

Chad Wellmon | University of Virginia

Access to What?

On Capital, Value Capture, and Higher Education from 1890s Berlin to 1960s Berkeley

October 5 at 4:30 PM | Sever Hall 103

In his forthcoming book "After the University", a history of the university from the perspective of intellectual desire, Chad Wellmon argues that institutions of higher learning don't just transmit knowledge. They shape the objects of our attention and sustain the practices that fit us to those objects. Like all institutions, universities give objective, material form to shared human expectations, practices, and values––the stuff of history. In this talk, Wellmon will trace the evolution of "educational capital" as a concept and its role in the emergence of modern systems of higher education from the nineteenth-century Prussian universities to mid-twentieth-century American universities. These institutional transformations, he contends, were accompanied by changes in the very concept of intellectual desire and the relationship of internal goods of higher learning and the external goods of universities.

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