



Historicizing the Metaphors: Disability and Representations of Slavery

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**Wednesday,
October 7
1-3 – 509 O'Brian**

This talk will discuss how a historicized approach to reading representations of disability and slavery can help us read these texts for both their metaphorical and material significance. Using Octavia Butler's *Kindred* as an illustrative example, this talk will demonstrate that reading representations of disability both metaphorically and literally reveals just a few of the ways that the mutually constitutive oppressions of racism and ableism have colluded in American history.

Schalk's research focuses on the representation of race, gender and disability in contemporary literature. Sami's work has appeared in *Disability Studies Quarterly* and *Journal of Modern Literature* and is forthcoming in the *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies*. Her current book project explores the role of disability in black women's speculative fiction.

This event is cosponsored by the UB Center for Disability Studies, the Humanities Institute Disability Studies Research Workshop, the Departments of Transnational Studies, and English