THE ASSOCIATION FOR CRITICAL THEORY (ACT)

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DOCTORAL STUDENTS COUNCIL (DSC)

Present

MARTIN BECK MATUŠTÍK

OUT OF SILENCE: REPAIR ACROSS GENERATIONS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13
6:30-8:30

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK GRADUATE CENTER
365 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY
ROOM 5414

JOIN US AS PROFESSOR MARTIN BECK MATUŠTÍK READS FROM HIS NEW MEMOIR, AS HE REFLECTS UPON VARIOUS PHILOSOPHICAL, EXISTENTIAL, AND POLITICAL THEMES, AS SEEN FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF A SECOND GENERATION HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR. DEALING WITH ISSUES OF TRANS-GENERATIONAL MEMORY, REPAIR, AND COMING TO TERMS WITH THE PAST, THIS WORK PROMISES TO BE OF INTEREST TO MANY, IN ITS EXPLORATION OF THEMES THAT MAKE US ALL HUMAN.

Martin Beck Matuštík was 11 when the Soviet tanks invaded Prague. In 1969, at 12, he published a photo from the funeral of Jan Palach, a Charles University philosophy student who immolated himself in protest of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia that took place in August 1968. While a first-year student at Charles University, at 19, he signed "Charta 77," the Czechoslovak manifesto for human rights, issued in January 1977 by Vaclav Havel, Jan Patocka, and Jiri Hajek. He became a political refugee in August of that year. As a Fulbright student of Jürgen Habermas in Frankfurt am Main in 1989, he witnessed the historical November fall of the Berlin Wall and the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia that led to the election of Vaclav Havel as the first Czechoslovak President after the fall of the Iron Curtain.