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From: Inform
Subject: EM: March 1st: What does Paddington Bear teach us about geography?

From: Emily Mason

[Claremont Discourse Presents Dr. David Seitz, Assistant Professor of Cultural Geography at Harvey Mudd College](#)

Wednesday, March 1st | 4:15 p.m.

The Founders Room, The Claremont Colleges Library



What does Paddington Bear teach us about geography?

In this talk, [Dr. David Seitz](#) will investigate depictions of immigration, British imperialism and asylum in the well-known English *Paddington Bear* franchise, which now spans children's literature, television, film and toys.

A stowaway from South America, Paddington famously arrives in London with little more than a small suitcase and a tag that reads, "Please Look After This Bear. Thank You." Dr. Seitz will begin by examining the evolving depiction of academic geography as a tool of British imperialism in the *Paddington* franchise, following Paddington's trajectory from an admirer of colonial geography to an unwilling research subject who resists being studied by geographers.

Drawing on interviews with *Paddington* author Michael Bond's contacts in migrant justice movements, he will then argue that while *Paddington* is steeped in colonial geographical ideas – the bear supposedly originates in "Darkest Peru" – British migrant justice activists have also put the character to work in the service of far more radical and transformative politics.

Light refreshments will be served starting at 4 pm. For more information, [click here](#) or please contact discourse@claremont.edu.

Image caption: [Migration is Not a Crime, 2008, graffiti stencil, Robertson Road, Easton, Bristol. Photograph by Jon Tan](#)



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