



## **THE PULSE OF DEATH NOW**

The Austin H. Kutscher Memorial Conference

Saturday March 29, 2008

Columbia University

The Kellogg Center, International Affairs Building, 15<sup>th</sup> floor

**8:00-9:00 Registration and continental breakfast**

**9:00 -9:30 Welcoming remarks and tribute to Austin Kutscher  
Christina Staudt, Arthur H. Kutscher, Jr., Robert G. Stevenson**

**9:30-11:00 Panels**

### ***Death and the Clinician***

**Miriam Piven Cotler** – How We Let Us Die: Ethics and Modern Medicine

**James M. Hitt** – Dead But Animate

**Maureen O'Reilly-Landry** – Death on a Chronic Dialysis Unit: A Psychodynamic Formulation

**Thaddeus Mason Pope** – Medical Futility Statutes: Can They Be Resuscitated?

### ***The Psychology of Death - Religion and Violence***

**M.K. Bartalos** – Violence and Adaptation – A New Framework

**David Greene** – Revelation and Death in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

**Jerry Piven** – Terroristic Apotheosis in Death

### ***Reframing Death & Dying***

**Philip Alcabes** – The Behavioral Turn and the Refashioning of American Death

**John Eric Baugher** – Encountering the Intimate Stranger

**Herbert G. Gingold & Ruth Mutzner** – Death: Near and Out of Sight

**Alan Pope** – The Influence of Buddhism on Western Death Attitudes

**11:00-11:15 Break**

**11:15-12:45 Panels**

### ***The Dying Process***

**John Fox** – The Changing Cultures of Dying within Medical Institutions

**Joanna Sheinfeld** – What Dying Patients Should Expect from Their Health Care Providers

**Margaret Souza** – The Irregular Pulse of Death

**Margaret A. Yard** – Decivilization as Response to the Cultures of Death and Societal Trauma in the Second Millennium

### ***Death as Advocacy***

**Banu Bargu** – Weaponization of Life: Proletarian Violence, Instrumentality, and Partisanship

**Ibrahim Abu Bakar** – Thanatopsis in Muslim Theological and Ethical Works

**Brigitte Nacos** – Mass-Mediated

Debate about Torture in the “War on Terrorism” in Post-9/11 America

**Julio Pino** – Soldier versus Shaheed: How Martyrdom Turns Death into Life

### ***Death & Representation***

**Angela Belli** – Witnessing Death on the Modern Stage

**Marcelline Block** – Capturing Death on Video: Sophie Calle’s Public Installation at the 2007 Venice Biennale

**Jeehey Kim** – Korean Funerary Photo-Portrait: Photography and Death

**David Sterritt** – Steven Spielberg’s *Flesh Fair*: Film, Fantasy, and Death Denied

**12:45-1:30 Lunch break**

**1:30-3:00 Panels**

***Death of the  
“Objectionables”***

**Kristen Drybread** – Social Life and the Deaths of Brazilian Street Children

**Ana María Gómez López** –

From mass graves to public cemeteries: Unidentified bodies in Colombia’s conflict

**Robin Root** – Disarticulating Death and Dying in Discourses of HIV/AIDS in Swaziland

**Ronald F. White** – Assassination Discourse and Political Power

***Life & Death as Willful Choices***

**Elena B. Bezzubova** – Death: Destiny vs. Choice. Are We Ready for this Paradigm Shift?

**Angela Garcia** – Suicide as a Form of Life

**Jerry Thomas Nessel** – Increasing Life Expectancy and the Hope of Increasing Life Span: Resetting the Pulse and Clock of Death

**Judith Schwartz** – When Dying Patients Request a Hastened Death: Evaluating Meaning and Responding to Nuance

***Memorializing in the 21<sup>st</sup>  
Century***

**Mikita Brottman** – Virtual Limbo: MyDeathSpace.com

**Sayantani DasGupta & Marsha Hurst** – Death in Cyberspace: Challenging the Boundaries of the Public/Private Dimensionality

**Maura Spiegel** – Transforming Grief into Mourning: Movie memorials in the American 21<sup>st</sup> Century

**Lauren F. Winner** – From Black Crepe to Mourning Tattoos: The Return of Embodied Memorials in Twenty-First-Century America

**3:15-3:30 Break**

**3:30-4:30 Plenary session**

**4:30-6:00 - Reception**

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