

ARE DEATH SCHOLARS AFRAID OF DYING? GEOGRAPHICAL, PROFESSIONAL, THEMATIC AND PERSONAL BACKGROUND OF CONTEMPORARY DEATH STUDIES

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Abstract: My presentation will be about death scholars, primarily those concentrated around Alba Iulia conference, but also others whom I met and interviewed during my research. Initial question of my research is: if and how geographical, professional and personal background influences our scientific approaches and can we make some solid profile of researcher following these frames, or it depends exclusively upon researcher's personal attitudes?

In order to answer these questions I will analyze several tasks:

Showing and analyzing figures about conference attendants' geographic origin, professional background and presented topics at former editions of Alba Iulia conference

Are there any general and common points inside of our hypothesis and conclusions? Analyzing conference publications and comparing them with some "classic" ideas inside of death studies

Are we researching or creating picture of the world?

Analyzing results of poll and interview conducted among conference attendants and other death scholars

Can we talk about Eastern and Western "schools" in death researching? Can we talk about Eastern and Western way of dying?

Case study: Researching death in Serbia – how socialism influenced ethnological and anthropological investigations of death?

Keywords: death studies, death scholars, Alba Iulia conference, figures, qualitative research, Serbia