

Homelessness, Security, and the Politics of Dys-Appearance



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Thursday, November 6, 2014

4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.

Knight Library Browsing Room

1501 Kincaid Street

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON



Chad Kautzer

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Chad Kautzer is Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Social Justice Minor at the University of Colorado Denver. He is co-editor, with Eduardo Mendieta, of *Pragmatism, Nation, and Race: Community in the Age of Empire* (Indiana University Press, 2009) and author of *Radical Philosophy: An Introduction*, forthcoming with Paradigm Publishers. In 2013, he curated an art exhibition titled “Not Exactly: Between Home and Where I Find Myself” at RedLine Denver, the catalog for which is available on the UO Philosophy department’s Community Philosophy Institute Homelessness and Home website: homelessness.philosophy.uoregon.edu/

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Abstract: In disability studies, the concept of “dys-appearance” refers to bodies made visible through disabling social norms, practices, and environments. Chronic lack of shelter and access to private facilities often produce dys-appearance, as private lives are forced into public spaces. In this talk I consider three forms of security—in law, capital, and recognition—that contribute to this private-public dynamic of “homelessness” today: the policing and criminalization of the unhoused; mortgage securitization; and social recognition that supports trust and mitigates personal vulnerability or insecurity, that is, security as a dimension of “home.” Each of these works to define the public and private, but only the last, I argue, does not seek security at the expense of the insecurity of others.



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