ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE & CREATIVITY

UNCW College of Arts & Sciences

Dean's Lecture Series in the Humanities

PROFESSOR ÁSTA

Ásta Kristjana Sveinsdottir is Associate Professor of Philosophy at San Francisco State University. She specializes in metaphysics, social philosophy, and feminist theory. She works on questions related to essence and modality, response-dependence, realism and anti-realism, naturalism, sex and gender, and social construction. She is currently working on a book manuscript, *Categories We Live By*, under contract with Oxford University Press.

Thursday, March 30
7:00 PM
DeLoach Hall
Room 114
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Social Construction as Social Significance

While it is commonplace in the humanities and social sciences to claim that something is socially constructed, what does that really mean? Some claim that our social practices influence the way we think about something. A more radical claim is that the thing is itself socially constructed. This talk gives a general overview of social construction claims, with particular attention to the radical view. It then addresses some consequences for our understanding of gender, sex, race and other social categories.

The Dean's Lecture Series in the Humanities brings to UNCW renowned scholars whose scholarship and dedication to advancing our human condition have been nationally and internationally recognized. All ask difficult questions that prompt us to engage in self-reflection while expanding our intellectual horizons beyond our own disciplines. These thinkers examine the past, the present, and the future and unveil unexpected intersections among art, politics, medicine, philosophy, the environment, literature, and history. They address critical issues of race, gender, identity, immigration, ethics, and beliefs.

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Accommodations for disabilities may be requested by calling 910.962.3406 at least 3 days prior to the event. UNCW is an EEO/AA institution.