This talk draws from Dr. Casper’s book-in-progress, *Abbreviated Lives: Race, Survival, and the Quiet Politics of Infant Mortality*, to explore premature, preventable death. Looking both at infant mortality and hospital infections, the talk situates premature death in the context both of the U.S. health care system touted as “the best in the world” as well as systems of structural violence including race, gender, poverty, and other types of social and corporeal vulnerability.

Inspired by Foucault, among others, Dr. Casper asks: Who lives? Who dies? Who is allowed to live, and who is sacrificed so that others may thrive?

**Monica J. Casper** is Department Head and Professor of Gender and Women’s Studies and affiliated faculty in Africana Studies and the School of Sociology at The University of Arizona. She researches and writes about gender, race, health, bodies, sexuality, motherhood, reproductive politics, trauma, and disability. She is author of the award-winning book *The Making of the Unborn Patient: A Social Anatomy of Fetal Surgery*, co-author (with Lisa Jean Moore) of *Missing Bodies: The Politics of Visibility and The Body: Social and Cultural Dissections*, editor of *Synthetic Planet: Chemical Politics and the Hazards of Life*, and co-editor (with Paisley Currah) of *Corpus: An Interdisciplinary Reader on Bodies and Knowledge*.


**Thursday, April 23**

**4:00pm**

**Williams 134**

26th Annual Mullins Lecture

**Questions? prolson@vt.edu**