

NEWS RELEASE



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CONTACT

Judith Nicholson, Assistant Professor
Department of Communication Studies
519-884-0710 ext. 2260 or jnicholson@wlu.ca

Kevin Crowley, Director, Communications & Public Affairs
Wilfrid Laurier University
519-884-0710 ext. 3070 or kcrowley@wlu.ca

Education Professor Mary K. Bryson to speak at Laurier for Media(tions) series

WATERLOO – Professor of Education Mary K. Bryson of the University of British Columbia will speak at Wilfrid Laurier University March 26 for the Department of Communication Studies Media(tions) speaker series.

The talk, titled “Cancer Knowledge in the Plural: Communicability of Presence, Trans/Media and the Queer Biopolitics of Prosthetic Mobilities,” takes place at 1 p.m. in SBE1230 on Laurier’s Waterloo campus.

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, 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. She provides an analytic means to deal with complexities attendant to the mobilities of cancer’s plural knowledges in the present.

Bryson is the author of multiple publications concerning the role of networked social media and information literacies in shaping access to knowledge and its mobilization. She 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.

Bryson is the fourth speaker in the Media(tions) speaker series, which is celebrating 10 years of Communication Studies at Laurier. This event is sponsored by Laurier’s Department of Communication Studies and the offices of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, the Vice-President: Research, and the Provost and Vice-President: Academic.