

## About Simi Linton

As a writer, consultant and public speaker, Simi Linton is one of America's foremost experts on disability and the arts. She works with a diverse range of cultural organizations – theatre companies, film and television producers, museums, non-profit arts companies, universities, and other groups across the country – to improve and increase the way disability is represented and depicted in all art forms.

Her memoir, *My Body Politic*, was published in 2006 to critical acclaim. *Kirkus Reviews*, the influential book industry newsletter, described “The struggles, joys, and political awakening of a firecracker of a narrator ... Wholly enjoyable.” She is currently touring with a theatrical/multi-media adaptation of her memoir titled *My Body Politic: An Illustrated History* and a documentary film based on *My Body Politic* is also in development.

A Switzer Distinguished Fellowship enabled her to complete her first book, *Claiming Disability: Knowledge and Identity* (1998), which is widely used in university courses in women's studies, disability studies, and cultural studies. Dr. Linton received a PhD in Counseling Psychology from New York University. She left her faculty position in 1998 as Associate Professor of Psychology in the Division of Education at Hunter College, after fourteen years of teaching, to write and establish her consultancy, Disability/Arts. She has been co-director of Columbia University's Seminar on Disability Studies since 2003.

Simi Linton is frequently invited to address national conferences and speak at seminars of professional associations, museums, universities, and national and regional arts councils. She conducts seminars on disability studies and speaks on topics such as disability and conventions of theatre, gender and disability, and disability and the Holocaust.

Under the banner of Disability/Arts, Simi Linton has consulted on projects with the Smithsonian, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Bancroft Library at the University of California – Berkeley and the Margaret Mead Film and Video Festival. As Special Consultant to the Non-Traditional Casting Project, she is collaborating on a variety of disability initiatives for professionals in the arts and entertainment field, including the recent *Written on the Body: A Conversation about Disability* (HBO Headquarters, New York) and *Broadening Diversity: Theater and Disability* (Public Theater).