

Stumbling over History: Disability and the Holocaust

Kenny Fries

Unlike the Holocaust, there are no T4 survivors. We know about T4 mainly through medical records and from the perpetrators. Aktion T4 does not have its Elie Wiesel or Primo Levi. This is the main reason I write about what happened to disabled people during the Third Reich. I want to be a vicarious witness. This is my way to bridge the silence, to keep alive something that is too often forgotten.

What kind of society do we want to be? Those of us who live with disabilities are at the forefront of the larger discussion of what constitutes a valued life. What is a life worth living? (Kenny Fries, on *Aktion T4*, the Nazi program of mass murder of people with disabilities.)

Kenny Fries is an award-winning author of *In the Province of the Gods*, *The History of My Shoes and the Evolution of Darwin's Theory*, and *Body, Remember: A Memoir*. His lecture is based on his work-in-progress *Stumbling over History: Disability and the Holocaust*, the basis for his video series *What Happened Here in the Summer of 1940?*

The Lecture Series is offered jointly by Contemporary Studies, The History of Science and Technology, and The Early Modern Studies Programs in collaboration with the Office of Accessibility at the University of King's College, Halifax.



January 21, 7:00 pm
Alumni Hall
Reception to follow

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