders: The Ethics of Reform Intervention* (Oxford University Press, 2021)

– "Moral Judgment, Self-Determination, and Toleration: Reflecting on Reform Intervention at the Outer Limits," *European Journal of Political Theory* 24, 3 (2025): 471-80, doi: 10.1177/14748851241282856

  - Response to critics as part of a book forum on my *Promoting Justice Across Borders: The Ethics of Reform Intervention* (Oxford University Press, 2021)

– Review of Josh Simons, *Algorithms for the People: Democracy in the Age of AI* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2023), *Critical AI* 2, 1 (2024), doi: 10.1215/2834703X-11205259

– "Political Craft as Moral Innovation," *Philosophy and Global Affairs* 4, 1 (2024): 189-94, doi: 10.5840/pga2024416

  - Contribution to a book forum on Inés Valdez's *Transnational Cosmopolitanism: Kant, Du Bois, and Justice as a Political Craft* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019)

– "Citizen Responsibility and Group Agency," *European Journal of Political Theory* 23, 2 (2024): 267-76, doi: 10.1177/14748851221105946

    - Review essay on Holly Lawford-Smith's *Not in Their Name: Are Citizens Culpable for Their States' Actions?* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019) and Avia Pasternak's *Responsible Citizens, Irresponsible States: Should Citizens Pay for Their State's Wrongdoings?* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2021)

– "Toleration and Political Change," in Mitja Sardoč ed., *The Palgrave Handbook of Toleration* (Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021): 173-87, doi: 10.1007/978-3-030-03227-2_57-1

– "Toward an Individualist Postcolonial Cosmopolitanism," *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 48, 3 (2020): 360-71, doi: 10.1177/0305829820935520

    - Contribution to a book forum on Adom Getachew's *Worldmaking After Empire: The Rise and Fall of Self- Determination* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2019)

– Review of C.A.J. Coady, Ned Dobos, and Sagar Sanyal eds., *Challenges for Humanitarian Intervention: Ethical Demand & Political Reality* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018), *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 17, 2 (2020): 229-32, doi: 10.1163/17455243-01702005

Works in Progress

Book Project

Transnational Resistance and the Fabric of Global Justice (advance contract with Oxford University Press)

Working Papers

– "Resistance Culture as a Remedy for Epistemic Injustice"

Invited Talks & Presentations

– "Indigenous Resistance and Epistemic Injustice," Political Theory Workshop, **University of Chicago**, May 2026

– "Indigenous Resistance and Epistemic Injustice," Political Theory Speaker Series, **Georgetown University**, November 2025

– "Indigenous Resistance and Epistemic Injustice," Political Theory Workshop, **Columbia University**, February 2025

– "Rethinking Intervention: Justice Promotion Beyond the State—Discussion of Lucia M. Rafanelli's *Promoting Justice Across Borders: The Ethics of Reform Intervention* (OUP 2021)," EDEN Seminar, **University of Milan**, January 2025

  - Panel on my *Promoting Justice Across Borders: The Ethics of Reform Intervention* (Oxford University Press, 2021) featuring discussants Ugur Bulgan, Francesca Pasquali, and Andrea Ruggeri, chaired by Giulia Bistagnino

– "The Specter of Statelessness," ARCHÉ Milan Seminars: Exploring Regime Change, **University of Milan**, January 2025

– "The Specter of Statelessness," Political Theory Workshop, **Yale University,** October 2024

– "The Specter of Statelessness," Political Theory Colloquium, **University of Virginia**, September 2024

– Panelist, "AI and Social Justice" Panel, **AI TENNessee Initiative, University of Tennessee** (virtual), June 2024

– "Statelessness and the Limits of the State System," Pluralism, Polarity, and Problems of International Authority Workshop, **Princeton University**, June 2024

– "The Specter of Statelessness," Annual Moral and Political Philosophy Workshop, sponsored by the Ethics Institute, **Dartmouth College**, April 2024

– "Statelessness as Structural Injustice," Workshop on Structural Injustice, sponsored by the Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility, **Southern Methodist University**, April 2024

– "The Specter of Statelessness," co-sponsored by the Yan P. Lin Centre's Research Group on Global Justice and GRIPP, **McGill University**, November 2023

– "Resistance Culture as a Remedy for Epistemic Injustice," Workshop in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, Mercatus Center, **George Mason University**, February 2023

– "Resistance Culture as a Remedy for Epistemic Injustice," Political Philosophy

Workshop, **New York University**, February 2023

– "Promoting Justice Across Borders: The Ethics of Reform Intervention," Rights-Protecting Interventionism Beyond the Use of Military Force workshop, **University of Oslo** (virtual), October 2022

– "Citizen Responsibility Without Group Agency: Structural Injustice and Natural Duty Approaches," Corporate Agency and the Responsibilities of Citizens and States Workshop, **MANCEPT Workshops in Political Theory** (virtual), September 2022

– "Promoting Justice Across Borders," Political Science Department International Relations Speaker Series, **Northwestern University** (virtual), February 2022

– Interview on foreign intervention and development in the Global South with co-panelist Pahli Lehohla (former Statastician-General of South Africa), **Clio Study Association (University of Groningen) Annual Conference** (virtual, pre-recorded for inclusion on the conference website), April 2021

– "Toleration as Engagement," Political Theory Speaker Series, **Georgetown University**, October 2019

– "Promoting Justice Across Borders," Political Theory Working Group, **University of California: Irvine**, May 2019

Other Academic Conferences & Presentations

– Discussant, "The Anti-Racist Capture of International Institutions" by Kerin Shilla, Political Science Department International Relations Workshop, The George Washington University, April 2026
– Panelist, "The Future of Aid: Can 'Aid' Marginalize?" panel, The George Washington University, April 2026
– "Transnational Resistance and the Fabric of Global Justice," Charles Beitz Retirement Conference, Princeton University, May 2025
– "The Specter of Statelessness," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2024
– "Stateless People's Resistance as Localization," The Power and Politics of Localization Conference, The George Washington University, February 2024
– "The Specter of Statelessness," Political Science Department Political Theory Workshop, The George Washington University, October 2023
– Discussant, "Constitutional Democracy after Totalitarianism: The Judicial Turn in Postwar Political Thought" by Sung-Wook Paik, Book Proposal Workshop, Association for Political Theory Annual Conference, October 2023

– "The Specter of Statelessness," Association for Political Theory Annual Conference, October 2023
– Discussant, "Towards a Global Division of Labour for Greater Democratic Equality" by Eric Cheng, Western Political Science Association Political Theory Virtual Community, September 2023
– "Not Just War by Other Means: Cross-Border Engagement as Political Struggle," International Studies Association Annual Convention, March 2023
– "The Specter of Statelessness," Political Science Department International Relations Workshop, The George Washington University, March 2023
– Discussant, "Losing Oneself in the Crowd?: Affect and the Collective" panel, Association for Political Theory Annual Conference, October 2022
– "Resistance Culture as a Remedy for Epistemic Injustice," Association for Political Theory Annual Conference, October 2022
– "Resistance Culture as a Remedy for Epistemic Injustice," Western Political Science Association Political Theory Virtual Community, September 2022
– Discussant, "Politics on a Global Scale: Justice, Democracy, and Conflict" panel, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2022
– "The Ethics of Promoting Justice Across Borders," Virtual Research Sound Byte presentation, International Studies Association Annual Meeting, March 2022
– "Resistance Culture as a Remedy for Epistemic Injustice," Philosophy Department Brown Bag Series, The George Washington University, December 2021
– "Resistance Culture as a Remedy for Epistemic Injustice," Political Science Department Political Theory Workshop, The George Washington University, October 2021
– "Resistance Culture as a Remedy for Epistemic Injustice," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2021
– "Promoting Justice Across Borders: The Ethics of Reform Intervention," Elliott School of International Affairs Book Launch Series, The George Washington University, September 2021
– Invited commenter, "Who is the 'Self' in Self-Determination?" workshop, hosted by the Institute for Humane Studies, August 2021
– "Not Just War by Other Means: Cross-Border Engagement as Political Struggle," New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting, April 2021
– "Not Just War by Other Means: Foreign Influence as Political Struggle," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2020
– Discussant, "Will Covid-19 Raise Inequality? Evidence from Past Epidemics and Crises" panel, Facing Inequality Series hosted by the Institute for International Economic Policy, The George Washington University, May 2020
– "Not Just War by Other Means: Foreign Influence and the Paradigm of Political Struggle," Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, May 2020
– "Intervention without Empire: The Ethics of Foreign Influence in a (Neo-)Colonial World," Leadership, Ethics, and Practice Initiative Speaker Series, The George

Washington University, February 2020

– Panelist, "The Ethics of Promoting Justice Across Borders," Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University, October 2019
– Discussant, "Exclusion and Structural Injustice in the US and Globally" panel, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, August 2019
– "A Qualified Human Right to Democracy," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, August 2019
– "Climate Activism Across Borders," Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, April 2019
– Discussant, "Justice, Beneficence, and Supererogation" by Jessica Flanigan, Brigham Young University, March 2019
– Discussant, "Representation" panel, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2018
– "Foreign Influence, Globalization, and Collective Self-Determination" (poster presentation), American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, August 2018
– "Reform Intervention: Concepts and Challenges," University of Pennsylvania Graduate Conference in Political Science, March 2018
– Discussant, "A Move Towards Global Distributive Justice: The Structures of Coercion and Cooperation" by Elizabeth C. Hupfer, Princeton University Graduate Conference in Political Theory, April 2017
– "Toleration and Intervention," Laurence S. Rockefeller Graduate Prize Fellows' Seminar, February 2017
– "Foreign Influence and Democratic Politics," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2016
– "Foreign Influence and Democratic Politics," LSE-Princeton Political Theory Conference, Princeton University, May 2016
– Discussant, "Global Legal Pluralism and the Territorial Principle" by Anna Jurkevics, Princeton University Graduate Conference in Political Theory, April 2016
– "The Art of Imperfection: Politics and Knowledge in *Statesman*," Workshop on Plato's *Statesman*, Princeton University, May 2015
– "A Defense of Humanism in the Age of Corporate Rights," Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, November 2014
– Discussant, "Existential Risk Reduction: A Rawlsian Duty of Justice to Future Generations?" by David Schroeren, Princeton University Graduate Conference in Political Theory, April 2014

Honors & Awards

– Named a Shapiro Policy Research Scholar, George Washington Institute of Public

Policy, The George Washington University, 2024-2025
– Honorable Mention, International Studies Association Theory Section Post-PhD Conference Paper Award for "Not Just War by Other Means: Cross-Border Engagement as Political Struggle," 2023
– Working paper "Resistance Culture as a Remedy for Epistemic Injustice" selected for the Association for Political Theory/*Contemporary Political Theory* Collaboration Program, 2023
– Honorable Mention, International Studies Association International Ethics Section Book Prize for *Promoting Justice Across Borders: The Ethics of Reform Intervention*, 2022
– Laurance S. Rockefeller Graduate Prize Fellowship from the Princeton University Center for Human Values, 2016-2017
– Princeton University Center for Human Values Political Philosophy Research & Travel Grant, 2014 & 2016
– Princeton University Center for Human Values Merit Grant, 2013
– Phi Beta Kappa - Theta of New York, 2013

Courses Offered

The George Washington University

– Independent reading courses in political theory (graduate level), spring terms 2020-2021, 2025, 2026
– Global Justice (undergraduate level), fall terms 2020-2025
– Global Justice (graduate level), fall terms 2019-2025
– Obligation, Obedience, and Power (undergraduate level), spring terms 2020-2023, 2026
– The Ethics of Foreign Aid (graduate level), spring terms 2021-2023, 2025-2026

Chapman University

– Political and Legal Philosophy (undergraduate level), spring term 2019

Service & Administration

Service to the Profession

– Reviewer for *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *Big Data & Society*, *Episteme*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *European Journal of Political Theory*, *International Affairs*, *International Security*, *International Theory*, *Journal of Human Rights*, *Journal of Politics*, *Law and Philosophy*, *Minds and Machines*,

Moral Philosophy and Politics, *Nationalities Papers*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Theory*, *Res Publica*, *Social Philosophy and Policy*, and *Social Theory and Practice*

– Co-chair, Western Political Science Association Political Theory Virtual Community, 2021-present
– Co-chair, American Political Science Association Normative Theory Division, 2025-2026
– Co-organizer, Charles Beitz Retirement Conference, held at Princeton University, May 2025
– External Member, dissertation committee for a Georgetown University Ph.D. student, 2023-2025
– Chair, "Immigration and Justified Borders," panel, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2024
– External Member, dissertation committee for a Georgetown University Ph.D. student, 2020-2022
– Chair, "What About Rights?" panel, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2022
– Panelist, Western Political Science Association Political Theory Virtual Community panel on academic publishing, January 2022

The George Washington University

– Member, Elliott School Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council, 2026-present
– Member, Elliott School Brainstorming Group, 2025-present
– Co-organizer, Political Science Department Political Theory Workshop, 2021-present
– Member, Faculty Advisory Council, Peace Studies Program, 2020-present
– Political Theory Field Chair, Political Science Department, 2020-present
– Chair, Political Theory Comprehensive Examination Committee, Political Science Department, 2020-present
– Faculty advisor, MA Thesis in International Affairs, 2025-2026
– Panelist, First-Year Faculty Experience panel, University Orientation for New Faculty and New Academic Leaders, August 2025
–Mentor, Political Science Department mentorship program for 1st-year PhD students, 2021-2024
– Faculty advisor, Enosinian thesis (undergraduate senior thesis), Fall 2023-Spring 2024
– Member, Student Graduation Prizes Committee, Elliott School of International Affairs, Spring 2023
– Organizer, "The Ethics of Resistance in Global Context" speaker series, The Elliott School of International Affairs, Spring 2023

– Faculty advisor, undergraduate honors thesis, Fall 2022
– Faculty advisor, undergraduate research paper attached to for-credit internship, Spring 2022
– Advisor, MA Thesis in Philosophy, Spring 2021-Spring 2022
– Member, Chair Nomination Committee, Political Science Department, Spring 2021
– Panelist, workshop on dealing with uncertainty for Political Science graduate students, January 2021
– Second reader, Enosinian thesis (undergraduate senior thesis), Fall 2020 (student withdrew)
– Faculty advisor, undergraduate research paper attached to for-credit internship, Fall 2020
– Panelist, "Diversity in Political Science Research" workshop for Political Science graduate students and faculty, October 2020
– Moderator, "What I Have—and Haven't—Learned about Ethical Leadership from Studying Humanitarian INGOs" with Jennifer Rubenstein, Leadership, Ethics, and Practice Initiative Speaker Series, Elliott School of International Affairs, February 2020
– Organizer and host, "Is There a Right to Exclude Economic Migrants?" with Anna Stilz, Political Science Department Speaker Series, January 2020
– Political Science Department scribe, 2019-2020
– Panelist, professionalization workshop for Political Science graduate students, September 2019
– Member, Political Theory Comprehensive Examination Grading Committee, Political Science Department, August-September 2019

Chapman University

– Chair, session on Greg Wolcott's "Justice in the *Theory of Moral Sentiments*: A new take on an old problem," 2019 Meeting of the International Adam Smith Society, January 2019

Princeton University

– Co-founder and co-organizer, Social Criticism & Political Thought speaker series, 2017-2018
– Chair, "Applications" panel with Lea Ypi and Michael Blake, Workshop on Anna Stilz's *Territorial Sovereignty: A Philosophical Exploration*, May 2017
– Chair, "The Politics of the Undocumented: Mobilization and Resistance" panel with Kathryn Abrams, Michael Jones-Correa, and Christopher Zepeda-Millan, Conference on the Undocumented, Belonging, and Exclusion in the Age of Transnationalism, May 2017

– Panelist, workshop on publishing in academic journals for political theory graduate students
– Mentor to an undergraduate in the University Center for Human Values "Values and Public Life" Certificate Program, 2016-2017
– Member, Student Committee on the Graduate Program, Department of Politics, 2015-2017
– Member, Submission Review Committee, Graduate Conference in Political Theory, 2014-2018
– Panelist, "Practical Advice on Preparing a Dissertation Prospectus," Politics Department Professional Development Workshop, September 2016
– Judge, final round of the undergraduate 1876 Prize Debate in Politics, February 2016
– Co-organizer, Graduate Conference in Political Theory, 2015 & 2016
– Chair, "Practicing Feminism(s) within Academia" panel with Linda Martín Alcoff, Elizabeth Harman, and Sukaina Hirji, Workshop in Feminist Theory and Practice in Academia, March 2015

Professional Affiliations

– American Political Science Association
– American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy
– Association for Political Theory
– International Studies Association
– Western Political Science Association
– Humanitarian Action Initiative, The George Washington University
– Institute for International Economic Policy, The George Washington University