

International Conference

Academia on Screen:

The World of Higher Education in Film and TV Series Across Cultures

March 20 & 21, 2025

University of Passau | IT-Zentrum (ITZ) & International House (IH) | Innstraße 43 | 94032 Passau

Thursday 20 March 2025

Morning Session (ITZ Room 017)

8:30-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:30	Lucia Krämer and Daniela Wawra (University of Passau): Welcome and Introduction

Panel USA I: Class and Race in the Context of Higher Education

9:30-10:00	Karsten Fitz (University of Passau): “The World of Higher Education as Successful Class and Race Struggle? Stabilizing the Status Quo in <i>Good Will Hunting</i> and <i>The Blind Side</i> ”
10:00-10:30	Richard M. Breaux (University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, USA): “Don’t Sleep on Us: Dap, Freddie, Shazza, and Fudge: ‘Woke’ Black Collegians on TV & Film Before <i>Dear White People</i> ”

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

Panel India: Society, History and the University – Narratives in Indian Cinema

11:00-11:30	Utkarsha Kotian (Whistling Woods International, Mumbai, India): “From Aggression to Empathy: A Study of the Evolution of Indian Campus Culture through Aamir Khan’s Hindi Cinema Portrayals of College Characters”
11:30-12:00	V. B. Tharakeshwar (The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India): “Changes in the Indian Higher Education System in the 1990s and their Relationship with Popular Perceptions: A Case Study of Select Kannada Films”

12:00-13:30 Lunch Break

Afternoon Session

Parallel Panels

Panel India (cont.): Society, History and the University – Narratives in Indian Cinema (ITZ Room 017)

13:30-14:00	Gita Viswanath (Forum of Contemporary Theory, Baroda, India): “The Pleasure and Pain of Higher Education: A Reading of <i>Chhichhore (Flippant Boys)</i> ”
14:00-14:30	Nandini Manjrekar (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India): “Hum dekhenge/ We shall see: Student Activism and Dreams of Tomorrow in Cinema”
14:30-15:00	Nikhila Subbarao (The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India): “Caste in the Scene of Education: Structures of Romantic Love in Indian College Films”

Panel USA I (cont.): Class and Race in the Context of Higher Education (ITZ Room 001)

13:30-14:00	Klara Stephanie Szlezák (University of Passau): “Harvard or Yale?: On the Depiction of Higher Education in <i>Gilmore Girls</i> (2000-2007)”
14:00-14:30	Vanessa Vollmann (University of Passau): “Reflections on Netflix’s <i>The Chair</i> : A Critical Race Theory Counter-Dialogue”

15:00-15:30 **Coffee Break**

Parallel Panels

Panel Chinese and European Perspectives on Higher Education (ITZ Room 017)

15:30-16:00	Marietta Calderón (University of Salzburg, Austria): “Intersectional Stereotypes of Academics and their Fields of Work in <i>Vienna Blood</i> ”
16:00-16:30	Hermínia Sol (Polytechnic University of Tomar, Portugal): “Beyond Oxbridge: New Universities and Quest for Cultural Heritage in <i>The Lost King</i> ”
16:30-17:00	Xiaofei Tu (Appalachian State University, USA): “The Movie 决裂 (<i>Breaking with Old Ideas</i>): An Utopian Vision of Higher Education in the Chinese ‘Cultural Revolution’”

Panel USA II: Gender, Love and Sex in Academia (ITZ Room 001)

15:30-16:00	Ruvindra Sathsarani (University of Tübingen, Germany): “Female Chairs only for Precarious Times: The Conflict of Gender in Senior Academic Positions”
16:00-16:30	Danny Reid (Allan Hancock College, USA): “College and Carnality: Campus Sex on Celluloid”

18:30 **Conference Dinner: Bayerischer Löwe**¹

¹ <https://www.wirtshaus-passau.de/>; English Menu: https://www.wirtshaus-passau.de/_files/ugd/8e40b8_8b748a774b0a4c3f82c6b97c4203cea0.pdf

Friday 21 March 2025

Morning Session (ITZ Room 017)

Panel *International Comparisons of Academic Practices*

9:00-9:30	Registration and Networking
9:30-10:00	Jean E. Conacher (University of Limerick, Ireland): “Cinematic Representations of University Professors: Exclusionary and Inclusionary Practices Within a Community of Practice”
10:00-10:30	Harald Pittel (University of Leipzig, Germany): “Transformative Spaces, Challenges from the Margins: Academia Through a (Post)British Lens”

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

Panel *Academia, Communication and the Media*

11:00-11:30	Tiago Ramos (NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal): “Nightmare Scenario: The Portrait of Academia in Kristoffer Borgli’s <i>Dream Scenario</i> (2023)”
11:30-12:00	Nina Riedler & August Krockner (University of Passau): “Linguistics Saves the Day. And the World, Eventually”
12:00-12:30	Stephen Joyce (Aarhus University, Denmark): “The Campus Novel and the Campus Film”
12:30-13:00	Lucia Krämer and Daniela Wawra: Conference Closing

13:00-15:30 Lunch Break and Networking over Coffee and Snacks