

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Abby Wilkerson, Writing Professor at George Washington University**

**Event: Philosophical Engagements with Trauma**

**Location: Laurel Forum of Karpen Hall**

**When: Saturday, March 23, 2019 from 12:30-2 pm**

**Title: Crippling Trauma:**

**Depression, Shame, and Projects of Collective Healing**



Various therapeutic approaches offer survivors the promise of “resolving” trauma, releasing them from the shame and depression that often follow trauma. Using Sandra Lee Bartky’s account of shame, this talk traces relationships between trauma, shame, and depression, and explores what kinds of outcomes could and should be sought individually and collectively in response to survivors’ suffering. I take up “crip” perspectives (a strain of disability activism and culture reclaiming collective power and resistance) that can generate insights for how we might respond to trauma. This vantage point offers cautions regarding efforts to “cure” disabilities, with implications for trauma-based depression.

Abby Wilkerson is a philosopher and University Writing Professor at George Washington University in Washington, DC. Her work includes a book manuscript, “The Thin Contract: Social Justice and the Political Rhetoric of Obesity”; *Diagnosis: Difference: The Moral Authority of Medicine*; and articles and chapters exploring justice and equity related to sexuality, disability, health, health care, and food.