

College of Charleston

Philosophy Visiting Speaker Series

*Co-Sponsored by the Department of Women's and Gender Studies and
The CofC Philosophical Society*

“Trapped in the Wrong Theory”: Re-Thinking Trans Oppression & Resistance

Dr. Talia Bettcher
Associate Professor & Director,
Center for the Study of Genders and Sexualities
California State University/Los Angeles

Many (but certainly not all) transgendered people find it *natural*, or perhaps *useful*, to negotiate life in our transphobic culture by relying on the “trapped in the wrong body” narrative to frame their trans self-identities, both for themselves and for others—especially hostile others. But feminist theorists have objected, with some justice, that this way of thinking about gender tends to reinforce oppressive views about women, by reinforcing traditional binary thinking about gender. Professor Bettcher will explore both the wrong body narrative and its feminist critique, with an eye toward greater appreciation of how the wrong body metaphor can also be seen as resistant to trans oppression in our society, which is quite distinct from oppression of women.

Professor Bettcher is a philosopher specializing in transgender studies, and in the history of early modern philosophy (especially George Berkeley). She is also a performance artist, trans activist, & accordion player.

Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 3:15 p.m.

Alumni Hall, School of Education, Health, & Human Performance

86 Wentworth Street