

# Andrew Dilts

Associate Professor of Political Science & International Relations at Loyola Marymount University

Los Angeles, CA, US

Bellarmino College of Liberal Arts

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## Biography

**\*\*On Sabbatical for AY2024-2025\*\*** Andrew Dilts is a political theorist who works in the traditions of critical theory and the history of political thought, focusing primarily on the relationships between race, sexuality, political membership, sovereignty, and punishment in the United States. Prof. Dilts studied economics at Indiana University and the London School of Economics before earning a doctorate in political science at the University of Chicago. Prior to joining the faculty at Loyola Marymount in 2011, Dilts was a Harper-Schmidt Fellow in the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts at the University of Chicago, teaching exclusively in the College's "Common Core" curriculum as Collegiate Assistant Professor of Social Sciences. During the 2016-2017 academic year, Dilts was in residence as a Member of the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Studies. During the spring of 2018, Dilts was Senior Visiting Fellow in the Department of Government at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Dilts is the author of *Punishment and Inclusion: Race, Membership, and the Limits of American Liberalism* (Fordham University Press, 2014) which gives a theoretical and historical account of felon/criminal disenfranchisement as it has been practiced in the United States, drawing widely on early modern political theory, post-structuralist french thought, queer theory, disability theory, and critical race theory. Dilts is also co-editor (with Perry Zurn of American University) of *Active Intolerance: Foucault, the Prisons Information Group, and the Future of Abolition* (Palgrave 2016). Dilts is co-editor (with Natalie Cisneros of Seattle University) of a special project for *Radical Philosophy Review* called "Political Theory and Philosophy in a Time of Mass Incarceration," and has published in *Political Theory*, *Foucault Studies*, *New Political Science*, *PhiloSOPHIA*, and *The Carceral Notebooks*. Dilts is also a founding member of *Abolition: A Journal of Insurgent Politics* and the *Prison and Theory Working Group*. Dilts is at work on two book-length projects. The first, *The Birth of Human Capital*, traces a critical genealogy of neoliberal human capital theory, demonstrating its deep connections to political systems of white supremacy, patriarchy, and heteronormative ableism. The second, *What Freedom is For*, offers an account of radical freedom based in abolitionist and queer insurgent practices.

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## Areas of Expertise

Political Theory (Modern and Contemporary) , Critical Race Theory, Critical Theory, Punishment Theory, Critical Prison Studies, Race and Politics, Philosophy of Law, Public Law & Judicial Politics, American Political Thought, Queer Theory, Feminist Theory, Democratic Theory, American Political Development, Law and Society

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## Education

**University of Chicago**  
Ph.D. Political Science

**University of Chicago**  
M.A. Political Science

**Indiana University, Bloomington**  
B.A. Economics

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