



Hiram College's Center for Literature and Medicine Presents

Caregiving Fantasies in the Era of the New Longevity: Suicide and Euthanasia

A Lecture by

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In the circumstances of later-life chronic or terminal illness, some old men kill an old woman who could not be more closely related to them--their ailing wife. Frail elderly or chronically ill people and their care-givers used to be invisible. And when care-giving means concern, consideration, communication, conversation, comfort, or cash support, their invisibility still reigns in American popular culture. But where it bleeds it leads. And with cold lead as the shocking journalistic hook, readers and viewers in the Age of Longevity--especially women, the vast majority of victims--are being taught about the risks of living too long. This talk takes a hard look at media reports of murder-suicides, feature writing about "the burden of dementia," and some literary and cinematic texts (Tony Kushner, Michael Haneke) that present suicide or euthanasia as intelligible choices in certain conditions--mainly Alzheimer's Disease, but widening to include Parkinson's, ALS, stroke.

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Alumni Heritage Room, Teachout Price

Hiram College

6:30 p.m.



Questions? Contact Brittany Jackson at JacksonB1@hiram.edu or 330.569.5380.