

Philosophy Department Seminar

Virginia Tech

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Yale University

Reimagining Trans

The categories *transgender* and *cisgender* create a supposedly exhaustive binary. While this binary has been politically useful, I argue that it buckles under scrutiny. First, these categories are metaphysically 'lightweight': they do not do important explanatory work. Second, and relatedly, this binary occludes a large range of gender-variant and nonconforming persons. In place of this binary, I argue in favor of a single, highly flexible category: *transnormative*. Transnormativity, on my model, is an umbrella category that includes all forms of transgression against dominant gender concepts and norms. It is degreed, context-sensitive, and not tied to particular gender or sexual identifications, expressions, or roles. For this reason, it is a conceptual space that highlights crucial political unity among various gender and sexual groups, but also provides a framework for differentiating between these groups.

Friday, 2/22/19, 4:00–6:00pm
Lavery Hall 350

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