



서강대학교
SOGANG UNIVERSITY

THE AMERICAN CULTURE PROGRAM

The American Culture Program at Sogang University and the Sogang Institute of American Studies invite you to come join us for a special lecture by Professor Cristina Stanciu (Virginia Commonwealth University) that explores the question, “what happens when *the Indian* of American Westerns becomes not only the object but also the subject of representation?” This talk is open to the public; registration is not required. Come one, come all!



Professor Cristina Stanciu
(Virginia Commonwealth University)

From “Reel Indians” to “Redskins”: American Indians and Silent Films



In 1910, one out of five American films was a Western, a genre invested in representing Indians as quintessentially American subjects. The films about “the good Indians”—a subset of the Western film genre that is not well-known today—appealed to working class immigrant audiences and functioned, paradoxically, as vehicles of Americanization. The movie industry’s recourse to the Western also translated other growing national anxieties about “foreign films,” as many silent films, including the Westerns, were produced outside of the United States. This talk turns to “reel Indians” on screen and behind the camera, and asks: what happens when *the Indian* becomes not only the object but also the subject of representation? Examining short silent films (preserved at the Library of Congress) and three feature films—*White Fawn’s Devotion* (1910), *The Vanishing American* (1925), and *Redskin* (1929)—I will argue that, while mediating between the demands of the Western genre and a commitment to cultural specificity, these films challenge many misconceptions about Native representation in the early twentieth-century American Western.

- When: September 21 (Thursday), 3:00~4:15 p.m.
- Where: Jeong Hasang Hall #602
- Open to the public; registration not required.
- Please direct all inquiries to the English Department Office (02-705-8290).