



32nd ANNUAL SERIES

DIALOGUES IN RESEARCH ETHICS

Monthly Conference Series | Dialogue No. 212

Friday, March 15, 2024, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

HYBRID

Don Soffer Clinical Research Center, Room 1270A; a light lunch will be provided.

Online: [Click here to register](#)

Why Medicine in Nazi Germany is Still Relevant: The *Lancet* Commission on Medicine, Nazism, and the Holocaust

Sabine Hildebrandt, MD, FAAA, Harvard Medical School and Boston Children's Hospital

The first *Lancet* Commission on the history of medicine presents up-to-date evidence on medicine's role in Nazism and the Holocaust. It deconstructs myths and misunderstandings about the important role health professionals played in formulating, supporting, and implementing inhumane and often genocidal policies. Medical crimes committed during the Nazi era are the best-documented historical examples of medical involvement in transgressions against vulnerable individuals and groups. Insights from this history are globally relevant for today's perceptions of and debates in medical theory, practice, and research. It should be discussed in all health curricula based on the pedagogical construct of history-informed professional identity formation.

Dr. Hildebrandt is a researcher and associate professor of pediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. She teaches anatomy and history and ethics of anatomy at Harvard Medical School and Harvard College. Among other publications on anatomy, medicine, Nazi Germany, and the Holocaust, her 2016 book *The Anatomy of Murder: Ethical Transgressions and Anatomical Science during the Third Reich* is the first systematic study of anatomy in Nazi Germany. As co-chair of *The Lancet Commission on Medicine, Nazism, and the Holocaust: Historical Evidence, Implications for Today, Teaching for Tomorrow*, she co-authored the commission's report, published on Nov. 8, 2023. As member of various institutional committees, she is involved in formulating recommendations on how to ethically approach work with human remains in historical collections. She serves as associate editor of *Anatomical Sciences Education* for the fields of history and ethics.

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