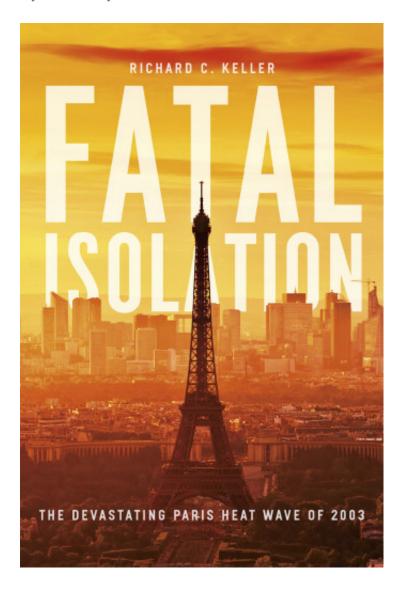
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Book Forum — Richard Keller's Fatal Isolation

2015-09-25 10:55:55

By Todd Meyers



Richard Keller's <u>Fatal Isolation: The Devastating Paris Heat Wave of 2003</u> is a careful accounting of the toll the heat wave took on those most vulnerable in the neighborhoods surrounding Paris. The book is about the shape of vulnerability and its amplification over time — in fact, *Fatal Isolation* requires us to pause on the ideas of risk, vulnerability, and precarity in order to consider the scale, grain, reach, and quality of disaster (natural, designed). By weaving together official history, epidemiological forecasting, and statistical reckoning — along with what Keller calls

"anecdotes," individual stories that give necessary texture to the invention and indifference of catastrophe — the book tells a story that allows the unease of the event's chronology to come through: slow and then all of a sudden, concluded but lingering long after all is said and done, a rupture with a long preamble.

What follows is a collection of commentaries that take up Keller's masterful study in different ways: some are deeply reflective and personal, others more directly highlight the civic, political, and global character of disaster, and underscore the associated alienation and negligence which both precedes and follows seemingly anomalous events. We hope you enjoy the comments on Richard Keller's *Fatal Isolation* and his response.

Comments on Richard C. Keller's *Fatal Isolation: The Devastating Paris Heat Wave of 2003* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015):

On Vulnerability and the Anecdote

Sara B. Pritchard

Cornell University

Modernity as a Fragile Milieu

Peter Redfield

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

History, Theory, and Limit Events

Camille Robcis

Cornell University

Bodies of/and Knowledge

Kim Fortun

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

The Temporality of Disaster

Miriam Ticktin

The New School for Social Research

Response

Richard C. Keller

University of Wisconsin-Madison

AMA citation

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Chicago citation

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Harvard citation

Meyers, T 2015, *Book Forum* — *Richard Keller's Fatal Isolation*, Somatosphere. Retrieved September 25, 2015, from http://somatosphere.net/?p=10220

MLA citation

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