Diversity Lecture
FORGIVABLE WHITENESS:
Sports, Race and the Last of the Great White Hopes
BEN CARRINGTON

Ben Carrington will argue that sport has become the preeminent public space for the performance of white heterosexual masculinity that is underpinned by supranational discourses of family. He examines the emergence of a particular form of white American masculinity, encapsulated in the term “the Great White Hope”. The expression, the Great White Hope, reveals how, in this moment in the early twenty-first century, white masculine identity was produced as a negation of blackness. Carrington contrasts the “unforgivable blackness” of the current black athlete in contrast to the “forgivable whiteness” of the white athlete, and reflects upon the elevation of the white quarterback (the last of the Great White Hopes) within American culture in the context of what Ta-Nehisi Coates has referred to as America’s First White President. Dr. Ben Carrington is Professor of Sociology at University of Southern California.

THURS, FEB 8TH, 6 PM
LECTURE/MCC THEATER

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