**Empathy, Choice and national solidarities in the testimonies of deported physicians**

Emmanuel Delille

This presentation focuses on a number of testimonies of deported physicians in concentration camps which were established by the national-socialist regime. These physicans were deported because they were Jews or resistance fighters. Because of their professional habitus, but also because of their particular position of observation, many of them produced testimonies which are particularly rich to study. Empathy plays a crucial role in the narrative of the deported. The dispensaries (Reviere) where they worked functioned both as hiding places for prisoners and as spaces of assassination by the SS. Expressions of empathy by the physicians are thus linked to practices of medical care, but also to practices of survival. In my analysis, I will investigate the modalities of empathy in relation to “choiceless choices” of the camp physicians as suggested by Lawrence L. Langer (1980). Phenomena of national solidarity will play a role, but also the dimension of gender, as the testimonies of deported women differs from those of deported men. Another difference existed between prisoners under ordinary law and political prisoners. Far from putting empathy and other emotions in the centre of their testimonies, these documents will be studied for their supposed neutrality and lack of emotional expressions as a result of the adaptation to the rules of live in the camps and of the process of learning and integrating new norms.