

Women's and Gender Studies
at the University of Windsor
presents

International Women's Day Event with Sharon Batt

Monday, March 9, 2020

at 1:00-2:20 p.m.

in Biology Building, room 121

Sharon Batt's work today continues a trajectory of feminist engagement that took an unexpected turn 30 years ago, when she was diagnosed with breast cancer and began to explore the politics of breast cancer. As a guest in Rita Haase's course, *Women's Bodies, Women's Health*, she will reflect on the ways this experience with a life-threatening medical condition both shook, and continues to inform, her understanding of health, feminism, and the political economy as she discovered competing systems of values that informed every aspect of the cancer experience. Seeking to use these insights to effect feminist change in the health system through patient advocacy, she was surprised when the advocacy movement itself became embedded in a commerce-driven discourse, focused on improving health by gaining access to costly new drugs. Sharon's recent work analyzes this exclusively medical focus within patient advocacy, including the roles of the pharmaceutical industry, neoliberal politics, and the enduring appeal of "healthcare zombies" in public discourse. She will conclude by examining the mixed reactions to this critique, ranging from overt heckling at a national health technology conference, to new allies ready to challenge neoliberal values and reinstate public health values as a national priority.

www.uwindsor.ca/wgst/InternationalWomensDay