This book offers a wide-ranging treatment on the meaning of death, and its juxtaposition with life, from biological, cultural, and spiritual perspectives. Numerous case studies drawn from five continents accompany the principal essays, written by scholars, Indigenous community members, and curators of the exhibition Death: Life's Greatest Mystery. This volume offers a richly illustrated companion to the exhibition, produced by Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History, including colour photographs of the stunning objects in the exhibit, most from the Field Museum's collections. It is intended to engage visitors to the exhibition and members of the general public who want to delve more fully into questions surrounding death and the multiple religious, historical, and cultural perspectives on it.

'A wealth of anthropological perspectives and done in very accessible language. The book greatly amplifies the message of the exhibition.' Dr William Fitzhugh, Director, Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center

Patrick Ryan Williams is Curator of Archaeological Science and Gary M. Feinman is the MacArthur Curator of Anthropology at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago.

Luis Muro Ynoñán is an Anthropology Postdoctoral Scientist at the Field Museum and a Lecturer in Archaeology in the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru.

Contributors: Álvaro Amat, Foreman Bandama, Deborah Bekken, J. P. Brown, Kyrah Malika Daniels, Stacy Drake, Chelsea Foxwell, Mitch Hendrickson, Chapurukha Kusimba, Brad Lepper, Robert D. Martin, Benjamin Miller, Kimberly Mutcherson, Donna J. Nash, William Parkinson, William Pestle, William Schweiker, Nicole M. Slovak, Emily Teeter, Alaka Wali, Meredith Whitfield, Laurie Zoloth

This is an open access title available under the terms of a CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 License. It is free to read, download and share on the BAR Digital platform.

Printed in England

