

Any assignment of meaning to earthly existence and to notions of worldly and otherworldly salvation rests on that deepest and most fundamental uncertainty of our human existence: the awareness of our mortality. How do literature and the arts help us cope with this knowledge of death?

The exploration of such figurations (Greek: *morphómata*) of death, in all their national and cultural diversity, is one of the core areas of inquiry at the Morphomata Center for Advanced Studies of the University of Cologne, supported by an international and interdisciplinary selection of Fellows.

In keeping with the main focus of Morphomata, the presentations by scholars from Germany and India would concentrate on case studies in contemporary literature and art which have tended not only to expand but also to transcend the realm of experience, to represent the unrepresentable, to advance into areas beyond all rational analysis, beyond the borderline at which philosophical or scientific explanations may fail.

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FIGURATIONS OF AFTERLIFE / AFTERDEATH IN EAST AND WEST

Conference
Delhi
12.-14.02.2014



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

- 09.00 **Günter Blamberger** (Cologne), **Sudhir Kakar** (Goa) Introduction
- 10.00 **Sudhir Kakar** (Goa) Death and Dying in the Poems of Rabindranath Tagore
Günter Blamberger (Cologne) Threshold-Images between Life and Death in Literature and Film
- 12.00 Break
- 13.00 **Vijay Mishra** (Perth) Afterdeath and the Bollywood Gothic Noir
Georg Braungart (Tübingen) The Afterlife of the Dead in this World: Ghosts, Art, and Poetry in German Modernism
- 15.00 Break
- 18.30 Reading: **Martin Mosebach** (Frankfurt/Main) Westend (novel, 1992)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

- 08.30 **Jonardon Ganeri** (Seoul) Bhavanga: Living between Deaths
Martin Roussel (Cologne) To Bear Someone – Living on, on Living, and The Idea of Death
- 10.30 Break
- 11.00 **Katharina Poggendorf-Kakar** (Goa) Fasting to Death in Jaina Tradition
Thomas Macho (Berlin) A Way to Nirvana? Practices of Self-Mummification
- 13.00 **Michael Bollig** (Cologne), **Varun Sahni** (Delhi) Joint Address
- 13.30 Break
- 14.30 **Harish Trivedi** (Delhi) Grateful to Life and Death
Friedrich Vollhardt (Munich) The Afterworld as a Site of Punishment. Imagining Hell in European Literature
- 16.30 Break
- 17.00 **Arindam Chakrabarti** (Manoa) Dreams, Deaths and Deaths within Dreams
Oliver Krüger (Fribourg) The Quest for Immortality as a Technical Problem. The Visions of Posthumanism

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

- 08.30 **Naman Ahuja** (Delhi) Death and Afterlife in Ancient Indian Art
Jens Schlieter (Bern) “Death-x-pulse” and “Life Review”: Coping with Near-Death-Experiences in Indian, Tibetan, and European Literature
- 10.30 Break
- 11.00 Concluding Discussion
- Venue** India Habitat Centre, Maple Conference Room, Lodi Road, New-Delhi -110003
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