

Contents

List of Figures	v
1. Introduction	
<i>Patrick Ryan Williams and Gary M. Feinman</i>	1
1A Big Questions: A Framework for Exploring Death: <i>Benjamin Miller and Meredith Whitfield</i>	5
2. The Journey from Life to Death: Biology of the Human Life Cycle and Our Attempt to Control It	
<i>Robert D. Martin</i>	13
2A Sekishinsai Okada Tadaharu 赤心齋 岡田忠暹: <i>Nine Stages of Bodily Decay</i> (Kusōzu) <i>Chelsea Foxwell</i>	18
2B Daoist Immortals, the <i>Lingzhi</i> Fungus, and the Search for Immortality <i>Deborah Bekken</i>	24
2C On Health Disparities and Motherless Children <i>Kimberly Mutcherson</i>	29
2D Response to the Pandemic: Creativity in the Face of Precarity <i>Alaka Wali</i>	33
3. Soul and Vital Force: Vibrant Life Matters and Mortuary Arts in Africana Religions and Beyond	
<i>Kyrah Malika Daniels</i>	39
3A Mesoamerican Cosmologies: Death, Maize, and the Ballgame <i>Gary M. Feinman</i>	47
3B The Inca <i>Capac Hucha</i> <i>Patrick Ryan Williams</i>	53
3C The Yorùbá <i>Ere Ibeji</i> : Reincarnation of Twins <i>Foreman Bandama</i>	57
3D Sex, Death, and Life Regeneration in the Moche World, 200–900 CE <i>Luis Muro Ynoñán</i>	61
4. Performing Death	
<i>Luis Muro Ynoñán</i>	65
4A Chancay Burials <i>Nicole M. Slovak</i>	73
4B Egyptian Mummification <i>Emily Teeter</i>	79
4C The Ghanaian Fantasy Canoe Coffin: A Box with Proverbs <i>Foreman Bandama</i>	85
4D Tsavo Shrines <i>Chapurukha M. Kusimba</i>	89
5. Jewish and Christian Perspectives on Death	
<i>William Schweiker</i>	93
5A The <i>Chevra Kadisha</i> <i>Laurie Zoloth</i>	99
5B The Guna, <i>Molas</i> , and Religious Syncretism <i>Alaka Wali</i>	103
5C Death and the Reclining Buddha <i>Mitch Hendrickson</i>	107

Beyond Death

5D Day of the Dead
Álvaro Amat 112

6. Social Endurance beyond Human Death

Gary M. Feinman and Patrick Ryan Williams 117

6A The Magdalenian Skeleton from Cap Blanc
Robert D. Martin, J. P. Brown, Stacy Drake, William Pestle, and William Parkinson 119

6B The Mortuary and Commemorative Poles from Skidegate, British Columbia, Canada
Luis Muro Ynoñán and Gary M. Feinman 122

6C The Hopewell Collective
Brad Lepper 130

6D Pyramids and Standing Stones: Monuments for the Dead
Donna J. Nash 137

Appendix A: Spanish Translation of the Introduction

Introducción

Patrick Ryan Williams y Gary M. Feinman 145

List of Figures

Figure 1.1. World map of the peoples, places, and stories in this volume. Map by Jill Seagard, © 2022 Field Museum.....	2
Figure 1.2. Schematic floorplan of <i>Death: Life's Greatest Mystery</i> at the Field Museum. © 2022 Field Museum	4
Figure 1.3. The life-sized whale fall diorama. Blue Rhino Studios, © 2022 Field Museum.....	7
Figure 2.1. Comparative lifespans and offspring for humans and other species. © 2022 Field Museum.....	14
Figure 2.2. <i>Kusōzu</i> watercolors representing a sequence of bodily decomposition: the first three images represent the living woman, the newly deceased, and the distension of the body (FM 125807.1, .2, .3-A115292d_003, 5, 6). Photos by John Weinstein, © Field Museum	16
Figure 2.3. The fourth and fifth images of the <i>Kusōzu</i> series represent rupture of the body and exudation of blood (FM 125807.4, .5-A115292d_009, 10). Photos by John Weinstein, © Field Museum	17
Figure 2.4. The putrefaction stage is followed by consumption by animals in the sixth and seventh images of the <i>Kusōzu</i> paintings (FM 125807.6, .7-A115292d_013, 4). Photos by John Weinstein, © Field Museum	20
Figure 2.5. The final stages of the <i>Kusōzu</i> paintings represent the skeleton, the disjunction of the bones, and the final resting place of the body (FM 125807.8, .9, .10- A115292d_017, 8, 21). Photos by John Weinstein, © Field Museum.....	21
Figure 2.6. Roman basin (reproduction) with representation of immortal gods Mars and Venus (FM 24010). Photo by Michelle Kuo, © 2022 Field Museum	22
Figure 2.7. Lead pewter plate with brass rim design including examples of animals holding the <i>lingzhi</i> (fungus of immortality) in the mouth. Consuming the <i>lingzhi</i> was thought to convey energy and immortality (FM 110086). Photo by Michelle Kuo, © 2022 Field Museum.....	23
Figure 2.8. Rhinoceros horn cup with stylized <i>lingzhi</i> fungus on the body of the cup (FM 110574). Photo by Michelle Kuo, © 2022 Field Museum	25
Figure 2.9. Daoist immortal holding a fly whisk and <i>lingzhi</i> fungus (FM 126823). Photo by Michelle Kuo, © 2022 Field Museum.....	26
Figure 2.10. Black Mamas Matter onesie that advocates for building awareness about Black maternal health, rights, and justice. Photo by Michelle Kuo, © 2022 Field Museum.....	28
Figure 3.1. <i>Drapo</i> ritual flag showing ancestral spirits (<i>lwa</i>) protecting people from disaster in the 2010 Haiti earthquake (FM 362683). Made by Ronald Edmond artisans; photo by Michelle Kuo, © 2022 Field Museum.....	40
Figure 3.2. <i>Drapo</i> flag of Haitian Vodou practitioners making an offering to ancestors (FM 362685). Made by Ronald Edmond artisans; photo by Michelle Kuo, © 2022 Field Museum	41
Figure 3.3. <i>Drapo</i> ritual flag depicting Bawon Kowona, an ancestral spirit who protects Haitian people from COVID-19/coronavirus (FM 362686). Made by Ronald Edmond artisans; photo by Michelle Kuo, © 2022 Field Museum.....	42
Figure 3.4. Vodou tradition <i>kanari</i> and <i>govi</i> pots which the deceased's soul returns to inhabit (FM 362680, 362681, 362682). Made by Ronald Edmond artisans; photo by Michelle Kuo, © 2022 Field Museum.....	44