"Grasping Power: Deaf Ethics and Signed Language Interpreting"

As Part of the Fall Colloquium Series in Philosophy

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When: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 2pm
Where: Arts and Letters, Room 101

Abstract: Public perceptions by hearing persons often frame the signed language interpreter as engaging in a laudatory activity. While the profession of signed language interpreting provides a useful and important service of communication access, default assumptions and communication structures presumed by nonsigning hearing persons contribute to hidden labor performed by deaf persons engaging in interpreted interaction. This paper is divided into two parts: it begins with a description of wildly different public perceptions of two signed language interpreters during Hurricane Irma and offers an explanation for this phenomenon, the second part builds on this explanation and identifies key components of the hidden labor performed by deaf consumers of interpreting services, and the final section provides a philosophical analysis of this labor.

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