

Candi K. Cann

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Associate Professor
Baylor Interdisciplinary Core & Religion

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Area of Specialization: Death, Dying and Grief from a Comparative Perspective

- Methodology includes fieldwork (interviews, surveys, and data mining) and archival research in order to provide a 'thick' analysis in contemporary attitudes of death

Education

- Harvard University, Ph.D. (2009)
Dissertation, *Holy Wars, Cold Wars and Dirty Wars; Manufacturing Martyrs in the Two-thirds World: A Case Study*
Director: Kimberley C. Patton
- Harvard University, A.M. (2009)
- University of Hawaii, M.A. (1996): Asian Religions
- Tsing Hua University (1992): Exchange student
- St. Andrews Presbyterian College, B.A. (1992): Korean Studies
- Han Nam University (1989-1990) Exchange student

Academic Appointments

- 2023 Han Nam University Fulbright Scholar, Daejeon, South Korea
- 2017-Present Associate Professor of BIC & Religion, Baylor University
- 2011-2017 Assistant Professor of BIC & Religion, Baylor University
- 2017-2020, Faculty in Residence, North Village, Baylor University
- Fall, 2015, Fellow, Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton University
- Fall, 2015, Visiting Scholar to Princeton Theological Seminary
- 2007-2011 Visiting Faculty in World Religions, University of Hawaii Leeward
- 2006 Visiting Part-time Lecturer, Rhode Island School of Design
- 2001 Visiting Part-time Lecturer, University of Vermont

Grants & Awards

- Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, "Digital Afterlives," International Collaborator, 2023-2027 (\$280,000)
- Fulbright Scholar, Han Nam University, 2023
- Luce/University of Virginia Religion, Race and Democracy Lab: Learning with Charlottesville Summer Institute Fellow, 2022 (\$2,000)

- Baylor Honors College Re-Envisioning the Humanities Fellow, 2021-22
- Eterneva Industry Partnership Grant, 2020, (\$28,853)
- Baylor University Fellow, 2019-20, University Award for Innovative Teaching, Fall, 2019
- Baylor University Research Leave, Fall 2015; Fall, 2019
- Louisville Institute Project Grant for Researchers (\$24,816), 2017-2019
- National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) Summer Seminar Grant, "Problems in the Study of Religion," Summer 2016
- Princeton University Visiting Scholar, Fall, 2015
- Princeton Theological Seminary, Visiting Scholar, Fall, 2015
- NEH/ALA Muslim Journeys Bookshelf Grant (Co-PI), 2013
- Harvard University Center for the Study of World Religions, Residence Fellow, 2001-2002 & 2005-2006
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship Award, Tsing Hua University, P.R. China, 1996
- Mombusho Scholarship, Taisho University, Tokyo, Japan, 1995

Development

- Baylor Digital Data Scholar (2019)
- Association for Death Education & Counseling, C.T. (Certification in Thanatology, 2014)

Scholarly Activity

Forthcoming

augmented, MIT Press, 2024.

Books in Print

Death & Afterlife: The Basics, Routledge, 2023.

The Routledge Handbook of Death and the Afterlife, edited by Candi K. Cann, Routledge, 2018.

Dying to Eat: Cross-cultural Perspectives on Food in Dying, Death, and Afterlives edited by Candi K. Cann, University Press of Kentucky, January, 2018.

Virtual Afterlives: Grieving the Dead in the Twenty-first century University Press of Kentucky: 2014.

The World Religions: Essential Readings and Handbook Pearson Publishing: 2010.

Refereed Published Articles

"Palatable and Portable: Do Memorial Diamonds Aid in the Grieving Process?" *Eastern and North European Journal of Death Studies*, 2022.

Cann, Candi K. "African American Deathways." In *Oxford Bibliographies in African American Studies*. Ed. Gene Jarrett. New York: Oxford University Press, 2020.

Cann, Candi K. "Black Deaths Matter: Earning the Right to Live; Death and the African-American Funeral Home," *Religions*, 2020.

Cann, Candi K.. "Through the Looking Glass: The Impact of Area Studies on the Study of Core Texts," *Liberal Arts Education and the World*, [2018]: 1-4.

Cann, Candi K. "Buying an Afterlife: Mapping the Social Impact of Religious Beliefs through Consumer Death Goods." *Religions* 8, no. 9 (2017): 167.

Cann, Candi K., and John Troyer. "Trans-Atlantic death methods: disciplinarity shared and challenged by a common language." *Mortality* 22, no. 2 (2017): 105-117.

"Contemporary death practices in the catholic Latina/o community," *Thanatos*, June, 2016.

"Women & Spirits; Identity and Gender in Afterlife Beverage Offerings," *Religions* Journal featured article, July, 2016.

"Contemporary Mourning: A Changing Landscape" *Cosmologies: Science, Religion and Culture*, Harvard Divinity School, 2015.

Web-published Articles

"Reporting on Death," www.reportingondeath.com, 2021, contributing author

Cann et al. "Death, Grief, and Funerals in the COVID age, www.covidpaper.org, 2020, utilized by Option B, National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, Presidential Taskforce on Grief & Loss, and the New York State Psychological Association, among many others.

Refereed Book Chapters

"Kinetic Death: O Bon: Hawai'i's Japanese Dance of the Dead," in *Religion, Death and the Senses*, edited by Christina Welch and Jasmine Hazel Shadrack, Equinox Publishing, forthcoming 2024.

"Pocket Memorials: Digital Death and the Smartphone" in the *Oxford Handbook of Digital Religion*, edited by Heidi Campbell and Pauline Cheung, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022.

"Digital Church: Virtual Faith of Contemporary Christianity," in *The Rowman & Littlefield Handbook of Contemporary Christianity in the United States*, edited by Mark A. Lamport. New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2022.

"Death Tech: Grieving through Screens," in *The Future of the Corpse: Our Changing Places and Perceptions of the Dead and Mourning*, edited by Christina Staudt and Karla Rothstein, ABC-CLIO, 2021.

"The Teaching Vocation as Sharing Life: Reflections from a Faculty-in-Residence," *Called to Teach*, edited by J. Lenore Wright and Christopher J. Richmann, Eugene, Oregon: Pickwick Publications, 2020.

"Digital Memorials," Invited chapter for *The Routledge Companion to Death and Dying*, edited by Christopher M. Moreman, May, 2017.

"Tweeting Death and Pinning Memorials: Remembering the Dead in Bits and Pieces," chapter for *Digital Death: Mortality and Beyond in the Online Age*, edited by A. David Lewis and Christopher M. Moreman, Praeger Publishers, 2014. *Digital Death* won Best Edited Book in 2014 with American Culture Association/Popular Culture Association

"Virtual Memorials: Bereavement and the Internet." In *Our Changing Journey to the End: Reshaping Death, Dying, and Grief in America*, edited by Christina Staudt and J. Harold Ellens. 2 vols. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2013, pp.193-206 (vol.1).

"Tombstone Technology: Global Deathscapes and the Funeral Industry," chapter for Springer Publishing House's Human Computer Interaction Book Series, *Post-mortem Digital Legacy and Interaction*, 2013, pp.101-113.

Webinars & Podcasts

Candi K. Cann, Michael Brandon McCormick, Laura Levitt, and Brian Steensland. *Religion & Grief*, Religion & American Culture Series, Indiana University/ Purdue University Indianapolis Center Conversations on the State of Religion and the Current Moment. April 15, 2021. <https://raac.iupui.edu/religion-grief/>

Candi K. Cann and Michael Hebb. *Grieving in the COVID Era and Beyond*. (Stanford, CA: Stanford University MTTHC, 2020). <https://mhttcnetwork.org/centers/pacific-southwest-mhttc/product/november-gsvli-grieving-covid-era-and-beyond>

Candi K. Cann, Rana Awdish, Michael Hebb, and Koshin Paley Ellison. *Grief, Loss and Mourning in the Time of COVID*. (Cambridge, MA: The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare). <https://www.theschwartzcenter.org/webinar/grief-loss-and-mourning-in-the-time-of-covid/>

Cann, Candi. *Dilemma Podcast: S02E03: Virtual Afterlives - Candi Cann*. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/s02e03-virtual-afterlives-candi-cann/id1470490447?i=1000487188541>

Cann, Candi. "Dying to Eat Cross Cultural Perspectives on Food, Death and the Afterlife" in *New Books Network Podcast*. (New Books Network Podcast).

<https://newbooksnetwork.com/candi-k-cann-dying-to-eat-cross-cultural-perspectives-on-food-death-and-the-afterlife-up-of-kentucky-2018>

Peer-Reviewed Encyclopedia Entries

"Second Death," in *American Myths, Legends and Tall Tales: An Encyclopedia of American Folklore*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC Clio: 2016.

"The Relative's Cadaver," in *American Myths, Legends and Tall Tales: An Encyclopedia of American Folklore*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC Clio: 2016.

"Bok Kai Temple, Folktale, & Parade," in *American Myths, Legends and Tall Tales: An Encyclopedia of American Folklore*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC Clio: 2016.

"La Mala Hora," in *American Myths, Legends and Tall Tales: An Encyclopedia of American Folklore*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC Clio: 2016.

"Casos, Historias, & Tallas," in *American Myths, Legends and Tall Tales: An Encyclopedia of American Folklore*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC Clio: 2016.

Recent Book Reviews

Cann, Candi K. "Book Review: *Our Grateful Dead: Stories of Those Left Behind*," OMEGA: Journal of Death and Dying, September 2, 2022.

Cann, Candi K. "Dis/Re- Membering Discipline: A Book Review of William J. Courtenay's *Rituals for the Dead: Religion and Community in the Medieval University of Paris* and Hans Ruin's *Being with the Dead: Burial, Ancestral Politics, and the Roots of Historical Consciousness*," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, Oxford University Press, December, 2020.

Cann, Candi K. "A Book Review of Two Books on Modern Corpses," in OMEGA: Journal of Death and Dying, August, 2020.

Cann, Candi K. Review of Thomas W. Laqueur's *The Work of the Dead: A Cultural History of Mortal Remains*. Princeton: Princeton University press, 2015, *Body & Religion*, Fall, 2018.

Cann, Candi K. "Malkowski, J.(2017). Dying in Full Detail: Mortality and Digital Documentary." (2017): 0030222817747067.

Trade Textbooks

Funeral Service Academy: Course Module: "Grief and Cultural Competence: Hispanic, African American, and Jewish Traditions," Fall, 2015.

<http://www.funeralcourse.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/3Hour-Grief-Course.pdf>

Select Keynote Talks and Endowed University Lectures

“Death Talk: Why Thanatology Matters,” Linton Global Academy, Han Nam University, Daejeon, South Korea, May 30, 2023.

“My Fulbright Experience: Differences in Higher Education Systems in South Korea and the United States” United States Fulbright Delegation, Han Nam University, Daejeon, South Korea, June 19, 2023.

“Within/Beyond – The Reach of Religious Studies,” Invited Panelist for Luce, American Council of Learned Societies & American Academy of Religion Symposium on Public Scholarship in Religious Studies, May 4-6, 2023.

“Technological Afterlives: Mediating Grief in Digital Spaces,” Columbia University Seminar on Death, Invited Talk, December, 2019.

“Digital Death: Grieving the Dead in the Twenty-first Century,” Rutgers University, Invited Talk, October, 2019, Sponsored by the Henry Rutgers Term Chair for Ethics, Health, and Society and the Department of Philosophy and Religion.

“Grieving the Dead in the Twenty-first Century,” Baylor Scott & White Grand Rounds, October, 2019.

“Earning the Right to Live through Death: the African-American Funeral Home and the Civil Rights Movement,” Invited Plenary for the University of Bath’s Centre for Death and Society’s *The Politics of Death*, June 2018.

“Grieving Across Cultures,” Casa de la Luz Foundation and the Arizona End of Life Care Partnership in Tucson, Arizona, October, 2018.

“Mobile Memorials: Carrying the Dead in the Twenty-First Century,” Invited lecture for the Center for Humanities in the Public Sphere at the University of Florida, October, 2016.

“Black Deaths Matter,” Florida State University University-wide invited lecture, October, 2016.

Imágenes de la Muerte, Keynote Speaker, Sao Paulo, Brazil, July, 2016.

“Black Deaths Matter,” *American Religions Workshop*, Princeton University, December 3, 2015.

“Put Some Windex On It: The disappearance of the Corpse and the Rise of Tattoo Memorials,” Endowed lecture, sponsored by the departments of Religion and Anthropology, the Ada Howe Kent Fund, and the Smith College Lecture Committee, Smith College, November 5, 2015.

Popular Publications

“Information on Digital Legacies,” Public Radio International’s *To The Best of Our Knowledge Five Part Series on Death*, Resources on Digital Legacies, December 5, 2014. <http://www.ttbook.org/series/death/information-digital-legacies>

“Two Perspectives: Assisted Dying of Assisted Living,” Blog for *Huffington Post*, October 10, 2014.

“Letting Someone You Love Die: The Irony Behind a Living Will,” Blog for *Huffington Post*, October 8, 2014.

“Grief Online: The Dos and Don’ts of Internet Etiquette,” Blog for *Huffington Post*, March 5, 2014.

“Death of Thanksgiving,” Blog for *Huffington Post*, November 13, 2013.

“Vampires, Zombies, Martyrs & Saints,” Blog for *Huffington Post*, October 25, 2013.

“Suicide at Sixty,” Blog for *Huffington Post*, September 30, 2013.

Let’s Go China

St. Martin’s Press, Researcher-writer, fall, 2000

Film Appearances

Patheos, *A Good Goodbye*, July 2021.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=qeR4BpVoqBgCandi&fbclid=IwAR3_D7sTK3RfR1lsQIe-kkWIS4I9xaOBC4bshlBSA9W4BUSFllX0NiwCvnE

C-Span *Book TV*, Book Discussion on *Virtual Afterlives*, December 6-7, 2014.

<http://www.c-span.org/video/?322670-1/book-discussion-virtual-afterlives>

Select Media Press & Interviews

Milk Street Podcast. “Corpse Cakes and Funeral Pie: A Short History of Eating Grief,” April 13, 2023. <https://www.177milkstreet.com/radio/corpse-cakes-and-funeral-pie-a-short-history-of-eating-grief>

The Zoe Report. “How to Talk About Grief, According to Women Who’ve Made it Their Jobs,” by Natalia Lusinski, August 19, 2022.

USA Today. “From virtual reality afterlife games to death doulas: Is our view of dying finally changing?” by Sara M. Moniuszko, April 11, 2022.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/health-wellness/2022/04/11/death-dying-becoming-less-scary-ash-diamonds-doulas/7229902001/>

The Kansas City Star, “How Black funeral homes in Kansas City and around the U.S. work to make a difference” by Lisa Gutierrez, September 29, 2021, <https://www.kansascity.com/news/local/article254437843.html>

Telemundo. “Nadie merece morir solo”. Estas mujeres acompañan hasta el último aliento. La pandemia ha hecho más visible su labor, May 26, 2020. <https://www.telemundo.com/noticias/2020/05/26/nadie-merece-morir-solo-estas-mujeres-acompanan-hasta-el-ultimo-aliento-la-pandemia-ha-tmna3777260>

BBC Digital Planet Podcast: Exploring Digital Death, June 30, 2020, <https://podcastaddict.com/episode/109008256>

National Geographic, “From Diamonds to Rockets: Mourning the Dead Has Gotten High Tech,” May, 2019, <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2019/05/ashes-to-diamonds-reefs-rockets-how-we-will-memorialize-dead/>

Science Friday, National Public Radio, Live Interview: “What Should We Do with the Online Profiles of the Deceased?” May 5, 2019, <https://www.sciencefriday.com/segments/what-should-happen-to-your-online-profiles-when-you-die/>

Science Friday, National Public Radio, Live Interview on Death and Technology, August 31, 2018, <https://www.sciencefriday.com/segments/tech-changes-the-face-of-death/>

Washington Post. “How the Oscar-winning ‘Coco’ and its fantastical afterlife forced us to talk about death,” March 4, 2018. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2018/03/04/coco-is-the-conversation-weve-been-avoiding-about-death-and-the-afterlife/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.e23af2fa57d1

Financial Times. “How technology is changing the way we grieve,” March 2, 2018. <https://www.ft.com/content/95dc5584-1c12-11e8-aaca-4574d7dabfb6>

Seeker, “A church of the AI God isn’t as revolutionary as it might seem,” October 4, 2017. <https://www.seeker.com/tech/artificial-intelligence/a-church-of-the-ai-god-isnt-as-revolutionary-as-it-might-seem>

Daily Mail. “A Church that worships an AI god could become a ‘quintessential religion’ and bring out the best in humans, expert claims,” October 23, 2017. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-5007805/Worshipping-AI-god-quintessential-American-religion.html>

Public Radio International's *To The Best of Our Knowledge Five Part Series on Death*, Resources on Digital Legacies, December 5, 2014.
<http://www.ttbook.org/series/death>

NPR; The Kojo Nnamdi Show's "Tech Tuesday Talk Show," Death and Social Media, Aired September 30, 2014.

Interview for "Burying Your Dead Without Religion," *The Atlantic*, August 19, 2014.

NPR; Wisconsin Public Radio's "Central Time," Talk show, Aired July 28, 2014

"The Academic Minute," *Inside Higher Education and National Public Radio*, December 12, 2013.

Yale Books Unbound, HuffPost Blog highlighted, November 8, 2013

Pacific Standard Magazine "The Way We Mourn Now," October 9, 2013.

Academic Organizations

AAR Board of Directors Program Steering Committee

AAR Co-Chair for *Death, Dying, and Beyond*

ASDS (Association for Death and Society) member

Service to the Field

- National Science Foundation Grant Reviewer
- National Endowment for the Humanities Grant Reviewer
- Advisory Board member for 'Future of Death: Designing End of Life Choice and Citizenship,' Northumbria University, United Kingdom
- Advisory Board member for Global Wellness Institute's Dying Well initiative

University Service

- Faculty in Residence 2018-2021
- Hawai'i Club Faculty Advisor 2020-Present

Languages

Spanish, French (reading), Mandarin Chinese (6 years), Japanese (3 years), Korean (basic)