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Cancer Knowledge in the Plural: Communicability of Presence, Trans/Media and the Queer Biopolitics of Prosthetic Mobilities

2203 Dunton Tower

Friday, March 23rd from 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Everyone welcome!

In this age of DIY Health – a present that has been described as a time of “ludic capitalism” – one is constantly confronted with the injunction to manage risk by means of making healthy choices and by means of informed participation in various self-surveillant technologies of bioinformatics. Claims about the positive contributions made to consumer health knowledge by online access have been curtailed by extensive evidence of knowledge-access divides linked with cultural difference/s and marginalization. In this talk, Bryson explores the logics of participation, narration and mobility that inform current communications models of “culturally competent healthcare” and “media engagement”, both of which articulate a particular story about diversity, informed participatory modes of citizenship and democratization. As she argues, a comparative analysis of “the mirror” and “the glory hole” -- as prosthetics of attachment, relationality, transit, experience and affect -- fleshes out a modality of critically queer attention to the problematics of a politics of recognition, rights and of visibility, at work in sites of subjectification and sociality and provides us the analytic means to deal with complexities attendant to the mobilities of cancer’s plural knowledges in the present.

Mary Bryson (http://ubc.academia.edu/MaryKBryson) is Professor, Faculty of Education (Department of Language and Literacy Education) at the University of British Columbia and the author of multiple publications concerning the role of networked social media and information literacies in shaping access to knowledge and its mobilization. Dr. Bryson is the recipient of multiple awards for her interdisciplinary scholarship, including most recently, a Senior Fellowship at Stanford University’s Clayman Institute for Gender Research, and in 2000, the Canadian Women in the Spotlight, Wired Women “Pioneer in New Media” award. Emerging from scholarly engagements with queer and feminist theory, Mary Bryson’s program of research contributes significantly to scholarship at the interdisciplinary intersections of critical studies of gender, sexuality, health informatics and knowledge technologies.