



## Goa University

### Discipline of Philosophy, School of Sanskrit, Philosophy and Indic Studies

#### Report on Online Guest Lecture "Unravelling the Colonial Lifeworld in Canada's Prison Capital"

1. Title of the Program	"Unravelling the Colonial Lifeworld in Canada's Prison Capital"
2. Date and Time	22 August 2025 (Friday) - 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
3. Mode of conduct	Online
4. School	School of Sanskrit Philosophy and Indic Studies (SSPIS)
5. Detail of the Resource Person (Brief biodata)	<p>Lisa Guenther is Queen's National Scholar in Political Philosophy and Critical Prison Studies at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Before 2018, she served as Associate Professor of Philosophy at Vanderbilt University. She is the author of <i>Solitary Confinement: Social Death and its Afterlives</i> (2013) and <i>The Gift of the Other: Levinas and the Politics of Reproduction</i> (2007), and co-editor of <i>Death and Other Penalties: Philosophy in a Time of Mass Incarceration</i> (2015). She has published articles and book chapters in phenomenology, feminism, prison studies, and critical race studies, including recent work on police violence, prisoner resistance, and carceral space. As a public philosopher, Guenther's work has appeared in <i>The New York Times</i>, <i>The Globe and Mail</i>, <i>Aeon</i>, and <i>CBC's Ideas</i>. From 2012-17, she facilitated a discussion group with men on death row in Tennessee called REACH Coalition, and she is currently a member of the Advisory Board for the P4W Memorial Collective. Guenther teaches philosophy classes at Collins Bay Institution through the Walls to Bridges Program. She is working on a critical phenomenology of prison abolition and decolonization on Turtle Island.</p>
6. Number of Participants	16
7. The objective of the Program	The lecture explores the profound interconnection between colonialism and systems of incarceration,



	questioning the deeply embedded notions of justice, safety, and citizenship that underpin settler colonial societies. It critically addresses how land has been commodified into property and how state violence has been legitimized to protect that property, thereby reinforcing punitive approaches to law and order. Through the lens of Aaron Mills' decolonial legal thought, the lecture challenges these assumptions and proposes a reimagining of treaties as instruments of mutual care. It encourages participants to envision new lifeworld's rooted in Indigenous principles of reciprocity, relational ethics, and non-punitive justice.
<b>8. Description of the Program</b>	General Intro & Outro- Mr. Sanket Revankar Welcome address- Mr. Jonathan Sequeira Lecture by Lisa Guenther Q & A session- Bhavana Singh Vote of Thanks- Siya Sangodkar
<b>9. Benefits /Key outcome of the Program</b>	Attendees will develop a sophisticated grasp of how colonial frameworks continue to influence modern legal and penal institutions, especially through the alignment of justice with punitive measures and the protection of property. They will be encouraged to critically evaluate the moral and political foundations of citizenship in settler colonial contexts and to engage with Indigenous legal philosophies that propose decolonial alternatives. The lecture will prompt reflection on the radical potential of viewing treaties as commitments to mutual care, urging a redefinition of safety and accountability outside the bounds of state violence. Ultimately, participants will be invited to examine their own roles within these systems and envision justice beyond colonial paradigms.
<b>10. Enclosures with report</b>	E- Posture, Screen-shot Photos, Attendance sheets, YouTube link - <a href="https://youtu.be/ZDhHdQMyEv0">https://youtu.be/ZDhHdQMyEv0</a>

Signature: *Pravle*

Name of coordinator

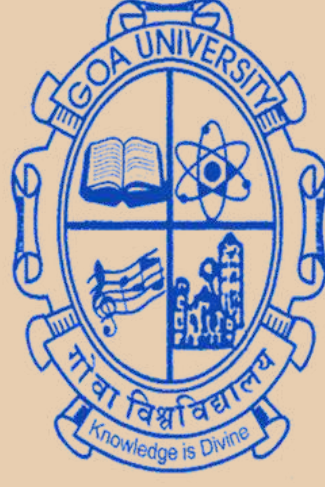
*S. S. Revankar*  
Signature 10/9/25  
Dean/Director/Head

Date: 10/9/25

Seal of the School/Directorate/University



School of Sanskrit, Philosophy and Indic Studies  
Goa University



# Unravelling the Colonial Lifeworld in Canada's Prison Capital

22 August 2025 (Friday)  
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM IST

An online talk by  
**Dr. Lisa Guenther**  
Queen's National Scholar  
Political Philosophy and Critical Prison  
Studies  
Queen's University

Meet Link: <https://meet.google.com/qxz-seho-edt>



## Abstract

The relation between colonialism and incarceration runs deep. It is not just a matter of certain laws, policies, or practices that could be changed without altering the basic structure of our lifeworld. Rather, the challenge is to transform the common-sense understandings of safety, harm, and responsibility built into the colonial world through the reduction of land to property, the defense of property with state violence, and the equation of justice with punishment. Anishinaabe legal scholar Aaron Mills disrupts colonial common sense with a simple but profound question: “As beneficiaries of settler supremacy, is citizenship premised on domination good enough for you?” Mills offers a decolonial interpretation of treaties as agreements for mutual aid, illuminating a pathway beyond the colonial lifeworld.

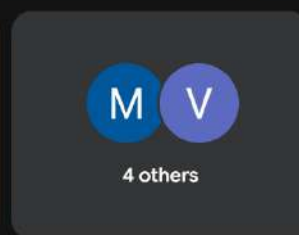
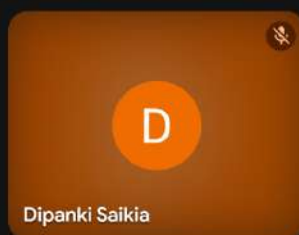
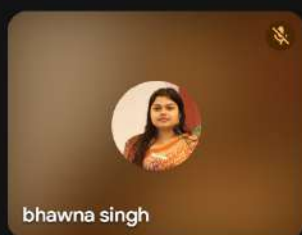
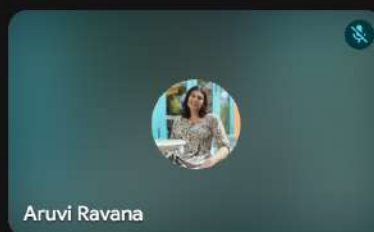
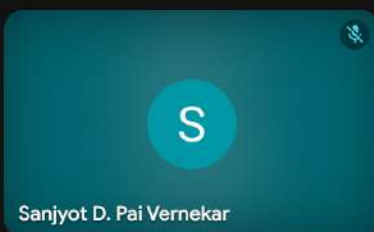
## Bio

Lisa Guenther is Queen’s National Scholar in Political Philosophy and Critical Prison Studies at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Before 2018, she served as Associate Professor of Philosophy at Vanderbilt University. She is the author of **Solitary Confinement: Social Death and its Afterlives (2013)** and **The Gift of the Other: Levinas and the Politics of Reproduction (2007)**, and co-editor of **Death and Other Penalties: Philosophy in a Time of Mass Incarceration (2015)**. She has published articles and book chapters in phenomenology, feminism, prison studies, and critical race studies, including recent work on police violence, prisoner resistance, and carceral space. As a public philosopher, Guenther’s work has appeared in The New York Times, The Globe and Mail, Aeon, and CBC’s Ideas. From 2012-17, she facilitated a discussion group with men on death row in Tennessee called REACH Coalition, and she is currently a member of the Advisory Board for the P4W Memorial Collective. Guenther teaches philosophy classes at Collins Bay Institution through the Walls to Bridges Program. She is working on a critical phenomenology of prison abolition and decolonization on Turtle Island.

7:01 PM | Unravelling the Colonial Life...

19:01 22-08-2025







First name	Last name	Email	Duration
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Akash	Naik Salgaonkar	philosophy.akash@unigoa.ac.in	7 min
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Ambuj	Sharma	ambu***@***.com	1 hr 47 min
bhawna	singh	phd.sspis.bhawna@unigoa.ac.in	2 hr 2 min
Sagar	Yadav	philosophy.sagar@unigoa.ac.in	13 min