

2009 Hastorf Lecture  
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# **The Evolution of Holocaust Testimonies: From Traumatic Muteness to Creative Narrative**

**Dori Laub, M.D., Yale University School of Medicine**

**Thursday, October 22, 7:30 pm**

**Hooker Auditorium, Mount Holyoke College**

Horrible psychic traumas shelter the mind's ability to reflect, to symbolize, and to remember. All that is registered are fragments of sensations. The consequences of such trauma will be explored – from the near blackout of psychotically hospitalized survivors, to the creation of separate psychic containers in which fragments of the experience are stored for life, to moments of insight when the trauma is grasped with extraordinary clarity, culminating in works of art. Video excerpts will be shown to illustrate the evolution of the testimonial progress in one Holocaust survivor.



**Dori Laub, M.D.** is a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine and a psychoanalyst in private practice in New Haven, CT, who works primarily with victims of massive psychic trauma and their children. In 1979 he co-founded the Holocaust Survivors' Film Project Inc., which subsequently became the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale. His work on trauma extended studies on survivors of the "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia and of other genocides. He has published and lectured extensively on the multifaceted impact of the Holocaust on the lives of survivors and their children. He is co-founder of the International Study Group for Trauma, Violence and Genocide, and is Deputy Director for Trauma Research at the Yale Genocide Studies Program.

Free and open to the public  
Reception to follow

For more information call 413-538-2338

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