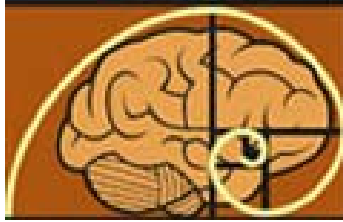


*Disability as Diversity Series*



# Melanie Yergeau

## Minding Theory of Mind: Autism, Embodiment, Narrative

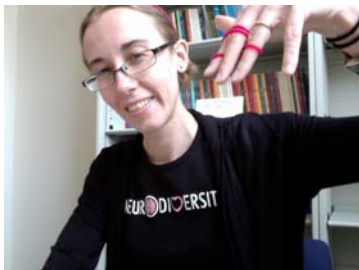
Thursday, October 3, 2-3:30p

reception to follow

Tivoli 640 (Zenith Room)

Yergeau examines the ways in which theories about Theory of Mind (ToM) dehumanize autistic people, with a specific focus on how ToM is applied in both narrative and rhetorical studies. Theories about ToM not only deny autistic people agency; they call into question their very humanity. In response to such constructions, this presentation centers on the ways in which autistic life writing speaks back to normative representations of autistic selfhood and asserts autism as a way of being.

*Access is a goal of this event* – please contact Amy Vidali with access needs: [amy.vidali@ucdenver.edu](mailto:amy.vidali@ucdenver.edu); 303-556-4765.



Melanie Yergeau is an assistant professor of English at the University of Michigan and is a recipient of the 2009 *Kairos* Best Webtext Award and the 2011 *Computers & Composition* Hugh Burns Dissertation Award. She has published in *College English*, *Disability Studies Quarterly*, *Computers and Composition Online*, and *Kairos*. She is a co-author of the *SAGE Reference Series on Disability: Arts and Humanities* and co-editor of the disability and rhetoric special issue of *DSQ*. Melanie currently serves on the boards of the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network and the Autism National Committee. She blogs at <http://aspierhetor.com>.

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