

The New Death

MORTALITY AND
DEATH CARE IN
THE TWENTY-FIRST
CENTURY

Edited by Shannon Lee Dawdy and Tamara Kneese

FIS SOZIAL- UND
KULTURANTHROPOLOGIE
in Zusammenarbeit mit der FGD

SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH PRESS • SANTA FE

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO PRESS • ALBUQUERQUE

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS vii

INTRODUCTION 1

Shannon Lee Dawdy and Tamara Kneese

Part I. Mortality

CHAPTER ONE. Terminality: Technoscientific

Eschatology in the Anthropocene 27

Abou Farman

CHAPTER TWO. Old Men, Young Blood: Transhumanism and

the Promise and Peril of Immortality 53

Jenny Huberman

CHAPTER THREE. A Responsible Death: Valuing Life

from Mortality Tables to Wearables 73

Tamara Kneese

CHAPTER FOUR. Deathnography: Writing, Reading,

and Radical Mourning 105

Casey Golomski

CHAPTER FIVE. "For the One Life We Have": Temporalities

of the Humanist Funeral in Britain 125

Matthew Engelke

Interlude. Notes from the Field

CHAPTER SIX. Loss in/of the Business of Black Funerals 149

LaShaya Howie

CHAPTER SEVEN. Cuddling Death: Exploring the Materiality

of Reproductive Loss 161

Stephanie Schiavenato

Part II. Death Care

CHAPTER EIGHT. The Haptics of Grief: A Taxonomy
of Touch in Death Care 177

Margaret Schwartz

CHAPTER NINE. The Embalmer's Magic 195

Shannon Lee Dawdy

CHAPTER TEN. To Bear a Corpse: Home Funerals and
Epistemic Cultures in US Death Care 219

Philip R. Olson

CHAPTER ELEVEN. Making a Living from Death: Chinese State
Funeral Workers under the Market Economy 241

Huwy-min Lucia Liu

CHAPTER TWELVE. Grief Transformed: New Rituals in
a Singaporean Chinese Funeral Parlor 259

Ruth E. Toulson

On Endings

Commentary: The New Death 279

Ellen Badone

AFTERWORD. Atoms, Star Dust, and Fungi: Death
and Secular Eschatologies 299

Anya Bernstein

REFERENCES 311

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS 347

INDEX 349