In France, the omnipresent political ideal of universalism means that a citizen is defined as a citizen first and only secondly as a member of a “particular” identity category (e.g. Muslim, woman, black). But what does it mean to universalize or incorporate transgender citizens? In this talk, Reeser will make historically-based arguments about the relation of transgender subjects to universalism and analyze three representative cases from three different periods (1950s, 1980s, 21st-century), each of a different genre (film, documentary, literature) and each positing a very different answer to the question of what it means to universalize transgender.

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