Professor Paige Sweet, University of Michigan, presents:

"Paradoxes of Survivorhood:
Becoming Legible after Domestic Violence"

Description: For women who have experienced domestic violence, proving that you are a “good victim” is no longer enough. Victims must also show that they are recovering, as if domestic violence were a disease: they must transform from “victims” into “survivors.” Women’s access to life-saving resources may even hinge on “good” performances of survivorhood. In this talk, I focus on how domestic violence victims make themselves legible as “good” survivors in the increasingly medicalized institutions surrounding domestic violence. This project wrestles with questions about the gendered nature of the welfare state, the unintended consequences of feminist mobilizations for anti-violence programs, and the women who are left behind by the limited forms of citizenship we offer them.

Paige Sweet studies gender and sexuality, knowledge, gender-based violence, health and illness, the state, and embodiment. She is interested in gendered and sexual forms of governance: how people's identities and practices are shaped by state programs and medicalized categories. Paige's book, The Politics of Surviving: How Women Navigate Domestic Violence and its Aftermath, was published with University of California Press in 2021.

Thursday
May 25, 2023
12:30-2:00pm

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