The departments of Film and Digital Media and History of Art and Visual Culture present an Arts Colloquium:

MONDAY, MAY 16th, 6-8PM
reception 5-6pm
Porter College, D-245

FAYE GINSBURG
David B. Kriser Professor of Anthropology at New York University

This talk analyzes the visual fields that place, circulate, and reposition young people with a range of diagnoses involving atypical cognition. This work examines the “transference of meanings” across several critical visual and discursive fields: the use of fMRI scans in neuroscientific labs studying cognition; the creation of targeted media in the educational world to represent the needs of non-normative learners; the emergence of independent film and activist documentary projects that generate models for a new social landscape on and off-screen via advocacy campaigns for inclusion; and D.I.Y./social media that use irreverent humor and parody to upend social hierarchies and suggest alternative regimes of value. Children and young adults labeled with cognitive diagnoses are becoming increasingly visible through the proliferation and circulation of media representations that embrace a cultural model valorizing “all kinds of minds.” Yet, this process is inherently ambiguous, creating “looking relations” that reflect the doubled trajectories of modernity as the expansion of democratizing visual representations of neurodiversity are entangled with forms that inevitably categorize and regulate cognitive difference.

“SCREENING DISABILITIES: VISUAL FIELDS, PUBLIC CULTURE AND THE ATYPICAL MIND IN THE 21ST CENTURY”

Professor Ginsburg is author/editor of four books, including the multiple award winning Contested Lives: The Abortion Debate in an American Community, and (as co-editor), Media Worlds: Anthropology on New Terrain. She is completing a book entitled Mediating Culture: Indigenous Identity in a Digital Age, and is currently engaged in research on cultural innovation and learning disabilities.

For more information about this event or the series generally, contact:
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