

FRIDAY OCT 19 4:30-5:30



SINS OF THE FATHER

Nazi Progeny in the Postwar Era

Presented by Thomas Kovach, Department of German Studies

The atrocities of war are unspeakable, but what of their effects on the offspring of notorious characters in history? In 1985, Rolf Mengele, the son of the notorious Auschwitz “Angel of Death” Josef Mengele, revealed that he had visited his father in Brazil in the 1970s. In 1987, German writer Peter Schneider wrote a story called “Vati” (German equivalent of “Daddy”), which, though fictionalized, was clearly based on the Mengele’s story. Over time, Schneider’s story has come to be regarded as one of the most significant German texts in the 1970s and 80s that thematized the situation of children whose parents were adults during the Nazi years and had varying degrees of complicity in the crimes committed. Schneider’s story was the basis of 2003 film *Rua Alguem 5555: My Father*. The film is unavailable on DVD, and the story has still not yet appeared in English translation. Kovach will discuss his recent translation of the story, and his ongoing attempt to find a publisher willing to undertake the project.



THOMAS KOVACH received his B.A. in German from Columbia University and his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Princeton University in 1978. In 1994 he came to The University of Arizona to head the Department of German Studies, a position he held for ten years, until July 2004. His focus is on the Jewish participation in Austrian and German literature, not just around 1900, but also from the beginnings of emancipation in the eighteenth century up to the present day.

LANGUAGES EXPLORED

<http://HW.arizona.edu>

ALL EVENTS FREE @ UA Poetry Center
Helen S. Schaefer Building, 1508 E. Helen Street

College
of
Humanities