

Ishaan R. Barrett

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EDUCATION

B.A. **Columbia University**, Columbia College
Urban Studies and Political Science — GPA: 3.95 | Dean's List, All Semesters
New York, NY
May 2026

Diploma **Middlebury College**, Middlebury Language Schools
Arabic Language and Culture — GPA: 4.00
Middlebury, VT
August 2024

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Urban Equity Institute (UEI)

Founder & Principal

New York, NY
December 2024 – Present

- Founded and developed a college-run think tank aimed at tackling pressing social issues and urban problems through innovative research with human impacts; doubled the founding team within four months and competed for nearly \$110k in funding from university accelerators around the world.
- Directs publication of internal and external projects by overseeing editorial workflow and growing engagement social media and directed outreach; grew contributions from less than five published articles to 22+ featuring authors around the world from 10 different elite undergraduate institutions and programs.
- Established two practice areas to tackle emergent issues in US immigration legislation and city politics by recruiting new writers through targeted growth and development. Helped to secure UEI's first paid nonprofit research client (\$10k+) doing a large-scale grant impact study by pitching UEI's research capabilities and developing client services model.

FTI Consulting, Inc.

Intern, Advanced Analytics Research & Technology

New York, NY
May 2025 – August 2025

- Leveraged advanced document review platforms (Relativity, Brainspace) to conduct rapid fact-finding and surface key evidence for litigation, second requests, and economic disputes, directly supporting law firm success in complex, high-stakes cases.
- Collaborated with firm partners on strategic legal and regulatory matters across various client teams, synthesizing findings into actionable insights under tight timelines.
- Led presentations for law firm partners and corporate clients, distilling complex research into high-value takeaways that influenced case strategy and outcomes. Engaged senior FTI leadership to help develop the firm's internal AI platform by utilizing natural language research, iterative ML development, and client-simulated data.

New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA)

Intern, Policy & Community Outreach

New York, NY
September 2024 – April 2025

- Spearheaded federal policy response in January 2025 by sharing legislative updates with 10+ MOIA leaders during briefings and authored 5-year study on MOIA services to secure new funding.
- Conducted social research and directed outreach with Spanish- and Arabic-speaking immigrant communities in NYC to develop policy solutions for sanctuary city reform and economic mobility.
- Collaborated directly with Deputy Mayors and the Office of General Counsel to curate new Know Your Rights training materials; shared new training guides directly with MOIA outreach staff and helped expand access to training sessions in New York City.

RESEARCH AND FELLOWSHIPS

Aurthur Rose Research Fellowship

Columbia College Research and Fellowships Office

New York, NY
September 2025 – Present

Selected as one of 5 college students for a \$2k annual fellowship focused on expanding research opportunities for undergraduates at the college and peer mentorship; produces events and blog posts on academic freedom, social research, and the Core Curriculum.

Annual National College Research Fellowship

The Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History

New York, NY
September 2025 – Present

Awarded a \$3k national fellowship by competitive application to conduct archival research on the history of the slave labor that built the White House and Capitol Buildings, framing critical inquiry into urban history and justice in the nation's capital.

Summer Research and Travel Fellowship

The Harriman Institute for Russian, Eurasian, and Eastern European Studies

New York, NY
April 2025 – August 2025

Selected for a \$3k fellowship by competitive application to the Harriman fellowship committee to conduct pre-thesis ethnographic research in Ukrainian Village, documenting political resilience, protest, and neighborhood history during global conflict.

Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship

The Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life (IRCPL)

Washington, DC
May 2024 – August 2024

Granted \$1.5k by competitive internal application to the IRCPL to research urban space, secularism, social justice, and public policy in Washington, DC using spatial mapping and policy research; presented work to an internal panel of PhD students.

Inaugural Annual Research Fellowship

The Eric H. Holder Initiative for Civil and Political Rights

New York, NY
May 2023 – April 2024

Won a \$5k fellowship to research the legal history, urban planning, and economic transformations of Adams Morgan Plaza in Washington, DC; published completed manuscript, presented at Columbia, and invited to the Holder Initiative advisory board.

CAMPUS LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Latenite Theatre Group

Co-President & Co-Chair, Latenite Executive Board (Formerly Treasurer)

New York, NY
May 2024 – Present

Directs Latenite's yearlong programming and performances through grant writing and funding partnerships for special projects, collaborations, and comedy events at Columbia; spearheads the biannual anthology by managing a cast of 40+ actors, writers, and directors and promoting performances to over 1.2k audience members within and beyond the university. Former Treasurer.

The Eric H. Holder Initiative for Civil and Political Rights

Member, *The Student Advisory Board*

New York, NY
January 2025 – Present

Appointed to the advisory board of the Holder Initiative to help bring together leading scholars in political science and social justice by collaborating with the Law School, SIPA, and Columbia Alumni to create engaging forums that explore voting rights, democratic governance, congressional representation, and immigration reform.

The Columbia College Committee on the Core Curriculum

Undergraduate Student Representative

New York, NY
September 2024 – April 2025

Advised and collaborated with faculty instructors and college deans to enhance and develop the Core Curriculum in service of the mission of the College and experience of over 6k college undergraduates. Delivered recommendations on pedagogy, helped steer large scale syllabus reviews, and course changes while hosting over a dozen public seminars and engaging events on campus.

Columbia Global Research and Consulting Group (GRC)

Co-President & Co-Chair, *The GRC Executive Board (Formerly Vice President of Development)*

New York, NY
September 2023 – April 2025

Developed comprehensive consulting training materials using graduate school business case books for over 50 associates; helped scope and secure nonprofit clients from around the New York area and abroad by identifying mission-driven NGOs addressing critical social issues in public health and education while leading 12+ VPs on the board and coordinating with global GRC leadership.

Barnard-Columbia Urban Review (BCUR)

President & Editor-In-Chief, *BCUR Executive Board (Formerly Senior Editor)*

New York, NY
January 2023 – April 2025

Managed the oldest undergraduate journal in the country dedicated to interdisciplinary urban studies research by directing submissions, steering the editorial process, and curating visual submissions for the biannual print and online journal issues. Hosted panels and events for 40+ undergraduate majors in collaboration with college leadership in the Urban Studies department.

REVIEWED ARTICLES

Forthcoming: Barrett, Ishaan. "The Limits of Public Duty." *PIDGIN*. The Princeton Graduate School of Architecture, (Spring 2026).

Forthcoming: Barrett, Ishaan. "The Closed Campus: A Study of Academic, Social, and Cultural Dissonance at Columbia University Through (Spatial) Ethnography." *Harvard Urban Review* 9, Harvard Graduate School of Design, (Spring 2026)

Forthcoming: Barrett, Ishaan. "Heritage Throughlines in Geopolitical Conflict: Urban Identity and Immigrant Placemaking in Little Ukraine, NYC." *Birch Journal*. Columbia University Department of Slavic Languages and Culture, (Spring 2026).

Forthcoming: Barrett, Ishaan. "Between Broadway and College Walk: The Architecture of a Closed University." *Platform* (Spring 2026).

Barrett, Ishaan. "Histories of Privatization: Examining Culture, Legal Conflict, and Economic Transformation at Adams Morgan Plaza in Washington, DC." *SURJ: The Stanford Undergraduate Research Journal* 20 (2): 1–11.

Barrett, Ishaan. "DACA as a Model: Expanding Critical Region-Specific Support Programs to Lower Asylum Backlogs." *Columbia Policy Journal* 3 (Spring 2025): 84-85.

Barrett, Ishaan. "Visualizing Housing Borderlands: Histories of Migration, Capital Flight, and Urban Conflict in Washington, DC." *Roots* 2, The Columbia Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, (Spring 2025): 11–13.

Barrett, Ishaan, Ananya Pal, and Abigail Crispin. "Spatializing Grief: Examining the Rhetoric, Architecture, and Personification of Loss at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum." *Barnard-Columbia Urban Review*, no. Fall 2024 (December): 57–69.

Barrett, Ishaan. "Hyderabad and Hitech-City: Reflections on a Changing Urban Culture." *URBAN Magazine* 34, Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, (Spring 2024): 40–45.

Barrett, Ishaan. "Eminent Domain Reform: Addressing Systemic Failures and Historical Exclusion in Urban Land Disputes." *Columbia Policy Journal* 2 (Spring 2024): 27–28.

Barrett, Ishaan. "Human Relationships, Built Environments, and the City Block in India and the US: An Interview." *Harvard Urban Review* 7, Harvard Graduate School of Design, (Spring 2023): 28–32.

INVITED TALKS AND SELECTED EDITORIALS

Planned "Urban Studies Senior Thesis Summit" panelist; Barnard College Urban Studies Program. *Apr 3, 2026*

Planned "Columbia Research Institutes: Fellowship Funding summit" panelist and host; Columbia College. *Mar 13, 2026*

"Fast Justice and the Court Enabling Trump" in *Columbia Political Review* *Feb 2, 2026*

"Research 101: Breaking into Undergraduate Inquiry" panelist; Columbia Research and Fellowships Office. *Jan 13, 2026*

"Immigration in the City: Law, Politics, and Social Justice" panelist and host; the Holder Initiative. *Dec 2, 2025*

"Capstone Research and Senior Theses" panelist and host; Columbia Research and Fellowships Office. *Nov 20, 2025*

"A place among its peers: Learning the 'Columbia lesson' at Harvard" in *Columbia Daily Spectator*.! *May 5, 2025*

"A New Era of Gate Closures" in *Columbia Daily Spectator*. *Apr 8, 2025*

"What are Columbia's gate closures costing?" in *Columbia Daily Spectator*. *Mar 5, 2025*

"Adams, Trump, and the Fall of Gotham" in *Columbia Political Review*. *Feb 24, 2025*

"Trump, The Very Hungry Caterpillar" in *Columbia Political Review*. *Jan 30, 2025*

“Histories of Privatization at Adams Morgan Plaza” at the Holder Initiative Fall Research Panel.	Dec 13, 2024
“It’s Time to Act, Columbia” in <i>Columbia Daily Spectator</i> .	Dec 8, 2024
“It’s Time to Speak, Columbia” in <i>Columbia Daily Spectator</i> (online and featured in the 2024 Election print release)	Nov 13, 2024
“Histories of Privatization at Adams Morgan Plaza” at the Columbia Fall URF Symposium.	Oct 25, 2024
“Religion, Politics, and Urban Placemaking: A Contemporary Historical Record of Religious and Political Expression on Public Space in Washington, DC” at the IRCPL and Columbia Religion Department.	Sep 20, 2024
“Hostile Architecture and the Fourth Purpose” in <i>Columbia Daily Spectator</i> . ¹	Nov 1, 2023

NON-FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

Institute for Global Politics Student Circle Member — Columbia School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA)
 First Place in Sophomore, Junior, or Senior Division — Columbia University Undergraduate Library Research Awards.
 Outstanding Columnist or Staff Writer, Opinion Section — The Editorial Board of the Columbia Political Review.
 Critical Language Scholar for SPARK Elementary Russian (Declined) — The Critical Language Scholarship, US Department of State, and the American Councils for International Education.
 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Finalist – The Mellon Foundation and Columbia University
 Princeton Prize in Race Relations Certificate of Achievement — Princeton University

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

At Columbia University

URBS 3308 Introduction to Urban Ethnographies
 URBS 3993 Urban Studies Senior Thesis Seminar
 POLS 4242 Political Economy of the Public Sector
 SIPA 6700 Inside the Situation Room
 ARCH 6779 Philosophies of the City
 ARCH 4321 The University and the City
 SIPA 6700 Inside the Situation Room
 POLS 3995 Independent Study
 POLS 3720 Research Design: Scope and Methods
 POLS 3285 Freedom of Speech and Press

At Middlebury College, Arabic School

ARBC 3101 Elementary Arabic I
 ARBC 3102 Elementary Arabic II
 ARBC 3103 Elementary Arabic III
 ARBC 3104 Elementary Arabic IV

At Harvard University

PSYC S-1870 Law and Psychology
 BIOS S-1A Molecular and Cellular Biology

PERSONAL SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- Skills: leadership; analytical and persuasive writing; public speaking and communication; advanced social science research, AI/ML implementation, statistical analysis, linear regression modeling; R, Python, and VS Code; policy research and social policy implementation; government affairs.
- Languages: English (native), Spanish (fluent), and Arabic (intermediate/proficient).
- Research interests: urban governance, immigrant affairs, and city management; political behavior, funding, economic development, and executive power; bureaucratic politics and public sector economic reform; architectural history, design, and theory.
- Personal Interests: Endurance running (multiple marathoner and current ultra-marathon training); theatre and stand-up comedy (sketch comedy actor at Latenite and stand-up performer at Columbia); studio art and illustration (pre-college and Quarto Magazine); editorial and critical writing (in *Columbia Daily Spectator* and *Columbia Political Review*).

¹ Featured in the New York Review of Architecture and the “Trumpland” podcast with Alex Wagner on MSNBC.