

Psychiatry in the time of National Socialism

Exhibitions and sessions



The period of National Socialism is the darkest chapter in the history of psychiatry in Germany and thus also in the history of the DGPPN predecessor organisations. People with physical and mental impairments were systematically persecuted and exterminated – in the midst of German society – and psychiatrists were partly responsible.

Registered, persecuted, annihilated: the Sick and the Disabled under National Socialism

In 2009, the DGPPN acknowledged its special responsibility resulting from the involvement of its predecessor organisations in the crimes of National Socialism, the killing of huge numbers of ill people and forced sterilisations.

We initiated a research project that culminated in 2014 in the German- and English-language travelling exhibition "registered, persecuted, annihilated". Meanwhile, more than 340,000 visitors have seen the exhibition nationally and internationally.

The exhibition is specifically aimed at a wide audience. Using the question of the value of life as a guiding principle, it considers the intellectual and institutional pre-conditions of the killings, summarises the events from exclusion and forced sterilisations up to the Holocaust, presents examples of victims, perpetrators, accomplices and opponents and finally looks into how the events of that period have been dealt with from 1945 until the present day.

Sunday to Thursday | Hall B

The Exhibition catalogue is available at the Springer exhibition booth, hall B, booth 40.

Please visit our website for further information:

English: www.dgppn.de/exhibition

German: www.dgppn.de/ausstellung

Dorothea Buck – a special destiny

Born in 1917, Dorothea Buck was overcome by a severe mental crisis at the age of nineteen. During the Third Reich, she was classified as a minor human being because of her diagnosis of schizophrenia. In accordance with the Nazi race policies she was forcibly sterilised in 1936. A few years later she barely escaped "euthanasia". Contrary to all prognoses – related to her incurable mental illness – Dorothea Buck tried to understand what drove her into psychosis and developed her own theory of her illness. Through this process she found the key to her own sanity. This development is inseparably linked with her evolution to an expressive and highly distinguished sculptress.

Dorothea Buck's artistic work has gained particular significance. Her accentuated lines give rise to impressive sculptures that appear to evoke what she was denied in the so-called sanatoriums: human attention and warmth. The film "The sky and beyond" depicts the life and work of this extraordinary woman, who is now 100 years old.

Exhibition:

Dorothea Buck

Sunday to Thursday | Hall B

Documentary:

The sky and beyond

Mon, 9 Oct 2017 | 15:15–17:45 | Hall London 1