

Representing Human Inferiority: Medical Genocide as Policy and Ideology



Professor Rosemarie Garland-Thomson Monday, February 16 at 1:00-2:30p Tivoli 640

University of Colorado Denver, Downtown Campus

(location: <http://www.tivoli.org/tivoli/map.html> - take the TOWER ELEVATOR)

info & teaching ideas: <http://garland-thomson.blogspot.com/>

Aktion T4 was the name given to the Nazi program of extermination against people with disabilities carried out between 1939 and 1945. What began as medical genocide against people the Nazis considered physically inferior and “asocial” expanded to the ethnic genocide directed against Jews and Sinti/Roma. This presentation lays out the logic of medical genocide, which represents people with disabilities as “life unworthy of life” in order to justify eugenic euthanasia. Nazi propaganda materials recruit disabled bodies as self-evident testimonies to their own essential and irredeemable inferiority through a four-part logic that employs rationalization, instrumentalism, medical authority, and scientific fact.

This event is the beginning of a larger series designed to encourage disability studies scholarship and scholars, and to raise awareness of disability as diversity on campus and beyond. This presentation will model accessible technologies to fully include all in the discussion.

For questions about this event or to **request disability accommodations**, please contact: Professor Amy Vidali (UCD English) at amy.vidali@ucdenver.edu or 303-556-4765.

About the Speaker: Rosemarie Garland-Thomson is Professor of Women's Studies at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She is the author of *Staring: How We Look* (Oxford UP, forthcoming 2008), *Extraordinary Bodies: Figuring Physical Disability in American Literature and Culture* (Columbia UP, 1997); editor of *Freakery: Cultural Spectacles of the Extraordinary Body* (NYU Press, 1996), and co-editor of *Disability Studies: Enabling the Humanities* (MLA Press, 2002). She is currently writing a book called *Cure or Kill: The Cultural Logic of Euthanasia*, which traces eugenic thought through American literature.

Sponsored by: CU Diversity & Excellence Grant, UCD Office of Diversity and Inclusion, UCD College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, UCD English, and the UCD Disabilities Committee.