

Winter 2020 Book Talk at UCI

University Babylon: Film and Race Politics on Campus by Dr. Curtis Marez

Friday February 7th, 2020
12:00pm-2:00pm | HG2341

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Drawing from the recently published *University Babylon: Film and Race Politics on Campus* (University of California Press, 2019), this talk presents an historical survey of how Hollywood-university collaborations have produced powerful discourses of racialized respectability. Dominant constructions of academic collegiality and merit have often been premised on distinctly white respectability politics seemingly derived from film narratives, while college films have lent glamor and the pleasures of cinematic spectacle to narratives of respectable white superiority. Together, cinematic and educational institutions have promoted a synthesis of misogyny, racial capitalism, heteropatriarchy, and deference to authority under an umbrella of white nationalist respectability. At the same time, scholars and filmmakers of color, on the margins of the University Cinematic Industrial Complex, have produced a rich cinematic culture contra racialized respectability. The talk will focus on examples from Southern California, notably UCI and USC.

