

DEAGENCY INTERNATIONAL
INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE II.

**The Agency of the Dead in the
Lives of Individuals:
Reasons, Triggers, and Contexts**



July 2 – 4, 2025
Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana

Conference Programme

PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2

Lecture Room 34

9:15-09:45 **REGISTRATION**
10:15-10:30 **WELCOME SPEECHES**

Prof. Dr. Mojca Schlamberger Brezar, Dean of the Faculty of Arts,
University of Ljubljana

Assist. Prof. Dr. Boštjan Kravanja, Head of the Department of
Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, University of
Ljubljana

Prof. Dr. Mirjam Mencej, Chair of the Programme Committee,
Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts,
University of Ljubljana

10:30-11:30 **PLENARY TALK**
Terry Gunnell: The Revenge of the Rejected: The Rise, Fall and
Background Context of Icelandic Beliefs in Family Ghosts

11:30-12:00 *COFFEE BREAK*

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE NARRATIVES IN VERNACULAR RELIGIOUS FRAMEWORK I.

Chair: Kirsten Marie Raahauge

12:00-12:30 Ülo Valk: Personal Experience Stories of the Supernatural and the
Agency of the Dead: Perspectives of Estonian Students

12:30-13:00 Tina Ivnik: The Afterlife as Context: Spiritual People Experiencing the
Agency of the Dead

13:00-13:30 Vito Carrassi: Encountering the Dead in the Southern Italian Folklore

13:30-14:30 *ORGANISED LUNCH – CATERING*

**PERSONAL EXPERIENCE NARRATIVES IN VERNACULAR
RELIGIOUS FRAMEWORK II.**

Chair: Ülo Valk

- 14:30-15:00 Radvilė Racėnaitė: The Living and the Dead During the Covid-19
Pandemic in Lithuania: The Otherworldly Signs of Disrupted
Traditions
- 15:00-15:30 Yseult de Blécourt: Ghosts of the Past
- 15:30-16:00 Jūratė Šlekonytė: Butterfly from the Wreath of Sorrow: A Case Study

16:00-16:30 *COFFEE BREAK*

DREAMSCAPES

Chair: Ágnes Hesz

- 16:30-17:00 Kaarina Koski: Problematic Relationship, Nightmares After Death
- 17:00-17:30 Lina Būgienė: Agency of the Dead in Dream Narratives

THURSDAY, JULY 3

Lecture Room 34

- 9:00-10:00 **PLENARY TALK**
Francisco José Ferrándiz: Cuelgamuros: The Decline of a Dictatorial
Funerary Project

MASS GRAVES: SPACE OF COLLECTIVE GRIEF & MEMORY

Chair: Francisco José Ferrándiz

- 10:00-10:30 Jaka Repič: Unearthing Memory: Agency of Place and Material
Remains in Mass Grave Exhumations and Commemorations
- 10:30-11:00 Petra Hamer: Martyrs, Memory, and Agency: The Social Afterlife of
Innocent Victims in the Bosnian War
- 11:00-11:30 *COFFEE BREAK*

VIOLENCE & PERSONAL GRIEF AND MEMORY I.

Chair: Jaka Repič

- 11:30-12:00 Charles Oscar Warner III: The Dead Murmur as the Living Maneuver: Reflections on Post-war Men, Memories, and Machinations Encountered in the Wake(s) of Yugoslavia
- 12:00-12:30 Yordanka Dimcheva: Beyond Severing Bonds: A Phenomenological Exploration of the Experiences of Traumatic Bereavement Following Terrorism
- 12:30-13:00 Lisa McLean: "It's Like Every Day is That Same Day": Narrating Ambiguous Loss Through Photography in the Wake of Disappearance
- 13:00-15:00 *LUNCH BREAK*

MATERIALITY AND THE DEAD

Chair: Felicity Wood

- 15:00-15:30 Nihad Dostović: Immortalizing Self – Ordinary People Endowing Money "For Own Soul" in Mid-17th Century Bosnia
- 15:30-16:00 Manolis G. Varvounis and Nadia Macha-Bizoumi: Funeral Homes: The Urban Management of Death Rituals
- 16:00-16:30 *COFFEE BREAK*

SPACES FOR THE DEAD: FROM COLLECTIVE TO PRIVATE PLACES

Chair: Kaarina Koski

- 16:30-17:00 Mirjam Mencej: "The Dead Have Given Up on Us." Space, the Dead and Morality in Contemporary Rural Muslim Bosnia
- 17:00-17:30 Simona Kuntarič Zupanc: Place-making by the Dead: Cemeteries and the Agency of the Dead
- 17:30-18:00 Kirsten Marie Raahauge: Invisible Worlds: Haunting Between Sensation and Representation

FRIDAY, JULY 4

	Lecture Room 18 PARALLEL SESSION A: CONTEMPORARY COMMUNICATION PRACTICES WITH THE DEAD: NEW TECHNOLOGIES Chair: Emese Ilyefalvi	Lecture Room 119 PARALLEL SESSION B: COMMUNICATION WITH THE DEAD: FUNERARY RITUALS Chair: Tatiana Bužeková
9:00- 9:30		Danijela Jerotijević: Representations of Death and Cooperation in the Context of Funeral Rituals in Eastern Serbia
9:30-10:00	Lauren Grace Fadiman: Haunted Handhelds: Science and Spirituality in Cellular Encounters with the Dead	Jennifer Amy Riley: "I Never Said Any of This Made Sense": Grave Goods as Indicators of Complex Post-death Agency in the Contemporary UK Context
10:00-10:30	Aljaž Mesner: New Ways of Being Haunted: The Evolving Agency of Yūrei in Contemporary Japan	Asli Zengin: Sensorial Registers of Mourning and Care Work for the Dead in Turkey
10:30-11:00	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i> INTERACTIONS WITH THE DEAD IN THE CONTEXT OF NEW SPIRITUALITIES Chair: Tina Ivnik	COMMUNICATION WITH THE DEAD: COMMEMORATIVE RITUALS Chair: Terry Gunnell
11:00-11:30	Tatiana Bužeková: Lines of Descent and Altered States of Consciousness: Experiencing the Agency of the Dead Through Spiritual Energy	Michal Uhrin: Religious Holidays and Ceremonies as Points of Remembrance of the Dead in Time and Space: The Case of All Saints Days in Slovakia
11:30-12:00	Tomaž Simetinger: Painting as Communication with the Dead and Other Non-human Beings	Evy Johanne Håland: Greek Women's Foodways in Connection with Death Rituals
12:00-12:30	Emese Ilyefalvi: Visiting Seers and Mediums in Contemporary Hungary: Contexts and Triggers	Alena Leshkevich: Veneration of the Dead in Belarusian Traditional Culture
12:30-14:30	<i>LUNCH BREAK</i>	

	CONNECTIONS THROUGH PROPERTIES OF THE DEAD Chair: Yseult de Blécourt	COMMUNICATION WITH THE DEAD: ASKING FOR ASSISTANCE Chair: Michal Uhrin
14:30-15:00	Ágnes Hesz: The Dead and Their Property: The Role Belongings of the Dead Play in the Relationship Between the Living and Dead	
15:00-15:30	Jonathan Laszlo Mark: Heart Caths and Holy Water: Vernacular Religion and Grief After Organ Transplant	Florența Popescu-Simion: Those Dead Who Are Telling Us What to Do – On the Dynamics of a Vernacular Ritual Centred Around Some “Miraculous” Graves in a Romanian Cemetery
15:30-16:00	VIOLENCE & PERSONAL GRIEF AND MEMORY II. Chair: Petra Hamer	Veenat Arora: Connecting with the Dead: Rituals from South India and the Himalayas
	Caitlin R. Kight and Marie Anne Clancy: Creative Remembrance: A Digital Exhibition of Personal and Professional Grief	
16:00-16:30	Felicity Wood: Murder Trials and the Dead: Absence, Prescence and Agency	
16:30-17:00	Closing Remarks	
17:30	<i>ORGANISED DINNER</i>	

SATURDAY, JULY 5

10:00	Guided Tour of Žale Cemetery
15:00	Guided Tour of Ljubljana