

# MLK DAY LECTURE

## *“The King of the World: Dr. Martin Luther King and Public Memory”*

**Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 5:30p.m. Haslam Business Building, Room 203 (Free & open to the public)**

**On April 4, 2018**, the world commemorated the sacrifices of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. American presidents, world diplomats, and ordinary citizens gathered to honor a prophet who paid the ultimate price for humanity. Few, if any, admitted that King was once the most hated public figure in the United States. He stood for justice and equality, championed the poor, and criticized American capitalism and the nation’s involvement in world-wide conflict.



Moreover, King’s legacy has fallen prey to exploitation and capitalism and suffered a whitewashing—a revised history that simplifies his legacy into a sanitized narrative void of complexities. This presentation will explicate and analyze the myth and maxim of Dr. King’s legacy, both nationally and internationally, and how this is presented through public memory.

**Dr. Maurice Hobson** is an Associate Professor of African American Studies and Historian at Georgia State University. He earned the Ph.D. degree in History, focusing in African American History and 20<sup>th</sup> Century U.S. History from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His research interests are grounded in the fields of African American history, 20<sup>th</sup> Century U.S. history, comparative labor, African American studies, oral history and ethnography, urban and rural history, political economy, and popular cultural studies. He is the author of award-winning book titled *The Legend of the Black Mecca: Politics and Class in the Making of Modern Atlanta* with the University of North Carolina Press



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