

Institute of Religious Studies of the University of Zurich  
in cooperation with the  
University Research Priority Program Asia and Europe at the University of Zurich and the European Research Network on Death Rituals

# Conference: 'Deceased and Bereaved!' Continuity and Innovation in Death Rituals

20<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup> May 2016, Zurich



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## Friday, 20.05.2016

- 9.00 Welcome
- 9.30–10.30 Panel 1: Theoretical Perspectives**
- 9.30–10.00 Rafael Walthert (University of Zurich)  
*Ritualisation and change*
- 10.00–10.30 Oliver Krüger (University of Fribourg)  
*The dynamics of rituals*
- 10.30–11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00–15.00 Panel 2: Traditions contested**
- 11.00–11.30 Silke Petra Bergjan (University of Zurich)  
*Death and mourning among Christians in Antiquity*
- 11.30–12.00 Joël Noret (Université libre de Bruxelles)  
*Contesting ways of salvation in Africa – Catholic funerals in southern Benin*
- 12.00–12.30 Philipp Hetmanczyk (University of Zurich)  
*From ritual elaboration to frugal commemoration: the contested tradition of costly burials in China*
- 12.30–14.00 Lunch break
- 14.00–14.30 Julian Biontino (University of Chiba)  
*Changes in death rituals and burial practice under foreign influence in Modern Korea (1876-1945)*

- 14.30–15.00 Response and discussion Panel 2
- 15.00–17.30 Panel 3: Redefining ritual practice**
- 15.00–15.30 Leilah Vevaina (University of Göttingen)  
*Excarnation to ashes: Competing Zoroastrian death rituals in Mumbai*
- 15.30–16.00 Coffee break
- 16.00–16.30 Claudia Venhorst (Radboud University)  
*Materialising continuing bonds between bereaved and deceased – Negotiating Muslim funerary rites on Dutch cemeteries*
- 16.30–17.00 Urs Weber (University of Zurich)  
*Diversification in the field of funerary practices in Taiwan*
- 17.00–17.30 Response and discussion Panel 3
- 17.30–18.00 Coffee break
- 18.00–19.00 Keynote**
- Ronald Grimes (Prof. em., Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo)  
*Continuity and innovation in the Mohawk Condolence Ceremony*
- 19.00 Conference dinner (by invitation)

## Saturday, 21.05.2016

- 9.00–14.30 Panel 4: Individualisation as ritual innovation?**
- 9.00–9.30 Hannah Rumble (University of Exeter)  
*Fertile soil: Continuity and change in British 'Natural Burial'*
- 9.30–10.00 Brenda Mathijssen (Radboud University)  
*The living and the dead: reimagined notions of life after death in the Netherlands*
- 10.00–10.30 Coffee break
- 10.30–11.00 Ralph Kunz (University of Zurich)  
*Gone with the wind: New burial culture, old concerns*
- 11.30–12.00 Lilo Ruther (University of Zurich)  
*Redefining death rituals in German-speaking Switzerland. Enactment and Concepts in new rituals*
- 12.00–13.00 Lunch break
- 13.00–13.30 Eric Venbrux (Radboud University)  
*(Dis)continuing bonds: new ritualisations of death and notions of religiosity in the Netherlands*
- 13.30–14.00 Dorothea Lüddeckens (University of Zurich) & Monika Schrimpf (University of Tübingen)  
*Change and innovation in death rituals – comparative observations on Japan and Switzerland*
- 14.00–14.30 Response and discussion Panel 4
- 14.30–15.00 Closing discussion

**Convenors** Prof. Dr. Dorothea Lüddeckens  
Philipp Hetmanczyk, M.A.  
Lilo Ruther, M.A.  
Hélène Coste, M.A.

**Location** University of Zurich  
Room RAA G-01 (Aula)  
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