

The Graduate Program in Gender Studies & Feminist Research and  
The Department of Philosophy

Present:



Alexis Shotwell

Claiming Bad  
Kin:  
Responsibility  
For a Suffering  
World

**Abstract:** Our shared social world includes histories and ongoing realities of tremendous harm and wrong-doing. In this paper, I ask what it could mean for white people and settlers who benefit from legacies and current effects of chattel slavery, colonialism, racial distributions of environmental devastation, and capitalism to claim kin with the people producing these effects. If we are complicit in the pain of this suffering world, how might we take responsibility for our bad kin?

Friday, March 2,  
3:30 pm  
Health Sciences  
1A4

Alexis Shotwell is Associate Professor of Sociology, Anthropology and Philosophy at Carleton University. She works in social and political theory, with a current focus on complicity and complexity as a ground for ethical and political action. She is also engaged in a SSHRC-funded research project on the history of AIDS activism in the Canadian context. Her book *Against Purity: Living Ethically in Compromised Times* was published by the University of Minnesota Press in 2016.

HUMANITIES

