Much of the legal advocacy for trans and gender nonconforming people in the US has reflected the civil rights and "equality" strategies of mainstream gay and lesbian organizations - agitating for legal reforms that would ostensibly guarantee equal access, nondiscrimination, and equal protection under the law. This approach assumes that the state and its legal, policing, and social services apparatus - even its policies and documents of belonging and non-belonging - are neutral and benevolent. However, many trans people, especially the most marginalized, are more at risk for poverty, violence, and premature - or social - death by virtue of those same putatively neutral legal structures.


Anyone interested in participating in a reading group of Chapter One of *Normal Life* on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at 4:00pm should contact [Stacy_Douglas@carleton.ca](mailto:Stacy_Douglas@carleton.ca) for more information.