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

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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