Re-establishing the Internal “Thou” in Testimony of Trauma

Dori Laub, MD

Thursday, October 13, 2011
McGuinn Hall 121
3:15 p.m.

In his lecture, Dr. Dori Laub speaks on the creative narration that may emerge from and ameliorate trauma, highlighting the efforts of individual victims to distill a kind of “moral history” from trauma. Dr. Laub also discusses the nature of the therapeutic action of psychoanalysis, particularly how the simultaneous elusiveness and insistence of trauma, and the consequent distortion of experience (Nachträglichkeit), affect a victim’s hard-won path to recollection.

Dori Laub, MD is Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Yale University and a psychoanalyst in private practice. In 1979 he was the co-founder of the Holocaust Survivors' Film Project, Inc. which subsequently became the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale. Dr. Laub has published and lectured extensively on the Holocaust. His work on trauma has recently extended to studies on survivors of the “ethnic cleansing” in Bosnia and of other genocides. He is the founder and director of the International Trauma Center and co-authored the book *Testimony: Crises of Witnessing in Literature, Psychoanalysis, and History* (Routledge, Chapman, & Hall, 1992).

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