



You are invited to a talk from UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow:

“ IT'S SO GROSS BUT FAMILIAR: UNDERGRADUATES OF COLOR AND A CAMPUS' RACIAL PAST AND PRESENT”



Michael W. Moses II

*UC Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow at
University of California, Riverside*

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<https://ucr.zoom.us/j/98727671428>

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ABSTRACT: Racial diversity in higher education is in crisis. From course requirements to chief diversity officers, institutions nationwide have implemented countless initiatives to improve campus race relations, yet ongoing student activism demonstrates that racial equity remains a pressing concern. Higher education literature has begun to question the efficacy of diversity initiatives. However, limited research has centered the perspectives of students of color to answer whether diversity work has created institutional change and positively shaped the learning conditions for racially diverse students. In this talk, I draw upon a qualitative phenomenological study employing textual analysis, focus groups, walking interviews, and ethnographic observations to make sense of how undergraduate students of color describe the relationship between their contemporary racial climate experiences and their institution's historical legacies of racism. Findings demonstrate that, despite advertised institutional investments in diversity over time, little substantive change has occurred with how campuses respond to issues of race. I conclude with practical recommendations for how higher education scholars and practitioners can work to combat pervasive racialized ideologies that undermine the good intentions of diversity work.

