

Please join us for a talk by Christopher Lipnick:

*“Victims of the Past:”  
The Nazi Propaganda War  
Against the Disabled*

Monday, February 22, 2016

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Ehinger Center (EC) - Room 109  
(under the Drew Library)

*Free and open to the community*



The English translation of the above poster:

*“This genetically ill person will cost the people’s community  
60,000 Marks over his lifetime. Citizens that is your money.  
Read Neues Volk, The Monthly Newspaper of the Racial Policy  
Office of the NSDAP.”*

To pursue its goal of racial perfection, Nazism waged a war of elimination against those whom they perceived to be genetically inferior and biologically unfit. Through draconian legislation and the all-invasive power of the state, the Third Reich incessantly worked toward the creation of a "national community" free from hereditary illnesses. Critical to the success of this biological policy was a massive propaganda campaign designed to galvanize public support and to "re-awaken" Germans to their racial inheritance. The Office of Racial Policy, under the authority of Dr. Walter Gross, created eugenic propaganda intended to educate every German man, woman and child about the perceived threat to the health of the German Volk. Utilizing the power of the mass media, The Office of Racial Policy developed and implemented a propaganda campaign against the disabled in the 1930s. This campaign relied heavily upon decades of eugenic thinking inside and outside of Germany, and created an environment within Germany that did not tolerate the existence of what German jurist Karl Binding and German psychiatrist Alfred Hoche had earlier labeled "life unworthy of life" in a 1920 book.

*Christopher Lipnick is an advanced graduate student completing his dissertation in Drew University's Caspersen School of Graduate Studies. His scholarship addresses how the Nazis attempted to shape the public opinion of the German people regarding the status of those deemed disabled.*

For more information contact the Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study  
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*Individuals needing special assistance should contact the Housing, Conferences, and Hospitality office at  
973/408-3103 at least five working days prior to the event in order to insure appropriate arrangements*