

Classicism and Other Phobias with Professor Dan-el Padilla Peralta

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 | 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Atkinson Pavilion, Faculty Club

This talk will preview a book of the same title, appearing in Spring 2025 with Princeton University Press. In this book, I examine whether "classicism", as a historically contingent concept of aesthetic value, is compatible with the affirmation and protection of Black life. The enshrinement of ancient Greece and Rome in the racial and settler-colonial enterprises of early modern and modern Europe imposed "a conceptual dictatorship on the rest of the planet" (to borrow a phrase from the historian of political thought J.G.A. Pocock), with lasting implications for the valuation of Afro-diasporic cultures and knowledges.



Bio: Dan-el Padilla Peralta is associate professor of Classics, associate faculty in African American Studies, and affiliate faculty in the Programs in Latino Studies and Latin American Studies, at Princeton University. He is the author of *Undocumented: A Dominican Boy's Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League* (Penguin 2015), and *Divine Institutions: Religions and Community in the Middle Roman Republic* (Princeton 2020); and he has co-edited *Rome, Empire of Plunder: The Dynamics of Cultural Appropriation* (Cambridge 2017) and *Making the Middle Republic: New Approaches to Rome and Italy, c. 400 - 200 BCE*. With Sasha-Mae Eccleston, he oversees the Mellon Foundation-funded initiative Racing the Classics.

[Register Here](#)

UC San Diego

INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES
European Studies
Italian Studies

