

# **Activism and Solidarity:** the Role of Activists in Academia, Ally Work, and Direct Action

In conversation with **Vikki Reynolds**

Tuesday, **January 19**, 2010

**7:30 pm** in Strong Building Room C116

Vikki will outline a lifelong relationship with activism, sustained through practices of solidarity. How do we stay alive in our work as activists in contexts of social injustice? How do we live out the ethics of justice we are collectively committed to? How is theory a part of activism? What is the role of activists in the university and reflexively what is the role of the university in activism? How do complex understandings of power inform our work as allies? How do we hold on to a knowing in the bones that our activism matters in the face of global injustice and greed? How do we respond to social injustice when it is not happening "over there", and the multiple practices of direct action. Vikki will take a run at all of these questions, attending to our collective sustainability and active practices of doing solidarity across difference. This work is presented from an anti-oppression and social justice framework - which is not to say that it isn't risky.

**Vikki Reynolds** is a therapist/activist interested in liberating justice, resistance, and solidarity from the margins of our work into the ethical center. Vikki's therapeutic experience includes clinical supervision and therapy with refugees and survivors of torture, mental health and substance abuse counsellors, and working alongside transgendered and queer communities. She also supervises therapy teams and activists independently and for non-profit agencies. Vikki is an Instructor with VCC, UBC and with City University in the Masters' Program where she has received the Dean's award for Distinguished Instruction. Vikki is presently working to defend her PhD dissertation, which is entitled Doing Justice as a Path to Sustainability in Community Work.

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