



RFG Talk:

Racialized Sound in Mainstream Cinema: Spike Jonze's *Her*

MAY
14
TUE

9:00 – 10:30 AM

Zoom

Learn more: bit.ly/EPMT-RFG

This talk examines Samantha, the operating system from Spike Jonze's *Her* (2013), analyzing how the film's portrayal of Samantha both differs from and uncannily evokes both fictional and real-world Black women domestic servants. Exploring how the film deliberately and repeatedly marks Samantha as female, how her vocal pitch, tone, and timbre code her as white, and how the film uses this ascribed white femaleness to grant her a form of subjecthood, Owens contends that the film uses Samantha to reinforce hegemonic notions of race, gender, labor, class, and beauty—and does so primarily through the sound of her voice.

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Golden M. Owens is Assistant Professor of Cinema and Media Studies at the University of Washington. She explores and teaches about representations of race and gender, artificial intelligence, haunting, popular culture, and racialized sounds and voices.

Sponsored by the IHC's Environmental and Postcolonial Media Theories Research Focus Group

