



The 2009-2010
Klopsteg seminar series in
SCIENCE IN HUMAN CULTURE
presents:

ALICE DREGER

Department of Medical Humanities, Northwestern

"GALILEO'S MIDDLE FINGER: SCIENCE AND IDENTITY POLITICS IN THE INTERNET AGE"

October 5, 2009
4:00 - 5:30 pm
Hagstrum Room
university hall 201
Evanston Campus

This talk explores the nature of contemporary scientific controversies regarding human identity. We will consider several case studies to parse out the similarities and differences among these cases, and to consider what scientists and identity activists can do to more effectively engage in productive, fair dialogue. The speaker approaches this topic as an historian of science and medicine who is working on this issue as a scholarly project, but also as someone who has been an advocate in an identity rights movement and as someone who has been subject to scathing criticisms by some other identity rights advocates.

ALICE DREGER, Ph.D. is Professor of Clinical Medical Humanities and Bioethics in the Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University. Her books include *Hermaphrodites and the Medical Invention of Sex* and *One of Us: Conjoined Twins and the Future of Normal* (both from Harvard University Press). Her current book project, on science and identity politics in the Internet age, has received funding through a Guggenheim Fellowship. Dr. Dreger's essays have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Chicago Tribune*. W. W. Norton recently selected her essay, "Lavish Dwarf Entertainment," for inclusion in the *Best Creative Non-Fiction* volume for 2009.